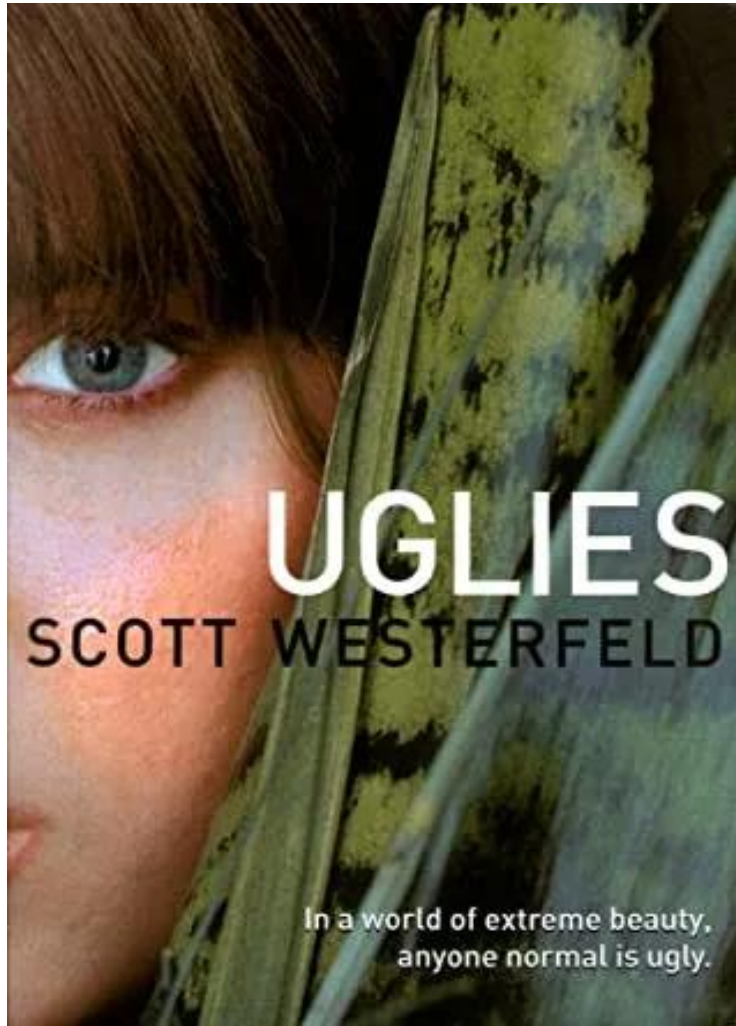


Dystopian Recommended Reading



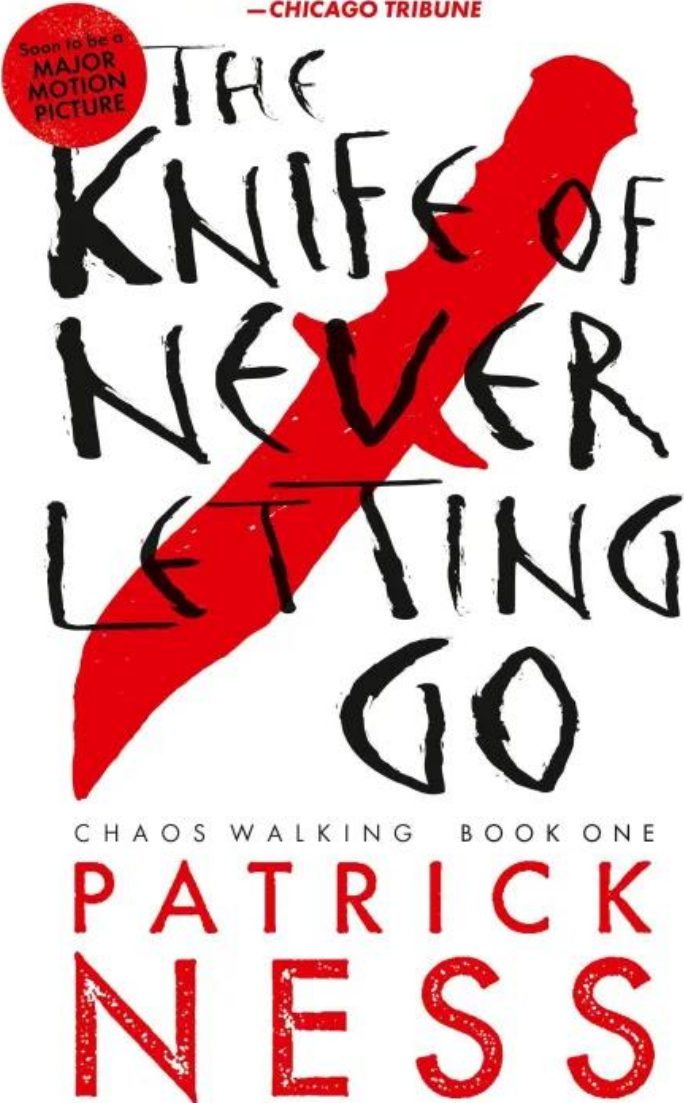
Humanity has been cured of all its fatal ailments. There's no hunger, and diseases are a thing of the past. There's no war, and there's no reason for people to kill each other. The art of death is left up to the Scythes, who deliver the end to everyone's lives. Newly apprenticed to scythes, Citra and Rowan, are unhappy about their new position. But it's clear: only one of them will become the next scythe. The other? Well, you'll just have to see.



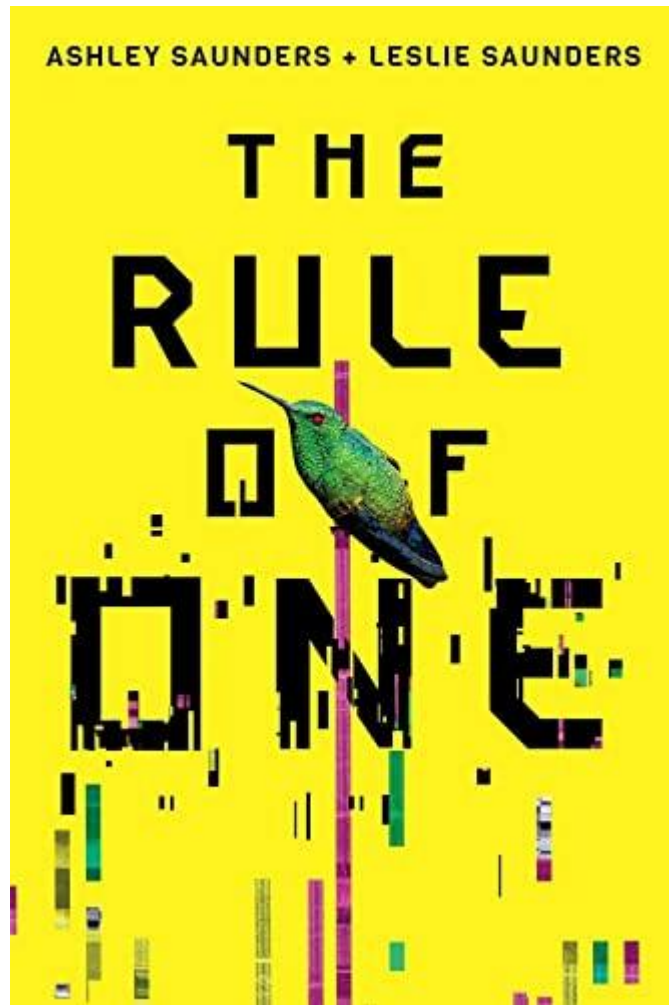
On the cusp of her sixteenth birthday, Tally can't wait to have an operation that will transform her from one of the uglies into a gorgeous pretty. As a pretty, her world will open up in a high-tech dreamworld where her sole job is having fun. But Tally's new friend Shay has her doubts about the surgery. After Shay runs away, Tally learns the dark side of the pretty world. The authorities give Tally two options: first, bring in her friend and become pretty like she wants, or, second, not turn her in and be ugly forever. Scott Westerfeld's hit dystopian young adult sci fi book series the Uglies stretches to four books and is a modern classic you won't want to miss.

"A READ-ALONE, STAY-UP-WAY-TOO-LATE BOOK."

—CHICAGO TRIBUNE



Todd is one month away from manhood in a settlement of men. Thanks to the Noise germ, all of the residents can hear each other's thoughts. Which means there are no secrets. Todd can also hear the thoughts of his beloved dog who accompanies him when he decides to run away. Soon Todd encounters a silent girl, whose mystery bewitches him: after all, weren't all the females on New World killed by a germ? Todd will need to forget everything he's been taught as he goes on the run with his dog and new silent companion. The must-read dystopian Chaos Walking trilogy kicks off with this book, an epic classic that ranks high among the best science fiction books for teens.

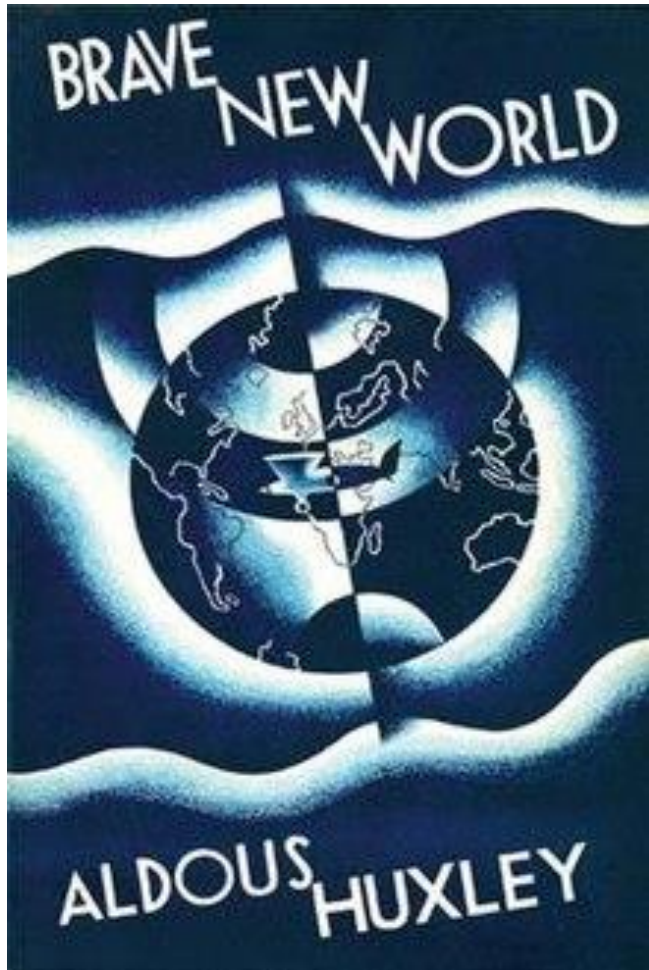


In the near-future United States, a one-child policy is ruthlessly enforced. Everyone follows the Rule of One. But Ava Goodwin, daughter of the head of the Texas Family Planning Division, has a secret—one her mother died to keep and her father has helped to hide for her entire life.

She has an identical twin sister, Mira.

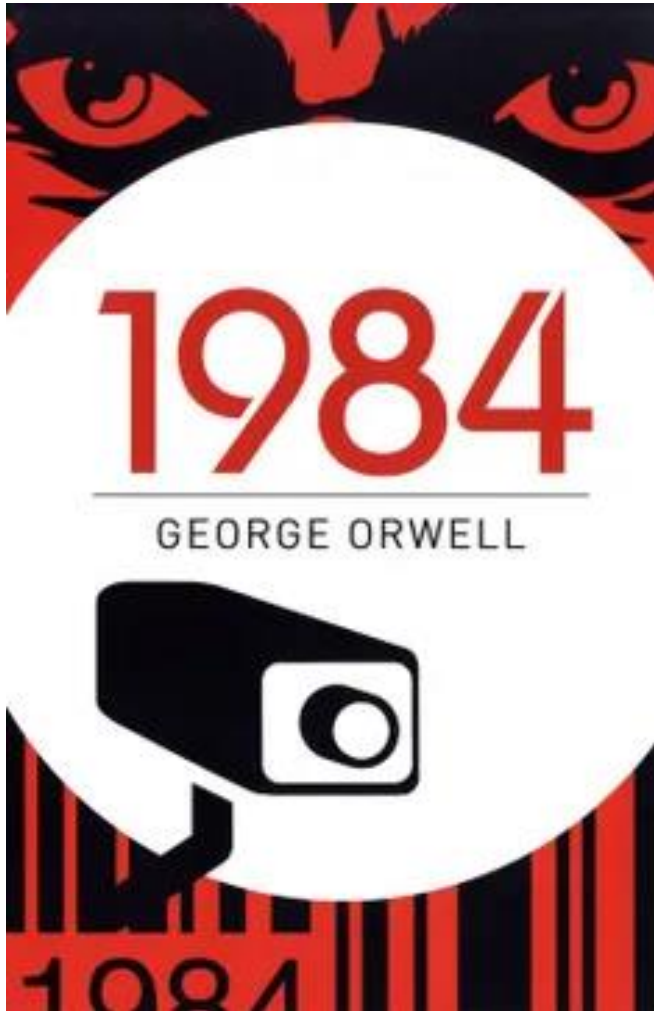
For eighteen years Ava and Mira have lived as one, trading places day after day, maintaining an interchangeable existence down to the most telling detail. But when their charade is exposed, their worst nightmare begins. Now they must leave behind the father they love and fight for their lives.

Branded as traitors, hunted as fugitives, and pushed to discover just how far they'll go in order to stay alive, Ava and Mira rush headlong into a terrifying unknown..



Far in the future, the World Controllers have created the ideal society. Through clever use of genetic engineering, brainwashing and recreational sex and drugs all its members are happy consumers. Bernard Marx seems alone harbouring an ill-defined longing to break free. A visit to one of the few remaining Savage Reservations where the old, imperfect life still continues, may be the cure for his distress...

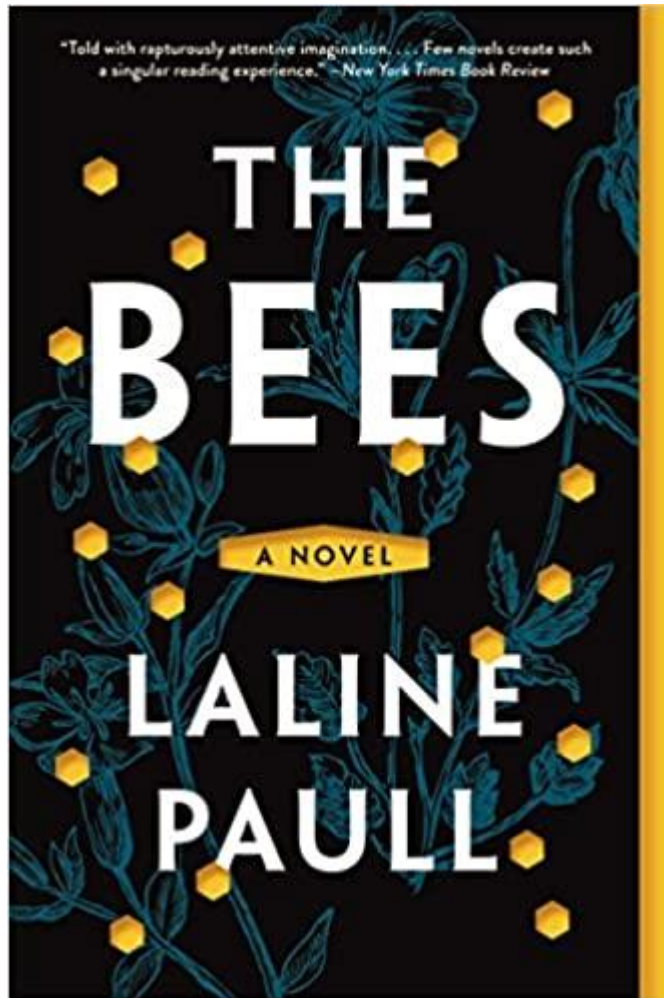
Year 11+



Winston Smith works for the Ministry of Truth in London, chief city of Airstrip One. Big Brother stares out from every poster, the Thought Police uncover every act of betrayal. When Winston finds love with Julia, he discovers that life does not have to be dull and deadening, and awakens to new possibilities. Despite the police helicopters that hover and circle overhead, Winston and Julia begin to question the Party; they are drawn towards conspiracy. Yet Big Brother will not tolerate dissent - even in the mind. For those with original thoughts they invented Room 101. . .

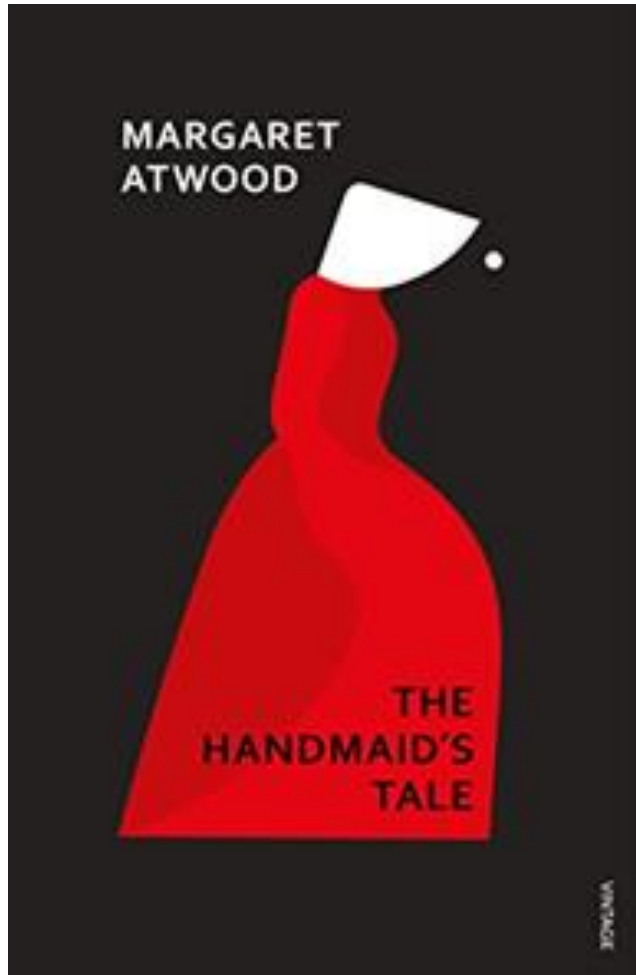
1984 is George Orwell's terrifying vision of a totalitarian future in which everything and everyone is slave to a tyrannical regime.

Year 9 +



Flora 717 is a sanitation worker, a member of the lowest caste in her orchard hive where work and sacrifice are the highest virtues and worship of the beloved Queen the only religion. But Flora is not like other bees. With circumstances threatening the hive's survival, her curiosity is regarded as a dangerous flaw but her courage and strength are an asset. She is allowed to feed the new-borns in the royal nursery and then to become a forager, flying alone and free to collect pollen. She also finds her way into the Queen's inner sanctum, where she discovers mysteries about the hive that are both profound and ominous.

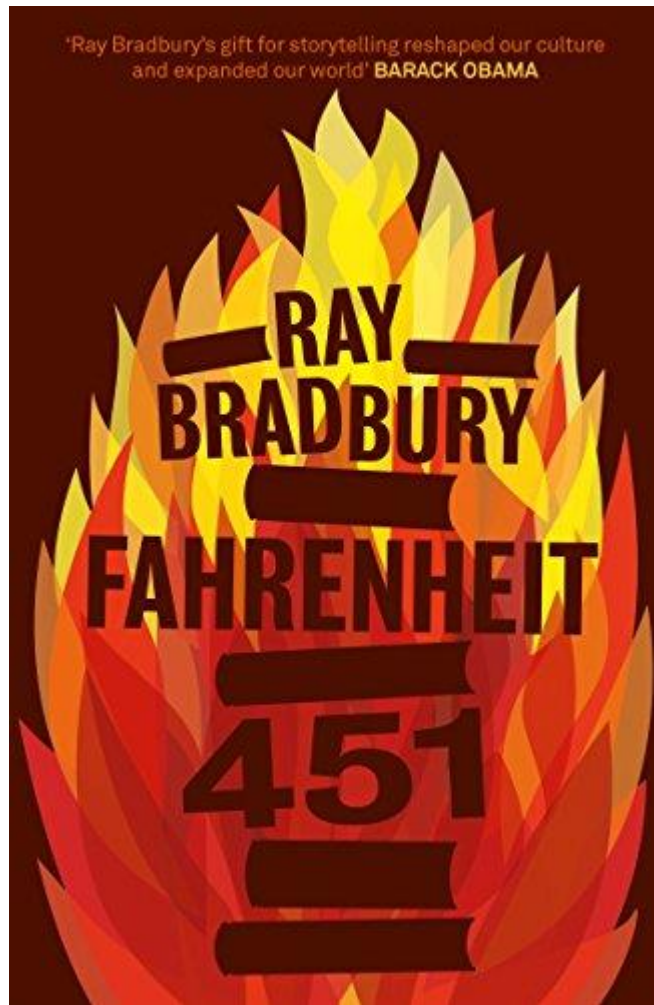
But when Flora breaks the most sacred law of all--daring to challenge the Queen's fertility--enemies abound, from the fearsome fertility police who enforce the strict social hierarchy to the high priestesses jealously wedded to power. Her deepest instincts to serve and sacrifice are now overshadowed by an even deeper desire, a fierce maternal love that will bring her into conflict with her conscience, her heart, her society--and lead her to unthinkable deeds.



The Republic of Gilead offers Offred only one function: to breed. If she deviates, she will, like dissenters, be hanged at the wall or sent out to die slowly of radiation sickness. But even a repressive state cannot obliterate desire - neither Offred's nor that of the two men on which her future hangs.

Brilliantly conceived and executed, this powerful evocation of twenty-first century America gives full rein to Margaret Atwood's devastating irony, wit and astute perception..

Year 11+

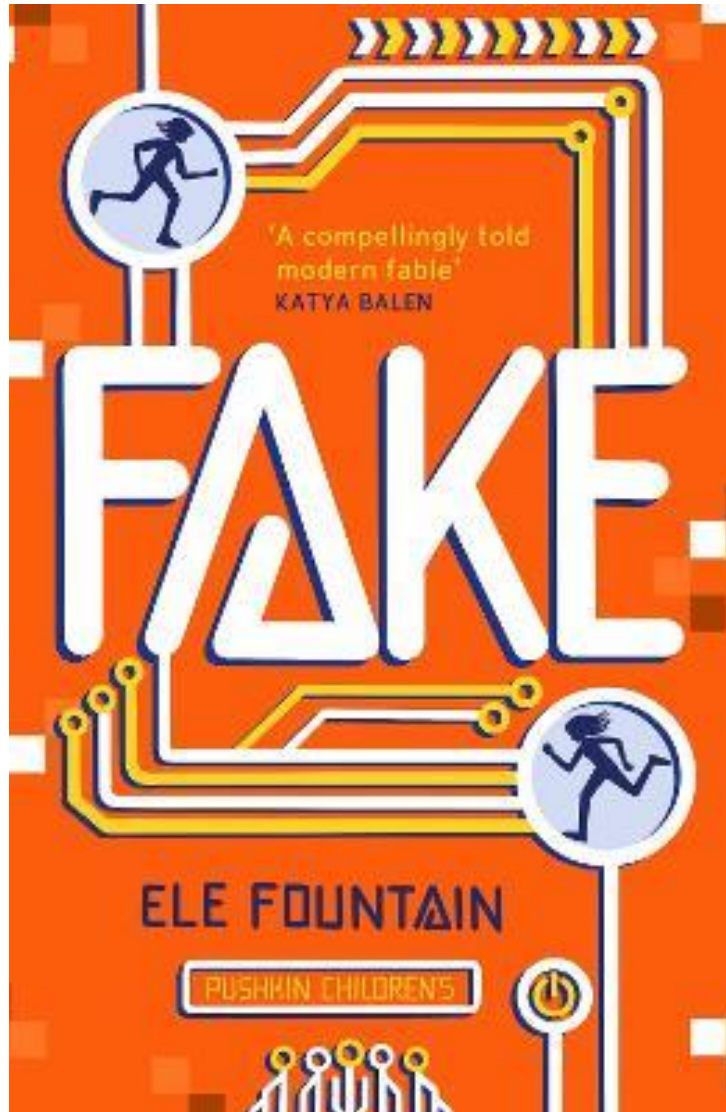


The hauntingly prophetic classic novel set in a not-too-distant future where books are burned by a special task force of firemen. Guy Montag is a fireman. His job is to burn books, which are forbidden, being the source of all discord and unhappiness. Even so, Montag is unhappy; there is discord in his marriage. Are books hidden in his house? The Mechanical Hound of the Fire Department, armed with a lethal hypodermic, escorted by helicopters, is ready to track down those dissidents who defy society to preserve and read books.

Year 9 +



How far would you go to save those you love? Lowrie and Shen are the youngest people on the planet after a virus caused global infertility. Closeted in a pocket of London and doted upon by a small, ageing community, the pair spend their days mudlarking and looking for treasure – until a secret is uncovered that threatens not only their family but humanity’s entire existence. Now Lowrie and Shen face an impossible choice: in the quiet at the end of the world, they must decide what to sacrifice to save the whole human race...



Children must be protected until their immune systems have fully developed because a simple infection could kill. All schooling is on-line until the age of 14 and digital technology is central to all aspects of life. This theme is brilliantly worked through and will really resonate with readers who have experienced lockdowns, increased online shopping, online learning and of course not being able to meet their friends. They will understand the nuances of facing live interactions for the first time as these children join their designated boarding schools. How does live socialising work? What are the cues that help you understand behaviour? This would not be an Ele Fountain novel without also a cracking mystery to solve and wider political implications to consider, such as the risks to autonomy created by algorithms and realising just how easy it is to lose a digital identity. We learn that we need to watch very carefully how far big tech and big pharma can control our lives.



The story is set in the future, and features a bunch of teen characters on both sides of a 'virtual reality' game called OASIS that has become the universe's most popular entertainment. We see their seedy, poverty-stricken, real worlds and the glamorous 'virtual' world of possibility that they can access through VR suits whenever they choose. At the heart of the story is Wade Watts, a boy who might—JUST—have the skill (and knowledge of obscure 80's cultural references) to win a competition which will make him the richest person in the universe—and the most powerful to boot! Of course there are evil forces out to stop him and this provides a most gripping climax to the tale. A perfect book for any teenager or young adult obsessed with games and game culture—or parents with fond memories of Dungeons and Dragons etc., from a misspent youth!

Year 8 +