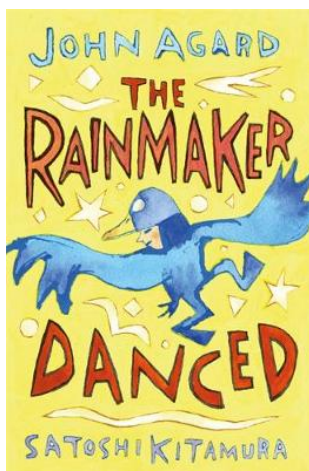


**A selection of books especially selected for children in Year 6 (10 - 11 year olds) of average reading ability for the 2023/24 academic year.**

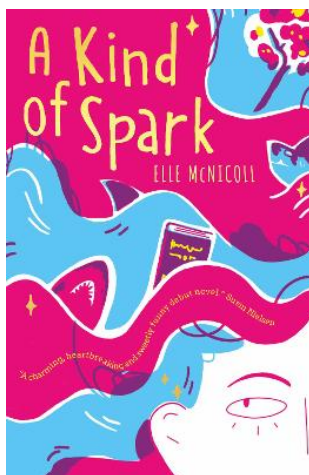
If your child is a competent reader or has read all these titles then try the books from the Year 7 list. Alternatively if these books are a little challenging try books from the Year 5 list. Our overall mission is to promote reading for pleasure with quality texts that are perfectly pitched for the age group and the curriculum. We have particularly avoided blockbusters, classic or set texts, known to everyone, so that we can include poetry, stunning information texts and inspirational books in which all children and young people can find themselves reflected.



## The Rainmaker Danced

**Author:** John Agard **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 21/09/2017

This collection from John Agard, winner of the Queens Medal and the Eleanor Farjeon Award, explores the wonders of the world - inviting your child to ponder life's questions with lots of fun along the way!



## A Kind of Spark

**Author:** Elle McNicoll **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 04/06/2020

**Shortlisted for the UKLA Book Award 2022 ages 7-10 | Winner of the Blue Peter Book Awards 2021, Best Story | Shortlisted for the 2021 Branford Boase | Award Shortlisted for the Little Rebels Award 2021** When 11 year old Addie, who is autistic, learns about the 16th century women who were persecuted for witchcraft, she starts to lobby for a local memorial in her small Scottish village. With the help of a new girl at school, she fights valiantly against injustice and oppression. The Branford Boase Award Judges said: 'Phenomenal'; 'I loved it'; 'brings a brand new voice into children's books'; 'deals with ideas of difference without being heavy handed'. Find out more about the Branford Boase Awards [here](#).

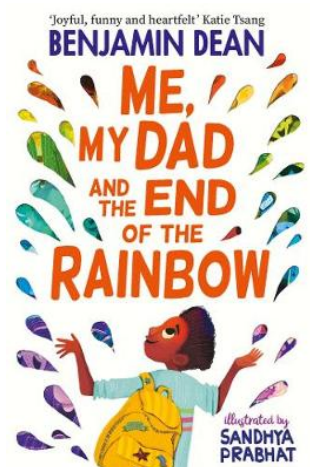
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## Onyeka and the Academy of the Sun

**Author:** Tolá Okogwu **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 09/06/2022

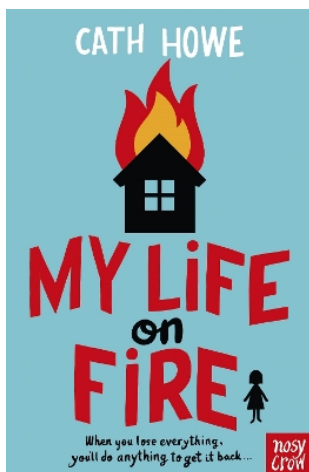
**Longlisted for the Jhalak Children's & Young Adult Prize 2023 | Shortlisted for the Week Junior Book Awards 2023 | Shortlisted for the British Book Awards 2023** Black Panther meets Percy Jackson in this action-packed and empowering middle-grade series about a British-Nigerian girl who learns that her Afro hair has psychokinetic powers.



## Me, My Dad and the End of the Rainbow

**Author:** Benjamin Dean **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 04/02/2021

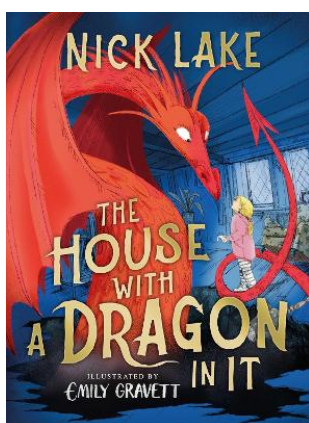
**Longlisted for the UKLA Book Award 2022 ages 7-10 | March 2021 Debut of the Month | Selected for The Book Box by LoveReading4Kids** 12-year-old Archie Albright is a character who instantly grabs the reader's attention with his natural, chatty narrative voice. His family is splitting up, he doesn't know why, and he knows there is something they are not telling him. After a disastrous parents evening and an overheard conversation, Dad has to finally confess to Archie that he is gay. Archie just wants everyone to be happy again. He desperately wants to understand and to help. His Dad drops a leaflet about the PRIDE march and Archie decides he will find all his answers there and luckily, he has two staunch friends who see all the pitfalls of this expedition but decide to help him anyway. Needless to say everything goes wrong! There are so many things to love about this splendid book. Every character, including the joyous cast of LGBTQ+ characters that they meet and are helped by on their adventure, rings authentically true. The dialogue is witty, but realistic, not played just for cheap laughs. But there is a lot of genuine humour in the situations the children find themselves embroiled in and a fair bit of nail-biting tension too! It is also so refreshing that this is not a story about overcoming homophobia- all the main characters are totally accepting of Archie's Dad's right to determine his sexuality, while not denying the pain that comes from family break up. It deals honestly with difficult emotions and conveys a strong message about empathy and tolerance. This is such a rewarding, positive and inclusive read that it deserves a place in every school and in every home.



## My Life on Fire

**Author:** Cath Howe **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 06/04/2023

There can be no doubt that Cath Howe's teaching experience contributes to her ability to create such nuanced and believably real children in her stories and when she places them in difficult circumstances, the way in which they cope and learn and grow from their experiences has an undeniable aura of truth. The reader can empathise and learn alongside the characters they quickly become so grippingly concerned about. It can also be rare to find such multifaceted adult characters in children's fiction. It is so important for children to understand that adults are not perfect, can make mistakes but can also learn from them. Ren's home has burnt down, and her family have lost everything. They move in with her stern grandmother whose house rules are very different, and her parents are so wrapped up in insurance claims and trying to save their business that nobody notices how much Ren and her little brother are struggling. We see how Ren's distress provokes her to steal precious things from other people but although she feels compelled to do it, she is simultaneously wracked by guilt. The story's other narrator is a wonderful character called Caspar who talks and thinks and shares just a little more than is normal, which can be exasperating but his good intentions can never be doubted. Caspar is on the trail of the missing objects but also wants to help Ren. Is it possible to do both? This would make an excellent class read because of the complex moral choices and social issues the characters have to navigate and will really stimulate discussion. Like all her novels this is a primary library must-have.



## The House With a Dragon in it

**Author:** Nick Lake **Format:** Hardback **Release Date:** 22/06/2023

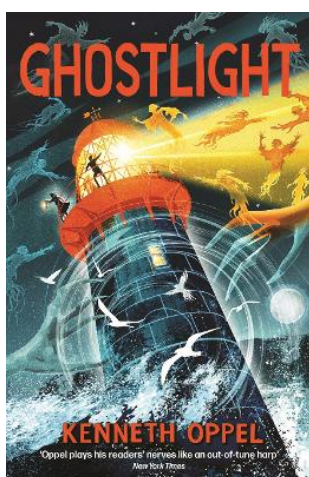
An adventure to treasure from two multi award-winning creators, discover a classic story of family, friendship and believing in your own magic. When Summer and her foster family are having lunch one day, a hole appears in the middle of the living room. That hole leads to a dragon and the promise of three wishes, granted by a very unusual witch. Summer wishes for popularity and plenty of money, and things are looking up . . . until she realizes that the hole in the floor is getting bigger and the witch is getting more sinister. As things begin to unravel, will Summer get her dearest most secret wish? Nick Lake's classic story of dragons, witches and wish-fulfilment is beautifully illustrated by Emily Gravett.



## The Light in Everything

**Author:** Katya Balen **Format:** Hardback **Release Date:** 14/04/2022

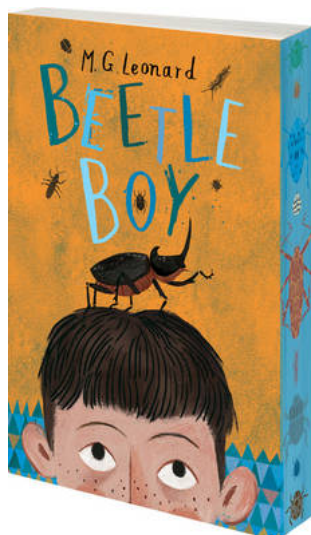
**April 2022 Book of the Month | A Julia Eccleshare Pick of the Month April 2022 | Shortlisted for the Week Junior Book Awards 2023 | Winner of the UKLA Book Award 2023 ages 7-10** No two children could be more different than Zofia and Tom. Noisy Zofia lives happily with her dad as her Mum died when she was born. She buzzes with a wild energy that makes her irresistible but also something of a handful. Quiet, anxious Tom lives with his mum. He is full of fears largely caused by his scarily violent father who is now in prison. He longs to be more outgoing but doesn't know how to manage it. They are about to start living together and also to become half siblings to a new baby in a blended family that neither of them wants to be part of. Each tells their story in a series of contrasting short episodes that brilliantly capture their contrasting characters and their journey towards this enormous change in their lives. Katya Balen has a rare gift for understanding what it feels like to be a child and creating characters that reflect that that vividly.



## Ghostlight

**Author:** Kenneth Oppel **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 13/10/2022

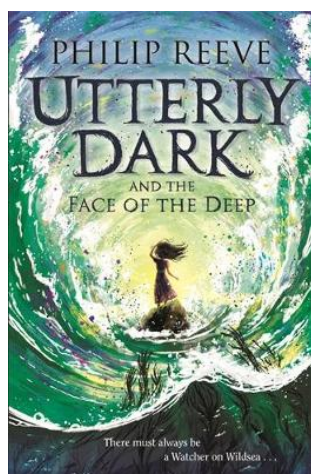
Featuring authentic friendship dynamics, a thrilling race against time, and chilling atmosphere, Kenneth Oppel's Ghostlight is a great read for fans of fast-paced adventures with supernatural edge. In 1839 a lighthouse keeper and his daughter fall to their deaths from Gibraltar Point Lighthouse. This arresting opening scene takes place just after the keeper reveals he belongs to the Order, a secret society that dates back to the days of the ancient Greeks and the Alexandrian Pharos lighthouse, and exists to "stand guard over the night, to protect the living from the wakeful and wicked dead". So far, so gripping... This haunting historic story lives on in the contemporary world when teenage history-buff Gabe gives ghost tours of Toronto Island. Though he doesn't believe the tales he tells tourists, worlds and eras and collide when Gabe encounters Rebecca's ghost for himself. But hers isn't the only spirit the island should be worried about, for it's also under threat from far darker forces. All of which makes for a rollercoaster ride that's resplendent with spirits from the past and latter-day heroes.



## Beetle Boy

**Author:** M. G. Leonard **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 03/03/2016

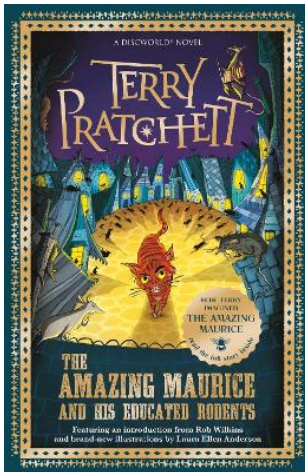
**Winner of the Branford Boase Award 2017 | One of our Books of the Year 2016 | Shortlisted for the Children's category of the Books are My Bag Readers Awards 2016 | Longlisted for the UKLA 2017 Book Award and March 2016 Julia Eccleshare's Debut of the Month** A rollicking adventure spiced up with fascinating information about beetles, this debut novel fuses science, survival and sleuthing! Darkus's life is turned upside down when his father goes missing. Darkus refuses to accept that his father is dead and he is determined to find out what happened for himself. Sent to stay with his uncle, he discovers the strange neighbours have a yard full of junk - and beetles. Darkus is befriended by a handsome, giant beetle who seems to understand Darkus and is also connected to his dad's disappearance. What is going on? And who is Lucretia Cutter, one of the best villainesses since Cruella de Vil? Books in The Battle of the Beetles Series: 1. Beetle Boy 2. Beetle Queen 3. Battle of the Beetles



## Utterly Dark and the Face of the Deep

**Author:** Philip Reeve **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 02/09/2021

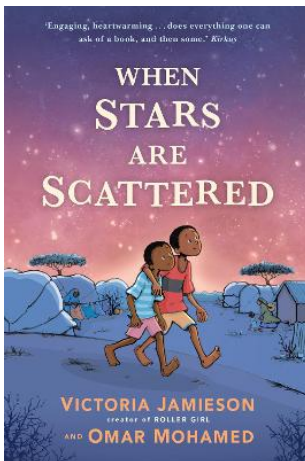
**A Julia Eccleshare Pick of the Month September 2021 | September 2021 Book of the Month** Award-winning author Philip Reeve is gifted at creating alternative worlds which feel both comfortingly familiar and thrillingly new and original. The watery landscape of the Autumn Isles does just that providing the backdrop for a gutsy and gusty story of powerful old magic, new-fangled science and the perennial battle for the critical balance of power between land and the sea. It is the setting for a roller coaster of a story with the survival of orphaned Utterly Dark, one of the most charming and feisty young heroines, at its heart. Washed up on the shore of the Autumn Isles, Utterly is rescued and adopted by Andrew Dark, the Watcher of Wildsea, whose job it is to keep the islands safe from the many dangers forces that threaten the land, in particular, the terrifying Gorm, a fearful sea dwelling creature who threatens the life of the Islanders. When her guardian drowns in curious circumstances, Utterly must maintain the watch until a new Watcher arrives. But the new Watcher is sceptical of the old magic until his rash actions reveal the full power of the Gorm with almost fatal results. Can Utterly set the watery world of her home to rights?



## The Amazing Maurice and his Educated Rodents

**Author:** Terry Pratchett **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 26/04/2018

A Carnegie Medal winner that is the perfect introduction into the comic, yet thought-provoking, Discworld created by the late lamented Sir Terry Pratchett.



## When Stars are Scattered

**Author:** Victoria Jamieson, Omar Mohamed **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 02/07/2020

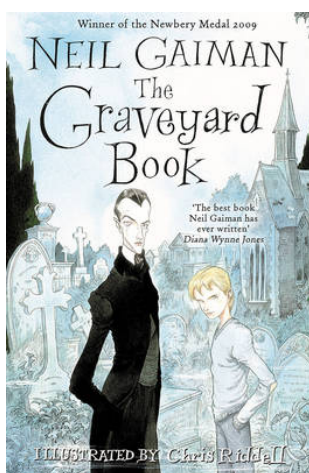
**Shortlisted for the UKLA Book Award 2022 ages 7-10** Omar Mohammed spent his childhood at the enormous Dadaab refugee camp in Kenya after fleeing the war in Sudan with his younger brother, having seen their father killed and becoming separated from their mother. Eventually resettled to America, he was already working on his memoir for adults when he met the Newbery Honor winning author who persuaded him to turn his story into a graphic novel. This accessible format and the first-person narration create an intimate picture of a very real boy and what life in a refugee camp is really like. It importantly puts a face and a personality to the refugee crisis. We feel the hunger, the physical drudgery, the monotony and the frustrations, but also the sense of community, the love and support of friends and neighbours and the moments of joy and the passion for learning. Omar and his friends Jeri, Nima and Maryam all want to learn and aspire to escape to the West. The injustice of the lack of spaces for older children, of girls who are not allowed to study and of who gets selected for resettlement are unforgettably conveyed. The relationships between Omar and Hassan, his mute and damaged brother, and with Fatima who lost all her sons in Sudan but cares for them is beautifully and movingly portrayed. They never lose hope that they might find their mother and in the afterword we discover how that story turned out. Readers cannot help but develop empathy and compassion for people like Omar. This is an outstanding book that is truly engaging, educative and heart-breaking but ultimately a story of hope and doing the best you can. An essential purchase for schools.



## Nic Blake and the Remarkables: The Manifestor Prophecy

**Author:** Angie Thomas **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 04/04/2023

**April 2023 Book of the Month** The Manifestor Prophecy, the first book in Angie Thomas' keenly anticipated Nic Blake and the Remarkables series, is an exhilarating ride of super-charged family magic, friendship, African American history and fantasy adventure, with a wonderful heroine driving the action to overcome injustices. Sharing the inspirational message that power comes from within, it feels both fresh and timeless, and brings zing to the Middle Grade fantasy landscape. Nic has just turned twelve and been gifted a hellhound, Cocoa, for her birthday. She's also a Remarkable who lives with her dad in the Unremarkable world, which makes for a tricky existence. As a Remarkable and a Manifestor, Nic has powers she hopes to hone to become as special as her dad. As Nic explains, "although we Manifestors are born with the Gift inside of us, we still have to learn how to use it". And, as Dad explains, "nothing about any Black people started with slavery. For us Manifestors, the Gift was first given to our ancestors, the Wallinzi, in Africa". Moreover, as Nic's Uncle Ty shares, "The beauty of the Gift is that it helps us when we need it. It knew that our ancestors needed to fly and it helped them to do so". Through a speedily unfolding plot and escalating sense of peril, Nic is subjected to shocking blasts from her past as secrets come to light about her family. Why has her dad been lying, and who's stolen the magical Msaidizi, a powerful weapon that "changes form to be whatever the person it answers needs it to be"? When Dad is imprisoned for a crime he definitely didn't commit, Nic steps up to the plate and uses her gift to take flight, as her ancestors did before her.

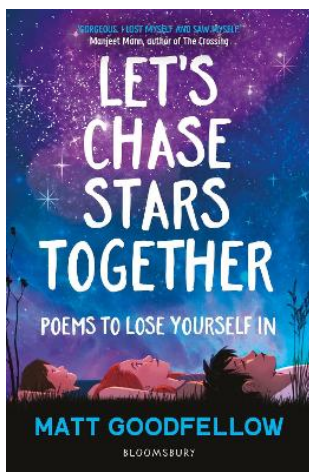


## The Graveyard Book

**Author:** Neil Gaiman **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 05/10/2009

**11+. Winner of the Carnegie Medal in 2010, shortlisted for the Kate Greenaway Medal in 2010, winner of Best Novel at the Hugo Awards 2009 and of the prestigious Newbery Medal.**

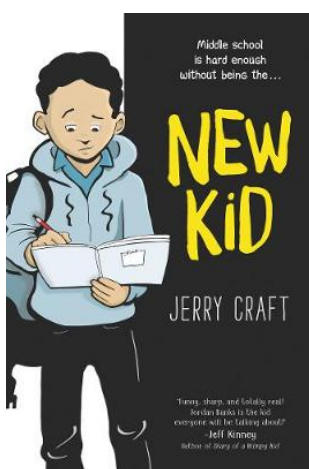
Spooks galore in this brilliant and fantastic story of life in the graveyard. When Baby Bod escapes a murderer intent on killing his whole family, he is taken in by the graveyard ghosts. In eight chapters, each of which depicts every other year of Bod's life, a separate story of Bod's life unfolds and always in the background there is the sinister, haunting presence of a killer. Bod's curious tale is a masterpiece of original, absorbing and unstoppable storytelling.



## Let's Chase Stars Together: Poems to lose yourself in

**Author:** Matt Goodfellow **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 15/09/2022

**October 2022 Book of the Month | Shortlisted for the CLIPPA 2023** Compassionate, thought-provoking, playful and poignant, Matt Goodfellow's Let's Chase Stars Together is a truly captivating collection of contemporary poems that will surely spark an infinity with poetry in even the most committed "I don't like poems" nay-sayers. With themes ranging from friendship, family life and fitting in, to growing up and anxiety, each and every poem has the power to chime with readers of 10 upwards, whether savoured in solitary moments, or in a lively classroom context. Many will prompt personal reflection, among them A Thought, in which the child narrator poignantly reveals how they wish "Mum's sadness/was a necklace/she could unclasp/from her throat", or Dig, Sid, Dig, a moving, loving tribute to a beloved pet dog. Then there are those that might spark deep discussion, such as First Class which tells of the time "Mum crossed his name out on the letter/and wrote/NOT AT THIS ADDRESS". Quite simply, this breath-takingly beautiful collection has tremendous emotional value — it's a true star with long-lasting radiance.

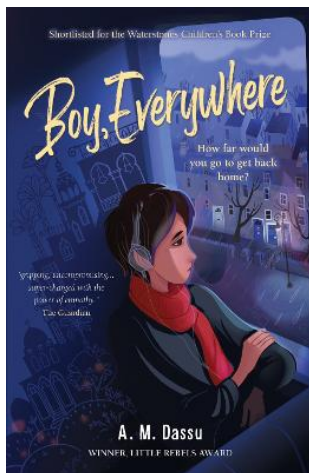


## New Kid

**Author:** Jerry Craft **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 21/02/2019

**Winner of the Newbery Medal, Coretta Scott King Author Award, and Kirkus Prize for Young Readers' Literature** Perfect for fans of Raina Telgemeier and Gene Luen Yang, New Kid is a timely, honest graphic novel about starting over at a new school where diversity is low and the struggle to fit in is real, from award-winning author-illustrator Jerry Craft.

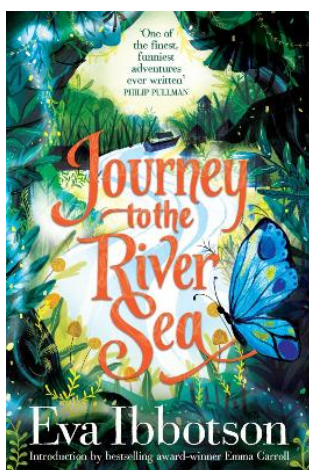




## Boy, Everywhere

**Author:** A. M. Dassu **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 22/10/2020

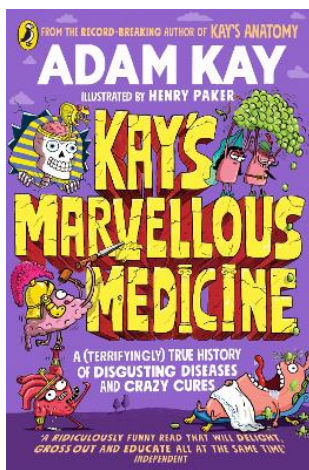
**Longlisted for the UKLA Book Award 2022 ages 11-14 | Winner of the Little Rebels Award 2021 | November 2020 Debut of the Month** Sami is a very ordinary 13-year-old boy, attending school, playing football, PlayStation and has his own iPad – the only thing different about Sami is that he lives in Damascus. As the war in Syria creeps closer, until a bombing of a local mall affects his family, everything has been good. Now Sami and his family have to leave their home, their friends and their beloved Jadda (grandmother) – not just to move to another town but to start a long and perilous journey to the safety of the other side of the world – to England. The journey, and therefore the story, are not for the fainthearted – Dassau tells the story of the journey, the fear and the privations authentically and we vividly share Sami's upset, anger and fear throughout every page. The portrait drawn of the family in such a stressed and frightening situation has the reader on the edge of their seat and pulling at our hearts all the way through. Written with a deep understanding and meticulous research into similar journeys this is a book that will not leave you for a very long time. The switches from adversity to hope to despair in Sami keep your heart in your mouth and is so realistic I was raging at the government for its inhuman treatment of desperate refugees. Read this book – it's needs to be in classrooms and on bookshelves everywhere – it will change you and stay with you.



## Journey to the River Sea

**Author:** Eva Ibbotson **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 13/05/2021

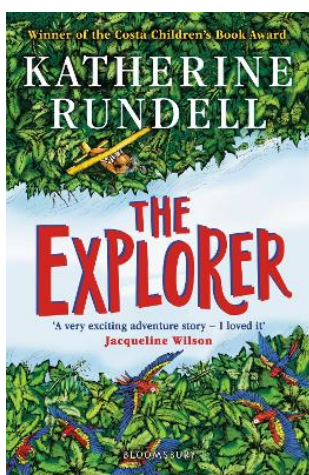
A gorgeous 20th anniversary edition of Eva Ibbotson's award-winning, bestselling classic adventure, with a beautiful cover by Katie Hickey and an introduction by award-winning author of Letters from the Lighthouse Emma Carroll. August 2013 Guest Editor, Lauren St John "To me, Eva Ibbotson is a genius. You can pick up any of her books – The Dragonfly Pool and One Boy and His Dog are also fantastic – and be guaranteed a good read. Journey to the River Sea is about orphaned London schoolgirl, Maia, who, accompanied by her strict but kind governess, is sent to live with her ghastly relatives in South America. Unlike her nature-phobic relatives, Maia loves her exotic, colourful new world. This is a journey of the spirit as well as the globe and the way Maia unfurls like a flower with each new adventure and encounter is one of the many reasons Journey to the River Sea is a classic. A warm, joyous book to be enjoyed by any generation." Chosen by Anne Fine as one of her favourite reads... 'A charming and magical adventure story that is full of wisdom, warmth and understanding. Orphaned Maia is sent off to stay with her relatives far, far away in the heart of the Amazon jungle. She's excited by the prospect of living such an inspiring place but soon finds that life with her twin cousins Gwendolyn and Beatrice is torture.'



## Kay's Marvellous Medicine A Gross and Gruesome History of the Human Body

**Author:** Adam Kay **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 21/07/2022

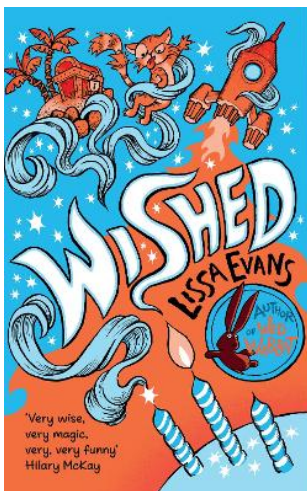
Following the enormous success of Kay's Anatomy, this is another tour-de force of informational writing. Children will be rolling around with laughter at all the gags, including a scribbled commentary from Great Aunt Prunella, who does not approve of the author's obsession with farting and poo, and the hilarious comic strips and copious illustrations from the talented Mr Paker. But don't be fooled - they will be learning an enormous amount about how humans came to understand the workings of the human body and how to fix it when it went wrong. Kay obviously relishes the ridiculous theories that abounded from ancient times through to relatively recent history and the frankly bizarre and terrifying treatments that were developed, as well as having a sincere respect for the pioneers who took the science forward. There is a great Doctorography section at the end to remind readers of all the stories they have read in the course of chapters which look at different parts of the body as well as individual sections on Surgery, Infections and Genetics. Each chapter ends with a look at the Future and Adam's Answers where he explains facts and fallacies too good to miss out! The pioneers of medicine generally have a little feature Five Facts and A Lie about them, so the author is actively encouraging critical reading as he does with True or Poo fact boxes about some familiar misconceptions. He is also at pains to highlight the women who, despite being banned from medicine throughout most of its history nevertheless managed to innovate and discover. In a hugely enjoyable, page-turning read, this librarian particularly enjoyed the fact that the excellent index also contained jokes. Do see if you can spot them!



## The Explorer

**Author:** Katherine Rundell **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 02/01/2018

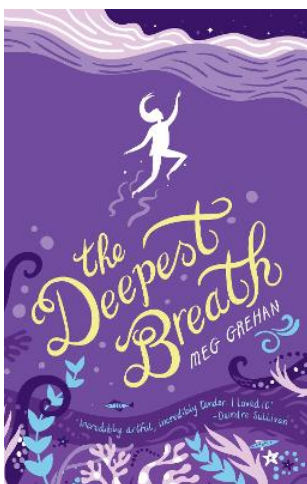
**Winner of the UKLA Book Awards 2019 | Winner of The Costa Children's Book Award 2017** After crashing hundreds of miles from civilisation in the Amazon rainforest, Fred, Con, Lila and Max are utterly alone and in grave danger. They have no food, no water and no chance of being rescued. But they are alive and they have hope. As they negotiate the wild jungle they begin to find signs that something - someone - has been there before them. Could there possibly be a way out after all?



## Wished

**Author:** Lissa Evans **Format:** Hardback **Release Date:** 07/04/2022

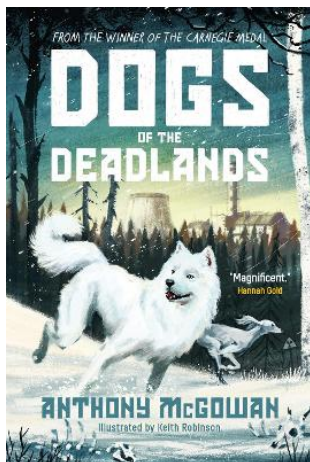
Ed and his sister Roo face an awful half term break when they unexpectedly must be looked after by their neighbour Miss Filey and her extremely smelly old cat! Nothing, it appears can save their break until they find some very old birthday candles which they and their new friend Willard decide to light and make wishes – like everyone does on birthday cakes! It turns out, though, that the wishes they get are not entirely their own and they must work together – including the smelly cat Attlee – who it turns out can talk – to solve the situations they find themselves in! All the elements are here for a series of adventures where our trio discover a huge amount about themselves – and Miss Filey – whilst surviving amazing escapades. Each person discovers a great deal about themselves, and about their friends as they explore, but have fun and laughter along the way. I was particularly pleased to see the way Evans writes the fact Ed is in a wheelchair as he has a condition which makes it hard for him to walk – the way this is handled makes a refreshing change. Ed is fiercely independent, and hates being discussed by others – which feels very authentic. All the characters are well drawn – even the adults, who in some books end up more like ciphers than people. This should most definitely be an instant classic – an overused term but one that is truly meant here. Buy it, read it – you will love it!



## The Deepest Breath

**Author:** Meg Grehan **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 09/05/2019

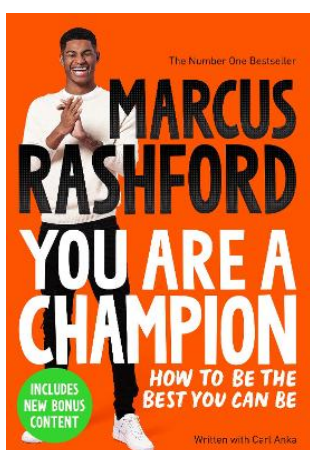
Stevie is eleven and loves reading and sea-creatures. She lives with her mum, and she's been best friends with Andrew since forever. Stevie's mum teases her that someday they'll get married, but Stevie knows that won't ever happen. There's a girl at school that she likes more. A lot more. Actually, she's a bit confused about how much she likes her. It's nothing like the way she likes Andrew. It makes her fizz inside. That's a new feeling, one she doesn't understand. Stevie needs to find out if girls can like girls - love them, even - but it's hard to get any information, and she's too shy to ask out loud about it. But maybe she can find an answer in a book. With the help of a librarian, Stevie finds stories of girls loving girls, and builds up her courage to share the truth with her mum. Written in accessible verse 'chapters' and in a warm and reassuring style, *The Deepest Breath* will be of special relevance to young girls who are starting to realise that they are attracted to other girls, but it is also a story for any young reader with an open mind who wants to understand how people's emotions affect their lives.



## Dogs of the Deadlands

**Author:** Anthony McGowan **Format:** Hardback **Release Date:** 01/09/2022

**Shortlisted for the Week Junior Book Awards 2023** Being published at a time when Chernobyl and the Ukraine have very much been in the news again makes this remarkable story resonate even more powerfully. While it does not go into any detail about the 1986 nuclear disaster itself, that looms oppressively over scenes which can be heart-breaking and brutally realistic. Animals frequently bear the brunt of human disasters, and it is well documented that soldiers were sent to dispatch abandoned pets and livestock. So initially the story is of a young girl Natasha being torn away from her beloved puppy Zoya, when she is forcibly evacuated. Natasha's life is emotionally blighted by this loss, as we see in chapters interspersed with the heart of the story which is of how Zoya survives in this fierce, cold and terrifying landscape where it is not just predators she has to fear. She makes it in the wild, mating with a wolf and raising two cubs, Misha and the radiation damaged Bratan and when she is finally killed in a battle with a lynx the story becomes theirs. Brilliantly told, full of naturalistic details and completely nonanthropomorphic but entirely relatable descriptions of pack dynamics, attachments and characters, this is a totally gripping survival story. Dog lives run a shorter span and when, after 20 years have passed since she left, Natasha returns to the blighted area as a scientist studying radiation levels, it is a very elderly Misha that satisfyingly and credibly completes the circle of both story strands. An unforgettable and moving novel that can genuinely stand up to comparisons with Call of the Wild and deserves similar classic status.

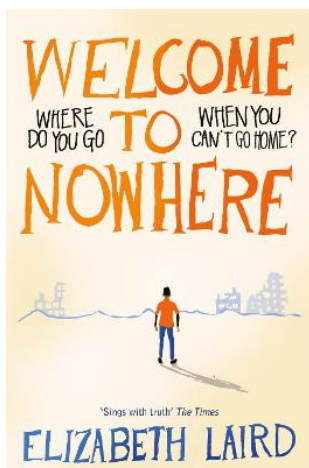


## You Are a Champion

**Author:** Marcus Rashford, Carl Anka **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 27/05/2021

**Winner of the British Book Awards 2022 Non-Fiction category** Dedicated to every young person who is trying to find their way and his mum for helping him to believe that dreams can come true, this is a motivational book by the man of the moment, the inspirational Marcus Rashford, and co-writer Carl Anka. It's a positive and inspiring guide for life, packed full of stories from Marcus's own life and calling for the readers to be their OWN champion, and that if they believe in themselves, incredible things can happen. With engaging black and white illustrations and infographics, it's a great book to inspire any child to be the best they can be. Marcus Rashford MBE is Manchester United's iconic number 10 and an England international footballer. His lobbying of the UK government during the pandemic made Marcus a household name, outside of sports fans, as he successfully lobbied a u-turn of their policy around free school meals. Before he became a global star, Marcus was just a young boy, an average kid from Wythenshawe in South Manchester - with a dream. This book gives every child the tools they

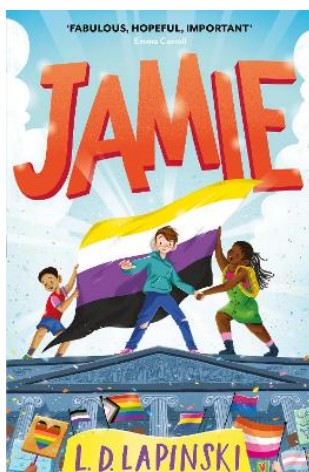
need to reach their full potential. With chapters covering everything from building your confidence to navigating adversity, finding your team, using your voice and stand up for other. And never stopping learning. With action points at the end of each chapter featuring brilliant advice and top tips from performance psychologist Katie Warriner, this is a practical guide for every child to believe that their dreams can come true.



## Welcome to Nowhere

**Author:** Elizabeth Laird **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 13/07/2017

**Winner of the UKLA 2018 Book Award 7-11** This is an excellent book for young people who want to know what is happening in Syria and why - serious, thoughtful, sympathetic to the ordinary people caught up in the war; in a highly readable story it gives a real insight into their lives, and how quickly they have changed from something very similar to our own, to something incomprehensible. Readers meet Laird's fictional Syrian family at the beginning of the civil war when life is good, particularly for her central character Omar, a young boy already dreaming of running his own business. But as protests against the government spiral into war, the family are forced from their house, then their country. Omar stays upbeat, even in their refugee camp where hope is in very short supply, a lively, reassuring narrator. Unlike his older brother, he's not interested in the protests, just wants things to be back the way they were; though the book ends with Omar, his mother and sisters escaping the refugee camp, we know that their lives have changed forever.



## Jamie

**Author:** L.D. Lapinski **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 30/03/2023

This book is a joy. I read it in one sitting; I couldn't put it down. I implore you and everyone you know, young and old to read this book. It's urgent. It's important. It promotes understanding and it's a beautiful read. Jamie Rambeau first told their secret to their best friend Ash in year 4. "I'm not a girl or a boy Ash. Don't use 'he' or 'she' when you're talking about me. Neither of them sound right. They're not...my words." Jamie was good until year 6 but they were about to find out that despite what they thought, not everyone else was happy with them. The gut punch was when they realised there was no place for them in secondary school. There was one school for boys and one for girls. But no place for Jamie. As they guide us through the words to use, and educate us on life under the rainbow flag, we see what it means for those who are non-binary. We see that it should be a joyous thing and that we should celebrate people discovering themselves. But it isn't. Jamie shares: "It doesn't take anything away from you or make your life more difficult making space for me. It doesn't mean you have to give up your seat."

As Jamie finds their true self and finds ways to celebrate who they are, they find their voice and start to make a real difference. With their trusty friends by their side every step of the way. This book is a riot of rainbows, a celebration, an education, full of hope and heart and shows us that the world is full of possibilities if you have the courage.

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## Swimming on the Moon

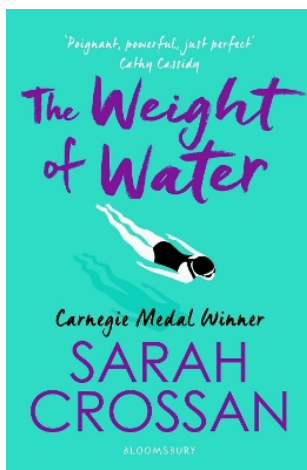
**Author:** Brian Conaghan **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 16/02/2023

**March 2023 Book of the Month | A Julia Eccleshare Pick of the Month February 2023**

Faced with the collapse of their parents' marriage, twins Anna and Anto know that only one thing really matters to them: they must never be split up. It's a twin thing. Anna knows that whatever the differences between her and her brother Anto - and there are many including that Anto is autistic - they are each half of a whole and cannot manage without each other. Anna narrates the emotionally insightful and deftly told story of how she and Anto, two children facing up to their parents separating with a well-judged mixture of sad reality, tremendous warmth and relieving humour.

----- A review from Joanne Owen : We're huge fans of Brian Conaghan's wise, warm-hearted novels here at LoveReading, and *Swimming on the Moon* really does have the feel of a book that'll stand the test of time and become a pre-teen classic. Exploring how it feels to fear your parents are splitting up, and showing the beautiful bond between a compassionate twelve-year-old girl and her nonverbal autistic twin brother, it's moving, funny and utterly adorable. Anna's biggest fear is that her constantly arguing parents will split up and separate her from her twin brother Anto. Of course, as with all brother-sister relationships, there are times when he's annoying and frustrating, but Anna's patience and protectiveness, and her ingenuity at helping Anto communicate with Lego is gorgeous. She's proud of him too: "Anto gets to experience the world in a very unique way...He's not some secret to be locked in a box". Then, when Anna discovers her dance group is going to compete in Italy, she sees a bright light of hope. Her parents are never happier than when they're on holiday, so she just has to convince them all to go to romantic Rome. But with more surprises ahead, Anna digs deep to understand adults' baffling behaviour, all the while looking out for Anto. Fittingly, given Anna's love of the author, *Swimming on the Moon* is Judy Blume-level brilliant at evoking a 12-year-old's perspective on life, and through her we gain compassionate, wise insights into how Anto experiences the world.

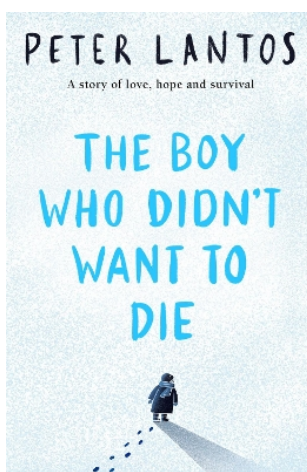
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## The Weight of Water

**Author:** Sarah Crossan **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 02/05/2019

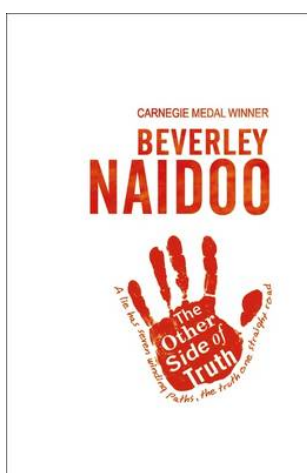
**Shortlisted for the CILIP Carnegie Medal 2013** The Weight of Water is a startlingly original piece of fiction written in verse; most simply a brilliant coming of age story. First love, friendship and quiet courage combine in this spare and beautiful story that will leave you sad, happy and wanting more from this fantastic new voice in children's fiction. It tackles the alienation experienced by many young immigrants. Moving, unsentimental and utterly page-turning, we meet and share the experiences of a remarkable 12 year old girl who shows us how quiet courage prevails. A truly special and remarkable read that should not be missed and, Bloomsbury the publisher has done a wonderful job on the book itself - the best things come in small packages - and this is absolutely no exception, so buy the physical book and not the ebook.



## The Boy Who Didn't Want to Die

**Author:** Peter Lantos **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 05/01/2023

The Boy Who Didn't Want to Die by Peter Lantos is a remarkable, vital, and heartbreaking true story of a young Hungarian Jewish boy's experience during the Holocaust. It's not an easy read, but it is an important one. It is also one that manages to find hope even in the darkest places. ~ Katya Balen's Book of the Month, Guest Editor January 2023



## The Other Side of Truth

**Author:** Beverley Naidoo **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 27/04/2000

This is the story of 12 year-old Sade and her brother Femi who flee to Britain from Nigeria. Their father is a political journalist who refuses to stop criticising the military rulers in Nigeria. Their mother is killed and they are sent to London, with their father promising to follow. Abandoned at Victoria Station by the woman paid to bring them to England as her children, Sade and Femi find themselves alone in a new, often hostile, environment. Seen through the eyes of Sade, the novel explores what it means to be classified as 'illegal' and the difficulties which come with being a refugee.