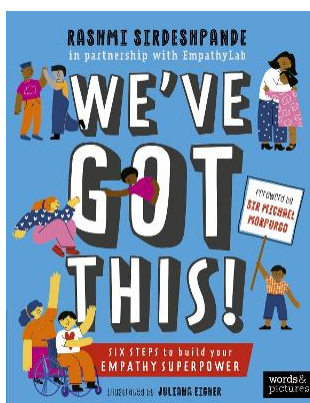


A selection of books especially selected for children in Year 7 (11 - 12 year olds) of average reading ability for the 2023/24 academic year.

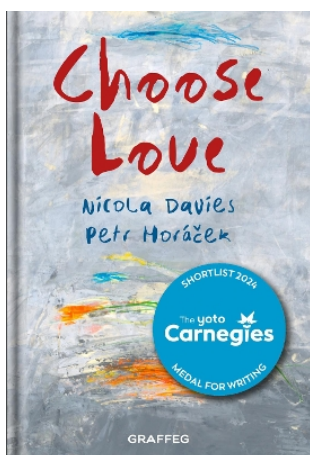
If your child is a competent reader or has read all these titles then try the books from the Year 8 list. Alternatively if these books are a little challenging try books from the Year 6 list. Our overall mission is to promote reading for pleasure with quality texts that are perfectly pitched for the 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.



We've Got This!

Author: Rashmi Sirdeshpande **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 18/05/2023

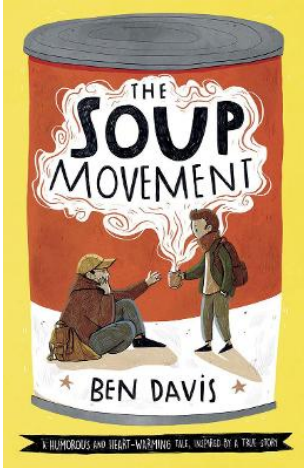
June 2023 Book of the Month Written in partnership with EmpathyLab, a cross-disciplinary organisation devoted to using stories to develop young people's experience of empathy, Rashmi Sirdeshpande's *We've Got This!* provides users with an informative, interactive, inspirational toolkit for living their best empathetic lives. "If there's something we need in this world now more than ever, it is empathy" – these wise words come from Michael Morpurgo's introduction, in which he also states that "Books and stories to me are the key to empathy and understanding for everyone. They are the pathway to understanding people as individuals." In this context, *We've Got This!* sets out six steps to help kids build their "empathy superpower", with chapters running through what empathy is, how it works, how to use it out in the wild, how to recognise emotions, how to be a brilliant communicator and, finally, how to "become the ULTIMATE empathy hero!" Packed with activities and examples, and supported by clear design and engaging illustrations, readers will come away enriched, and armed with everything they need to become a more empathetic person.



Choose Love

Author: Nicola Davies **Format:** Hardback **Release Date:** 22/11/2022

Highly Recommended, CLIPPA 2023 *Choose Love* is a cycle of poems that highlights the experience of those forced to become refugees. The core of the collection was written in 2018 as part of a project with the charity Refugee Trauma Initiative. With the permission of both individual refugees and aid workers, RTI shared with Nicola a number of true and poignant stories which were then used as the basis for short-form poems. Over the following years Nicola added to this core of poems to create a coherent collection on the theme of forced migration, its wider causes and consequences.

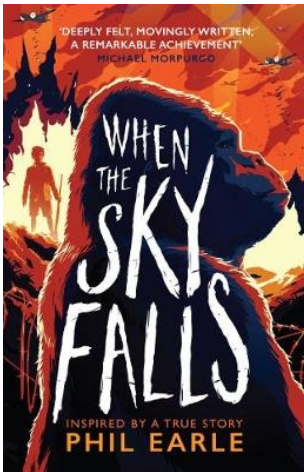


The Soup Movement

Author: Ben Davis **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 06/08/2020

Longlisted for the UKLA Book Award 2022 ages 7-10 |

Shortlisted for the Little Rebels Award 2021 A thirteen-year-old boy in remission from cancer moves to a new town. When he gets some chips for lunch, he gives the soup his mother had made to a homeless man and so sets in motion a growing trend of acts of kindness.

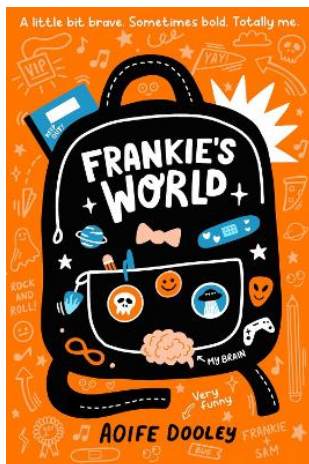


When the Sky Falls

Author: Phil Earle **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 03/06/2021

A Julia Eccleshare Pick of the Month June 2021 | Winner of the British Book Awards 2023 Fiction Book of the Year | Shortlisted for the Yoto Carnegie Medal 2022 | Longlisted for the UKLA Book Award 2023 ages 7-10 Chosen by our Guest Editor for May 2023, Jacqueline Wilson, as one of her must-reads - "This story about a

fierce lonely boy and his bond with a huge gorilla called Adonis is exceptionally moving." 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.

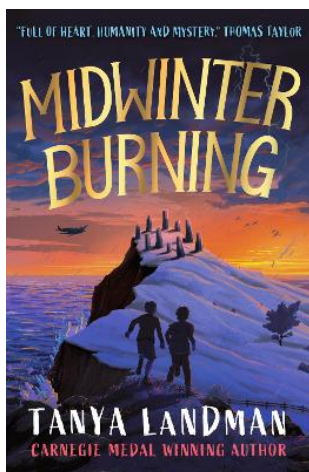


Frankie's World

Author: Aoife Dooley **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 06/01/2022

Winner of the Week Junior Book Awards 2023 - Children's Illustrated Book of the Year

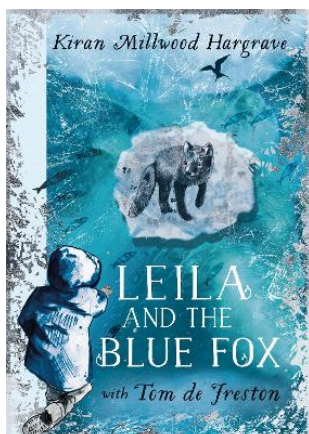
Dooley is an Irish autistic author and illustrator who writes with authority, empathy and humour about the world as viewed by Frankie. Frankie believes she is an alien; she is the smallest person in her class – and she is accused of talking too much! But really all she is different – neurodivergent, 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.



Midwinter Burning

Author: Tanya Landman **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 03/11/2022

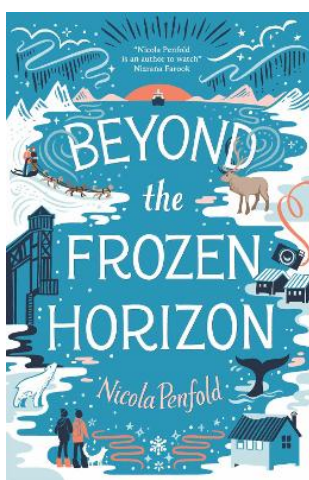
Landman is a prize-winning author who writes about a wide range of topics in an accessible, engaging way for many different age groups. This book looks at the story of Alfie Wright – evacuated at the beginning of the war from an unhappy home life things can't be any worse for Alfie – wherever he ends up being placed. Happily, gentle Auntie Bell, who runs a farm in rural Devon, is welcoming and caring. Her son is a giant of a man, a little intimidating, he is a taciturn though accepting presence. As Alfie settles amongst the cows and geese on the farm – and becomes accustomed to the work and the ways of his charges – he is the happiest he has ever been in his short life. The war seems a long way away. Life gets even better when he makes friends with Snidge. But is Snidge exactly as he appears – or is he mysteriously connected to the Midwinter Burnings that usually take place in the standing stones? Auntie Bell says the burnings are a bit of superstition – but Snidge seems to be threatened by them. Can Alfie help him, or is his fate sealed? This is a fascinating, engaging timeslip novel with a dual narrative that shows us life as an evacuee and through ancient history. The landscape is vividly described adding layers of interest to the tale. Excitement, fear, and horror make this a page turner that will keep readers engrossed to the very end.



Leila and the Blue Fox

Author: Kiran Millwood Hargrave **Format:** Hardback **Release Date:** 29/09/2022

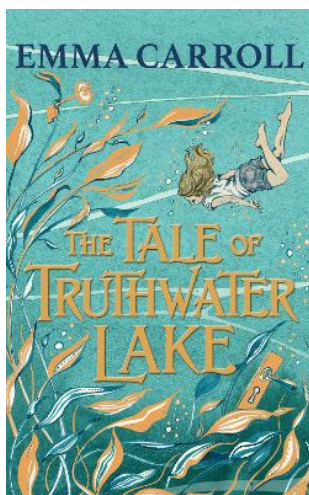
Shortlisted for the Week Junior Book Awards 2023 Based on the true story of an Arctic fox who walked from Norway to Canada in seventy-six days, a distance of two thousand miles, this compelling, emotional and beautifully illustrated story is the perfect gift for 9+ readers.



Beyond the Frozen Horizon

Author: Nicola Penfold **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 01/09/2022

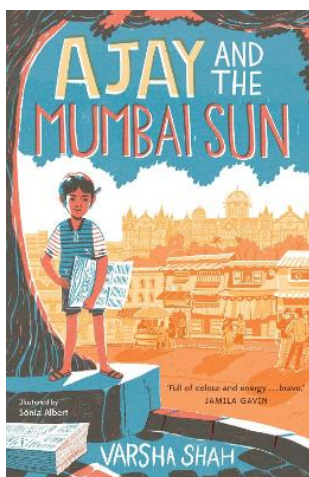
September 2022 Book of the Month This enthralling, atmospheric story once again demonstrates the author's ability to brilliantly weave memorable characters and interesting, relatable family dynamics with strong environmental themes, genuine peril, nail biting tension and wonderfully evoked natural settings. Set in an almost hopeful 2030 where humanity has taken great leaps to avoid climate disaster, passing Universal Climate laws and creating Wilderness Zones to save wildlife and absorb carbon, but one where the recovery is still all too fragile. Rory accompanies her mother, an environmental geologist, to the Arctic Wilderness Zone to approve Greenlight's plans to extract from there the rare earth metals which will be used for 'clean' transport and technology. They discover a tiny, remote community, which is fascinatingly based upon the real Pyramiden in Svalbard, left behind when traditional mining ceased. These forgotten people live in harmony with their harsh, dangerous yet beautiful environment and its precious wildlife, but many are now becoming increasingly suspicious about Greenlight's activities. Isolated and ignored by the locals, Rory experiences physical dangers and unsettling supernatural events before she teams up with local boy Mikkal and in a dramatic and tense conclusion, they have to uncover and reveal the truth of what is going on to her mother and the world authorities before it is too late. The way in which the author demonstrates corporate greed, human selfishness and a lack of respect for the wilderness gives the reader lots of food for thought and really raises awareness of corporate 'greenwashing' techniques. Another brilliantly told and highly effective wake-up call to all of us to protect the world around us before it is too late.



The Tale of Truthwater Lake

Author: Emma Carroll **Format:** Hardback **Release Date:** 06/10/2022

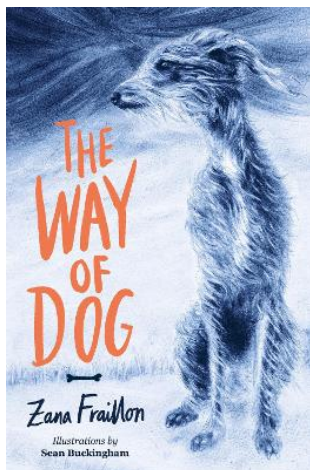
Polly and her brother Joel live in Brighton in 2032 – when it is too hot to go out for vast parts of the day, and the government has to issue alarms to keep people indoors and out of danger. After a swim at midnight – that goes very wrong – the two are sent away to stay with Aunt Jessie – who lives on the shores of Truthwater Lake – a vast reservoir that has been dried up by the lack of rain, and the heat. Whilst at the lake Polly accidentally ends up in 1952 – before the village under the lake was flooded to make the reservoir. She experiences the very different life of a village that no longer exists, the social mores of the time and the privations that existed in 1952 (being so close to WWII). Whilst she can't talk to Joel about it, she learns a great deal about determination, friendship, and channel swimming! This is a change of style for Carroll, as she is known as the Queen of Historical Fiction – but here we have a look to the future through the lens of the past. The story is full of friendship as well as the vitally important message that we should tread lightly on the earth to preserve it for the future. Fans of Emma Carroll will lap this up – and, by taking a slightly different tack, I hope it will bring lots of new readers to her books. A thought provoking read.



Ajay and the Mumbai Sun

Author: Varsha Shah **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 07/04/2022

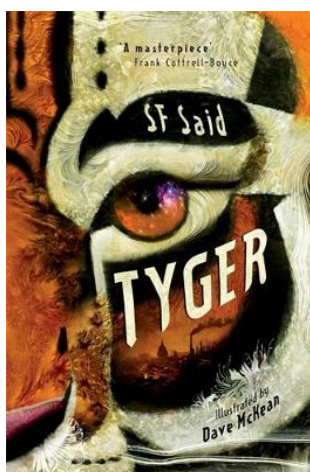
Abandoned on the Mumbai railways, Ajay has grown up with nothing but a burning wish to be a journalist. Finding an abandoned printing press, he and his friends Saif, Vinod, Yasmin and Jai create their own newspaper: The Mumbai Sun. As they hunt down stories for their paper, the children uncover corruption, fight for justice and battle to save their slum from bulldozers. But against some of the most powerful forces in the city, can Ajay and his friends really succeed in bringing the truth to light? Not to mention win the most important cricket match ever ... A high-stakes adventure story full of heart, written against the backdrop of modern India: Emil and the Detectives meets Slumdog Millionaire Winner of the Times/Chicken House Children's Fiction Competition 2020 Wonderfully illustrated by Sonia Albert and starring a lovable ensemble cast of characters Tackles tough topics such as social justice and truth in journalism with a lightness of touch Also Available: Ajay and the Jaipur Moon Ajay and the Treasure of Thar



The Way of Dog

Author: Zana Fraillon **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 02/03/2023

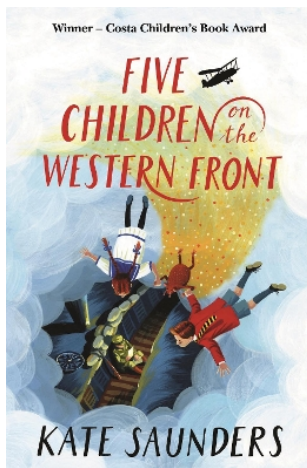
Be strong. Be fierce. Life is more than a concrete floor. Scruffity is born into a harsh, grey world. What he yearns for most is Family. But no one wants him. Just as his chances of adoption grow thin, Scruffity is set free by a boy as unwanted as he is. He learns how to run, to dig, to howl and, biggest of all, to love. But then tragedy strikes ... How does a dog find his way home when he never had one to begin with? A heartfelt, wonderfully written and totally compelling story of love and belonging Told through the eyes of a young pup, Scruffity, who will tug at your heartstrings Themes of friendship, loss and hope are woven through a gripping narrative Stunning illustrations by Sean Buckingham



Tyger

Author: S F Said **Format:** Hardback **Release Date:** 06/10/2022

October 2022 Book of the Month | Shortlisted for the Week Junior Book Awards 2023 Chosen by our Guest Editor for May 2023, Jacqueline Wilson, as one of her must-reads - "He's written about cats in his Varjak Paw stories. This is a novel in an alternative world about two children and a huge mythical Tyger - it's brilliant." This is a dark and magical story about two children who find a mythical creature - a Tyger - in a rubbish dump in London - set in the near future of the 21st Century. An altered, dark London, where the Tyger is in danger and our protagonists Adam and Zadie are driven to save the Tyger, and in the process save London too. This is a book that looks at spirituality, and ideas of community, whilst the Tyger teaches Adam and Zadie about the sheer wonder of the universe, of nature and about interpersonal relationships. The Tyger helps the children find all their hidden skills and courage and release it all to fight against the awfulness in their world. It is unique book full of adventure, joy and hope in this thrilling read. It is written in a careful, almost distilled down text that fills the reader with hope. Complemented by wonderful black and white illustrations from Dave McKean this will become a classic in the same way as the author's Varjak Paw has - and be taught in many classrooms. It is a book designed for readers of 9 to 99 who enjoy escaping into other worlds. Much anticipated and destined to be a classic that will be shared and enjoyed everywhere.



Five Children on the Western Front

Author: Kate Saunders **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 05/10/2017

Shortlisted for the CILIP Carnegie Medal 2016. Shortlisted for the 2015 Guardian Children's Book prize. Winner of the Costa Children's Book Award 2014 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.

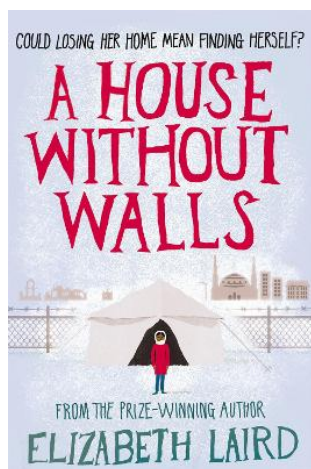


Be Resilient: How to Build a Strong Teenage Mind for Tough Times

Author: Nicola Morgan **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 01/07/2021

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

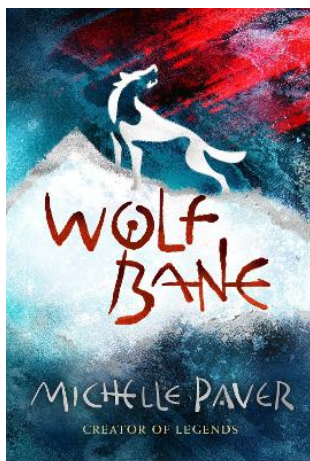
from it.



A House Without Walls

Author: Elizabeth Laird **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 23/01/2020

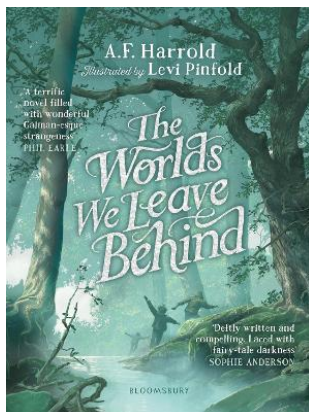
Award winning Elizabeth Laird brilliantly brings to life thirteen year old Safiya's new world as a refugee after her family flee from their comfortable home in Damascus because of the war in Syria. Safiya, her brother and father arrive in Jordan with nothing and must turn to relatives for help. Safiya 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.



Wolfbane

Author: Michelle Paver **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 10/11/2022

Shortlisted for the Week Junior Book Awards 2023 Michelle Paver's Wolfbane is a magnificent feat of fiction that may well spark mixed feelings among fans of the Stone Age series that began with Wolf Brother. It's a satisfyingly thrilling, beautifully-written adventure but, given that this is the last book in the series, readers might be left with a sense of loss alongside that satisfaction, such is the power and pull of these books. "Prickling with desire, the Demon pushes off on its long bone skates and sweeps downhill." The Demon is watching and waiting, set on claiming Wolf. Around them, Torak and Renn recognise signs of the Demon — a young birch tree "wantonly slashed"; the rotting body of an otter. As Torak knows, "Only a demon kills without reason", and so he and Renn find themselves in a race against time to save their brother, facing perils on land and sea as the Demon advances at a time "when the world teeters on a knife edge between winter and spring, good and evil, life and death." In good news for new generations of readers who've yet to discover the Wolf Brother books, like its predecessors, Wolfbane can be enjoyed as a standalone story that will draw them into an unforgettable realm of wild nature and stormy magic. These are books to be thrilled by, to savour, and return to. Stories that reward repeat reads, and blaze with the raw power of story-telling and the magic of unbreakable bonds.

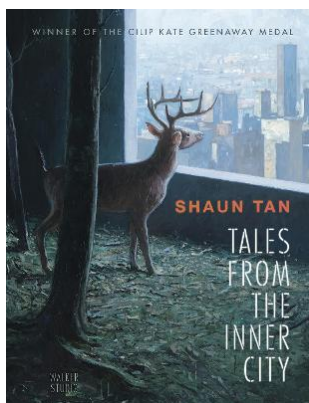


The Worlds We Leave Behind

Author: A. F. Harrold **Format:** Hardback **Release Date:** 04/08/2022

Shortlisted for the Yoto Carnegie Medal for Illustration 2023

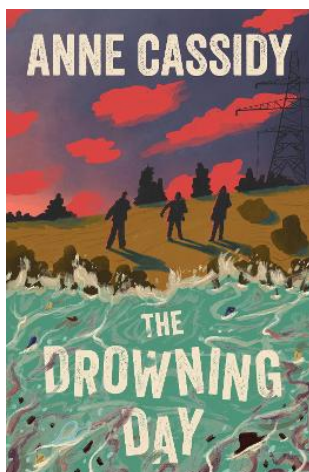
What a compelling read, full of darkness, strangeness and almost fairy tale elements; and yet set in today's world and entirely believable. Written with such style and beauty and full of dark, brooding, beautiful illustrations – all black and white pencil drawn – adding depth and beauty to the experience. A group of friends and their siblings are all pulled into a vortex of wicked magic that can alter the world, as if certain elements of it had never existed – wiping out friends, family, and memories – except for those little flashes of déjà vu we all get. A very philosophical look at what it is like to be a pre-teen and young teenager, dealing with life without necessarily thinking through the consequences. A story that wraps around all the characters as they act and react to friendship, bullying, family breakdown and everyday life – and the consequences of actions – either unintended, planned, or thoughtless. A powerful read that will live with readers for days. I can see this book winning prizes in the future – for writing and illustration. I do not intend to summarise the plot, that would be just too prosaic an approach for a book that definitely needs reading and sinking into to appreciate it! You can watch AF Harrold in conversation here in this exclusive LoveReading LitFest event.



Tales from the Inner City

Author: Shaun Tan **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 06/01/2022

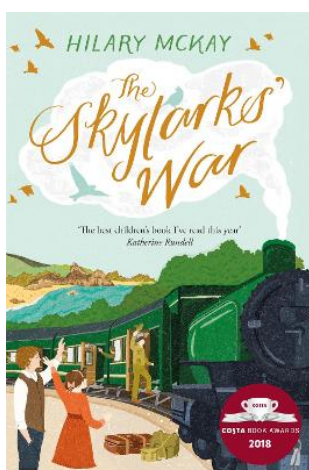
In this mind-blowingly beautiful book comprising twenty-five tales, visionary artist and writer Shaun Tan turns his attention to the relationship between humans and animals in varied urban contexts. A rhino on a motorway. An owl at the side of a hospital patient. An eagle spied at multiple international 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 Drowning Day

Author: Anne Cassidy **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 07/04/2022

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.



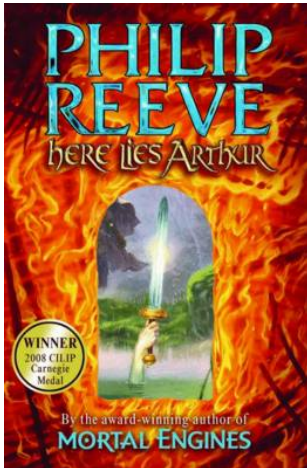
The Skylarks' War

Author: Hilary McKay **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 27/12/2018

Shortlisted for the UKLA Book Awards 2020 | Winner of the Costa Children's Book Award 2018 | A Julia Eccleshare Pick of the Month January 2019 | 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.



Here Lies Arthur

Author: Philip Reeve **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 04/05/2009

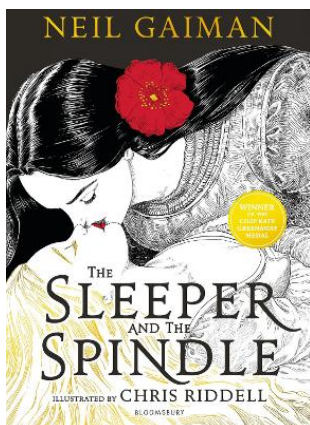
New Edition. Winner of the prestigious 2008 Carnegie. Prize-winning author Philip Reeve gives a brilliant new take on the legend of King Arthur. Myrddin rides with Arthur spinning tales for and about him but what is the truth and can Gwyna discover it? Bridging the past and present Here Lies Arthur is the story of how heroes and the legends about them are made.



Windrush Child

Author: Benjamin Zephaniah **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 05/11/2020

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.



The Sleeper and the Spindle

Author: Neil Gaiman **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 14/11/2019

Winner of the CILIP Kate Greenaway Medal 2016 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.



Freedom

Author: Catherine Johnson **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 02/08/2018

Winner of the Little Rebels Children's Book Award 2019 An action-packed and pacey 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

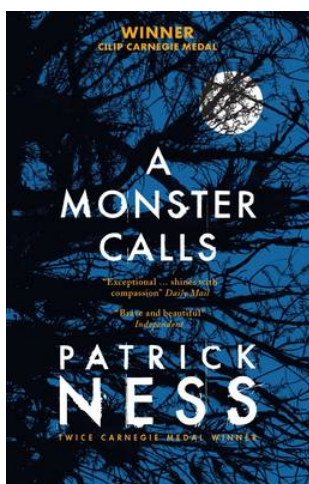


The Last Whale

Author: Chris Vick **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 08/06/2023

Shortlisted for the Week Junior Book Awards 2023 Charged by super plotting, the infectious passion of young eco-campaigners across three generations, and a powerful environmental call to action, Chris Vick's *The Last Whale* is a rousing, enchanting triumph. In the present-day, Abi's passion for eco-activism has got her into trouble, but she remains set on gathering environmental intel using a sophisticated quantum AI computer designed to collect and analyse ecological data, a machine her little sister names Moonlight. During a family holiday to her grandmother's remote Norwegian island, Abi discovers her great-grandfather's connection to - and rejection of - the whaling industry. Through his recordings and diaries, and with the help of Moonlight, Abi realises that whale song is more than mere song - the songs are maps. But, with Moonlight's owners on her trail, time is running out. With Abi's quest bound up in the interconnectedness of life on earth, and the

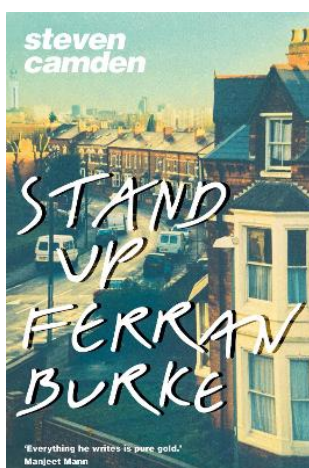
urgent need to protect and restore the web of life, it has profound power that's passed down the generations when we meet her thirty years later, along with her daughter Tonje. In Tonje's story, mother and daughter are searching for whales. Though the sea is silent and the world's ecosystems are failing, hope comes and Tonje takes up the mantle of her mother's work. Packed with action and a marvellous coming together of nature, technology and the inspirational dedication of young eco-activists, this will have huge appeal for readers who love all-out, character-driven adventure stories, and those who are into environmental themes.



A Monster Calls

Author: Patrick Ness **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 07/05/2015

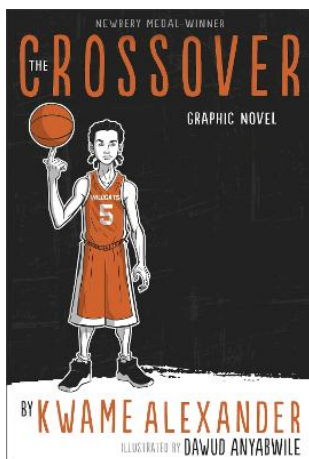
Winner of the 2012 Carnegie Medal AND 2012 Kate Greenaway Medal. This is the first time one book has won both prizes! Prize-winning Patrick Ness displays brilliant new skills of sensitivity in this hauntingly touching story of how a boy deals with the looming threat of his mother's death from cancer. 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.



Stand Up Ferran Burke

Author: Steven Camden **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 11/05/2023

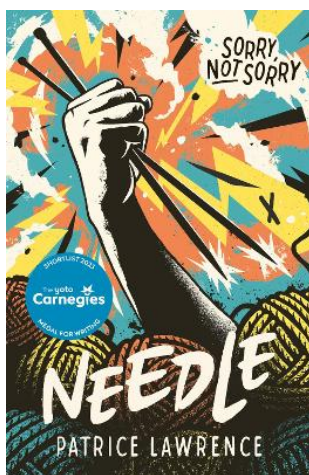
In his mind, Ferran Burke is many things But to everyone else he is just one, Emile Burke's little brother and Emile is all about himself. Now Ferran is stepping into the new world of high school alone and needs to learn quickly how to survive. New allies. New enemies. New feelings. New passions. A time capsule coming-of-age story spanning five years of one boy's life as he navigates the chaos trying to find himself. Friends. Fights. Family. Food. Playing with form and visuals throughout Stand Up Ferran Burke is a verse novel as unique as the boy at its heart.



The Crossover Graphic Novel

Author: Kwame Alexander **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 05/03/2020

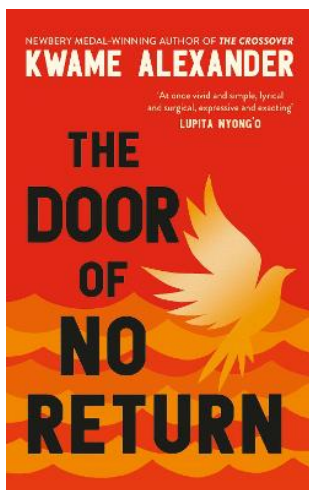
March 2020 Book of the Month The novel of The Crossover is a Newberry Medal Winner, and a Coretta Scott King Award Winner in the US and was Shortlisted for the Carnegie Medal in the UK. This graphic novel version is the whole story complete with large and small two-coloured illustrations gracing every 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.



Needle

Author: Patrice Lawrence **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 05/05/2022

May 2022 Book of the Month - Interest Age Teen Reading Age 8 | Longlisted for the Jhalak Children's & Young Adult Prize 2023 | Shortlisted for the Yoto Carnegie Medal for Writing 2023 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 stay 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 Door of No Return

Author: Kwame Alexander **Format:** Hardback **Release Date:** 02/03/2023

March 2023 Book of the Month Beginning in 1860, Kwame Alexander's *The Door of No Return* — the first powerfully poetic book in a trilogy — shares the stirring story of a family who live in Upper Kwanta in the Asante Kingdom (present-day Ghana). Revealing hidden history and brutal truths, this masterfully conjured novel-in-verse is underpinned by the author's intention to show that, "while the brutal captivity and bondage of Africans was a part of my story, it was not the first chapter, or even the second...I wrote this story because people need to know that the middle was not our beginning. I wanted to speak the truth about the history of African Americans, because while most of us are aware of the American part, it's time for us to know more about the African part, right?" While sharing this important history, *The Door of No Return* is also brilliant at evoking relatable emotions, with the story centred around eleven-year-old Kofi — a boy who loves swimming in the river, loves a "girl/who makes my stomach wobble/and my heart beat", and loves playing oware with his wise grandfather, Nana Mosi, the village storyteller. At school, though, Kofi wonders why they're forced to learn so much British history, "why we do not spend/as much time/learning the history/of our own kingdom", and why pupils are forbidden from speaking Twi. Alongside such cultural oppression, an annual festival honouring a peace treaty sees Kofi's older brother face Lower Kwanta's heir to the throne when he's selected to fight for Upper Kwanta. The result of the contest unleashes a tsunami of trouble, and Kofi faces a "door of no return". Forced to take a "slow passage/over troubled waters" in brutal conditions, he finds some solace in memories, dreams, and singing praise songs to his family. The heart-stopping ending will leave readers desperate to find out what Kofi does next.