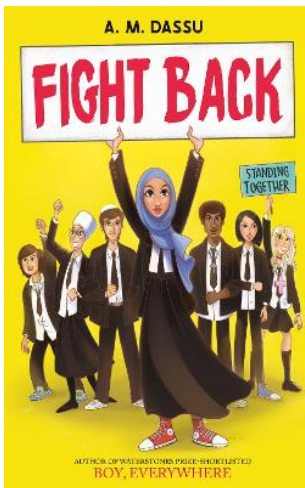


A selection of books especially selected for children in Year 7 (11 - 12 year olds) of average reading ability for the 2021/22 academic year.

If your child is a competent reader or has read all these titles then try the books from the Year 8 list. Alternatively if these books are a little challenging try books from the Year 6 list. Our overall mission is to promote reading for pleasure with quality texts that are perfectly pitched for the age group and the curriculum. We have particularly avoided blockbusters, classic or set texts, known to everyone, so that we can include poetry, stunning information texts and inspirational books in which all children and young people can find themselves reflected.



Fight Back

Author: A. M. Dassu **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 02/06/2022
Year Groups: Key Stage 2, Key Stage 3

Exploring pertinent themes of identity, racism and resistance, A.M. Dassu's *Fight Back* is a powerful, moving triumph. A gripping story that will support and inspire young readers who experience Islamophobia and racism, and enlighten all readers on how to be a better ally. Thirteen-year-old Aaliyah is into reading, K-pop, and loves her best friends Lisa and Sukhi. But life as a Muslim isn't easy in a society that ripples with racism. After a terrorist bombing, she's passed a note in class - "Is the London attacker one of your uncles? I heard your dad got the weapons from Pakistan for him". Meanwhile, Aaliyah's lawyer mum is abused in a supermarket for wearing a hijab. Then, when another attack happens closer to home - very close, in fact - the abuse escalates and Aaliyah is ghosted by Lisa, whose controlling older brother Darren holds despicable "take back our country" views. Though hurt, Aaliyah's response is one of pride and courage. She decides "wearing a hijab would empower me to be true to myself... I'd show everyone a proper Muslim wasn't anything like the few bad ones plastered all over the news. It was time I came out and was confident about who I was. It was time to fight." When her school bans hijabs in response to complaints from pupils and parents, and Darren organises a "BRING BACK OUR SAFE WHITE NEIGHBOURHOODS" protest, Aaliyah decides that enough is enough and speaks out at a public event. Perfectly pitched and paced, and radiant with Aaliyah's courage, *Fight Back* is an engaging must-read that challenges racist stereotypes as it shines with the vitality of empathy, friendship and positive protest.

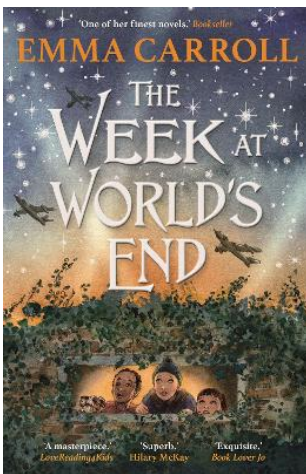


Needle

Author: Patrice Lawrence **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 05/05/2022 **Year Groups:** Key Stage 3, Key Stage 4

May 2022 Book of the Month - Interest Age Teen Reading Age 8

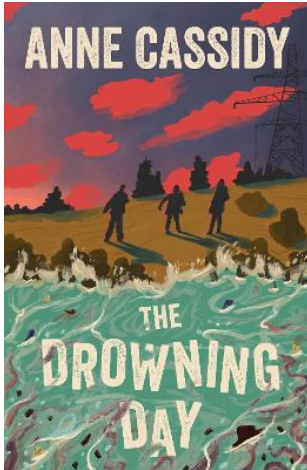
Patrice Lawrence's new book for Barrington Stoke is heartrending and thought-provoking, a taut first-person narrative that many will find themselves reading in one sitting. 15-year-old Charlene is struggling to say in control of her life. She's been in care since her mother died two years ago and desperately misses her little sister, who is living with her own father. Knitting is Charlene's therapy, the click, click, click of the needles helping her find calm, but the pressures she faces at school and outside are overwhelming. An act of cruelty against her leads Charlene to rage and violence. As the security she has known unravels, readers will understand her despair and frustration, particularly at the constant demands on her to be sorry. Written to be accessible to all readers, Needle lets us see through someone else's eyes, highlighting the restrictive effects of society's expectations of individuals. Vivid, powerful and unforgettable. Particularly suitable for struggling, reluctant and dyslexic teen readers



The Week at World's End

Author: Emma Carroll **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 13/04/2022 **Year Groups:** Key Stage 2

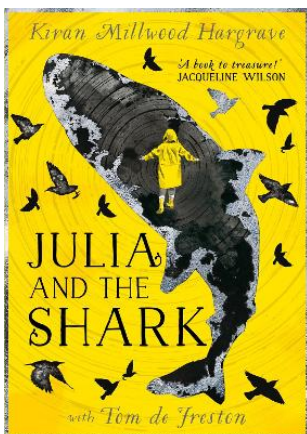
July 2022 Book of the Month Set in Britain in 1962, at the height of the Cuban missile crisis this makes for an edgy thriller as everyone wonders if they will survive the week, never mind solve the mystery of the girl found in the coal shed! Stevie and her best friend Ray, the former British, the latter American, realise they are living through uncertain times with their parents on edge in case there is to be a nuclear war – but Stevie and Ray have their own problems to solve. Stevie has discovered a mysterious girl – Anna – in her coal shed. She agrees to help shelter Anna from the people who are threatening Anna's future – Anna says people are trying to poison her. There are family secrets unearthed, families stressed, and a thriller unfolding over a period of seven days. What a masterpiece of thrilling historical writing. Carroll has taken family themes, mixed in with the politics of the day and woven them into a compelling thriller based on strong historical research. The characters are endearing as they struggle to piece together many complex issues in an accessible way and make a hopeful story emerge from what could have been a very dark period in history. Another triumph, highly recommended.



The Drowning Day

Author: Anne Cassidy **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 07/04/2022
Year Groups: Key Stage 2

Set in 2052, Anne Cassidy's dystopian eco-thriller *The Drowning Day* packs tremendous of-the-moment-punch. The writing is lucid, pacy and richly-evocative, making it ideal for reluctant and avid readers alike. Alongside being a gripping story of courage and survival, it's sure to spark much thought around climate change, attitudes towards "outsiders", and the exploitation of girls and young women. Jade lives with her beloved dying granddaddy in the Wetlands, a place that's doomed to destruction. Granddaddy can remember the past-world before the floods came, a time when people had cars and were free to travel. Though life has changed for everyone in this era of extreme flooding, some still have more than others, and this divided society is brilliantly evoked, with a sharp distinction drawn between the have-lots of High-Town and the have-nots of everywhere else. On his deathbed, Granddaddy gives Jade a key and instructs her to find a man named Charlie Diamond to exchange it for a means to get into High-Town, where her sister Mona now lives. "It's a bad place, Jade. If I don't make it, you have to get her out", he warns. When feared "ferals" steal the key, Jade's friend Bates admits he knows one of its members, Samson. While the ferals are forbidden to live on land and it's against the law to talk to them, Jade and Bates enlist Samson's help as sirens warn of another imminent deluge. With the importance of family, friendship and community shining through a thrilling, thought-provoking race against time to save loved ones, *The Drowning Day* is a dazzler of dystopian fiction.

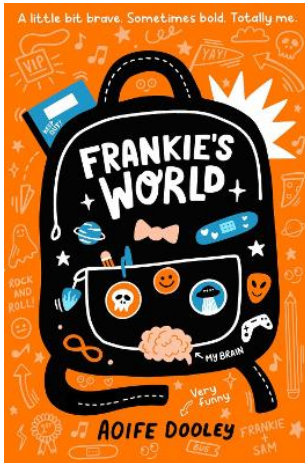


Julia and the Shark

Author: Kiran Millwood Hargrave **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 17/03/2022 **Year Groups:** Key Stage 2

A Julia Eccleshare Pick of the Month March 2022 Award-winning Kiran Millwood Hargrave tells a story of great power and significance with incredible sensitivity and writerly skill. By drawing on both, *Julia and the Shark* is magical, imaginative and mysterious while also dealing with complex emotions and situations. Julia and her parents take off from their home in Cornwall to live in a lighthouse on Shetland. Her father is working on fixing the lighthouse light while her mother is determined to explore the wide and very cold seas to find an elusive Greenland shark. While Julia's father is practical, methodical and minds about numbers, Julia's mother minds about words and about the scientific research she is so passionate about. While Julia begins to make friends with the few other children around, her mother becomes more and more absorbed in the search for the shark. Nothing will stop her - not the danger and not the cost. Julia wants to help her mother to fulfil her dream but she also knows that there is something irrational, uncontrolled and deadly dangerous about what she is planning to do.

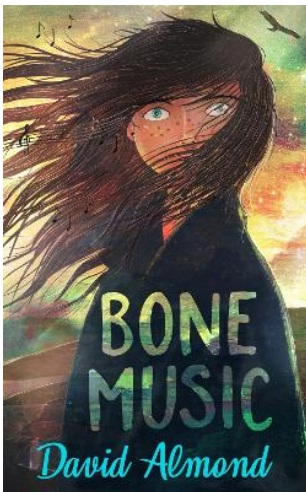
How Julia tries to keep hold of her mother is an emotional rollercoaster. Kiran Millwood Hargrave explores the confusing effect of a parent's deteriorating mental health in a story that is lyrical and empowering as well as profound.



Frankie's World

Author: Aoife Dooley **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 06/01/2022
Year Groups: Key Stage 2, Key Stage 3

Dooley is an Irish autistic author and illustrator who writes with authority, empathy and humour about the world as viewed by Frankie. Frankie believes she is an alien; she is the smallest person in her class – and she is accused of talking too much! But really all she is different – neurodivergent, though it is not until nearly the end of the book that Frankie gets an insight into why she views things differently. Frankie's Dad left when she was a baby and she, with friend Sam, decide to track him down. I found it refreshing that Sam is wheelchair bound but that no reference is made to this. This book so easy to relate to – the world from a child's point of view is such a confusing place – but this helps us all see how it may be even more confusing if one's reactions are different from other people. Plus, if we all give time and some empathy, we may be in a better position to befriend and understand. This sounds as if the book is preaching to us – it is most definitely not – it is a delight to read – funny, sympathetic, and ultimately uplifting. Drawn in a very simple two-colour cartoon style it should be easily accessible across a range of readers. Highly recommended for all readers offering perspective on autism whilst maintaining care and affection for the protagonists.



Bone Music

Author: David Almond **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 02/09/2021

September 2021 Book of the Month Unrivalled in his capacity to conjure soulful truths that transcend time and place, David Almond's writing never fails to get to the very heart of what it is to be human and, though its setting is modern, Bone Music is a sublimely timeless masterpiece – a raw, pure, measuredly lyrical story of a girl discovering deep bonds to nature and the distant past. Underpinned by a belief that the world can be made a better place, it will appeal to a broad range of 11+-year-olds (and adults), from dedicated bookworms, to more reluctant readers. "Why had her bliddy mother brought her here?" city girl Sylvia complains. There's no phone signal in the wilds of Northumberland, where her mother was born, where they're currently staying. On her first night here, Sylvia is disturbed by haunting music: "It was like something she'd dreamed before, like something coming from inside her as well as from outside her, like something she'd heard before." Then she meets a young musician, Gabriel, who wisely remarks – out of the blue – that "the world's bloody awful, isn't it? ... It's bloody awful and it isn't bloody awful. It's bloody marvellous".

Through their forest wandering and fashioning of a bone flute from the wing of a dead buzzard, Sylvia sees the world anew and experiences life's "bloody marvellous" aspects. As Gabriel explains, bone flutes "were used to charm the living. They were used to call the dead", and they were used in ancient rites of passage. The magic of bone music and nature casts an unceasing spell on Sylvia ("the beauty of the world poured into her"), as does Gabriel. His wisdom has timely, timeless resonance: "Something's wrong, isn't it? Look at the state of the bliddy world. Look at all the anxious, troubled kids. We need more, don't we?" And that, perhaps, gets to the heart of this remarkable book - it's a story that stimulates reflection, provokes questions and prompts us to ask what we really need (and don't need) while celebrating primal connections to the earth and the ancient past. What a joy.



Be Resilient: How to Build a Strong Teenage Mind for Tough Times

Author: Nicola Morgan **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 01/07/2021 **Year Groups:** Key Stage 3

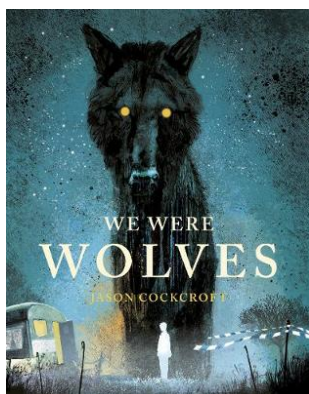
This is a book that was inspired by the issues teens were facing as a result of the lockdowns and lack of contact with peers and school. Nicola Morgan, known for her no-nonsense very approachable way with incredibly difficult and important subjects for teenagers set herself the task of writing this very readable guide to growing their own resilience. The pandemic was not a situation any one person could control – but this book sets out lots of strategies for dealing with whatever the world throws at you – be it pandemic, personal crisis, or just navigating that difficult time we call teenage! The book is arranged into five specific areas that will work in different combinations for individuals. Not every reader will need every section, but there is definitely something in here for everyone. Reading this book will give everyone a set of tools – whether to build your personal network, or in coping strategies or other areas with an approach that uses character studies, simple activities, as well as giving lots of space and time for reflection on what has been read. Knowing Nicola is an expert on the teenage brain and mental health you know the subject is well researched and based on the latest scientific research. The topic I had not encountered before in any other book was the idea of 'heartsong' and knowing what your heartsong is. Heartsong is defined by Nicola as a feeling of joy, of satisfaction, of fulfilment, of happiness – different from well-being – a positive emotion just for the individual. It's the 'I'm glad I did that' of life. I'm glad I read this – and I know just the right person who will value this, too. Meanwhile, every school with teenagers in it should have this book available in multiple copies for their students – so many will get benefit from it.



When the Sky Falls

Author: Phil Earle **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 03/06/2021
Year Groups: Key Stage 2

A Julia Eccleshare Pick of the Month June 2021 | Shortlisted for the Yoto Carnegie Medal 2022 No wonder he is angry! Bombs are raining down on the city that Joseph is sent to as an evacuee. And anyway, who came up with the stupid idea that he should live with Mrs F. who doesn't even like children! He knows he should just run away but where would he go? Instead, he finds himself inexorably drawn into Mrs F's life and the zoo and the animals she is fighting to keep safe – in particular, Adonis, the powerful silverback gorilla. Every night when the bombs fall, Mrs F rushes to the zoo. She risks her life to be with her animals safe knowing that, if the very worst happens and the zoo is bombed she will have to take exceptional and radical action. Will she be brave enough? And would Joseph be? In this deeply moving story of Joseph's journey of self-discovery Phil Earle not only tells a brilliant story of a child's emotional development but also added an important and true dimension to World War 2 stories.

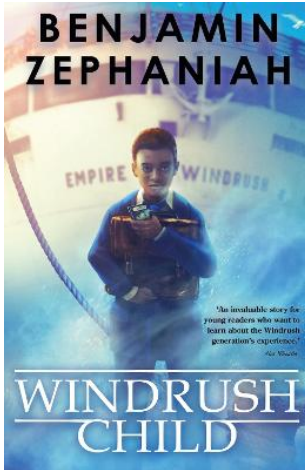


We Were Wolves

Author: Jason Cockcroft **Format:** Hardback **Release Date:** 06/05/2021 **Year Groups:** Key Stage 3, Key Stage 4

Longlisted for the UKLA Book Award 2022 ages 11-14 Raw, haunting and elemental, Jason Cockcroft's *We Were Wolves* is a beautifully-written, atmospherically illustrated tour de force. Multi-layered, rich in symbolism, and suffused in the wild majesty of the natural world, it explores love, loss, father-son bonds and PTSD with devastating power. Boy lives in the woods in John's caravan. "John was my dad's name," Boy explains. "He never liked me calling him Dad and didn't call me son, not even when I was young and he was away in the desert making sure we were all safe." During duty as a soldier, John witnessed "men turned to red dust in a gunflash, and flames that spewed up from the black sand, straight like fountains". On returning, he retreated to the caravan and ended up in prison, leaving Boy alone in the woods. Sagely, Boy realises that "what happened was set out before I was born even, and before John and my mam met, and before the war, too. Before the beasts that had laid quiet under that wood for thousands of years finally climbed up out of the soil. It was all set like a sleeping stone in the earth beneath our feet long before any of us were here, like the bones of bears and wolves and wild bulls that are there if you dig deep enough." This is typical of Boy's voice - it cuts to the soul with brutal power, at once wise beyond his years and sorely young. Now alone, Boy has been instructed to keep himself hidden - especially from the Bad Man - as he awaits his father's promised imminent return. He's even lied to Mam about John's imprisonment. But trouble encroaches Boy's place in the woods like expectant vultures. Utterly unique (though reminiscent of David Almond in its brilliant bone-deep evocation of

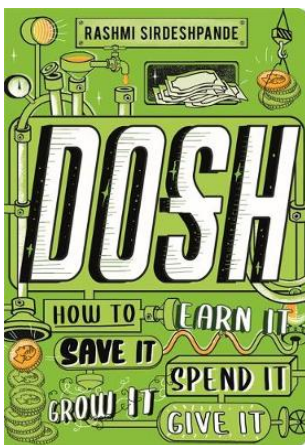
primary emotional states and of-the-moment situations, and its transcendence of age boundaries), *We Were Wolves* is a tense and timely triumph.



Windrush Child

Author: Benjamin Zephaniah **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 05/11/2020 **Year Groups:** Key Stage 2

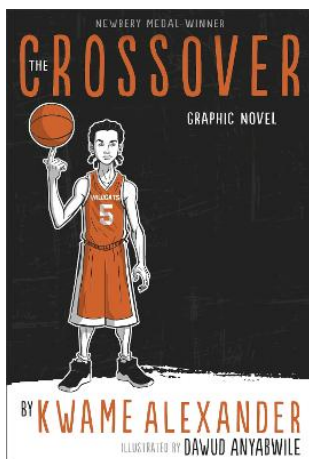
This novel, by Birmingham born poet Zephaniah, is the fifth book in the Scholastic Voices series – highlighting the situation and stories behind the myriad of people who have arrived from all over the world to the UK. Leonard's father is one of the many Jamaican born men who came to Britain at the request of the UK government to help rebuild the country after the second World War. So, when Leonard and his mother arrive in Southampton the 10-year-old had to get to know a father he barely remembers and learn to live in a climate, both physical and social, that was alien to him. This is a carefully written account which does not shirk from exploring the society and the racism that Leonard encounters in his school and in being a part of 50's and 60's society in Manchester – where Leonard's father was a bus driver. It's aimed at KS2 children and the language, plus seeing everything through Leonard's often confused eyes makes it a valuable lesson for children to read. The book takes Leonard's story to the present day where he is one of the Windrush generation who now struggle to prove his right to be in the UK – making this a strong story on which to base vital lessons on the morality of government policies. Highly recommended.



Dosh

Author: Rashmi Sirdeshpande **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 20/08/2020 **Year Groups:** Key Stage 2, Key Stage 3

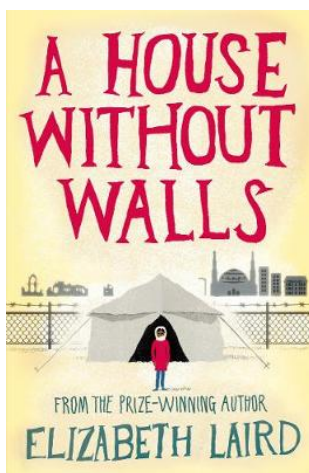
Longlisted for the UKLA Book Awards 2022 Information Books 3-14 This fun and accessible financial handbook will help boys and girls build their confidence, develop a positive money mindset and set themselves up for a better future. Having some dosh in your pocket can be really exciting. And when it's used as a force for good, those pennies have the power to change the world. But managing money can seem daunting, especially in uncertain times. This book is here to build your confidence, transform you into a money expert and look toward the future. Whether you want to become an entrepreneur, be a savvy shopper, save all your pennies or splurge on something you really want, children's author and former lawyer, Rashmi Sirdeshpande, is here to help you make the right decisions. Discover what money is, why it matters, how to spend it and ways to make more of it in this fun and brilliant guide.



The Crossover Graphic Novel

Author: Kwame Alexander **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 05/03/2020 **Year Groups:** Key Stage 3

March 2020 Book of the Month The novel of The Crossover is a Newberry Medal Winner, and a Coretta Scott King Award Winner in the US and was Shortlisted for the Carnegie Medal in the UK. This graphic novel version is the whole story complete with large and small two-coloured illustrations gracing every page. This is a deceptively simple read – a novel in verse about siblings getting through middle school, their lives, their crushes, their family interactions, and basketball. The boys are twins Josh and Jordan Bell, sons of a famous basketball player, and aiming to make a mark in the world of basketball. There are rivalries between the boys, they revel in their differences, but family holds them together whatever the world throws at them. The words and pictures work so well together, you will be on the edge of your seat, rooting for the team as they play and crying with the twins when things go awry. To tell such a complex story with so few words, with such emotional depth – Alexander is a master of devastating and uplifting storytelling. Anyabwile's illustrations enhance a superb story – adding expressions and movement to an already great novel.



A House Without Walls

Author: Elizabeth Laird **Format:** Hardback **Release Date:** 22/08/2019 **Year Groups:** Key Stage 2

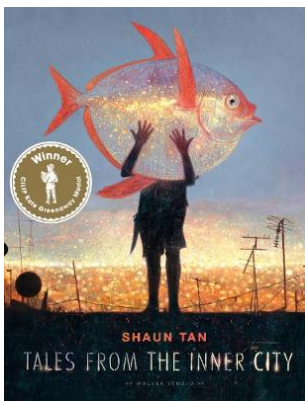
Longlisted for the UKLA Book Awards 2021 | A Julia Eccleshare Pick of the Month September 2019 Award winning Elizabeth Laird brilliantly brings to life thirteen year old Safiya's new world as a refugee after her family flee from their comfortable home in Damascus because of the war in Syria. Safiya, her brother and father arrive in Jordan with nothing and must turn to relatives for help. Safiya has to adjust to living in a tent without running water. Suddenly, she is cleaning and washing and finding clever ways of making do on very little rather than going to school. But resourceful Safiya never gives up hope of going back to a better way for life or of finding her missing twin sister. A House without Walls is a vivid picture of a family facing an extreme experience with courage and imagination.



The Afterwards

Author: A. F. Harrold **Format:** Hardback **Release Date:** 01/11/2018
Year Groups: Key Stage 3

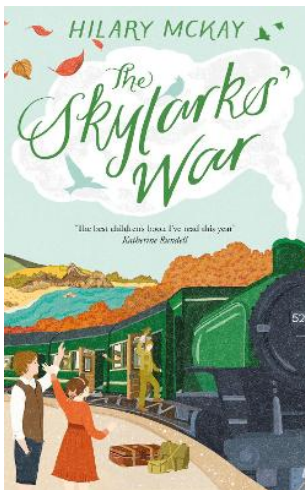
November 2018 Book of the Month A powerful, poignant, darkly comic and deeply moving story about friendship at its most extraordinary.



Tales from the Inner City

Author: Shaun Tan **Format:** Hardback **Release Date:** 04/10/2018
Year Groups: Key Stage 3

Winner of the CILIP Kate Greenaway Medal 2020 In this mind-blowingly beautiful book comprising twenty-five tales, visionary artist and writer Shaun Tan turns his attention to the relationship between humans and animals in varied urban contexts. A rhino on a motorway. An owl at the side of a hospital patient. An eagle spied at multiple international airports. Giant snails declared "indecent" by the public. Dreamlike, mysterious and poignant, this is a book to pore over. Both words and illustrations lend themselves to multiple readings, each experience unearthing alternate interpretations, new discoveries, fresh ways of seeing the world. What a sublimely strange feat this is.



The Skylarks' War

Author: Hilary McKay **Format:** Hardback **Release Date:** 20/09/2018
Year Groups: Key Stage 3

Winner of the Costa Children's Book Award 2018 | A Julia Eccleshare Pick of the Month October 2018 | One of our 2018 Books of the Year Award winning Hilary McKay tells a captivating and deeply moving story of three young people growing up in the years before and during World War One. How their lives were totally changed by the War, how what really happened to the soldiers could never be talked about and how a girl like Clarry suddenly had opportunities because of the war are all touched on in a story that is also about universal adolescent relationships and the timeless concerns of being a teenager. Following their mother's death at her birth, Clarry and her older brother Peter live a joyless life with their gloomy father. The pair live for their summer holidays in Cornwall with their grandparents which they share with their older cousin Rupert. Here, the trio are free to be themselves and to begin to break away from the constraints of family expectations. When war is declared Rupert enlists: his family is horrified

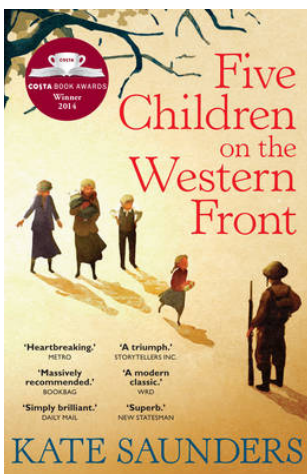
and Clarry and Peter are left trying to work out where he might be, how they themselves should react to the war and, above all, whether Rupert is safe. Hilary McKay has a rare gift for novels about families and their interplay. Here, she weaves her story round one of the most powerful backdrops in history. And she does so with the lightest of touch which makes her history come alive. The Costa Judges said: 'Chime, resonance and sparkle – a truly great read.'



Freedom

Author: Catherine Johnson **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 02/08/2018 **Year Groups:** Key Stage 3

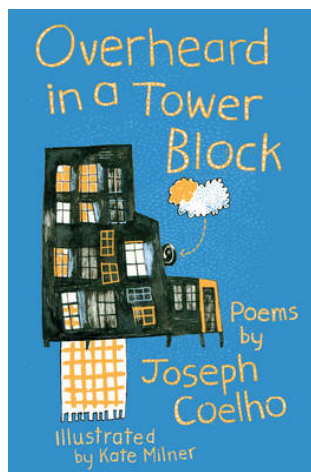
Winner of the Little Rebels Children's Book Award 2019 An action-packed and pacy story about a boy's experience of slavery in Britain. Nathaniel doesn't want to move to England with his master's family, leaving behind his mother and sister on the Jamaican plantation. But then he remembers what his mother told him: once a slave sets foot on English soil, they're free. Perhaps he can earn his fortune and buy his family's freedom, too. For more books on this theme head over to our sister site, LoveReading4Schools topic list - The Slave Trade



Five Children on the Western Front

Author: Kate Saunders **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 02/04/2015 **Year Groups:** Key Stage 3

Witty, tender and full of insights into life love and politics, this is a brilliant book in its own right as well as a worthy tribute to E. Nesbit's classic Five Children and It. The year is 1914. Anthea, Robert, Jane and Cyril, who has just enlisted, are now grown up, the Lamb is a schoolboy and even Edie, an addition to the family since the original, is old enough to meet the extraordinary and magical Psammead when he re-enters their life. All the children are longing for some new adventures but has the Psammead still got his magical powers? As befits the serious times, the Psammead plays an invaluable role in helping the family understand the First World War while also sorting out problems from his own past. Action-packed, funny and thoughtful this is a book to fall in love with.



Overheard in a Tower Block

Author: Joseph Coelho **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 06/07/2017
Year Groups: Key Stage 2, Key Stage 3

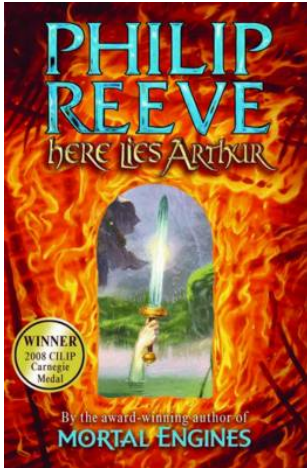
UKLA Longlist Book Awards - 2019 | Shortlisted for the Centre for Literacy in Primary Poetry Award 2018 This second solo collection from Joseph Coelho, *Overheard in a Tower Block*, explores further some of the themes from *Werewolf Club Rules* (which won the CLIPPA in 2015). More suited to an older reader than that first collection, this is an extraordinarily powerful and moving book. Each poem offers us glimpses into the life of the main character as he grows, over the course of the collection, from young boy through adolescence to adulthood. The ingenious threading of fantasy, story, myth and magic throughout the poems only illuminates further the challenges and hardships of this young man's life, but ultimately concludes in moments of optimism, joy and possibility.



The Island at the End of Everything

Author: Kiran Millwood Hargrave **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 04/05/2017 **Year Groups:** Key Stage 3

One of Our Books of the Year 2017 | Shortlisted for the 2018 Blue Peter Awards - Best Story | Shortlisted for the Costa Children's Book Award 2017 | Longlisted for the UKLA 2018 Book Award Kiran Millwood Hargrave follows up her award-winning debut *The Girl of Ink and Stars* with a story set in the real world, though one still filled with a sense of wonder and the extraordinary. Set in the Philippines at the beginning of the last century it tells the story of a girl forcibly removed from her mother, as many were, because her mother has leprosy, or as those with the disease preferred, is touched. With the help of her friends Ami makes her way back to her mother and it's a story of love, courage and hope, all of these symbolised by the butterflies that fill the pages and that are so important to the story. It's passionately told, full of memorable scenes and characters, and the writing is beautiful.



Here Lies Arthur

Author: Philip Reeve **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 04/05/2009
Year Groups: Key Stage 3

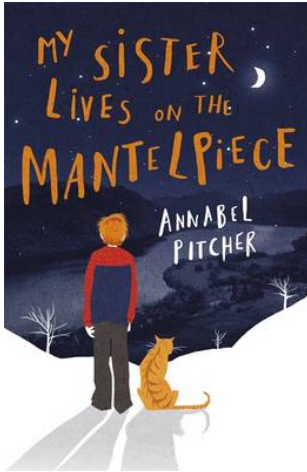
Prize-winning author Philip Reeve gives a brilliant new take on the legend of King Arthur. Myrddin rides with Arthur spinning tales for and about him but what is the truth and can Gwynna discover it? Bridging the past and present Here Lies Arthur is the story of how heroes and the legends about them are made. Winner of the prestigious 2008 CILIP Carnegie Medal. On winning the CILIP Carnegie Medal he said "I didn't believe it at first, but as I got over the shock and it began to sink in, I felt totally honoured. It is very special to win the CILIP Carnegie Medal. It has such a history and I admire so many past winners' work it is quite humbling to be ranked alongside them." "Here Lies Arthur is an outstanding book, and deserving winner," said Tricia Adams, Chair of the 12 strong librarian judging panel. 'Reeve's is a consistent story-telling voice that brings us a subtle and credible retelling of the King Arthur myth. It is both a page turning adventure story and a clever historical novel. It also has clear political resonance for our times, demonstrating humanity's need to sustain hope and optimism, and our tendency to favour myth over reality to achieve that end.'



The Sleeper and the Spindle

Author: Neil Gaiman **Format:** Hardback **Release Date:** 08/09/2016
Year Groups: Key Stage 3

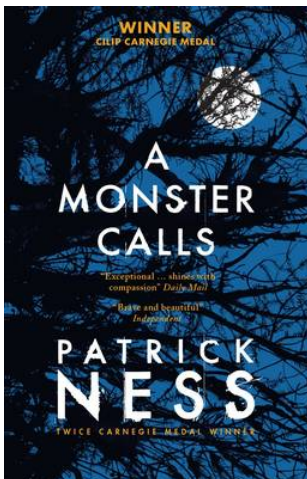
Winner of the CILIP Kate Greenaway Medal 2016. A deluxe edition of the thrillingly reimagined fairy tale by the magical partnership of award-bedecked, bestselling Neil Gaiman and Children's Laureate Chris Riddell. Award-winning Neil Gaiman shows all his story telling skills in this gripping fusion of familiar fairy tales told in a dark-hearted version with some original characters. Especially a bold-hearted queen. Not far from where the queen lives, a princess is under the spell of an enchantress who has put a whole country to sleep. Despite it being the eve of her wedding day, the bold queen decides to take action. Slipping into her mail shirt she arms herself with her sword and sets off out of the palace accompanied by the three dwarves who will lead her through the tunnels...The dark magic, great courage and spell-binding imagination that power this story is perfectly realised in Chris Riddell's awesome illustrations.



My Sister Lives on the Mantelpiece

Author: Annabel Pitcher **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 10/12/2015 **Year Groups:** Key Stage 3, Key Stage 4

Winner of the 2012 Branford Boase Award for an outstanding debut novel Heartbreaking and funny in equal measure, 10-year-old Jamie's direct and wide-eyed account of the emotional chaos he and his family live through following the death of his sister in a terrorist attack is poignant and warm-hearted. Beginning a new life in the Lake District with his older sister and his father, who mourns his daughter through alcohol and a wild rage against her killers, Jamie knows he should feel sadder than he does. The truth is, he can hardly remember his sister; and what is happening with his new school and new friends, especially Sunya, is more urgent – as is his yearning for his absent mother. Emotionally charged, this is a wonderfully touching story which never slips into worthiness.



A Monster Calls

Author: Patrick Ness **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 07/05/2015 **Year Groups:** Key Stage 3, Key Stage 4

Winner of the 2012 Carnegie Medal AND 2012 Kate Greenaway Medal. This is the first time one book has won both prizes! Prize-winning Patrick Ness displays brilliant new skills of sensitivity in this hauntingly touching story of how a boy deals with the looming threat of his mother's death from cancer. Haunted by a monster in his dreams, denied much information by his family and treated as a weirdo by his class mates and a 'special case' by his teachers, Conor struggles to get to grips with the devastating emotions which threaten to overwhelm him. How he finds the courage and strength to face the end when it happens is both utterly shattering and deeply satisfying. Costa Award winner Patrick Ness spins a tale from the final idea of much-loved Carnegie Medal winner Siobhan Dowd, whose premature death from cancer prevented her from writing it herself. Winner of the Red House Children's Book Award 2012. Winner of the Galaxy Children's Book of the Year Award 2011.