



Year Nine

This is where I'm assuming that all the Harry Potter books; all Jacqueline Wilson and all Twilight books have been read. It's when students should be reaching out a little and extending their reading, being more ambitious.

The Knife of Never Letting Go: Patrick Ness. A Marmite book; you'll know straight away whether you love it or hate it, personally I love it. It's a dystopian quest story set on a planet where men can hear each other's thoughts. It's ambitious and different... And the start of a trilogy.

Ashes: Ilsa J Bick. Post apocalyptic zombie story set in America. Pretty gruesome, the second book is VERY gruesome.

The Enemy: Charlie Higson. Another zombie book (England this time) and very gory. Start of a series.

Looking for JJ: Anne Cassidy. A good example of a book that challenges. You think something and you get something else. Probably more female friendly. It's about a missing girl.

Velvet: Mary Hooper. This is an exploration of the Victorian underworld. Doesn't pull punches but quite subtle about it.

Nation: Terry Pratchett. A philosophical look at the nature of religion and belief as well as being a great adventure story.

The Discworld series: Terry Pratchett. A Marmite author. What I love about this epic series of fantasy novels is the fact that they are so so so cleverly written. I have taught A Level lessons just based on a single page from Mort, one of my personal favourites. Pratchett is incredibly clever with the way that he uses language. He's also very clever with the way that he uses fantasy as a way of exploring our own world: subjects as diverse as child abuse and being a football fan. Mort is a great place to start.

Elsewhere: Gabrielle Zevin. A beautiful book about a girl who dies. I can't really say much more than that but it's an all time favourite. And probably a 'girly' one!

Before I Fall: Lauren Oliver. I didn't think I'd like this tale of catty High School girls but it's very thought provoking. It starts with a car accident and then the victim finds that she can live the day again making different decisions with different outcomes.