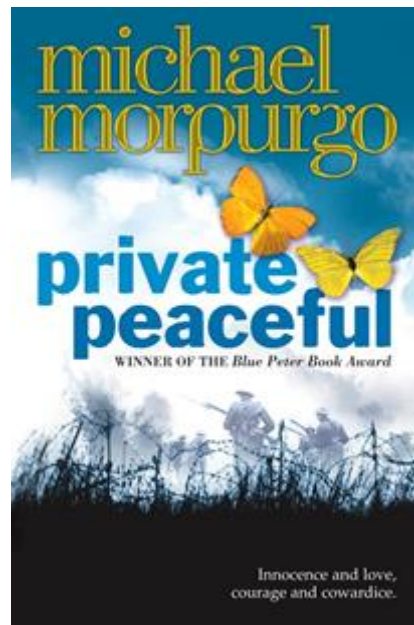


# St John Bosco

## ARTS COLLEGE

- **KS3 Reading for Pleasure**
- **'War' stories relating to 'Private Peaceful'**



**A guide for parents & students**

## **The Reading Challenge**

To encourage frequent reading, we are setting some challenges to KS3 students. Below is a reading list ranked in challenge order from Bronze to Silver & Gold. These books can be used as your 10 mins reading book or you could read them at home. You can earn prizes and certificates from your teacher if you read titles from these lists:

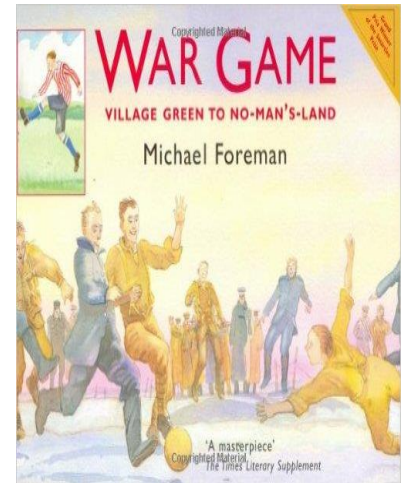
## Gold reads



### 1. *War Game: Village Green to No-Man's Land. The Story of the First World War Christmas Day Truce of 1914* (by Michael Foreman)

***This book links to Private Peaceful through themes such as brotherhood, friendship, war, conflict and loss.***

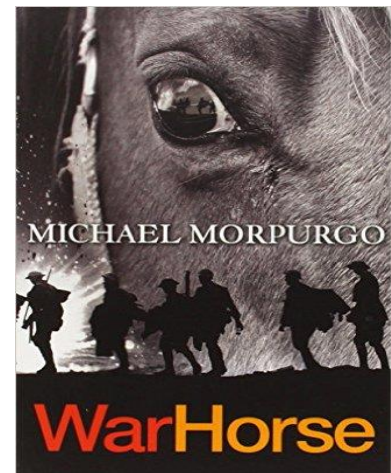
It's 1914 when everything changes for a group of boys growing up and playing football in the Suffolk countryside. Far away, in a place called Sarajevo, an Archduke has been killed and a web of global events results in a call for all British men to do their duty 'for King and Country' and join the army to fight the Germans overseas. The boys sign up for what sounds like an adventure and a chance to see the world. After basic training the boys sail to France where they find themselves fighting on the front line. Living in the trenches in constant fear for their lives is nothing like they expected and only a bombed-out wasteland, no-man's-land, separates their trenches from those of their German enemies. Then, on Christmas Day, something remarkable happens as the German and British armies stop fighting and meet in the middle of no-man's-land. The enemies talk, play football and become friends. But the war isn't over, the two sides resume fighting and the group of Suffolk lads are ordered to charge across no-man's-land...



### 2. *War Horse* (by Michael Morpurgo)

***This book links to Private Peaceful through its depiction of First World War conflict.***

This is a stunning wartime classic. In the deadly chaos of the First World War, one horse witnesses the reality of battle from both sides of the trenches. Bombarded by artillery, with bullets knocking riders from his back, Joey tells a powerful story of the truest friendships surviving in terrible times. 'The bedlam of battle had begun. All around me men cried and fell to the ground, and horses reared and screamed in an agony of fear and pain. The shells whined and roared overhead, and every explosion seemed like an earthquake to us.' One horse has seen the best and the worst of humanity. The power of war and the beauty of peace. This is his story.

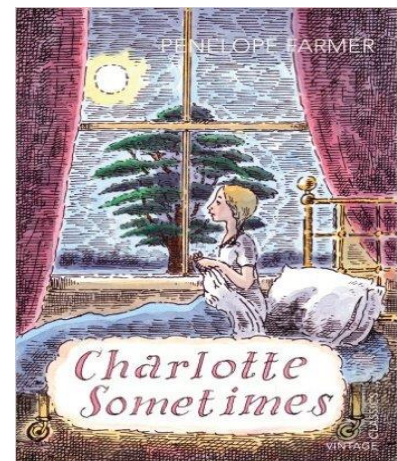


### 3. *Charlotte Sometimes* (by Penelope Farmer)

***This book links to Private Peaceful through its use of narrative perspective which highlights the impact of war of family life.***

Charlotte Makepeace's first day at boarding school is a bewildering blur of unfamiliar faces, timetables, rules and lists. All the other girls know the routine – and each other. No one invites her into their exclusive circles of whispers and giggles.

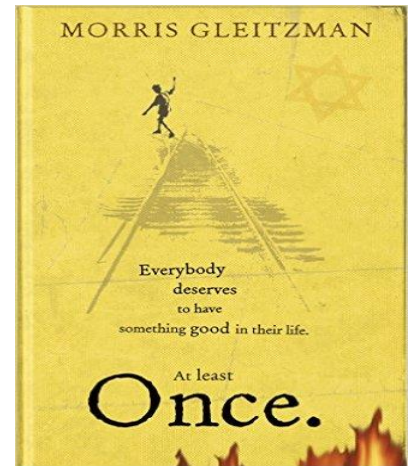
But on Charlotte's very first night something mysterious starts to happen. She wakes up in the same bed, in the same dormitory, in the same school. But something has changed. Somehow Charlotte has slipped forty years back in time...



#### 4. *Once* (by Morris Gleitzman)

***Despite focusing on World War Two, this book links to themes of loss and brutality in Private Peaceful through its horrific portrayal of Jewish persecution by the Nazis.***

*Once* by Morris Gleitzman is the story of a young Jewish boy who is determined to escape the orphanage he lives in to save his Jewish parents from the Nazis in the occupied Poland of the Second World War.



***Silver reads***



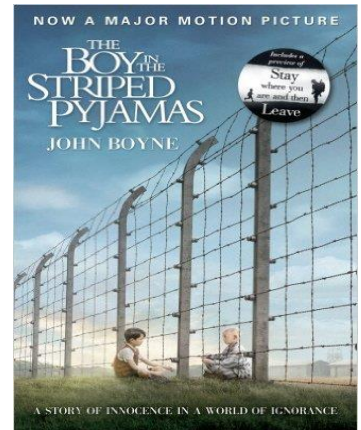


**1) *The Boy in the Stripe Pyjamas* (by John Boyne)**

***Despite focusing on World War Two, this book links to themes of loss and brutality in Private Peaceful through its horrific portrayal of the Holocaust.***

Nine-year-old Bruno knows nothing of the Final Solution and the Holocaust. He is oblivious to the appalling cruelties being inflicted on the people of Europe by his country. All he knows is that he has been moved from a comfortable home in Berlin to a house in a desolate area where there is nothing to do and no one to play with. Until he meets Shmuel, a boy who lives a strange parallel existence on the other side of the adjoining wire fence and who, like the other people there, wears a uniform of striped pyjamas.

Bruno's friendship with Shmuel will take him from innocence to revelation. And in exploring what he is unwittingly a part of, he will inevitably become subsumed by the terrible process.

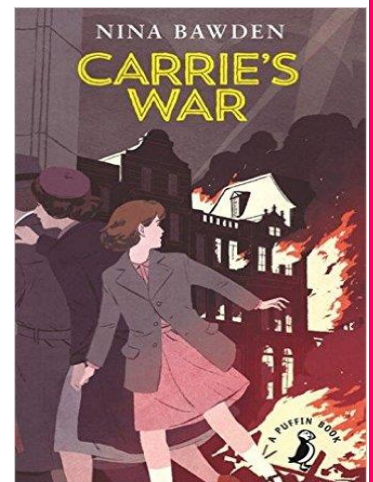


**2) *Carrie's War* (by Nina Bawden)**

***This book links to Private Peaceful through its presentation of themes such of loss, growing up, new beginnings and the constant fear of war.***

It is the Second World War and Carrie and Nick are evacuated from London to a small town in Wales, where they are placed with strict Mr Evans and his timid mouse of a sister. Their friend Albert is luckier, living in Druid's Bottom with Hepzibah Green who tells wonderful stories, and the strange Mister Johnny, who speaks a language all of his own. Carrie and Nick are happy to visit Albert there, until one day when Carrie does a terrible thing - the worst thing she ever did in her life...

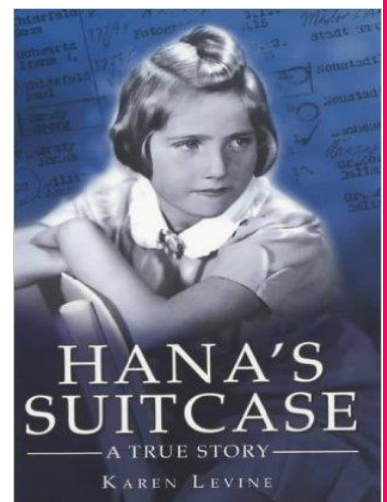
Based on her own childhood, Nina Bawden's enchanting story *Carrie's War* has delighted readers for almost 40 years.



**3) *Hannah's Suitcase* (by Karen Levine)**

***This book presents similar themes to those in Private Peaceful. It deals with ideas about family history, identity and honour.***

In March 2000, a suitcase arrived at a children's Holocaust education center in Tokyo, Japan from the Auschwitz museum in Germany. Fumiko Ishioka, the center's curator, was captivated by the writing on the outside that identified its owner: "Hana Brady, May 16, 1931, Waisenkind (the German word for orphan)." Children visiting the center were full of questions. Who was Hana Brady? Where did she come from? What was she like? What happened to her? Inspired by their curiosity and her own need to know, Fumiko began a year of detective work, scouring the world for clues. Her search led her from present-day Japan, Europe and North America back to 1938 Czechoslovakia to learn the story of Hana Brady, a fun-loving child with wonderful parents, a protective big brother, and a passion for ice skating, their happy life turned upside down by the invasion of the Nazis.



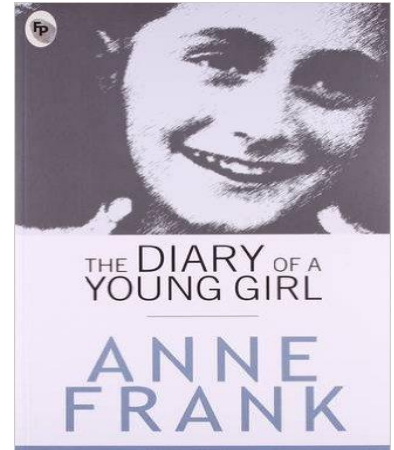
**Bronze reads**



### 1) *The Diary of a Young Girl* (by Anne Frank)

***This book is a first hand narrative of the horrors of the Second World War and links to the experiences of the characters in Private Peaceful. It presents the hopes, fears and struggles of a young girl, trying to make sense of a brutal and oppressive conflict.***

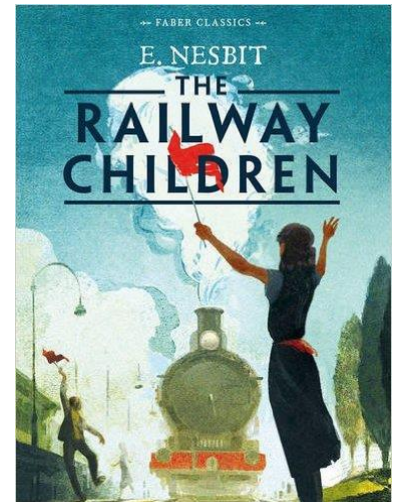
First published over sixty years ago, Anne Frank's *Diary of a Young Girl* has reached millions of young people throughout the world. In July 1942, thirteen-year-old Anne Frank and her family, fleeing the occupation, went into hiding in an Amsterdam warehouse. Over the next two years Anne vividly describes in her diary the frustrations of living in such close quarters, and her thoughts, feelings and longings as she grows up. Her diary ends abruptly when, in August 1944, they were all betrayed.



### 2) *The Railway Children* (E. Nesbitt)

***A classic tale of friendship and hope against the backdrop of a terrifying war. It links to Private Peaceful through its demonstration of how strong relationships can help to overcome the horrors of conflict.***

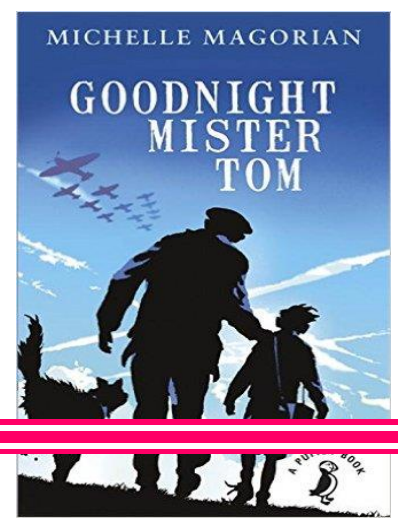
When Father goes away with two strangers one evening, the lives of Roberta, Peter and Phyllis are shattered. They and their mother have to move from their comfortable London home to go and live in a simple country cottage, where Mother writes books to make ends meet.



However, they soon come to love the railway that runs near their cottage, and they make a habit of waving to the Old Gentleman who rides on it. They befriend the porter, Perks, and through him learn railway lore and much else.

They have many adventures, and when they save a train from disaster, they are helped by the Old Gentleman to solve the mystery of their father's disappearance, and the family is happily reunited.

### 3) *Goodnight Mr Tom* (by Michelle Magorian)



***Another classic children's novel about war which links to Private Peaceful through its message of friendship and comradeship ensure the survival and happiness of characters in the face of terrible adversity.***

Young Willie Beech is evacuated to the country as Britain stands on the brink of the Second World War. A sad, deprived child, he slowly begins to flourish under the care of old Tom Oakley - but his new-found happiness is shattered by a summons from his mother back in London...

**What else can we do?**

There are lots of things that families can do together to support the improvement of reading ability and enjoyment – and not all of them require a book.

## **Talk as a family about reading**

By secondary school most students are competent readers and are less likely to read aloud to an adult. That's a natural progression, but it doesn't mean that parents don't have a part to play. The higher level skills of inference and understanding the craft of an author can be supported by talking about what has been read.

## **Share a book**

Just because you don't necessarily read together doesn't mean that parents and children can't share a book. Young Adult fiction is excellent and well worth a read as a parent. Why not both read the same book?

## **Model what it is to be a reader**

Many parents will read, whether it be fiction, newspapers, online or in any other context. Get in the habit of being seen to read, and valuing reading.



## Join the free online library

Library membership a free service for children and adults.

There are no overdue fines as books are returned automatically. There is an excellent selection of books, audiobooks and magazines available. The software will work on a range of devices including mobile phones, tablets and laptops

You can join the online library at [www.readliverpool.co.uk](http://www.readliverpool.co.uk).

### Visit Liverpool Central Library Liverpool



Liverpool Central Library, William Brown St, Liverpool, Merseyside L3 8EW

Monday	09:00	20:00
Tuesday	09:00	20:00
Wednesday	09:00	20:00
Thursday	09:00	20:00
Friday	09:00	20:00
Saturday	09:00	17:00



# Good Reading

Fiction books aren't the only sort of reading material that will help you improve your reading ability.

Reading these will help:



Newspapers



Websites



Non-fiction



Magazines



Graphic Novels



Audio books