

Recommended Reads for Year 5/6

World War II

Fiction Books

1. **"Goodnight Mister Tom" by Michelle Magorian**
 - This heart-warming novel follows a young boy, William, who is evacuated from London during the war and sent to live with Mister Tom, a gruff but kind-hearted man in the countryside. The story beautifully depicts the impact of war on the lives of ordinary people, the importance of friendship, and the resilience of the human spirit.
2. **"War Horse" by Michael Morpurgo**
 - Set during World War I, this moving story follows the journey of a young boy named Albert and his beloved horse, Joey, as they are separated by the war. Through Joey's eyes, readers gain a unique perspective on the trials and tribulations of wartime experiences and the enduring bond between humans and animals.
3. **"The Silver Sword" by Ian Serraillier**
 - This gripping novel follows the dramatic and adventurous journey of three Polish siblings who are separated from their parents during the war and their quest to reunite with their family. The story sheds light on the resilience of children in the face of adversity and the enduring power of hope.

Non-Fiction Books

1. **"Usborne World Wars" by Jerome Martin**
 - This engaging non-fiction book provides a comprehensive overview of both World War 1 and World War 2, covering key events, significant figures, and the impact of the wars on different countries. With informative illustrations and photographs,

Ancient Mayans

Fiction Books

1. **Secrets of the Sun Temple: A Children's Adventure in Ancient Maya** by Geronimo Stilton
This engaging fictional story is centred around the Ancient Maya civilization, taking young readers on an exciting adventure while incorporating historical and cultural elements.
2. **Jaguar Warrior** by Sandy Lane
Set in the heart of the Ancient Maya world, this gripping novel follows the story of a young Maya boy who dreams of becoming a great warrior and must confront various challenges in his journey.
3. **The Time Hunters: Maya Roots** by Carl Ashmore
This time-travelling adventure story transports readers to the heart of the Ancient Maya civilization, providing an immersive experience and historical context through an engaging narrative.

Non-Fiction Books

1. **Discovering the Maya: The Archaeology of Ancient Maya Civilisation** by Pamela Harris
This non-fiction book provides a comprehensive introduction to the Ancient Maya civilization, covering its history, daily life, and significant achievements while featuring accessible language suitable for young readers.
2. **Ancient Maya: Archaeology Unlocks the Secrets of the Maya's Past** by Nathaniel Harris
Through detailed illustrations and well-researched information, this non-fiction book delves into the mysteries of the Ancient Maya, offering a visual exploration of their culture, architecture, and advancements in various fields.
3. **The Ancient Maya** by Lila Perl
Written specifically for young readers, this non-fiction book offers an insightful overview of the Ancient Maya civilization, including their customs,

Whitby, Explorers

Fiction Books

1. **"The Secret of the Tattered Shoes" by Jackie Morris and Ehsan Abdollahi**
 - *Description:* This beautifully illustrated book is a retelling of the classic fairy tale "The Twelve Dancing Princesses," set against the backdrop of the seaside. It weaves in themes of mystery, adventure, and the magic of the sea.
2. **"Arctic Star" by Tom Palmer**
 - *Description:* This gripping historical fiction novel follows the story of three friends who join Ernest Shackleton's Antarctic expedition. It provides a vivid portrayal of the challenges faced by the explorers and their resilience in the face of adversity.
3. **'Seaglass' by Eloise Williams**
 - *Synopsis:* Set in Wales, this book tells the story of Lark, who discovers a secret hidden in the seaglass on the beach that leads to a thrilling adventure and personal discoveries.
 - *Educational Value:* This book immerses readers in the coastal environment, highlighting the beauty and mystery of the seaside.
4. **'The Wreck of the Zanzibar' by Michael Morpurgo**
 - *Synopsis:* This story follows a family living on the Isles of Scilly in the 1900s and their struggle to survive during a harsh winter, connected to the sea and the wrecking of a ship.
 - *Educational Value:* It provides historical and geographical insights into coastal communities and their reliance on the sea.

Non-Fiction Books

1. **"Shackleton's Journey" by William Grill**
 - *Description:* This non-fiction book provides a detailed account of Ernest Shackleton's famous Antarctic expedition, accompanied by stunning

this book offers a detailed and accessible account of the historical context of the wars.

2. "The Second World War (Usborne Beginners)" by Henry Brook

- Suitable for young readers, this non-fiction book presents an accessible introduction to the Second World War, offering insights into the causes, key battles, and the impact of the war on civilians. The book utilises clear text and vibrant illustrations to convey the complexities of the conflict in a digestible format for young learners.

3. "DKfindout! World War II" by Simon Adams

- This visually engaging non-fiction book is packed with interesting facts, photographs, and infographics that provide a comprehensive exploration of World War 2. Covering topics such as key battles, life on the home front, and technological advancements during the war, this book offers an interactive learning experience for students.

traditions, and enduring legacy, accompanied by photographs and illustrations to enhance understanding.

illustrations. It offers insight into the explorers' experiences, the harsh conditions they encountered, and the leadership of Shackleton.

- *Link:* [Shackleton's Journey](#)

2. "James Cook: The Voyages" by William Frame and Laura Walker

- *Description:* This non-fiction book delves into the remarkable voyages of Captain James Cook, exploring his exploration of the Pacific and the impact of his discoveries. It features maps, illustrations, and details of the scientific and cultural significance of Cook's expeditions.

3. "Whitby Abbey: The History of a Ruin" by Steven J. Sherlock

- *Description:* This informative book offers a fascinating insight into the history and significance of Whitby Abbey. It covers the abbey's origins, its role in the community, and its enduring legacy, providing a comprehensive understanding of this iconic landmark.

4. "Rivers of Britain: The River Swale" by Alex L. Cunningham.

For a closer look at River Swale, this non-fiction book explores the geography, ecology, and historical significance of the river. It offers valuable information about the local environment and its role in shaping the region's history and development.

A study of our local area: Richmond

Fiction Books

1. **"I Was There... 1066: A Child's Story of the Battle of Hastings"** by Jim Eldridge
This historical fiction novel provides an engaging account of the Battle of Hastings from the perspective of a young boy who becomes involved in the events leading up to the battle. It offers a captivating insight into the experiences of children during this significant historical event.
2. **"The Time-Travelling Cat and the Viking Terror"** by Julia Jarman
In this time-travel adventure, Topher and his cat, Ka, journey back to the time of the Vikings and find themselves in the midst of the Battle of Stamford Bridge, offering an intriguing fictional take on historical events related to the Battle of Hastings.
3. **"The Ghost of Thomas Kempe"** by Penelope Lively
This classic tale incorporates elements of time travel and historical significance as a young boy discovers the ghost of another boy who lived in his town centuries ago. The story provides a vivid depiction of life in an old English town and may offer insights into the historical context of Richmond, North Yorkshire.
4. **"The Secret of the Black Rock"** by Joe Todd-Stanton

Victorians

Fiction Books

1. **Street Child** by Berlie Doherty
 - This historical novel tells the story of a young orphan boy named Jim Jarvis, who struggles to survive on the streets of Victorian London. The book provides insight into the harsh living conditions and social inequalities during the Victorian era.
2. **The Clockwork Sparrow** by Katherine Woodfine
 - Set in Edwardian London, this mystery-adventure novel follows a young girl named Sophie as she gets involved in solving the theft of a priceless piece of jewellery. While not set in the exact Victorian era, the book provides a glimpse into the social dynamics and technological advancements of the time.
3. **Oliver Twist** by Charles Dickens (Adapted for young readers)
 - This classic tale by Charles Dickens follows the story of orphan Oliver Twist as he navigates the grimy streets of Victorian London and encounters various characters, depicting the hardships faced by the poor during the period.
4. **A Little Princess** by Frances Hodgson Burnett
 - This heart-warming story follows the journey of Sara Crewe, a young girl

Ancient Greece

Fiction Books

1. **"Who Was Alexander the Great?"** by Kathryn Waterfield
 - This is a captivating biography that brings to life the story of Alexander the Great, providing insight into his conquests, ambitions, and lasting legacy. The book is filled with vivid illustrations and engaging storytelling, making it an excellent introduction to Ancient Greek history for Year 6 students.
2. **"The Orchard Book of Greek Myths"** by Geraldine McCaughrean
 - This beautifully illustrated book presents a collection of timeless Greek myths, including tales of Zeus, Athena, and Pandora's Box. The stories are retold in an accessible and engaging manner, capturing the imagination of young readers and offering a deeper understanding of Greek mythology.
3. **"I Was There... 2,500 Years Ago: The Ancient Greek Adventure"** by Shoo Rayner
 - This historical fiction novel takes readers on an exciting journey through Ancient Greece, following the adventures of a young boy named Thos who becomes embroiled in the political and social events of the time. Through Thos' perspective, students gain an

This engaging picture book tells the story of a young girl named Erin and her mother, who embark on a journey to find the truth behind the Black Rock. While not specifically about Richmond, North Yorkshire, this book provides an imaginative exploration of coastal landscapes and the importance of understanding local secrets.

5. "The Ghost of Gosswater" by Lucy Strange

Set in the Lake District, not far from Richmond, North Yorkshire, this captivating mystery novel follows a young girl named Lady Agatha, who discovers a ghost while spending the summer at her aunt's manor. The book beautifully captures the atmospheric setting of the North Yorkshire region.

Non-Fiction Books

1. "Richmond, North Yorkshire: A Short History" by Stephen Cliffe

This non-fiction book delves into the historical background of Richmond, North Yorkshire, offering a comprehensive overview of the town's development, key events, and landmarks. It serves as an invaluable resource for understanding the local history relevant to the curriculum.

2. "The Battle of Hastings" by Jim Bradbury

Focused specifically on the Battle of Hastings, this non-fiction book provides detailed insights into the circumstances leading up to the battle, the strategies

who faces adversity and poverty after being left orphaned during the Victorian era. The book illustrates the stark contrast between wealth and poverty in Victorian society.

Non-Fiction Books

1. "The Victorians (Usborne Beginners)" by Stephanie Turnbull

- This non-fiction book provides an accessible introduction to the Victorian era, covering topics such as daily life, inventions, and key historical events. With simple text and engaging illustrations, it offers an overview of the period's impact on society.

2. "What Mr. Darwin Saw" by Mick Manning and Brita Granström

- This illustrated non-fiction book explores the discoveries and observations of Charles Darwin during the Victorian era, offering insights into science, natural history, and the broader intellectual climate of the period.

3. "Victorians (Horrible Histories)" by Terry Deary

- As part of the popular Horrible Histories series, this book presents the Victorian era in a humorous and engaging manner, covering aspects such as workhouses, inventions, social classes, and notable figures of the time.

immersive understanding of Ancient Greek society, culture, and daily life.

4. "Who Let the Gods Out?" by Maz Evans

- This humorous and engaging story follows the adventures of Elliot, who accidentally frees Thanatos, an evil demon imprisoned beneath Stonehenge. With the help of Greek gods, Elliot sets out to prevent the end of the world.

5. "Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief" by Rick Riordan.

- In this modern classic, Percy Jackson discovers his true identity as a demigod and embarks on a quest to prevent a war among the gods. The book provides a contemporary twist on Greek mythology, making it highly engaging for young readers.

Non-Fiction Books

1. "Ancient Greece: Discovering History's Landmarks" by Philip Steele

- This comprehensive non-fiction book provides a detailed exploration of Ancient Greece, covering topics such as the city-states, Olympics, architecture, and government. The book features stunning visuals, maps, and infographics, offering a visually engaging learning experience for Year 6 students.

2. "Illustrated Stories from the Greek Myths" by Various Authors

- This non-fiction book offers a rich collection of Greek myths, accompanied by vibrant

employed by both sides, and the impact of the battle on English history. It offers a comprehensive understanding of this pivotal event.

4. **Children of the Workhouse** by Holly Webb

- This non-fiction book provides a poignant look at the lives of Victorian children in workhouses, offering primary source material alongside informative text to provide a deeper understanding of the hardships faced by children during the period.

illustrations and detailed explanations of their significance. Students can delve into the captivating world of Greek mythology while gaining valuable insights into the beliefs, values, and storytelling traditions of Ancient Greece.

3. **"You Wouldn't Want to be a Slave in Ancient Greece!"** by Fiona Macdonald

- Delving into the realities of life in Ancient Greece, this non-fiction book provides a compelling look at the institution of slavery in the ancient world. Through engaging narrative and informative illustrations, students can explore the social dynamics and everyday experiences of individuals living in Ancient Greece.