



Orwell Park School

Part of the Benenden Family of Schools

Orwell Park School's Reading Journey

Stepping on Board

Climb aboard and take your first steps into the world of stories.

Anchors Aweigh

Casting off with growing confidence on your reading adventure.

Open Horizons

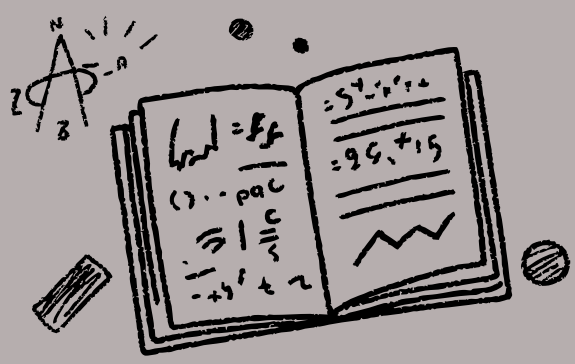
Sailing towards new stories as your reading skills set you free.

Deep Waters

Diving into richer tales and exploring more challenging reads.

Charting New Depths

Navigating complex stories and discovering the endless depths of reading.



Stepping on Board

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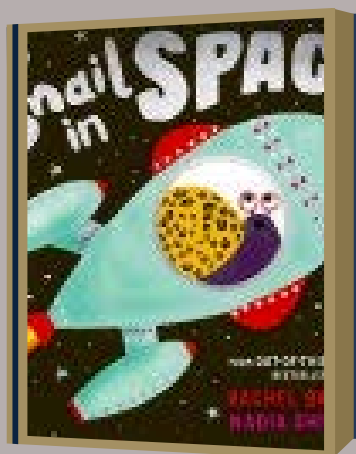


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Sharing stories and books plays a vital role in a child's healthy development and long-term success – and the best part is, it's never too early to begin.

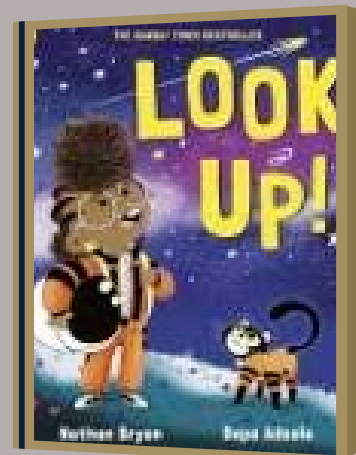
For more ideas, www.booksfortopics.com offers a regularly updated selection of recommended titles. The Book Trust website is also useful, particularly if you want to filter for books printed in dyslexia friendly format, or by age or genre.

Space and the Night Sky



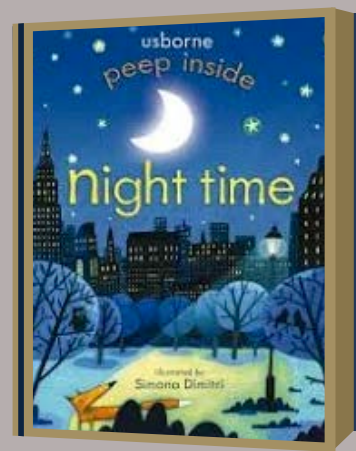
Snail in Space – Rachel Bright

A determined snail dreams of becoming the first snail in space, proving that no dream is too big—no matter how small you are.



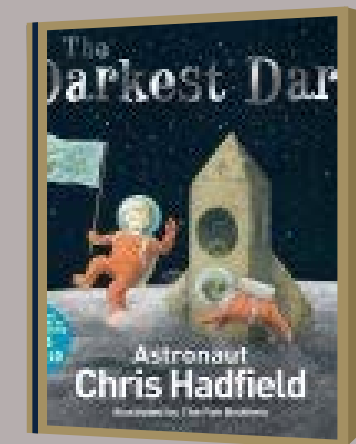
Look Up! – Nathan Bryon

Rocket-obsessed chatterbox Rocket inspires her community to look away from their screens and up at the wonders of the night sky.



Peep Inside Nighttime – Anna Milbourne

A lift-the-flap book that reveals the hidden wonders of the world after dark, from sleeping animals to twinkling stars.



The Darkest Dark – Chris Hadfield

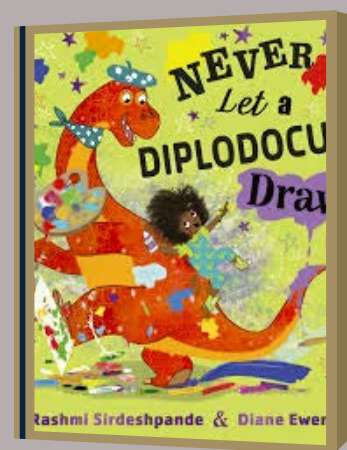
Based on astronaut Chris Hadfield's childhood, this story shows how facing your fears can lead you to reach for the stars.

Books to Make You Smile



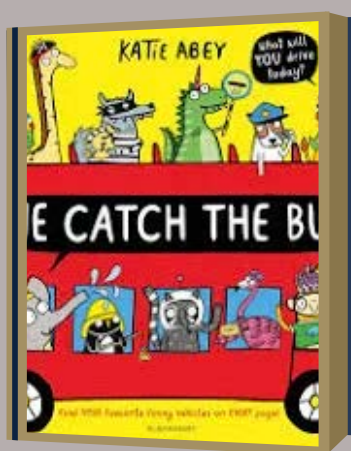
Supertato – Sue Hendra

Meet Supertato, the supermarket superhero who's always ready to save the veggies from the mischievous Evil Pea!



Never Let a Diplodocus Draw – Rashmi Sirdeshpande

What could possibly go wrong when a diplodocus picks up a pencil? Expect a riot of creativity and prehistoric chaos!



We Catch the Bus – Katie Abey

Join a quirky cast of characters on a hilarious, rhyming journey as they all pile onto the bus in the silliest ways.



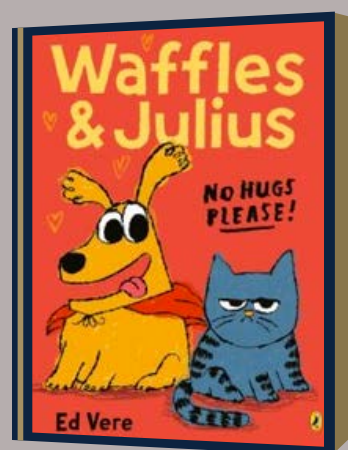
Worm's Big Dig – Tom Tinn-Disbury

An underground adventure that follows a brave little worm on an epic journey through history, danger, and discovery.



The Ice Cream Crocodile – Mariesa Dulak & Rebecca Cobb

A fun-filled picture book about a crocodile with an enormous appetite for ice cream, whose sweet obsession leads to a hilarious adventure.



Waffles & Julius: No Hugs Please! – Ed Vere

A delightful book about an endlessly enthusiastic dog and his hilariously unimpressed cat friend.

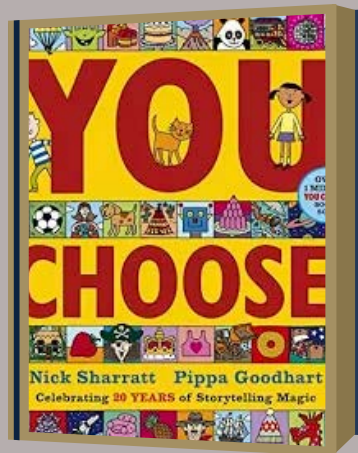


Stepping on Board



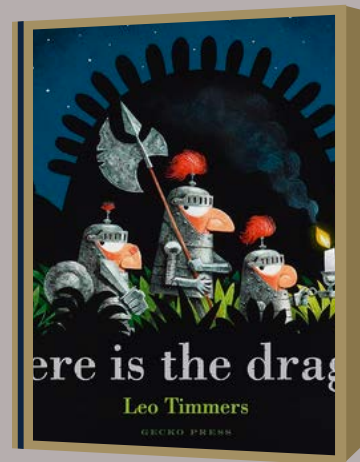
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Interactive and Imaginative Stories



You Choose – Pippa Goodhart & Nick Sharratt

An interactive book where every page invites children to imagine and choose their own adventures, outfits, and dream homes.



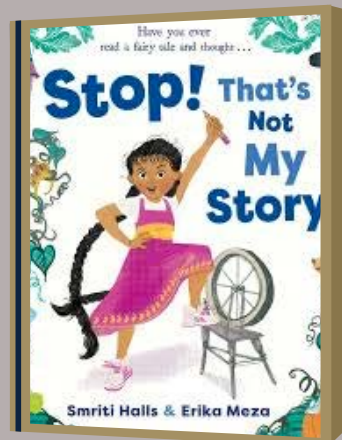
Where is the Dragon? – Leo Timmers

A group of bumbling knights go on a hilarious hunt for a dragon, with clever visual clues and a surprise ending.



This is the Ship that Jack Built – Peter Millett

A lively, nautical twist on the classic rhyme, packed with pirates, parrots, and plenty of sea-faring fun.



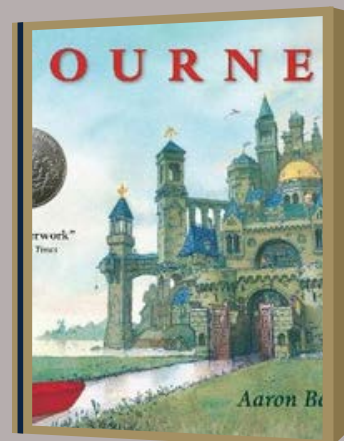
Stop! That's Not My Story! – Smriti Halls

A fun, interactive tale where a spirited young girl takes charge of her own story, refusing to be stuck in a boring fairy tale.



Pick a Story: A Pirate Alien Jungle Adventure – Sarah Coyle

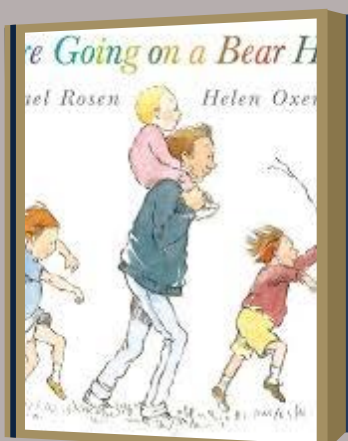
This laugh-out-loud, pick-your-own-adventure picture book brings together pirates, aliens, and jungle animals for a wildly entertaining adventure.



Journey – Aaron Becker

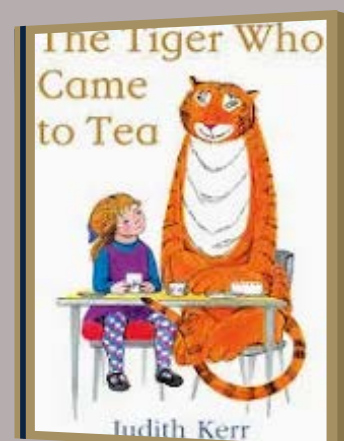
A wordless picture book where a lonely girl's magical red crayon unlocks doorways to a breathtaking world of imagination and adventure.

Timeless Tales



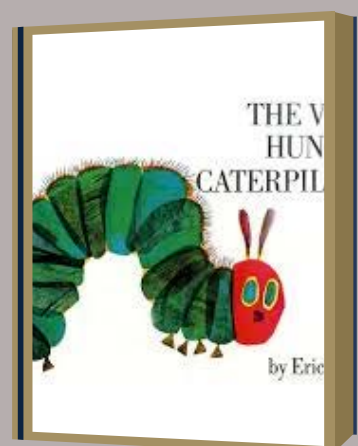
We're Going on a Bear Hunt – Michael Rosen

Join a brave family on a rhythmic, action-packed adventure in search of a bear.



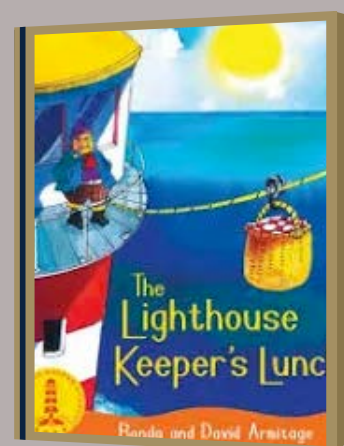
The Tiger Who Came to Tea – Judith Kerr

When an unexpected visitor arrives for tea, one little girl's ordinary day turns into an extraordinary surprise.



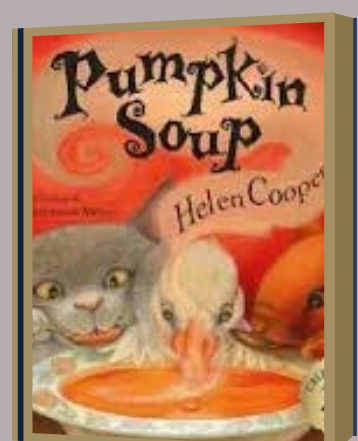
The Very Hungry Caterpillar – Eric Carle

A tiny caterpillar munches his way through a variety of foods before transforming into a beautiful butterfly in this timeless classic.



The Lighthouse Keeper's Lunch – Ronda and David Armitage

Mr. Grinling's delicious seaside lunches are under attack from pesky seagulls in this charming tale of problem-solving and seaside life.



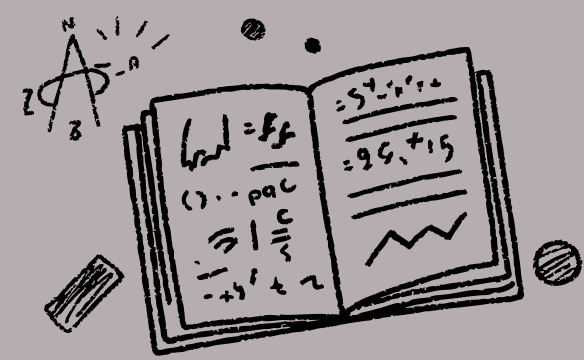
Pumpkin Soup – Helen Cooper

Three animal friends must learn about sharing and teamwork when their perfect pumpkin soup recipe gets stirred up by a quarrel.



Where the Wild Things Are – Maurice Sendak

Join Max on a wild, imaginative journey to an island of fantastical creatures.



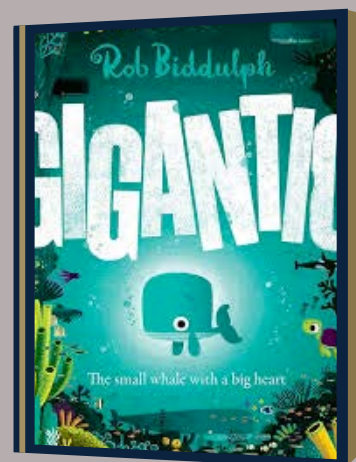
Stepping on Board

Stories to Spark Wonder and Kindness



Coming to England – Floella Benjamin

A heartfelt true story about Floella's journey from Trinidad to England, celebrating courage, resilience, and the importance of welcoming others.



Gigantic – Rob Biddulph

A tiny whale with a huge heart proves that even the smallest can make a gigantic difference in this funny and uplifting undersea adventure.



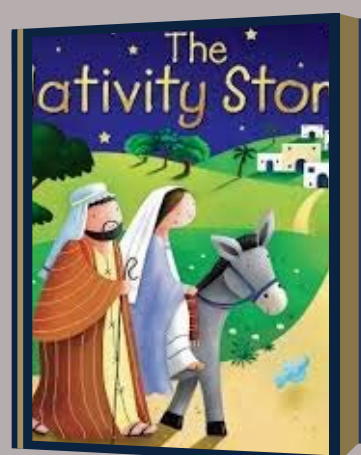
Rubbish? Don't Throw It Away! – Linda Newbery

A vibrant, interactive book that inspires children to think about reusing and recycling to help protect the planet.



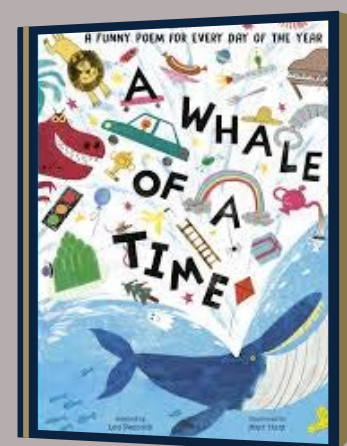
Leaf – Sandra Dieckmann

A powerful story about a polar bear lost far from home, exploring themes of fear, acceptance, and the beauty of nature.



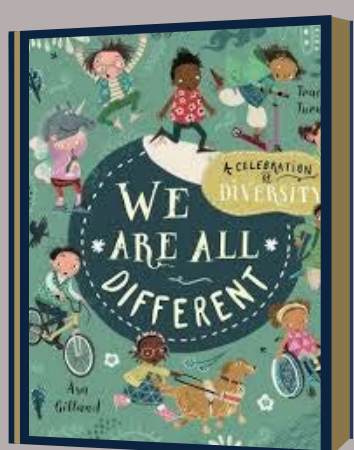
The Nativity – Juliet David

A simple and beautifully illustrated retelling of the Nativity story, perfect for sharing the meaning of Christmas with young children.



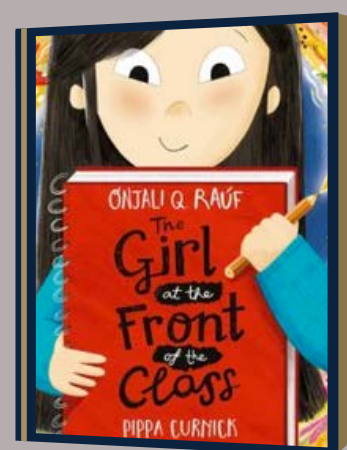
A Whale of a Time: A Funny Poem for Every Day of the Year – Lou Peacock

A joyful treasury of laugh-out-loud poems, perfect for sharing a giggle each day of the year.



We Are All Different – Tracey Turner & Åsa Gilland

An uplifting celebration of diversity, showing how our differences make the world a richer, more wonderful place.



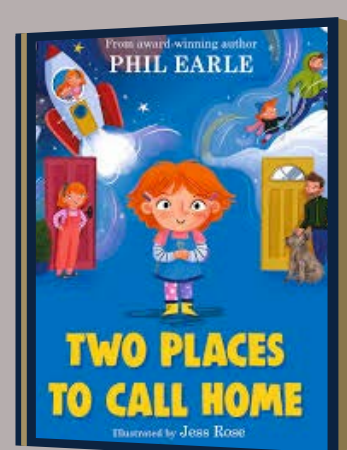
Girl at the Front of the Class - Onjali Q Rauf

A gently challenging picture book from the author of The Boy at the Back of the Class. Adam is determined to befriend the new girl in his class, but she isn't interested in the usual playground games. Through patience and a quiet act of kindness, he eventually reaches her on her own terms



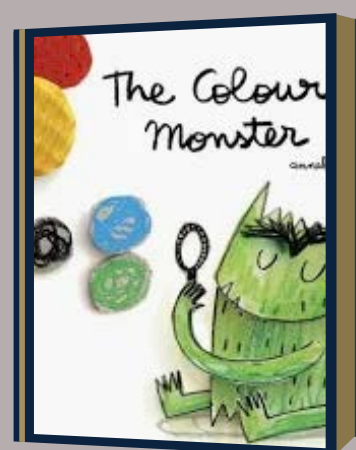
How to Catch a Star – Oliver Jeffers

A beautifully illustrated story about a boy who dreams of catching a star and learns the magic of patience and wonder.



Two Places To Call Home – Phil Earle

A comforting story about shared custody, and how a child can feel safe, loved and at home in two different houses.



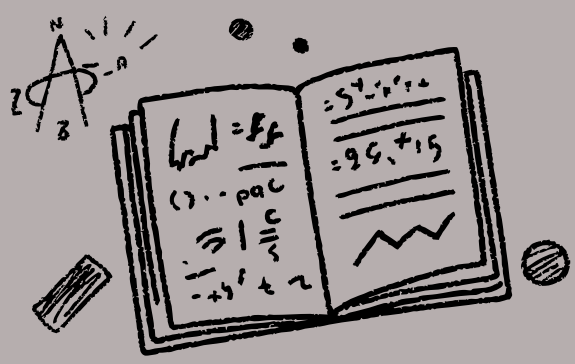
The Colour Monster – Anna Llenas

A creative, visual exploration of feelings, helping children to understand and talk about emotions.



I Love Chinese New Year – Eva Wong Nava

An engaging introduction to Chinese New Year, celebrating family, food, and festive traditions.



Anchors Aweigh!

Casting off with growing confidence on your reading adventure.

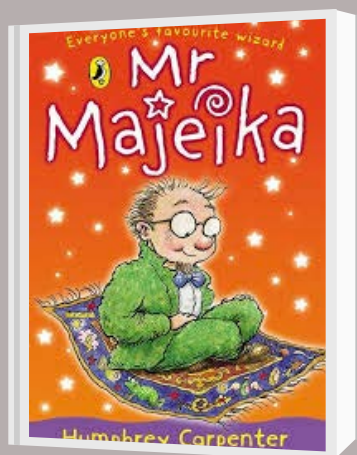


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As you gain confidence with reading, there are always new adventures waiting to be discovered!

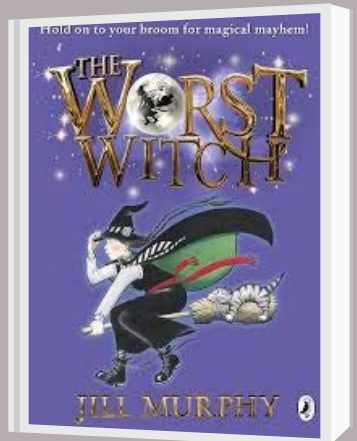
For more ideas, www.booksfortopics.com offers a regularly updated selection of recommended titles. The Book Trust website is also useful, particularly if you want to filter for books printed in dyslexia friendly format, or by age or genre.

Magical Mischief and Whimsical Worlds



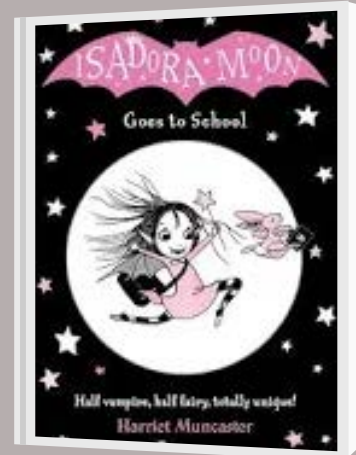
Mr Majeika – Humphrey Carpenter

A magical teacher with a flying carpet brings chaos and charm to his classroom.



The Worst Witch – Jill Murphy

Mildred Hubble, the clumsiest witch in school, always seems to find herself in magical muddles.



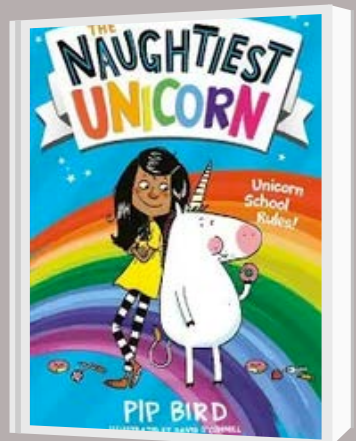
Isadora Moon Goes to School – Harriet Muncaster

Half-fairy, half-vampire Isadora starts school and discovers where she truly belongs.



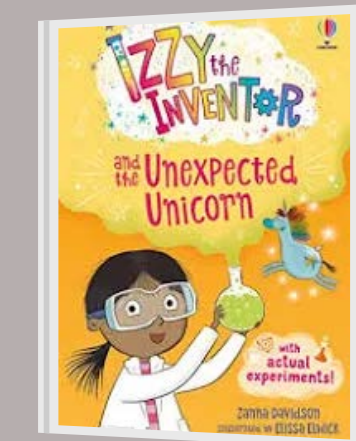
Gobbolino the Witch's Cat – Ursula Williams

A kind-hearted witch's cat dreams of a life as a kitchen cat instead of brewing spells.



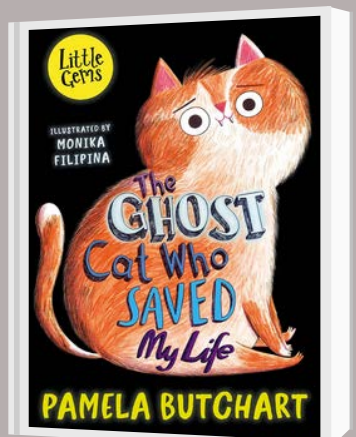
The Naughtiest Unicorn – Pip Bird

Unicorn school turns into hilarious chaos when Mira is paired with Dave—the laziest, naughtiest unicorn.



Izzy the Inventor and the Unexpected Unicorn – Zanna Davidson

Inventive Izzy's latest creation leads to a wild adventure with a runaway unicorn.



The Ghost Cat Who Saved my Life – Pamela Butchart

A ghostly cat lends a helping paw in a spooky, funny school adventure.



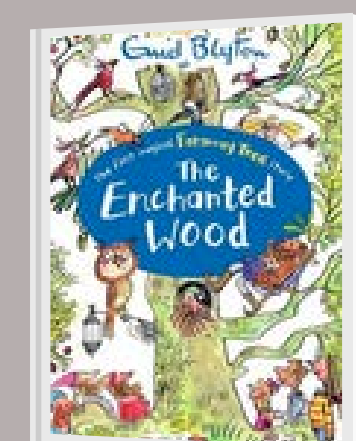
Magic Faces: Heroes of the Pirate Ship – Esi Merleh

A magical sticker book adventure where children transform into pirates to save the day.



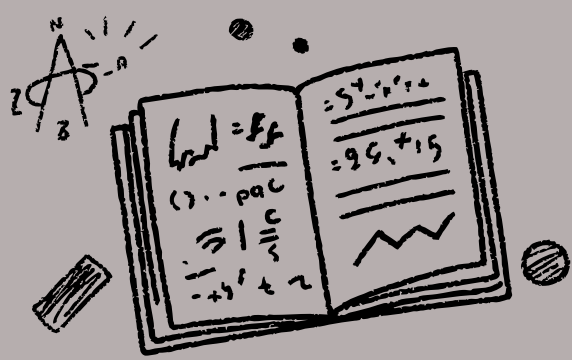
Wild Magic: Legend of the Black Lion - Abiola Bello

An exciting adventure following twins Misha and Ziggy, who use their extraordinary animal powers to search for a missing lion while exploring the breathtaking landscapes of Ethiopia.



The Enchanted Wood - Enid Blyton

A beloved fantasy classic in which three children discover a magical forest where extraordinary lands appear at the top of the Faraway Tree, leading to unforgettable adventures.

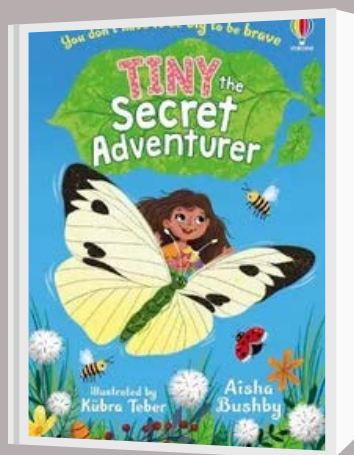


Anchors Aweigh!



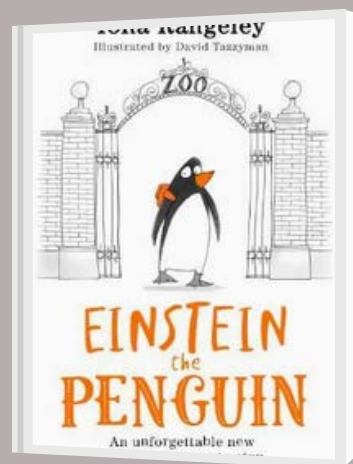
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Small Heroes, Big Adventures



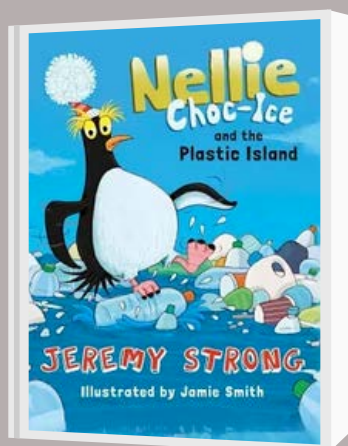
Tiny the Secret Adventurer – Aisha Bushby

A tiny girl with a big sense of adventure sets off to explore her garden's hidden world.



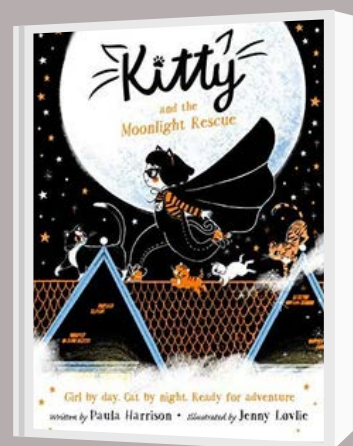
Einstein the Penguin – Iona Rangeley

A family's life turns upside down when a charming little penguin comes to stay.



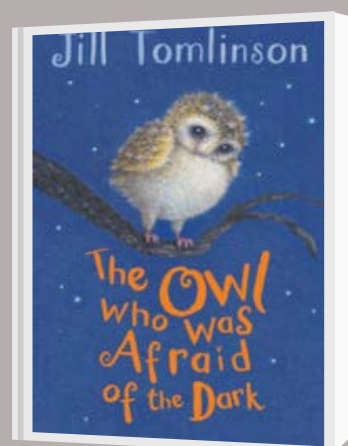
Nellie Choc Ice, Penguin Explorer – Jeremy Strong

Nellie the penguin embarks on a globe-trotting adventure full of icy escapades.



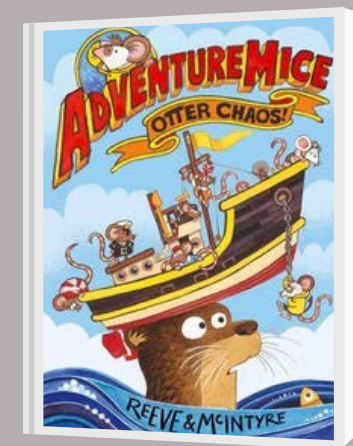
Kitty and the Moonlight Adventure – Paula Harrison

By night, brave Kitty dons her cape and, with her feline friends, embarks on a daring rooftop mission to help those in need.



The Owl Who Was Afraid of the Dark - Jill Murphy

A timeless classic about Plop, a young barn owl who learns to overcome his fear of the dark by discovering why others love the night.



Adventuremice: Otter Chaos – Philip Reeve

A daring group of mice set out to rescue an otter from the clutches of trouble.

Out of this World Adventures



Space Detectives – Mark Powers

Two unlikely detectives blast off to solve cosmic crimes aboard a space station.



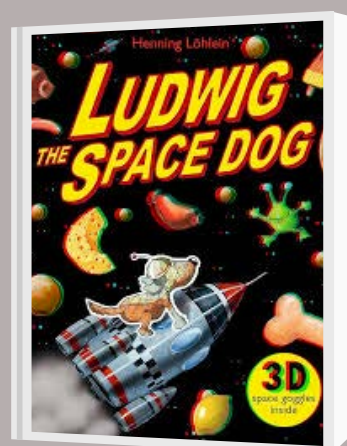
An Alien in the Jam Factory – Chrissie Sains

A young inventor and a misfit alien team up to save their jam factory from sabotage.



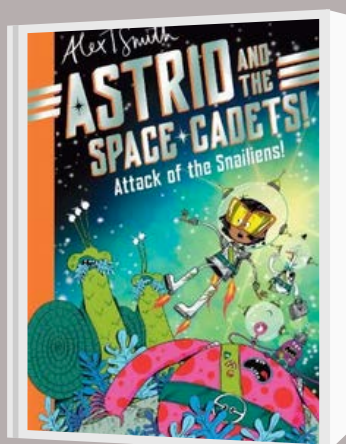
Cakes in Space – Philip Reeve

On a voyage through space, a girl and her robot face a swarm of ferocious, flying cupcakes.



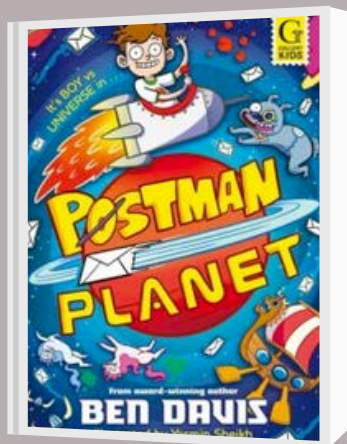
Ludwig the Space Dog – Henning Lohlein

Ludwig, a book-loving dog, ventures beyond the pages into a pop-up space adventure.



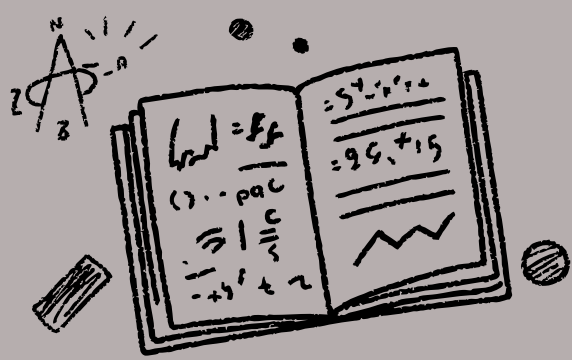
Astrid and the Space Cadets – Alex T. Smith

Astrid dreams of becoming a space explorer—and she's ready for lift-off!



Postman Planet - Ben Davis

A space adventure about a nine-year-old secret postman delivering mail to the galaxy's strangest worlds, with help from his chaotic robot-dog sidekick, Stamp.

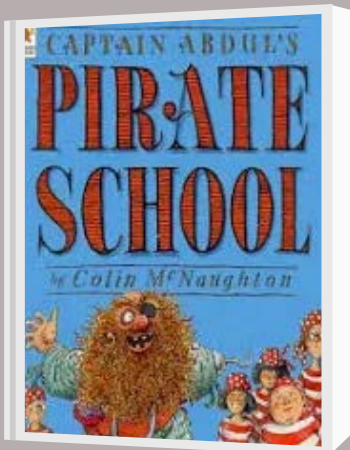


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Brave Explorers and Daring Rescues



Pirate School – Jeremy Strong

A group of pirate children face hilarious high-seas antics in their school for buccaneers.



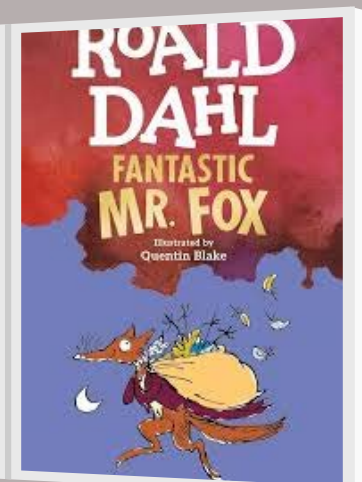
Rescue on Nim's Island – Wendy Orr

Nim must protect her island home when new dangers come ashore.



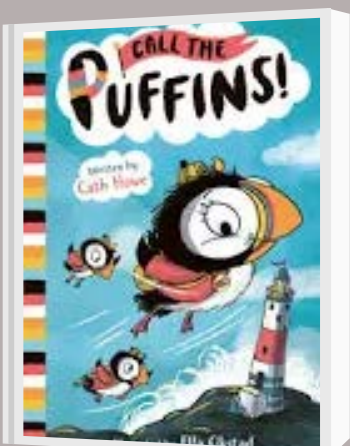
Big Sky Mountain – Alex Milway

A young girl joins her adventurous grandma in a wild and wonderful mountain world.



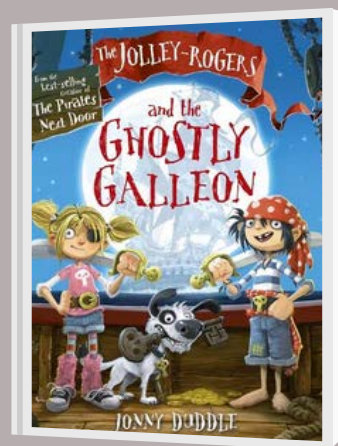
Fantastic Mr Fox – Roald Dahl

Clever Mr Fox outwits three nasty farmers in a tale of boldness and bravery.



Call the Puffins – Cath Howe

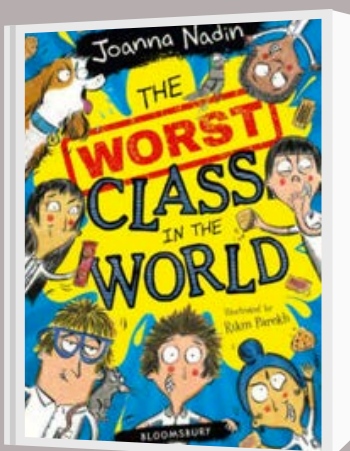
Welcome to Puffin Island, where a young puffin learns to navigate teamwork and island adventures.



The Jolley-Rogers and the Ghostly Galleon - Jonny Dudd

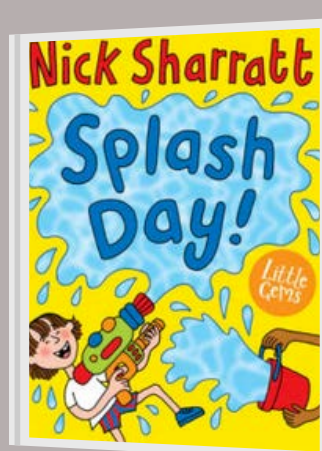
Join Jim Lad and Matilda as they sail the seven seas (and the coast of Dull-on-Sea) in search of adventure and pirate loot.

Classic Laugh-Out-Loud Reads



The Worst Class in the World – Joanna Nadin

Follow the chaotic exploits of Class 4B, packed with gross-out humour, short chapters, and laugh-out-loud mishaps.



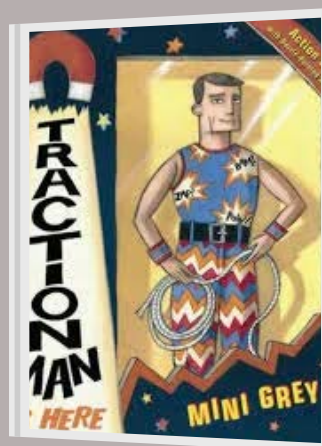
Splash Day - Nick Sharratt

Splash Day! has short chapters and dyslexia-friendly text, following a class enjoying a reward day of water fights, paddling pools, and splashing fun.



George's Marvellous Medicine – Roald Dahl

George concocts a crazy potion that has outrageous effects on his grumpy grandma.



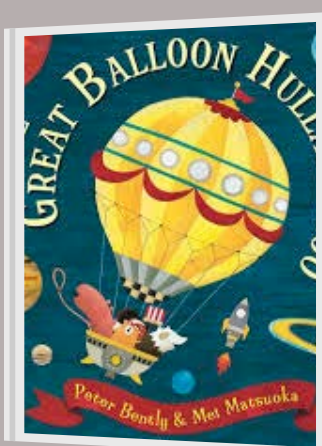
Traction Man is Here – Mini Grey

An action figure hero embarks on epic household adventures with his trusty sidekick, Scrubbing Brush



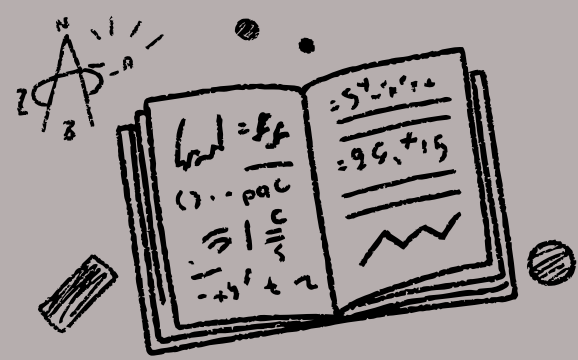
The Couch Potato – Jory John

A couch-loving potato learns the joys of stepping away from screens and exploring the world.



The Great Balloon Hullabaloo – Peter Bently

A hilarious rhyming adventure where Simon the squirrel takes to the skies in a runaway hot-air balloon.

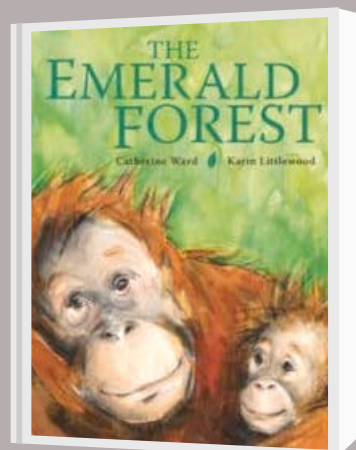


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Picture Books with Powerful Messages



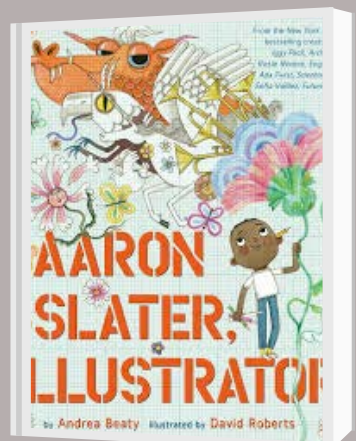
The Emerald Forest - Catherine Ward & Karin Littlewood

A beautifully illustrated picture book that tells the moving story of Sumatra's orangutans.



Grandad's Island – Benji Davies

A tender tale of adventure and saying goodbye, filled with love and vivid illustrations.



Aaron Slater, Illustrator – Andrea Beaty

A boy who struggles with reading discovers his talent for storytelling through art.



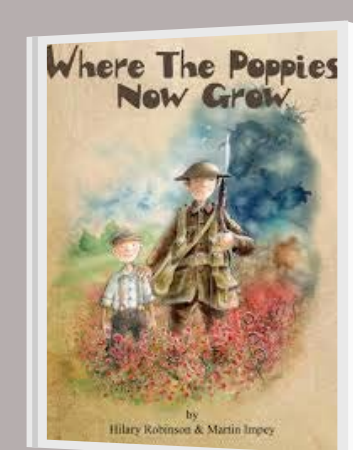
My Name is Not Refugee – Kate Milner

A gentle, child-friendly introduction to the experiences of refugee children.



Flower Block - Hoang Giang & Lanisha Butterfield

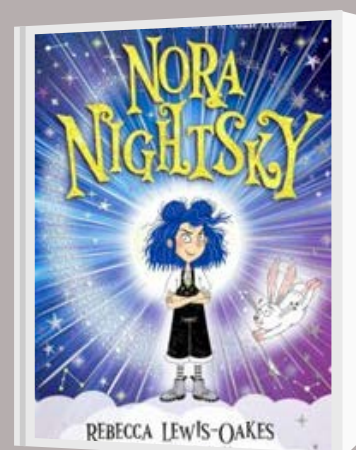
A heartwarming picture book about two brothers whose magical sunflower seeds bring their neighbours together.



Where the Poppies Now Grow – Hilary Robinson

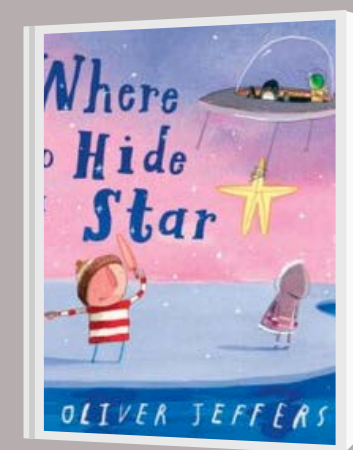
A moving poem of friendship and remembrance, set against the backdrop of World War I.

Celebrating Friendship and Self-Confidence



Nora Nightsky - Rebecca Lewis-Oakes

A magical adventure about a young star who defies the rules to visit Earth, discovering friendship, courage, and the true meaning of shining in her own unique way.



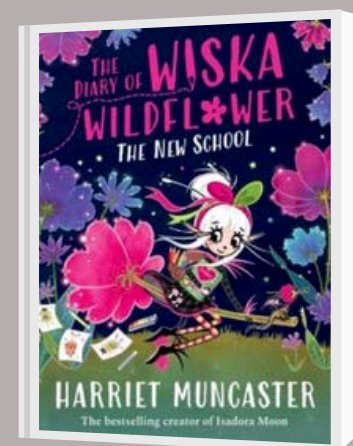
Where to Hide a Star - Oliver Jeffers

A story about friendship, adventure, and finding your way home, as a game of hide-and-seek leads to an unexpected journey and a joyful reunion.



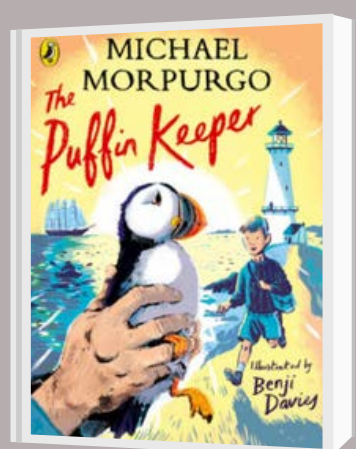
Goal Squad: Win the Cup! – Scott Allen

A fast-paced football story about a talented young player fighting back from injury to save his team, proving that determination and teamwork matter as much as skill.



The Diary of Wiska Wildflower: The New School - Harriet Muncaster

Follow a young witch starting life at Inkcup's Academy, where she must decide whether to fit in with her new friends or stay true to her own creativity and discover what real friendship means.



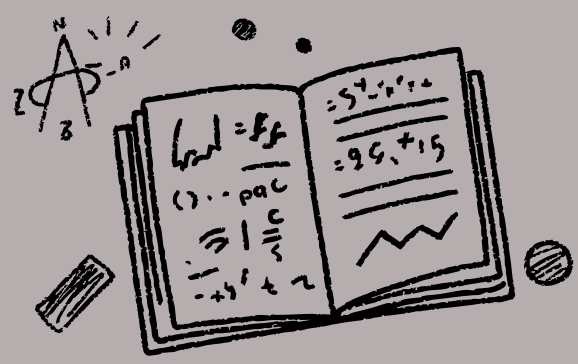
The Puffin Keeper - Michael Morpurgo

A touching story about the lifelong friendship between a boy and a lighthouse keeper, celebrating kindness, hope, and the power of caring for nature.



The Boy, the Troll and the Chalk - Anne Booth

Meet a lonely boy who befriends a shy troll through shared drawings, showing how kindness and creativity can build an unexpected friendship.



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Sailing towards new stories as your reading skills set you free.



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As your reading skills grow, so do the worlds you can explore. Stories with new challenges, mysteries, and big ideas are ready and waiting.

For more ideas, www.booksfortopics.com offers a regularly updated selection of recommended titles. The Book Trust website is also useful, particularly if you want to filter for books printed in dyslexia friendly format, or by age or genre.

Adventurers, Explorers & Wild Escapades



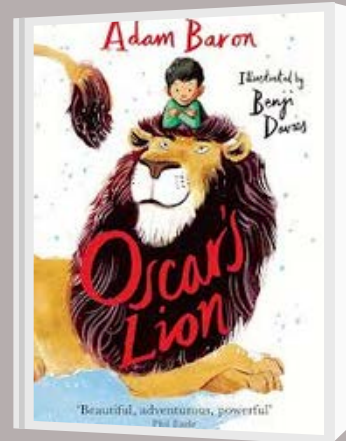
The Land of Roar – Jenny McLachlan
Twins Arthur and Rose discover a portal to their childhood imaginary world—and it's not as imaginary as they thought.



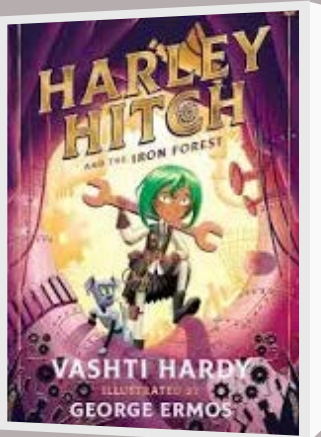
Leonora Bolt: Secret Inventor – Lucy Brandt
A genius young inventor battles baddies with her brilliant gadgets and a team of quirky sidekicks.



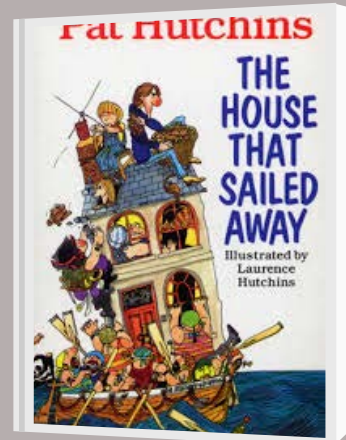
Peanut Jones and the Illustrated City – Rob Biddulph
When Peanut's pencil brings her drawings to life, she embarks on a colourful quest to save her missing dad.



Oscar's Lion – Adam Baron
Oscar's world turns magical when a tiny, talking lion appears to help him through a tough time.



Harley Hitch and the Iron Forest – Vashti Hardy
Inventor Harley must save her home when a mysterious glitch threatens the magical Iron Forest.

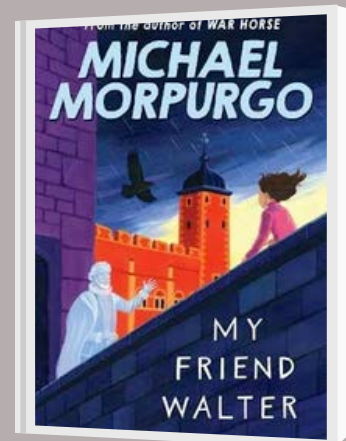


The House That Sailed Away – Pat Hutchins
A family's entire house sets sail for high-seas adventures in this funny, imaginative classic.

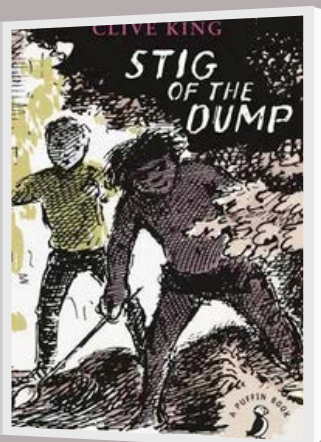
Historical Adventures



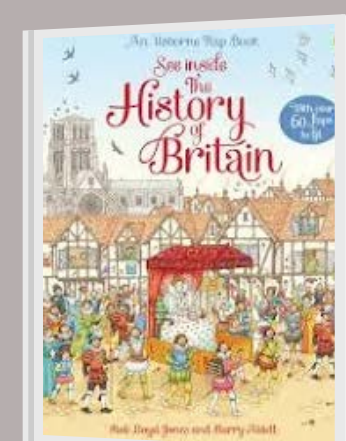
Tales of the Cobb Street Commandos – Tony Bradman
A thrilling adventure that follows a resourceful group of children on daring wartime missions, bringing the excitement, courage, and community spirit of WW2 London vividly to life.



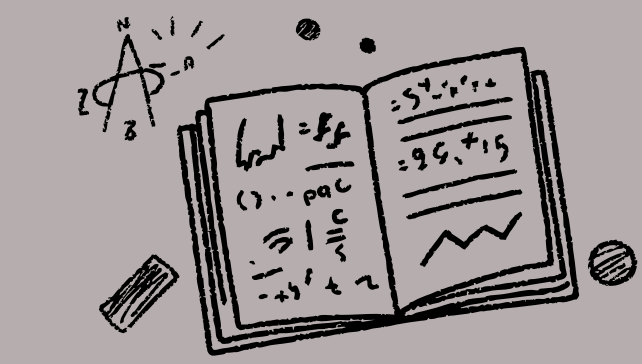
My Friend Walter – Michael Morpurgo
A modern family discovers they're hosting the ghost of Sir Walter Raleigh, whose mischievous presence turns everyday life upside down while revealing surprising links to the past.



Stig of the Dump – Clive King
A timeless adventure about the unlikely friendship between a lonely boy and a mysterious cave-dweller.



See Inside: History of Britain
An engaging lift-the-flap introduction to Britain's past, packed with fascinating facts, colourful illustrations, and interactive surprises that bring key moments in history to life.

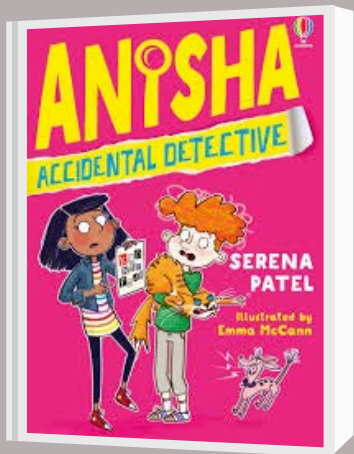


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Mystery Solvers & Clever Detectives



Anisha, Accidental Detective – Serena Patel

Anisha's Aunt's wedding is sabotaged, and it's up to her to crack the case—before the big day!



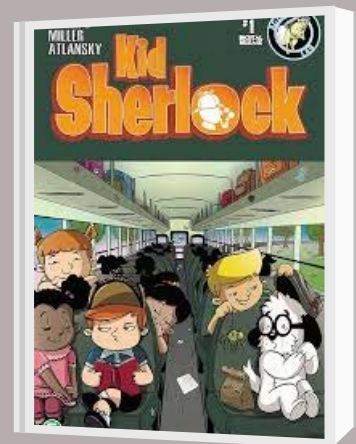
Kate on the Case – Hannah Peck

Intrepid reporter Kate embarks on a snow-capped train journey filled with curious clues and a mystery to solve.



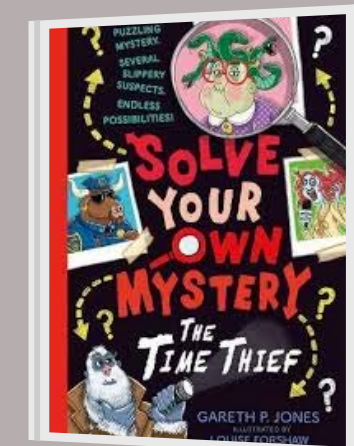
Libby and the Parisian Puzzle – Jo Clarke

Libby's first week at international school whisks her into a thrilling treasure hunt across Paris.



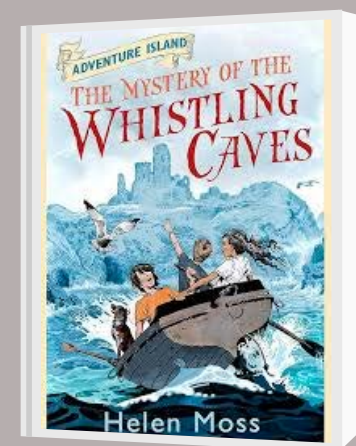
Kid Sherlock – Justin Phillips

Young detective Sherlock and his dog sidekick uncover mysteries that baffle the adults.



Solve Your Own Mystery: The Time Thief – Gareth P. Jones

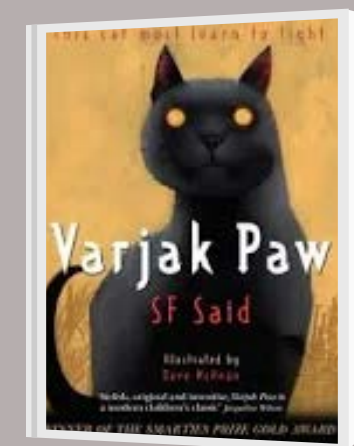
A hilarious, interactive detective story where YOU choose how to crack the case.



The Mystery of the Whistling Caves – Helen Moss

Three friends stumble upon a coastal mystery packed with secret tunnels and smuggler legends.

Magical Creatures & Mythical Worlds



Varjak Paw – S.F. Said

A Mesopotamian Blue kitten must leave his safe home to become a warrior and face the dangers of the city.



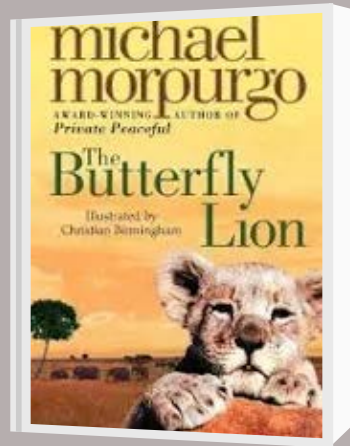
The Boy Who Grew Dragons – Andy Shepherd

Imagine discovering a dragon fruit that hatches a real, fire-breathing dragon – young Tomas did!



Dragon Force – Katie & Kevin Tsang

A team of young dragonriders battles dark magic to protect their world from shadowy forces.



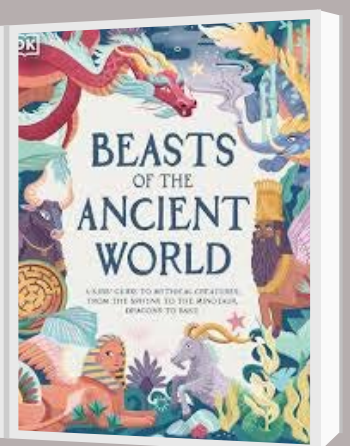
The Butterfly Lion – Michael Morpurgo

A boy's lifelong bond with a white lion cub takes him across continents and through time.



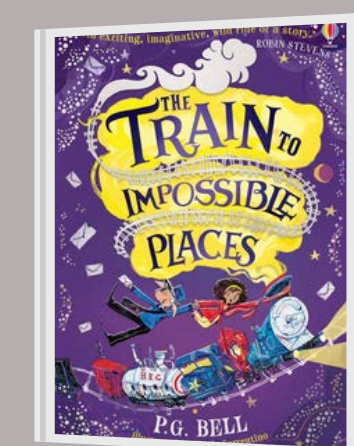
The Girl Who Became a Fish – Polly Ho-Yen

Shy Lani discovers a magical world under the sea and must summon her courage to help save it.



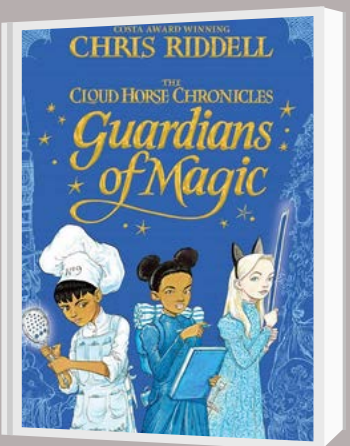
Beasts of the Ancient World – Marcella Ward

A fascinating guide to mythical creatures from ancient legends, from sphinxes to sea serpents.



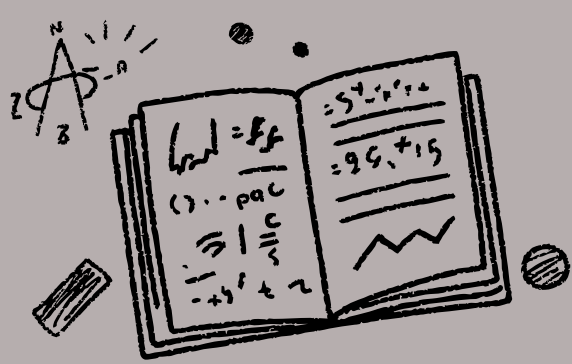
The Train to Impossible Places – P.G. Bell

A magical adventure that follows Suzy as she boards a mysterious train to fantastical worlds, where wonder, danger, and unforgettable friends await around every corner.



Guardians of Magic – Chris Riddell

Three ordinary children discover extraordinary powers and must join forces to protect a world where fairy tales come alive and magic itself is under threat.



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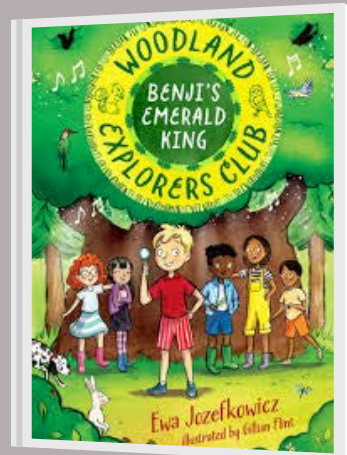
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Wildlife, Nature & the Wonders of the Outdoors



The Wild Robot – Peter Brown

Roz, a robot stranded on a remote island, learns to survive and thrive in the wild among animals.



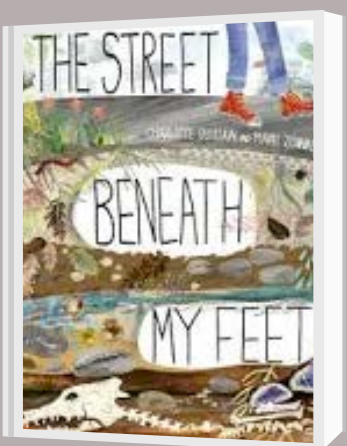
Woodland Explorers Club – Ewa Jozefkiewicz

A secret club of nature-loving friends works together to protect their local woodland from harm.



Ocean Meets Sky – The Fan Brothers

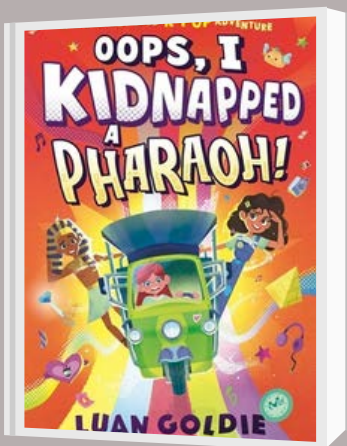
A dreamy picture book about a boy's journey into a magical seascape to honour his grandfather's memory.



The Street Beneath My Feet – Charlotte Guillain

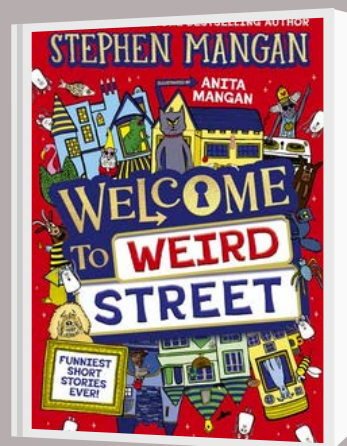
A fold-out adventure taking readers deep underground to explore the layers of earth beneath our feet.

Laugh-Out-Loud Fun



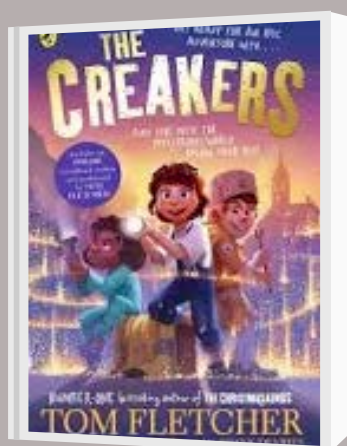
Oops, I Kidnapped a Pharaoh – Luan Goldie

When best friends Skylar and Dana accidentally kidnap Tutankhamun in their time-travelling tuktuk, they must race through history – and meet some famous faces along the way- to get King Tut home before they change the past forever.



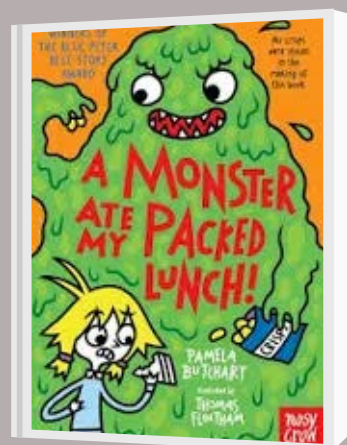
Welcome to Weird Street – Stephen Mangan

A brilliantly silly, high-energy, fully illustrated collection of weird, wonderful and interconnected short stories.



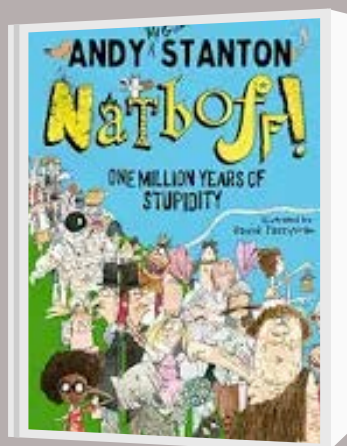
The Creakers – Tom Fletcher

Mysterious creatures called Creakers are stealing things in the night—and it's up to Lucy to stop them!



A Monster Ate My Packed Lunch – Pamela Butchart

Izzy and her friends suspect their packed lunches are being eaten by a real-life monster on their school trip.



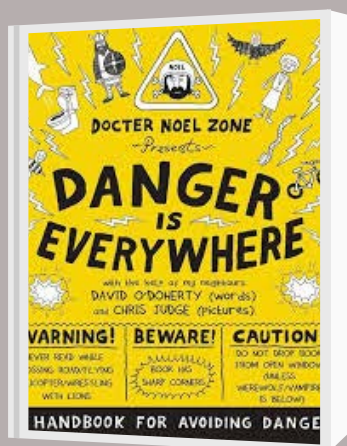
Natboff! One Million Years of Stupidity – Andy Stanton

A hilariously ridiculous history of a town filled with absurd characters through the ages.



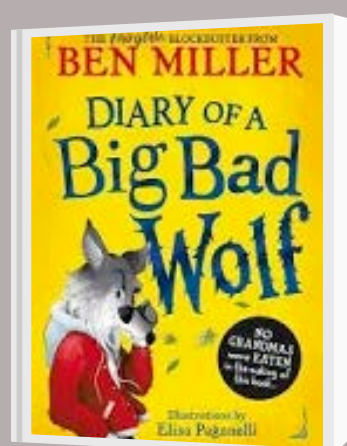
The Nothing to See Here Hotel – Steven Butler

Frankie Banister runs a hotel for magical creatures, and his latest guest spells hilarious disaster.



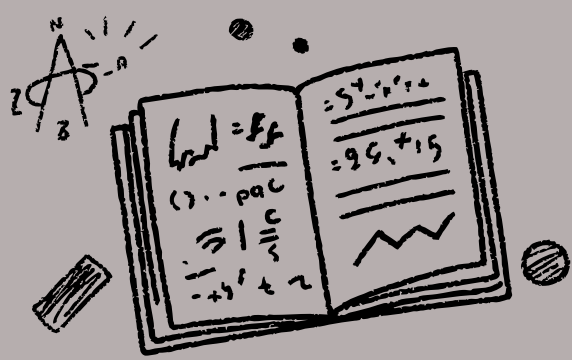
Danger is Everywhere – David O'Doherty

Dr Noel Zone, the world's greatest dangerologist, shares his bonkers survival tips for absolutely everything.



Diary of a Big Bad Wolf – Ben Miller

The classic fairytale villain tells his side of the story in a laugh-out-loud twist on the Three Little Pigs.

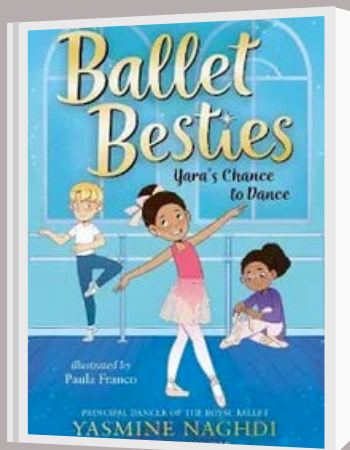


Open Horizons



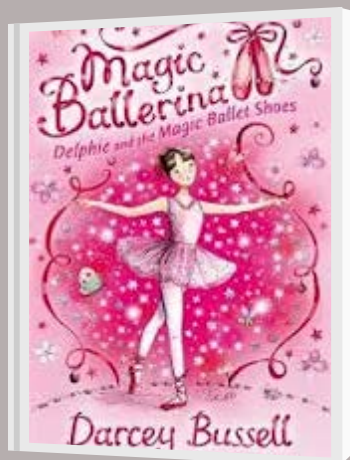
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Sport, Dance and Performing Arts



Ballet Besties: Yara's Chance to Dance – Yasmine Naghdi

Yara's dream of performing ballet comes true when she gets a chance to dance in a big show.



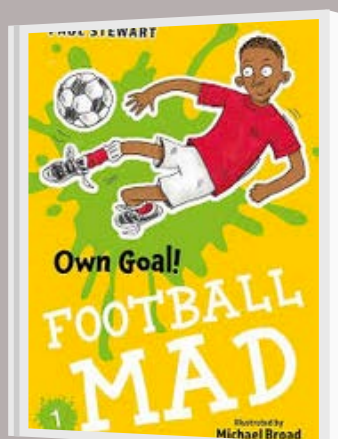
Delphie and the Magic Ballet Shoes – Darcey Bussell

Delphie's magic ballet shoes whisk her away to an enchanted kingdom of dance.



Rugby Academy – Tom Palmer

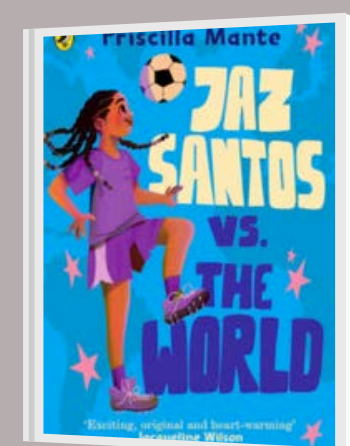
A group of teens juggle their dreams of rugby stardom with life's everyday challenges.



Own Goal: Football Mad – Paul Stewart

After scoring a disastrous own goal, Scott's problems get worse when a nasty message points to his best friend Danny as the culprit.

*Dyslexia friendly



Jaz Santos vs The World - Priscilla Mante

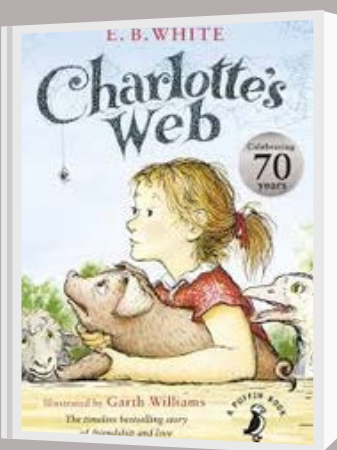
When Jaz forms an unlikely girls' football team for a local tournament, she's determined to prove that girls deserve to be taken seriously on the pitch.



Into the Spotlight - Carrie Hope Fletcher

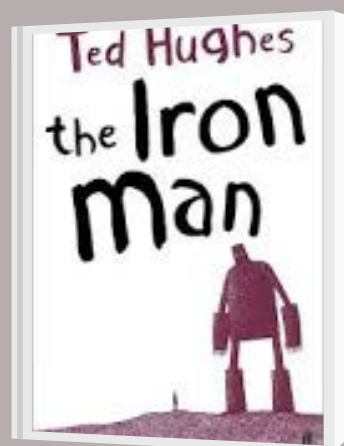
When the Pebble children's beloved theatre – where they have lived their whole lives – faces closure, a secret linked to the Fossil sisters inspires them to find a very special way to save it.

Thought-Provoking & Emotional Journeys



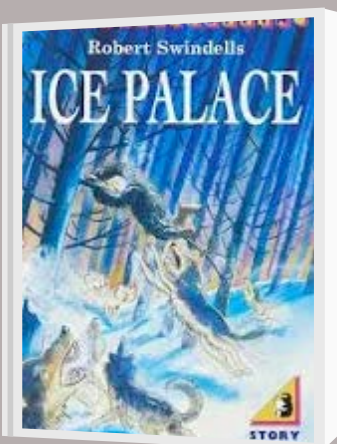
Charlotte's Web – E.B. White

The beloved story of a pig named Wilbur and his wise spider friend, Charlotte, who weaves words to save his life.



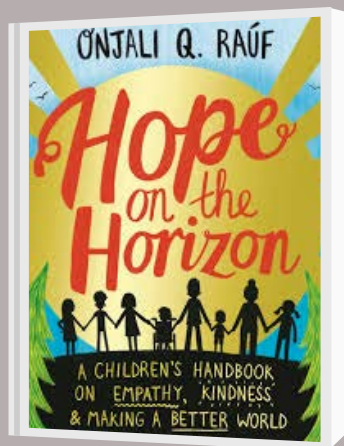
The Iron Man – Ted Hughes

An enormous iron giant arrives in the countryside, terrifying humans—until a bigger threat makes them unite.



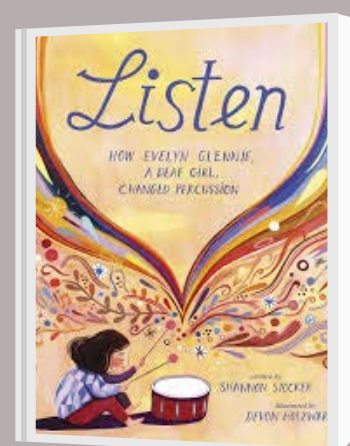
The Ice Palace – Robert Swindells

A powerful tale of courage as a young boy ventures into a frozen world to rescue his brother from a terrifying figure.



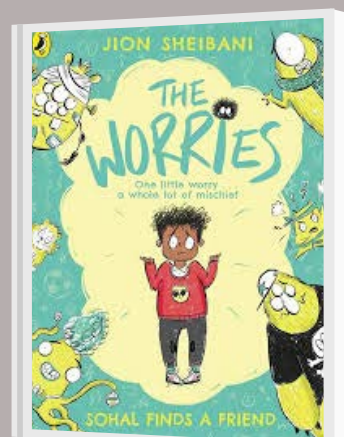
Hope on the Horizon – Onjali Q. Rauf

A thoughtful collection of real-life stories and reflections, inspiring children to be everyday heroes.



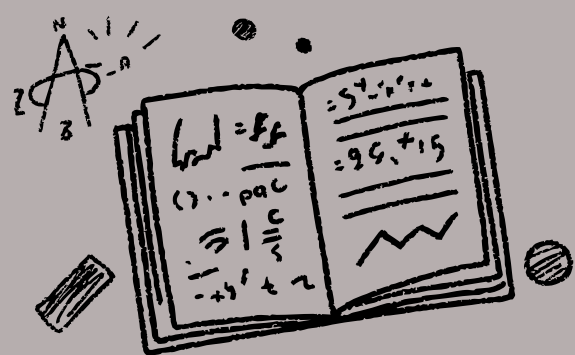
Listen: How Evelyn Glennie, a Deaf Girl, Changed Percussion – Shannon Stocker

The inspiring true story of how Evelyn Glennie broke barriers to become a world-famous percussionist.



The Worries: Sohal Finds a Friend – Jion Sheibani

When Sohal's worries come to life as funny little creatures, he learns how to face his fears head-on.



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Diving into richer tales and exploring more challenging reads.



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As your reading matures, you'll embark on richer adventures, encounter complex ideas, and explore stories that inspire independent thought and imagination.

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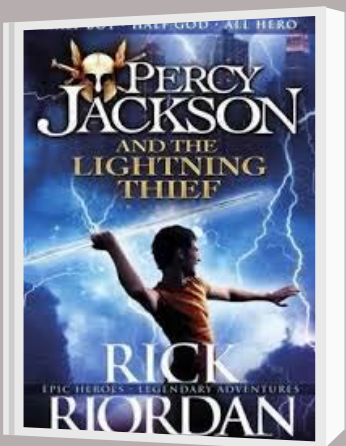
Epic Adventures and Daring Quests



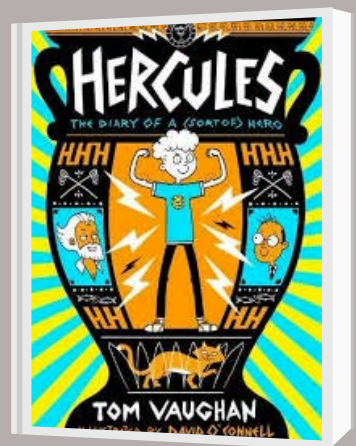
Running Out of Time – Simon Fox
A boy discovers a mysterious power that could save or destroy the future.



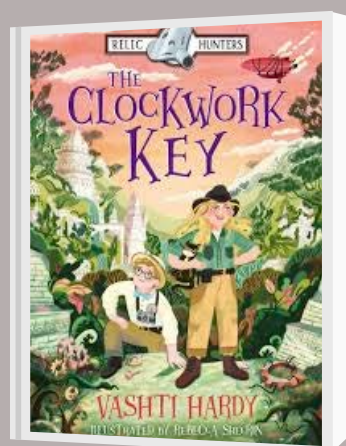
Brightstorm – Vashti Hardy
Twins Arthur and Maudie set off on a thrilling sky-ship adventure to uncover the truth about their father's mysterious disappearance and clear his name.



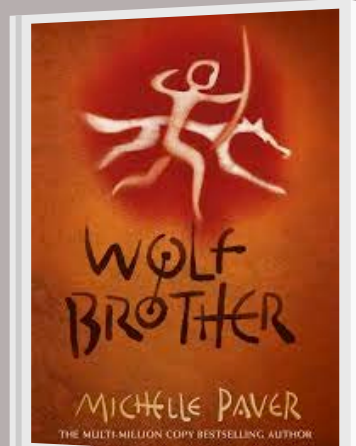
Percy Jackson – Rick Riordan
When Percy Jackson discovers he is the son of a Greek god, he is plunged into a dangerous world of monsters, myths and epic adventures.



Hercules – Tom Vaughan
A fresh, funny retelling of the legendary strongman's heroic feats.



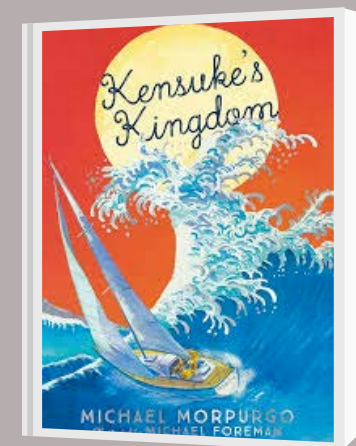
The Clockwork Key – Vashti Hardy
A thrilling steampunk adventure packed with mysterious inventions and dangerous secrets.



Wolf Brother – Michelle Paver
Set in the Stone Age, a boy and a wolf must survive against dark magic.



The Explorer – Katherine Rundell
When their plane crashes in the Amazon, four children must survive the jungle together.



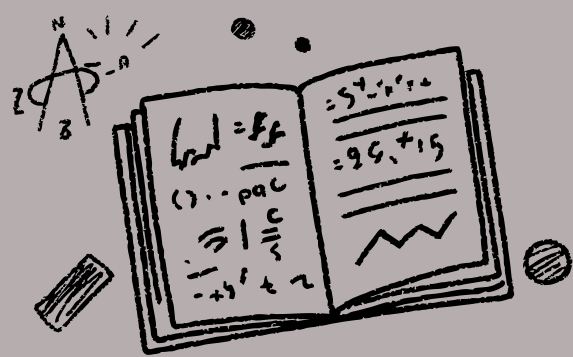
Kensuke's Kingdom – Michael Morpurgo
A shipwrecked boy finds himself stranded on an island with a mysterious old man.



The Lost Whale – Hannah Gold
A moving tale of a boy's bond with a magnificent whale and a call to protect the oceans.



Orphans of the Tide – Struan Murray
Ellie must uncover the truth when a strange boy washes up in a city that fears the sea.



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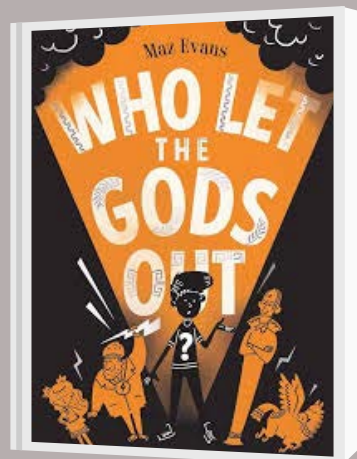


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Skandar and the Unicorn Thief – A.F. Steadman

In a world where unicorns are powerful and deadly, Skandar is desperate to tame one.



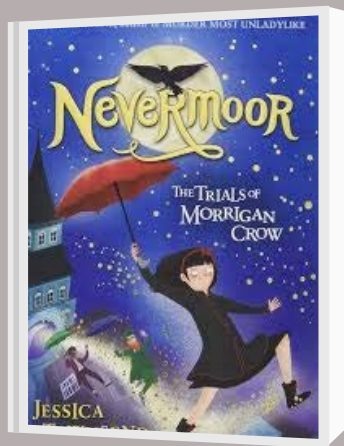
Who Let the Gods Out? – Maz Evans

A hilarious adventure as a mortal boy teams up with Greek gods to save the world.



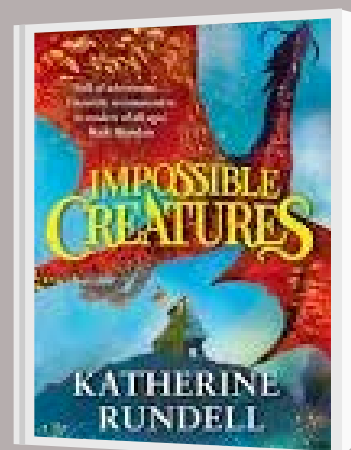
The Secret of Platform 13 – Eva Ibbotson

A hidden platform at King's Cross Station leads to a magical island—and a royal rescue mission.



Nevermoor – Jessica Townsend

Morrigan Crow escapes her cursed fate and discovers a magical city where she must prove herself.



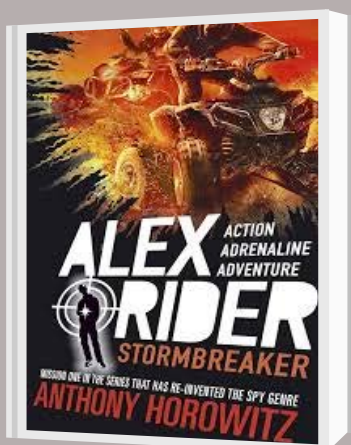
Impossible Creatures – Katherine Rundell

When Christopher discovers a hidden world of magical creatures, he is swept into an epic adventure to save them from a mysterious threat.

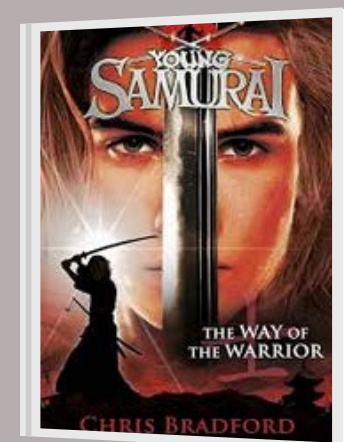


The Spook's Apprentice – Joseph Delaney

Thomas Ward learns to fight boggarts, witches, and other dark creatures as a Spook's apprentice.



Alex Rider – Anthony Horowitz Teenage spy Alex Rider is forced into a world of danger and international espionage.



Young Samurai – Chris Bradford

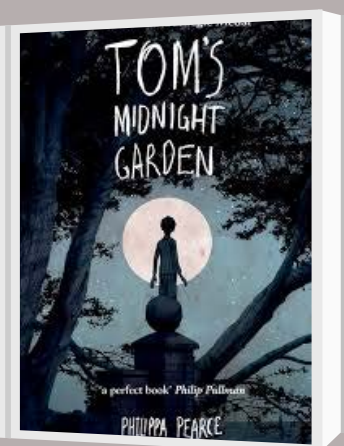
An English boy shipwrecked in Japan must master the way of the samurai to survive.

Mysteries, Crimes & Clever Detectives



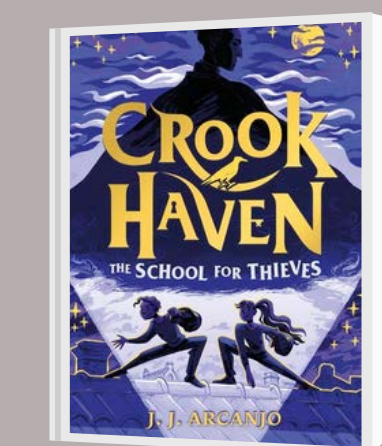
The Highland Falcon Thief – M.G. Leonard

A train journey turns into a thrilling hunt for a priceless stolen jewel.



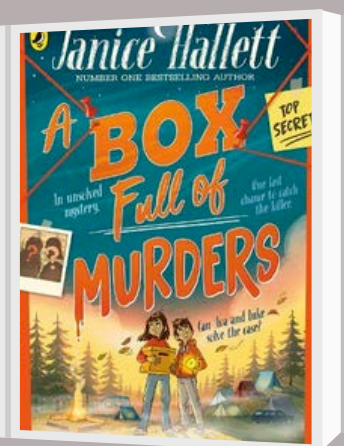
Tom's Midnight Garden – Philippa Pearce

A timeless story where a mysterious midnight garden becomes a gateway to the past.



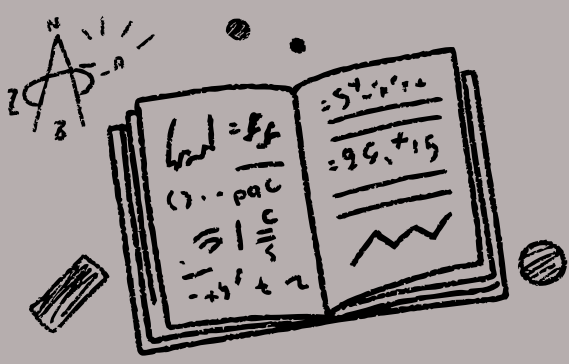
Crookhaven: The School for Thieves – J.J. Arcanjo

When talented pickpocket Gabriel is invited to Crookhaven, a secret school for thieves, he enters a world of lock-picking, forgery and daring cons where nothing – and no-one – is quite what it seems.



A Box Full of Murders – Janice Hallett

When Ava and Luke discover a mysterious box in their attic, its letters, diaries, newspaper cuttings and secret recordings draw them into a decades-old unsolved murder mystery.



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The Girl Who Walked on Air – Emma Carroll

A bold young tightrope walker chases her circus dreams amidst dangerous secrets.



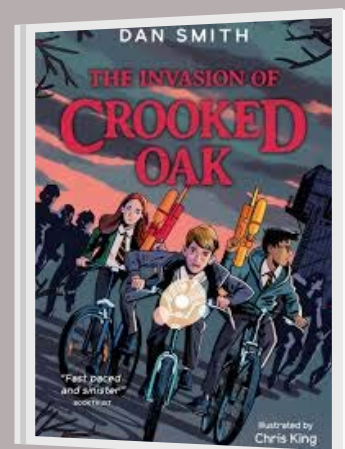
Malamander – Thomas Taylor

When Violet Parma arrives in the mysterious seaside town of Eerie-on-Sea, she teams up with Herbie Lemon to uncover the truth about her missing parents and the legendary sea monster known as the Malamander.



Artemis Fowl – Eoin Colfer

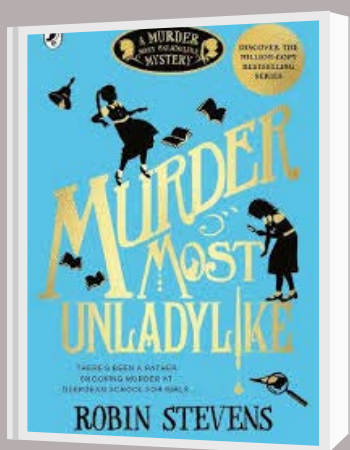
A teenage criminal mastermind kidnaps a fairy to restore his family fortune, but gets more than he bargained for.



The Invasion of Crooked Oak – Dan Smith

Strange things are happening in Crooked Oak, and it's up to a group of friends to solve the mystery.

*Dylexia friendly print



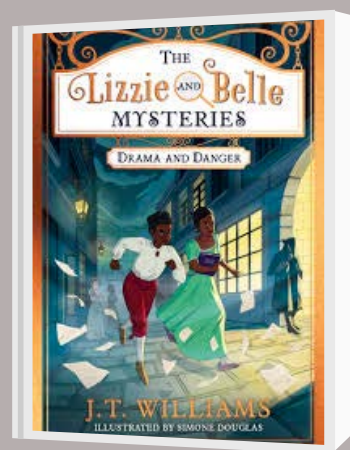
Murder Most Unladylike – Robin Stevens

When schoolgirls Daisy Wells and Hazel Wong discover a murder at their boarding school, the young detectives set out to solve the case before the killer strikes again.



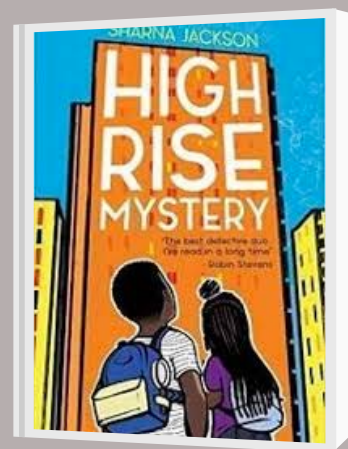
Skulduggery Pleasant – Derek Landy

A skeleton detective and his fiery apprentice battle magical villains in this fast-paced fantasy noir.



Lizzie & Belle Mysteries – J.T. Williams

Two girls uncover secrets and solve crimes in Georgian London.



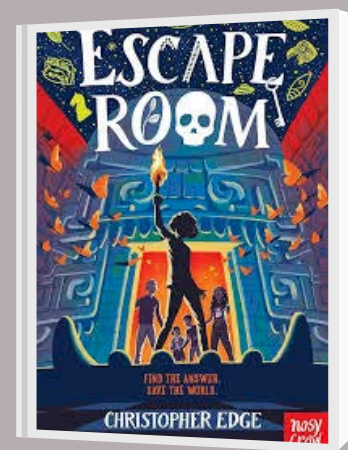
High-Rise Mystery – Sharna Jackson

When a murder rocks their London tower block, sisters Nik and Norva set out to uncover the killer in a gripping mystery packed with clues, suspects and secrets.



London Eye Mystery – Siobhan Dowd

When their cousin mysteriously disappears from the London Eye, siblings Ted and Kat must follow the clues and race against time to work out what happened to him.



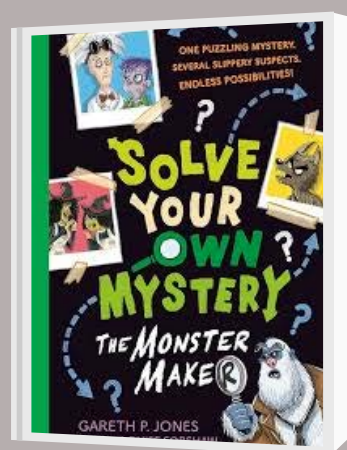
Escape Room – Christopher Edge

When Ami enters the ultimate escape room, she must solve a series of mind-bending puzzles and challenges to find the Answer and save the world before time runs out.



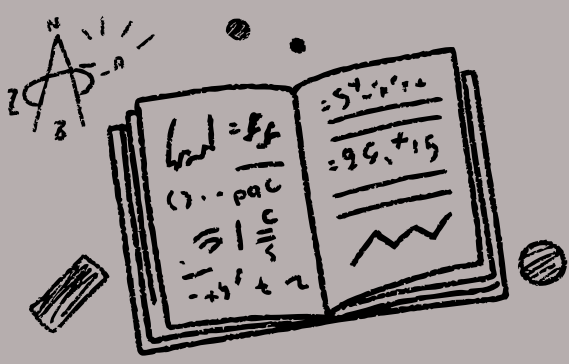
Crater Lake – Jennifer Killick

A school trip turns into a sci-fi horror survival when strange things start happening at Crater Lake.



Solve Your Own Mystery – Gareth P. Jones

An interactive whodunit where you, the reader, must solve the case.

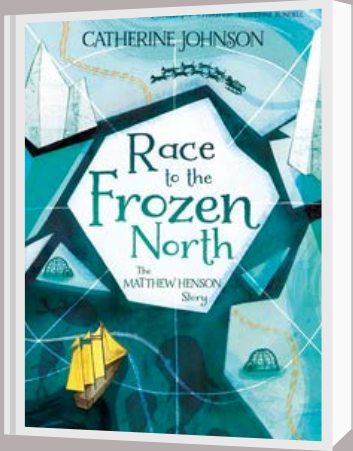


Deep Waters



Orwell
Park
School

Stories that Open Minds and Hearts



Race to the Frozen North - Catherine Johnson

A beautifully written fictionalised account of the life of Matthew Henson, the first African American man to travel to the North Pole.

*Dyslexia friendly



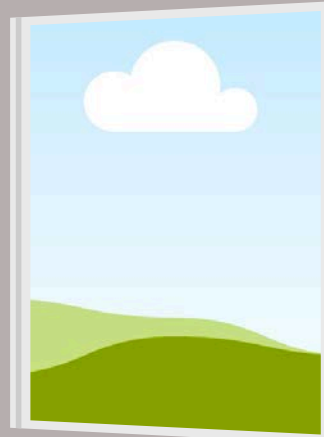
The Island at the End of Everything – Kiran Millwood Hargrave

When Amihan is separated from her mother, who has leprosy, and forced to leave their island home, she embarks on a courageous journey to find her way back to her.



The Breadwinner – Deborah Ellis

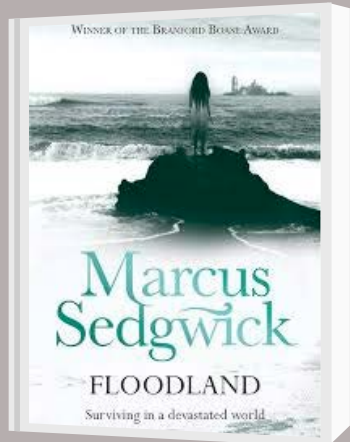
Parvana disguises herself as a boy to support her family under Taliban rule in Afghanistan.



Own Goal: Football Mad – Paul Stewart

After scoring a disastrous own goal, Scott's problems get worse when a nasty message points to his best friend Danny as the culprit.

*Dyslexia friendly print



Floodland – Marcus Sedgwick

In a future Britain flooded by rising seas, a girl must navigate treacherous waters and dangerous communities.



Eagle Warrior - Gill Lewis

When a golden eagle near her family's farm is threatened by poachers, Bobbie and her gran risk everything to protect it in this gripping Scottish Highlands adventure.

*Dyslexia friendly



Song of the River – Gill Lewis

A gentle story about a boy, a river, and finding his voice to protect the wildlife he loves.

*Dyslexia friendly



Pig Heart Boy – Malorie Blackman

A boy's life changes when he becomes the world's first human to receive a pig's heart transplant.



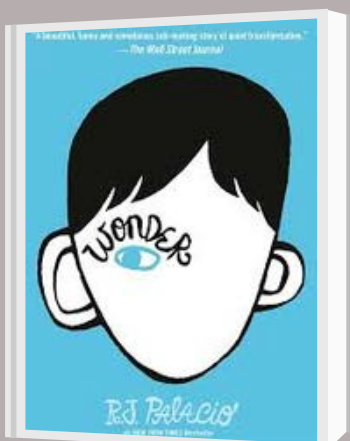
Freedom: 1783 – Catherine Johnson

A thrilling escape story of a Jamaican slave boy who fights for his freedom.



Boy, Everywhere – A.M. Dassu

When war forces Sami and his family to flee their comfortable life in Damascus, they embark on a dangerous journey across countries and continents in search of safety and a new home.



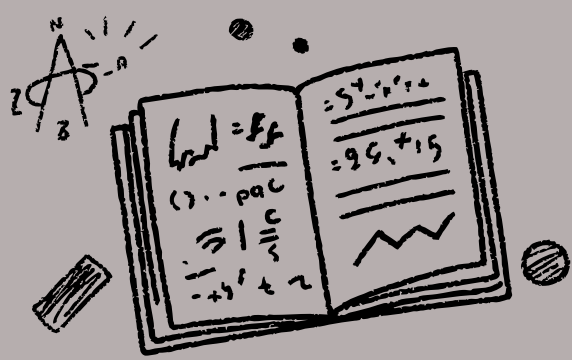
Wonder – R.J. Palacio

Auggie, a boy with a facial difference, teaches his schoolmates about kindness and acceptance.



Windrush Child – Benjamin Zephaniah

A heartfelt story of a boy's journey from Jamaica to Britain during the Windrush era.

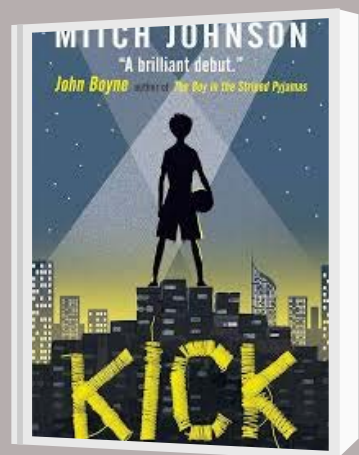


Deep Waters



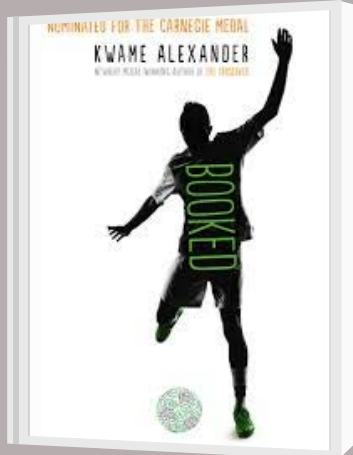
Orwell
Park
School

Sport, Ambition and Determination



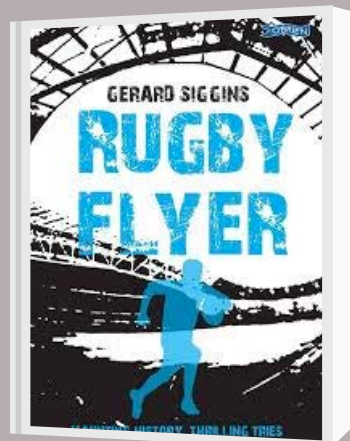
Kick – Mitch Johnson

A football-loving boy in Jakarta risks everything for his dreams amidst factory life.



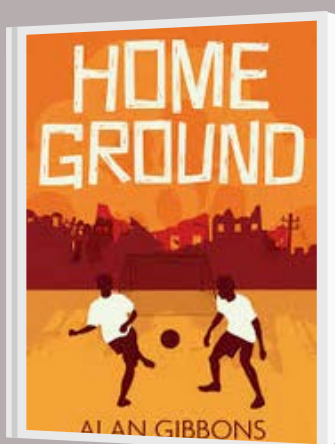
Booked – Kwame Alexander

A novel in verse about a soccer-loving teen navigating friendships, family, and first crushes.



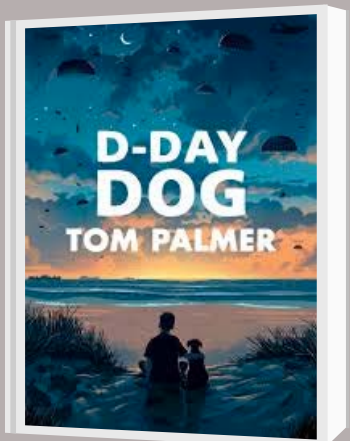
Rugby Flyer – Gerard Siggins

Eoin dreams of rugby stardom but must also face family secrets and new teammates.



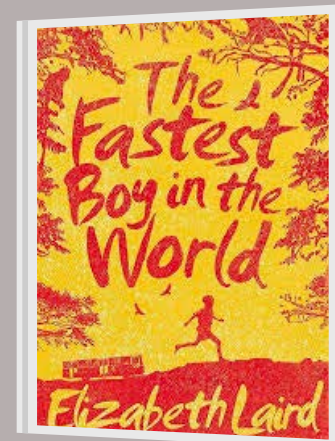
Home Ground – Alan Gibbons

A young refugee boy finds new hope on the football pitch in his adopted home.



D-Day Dog – Tom Palmer

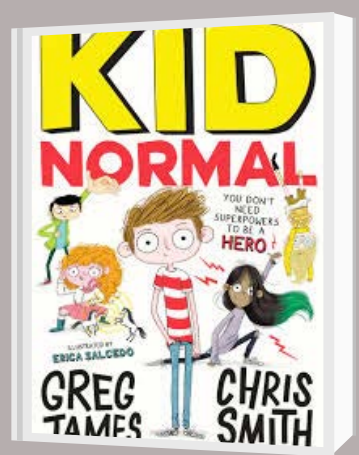
A football-loving boy learns about the bravery of war heroes through a school trip to Normandy.
*Dyslexia friendly



The Fastest Boy in the World – Elizabeth Laird

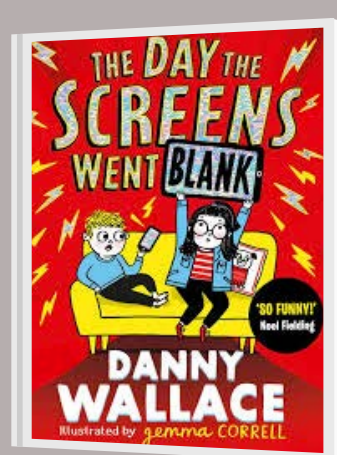
When his grandfather collapses in Addis Ababa, aspiring runner Solomon must race twenty miles home to his village for help, putting his courage, determination and dreams to the ultimate test.

Comedy Gold



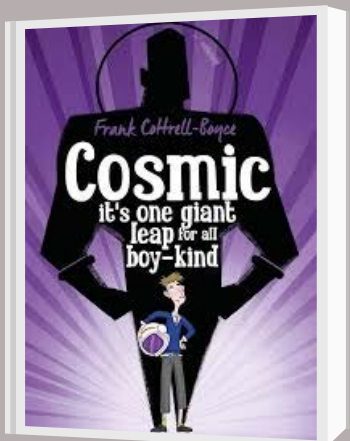
Kid Normal – Greg James

Murph doesn't have a superpower, but that won't stop him from saving the day with his misfit friends.



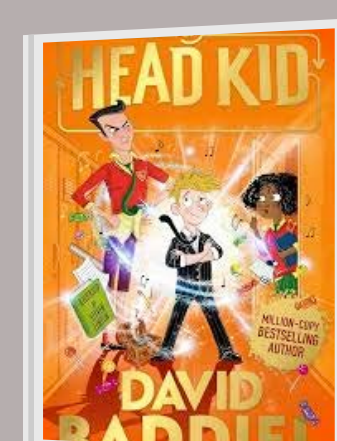
The Day the Screens Went Blank – Danny Wallace

When technology disappears, a family's chaotic road trip becomes the adventure of a lifetime.



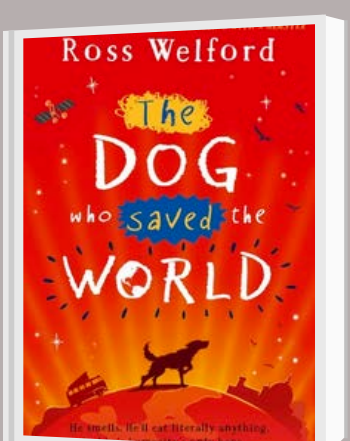
Cosmic – Frank Cottrell-Boyce

A boy who looks like an adult bluffs his way into a space mission that's way over his head.



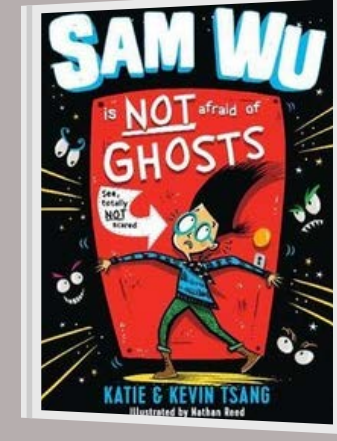
Head Kid – David Baddiel

A rebellious student and his strict headteacher accidentally swap bodies, with hilarious consequences.



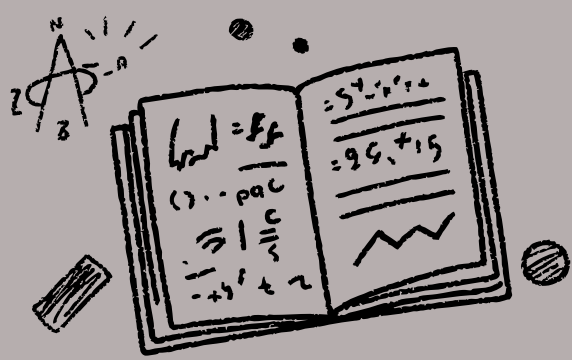
The Dog Who Saved the World - Ross Welford

When a deadly disease threatens every dog on Earth, Georgie and her beloved Mr Mash enter a virtual-reality future on a desperate mission to save dogs – and possibly humanity itself.



Sam Wu is Not Afraid of Ghosts - Katie and Kevin Tsang

Determined to prove he isn't a scaredy-cat, Sam Wu gets a pet snake – despite being terrified of snakes – and soon finds himself facing an even bigger fear when Fang mysteriously disappears.

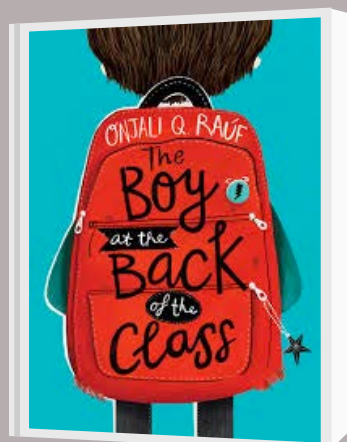


Deep Waters

Timeless Classics



Orwell
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School



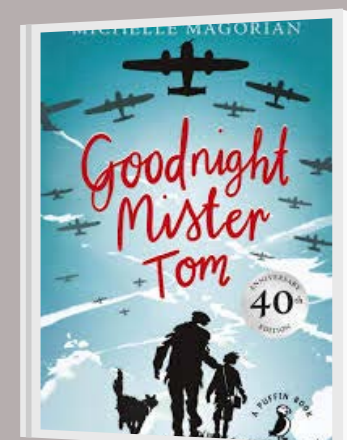
The Boy at the Back of the Class – Onjali Q. Raúf

A heartwarming, modern classic about kindness and acceptance as children befriend a refugee boy.



The Secret Garden – Frances Hodgson Burnett

A lonely girl discovers a hidden, overgrown garden, and through tending it, transforms her own life and the lives of those around her.



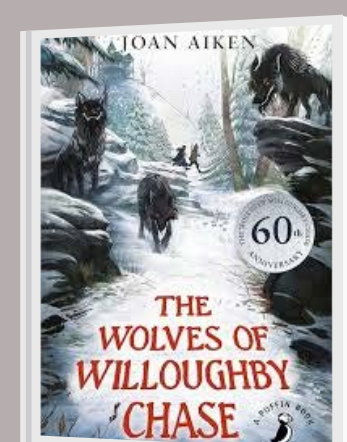
Goodnight Mister Tom – Michelle Magorian

An evacuee boy finds safety and friendship in the English countryside during WWII.



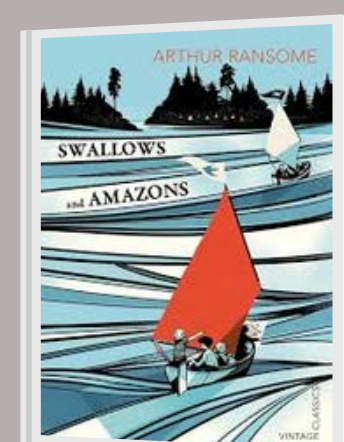
The Silver Sword – Ian Serraillier

A gripping tale of three children's journey across war-torn Europe to reunite with family.



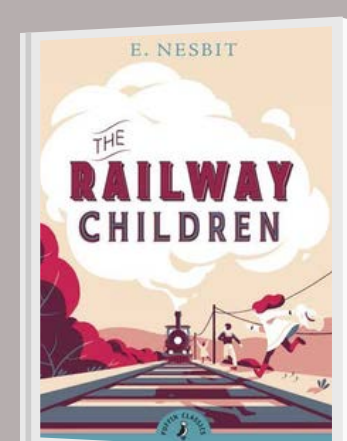
The Wolves of Willoughby Chase – Joan Aiken

An exciting gothic adventure set in an alternative 19th century, filled with brave heroines and dastardly villains.



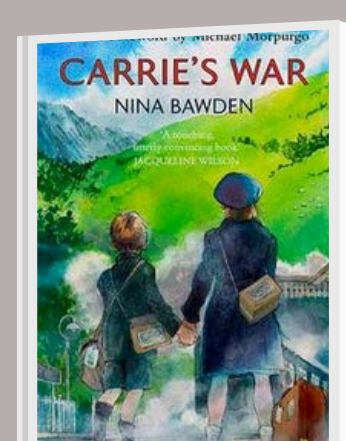
Swallows and Amazons – Arthur Ransome

A classic adventure where children explore lakes, islands, and create daring stories of pirates and explorers during their summer holidays.



The Railway Children – E Nesbit

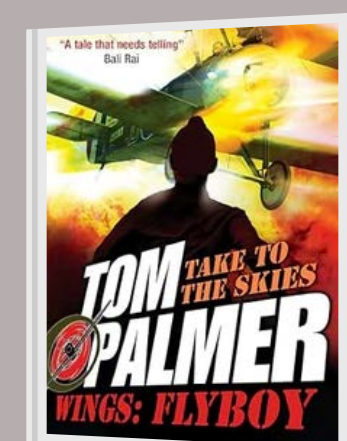
When their father mysteriously disappears, Bobbie, Peter and Phyllis move to the countryside, where a nearby railway brings adventure, new friendships and hope of uncovering the truth.



Carrie's War – Nina Bawden

Evacuated to Wales during the Second World War, Carrie and her brother discover friendship and mystery in their new home, until one terrible mistake has devastating consequences.

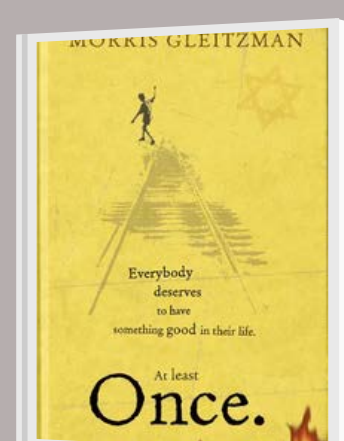
Historical Adventures



Wings: Flyboy – Tom Palmer

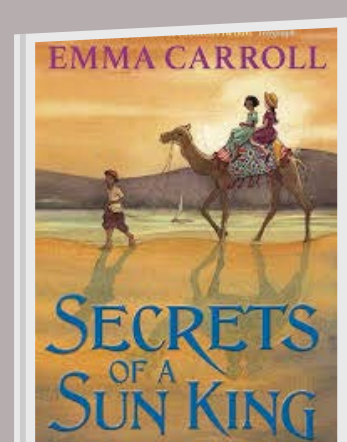
When cautious footballer Jastinder discovers a mysterious book about real-life fighter pilot Hardit Singh Malik, he is swept into a thrilling adventure of football, flight and courage.

*Dyslexia friendly



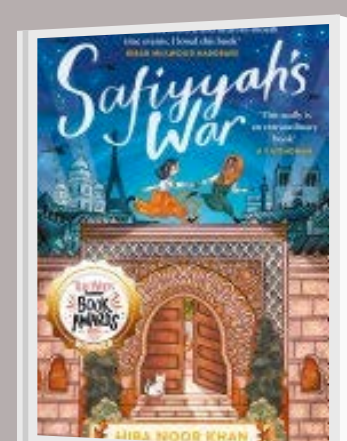
Once – Morris Gleitzman

In Nazi-occupied Poland, Jewish orphan Felix sets out to find his parents, using his optimism and gift for storytelling to bring hope and comfort amid the horrors of the Holocaust.



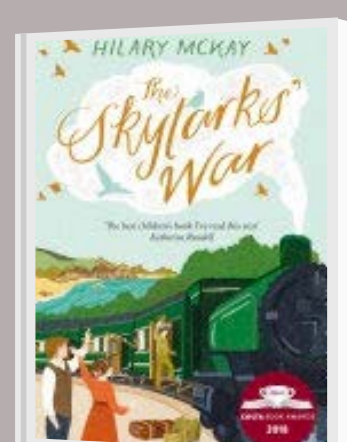
Secrets of a Sun King – Emma Carroll

A journey to Egypt uncovers a deadly ancient curse.



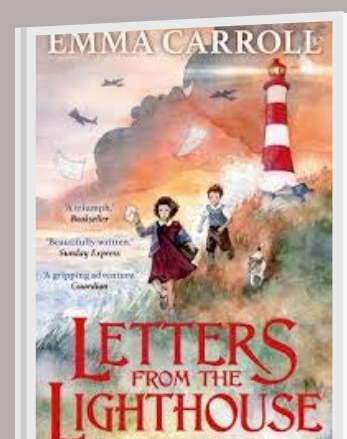
Saffiyah's War – Hiba Noor Khan

A gripping tale of bravery and defiance as a Muslim girl joins the French Resistance in WWII.



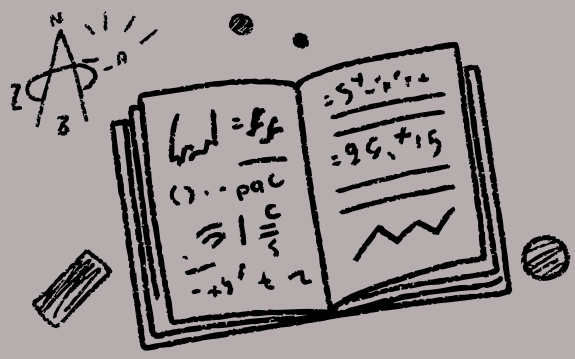
Skylarks' War – Hilary McKay

A family saga set before and during WWI, filled with heart and humour.



Letters from the Lighthouse – Emma Carroll

A wartime mystery unfolds as two siblings are evacuated to the coast during the Blitz.



Charting New Depths

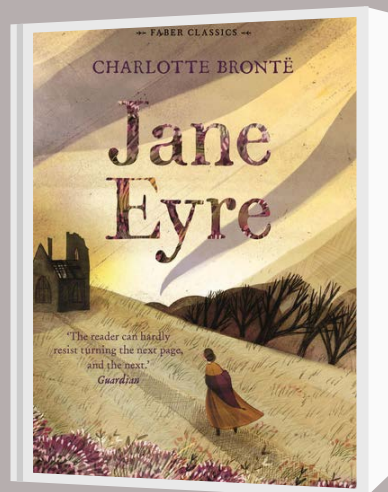
Navigating complex stories and discovering the endless depths of reading.



Orwell
Park
School

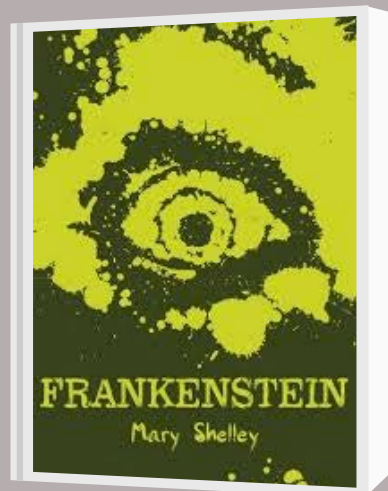
These books are chosen to stretch ambitious Year 7 & 8 readers with challenging language, complex stories, and big ideas. Approach them with curiosity and a willingness to explore. Some may require a bit of background research, making the experience even more rewarding.

Gothic Classics



Jane Eyre – Charlotte Brontë

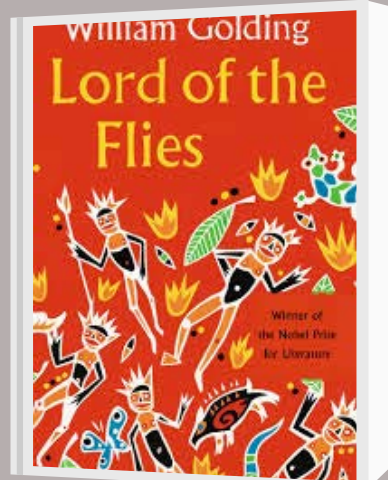
Orphaned and mistreated, Jane Eyre's journey to independence and self-respect is both moving and empowering. Rich Victorian language and complex themes of love, morality, and social class make this a rewarding challenge.



Frankenstein – Mary Shelley

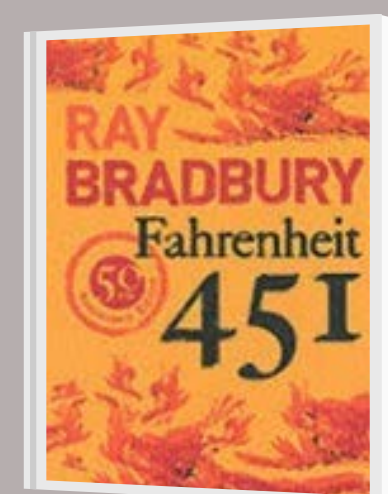
Victor Frankenstein's scientific ambition brings a creature to life, with tragic and terrifying consequences. A gothic masterpiece that explores creation, responsibility, and the boundaries of human ambition.

Dystopian



Lord of the Flies – William Golding

When a group of schoolboys is stranded on a deserted island, their fragile society descends into chaos and savagery. A gripping exploration of civilization, morality, and the darkness within human nature.



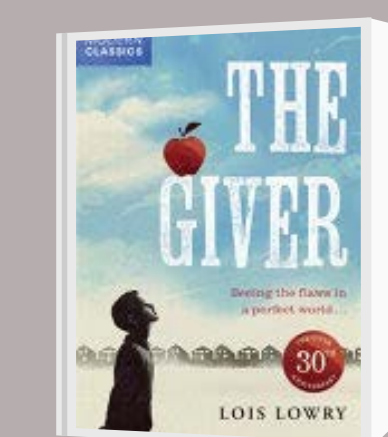
Fahrenheit 451 – Ray Bradbury

In a future where books are banned and burned, fireman Montag begins to question a society that fears knowledge. A visionary and thought-provoking classic about censorship, conformity, and the power of ideas.



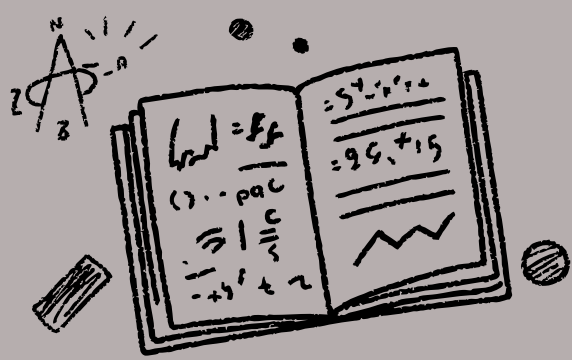
1984 – George Orwell

Winston Smith lives under the constant surveillance of a totalitarian regime where independent thought is forbidden and truth is manipulated. As he begins to question the oppressive world around him, this powerful dystopian novel explores themes of freedom, control, propaganda, and the enduring human desire for truth and individuality.



The Giver – Lois Lowry

Jonas lives in a seemingly perfect society where all pain, choice, and emotion have been eliminated—until he is chosen to receive its hidden memories. This thought-provoking dystopian tale raises deep questions about freedom, conformity, and the value of human experience.



Charting New Depths



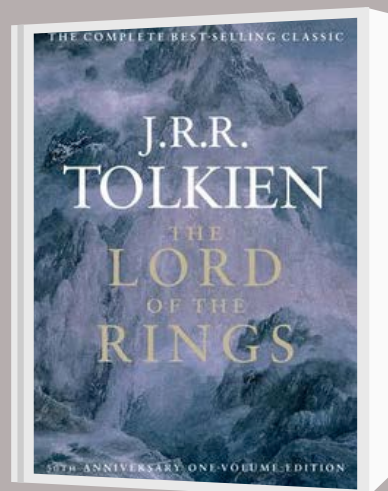
Orwell
Park
School

Fantasy



Mortal Engines – Philip Reeve

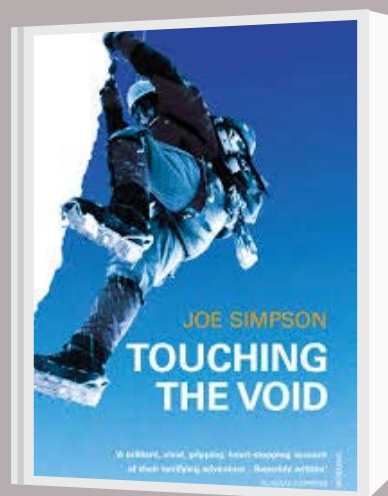
In a future where cities move and devour each other, young Tom and Hester uncover dark secrets about their world. Fast-paced yet thought-provoking, this steampunk epic grapples with themes of ambition, loyalty, and the cost of progress.



The Lord of the Rings – J.R.R. Tolkien

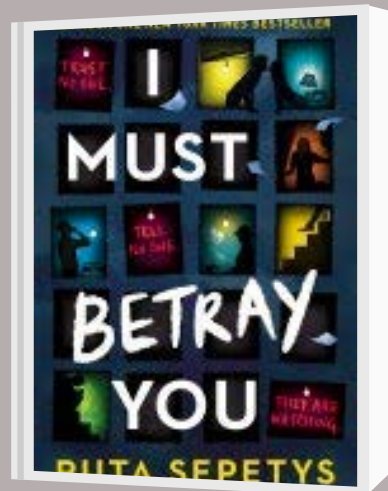
When Frodo Baggins inherits a powerful and dangerous ring, he embarks on an epic quest to destroy it before it falls into the hands of evil. This timeless fantasy explores themes of friendship, courage, sacrifice, and the enduring struggle between good and evil.

Action and Adventure



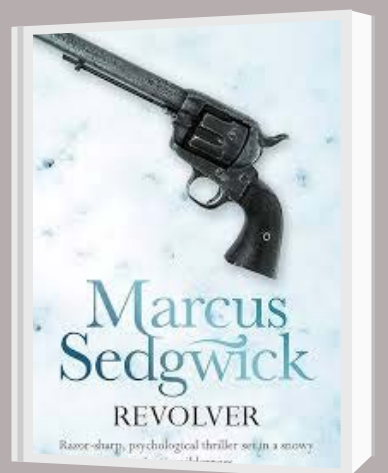
Touching the Void – Joe Simpson

A true survival story of mountaineers Joe Simpson and Simon Yates as they face near-impossible odds descending a Peruvian peak. Gripping, intense, and a powerful study of endurance, decision-making, and the human will to survive.



I Must Betray You – Ruta Sepetys

Set in communist Romania, Cristian is blackmailed to become an informer, forcing him to choose between betraying his loved ones or risking everything for the truth. A tense and eye-opening novel about courage under an oppressive regime.



Revolver – Marcus Sedgwick

When a mysterious stranger arrives at his remote Arctic home, Sig must decide whether to trust him or uncover the truth behind his father's death. This gripping historical thriller explores themes of courage, greed, survival, and the difficult choices that shape who we become.

Thought Provoking



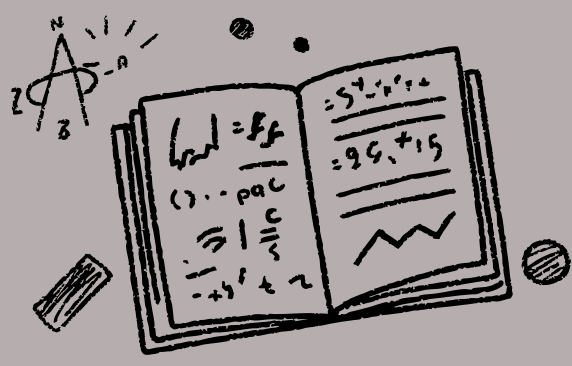
The Book Thief – Markus Zusak

Narrated by Death, this unforgettable novel tells the story of a young girl stealing books in Nazi Germany, finding solace in words amidst the horrors of war. The lyrical, unconventional narration challenges readers to think deeply about humanity and storytelling.



A Monster Calls – Patrick Ness

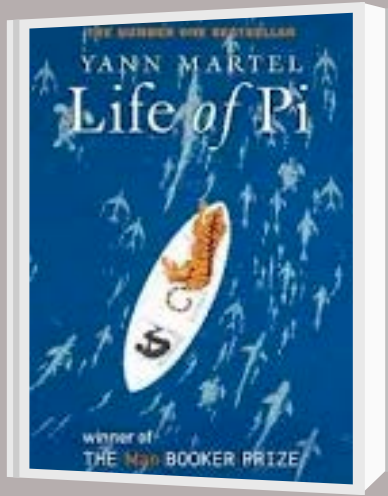
As his mother battles a terminal illness, Conor is visited by a monster who demands the truth. This haunting, emotionally charged story explores grief, denial, and the healing power of storytelling.



Charting New Depths

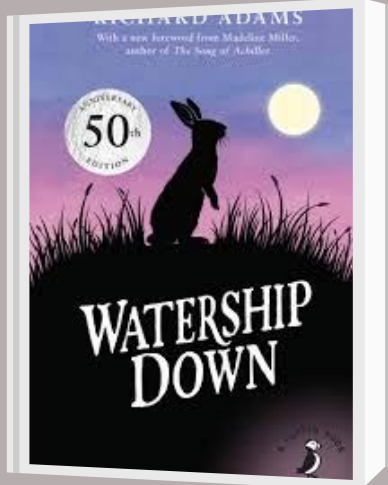


Orwell
Park
School



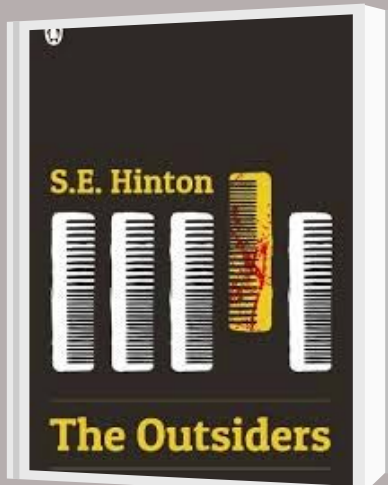
Life of Pi

After a shipwreck leaves him stranded in the Pacific Ocean with a Bengal tiger, Pi Patel must rely on courage, faith, and ingenuity to survive. This captivating, philosophical novel explores themes of resilience, spirituality, the power of storytelling, and the blurred line between truth and belief.



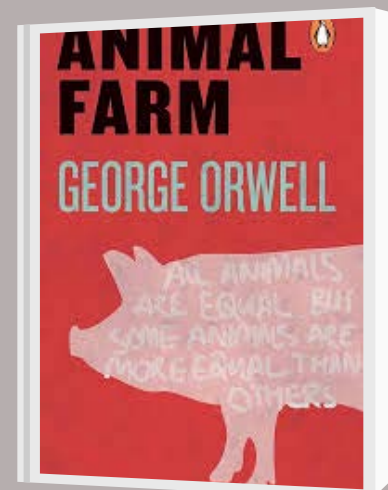
Watership Down – Richard Adams

A band of rabbits embarks on a perilous journey to find a new home, facing dangers that mirror human struggles for survival and leadership. Epic in scope, this animal adventure challenges readers with its rich allegory and depth.



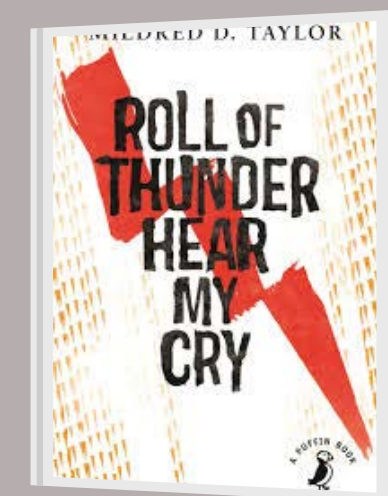
The Outsiders – S. E. Hinton

A gritty, heartfelt story of two rival teenage gangs, told from the viewpoint of Ponyboy Curtis. Themes of identity, loyalty, and the search for belonging make this a timeless coming-of-age novel.



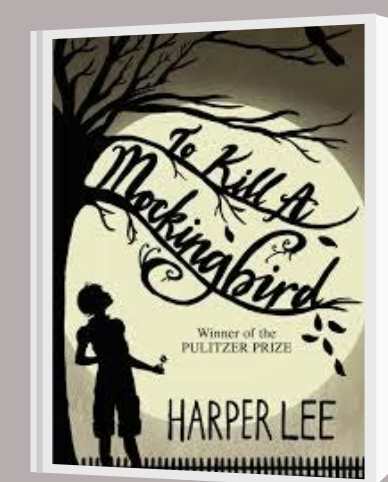
Animal Farm – George Orwell

This deceptively simple fable uses farm animals to expose the dangers of totalitarianism and the corruption of power. A sharp, satirical read that invites readers to think critically about politics and human nature.



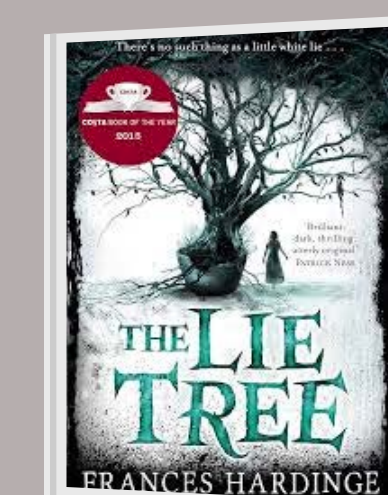
Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry – Mildred D. Taylor

Set in 1930s Mississippi, Cassie Logan faces racism and injustice while fighting to protect her family's land and dignity. A deeply moving and powerful novel that explores themes of courage, family, and standing up for what is right.



To Kill a Mockingbird – Harper Lee

A powerful coming-of-age story set in the racially divided American South, this novel explores justice, empathy, and moral integrity through the eyes of young Scout Finch. It challenges readers to confront prejudice and reflect on the meaning of true courage.



The Lie Tree – Frances Hardinge

Faith Sunderly discovers a mysterious tree that feeds on lies and reveals hidden truths, leading her into a dangerous web of secrets. A dark, clever Victorian mystery that challenges readers with its layered themes of science, belief, and power.