

The world of 19th century Literature...

For those of you studying English Literature GCSE, you will sooner or later come across a 19th century novel. Both the world and language of the Victorians can seem a little complex and distant to us. For an engaging, fun and accessible way into that era, I really recommend:

'The Door that led to Where' by Sally Gardner

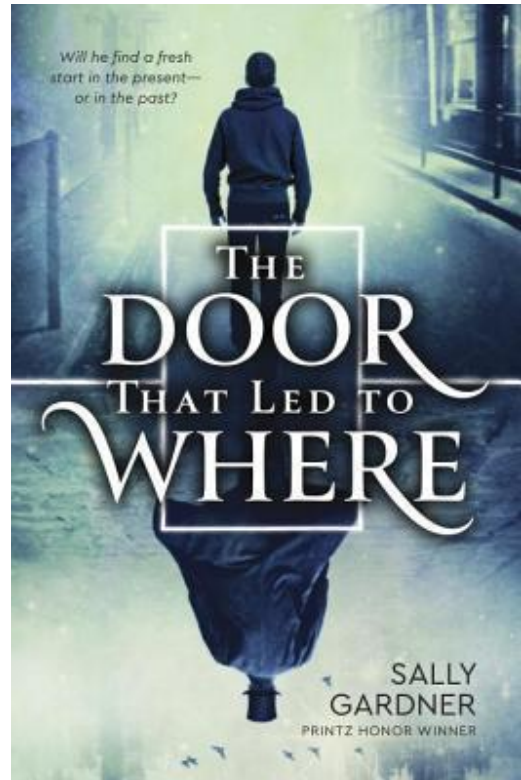
AJ Flynn has just failed all but one of his GCSEs and his future is looking far from rosy. So when he is offered a junior position at a London law firm, he hopes his life is about to change.

Tidying up the archive one day, AJ finds an old key, mysteriously labelled with his name and date of birth – and he becomes determined to find the door that fits the key.

So begins an amazing journey to a very real and tangible past. Although life in 1830 is cheap, AJ and his friends quickly find that their own lives have much more value. They're gone from being part of a statistic on 'failed' youths to young men with a purpose.

Don't be put off by the fact that AJ time-travels – I was sceptical at first, but it's so well done you don't even stop to think it's a bit weird. This is a book full of real, gritty, likeable and relatable characters and non-stop events. It has everything, from gangs, to professors, to murders, to romance, to family, to mystery.

'The Door that led to Where' is an easy and exciting way into the world of Victorian Literature, and will help you get a bit of a grip on 'Jekyll & Hyde', 'A Christmas Carol' or any other 19th century novel. I thoroughly recommend it.



Other books by Sally Gardner:

- 'I, Coriander'
- 'Maggot Moon'
- 'The Red Necklace' (series)

Other ways into C.19th literature:

- Charles Dickens' ghost stories
- 'Oliver Twist' by Charles Dickens
- 'A Christmas Carol' by Charles Dickens

Another modern way in:

- 'Jekyll's Mirror' by William Hussey