

Year 7  
Suggested  
Reading List

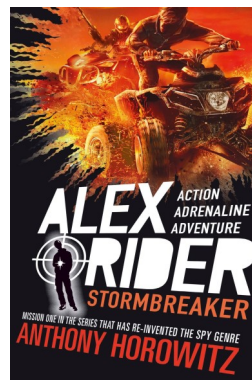
# Action/ Adventure

## Storm Breaker series By Anthony Horowitz

Teenage spy, Alex Rider, is brought into the world of espionage after discovering the truth about his Uncle. Join him as he foils the plans of various criminal masterminds whilst avoiding danger around every turn.

Trailer for 2020 TV series: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NemWoDrL3-g>.

Want to listen to the first chapter? <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-n2csfjt6d8>

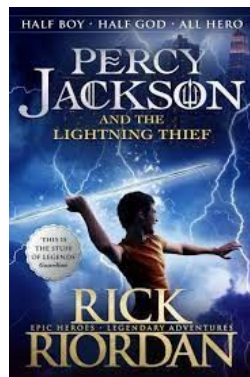


## Percy Jackson Series by Rick Riordan

These books follow Percy. An ordinary boy who discovers that he is actually son of Greek god Poseidon. But this status means danger to Percy as many are out to kill him...

Watch the 2009 film trailer here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xko1Mx5w4tg>

Listen to the first chapter here: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OgdhcvoDc\\_s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OgdhcvoDc_s).



## H.I.V.E series by Mark Walden

H.I.V.E (the Highre Insitute of Villainous Education) is a top secret school hidden inside a volcano. It's purpose is to help train children to become the next criminal masterminds. The books follow Otto Malpense, a 13 year old criminal mastermind is chosen to join the school but he soon finds out that not everything is as it seems...



**Check out the first chapter here:** [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z\\_34S7vfnFE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z_34S7vfnFE)

## Itch by Simon Mayo

Itchingham Lofte, commonly known as Itch, loves science and experimenting. His greatest aim is to collect all of the elements in the periodic table. But one day, whilst experimenting, Itch discovers a new element which leads to him to develop new super powers.

**An extract read by Simon Mayo:** <https://www.theguardian.com/books/video/2013/mar/07/simon-mayo-itch-rocks-video>



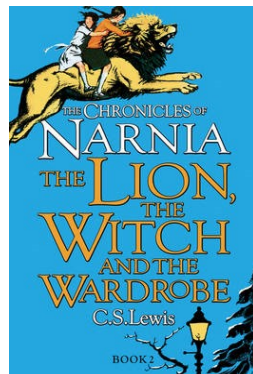
**Watch the trailer for the 2020 TV series:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hLxqMaCxPB8>

# Fantasy

## The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe by C. S. Lewis

Lucy, Edmund, Susan and Peter are evacuated from London during the Second World War. But the house they are sent to has a secret. By going through a magical wardrobe, the siblings find themselves in the winter frozen land of Narnia.

They soon discover that the land wasn't always like this and that there is, in fact, a prophecy which states that the 4 children are destined to overthrow the White Queen who rules the land and restore Narnia.

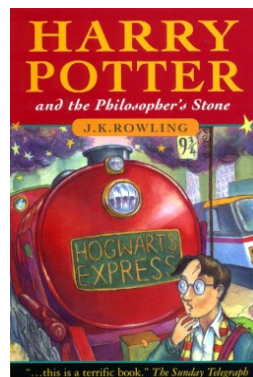


**Trailer for 2005 film:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=usEkWtuNn-w>

**Want to listen to the first chapter?** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aXrR5r3UOJk>

## Harry Potter Series by J. K. Rowling

Harry is left on his aunt's and uncle's doorsteps after his mum and dad are killed by the most evil wizard known in the wizarding world. Brought up with no knowledge of the wizarding world, Harry is shocked to find out on his 11th birthday that he has been accepted into Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry.



**Watch the 2001 film trailer here:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PbdM1db3JbY>

## Skullduggery Pleasant Series by Derek Landy

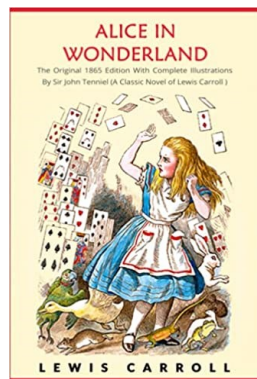
Skeleton detective, Skullduggery Pleasant joins forces with Stephanie Edgley/ Valkyrie Cain as they try to stop the evil forces threatening the world. But Valkyrie has a secret darkness that needs to be concealed.



**Check out the first chapter here:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s8WuwWLPQbg>

## Alice in Wonderland by Lewis Carroll

A classic book that starts with Alice literally falling down a rabbit hole into the crazy world of Wonderland. Here, she meets a White Rabbit who is convinced he is always late, a Walrus and a Carpenter, a Mad Hatter, Cheshire Cat and the terrifying Queen of Hearts. In a world which is quite mad, how does the logical Alice fair?



**Listen to the first chapter here:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xsj4NLqTb58>

**Watch the trailer for the 1951 animated film:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PA-h3-owheo>

# Funny

## Gangsta Granny by David Walliams

Ben hates visiting his Granny every Friday evening. When he calls his parents S.O.S style, Granny overhears. Thinking that her grandson doesn't love her, the next morning is quite tense. That is until Ben discovers a biscuit box which is heavier than usual. Heavier because it contains diamonds, rings, necklaces and earrings. Why does his granny have this jewelry hidden in her biscuit tin?



**Trailer for 2013 BBC film:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qg6dqGoFJSY>

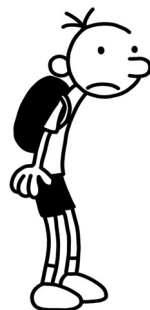
**Here David Walliams read an extract:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zm1Pol8OpHQ>

## Diary of a Wimpy Kid series by Jeff Kinney

This book follows Greg Heffley as he tries to become popular in school. Through his many adventures, Greg has to deal with growing up and all the troubles it brings.

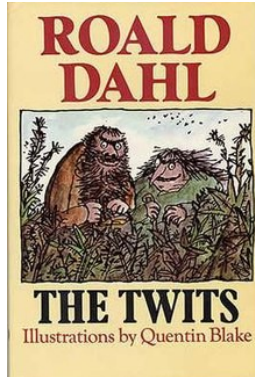
**Watch the 2010 film trailer here:**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T1xobYrobgY>

**Jeff Kinney reads an extract:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YtcFSIkCW4A>



## The Twits by Roald Dahl

The Twits live in a house with no windows. They play nasty jokes on each other and are trying to train up their pet monkeys to create the first upside down monkey circus. But when the Roly Poly bird encourages the monkey's to rebel and use Mr Twits sticky glue, the Twits find their world turned upside down. ..

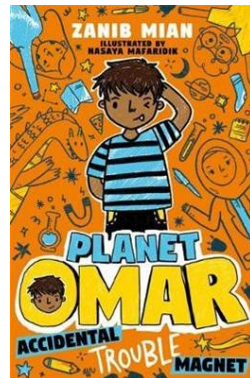


**The Twits first chapters:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XIB4dSXc12k>

## Planet Omar by Zania Mian

Omar moves into a new house with his family. His new school is ok bar Daniel the bully who targets Omar because he is Muslim. When Daniel and Omar get stranded on a school trip to London, Omar begins t see that Daniel's bully bravado is just a show...

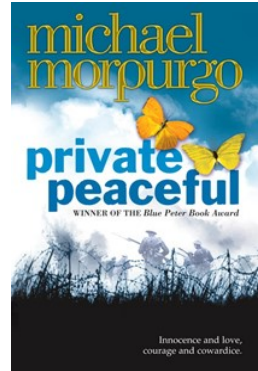
**Listen to the first chapter here:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wr32t4FZWlo>



# Historical

## Private Peaceful by Michael Morpurgo

Told from the perspective of a soldier on the front in World War One, Tommo, the story is set over 24 hours as he looks back over his life and memories. He reminisces about his father's death, his big brothers and school friend Molly.



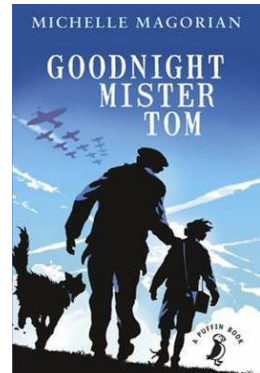
**Listen to the 1st chapter here:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IVscszCslco>

**Watch the 2012 trailer here:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PUoA8njBZVA>

## Goodnight Mr Tom by Michelle Magorian

Willie Beech is an evacuee, being sent from the city to the countryside at the outbreak of World War 2. He lodges with Thomas Oakley, a gruff widower. At first, the two do not get along but soon grow to like one another.

When Willie is called back to London by his abusive mother, Tom becomes concerned for Willie's welfare and goes to London to find him.



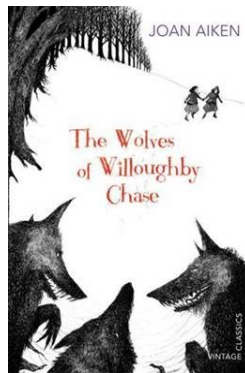
**Watch the ITV film here:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eYJBkfKtCvM>

**Listen to the first chapter here:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8g-zcxZqLPE>



## The Wolves of Willoughby Chase by Joan Aiken

Although there are wolves outside of Willoughby Chase, the real danger lurks inside. Bonnie and Sylvia's wicked governess, Miss Slighcarp, is working with criminals on a terrible plan.



Set in an alternate British history, this novel is set in 1832 when James III is on the throne and wolves have recently come to England through the English Channel.

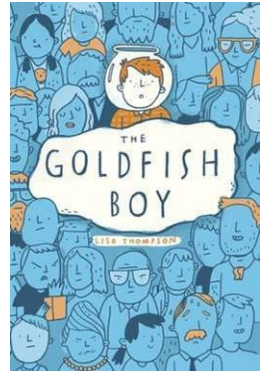
**Watch the 1989 Trailer here:** [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G6\\_DToFXfhY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G6_DToFXfhY)

**Check out the first chapter here:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sj1eIQHjg5Y>

# Crime and Mystery

## The Goldfish Boy by Lisa Thompson

Matthew Corbin mainly stays indoors watching the neighborhood goings ons from his bedroom window. He hasn't even been to school. When a toddler goes missing, Matthew realizes that his knowledge on the local area may help in finding the missing child. Yet with OCD, every day is a challenge. Can he help find the child without leaving the house?

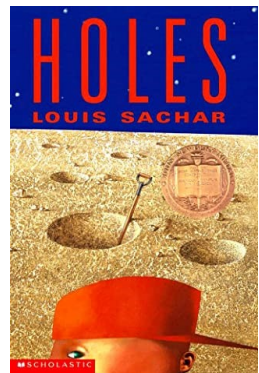


**Listen to an excerpt here:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3rw7CqRwXZc>

## Holes by Louis Sachar

Stanley Yelnats is cursed. A curse that began with his no-good-dirty-rotten-pig-stealing-great-great-grandfather. When Stanley is unjustly sent to a detention camp,

Camp Green Lake, he is forced to dig holes five foot wide by five foot deep everyday. What are the holes for?

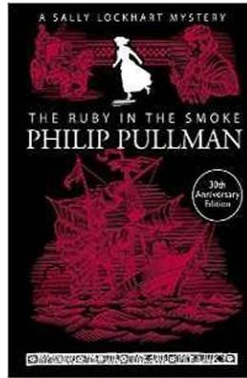


**Watch the 2003 film trailer here:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ehfD-2zz2w>

**Listen to Chapter 1 here:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hnB7YPEgDbc>

## The Ruby in the Smoke by Philip Pullman

After the death of her father, Sally Lockhart goes to live in London with her cousin. When she receives an anonymous letter, Sally becomes suspicious about the death of her father and is determined to find out what happened to him.

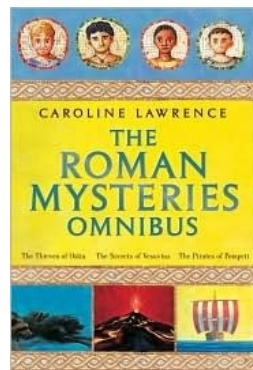


Check out the first chapter here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2ZpmJ41TdC8>

Watch the BBC trailer here: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wQl\\_IbZgdDg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wQl_IbZgdDg)

## The Roman Mystery Series by Caroline Lawrence

This 17 book series is about a 10 year old Roman girl who solves mysteries with her friends Jonathan, Nubia and Lupus (who can't speak).

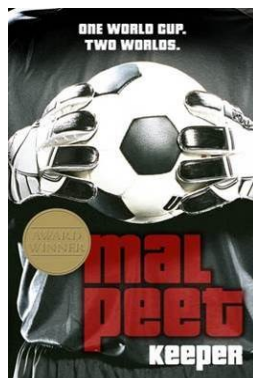


# Sport

## Keeper by Mal Peet

Set in modern day South Africa, El Gato, an amazing, World Cup winning goalkeeper is interviewed by a football reporter on his life and career. Beginning in the jungle and an mysterious ghostly encounter with a former goalie, Keeper charts El Gato's rise to greatness.

**Watch a trailer for the book here:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gRgbKSk7rk8>

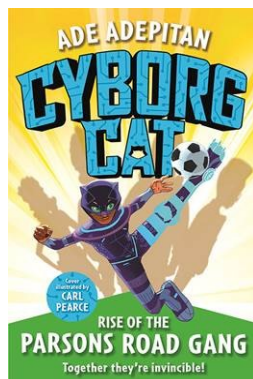


## Cyborg Cat by Ade Adepitan

Set in the 1980s, a boy has moved to London with his family from Lagos. Whilst his parents are wanting to merge their new culture with their existing one, Ade is not so sure they will fit in.

However, Ade finds solace in football and becomes a member of the Parson's Road Gang. He even gets his own nickname: The Cyborg Cat...

**Listen to Ade talk about his book here:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MH-1WTIXiKY>



## The Football Spy by Martin Smith

Chell Di Santos, an evil football manager, is desperate to know the secret to Charlie Fry's success. As the biggest game of the season approaches, Charlie is being watched by a spy. A spy who is getting closer to discovering his secret...

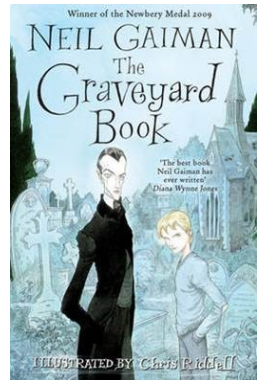


# Horror

## The Graveyard Book by Neil Gaiman

After his family are murdered, Bod is brought up by ghosts in a graveyard. When Bod strays into the world of the living, he finds his life endangered by a man called Jack, who has pursued him from a baby...

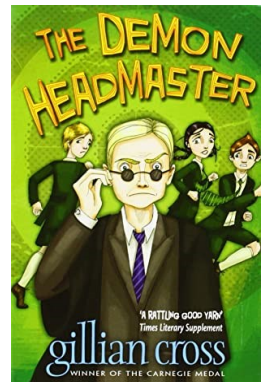
Want to listen to the first chapter? <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8Jp6n1xLnvo>



## The Demon Headmaster by Gillian Cross

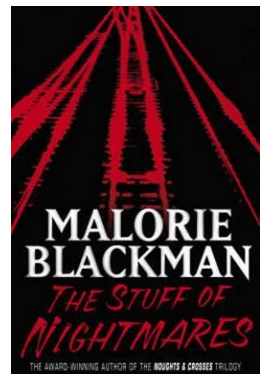
Dinah is starting a new school. But there is something more wrong than nerves. The children work all the time. They are always neat and never misbehave. How does the Head teacher manage it?

Listen to an extract here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BvNfu2WK4os>



## Stuff of Nightmares by Malorie Blackman

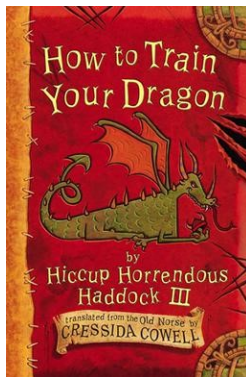
Instead of having a fun school trip, Kyle and his friends are involved in a train crash which leaves them, and their train dangling over the edge of a cliff. With Kyle the only one conscious, how long can he survive when something is stalking the carriages...



# Animal

## How To Train Your Dragon by Cressida Cowell

Hiccup, our protagonist, has to complete a rite of passage by capturing a dragon. After attempts to train the dragon, Toothless, the two become friends. But when a storm washes up 3 sea dragons that could endanger the village, Hiccup is chosen to negotiate with them and try and save the tribe.



**Trailer for 2010 film:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oKiYulsPxYk>

**Listen to Chapter 1 here:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uWhNzQUfmSE>

## Animal Arks by Lucy Daniels

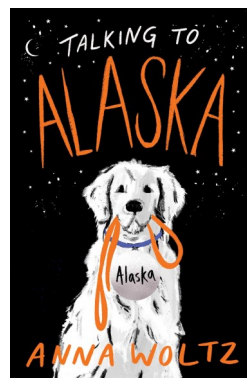
A delightful series of books that follows Mandy, the daughter of a local vet, who often finds animals in trouble. With her best friend James, she tries to help out the animals and other people in the village.



## Talking to Alaska by Anna Woltz

This story follows Parker and Sven who become unlikely friends after Parker discovers that Sven is the new owner of her beloved dog, Alaska. Sven soon confides in Parker about his epilepsy and how Alaska is his medical dog, alerting him when a fit may occur.

**Watch the trailer for the book:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2hhFqdkjh2c>

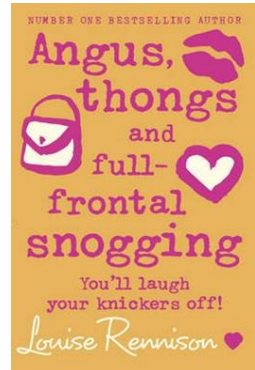


# Romantic

## Angus, Thongs and Full Frontal Snogging by Louise Rennison

Georgia Nicolson is a diary keeping teenage girl experiencing all of the emotions anyone going through puberty would. This books follows her struggles dealing with parents,. Boyfriends, bullies and hair-bleaching disasters.

**Watch the 2008 movie trailer:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ogBjxasdQRo>

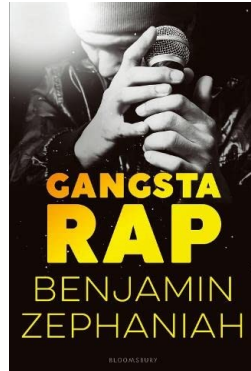




# Black History Month

## Gangsta Rap by Benjamin Zephaniah

Ray believes that there is no point in education or school. But when he is excluded from school and faced with the realities of his troubles at home, Ray ends up sleeping in the local record shop. Ray attends a Social Exclusion project to develop his music skills and eventually is offered a record deal. But when another rap band takes an intense dislike to Ray's music, a gang war ensues...



## Slave Girl by Patricia C McKissack

Clotee is a slave on a Virginian plantation. Surrounded by other hundreds of other slaves in the slave quarters, they all dream for freedom or 'heaven'. But will 'heaven' ever come?

Listen to a reading here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qtNbJICLIa4>

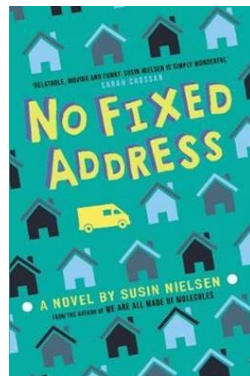


# Friends and Family

## No Fixed Address by Susin Nielsen

Felix lives in a van and as Winter sets in, the initial novelty of his home begins to wear off. He begins to question his mother's ability as a parent. If only he can get on Canada's biggest quiz show and turn his family's fortunes around...

**Want to listen to the first chapter?** [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pzgziB\\_y8Y](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pzgziB_y8Y)



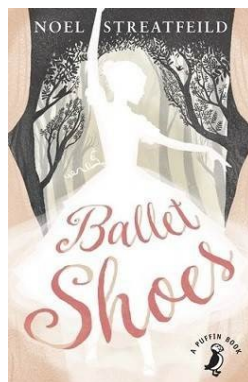
## Ballet Shoes by Noel Streatfeild

Pauline, Petrova and Posy are orphans who are adopted by Gum (Great Uncle Matthew). He is a fossil collector and leaves them in the care of his niece Sylvia and Nana, an old nurse. Gum leaves for an adventure but after five years, there is no

sign of him. The girls begin attending Madame Fidolia's Children's Academy of Dancing and Stage Training to help earn some money to support the family by being on the stage.

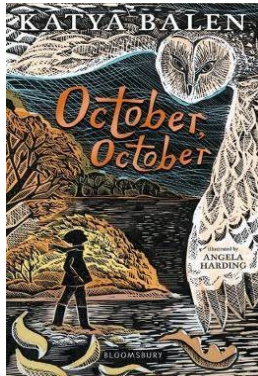
Whilst Posy proves herself to be a gifted ballerina, and Pauline a superb actress, Petrova remains adamant for her love of mechanics and her want to be a pilot.

**Watch the 2008 film trailer here:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GeJswQSBsjU>



## October, October by Katya Balen

October lives in the woods, off the grid with her father. The woman she calls her mother lives in the city and abandoned them. But when October's dad suffers a severe injury, October is forced to move in with her 'mother' and experience the overwhelming city for the first time...

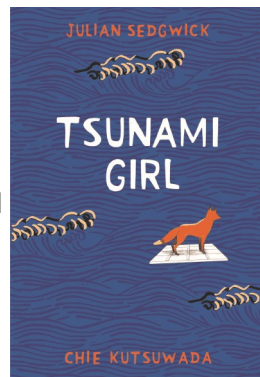


**Check out an extract here:** [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nzk\\_LlxemOs](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nzk_LlxemOs)

## Tsunami Girl by Julian Sedgwick

When Yuki visits her grandfather in Japan, she is caught up in a catastrophic tsunami and earthquake. Her beloved grandad is lost. A year later, Yuki is still struggling to come to terms with what happened and is determined

**Watch the book trailer here:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cf7VGA18w2k>

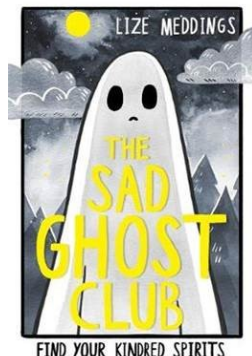


# Graphic Novels

## The Sad Ghost Club by Lize Meddings

The idea of going to a social party fills Sam with much anxiety. But after plucking up the courage to finally go, Sam meets Socks, another ghost who finds it hard to connect with others. Slowly the two start to share their feelings and realise that maybe they are not that alone after all.

Watch a behind the scenes video here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GRhGpVDXKe8>



## Lumberjanes by N. D. Stevenson, Shannon Watters, Brooke Allen, Kat Leyh, and Faith Erin Hicks

A comic books series following the story of a group of girls called Mal, Ripley, Molly, April and Jo.

They spend summer at a scout camp and there they meet strange creatures and supernatural phenomena.



## Splatoon by Kino Takahshi

Starring Goggles and his three friends Headphones, Specs and Bobble Hat, Splatoon explores the stories connected to the Turf Wars.

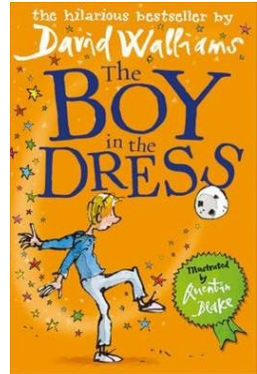
**Watch the manga trailer here:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l8BT2nbRT58>



# LGBTQ+

## The Boy in the Dress by David Walliams

Dennis loves football. But he also loves fashion. His family don't understand his love of clothing and, since his mother left home, he starts to feel isolated. When Dennis meets Lisa, who aspires to be a designer, he realizes that it is ok to be different and to be himself.

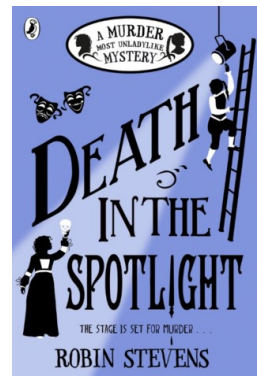


**Watch the theatre trailer here:** <https://www.rsc.org.uk/the-boy-in-the-dress-musical/trailer>

**Listen to an extract here:** [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HYWPV\\_bF26A](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HYWPV_bF26A)

## Death in the Spotlight by Robin Stevens

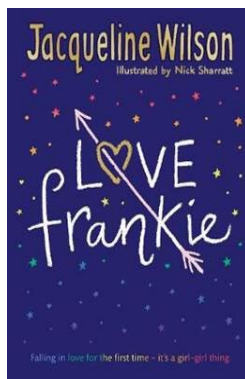
Daisy and Hazel are off to the Rue Theatre in London to act in a show. But they soon realise that it is not all glitz and glamour. Quickly, they see that pranks and jealousy soon lead to threats that spiral out of control. With opening night approaching, can the crime be solved before more murders occur?



**Listen to an extract here:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oOhgbZiCwzQ>

## Love Frankie by Jacqueline Wilson

Frankie is 14 and has MS. She is having to deal with this condition as well as facing the problems of growing up. When one of the people who was bullying Frankie begins to make friends with her, it starts to turn into something more than friendship. Will she be able to confront

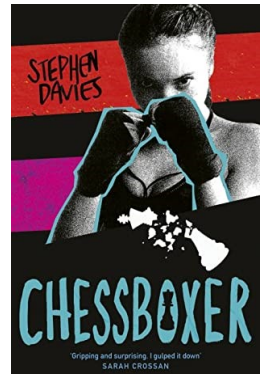


**Check out an interview with Jacqueline Wilson here:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Uz732AywP5A>

# Reluctant Readers

## Chessboxer by Stephen Davies

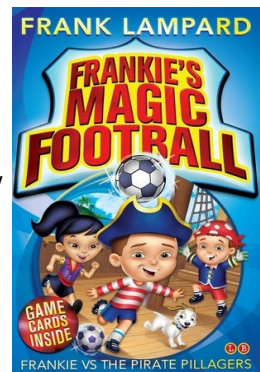
Leah is a few wins away from becoming the junior chess grandmaster. This is everything her mum and coach want. But, grieving for her father, Leah feels trapped and decides to quit chess. But not altogether. She soon falls into a new sport, Chess boxing...



## Frankie's Magic Football Frankie v. The Pirate Pillagers by Frank Lampard

Frankie and his team love playing football by when they win an old football at a fun fair, they are transported to a magical world where football never existed! Can they show this world what football is, beat the Pirate Pillagers and get home?

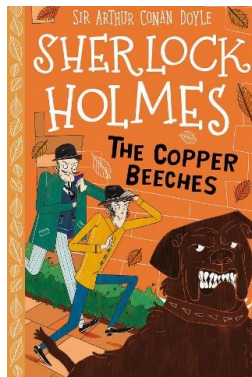
**Listen to a Q&A session with the author:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ue-d8lAlsbk>





## The Copper Breeches by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

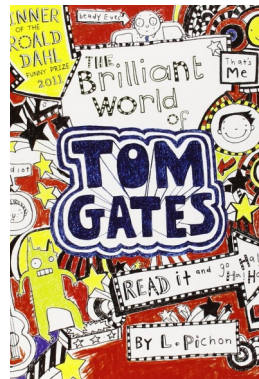
When Sherlock receives a mysterious message commanding him to be at the Black Swan Hotel, Winchester, by midday tomorrow; he can't resist. Violet Hunter has turned to Holmes and Watson in desperation for advice with her mystery...



**Listen to the book here:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y-Z5pt816Q>

## Tom Gates series by Liz Pichon

Following the many adventures of Tom and his family, these 19 stories track the master storyteller, excuse maker, doodler, and all around comedian!



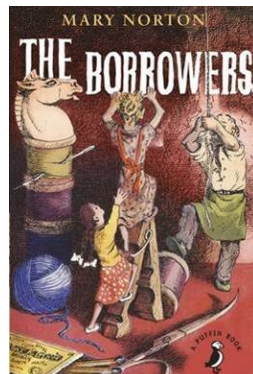
**Listen to an extract here:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ITNUAzKQ6uA>

**Listen to an author Q&A here:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FpJlsKIJY-s>

# Challenging books

## The Borrowers by Mary Norton

The Borrowers are tiny people who live in all the little nooks and crannies of your house. They borrow everything they need from humans and live off of scraps of food. Arriety Clock is not supposed to go borrowing as she is a girl. But her father makes an exception. Yet on their very first excursion, a human boy sees Arriety...



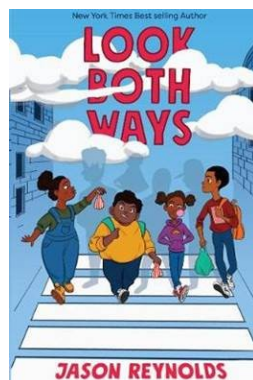
**Watch the 1997 film trailer here:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lgZQ8gyUlwl>

**Want to listen to the first chapter?** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vj-Xi8m1tRU>

## Look Both Ways by Jason Reynolds

This book tells the story of ten pupils on their walks home from Latimer Middle School. Everyday has similarities or differences. With themes of friendship and compassion, these stories help to explore growing up from different angles.

**Listen to an extract here:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5pqD5Mo3Elg>



## **Fish Change Direction in Cold Weather** **by Pierre Szalowski**

With his parents split up, a 10 year old boy wishes to the sky for help. Strangely, the next day, an ice storm covers the city, cutting out the power. But in such harsh conditions, human kindness and compassion arise...

