

KS3 'CHILLS' SHORTLIST

THE STUFF OF NIGHTMARES by Malorie Blackman

Corgi Books

A school trip turns into a living nightmare when the train that Kyle and his friends are travelling in crashes and is left suspended over a precipice. Kyle seems to be the only one conscious and becomes aware that far from being able to escape the train and get help, finds himself trying to escape “death”, who appears to be actively stalking the carriages looking for him. His escape route takes him into the minds and “nightmares” of his friends and teacher and what “**chilling**” nightmares they are; fears of all things imaginable. Will Kyle gain the courage he needs to turn and face the ever approaching figure of “death” and live to tell the tale?

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THE BOY IN THE STRIPED PYJAMAS by John Boyne

Definitions

The story begins in 1942 in Berlin. On returning home from school nine year old Bruno discovers all his belongings being packed up. His father has been promoted by someone called ‘The Fury’ and his family must all move far away to a place called ‘Out-With’. Bruno has to leave behind his beautiful house, his beloved grandparents and three “Best Friends for Life” to live in a stark house with no children to play with. His natural curiosity leads him to explore beyond the forbidden boundary of their back garden to a high wire fence that divides him from a huge camp of simple huts where people dressed in striped pyjamas live. He talks to one boy, Shmuel, through the fence and so begins a friendship which will have a **chilling** consequence. A modern fable which movingly captures the incomprehensibility of the Holocaust. The film of the book has been released in September 2008.

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INGO by Helen Dunmore

HarperCollins Children's Books

The power of the sea and all its secrets is captured in this glittering book set in Zennor on the Cornish coast. Saphy (Sapphire) and her older brother Conor have an idyllic and enviable life there, spending all their spare time at ‘their’ cove. Their family life is shattered when their fisherman father Mathew Trewhella disappears one night, seemingly lost at sea. As their mother Jennie struggles to rebuild her life and care for her children alone, Saphy and Conor find themselves increasingly drawn into the mysterious, dangerous and **chilling** domain of the Merfolk in their watery world of Ingo. Is their father’s disappearance linked to a much earlier Mathew Trewhella who swam away with the legendary ‘mermaid of Zennor’ and can Granny

Carne, who seems to be as old as the hillside in which she lives, save Saphy and Conor from a similar fate? A wonderful start to a gripping series.

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THE ROAD OF BONES by Anne Fine
Corgi Books

12 year old Yuri lives in a country that could be Russia and at a time that could be just after the Revolution that rid Russia of a supposedly corrupt Tsar. But the freedom that should have come as a result of the Revolution does not arrive. People still vanish sometimes. No one sees anything, or hears anything. And no one ever comes back. Yuri knows this, but he never dreams that he too could be considered an 'enemy of the state' simply for letting drop a few careless words. Yuri is sent to a Labour camp in the iciest most inhospitable of environments. He is taking his first steps on a road to despair. A road built on the bones of those who dared to oppose. A **chilling** and dramatic adventure, that also challenges the nature of beliefs, and how these can be taken and twisted to justify acts of real horror and inhumanity.

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CORALINE: THE GRAPHIC NOVEL by Neil Gaiman
Bloomsbury Publishing

Coraline and her family move to a flat in a big house, which they share with their eccentric neighbours Miss Spink, Miss Forcible and their dogs. In the flat above there is an old man who trains his mouse circus. Coraline is misunderstood and ignored as her parents are always busy. The neighbours always call her Caroline and she always corrects them. Left to her own devices, she opens a door in her flat that takes her to an identical flat where her "other parents" are. Her "other mother" "welcomes" her. This place has all the things Coraline wants; good food, fabulous bedroom, doting parents.....but "other parents" have buttons for eyes, talons for fingernails and they don't want Coraline to go back to her real family. Journey with Coraline through the **chilling** events she experiences with the cat and the lost children who all want to be saved. In the end happiness does prevail, well almost. P Craig Russell's illustrations make the story even more **chilling**. Enjoy!!!!

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SCARED TO DEATH by Alan Gibbons

Orion Children's Books

Paul is six when his eight year old brother John is horrifically killed while they are playing in their grandmother's cellar. Paul is left disturbed by, but with no memory of the details of the incident. Eight years later he meets the mysterious Redman who leads him out of his humdrum existence on a journey of adventure which makes him increasingly uneasy about his new companion. He starts to piece together what he knows of his own, fragmented family with the terrible things that are happening to the people in his life and makes the **chilling** discovery that he and Redman are inextricably linked through an old family curse. A reluctant hero, he must work fast to ensure that good triumphs over evil, especially as Redman appears able to harness the power of Jack the Ripper's London haunts to carry out his unspeakable acts. Gory, exciting and utterly **chilling**, this is the first in the supernatural '*Hell's Underground*' series.

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OSTRICH BOYS by Keith Gray

Definitions

Three friends – Kenny, Sim and Blake – embark on an emotional journey of discovery. Stealing the urn containing the ashes of their best friend Ross, they set out from Cleethorpes on the East coast of England to travel the 261 miles to the tiny hamlet of Ross in Scotland, to scatter his ashes. After a depressing and uninspiring funeral they feel that taking Ross to Ross will be a more fitting memorial for a 15 year old boy who changed all their lives through his friendship. The book powerfully conveys the **chilling** after-effects of Ross's death and engages the reader in the boys' remarkable and emotional adventure which has an uplifting conclusion.

Warning – this book contains strong language

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RAVEN'S GATE by Anthony Horowitz

Walker Books

Matt Freeman is fourteen, he's troubled, he's been in trouble, he can choose jail or LEAF (Liberty and Education Achieved though Liberty). He chooses LEAF. He is fostered with Jayne Deverill in a village, Lesser Malling in Yorkshire. Matt discovers that Jayne, her assistant Noah and the other inhabitants of the village are not what they seem. He tries to escape, he can't, the powers of darkness descend. Matt is now in real trouble. An organisation called Nexus contacts Matt. He, with the journalist Richard Cole, visits Nexus member Sanjay Dravid who tells Matt about the Old Ones and that he is one of five who keeps them at bay. The rest of the book is scary, Matt's powers are ignited by...? A **chilling** roller coaster ride of a read. Horowitz at his very best.

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ARCTIC HERO by Catherine Johnson

Barrington Stoke

The amazing story of Matthew Henson who experts now generally acknowledge as being the first American to reach the North Pole in 1909. His achievement was remarkable as he was a black man born just one year after the end of slavery. He accompanied the famous explorer Robert Peary on many expeditions. Robert headed this expedition and arrived at the pole after Matt, but got the recognition. Matt battled fear, frostbite and freezing winds on the expeditions, he was not like the arrogant white explorers as he embraced the Inuit culture, learning their language and how to survive in the cold of the north. Sadly, after each expedition, Matt could only work in the most menial, low paid jobs. No one recognised a black man as having real worth in those days. Matthew Henson's story is **chilling**. He was a true hero in every sense and was shabbily treated by the intelligent society of the time. Read it, be very impressed!

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BAD BLOOD by Rhiannon Lassiter

Oxford University Press

When Roley and Catriona's mother marries Katherine and John's father the result is definitely not one big happy family! The girls, in particular, are locked in a constant battle to see who gets to be called Cat / Kat! Then to make matters worse their parents think it would be a good idea to drag the teenagers off on a 'family bonding' holiday to a rambling house in the Lake District, in which Katherine and John's late, mentally ill mother, Anne grew up. And here the **chilling** horror story begins! In the house the children discover Delilah, a doll with an entourage of featureless dolls, that can move around of their own accord, a room of blunted scissors, mildewing books with the names of all the good characters scored out and a pair of spirits that live in reflective surfaces. Forces from the past draw the children into a game of make-believe that was started but never finished! The only trouble is that the children don't know the rules! The reader is kept engaged throughout the multilayered plot and the story is certainly psychologically **chilling**! It's difficult to explain the outcome of the game without ruining the end. Just to say that the conclusion is emotionally satisfying and very uplifting – involving the symbolic changing of all of the main characters names. New name – new life?

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THE GIVER by Lois Lowry

HarperCollins Children's Books

Eleven year old Jonas lives in 'The Community', a seemingly Utopian environment where violence, hunger and poverty have long since been eliminated, where manners, behaviour and the way of life are governed by a precise and ordered set of rules and where 'sameness' is celebrated. When he comes of age at 12 he is assigned, along with other 'Twelves', his future life-long occupation. While others are to become Nurters, Doctors or Caretakers of the Old he is chosen to become 'The Receiver', a position which will effectively isolate him from normal life within The Community. He soon learns that he is to receive all the memories of the pain and

suffering endured in the long distant past so that his fellow citizens never have to suffer those things again. 'The Giver' is the old man who needs to pass on these memories to Jonas, and together they come to question the values and rules that have been accepted for so long. Jonas learns what really happens to people at the end of their life when they celebrate their 'release' and is forced to act decisively to stop the same thing happening to a small child whom the Elders have deemed to be less than perfect. This tale is all the more **chilling** for its simple and unsensationalised narration and how the author came to write it is told in her 1994 Newbery Award acceptance speech (link below)
http://www.loislowry.com/pdf/Newbery_Award.pdf

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ACCIDENTAL FRIENDS by Helena Pielichaty
Oxford University Press

Four very different teenagers are brought together by an incident in a lift on their first day at college, and the resulting friendship literally changes their lives. Emma is arty with a steady boyfriend and a baby, James a public schoolboy who flunked his GCSEs for a bet, Leon a boy in care who has been sent to college rather than prison and Grace with a hidden secret. The story is told retrospectively by Emma who is explaining her art exhibition to a Polish cleaner, in readiness for facing the examiners the next day. Emma's art project is based on the game of 'Consequences' – *Boy, Girl, He Said, She Said, Consequences*. It is the questioning by Kazia, the cleaner, and Emma's reactions that allow the story to develop. The storyline is thoroughly engaging but nevertheless covers many heavy and **'chilling'** issues such as teenage pregnancy, body image, threats for money to pay off a young offender's debts, being abandoned by distant parents to be cared for by a sister from hell, a love triangle and – last but not least – a life-threatening accident.

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ONE GOOD TURN by Chris Ryan
Arrow Books

The time is World War One, 1917. The place is Belgium: the Western Front. Chris Ransom awakes to find he is handcuffed to a bed with no mattress in a rat infested cell. The skin on his back and legs feels raw, some of his teeth are missing, and any movement is agony. Worse still, he does not know who he is. Picture a court martial with no defence lawyer and the inevitable verdict of 'guilty' with the ultimate penalty of 'death by firing squad'. This is Chris's plight but he doesn't know or understand why. To avoid execution, Chris must first remember who he is and what has happened to him, then persuade someone to listen and act to establish the truth. At the final hour, someone hears his story, but will it be too late? A truly **chilling** situation made all the worse in that it could actually have happened.

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KAT GOT YOUR TONGUE by Lee Weatherly
Corgi Books

After a terrible car accident 13 year old Kathy wakes up with no idea of who she is and no memory of anything before the crash. She doesn't even recognise her Mum or her friends from school. Only after she discovers her old, hidden diary does Kathy begin to unravel the terrible secrets of her previous life. This **chilling** story explores the damage amnesia can do to a family and how Kathy struggles to reconcile her new personality with her old. The chapters alternate between the 'old' Kathy and 'new' Kat, which succeeds in building the tension for the reader.

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