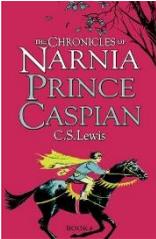
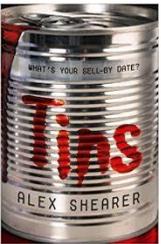
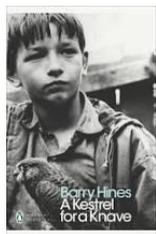
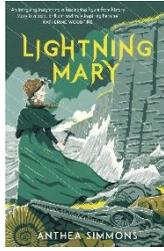


Coombeshead Academy – Registration and the Tutor Reading Programme

At Coombeshead, form tutors read to all students from Years 7 to Year 10 every morning. The books have been chosen to introduce our students to a diverse and challenging literary canon. Here is a list of the books for **Year 7**, together with some information about each one.

Book Title and Author	Cover	Synopsis
<p><i>The Silver Sword</i> by Ian Serrallier</p>		<p>Published in 1956 and set in war-torn Europe in the early 1940's the silver sword was only a paper knife, but it became the symbol of hope and courage which kept the Balicki children and their orphan friend, Jan, alive through the four years of occupation when they had to fend for themselves. And afterwards it inspired them to keep going on the exhausting and dangerous journey from war-torn Poland to Switzerland, where they hoped to find their parents.</p>
<p><i>Prince Caspian</i> by C.S. Lewis</p>		<p>Published in 1951 this book is listed as Book 4 in The Chronicles of Narnia series but debate rages as to whether it should really be the first. A classic fantasy story with religious undertones it focusses on the battle of good versus evil, courage and old-world chivalry. The Pevensie siblings return to help a prince denied his rightful throne as he gathers an army in a desperate attempt to rid his land of a false king. But in the end, it is a battle of honour between two men alone that will decide the fate of an entire world.</p>
<p><i>Tins</i> by Alex Shearer</p>		<p>Although this story leads us into the murky world of forced child labour it is not without humour. Fergal is a self-confessed nerd with an eccentric hobby: tin collecting. He likes the lucky dip aspect of buying tins that have their labels missing - after all, you never know what might be inside. It's Fergal's idea of living dangerously. That is, until the day he innocently opens up a tin to find . . . a mystery to be investigated. Fergal is about to discover how hard the world can be if you are used as child labour.</p>
<p><i>A Kestrel for a Knave</i> by Barry Hines</p>		<p>Written and set in the 1960's this story focusses on the deprivation of the mining towns and how social class, education and family impact on a child's life chances. Life is tough and cheerless for Billy Casper, a troubled teenager growing up in a mining town in Yorkshire. Treated as a failure at school, and unhappy at home, Billy discovers a new passion in life when he finds Kes, a kestrel hawk. Billy identifies with her silent strength and she inspires in him the trust and love that nothing else can, discovering through her the passion missing from his life.</p>

*Lightning Mary*  
by Anthea Simmons



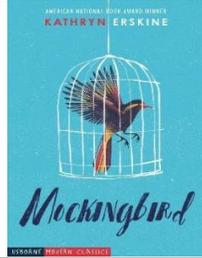
Lightning Mary tells the true story of Mary Anning, a Victorian palaeontologist whose discoveries of the ichthyosaur (followed by a plesiosaur and pterosaur) contributed to changes in scientific thinking about the history of the earth. Growing up in a poor household in Lyme Regis in the early 1800's Mary and her mother are determined that they won't end up in the workhouse after her father's death in a fossil hunting accident. Stubborn and determined by nature, Mary doesn't give up looking for something special, and one day she finds it.....

*Tin*  
by Padraig Kenny



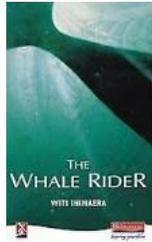
Published in 2018 and set in an alternative London in the 1930's this science fiction adventure story focusses on friendship and what it means to be human. Christopher is 'Proper': a real boy with a real soul, orphaned in a fire. He works for an engineer, a maker of the eccentric, loyal and totally individual 'mechanicals' who are Christopher's best friends. But after a devastating accident, a secret is revealed and Christopher's world is changed for ever ...

*Mockingbird*  
by Katherine Erskine

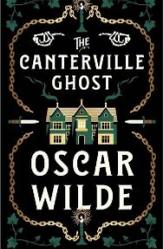


Caitlin has Asperger's Syndrome and the story explores her perception of the world. Since her brother's death, Caitlin has no one to explain the world to her. And for Caitlin the world is a confusing place, full of emotions and colours that she can't understand. So when Caitlin reads the definition of 'closure' in the dictionary, she decides that's what they need. And as she struggles to find it, she learns how to let the world of colour into her black-and-white-life... Although it has sadness at its core this story, set in Virginia USA, is ultimately uplifting.

*The Whale Rider*  
by Witi Ihimaera



Cultural identity and traditions are pivotal to the lives of the Maoris, the original inhabitants of New Zealand. With male primogeniture the norm the birth of a daughter - Kahu - breaks the lineage of a Maori tribe. Rejected by her grandfather, Kahu develops the ability to communicate with whales, echoing the ancient Whale Rider after whom she was named. This novel tells of the conflict between tradition and heritage, from the perspective of Kahu's grandfather, and Kahu's destiny to secure the tribe's future.

<p><i>You Are Awesome</i> by Matthew Syed</p>		<p>This motivational, non-fiction text promotes a growth mindset and building resilience.</p> <p>I'm no good at sport ... I can't do maths ... I really struggle with exams ... Sound familiar? If you believe you can't do something, the chances are you won't try. But what if you really could get better at maths, or sport or exams? In fact, what if you could excel at anything you put your mind to? With hard work and determination, practice and self-belief, there's no reason why anyone can't achieve anything.</p>
<p><i>The Canterville Ghost</i> by Oscar Wilde</p>		<p>This gothic ghost story pitches British and American cultures against each other. Conflict is guaranteed when an ancient English manor-house, Canterville Chase, is purchased by Horace B. Otis, a wealthy American. He is undeterred by warnings that the house is known to be haunted. Immediately upon arrival, the family is confronted by a bloodstain in a sitting room, which reappears every morning. The tired ghost tries his best to frighten the family away, but they refuse to go.....</p>