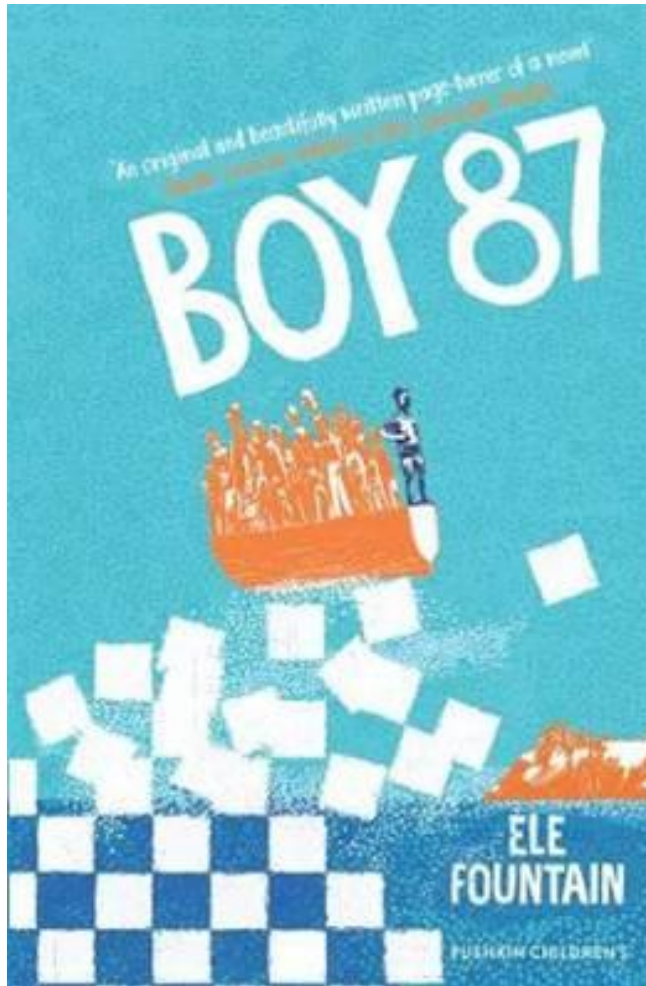


Year 7
Class Readers
*Books we read just for
pure enjoyment*



Fourteen-year-old Shif and his best friend Bini are ordinary boys with big ambitions, but their world implodes when they attract the attention of the military "giffa". Wrenched from their families, they're sent to a remote desert prison, where their cellmates are barely clinging on to life.

However, the boys' arrival sparks hope in the imprisoned men, and they give everything to ensure their escape. Reaching the nearest town, Shif has only just begun the perilous journey which he hopes will end in safety and freedom.

Set in an unnamed country, this is a timely and important book which illuminates the realities of life as a refugee. The first-person narration simply but powerfully conveys Shif's terror at the violence and cruelty he encounters, as well as his sense of loss. The horrors he is escaping are all too real, but this is ultimately a story about the power of kindness and the strength of the human spirit.



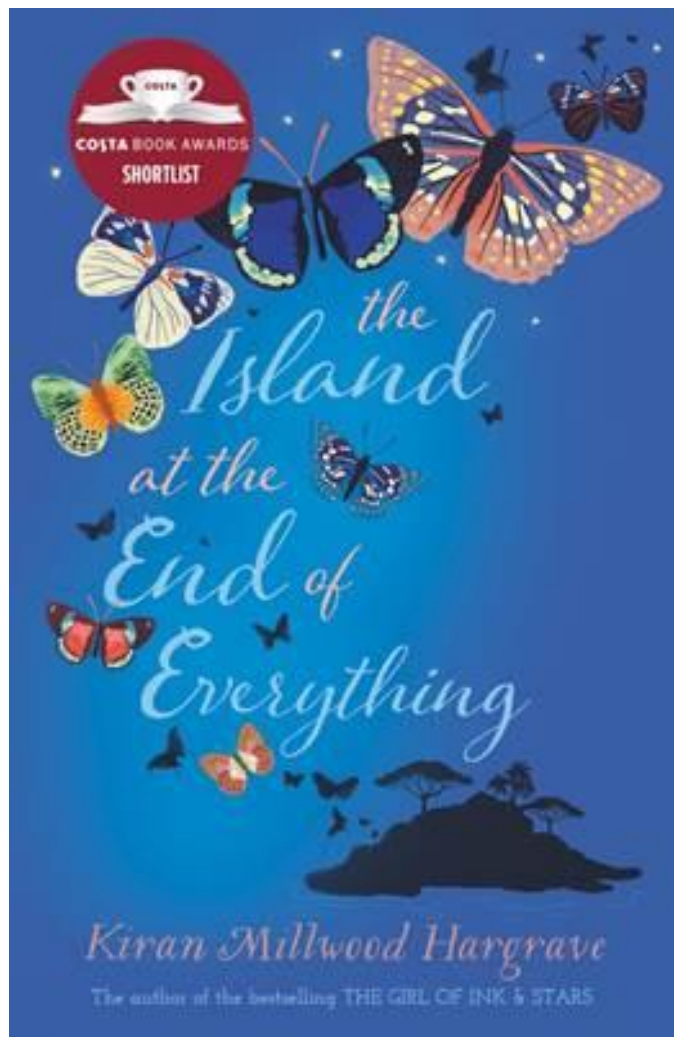
Fourteen-year-old Jemma has severe cerebral palsy and is non-verbal. She and her foster family have experimented with assistive communication in the past but nothing yet has offered the right solution. Family life is chaotic but generally quite happy – especially since Jemma has a cherished friend in her carer Sarah.

The fly in the ointment is Sarah's apparently affable boyfriend Dan. Jemma alone knows the truth, as Dan lets down his guard when they are alone, foolishly assuming her to be permanently devoid of communication and indeed faculty. The thing is, he's not just unpleasant... He's a killer. How can she tell the world before he strikes again?

A fast-paced and accessible thriller, refreshing in its inclusion of a non-verbal protagonist. The first-person narrative offers the reader unique access to her sharp-witted, perceptive and engaging character. Also within the family, Jemma's foster brother is on the autistic spectrum and her foster sister displays challenging behaviour.

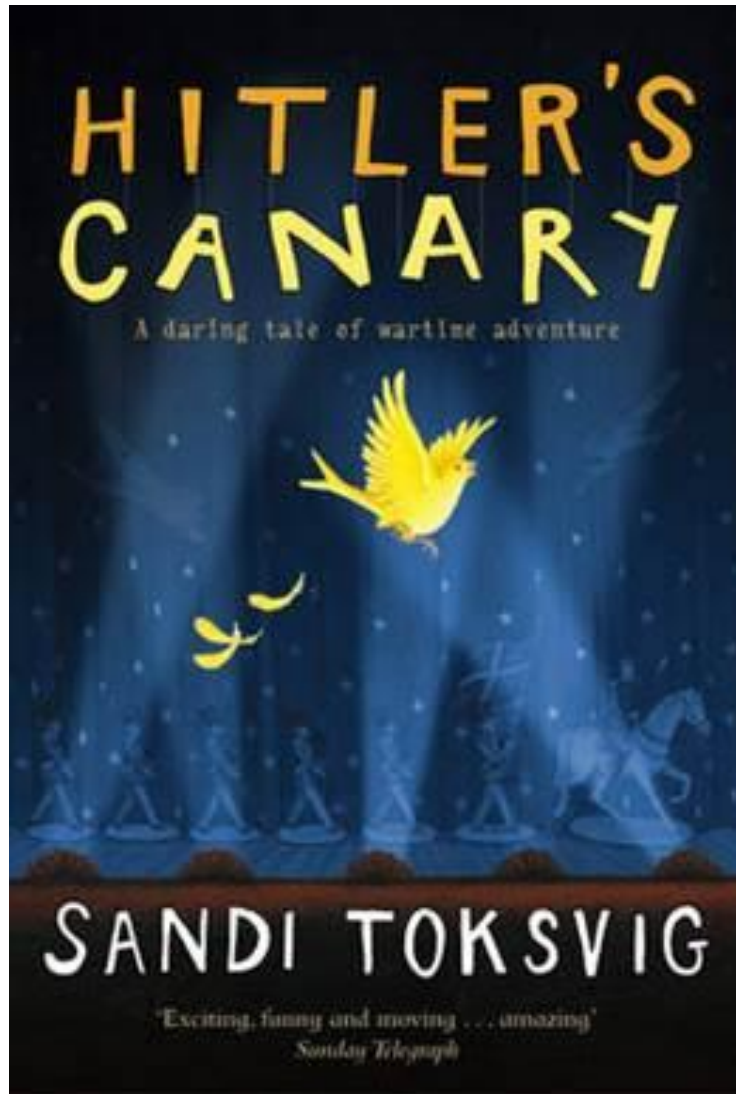


Coram Boy is the story of Toby, saved from an African ship as a child, and Aaron, the illegitimate son of the heir to a great estate. The two boys' lives are linked by the Coram Man, a shady figure who collects abandoned and unwanted children from across the country, supposedly to deliver them to a safe new life at the Coram Hospital in London. In reality, however, the unscrupulous man sells the unfortunate children into slavery, or 'disposes' of them if they are of no use to him. Soon, Toby and Aaron find themselves bound together in an epic journey, fraught with danger and excitement.



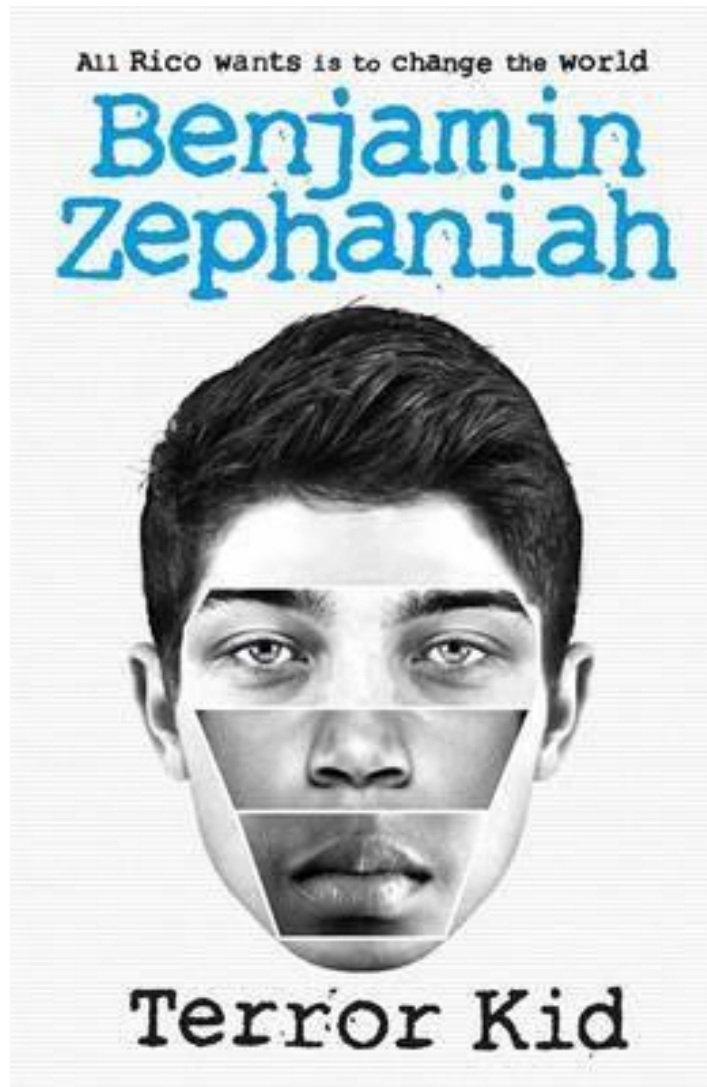
Amihan lives on the secluded island of Culion with her sick mum, who has leprosy. But when the government decides the island must be quarantined, Ami and all the children who don't have the disease are forced to leave – while her mum must stay behind, along with everything Ami has ever known.

Separated from everything she loves, Ami embarks on a daring journey to find a way back home. When she discovers an abandoned boat, she sets out to fix it. But is she brave enough to take it across the fierce waves and back to Culion? Across the fierce water and through the forest, Ami faces many challenges, but the hardest one of all is waiting for her at home.



en-year old Bamse is asleep on Henry the V's throne when the German's invade Copenhagen. Son to one of Denmark's most famous actors, Bamse grows up in a world of drama and make-believe, but during the Nazi occupation everything that was once comfortable and familiar is threatened, and his way of life is changed forever.

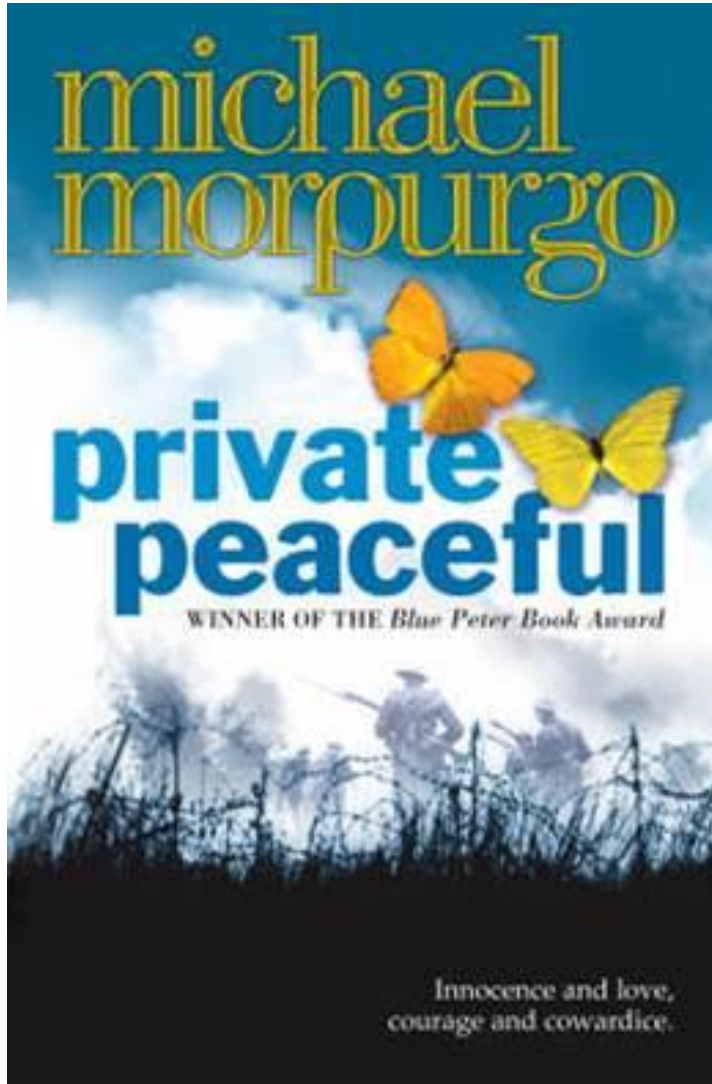
This story uniquely portrays the war through the eyes of a child stuck between the need for safety and the desire to help. Hitler's Canary, ultimately, is about the courage and heroism of ordinary citizens in a time of danger and strife. Bamse himself stands as a metaphor for the extraordinary efforts of the Danes to save their Jewish countrymen: in the face of courage and goodness, power and size will remain fallible.



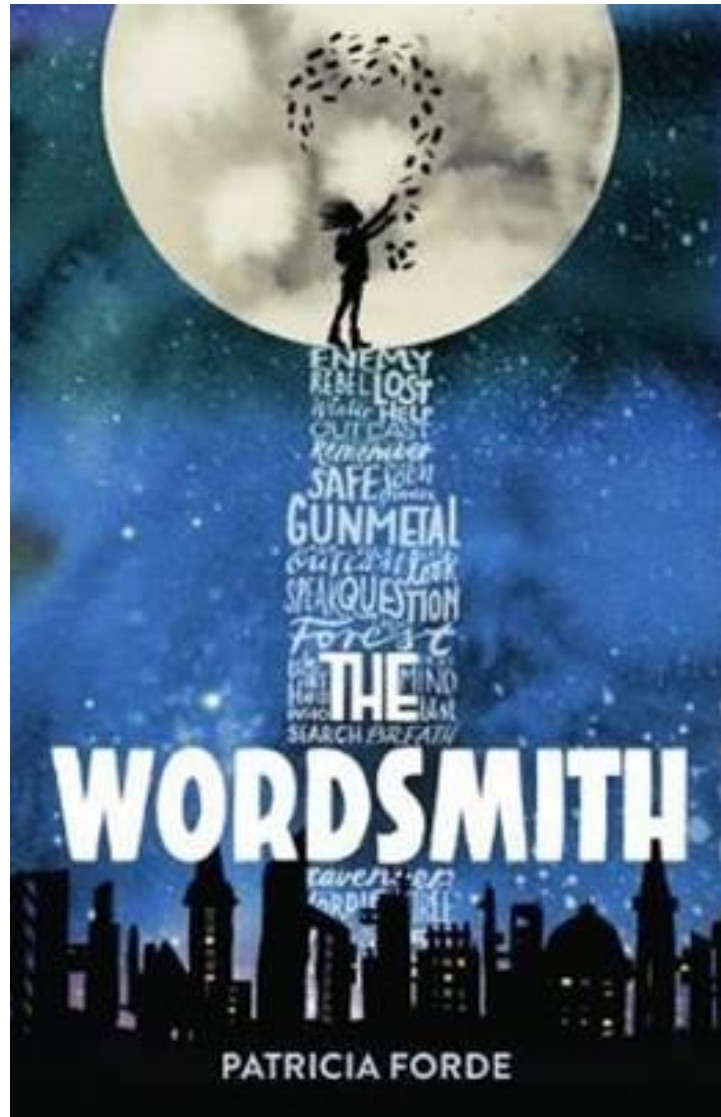
Rico is honest, hardworking and very angry. His Roma background marks him out as a suspect and makes it hard not to be in the wrong place at the wrong time.

Acutely socially and politically aware, Rico wants to make a difference, to put right some of the injustices he sees - to make someone listen. So when an enigmatic stranger offers him the chance to use his hacking skills in a peaceful but very public protest he finds it hard to refuse - never imagining the consequences.

Rico's feelings of powerlessness and marginalisation will be familiar to many young people. A powerful, accessible and revelatory novel with its finger firmly on the pulse of contemporary social and political issues.

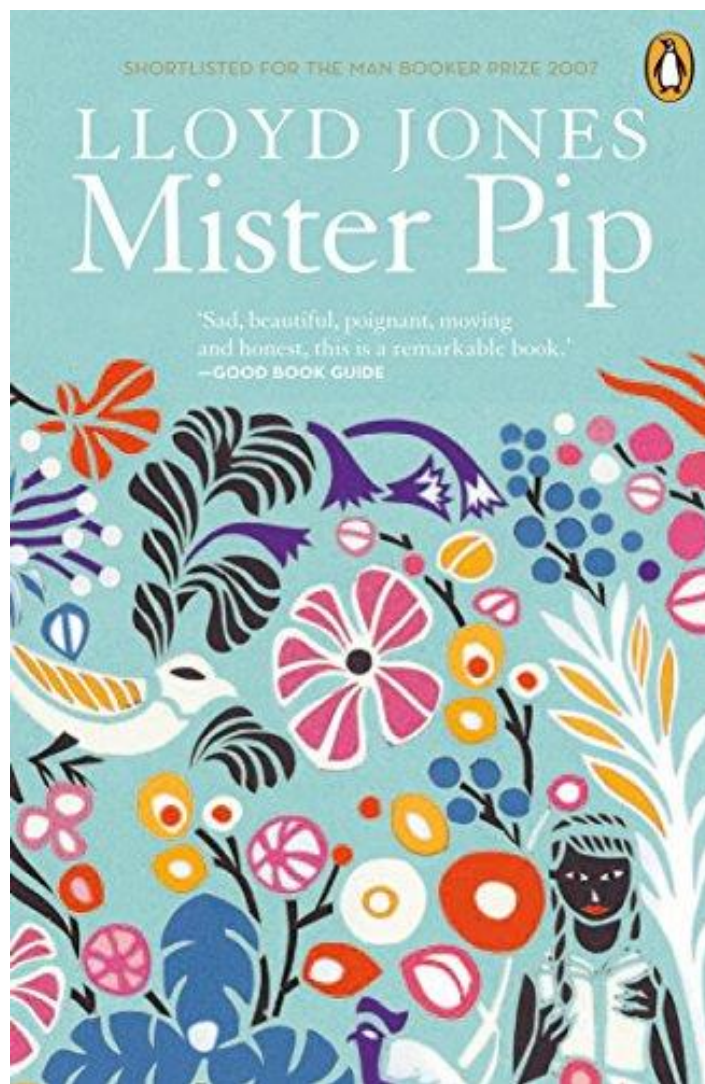


Set during World War I, *Private Peaceful* charts eight hours in the life of Tommo, a young soldier at the Front, as he looks back over the formative events of his life: his father's early death, his relationship with his loving mother and brothers, Big Joe and Charlie, and their beloved schoolfriend Molly – all set among an evocative and beautifully realised rural landscape.



After the Melting, there is only one place on Earth that isn't under water. Ark is a land of new hope but life is often brutal and John Noa has to rule with an iron fist to ensure the survival of his followers.

Letta is Ark's Wordsmith – responsible for handing out words to people who need them. She has never questioned why language is rationed and why words like freedom, hope, and love are banned. But, one day, her eyes are forced open when her master disappears and she encounters a young man dying on her doorstep. As she becomes aware of the dreadful truth, Letta has some hard choices to make.



This is the story of a girl caught in the throes of war on the island of Bougainville. Matilda survives the war through the guidance of her devoted but strict Christian mother and her white teacher Mr Watts, and also, more importantly, through her connection with the fictional Pip, the protagonist of Charles Dickens' *Great Expectations*. Pip helps Matilda maintain a desire to live, especially after her mother, Mr Watts, and her island home all cease to exist.