

PIXL Reading

Reading Canon Selection Guide Year 8

Implementing a whole-school approach to reading



“There is power in shared reading in the classroom – power that is generally underrated.”

Doug Lemov, *Reading Reconsidered*

To support schools and leaders of reading with finding a range of engaging texts with significant discounts, we have collated this selection guide, in collaboration with several publishers. We hope it will provide you with a starting point to creating your own canon, as well as to provide a guide for selecting texts for other areas of your provision, such as small group reading intervention, book clubs, the library etc. Read through the Reading Canon Leadership guide for more ideas and information.

It is worth pointing out that this is obviously not an exhaustive list, but it is a starting point. Each school has their own set of circumstances and contexts to bear in mind, and you know your students and context best and should select appropriate texts for this.

Indeed, although the selection has been divided into year groups – this may not work for your students and contexts. Publishers market their books at a range of ages and so applying these to year groups can be very tricky. You may well find that there are texts on the Year 7 canon selection guide that would work well for your Year 8 students and that texts from the Key Stage 4 canon selection guide that may work incredibly well for your Year 9 students. So do browse through the guides to get a feel for what may be best for your students and setting.

If you have students who struggle with reading, please do consider the Super Readable Rollercoaster texts, all of which can be purchased with the discount OUP are offering, as detailed below. You can also find out more here: <https://oup.pagetiger.com/super-readable-rollercoasters?region=uk>

Information for purchasing texts

- **If you are ordering texts from Hachette**, you can place an order for more than 5 copies with a 40% discount. To place your order and pay via card, please ring our customer services team on +44 (0)1235 759555 or email hukdcustomerservices@hachette.co.uk including your name, delivery address, contact telephone number along with the ISBNs that you would like to order (please do not include card details on email). Please quote the promotional code PIXLCANONGRID over the phone for 40% off your order.
- **If you are ordering texts from OUP**, you can place an order with a 50% discount by contacting: secondary.enquiries@oup.com. Please use the subject line ‘PiXL Reading Project 50%’.
- **If you are ordering texts from Usborne**, there are two ways for your school to save money:
 - Order via your local Independent Usborne Organiser to receive up to 60% off your order value in additional free books. You can find your nearest organiser by [entering your school location into our web search](#)
 - Alternatively, you can [email our head office team directly](#) and receive a discount of up to 30% off your total order value.
- **If you are ordering *When the Sky Falls* from Andersen Press**, you can place an order with a 50% discount by contacting mhendle@penguinrandomhouse.co.uk. Please use the subject line ‘PiXL Reading Project 50%’.

Modern Classics

Modern Classics – Andersen Press



When the Sky Falls, by Phil Earle – RRP £7.99

ISBN: 9781783449651

1941. War is raging. And one angry boy has been sent to the city, where bombers rule the skies.

There, Joseph will live with Mrs F, a gruff woman with no fondness for children. Her only loves are the rundown zoo she owns and its mighty silverback gorilla, Adonis.

As the weeks pass, bonds deepen and secrets are revealed, but if the bombers set Adonis rampaging free, will either of them be able to end the life of the one thing they truly love?

Modern Classics - Hachette



There May Be A Castle, by Piers Torday – RRP £6.99

ISBN: 9781784292744

A remarkable story about love, loss and the power of the imagination, from an award-winning, celebrated writer for children.

On a frozen Christmas Eve, Mouse Mallory and his family set off across a snow-white valley to visit his grandparents.

They never arrive.

As the wheels skid off the icy road, Mouse is thrown from the car. When he wakes, he finds himself in a magical landscape, with only a talkative sheep and a very bossy horse for company. And they tell him: this is your story now. So begins Mouse's extraordinary quest through a world of wonder. A world of monsters, minstrels, dangerous knights and mysterious wizards; a world of terrifying danger but also more excitement than Mouse has ever known. All to find a castle, somewhere, beyond. But why is Mouse looking for a castle? As thoughts of his family back at the car begin to surface, Mouse realises this might be the most important journey he will ever make ... This is a novel about love and death. It's about the power of stories to change the way we view the world – and it's about the power of a child to change their own world. Emotionally arresting but ultimately uplifting, this is a remarkable novel for our times.



The Apple Tart of Hope, by Sarah Moore Fitzgerald – RRP £7.99

ISBN: 9781444011159

Oscar Dunleavy is missing, presumed dead. His bike was found at sea, beyond the pier, and everyone in town has accepted this as a teenage tragedy. Except for his best friend, Meg. Oscar's kind, always cheerful, and makes the world's best apple tarts. Meg knows he isn't dead ... and she's going to prove it.

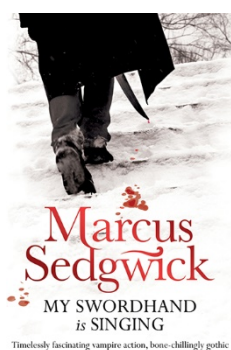


The Colour of the Sun, by David Almond – RRP £7.99

ISBN: 9781444941135

“The day is long, the world is wide, you're young and free.”

One hot summer morning, Davie steps boldly out of his front door. The world he enters is very familiar – the little Tyneside town that has always been his home – but as the day passes, it becomes ever more mysterious. A boy has been killed, and Davie thinks he might know who is responsible. He turns away from the gossip and excitement and sets off roaming towards the sunlit hills above the town. As the day goes on, the real and the imaginary start to merge, and Davie knows that neither he nor his world will ever be the same again.




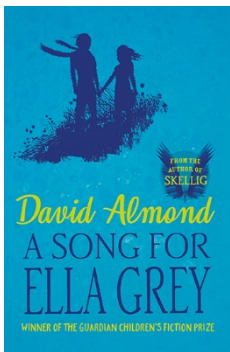
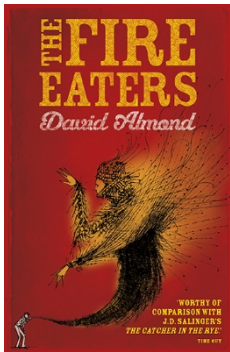
My Swordhand is Singing, by Marcus Sedgwick – RRP £7.99

ISBN: 9781842555583

An original interpretation of the timelessly fascinating vampire myth, and a story of father and son, by award-winning author Marcus Sedgwick. Winner of the Booktrust Teenage Prize and shortlisted for the Carnegie Medal.

In the bitter cold of an unrelenting winter, Tomas and his son, Peter, arrive in Chust. Despite the villagers' lack of hospitality, they settle there as woodcutters. But there are many things Peter does not understand. Why does Tomas dig a channel of fast-flowing waters around their hut so they live on an isolated island? Why does Tomas carry a long battered box everywhere they go – and refuse to tell Peter of its contents?

When a band of gypsies comes to the village, Peter's drab existence is turned upside down. He is infatuated by the beautiful gypsy princess, Sofia, and intoxicated by her community's love of life. He even becomes drawn into their deadly quest – for these travellers are Vampire Slayers, and Chust is a community to which the dead return to wreak revenge on the living.

	<p>Cherub: The Recruit, by Robert Muchamore – RRP £7.99 <i>ISBN: 9780340881538</i></p> <p>The first title in the number one bestselling CHERUB series! James hits rock bottom before he's offered a new start in an intriguing organisation ...</p> <p>A terrorist doesn't let strangers in her flat because they might be undercover police or intelligence agents, but her children bring their mates home and they run all over the place. The terrorist doesn't know that one of these kids has bugged every room in her house, made copies of all her computer files and stolen her address book. The kid works for CHERUB.</p> <p>CHERUB agents are aged between ten and seventeen. They live in the real world, slipping under adult radar and getting information that sends criminals and terrorists to jail.</p> <p>For official purposes, these children do not exist.</p>
	<p>A Song For Ella Grey, by David Almond – RRP £7.99 <i>ISBN: 9781444922134</i></p> <p>I'm the one who's left behind. I'm the one to tell the tale. I knew them both... knew how they lived and how they died.</p> <p>Claire is Ella Grey's best friend. She's there when the whirlwind arrives on the scene: catapulted into a North East landscape of gutted shipyards; of high arched bridges and ancient collapsed mines. She witnesses a love so dramatic it is as if her best friend has been captured and taken from her. But the loss of her friend to the arms of Orpheus is nothing compared to the loss she feels when Ella is taken from the world. This is her story – as she bears witness to a love so complete; so sure, that not even death can prove final.</p>
	<p>The Fire Eaters, by David Almond – RRP £7.99 <i>ISBN: 9780340944998</i></p> <p>There he was, below the bridge, half-naked, eyes blazing. He had a pair of burning torches. He ran them back and forth across his skin. He sipped from a bottle, breathed across a torch, and fire and fumes leapt from his lips. The air was filled with the scent of paraffin. He breathed again, a great high spreading flag of fire. He glared. He roared like an animal.</p> <p>That summer, life had seemed perfect for Bobby Burns. But now it's autumn and the winds of change are blowing hard. Bobby's dad is mysteriously ill. His new school is a cold and cruel place. And worse: nuclear war may be about to start. But Bobby has a wonder-working friend called Ailsa Spink. And he's found the fire-eater, a devil called McNulty. What can they do together on Bobby's beach? Is it possible to work miracles? Will they be able to transform the world?</p>



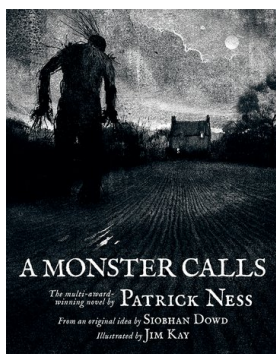
Stargirl, by Jerry Spinelli – RRP £6.99

ISBN: 9781408341025

Now a film on Disney+, STARGIRL is a classic of our time that celebrates being true to ourselves and the thrill of first love. A life-changing read that touches souls of all ages.

She's as magical as the desert sky. As mysterious as her own name. Nobody knows who she is or where she's from. But everyone loves her for being different. And she captures Leo's heart with just one smile. STARGIRL is a classic of our time that celebrates being true to ourselves and the thrill of first love. A life-changing read that touches souls of all ages.

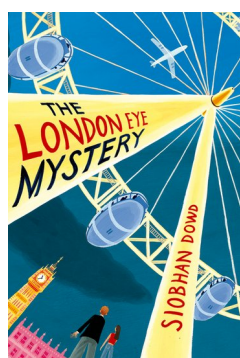
Modern Classics - OUP



A Monster Calls, by Patrick Ness – RRP £8.99

ISBN: 978-1382009409

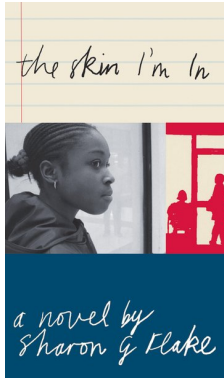
Conor is dealing with more than an ordinary teenager should have to: his mum is seriously ill, his dad lives far away with a new family, he has terrifying nightmares every night – and now he's being visited by an ancient, elemental monster. But through his encounters with the monster, Conor slowly learns to come to terms with what is happening.



London Eye Mystery, by Siobhan Dowd – RRP £9.99

ISBN: 978-0-19-832900-8

The London Eye Mystery is a fast-paced thriller that will keep your students guessing until the very end.



The Skin I'm In, by Sharon G. Flake – RRP £9.99

ISBN: 978-0-19-832675-5

Maleeka Madison is a child with very low self-esteem due to the fact that she is darker skinned than most other black girls. In her new teacher, Miss Saunders, she encounters someone who, she feels, is worse off than she is, as Miss Saunders' skin is blotched with a rare skin condition. The teacher withstands the snickers and shouts from the students but can Maleeka accept friendship and accept the skin she's in?

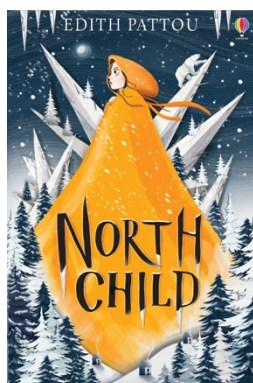


King of Shadows, by Susan Cooper – RRP £9.99

ISBN: 978-0-19-832888-9

New educational edition of this exciting time travel thriller, set in Shakespeare's England.

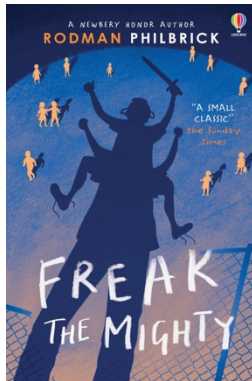
Modern Classics - Usborne



North Child, by Edith Pattou – RRP £7.99

ISBN: 9781474958585

Rose is an unusual child, a North Child. Rose was born facing north, and the old stories say she will venture far from home and embark upon a dangerous journey. Making a pact with an enormous white bear, Rose travels on his back to a mysterious castle that holds a dark enchantment, a darker temptation, and the key to her true destiny...



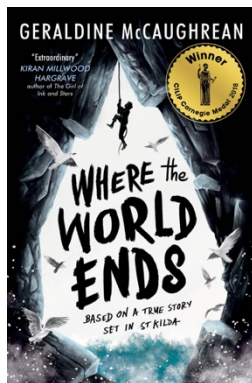
Freak the Mighty, by Rodman Philbrick – RRP £6.99

ISBN: 9780746087251

Max is used to being called Stupid. And he is used to everyone being scared of him, on account of his size and looking like his dad.

Kevin is used to being called Dwarf. And he is used to everyone laughing at him, on account of his size and begin 'some cripple kid'.

But greatness comes in all sizes, and together Max and Kevin become Freak The Mighty and walk high above the world.



Where the World Ends, by Geraldine McCaughrean – RRP £6.99

ISBN: 9781474943437

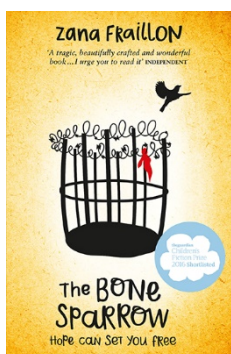
Every summer, Quill and his friends are put ashore on a remote sea stac to hunt birds. But this summer, no one arrives to take them home.

Surely nothing but the end of the world can explain why they've been abandonee – cold, starving and clinging to life, in the grip of a murderous ocean.

How will they survive?

Ours and Others' Worlds

Ours and Others' Worlds - Hachette



The Bone Sparrow, by Zana Fraillon – RRP £7.99

ISBN: 9781510101555

Born in a refugee camp, all Subhi knows of the world is that he's at least 19 fence diamonds high, the nice Jackets never stay long, and at night he dreams that the sea finds its way to his tent, bringing with it unusual treasures. And one day it brings him Jimmie.

Carrying a notebook that she's unable to read and wearing a sparrow made out of bone around her neck – both talismans of her family's past and the mother she's lost – Jimmie strikes up an unlikely friendship with Subhi beyond the fence. As he reads aloud the tale of how Jimmie's family came to be, both children discover the importance of their own stories in writing their futures.



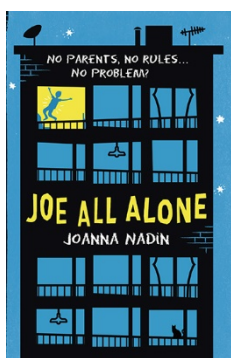
Summoner: The Novice, by Taran Matharu – RRP £7.99

ISBN: 9781444923995

Fletcher was nothing more than a humble blacksmith's apprentice, when a chance encounter leads to the discovery that he has the ability to summon demons from another world. Chased from his village for a crime he did not commit, he must travel with his demon to the Vocans Academy, where the gifted are trained in the art of summoning.

The academy will put Fletcher through a gauntlet of gruelling lessons, training him as a battlemage to fight in the Hominum Empire's war against the savage orcs. Rubbing shoulders with the children of the most powerful nobles in the land, Fletcher must tread carefully. The power hungry Forsyth twins lurk in the shadows, plotting to further their family's interests. Then there is Sylva, an elf who will do anything she can to forge an alliance between her people and Hominum, even if it means betraying her friends. Othello is the first ever dwarf at the academy, and his people have long been oppressed by Hominum's rulers, which provokes tension amongst those he studies alongside.

Fletcher will find himself caught in the middle of powerful forces, with nothing but his demon Ignatius to help him. As the pieces on the board manoeuvre for supremacy, Fletcher must decide where his loyalties lie. The fate of an empire is in his hands ...



Joe All Alone, by Joanna Nadin – RRP £6.99

ISBN: 9780349124551

When thirteen-year-old Joe is left behind in Peckham while his mum flies to Spain on holiday, he decides to treat it as an adventure, and a welcome break from Dean, her latest boyfriend. Joe begins to explore his neighbourhood, making a tentative friendship with Asha, a fellow fugitive hiding out at her grandfather's flat.

But when the food and money run out, his mum doesn't come home, and the local thugs catch up with him, Joe realises time is running out too, and makes a decision that will change his life forever.



The Forest of Moon and Sword, by Amy Raphael – RRP £7.99

ISBN: 9781510108356

Twelve-year-old Art lives in a small village in Scotland. Her mother has always made potions that cure the sick, but now the townspeople say she is a witch. One cloudless night, Art's mother is arrested and taken to England. Art mounts her horse, taking a sword, a tightrope, and a herbal recipe book, and begins a journey through wild forests, using nature's signs and symbols to guide her. But will she spot the signs from the omens? Will she reach her mother, before it's too late?



Running on the Roof of the World, by Jess Butterworth – RRP £6.99

ISBN: 9781510102088

There are two words that are banned in Tibet. Two words that can get you locked in prison without a second thought. I watch the soldiers tramping away and call the words after them. 'Dalai Lama.'

Tash has to follow many rules to survive in Tibet, a country occupied by Chinese soldiers. But when a man sets himself on fire in protest and soldiers seize Tash's parents, she and her best friend Sam must break the rules. They are determined to escape Tibet – and seek the help of the Dalai Lama himself in India.

And so, with a backpack of Tash's father's mysterious papers and two trusty yaks by their side, their extraordinary journey across the mountains begins.



The Water's Daughter, by Micehll Lovric – RRP £6.99

ISBN: 9781444010350

An exquisitely imagined fantasy novel about a girl who can see history with her touch. Set on the canals of Venice, from an award-winning author, this is a perfect book for fans of Frances Hardinge and Jennifer Bell for 9+ readers.

Twelve-year-old Aurelia Bon can see what happened in a place by merely pressing her fingertips up against the walls. So when young boys start disappearing around an old palace, Aurelia must use her ability to find out what has happened, before the boys of Venice disappear forever...



The Lost Soul Atlas, by Zana Fraillon – RRP £6.99

ISBN: 9781510106826

Twig is alone as a newly-made street kid after his dad goes missing. But when he meets Flea, a cheerful pickpocket, the pair become fast friends. Together, Twig and Flea raise themselves on the crime-ridden streets, taking what they need and giving the rest to the even-poorer. Life is good, as long as they have each other.

But then Twig wakes up in the Afterlife with just a handful of memories from Earth and one big question ... how did he get there?

Loyalty will be tested, and a cruel twist of fate will lead to an act of ultimate betrayal in this epic story that spans a city, a decade, and the divide of life and death itself. From the award-winning author of The Bone Sparrow.



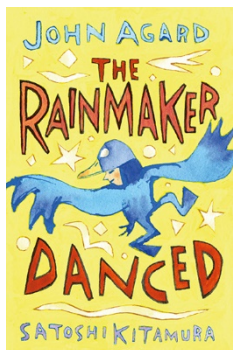
Where the River Runs Gold, by Sita Brahmachari – RRP £7.99

ISBN: 9781510105416

Shifa and her brother, Themba, live in Kairos City with their father, Nabil. The few live in luxury, whilst the millions like them crowd together in compounds, surviving on meagre rations and governed by Freedom Fields – the organisation that looks after you, as long as you opt in.

The bees have long disappeared; instead children must labour on farms, pollinating crops by hand so that the nation can eat. The farm Shifa and Themba are sent to is hard and cruel. Themba won't survive there and Shifa comes up with a plan to break them out. But they have no idea where they are – their only guide is a map drawn from the ramblings of a stranger.

The journey ahead is fraught with danger, but Shifa is strong and knows to listen to her instincts – to let love guide them home. The freedom of a nation depends on it . . .



The Rainmaker Danced, by John Agard – RRP £6.99

ISBN: 9781444932607

A wonderful new anthology of poems by winner of the Queens Medal and the Eleanor Farjeon Award, 2016

Do triangles

ever get into a tangle

when their sides meet their angles?

A wonderful new children's poetry collection, from a celebrated, award-winning poet.

From nature and science to identity, prepare to be transported on a journey through past and present. 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!

Ours and Others' Worlds - Usborne



The Extinction Trials, by S. M. Wilson – RRP £7.99

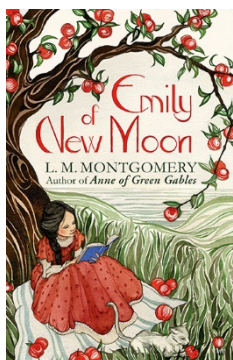
ISBN: 9781474927345

In Stormchaser and Lincoln's ruined world, the only way to survive is to risk everything. To face a contest more dangerous than anyone can imagine. And they will do anything to win.

But in a land full of monsters – human and reptilian – they can't afford to trust anyone. Perhaps, not even each other...

Literary Heritage

Literary Heritage - Hachette



Emily of New Moon, by L.M. Montgomery – RRP £6.99

ISBN: 9781844089888

Emily Starr has never known what it is to be unloved. But when her father dies, she is left in the care of her mother's family. Emily is a stranger to the proud Murrays, none of whom think they can cope with such a heartbroken, headstrong girl. They decide to draw lots for her, and Emily is sent to live at New Moon with stern Aunt Elizabeth, the head of the clan. Kind Aunt Laura and friendly, eccentric Cousin Jimmy also live at New Moon, though, so she is not without hope.

Emily is enchanted by New Moon, but cannot believe she will ever belong there. With her lively imagination and dreams of being a famous writer, she seems to have a talent for scandalising her family. Before long, though, she has made firm friends: Ilse, a tomboy with a blazing temper, Teddy, an aspiring artist, and Perry, the ambitious houseboy. She brings so much life to New Moon, perhaps one day even Aunt Elizabeth will consider herself lucky to have 'won' Emily.



Arthur: The Seeing Stone, by Kevin Crossley-Holland – RRP £7.99

ISBN: 9780752844299

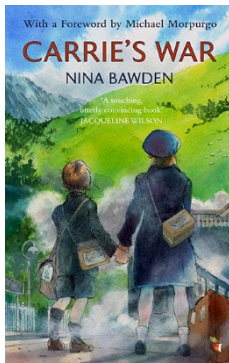
The year is 1199, the place the Welsh Marches. Young Arthur de Caldicot is given a magical shining stone in which his legendary namesake is revealed. In 100 short chapters that brilliantly evoke life in a medieval manor, stories of the boy King Arthur begin to echo – and anticipate – the secrets and mysteries that emerge in his own life...



Anne of Green Gables, by L.M. Montgomery – RRP £6.99

ISBN: 9780349009308

When a scrawny, freckled girl with bright red hair arrives on Prince Edward Island, Marilla and Matthew Cuthbert are taken by surprise; they'd asked for a quiet boy to help with the farm work at Green Gables. But how can you return a friendless child to a grim orphanage when she tells you her life so far has been a 'perfect graveyard of buried hopes'? And so, the beguiling chatterbox stays. Full of dreams, warmth and spirit, it is not long before Anne Shirley wins their hearts.



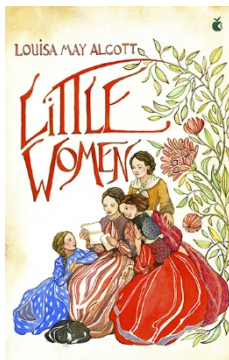
Carrie's War, by Nina Bawden – RRP £6.99

ISBN: 9780349009162

'I did a dreadful thing, the worst thing of my life, when I was twelve and a half years old, and nothing can change it'

It is wartime and Carrie and her little brother Nick have been evacuated from their London home to the Welsh hills. In an unfamiliar place, among strangers, the children feel alone and find little comfort with the family they are billeted with: Mr Evans, a bullying shopkeeper and Auntie Lou, his kind but timid sister.

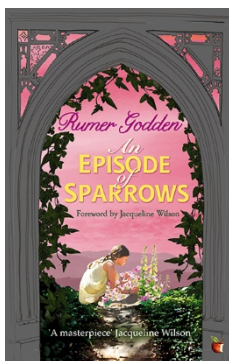
When Carrie and Nick visit Albert, another evacuee, they are welcomed into Hepzibah Green's warm kitchen. Hepzibah is rumoured to be a witch, but her cooking is delicious, her stories are enthralling and the children cannot keep away. With Albert, Hepzibah and Mister Johnny, they begin to settle into their new surroundings. But before long, their loyalties are tested: will they be persuaded to betray their new friends?



Little Women, by Louisa May Alcott – RRP £6.99

ISBN: 9780349011820

The four March sisters couldn't be more different: Meg, the eldest, is dutiful and patient; Jo is adventurous, with dreams of being a great writer; shy, musical Beth is the peacemaker; and headstrong Amy likes the finer things in life. They may not always get along, but with their father away in the Civil War and their mother struggling to make ends meet, the sisters have never needed each other more. Together, the girls navigate growing up – from first love to sibling rivalry, loss and marriage. Whatever comes their way, they know they can rely on each other.



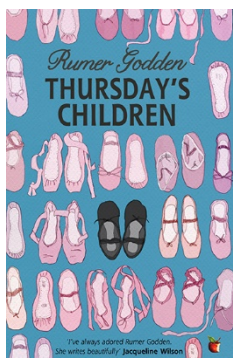
An Episode of Sparrows, by Rumer Godden – RRP £8.99

ISBN: 9781844088515

A captivating classic novel of a poor girl striving to create beauty among the bombsites of post-war London.

Someone has been digging up the private garden in the Square. Miss Angela Chesney of the Garden Committee is sure that a gang of local boys is to blame, but her sister, Olivia, isn't so sure. She wonders why the neighbourhood children – 'sparrows', she calls them – have to be locked out: don't they have a right to enjoy the garden too?

Nobody has any idea what sends Lovejoy Mason and her few friends in search of 'good garden earth'. Still less do they imagine where their investigation will lead them – to a struggling restaurant, a bombed-out church, and, at the heart of it all, a hidden garden.



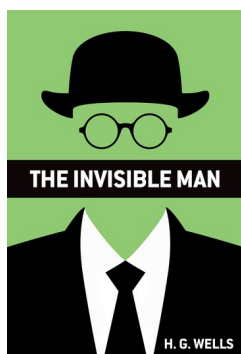
Thursday's Children, by Rumer Godden – RRP £7.99

ISBN: 9781844088485

Doone Penny is a child with a gift – he was born to dance. But though others recognise his talent, there is little encouragement from his family. His mother preens over his pretty sister, Crystal, also a dancer, but fiercely competitive and vain. Doone's father would never allow a son of his to have ballet lessons, and his brothers think he's a sissy.

But Doone has passion and ambition beyond his years, and knows he can succeed, if only he is given the chance. If he can make it into Queen's Chase, Her Majesty's Junior Ballet School, he'll show them all...

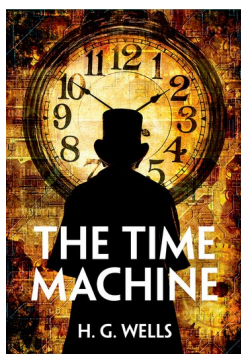
Literary Heritage – OUP



The Invisible Man, by H. G. Wells – RRP £9.99

ISBN: 978-0-19-839622-2

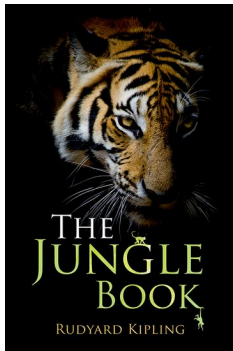
Townsfolk soon suspect something sinister underneath Griffin's creepy, bandaged exterior and are horrified by the chilling revelation that he is, in fact, completely invisible. His invisibility gives Griffin an untouchable power, and he will stop at nothing to get what he wants.



The Time Machine, by H. G. Wells – RRP £9.99

ISBN: 978-0-19-839623-9

When the Time Traveller explains his theory about travelling through time to his dinner guests, they are initially sceptical. He returns a week later, pale and limping, with an astonishing tale about encountering strange new worlds and different species. The guests are left wondering if he sets foot in his Time Machine again, will he ever return?



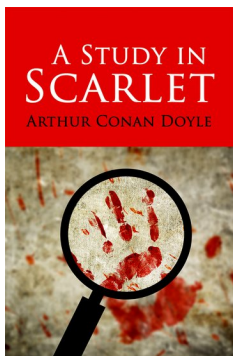
The Jungle Book, by Rudyard Kipling – RRP £7.99

ISBN: 978-1382010436

Whether it's danger, survival or friendship, Mowgli the man-cub has to learn the ways of the jungle...

If you want to swing through the trees, fear the pouncing tiger or be captured by the Monkey People, then The Jungle Book is the story for you!

This edition includes the unabridged text to engage all readers.

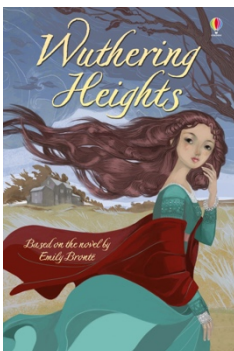


A Study in Scarlet, by Arthur Conan Doyle – RRP £7.99

ISBN: 978-1382016308

Dr Watson and Holmes embark on their first case together. A man is found murdered, with no apparent physical wounds and a grimace fixed on his face. The police are mystified, but using Holmes' astonishing skills of deduction and logic, the famous pair uncover a story of deceit, love and revenge that spans years and stretches across continents.

Literary Heritage - Usborne



Wuthering Heights, Based on the book by Emily Bronte – RRP £5.99

ISBN: 9781474924962

High on the windswept Yorkshire moors, an old farmhouse hides the secrets of a doomed love story. What lies beneath the mystery of Wuthering Heights, and why is Heathcliff, its reclusive owner, intent on cruelty and revenge?

Part of the Usborne Young Reading series, this is a retelling of Emily Bronte's classic story.



Dracula, Based on the book by Bram Stoker – RRP £5.99

ISBN: 9781474924962

When Jonathan Harker arrives at Count Dracula's castle, he has no idea what horrors lie in store. Fearing for his life, Jonathan and his friends soon find themselves battling against the vilest vampire in the world...

This retelling of Bram Stoker's classic is part of the Usborne Young Reader series.



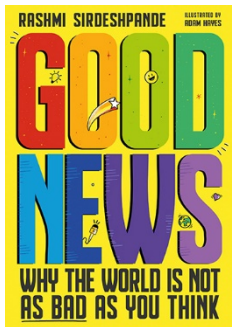
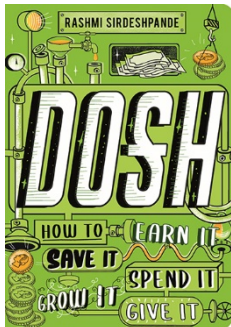
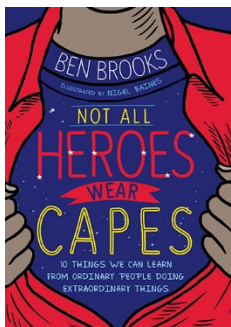
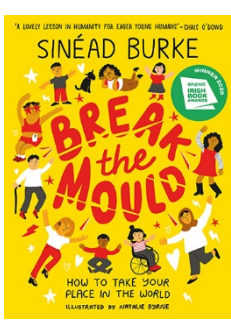
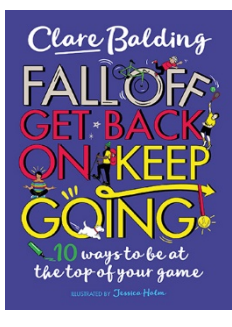
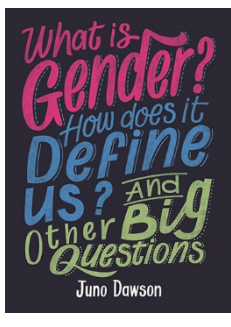
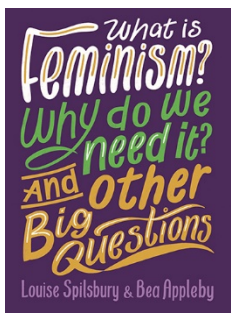
Hamlet Graphic Novel, Based on the play by William Shakespeare – RRP £9.99

ISBN: 9781474924962

The world of Hamlet, Prince of Denmark, is torn apart after he receives a chilling visit from the ghost of his father. Hamlet's vow to avenge his father's murder takes him on a personal journey fuelled by anger and resentment. But can he retain his sanity in the process?

One of William Shakespeare's most famous plays is retold with simplified text in this richly illustrated graphic novel.

Non-Fiction

Non-Fiction - Hachette



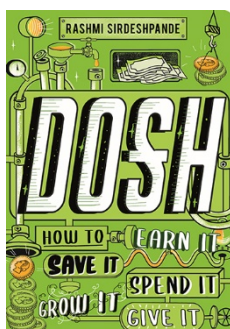
Good News, by Rashmi Sirdeshpande – RRP £9.99

ISBN: 9781526363381

Pandemics, war, terror, natural disasters – the world seems to be full of bad news and it can all feel, well, a little bit scary. But this is just part of the story. There are in fact tons of great things happening, from robots improving health care and trees healing the planet, to everyday people helping their community with acts of kindness and the businesses fighting for good in the world.

In Good News, children will learn to become fake news detectives, sussing out what's real and what isn't. They'll discover the good news – the amazing anecdotes, case studies and figures around the globe that are making a difference. And they'll learn that if we all continue to work together, things can only keep getting better and better.

Empowering, reassuring and confidence-boosting, this book is a positive antidote for testing times.

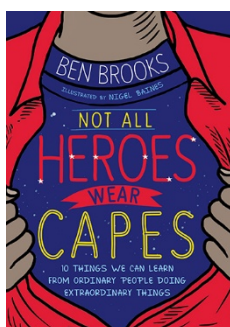


Dosh, by Rashmi Sirdeshpande – RRP £9.99

ISBN: 9781526362759

Whether you want to become an entrepreneur, be a savvy shopper, save all your pennies or splurge on something you really want, having some dosh in your pocket can be really exciting. And when it's used as a force for good, those pennies have the power to change the world.

So, explore the fascinating world of money with children's author and former lawyer, Rashmi Sirdeshpande and discover what money is, why it matters, how to spend it and ways to make more of it!



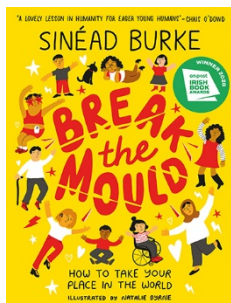
Not all Heroes Wear Capes, by Ben Brooks – RRP £9.99

ISBN: 9781526362896

What do you think of when you hear the word 'hero'? Is it the wall-climbing, cape-wearing, villain-fighter you see in comics and films?

Heroes can actually come in all forms, shapes and sizes.

Some cook for the hungry. Some nurse the poorly back to health. Others raise money for important causes. From small acts of kindness to inventions that have saved the lives of hundreds of people, every person in this book has found their passion – or their superpower. No matter how big or small it might be, your power can be used to change the world for the better too. So put away the cape, climb down from that wall and discover how ordinary people can still do extraordinary things and become heroes.

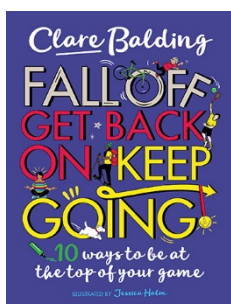


Break the Mould, by Sinéad Burke – RRP £8.99

ISBN: 9781526363336

Sometimes we can feel like we are not good enough. That we don't belong. Or that we want to be more like our friends. In this empowering guide, Sinéad Burke draws on her own experiences and encourages young readers to believe in themselves, have pride in who they are and use their voice to make the world a fairer, more inclusive place.

From the power of being different, to celebrating the things you love about yourself and helping others do the same, this is a brilliantly inspirational handbook for breaking the mould and finding your place in the world.



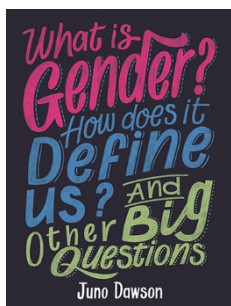
Fall Off, Get Back On, Keep Going, by Clare Balding – RRP £9.99

ISBN: 9781526363411

'Falling off' is all part of life. The trick is to know how to dust yourself off, get back on, learn from your mistakes – and keep going!

Clare Balding, TV presenter, sportswoman and bestselling author has had some spectacular falls in her life – from not fitting in at school and falling in with the wrong crowd, to last-minute hiccups and mistakes on live TV – so she knows what it takes to embrace your mistakes and move on from them!

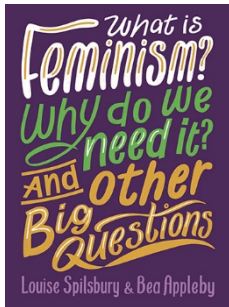
With personal stories from Clare herself and from the lives of the people she most admires, children will discover how to develop courage in the face of tough situations. Find out how Charlotte Raubenheimer of South Africa completed a triathlon while in lockdown at home during the coronavirus pandemic. Marvel at the amazing story of US surfer Bethany Hamilton, who got back in the water just one month after she lost her arm in a shark attack, going on to win her first US national surfing competition two years later. Plus many more stories including that of Jamaican sprinter Usain Bolt, US soccer superstar Megan Rapinoe, Dutch inventor Boyan Slat and Swedish climate change activist Greta Thunberg.



What is Gender? How Does it Define Us? And Other Big Questions by Juno Dawson – RRP £9.99

ISBN: 9781526300010

What's the difference between sex and gender? What does it mean to be defined by your gender? Are there only two genders? This informative book helps kids to explore these questions and more, explaining that there are differences of opinion and that answers are not always straightforward. A range of views are on hand from people who have thoughtfully considered the concept of gender in their own lives.



What is Feminism? Why do we need it? And Other Big Questions by Bea Appleby and Louise Spilsbury – RRP £9.99

ISBN: 9780750298384

Divided into sections such as Work and Money, Politics and Power, Media, Education, Family and Bodies, the book looks at the how feminism and the feminist movement, have affected each area in turn throughout history, and at the issues they are working to combat today. It also presents key figures in the fight for equal rights, from the Pankhursts to Germaine Greer and Malala Yousafzai, and looks at modern initiatives such as Emma Watson's He for She campaign.

People in the public eye put their opinions across, from Radio 1 DJ Gemma Cairney and Chief Executive of Girlguiding UK Julie Bentley, to rapper, comedian, actor and screenwriter Ben Bailey Smith aka Doc Brown.

A brilliant introduction for children to the movement, looking at the history of feminism, what it is today and its enormous relevance to young people and a vital tool for children in the process of figuring out the world and how it works.

Key Issues and Concepts

Key Issues and Concepts - Hachette



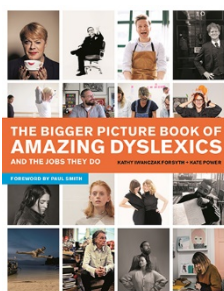
The Wild Before, by Piers Torday – RRP £12.99

ISBN: 9781786541116

One stormy, snowy night, a pure silver calf is born on an ordinary muddy farm by the light of the moon. This is the legendary Mooncalf, whose arrival has been foretold since the dawn of time.

According to a dream passed down from animal to animal, if the calf dies, a great terribleness will come – rising seas, a plague, skies raining down fire, the end of all things... and Little Hare vows to persuade all the animals to protect Mooncalf, whatever the cost.

But it's easier said than done, and soon Little Hare realises that he is the only one who can save the world...



The Bigger Picture Book of Amazing Dyslexics and the Jobs They Do by Kate Power et al – RRP £15.99

ISBN: 9781785925849

A beautifully designed book (packed with photos) full of wise words and encouragement from successful dyslexics working in comedy, architecture, law, fashion and many other amazing (and achievable!) careers.

Honest about the challenges of dyslexia (like problems or embarrassment at school), while showing how its strengths can be used to your advantage (for example how visualising and big picture thinking can make you shine at work), this is a book of colourful conversations with creative, motivated and successful people who are brilliant at what they do, and who achieve incredible things because of their dyslexia. There is also a section from people working to support people with dyslexia, who have researched the subject or work directly helping dyslexics on a day to day basis, who they share their top tips and advice gleaned from their years of experience.

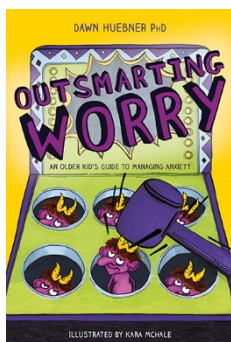


You Can Change the World, by Margaret Rooke – RRP £12.99

ISBN: 9781785925023

This inspirational book tells the stories of more than 50 of today's teenagers who've dared to change the world they live in. It's been written to show other teens they can do the same. Bestselling author Margaret Rooke asks teens about their experiences of being volunteers, social entrepreneurs and campaigners, online and beyond. They explain how they have survived in a world often obsessed by celebrity, social media and appearance, by refusing to conform to other's expectations.

If you want to achieve against the odds and create genuine impact, this book may be the encouragement you need. The interviews cover race, sexuality, violence, grief, neurodiversity, bullying and other issues central to life today.



Outsmarting Worry, by Dawn Huebner – RRP £9.99

ISBN: 9781785927829

Worry has a way of growing, shifting from not-a-big-deal to a VERY BIG DEAL in the blink of an eye. This big-deal Worry is tricky, luring children into behaviours that keep the anxiety cycle going. Children often find it hard to fight back against Worry, but not anymore. Outsmarting Worry teaches 9-13 year olds and the adults who care about them a specific set of skills that makes it easier to face – and overcome – worries and fears. Smart, practical, proven techniques are presented in language immediately accessible to children with an emphasis on shifting from knowing to doing, from worried to happy and free.



What Are You Staring At? by Pete Wallis and Joseph Wilkins – RRP £12.99

ISBN: 9781785920165

Designed for use in schools, this comic teaches children about restorative justice through the story of Jake and Ryan. After a misunderstanding between Jake and Ryan leads to a fight in the playground, both boys are left feeling angry and fearful about what might happen when they see each other again. Rather than keeping Jake and Ryan apart, their teacher arranges a restorative meeting to allow the boys to understand the situation from the other's perspective and transform their negative emotions into positive ones.

This comic is a key resource in helping children aged 8-13 to understand restorative justice and prepare for a restorative meeting. The comic also features a resource section for teachers, explaining more about restorative practices and how they can be used in schools to foster respect and emotional literacy among students.



A Strange Kind of Brave, by Sarah Moore Fitzgerald – RRP £7.99

ISBN: 9781510104129

Jake McCormack is the villain of Clanfedden. He's just killed a boy – deliberately run him over with his truck, on the bridge, in front of everyone. And he knows he'll get away with it.

Luca, 14, is the new boy in town. He's looking for a fresh start after a terrible thing that happened at his old school. Clanfedden is a small forgotten town, but Luca and his mum are going to give it a go. They're opening an exciting restaurant, and Allie Redmond is coming to work there. Allie is honest and kind and Luca knows they're going to be friends.

Allie has lived in Clanfedden all her life and these should be happy days – Luca is the best thing to have happened in years. But she's haunted by shadows of her own, and more than anyone she knows the danger of Jake McCormack. She needs to warn Luca. She needs to prevent disaster. At least she needs to try...



Rose, Interrupted, by Patrice Lawrence – RRP £7.99

ISBN: 9781444940657

Being a teenager is hard enough, but it's even harder in a world you've never known ...

Eighteen months ago, 17-year-old Rose and 13-year-old Rudder escaped a strict religious sect with their mum. They are still trying to make sense of the world outside – no more rules about clothes and books, films and music, no more technology bans. But also no more friendship with the people they've known all their lives, no community and no certainty. It doesn't help that their mum has to work all hours to pay rent on their cramped, smelly, one-bed flat above a kebab shop in Hackney.

While Rudder gorges on once-taboo Harry Potters and dances to Simon and Garfunkel and show tunes, Rose swaps the ankle skirts and uncut hair of the Woodford Pilgrims for Japanese-cute fairy dress and her new boyfriend, Kye. Kye, who she wants with all her being. But there's loads of scary stuff about their new life that Rose and Rudder have no idea how to handle – it's normal for girls to let their boyfriends take naked pictures of them, right?

When Rudder accidentally sets a devastating chain of events into action, Rose must decide whether to sacrifice everything and go back to the life she hates, in order to save the people she loves. A story about coming of age, slap-bang in the middle of a strange new world.

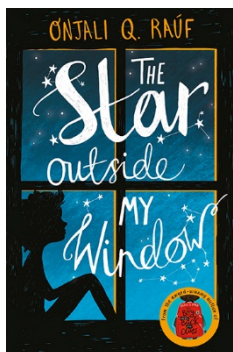


Black Brother, Black Brother, by Jewell Parker Rhodes – RRP £7.99

ISBN: 9781510109865

Donte wishes he were invisible. As one of the few black boys at Middlefield Prep, he feels as if he is constantly swimming in whiteness. Most of the students don't look like him. They don't like him either. Dubbed the "Black Brother," Donte's teachers and classmates make it clear they wish he were more like his lighter skinned brother, Trey. Quiet, obedient.

When an incident with "King" Alan leads to Donte's arrest and suspension, he knows the only way to get even is to beat the king of the school at his own game: fencing. With the help of a former Olympic fencer, Donte embarks on a journey to carve out a spot on Middlefield Prep's fencing team and maybe learn something about himself along the way.



The Star Outside My Window, by Onjali Q. Rauf – RRP £6.99

ISBN: 9781510105157

Following the disappearance of her mum, 10-year-old Aniyah suddenly finds herself living in foster care. With her life in disarray, she knows just one thing for sure: her mum isn't gone for ever. Because people with the brightest hearts never truly leave. They become stars.

So when a new star is spotted acting strangely in the sky, Aniyah is sure it's her mum, and she embarks on the adventure of a lifetime to make sure everyone else knows too — an adventure that involves breaking into the Royal Observatory of London, a mischievous scurry of squirrels and the biggest star in Hollywood...

Told through the innocent voice of a child, this is a story that explores the subtle faces and endless impacts of domestic violence, and celebrates the power of hope and resilience, from Onjali Rauf, the award-winning author of *The Boy at the Back of the Class*. *Parental guidance recommended: issues relating to domestic abuse included*



The List of Real Things, by Sarah Moore Fitzgerald – RRP £6.99

ISBN: 9781444014815

Grace knows the difference between what's real and the strange ideas that float around in her little sister's mind. Their parents died — that's real. A secret hotel on the cliff-top where their parents are waiting — definitely NOT real. So when grief strikes again, Grace is determined not to let her sister's outlandish imagination spiral out of control. But the line between truth and fantasy is more complicated than it seems...

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