**PARKS**

**Year 8 - Parks Tutor Read Aloud Reading Programme Overview**

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| Text | Blurb | Purpose |
| Chinese Cinderella by Adeline Yen Mah | This is a unique story of triumph over adversity. When Adeline Yen Mah’s mother died, the family considered Adeline bad luck and she was made to feel unwanted all her life. Chinese Cinderella is the story of her struggle for acceptance and how she overcame the odds to prove her worth. | Ideas about identity and resilience  Important cultural knowledge  Memoir writing  Links to year 8 history and the study of changes in China |
| The Bone Sparrow by Zan Fraillon | This is a beautiful, vivid and deeply moving story about a refugee boy who has spent his entire life living in a detention centre. This novel reminds us all of the importance of freedom, hope, and the power of a story to speak for anyone who's ever struggled to find a safe home. | Historical fiction  Asylum seekers and refugees  Friendship, family  Grief and loss  Fear and Freedom |
| Northern Lights by Philip Pullman | Lyra and her animal daemon live half-wild and carefree among the scholars of Jordan College, Oxford. But the destiny that has awaited her since birth takes her on a dangerous journey to the frozen North in search of a kidnapped friend. It is a journey that will have immeasurable consequences far beyond her own world. | Introduction to fantasy and adventure genres  Exploration of politics, human rights, spirituality, religion and science |
| My Sister Lives on the Mantlepiece by Annabel Pitcher | Ten-year-old Jamie hasn't cried since it happened. He knows he should have—Jasmine cried, Mum cried, Dad still cries. Roger didn't, but then he is just a cat and didn't know Rose that well, really. Everyone kept saying it would get better with time, but that's just one of those lies that grown-ups tell in awkward situations. Five years on, it's worse than ever: Dad drinks, Mum's gone and Jamie's left with questions that he must answer for himself. This is his story, an unflinchingly real yet heart-warming account of a young boy's struggle to make sense of the loss that tore his family apart. | The world and its confusing issues from a child’s perspective  Death and friendship  Bullying and growing up |
| Red Sky in the Morning by Elizabeth Laird | Twelve year-old Anna is looking forward to the birth of her baby brother. Ben arrives, but is disabled and will never be like other children. Anna loves him with her whole heart, but she finds herself unable to admit the truth of Ben’s condition to her school friends. Eventually, the truth gets out and leads not to the ridicule Anna expected, but sympathy and understanding. | Important message of tolerance and resilience  Enduring ideas of courage, friendship, endurance, forgiveness and love  Ideas about identity |
| The Diary of a Young Girl by Anne Frank | 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 her thoughts, feelings and longings as she grows up. | Important cultural knowledge  Links to year 9 history study of the Holocaust  Inspiring life |
| I am Malala by Malala Yousafzai and Christina Lamb | This is a remarkable tale of a family uprooted by global terrorism, of the fight for girls’ education, of a father who, himself a school owner, championed and encouraged his daughter to write and attend school, and of brave parents who have a fierce love for their daughter in a society that prizes sons. | Inspirational life story  Important cultural knowledge  Memoir writing  Ideas about identity  Importance and value of education |
| Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry by Mildred D. Taylor | Roll of Thunder Hear My Cry follows a feisty African-American girl – Cassie Logan – as she grows up in Mississippi during the Great Depression and learns the shocking realities of racism. | Important cultural knowledge  Ideas about identity and racial injustice  Family and community  Dignity and resilience |