

# Michelle Magorian Study Guides

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 The moving and joyous story of how books can change your life, packed with recommendations from one reader to another  
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## ABBIGAIL RAIDEN

*God Don't Like Ugly* Penguin UK

A battered child learns to embrace life when he is adopted by an old man in the English countryside during the Second World War.

*The Girls* Scholastic Inc.

While recuperating on the south coast of France after a terrible accident, 13-year-old Beau meets Lelee, a sort of wild child, more at home in the sea than on land. Together with Beau's younger sister they roam around the Bay of Angels in their little boat in search of a box that Lelee believes contains a fortune. They are constantly being watched by a group of smugglers who are looking for the same box. The summer turns into an intriguing adventure which gradually unfolds as Beau regains his strength, thanks to his new surroundings and the people he meets, including his eccentric aunt, her companion Clothilde and, above, all, Lelee, who also has her own sad tale that means she must one day leave the place she loves.

**Homefront** Open Road Media

An absorbing post-war adventure from the award-winning author of *Goodnight Mr Tom*. WWII has ended, but Henry is fighting his own battles. He misses his father who died a war hero, and his only distraction is the cinema. When Henry develops an old camera film he uncovers a mystery and events spiral until his life resembles the drama of his beloved big screen. Like a bomb waiting to explode, Henry's world is about to unravel. . . . In this Costa Award-winning novel, Michelle Magorian takes a lens to post-war Britain, revealing its prejudices, its quirks and its warmth.

*Goodnight Mister Tom* Dafina

In *Solitaire*, Alice Oseman has brought to life a vivid, clever, and heartfelt portrayal of what it's like to be a teenager today. This stunning debut novel—which the Times (London) called "The Catcher in the Rye for the digital age"—is perfect for fans of Melina Marchetta, Stephen Chbosky, and Rainbow Rowell. My name is Tori Spring. I like to sleep and I like to blog. Last year—before all that stuff with Charlie and before I had to face the harsh realities of exams and university applications and the fact that one day I really will have to start talking to people—I had friends. Things were very different, I guess, but that's all over now. Now there's *Solitaire*. And Michael Holden. I don't know what *Solitaire* is trying to do, and I don't care about Michael Holden. I really don't.

**Half a Man** Bloomsbury Publishing USA

Like many ambitious New York City teenagers, Craig Gilner sees entry into Manhattan's Executive Pre-Professional High School as the ticket to his future. Determined to succeed at life—which means getting into the right high school to get into the right college to get the right job—Craig studies night and day to ace the entrance exam, and does. That's when things start to get crazy. At his new school, Craig realizes that he isn't brilliant compared to the other kids; he's just average, and maybe not even that. He soon sees his once-perfect future crumbling away.

*And Other Tales of Prydain* Penguin UK

New York Times bestselling author Mary Monroe sweeps readers back to the streets, porches, and parlors of civil rights-era Ohio to bring to life the first steps of an enduring friendship between two girls from opposite sides of the track. . . . Annette Goode is a shy, awkward, overweight child with a terrible secret. Frightened and ashamed, Annette withdraws into a world of books and food. But the summer Annette turns thirteen, something incredible happens: Rhoda Nelson chooses her as a friend. Dazzling, generous Rhoda, who is everything Annette is not--gorgeous, slim, and worldly--welcomes Annette into the heart of her eccentric family, which includes her handsome and dignified father; her lovely, fragile "Muh'Dear;" her brooding, dangerous brother Jock; and her colorful white relatives--half-crazy Uncle Johnny, sultry Aunt Lola, and scary, surly Granny Goose. With Rhoda's help, Annette survives adolescence and blossoms as a woman. But when her beautiful best friend

makes a stunning confession about a horrific childhood crime, Annette's world will never be the same. "A coming-of-age journey depicted with wit, poignancy and bite." --Publishers Weekly  
*The moving and joyous story of how books can change your life, packed with recommendations from one reader to another* Simon and Schuster  
 Colourfully illustrated collection of Spoonerisms for 8 to 12 year olds to identify, first published in 1992. Features drawings of things such as trusty monks and rusty trunks, a thistle on a bum and a whistle on a thumb,. a belly smack and a smelly back, eggs on ladders and legs on adders. Jennings other publications include 'Unreal' and 'Uncanny'.

*Who's Going to Take Care of Me?* Harper Collins

For as long as Margaret Ann Motley can remember, she has been waiting and hoping for one thing -- a room to call her very own. And when Margaret's older sister leaves for college, it looks like Margaret's days of waiting are over. But then disaster strikes. Its form: an English cousin named Courtney who has been forced to flee 1941 London because of the blitz. Not at all concerned with what's happening in Europe, Margaret Ann is soon fighting a war of her own as she watches her cousin Courtney get not only her room, but also the attention of her very own family and boyfriend. It's not until Margaret's only brother enlists in the navy that Margaret discovers an ally and a friend where at first she saw only a rival. Poet and novelist Doris Gwaltney has crafted a detailed, spirited, sometimes humorous, and always deeply felt novel about two girls coming of age and becoming friends in the shadow of the biggest war in modern history.

**A Little Love Song** Book Guild

Revered author Michael Morpurgo evokes the post-war Britain of his childhood in this unflinching and deeply poignant tale of the physical and mental scars of war. From a young age, Michael was both fascinated by and afraid of his grandfather. Grandpa's ship was torpedoed during the Second World War, leaving him with terrible burns. Every time he came to stay, Michael was warned by his mother that he must not stare, he must not make too much noise, he must not ask Grandpa any questions about his past. As he grows older, Michael stays with his grandfather during the summer holidays and learns the story behind Grandpa's injuries, finally getting to know the real man behind the solemn figure from his childhood. Michael can see beyond the burns, and this gives him the power to begin healing scars that have divided his family for so long.

*Icy Sparks* Harper Collins

A classic war story from the award-winning author of *Goodnight, Mister Tom*. A Spoonful of Jam will truly capture your heart and mind. The war is over but Elsie is still fighting her own battles. She's bullied because she's the only scholarship pupil at the grammar school, and she has an awkward relationship with her father as he struggles to assume a normal life after fighting in the war. But when she begins working at the local theatre, Elsie discovers she can escape. . . . A Spoonful of Jam is the second of The Hollis Family books, following *Cuckoo in the Nest*. "The book is a treat. A masterly work." Philip Pullman, Guardian.

*The Memory Cage* Egmont UK Limited

Peter feels compelled to help a wounded German pilot, but he doesn't want to be a traitor--especially not to his father, who is off fighting the Nazis. A moving story about the moral dilemmas of war. Summer 1941: For Peter, the war is a long way away, being fought by his father and thousands of other British soldiers against the faceless threat of Nazism. But war comes frighteningly close to home one night when a German jet is shot down over the neighboring woods. With his feisty new friend Kim, Peter rushes to the crash site to see if there's anything he can salvage. What he finds instead is a German airman. The enemy. Seriously wounded and in need of aid...Continuing in the tradition of thought-provoking literature about the Second World War, Dan Smith's MY FRIEND THE ENEMY is a thrilling adventure that also personalizes the moral dilemmas faced by the children left behind on the home front.

*Promoting Reading for Pleasure in the Primary School* Usborne Publishing Ltd

Young Willie Beech is evacuated to the country as Britain stands on the brink of the Second World War. A sad, deprived child, he slowly begins to flourish under the care of old Tom Oakley - but his new-found happiness is shattered by a summons from his mother back in London . . . Winner of the Guardian Children's Fiction Award.

[More Than This](#) Candlewick Press

London is poised on the brink of World War 11. Timid, scrawny Willie Beech -- the abused child of a single mother -- is evacuated to the English countryside. At first, he is terrified of everything, of the country sounds and sights, even of Mr. Tom, the gruff, kindly old man who has taken him in. But gradually Willie forgets the hate and despair of his past. He learns to love a world he never knew existed, a world of friendship and affection in which harsh words and daily beatings have no place. Then a telegram comes. Willie must return to his mother in London. When weeks pass by with no word from Willie, Mr. Tom sets out for London to look for the young boy he has come to love as a son.

*Silence over Dunkerque* HarperTeen

From the winner of the Roald Dahl Funny Prize, the Red House Children's Book Award, the Waterstones Children's Book Prize and the Blue Peter Best Story Book Award 2013 comes the third, highly illustrated, ebook in the Tom Gates series.

**Winter Magic** Candlewick Press

In this collection of short stories, water, in all its many shapes and forms, becomes a catalyst in the lives of the people it touches.

*Everything's Amazing (Sort Of)* Scholastic Canada

Shot down on a mission, 19-year-old pilot Henry is alone in a treacherous land. Desperate to get back to his family and the girl he loves, he is forced to rely on the cunning of the French Resistance. But in his battle to survive the deadly journey across Nazi-occupied Europe, he must face a terrible choice: can he take a life to save his own? "A brilliantly paced, action-packed story with some breathtaking moments" - Primary Times

HarperCollins Children's Books

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A wonderfully nostalgic story about one boy's determination to follow his dreams from the award-winning author of Goodnight Mr Tom. Amid the rubble of post-war Britain, Ralph is entranced by the theatre. He loves seeing the performances, talking to the actors, the buzz of the audience, and the corridors and dressing rooms backstage. But how can a working-class boy achieve his dream when there is no opportunity for theatre training? 'A fascinating story and a vivid picture of Britain in the 1940s' - The Times.

[Good Night, Mr. Tom](#) Disney Electronic Content

While on an ocean voyage to Canada to escape the air raids in his Liverpool home, twelve-year-old Jaimie Monaghan faces another kind of life-threatening situation.

*When the Sky Falls* Good Night, Mr. Tom

John Tunis vividly imagines the drama of Operation Dynamo, the evacuation of Allied forces from Dunkerque Sergeant Edward Williams of the Second Battalion was among the first British troops to land in France, just across the English Channel from his family in Dover, after the declaration of war in September of 1939. Battles have been few and far between since then, in what the Germans have been calling der Sitzkrieg—the sitting war. In May 1940, under the leadership of their new prime minister, Winston Churchill, the British are hoping to stem the tide of Nazi invasion along their southern border. But now, flanked to the east and west by German troops and cut off from the Allies further south, Sergeant Williams and his battalion must retreat to Dunkerque in the north, and escape by sea is their only hope.

**Good Night, Mr. Tom** Caterpillar Books

12-year-old Josie attends a finishing-style stage school where she is firmly told she has no acting ability. Fortunately she finds herself cast by a boy in an American comedy - but mistaken for the star she is kidnapped and imprisoned in a dockside warehouse. Managing to escape, she and a fellow runaway take refuge in the Theatre Royal, Stratford. They are offered work by the legendary Joan Littlewood, founder of the Theatre Workshop Company. Much to Josie's surprise this leads to a role in a Saturday-morning film. However, the kidnappers haven't given up yet and they are on Josie's trail.