

A Few Good Reads - Year 6

***The Amazing Maurice and his Educated Rodents* - Terry Pratchett**

A brilliantly funny book and the first for children in the immensely popular Discworld series. It's A Rat-Eat-Rat World...Every town on Discworld knows the stories about rats and pipers, and Maurice - a streetwise tomcat - leads a band of educated ratty friends (and a not so clever kid) on a nice little earner. Piper plus rats equals lots and lots of money. Until they run across someone playing a different tune. Now he and his rats must learn a new concept: evil.

***The Arrival* - Shaun Tan**

What drives so many to leave everything behind and journey alone to a mysterious country, a place without family or friends, where everything is nameless and the future is unknown. This silent graphic novel is the story of every migrant, every refugee, every displaced person, and a tribute to all those who have made the journey. *The Arrival* has become one of the most critically acclaimed books of recent years, a wordless masterpiece that describes a world beyond any familiar time or place.

***Artemis Fowl (Book 1)* - Eoin Colfer**

Half hero, half villain and wholly brainy, although still only a boy, Artemis is a criminal mastermind who has a very daring scheme in mind. Can he steal what he wants from the fairy world and get away with it? Artemis will stop at nothing less...Full of tricks, plots, secret codes and fantastical characters including Holly Short, Mulch Diggums and Foaly and propelled by outrageous cheek sprinkled with the touch of very special magic, *Artemis Fowl* is a book to love forever. Don't miss the rest of the exciting series if you enjoy this book.

***Back Home* - Michelle Magorian**

Intensely moving, this is the story of a young girl coming to terms with getting to know her family again, including a little brother she has never met, having been evacuated to America for the duration of WW2. Sometimes sad but also uplifting as you share the young girl's feelings as she struggles and quite often fails to live up to expectations, particularly when at times she becomes Rusty the rebel. If you enjoy this, make sure you also read *Goodnight Mr Tom*, another World Word Two story by the same author.

***Bad Dreams* - Anne Fine**

Decidedly spooky in places but not without its fair share of giggles, *Bad Dreams* combines a fast-paced adventure with some tricky issues: the importance of being true to yourself and the difficulties we face when making decisions that will affect another person's life. Mel is the class bookworm, who doesn't want to be first-week minder for new girl, Imogen. Slowly, Mel discovers that Imogen has a special talent - a family 'gift' that Mel thinks is more like a curse. And that's when she realizes that stories can happen in real life, too. For only she can stop Imogen's private horror story - stop the bad dreams. The book follows the slowly growing friendship between the two girls as they search for peace in a world that is turned upside down by the supernatural.

***The Bomber Dog* - Megan Rix**

This is a gripping and heart-warming story by a very talented writer. Grey is just a puppy when he arrives at the War Dog Training school and soon becomes inseparable from his trainer, Nathan, a brave young soldier. Until the day a parachute jump goes tragically wrong... As the Second World War rages, Grey faces his most important mission yet: to find his best friend with the help of Wolf, a war dog who's seen it all. Together they must journey across France and behind enemy lines. Their path is fraught with danger. Can they reach Nathan before it's too late?

***The Book of Dead Days* - Marcus Sedgwick**

An intriguing, action-packed, highly readable story that has a twist in it that you'll never guess. The characters are beautifully drawn and the storyline very original. Set in dark threatening cities and the frozen countryside in a distant time and place of the author's making, *The Book of Dead Days* conjures a spell-binding story of sorcery and desperate magic as Valerian, Boy and Willow Smallbone battle to stop time and cling to life. Having read this one, you will certainly want to read the sequel, *Dark Flight Down*.

***The Boundless* - Kenneth Oppell**

A tremendous adventure unfolds across the vast emptiness of Canada being opened up by explorers in the 1880s. Will's father has inherited a railway line and is on the engine plate for its first voyage carrying the previous owner in a highly protected funeral car containing not only the body but items of great attraction to a band of ruffian brakesman and the owner of a circus. Will strikes up a friendship with a talented circus performer, Maren, and finds he also has skills and talents that prove vital in a world of magic, illusion and malevolence.

***The Boy in the Dress* - David Walliams**

Touching, funny and full of insight, this is the story of 12-year old Dennis who lives with his father and brother and desperately misses the mum who left some time before. However he is not quite the very ordinary boy he seems to be, and with the help of his new friend, Lisa, begins to understand that everyone does not have to be the same. Bravely, he decides to do something completely different, reinvents himself and begins to see the world in a whole new way.

***Carrie's War* - Nina Bawden**

One of the most heart-warming and unforgettable stories of World War Two. Carrie and her little brother are evacuated to Wales and billeted at the home of the bullying Mr Evans and his timid sister Lou. Unhappy at home, they love visiting fellow evacuee, Albert, at the farm of Druid's Bottom. Here they meet Hepzibah Green, who knows magical stories, and Mister Johnny, who speaks a language all his own. But then things go wrong and Carrie takes things into her own hands - without guessing the awful consequences.

***Cogheart* - Peter Bunzl**

When 13-year-old Lily's inventor father vanishes after a Zeppelin crash, Lily's determined to hunt down the truth behind his disappearance, helped by Robert, the local clockmaker's son, and her wily mechanical fox Malkin. But shadowy figures are closing in and treachery lurks among the smoky spires of London - along with a life-changing secret. Be swept away by airships and flabbergasted by dastardly plots in this extraordinary and wildly imaginative award-winning debut, bursting with invention and adventure. Then read the equally enthralling sequel, *Moonlocket*.

***The Dragonfly Pool* - Eva Ibbotson**

A wonderful, magical adventure and a school story with a difference. Tally doesn't want to leave her father and her aunts and go away to boarding school. But Delderton Hall is a very special school with interesting staff and pupils and loads of scope for imagination and creativity. Tally organises a trip to the Kingdom of Bergania where she befriends the prince and soon finds herself swept up in a thrilling and dangerous adventure. If you enjoy this story, you will also love *The Star of Kazan*, another gripping story set in 19th Century Austria written by the very talented Eva Ibbotson.

***The Eagle Of The Ninth* - Rosemary Sutcliff**

This is an outstanding classic story of loyalty and bravery in Roman Britain. Brought up the stories of his father's heroism and speculation about how he and his 5,000 soldiers disappeared without trace, Marcus sets out to try to unravel the mystery. His journey is full of danger and emotion, which makes this both a thrilling adventure and a thoughtful story about one boy's search for his missing father.

***Frogkisser!* - Garth Nix**

Fairy tales have never been this much fun! Award-winning author Garth Nix is on hilarious form as he spins this fabulous tale. Feisty Princess Anya, with her loyal dog, must embark on a terribly important (capital Q) Quest to acquire the ingredients for a reversal lip balm, the vital item needed to change a frog back to a prince . . . oh, and save her kingdom from her villainous step(step)father.

***The Garbage King* - Elizabeth Laird**

Inspired by the true story of an African childhood lived on the edge of destitution, this book will take you on an unforgettable emotional journey. When Mamo's mother dies, he is abandoned in the shanties of Addis Ababa. Stolen by a child-trafficker and sold to a farmer, he is cruelly treated. Escaping back to the city, he meets another, very different runaway. Dani is rich, educated - and fleeing his tyrannical father. Together they join a gang of homeless street boys who survive only by mutual bonds of trust and total dependence on each other. They have nothing and share everything. Their courage, loyalty and determination enable them to survive in the harshest of worlds.

***The Ghost of Thomas Kempe* - Penelope Lively**

This Carnegie medal winning book is a timeless and haunting story that will keep you gripped to the page as it builds to an incredibly exciting climax. The ghost of a 17th century sorcerer returns to his old house, now inhabited by the Harrison family. Thomas Kempe the ghost seems intent on getting 10-year-old James Harrison into awful trouble with his family and yet whatever James does his family won't believe in ghosts!

***The Girl of Ink & Stars* - Kiran Millwood Hargrave**

This multi-award-winning book is a magical adventure, beautifully told and full of striking ideas on themes of loyalty, courage and redemption. Forbidden to leave her island, Isabella dreams of the faraway lands her cartographer father once mapped. When her friend disappears, she volunteers to guide the search. The world beyond the walls is a monster-filled wasteland - and beneath the dry rivers and smoking mountains, a fire demon is stirring from its sleep. Soon, following her map, her heart and an ancient myth, Isabella discovers the true end of her journey: to save the island itself.

***The Girl Who Saw Lions* - Berlie Doherty**

An eye-opening book from the Carnegie Medal-winning author Berlie Doherty, *The Girl Who Saw Lions* (originally published as *Abela*) is the touching and profound story of two girls who apparently have nothing in common. The two girls tell their own stories. Abela, growing up in Tanzania, is surrounded by suffering. Her father has already died and now her mother and her baby sister are desperately ill. When they die too, Abela is sent off to England and an uncertain future as an illegal immigrant. Rosa, growing up in England, has everything she could possibly want. There is no reason why these two should become sisters. Their individual stories and the story of how they come together through adoption make a beautiful, satisfying and complete story.

***The Goldfish Boy* - Lisa Thompson**

Twelve-year-old Matthew is trapped in his bedroom by crippling OCD, spending most of his time staring out of his window as the inhabitants of Chestnut Close go about their business. Until the day he is the last person to see his next door neighbour's toddler, Teddy, before he goes missing. Matthew must turn detective and unravel the mystery of Teddy's disappearance - with the help of a brilliant cast of supporting characters. Page-turning, heartbreaking, but ultimately life-affirming, this story is perfect for fans of *Wonder*. It is a book that will make you laugh and cry.

***A Greyhound of a Girl* - Roddy Doyle**

Award-winning Roddy Doyle has written a wonderful, funny and warm-hearted family story about the dying of a granny which weaves together the lives of four generations and a little bit of ghostly mystery too. Scarlet, Mary, Tansey, Emer. Mothers and daughters heading off on a car journey, one of them dead, one of them dying, one of them driving, one of them just beginning. They're going back to the past on a matter of life and death and letting go is hard. 12-year-old Mary's relationship with her granny and the feelings she has about her death will touch your heart.

***HIVE: Higher Institute of Villainous Education* - Mark Walden**

Selected as one of Richard and Judy's Best Kids Books ever, this is a comedy thriller full of baddies and fast-paced action. H I V E (Higher Institute of Villainous Education) is a top secret school of applied villainy where children with a precocious gift for wrongdoing are sent to develop their talents into criminal mastermind. With villainy comes a certain freedom of thought, and every year one student in particular will show exceptional talent. Otto Malpense has been chosen for his skills in Global Domination. But Otto doesn't feel the need to study when he's already so skilled. Can he escape? If you enjoy this, don't miss the equally exciting sequels.

***Holes* - Louis Sachar**

Holes is a funny and poignant story about surviving. When Stanley Yelnats is falsely accused of stealing a pair of trainers, he is sent off to Camp Green Lake - which is not a camp, not green and not near a lake but a boys' detention centre in the middle of the desert. Every day every boy has to dig a hole five foot deep and five foot across because, the Warden says, it's good for them. How Stanley survives and proves that the Warden has a different and far more sinister motive for wanting so many holes to be dug unravels in an unexpected and wholly satisfying way.

Ingo by Helen Dunmore

This spellbinding magical adventure is the first in an award-winning quartet by master storyteller Helen Dunmore. Set in Cornwall, *Ingo* is the story of Sapphire and her brother Conor, and what happens to them after their father mysteriously disappears at sea. Sapphire still thinks her father is alive. Somewhere. The following summer, both Conor and Sapphire are inexorably drawn to the water, despite the worries of their mother. They love the water so much, and spend hours in the nearby cove. When Sapphire follows Conor one day, after he has been gone a long time, she meets Faro--a Merman who introduces her to Ingo, an underwater world she could only have dreamed existed. Ingo blood runs deep through her veins and it is not long before the call of that other world becomes too strong to resist.

Inkheart - Cornelia Funke

Impeccably written by best-selling author, Cornelia Funke, this is a real treasure trove of imagination, nail-biting drama and characters so cleverly drawn that you feel you know every one of them personally. *Inkworld* is a marvellous place of magical realism, full of adventure, passion and excitement and you'll feel utterly compelled to read not only this book but also its sequels *Inkspell* and *Inkdeath*. One cruel night, young Meggie's father, Mo, reads aloud from *Inkheart* and an evil ruler named Capricorn escapes the boundaries of fiction and lands in their living room. Suddenly, Meggie is smack in the middle of the kind of adventure she has only read about in books. Somehow, Meggie and Mo must learn to harness the magic that conjured this nightmare. Somehow they must change the course of the story that has changed their lives forever.

Itch - Simon Mayo

A terrific, action adventure packed full of fascinating true science! Itchingham Lofte - known as Itch - is fourteen, and loves science, especially chemistry. He's also an element-hunter: he's collecting all the elements in the periodic table. Which has some interesting and rather destructive results in his bedroom... Then, Itch makes a discovery. A new element, never seen before. At first no one believes him - but soon, someone hears about the strange new rock and wants it for himself. And Itch and his family are in serious danger... If you enjoy this, there are two equally enthralling sequels to this award-winning book waiting for you.

King of Shadows - Susan Cooper

A fascinating time travelling journey into the world of the Elizabethan theatre. Nathan Field, a talented young actor, arrives at the newly rebuilt Globe Theatre in London to play Puck in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. As rehearsals begin, eerie echoes of the past begin to haunt Nat, and he falls sick with a mysterious sickness. When he wakes, Nat finds himself in 1599, an actor at the original Globe - and his co-star is none other than the King of Shadows himself: William Shakespeare. Nat's new life is full of excitement, danger and the passionate friendship that he has longed for since the tragic death of his parents. But why has he been sent to the past - and is he trapped there forever?

Letters from the Lighthouse - Emma Carroll

A beautifully written story about bravery, compassion, understanding, and having the strength to fight for what you believe in. It's 1941 and the Second World War rages on longer than anyone anticipated. Reeling from the death of their father and the disappearance of their sister Sukie, Olive and her brother are evacuated to the coast of Devon. After discovering a strangely coded message that she's certain has something to do with Sukie's disappearance, Olive embarks on a dangerous adventure as she's determined to get to the bottom of the mystery.

Listen to the Moon - Michael Morpurgo

This much praised novel by Michael Morpurgo was inspired by a gruesome medal commemorating the sinking of the *Lusitania* 100 years ago off the coast of Co Cork, and a newspaper report the author came across during his research, about a small child being spotted on top of a piano floating amongst the wreckage. It is a story of love and loss, of family and community fractured by war, of the power of hope, and above all of the will of the human spirit to survive. If you enjoy this, make sure you catch up with as many of Michael Morpurgo's amazing books as you can.

***The London Eye Mystery* - Siobhan Dowd**

This is a beautifully written mystery which was shortlisted for several awards. 11.32am: Ted and his sister Kat watch their cousin Salim get on board the London Eye. The pod rises from the ground, high above the city. 12.02pm: The pod lands and the doors open. Everyone exits - everyone but Salim. Has he spontaneously combusted? (Ted's theory.) Has he been kidnapped? (Aunt Gloria's theory.) Is he even still alive? (The family's unspoken fear.) Even the police are baffled - so it's up to Ted, whose brain runs on its own unique operating system, to solve this mystery and find Salim. Teaming up with Kat, Ted follows a trail of clues across London - while time ticks dangerously by...

***The Machine Gunners* - Robert Westall**

This is one of the best war books ever written for children - gripping and scary. Living in World War II Britain, Chas McGill is determined to outdo his rival Boddser Brown in obtaining the ultimate war souvenir. When he finds a crashed German bomber in the woods complete with machine gun, he knows he can not only beat Boddser hands down, but can also play a role in the war.

***The Midnight Folk* - John Masefield**

Highly entertaining, this is the first of two fast paced, classic fantasy adventure stories. Kay Harker is sent to stay with his bad tempered guardian in a big house in the country. Determined to recover the long-lost family treasure, Kay finds himself in a race against the evil Abner Brown. Abner has his witch friends and his dark magic to help him, but Kay has the very special Midnight Folk. In a breathtaking, magical quest, which side will find the treasure first? Kay's story is continued in *The Box of Delights*.

***Millions* - Frank Cottrell Boyce**

Millions - the prize winning story of a not-so-great train robbery - is an absolute treasure! Two brothers, Damian and Anthony, are unwittingly caught up in a train robbery during Britain's countdown to joining the Euro. Suddenly finding themselves with a vast amount of cash, the boys have just one glorious, appalling dilemma - how to spend it in the few days before it becomes worthless. Torn between the vices of buying a million pizzas and the virtues of ending world poverty, the boys soon discover that being rich is a mug's game. For not only is the clock ticking - the bungling bank robbers are closing in too. Pizzas or World Peace - what would you choose?

***Moon Pie* - Simon Mason**

How love is tested, challenged and threatened, but can ultimately hold families together is at the heart of this award-winning book. Eleven-year-old Martha is used to managing her father's sometimes erratic behaviour after her mother dies. Dealing with his oddities and caring for her small brother Tug seems not much stranger than her friend Marcus' obsession with Hollywood movies. But finally, even for her, it is all just a bit too much. There is only one person who can sort things out now. Dad.

***Northern Lights* - Philip Pullman**

This is the first part of Philip Pullman's magnificent trilogy, *His Dark Materials*, the story of Lyra, a young girl with an exceptional destiny. Brought up in Jordan College, Oxford, Lyra uncovers a secret about her mysterious guardian which leads to some dangerous questioning. It also marks the beginning of Lyra's search for her friend Roger, a search that takes her to the ice kingdoms of the North where armoured bears rule. Lyra's courage and stubborn determination lead her on this mission of incredible danger in this brilliant and imaginative story. If you enjoy this book, don't miss the sequels, *The Subtle Knife* and *The Amber Spyglass*.

***Once* - Morris Gleitzman**

A moving and convincing child's-eye view of what happened to the children of Poland after the Germans invaded. Felix has been placed by his parents in an orphanage for safe-keeping but, when the Germans come and burn the books in the orphanage library, Felix knows he must set out to return to his parents, who are booksellers, and make sure they are safe. Felix's journey is dangerous and desperate but also full of courage and hope in a world where friendships and loyalty are the glue that hold things together. Felix's story continues in three further equally moving books.

***The Owl Service* - Alan Garner**

A gripping, magical story by prize winning author, Alan Garner. It all begins with the scratching in the ceiling. From the moment Alison discovers the dinner service in the attic, with its curious pattern of floral owls, a chain of events is set in progress that is to affect everybody's lives. Relentlessly, Alison, her step-brother Roger and Welsh boy Gwyn are drawn into the replay of a tragic Welsh legend -- a modern drama played out against a background of ancient jealousies. As the tension mounts, it becomes clear that only by accepting and facing the situation can they resolve it.

***Pig Heart Boy* - Malorie Blackman**

Cameron's operation is risky. Very risky. He needs a new heart and the best match comes from an unusual source - a pig. A pig heart transplant has never been done before. It may not work out and it is controversial but Cameron and his family are prepared to give it a try. After all, it's the one chance Cameron has of leading a normal life and at thirteen that's the one thing he really wants to do. Told by Cameron as he faces up to the bravest decision of his life, this is an emotionally rich and thought-provoking story.

***Plundering Paradise* - Geraldine McCaughrean**

Nathan loves pirates, his days are spent dreaming about them and wondering what it would be like to be one. Anything to brighten up his grey and dreary existence. So when Tamo White, the son of a real-life pirate, suggests that Nathan go home with him to Madagascar, it is too good a chance to miss. There's just one problem. Nathan's sister, Maud. He can't leave her behind but will she really be able to survive in a strange land full of pirates? You never know - perhaps she'll adapt better than Nathan, or even she herself, could ever have imagined. *Plundering Paradise* will whisk you away to a distant land and fill your senses with amazing sights, sounds and beautiful colours. You will feel as though you've really visited Madagascar and have lived among the pirates and the islanders.

***Sky Hawk* - Gill Lewis**

Sky Hawk is an intense and touching story of how protecting a rare bird forges a deep and special friendship between two children. The osprey is Iona's secret but she trusts Callum to keep it and together the two of them do all they can to keep the bird safe. From the glittering lochs of Scotland to the mangrove swamps of the Gambia, *Sky Hawk* is an enthralling tale about a promise between two friends, that will change lives forever, and the power of friendship, loyalty, and hope.

***Stormbreaker* - Anthony Horowitz**

Alex Rider is fourteen when his whole world is turned upside down. Already an orphan, his guardian is killed in suspicious circumstances and Alex is found forcibly recruited into the MI6 to train as a super spy. He performs deeds of unimaginable daring, faces terrible danger - and lives to tell the tale. A great, pacy read and the first in a brilliant series of 10 gripping books starring Alex.

***The Thirteen Treasures* - Michelle Harrison**

This enthralling and at times terrifying book won the Waterstones Children's Book Prize. While 13-year-old Tanya is visiting her grandmother's house, an old photograph leads her to an unsolved mystery. Fifty years ago a girl vanished in the woods nearby - a girl Tanya's grandmother will not speak of. Fabian, the caretaker's son, is tormented by the girl's disappearance. His grandfather was the last person to see her alive, and has lived under suspicion ever since. Together, Tanya and Fabian decide to find the truth. But Tanya has her own secret: the ability to see fairies. And, after disturbing an intruder in the night, it emerges that someone else shares her ability ... The manor's sinister history is about to repeat itself ... Tanya's story continues in *The Thirteen Curses* and *The Thirteen Secrets*.

***Truckers (the First Book of the Nomes)* - Terry Pratchett**

This brilliant book is the first in a trilogy. Masklin, Grimma and their rapidly diminishing band of four inch high Nomes (they aren't shrinking in height, but numbers) leave their home in order to survive. They find themselves in a department store, among Nomes who no longer recognise that there are outsiders, or even an outside. When they discover that the department store is due to close and will be knocked down, can they persuade the rest of the Nomes that they need to leave? If you enjoy this book, you should read the other books in the series, *Diggers and Wings*.

***The Unforgotten Coat* - Frank Cottrell Boyce**

This is a stunning magical story of a summer of friendship with darker undertones of the plight of refugees. Two refugee brothers from Mongolia are determined to fit in with their Liverpool schoolmates, but bring so much of Mongolia to Bootle that their new friend and guide, Julie, is hard-pressed to know truth from fantasy as she recollects a wonderful friendship that was abruptly ended when Chingis and his family were forced to return to Mongolia. Told with the humour, warmth and brilliance of detail which characterizes Frank Cottrell Boyce's writing, this magical and compelling story is enriched by stunning and atmospheric Polaroid photos.

***Walk Two Moons* - Sharon Creech**

This intelligent and unsentimental prize winning book tells the story of Salamanca Hiddle whose mother has disappeared. Unable to accept this, Sal sets off with her delightfully eccentric grandparents to drive through America following her mother's last known journey in the hope of discovering the truth about what happened to her. On the way Sal takes in the sights, sounds and smells of the country and tells her grandparents about her wildly imaginative friend Phoebe and her mother. As the tale unfolds, so too does the story of Salamanca's own mother, bringing true meaning to the Native American proverb: "Don't judge a man until you have walked two moons in his moccasins".

***A Wizard of Earthsea* - Ursula Le Guin**

This classic fantasy novel (the first in a quartet) tells the story of Ged, a young and ambitious wizard, who finds his route to power is not at all straightforward. Tempted by pride to try spells beyond his powers, he lets loose an evil shadow-beast. Only he can destroy it and so he begins a quest which leads him to all corners of Earthsea. He must journey across the oceans, contending with dragons, witches, sinister shadows, speaking stones and (most dangerously of all) with himself.

***Wolf Brother* - Michelle Paver**

This is the first in a brilliant series called *The Chronicles of Ancient Darkness*. Rich in detail which brings the past and the ancient forest world vividly to life, *Wolf Brother* tells how an orphaned boy is forced to set out on a terrible mission. Torak is an unwilling hero. He is scared and trusts no one. His only companion is a wolf cub, whom he seems to understand better than any human. Theirs is a terrifying quest in a world of wolves, tree spirits and Hidden People, a world in which trusting a friend means risking your life. If you enjoy this book, you will not be able to resist reading Torak's further adventures.

***The Wolf Wilder* - Katherine Rundell**

Wolves, wildness and freedom are at the heart of this thrilling story. Wolf wilders are employed to reintroduce wolves unfortunate enough to be brought up as pets in rich households back into the wild, and they're easy to spot: they'll be missing a piece of finger, the lobe of an ear, a toe or two. Feo and her mother are wolf wilders, content deep in the forest, at least until the arrival of General Rakov and the imperial army. Rakov treats their wolves with the same brutal contempt he shows to the peasants, and despite her reclusiveness, Feo finds herself fighting alongside her neighbours for what is right. '*Wolves, like children, are not born to lead calm lives*' we are told and this is a marvellous adventure - original, beautifully written, and full of exciting and inspiring scenes and ideas.

***Wonder* - R J Palacio**

'My name is August. I won't describe what I look like. Whatever you're thinking, it's probably worse.' Auggie wants to be an ordinary ten-year-old. He does ordinary things - eating ice cream, playing on his Xbox. He feels ordinary - inside. But ordinary kids don't make other ordinary kids run away screaming in playgrounds. Ordinary kids aren't stared at wherever they go. Born with a terrible facial abnormality, Auggie has been home-schooled by his parents his whole life. Now, for the first time, he's being sent to a real school - and he's dreading it. All he wants is to be accepted - but can he convince his new classmates that he's just like them, underneath it all? *Wonder* is a funny, frank, astonishingly moving book which you will not easily forget and you will almost certainly want to go on to read *Auggie and Me*, which tells how some of the people who come to know Auggie are affected by him.