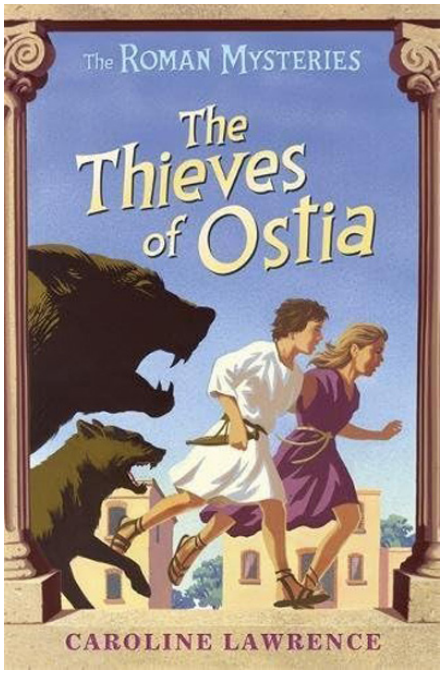
WCCS Recommends

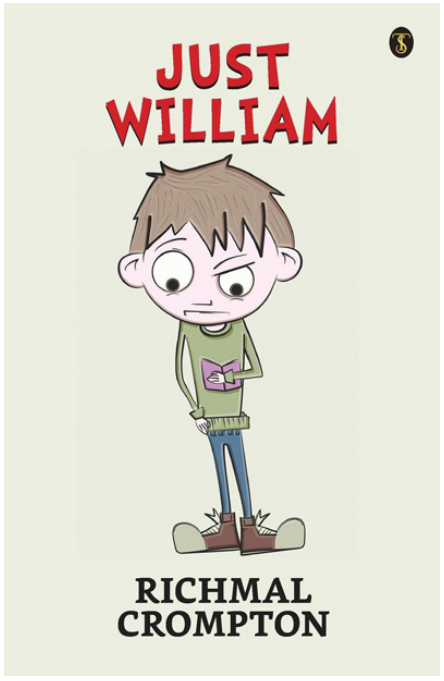
Seven Fantastic Stories For Seven-Year-Olds



1. The Roman Mysteries by Caroline Lawrence

In *The Thieves of Ostia*, four children follow a trail of stolen dogs through Roman streets, stand in the roar of the amphitheatre and uncover a killer. It's history dressed as adventure.

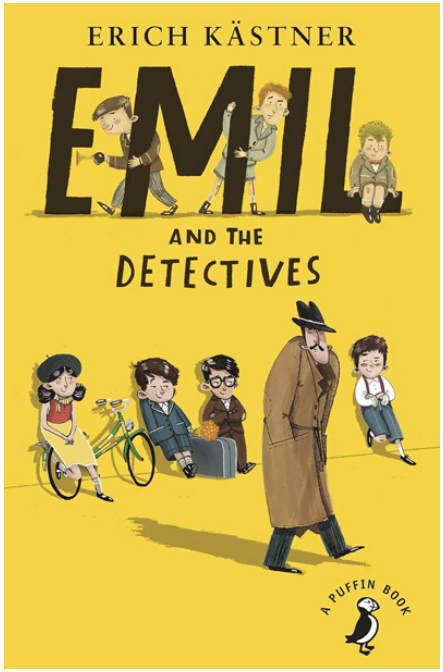
For parents – The chase is gripping, but children also see Roman food, clothes and temples described with exact detail. Boys read it as a mystery but gain a picture of ancient Rome.



2. Just William by Richmal Crompton

William crowns himself in 'William the Conqueror', ruins a neighbour's garden party and mocks the pomp of adults. His plans collapse, but the fun is in failure.

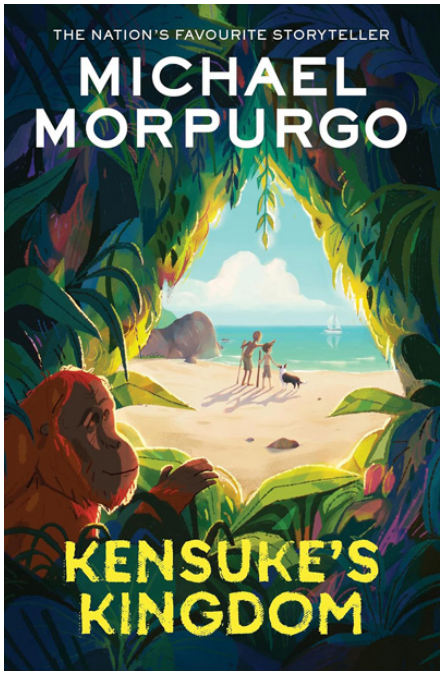
For parents – Crompton writes with sharp humour. Boys enjoy William's mischief, but they also read English prose at its clearest and most vigorous.



3. Emil and the Detectives by Erich Kästner

On a train Emil is robbed of his money. In Berlin he recruits local boys, sets up patrols and signals, and traps the thief outside a bank.

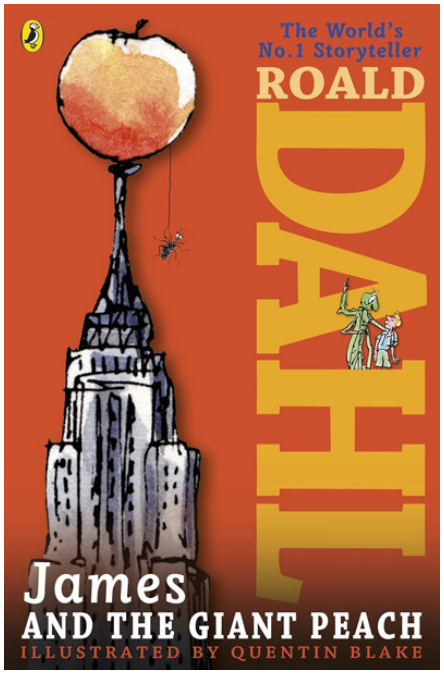
For parents – The story shows that organisation and loyalty count more than strength. Boys enjoy the speed of the chase and the sense of victory over an adult wrongdoer.



4. Kensuke's Kingdom by Michael Morpurgo

Michael is shipwrecked in the Pacific. He learns to light fires with driftwood, fish with bamboo poles and collect water in old bottles. Kensuke, a Japanese soldier, teaches him patience and skill.

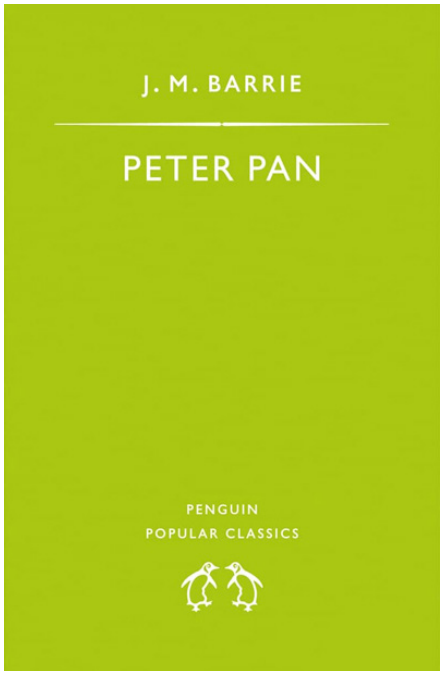
For parents – Morpurgo strips survival of romance. Boys admire Michael's resourcefulness and see that endurance depends on steady work and trust.



5. James and the Giant Peach by Roald Dahl

James climbs into a peach the size of a cottage and sails across the sea with a centipede, a spider and a grasshopper. Sharks bite, gulls tow and New York looms on the horizon.

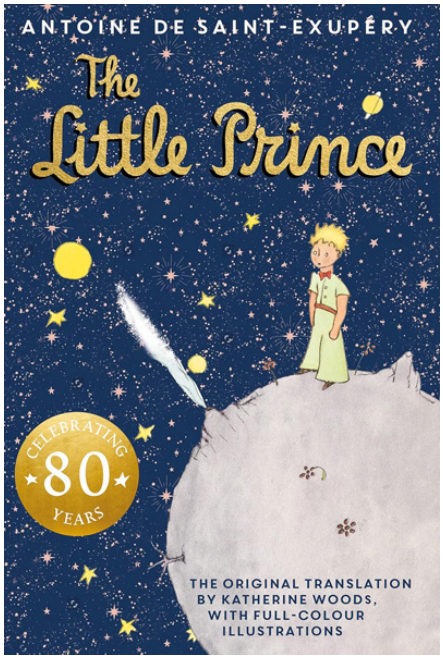
For parents – Dahl's solutions are absurd yet brilliant. Boys laugh at the Centipede's jokes but also see that cleverness and teamwork beat brute force.



6. Peter Pan by J. M. Barrie

Peter flies into the Darling nursery, carries the children to Neverland and fights Captain Hook with the Lost Boys: a story of flight, swords and stubborn childhood.

For parents – Boys relish the duels and daring, but Barrie's tale also asks what it means never to grow up. It is both a fantasy and a reflection on youth itself.



7. The Little Prince by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry

A pilot stranded in the desert meets a boy from another planet. The prince tends his rose, tames a fox and questions the ways of grown-ups.

For parents – Boys enjoy the prince's travels, but the story teaches that friendship and imagination matter more than possessions. Its language is plain and its truths are simple, which makes them lasting.