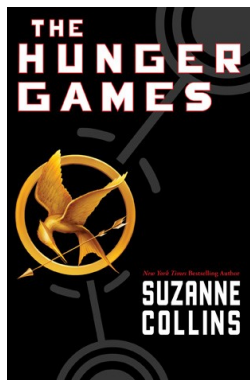


Year 8
Suggested
Reading List

Action/ Adventure

The Hunger Games by Suzanne Collins

In a dystopian North American future, this is the story of Katniss Everdeen. She bravely volunteers in place of her sister in the 74th Hunger Games—a live fight to the death on TV. All organized by the capital, Panem, to keep the 13 rebellious districts in line, will Katniss manage to survive.



Trailer for 2012 film: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mfmrPu43DF8>

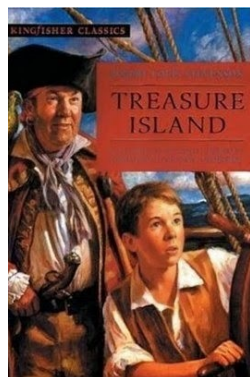
Want to listen to the first chapter? https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3t4r_un3KMo

Treasure Island by R. L. Stevenson

Jim, an innkeeper's son, overhears a pirate disclosing the location of hidden gold. Jim

Jim goes to tell the local authorities.

But this only sets off a race between the pirates and authorities to see who can get to the treasure first.

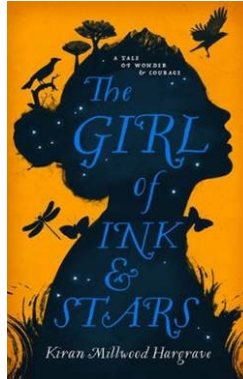


Listen here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mNdXJhexVFE>

Watch the 1950 film trailer: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e27_3UviUMs

The Girl of Ink and Stars by Kiran Millwood Hargrave

Isabella Roisse is forbidden to leave her island. But she dreams of travelling to the far away lands her father once mapped. But when her friend goes missing, her chance for adventure begins...

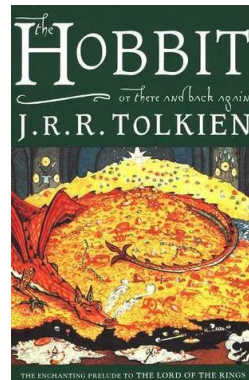


Check out the first chapter here:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n_gkDF3PWco

The Hobbit by J. R. R. Tolkien

Hobbits are race of small creatures that love to live the simple life. This was Bilbo Baggins until one day, his home is gatecrashed by 13 dwarfs and Gandalf (the grey wizard). Before he know it, Biblo is off on an adventure to recover stolen dwarf treasure. But will a mysterious ring he finds on his way change the world?



Listen to the first chapter here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LJCK6HFNCEU>

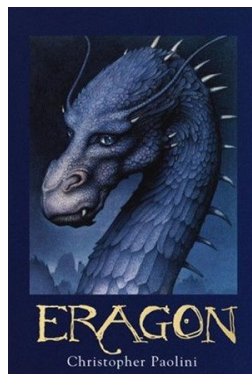
Watch the trailer for the 2012 film: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nOGsB9dORBg>

Fantasy

Eragon by Chris Paolini

Eragon finds a strange polished blue stone in the forest. At first, it is the cure to his family's hunger but soon discovers that it is not a stone at all but a dragon's egg! Eragon embarks on an adventure with only an old sword and the advice of a storyteller for guidance.

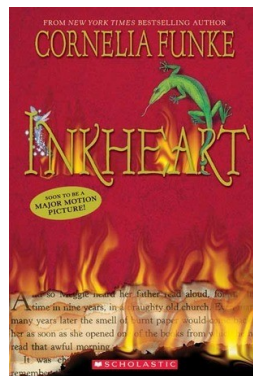
Want to listen to the first chapter? <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A97iwTQovgo>



Inkheart by Cornelia Funke

When Meggie's father reads from a book called Inkheart, he releases an evil ruler into their living room. Finding herself in an adventure she has only dreamed of, Meggie must learn to control magic and to change the course of the story...

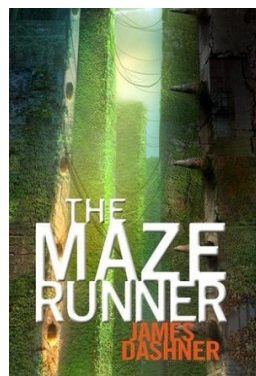
Listen to the first chapter here:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xSrbmX53dww>



Maze Runner by James Dashner

Thomas wakes up in a lift. He can only remember his name. Outside 'The Glade' is an ever changing maze. It is the only way to escape. No one has made it out alive...

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



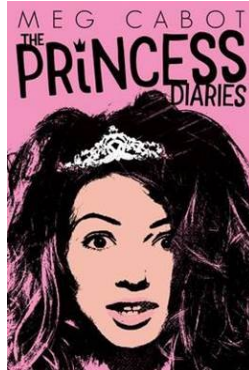
Funny

The Princess Diaries by Meg Cabot

Mia takes care of his disorganized mother. But one day she finds out she is in fact the Princess Amelia of Genovia...

Trailer for 2001 film: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CzcGwB7qat8>

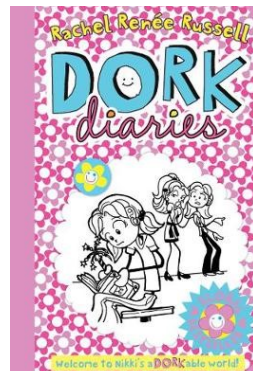
Check out the first chapter here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JvmoDQyTGlw>



Dork Diaries by Rachel Renee Russell

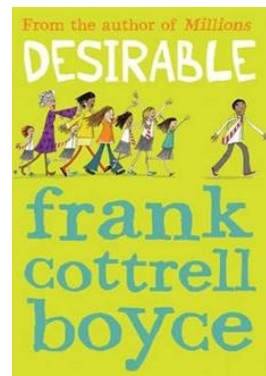
This series follows the life of 15 year old Nikki Maxwell as she chronicles growing up in her diaries.

Listen to an extract here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U9B9TtiSyqU>



Desirable by Frank Cottrell Boyce

George is a geek. He loves Warhammer more than actual people. But when he is given an aftershave called 'Desirable', girls just can't resist! How will he cope with this new found attention? What will happen when the magic wears off?



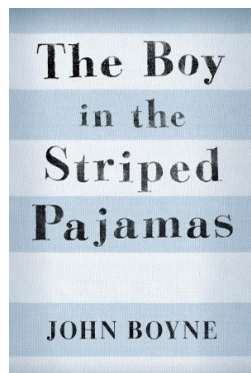
Historical

The Boy in the Striped Pajamas by John Boyne

Bruno's family has to move from their city house to the middle of nowhere because of his father's job. Bruno is not aware of the true nature of that job. All he knows is that his father is in charge of a place with lots of fences. Behind one fence is another boy in strange striped pajamas. As a friendship strikes between the pair, the cruelty of war is revealed.

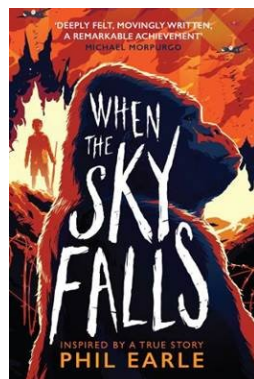
Listen to the first chapter here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jsECnhhO3xw>

Watch the 2008 film trailer: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gypMpos5Hiw>



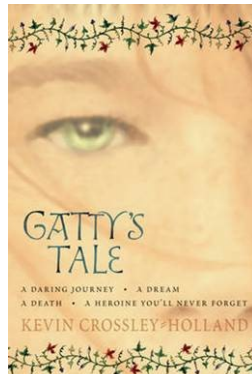
When the Sky Falls by Phil Earle

Joseph is sent to London to stay with his gran's friend, Mrs F. But he is living in 1941 and London is being bombarded by German bombs. Mrs F. is grumpy and all she seems to care about is her zoo and gorilla, Adonis. But as the weeks pass, Joseph and Mrs F. grow closer and Joseph grows to understand why Adonis is special...



Gatty's Tale by Kevin Crossley-Holland

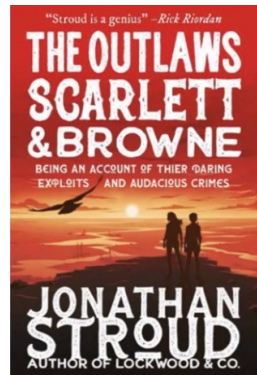
Gatty is called upon to accompany Lady Gwyneth de Ewloe on her pilgrimage to Jerusalem. Along the way, Gatty learns to read and write, hone her signing skills and mature into a young lady. But the journey is fraught with danger and death...



Crime and Mystery

The Outlaws Scarlett and Browne by Jonathan Stroud

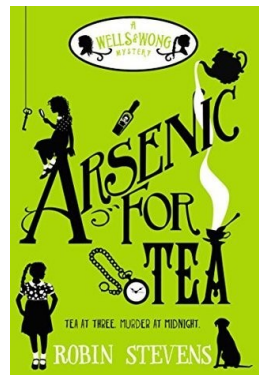
Set in a future, dystopian England where the South and South East are flooded, and only some towns have survived, Scarlett is an outlaw who robs banks to survive. After one heist, she meets Albert Browne: A mysterious boy who has a secretive past. All she knows is that she is on the run and Browne wants to make it to the London ruins to find others like him.



Arsenic for Tea by Robin Stevens

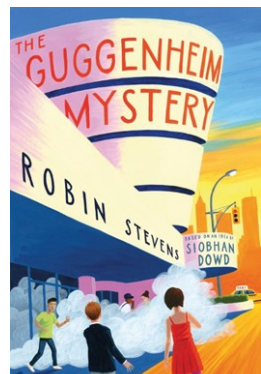
Daisy and Hazel are detectives. When a tea party is thrown for Daisy's birthday, it turns out that Daisy is not the star of the show. One of the party falls seriously ill and it is not long before poison is suggested. Can Daisy find out the truth?

Listen to an extract here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y17hPw8UTfs>



The Guggenheim Mystery by Robin Stevens

When a painting is stolen from the Guggenheim Art Museum in New York, Ted's Aunt Gloria is framed for the theft. Ted is on a mission to prove his aunt's innocence and find the true criminal...



Check out an extract here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PyeafbkBoOo>

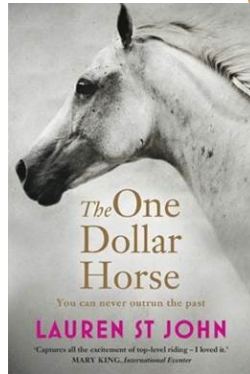
Sport

The One Dollar Horse by Lauren St. John

Casey Blue lives in a London tower block with her ex-convict dad. She loves riding and dreams of becoming an equestrian champion.

Her and her father rescue a horse from the knacker's yard and with her love and care, Storm Force is transformed into a healthy horse.

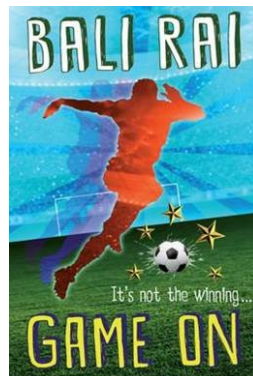
When a mysterious benefactor sponsors Casey's dream of riding at Badminton, Casey is thrilled. But it doesn't run smoothly for her.



Game On by Bali Rai

Baljit is preparing for his trial at Liverpool Football Club. But he is torn between his dream and forcing his parents to move.

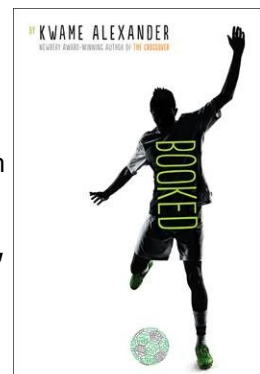
Furthermore, he is plagued by racist youths threatening him.



Booked by Kwame Alexander

Nick is a football star and he couldn't be more different from his linguistic professor dad. But having to read the dictionary everyday starts to pay off when it impresses the girls of his dreams. With his parent's separating and school bullies making his life a misery, Nick spends more time in the library just to cope.

Listen to an extract here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wEbLVPpZ5pw>

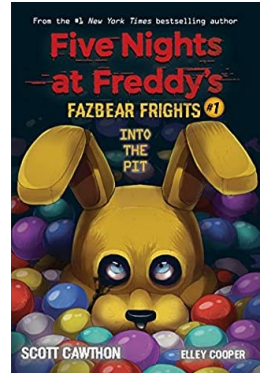


Horror

Into the Pit by Scott Cawthorn

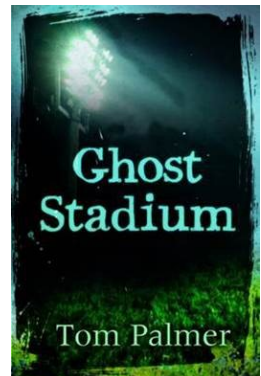
Oswald wishes that he would have an exciting Summer. Sarah wishes to be more beautiful and Millie wishes she could just disappear. But when their deepest desires come true, what is the cost?

Listen to the story here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-8K2a-x'j5c>



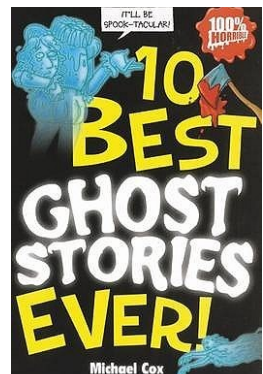
Ghost Stadium by Tom Palmer

On the last day of school, most children are saying goodbye to their friends. But Lucas, Jack and Irfan have other plans. They go to an abandoned football ground where they discover a shadow falling to the ground with a thud. Is this the ghost of the Yorkshire Country FC player who died years ago?



Ghost Stories by Michael Cox

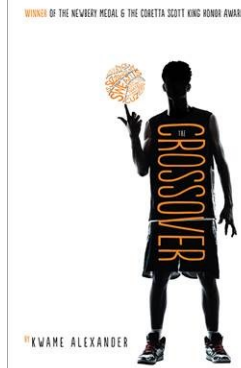
This book contains top short ghost stories that are sure to make you hide behind your sofa!



Graphic Novels

The Crossover by Kwame Alexander

Josh and JB are twins and the best basketball players at their school. But as the biggest game in their life draws nearer, tensions grow between them. But can basketball help the brothers through the trials of the teenage years and regain their relationship?



Listen to an extract here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IbMj6IG4shM>

Naruto by Mashashi Kishimoto

This manga tells the story of Naruto Uzumaki, a young ninja who dreams of being the leader of his village.

Check out an artist masterclass here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0a9zC19o8Hg>



My Hero Academia by Kohei Horikoshi

Izuku is an ordinary boy. Problem is in his world, most people have superpowers. Izuku is on a quest to learn how to use powers at the Hero Academy.



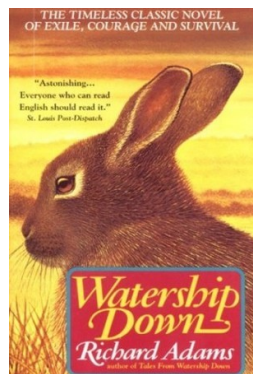
Animal

Watership Down by Richard Adams

Set in the English Countryside, this story follows Hazel and Fiver, a group of rabbits must travel from their home warren to a new piece of land where they will be safe from man and other dangers. But their journey is fraught with danger...

Trailer for 1978 film: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ji-LqBskNyE>

Listen to the audio book here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lczslugomjk>

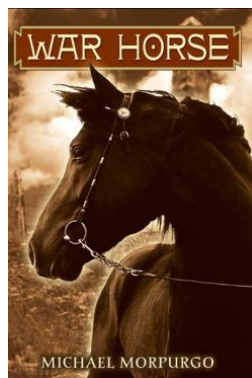


War Horse by Michael Morpurgo

It's 1914 and Joey, a bay-red foal, is sold to the army and sent to France to fight on the front lines. He witnesses the horrors of battle but remains to the soldiers a symbol of courage. But Joey's mind often turns to Albert, the farmer's boy he left behind in England. Will he ever see Albert again?

Watch the 2011 film trailer here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d6RugYgXwjg>

Listen to Chapter 1 here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gT68nk5gR8o>



Romantic

Twilight by Stephanie Meyer

Bella moves to the town of Forks to live with her father. She always feels a bit out of step with the world and this is no more apparent when she goes school. Here she meets Edward, a mysterious boy who is not all that he seems. Soon Bella finds out the supernatural isn't a myth...



Check out the 2008 film trailer: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uxjNDE2fMjl>

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

Date Me, Bryson Keller by Kevin Van Whye

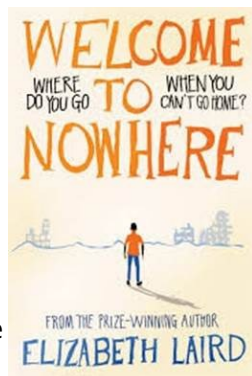
Each week, Bryson Keller must date someone new—whoever asks him out first on Monday morning. But then a boy asks him and everything changes... Kai expects a no from Bryson but when the opposite happens, Kai finds out there is more to Bryson than it seems. But will the relationship work?



Friends and Family

Welcome to Nowhere by Elizabeth Laird

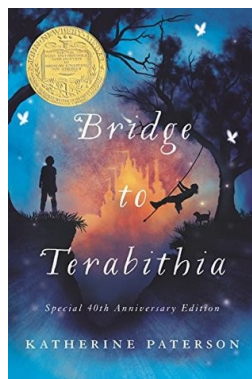
Omar and his family live in Syria. He dreams of becoming a successful entrepreneur. Omar doesn't care about politics but when his brother joins an anti-government student group, Omar has to sit up and take note. With bombs falling and war looming, Omar's family are forced to flee Syria and become refugees.



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

Bridge to Terabithia by Katherine Paterson

Jess is almost the fastest runner in school. This is if you don't count the new girl, Leslie Burke. But rivalry turns to friendship and whilst exploring the woods one day, they discover an enchanted land called Terabithia. But when Leslie goes to Terabithia on her own, disaster strikes...



Watch the 2007 film trailer here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LFX6GRojZL4>

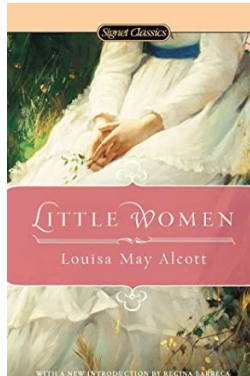
Listen to Chapter 1 here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NpYoZZlh14>

Little Women by Louisa May Alcott

A quaint story that follows the lives of four sisters and their struggles to survive in New England during the American Civil War. There is Jo, an aspiring author and tom-boy, romantic Meg, frail Beth, and spoiled Amy.

Check out the first chapter here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GMtipf1FxSc>

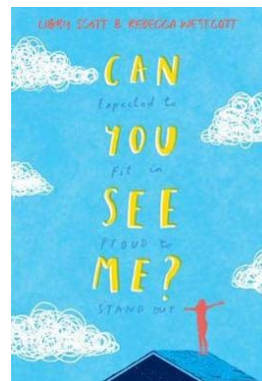


Watch the 2019 film trailer here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AST2-4db4ic>

Can You See Me? By Libby Scott and Rebecca Westcott

Starting secondary school is hard, and it is no different for Tally who has to deal with bullies, lost friends, and high school life. But Tally is autistic and in such a turbulent period in her life, she is more aware than ever of how she is perceived and how she interacts with her surroundings.

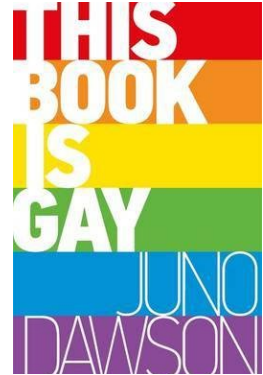
Listen to an extract here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V18Ytke6_gc



LGBTQ+

This Book is Gay by Juno Dawson

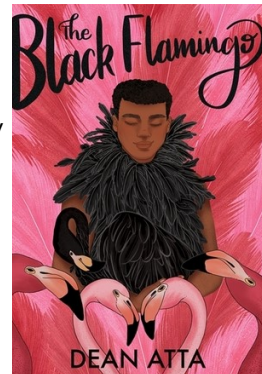
This book contains stories from people across the gender and sexual spectrums, giving readers an insight into what life is like growing up LGBT. Worries and questions are addressed for anyone who may be struggling with their sexuality at the moment.



Black Flamingo by Dean Atta

A mixed-race boy has to come to terms with his sexuality but when the opportunity to take part as a drag artist presents itself, the Black Flamingo is born...

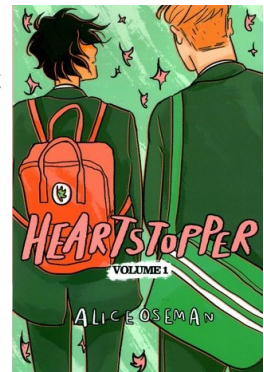
Listen to an extract here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZdLoGu_Fmko



Heartstopper by Alice Oseman

Charlie is openly gay. Nick is a soft-hearted rugby player. When they meet at a all boys school, a friendship blooms. But could it be something more? As Charlie falls for Nick, he feels there is no chance that his feelings would be reciprocated.

Watch the Netflix Trailer here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FrK4xPy4ahg>



Challenging books

Boy Everywhere by A. M. Dassu

Sami had a good life in Damascus, Syria. He would play football, go on his iPad, and be a normal child. But when war breaks out, his life is destroyed. A bomb goes off in a shopping centre, shattering his little sister's childhood and forcing the family to flee the country. The story follows his journey across Europe looking for safety.

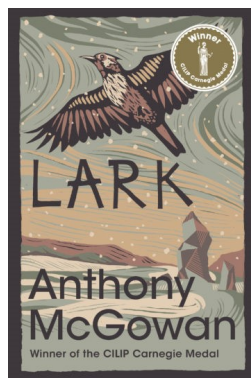


Want to listen to an extract? https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sogD8ODs_9o

Lark by Anthony McGowan

Nicky and Kenny have an estranged mum. With things going from bad to worse in their lives, they agree to go for a walk to clear their heads. But, what was meant to be a fun time turns sinister when they are caught in a blizzard. Will things ever be the same again?

Listen to an extract here: <https://vimeo.com/399735067>

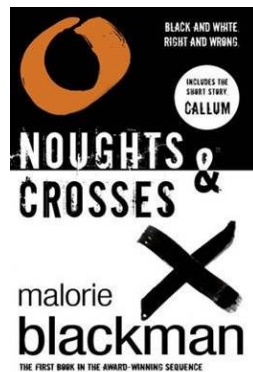


Black History Month

Noughts and Crosses by Malorie Blackman

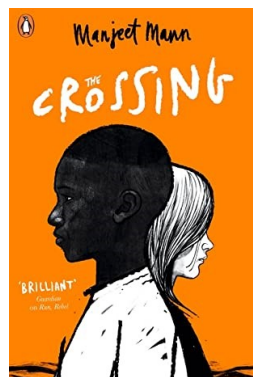
In a world where the population is divided into the white noughts (second class citizens) and the black crosses (superior race), two friends strike an unlikely friendship. Callum is a nought. Sephy is a cross and daughter of one of the most influential politicians in the country. Their friendship is frowned upon and they face discrimination from all sides.

Watch the 2020 trailer here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=toBoYUUuzQQ>



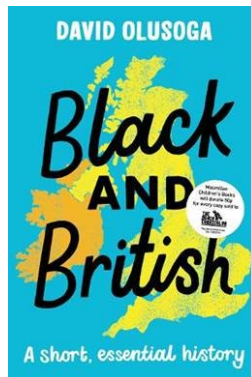
The Crossing by Manjeet Mann

A verse novel dealing with themes of refugees, racism, and politics. Natalie has lost her mum to cancer and is struggling to deal with her grief, eviction and family issues. Sammy has fled Eritrea for a chance of a new life in England. Along his journey, he faces cruelty from human traffickers and racists. But a twist of fate will bring these two together.



Black and British by David Olusoga

This book has been written especially for secondary school students in the UK after a report found that black history is systematically missed from the curriculum in the UK. Tracking British history from the Romans through to the Windrush scandal, Olusoga explores how black history is an integral part of British culture and heritage.



Watch an interview with David here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=68zpVIABu-g>

Black Brother, Black Brither by Jewell Parker Rhodes

Donte has been nicknamed Black Brother by Alan, the school bully, from day 1. But this association has brought nothing but trouble for Donte and one day results in the police being called and Dante taken away in handcuffs. Upon being released, Donte is determined to show Alan that he has as much right to be in the school as anyone. So he challenges Alan, the regional champion and captain of the fencing team, to a fencing match...



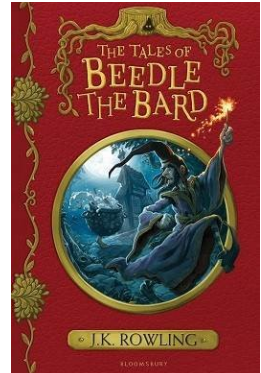
Listen to an extract here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WuSVfAXRXbQ>

Reluctant Readers

Tales of Beedle the Bard by J. K. Rowling

This book contains 5 short stories from the wizarding world that are often taught by wizards to their children. With stories on love, and friendship this is a must for any Potter fan.

Listen to one of the stories: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bN1_h_eGitE

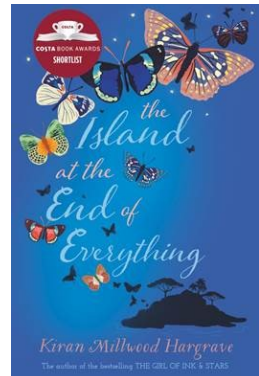


The Island at the End of Everything by Kiran Millwood Hargrave

Amihan lives on a secluded island, Culion, with his ill mother. When the island is put Under an enforced quarantine, all who do not have the illness need to leave, including Amihan. But she is determined to find a way home. When an abandoned boat presents an opportunity to cross to the island, will

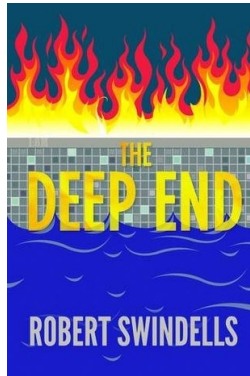
she take it?

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



The Deep End by Robert Swindells

Lisa has hopes of qualifying for the Olympics. But these are gone when her local pool is closed. When Lisa's boyfriend plans on protesting and garnering local support, this plans for it being a peaceful demonstration are dashed...



The Mystery of Me by Karen McCombie

After an accident, Ketty technically died for 2 minutes and 39 seconds. When she recovers, she has lost her memory and going back to school is much more difficult than she thought. Who is nice? Who is a bully? Where are her classrooms? Who is she?

Listen to the author talking about her book:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=21kiULajaN4&t=45s)

[v=21kiULajaN4&t=45s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=21kiULajaN4&t=45s)

