**Exeter Study Qualities of Good YA Books**

1. **Imaginative and well-structured plots going beyond simple chronologies to include time shifts and differing perspectives.**
2. **Exciting plots that include secrecy, surprise, and tension brought about through narrative books and a fast pace.**
3. **Characters who reflect experiences of teen readers, something that is not found in much of the literary canon, especially when it comes to strong female protagonists.**
4. **Characters who go beyond typical experiences so that readers can use the fictional experiences to learn and develop in their own lives.**
5. **Lively, varied, and imaginative language that is grammatically correct while being neither patronizing and simplistic nor unnecessarily confusing through lexical density or complexity.**
6. **Themes that inform truthfully about the wider world so as to allow readers to engage with difficult and challenging issues relating to immediate interests and global concerns.**
7. **Themes that allow the possibility of emotional and intellectual growth through engagement with personal issues.**
8. **Varied levels of sophistication that will lead to the continual development of reading skills.**