

Reading for Pleasure



A Guide for Parents

“A reader lives a thousand lives before he dies... a man who never reads lives only one.”

George R.R. Martin

THE BENEFITS OF READING

DID YOU KNOW?

Research shows that reading has benefits in many areas of education and life. In addition to the obvious benefits on reading comprehension and attainment, it also impacts upon:

- Vocabulary
- Understanding of grammar
- Spelling skill
- Writing attainment
- Attitudes to reading and writing
- Knowledge and understanding of the world and other people
- Achievement in other subjects, including maths
- Empathy and understanding of emotions
- Development of our sense of 'self' and identity

LET'S TAKE A CLOSER LOOK AT SOME OF THESE BENEFITS:

Reading supports achievement in other subjects because it helps students to access the wider curriculum. Even maths attainment has been proven to benefit from reading skill because, in order to use maths skills, students are required to read and understand the questions they are faced with.

Research shows that reading can help to reduce stress and improve mental wellbeing. Linked to this, we know that research shows the numerous benefits of a good night's sleep, which can be significantly helped by a reduction in screen-time. Therefore, a bedtime routine which includes reading could help with relaxing before bed.

“Because reading is so integrated into every aspect of modern life, teaching reading really is equipping children for the future.”

JAMES MURPHY

UNDERSTANDING STUDENTS WHO STRUGGLE WITH READING

DID YOU KNOW?

If students struggle to read, then the texts they encounter at secondary school can be off-putting for them and then, understandably, result in low levels of enjoyment and therefore demotivation. This creates a vicious cycle: as they struggle and don't enjoy it, they read less – and because they read less, they don't progress and then find that they struggle to acquire the necessary knowledge in many other subjects too. Wellbeing and behaviour can also be affected as a result of this.

It is, therefore, vital that we help them not just with their reading skill, but their perception of it as an enjoyable activity. Research suggests that reading for pleasure makes the most difference to students' progress and attainment in reading. This applies to specific skills, as well as overall attainment in reading – for example, comprehension, vocabulary and grammar.

THE 'CYCLE OF POSITIVE INFLUENCE'

National Literacy Trust research into the interrelationships between reading enjoyment, attitudes, behaviour and attainment suggests that the current thinking could be considered as a 'cycle of positive influence'.

1. Students take part in an activity such as reading/ story telling.

4. This then needs to be positively reinforced for the cycle to continue and for the student to remain positive.



2. If this experience was a positive one, then they may be motivated through factors such as enjoyment or connection with the other person involved.

3. Students are then more likely to develop positive attitudes towards reading.



“Reading is the heart of education. The knowledge of almost every subject in school flows from reading.” CYNDI GIOGIS

HOW CAN YOU SUPPORT YOUR CHILD'S READING AT HOME?

Share your experiences

Sharing your experiences about why reading is important for life and work, whilst being mindful not to add to any negative feelings, can help children to see that everyone struggles with certain things but it's worth persevering.

Don't make it a chore

Avoid reading being seen as a chore through requests such as 'if you read for 15 minutes, you can...!'. Whilst this may work for some young people, it is unlikely to lead to reading being seen as an enjoyable activity.

Take an interest

Take an interest in what they're reading and studying at school by reading around topics as well so that you can engage in discussion about their texts/areas of learning, whilst modelling an interest in reading.

Give lots of praise

Help your child to experience feeling successful with reading. Praise and encourage them, whilst showing interest in what they've read.



“By sharing books, we can help our teens find their way in this crazy, mixed-up world.”



SARAH MACKENZIE

Make time

Research by the National Literacy Trust showed that reading for pleasure increased during the 2020-2021 lockdowns; one of the reasons young people gave for this was having the time to read and having fewer distractions. This would suggest that helping your child to balance their time and factor reading into their schedule in a quiet environment would be beneficial.

Explore

Help your child to be proactive in their wider reading. For example, if they are covering World War II, explore age-appropriate texts on this through poetry, online articles or novels.

Pick texts for pleasure not just for school

Support your child with selecting age-appropriate texts for them to read for pleasure, rather than only encouraging them to read for school work. You may wish to use the PiXL half-termly newsletters to see a wide selection of books, which your school will receive.

Read with them

Often younger children enjoy reading with their parents and their interest wanes when it becomes an independent activity and they no longer share a connection with someone over a book. Read with them or listen to audiobooks, if you don't feel confident enough to read yourself.

FINDING TEXTS FOR YOUR CHILD

If your child struggles with reading, they may find it difficult to access certain texts that would otherwise interest them and which explore issues relevant to their age. This can be a barrier to finding reading enjoyable.

Research by the National Literacy Trust found that students who experienced an increased enjoyment in reading during Covid-19 lockdowns noted an increase in the choice of good-quality reading material as one of the reasons. However, some missed having the guidance of hearing others read and getting suggestions for different books.

It's clear, therefore, that we all need to be able to help guide students towards finding a range of reading material they could be interested in, so that they can see the various options and have a selection to choose from. This could include non-fiction articles from magazines, newspapers or websites, novels, plays, or blog posts etc. It doesn't necessarily matter what they read; the important thing is to help them get into reading in whatever form that may take. Emerging research also suggests that audiobooks may be helpful for increasing interest in reading, as well as modelling good reading fluency, so these may also be worth exploring if your child is reluctant to pick up a book.

WHERE TO LOOK:

- School and community libraries not only offer free access to books, but they often also have audio books and e-books that your child could borrow.
- Book shops provide a chance for your child to browse and purchase books with support from staff, if they wish. Some book shops will have review cards with some of their top-picks too
- Audio books can be purchased from devices such as phones, as well as on CDs or borrowed from a library.

HOW TO CHOOSE:

- Remember that it doesn't matter what they read: helping them to enjoy reading and find texts they want to read is the important thing. This might mean they find a book, collection of short stories or even a graphic novel, but it also might mean that they find a range of online articles, websites or magazines they enjoy reading.
- You could look at fiction books related to topics they are interested in, or encourage them to read about it online.
- If they've enjoyed a book before, encourage them to read another text by the same author.
- You and your child could spend some time browsing library or book shop shelves, speaking to the staff or reading book reviews online.
- If you are browsing in a shop/library/online, you could read the back of the books (blurbs) and a page from the start to help decide whether this feels like something they'd like to read more of.
- Be mindful about your child's reading level so that they can access the vocabulary the text contains. You may wish to discuss this with your child's teacher or hear them read, in a supportive way, before you start choosing texts. For some students who struggle with reading, books from Barrington Stoke publishers and the OUP Super Readable Rollercoasters may be worth exploring.
- Ask your child's school to send you the PiXL Half-termly Reading Newsletters to get ideas for texts your child may find interesting.



THE IMPORTANCE OF LISTENING TO TEXTS

Sharing stories as a family can be enjoyable for everyone. Often, parents stop reading aloud to their children when they can read; the problem with this is that many children then lose that sense of connection and the pleasure of sharing a story with someone else, leading to reading being seen as less pleasurable. Children can also listen to stories which contain much more complex vocabulary and concepts than they are capable of reading on their own. Reading aloud enables them to experience these more complex stories which may be more interesting to them than texts written for their reading level.

Reading aloud and sharing stories together can break through the normal routine of the day and can provide a much-needed pause, as well as creating a magical connection leading to conversations and inside jokes.

HOW COULD YOU INTRODUCE READING ALOUD IN YOUR HOME?

- Approach it through a 'normal' event. Over dinner, you could mention you've been reading something and would like your child's opinion on the topic. Read the text to them whilst they eat and discuss their thoughts. Short extracts from articles about current events are a great way to start this with older children who may have gone a long time without being read to in the home.
- If you are driving to school or the shops, you could put on an audiobook – the read aloud doesn't have to be your own voice! This has benefits from families with very busy schedules, who have longer car journeys as part of their week or parents who don't feel confident reading themselves.
- Suggest reading a novel aloud (or listening to an audio book), as a family, after dinner – they could sit drawing, painting, making models or doing the washing up.

“Reading to our kids teaches them to think, make connections, and communicate. Reading aloud doesn’t just open windows. It flings wide the doors of opportunities..”

SARAH MACKENZIE



QUESTIONS TO ASK WHILST READING WITH YOUR CHILD

You could use the prompts below to help you start a discussion about an extract or whole text. You could read the text with your child (either one of you reading, or taking it in turns) or you could read the text independently from each other and use these prompts to start a discussion afterwards.

BEFORE YOU READ

PREDICT

Make predictions before you read something together. This could be based on what will happen next in a story, what an article could be about based on the headline or what clues the book cover can give about the narrative.

- What do you think the cover suggests about the story?
- What do you think will happen next in the story?
- What does the headline suggest the article might be about?
- What do you think you will learn/find out?

DISCUSS RELEVANT KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCES

Discussing any knowledge or experience they have about a topic may help them to understand a text better or to make connections. For example, if you are reading a text about dinosaurs, you could ask what they can recall about dinosaurs, it can even be about Jurassic Park!

- What do you already know about...?
- Do you remember the time we read/watched/visited...?

DURING OR AFTER YOUR READING

CHECK UNDERSTANDING REGULARLY

As you read, you will come across words and information they may not fully understand. Make sure you pause and check your child's understanding, thoughts or ideas about something they've read regularly to ensure that they definitely understand what they are reading.

- What do you think... means?
- If neither of us know what it means, how could we find out?
- What do think the writer is suggesting here?
- Which pieces of information do you think are most important and why?
- Is the writer saying ... or ...? Why do you think that?

ASK QUESTIONS TO THINK MORE DEEPLY

Discuss why the writer has chosen to represent characters, events, settings in a certain way - don't worry if you do not have all the answers! The important thing is to have a discussion with your child and encourage them to think about what they've read more deeply.

Praise your child and encourage their discussion, ideas and thinking.

'I wonder.....' questions can work well here as they leave discussion more open.

- I find your thinking behind that idea really interesting. Why do you think that?
- I wonder why the writer has chosen to use the word...? What does it make you think of/feel?
- Why do you think the writer presented the character/setting like this?
- What is the purpose of the article/speech? How can you tell?
- Why might ... be important?
- How are... and... alike/different?

SUMMARISING IDEAS AND INFORMATION

The most important step of all, summarising the ideas and information they have read, provides an opportunity to check for any misunderstandings your child may have and to consolidate their learning. Try to summarise at appropriate points throughout the text. Don't wait until the end of the text or the chapter when they may have forgotten something.

- What are the three most important pieces of information in the text?
- What is the most interesting thing you have learnt and why?
- Which five words are key to the text and why?
- Is the tone/topic the same at the beginning and the end?
- What have you learnt?
- Were your predictions accurate? Why/why not?

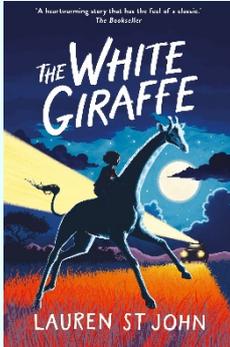
**REMEMBER TO RESTART
THE SEQUENCE FOR THE
NEXT SECTION OF TEXT.**

Suggested Reading

Year 7-9



Modern Classics



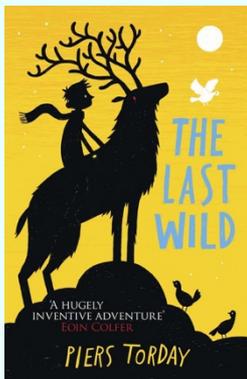
The White Giraffe, by Lauren St John – RRP £7.99

ISBN: 9781842555637

The first book in the heart-warming White Giraffe series by Lauren St John, featuring the African adventures of Martine and her magical white giraffe.

When tragedy strikes on a winter's night in England, Martine is sent to live with her grandmother on a game reserve in South Africa.

Her wild, beautiful new home is riddled with secrets, but lonely Martine finds comfort in the legend of a white giraffe and in mysterious Grace, who believes Martine has a powerful gift. Defying her grandmother by entering the reserve alone, Martine is plunged into a world of danger, mystery and adventure. Who can she trust? And how far will she go to save the only friend she has ever known?



The Last Wild, by Piers Torday – RRP £7.99

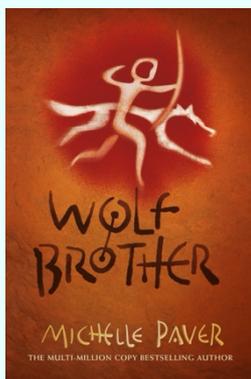
ISBN: 9781780878300

This is a story about a boy named Kester. He is extraordinary, but he doesn't know that yet. All he knows, at this very moment, is this:

1. There is a flock of excited pigeons in his bedroom.
2. They are talking to him.
3. His life will never be quite the same again...

Kester lives in a land in quarantine. A deadly virus has killed all the animals except pests and it's expected to be equally dangerous to humans. But when Kester realises he can talk to the pests, he finds they have great hope invested in him.

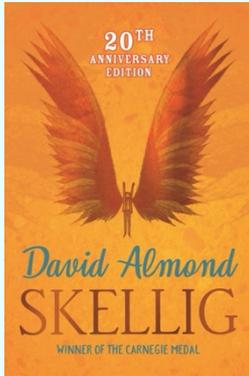
A captivating animal adventure destined to be loved by readers of all ages.



Wolf Brother, by Michelle Paver – RRP £7.99

ISBN: 9781842551318

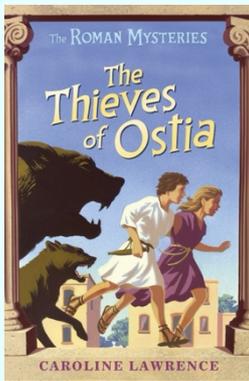
A boy. A wolf. A legend for all time. The first book in the internationally bestselling WOLF BROTHER (Chronicles of Ancient Darkness) series by renowned author Michelle Paver. Thousands of years ago, a powerful and malevolent force conjured a demon: a demon so evil that it could only be contained in the body of a ferocious bear, a demon determined to destroy the world. Only one boy can stop it ... Twelve-year-old Torak sees his father murdered by the bear. With his dying breath, he asks his son to make him a promise. Alone, wounded, terrified and on the run, Torak must now lead the bear to the Mountain of the World Spirit – a mountain that no one has ever found before. But can Torak keep his promise? A terrifying quest commences in a world of wolves, tree spirits and Hidden People, a world in which trusting a friend means risking your life.



Skellig, by David Almond – RRP £7.99

ISBN: 9780340944950

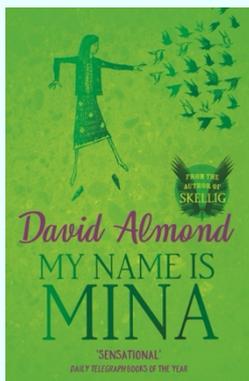
The beautiful and haunting novel that launched David Almond as one of the best children’s writers of today. When a move to a new house coincides with his baby sister’s illness, Michael’s world seems suddenly lonely and uncertain. Then, one Sunday afternoon, he stumbles into the old, ramshackle garage of his new home, and finds something magical. A strange creature – part owl, part angel, a being who needs Michael’s help if he is to survive. With his new friend Mina, Michael nourishes Skellig back to health, while his baby sister languishes in the hospital. But Skellig is far more than he at first appears, and as he helps Michael breathe life into his tiny sister, Michael’s world changes for ever . . . Skellig won the Carnegie Medal and the Whitbread Children’s Book Award and is now a major Sky1 feature film, starring Tim Roth and John Simm. David Almond is also winner of the 2010 Hans Christian Andersen award.



The Roman Mysteries: Thieves of Ostia, by Caroline Lawrence – RRP £6.99

ISBN: 9781842550205

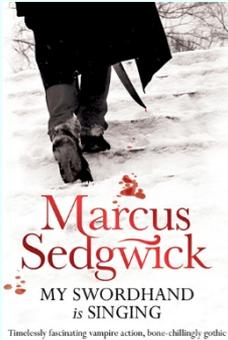
The first in Caroline Lawrence’s internationally bestselling Roman Mysteries series, re-issued with a fantastic new cover look. Flavia Gemina is a natural at solving mysteries. The daughter of a ship’s captain living in Ostia, the port of Rome, in AD79, she and her three friends, Jonathan, a Jewish boy (and secretly a Christian); Nubia, an African slave girl; and Lupus, a mute beggar boy, must work together to discover who is beheading the watchdogs that guard people’s homes, and why.



My Name is Mina, by David Almond – RRP £7.99

ISBN: 9780340997260

There’s an empty notebook lying on the table in the moonlight. It’s been there for an age. I keep on saying that I’ll write a journal. So I’ll start right here, right now. I open the book and write the very first words: My name is Mina and I love the night. Then what shall I write? I can’t just write that this happened then this happened then this happened to boring infinitum. I’ll let my journal grow just like the mind does, just like a tree or a beast does, just like life does. Why should a book tell a tale in a dull straight line? And so Mina writes and writes in her notebook, and here is her journal, Mina’s life in Mina’s own words: her stories and dreams, experiences and thoughts, her scribbles and nonsense, poems and songs. Her vivid account of her vivid life. In this stunning book, David Almond revisits Mina before she has met Michael, before she has met Skellig.



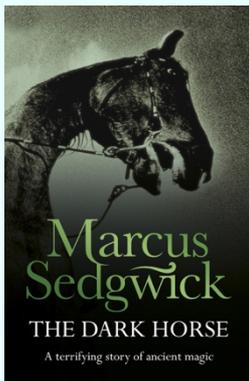
My Swordhand is Singing, by Marcus Sedgwick – RRP £7.99

ISBN: 9781842555583

An original interpretation of the timelessly fascinating vampire myth, and a story of father and son, by award-winning author Marcus Sedgwick. Winner of the Booktrust Teenage Prize and shortlisted for the Carnegie Medal.

In the bitter cold of an unrelenting winter, Tomas and his son, Peter, arrive in Chust. Despite the villagers' lack of hospitality, they settle there as woodcutters. But there are many things Peter does not understand. Why does Tomas dig a channel of fast-flowing waters around their hut so they live on an isolated island? Why does Tomas carry a long battered box everywhere they go – and refuse to tell Peter of its contents?

When a band of gypsies comes to the village, Peter's drab existence is turned upside down. He is infatuated by the beautiful gypsy princess, Sofia, and intoxicated by her community's love of life. He even becomes drawn into their deadly quest – for these travellers are Vampire Slayers, and Chust is a community to which the dead return to wreak revenge on the living.



The Dark Horse, by Marcus Sedgwick – RRP £6.99

ISBN: 9781858818849

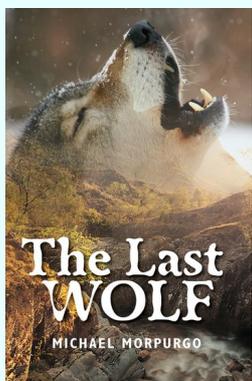
A dark and powerful story of conflict, betrayal and magic from award-winning author Marcus Sedgwick. Shortlisted for the Guardian Children's Fiction Prize, Carnegie Medal and Blue Peter Book Award. A boy destined to lead his clan. A girl raised by wolves. A stranger with a sealed box. One small community living in dread of the coming of the legendary warrior tribe, the Dark Horse . . . A rich and powerful novel, set on a rocky northern coast in a bewitching, distant time.



Wonder, by R. J. Palacio – RRP £9.99

ISBN: 978-0-19-839101-2

Educational edition of this warm and moving novel about an ordinary boy with an extraordinary face.



The Last Wolf, by Michael Morpurgo – RRP £9.99

ISBN: 978-0-19-832983-1

Orphaned Robbie was brought up by his cruel uncle, but everything changes when Bonnie Prince Charlie arrives to rally troops for a rebellion against the English. On the run from English redcoats, Robbie encounters a wild wolf cub and the two form a remarkable bond.



Room 13, by Robert Swindells – RRP £9.99

ISBN: 978-0-19-832893-3

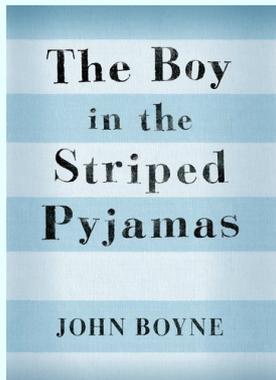
New educational edition of Robert Swindells' spooky classroom classic.



King of Shadows, by Susan Cooper – RRP £9.99

ISBN: 978-0-19-832888-9

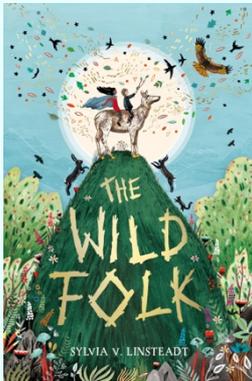
New educational edition of this exciting time travel thriller, set in Shakespeare's England.



The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas, by John Boyne – RRP £9.99

ISBN: 978-0-19-832676-2

What is 'Outwith' and who is Bruno? How is he connected? Soon he will meet the boy in the striped pyjamas and befriend him. But why must the boy stay behind the wire?



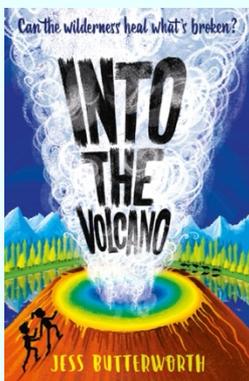
The Wild Folk, by Sylvia Linsteadt – RRP £6.99

ISBN: 9781474934985

In the land of Farallone, City boy Tin and Country girl Comfrey are guided on a quest by two young hares.

Their task is to save the mystical Wild Folk from destruction. But the Wild Folk don't trust humans, and the children face impossible challenges and meet extraordinary creatures as they battle to save the land they love.

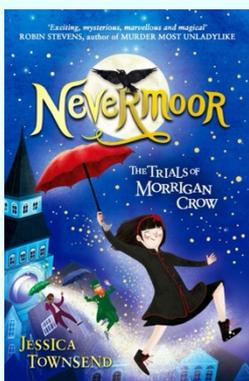
Ours and Others' Worlds – Hachette



Into the Volcano, by Jess Butterworth – RRP £6.99

ISBN: 9781510108516

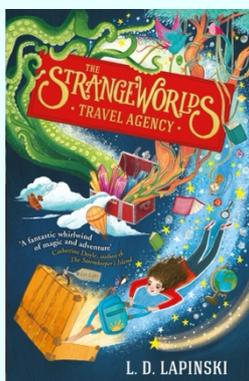
From Jess Butterworth comes another beautifully written adventure set on top of a super volcano, about coming to terms with grief, letting go of anger at the world and finding hope and joy in the most unexpected of places. Vivi and Seb live halfway across the world from each other, living completely separate lives, until a terrible event unexpectedly makes their paths collide. Seb's best friend Clay was injured in a shooting, and Seb believes there's a rainbow pool in the heart of Yellowstone National Park that will help heal him. Meanwhile, Vivi is feeling lost, wishing she could find a way to honour her grandmother, who didn't survive the same shooting. When they meet at the memorial and Seb tells Vivi what he wants to do, Vivi is convinced that her grandmother would have wanted her to go with Seb to help his friend. But the park is filled with dangerous creatures, and when Seb is injured in one of the volcanic springs, it becomes a race for survival as they try and make their wish and find their way out of the wilderness. Told through multiple viewpoints and set between the US and the UK, this is another heartfelt middle grade adventure from award-winning author Jess Butterworth.



Nevermoor, by Jessica Townsend – RRP £6.99

ISBN: 9781510103825

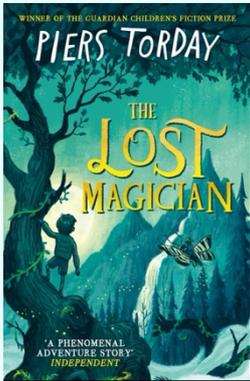
Morrigan Crow is cursed, destined to die on her eleventh birthday. But, as the clock strikes midnight, she's whisked away by a remarkable man called Jupiter North and taken to the secret city of Nevermoor. There she's invited to join the Wondrous Society. Mystery, magic and protection are hers – if only she can pass four impossible trials, using an exceptional talent. Which she doesn't have... Perfect for fans of the Harry Potter series and His Dark Materials, this series takes readers into an extraordinary world, setting hope and imagination alive.



The Strangeworlds Travel Agency, by L. D. Lapinski – RRP £6.99

ISBN: 9781510105942

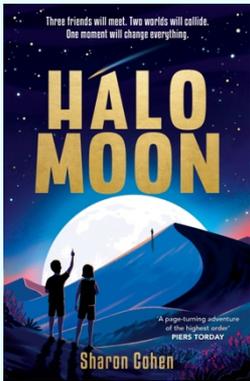
Pack your suitcase for a magical adventure! Perfect for fans of The Train to Impossible Places and Pages & Co. At the Strangeworlds Travel Agency, each suitcase transports you to a different world. All you have to do is step inside . . . When 12-year-old Flick Hudson accidentally ends up in the Strangeworlds Travel Agency, she uncovers a fantastic secret: there are hundreds of other worlds just steps away from ours. All you have to do to visit them is jump into the right suitcase. Then Flick gets the invitation of a lifetime: join Strangeworlds' magical travel society and explore other worlds. But, unknown to Flick, the world at the very centre of it all, a city called Five Lights, is in danger. Buildings and even streets are mysteriously disappearing. Once Flick realizes what's happening she must race against time, travelling through uncharted worlds, seeking a way to fix Five Lights before it collapses into nothingness – and takes our world with it.



The Lost Magician, by Piers Torday – RRP £6.99

ISBN: 9781784294502

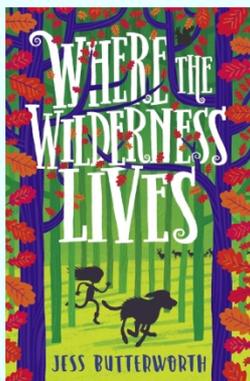
1945. They have survived the Blitz, but when Simon, Patricia, Evelyn and Larry step through a mysterious library door, it is the beginning of their most dangerous adventure yet. They discover the magical world of Folio, where an enchanted kingdom of fairy knights, bears and tree gods is under threat from a sinister robot army. The many stories of the Library are locked in eternal war, and the children's only hope is to find their creator – a magician who has been lost for centuries. What they find will change not just their own lives, but the fate of the world, for ever ... An ode to the world of Narnia, *The Lost Magician* is a classic in the making from one of the UK's most talented children's authors.



Halo Moon, by Sharon Cohen – RRP £6.99

ISBN: 9781786540102

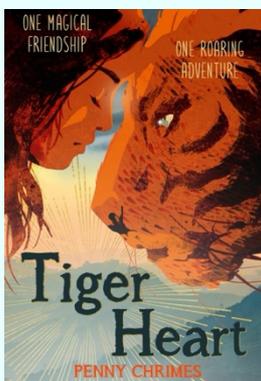
Bravery, friendship and the magic of an unknowable universe combine in this extraordinary adventure from the heart. Great for fans of Frank Cottrell Boyce and David Almond. In Ethiopia, Ageze has unearthed an ancient device that can make predictions. It tells him: there is a date, there is a place, there is a moment when it will happen. A disaster that will change everything. Halo Moon loves stars, and the night sky is full of them in her remote Yorkshire village. It's a place where nothing interesting ever happens, let alone a catastrophe. So when a stranger appears at the end of a near-impossible journey and tells her lives are at risk, she can barely believe it. But if she doesn't help Ageze, everything and everyone she knows might disappear for ever ... As Halo says: there's a hundred ways to start this story, a hundred ways to tell it. Each one is impossible. Each one, unbelievable. But it did all happen and I promise it's all true.



Where the Wilderness Lives, by Jess Butterworth – RRP £6.99

ISBN: 9781510105508

An epic race for survival that follows four children and their dog through treacherous waterways, dense forests and the deep, dark wilderness of Wales. From author Jess Butterworth comes a beautifully written adventure story in a vibrantly described setting – perfect for fans of Katherine Rundell. One day, as Cara and her siblings are trying to clean up the canal where they live, they pull out a mysterious locked safe. Though none of them can open it, they're sure it's something special. That night, a thief comes after the safe. The children flee, traveling with their boat as far as they can, before continuing into the forest on foot. But soon they're lost in the mountains with a snowstorm about to land and food supplies running low. Will Cara and her siblings be able to survive the wilderness with nothing but their wits, their bravery and one very large dog to help?



Tiger Heart, by Penny Chrimes – RRP £7.99

ISBN: 9781510107045

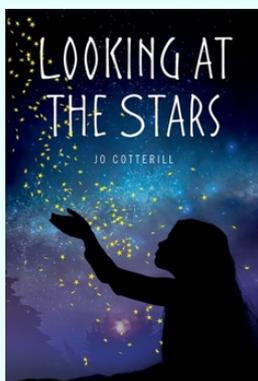
One magical friendship. One roaring adventure. The magical tale of a bold young chimney sweep and a remarkable tiger, a dangerously hypnotic ruby and a mystical land found across an ocean and through a storm. Perfect for fans of *The Girl of Ink and Stars* and *Pax*. Fly never meant to end up in a cage with a man-eating tiger. And though she's sure she's no princess, when the tiger addresses her as 'your majesty', she can't help but vow to free him and return him home. But the bird-filled jungles and cloud-topped mountains of the tiger's homeland are an ocean away. And not everyone wants the tiger – or Fly – to get there alive. With dark and dangerous forces working against them, will Fly be able to fulfil her promise and maybe – just maybe – become the queen her tiger knows her to be?



When Secrets Set Sail, by Sita Brahmachari – RRP £7.99

ISBN: 9781510105430

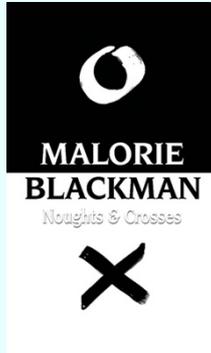
Secrets from the past are the keys to the future...if two children can find them. Bold adventure, timely themes and breath-taking writing from award-winning author, Sita Brahmachari. Usha is devastated when her grandmother Kali Ma passes away. Then straight-talking Imtiaz arrives – her new adoptive sister – and the two girls clash instantly. They both feel lost. That is until Kali Ma's ghost appears...with a task for them. Immy's and Usha's home is full of history and secrets. Many years ago it was The House of the Ayahs – for those nannies who couldn't return to their Indian homeland – and Kali Ma made a promise she couldn't keep. She can't pass on to the other side until the girls fulfil it. Today, Usha and Immy's over-worked parents run the house as a home for refugees, but eviction threatens. The precious documents that could save them are lost. As the house slowly fills up with ghosts, that only Usha and Imtiaz can see, the girls realise they have more to save than just one grandmother's ghost. With help from their new friend Cosmo, Usha and Immy must set off on a quest through London, accompanied by two bickering ghosts, working together to find a series of objects that shine a magical light on their family's past and hold the clues to securing their future. If they can set the secrets of generations free, will they be in time to save their home?



Looking at the Stars, by Jo Cotterill – RRP £9.99

ISBN: 978-0-19-839626-0

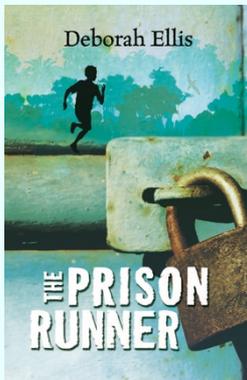
When Amina's village is suddenly struck by a civil war, her family is brutally torn apart and her dreams of freedom are shattered. As she begins her journey to safety at a refugee camp, Amina faces some of her most feared situations, with only her imagination to escape from reality.



Noughts and Crosses, by Malorie Blackman – RRP £9.99

ISBN: 978-0-19-832861-2

Callum is a nought – a second-class citizen; Sephy is a Cross. In their world, Noughts and Crosses don't mix. Can Callum and Sephy find a way to be together? In what has already become a modern classic, award-winning author Malorie Blackman tackles the issues of prejudice and racism in a way that will thoroughly engage and inspire students.

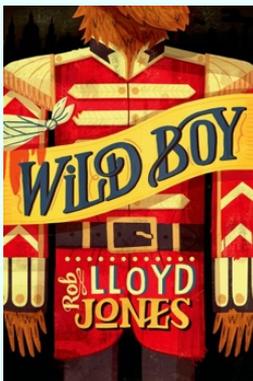


The Prison Runner, by Deborah Ellis – RRP £6.99

ISBN: 978-0-19-275548-3

A simple error of judgement hurls Diego into a nightmare. He's been living in prison with his mother and sister, looking after them and earning money whenever he can. Until the day he accidentally breaks the rules. Suddenly the family are in trouble and Diego needs money to save them.

So when one of his friends tells Diego that he knows a job that will make them both rich, Diego gives into temptation. But the job is far different from the one he imagined, and Diego soon finds himself in the heart of the Bolivian jungle and the clutches of men who produce drugs for a living...

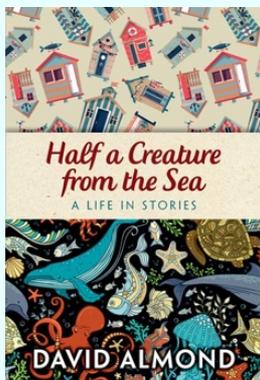


Wild Boy, by Rob Lloyd Jones – RRP £9.99

ISBN: 978-0-19-834088-1

Wild Boy has been covered in hair since birth and condemned to life in a travelling freak show. Excluded from society, he takes refuge in watching people at the fair – and develops a talent for observation and detection.

But when there's a murder, suspicion turns to Wild Boy, so he and the feisty acrobat Clarissa Everett find themselves on the run.

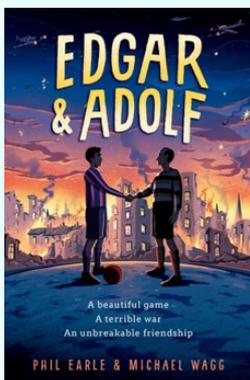


Half a Creature from the Sea, by David Almond – RRP £9.99

ISBN: 978-0-19-839625-3

An anthology of powerful, moving and reflective short stories from master storyteller, David Almond.

These captivating stories are inspired by Almond's childhood in the north-east of England and are interspersed with autobiographical memoirs.



Edgar & Adolf, by Phil Earle and Michael Wagg – RRP £7.99

ISBN: 978-0-19-849491-1

Adi is on a mission set by his late grandfather, Adolf Jager. He must track down Edgar Kail, and return to him the simplest yet most prized of possessions. His quest soon becomes a journey of discovery as he learns of a friendship that survived decades, a great sporting rivalry and a war that shook the world.



Dark Peak, by Marcus Sedgwick – RRP £7.99

ISBN: 978-0-19-849497-3

One long, hot summer, two children disappear on a school trip. One child is eventually found, but Porter is worried that no one is even looking for the other, Stephen anymore.

Why can no one remember who Stephen is? What happened on the school trip? And why does Porter get the feeling that supernatural forces from deep in the past are at play?

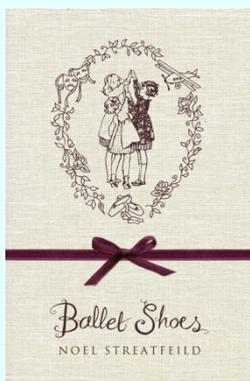
Literary Heritage



Bedknobs and Broomsticks, by Mary Norton – RRP £6.99

ISBN: 9781510104280

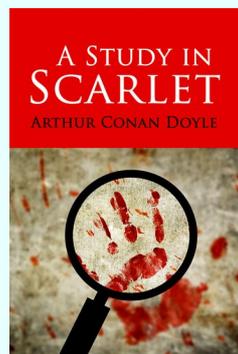
A brand new paperback edition of BEDKNOBS AND BROOMSTICKS, comprised of the two favourite magical classics THE MAGIC BEDKNOB and BONFIRES AND BROOMSTICKS. When prim and proper Miss Price from next door falls off her broomstick, Carey, Charles and Paul discover that she's actually a witch. In order to keep them quiet, Miss Price gives the three children a gift – an enchanted bedknob that will whisk them off anywhere they want, for as long as they keep her secret. And so their adventures begin... Discover The Magic Bedknob and Bonfires and Broomsticks, two stories full of magic from much-loved author Mary Norton, and the inspiration behind the classic film.



Ballet Shoes, by Noel Streatfeild – RRP £12.99

ISBN: 9781842556795

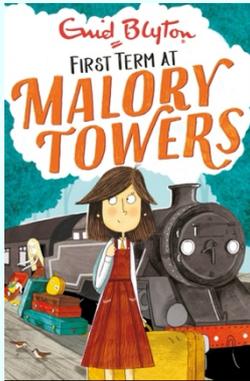
BALLET SHOES is the story of Pauline, Petrova and Posy Fossil, three very different girls who were each adopted as an orphaned baby by the eccentric explorer, Gum. After leaving the children in the care of his niece Sylvia in London, he returns to exploring, promising to come back in five years' time. At first, the girls lead privileged and sheltered lives in the comfort of wealth. But after five years go by and Gum fails to return, Sylvia's money starts to run out. Things begin to look bleak for Sylvia and the Fossil girls until they hit on an inspired idea: Pauline, Petrova and Posy will take to the stage. But it's not long before the Fossils learn that there's more to being a star than they thought. Originally published in 1936, Noel Streatfeild's BALLET SHOES is a story of family, friendship and growing up that stands the test of time and is loved by generations.



A Study in Scarlet, by Arthur Conan Doyle – RRP £7.99

ISBN: 978-1382016308

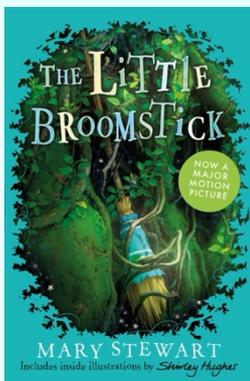
Dr Watson and Holmes embark on their first case together. A man is found murdered, with no apparent physical wounds and a grimace fixed on his face. The police are mystified, but using Holmes' astonishing skills of deduction and logic, the famous pair uncover a story of deceit, love and revenge that spans years and stretches across continents.



Malory Towers: First Term, by Enid Blyton – RRP £6.99

ISBN: 9781444929874

Welcome to Malory Towers, where there's more to life than lessons! In book 1 of Enid Blyton's best-loved boarding school series, Darrell Rivers is thrilled to start her first term at boarding school. She soon makes friends – and mischief! Another new girl, Gwendoline, is beginning to get on everyone's nerves. Will Darrell be able to keep her fiery temper under control?



The Little Broomstick, by Mary Stewart – RRP £6.99

ISBN: 9781444940190

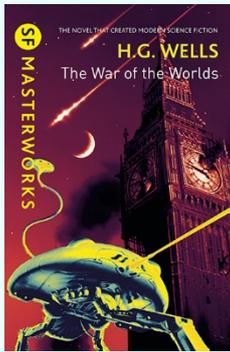
Mary's been exiled to her great-aunt, deep in the English countryside. Miserable and lonely, she befriends strange black cat Tib who leads her deep into the forest to an ordinary looking broomstick. Before Mary can gather her wits, the broomstick jumps into action, whisking her over the treetops, above the clouds, and to the grounds of Endor College, school of witchcraft. But something is terribly wrong at Endor. Students are taught spells that are petty and ill-wishing, and when Mary discovers evidence of a terrible and cruel experiment in transformation, she decides to leave. But the moment her broomstick takes off, she realises that Tib the cat has been captured...



When the Siren Wailed, by Noel Streatfeild – RRP £9.99

ISBN: 9781510109896

A thrilling and moving adventure story about evacuees in World War Two, perfect for readers of Goodnight Mister Tom. When war breaks out in September 1939, Laura, Andy and Tim Clark are evacuated to the countryside. The Colonel's comfortable home in Dorset is a huge contrast to their cramped terraced house in London, where their loving parents struggle to put the next meal on the table. Though unused to having children around, the Colonel proves to be a kind and generous, if gruff, guardian until a terrible turn of events means the kids must move on. When they discover they are to live with Miss Justworthy, who is rumoured to feed her evacuees on cat food, Andy insists they can't risk staying. He persuades his sensible older sister and their little brother that they must run away, back to London and their mum. The children are shocked to see London now pitted with craters and ruined buildings. And no sooner have they stepped off the train than the skies are lit by searchlights and filled with the crack of bombs and the glow of fires. How will they be able to find their mum in the middle of an air raid? A brilliantly page-turning read from the author of Ballet Shoes, based on her own real-life experience in the Second World War. Perfect for any child interested in wartime and classic adventure stories.

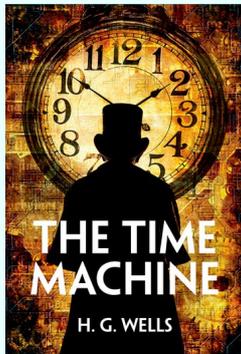


The War of the Worlds, by H.G. Wells – RRP £8.99

ISBN: 9781473218024

One night a shooting star is seen over the skies of Surrey. The next day, it's discovered to have been a mysterious metallic cylinder from Mars. What comes next is a terrifying alien attack, as tentacled Martian invaders emerge from the cylinder and prey on humankind using shocking new weapons against which the people of Victorian England can offer no resistance.

The aliens begin to devastate the area in their tripod machines, and as our narrator struggles to return to his wife, the fight for London – and the world – begins.

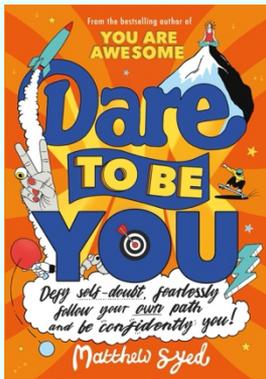


The Time Machine, by H. G. Wells – RRP £9.99

ISBN: 978-0-19-839623-9

When the Time Traveller explains his theory about travelling through time to his dinner guests, they are initially sceptical. He returns a week later, pale and limping, with an astonishing tale about encountering strange new worlds and different species. The guests are left wondering if he sets foot in his Time Machine again, will he ever return?

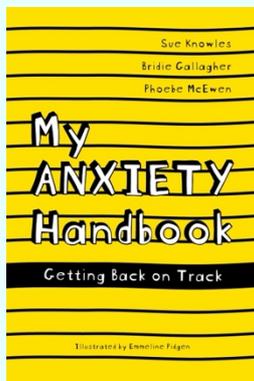
Non-fiction



Dare to be You, by Matthew Syed – RRP £9.99

ISBN: 9781526362377

What would you dare to try if you stopped worrying about fitting in? If you're the kind of person who thinks: I don't like standing out from the crowd ... I wish I could be more like the cool kids ... There's no point trying to change things ... then this book is for you. Because guess what? There's no such thing as normal. Drawing examples from sport, science and even business, Dare to Be You empowers young readers to follow their own path, love what makes them different and question the world around them. With You Are Awesome's trademark mix of hilarious text, stylish illustration, personal insights and inspiring real-life examples, including Greta Thunberg and Malala Yousafzai, Matthew Syed introduces children to the power of diverse thinking. When you stop doubting yourself, embrace change and let your kindness loose, you become your own action hero. This groundbreaking, practical and positive book will help kids develop the inner confidence to grow into happy adults who know – and, more importantly, LIKE – themselves.

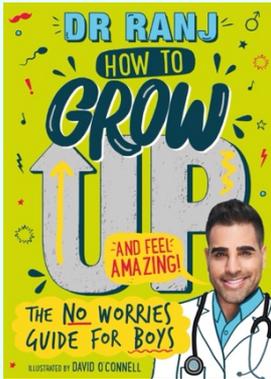


My Anxiety Handbook, by Bridie Gallagher and Phoebe McEwan and Sue Knowles – RRP £12.99

ISBN: 9781785924408

Helping young people with anxiety learn to recognise and manage their symptoms, this anxiety survival guide teaches young people aged 10+ how they can overcome their biggest worries.

Showing that anxiety is a normal human emotion that many people face, this book helps young people understand the ins and outs of their own anxiety and helps them to challenge the difficult patterns they may get into. Co-written with a college student who has experienced anxiety herself, it is a relatable and straightforward guide. As well as providing tried-and-tested advice and exercises that are proven to reduce feelings of anxiety, it includes recovery stories from young people who have managed their symptoms successfully. With practical chapters on sleep, exam stress, transitions, and seeking extra help, this is a go-to guide for any tween, teen or young person living with anxiety.

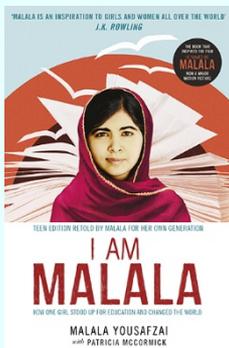


How to Grow Up and Feel Amazing, by Dr Ranj – RRP £9.99

ISBN: 9781526362957

The nation's favourite doctor, Dr Ranj, is here to explain everything you ever wanted to know about puberty – plus lots more. What does it mean to be a boy? And I'm not just talking about what you have between your legs, but what life is really like for boys. Growing up is a real minefield! So I've put everything I've learned both from my career as an NHS doctor and my own life experiences into this twenty-first century guide to being a boy.

It covers the obvious things like the physical changes you'll go through during puberty and adolescence (hello, pubic hair and voice breaking!), but also helps you to figure out how to manage your emotions, deal with friends and family and learn about healthy relationships. Filled with easy-to-understand explanations, down-to-earth advice and cheeky illustrations, this growing-up guide by trusted paediatrician Dr Ranj is perfect for readers aged 10+ who want to discover the confidence to be the very best version of themselves.



I am Malala, by Malala Yousafzai & Patricia McCormick – RRP £7.99

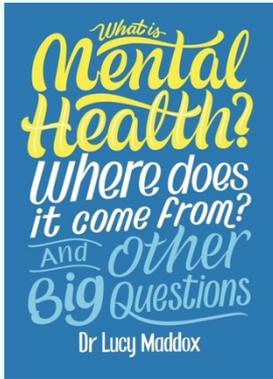
ISBN: 9781780622163

I Am Malala tells the remarkable true story of a girl who knew she wanted to change the world – and did.

Raised in the Swat Valley in Pakistan, Malala was taught to stand up for her beliefs. When terrorists took control of her region and declared girls were forbidden from going to school, Malala fought for her right to an education. And, on 9 October 2012, she nearly paid the ultimate price for her courage when she was shot on her way home from school.

No one expected her to survive.

Now, she is an international symbol of peaceful protest and the youngest person ever to win a Nobel Peace Prize.

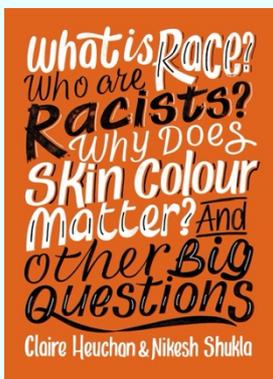


What is Mental Health? Where Does it Come From? And Other Big Questions?, by Lucy Maddox – RRP £13.99

ISBN: 9781526311139

Exploring and explaining the range of mental health, from wellbeing through to mental health problems, in a non-stigmatising, accessible and accurate way. Mental health gets talked about a lot, but what is it? And where does it come from? This book explains what mental health is, considering how it relates to lots of different experiences, from how we manage really big feelings, to how we get on with each other, how we make choices and how we handle stressful situations. The book thoughtfully examines the things that can help us look after our mental health and the things that might make it feel worse. It has suggestions for the support on offer if we feel we're struggling.

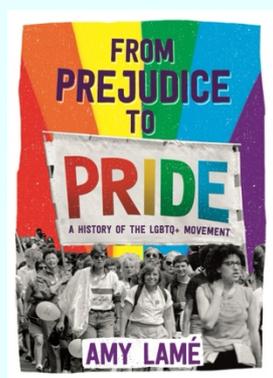
It includes specially-written contributions from Chamique Holdsclaw, US gold medallist basketballer, academics Dr Suzi Gage and Professor Marianne Van Den Bree, poet Fisky, artists Christine Rai and Liz Atkin, mental health advocate Chineye Njoku and Dr Alan Cooklin, psychiatrist and founder of the charity Our Time which helps children whose parents experience mental health problems. Aimed at young people aged 10 and upwards.



What is Race? Who are Racists? Why Does Skin Colour Matter? And Other Big Questions?, by Claire Heuchan and Nikesh Shukla

– RRP £9.99 ISBN: 9781526303998

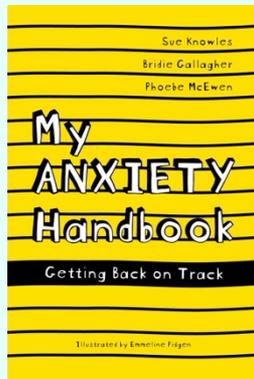
Talk about race is often discouraged, but this book aims to bring everyone into the conversation. It explores the history of race and society, giving context to how racist attitudes come into being. It looks at belonging and identity, the damaging effects of stereotyping and the benefits of positive representation. The authors talk sensitively about how to identify and challenge racism, and how to protect against and stop racist behaviour.



From Prejudice to Pride: A History of LGBTQ+ Movement, by Amy Lamé – RRP £9.99

ISBN: 9781526301918

From Prejudice to Pride looks at the rise and achievements of the LGBTQ+ movement and the different communities, pioneers and stories of heartbreak and courage that have marched alongside it. Perfect for readers aged 11 and upwards, this book will inspire courage and pride in young LGBTQ+ people and help answer questions for all readers interested in gender and identity. Follow LGBTQ+ history from ancient civilisations to the present-day, and learn about key events including the trial of Oscar Wilde, the Stonewall riots, the AIDS crisis, same-sex marriage and changing laws that have impacted on LGBTQ+ life. Gain insight into the shifting attitudes that have challenged lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people and the experiences that help us understand what it means to be LGBTQ+ today.



My Anxiety Handbook, by Bridie Gallagher and Phoebe McEwan and Sue Knowles – RRP £12.99 ISBN: 9781785924408

Helping young people with anxiety learn to recognise and manage their symptoms, this anxiety survival guide teaches young people aged 10+ how they can overcome their biggest worries.

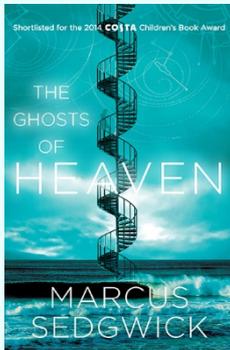
Showing that anxiety is a normal human emotion that many people face, this book helps young people understand the ins and outs of their own anxiety and helps them to challenge the difficult patterns they may get into. Co-written with a college student who has experienced anxiety herself, it is a relatable and straightforward guide. As well as providing tried-and-tested advice and exercises that are proven to reduce feelings of anxiety, it includes recovery stories from young people who have managed their symptoms successfully. With practical chapters on sleep, exam stress, transitions, and seeking extra help, this is a go-to guide for any tween, teen or young person living with anxiety.

Suggested Reading

Year 10-11



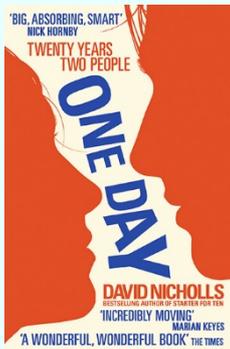
Modern Classics



The Ghosts of Heaven, by Marcus Sedgwick – RRP £7.99

ISBN: 9781780622217

The spiral has existed as long as time has existed. It's there when a girl walks through the forest, the moist green air clinging to her skin. There centuries later in a pleasant green dale, hiding the treacherous waters of Golden Beck that take Anna, who they call a witch. There on the other side of the world, where a mad poet watches the waves and knows the horrors they hide, and far into the future as Keir Bowman realises his destiny. Each takes their next step in life. None will ever go back to the same place. And so their journeys begin...



One Day, by David Nicholls – RRP £8.99

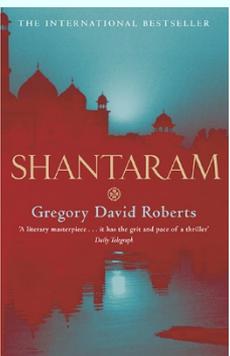
ISBN: 9780340896983

Twenty years, two people, ONE DAY.

'I can imagine you at forty,' she said, a hint of malice in her voice. 'I can picture it right now.'

He smiled without opening his eyes. 'Go on then.'

15th July 1988. Emma and Dexter meet for the first time on the night of their graduation. Tomorrow they must go their separate ways. So where will they be on this one day next year? And the year after that? And every year that follows?

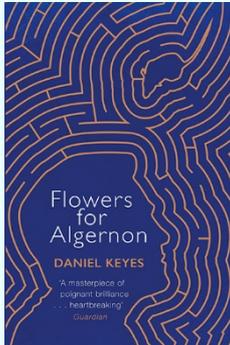


Shantaram Gregory, by David Roberts – RRP £10.99

ISBN: 9780349117546

A novel of high adventure, great storytelling and moral purpose, based on an extraordinary true story of eight years in the Bombay underworld.

'In the early 80s, Gregory David Roberts, an armed robber and heroin addict, escaped from an Australian prison to India, where he lived in a Bombay slum. There, he established a free health clinic and also joined the mafia, working as a money launderer, forger and street soldier. He found time to learn Hindi and Marathi, fall in love, and spend time being worked over in an Indian jail. Then, in case anyone thought he was slacking, he acted in Bollywood and fought with the Mujahedeen in Afghanistan . . . Amazingly, Roberts wrote Shantaram three times after prison guards trashed the first two versions. It's a profound tribute to his willpower... At once a high-kicking, eye-gouging adventure, a love saga and a savage yet tenderly lyrical fugitive vision.' Time Out



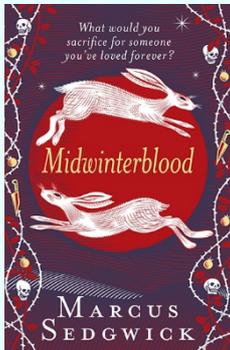
Flowers for Algernon, by Daniel Keyes – RRP £8.99

ISBN: 9781474605731

The classic novel about a daring experiment in human intelligence

Charlie Gordon, IQ 68, is a floor sweeper and the gentle butt of everyone's jokes – until an experiment in the enhancement of human intelligence turns him into a genius.

But then Algernon, the mouse whose triumphal experimental transformation preceded his, fades and dies, and Charlie has to face the possibility that his salvation was only temporary.

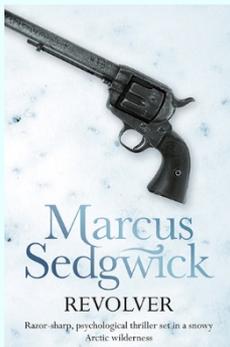


Midwinterblood, by Marcus Sedgwick – RRP £7.99

ISBN: 9781780620206

Have you ever had the feeling that you've lived another life? Been somewhere that has felt totally familiar even though you've never been there before, or felt that you've known someone, even though you are meeting them for the first time?

Eric and Merle loved and lost one another, and have been searching for each other through time ever since. This novel comprises seven short stories and travels in time, from 2073 back to the days of Viking sagas. Across the different tales, the two souls appear as lovers, mother and son, brother and sister, and artist and child as they come close to finding each other before facing the ultimate sacrifice...



Revolver, by Marcus Sedgwick – RRP £7.99

ISBN: 9781444000054

1910. A cabin north of the Arctic Circle. Fifteen-year-old Sig Andersson is alone. Alone, except for the corpse of his father, who died earlier that day after falling through a weak spot on the ice-covered lake. His sister, Anna, and step-mother, Nadya, have gone to the local town for help.

Then comes a knock at the door. It's a man, the flash of a revolver's butt at his hip, and a mean glare in his eyes. Sig has never seen him before but Wolff claims to have unfinished business with his father.

As Sig gradually learns the awful truth about Wolff's connection to his father, his thoughts are drawn to a certain box hidden on a shelf in the storeroom, in which lies his father's prized possession – a revolver.

As the stakes rise and Wolff begins to close in, Sig's choice is pulled into sharp focus.

Should he use the gun?

Ours and Others' World

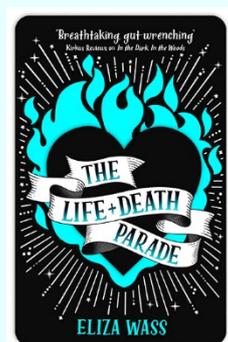


Shadow and Bone, by Leigh Bardugo – RRP £7.99

ISBN: 9781510105249

Soldier. Summoner. Saint. Orphaned and expendable, Alina Starkov is a soldier who knows she may not survive her first trek across the Shadow Fold—a swath of unnatural darkness crawling with monsters. But when her regiment is attacked, Alina unleashes dormant magic not even she knew she possessed.

Now Alina will enter a lavish world of royalty and intrigue as she trains with the Grisha, her country's magical military elite—and falls under the spell of their notorious leader, the Darkling. He believes Alina can summon a force capable of destroying the Shadow Fold and reuniting their war-ravaged country, but only if she can master her untamed gift. As the threat to the kingdom mounts and Alina unlocks the secrets of her past, she will make a dangerous discovery that could threaten all she loves and the very future of a nation. Welcome to Ravka . . . a world of science and superstition, where nothing is what it seems.



The Life and Death Parade, by Eliza Wass – RRP £7.99

ISBN: 9781784295271

Strange rituals, hauntings and the occult collide in this darkly memorable YA thriller. Perfect for fans of Louise O'Neill, Sarah Waters and Donna Tartt. One year ago, Kitty's boyfriend Nikki Bramley visited a psychic who told him he had no future. Now, he's dead. With the Bramleys grieving inside their rural English home, Kitty sets out to find the psychic who read Nikki his fate. Instead she finds Roan, an enigmatic medium claiming he can speak to the dead. He belongs to the Life and Death Parade – a group that explore the thin veil between this world and the next. Kitty is convinced he's a charlatan – but the 'magic' seems to work. The darkness is lifting. But there are things Kitty can't ignore – evidence of strange rituals, shadows of the boy she lost, and Kitty begins to suspect that this boy had something to do with Nikki's death. More, that he may have the very real power to bring him back...



Grace and Fury, by Tracy Banghart – RRP £7.99

ISBN: 9781444941951

In a world where women have no rights, sisters Serina and Nomi face two very different fates: one in the palace, the other on an island prison where women must fight to survive. Serina has spent her whole life preparing to become a Grace – selected to stand by the heir to the throne as a shining example of the perfect woman. But her headstrong and rebellious younger sister has a dangerous secret, and one wrong move could cost both sisters everything.

Can Serina fight? And will Nomi win?



The Summer of Us, by Cecilia Vinesse – RRP £7.99

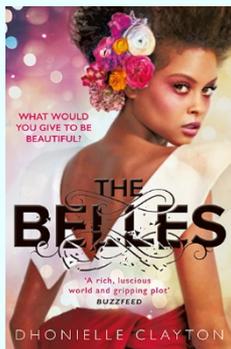
ISBN: 9781510200791

Five friends. Five cities. Two complicated love stories . . . The perfect read for fans of Jennifer E Smith and Sara Barnard.

Aubrey and Rae have been planning their European tour since the moment they met. It was meant to be the perfect way to spend their last summer together before university, but now it's not just the two of them . . .

There's Jonah, Aubrey's seemingly perfect boyfriend, and Gabe, who Aubrey may have accidentally kissed. Then there's Clara, the friend Rae is crushing on, hard, even though there's no hope because Clara is into guys, not girls. And on top of all that Aubrey and Rae's friendship appears to be falling apart. Things are more complicated at eighteen than they were at ten.

Set off on a romantic adventure that embraces warm summer nights, the thrill of first kisses and the bittersweet ache of saying goodbye to the past.



The Belles, by Dhonielle Clayton – RRP £7.99

ISBN: 9781473223974

Camellia and her sisters control beauty. They are Belles and they can make you 'perfect'. Glossy hair, smooth skin, flawless body. You'll feel better once it's done. The results are worth the pain. And when they fade, the Belles will fix you all over again . . .

But it will cost you.

Are you willing to pay the price?

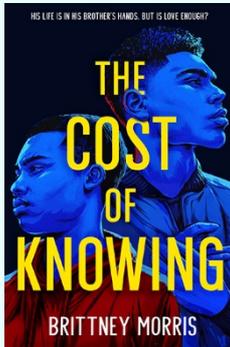


Afterlove, by Tanya Byrne – RRP £7.99

ISBN: 9781444955958

THE LESBIAN LOVE STORY YOU'VE BEEN DYING TO READ. Ash Persaud is about to become a reaper in the afterlife, but she is determined to see her first love Poppy Morgan again, the only thing that separates them is death. Car headlights. The last thing Ash hears is the snap of breaking glass as the windscreen hits her and breaks into a million pieces like stars. But she made it, she's still here. Or is she? This New Year's Eve, Ash gets an invitation from the afterlife she can't decline: to join a clan of fierce girl reapers who take the souls of the city's dead to await their fate. But Ash can't forget her first love, Poppy, and she will do anything to see her again ... even if it means they only get a few more days together. Dead or alive ...

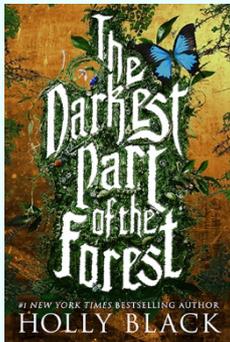
NOT EVEN DEATH CAN TEAR THEM APART.



The Cost of Knowing, by Brittney Morris – RRP £7.99

ISBN: 9781444951745

Sixteen-year-old Alex Rufus lives with his younger brother, Isaiah, in a quiet neighbourhood in Chicago. But recently their neighbours have started calling the cops on anyone who doesn't look like their version of safe. Alex starts avoiding his neighbourhood by taking on more shifts at the local ice-cream shop, Scoops, and spending time with his girlfriend, Talia. But when Alex picks up an old family photo, everything changes: he has an intense vision that Isaiah might die. Alex wants to save Isaiah, but he knows the dangers of the future. How will he protect his brother when the street they grew up on doesn't feel like home anymore? A story that speaks to hard truths about race, prejudice, and the inherent injustice that permeates the world we live in.

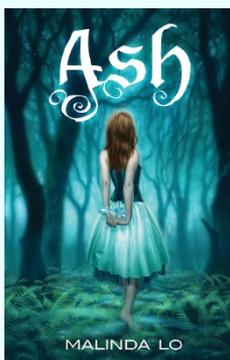


The Darkest Part of the Forest, by Holly Black – RRP £7.99

ISBN: 9781780621746

Hazel lives with her brother, Ben, in the strange town of Fairfold where humans and fae exist side by side. The faeries' seemingly harmless magic attracts tourists, but Hazel knows how dangerous they can be, and she knows how to stop them. Or she did, once.

In the forest of Fairfold, lies a glass casket. Inside the casket lies a sleeping faerie prince that none can rouse. He's the most fascinating thing Hazel and Ben have ever seen and they dream of waking him. But what happens when dreams come true? In the darkest part of the forest, you must be careful what you wish for...



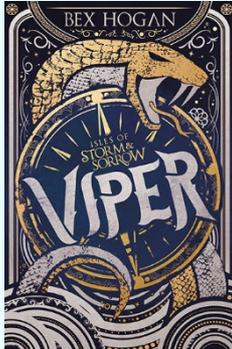
Ash, by Malinda Lo – RRP £7.99

ISBN: 9780340988374

In the world of ASH, fairies are an older race of people who walk the line between life and death, reality and magic. As orphaned Ash grows up, a servant in her stepmother's home, she begins to realise that her beloved mother, Elinor, was very much in tune with these underworld folk, and that she herself has the power to see them too.

Against the sheer misery of her stepmother's cruelty, greed and ambition in preparing her two charmless daughters for presentation at court, and hopefully royal or aristocratic marriage, Ash befriends one of these fairies – a mysterious, handsome man – who grants her wishes and restores hope to Ash's existence, even though she knows there will be a price to pay. But most important of all, she also meets Kaisa, a huntress employed by the king, and it is Kaisa who truly awakens Ash's desires for both love and self-respect ...

ASH is a fairy tale about possibility and recognizing the opportunities for change. From the deepest grief comes the chance for transformation.



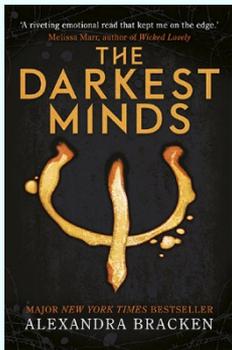
Isles of Storm and Sorrow: Viper, by Bex Hogan – RRP £7.99

ISBN: 9781510105836

Marianne has been training to be the Viper for her entire life – to serve and protect the King and the citizens of The Twelve Isles – but to become the Viper and protect the islands she loves she must find the strength to defeat her father. Power, politics and pirates collide in this epic fantasy trilogy for fans of Pirates of the Caribbean.

He will make me a killer.
Or he will have me killed.
That is my destiny.

She was born to protect the islands. But can she fight for them if it means losing her family, her home, the boy she loves – and perhaps even her life? A brave heroine. An impossible dilemma. An epic new fantasy trilogy set on the high seas.



The Darkest Minds, by Alexandra Bracken – RRP £7.99

ISBN: 9781786540249

Ruby is sixteen. She is dangerous. And she is alive. For now.

A mysterious disease has killed most of America's children. Ruby might have survived, but she and the others have emerged with something far worse than a virus: frightening abilities they cannot control. Pressured by the government, Ruby's parents sent her to Thurmond, a brutal state 'rehabilitation camp', where she has learned to fear and suppress her new power. But what if mastering it is a whole generation's only chance for survival?



Dark Blue Rising, by Terri Terry – RRP £7.99

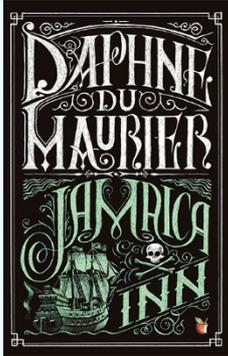
ISBN: 9781444957105

The stunning first novel in a new speculative thriller trilogy from the bestselling author of SLATED.

Tabby lives a transient life with her mum Cate, never sticking in one place long enough to make friends.

Until one day, an accident changes everything. Cate is arrested and Tabby realises her life has been a lie: Cate is not her mother. As she adjusts to her new life, Tabby finds herself drawn to the ocean – the only place she feels happy – and enrolls at a swimming summer school to help her heal. But all is not as it seems. She and her new friends are cut off from the outside world and she's plagued by a repeating symbol of interlocking circles that follows her everywhere. As Tabby begins to learn the truth about what the circles mean, and uncovers the terrible lies she's been told about her past, a final twist awaits her – a secret hidden in her DNA...

Literary Heritage



Jamaica Inn, by Daphne Du Maurier – RRP £8.99

ISBN: 9780349006581

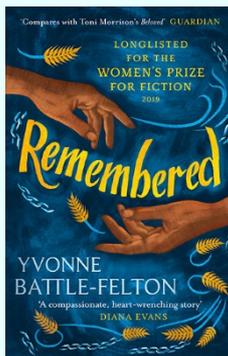
Mary Yellan, recently orphaned, goes to live with her aunt at Jamaica Inn – stark and forbidding and standing alone on Bodmin Moor, its very walls tainted with corruption. This is a classic and enthralling story of smuggling and Cornish secrets and Mary, who must observe it all alone.



Rebecca, by Daphne Du Maurier – RRP £8.99

ISBN: 9780349006574

Rebecca is widely regarded as Daphne du Maurier's finest novel. It tells the story of Manderley, an exquisite house with gardens down to the sea, its owner Max de Winter, and his new young wife. And, of course, Rebecca.



Remember, by Yvonne Battle Felton – RRP £8.99

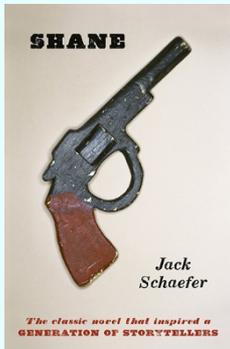
ISBN: 9780349700489

It is 1910 and Philadelphia is burning...

The last place Spring wants to be is in the rundown, coloured section of a hospital surrounded by the groans of sick people and the ghost of her dead sister. But as her son Edward lays dying, she has no other choice.

There are whispers that Edward drove a streetcar into a shop window. Some people think it was an accident, others claim that it was his fault, the police are certain that he was part of a darker agenda. Is he guilty? Can they find the truth?

All Spring knows is that time is running out. She has to tell him the story of how he came to be. With the help of her dead sister, newspaper clippings and reconstructed memories, she must find a way to get through to him. To shatter the silences that governed her life, she will do everything she can to lead him home.



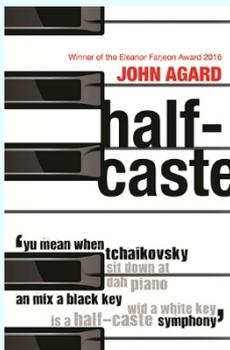
Shane, by Jack Schaefer – RRP £8.99

ISBN: 9781409165668

‘If you read only one western in your life, this is the one’ Roland Smith, author of Peak
He rode into our valley in the summer of 1889, a slim man, dressed in black. ‘Call me Shane,’ he said. He never told us more. There was a deadly calm in the valley that summer, a slow, climbing tension that seemed to focus on Shane.

Seen through the eyes of a young boy, Bob Starrett, SHANE is the classic story of a lone stranger. At first sight, the boy realises there is something unusual about the approaching man, but as Bob gets to know Shane, he realises that there is an inner sadness in him.

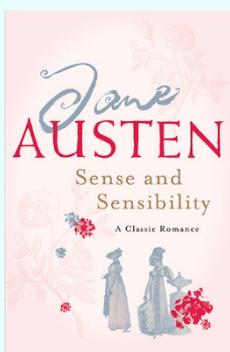
SHANE is the story of a gunfighter who tries to hang up his gun but is drawn to the side of the boy’s family and other homesteaders in their struggle to keep from being forced off their land.



Half-Castle and Other, by John Agard – RRP £6.99

ISBN: 9780340893890

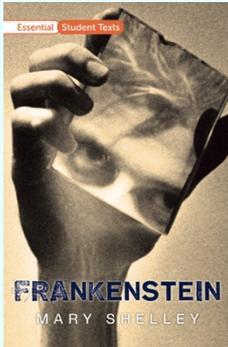
The tensions brought about by differences of race and culture are at the heart of this powerful and entertaining collection by one of Britain’s most exciting and original poets and performers. John Agard, winner of the Queen’s Gold Medal for Poetry, explores the richness of human diversity in the world today.



Sense & Sensibility, by Jane Austen – RRP £8.99

ISBN: 9780755331451

Marianne Dashwood is young, flirtatious and ready to meet a knight in shining armour. Her sister, Elinor, is more restrained – she knows that when it comes to romance, slow and steady wins the race. But while both seem to have found what they want, the path to happiness isn’t as straightforward as they first thought. True love has a habit of breaking the rules and turning up whenever it’s least expected...

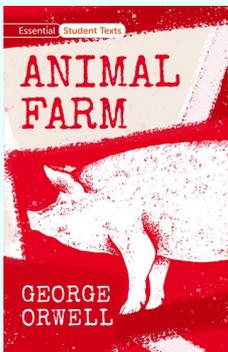


Frankenstein, by Mary Shelley – RRP £7.99

ISBN: 978-1382010740

Inspired by nature and excelling at science, Frankenstein learns how to create life, yet is left so horrified at his creation that he abandons it. Frankenstein is a powerful, disturbing and cautionary tale, as relevant now as when it was written.

This edition of Shelley's classic story comes complete with study notes.



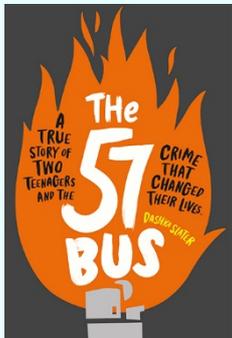
Animal Farm, by George Orwell – RRP £7.99

ISBN: 978-1382013680

Dreaming of a life of freedom and equality, the animals of Manor Farm stage an uprising against their negligent human master, Mr Jones. However, their dream rapidly turns sour and most of the animals don't realise that one form of tyranny has replaced another until it is too late.

This edition comes with accessible and informative notes.

Non-Fiction

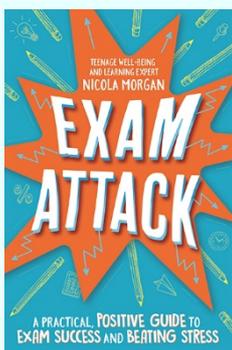


The 57 Bus, by Dashka Slater – RRP £7.99

ISBN: 9781526361233

One teenager in a skirt. One teenager with a lighter. One moment that changes both their lives forever. Two teenagers growing up in Oakland, California. One, Sasha, was born male but identifies as agender, wears skirts and attends a private school. The other, Richard, is an African American from a poor part of Oakland who attends a rough public school. They have no reason to meet, except for eight minutes every day, they catch the same bus home. And one day, messing about, Richard spies Sasha napping. He flicks the flame of his lighter to Sasha's skirt, and Sasha wakes up in a ball of flame. What happens next, as the victim, the perpetrator and the community struggle to come to terms with their sadness and shock, is a story of recovery, reconciliation, forgiveness and, above all, hope. It's about the power of being true to yourself, bravery and the good and bad in all of us.

And, remarkably, it's all true.



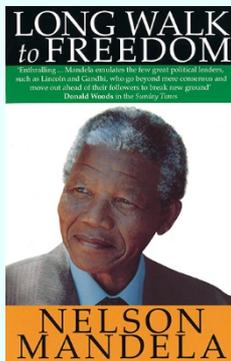
Exam Attack, by Nicola Morgan – RRP £7.99

ISBN: 9781445170411

A practical, positive, utterly sensible guide for exam students, for the best chance of success.

Exams are stressful and most people don't love them! This book can't remove all your exam nerves and, anyway, a certain level of stress can help you perform well. Instead this book aims to help you avoid bad stress and have the greatest chance of doing your best when exams arrive. It will give you the tools to control your body and mind during this challenging phase. And the tools will help you at many other stressful times of life.

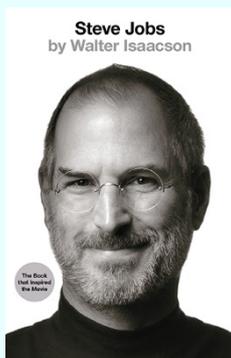
Exam Attack covers a huge range of learning techniques. You'll find advice on food (and how to cope when you lose your appetite), sleep, panic, revision, getting help, managing screens and social media. And there's up-to-date advice on note-taking and learning. One of the core principles in this book is that our mental and physical health, or 'wellbeing', affects how we perform. It isn't a luxury or optional extra: it affects every aspect of life. Rest, relaxation and taking time-out from revision can actually help you to learn and perform more effectively.



Long Walk to Freedom, by Nelson Mandela – RRP £14.99

ISBN: 9780349106533

The riveting memoirs of the outstanding moral and political leader of our time, Long Walk to Freedom brilliantly re-creates the drama of the experiences that helped shape Nelson Mandela's destiny. Emotive, compelling and uplifting, Long Walk to Freedom is the exhilarating story of an epic life; a story of hardship, resilience and ultimate triumph told with the clarity and eloquence of a born leader.



Steve Jobs, by Walker Isaacson – RRP £12.99

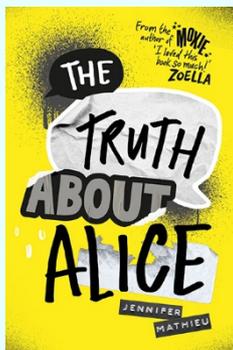
ISBN: 9780349140438

Based on more than forty interviews with Steve Jobs conducted over two years – as well as interviews with more than a hundred family members, friends, adversaries, competitors, and colleagues – this is the acclaimed, internationally bestselling biography of the ultimate icon of inventiveness.

Walter Isaacson tells the story of the rollercoaster life and searingly intense personality of creative entrepreneur whose passion for perfection and ferocious drive revolutionized six industries: personal computers, animated movies, music, phones, tablet computing, and digital publishing.

Although Jobs cooperated with this book, he asked for no control over what was written, nor even the right to read it before it was published. He put nothing off limits. He encouraged the people he knew to speak honestly. And Jobs speaks candidly, sometimes brutally so, about the people he worked with and competed against. His friends, foes, and colleagues provide an unvarnished view of the passions, perfectionism, obsessions, artistry, devilry, and compulsion for control that shaped his approach to business and the innovative products that resulted.

Key Issues and Concepts



The Truth About Alice, by Jennifer Mathieu – RRP £7.99

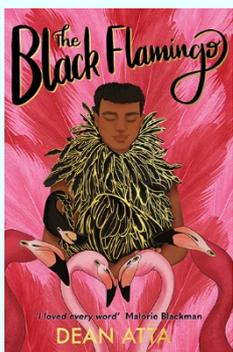
ISBN: 9781444944747

Fans of THIRTEEN REASONS WHY will love this powerful book about stereotypes, secrets and standing up for gender equality, from the author of Zoella Book Club book MOXIE.

There are all sorts of rumours about Alice Franklin. And after star quarterback Brandon Fitzsimmons dies in a car accident, the rumours start to spiral out of control blaming Alice for Brandon's death.

In this remarkable novel, four Healy High students – the party girl, the car accident survivor, the ex-best friend and the boy next door – tell all they know.

But exactly what is the truth about Alice? In the end there's only one person to ask: Alice herself.

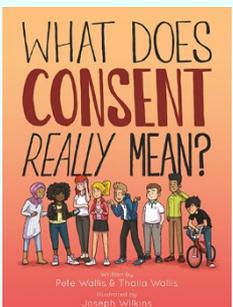


The Black Flamingo, by Dean Atta – RRP £7.99

ISBN: 9781444948608

This is not about being ready, it's not even about being fierce, or fearless, IT'S ABOUT BEING FREE.

Michael waits in the stage wings, wearing a pink wig, pink fluffy coat and black heels. One more step will see him illuminated by spotlight. He has been on a journey of bravery to get here, and he is almost ready to show himself to the world in bold colours ... Can he emerge as The Black Flamingo?



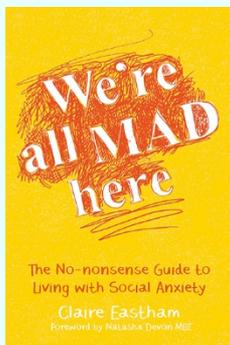
What Does Consent Really Mean?, by Thalia Wallis & Pete Wallis – RRP £14.99

ISBN: 9781848193307

“Consent is not the absence of ‘NO’, it is an enthusiastic YES!!”

While seemingly straightforward, Tia and Bryony hadn't considered this subject too seriously until it comes up in conversation with their friends and they realise just how important it is.

Following the sexual assault of a classmate, a group of teenage girls find themselves discussing the term consent, what it actually means for them in their current relationships, and how they act and make decisions with peer influence. Joined by their male friends who offer another perspective, this rich graphic novel uncovers the need for more informed conversations with young people around consent and healthy relationships. Accompanying the graphics are sexual health resources for students and teachers, which make this a perfect tool for broaching the subject with teens.

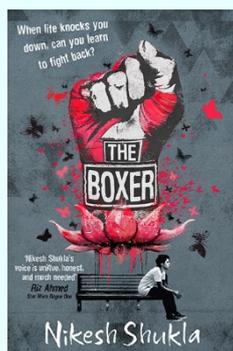


We're All Mad Here, by Claire Eastham – RRP £12.99

ISBN: 9781785920820

Anxiety is a crafty shapeshifter that can take on many forms: the tiger that sinks its claws in with physical symptoms and distressing thoughts, the cruel and belittling bully creating insecurity and self-doubt and, worst of all, the frenemy rewarding avoidance of social situations with no physical symptoms, no cruel thoughts... and no life beyond your sofa!

This no-nonsense guide to beating social anxiety covers everything from surviving university and the workplace, through to social media and making it through parties and dates (whilst actually enjoying them!) With honest insights about her own social anxiety and a healthy dose of humour, award-winning blogger Claire Eastham describes what social anxiety is, why it happens, and how you can lessen its effects with lifestyle choices, talking therapies or even a hug from your favourite canine friend!



The Boxer, by Nikesh Shukla – RRP £7.99

ISBN: 9781444940695

Told over the course of the ten rounds of his first fight, this is the story of amateur boxer Sunny. A seventeen-year-old feeling isolated and disconnected in the city he's just moved to, Sunny joins a boxing club to learn to protect himself after a racist attack. He finds the community he's been desperately seeking at the club, and a mentor in trainer Shobu, who helps him find his place in the world. But racial tensions are rising in the city, and when a Far Right march through Bristol turns violent, Sunny is faced with losing his new best friend Keir to radicalisation.

A gripping, life-affirming YA novel about friendship, radicalisation and finding where you belong.

“When we read, we can be inspired to want to build a better world and a brighter future. So keep reading and change the world.”

CHRISTOPHER EDGE