

Mrs Ward's World War 2 Text Recommendations:

After Easter, we be will moving onto our World War 2 History topic. These are my top three recommendations for stories set in World War 2. The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas has been my number one children's read for a very long time but in the last week I have read Letters from the Lighthouse in preparation for our topic and I love it!! (So much that I've used the opening few chapters for a reading comprehension in next week's work pack...maybe it'll be enough to get you hooked too!) Love Mrs Wx

Letters from the Lighthouse by Emma Carroll

Letters from the Lighthouse is set during World War II. It's a story that is wrapped in mystery, secrecy and suspense. When Sukie goes missing, her brother and sister embark on a remarkable journey to find her. The children are evacuated from London to the countryside and it's there where young Olive and her brother Cliff will plunge into a mysterious, rollercoaster of an adventure to be reunited with their sister.

Twists, turns, coded messages and conflicts prevail in this beautifully pitched story that provides a fine balance between sensitivity and adventure.

Boy in the Striped Pyjamas by John Boyne

Lines may divide us, but hope will unite us . . .

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.

Friend or Foe by Michael Morpurgo

'There was nothing threatening or frightening about them, they were just two exhausted, pale looking men with sad eyes and kind faces...'

It is the Second World War and the Germans are bombing London. No one hates them more than David – they killed his father. When David and his friend Tucky are evacuated to peaceful Devon and sent to live with the kind Mr. Reynolds and his wife, the war seems like a distant memory. Then one night the skyline of the moor is lit up with gun flashes and an enemy plane crashing. The boys feel as though they should hate the airmen inside. But when one of them saves David's life, the boys must decide where their loyalties lie. This is a poignant, simply written tale. The children are likeable and relatable and, as always, their plight is centre stage. The story is told with warmth, honesty and a strong moral conscience, which will appeal to older children.