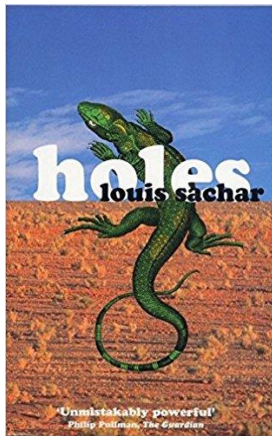


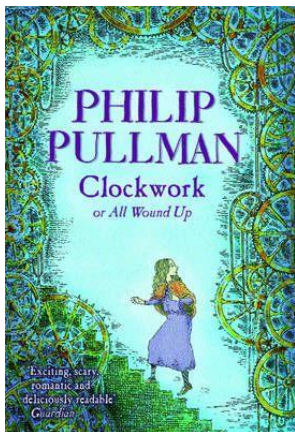
Brilliant Books for Your Year 6 Child and Things to Focus on

We have compiled a list of books for your child to read. We have taken inspiration from books recommended by the leading literacy expert, Pie Corbett. The books in this list provide challenge for your year 6 child. Children of this age should be experiencing challenging, deep and rich books. All of these books are available from major book shops. We recommend that your child spends **around 20 to 30 minutes** per day reading.



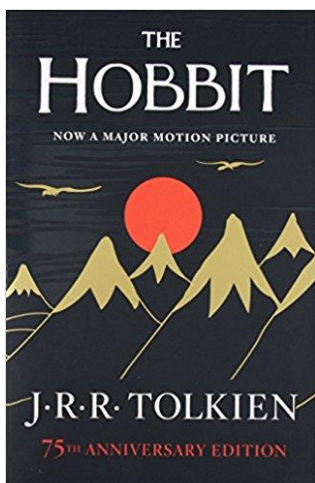
Holes Louis Sachar (Bloomsbury)

- Ask your child to think about why the author gave Stanley a palindromic name.
- In role as journalist, they could carry out interviews and write a news item for the start and end of the book.
- Why do they think the book is called 'Holes'?
- Make a comparison with the film (it has a PG certificate).



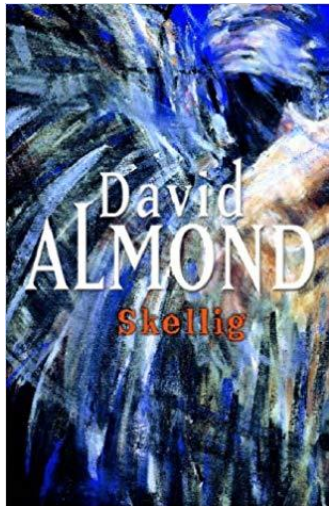
Clockwork Philip Pullman (Random House)

- Ask your child to think about how the main events and characters interconnect. Which are the good/bad characters? Where is their evidence?
- Compare Karl and Gretl using evidence from the text. Ask your child in what way is the book like 'clockwork'? How are our lives like clockwork? In what ways do we 'wind up the future like clockwork'?



The Hobbit JRR Tolkien (HarperCollins)

- Can your child write messages in runic code? They could write a letter to Bilbo to persuade him to join the journey.
- They could write riddles for Bilbo to use against Gollum or the Dragon. Or write a poem listing what they would do with a magical ring.
- They could draw or describe Smaug, as well as write an 'end of term report' for Bilbo. Ask your child to think about how the journey has changed him.



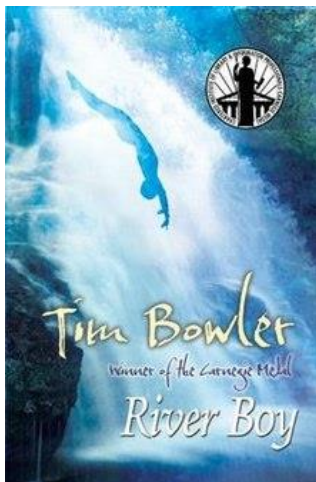
Skellig David Almond (Hodder)

- What are Mina's views on education? Who or what is Skellig? What is the book about?
- Read 'Tyger' by William Blake. Ask your child to tell you about it.
- Can they write Michael's story for Miss Clarts in Chapter 33?
- Why does Michael want to call the baby 'Persephone'?
- They could read 'Mina – my story' and write a sequel to Skellig.



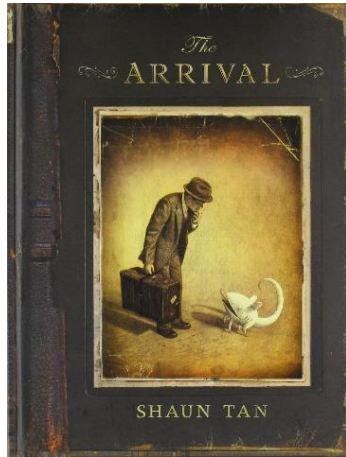
Fireweed Jill Paton Walsh (Hot Key Books)

- With your child, find out about the bombing of London in 1940 and the evacuation. You could visit the RAF Museum to help with your research.
- After each chapter, ask your child to discuss with you what they have read, as this is a demanding read.
- Discuss with the class what happens in the last two chapters. Why is the story called 'Fireweed'? Also, read Dolphin Crossing (Faber) by the same author (about Dunkirk).



River Boy Tim Bowler (Oxford University Press)

- Ask your child who or what, is the 'river boy' and how can he be 'part of her'? What does Grandpa want? How can Jess 'be his hands'?
- In Chapter 17, discuss the relationship between the painting and the river boy and Grandpa. Discuss the importance of the swim and ask your child how this helps Jess come to terms with Grandpa's death.
- Ask your child to summarise what the book is about and what it means to the children.



The Arrival Shaun Tan (Hodder)

- Before looking at this book you may find it useful to explain immigration to your child, especially the migration to America at the end of the 19th century (Ellis Island).
- Discuss how the story makes them feel – and how the characters seem to feel. (Being in a new country, migrants often feel at a loss in the same way that the reader does.)
- Ask your child what the story is about. Are all the illustrations real or in someone's imagination?