

Recommended Reading List for KS3

Blue text=Recommended for 14 years plus

Title	Author	Genre/subjects	Blurb
Teen Reads			
You Must be Layla	Yassmin Abdel-Magied	Bullying; Australia; Islam; Science; Racism; Immigration	When Layla stands up to a bully she lands herself a suspension. She's determined to prove that she does deserve her scholarship to her new school by winning a robotics competition. Contains bullying, racial slurs, Islamophobia, and themes of racism.
Poet-X	Elizabeth Acevado	Slam Poetry; Ethics; Violence	Xiomara, a teenage girl of Dominican heritage, is starting to notice boys, but her strict Catholic parents have decided on no contact with the opposite sex until marriage. A verse novel that sings with the rhythms of slam poetry, this is powerful and affecting.
My Name is Mina	David Almond	Relationships; Emotions; Journal	Mina writes a diary about her life, her mum, being home-schooled, her tree, and the boy moving into a house on her street. Prequel to Skellig.
A Different Sort of Normal	Abigail Balfe	Biographical novel; Coming-of-age; Autism	Abigail, the author and illustrator of this exceptional non-fiction book, spent most of her life not knowing she was autistic. Insightful, accessible and easy to navigate, this is an essential book for autistic and allistic (non-autistic) readers of all ages, including adults.
All the Truth That's in Me	Julie Berry	Disability; Non-verbal; Historical Fiction; War; Violence; Love; Hope	Judith, a young woman who disappears from her small, close-knit town, returns two years later having suffered a trauma that has left her unable to speak. The story contains graphic violence. Carnegie Award Medallist.
Boys Don't Cry	Malorie Blackman	Family; Single Parents; Love; LGBTQIA+	A hard-hitting novel dealing with some of the real issues facing teenagers. This is also a moving story about father-son relationships.

Artichoke Hearts	Sita Brahmachari	Diverse; Coming-of-age; Diary; Multicultural families; Bereavement; Love	This empathetic account of the process of bereavement, a month's diary, reassures readers that we grow from our experiences, however painful they are.
Ruby Holler	Sharon Creech	Adventure; Friendship; Orphans; Foster care; Adoption	This is a life-affirming story of a group of seemingly mismatched people who find that being together gives their lives new purpose. Ruby Holler is a testament to the power of tolerance, determination, love, and optimism. Carnegie Award Medallist
The Weight of Water	Sarah Crossan	Teen; Poetry; Family; Moving Away; Free Verse; Romance; Poland	The only release Kasienka finds from her problems is through swimming and an important friendship she makes at the pool with a boy called William. This beautiful book is written in verse and captures 13-year-old Kasienka's emotions and experiences perfectly. Carnegie Award Medallist
Mind Your Head	Juno Dawson	Non-fiction; Coming-of-age; LGBTQIA+; Addiction; Bereavement; Bullying; Drugs; Friendship; Illness; Sexuality; Everyday life; Mental health; Relationships	In this upfront and accessible book, Juno Dawson tackles all things mental health. Packed with practical advice, guidance from clinical psychologist Dr Olivia Hewitt and some humorous reassurance.
How to Fly with Broken Wings	Jane Elson	Bullying; Family; Friendship; Feelings	With themes including gang culture and bullying, friendship and love, combined with a brilliant mix of eclectic characters, this is a compelling and ultimately uplifting story about making the most of life despite its challenges.
Love Aubrey	Suzanne La Fleur	Teen; Bereavement; family; Friendships; Relationships; Feelings	Aubrey moves to a new home with her Grandmother, starts a new school and makes good friends. But, unable to talk about her experience, she writes letters instead. We watch, from Aubrey's perspective, as she goes through stages of bereavement and tries to come to terms with her relationship with her mother. Multiple book award nominee.
Saving Celeste	Timothée de Fombelle	Adventure; Science fiction; Translated; Environment; Politics; Human rights; Social issues; Dystopia	This beautifully formed novella uses a thought-provoking metaphor as a rallying cry to protect our planet. Hailed as a fable for our times, it is ultimately a story of hope and love.
The Boy in the Suit	James Fox	Coming-of-age; Inclusive; Bullying; Poverty; Mental health; Feelings	Solo and his mum Morag are always gate-crashing parties. But not the ones with balloons and party poppers. They go to funerals. A

			lot of funerals. Because there is free food and Solo and Morag are almost always hungry.
The Bone Sparrow	Zana Fraillon	Human Rights; Immigration; Refugees; Friendship; Family; Australia	Focusing on a friendship between two young refugees, The Bone Sparrow is one of those rare, special books that will break your heart with its honesty and beauty - but is ultimately hopeful and uplifting.
Maggot Moon	Sally Gardner	Science-fiction; Moon Landing; Space; Secrets; Dystopia; Fear; Dyslexia	Combining conspiracy theory and dystopia, this hugely original novel is set in an alternate 1950s in which Britain is dominated by the ruthlessly oppressive forces of The Motherland. Multiple book award nominee.
Fear Less How to Be Your True, Confident Self!	Liam Hackett	Non-fiction; Teen; Bullying; Metal Health; Feelings; Fear	A self-help guide for youngsters struggling with self-esteem, peer pressure or 'fitting in'.
A Kestrel for a Knave	Barry Hines	Teen; Classic; Animals; Bullying; Friendship	A lonely boy trains a kestrel to fly under his control amidst the gritty realities of a northern mining town.
Looking at the Stars	Lewis Hine	Teen; Memoir; Inspirational; Physical disabilities; Helping others; Positivity; Making a Difference; Inclusive	Lewis Hine is the inspirational teen behind life-changing charity Friend Finder Official, and winner of the Radio 1 Teen Hero Award. He's achieved amazing things, but Lewis's everyday life is far from simple. This is his story.
The Insiders	Cathy Howe	Friendship; School; Bullying; Mental health; Social issues	This poignant novel about the complexities of friendship dynamics. The book is perceptive, insightful and sensitively written, with touches of humour.
A Good Day for Climbing Trees	Jaco Jacobs	Coming-of-age; Funny; Making a Difference; Africa; Protest; Translated; social issues; Feelings; Friendship; Environment	Thirteen-year-old Marnus finds himself at the centre of a protest when he and a girl named Leila camp out in a tree to prevent it from being cut down by developers. This is the perfect feel-good book from one of South Africa's top children's authors.
There Will Be Lies	Nick Lake	Domestic Abuse; Secrets; Daughters	After a car accident, Shelby's mother steals her away from the hospital, revealing that her father is not dead but rather a violent man who promised to hunt them down. The plot contains profanity and violence and gore. Carnegie Award medallist

Everybody Jam	Ali Lewis	Coming-of-age; Bereavement; pregnancy; Australia	Set during a long, hot summer, this is an unflinching look at life on a cattle station in the Australian outback as a family tries to come to terms with the death of their oldest son in a horrific accident.
The Crossing	Manjeet Mann	Poetry; Violence; Racism; Suicide; Immigration; Human rights; Diversity	Natalie's mum has just died and her world is crumbling. Her father retreats into himself, and her older brother finds an outlet for his emotions in marching with a far-right gang in Dover. Swimming is Natalie's only refuge. A demanding but important read for the older reader.
Stargazing for Beginners	Jenny McLachlan	Teen; Coming-of-age; Funny; Astronomy; Sisters; Abandonment; Ambition	Meg's dreamed of being an astronaut since she was seven. This novel achieves a delicate balance between light-hearted fiction and thoughtful exploration of the pitfalls of being female, smart and good at science.
The Island at the End of Everything	Kiran Millwood Hargrave	Adventure; Historical fiction; Adoption; Bereavement; Inclusive; Bullying; Family; Friendship; Illness; Mothers; Nature	Amihan lives on the secluded island of Culion with her sick mum, who has leprosy. But when the government decides the island must be quarantined, Ami and all the children who don't have the disease are forced to leave - while her mum must stay behind, along with everything Ami has ever known. Carnegie Award Medallist
The Teenage Guide to Life Online	Nicola Morgan	Social media; Privacy; sexting; Cyberbullying; Community; Addiction; Fake news; Wellbeing	Provides a balanced and well-researched look at what happens when we spend time on our screens; the wonderful positives and worrying negatives.
Into That Forest	Louis Nowra	Coming-of-age; Nature; Feeling; Animals; Tigers; Australia; Woodlands	Two girls survive a terrible flood in the Tasmanian bush and are rescued by a pair of Tasmania tigers that raise them in the wild. When they are discovered and returned to civilisation, neither can adapt to being fully human after their experience.
Black Brother Black Brother	Jewell Parker Rhodes	Teen; Coming-of-age; Historical fiction; Bullying; African American; Social Issues; Prejudice; Diversity	Donte has had enough of being treated worse than his lighter-skinned brother. He finds a way to beat the bullies by become an expert at fencing. A unique, unforgettable novel.
Wonder	R.J Pilacio	Inclusive; Disfigurement; Family; Bullying; Acceptance	Ten-year-old Auggie, born with extreme facial abnormalities, goes from being home-schooled to entering fifth grade at a private middle school, where he endures taunts and bullying and struggles to be seen as just another student. Multiple book award nominee.

My Sister Lives on the Mantlepiece	Anabel Pitcher	Coming-of-age; Addiction; Friendship; Bereavement; Family; Bullying; Diversity	Told through the eyes of ten-year-old Jamie, My Sister Lives on the Mantlepiece sensitively tackles issues around grief, terrorism, racism and bullying. Multiple book award nominee.
Long Way Down	Jason Reynolds	Coming-of-age; Siblings; Bereavement; Personal/social issues; Diversity; Free verse	When Shawn, the beloved big brother of 15-year-old Will, is shot dead, Will is ready to follow "the rules" and get revenge. After finding his brother's gun, he gets in the lift from his home on the seventh floor with Shawn's gun -and so begins a surreal journey of discovery, guided by the ghosts of other dead people in Will's life.
What I was	Meg Rosoff	Coming-of-age; Romance; Friendship; Mystery; Boarding school	The narrator lives a spartan existence in a grim boarding school, one day he glimpses Finn, a teenager who lives alone in a hut by the sea. She becomes infatuated by the beautiful Finn and the freedom and romance his lifestyle represents and is drawn into his life until eventually events take a more dangerous turn.
Can You See Me?	Libby Scott	Diary; Autism; Bullying; Friendship; Feelings; Self-acceptance	Starting secondary school is a daunting time for any 11-year-old and Natalia is no exception. This is a powerful, readable and relatable story about trying to fit in. Along the way, a host of assumptions and stereotypes about autism are smashed.
Between Shades of Gray	Ruta Sepetys	Historical fiction; Survival; Deportation; Serbia; Love	Set in 1941, Between Shades of Grey is an extraordinary and haunting story based on first-hand family accounts and memories from survivors. The plot contains graphic violence. Carnegie Award medallist
A Series of Unfortunate Events series, The Bad Beginning	Lemony Snickett	Humour; Family; Adventure; Abuse; Bereavement	The comically dark tale centres around three children, Violet, Klaus and baby Sunny, whose parents are killed in a fire which also destroys their home - a tragic event which sets the tone for the rest of the book.
Star Girl	Jerry Spinelli	Teen; Freedom; Love; School; Popularity	This is the story about the perils of popularity, the courage of nonconformity, and the thrill of first love, an eccentric pupil named Stargirl changes Mica Area High School forever.
Like a Girl	Rebecca Westcott	Social media; School; Peer pressure; Bullying;	A powerful, contemporary teen novel about the courage to be yourself in the face of online and in-school peer pressure.

The Art of Being Normal	Lisa Williamson	Comin-of-age; Family; Friendship; LGBTQIA+; Love	David Piper has always been an outsider, labelled a freak by the school bully. Only his two best friends know the real truth - David wants to be a girl.
Being Miss Nobody	Tamsin Winter	Teen; Bullying; Disability; Speech Impairment; Cancer; Bereavement	Rosalind hates her new school. She's the weird girl who doesn't talk. The Mute-ant. And it's easy to pick on someone who doesn't fight back. So, Rosalind starts a blog - Miss Nobody; a place to speak up. But is Miss Nobody becoming a bully herself?
I am Malala	Malala Yousafzai	Coming-of-age; Human Rights; Afghanistan	This is the real-life story of one of the most incredible and inspirational young people in the world. Reading this book might just change the way you think and feel.
Terror Kid	Benjamin Zephaniah	Community; Justice; Anger; Racism; Terrorism	Rico is honest, hardworking and very angry. His Roma background marks him out as a suspect and makes it hard not to be in the wrong place at the wrong time. Rico's feelings of powerlessness and marginalisation will be familiar to many young people. A powerful, accessible and revelatory novel with its finger firmly on the pulse of contemporary social and political issues.

Adventure/Action

Alice's Adventures in Wonderland	Lewis Carrroll	Adventure; Fantasy; Funny; Classic	Alice lives an ordinary life, until the day she finds herself in the wonderful world of mad tea parties and remarkable characters. This text is also published under the title Alice in Wonderland.
Flood Child	Emily Diamand	Adventure; Rescue; Abduction; Pirates	Flooded England, 2216...most of it is under water. Bloodthirsty pirates prowl the shores, and when they kidnap the Prime Minister's daughter it looks like war. Diamand poses many serious questions in her exciting adventure and Lilly is an extremely likable heroine. Wier of the Times Children's Fiction Competition.
The Count of Monte Cristo	Alexandre Dumas	Adventure; Revenge; Classic; War; Romance; Secrets	In this abridged edition, young sailor Edmund Dantes escapes from the island fortress where he has been imprisoned for treason, then sets out to discover the treasure of Monte Cristo and seek revenge against the people who falsely accused him.
In the Sea there are Crocodiles	Fabio Geda	Adventure; Survival; Biography; Coming-of-age; human rights; Middle East; Refugees	First published in Italian, the story of Enaiatollah Akbari's journey from Afghanistan to Italy has now been translated into English.

Lord of the Flies	William Golding	Adventure; Classic; Survival; Savagery	Shipwrecked English schoolboys set up their own civilisation, but savagery finally emerges.
Bone Talk	Candy Gourlay	Adventure; Philippines; Coming-of-age; Historical fiction; Human rights; Spirituality; Diversity	Samkad is a boy from a remote Filipino "head-hunter" tribe called Bontok in the highlands of the Philippines, back in around 1899 - on the brink of invasion by American invaders. A brilliant, exciting and fascinating adventure story. Costa Award and Carnegie Award medallist.
The Secret Garden	Frances Hodgson Burnett	Adventure; Fantasy; Disability; Wheelchair; Family; Social issues; Orphans	When the spoilt and bad-tempered Mary is orphaned at the age of ten, she is sent from India to live with her hunchback uncle on the Yorkshire Moors. This classic novel is a satisfying and absorbing read.
The Star of Kazan	Eva Ibbotson	Adventure; Historical fiction; Adoption; Bereavement; Foster care;	Rescued by a Viennese cook, an abandoned baby girl is taken to the house of three eccentric professors, where she is raised by the servants. Then suddenly, her mother arrives to claim her... Multiple award nominee.
The Garbage King	Elizabeth Laird	Adventure; Friendship; Coming-of-age; Human rights; Homelessness; Africa; Running away; Survival	This pacy Coming-of-age adventure concentrates on the private hopes, dreams and feelings that drive its characters along, but also keeps enough sense of the gritty realities of street life.
The Dog Runner	Bren McDibble	Adventure; Danger; Survival; Family; Dystopia; Diversity; Animals-dogs	A perilous adventure with dystopian and environmental themes that cut unnervingly close to potential reality, The Dog Runner is a tense, thrilling adventure full of close calls, but also glowing with heart, whether it's the relationship between Ella and Emery or their love for the "doggos" helping them get to where they need to be.
The Girl of Ink and Stars	Kiran Millwood Hargrave	Adventure; Fantasy; Family; Mystery; Detective; Islands; Cartography	When her closest friend disappears into the island's Forgotten Territories, Isabella Riosse volunteers to guide the search. A stunning debut, full of myth, magic and mapmaking. Winner of the Waterstones Children's Book Prize.
Trash	Andy Mulligan	Politics; Detectives; Poverty; Secrets	Fourteen-year-olds Raphael and Gardo team up with a younger boy, Rat, to figure out the mysteries surrounding a bag Raphael finds during their daily life of sorting through trash in a Third World country's dump. Carnegie Award medallist.

No Fixed Address	Susin Nielsen	Coming-of-age; Funny; Inclusive; Bullying; Family; Friendship; Moving home; Human rights; School; Mental health; Feelings	Felix hasn't always lived in a van. In fact, there was a time when his life was happy, settled and secure. And, to be fair, living in the van over the summer had been fun. A bit of an adventure.
Where the World Turns Wild	Nicola Penfold	Adventure; Family; Dystopia; Science-fiction; Animals; Environment; Siblings	This engaging environmental dystopia chronicles a journey of adventure, wonder and discovery. A story that invites questions about the fine line between right and wrong, and the interaction between humans and nature.
Hatchet	Harry Paulsen	Adventure; Abandoned; Survival; Wilderness; Plane crash	After a plane crash, thirteen-year-old Brian spends 54 days in the wilderness, learning to survive, initially with only the aid of a hatchet given to him by his mother, and learning also to survive his parents' divorce.
Pigeon Post	Arthur Ransome	Classic; Exploration; Friendship; Camping; Danger	The Swallows, Amazons and two friends explore the fells to find gold, but their exploration is hindered by troublesome adults, a rival prospector and fires, amongst other things. Carnegie Award medallist
Treasure Island	R.L Stevenson	Adventure; Classic; Pirates; Oceans; Ships; Romance	This classic presents a tale of piracy on the tropical seas, of treachery and greed combined with romance, treasure and adventure.
Clean Getaway	Nick Stone	Adventure; Historical fiction; Crime; Human rights; Prejudice; Friendship; Diversity	One day, Scoob's Grandma turns up at his house and invites him on a road trip - retracing the steps of a trip she took with his late grandpa. This is a satisfying, timeless read about a family's history which intersects with the American civil rights movement, and reminds readers of the impact of racism and intolerance.
The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn	Mark Twain	Adventure; Classic; Rivers; Sailing	Huckleberry Finn, a sequel to Tom Sawyer, is a classic of American literature and Mark Twain's masterpiece. Its background is the Mississippi, and there is a marvellous picture of the great river as Huck on his raft drifts down it to adventure.
Girl Boy Sea	Chris Vick	Adventure; Survival; Friendship; Shipwreck; Refugees	After a storm wrecks the boats they are travelling on, Aya and Bill try to survive together on a small boat lost at sea.
Blood Hunter	Steve Voake	Adventure; Discovery; Exploration; Murder; Jungles	In the Mexican jungle a scientific team prepares to embark on an exploration of the world's deepest sinkhole; a naturally-formed underwater shaft that no one has ever reached the bottom of. What they are about to discover could change the world forever.

Humour/Comedy

Future Friends	David Baddiel	Animals-Parrots; Cats; Loneliness; Humour; Friends; Science Fiction-Future; Time Travel;	It's year 3020. Pip is lonely. After exploring a glowing ring in a lab, she suddenly finds herself in a warehouse in 2019. There she meets boy-inventor Rahul, also lonely, and together they try to find a way to get her back to the future.
The terrible Thing That Happened to Barnaby Brocket	John Boyne	Adventure; Family; Fantasy; Funny	Barnaby Brocket has an unusual gift: he defies the law of gravity and floats. Embarrassed by their child's 'abnormality', his parents set out to keep his feet on the ground.
15 Days Without a Head	Dave Cousins	Family; Community; Alcohol Abuse; Single Parents; Brothers	Fifteen-year-old Laurence's mother is an alcoholic. Life sucks for him and his little brother, Jay. How far will he go to keep his family together?
Waiting for Gonzo	Dave Cousins	Humour; Coming-of-age; family; Friendship; Pregnancy	Dave Cousins has created a distinctive narrator in Oz, as well as a hugely believable cast of supporting characters in this heart-warming and humorous novel. Dealing with some serious issues, Waiting for Gonzo manages to be simultaneously funny and thought-provoking, and the relationship between Oz and his sister is particularly well drawn.
Framed	Frank Cottrell Boyce	Humour; Adventure; Art	The story centres on Dylan Hughes, the only boy left in a small Welsh mountain town called Manod. This is an immensely entertaining book, about the power of art to bring about change and to redeem.
Going Solo	Roald Dahl	Adventure-Travel; Africa; Autobiographies; World War II	A marvellous evocation of Roald Dahl's wartime exploits.
Boy	Roald Dahl	Authors; Writers; Community Life-School; Family Life-Growing Up; Children	Tales of his childhood by the author of Charlie and the Chocolate Factory.
Wink	Rob Harrell	Teen; Resilience; True Story; Cancer	Last summer, Ross was diagnosed with a rare form of eye cancer. He's just started radiotherapy and, now school term has begun, he's become the 'cancer kid'. Aside from figuring out what having cancer means for him, he also has to deal with everyone looking at

			him, his friends freaking out and, perhaps worst of all, the embarrassing side effects of his treatment.
Yo! Dairy!	Jonathan Meres	Emotion; Life-Changes; Funny	When Mr "Hey, call me Dave" Sissons suggests that 5B keep a diary for a whole year, reactions are decidedly mixed. YO! DIARY! grants us exclusive access to all areas of six very different fifteen-year-old minds.
Angus, Thongs and Full-Frontal Snogging, Book #1 of Confessions of Georgia Nicolson Series	Louise Rennison	Journal; Love; Coming-of-age	This book presents the humorous journal of a year in the life of a fourteen-year-old British girl who tries to reduce the size of her nose, stop her mad cat from terrorizing the neighbourhood animals, and win the love of handsome hunk Robbie.
Look Both Ways	Jason Reynolds	Short Stories; Friendship; School	Ten short stories about that strange time when school finishes and children of a certain age (usually around ten years old) get to walk home without adult supervision. Jason Reynolds' writing is gripping, direct, exciting and incredibly readable.
The Boy Who Made Everyone Laugh	Helen Rutter	Bullying; self-discovery; Grief; Disability-Stammer; Diversity	Billy's starting secondary school. It's a different one from most of his primary school classmates, but that suits him just fine - Billy's keen for a fresh start. He has a stammer, and he's determined that it isn't going to dictate how he is viewed at this new school. An accessible and feel-good story, with an authentic voice.
The Boy Whose Wishes Came True	Helen Rutter	Friendship; Bullying; Family; Fantasy	Archie Crumb doesn't have much luck. His father prefers his new family, and he lives with his mother who is severely depressed, meaning he has to fend for himself. Life is tough, until the most unlikely fairy godfather ever, Archie's favourite footballer, turns up and gives him nine wishes that really seem to come true.
Reggie Houser has the Power	Helen Rutter	Neurodiversity; ADHD; school; Friendship	Reggie describes his ADHD brain as being like a fizzy sweet rather than a boring loaf of bread. But it also means he finds it incredibly hard to manage his energy, his time and belongings and

			his over-busy mind. He's always accidentally getting into trouble and, above all, he's lonely, having really struggled to fit in.
Holes	Louis Sachar	Humour; Friends; Mystery	As further evidence of his family's bad fortune, which they attribute to a curse on a distant relative, Stanley is sent to a hellish correctional camp in the Texas desert. Book contains violence.
Small Steps	Louis Sachar	Music; Friendship; Illness; African American people	Three years after being released from Camp Green Lake, Armpit is trying hard to keep his life on track. But when his old pal X-Ray shows up with a tempting plan to make some easy money scalping concert tickets, Armpit reluctantly goes along.
A Boy and a Bear in a Boat	Dave Shelton	Adventure; Animals; Friendship	Both a warm and appealing story about the nature of friendship, and a surreal adventure packed with lively humour, this unusual tale will capture the imaginations of both children and adults alike.
How to Save the World with a Chicken and an Egg	Emma Shevah	Neurodiversity; Animals; Environmental Issues; Fantasy	This charming and heartfelt story stars two wonderfully-drawn characters determined to make positive change in the world. Their desire to protect wildlife and the environment often feels like an impossible task, but they learn every small step makes a difference.
The Secret Diary of Adrian Mole 13 3/4	Sue Townsend	Diary; Teen; Coming-of-age Funny; Classics; Bullying; Family; Friendship; School; Personal; social issues; Relationships	Through Adrian's diary, we hear him speak openly about spots, girls, school and a troubling family life: all the time, convinced that he is a genius and that nobody in the world can possibly understand him. A Coming-of-age must-read.
Finding Violet Park	Jenny Valentine	Coming-of-age; Mystery; Family; missing persons	In possession of an urn with ashes, sixteen-year-old Lucas becomes convinced that its occupant, Violet Park, is communicating with him, initiating a voyage of self-discovery that forces him to confront the events surrounding his father's disappearance. Winner of the Guardian Fiction Prize and Carnegie Award medallist.
<h2>War/Conflict</h2>			
Heroic	Phil Earle	War; Personal; Social Issues; Conflict; Family Life-Brothers; Afghanistan War	This is the harrowing tale of two brothers, Jammy and Sonny, whose lives are changed forever after Jammy joins the army and is sent to Afghanistan to fight for his country.

When the Sky Falls	Phil Earle	Gorillas; Family Life-Death/Bereavement; Learning Difficulties-Dyslexia; Adventure	War is raging, and Joseph has been sent to the city. There, Joseph lives with Mrs F, a gruff woman with no fondness for children. Her only loves are the rundown zoo she owns and its mighty silverback gorilla, Adonis. Carnegie Award medallist and Book of The Year (the British Book Awards).
I am David	Anne Holm	War; Politics; Resilience; adventure; Danger	When "the man" helps David escape from the prison camp where he has lived all his life, David can't quite believe it. Everything in the world outside is strange and wonderful. But he knows that at any moment "they" might catch up with him.
Girl 38: Finding a Friend	Ewa Jozefkowicz	War; Coming-of-age; Bullying; Friendship; Human rights; Feelings	The intertwining stories of school friendships and frenemies, World War Two Poland, and the otherworldly Science-fiction setting of Girl 38's planetary exploration sounds like a strange mix, but works perfectly.
Welcome to Nowhere	Elizabeth Laird	War; Immigration; refugees; Asylum	Laird, as always, takes on a complex international issue and deftly translates it for younger readers. While clearly about the Syrian civil war and refugee crisis, this book is perfect for developing understanding amongst children and teenagers regarding conflict and the resulting exodus of people anywhere.
Buffalo Soldier	Tanya Landman	Running away; Frontier; Enslaved people; Indigenous Americans; Racism	After being freed from slavery, Charlotte decides to join the US army in the guise of a man and changes her name to Charley. She is sent to the American frontier to fight native American Indian tribes, where death is always near at hand. A moving, gritty and convincing teenage historical drama where love and loyalty take on prejudice and greed.
Private Peaceful	Michael Morpurgo	War; Historical Fiction; Bravery; Love; Brothers; Rural	Private Thomas Peaceful is only eighteen but he has seen the horrors of war and experienced the full weight of its unfairness. Multiple book award nominee.
Salt to the Sea	Ruta Sepetys	Immigration; Refugees; War	For this book, Sepetys exhaustively researched the devastating sinking of the Wilhelm Gustloff, a German evacuation ship, in which an estimated 9,000 people drowned. Her fictional account of this tragic event is brilliantly written and tremendously sad.
Nisha's War	Dan Smith	Hearing impairment; Emigration; Refugees; Gender Identity; Racism; Global Issues	Starring an Anglo-Indian refugee and her family's experience of WWII, the story of Nisha navigating her new world on Barrow

			Island and searching for the mysterious treasures is interwoven with diary entries recounting her traumatic journey. A captivating story of hope and courage, blending together themes of the war experience, family and the ghosts we carry with us.
The Book Thief	Markus Zusac	World War 11; Historical; Adventure; Crime; Death; Bereavement	Trying to make sense of the horrors of World War II, Death relates the story of Liesel, a young German girl whose book-stealing and story-telling talents help sustain her family and the Jewish man they are hiding, as well as their neighbours.
<h2>Science-Fiction/Fantasy</h2>			
The Hitch-Hiker's Guide to the Galaxy	Douglas Adams	Science-fiction; humour; Classic; Androids	The insanely funny, satiric bestseller about the end of the world and the days that follow it. Authur Dent must find a new home after the world is destroyed, to make way for the new hyperspatial express route.
City of Bones Book #1 The Mortal Instruments	Cassandra Claire	Adventure; Coming-of-age; Fantasy; Family; Friendship; Romance; Demons, Vampires; Werewolves	The first in the popular Mortal Instruments series, this novel is sure to grip teenage fans of urban fantasy and dark romance. Exciting and fast-paced, it will keep readers on the edge of their seats and leave them eager to read the next instalment of Clary's story.
The Hunger Games, Book #1, The Hunger Games	Suzanne Collins	Dystopia; Adventure	In a future North America, where rulers of Panem maintain control through an annual survival competition, 16-year-old Katniss's skills are tested in an arena filled with dangerous challenges. Book has graphic violence. The first in the ground-breaking Hunger Games trilogy, this bestselling book set a trend for dystopian novels for young adults. This is also a series of films.
The Dark is Rising	Susan Cooper	Science Fiction; Fantasy; Classic	This is probably one of the greatest fantasy sequences ever written. Darkly magical and intense Cooper weaves her storytelling wonder over fully realised characters and worlds, drawing in the reader and leading them on a journey that will leave them clambering for the rest of the series.
Fake	Ele Fountain	Sci-Fi; Adventure; Coming-of-age; Dystopia; Friendship; Computers Rescue; Crime; Crisis	A timely and thrilling adventure about the ways in which global technology giants can manipulate every aspect of our lives - and even reality itself. This pacey dystopia cleverly examines the idea of a world where digital identity is everything. Jess and her peers

			learn some hard lessons about friendship, trust and standing up for what they know to be right.
Grimm's Fairy Tales	Jacob ad Wilhelm Grimm	Folklore; Fairy Tales; Horror; Thriller; Classic	The Brothers Grimm gather a treasury of folk and fairy stories full of giants, dwarfs, witches, princesses, magical beasts and cunning children.
The Black Book of Secrets	FE Higgins	Fantasy; Adventure; Mystery; Magic; redemption; forgiveness; justice	An original and fascinating book by a talented writer, which explores themes of trust, redemption, forgiveness and natural justice in the context of a dark and gripping mystery. Multiple book award nominee.
The Loneliest girl in the Universe	Lauren James	Thriller; Romance; Science-fiction; Mental Health	Romy is the only surviving crew member on a spaceship bound for a new planet. She is the loneliest girl in the universe until she hears that a second ship has launched, holding a single passenger named J. Warning: not for younger readers.
Jake's Tower	Elizabeth Laird	Teen; Coming-of-age; Brutality; Domestic abuse; Dreams; Fantasy	This short novel skilfully tackles the difficult subject of domestic violence, and Jake is a brave, convincing character, full of maturity and passion. Carnegie Award Medallist.
The Knife of Never Letting Go, Book #1, Chaos Walking	Patrick Ness	Fantasy; Journey; Science-fiction; Human rights; Coming-of-age; Relationships	The first in a series, this enthralling Science-fiction novel grips readers throughout, presenting them with tough questions about identity, ethics and the nature of truth. Winner of the 2008 BookTrust Teenage Prize.
Monsters of men, Book #3 Chaos Walking	Patrick Ness	Thriller; Adventure, Dystopia; Science-Fiction; Trilogy of books	The electrifying finale to the award-winning Chaos Walking trilogy, Monsters of Men is a heart-stopping novel about power, survival, and the devastating realities of war.
A Monster Calls	Patrick Ness	Fairy Tales; Legends; Bullying; Bereavement; Fear; Coming-of-age	Visceral, dark, sad, beautiful, hopeful and really, really angry, this is a beautifully structured, dense, layered novel about the monster that touches us all at some point. This extraordinary book was the first ever to win both the CILIP Carnegie and the CILIP Kate Greenaway Medals.
Nineteen Eighty-Four	George Orwell	Dystopia; Classic; Social Issues; Violence; Inequality	Winston lives in a nightmare world where Big Brother sees all, and even thinking the wrong thing can lead to torture and death. When he meets a strong-minded woman at work, can the two of them live happily together, and will others keep their secret?

Animal Farm	George Orwell	Fantasy; Greed; Power; Humour	Politically-minded farm animals spark a revolution against their human master and establish a new government that fails because of a corrupt leader tempted by greed and power.
Eragon, Book #1, The Inheritance Cycle	Christopher Paolini	Adventure; Exploration; Fantasy; Dragons	An epic Tolkien-flavoured adventure. At its heart is the central relationship between Eragon and his dragon Saphira, who communicate telepathically.
His Dark Materials, Book #1 in the trilogy	Philip Pullman	Fantasy; Magical Realism	Full of surprises, scares and twists, the novel follows the coming of age of two children, Lyra Belacqua and Will Parry, as they wander through a series of parallel universes.
Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children, Book #1	Ransom Riggs	Fantasy; Supernatural; Paranormal; Horror; Time-Travel; Series of 6 books	When sixteen-year-old Jacob discovers an abandoned orphanage, he learns the children who lived there may have been dangerous and quarantined and may also still be alive. The plot contains mild profanity, sexual references, and violence.
Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief, Book #1	Rick Riordan	Fantasy; Myth; Adventure; Humour; Dyslexia; Disability; Series of 7 books	In this leftfield comic fantasy novel, 12-year-old Percy Jackson discovers that the Greek gods of Olympus are alive and living in modern-day New York, and that his true father is Poseidon, the Greek god of the sea.
Divergent, Book #1, Divergent Series	Veronica Roth	Fantasy; Social Issues; Dystopia; Violence	Often violent and disturbing, the novel is concerned with becoming an individual, facing your fears and finding your place in the world - and there's a teenage romance too. This has also been made into a film.
The Midnight Palace	Carlos Ruiz Zafon	; Coming-of-age; Thriller; Bereavement; Fear; Friendship; Relationships	This tense, haunting and gruesome fantasy thriller moves at a remarkable pace between a ruined palace, a ghostly railway station and an abandoned mansion with the city of Calcutta featuring as a character almost as strongly as the secret society at its heart. Inspired, unexpected and, at times, desperately sad, this is compelling reading for teens.
The Land of Neverendings	Kate Saunders	Funny; Bereavement; Family; Magic; Everyday life	Emily's sister Holly has died, and nothing will ever be the same at home: Holly's bedroom is an empty cave that Emily is scared to

			walk past at night. Emily's also just started at secondary school, and she doesn't understand why her best friend Maze is ignoring her, just when she needs her the most. Winner of the Costa Children's Book Award.
The Alchemist, Book #1, The Secrets of The Immortal Nicholas Flamel Series	Michael Scott	Fantasy; Magic; Twins; Rivalry; Danger	While working at summer jobs, 15-year-old twins, Sophie and Josh, find themselves caught up in a deadly, centuries-old struggle between rival alchemists, Nicholas Flamel and John Dee, over the possession of an ancient book containing secret formulas.
The Ghosts of Heaven	Marcus Sedgewick	Stone Age; Oceans; Future	One book - four stories, set in different times and different places. Each quarter has similar themes running throughout - spirals, philosophy, the written word and mental health to name a few. Carnegie Award medallist.
The Shadowmancer	G.P Taylor	Fantasy; Magic Adventure-Saving the World; Friendship; Bravery; Folklore; Legends; Fairy Tales	Obadiah Demurrall seems to be a man of God, but is really a sorcerer who is seeking to control the highest power in the universe. He will stop at nothing. The only people in his way are Raphah, Kate, Thomas and the mysterious Jacob Crane.
Malamander	Thomas Taylor	Fantasy; Magic; Adventure; Mystery; Family; Missing persons; Monsters	Supernatural elements and a steampunk feel combine to make this a fun, mystery-filled adventure with lots of spine-tingling twists and turns. It's peopled with lots of unusual characters and quirky places, while Herbie is a reluctant hero with a mysterious history of his own to be discovered.
<h2>Mystery/Thriller</h2>			
The Inheritance Games, Book #1	Jennifer Lynn Barnes	Teens; Mystery; Detectives; Wealth; Puzzles	Thirteen-year-old Marnus finds himself at the centre of a protest when he and a girl named Leila camp out in a tree to prevent it from being cut down by developers. This is the perfect feel-good book from one of South Africa's top children's authors.
Pig Heart Boy	Malorie Blackman	Mystery; Friendships; Family; Coming-of-age; Social issues; Illness	Cameron desperately needs a new heart when he is offered the opportunity to take part in a radical and controversial experiment involving the transplant of a pig's heart.

The Road of the Dead	Kevin Brooks	Thriller; Adventure; Murder; Exploration	Two brothers, sons of an incarcerated gypsy, leave London travelling to a desolate isolated village in search of the brutal killer of their sister. Carnegie Medal Award nominee.
The Bunker Diary	Kevin Brooks	Imprisonment; Crime; Kidnapping; Thriller	Linus wakes up in a cold, dark, underground bunker with no recollection of how he got there. Brooks makes us share the terror, confusion and claustrophobia they experience, and feel emotionally invested in their survival. Winner of the Carnegie Medal.
Looking for JJ	Anne Cassidy	Crime; Coming-of-age; Bereavement; Mothers	When a 10-year-old girl kills her best friend, she is convicted of manslaughter and locked away. Seven years later she is released on licence with a new identity. this is a brilliant and disturbing piece of writing, that looks beyond the headlines and forces the reader to confront and question some of their own attitudes to contemporary issues.
The Hound of the Baskervilles	Arthur Conan Doyle	Mystery; Classic; Horror, Murder; Thriller; Werewolves	Sherlock Holmes and Watson set out to solve the mystery that had haunted the Baskerville family for years and had recently occurred again.
Genesis, Book #1, River of Ink	Helen Denis	Coming-of-age; Mystery; Fathers; Foster care; Magic; Mothers	River Boy is washed up on the banks of the River Thames, unable to find his voice or memory. The only things he can draw on are his visions and mysterious symbols. An exciting first book in a trilogy.
The Tulip Touch	Anne Fine	Friendship; Behaviour; School	Natalie is the only one who doesn't seem to care about Tulip's strange behaviour, but even she begins to realise that it is going too far. Multiple book award nominee.
The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time	Mark Haddon	Crime; Mystery; Neurodiversity; thriller; Coming-of-age	Seen through the eyes of Christopher, a mathematical genius and Sherlock Holmes fan, who also has Asperger's syndrome, this bestselling novel opens with the discovery of a murdered dog on the neighbour's lawn. Winner of multiple book awards.
The Lie Tree	Frances Hardinge	Lying; Bereavement; Secrets; Adventure; Fantasy; Thriller	When Faith's father dies under mysterious circumstances it is up to her to uncover the truth with the help of one of her father's plants: a tree that feeds on lies. A sense of isolation and mystery radiates off every page as the gripping tale twists towards its thrilling climax. An exhilarating read. Carnegie Award medallist.

The Woman in Black	Susan Hill	Thriller; Ghosts; Secrets; Classic	When a young solicitor is sent to attend to the paperwork of the late Alice Drablow, he finds himself in a spooky old house at the end of a causeway. Who is the mysterious woman in black he keeps seeing and what is her terrible secret?
The Falcon's Malteser	Anthony Horowitz	Crime; Humour; Mystery; Murder; funny	When Johnny Naples entrusts Tim Diamond with a package worth over a million pounds he's making a big mistake. For Tim is probably the worst detective in the world. Next day, Johnny's dead, Tim gets the blame and his brother, Nick, has the package.
A Good Girl's Guide to Murder Series	Holly Jackson	Thriller; Murder; Mystery; Adventure; Romance	A Good Girl's Guide to Murder is an exciting read, filled with enough twists, turns and red herrings to keep the reader on the edge of their seat right up to the finish line. Cleverly plotted, it's filled with interesting, diverse characters, incredible tension, developing romance and a good smattering of humour.
High Rise Mystery	Sharna Jackson	Whodunnit; Mystery; Adventure; Diversity	High-Rise Mystery is the perfect 'whodunnit'. As the two girls sift through red herrings and reveal a series of tower block secrets, short snappy sentences and sparkling dialogue will keep readers turning the pages. A mystery as hot as the summer heatwave in which it's set! Multiple book awards nominee.
To Kill a Mockingbird	Harper Lee	Mystery; Ethics; Prejudice; Violence	Two children witness the effects of racial prejudice as their father courageously defends an innocent black man who has been accused of raping a white woman. Book contains racial bias, racial slurs and mild profanity. Award Nominees-Pulitzer Prize
The Giver, Book #1	Lois Lowry	Science-Fiction; Mystery; Telepathy; Series of 4 books	While training to be the Receiver of Memory, Jonas experiences joy and sadness for the first time. He becomes convinced his society has given up too much, and he can no longer accept the sameness. Multiple book award nominee.
Girl Missing	Sophie McKenzie	Mystery; Adventure; Adoption; Family	When Lauren starts to research her adoption, she learns some dark truths about her past and her adoptive parent's involvement. Carnegie Award nominee and Richard and Judy's Children's Book Winner.
One of Us is Lying	Karen McManus	Crime; Murder; Romance; Thriller; Mental health; Social Media	When the creator of a school gossip app mysteriously dies in front of four high-profile students, all four become suspects. It is up to

			them to solve the case. The plot contains profanity, sexual references, and negative stereotypes.
Grass	Cathy McPhial	Crime; Adventure; Danger Bravery; Gangs; Violence	Leo gets involved in Scotland's criminal world after he witnesses a murder but decides not to grass.
Of Mice and Men	John Steinbeck	Dreams; Loneliness; Friendship; Crime	Rough-tongued, ribald men yearn for land of their own while working on a ranch in California's Salinas Valley.
Murder Most Unladylike Series	Robin Stevens	Historical; Crime; Mystery; Friendship; School	There's been a rather shocking murder at Deepdean School for Girls - but luckily, young detectives Daisy Wells and Hazel Wong are on the case!
Stone cold	Robert Swindells	Mystery; Crime; Thriller; Survival	When he runs away from his stepfather, Link has to sleep rough. But children are disappearing from London streets. Will Link be next? Contains some violence and sexual innuendo. Carnegie Award medallist.
The Goldfish Boy	Lisa Thompson	Mystery; Inclusive; Humour; OCD; whodunnit	Matthew has Obsessive Compulsive Disorder. Can he help an investigation into the abduction of a child, perhaps without even leaving his house? A captivating read, combining a compelling whodunit with an engaging protagonist.
The Scarecrows	Robert Westall	Danger; Ghosts; Thriller; Horror	While reluctantly spending the summer at his stepfather's house, Simon Wood takes refuge from family pressures in the old mill house across the field. It's been empty since 1943, but somehow Simon knows there is more to the mill than meets the eye. Carnegie Award medallist.
Wolf Hollow	Lauren Wolk	Bullying; Community; Homelessness; Family; Social Issues	Annabelle is a target for school bully Betty for no good reason. When a mean trick turns sour, it begins a terrible chain of events. When Betty chooses the local loner as her scapegoat, Annabelle makes it her mission to prove his innocence. Carnegie Award medallist.

Animals

Watership Down	Richard Adams	Classic; Rabbits; Survival; Adventure, Fear, Illness	In spite of its rabbit characters, there is nothing fluffy or gentle about this gripping tale of perilous adventure which won both the Guardian Children's Fiction Prize and the Carnegie Medal.
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			Beautifully evoking the Berkshire countryside in poetic language, it is an exciting, moving and powerful novel.
The Boy Who Swan with Piranhas	David Almond	Animals; Adventure; Fairground; Coming-of-age; Friendship; Family	Multi-award-winning author David Almond returns with this pleasingly eccentric story of an ordinary boy who embarks on an unusual adventure. Full of surreal, fairy-tale touches, this is a joyful and warm story of self-discovery, perfectly accompanied by the quirky illustrations by Oliver Jeffers.
Lost Riders	Elizabeth Laird	Animals; Ethics; Pakistan; Saudi Arabia; Enslaved people; Child abuse; Racing	A powerful and challenging story, this title is ideal for children with an interest in social issues and the lives of others across the world. Fast and full of Suspense.
The Call of the Wild	Jack London	Animals; Wolves; Classic	Rugged outdoor story of the sled dog, Buck, who was mistreated by his master and broke free to roam the Alaskan wilderness.
War Horse	Michael Morpurgo	Horses; World War 1; Survival; Rural life	In England, Albert is growing up on a Devon farm with his young horse, Joey. However, Albert, Joey and many other people will all be drawn into the nightmare of war as they all struggle to survive in the blasted wilderness of the Western Front.
Running Wild	Michael Morpurgo	Animals; Orang-utans; Elephants; Adventure; Survival; Indonesia; Bereavement; Rainforests; Tsunami	The adventures of a boy called Will carried deep into the Indonesian jungle by an elephant called Oona as a tsunami strikes the resort where he is staying with his mum.
Pax	Penny Packer	Animals; Adventure; Coming-of-age; War; Friendship; Nature	Peter's dad is joining the war, and Peter must leave his pet fox Pax behind. This is a touching story of the bond between a child and his pet, as well as the devastating and often unseen consequences of war.
Dreaming the Bear	Mimi Thebo	Animal; Nature; Moving home; Coming-of-age; Dreams and reality; Snow	The line between dreams and reality blur when a vulnerable young teenager finds herself face to face with a bear in Yellowstone Park. Mimi Thebo's story is a mixture of dreamy scenery, awesome wildlife and Coming-of-age dilemmas. Mimi Thebo's story is a mixture of dreamy scenery, awesome wildlife and Coming-of-age dilemmas.

Horror/Gothic Novel

Wolf	Gillian Cross	Horror; Mystery; Family; Wolf; Thriller: Secrets	Cassy becomes deeply involved in presenting a theatrical event for children on wolves. But soon, Cassy begins to sense a very real and terrifying wolf stalking her.
The Company of Ghosts	Berlie Doherty	Adventure; Mystery; Ghost story; Family; Friendship	When Morag falls ill and Ellie finds herself alone on the island, day after day, she begins to sense another presence. Ellie notices small changes to her paintings... and when she's lost a fire lights her way home--is it just her fevered imagination? Carnegie Award medallist.
The Graveyard Book	Neil Gaiman	Horror; Ghost story; Coming-of-age; Fantasy; Adventure	After his family are killed, Bod is brought up in a graveyard by ghosts - an array of century-spanning characters who care for him, impart wisdom and even teach body-fading skills. Winner of the BookTrust Teenage Prize.
Tinder	Sally Gardner	Fairy Tale; Good vs Evil; Werewolves	Set during the Thirty Years War, this is the story of young soldier Otto Hundebiss who cheats Death on the battlefield, but soon finds himself on a new and dangerous path. A mysterious creature in the forest - half-man, half-beast - presents him with a pair of enchanted shoes and some dice, which soon lead him into a strange web of dark magic and mystery.
Gone, Book #1, Gone series	Michael Grant	Ethics; Morality; Freedoms; Mystery; Supernatural	Fourteen-year-old Sam Templeton is having a completely normal day until his teacher disappears in the middle of a class. But he soon discovers that it isn't only their teacher who is gone - everyone over the age of fifteen has inexplicably disappeared from the small town of Perdido Beach.
Skulduggery Pleasant Series	Derek Landy	Adventure; Coming-of-age; Fantasy; Ghost story; Horror; Funny; Mystery; Myths and legends; Thriller; Family; Fear; Friendship; Monsters	There's non-stop action, a striking cast of spooky, evil and/or deformed characters, spine-tingling horror and tension with smart, snappy dialogue, and the overlap between real and supernatural worlds cleverly handled. A gripping, funny, spooky read.

Twilight, Book #1 The Twilight Saga	Stephanie Meyer	Fantasy; Vampires; Romance; Moving area; Thriller; School	When seventeen-year-old Bella leaves Phoenix to live with her father in Forks, Washington, she meets an exquisitely handsome boy at school for whom she feels an overwhelming attraction and who she comes to realise is not wholly human.
Uncle Montague's Tales of Terror	Chris Priestley	Ghost story; Horror; Short story; Thriller	These spine-tingling stories-within-a-story are the stuff of childhood nightmares, with a good smattering of ghosts, demons, blood and gore.
Witch Child	Celia Rees	Adventure; Danger; Community Life; Prejudice; Horror; Thriller; Witches; Warlocks	In 1659, fourteen-year-old Mary Newbury keeps a journal of her voyage from England to the New World and her experiences living as a witch in a community of Puritans near Salem, Massachusetts.
Goth Girl and the Ghost of a Mouse	Chris Riddell	Adventure; Fantasy; Ghost story; Historical; Funny; Friendship	Fans of Chris Riddell's Ottoline books will love this quirky story about young heroine Ada Goth. A delightful adventure full of fun and humour that readers of all ages can enjoy. Winner of the Costa Book Awards.
Midwinterblood	Marcus Sedgwick	Thriller; Future; Love; Human rights	In seven stories that take place on the strange island of Blessed, two souls seek each other over a period of a thousand years. Beginning in the future, each story delves deeper into the past. The winner of the 2007 BookTrust Teenage Prize has created a dark, compelling novel, skilfully structured and beautifully-written.
Zom-B, Book #1, Zom-B series	Darren Shan	Horror; Thriller; Zombies; Irish Content; Racism	B goes along with her father's racism to avoid being abused and must try to find students with whom to team up in order to fend off zombies. Contains strong language, racism, sexual references and graphic violence.
Frankenstein	Mary Shelley	Classic; Love; Science; Monster	A gifted scientist attempts to break new frontiers and create human life from nothing, but has his quest driven him mad? Can he control the monster he has unleashed on the world? The tragic story of Dr Frankenstein is a masterpiece of suspense.
Dracula	Bram Stoker	Classic; Vampires; Survival, Thriller	Vampires, werewolves, creatures dead and yet still living abound amidst people determined to eliminate them.
The Crowfield Curse	Pat Walsh	Adventure; Coming-of-age; Fantasy; Historical; Mystery; Myths and legends;	Will finds a small creature caught in a trap in the woods; a hob. The discovery of this magical creature signals the beginning of an

		Thriller; Animals; Bereavement; Family Fear; Magic	incredible adventure for Will. A more challenging read that really fires the imagination.
<h2>Historical Fiction/True Stories</h2>			
The Seeing Stone	Kevin Crossley-Holland	Historical; Legend; Fantasy; Middle ages; Royalty	The year is 1199, and on the borders of England and Wales young Arthur de Caldicot waits impatiently to grow up and become a knight. His father's friend, Merlin, gives Arthur a black stone and he starts to see stories of his namesake, King Arthur.
The Diary of a Young Girl	Ann Frank	True story; Diary; World War11; Autobiography; Coming-of-age; Persecution; Holocaust	Anne Frank: The Diary of a Young Girl is an important and heart-rending read that is both a Coming-of-age-story and a tragedy, given what happened to Anne and her Jewish family during World War 11.
Coram Boy	Jamila Gavin	Historical Fiction; Family; Classics; Human Rights; Journey; Danger	Rich with historical detail, this enthralling, moving and sometimes deeply distressing read provides an important and thought-provoking insight into 1750s society. Packing a powerful punch, it is a tense tale full of twists and turns, and was a deserving winner of the Whitbread Children's Book Award.
A Skinful of Shadows	Frances Hardinge	Historical fiction; Ghosts; Mystery; 1940's; Civil War	In the 1640s during the English Civil War, Makepeace, the twelve-year-old illegitimate daughter of an aristocratic family, shares the family's unique hereditary gift: the capacity to be possessed by ghosts. Carnegie Award nominee.
The Smell of Other People's Houses	Bonnie-Sue Hitchcock	Fiction; Alaska; 1970's; Tragedy; Hardship; Violence	Growing up in Alaska in the 1970s isn't like growing up anywhere else. Four vivid voices tell intertwining stories of hardship, tragedy, wild luck, and salvation. The plot contains profanity, mild sexual references, and violence. Carnegie Award nominee.
Apache	Tanya Landman	Historical fiction; North American; Coming-of-age; Fear; Bereavement; Orphans; Indigenous Peoples	This is a moving and powerful story of one woman's determination and courage in a world of great suffering and hardship. It is a fascinating view of the Native American struggle and makes for a thrilling, if at times uneasy, read. Multiple award nominee.
Things a Bright Girl Can Do	Sally Nichols	Historical; Inequality; LGBTQIA+; Feminism; Love; Coming-of-age	Offering a historical snapshot of a society in turmoil, this comprehensive Coming-of-age novel is a thought-provoking and highly engaging story of love, life and hope, with strong themes of feminism, social class and the First World War.

Seven Ghosts	Chris Priestley	Horror; Bereavement; thriller; Ghosts; Fear	A chilling and unnerving ghost story that will have you convinced that, just beyond the corner of your eye, something unspeakable is looking right back at you. Ideal for readers looking for accessible text with exciting content.
Between Shades of Gray	Ruta Sepetys	Survival; Russia; War; Human rights; Love and romance	One night 15-year-old Lina, her mother and young brother are hauled from their home by Soviet guards, thrown into cattle cars and sent away. They are being deported to Siberia. Set in 1941, <i>Between Shades of Grey</i> is an extraordinary and haunting story based on first-hand family accounts and memories from survivors.
Lightning Mary	Anthea Simmons	Historical; Scientists; Geology; Archaeology; Bereavement; Social Issues	Lightning Mary tells the true story of Mary Anning, a Victorian fossil expert, whose discoveries of the ichthyosaur contributed to changes in scientific thinking about the history of the earth. A brilliant read. Shortlisted for the Carnegie Medal.
<h2>Sport</h2>			
Booked	Kwame Alexander	Sport; Free verse; Divorce; Football; Social issues; Diversity; bullying	From fast-paced football matches to school and family drama, this novel written in verse has something for everyone and will grip reluctant readers from page one.
The Bubble Wrap Boy	Phill Earle	Sport; Skateboarding; Teen; Coming-of-age; Funny; Bullying; Racism; Relationships	Charlie goes in search of something he is good at, that will make him feel better after being picked on at school. When he discovers skateboarding his whole life changes, but can he persuade his overprotective Mum to let him develop his talent?
Foul Play, Book #1	Tom Palmer	Crime; Adventure; Detectives; Football	A school boy investigates the disappearance of his team's leading player.
Becoming Muhammed Ali	James Patterson	Free verse; Social Issues; Racism; Boxing; Biographical Novel	Before he was three-time world heavyweight boxing champion and hailed as one of the greatest boxers of all time, Muhammad Ali was a kid called Cassius Clay; a fast talker with fast feet and big dreams. Written mostly in verse, this is an insightful and inspiring retelling of Ali's teenage years.
The Penalty	Mal Peet	Sport; Football; Historical fiction; Mystery; Missing persons; Fear; Human rights; Disability	Faustino encounters not only evil, but prejudice, superstition and ignorance, and Peet shows that these are powerful forces against rationality and justice. A taut narrative with a tough, and thought-provoking message. Carnegie Medal nominee

Now is the Time for Running	Michael Williams	Sport; Football; Adventure; Learning disability; War; Bereavement; Refugees; Zimbabwe	Deo's life is destroyed when government forces kill his family. Together with his brother Innocent, he flees his village in search of his father, encountering hardship and hostility along the way. It's a tough and heart-rending story, but one that needs telling.
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Graphic Novels

Artemis Fowl	Eoin Colfer	Irish; Evil; Genius; Magic; fairy; Ransom	Twelve-year-old Artemis Fowl is a brilliant criminal mastermind. But even he doesn't know what he's taken on when he kidnaps a fairy - Captain Holly Short of the LEPrecon Unit. These fairies are armed and they are dangerous.
Macbeth	Powell F Daniel	Historical Fiction; Tragedy; Monarchy; Murder	This book is a graphic novel adaptation of William Shakespeare's play about Macbeth, the eleventh-century king of Scotland, and of the tragedy of prophecy and royal murder.
The Hobbit	Charles Dixon	Adventure; Exploration; Journey; Classic	This comic book adaptation tells the story of Bilbo Baggins, a quiet and contented hobbit whose life is turned upside down when he joins the wizard Gandalf and thirteen dwarves on their quest to reclaim their stolen treasure. Adapted by Charles Dixon.
Salem Brownstone, All Along the Watchtowers	Jon Harris Dunning and Nikhil Singh	Community Life-Circus; Travelling Shows; Good vs Evil-Good vs Evil	Upon his father's death, Salem inherits a mansion as well as an unfinished battle with creatures from another world, which requires him to seek the help of his guardian familiar and the colourful performers of Dr Kinoshita's Circus of Unearthly Delights.
Silverfin	Charlie Higson and Kev Walker	School; Spies; Adventure; Danger	This prequel to the adventures of James Bond, 007, introduces us to the young James when he's just started boarding school in England and is about to become involved in his first adventure.
When Stars Are Scattered	Victoria Jamieson	Autobiographies; Immigration/Emigration-Refugees; Disability; Speech impairment; Non-verbal	Heart wrenching, hopeful, intimate and unforgettable... the true story of two young boys and their time in the Kenyan refugee camp, Dadaab.
The Sad Ghost Club	Liz Meddings	Thriller; Spirits; Ghosts; Anxiety; Depression	A sad ghost wants to go to a party, but his social anxiety keeps holding him back. When he meets another anxious ghost, he realises he's not alone. A charming graphic novel for older readers about depression, friendship, and finding a kindred spirit.

Line of Fire, Diary of an Unknown Soldier	Michael Morpurgo	Journal; World War 1; France; Relations; Hunger	A soldier keeps a diary during the first few months of World War I. His diary tells of the long journeys, endless nights, search for food and drink and the relationships made along the way. Translated from the French by Sarah Ardizzone.
Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde	Chris Mould	Doctor; Fantasy; Horror; Thriller	Sinister rumours fill the streets; the police are looking for a small, evil-looking man called Mr Edward Hyde. He was last seen entering the house of the respected doctor, Henry Jekyll. What is the connection between Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde?
Dead Good Storytellers	Adam and Lisa Murphy	Biology; Writers; Historical Novel	In this graphic novel, discover the lives of fifteen different storytellers throughout history.
Heartstopper Series	Alice Oseman	Inclusive; LGBTQIA+; Personal/social issues; Friendship; School; Sexuality	An utterly charming, slow-burn love story between two boys. This heart-warming graphic novel captures every moment of the joy and terror of having a crush on someone.
Alice in Wonderland	Martin Powell	Classic; Adventure; Fantasy	In this retelling of Lewis Carroll's classic tale, Alice falls down a rabbit hole and into the magical world of Wonderland, where she experiences unusual adventures with a variety of nonsensical characters.
The Wizard of Oz	Martin Powell	Classic; Wizard; Fantasy; Cyclone; Friendship	In this retelling of L. Frank Baum's classic tale, a cyclone sweeps Dorothy and her dog, Toto, to the land of Oz, where she must travel to the Emerald City and seek out the all-powerful Wizard of Oz in order to return to Kansas.
The Hound of the Baskervilles	Martin Powell	Classic; Thriller; Horror; Hounds; Legend; Detective	Late one night, Sir Charles Baskerville is attacked, possibly by the Hound of the Baskervilles, a legendary creature that haunts the nearby town, outside his castle in Dartmouth. Sherlock Holmes, the world's greatest detective, is on the case.
The Fog Mound, Travels of Thelonious	Susan Schade and Jon Buller	Science-Fiction; Animals; Adventure; Journey; Friendship	At a time when animals only knew myths about the talking humans, a young chipmunk escapes danger in the City of Ruins and with friends, finds the Fog Mound, where all creatures live in peace and harmony.
Maus, A survivors Tale	Art Spiegelman	Historical; Horror; World War 11; Animals Bereavement; Family; Fear'; Human rights	By addressing the horror of the Holocaust through cartoons, the author captures the everyday reality of fear and is able to explore the guilt, relief and extraordinary sensation of survival - and how

			the children of survivors are in their own way affected by the trials of their parents.
The Lost Thing	Shaun Tan	Adventure; Discovery; Exploration; Fantasy	A version of this unique book was the winner of Best Animated Short Film at the 2011 Oscars. A boy is out walking on the beach, when he spots a weird looking thing - it looks lost. The boy asks around, but nobody seems to know where it came from, so the boy begins a quest to find the thing somewhere to call home.
The Arrival	Shaun Tan	Picture book; Family; Fathers; Immigration; Moving home; Everyday life; Diversity	The Arrival is a migrant story told as a series of wordless images. A man leaves his wife and child in an impoverished town, seeking better prospects in an unknown country on the other side of a vast ocean. He eventually finds himself in a bewildering city of foreign customs, peculiar animals, curious floating objects and indecipherable languages.
<h2>Quick Read/Dyslexia Friendly</h2>			
The Doomsday Date	Faridah Àbíké-Íyímídé	Teens; New Year's Eve; LGBTQIA+; Romance	On the day before the world is meant to end, Sanjeet dyes his hair pink. He's determined not to die without ever having really lived, so he's come up with the Doomsday List. Contains profanity and mild sexual situations.
You Can Do It!	Jill Atkins	Teen; Disability; Resilience; Mountaineering; Football	After a tragic accident, Jack, a star football player, finds himself paralysed and has to come to terms with his new life.
Keeping Mum	Jill Atkins	Teen; Alcohol Abuse; Mothers and daughters; School	Abbi has a secret; her mum drinks too much, and no one must ever know. Otherwise, Abbi and her brother Jordan might end up in care. Abbi is doing her best to hold things together, but now she has problems at school.
The Island	David Almond	Teen; Friendship; Grief; Family; Refugees; Islands	While on her yearly trip to Lindisfarne island with her father, Louise meets a strange and interesting boy from Syria. He's an acrobat, maybe a sorcerer, and possibly dangerous. This is a story which shows how the people we meet shape us for ever.
Contact	Malorie Blackman	Science-Fiction; Football; Friendship	Cal lives in a world where contact is forbidden, but he and his friends get a rush from playing real football.

Jo for Short	Malorie Blackman	Thriller; Mystery; Horror; Nightmares	Jon is in hospital. He can't move. The doctors have taken his arms and he is sure his legs are next. Will Jon ever remember how he came to be in this predicament?
Nought Forever	Malorie Blackman	Teen; Gangs; Racism; Grief	Eva just wants to be left alone to mourn her daughter, but when a badly wounded Dan crosses her path, she's compelled to help. Before the night is over, Eva will be forced to choose: betray Dan, or protect him - whatever the cost.
Cloud Busting	Malorie Blackman	Teen; Poetry; Verse; Bullying; Friendship; Fear; Feelings	Narrated in verse, Cloud Busting, which was shortlisted for the 2004 Nestlé Smarties Book Prize (age 6-8 category), is an exploration of an unlikely friendship between two very different boys. Winner of the Smarties Silver Award
A Wish in the Woods, Book #1 Faerieground	Beth Bracken	Fantasy; Fairies; Friendship	Soli and Lucy are best friends until, on Faerieground, Soli wishes Lucy away.
The Bullet catcher	Chris Bradford	Fantasy; Super powers; Saving the World; Terrorism	Troy's skills are rare - and soon SPEAR recruits him into its ranks to protect the rich and powerful. Demand is greater than ever as the terrorists scale up the violence. Can Troy and his unit of super-kids keep Terminus City safe?
Brace Mouth, False Teeth	Sita Brahmachari	Teen; Self-discovery; Relationships; Elderly; Care home	Zeni wonders how she'll get through work experience at Magnolia Gardens Care Home. But as the week goes on, she is surprised by the bond that she forms with a resident named Alice.
Firebug	Eric Brown	Thriller; Crime; Arson; Bullying	Danny has moved to a new town and is being bullied by the cruel and violent Ross Davis. But then Danny discovers something that makes him feel powerful - fire! Mature theme that contains violence.
Crazy Love	Eric Brown	Teen; Empathy; Meanness; Romance	Trish sets out to scare Denis and ends up falling in love with him, but a spiteful act by Gaz and Kate turns Denis against Trish for good.
Mind Writer	Steve Cole	Thriller; Horror; Superpowers; Fantasy	Luke's mind-reading skills make life easy. Bullies are no bother and he always know the right answer to a teacher's question. But then he meets Samira, who can't read minds but can write all over them - and the forces of darkness are on her side.

The Yeti	Tim Collins	Fantasy; Monsters; Yeti	Jade is looking for a boat to escape from Monster Island. She climbs up some rocks, but it starts snowing. Jade hides in a cave, but something frightening is in the cave too.
Something Rotten (Dark Reads Series)	Tim Collins	Science -Fiction; Revenge; Murder; Supernatural; Internet	Sam keeps getting messages that seem to be coming from his dead father. He thinks someone is playing a sick joke on him, and he wants to track them down. But he soon uncovers a deadly secret that sets him on course for violent revenge.
Romeo & Juliet	Michael Cox	Teen; Tragedy; Classic; Shakespeare retold; Love	This book provides a junior reader's introduction to Shakespeare's story of love and hate.
The Angel of Nitshill Road	Anne Fine	Humour; Friendship; Community; Adventure	Until the angel came, there were three terribly unhappy children at Nitshill Road School: Penny, Mark and Marigold. They had Barry Hunter to worry about, everyone knew what a bully he was, but no one did anything about it until the angel came.
Dracula	Pauline Frances	Horror, Thriller; Classic; Vampires	A retelling of the chilling tale of Bram Stoker's Count Dracula, a vampire who comes to England from Transylvania to find new victims and drink new blood.
Call of the Wild	Pauline Frances	Adventure; Survival; Danger; Wolves; Discovery	A re-telling of the classic adventure story of huskies in Alaska.
The Climbers	Kith Gray	Teen; Boastfulness; Recreation; Competition	Sully is the best tree climber in the village. But when new kid Nottingham shows up and astonishes everyone with his climbing skills, Skully's status is under threat. There's only one way to prove who's best. Contains themes of abuse and mild profanity.
Burnt	Anthony Horowitz	Horror; Thriller; Danger; Story collection	Collection of three short horror stories.
Race to the Frozen North	Catherine Johnson	Adventure; Prejudice; Explorers; North Pole; America; Biography	Penniless and shoeless, 11-year-old Matt leaves home and walks to Washington DC in search of a new life. Taken in by the kindly Janey, he helps in her café. But, entranced by a customer's tales of adventure on the high seas, Matt starts to dream of sailing the world.
Hero?	Pete Johnson	Ten; Conflict; Sisters and brothers; Relationships	Brad has dumped Luke's sister, and when Luke stands up for her Brad challenges him to a fight.
The Boy Who Ate Stars	Kochka	Adventure; Exploration; Friendship; Neighbourhood; Autism	Upon moving to a new apartment, twelve-year-old Lucy befriends an autistic boy who lives upstairs and, along with her friend Theo

			and a pampered pooch, takes Matthew on neighbourhood adventures, hoping to open him up to the world around them.
Jane Eyre A Retelling	Tanya Landman	Historical Fiction; Charlotte Bronte; Classic; Love; Orphans; Stepfamilies; Mental Health	After a miserable childhood, Jane takes a job at Thornfield Hall, where joyless laughter echoes along the corridors. Upon meeting the owner, the enigmatic Mr Rochester, Jane's life is changed forever.
Two Words	Tanya Landman	Teen; Adventure; Tragedy; Sadness; Guilt; Hiking; Friendship	When two friends go on a hiking trip tragedy strikes because one boy is too keen to finish first.
Run Wild	Gill Lewis	Adventure; Wolves; Friendship; Fantasy	Looking for somewhere secret to practice skateboarding, Izzy and Asha ignore the 'Danger! Do Not Enter' signs posted around the derelict gasworks. Sneaking inside along with Izzy's little brother Connor, they discover an amazing hidden urban wilderness.
Biker City War	Anthony Masters	Science-Fiction; Future; Desert; Bicycles; Pirates	2 Stories in 1: Tod in Biker City and Tod and the Sand pirates.
The Mystery of Me	Keren McCombie	Teen; Friendship; Amnesia; Accidents; Community	A touching story about identity and how something horrific, like an accident, can actually be life-changing in a positive way.
Honey and Me	Karen McCombie	Teen; Friendship; Family; Separation; Divorce	Because of her parents arguing at home, Kirsten decides that she needs to see her old friend, Honey. But can Kirsten really find her way back to the friend she lost touch with years ago?
The Tempest, A Shakespeare Story Series	Andrew Matthews	Fantasy; Classic; Shakespeare; Power; Magic	A ship is washed up on the shores of a seemingly deserted island during a sudden storm. The survivors are unaware that their arrival on the island is no accident ... and that more bewildering surprises await them.
Respect, the Walter Tull Story	Michaela Morgan	War; Football; Bravery; Prejudice; Orphans	The grandson of a slave, Walter Tull was one of the first black professional football players, and the first black officer in the British Army. Based on real events, this is an inspiring story of courage and resilience.
Simone Biles Golden Girl of Gymnastics	Sally J Morgan	Sport; Biography; Family; Separation; Foster children; Inspirational	Despite a challenging start in life, Simone went on to become one of the world's greatest athletes. Find out how this gymnast toughed it out in training and went on to win four Olympic gold medals. Contains themes of sexual abuse.
Rashford: From the	Matt and Tom Oldfield	Sport; Football; Inspirational; Making a difference; Biography	Born and bred in Manchester, Marcus Rashford has proven to be a shining star, not just of the Premier League, but also the nation,

Playground to the Pitch			making a real difference to the community when he's not scoring goals for Manchester United or England.
Eye of the Wolf	Daniel Pennac	Animals; Wolves; African peoples; Hardship; Relationships	An Alaskan wolf and an African boy encounter each other at a zoo, read in one another's eyes the hardships each has faced, and their understanding of one another helps to bring healing to them both.
Flesh and Blood	Chris Priestley	Horror; Ghosts; WW11;	Bill makes a wish - for a brother rather than a sister. It seems he may have got his wish when his family take in a boy, his face hidden by bandages. But when the boy's behaviour grows sinister and the bandages come off, Bill is faced with a nightmare.
Seven Ghosts	Chris Priestley	Horror; Ghosts; Fear; Bereavement	Jake is amongst the finalists in a story-writing competition invited to tour a stately home. With each ghostly tale he hears told by the tour guide, Jake becomes more and more uneasy.
Thing	Chris Powling	Horror; Thriller; Enemies	Once Thing was Robbie's best friend. But lately Thing has acted differently. Now it has become Robbie's enemy.
Dream On	Bali Rai	Sport; Football; Racism; Bullying	Jit is a talented footballer attempting to get noticed by a top pro club. But in order to do so he has to overcome racism and his parents' expectations that he will go on to work in the family business.
The Kissing Booth, Road Trip	Beth Reekles	Teen; Adventure; United States; College; Dating	Elle finds her long-distance relationship with Noah tough. Though she's thrilled her bad-boy-turned-good has made it into Harvard, being stuck back in California isn't much fun without him. So, there's only one thing for it... a road trip to visit!
Just a Bit of Fun	Robert Swindells	Horror; Halloween; Demons	Harley takes his brother and sister trick-or-treating. But something lures him away from them - something takes them over, body and soul.
Them	Lee Weatherly	Teen; Conflict; Morality; Bullying	A young girl torments a boy to get in with the in-crowd, and struggles with the consequences.