

Department Reading Lists

Independent learning is about reading around your subject and what interests you.

Use this guide to find books related to the topics that you study at KS3, and prepare you for GCSE and beyond.



Student A reads 20 minutes a day	Student B reads 10 minutes a day	Student C reads 1 minute a day
1,800,000 words per year	282,000 words per year	8,000 words per year
Scores in the 90 th percentile on standardised tests	Scores in the 50 th percentile on standardised tests	Scores in the 10 th percentile on standardised tests

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Animal Care

Find fiction to continue your learning outside of lessons.



Sharon Creech, *Love That Dog* (4-5)

Slowly Jack learns the pleasures of writing poetry as Miss Stretchberry encourages him to tell his stray story through verse. What emerges is a moving and memorable story about a boy and his dog and his growing passion for poetry.



Ann M. Martin, *How to Look for a Lost Dog* (4-3)

11-year-old Rose is autistic and struggles to understand her classmates. But when her father gives her a stray dog, which she names Rain, the dog becomes her best friend. So when Rain goes missing during a storm, Rose refuses to stop looking for her...



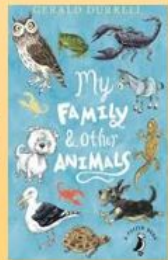
Anthony McGowan, *Brock* (4-4)

One boy's determination to save a badger cub from the destructive hands of a local gang. 12+, but particularly suitable for dyslexic or struggling readers.



J.K. Rowling, *Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them* (8-8)

An indispensable guide to the magical beasts of the wizarding world. Muggles who have seen the eponymous film or read the Harry Potter novels will be familiar with some of these beasts - the Niffler, the Thunderbird, the Hippogriff ...



Gerald Durrell, *My Family and Other Animals* (7-8)

Sometimes it's hard to tell them apart... my family and the animals, that is. With snakes in the bath and scorpions on the lunch table, our house, on the island of Corfu, is a bit like a circus. So they should feel right at home...



Michael Morpurgo, *Shadow* (4-9)

This book tells the story of an Afghan asylum seeker: the perils he faced in his homeland, the dog who led him to safety, and the fight to have him released. From immigration removal centre and granted residence.



Anna Sewall, *Black Beauty* (7-7)

A horse in nineteenth-century England recounts his experiences with both good and bad masters. This book goes from his carefree days as a colt on an English farm with his mother, to his difficult life pulling cabs in London, to his happy retirement in the country.



Lari Don, *First Aid for Fairies and Other Fabled Beasts* (5-5)

When Helen meets Yann, a centaur, she heals his leg and then joins him and his friends to find a missing book before it falls into the hands of the evil Master of the Maze.



Cressida Cowell, *How to Train Your Dragon* (6-6)

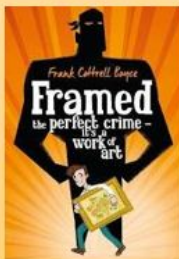
Hiccup Horrendous Haddock III was an extraordinary Viking Hero, who had power over dragons. But it wasn't always like that. In this book he tells the story of his first dragon. Book #1.





Art

Find fiction to continue your learning outside of lessons.



Frank Cottrell Boyce, *Framed* (4.2)

Dylan Hughes's dad leaves home and, overnight, Dylan must become the man of the household and boss of the failing family business. Dylan has never been interested in art before, but a valuable masterpiece might be just what they need.



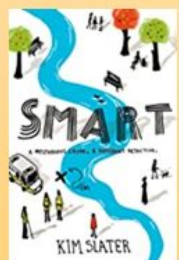
Michael Morpurgo, *Meeting Cézanne* (4.4)

Yannick is excited to spend the summer with his aunt and uncle in the French country, which he has only seen in paintings by Paul Cézanne, but is devastated when he accidentally destroys a drawing Pablo Picasso left after visiting the family's inn.



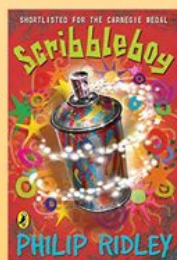
Robin Stevens, *The Guggenheim Mystery* (5.0)

Ted and his sister Kat are visiting their cousin Salim in New York City. When their Aunt Gloria is framed for art theft from the famous Guggenheim Museum, the cousins set out to solve the mystery.



Kim Slater, *Smart* (4.7)

Kieran becomes a detective to find out how the homeless man he found in the river died, as well as what's happened to his grandma. But being a detective is difficult when you're Kieran Woods. When you're amazing at drawing but terrible at fitting in.



Philip Ridley, *Scribbleboy* (3.4)

Scribbleboy transformed the grey concrete of the neighbourhood with his fabulous shapes and colours until one day, years ago, he vanished. Then, one night, a strange figure is seen and a mysterious voice is heard.



Cathy Brett, *Graphic* (4.0)

Joe is brilliant at Art. When the things he draws start to happen in real life, he's over the moon. He can get anything he wants! He can draw loads of money and become rich! But then Joe finds his drawings come to life in scary ways he never imagined.



Whitney Gardner, *You're Welcome Universe*

When Julia finds a slur about her best friend scrawled across the back of the Kingston School for the Deaf, she covers it up with a beautiful (albeit illegal) graffiti mural. Soon, Julia is thrown out of school, and into Mainstream- where she's drawn into a graffiti war. **KS4+**



David Almond, *The Colour of the Sun* (4.1)

A boy has been killed in Davie's little Tyneside town and Davie thinks he might know who did it. But as the day goes on, the real and imaginary start to merge - will Davie's world ever be the same? **KS4+**



Tracy Chevalier, *The Girl with a Pearl Earring* (5.4)

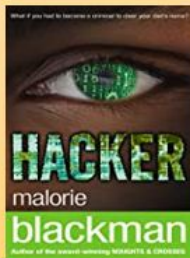
Griet, the maid, is fascinated with her master's paintings and is drawn into his world. Their growing intimacy sparks whispers, and when Vermeer paints her wearing his wife's pearl earrings, gossip escalates into a scandal. **KS4+**





Computer Science

Find fiction to continue your learning outside of lessons.



Malorie Blackman, *Hacker* (4.4)

When Vicky's father is arrested, accused of stealing over a million pounds from the bank where he works, she is determined to prove his innocence. But how, when all the evidence is hidden in computer files?



Helen Dennis, *River of Ink: Genesis* (4.5)

When a mystery teenage boy emerges from the River Thames drenched, distressed and unable to remember anything about himself, he becomes the focus of worldwide media speculation. Unable to communicate, a symbol soon emerges.



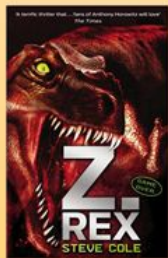
H.L. Dennis, *Secret Breakers: The Power of Three* (4.9)

When Brodie receives a coded message through the post her life changes for ever. She's drawn into a secret code and cipher society trying to crack the most complicated code in the world.



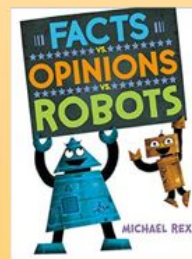
Barbara Spencer, *Running* (5.7)

When his dad disappears, Scott is determined to find him. But there's little for Scott to go on: a scrap of paper left in a printer and a poster pinned to the wall. And now someone's looking for Scott too.



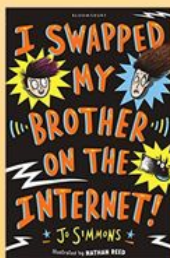
Steve Cole, *Z Rex* (5.4)

Thirteen-year-old Adam Adlar must elude police while being hunted by a dinosaur come-to-life from a virtual reality game invented by his father, who has gone missing. The plot contains graphic violence.



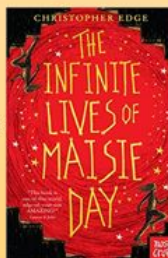
Michael Rex, *Facts vs Opinions vs Robots*

Non-fiction: Do you know the difference between a fact and an opinion? It can be a hard thing to understand.



Jo Simmons, *I swapped my Brother on the Internet* (4.2)

Jonny has had enough of his older brother Ted, so he decides to go on the internet to swap him for a new one. But they turn out to be stranger than he expected. First a merboy, then a child raised by meerkats - even a ghost. Will any of them be right?



Christopher Edge, *The Infinite Lives of Maisie Day* (6.0)

It's Maisie's birthday and she's hoping to get equipment to build her own nuclear reactor. But the house is empty and outside is a blackness.



Keren David, *The Disconnect* (4.0)

An entrepreneur has challenged Esther's year to go six weeks without their phones, offering a £1,000 prize to the winners. Can Esther stay disconnected? KS4+



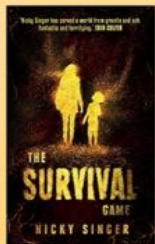


Design and Technology

Find fiction to continue your learning outside of lessons.



Product Design and Systems / Control



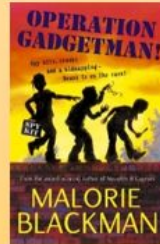
Nicky Singer, *The Survival Game* (4.6)

The world is a shell of what it was. Mhairi must prove herself worthy of existence at every turn and rely on her instincts and skills of creation to survive. Written by Mrs King-Smith's Sister-in-Law!!



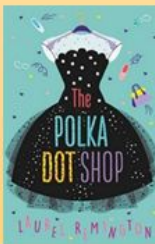
Philip Reeve, *Mortal Engines* (6.6)

A young assassin is stalking her prey through the city. Hester Shaw's plot is foiled by a young apprentice who has finally stumbled into a real adventure. Tom's intervention leaves the pair stranded in the Out-Country.



Malorie Blackman, *Operation Gadgetman!* (4.1)

Beans's dad, who she calls Gadgetman, is kidnapped when he invents a device that could steal millions of pounds. Beans sets out to track down the kidnappers and rescue him.



Laurel Remington, *The Polka Dot Shop*

All Andy wants is to dress like everyone else, but her mum's the owner of a run-down kooky vintage boutique, so she's bound to look - well - different.

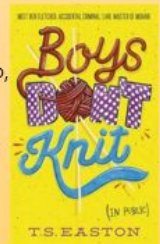
Should she conform?



Textiles

Lucy Adlington, *The Red Ribbon*

As Ella, a dressmaker, begins her first day working in the prison camp, she steps into a world of silks and seams, buttons and ribbons. But this is no ordinary workshop. Every dress could mean the difference between life and death. Yg+



T.S. Easton, *Boys Don't Knit* (5.0)

After a brush with the law, Ben must take up a new hobby and chooses knitting, an activity at which he excels but keeps secret from his friends, enemies and sports-obsessed father. Some sexual references. Yg+

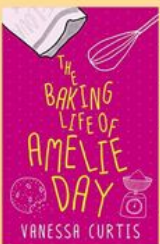


Food



Laurel Remington, *The Secret Cooking Club* (4.5)

Scarlett's life has become a misery since her mum made her the star of her popular blog. Discovering an empty kitchen next door, inspires her to start baking. Through it she makes a new friend and begins to grow in confidence.



Vanessa Curtis, *The Baking Life of Amelie Day* (BL 5.7)

Amelie Day loves to bake - so she's thrilled when she's invited to compete in Britain's Best Teen Baker of the Year. But Amelie has Cystic Fibrosis and some days can't breathe. Will Amelie's flower power be enough to get her there?



Laurel Remington, *Confetti and Cake*

Scarlett's blog has found success beyond her wildest dreams. What's more, her mum is getting married, and Scarlett is baking the wedding cake. Everything is perfect ... or is it?



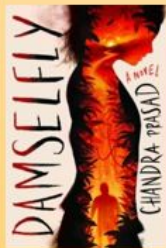


English

Find fiction to continue your learning outside of lessons.



Journeys



Chandra Prasad, *Damselfly*

A setting evocative of *Lord of the Flies*. In the wake of crash-landing on a deserted tropical island, a group of private-school teens must rely on their wits and one another to survive.



Rick Riordan, *Percy Jackson Series* (BL 4.1-5.6)

A teenager discovers he's the descendant of a Greek god and sets out on an adventure to settle an on-going battle between the gods.



Celia Rees, *Pirates* (BL 5.4)

Nancy, daughter of a rich merchant, suddenly orphaned when her father dies, is sent to live on her family's plantation in Jamaica. Disgusted by the treatment of the slaves, she and one of the slaves, Minerva, run away and join a band of pirates.



Katherine Rundell, *The Explorer* (4.5)

Stranded in the Amazon when their plane crashes on their way back to England, four children struggle to survive until one of them finds a map that leads them to a ruined city and a secret hidden among the vines.



Christopher Paolini, *The Inheritance Cycle* (5.6-7.8)

When poor farm boy Eragon finds a polished stone in the forest, he thinks it's a lucky discovery. But, when a baby dragon hatches out of the stone, Eragon realises he's stumbled upon something that will change his life.



Neil Gaiman, *The Graveyard Book* (BL 5.1)

A fantasy book with a difference. Each chapter is set in a different year of Bod's life, as he grows up raised by ghosts in a graveyard. A different sort of call to adventure, but lots of lessons learnt on the way...



Traveller's Tales



Maureen Johnson, *13 Little Blue Envelopes* (BL 5.0)

When seventeen-year-old Ginny receives a packet of mysterious envelopes from her aunt, she leaves New Jersey to criss-cross Europe on a sort of scavenger hunt that transforms her life. Some mature themes.



Jack Cheng, *See you in the Cosmos* (5.4)

Alex Petroski, along with his dog, Carl Sagan, makes big discoveries about his family on a road trip, and he records it all on a golden iPod he intends to launch into space.



Shakespeare's *The Tempest*



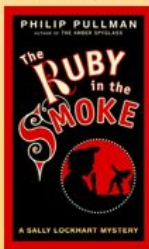
Lucy Christopher, *Storm Wake* (BL 4.1)

Loosely based around *The Tempest*. Moss has lived with her pa on a remote island for as long as she remembers. The Old World has disappeared beneath the waves - only Pa's magic can save the sunken continents.

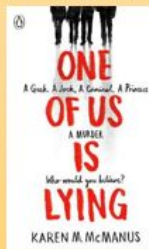


Arthur Conan Doyle, *The Hound of the Baskervilles* (BL 8.3)**Andrew Lane, *Young Sherlock Series*** (BL 6.0-6.4)

Imagining Sherlock as a teenager, this serious is a cross between mystery and adventure, spanning continents. If you've ever wondered where Sherlock developed all his skills, look no further.

**Philip Pullman, *The Ruby in the Smoke*** (BL 5.3)

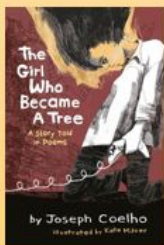
The first of three Sally Lockhart mysteries, *The Ruby in the Smoke* is set in 19th-century London, where 16-year-old Sally becomes involved in a deadly search for a mysterious ruby.

**Karen M. McManus, *One of us is lying*** (BL 5.1)

When the creator of a school gossip app mysteriously dies in front of four high-profile students, all four become suspects. It is up to them to solve the case. NOTE: The plot contains mild profanity and sexual references.



Words that Burn

**Joseph Coelho, *The Girl Who Became a Tree*** (4.8)

Daphne is unbearably sad at the loss of her dad, and tries to make sense of her memories and feelings. This is a story written in verse.

**Benjamin Zephaniah, *Terror Kid*** (BL 4.8)

Rico stays away from trouble as best as he can, but then he meets a stranger who changes everything, including Rico's reputation.



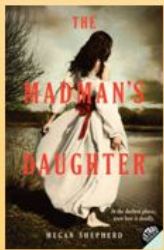
Words of War

**Michael Morpurgo, *Shadow*** (BL 4.9)

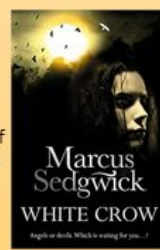
This book tells the story of an Afghan asylum seeker: the perils he faced in his homeland, the dog who led him to safety, and the fight to have him released from an immigration removal centre and granted residence.



Gothic Tales

**Megan Shepherd, *The Madman's Daughter***

This reimagines H.G. Wells' classic *The Island of Doctor Moreau*. Juliet, the doctor's daughter. After the events of that novel, Juliet has worked to make a life for herself, outside the shadow of her family's past.

**Marcus Sedgwick, *White Crow*** (4.9)

New to the small town of Winterfold, Rebecca is befriended by a strange girl haunted by a centuries-old question: what's on the other side of death?

Mature themes.

Shakespeare's *The Merchant of Venice***Anna Houghton, *The Mask of Aribella***

Aribella is the daughter of a lace-maker, growing up on the island of Burano in the Venice lagoon. But Aribella has a deadly and dangerous secret – when she gets angry, sparks shoot from her fingertips! She must protect Venice against dark spirits.





English

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Great Classics: Charles Dickens, *A Christmas Carol* (BL 6.7)



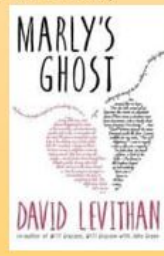
Chris Priestley, *The Last of the Spirits* (BL 5.5)

In this retelling of *A Christmas Carol*, Dickensian London is seen through the eyes of two orphan children who are living on the streets. They follow Scrooge and this leads to the magic that causes him to change his ways also touching their own lives.



R. L. Stine, *Young Scrooge*

Rick Scroogeman hates Christmas. What he hates the most is having to watch the old movie *A Christmas Carol* every year at school. Since his name is Scroogeman, all of his classmates start calling him Scrooge.

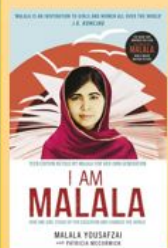


David Levithan, *Marly's Ghost* (5.1)

The spirit of Ben's girlfriend, Marly, returns with three other ghosts to haunt him with a painful journey through Valentine's Days past, present, and future.

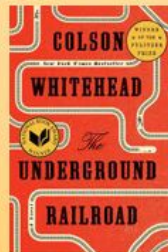


Voices of Equality



Malala Yousafzai, *I am Malala (Teen Edition)* (BL 5-9)

Malala describes her fight for education for girls under Taliban rule, the support she received to pursue an education and how the Taliban retaliated by trying to kill her.



Colson Whitehead, *The Underground Railroad*

A teenage slave named Cora, who flees the Georgia plantation where she was born, risks everything in pursuit of freedom, much like her mother, Mabel, did years before.



Shakespeare's Women

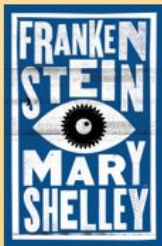


Lisa Mantchev, *Eyes Like Stars*

The Théâtre Illuminata is no ordinary theater, the characters from all Shakespeare's plays are trapped unless someone can set them free. Enter Beatrice.



Romantic Poetry

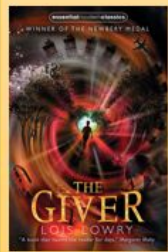


Mary Shelley, *Frankenstein* (BL 12.2)

Written when Mary Shelley was on holiday with Percy Shelley. A gifted scientist attempts to break new frontiers and create human life from nothing.



Not so great Futures: Dystopian Writing



Lois Lowry, *The Giver* (BL 5-3)

Twelve-year-old Jonas lives in a seemingly ideal world. Not until he is given his life assignment as the Receiver does he begin to understand the dark secrets behind this fragile community.



Michael Grant, *Gone* (BL 4-3)

Everyone is gone. Except for the young. There are teens, but not one single adult. Just as suddenly, there are no phones, no internet, no television. No way to get help. And no way to figure out what's happened.





Geography

Find fiction to continue your learning outside of lessons.

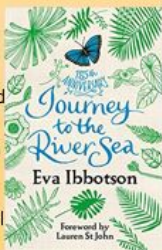


Globetrotters



Bear Grylls, *Claws of the Crocodile* (BL 5.3)

Stranded in the Australian Outback where he has travelled to find the truth about the accident that killed his parents, young Survival expert Beck Granger finds himself being hunted by men who want to kill him.



Eva Ibbotson, *Journey to the River Sea* (BL 5.6) Rick Orphaned Maia is sent to greedy relatives in the Amazon who have only offered to take her in for the sake of her money. Luckily she is accompanied by her gutsy governess and together they find freedom in the glorious setting of the rainforest.



Adeline Yen Mai, *Falling Leaves*

An unwanted Chinese daughter growing up during the Communist Revolution, blamed for her mother's death, ignored by her millionaire father and unwanted by her Eurasian step mother.



Home Region & Map Skills



Kiran Millwood Hargrave, *The Girl of Ink and Stars* (BL 4.7)

When a mysterious death shakes her island community, thirteen-year-old Isabella, daughter to the island's only mapmaker, joins a party of explorers who go into the forest in search of answers.



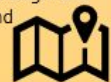
Catherine Johnson, *Race to the Frozen North* (BL 4.5)

When orphan Matthew ran away from his violent stepmother to find life in the big city, he ended up becoming the first man to reach the North Pole. This is the story of his achievement and how it was ignored due to the colour of his skin.



Arthur Ransome, *Swallows and Amazons*

To John, Susan, Titty and Roger, being allowed to use the boat Swallow to go camping on the island is adventure enough. But the four explorers find themselves under attack from fierce Amazon Pirates.



Farming System, Practices, & Impacts



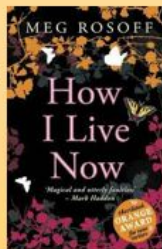
Laura Ingalls Wilder, *Little House on the Prairie* (BL 4.9)

This classic is based on the farming frontier of Midwest America in the late 1800s, and begins with Wilder as a young girl in a semi-autobiographical novel.



Jill Alexander, *The Sweetheart of Prosper County*

Almost-15-year-old Austin Gray is tired of standing at the curb and watching the parade pass her by. She decides she'll enter the annual parade, waving to the crowd and showing the town bully that she's got what it takes.



Meg Rosoff, *How I Live Now* (BL 6.7)

During what is meant to be a perfect summer, Daisy is sent from America to live in England. War breaks out, and the country is occupied. Then Daisy falls in love. **Warning: some more mature themes**





Geography

Find fiction to continue your learning outside of lessons.



Emily Diamond, Flood Child (BL 4-5)

Flooded England, 2216...most of it is under water. Bloodthirsty pirates prowl the shores, and when they kidnap the Prime Minister's daughter it looks like war. But Lilly Melkun is a girl determined to put things right, with the help of a pirate boy.



Wet World: All Things Water

Natasha Carthew, Only the Ocean (BL 5-4)

Kel Crow lives in a swamp with her deadbeat family. But she has a plan to escape: stow away on the ship, kidnap the girl, swap the girl to pay for passage to America and a life-saving operation. But the ocean is an untamable force, and wrecks ships and plans alike ...



David Almond, Half a Creature from the Sea (BL 4-3)

A powerful collection of short stories, interwoven with illuminating autobiographical pieces on the inspirations behind the fiction.



Nicola Yoon, The Sun is also a Star (BL 4-7)

Concerning migration. Daniel is Korean-American; his parents want him to be a doctor, but he's a poet at heart. Natasha came young to this country, and is a brilliant student, aiming for the stars, but she is undocumented.



Urban People & Places

Stephen Kelman, Pigeon English (BL 3-7)

Eleven-year-old Harrison Opoku, newly arrived in London from Ghana with his mother and older sister, starts his own murder investigation after a boy is knifed to death on the high street.



Eoin Colfer & Andrew Donkin, Illegal (Graphic Novel)

This explores the current plight of undocumented immigrants. Ebo is alone. His brother has disappeared, and Ebo is attempting the journey to Europe.



Coastal Processes and Landforms



Michael Morpurgo, Kensuke's Kingdom (BL 4-7)

Washed up on an island, Michael struggles to survive on his own. He can't find food, he can't find water. In the end he curls up to die. When he wakes there is a plate beside him of fish, fruit and a bowl of fresh water. He is not alone.



Tom Avery, Not as we know it (BL 4-0)

Jamie and Ned are twins and do everything together. But Ned is sick, and Jamie is afraid. Then they found something amazing on the beach.



General Geography



Peter Bunzl, Cogheart (BL 5-7)

After her father's airship crashes and he disappears, Lily is put in great danger as she and her friends - the clockmaker's son and her mechanical fox - set out to find him in Victorian London.

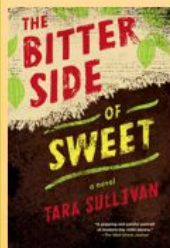


Geography

Find fiction to continue your learning outside of lessons.



Globalisation & Global Economics



Tara Sullivan, The Bitter Side of Sweet

Amadou counts the things that matter. For two years what has mattered are the number of cacao pods he and his younger brother, Seydou, can chop down in a day. The higher the number the safer they are.

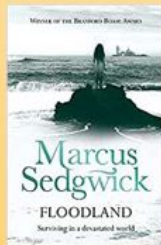


Frank Cottrell Boyce, Millions (BL 4.0)

When a bag stuffed full of money drops out of the sky Damian and Anthony find themselves rich. But they learn that there are some things money just cannot buy.



Natural Hazards: Weather

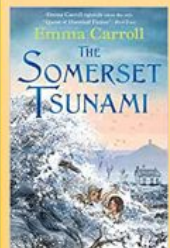


Marcus Sedgwick, Floodland (BL 3-7)

Imagine that a few years from now England is covered by water, and Norwich is an island. Zoe, left behind in the confusion when her parents escaped, survives there as best she can.



Natural Hazards: Tectonic



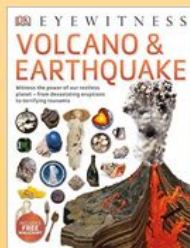
Emma Carroll, The Somerset Tsunami (BL 4-9)

When Fortune Sharpe goes to work at Berrow Hall disguised as a boy, she finds herself caught up in a hunt for witches and a natural disaster.



Caroline Lawrence, The Secrets of Vesuvius

Ten-year-old Flavia and her friends make a journey to her uncle's farm near Mt Vesuvius, where they try to solve a riddle, reunite a family and get out of the path of a natural disaster.



Eyewitness Volcano and Earthquake

NON FICTION: What happens when volcanoes erupt and why do earthquakes hit particular places? What was it like in Pompeii when Vesuvius exploded? How does a tsunami work?



Natural Hazards: Climate Change



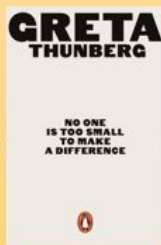
M G Leonard, Beetle Boy (BL 4-9)

After his father goes missing, Darkus moves in with his eccentric uncle. He discovers that the beetles infesting their neighbour's home are an intelligent super-species in danger of extermination at the hands of a mad scientist.



Nicky Singer, The Survival Game (BL 4-7)

The world is a shell of what it was. Mhairi must prove herself worthy of existence at every turn and rely on her instincts to survive. But then she meets a boy with no voice and finds herself risking everything to take him to safety.



Greta Thunberg, 'No one is too small to make a difference'

Sadly, this book is not fiction, but at just over 60 pages it is a small book which can make a big difference to your understanding of the world around you.





History

Find fiction to continue your learning outside of lessons.



First World War



Catherine MacPhail, *White Feather* (4.0)

The First World War is over, but Tony's brother never returned from no man's land. Charlie died not as a hero but as a coward. Tony refuses to believe his brother was a traitor and he seeks to uncover the horrifying truth.



Hilary McKay, *The Skylark's War* (5.1)

Clarrie and her brother Peter live for their summers in Cornwall, staying with their grandparents and running free with their cousin. When Rupert goes off to fight in the war, Clarrie feels their skylark summers are slipping away.



Catherine MacPhail, *Stars shall Be Bright* (4.2)

When James, Belle and William's dad goes to War and their Mammy dies, the three children have to move in with Mrs Carter. That's bad enough, but then Mrs Carter says they'll have to go into a Home. The three children set off to find their dad.



Cathy Brett, *Everything is Fine* (5.4)

While studying war poetry at school, Esther finds some old letters behind her fireplace. She is drawn into a real-life love story between Freddie and Dorothy, who were separated by World War I, and the poetry suddenly becomes very real.. **14 years +**



Tony Bradman, *Anzac Boys* (4.9)

When Bert and Frank Barker are taken from the Children's Home in London, the priests promise them a better life in Australia. But what really awaits is hard work, separation, and the realisation that no one cares if they live or die.

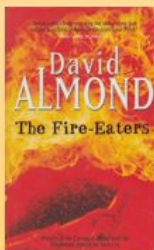


Michael Morpurgo, *Private Peaceful* (5.2)

Private Thomas Peaceful is only eighteen but he has seen the horrors of war and experienced the full weight of its unfairness

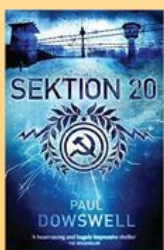


Cold War / Terrorism



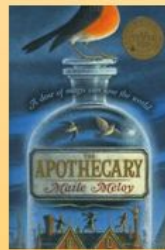
David Almond, *The Fire Eaters* (3.6)

Eleven-year-old Bobby Burns has grown up happily in a traditional northeastern coastal community. But life is changing: grammar school, his father's illness and the all-too-real Cuban Missile Crisis threaten his world. **Challenging content.**



Paul Dowswell, *Sektion 20* (6.0)

Alex lives in East Berlin. The Cold War is raging, and he and his family are forbidden to leave. But Alex is no longer pretending to be a model East German, and the Stasi have noticed.



Maile Meloy, *The Apothecary* (4.9)

A fourteen-year-old girl's life unexpectedly transforms when her family moves to London in 1952 and she is swept up in a race to save the world from nuclear war..





History

Find fiction to continue your learning outside of lessons.

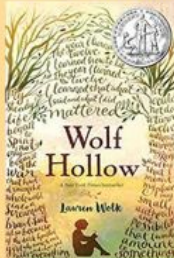


Second World War and the Holocaust



Elizabeth Wein, Firebird (5.5)

Nastia is a daring pilot, and as Russia enters WWII, she must fight for the motherland. But when the battle begins, long-held secrets are revealed.



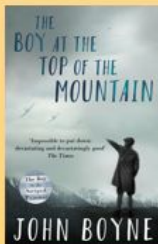
Lauren Wolk, Wolf Hollow (4-9)

Twelve-year-old Annabelle must learn to stand up for what's right in the face of a manipulative and violent new bully who targets people Annabelle cares about, including a homeless war veteran.



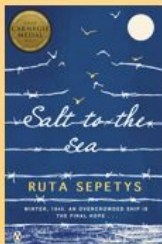
Michael Morpurgo, Flamingo Boy (5.8)

A young man visiting the Camargue in southern France stays for a while on a farm. Whilst there he hears the life story of Kezia, who grew up with Lorenzo - "Flamingo Boy" - during WWII, and lives with him on the farm still.



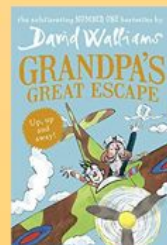
John Boyne, The Boy at the Top of the Mountain (6.2)

Pierrot is sent to live with his aunt at the top of a mountain during the Second World War. Taken under Hitler's wing, Pierrot is swept up in a dangerous new world and must choose where his loyalties lie.



Ruta Sepetys, Salt to the Sea (4.5)

As World War II draws to a close, refugees try to escape the war's final dangers, only to find themselves aboard a ship with a target on its hull. The plot contains sexual situations and graphic violence.



David Walliams, Grandpa's Great Escape (5.2)

When Jack's Grandfather is forced to go to a dreadful old people's home, he plots a daring escape and uncovers a terrible plot!



Conflict in the Middle East



Arim Bsharat, Code Name: Butterfly

Butterfly, the story's 14-year-old protagonist, experiences the same issues as teenagers the world over - but under the occupation of Palestine. Her situation forces her to question everything around her.



Jasmine Warga, Other Words for Home

Jude, a 12-year-old Syrian refugee, flees for Cincinnati in the US with her pregnant mother. Unusually, the story book is written in free verse rather than prose.



Fatima Sharafeddine, The Servant

15-year-old Faten is forced to leave her village school to become a maid in Beirut but is determined to follow her dream and study in secret to become a nurse.

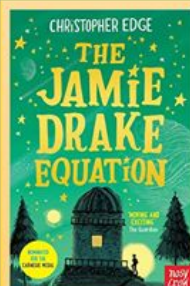




KS3

**L'Engle, Madeleine, *A Wrinkle in Time* (BL 4-7)**

Adventures in space and time of Meg, Charles Wallace, and Calvin O'Keefe. They are in search of Meg's father, a scientist who disappeared while engaged in secret work for the government on the tesseract problem.

**Christopher Edge, *The Jamie Drake Equation* (BL 6-4)**

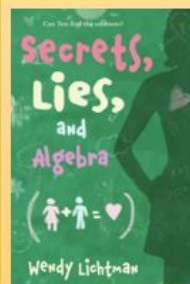
Jamie's dad is orbiting Earth in the International Space Station, and Jamie misses him. At his local observatory, he picks up a signal on his phone. Can Jamie help his dad when his mission goes wrong?

**C S Lewis, *Alice in Wonderland* (BL 7-4)**

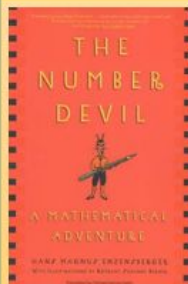
Proportions, algebra and geometry: when Alice follows the White Rabbit down a rabbit hole, she finds herself in an enchanted world, filled with creatures and madness. Alice quickly finds out that nothing is as it seems in Wonderland...

**Holly Smale, *Geek Girl* (4-4)**

Harriet Manners knows a lot of things, but she doesn't know why nobody at school seems to like her. So when she's offered the chance to reinvent herself, she grabs the chance. Can she transform from geek to chic?

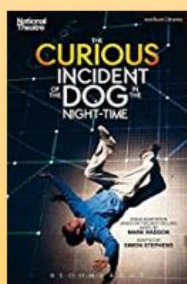
**Wendy Lichtman, *Secrets, Lies and Algebra***

Tess loves math because it's the one subject she can trust—there's always just one right answer. But then she starts algebra and is introduced to those pesky and mysterious variables, which seem to be everywhere in eighth grade.

**Hans Enzensberger, *The Number Devil* (BL 4-4)**

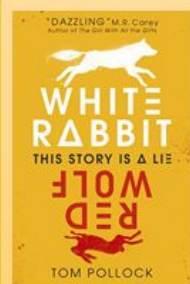
Robert, a boy who hates math, meets a Number Devil, who leads him to discover the amazing world of numbers: infinite numbers, prime numbers, Fibonacci numbers, numbers that magically appear in triangles...

KS4

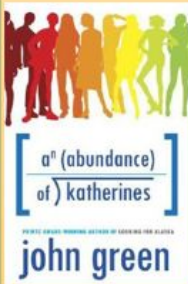
**Mark Haddon, *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* (BL 5-4)**

A story told through Christopher's eyes: an autistic boy gifted with **numbers**. Contains **mathematical theorems** and lots of **prime numbers**!

NOTE: The book version contains very strong language- the play script is more suitable.

**Tom Pollock, *White Rabbit, Red Wolf* (BL 5-2)**

Pete is a maths prodigy who suffers from severe panic attacks. Dragged into a world of espionage after his mother is stabbed and his twin sister goes missing, will Pete's skills and instincts save him? **Warning: contains extreme violence.**

**John Green, *An Abundance of Katherines* (BL 5-6)**

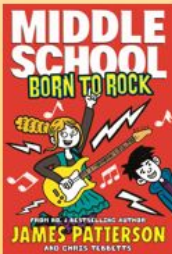
Colin is on a mission to prove The **Theorem of Underlying Katherine Predictability**, which he hopes will predict the future of any relationship, avenge **Dumpees** everywhere, and finally win him the girl. **NOTE:** Contains mature themes.





Music

Find fiction to continue your learning



James Patterson, *Middle School: Born to Rock* (4.2)

When Georgia's favourite rock band, Lulu and the Handbags, advertises a major music competition where the winner gets to jam with Lulu herself, Georgia will pull out all the stops to make sure We Stink wins.



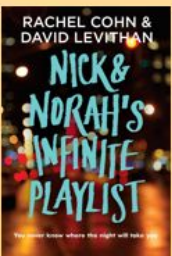
Michael Morpurgo, *The Mozart Question* (5.0)

A young journalist goes to Venice, Italy, to interview a famous violinist, who tells the story of his parents' incarceration by the Nazis and explains why they can no longer listen to the music of Mozart.



Jerry Spinelli, *Stargirl* (4.2)

In this story about the perils of popularity, the courage of nonconformity, and the thrill of first love, an eccentric pupil named Stargirl changes Mica Area High School forever.



Rachel Cohn + David Levithan, *Nick & Norah's Infinite Playlist* (5.6)

High school student Nick O'Leary, member of a rock band, meets college-bound Norah Silverberg and asks her to be his girlfriend for five minutes in order to avoid his ex-sweetheart. Yg+



Rainbow Rowell, *Eleanor & Park* (3.8)

Set over the course of one school year in 1986, this novel focuses on two star-crossed misfits who are smart enough to know that first love almost never lasts but brave and desperate enough to try. Contains profanity. KS4+



Leila Sales, *This Song Will Save Your Life* (4.8)

Nearly a year after a failed suicide attempt, sixteen-year-old Elise discovers that she has the passion and the talent to be a disc jockey. The plot contains an attempted suicide. KS4+



Sarah Dessen, *Just Listen* (4.9)

Isolated from friends who believe the worst because she has not been truthful with them, sixteen-year-old Annabel finds an ally in classmate Owen, who helps her face and share what really happened at the end-of-the-year party that changed her life. KS4+



Gayle Foreman, *If I Stay* (5.3)

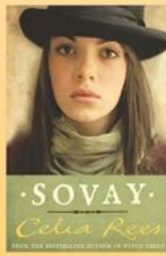
While in a coma following an horrific car accident that killed her parents and younger brother, seventeen-year-old Mia, a gifted cellist, weighs up whether to live with her grief or join her family in death. Contains strong language. KS4+



Gayle Foreman, *Where She Went* (5.1)

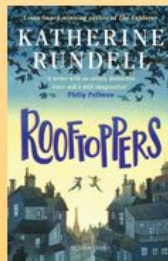
Adam, now a rising rock star, and Mia, a successful cellist, reunite in New York and reconnect after the horrific events that tore them apart when Mia almost died in a car accident three years earlier. KS4+





Celia Rees, *Sovay* (5.7)

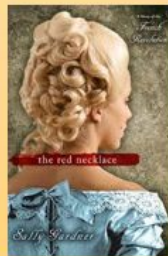
In 1794 England, the rich and beautiful Sovay, disguised as a highwayman, acquires papers that could lead to her father's arrest for treason, and soon her newly awakened political consciousness leads her and a compatriot to France during the Revolution. **14+**



French

Katherine Rundell, *Rooftoppers* (3.5)

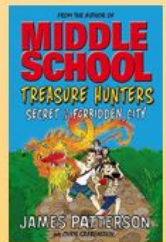
Sophie survived a shipwreck as a baby, but her life began when an eccentric bachelor brought her home. When a child services organisation threatens to remove Sophie, she and Charles flee to Paris in search of her long-lost mother.



Sally Gardner, *The Red Necklace* (5.8)

In the late 18th Century, Sido, the daughter of a marquis, and Yann, a Gypsy orphan, face a common enemy at the start of the French Revolution.

14+



James Patterson, *Secrets of the Forbidden City* (4.6)

The Kidds, treasure-hunting family extraordinaire, are heading to China on a journey that will lead them beyond the Great Wall and into the underbelly of Berlin.



German

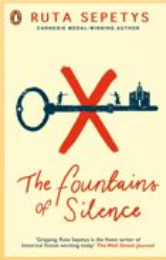
Haydn Middleton, *We're on our way to Germany* (5.2)

Thanks to super-skilled schoolboys Luke Green and Frederick Dulaç, Castle Albion are in the UEFA Cup. But what a tough draw - German team Bayern Munich in the third round. If only they didn't have to play dodgy James Prince up front.



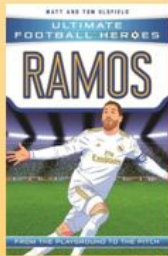
Wolfgang Herrndorf, *Why we took the Car* (5.2)

Mike, a troubled 14-year-old from Berlin, is excited when a Russian juvenile delinquent called Tschick begins to pay attention to him.



Ruta Sepetys, *The Fountains of Silence* (4.5)

At the Castellana Hilton in 1957 Madrid, Daniel connects with Ana through photography as they discover the dark side of the city under Generalissimo Franco's rule. **14+** (Contains violence and references to torture, murder and trafficking.)



Spanish

Matt Oldfield, *Ramos: From the Playground to the Pitch* (5.4)

Sergio Ramos, the lionhearted captain of Real Madrid and Spain, is famous for his pace and strength in defence as well as his leadership on the field. Follow Sergio on his journey from Seville to the Bernabéu to reach the top of his game.



Michael Morpurgo, *Toro! Toro!* (5.0)

Antonito lives an idyllic life on his parents' bull farm in Andalucia. But the idyll is shattered when he realises that his bull calf, Paco, is destined for the bullring.



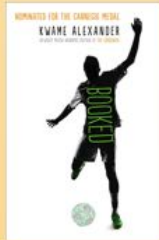


KS3 PE Reading List Page 1

Find fiction to continue your learning outside of lessons.



Football



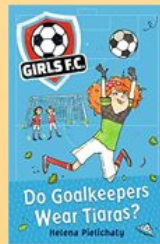
Kwame Alexander, *Booked* (3-9)

Nick learns the power of words as he wrestles with problems at home, stands up to a bully, and tries to impress his dream girl. Helping him along are his friends and football mates, and The Mac, a rapping librarian.



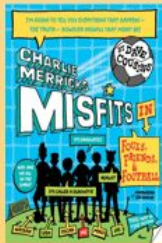
Mitch Johnson, *Kick* (BL 5-6)

Budi's going to play for the greatest team on earth. But one unlucky kick brings Budi's world crashing down. Now he owes the Dragon, the most dangerous man in Jakarta. Soon it isn't only his dreams at stake, but his life. *Year 8/9*



Helena Pietichaty, *Girls FC Series* (BL 3-8-4-2)

Football makes Megan's dreams come true when she becomes the goalie for a new girls football team.



Dave Cousins, *Charlie Merrick's Misfits in Fouls, Friends and Footballs* (4-6)

Charlie's football team think they have no chance at winning any matches. That is until a new boy at school arrives and joins their struggling team.



Michael Morpurgo, *Cool* (3-4)

When a football-mad boy is in a coma following a car collision he can hear everyone who speaks to him but can't communicate.



Tom Palmer, *Foul Play* (3-7)

A school boy investigates the disappearance of his team's leading player.



Swimming



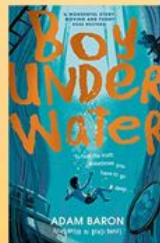
Nat Luurtsema, *Girl Out of Water* (BL 4-7)

Lou Brown was on track to Olympic stardom but now she's a social outcast trying to get by at school. Will she find happiness and friendship with the cool boys who want her to train them?



Catherine Forde, *Fat Boy Swim* (BL 5-1)

Teased for being grossly overweight, Jimmy, a fourteen-year-old teenager, who has a poor self image, turns his life around by overcoming his fears and learning to swim. In the process he finds out the truth about his parents.



Adam Baron, *Boy Under Water*

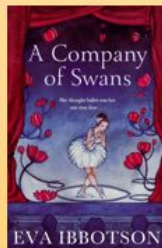
Cymbeline Igloo has NEVER been swimming. But how hard can it be? He's Googled front crawl and he's found his dad's old pair of trunks. He's totally ready. Or is he?





Catherine Bruton, No Ballet Shoes in Syria (5-5)

Aya has just arrived in Britain seeking asylum from war in Syria. When a dance teacher spots her talent, Aya has the potential to go to a ballet school. But will she be allowed to remain in the country?



Dance

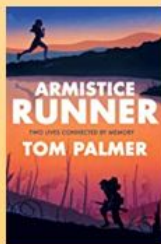
Eva Ibbotson, A Company of Swans (7-3)

Harriet Jane Morton's life changes drastically when chosen by a Russian ballet master to join his company. In the Amazon, she falls in love with a British exile with a mysterious past.



Victoria Jamieson, Roller Girl (3-2)

Astrid signs up for roller camp, but her best friend Nicole chooses dance. While struggling with a new sport, Astrid fears she is losing Nicole.



Tom Palmer, Armistice Runner (BL 4-0)

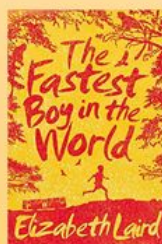
Lily is losing her gran to Alzheimer's. But then she discovers her great-great-grandfather's diaries from the First World War. Could his incredible story of bravery help her reconnect with her gran?



Running

Michael Williams, Now is the Time for Running (BL 4-5)

When their village in Zimbabwe is attacked, Deo and his mentally disabled brother go on the run, carrying little but a leather football filled with money. After facing prejudice, poverty, and tragedy, it is in sports that Deo finds renewed hope. Year 9+



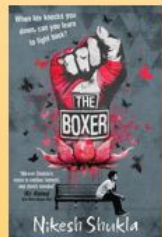
Elizabeth Laird, The Fastest Boy in the World (BL 4-4)

When Grandfather collapses following a long journey to Ethiopia's capital city, Solomon knows he has to run the twenty miles back home to get his father.



Toto the Ninja Cat and the Great Snake Escape (5-0)

Toto is no ordinary cat. She is almost totally blind, has ninja skills and at night she has amazing adventures with her cheeky brother, Silver.



Martial Arts / Boxing

Nikesh Shukla, The Boxer (4-0)

Sunny's life changes the night he is attacked by racists in his new city. Stepping into a boxing gym, he finds the community he's desperately been seeking. But racial tensions are rising and he begins questioning where his new friends stand.



Jane West, Striking Out (4-0)

Tess's new school seems okay, until a spiteful bully makes school life a living hell. So Tess decides to find a way to look after herself and eventually get her own back.



Physics

Find fiction to continue your learning outside of lessons.

Space Physics



Kevin Emerson, *Last Day on Mars*

It is Earth year 2213—but, of course, there is no Earth anymore. Not since it was burned to a cinder by the sun, which has mysteriously begun the process of going supernova.



Jen Wang, *Star Gazing*

Moon is everything Christine isn't. She's confident, impulsive, artistic . . . and though they both grew up in the same Chinese-American suburb, Moon is somehow unlike anyone Christine has ever known.



Alastair Chisholm, *Orion Lost*

After a catastrophic Unknown Event leaves the colony ship Orion stranded deep in space, it's up to thirteen-year-old Beth and her friends to navigate through treacherous and uncharted territory and reach safety.

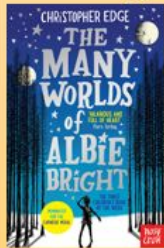
Astronomy



Jenny McLachlan, *Stargazing for Beginners* (4, 8)

Meg's ambition is to one day become an astronaut, and winning a competition to visit NASA could be a big step towards achieving that dream. But Meg's mum leaves her alone with her sister, Elsa... everything changes.

General Physics



Christopher Edge, *The Many Worlds of Albie Bright* (6, 2)

After Albie's mum dies, he decides to find a way of travelling through space and time to find an alternative universe where his mum is still alive.



Space

Carlos Hernandez, *Sal and Gabi Break the Universe*

A sassy entropy sweeper, a documentary about wedgies, a principal who wears a Venetian mask, and heaping platefuls of Cuban food are just some of the delights that await in this mind-blowing novel.

Forces



Nicole Panteleakos, *Planet Earth is Blue*

Twelve-year-old Nova is eagerly awaiting the launch of the space shuttle Challenger--it's the first time a teacher is going into space, and kids across America will watch the event on live TV in their classrooms.



Katherine Rundell, *Roof Toppers*

Secured in an attic to evade the French authorities, Sophie escapes through the skylight and meets Matteo and his network of homeless urchins who tightrope walk above the streets below

Motion



Tae Keller, *The Science of Breakable Things*

When Natalie's science teacher suggests that she enter an egg drop competition, Natalie thinks that this might be the perfect solution to all of her problems. Contains depression.

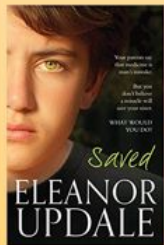


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Philosophy- How do we know what we 'know'?



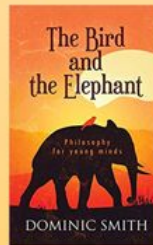
Eleanor Updale, *Saved* (4-7)

Luke's family are part of a religious cult who don't trust doctors. When Luke's sister is injured in a crash and taken to hospital, Luke is forced to question his family beliefs. Particularly suitable for struggling, reluctant and dyslexic readers.



Brendan O'Donoghue, *Adventures in Philosophy*

Through stories, questions and thoughts, *Adventures in Philosophy* will cultivate your sense of curiosity and courage, your ability to question, learn, experiment and think for yourself.



Dominic Smith, *The Bird and the Elephant*

Philosophy for young minds. A bird decides he needs to take a rest and lands on an elephant's back. Through their discussions the bird learns a lot about life and ultimately, himself.



Islam



Muhammad Khan, *I am Thunder* (4-9)

Arif Malik takes a sudden interest in previously invisible Muzna Saleem. But Arif is hiding a secret and Muzna faces an impossible choice: keep quiet and betray her beliefs, or speak out and betray her heart.



S.K. Ali, *Saints and Misfits*

Janna often feels pressured to be the perfect Muslim girl that the community / her family can be proud of while constantly being ridiculed.



Judaism



Brandy Colbert, *Little & Lion*

Protagonist Suzette is a converted Jew, who falls in love with the same girl her brother, who has bipolar disorder, is in love with.

Questions of identity, mental health, and sexuality.

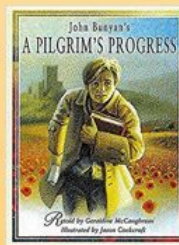


The Message of Jesus



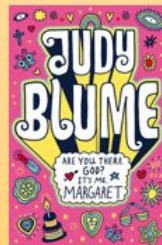
Peter Bunzl, *Cogheart* (5-7)

After her father's airship crashes and he disappears, Lily is put in great danger as she and her friends - the clockmaker's son and her mechanical fox - set out to find him in Victorian London.



Geraldine McCaughrean, *A Pilgrim's Progress* (5-8)

A retelling of John Bunyan's classic Christian allegory. The pilgrim, Christian, is on a journey to the City of Gold. On the way, he meets the Giant Despair and the monster Apollyon.



Judy Blume, *Are you there God? It's me, Margaret* (3-6)

Margaret approaches adolescence with trepidation, but with the help of God and Nature, she makes a successful transition.



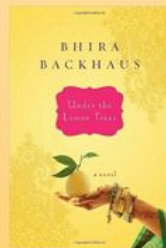


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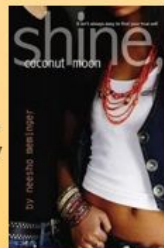


Sikhism



Bhira Backhaus, *Under the Lemon Trees*

In Oak Grove, California, 1976, there are as many Sikh temples as churches, and the large Indian immigrant community gracefully coexists with the old farming families. But for Jeeto, figuring out where she fits best isn't so easy.



Neesa Meminger, *Shine Coconut Moon*

Sam has never known much about her Indian heritage. It's never bothered Sam, who is busy with school, friends, and a really cute but demanding boyfriend. But things change after 9/11.



Kristi Wientge, *Karma Khullar's Mustache*

Biracial, half-Sikh tween Karma Khullar discovers that 17 hairs have formed a mustache on her upper lip. She's convinced there's a cloud of bad karma hanging over her!

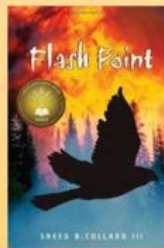


Religious and social responses to Animal Rights and Environmentalism



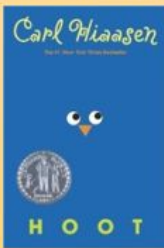
Bel Browning, *Animal Welfare (Face the Facts) – Non-Fiction*

Gives an overview of the treatment and care that animals receive from humans, the potential for abuse in such areas as farming and research, and the ethics and consequences of animal abuse.



Sneed B. Pollard, *Flashpoint*

A teen boy volunteers at a raptor rehabilitation centre and starts an animal welfare club at his school. Later he attempts to save animals from mysterious wildfires occurring in his town.



Carl Hiaasen, *Hoot (5.2)*

Roy, who is new to his small Florida community, becomes involved in another boy's attempt to save a colony of burrowing owls from a proposed construction site.

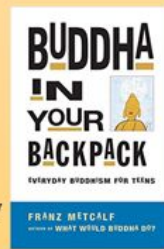


Buddhism



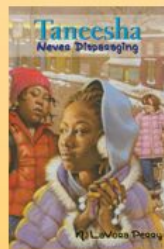
Kathe Koja, *Buddha Boy*

Justin stays under the radar in school, until a new boy arrives. Jinsen, aka "Buddha Boy," is anything but normal, and when Justin discovers Jinsen's artistic talent, he can't help but start respecting him and then actually becoming his friend.



Franz Metcalf, *Buddha in your Backpack*

A guide for navigating the teen years, this is for young people who want to learn more about Buddhism or simply want to understand what's going on inside themselves and in the world around them.



M. Lavora Perry, *Taneesha Never Disparaging*

Taneesha, who has grown up with two Buddhist parents. These are her experiences through school.





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Religious and social responses to peace and conflict



Elizabeth Acevedo, *The Poet X* (5.2)
A novel about finding your voice and standing up for what you believe in, no matter how hard it is to say. Dealing with issues of race, feminism and faith. The plot contains profanity, sexual situations, and violence.



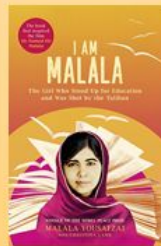
Lilliam Rivera, *The Education of Margot Sanchez*
Tackling issues of race, class, gentrification, male and female stereotypes and more, this follows Margot "Princesa" Sanchez during a summer working at her family's grocery store in the Bronx.



Sheba Karim, *That Thing We Call a Heart*
Featuring complex, Muslim-American characters who defy conventional stereotypes, this explores love, sexuality, self-worth, family dynamics, the value of friendship.



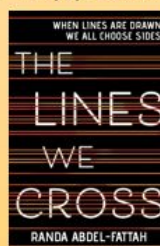
Religious and social responses to prejudice and discrimination - S. Africa and USA



Yousafzai, Malala, *I am Malala* (7.1)
Malala Yousafzai describes her fight for education for girls under Taliban rule, the support she received from her parents to pursue an education and how the Taliban retaliated against her by trying to kill her. Mature themes.



Mafi, Tahereh, *A Very Large Expanse of Sea* (5.0)
It's a year after 9/11, an extremely turbulent time politically, but especially so for someone like Shirin, a sixteen-year-old Muslim girl who's tired of being stereotyped. Contains strong language.



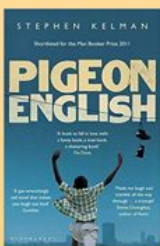
Randa Abdel-Fattah, *The Lines we Cross* (4.8)
Michael's parents drag him to rallies held by their anti-immigrant group, which make sense to him until he meets Mina, a Muslim refugee from Afghanistan. The plot contains profanity.



Religious and social responses to crime



Angie Thomas, *The Hate U Give* (3.9)
Sixteen-year-old Starr Carter addresses issues of racism and police violence with intelligence, heart, and unflinching honesty. The plot contains pervasive profanity and racial violence.



Stephen Kelman, *Pigeon English* (3.7)
Eleven-year-old Harrison Opoku, newly arrived in England from Ghana with his mother and older sister, starts his own murder investigation after a boy is knifed to death on the high street.



Sarah Crossan, *Moonrise* (4.3)
Joe hasn't seen his brother for ten years, and it's for the most brutal of reasons. Ed is on death row. But now Ed's execution date has been set, and this might be the last summer they have together.

