

## Foundation Stage Suggested Reading List for Strong Readers



### **Cloudbusting**

#### **Malorie Blackman**

Despite his Mum's insistence, Sam doesn't want to be friends with Davey; he thinks Davey's a first class, grade A, top of the dung heap moron. But one day Davey saves Sam's life and a bond is formed between them. Sam is still embarrassed to be seen with Davey, but little by little he has to admit, when it's just the two of them, Davey is a lot of fun. But then something terrible happens to Davey. . .

Told in verse, in first person, this is the touching story of an extraordinary friendship, that changes two boys lives forever.



### **The Graveyard Book**

#### **Neil Gaiman**

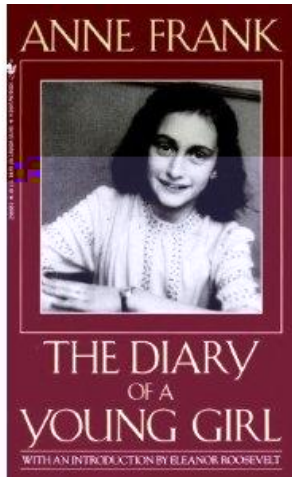
After the grisly murder of his entire family, a toddler wanders into a graveyard where the ghosts and other supernatural residents agree to raise him as one of their own. Nobody Owens, known to his friends as Bod, is a normal boy. He would be completely normal if he didn't live in a sprawling graveyard, being raised and educated by ghosts, with a solitary guardian who belongs to neither the world of the living nor of the dead. There are dangers and adventures in the graveyard for a boy. But if Bod leaves the graveyard, then he will come under attack from a man who has already killed Bod's family...



### **The Dark Ground**

#### **Gillian Cross**

Robert wakes up naked and alone in a thick jungle. The last thing he remembers is being in a plane with his family, but there is no sign of a crash or survivors. Then he discovers the shocking truth - he is in the park near his house, but his familiar world has been transformed into an alien landscape. When he finds others in the same position, he enlists their help in getting back home. But the journey is more perilous than Robert could ever imagine.



**The Diary of a Young Girl**

**Anne Frank**

In 1942, with Nazis occupying Holland, a thirteen-year-old Jewish girl and her family fled their home in Amsterdam and went into hiding. For the next two years, they and another family lived cloistered in the "Secret Annexe" of an old office building. Cut off from the outside world, they faced hunger, boredom, the constant cruelties of living in confined quarters, and the ever-present threat of discovery and death. In her diary, Anne Frank recorded vivid impressions of her experiences during this period. Her account offers a fascinating commentary on human courage and frailty and a compelling self-portrait of a sensitive and spirited young woman whose promise was tragically cut short.

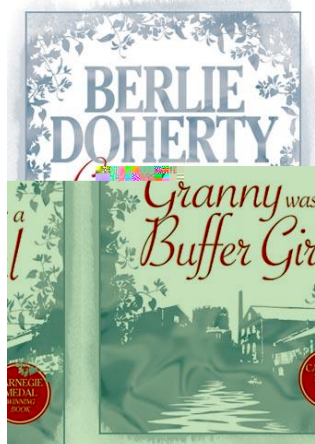


**The Ghost Behind the Wall**

**Melvin Burgess**

Twelve-year-old David lives with his dad in a big, old apartment building. When he discovers he can climb through the vent pipes in the building and get into other apartments and play tricks on people, he

His main victim is Robert Alveston, a forgetful man in his nineties who is afraid that he is losing his mind. But nasty pranks soon disturb more than his elderly neighbour. One day he comes face-to-face with a ghost, at first friendly but more and more terrifying as it becomes clear that he has a particular grudge against Mr Alveston. Soon, both the old man and David are in great danger.



**Granny was a Buffer Girl**

**Berlie Doherty**

Jess is 18 and is leaving home to go to France for her gap year. She is scared that the home she is leaving will change and that the place she loves will never be the same again. Jess also has a secret that she must share in case she returns.

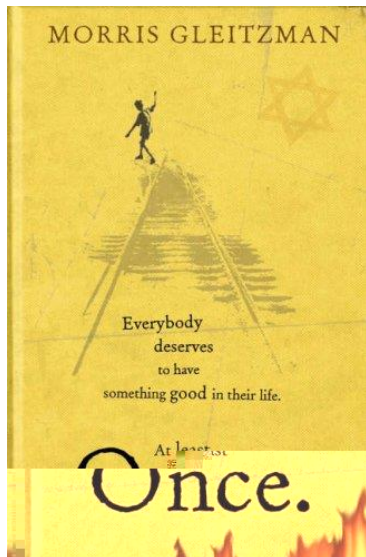
The rest of the book sees Jess, and various members of her family spanning three generations, sitting and telling the stories of

their lives. Jess learns that everyone has secrets and that change is natural and builds memories and lives. The book is about change and sharing, with the stories that the family tell each other that night bringing them closer together and also helping them to understand each other a little better too.



**Mortal Engines**  
**Phillip Reeve**

London is on the move again: the traction city trawls the world on wheels, capturing and eating smaller towns. But when he is thrown off the city by his childhood hero, Valentine, young hero Tom joins forces with the mysterious Hester, and is soon forced to reassess life as he knows it. Set in a captivating futuristic landscape, this hugely imaginative story is a vivid blend of action, romance, mystery, crime and horror. Packed full of colourful characters and locations, it is a whirlwind adventure that challenges both Tom and the reader to re-examine their attitudes and preconceptions.



**Once**  
**Morris Gleitzman**

Felix, a Jewish boy in Poland in 1942, is hiding from the Nazis in a Catholic orphanage. The only problem is that he doesn't know anything about the war, and thinks he's only in the orphanage while his parents travel and try to salvage their bookselling business. And when he thinks his parents are in danger, Felix sets off to warn them, straight into the heart of Nazi-occupied Poland. Felix's journey gets increasingly dangerous, and he begins to see horrors that not even stories can explain. Despite his grim surroundings, Felix never loses hope. Morris Gleitzman takes a painful subject and expertly turns it into a story filled with love, friendship, and even humour.

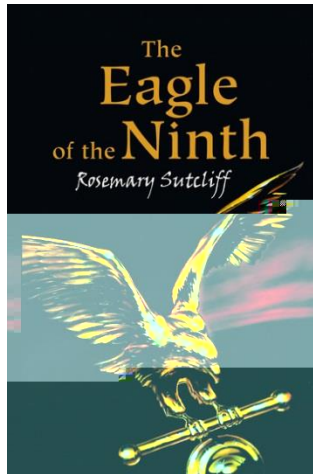
**Black Beauty**  
**Anna Sewell**

Black Beauty begins life in a loving home. But his owners are forced to sell him, and Black Beauty's fortunes change. He is moved from place to place and job to job, often suffering cruel treatment and harsh conditions - until a chance encounter leads to a new turn of events.

**Fire Bringer**  
**David Clement-Davies**

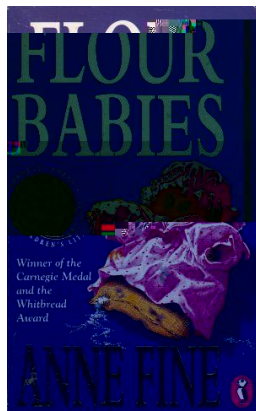
Young buck, Rannoch, was born on the night his father was murdered and into a herd of deer where hunger for power has gradually whittled away at all that is true and good. He knows he must escape to survive. Chased by stags, with their fearsome antlers sharpened for the kill,





**The Eagle of the Ninth**  
**Rosemary Sutcliffe**

Marcus, a young centurion, begins his service in the Roman army of the second century with dreams of glorious military success and a triumphant return to the Etruscan farm that his family has owned for generations. Instead, he soon confronts feelings of alienation when his mother marries again and he is assigned to far-off Britain. Isolated from his family and country, Marcus must establish his own place and accept the realities of a sometimes harsh world.



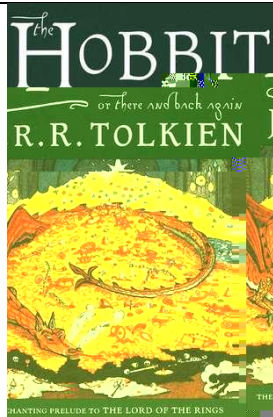
**Flour Babies**  
**Anne Fine**

Let it be flour babies. Let chaos reign. When the annual school science fair comes round, Mr Cartwright's class don't get to work on the Soap Factory, the Maggot Farm or the Exploding Custard Tins. To their intense disgust, they get the Flour Babies - sweet little six-pound bags of flour that must be cared for at all times.



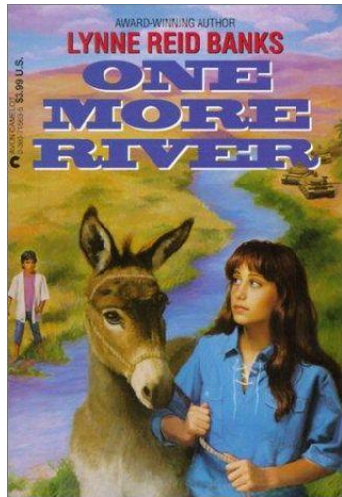
**His Dark Materials: Trilogy**  
**Phillip Pullman**

When Lyra's friend, Roger, disappears, she and her dæmon, Pantalaimon, determine to find him. The ensuing quest leads them to the bleak splendour of the North, where armoured bears rule the ice and witch-queens fly through the frozen skies - and where a team of scientists is conducting experiments too horrible to be spoken about.



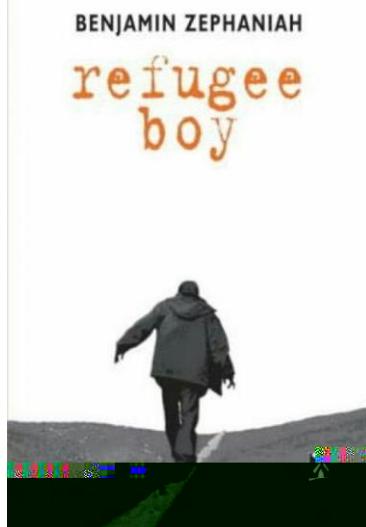
**The Hobbit**  
**J.R.R. Tolkien**

*The Hobbit* met with instant critical acclaim when it was first published in 1937. Now recognized as a timeless classic, this introduction to the hobbit Bilbo Baggins, the wizard Gandalf, Gollum, and the spectacular world of Middle-earth recounts of the adventures of a reluctant hero, a powerful and dangerous ring, and the cruel dragon, Smaug the Magnificent.



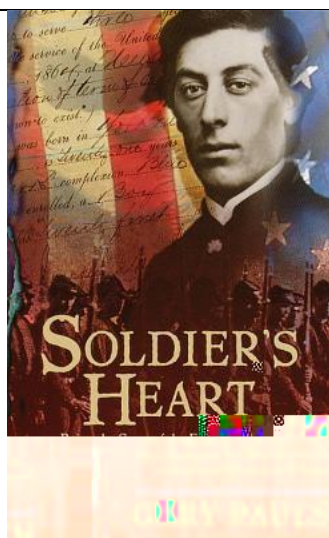
**One More River**  
**Lynne Reid Banks**

This story follows Lesley's journey from Canada to a kibbutz on the River Jordan. And with the approach of the Six Day War, her secret acquaintance with an Arab boy across the Jordan threatens her acceptance by her new classmates.



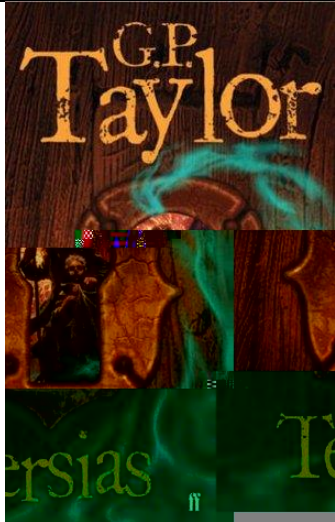
**Refugee Boy**  
**Benjamin Zephaniah**

Alem is on holiday with his father for a few days in London. He has never been out of Ethiopia before and is very excited. They have a great few days together until one morning when Alem wakes up to find the unthinkable. His father has left him. It is only when he is handed a letter that Alem is given an explanation. Alem's father admits that because of the political problems in Ethiopia both he and Alem's mother felt Alem would be safer in London - even though it is breaking their hearts to do this. Alem is now on his own, in the hands of the social services and the Refugee Council. He lives from letter to letter, waiting to hear from his father, and in particular about his mother, who has now gone missing...



**Gary Paulsen**

In June 1861, when the Civil War began, Charley Goddard enlisted in the First Minnesota Volunteers. He was 15. He didn't know what a "shooting war" meant or what he was fighting for. But he didn't want to miss out on a great adventure. The "shooting war" turned out to be the horror of combat and the wild luck of survival: how it feels to cross a field toward the enemy, waiting for fire. When he entered the service he was a boy. When he came back he was different; he was only 19, but he was a man with "soldier's heart," later known as "battle fatigue."

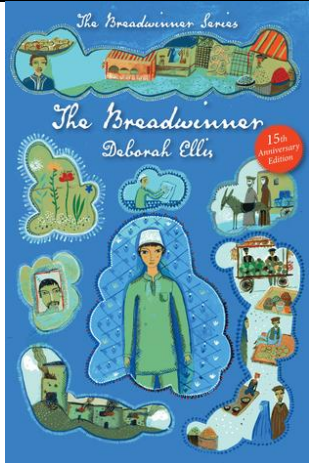


**Tersias**

**G.P. Taylor**

London is living through dark times and Magnus Malachi, a magician, is closely guarding his latest money-spinner - Tersias, a blind boy who can see into the future. But as Tersias' powers become known, others who seek to use them are drawn from the shadows: Jonah, a teenage highwayman, and his companions in crime Tara Solomon, a crazed zealot, who has bred a new species of giant flesh-eating locusts, and Lord Malpas, a keeper of mysterious powers.

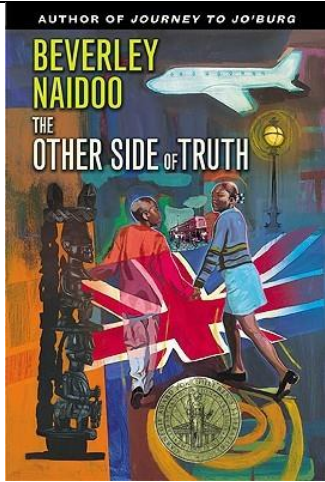
They all seek Tersias - but is he a force for good or evil? And can he ever rid himself of the dark spirit that torments his soul?



**The Breadwinner**

**Deborah Ellis**

Since the Taliban took over Afghanistan, 11-year-old Parvana has rarely been outdoors. Barred from attending school, shopping at the market, or even playing in the streets of Kabul, she is trapped inside her family's one-room home. That is, until the Taliban hauls away her father and Parvana realizes that it's up to her to become the "breadwinner" and disguise herself as a boy to support her mother, two sisters, and baby brother.



**The Other Side of Truth**

**Beverley Naidoo**

After the murder of their mother, twelve-year-old Sade and her younger brother are smuggled out of Nigeria by their journalist father to escape the corrupt military government and growing violence. They are sent to their uncle in London, but when they arrive, he is missing and they are abandoned, passed between foster homes. Their father escapes to England to find them -- but he will be sent back to Nigeria unless Sade can find a way to tell the world what happened to her family.

	<p><b>The Protectors</b>  <b>Pete Johnson</b>          Josh and Andy sign up to become anti-bullying Counsellors because they see it as a chance to skive. But, when they discover that younger pupils are being terrorised by a gang, they are determined to help the victims. They form 'The Protectors', a band of non-violent vigilantes determined to bring justice to the school. Josh and Andy break up the bullying gang but this gives them a taste of power. Slowly, insidiously, the protectors themselves become the abusers.</p>
	<p><b>Chinese Cinderella</b>  <b>Adeline Yeh Mah</b>          A Chinese proverb says, "Falling leaves return to their roots." In Chinese Cinderella, Adeline Yen Mah returns to her roots to tell the story of her painful childhood and her ultimate triumph and courage in the face of despair. Adeline's affluent, powerful family considers her bad luck after her mother dies giving birth to her. Life does not get any easier when her father remarries. She and her siblings are subjected to the disdain of her stepmother, while her stepbrother and stepsister are spoiled. Although Adeline wins prizes at school, they are not enough to compensate for what she really yearns for -- the love and understanding of her family.</p>
	<p><b>The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time</b>  <b>Mark Haddon</b>          Christopher John Francis Boone knows all the countries of the world and their capitals and every prime number up to 7,057. He relates well to animals but has no understanding of human emotions. He cannot stand to be touched. And he detests the colour yellow.          Although gifted with a superbly logical brain, for fifteen-year-old Christopher everyday interactions and admonishments have little meaning. He lives on patterns, rules, and a diagram kept in his pocket. Then one day, a neighbor's dog, Wellington, is killed and his carefully constructed universe is threatened.</p>



	<p>Christopher sets out to solve the murder in the style of his favourite (logical) detective, Sherlock Holmes. What follows makes for a novel that is funny, poignant and fascinating in its portrayal of a person whose curse and blessing are a mind that perceives the world entirely literally.</p>
	<p><b>The Secret Garden</b>  <b>Frances Hodgson Burnett</b>  Recently arrived at her uncle's estate, orphaned Mary Lennox is spoiled, sickly, and certain she won't enjoy living there. Then she discovers the arched doorway into an overgrown garden, shut up since the death of her aunt ten years earlier. Mary soon begins transforming it into a thing of beauty--unaware that she is changing too. But Missalthewaite hides another secret, as Mary discovers one night. High in a dark room, away from the rest of the house, lies her young cousin Colin, who believes he is an incurable invalid, destined to die young. His tantrums are so frightful, no one can reason with him. If only, Mary hopes, she can get Colin to love the secret garden as much as she does, its magic will work wonders on him.</p>
	<p><b>Exodus</b>  <b>Julia Bertagna</b>  Mara's island home is drowning as the ice caps melt and Earth loses its land to the ocean. But one night, in the ruined virtual world of the Weave, Mara meets the mysterious Fox, a fiery-eyed boy who tells her of sky cities that rise from the sea. Mara sets sail on a daring journey to find a new life for herself and her friends - instead she discovers a love that threatens to tear her apart ...</p>
	<p><b>The Knife of Never Letting Go</b>  <b>Patrick Ness</b>  Todd Hewitt is the only boy in a town of men. Ever since the settlers were infected with the Noise germ, Todd can hear everything the men think, and they hear everything he thinks. Todd is just a month away from becoming a man, but in the midst of the cacophony, he knows that the town is hiding something from him --</p>

something so awful Todd is forced to flee with only his dog, whose simple, loyal voice he hears too. With hostile men from the town in pursuit, the two stumble upon a strange and eerily silent creature: a girl. Who is she? Why wasn't she killed by the germ like all the females on New World? Propelled by Todd's gritty narration, readers are in for a white-knuckle journey in which a boy on the cusp of manhood must unlearn everything he knows in order to figure out who he truly is.