

Fantasy

This list focuses on fantasy written from 1970 onwards with the exception of Joan Aiken's series about Dido, begun in the 1960s but continued during the 1980s and 90s, and Susan Cooper's *Over Sea Under Stone* written some years before the rest of the *Dark is Rising* series. This is not intended to devalue the classics of modern children's literature such as C.S. Lewis's Narnia series and Mary Norton's *Borrowers* written during the 1950s and 1960s but simply to place a limit on what could be an enormous list.

AIKEN Joan

Wolves of Willoughby Chase

London: Cape 1962, Red Fox 1992.

Black Hearts in Battersea

London: Cape 1965, Red Fox 1992.

Night Birds on Nantucket

London: Cape 1966, Red Fox 1993.

The Cuckoo Tree

London: Cape 1971, Red Fox 1993.

Dido and Pa

London: Cape 1986, Red Fox 1992.

Is

London: Cape 1992, Red Fox 1993.

Cold Shoulder Road

London: Cape 1995, Red Fox 1996.

This series takes place in a "time which never was" but which is reminiscent of early Victorian

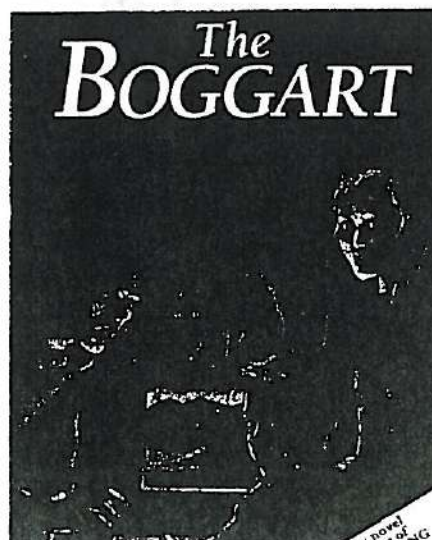
England. The first title is loosely connected with the others but *Black Hearts...* introduces the incomparable heroine Dido Twite, who takes centre stage in the sequels and sturdily vanquishes any black hearted villains she encounters. Joan Aiken is a wonderful teller of tales. She keeps the story rattling along, her language is memorable and original, her plots are beautifully constructed. The first four have become classics, and recent new editions are available along with the more recently written titles. Excellent for the 8-11 age group. In print. B.G.

BABBITT Natalie

Tuck Everlasting

London: Farrar, Straus and Giroux 1975.

A thought provoking story about the Tuck family who have drunk from a stream which has made them immortal and a child who has the opportunity to choose whether or not she will live forever. 10+. H.B.



BRANFORD, Henrietta

Dipper's Island

London: Walker Books 1999

Dipper and his friends are miniature people who live by a stream called the Dockens. This is an enchanting world full of delightful characters who are loved in spite of their faults and who are always ready to assist Dipper when he answers a call for help. 7-9. In print. S.M.

COOPER Susan

Over Sea Under Stone

London: Cape 1965.

The Dark is Rising

London: Chatto & Windus 1973.

Greenwitch

London: Chatto & Windus 1974.

The Grey King

London: Chatto & Windus 1975.

Silver on the Tree

London: Chatto & Windus 1977.

Dark is Rising Sequence (1 Volume) Puffin 1984.

A memorable series which explores various aspects of the Arthurian legend. The one character central to all the books is Merriman – or Merlin. All of them examine the nature of time and how legends retain their power in certain ancient places such as Cornwall, Wales and the Thames Valley. The books are loosely connected although the first and third could stand alone. It is generally agreed that the most powerful are *The Dark is Rising* (1974 Newbery Honor Book) and *The Grey King* (1976 Newbery Medal) 10+ In print. BG

The Boggart

New York: Maxwell Macmillan International 1993, Puffin 1994.

The Boggart and the Monster
New York: Simon & Schuster 1997.

A Canadian family inherits a remote Scottish castle and also the Boggart who has been playing tricks on the inhabitants of the castle for generations. Two light hearted stories with plenty of humour as the Boggart is inadvertently shipped to Toronto and wreaks havoc until Emily and Jessup find a way to return him to Scotland via modern technology. In the sequel the children become involved in a rescue operation when the Boggart, who has accompanied them on a camping expedition, discovers that the Loch Ness monster is his long lost cousin who has forgotten how to change his shape. 9+. In Print. H.B.

DALTON Annie

Out of the Ordinary

Methuen Children's Books, 1988, Teen Mandarin 1989.

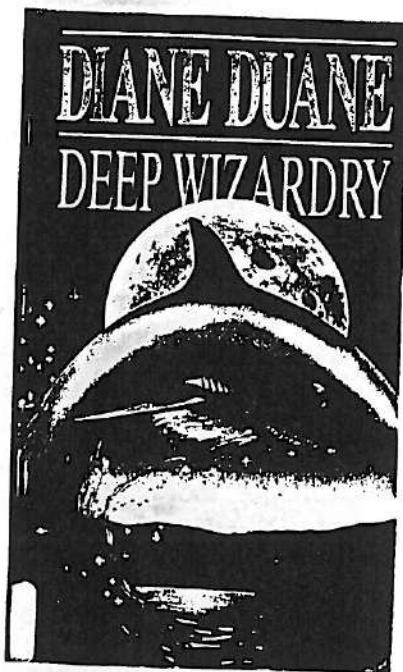
Molly lives in a chaotic household and her mother often takes in foster children. When Molly advertises for a job- "Quests undertaken, lost things found, enchantments broken..." they receive Floris, a mysterious child from another world and it becomes Molly's task to save him when he is kidnapped by dangerous magical forces.

Naming the Dark

London: Methuen 1992.

Owen is a popular teenager whose stated law is to "Stay Cool and Have Fun". He mocks 'Weird Kevin' who tries to enlist his aid in an unknown task which will save their town from an

unacknowledged curse but is drawn to the task despite himself after Kevin dies of cancer. The knowledge of a previous life gradually dawns on Owen and haunts him until he leads a procession of heroes into the dark to restore the light and beauty and forgotten power of lost Atlantis to the town of Loxely.



The Night Maze.

A lonely boy, who has spent most of his life in foster homes, is claimed by wealthy relatives and goes to live in their beautiful Elizabethan house. However a family tragedy has cursed the family for generations so all that they most desire becomes twisted in some way. Gerard and his cousin enter the forbidden maze at night and succeed in lifting the curse. Short-listed Carnegie Medal 1989. 11+.

DUANE Diane

So You Want to be a Wizard.

Corgi, 1991

Deep Wizardry.

Corgi 1991.

High Wizardry.

Corgi 1991.

A Wizard Abroad.

Corgi 1993.

This quartet begins with thirteen year old Nita, taking refuge in the library when on the run from a gang of bullies and discovering a book on the art of wizardry. Taking an oath to use her power wisely and well she must then prove her worth and together with Kit, another aspiring wizard, she crosses to a dark parallel world to search for an ancient book that holds the key to preserving the Universe. In the second book Nita and Kit take the shape of whales to help in a ritual of the Sea to combat the growing strength of the evil Lone Power. In the third book Nita's younger sister, wanting to be a wizard too, is catapulted to a series of strange worlds in other galaxies with the Lone Power on her trail.

In the fourth book Nita is in Ireland working with Irish wizards to collect four legendary objects of power in order to battle evil creatures of myth and legend.

These books combine everyday adolescent life with all its problems, humour, suspense and great fantasy. 11+. In Print. H.B.

FISHER Catherine

The Candle Man

London: Bodley Head 1994

Red Fox 1995.

A gripping tale of two teenagers who choose to help Meurig the fiddler regain a candle which will end his life if it burns out. Hafren, an ancient water spirit offers them the choice of allowing her to flood the land or losing the candle and they must think of a way to outwit her. 11+ In print. H.B.

GARNER Alan

The Owl Service

London: Collins 1967.

A Carnegie Medal winner, this electrifying story has recently been re-issued. It tells how an ancient Welsh legend is doomed to be played out in successive generations and we see that three contemporary teenagers may be about to repeat its tragedy. Brilliantly written this powerful novel is for the upper age group. 14+. B.G.

GEE Maurice

The Halfmen of O

The Priests of Ferris

Motherstone

Penguin Books Auckland 1988

Susan has always been different. She never got on well with her cousin Nick but the mark on her wrist draws them together in a captivating adventure. They go to the magical land of O where they face dreadful dangers to fulfil frightening tasks. Maurice Gee is marvelously inventive and even in the sinister parts he does not forget the humour.

9-12. In print. B.L.

IBBOTSON Eva

The Great Ghost Rescue.

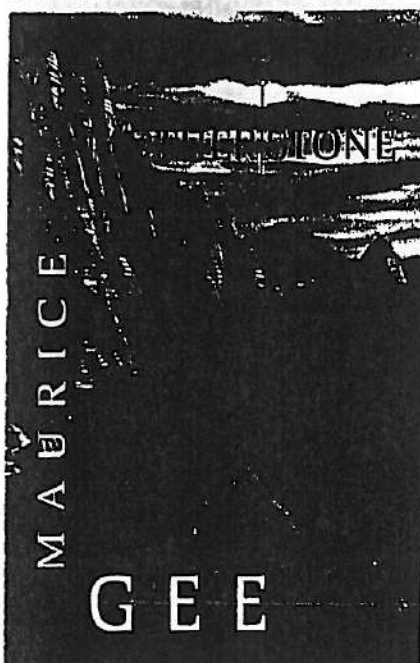
Macmillan 1975.

The ghosts of England are becoming an endangered species as their mouldering castles are modernised or destroyed and a family of ghosts enlists the help of Rick, a schoolboy with an interest in conservation. Eva Ibbotson combines gruesomely detailed description with humour- a winning combination for 8-12 year olds. H.B.

Which Witch

Macmillan 1979.

Arriman the Awful, Loather of Light and Wizard of the North, is faced with the problem of choosing a wife so he will have an heir but dreads the thought of marrying a witch. Bowing to the inevitable he holds a competition to decide which witch from a truly ghastly assortment. However, he falls in love with the unsuitable Belladonna, a white witch. All problems are satisfactorily resolved at the end with a happy ending for both minor and major characters. 8-12. H.B.



The Secret of Platform 13

Pan Macmillan 1994.

The prince of a far away island is spirited away for 13 years and the residents of the kingdom, including a young hag, an invisible ogre, a dodderly wizard and a mistmaker, have joined forces to bring him back. Unfortunately he has become a thoroughly spoilt and unpleasant child who has no wish to be rescued. As usual Eva Ibbotson's gruesome creations are found to be kind hearted and loyal and

through their efforts the true prince is found. In print. 8-12. H.B.,S.M.

JONES Diana Wynne

The Lives of Christopher Chant.

Methuen 1988, Mammoth 1989.

This is a prequel to earlier novels featuring Chrestomanci, the greatest magician in the country with the responsibility of preventing the misuse of magic. This novel covers the boyhood of Christopher both before and after he discovers he has nine lives and is destined to become the next Chrestomanci. Christopher finds he can move freely between many worlds, an ability which is being exploited by his unscrupulous uncle and his adventures include rescuing a goddess with a taste for school stories and a desire to go to boarding school. An action packed story full of excitement and humour. 11+. H.B.

Deep Secret.

Rupert Venables is a junior Magid in a multiverse with a magical dimension running from Ayeward, where magic is accepted and practised, to Nayewards, where few believe in it and even fewer use it. Magids use their magical talent to push people into doing the right thing at the right time and Rupert, facing promotion on the death of his boss, must select his own replacement, a task which proves amazingly complicated and makes entertaining and challenging reading. 12+. In Print. H.B.

Dark Lord of Derkholm

This is a spoof on the traditional fantasy epic in which groups of tourists, called Pilgrim Parties,

enter a magical realm where they are guaranteed a certain number of adventures including a final battle in which they defeat the Dark Lord. As the inhabitants of this realm are tired of being forced to provide entertaining conflicts between the Dark Lord and the Forces of Good they attempt to sabotage the tours. Derk, a wizard with a taste for genetic engineering, is appointed dark Lord in the hope that he will prove incompetent and discourage any further tourist parties. His efforts to provide the requisite number of battles and ordeals with the help of his various creations such as sarcastic geese and miniature carnivorous sheep makes very entertaining reading. 12+. In Print. H.B.

JORDAN Sherryl

The Wednesday Wizard

Auckland: Ashton Scholastic 1991.

Denzil's Dilemma.

Auckland: Ashton Scholastic 1992

Denzil's Great Bear Burglary.

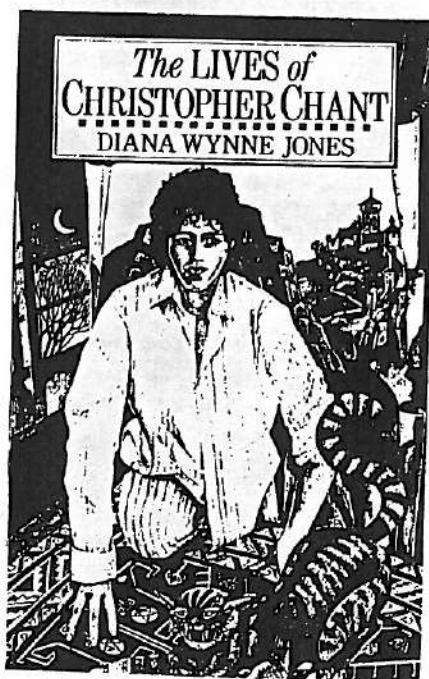
Wellington: Mallinson Rendel 1997.

Denzil is a 13th Century apprentice wizard. Unfortunately he gets his spells mixed up and consequently in the first book he finds himself in 20th Century New Zealand. In the second he brings a friend he made there back into his own world and in the third he tries to save a dancing bear from cruel treatment by taking it to contemporary New Zealand. As well as being highly amusing the books have the added dimension of giving excellent authentic information about the medieval world. 7+. B.G.

Rocco

Auckland: Ashton Scholastic 1990.

20th Century Rocco finds himself in a primitive stone-age society and has to adapt to their customs and conditions. But he gradually becomes puzzled. Has he really gone back in time? At one level this is science fiction, on another it is a young man's journey of self-discovery and of finding a purpose when he returns to his own world. AIM Children's Book Award 1991. 13+. B.G.



The Juniper Game

Auckland: Ashton Scholastic 1991.

Juniper wants to experiment with telepathy. She persuades a classmate, Dylan, to stay in another room and draw what she sees. But gradually the experiment draws them back in Time to when a young woman was threatened with burning at the stake as a witch. Can they affect Time Past? What is the nature of Time? What about their own relationship? A textured memorable novel. In print. 12+. B.G.

Winter of Fire

Auckland: Ashton Scholastic 1993.

Constantly near the top of the best-seller list this novel is set in the imaginary world of Siranjaro, a land of perpetual darkness. Elsha is one of the Quelled, a slave race doomed to work endlessly in the mines, but she is determined to free her people and succeeds against overpowering odds. An empowering book which offers hope and a sense of purpose. In print. 13+. B.G.

Secret Sacrament

Auckland: Penguin 1996.

A complex novel in which a young man, Gabriel, is a healer in Navora. He becomes drawn into politics, especially when he tries to save the oppressed Shinali people. Themes of sacrifice, redemption and the effects of power are interwoven here but there are no easy answers. Disgracefully small print may be off-putting but it is highly memorable and well worth reading. In print. 15+. B.G.

KAYE M.M

The Ordinary Princess

Kestrel 1980, Puffin 1981.

A delightful and humorous variation on traditional fairy tales in which Crustacea, a cantakerous fairy, bestows the gift of ordinariness on the seventh princess in a family of beautiful sisters. 9-11. H.B.

LEE Tanith

The Black Unicorn

US.ed. Tor 1991, London: Orbit 1994.

Tanaquil is the neglected only daughter of a powerful sorceress but seems to be without any magical talent. She is befriended

by a delightful creature called a peeve which leads her to a cache of magical bones and assembles them to form a unicorn which she accidentally brings to life. The first and the best book of a trilogy. 11+ .H.B.

LEVINE Gail Carlson

Ella Enchanted

Harper Collins 1997.

A humorous retelling of the Cinderella story in which Ella has been given the gift of obedience. This means she has to obey every order she is given no matter what the consequences might be. Ella is a resourceful heroine who battles all obstacles whether they be step-sisters or ogres and she finally succeeds in breaking the spell. 9-12. In print. H.B.

LIVELY Penelope

The Ghost of Thomas Kempe

London: Heinemann 1973.

Although published nearly 30 years ago this is a fascinating story of the supernatural that children would still enjoy today. The ghost of Thomas Kempe causes all sorts of problems for ten year old James who is being blamed for all the mysterious happenings in their old cottage and around the village. The quaint language of the ghost's messages and the happenings in a small village community make compelling reading. Pen & ink illus. Anthony Maitland. Carnegie Medal 1973. 9-12. C.A.

MAHY Margaret.

Most of Margaret Mahy's prolific output, whether picture book, short story or novel, has a fantasy element. She uses archetypal figures such as magicians, pirates or ghosts to give her work an extra dimension

and they often link recognizable every-day life with age-old stories. Her books are immediately attractive for their lively language and humour but under-lying them is deep philosophic thought which children respond to even if they cannot articulate why. We cannot possibly list all her work but this is a recommended cross-section which spans her writing career and represents, in chronological order, many of her preoccupations.



The Wind Between the Stars.
London: Dent 1976.

A picture book illustrated by Brian Froud but also in other story collections. First as a child, then as a young woman, Phoebe hears the Wind from between the stars, but she hides from it. Now that she is widowed and old she decides to go with it... One of the most sensitive and beautiful treatments of old age and death. Out of print. 6+. B.G.

The Haunting

London: Dent 1982.

There has always been a magician in Barney's family so when he suspects he is being haunted his family assumes that he will be another one. But the true magician is not revealed until almost the end of this finely constructed novel where the thrill of magic is balanced by warm family relationships. 10+

A Very Wicked Headmistress.

London: Dent 1984.

A hilarious novel about a headmistress who graduated from being a human cannonball to running a highly eccentric private school for girls. But she had not reckoned with a volcano erupting in the grounds, which spews out custard instead of lava. 9+.

The Downhill Crocodile Whizz

London: Dent 1986.

Mahy is one of New Zealand's most gifted short story writers. These ten stories demonstrate her lateral thinking which invests everyday matters such as thunderstorms, cutting the lawn or washing socks with highly unusual consequences. 9+.

The Door in the Air

London: Dent 1988.

A thoughtful collection of stories for older readers. They examine such questions as the basis of Choice, of achieving balance or of deciding direction in life. One story, *A Work of Art*, is in a different vein as it hilariously satirizes the arcane world of Art Criticism! 13+.

The Five Sisters

London: Hamish Hamilton 1996.

Sally's grandmother cuts out a row of five paper dolls but only has time to draw in one face before they are blown away. As they are wafted on the breeze at every stopping place another doll's face is filled in until all five achieve separate identities. Underlying the adventure is an examination of the nature of change and the inter-connectedness of the universe. A marvellous story which can be enjoyed at many different levels. 7+.

A Villain's Night Out

London: Puffin 1999.

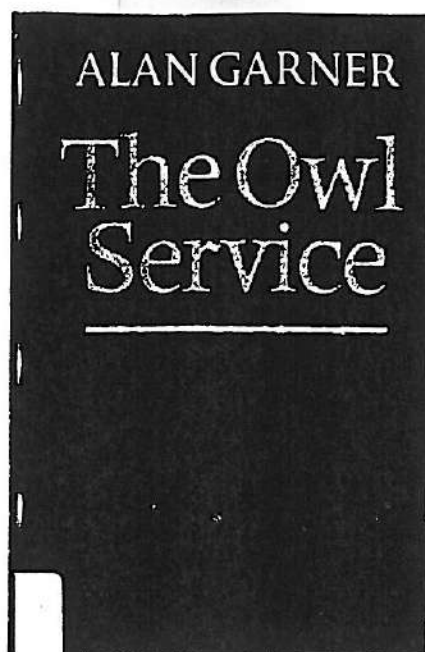
Formby tries to write a book for the school library, but Squidgy Moot, the villain he invents, becomes real and begins to take control of the story. Chaos reigns as Squidgy Moot organises a villains night out. Shortlisted for this year's New Zealand Post Junior Fiction award. In print. 8-12. S.M.

MCKINLEY Robin

The Hero and the Crown

New York: Greenwillow Books 1984.

Aerin is the only child of the King of Damar but because her mother was a witch-woman of the North who died when she



was born she is mistrusted by many of her people. However Aerin proves to be the saviour of the kingdom and her adventures as a dragon-slayer, warrior and bearer of the Blue Sword, who brings home the legendary crown of Damar, make absorbing reading. Newbery Medal 1985. 12+. In print. H.B.

The Blue Sword

New York: Greenwillow Books 1982. Ace Books 1987.

Harry Crewe joins her brother Richard who has a military posting in Daria 500 years after Aerin helped to vanquish the dark forces of the North. Harry's life reads very much like life in colonial India and she finds it intolerably dull until she is carried off by Corlath, the king of the Free Hillfolk. Harry finds herself the new bearer of the Blue Sword with a dramatic part to play in the final confrontation with the North. Newbery Honor Book 1983. 12+. In print. H.B.

PEYTON K.M

Unquiet Spirits

London: Scholastic 1997.

An absorbing ghost story in which two teenagers from very different backgrounds are caught by the emotions of two women who loved the same youth centuries before.

12+ In print. H.B.

PIERCE Tamora

The Magic in the Weaving. Scholastic Press, UK. and USA 1998.

This is the first book in the *Circle of Magic* quartet. Four young people from very different backgrounds are new residents at the winding Circle Temple. Each possesses a unique and wonderful power. They find themselves together at a cottage supervised by Rosethorn and Lark who help them understand and control their special energies for positive outcomes. It is a well paced narrative with interesting descriptive passages and plenty of dialogue that reflects their differing backgrounds and attitudes.

Other books in the series are *The Power in the Storm*, *The Fire in the Forging* and *The Healing in the Vine*. Each focuses on one of the group and highlights their special gift and skills. 11+. In print. C.A.

PRATCHETT Terry

Truckers. Doubleday 1989, Corgi 1990.

Diggers

Wings

Hilarious fantasy about the Nomes-a race of little people living under the floorboards of a large department store and how they make their way in a world equipped for humans.

9+. In print. S.M.

PULLMAN Philip
Northern Lights

London: Scholastic 1995.

The first book in a fantasy trilogy. It is set in a powerful universe similar to ours in many ways but also very different. Lyra's search for her missing friend Roger takes her to mysterious and terrifying places, some inhabited by armoured bears or ruled by witch queens. She is hunted by powerful people seeking an artefact that she has. An action packed fantasy with emotional tensions. Carnegie Medal 1996, Guardian Children's Fiction Award. 12+. In print. C.A.

RODDA Emily

Rowan and the Zebak

Sydney: Omnibus Books 1999.

Rowan must make a perilous journey to rescue his little sister from the Zebak. Once again he and his companions have only a series of mysterious riddles to guide them.

This is the fourth book in a series about Rowan of Rin.

WREDE Patricia

The Enchanted Forest Chronicles. Dealing with Dragons

Harcourt Brace Jovanovich

1990. (Published as

Dragonsbane

Scholastic Point Fantasy 1993).

Searching for Dragons

Harcourt Brace Jovanovich

1991. (as *Dragonsearch*

Scholastic Point Fantasy 1993).

Calling on Dragons

Jane Yolen Books, 1993.

Talking to Dragons

Harcourt Brace Jovanovich

1993.

A lighthearted fantasy series which turns the conventional

expectations of fairy tales upside down, beginning with the Princess Cimorene taking refuge with a dragon to escape unwanted suitors and refusing to be rescued. Great fun for 8-9 +. H.B.

WRIGHTSON Patricia

The Ice is Coming

London: Hutchinson 1977.

The Dark Bright Water

London: Hutchinson 1979.

Behind the Wind

London: Hutchinson 1981.

Combined edition *The Song of Wirrun*

London: Hutchinson 1987.

A powerful trilogy about Wirrun, an aboriginal youth, who is called by the land to battle elemental forces. 11+ H. B.

