

NCS 100 List

Books in yellow are BookBuzz 2022 texts /Books in blue got high numbers of votes in the NCS 100 survey

Non-fiction/autobiography/biography

Erica Armstrong-Dunbar, Never Caught: Ona Judge	The incredible story of Ona Judge, the slave of the Washingtons, the presidential family, who escaped.
Bill Bryson, Notes on A Big Country	Humorous writing from the American, about the United States after living in Britain for two decades
Terry Deary - Horrible Histories	History seen from the funny and often disgusting side through the centuries!
Frederick Douglass, A Narrative of My Life as A Slave	Seminal text that was one of the first first person accounts of a former slave, recounting their experience - powerful and inspiring.
Gerald Durrell, My Family and Other Animals	The story tells in an exaggerated and sometimes fictionalised way of the years that Gerald lived as a child with his siblings, innumerable animals and widowed mother on the Greek island of Corfu between 1935 and 1939.
Julia Enders, Gut	Gut takes an entertaining yet scientific look at an organ that is just as interesting and important as the brain – the gut. By tracking a piece of cake as it works its way through the digestive system, you'll come to appreciate the gut for the sophisticated and impressive ecosystem that it is
Anne Frank, Diary of a Young Girl	In July 1942, thirteen-year-old Anne Frank and her family, fleeing the occupation, went into hiding in an Amsterdam warehouse. Over the next two years Anne vividly describes in her diary the frustrations of living in such close quarters, and her thoughts, feelings and longings as she grows up
Erin Gruwell, Freedom Writers Diary	This book is a compilation of diary entries from 150 high school students in Long Beach, California, who call themselves the Freedom Writers. Their English teacher, Erin Gruwell, discovers that her at-risk students have never heard of the Holocaust. She decides to teach a curriculum of tolerance using books such as <i>Anne Frank: The Diary of a Young Girl</i> and <i>Zlata's Diary: A Child's Life in Sarajevo</i> . As the students start to keep their own journals, they find parallels between the characters' lives and their own.
Katherine Halligan, Herstory	The stories of 50 great women redefine their "herstory", from disability activist Helen Keller to Indian poet, singer and saint Mira Bai and Aboriginal Australian Olympic athlete Cathy Freeman.
Kate Hale, Factopia	The perfect book for any fact-lover, Factopia contains 400 different facts to discover and be wowed by, covering almost anything from nature to robots to the human body to space. Did you know that around 12% of people dream in black and white? That the Earth hums? That there is a hotel in America shaped like a potato?
Ashley Hickson-Lovence- Your Show	Semi-fictionalised dramatic account of the life of Uriah Rennie, the Premiership's first and only black referee
David Long, Tragedy at Sea: The Sinking Of The Titanic	Shortly before midnight on April 14th, 1912, the world's most luxurious (and probably most famous) ship, the Titanic, hit an iceberg while crossing the Atlantic Ocean from Britain to America. Even today, more than a hundred years later, it's the biggest shipping disaster ever and a story that, although most people have heard it, continues to fascinate
Randall Munroe, What If?	From the eating habits of a marauding T-Rex to deceased Facebook users, the creator of the hugely popular webcomic answers the absurd, eccentric and inspired questions of the general public using level-headed science in this simply addictive book.
David Nott, War Doctor	For more mature readers, an essential account of the life of a high achieving doctor who volunteers to work in war zones. Truly eye opening and a must read for anyone who wants to enter medicine or has an interest in world events: not for the faint hearted, includes some frank descriptions of operations and traumatic scenes.

Patrick King, Think Like a Psychologist	Think Like a Psychologist is about working backward from the person in front of you. You will learn to draw conclusions about people's emotions, behavior, past experiences, and overall personality and temperament based on small yet important pieces of information.
Matt Parker, Humble Pi	Exploring and explaining a litany of glitches, near misses, and mathematical mishaps involving the internet, big data, elections, street signs, lotteries, the Roman Empire, and an Olympic team, comedian Matt Parker uncovers the bizarre ways math trips us up, and what this reveals about its essential place in our world.
Marcus Rashford, You Are A Champion	England footballer Marcus Rashford shares tips and advice that he's learned on his journey from being a football-mad kid in Manchester to a sports megastar and political activist, as well as how to handle issues of confidence and anxiety.
Simon Singh, The Mathematical Secrets of The Simpsons	Based on the premise that "many of the writers of <i>The Simpsons</i> are deeply in love with numbers, and their ultimate desire is to drip-feed morsels of mathematics into the subconscious minds of viewers"
Matthew Syed, You Are Awesome	Give kids the tools to overcome self-doubt in <i>You Are Awesome</i> and the courage to follow their dreams, all through growth mindset techniques and friendly encouragement
Adeline Yen-Mah, Chinese Cinderella	The true story "Chinese Cinderella" is about a young Chinese girl named Adeline who faces the struggles of being unwanted and unloved. Adeline is seen as bad luck because her mother died after she was born. Her stepmother, Niang, hates her and favors all other siblings besides Adeline.
Malala Yousafzai, I am Malala	I AM MALALA is the remarkable tale of a family uprooted by global terrorism, of the fight for girls' education, of a father who, himself a school owner, championed and encouraged his daughter to write and attend school, and of brave parents who have a fierce love for their daughter in a society that prizes sons.
<u>Action and Adventure</u>	
Tomi Adeyemi, Children of Blood and Bone	When different clans ruled – Burners igniting flames, Tiders beckoning waves, and Zélie's Reaper mother summoning forth souls. But everything changed the night magic disappeared. Under the orders of a ruthless king, anyone with powers was targeted and killed, leaving Zélie without a mother and her people without hope.
Bertold Brecht, The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui	It chronicles the rise of Arturo Ui, a fictional 1930s Chicago mobster, and his attempts to control the cauliflower racket by ruthlessly disposing of the opposition. The play is a satirical allegory of the rise of Adolf Hitler and the Nazi Party in Germany prior to World War II.
Paula Coelho, The Alchemist	Tells the mystical story of Santiago, an Andalusian shepherd boy who yearns to travel in search of a worldly treasure.
Suzanne Collins, The Hunger Games	Twelve boys and twelve girls are forced to appear in a live event called The Hunger Games. There is only one rule: kill or be killed. When sixteen-year-old Katniss Everdeen steps forward to take her younger sister's place in the games, she sees it as a death sentence. But Katniss has been close to death before.
Michael Crichton, Jurassic Park	A paleontologist touring an almost complete theme park on an island in Central America is tasked with protecting a couple of kids after a power failure causes the park's cloned dinosaurs to run loose. Huge advancements in scientific technology have enabled a mogul to create an island full of living dinosaurs.
Stu Duval, Dusky Moana and The Shrine of The Shark	Dusky Moana is a renowned wildlife photographer who can't seem to stay away from adventure. With the promise of treasure to be had, Dusky embarks on a dangerous journey to the Taboo Archipelago where stories of the mysterious 'white ghosts' scare away most explorers.
Phil Earle, When the Sky Falls	Adonis is ferociously strong and dangerous, but Joseph finds he has an affinity with the lonely beast. But when the bombs begin to fall, it is up to Joseph to guard Adonis's cage should it be damaged by a blast.
Mark Haddon, The Curious Incident of the Dog In The Nighttime	The detective, and narrator, is Christopher Boone. Christopher is fifteen and has Asperger's Syndrome. He knows a very great deal about maths and very little about human beings. He loves lists, patterns and the truth. He hates the colours yellow and brown and being touched. He has never gone further than the end of the road on his own, but when he finds a neighbour's dog murdered he sets out on a terrifying journey which will turn his whole world upside down.
Stephen and Lucy Hawking, George's Secret Key To The Universe	With <i>Cosmos</i> ' help George sets off on wonderful adventures exploring the solar system and is enthralled by what he discovers, until one awful day when a dastardly plot leads him into mortal danger and towards the terrible nothingness of a black hole.

Lenny Henry, The Boy With Wings	The heartwarming and hilarious debut children's novel from national treasure Lenny Henry sees average kid Tunde suddenly sprout wings during a football match, embarking on an exciting and sinister journey of discovery.
Anthony Horowitz, Alex Rider: Nightshade	Alex thought he'd finally left his spying days behind him; but when a dangerous band of 'terrorists for hire' emerges onto the world stage, he's dragged into another risky undercover operation.
Khalid Hosseini, The Kite Runner	1970s Afghanistan: Twelve-year-old Amir is desperate to win the local kite-fighting tournament and his loyal friend Hassan promises to help him. But neither of the boys can foresee what would happen to Hassan that afternoon, an event that is to shatter their lives.
Manjeet Mann, The Crossing	Natalie's world is falling apart. She's just lost her mum and her brother marches the streets of Dover full of hate and anger. Swimming is her only refuge. Sammy has fled his home and family in Eritrea for the chance of a new life in Europe. Every step he takes on his journey is a step into an unknown and unwelcoming future. A twist of fate brings them together and gives them both hope. But is hope enough to mend a broken world?
Robert Muchamore, CHERUB-series	Big adventures and excitement as the teenage recruits at CHERUB battle the underworlds.
Daljit Nagra, Ramanaya	The story of Rama's quest to recover his wife Sita from her abduction by Raavana, the Lord of the Underworld, has enchanted readers and audiences across the Eastern world for thousands of years.
George Orwell, Animal Farm	Animals on the farm rise up against their powerful owners.
R.L. Stevenson, Treasure Island	Sea adventure and the search for lost treasure.
Jules Verne, Journey to the Centre of the Earth	Explorers climb down an extinct volcano and into the centre of the earth.
Markus Zusak, The Book Thief	Death has never been busier - and will become busier still. By her brother's graveside, nine year old Liesel's life is changed forever when she picks up a single object, abandoned in the snow. It is The Gravedigger's Handbook, and this is her first act of book thievery.
<u>Family and Relationships</u>	
Louisa M Alcott, Little Women	Four sisters grow up in the 1860s. Narrated by Jo, who desperately wants to be a writer.
Margaret Atwood, The Handmaid's Tale	Offred is a Handmaid in the Republic of Gilead. She may leave the home of the Commander and his wife once a day to walk to food markets whose signs are now pictures instead of words because women are no longer allowed to read. An electrifying dystopian satire!
Jane Austen, Pride and Prejudice	Pride and Prejudice follows the turbulent relationship between Elizabeth Bennet, the daughter of a country gentleman, and Fitzwilliam Darcy, a rich aristocratic landowner. They must overcome the titular sins of pride and prejudice in order to fall in love and marry.
Malorie Blackman, Noughts and Crosses	They've been friends since they were children, and they both know that's as far as it can ever go. Noughts and Crosses are fated to be bitter enemies - love is out of the question. Then - in spite of a world that is fiercely against them - these star-crossed lovers choose each other.
Charlotte Bronte, Jane Eyre	Jane falls in love with her rich employer, only to find out he has a dark secret.
Emily Bronte, Wuthering Heights	Heathcliff, an orphan, is raised by Mr Earnshaw as one of his own children. Hindley despises him but wild Cathy becomes his constant companion, and he falls deeply in love with her. But when she will not marry him, Heathcliff's terrible vengeance ruins them all. Yet still his and Cathy's love will not die

Pamela Butchart, To Wee or Not To Wee	Hamlet could NEVER make his mind up about ANYTHING. And one time he actually went to school in just his pants and got sent home because he couldn't decide what to wear. When Izzy (star of The Spy Who Loved School Dinners) is asked to tell her friends some HILARIOUS and SCARY stories she knows exactly where to look: Shakespeare, the king of SUPER dramatic stuff. After learning about Macbeth (a STRONG soldier who ate four bowls of porridge and twenty pieces of toast every morning) her friends want more. So Hamlet, A Midsummer
Steven Camden, My Big Mouth	Jay makes up stories in an attempt to look cool and to forget about his family troubles –until the stress of keeping up his new façade becomes overwhelming. A funny and entertaining cautionary tale for anyone who has been tempted to tell a little lie.
Stephen Chbosky, The Perks of Being a Wallflower	This is the story of what it's like to grow up in high school. More intimate than a diary, Charlie's letters are singular and unique, hilarious and devastating. We may not know where he lives. We may not know to whom he is writing. All we know is the world he shares. Caught between trying to live his life and trying to run from it puts him on a strange course through uncharted territory.
Charles Dickens, Oliver Twist	The story centres on orphan Oliver Twist, born in a workhouse and sold into apprenticeship with an undertaker. After escaping, Oliver travels to London, where he meets the "Artful Dodger", a member of a gang of juvenile pickpockets led by the elderly criminal Fagin.
Swapna Haddow, Bad Panda	If being good gets you sent to a zoo thousands of miles from home, maybe being bad will get you sent back? Anyone who's ever been cuddled, smooshed or had their hair mussed up one too many times will empathise with Lin, who is tired of being adorable.
Ashley Hickson-Lovence, The 392	Set entirely on a London bus taking place over just 36 minutes, the events of The 392 unfold through a cast of charismatic characters coming from very different worlds. On the 392 are all the familiar faces you might expect to see on any bus ride through inner-city
Taylor Jenkins-Reid, The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo	Aging and reclusive Hollywood movie icon Evelyn Hugo is finally ready to tell the truth about her glamorous and scandalous life. But when she chooses unknown magazine reporter Monique Grant for the job, no one is more astounded than Monique herself. Why her? Why now?
Lloyd Jones, Mister Pip	On a copper-rich tropical island shattered by war, where the teachers have fled with most everyone else, only one white man chooses to stay behind: the eccentric Mr. Watts, object of much curiosity and scorn, who sweeps out the ruined schoolhouse and begins to read to the children each day from Charles Dickens's classic <i>Great Expectations</i> .
Stephen Kelman, Pigeon English	Newly arrived from Ghana with his mother and older sister Lydia, Harri absorbs the many strange elements of city life, from the bewildering array of Haribo sweets, to the frightening, fascinating gang of older boys from his school with a strong sense of humour. But his life is changed forever when one of his friends is murdered...
Thanhha Lai, Inside Out and Back Again	When Ha leaves Saigon for a new life in America, her new life is far from what she had been expecting. This story movingly captures the experience of a child refugee
Harper Lee, To Kill a Mockingbird	Through the young eyes of Scout and Jem Finch, Harper Lee explores with exuberant humour the irrationality of adult attitudes to race and class in the Deep South of the 1930s. The conscience of a town steeped in prejudice, violence and hypocrisy is pricked by the stamina of one man's struggle for justice.
Haruki Murakami, Kafka On The Shore	Kafka on the Shore interweaves between two parallel plots to tell the story of Kafka Tamura — a 15-year-old boy who runs away from home to escape an Oedipal curse and Nakata — an elderly Japanese man who has an uncanny ability to speak to cats due to a childhood accident and who spends his days locating and returning lost cats to their owners.
Patrick Ness, A Monster Calls	The bestselling novel and major film about love, loss and hope from the twice Carnegie Medal-winning Patrick Ness. Conor has the same dream every night, ever since his mother first fell ill, ever since she started the treatments that don't quite seem to be working. But tonight is different.
Chinonyerem Odimba, Princess and The Hustler	A ten year old girl and her family negotiate life in 1960s Bristol, set against the backdrop of the bus boycott - an untold chapter in Black British history.
Alice Oseman, Heartstopper Vol.1	Charlie, a highly-strung, openly gay over-thinker, and Nick, a cheerful, soft-hearted rugby player, meet at a British all-boys grammar school. Friendship blooms quickly, but could there be something more...?
Winsome Pinnnock, Leave Taking	A funny, moving play about the lives and relationships of a mother and her two daughters living in North London, searching to find their sense of identity and way in the world.

Lu, Jason Reynolds	Athletics star Lu is generally pretty sure of himself – who he is and what he’s good at. But there’s suddenly a lot of change in his life. The big end-of-season championships are looming; his parents have dropped the bombshell that they’re having another kid; Coach has got him running hurdles but, after an embarrassing fall, he doesn’t seem able to jump them...
JD Salinger, The Catcher in The Rye	The novel details two days in the life of 16-year-old Holden Caulfield after he has been expelled from prep school. Confused and disillusioned, Holden searches for truth and rails against the “phoniness” of the adult world. He ends up exhausted and emotionally unstable.
Ian Serralier, The Silver Sword	A moving tale of three young children whose lives are torn apart by the events of World War II
Mildred Taylor, Roll of Thunder, Hear my Cry	Tale of family loyalty set against the racist background of 1930s America.
Lisa Thompson, The House of Clouds	Everything is feeling very upside-down in Tabby’s life right now. Not only has her best friend gone off and found another entirely different best friend, but since her grandad moved in, all her mum’s time seems to be occupied with looking after him. Plus Tabby finds her grandad and his strange stories quite irritating – she’s not a little child anymore, after all....
Sue Townsend, The Secret Diary of Adrian Mole	Through Adrian's diary, we hear him speak openly about spots, girls, school and a troubling family life: all the time, convinced that he is a genius and that nobody in the world can possibly understand him.
Jeanette Winterson, Oranges Are Not The Only Fruit	At sixteen, Jeanette decides to leave the church, her home and her family, for the young woman she loves. Innovative, punchy and tender.
<u>Fantasy/Sci-Fi</u>	
Douglas Adams, The Hitchhiker's Guide to The Galaxy	The comedically unlucky Arthur Dent is the only man to survive the destruction of Earth; while roaming outer space, he comes to learn the truth behind Earth's existence.
Richard Adams, Watership Down	Rabbits are threatened with losing their homes and have to find ways of surviving.
Isaac Asimov, The Caves of Steel	A millennium into the future two advancements have altered the course of human history: the colonization of the galaxy and the creation of the positronic brain. Isaac Asimov's Robot novels chronicle the unlikely partnership between a New York City detective and a humanoid robot who must learn to work together.
Frank Beddor, Looking Glass Wars	Challenging novel which develops the characters from “Alice in Wonderland” creating a whole new fantasy adventure.
Alastair Chisholm, Orion Lost	When her spaceship is attacked and all adults incapacitated, 13 year old Beth is appointed new Captain of the Orion. It's a role she's always dreamed of, but meteor storms and ruthless space pirates await...
Matt Haig, The Midnight Library	Between life and death there is a library. When Nora Seed finds herself in the Midnight Library, she has a chance to make things right. Up until now, her life has been full of misery and regret. She feels she has let everyone down, including herself. But things are about to change. The books in the Midnight Library enable Nora to live as if she had done things differently.
C S Lewis, The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe	Four children find themselves in another land by stepping through a wardrobe.
Conrad Mason, The Girl in Wooden Armour	Hattie knows her grandmother Dee is quite eccentric. But even after receiving a cryptic note from her, asking the family to visit, when Hattie arrives in the town of Brokewood, the last thing she expects to discover is a magical legacy she knew nothing about, and that Brokewood shares an otherworldly border with a nightmare world called the Un Forest.
Madeline Miller, Song of Achilles	Achilles, "the best of all the Greeks," son of the cruel sea goddess Thetis and the legendary king Peleus, is strong, swift, and beautiful, irresistible to all who meet him. Patroclus is an awkward young prince, exiled from his homeland after an act of shocking violence. Brought together by chance, they forge an inseparable bond

Philip Pullman, His Dark Materials trilogy	Follows the coming-of-age of two children as they wander through a series of parallel universes.
Philip C Quintrell, Rise of The Ranger	Thrown into the heart of this war is an Outlander of the wilds, an assassin, a ranger. Asher was born a thousand years ago, but he doesn't remember. Forty years of brutal training and killing for money has beaten the earliest years of his life away, leaving his ties to the oldest of evils a mystery to all.
Philip Reeve, Mortal Engines (series)	Moving cities trawl the globe. Tom and Hester are thrown from their beloved "London" and try to get back on board.
Rick Riordan, Percy Jackson and The Lightning Thief	At Half Blood Hill, a summer camp dedicated to training demigods, Percy learns that his fate is to undertake a dangerous quest across the United States to retrieve Zeus' stolen lightning bolt and avert a War of the Gods. Along the way Percy must face a host of mythological enemies determined to get in his way.
JK Rowling, Harry Potter and The Philosopher's Stone	When mysterious letters start arriving on his doorstep, Harry Potter has never heard of Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry.....
Jamie Russell, Skywake Invasion	Fifteen-year-old girl gamer Casey Henderson is obsessed with smash-hit game SkyWake - and she's good at it, too. Little does she realize it's actually an alien training tool created by an evil extra-terrestrial race.
J R Tolkien, The Hobbit/Lord of the Rings	Start with the adventures of Bilbo Baggins, the reluctant adventurer, then move further into Middle Earth.
James Turner, Star Cat	This bright, super-fun graphic novel stars Captain Spaceington and his wacky crew as they travel the universe in their spaceship, the Star Cat...
<u>Ghosts and Horror</u>	
Bec Hill, Horror Heights:The Slime	Connie is proud to be known as the 'Queen of Slime' at school and intends to keep it that way – even though her entire slime collection has now been confiscated by the teacher. Desperate to get a new slime to take to school next week, Connie resorts to making her own, using a recipe her dad gets off the internet. Things take a funny turn though....
Susan Hill, The Woman in Black	A young man becomes the victim of a ghostly campaign of terror and tragedy while in a deserted house.
Edgar Allan Poe, Tales of Horror	Stories from the man seen as the first true horror writer
Celia Rees, Soul Taker	Jardine is so obsessed with the lovely Lisa that he sells his soul for a chance to be with her.
Darren Shan, Demonata series	Can the three main characters, all living in different times, fight against the demonic forces who are attempting to destroy the world?
<u>Mystery, Crime and Thrillers</u>	
Ben Aaronovitch, Rivers of London	This bestselling UK series follows Peter Grant, an ordinary constable turned magician's apprentice, as he solves crimes across London in a sensational blend of inventive urban fantasy, gripping mystery thriller, and hilarious fantasy caper.
Agatha Christie, The Body in the Library	Just one of Christie's famous crime novels –there are plenty more!

Arthur Conan Doyle, Sherlock Holmes: The Sign Of Four	One of many tales about a 19th century detective with extraordinary abilities.
Kate Gilby, The Astonishing Future of Alex Nobody	A time travel adventure.
Fleur Hitchcock, Waiting for Murder	Dan and his archaeologist mum are staying in a Westcountry village for the summer while she works on an ancient burial site that's been revealed by the draining of the local reservoir. Dan is a bit bored, but as the reservoir's water drops, a new secret is revealed.....
Valerie Mendes, Girl in the Attic	Accessible, spine-chilling ghost/mystery novel set in Cornwall after a family move from the big city.
Em Norry, Amber Undercover	Shy, cool-headed Amber has just been chosen to be a spy by a mysterious agency - and before long she's sent to foil an evil cybercrime plot! Can she juggle friendship, family, and going undercover?
Ella Risbridger, The Secret Detectives	The Secret Detectives finds the freshly orphaned Isobel attempting to solve a heinous crime aboard the SS Mariana in a pitch perfect homage to Golden Age crime writing
Lauren St John, Wave Riders	Twins Jess and Jude wake one morning to find their yacht adrift and their guardian missing. Packed with half-truths, deception, red herrings, villainous baddies and a sense of ever-present threat, this is a mystery to keep readers guessing.