



BOOKS FOR EVERYONE

RGS Recommended reading for year 7

About this list

Most of the books on this list are recommended by Year 7 students. Their English teachers and the RGS librarians have added to it.

We aim to provide you with a starting point with this list: when you find a book you like, you can branch out into other books by the same writer or in the same style or genre. There are plenty of recommendations for further reading, but we can't list them all here! Ask your English teacher or the librarian for further suggestions – if you feel ambitious, you might ask to have a look at the new Year 8 reading list too.

If you read something which should be on the list, please do let us know. And if any title has overstayed its welcome here, we want to know that too. **Use the Library, it's a wonderful resource** – these books (and very many more) are available through it.

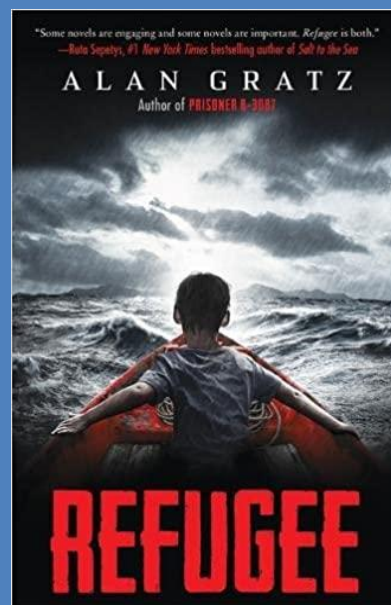
Please make sure you keep a full list of the books you read this year – page 3 of this booklet has been set aside for you to keep a record, so keep it up to date and enjoy your reading. After all, there are plenty of books here for everyone!

2 Class readers and classic fiction

Year Seven class readers

PLEASE NOTE: these books may be read in your English class.
Please check with your teacher before you start reading

David Almond	<i>The Fire Eaters, Skellig, Kit's Wilderness, My Name is Mina</i>
John Boyne	<i>The Boy at the Top of the Mountain</i>
Lolita Chakrabarti	<i>Life of Pi</i> [play script]
Frank Cottrell-Boyce	<i>Millions, Framed</i>
Sarah Crossan	<i>The Weight of Water</i>
Charles Dickens	<i>A Christmas Carol</i>
Jamila Gavin	<i>Coram Boy</i> / Helen Edmundson <i>Coram Boy</i> [play script]
Kiran Millwood Hargrave	<i>The Way Past Winter</i>
Alan Gratz	<i>Refugee</i>
Gemma Malley	<i>The Declaration</i>
Michael Morpurgo	<i>Private Peaceful, War Horse, Alone on a Wide Wide Sea</i>
Annabel Pitcher	<i>My Sister Lives on the Mantelpiece</i>
Louis Sachar	<i>Holes</i>
Marcus Sedgwick	<i>The Foreshadowing</i>

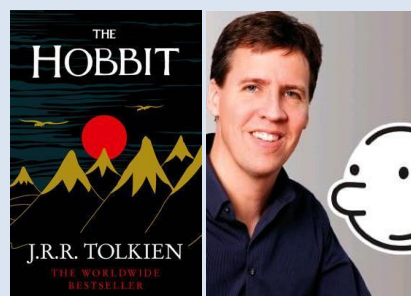


What happens when you have to leave the place you call home? This is a set of compelling tales of children leaving their homelands in Cuba, Nazi Germany and modern-day Syria.

A selection of classic children's novels

Many students still make the strongest connections with established and well-loved classic children's novels, books which have been capturing the imagination of young readers for many generations...

Louisa May Alcott	<i>Little Women</i>
Lewis Carroll	<i>Alice's Adventures in Wonderland</i>
Richmal Crompton	<i>Just William</i>
Alan Garner	<i>The Owl Service, Red Shift</i>
Kenneth Grahame	<i>Wind in the Willows</i>
Frances Hodgson Burnett	<i>The Secret Garden</i>
C. S. Lewis	<i>The Chronicles of Narnia</i>
E. Nesbit	<i>The Railway Children</i>
Arthur Ransome	<i>Swallows and Amazons</i>
J. K. Rowling	<i>The Harry Potter series</i>
Anna Sewell	<i>Black Beauty</i>
Robert Louis Stevenson	<i>Treasure Island</i>
J. R. R. Tolkien	<i>The Hobbit</i>
Mark Twain	<i>Huckleberry Finn</i>
Jules Verne	<i>20,000 Leagues under the Sea</i>



Modern authors on their favourite children's books

Stephenie Meyer (*Twilight*) on *Little Women*

"A happy world I visited so many times I lost count."

Jeff Kinney (*Diary of a Wimpy Kid*) on *The Hobbit*

"I felt as if I were being introduced into a whole new universe, and the best books do that to you."

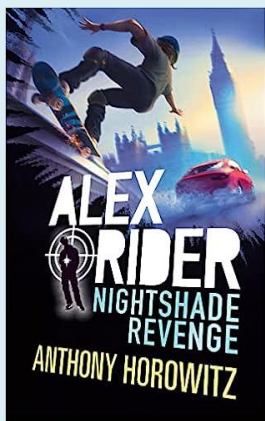
Use this space to keep a record of your own reading through the year...

	Title	Author	Date Finished	No. of Pages	Rating
1					☆☆☆☆☆
2					☆☆☆☆☆
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9					☆☆☆☆☆
10					☆☆☆☆☆

Reward:

	Title	Author	Date Finished	No. of Pages	Rating
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3					☆☆☆☆☆
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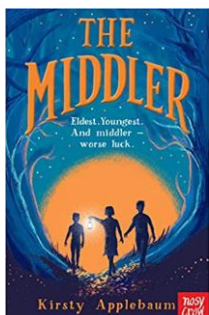
Reward:



Anthony Horowitz's latest **Alex Rider** adventure, **Nightshade Revenge** is out! Previously, in **Nightshade**, Alex was sent by MI6 Special Operations to infiltrate a sinister organization known only as Nightshade... on his own, with the fate of thousands of people resting in his hands.

The cult sci-fi **21% Monster** series by P.J. Canning begins when Darren Devlin is arrested for destroying his school with his bare hands, and it's not just the police who are after him. Enter Marek, 14 years old, 19% alien, and the most intelligent, most wanted "almost human" alive. Marek is here to tell Darren the truth - he is 21% monster, and together they must take down the secret organisation that created them.

If you love these books, you could also try the **Young Bond** series written by **Steve Cole** and **Charlie Higson**, as well as the **Time Riders** books of **Alex Scarrow** and **Mark Walden's HIVE** stories.



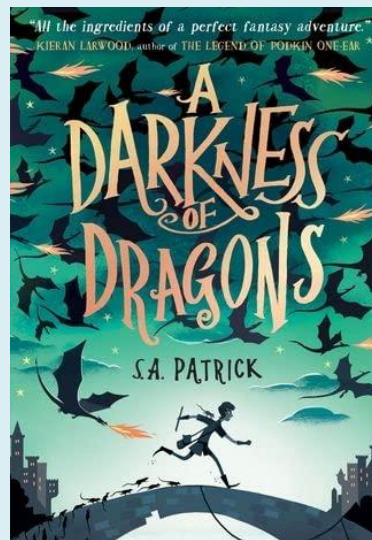
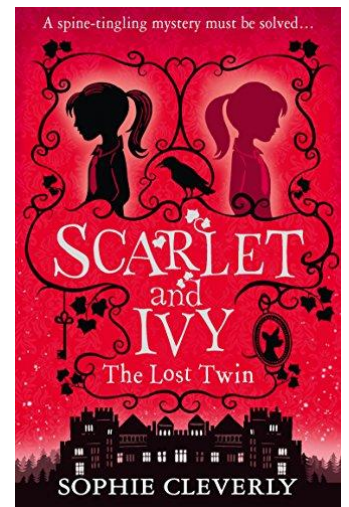
Piers Torday's The Last Wild is described as 'an action-packed, dystopian eco-thriller', this is the first of a series of novels following Kester's adventures in the wild. Another exciting dystopian adventure is **Kirsty Applebaum's The Middler**. Young Maggie lives in Fennis Wick, protected from the outside world by a boundary, beyond which the Quiet War rages and danger roams. Like these? Search out **Geraldine McCaughrean's Where the World Ends**

Scarlett and Ivy: The Lost Twin Sophie Cleverly

This is the story of how I became my sister...

When troublesome Scarlet mysteriously disappears from Rookwood School, terrifying Miss Fox invites her quiet twin sister Ivy to 'take her place'. A spine-tingling mystery set in a creepily atmospheric boarding school. Ivy must uncover the secrets behind her twin sister Scarlet's disappearance before it's too late.

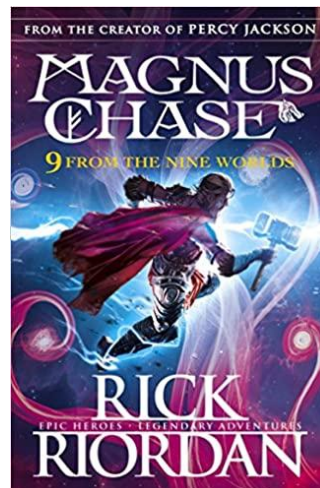
The series is continued by **The Whisper in the Walls** and **The Dance in the Dark**.



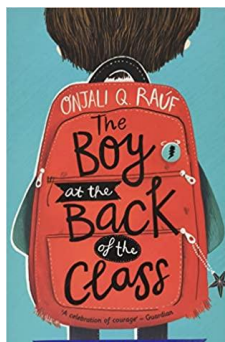
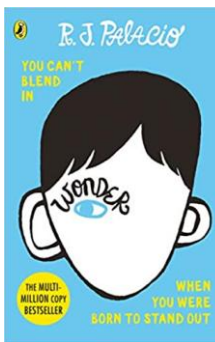
A Darkness of Dragons by S.A. Patrick is for those who like vivid fantasy stories. In a world of dragons, song spells, pipers and battles, Patch Brightwater is a boy in disgrace. Thrown in jail for playing a forbidden spell, he is no one's idea of a hero. But then he discovers a deadly truth - the evil Piper of Hamelyn is on the loose.

Try also: **Jakob Wegelius' The Murderer's Ape** in which an extraordinary gorilla called Sally Jones (!) happens to be a brilliant ship's engineer who sails the high seas on The Hudson Queen with her loyal friend the Chief. **Katherine Rundell's Rooftoppers** is another epic adventure you might like after this.

If you like the adventure of the **Percy Jackson** series, try Rick Riordan's **Heroes of Olympus** and **Magnus Chase** books.



If you like supernatural stories, look for **Leo Hunt's Thirteen Days of Midnight** trilogy, or **Neil Gaiman's** enchanting **Coraline**.



R.J. Palacio's *Wonder* is something of a modern classic.

My name is August. I won't describe what I look like. Whatever you're thinking, it's probably worse. Auggie wants to be an ordinary ten-year-old. He does ordinary things - eating ice cream, playing on his Xbox. He feels ordinary - inside. But ordinary kids don't make other ordinary kids run away screaming in playgrounds. Ordinary kids aren't stared at wherever they go.

You might also like **Onjali Rauf's *The Boy at the Back of the Class***, an adventure-filled story about a new kid at school, a refugee boy who is soon surprising his class mates.

Bobbie Doe on the novel : 'It illustrates how everyone no matter what their background can be accepted into society and feel at home'.

Alexander Lienard on *The Boy at the Back of the Class*: 'A book that I had fell in love with during lockdown. It is a very touching and clever book written with wit but also with feeling. The storyline is of a young boy, seeking refuge in the UK from Syria. It is told from a 9-year-old's perspective which is why it is so heart-warming, his oblivious nature and caring ways, unaware of the struggles and perils that lie in the world.'



***No Fixed Address* by Susin Nielsen**

Felix Knutsson is nearly thirteen, lives with his mother and pet gerbil Horatio, and is brilliant at memorising facts and trivia. But Felix and his mom Astrid have a secret: they are living in a van. Astrid promises it's only for a while until she finds a new job, and begs Felix not to breathe a word about it.

Henry Rewcastle on the novel:

'This is about a chaotic mum and her son who pretend to have a normal life whilst living in a van, and it helps us think about those who have an unstable family.'

Like this? Try **Lisa Thompson's *The Light Jar*** or **Gillian Cross' *Wolf***.

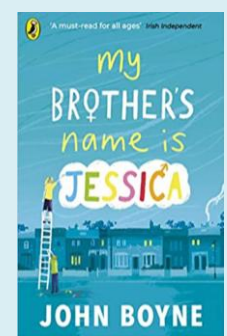
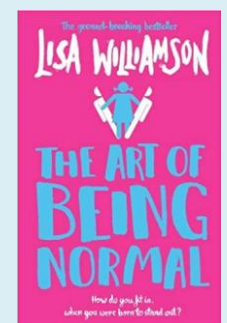
The Art of Being Normal
Lisa Williamson

Two outsiders. Two secrets. David longs to be a girl. Leo wants to be invisible. When Leo stands up for David in a fight, an unlikely friendship forms. But things are about to get messy. Because at Eden Park School, secrets have a funny habit of not staying secret for long...

My Brother's Name is Jessica
John Boyne

Sam Waver has always been a loner: bullied, struggling at school, with parents who have very little time for him. The one person he has always been able to rely on is his beloved older sibling - but when they announce that they are transitioning, Sam's life is thrown upside down.

Enjoyed? Try reading **George** by **Alex Gino** and **Dean Atta's *The Black Flamingo***.



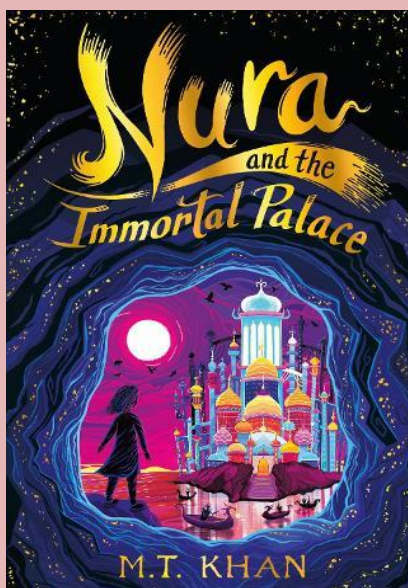
***Vote for Effie* by Laura Wood**

Effie Kostas is fighting to become Student Council President in her new school. With a campaign team of loveable misfits, she tackles the truly important subjects:

- gender imbalance
- outdated school conventions...
- and good-looking boys stealing the last slice of chocolate cake at lunchtime.

Vote for Effie is described as 'a laugh-out-loud rallying call for switched-on kids everywhere'.





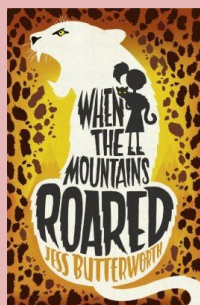
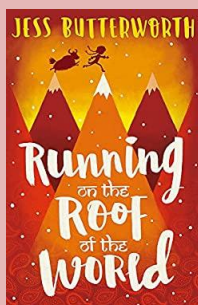
Nura and The Immortal Palace

M.T. Khan

This magical adventure follows a young girl's journey from modern-day Pakistan into the world of the jinn. Nura has worked all her life in the mica mines, earning just enough to keep her family afloat – and enjoy the odd delicious gulab jamun from the market. Some day she's going to find the Demon's Tongue, a legendary treasure buried deep in the mines, and her family will never have to worry about money again.

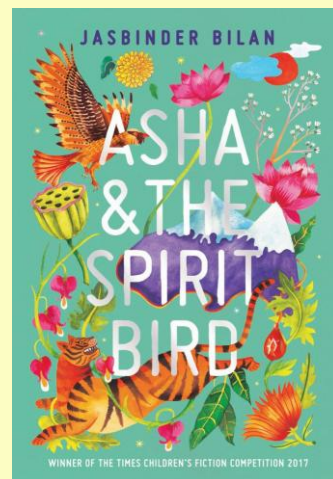
But when a terrible accident buries her best friend below ground, Nura goes in search of him and passes over into the magical and terrible world of the jinn. Across a pink sea and under a purple sky, she finds her way to a palace, where great riches and a whole new life are on offer...

Jess Butterworth also writes vivid, exotic stories. Join 12-year-old Tash and her best friend Sam in **Running on the Roof of the World**, a story of adventure, survival and hope, set in the Himalayan landscape of Tibet. If you want to experience her other stories too, try **When the Mountains Roared** and **Where the Wilderness Lives**.



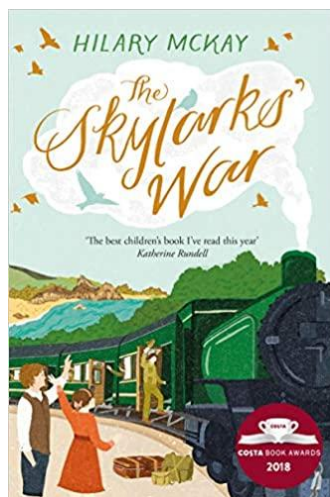
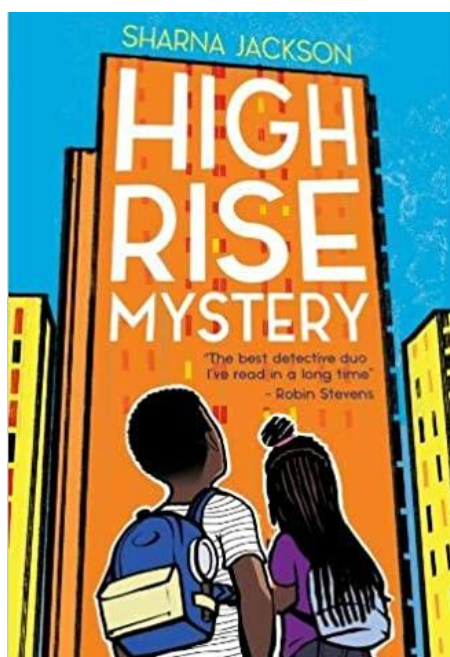
Asha & the Spirit Bird
Jasbinder Bilan

An Indian girl's magical journey through nature – Asha travels with her best friend Jeevan on a quest to save her home and find her father.



Feeling ambitious? If you like this, try **Monique Roffey's The Mermaid of Black Conch**

Sharna Jackson tells the unusual and original story of young detectives trying to solve a case in a modern London estate in **High Rise Mystery**. Try also the sequel novel, **Mic Drop**.

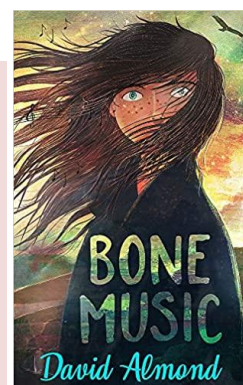


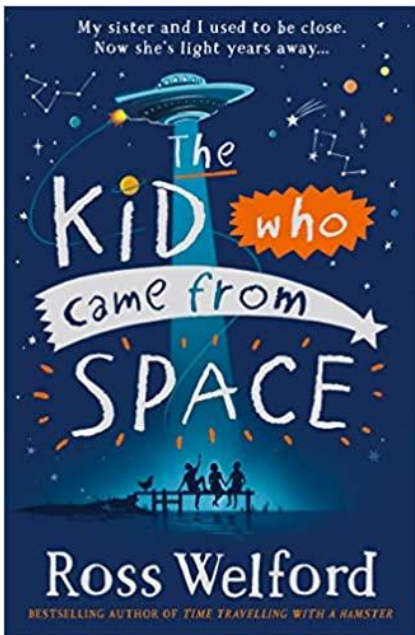
Skylarks' War by **Hilary McKay** is a beautiful story of a family growing up against the harsh backdrop of World War One. Clarry and her older brother Peter live for their summers in Cornwall, staying with their grandparents and running free with their charismatic cousin, Rupert. But the shadow of a terrible war looms ever closer.

You might also like **Bali Rai's Mohinder's War** in which a French girl stumbles across Indian-born RAF pilot Mohinder Singh when his plane crashes in occupied France in World War Two and it's up to her and her parents to hide him from the Nazis.

David Almond's Bone Music

David Almond transports the reader from the city to the forests and fells of north eastern England. Under a boundless starry sky, the unforgettable Sylvia Carr reconnects with the ancient past and discovers what it really means to be young in the world today. If you like this and the strong sense of the Northumberland setting and landscape, try **The Colour of the Sun** and **Jackdaw Summer**, also by David Almond.



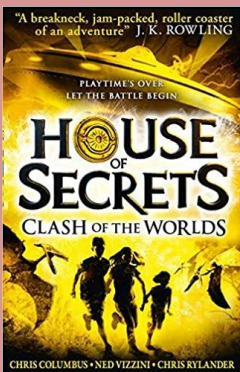


The Kid Who Came From Space
Ross Welford

For anyone who loved the humour of *Wall-E* and the deeply touching emotion of *ET*.

A small village is rocked by the disappearance of twelve-year-old Tammy. Only her twin brother, Ethan, knows she is safe – and the extraordinary truth of where she is. It is a secret he must keep, or risk never seeing her again. Together with his friend Iggy and the mysterious (and very hairy) Hellyann, Ethan teams up with a spaceship called Philip, and Suzy the trained chicken, for a nail-biting chase to get his sister back... that will take him further than anyone has ever been before.

Like this? Try **Rae Knightly's** *Ben Archer and the Cosmic Fall*



Harry Potter fans should enjoy **Chris Columbus'** collaborative *House of Secrets* series, which comes with J.K. Rowling's endorsement!



Wildspark
Vashti Hardy

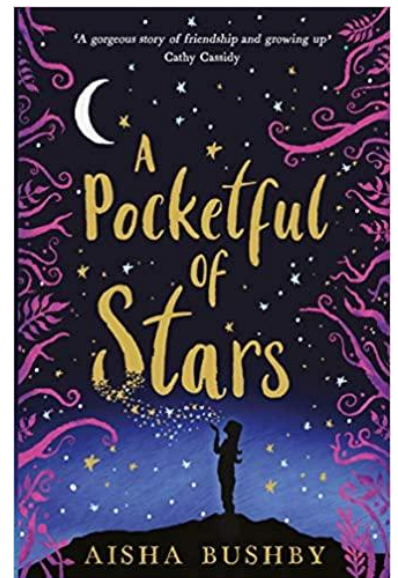
A year after her older brother's death, Prue Haywood's family is still in grief. But everything changes when a stranger arrives at their farm with news of a discovery in the city of Medlock, where a secretive guild of inventors have developed a way to capture spirits of the dead. She seizes the stranger's offer to be an apprentice...

If you enjoy this, seek out **Benjamin Read's** *The Midnight Howl*. Try also Vashti Hardy's other books, especially the enchanting *Crowfall*.

A Pocketful of Stars
Aisha Bushby

Safiya and her mum have never seen eye to eye. Her mum doesn't understand her love of gaming and Safiya doesn't think they have anything in common. She wonders if her mum wishes she was more like her confident best friend Elle. But then her mum falls into a coma and, when Safiya waits by her bedside, she finds herself in a strange and magical world that looks a bit like one of her games.

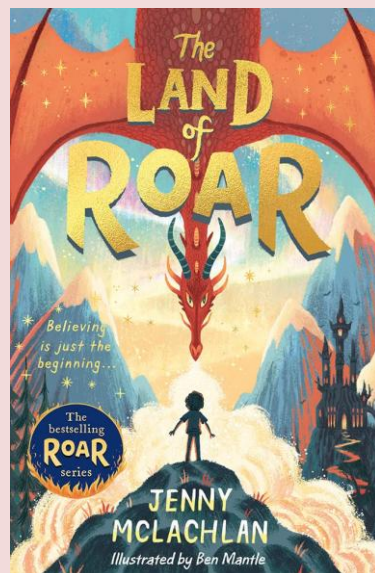
Also recommended are Sophie Anderson's *The House with Chicken Legs* and Kiran Millwood Hargrave's *The Girl of Ink and Stars...*



The Land of Roar, by Jenny McLachlan

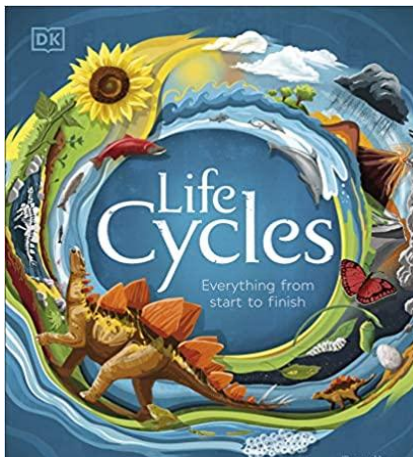
When Arthur and Rose were little, they were heroes in the Land of Roar, an imaginary world that they found in their grandad's attic. Roar was filled with dragons, mermaids, wizards and adventure – as well as things that scared them... Now the twins are eleven, Roar is just a memory. But when they help Grandad clear the attic, Arthur is horrified as Grandad vanishes. Is he playing a joke? Or is Roar real?

If you like this, try C.S. Lewis' *The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe*.

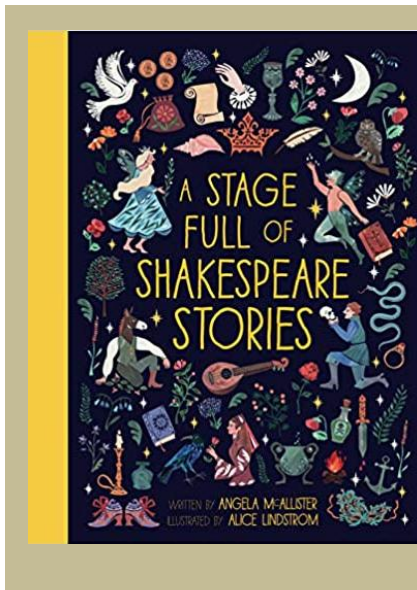
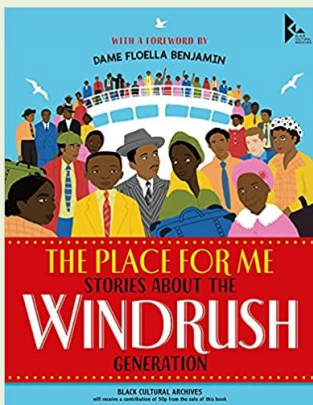


Life Cycles is a lavish book about life on earth. Everything has a beginning and an end, but what happens in between? Follow the migration of zebra across the vast plains, meet penguins guarding their eggs on the ice, and watch butterflies emerge from their cocoons. Shoot back in time 4.5 billion years to see how planet Earth was formed and then leap into the future to see what happens when stars die. Discover a new life cycle every time you turn the page.

If you want to read more, try **Michael Morpurgo's A Song of Gladness**, a celebration of nature, or **Laura Knowles' A Friend to Nature**. To explore further still, read **Will Gater's The Mysteries of the Universe**.



The Place for Me, from the Black Cultural Archives, tells twelve moving stories of people from the Caribbean who settled in the UK after World War Two.



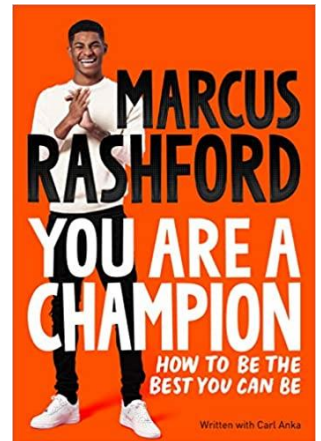
A Stage Full of Shakespeare Stories is a great introduction to the world of imagination in the stories of William Shakespeare. This anthology of 12 stories from Shakespeare includes favourites such as *The Tempest*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Hamlet* and *Othello*.

If you want to find out more, you might also wish to explore **Bold and Brave Women from Shakespeare**, or **Michael Rosen's What's So Special About Shakespeare?**

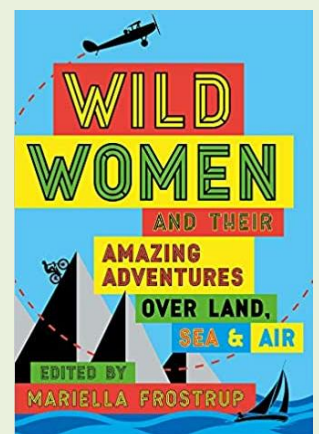
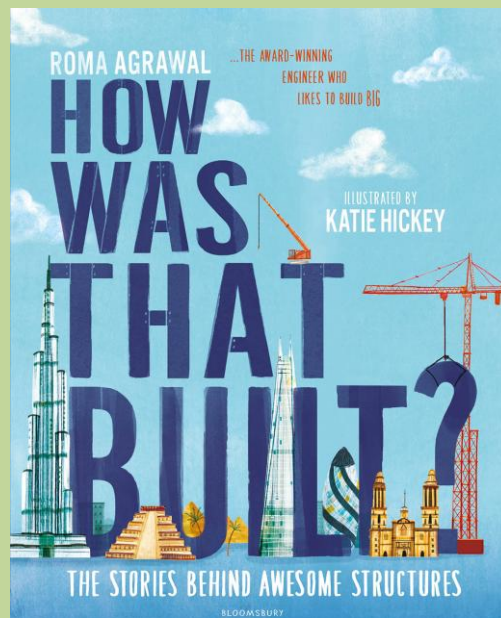
In **How was That Built?**, **Roma Agrawal** takes a look at how many of mankind's greatest landmarks were constructed, from the Brooklyn Bridge to the Burj Khalifa. Beautiful and detailed illustrations by **Katie Hickey**, include cross-sections, skylines and close-ups.

Marcus Rashford's You Are a Champion is the perfect book to help all of us to do well, in school, in sport, in anything at all.

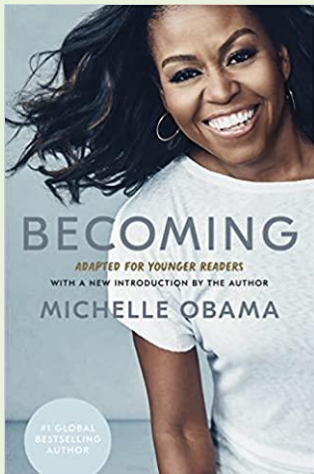
Full of good practical advice and inspirational ideas to help you to be comfortable with who you are and dream big.



If you're also interested in the development of entire civilisations, ancient and modern, find the DK book, **A City Through Time**.



Mariella Frostrup has compiled a brilliant book, packed with the adventures of female explorers and travellers who have journeyed all over the world – these are their amazing tales.

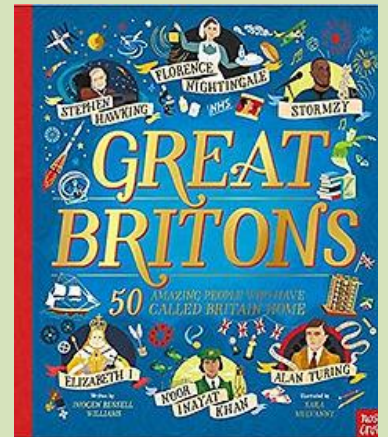


Becoming
Michelle Obama

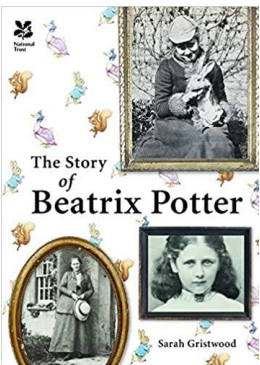
Michelle Robinson started life sharing a bedroom with her older brother Craig, in their family's upstairs apartment in her great-aunt's house. She would go on to become Michelle Obama, the inspirational First Lady of the United States of America.

Now adapted for younger readers, this memoir tells a very personal, and completely inspiring, story of how, through hard work and determination, the girl from the South Side of Chicago built an extraordinary life.

You might also enjoy *Rosa Parks: My Story* (Puffin).

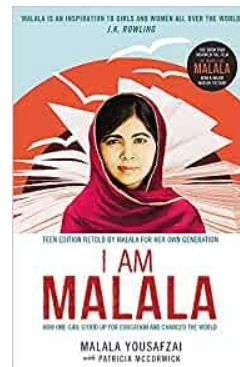


Imogen Russell Williams' *Great Britons* describes 50 amazing people who have called Britain home. Discover the enthralling, diverse stories of Britons through the ages, from the warrior queen Boudicca of early Britain, to Alan Turing and Stormzy. Includes key figures from all areas of British life - science, medicine, sports, entertainment, activism and more.

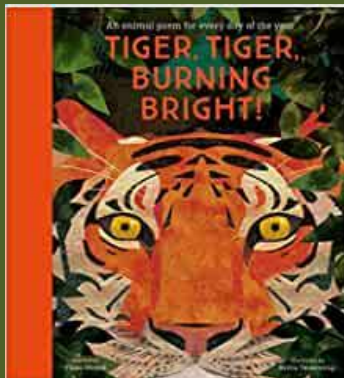
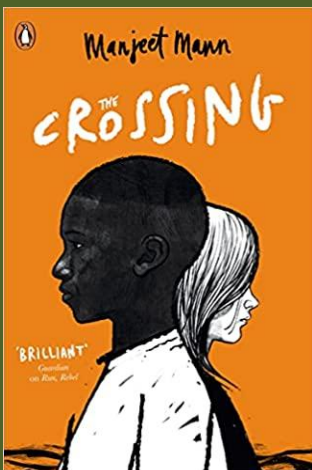


Sarah Gristwood tells *The Story of Beatrix Potter*, the writer of so many magical and well-loved children's tales, including Peter Rabbit.

I Am Malala tells the remarkable true story of a girl who knew she wanted to change the world - and did so, by standing up for her right to an education.

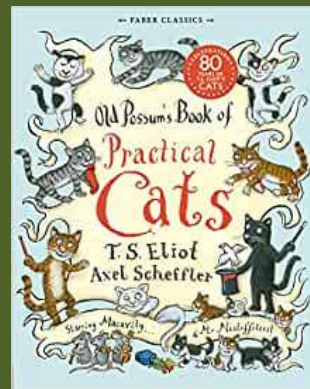


Manjeet Mann's *The Crossing* is a story told in verse about two teenagers from opposite worlds; *The Crossing* is a profound story of hope, grief, and the very real tragedies of the refugee crisis. You might also try the same poet's *Run, Rebel* and Rupi Kaur's books including *Milk and Honey*.



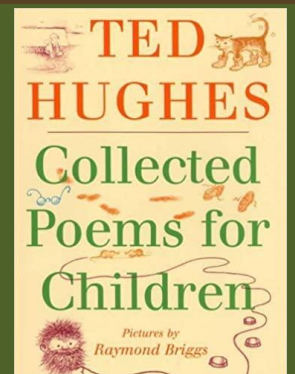
The National Trust has produced a couple of beautiful anthologies of poems that celebrate animals and nature: *Tiger! Tiger! Burning Bright!* and *I Am The Seed That Grew The Tree*

Another very special book is *Robert MacFarlane's The Lost Words*, with poems that savour the language of the natural world.



T. S. Eliot's charming and funny *Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats* tells the story of Macavity and friends – this is the basis of the famous musical, *Cats*. If you like absurd and humorous poems, seek out *Jabberwocky* by Lewis Carroll and *Silly Verse for Kids* by Spike Milligan.

Ted Hughes was one of the major poets of the last century and *Collected Poems for Children*, beautifully illustrated by Raymond Briggs (*The Snowman*), show the wit, gentleness and humanity of his children's poems. Try also Carol Ann Duffy's *New and Collected Poems for Children*.



A selection of student-recommended books



Amarai and the Night Brothers by B.B. Alston

Recommended by Amelia Gan and Layla Chum

An epic paranormal adventure, with thrilling plot changes. Amari Peters knows three things...Her big brother Quinton has gone missing. No one will talk about it.His mysterious job holds the secret...

So when Amari gets an invitation to the Bureau of Supernatural Affairs, she's certain this is her chance to find Quinton. But first she has to get her head around the mysterious world of the Bureau.

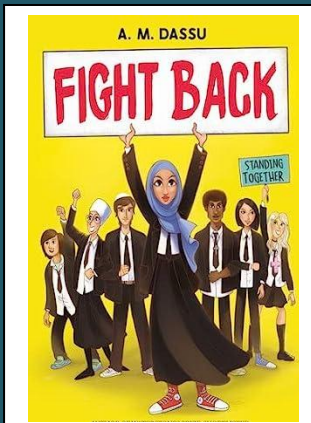


Skywake Battlefield by Jamie Russell

Recommended by Jack Dong and Harry Callaghan

Caught up in an alien war on a distant galaxy, Casey and her team are fighting for their lives – but which side should they be on? The second in an exciting and original debut sci-fi adventure trilogy for the gaming generation.

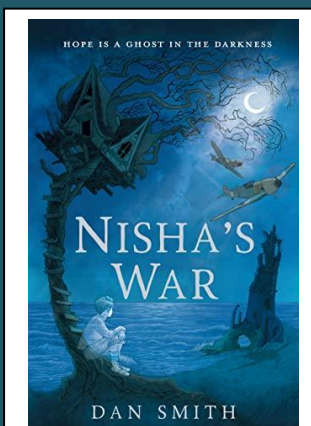
Casey and hundreds of other SkyWakers are now stuck on the planet Hosin, thousands of miles out in space, forced to fight for their lives..



Fight Back by A.M. Dassu

Recommended by Anna Arvind

An empowering story about finding your identity and the courage to fight for it.Aaliyah is an ordinary thirteen-year-old living in the Midlands - she's into her books, shoes, K-pop and she is a Muslim. She has always felt at home where she lives ... until a terrorist attack in her area changes everything. Soon Aaliyah realises that other young people from different backgrounds also struggle with their identity and feel alone, scared and judged. Should she try to blend in or fight back?



Nisha's War by Dan Smith

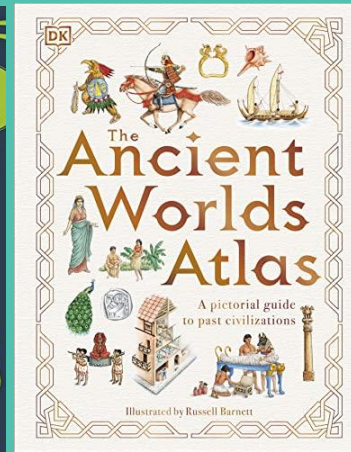
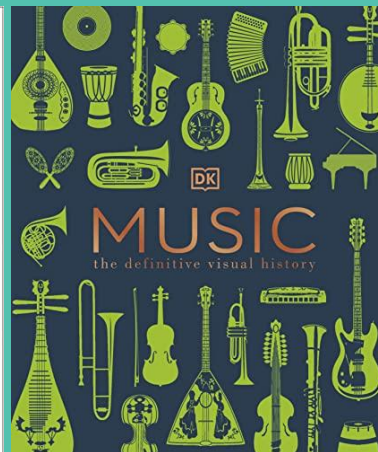
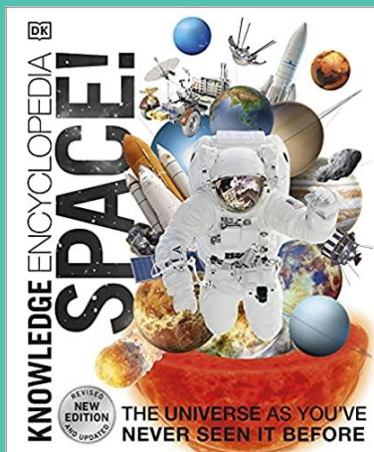
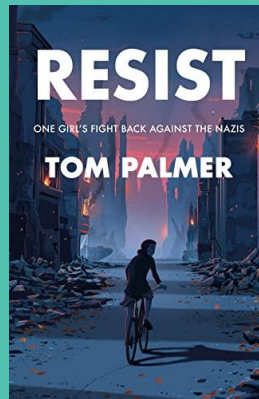
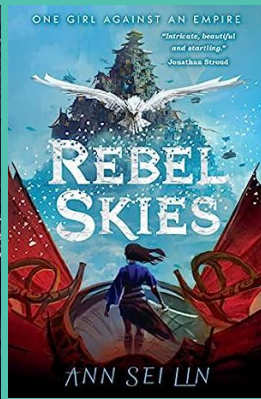
Recommended by Joel Rajiv and Havish Kamtan

A beguiling wart-time ghost story. Malaya, 1942.

Nisha's home is destroyed by war and she and her mother, Amma, flee to her father's ancestral house in England, perched on a cliff top on the cold Northern coast. When Amma falls gravely ill, Nisha is left to face her formidable grandmother and her countless rules alone, even forbidden from climbing the old weeping tree. But then one day a ghost child appears to Nisha....

New titles for 2023

The following is a selection of books published in the last twelve months



FICTION

Soman Chainani *The School for Good and Evil*

A dark fairytale - the legend of where the kidnapped girls of the village have gone...

Ann Sei Lin *Rebel Skies*

An unforgettable journey into a spirit world of Japanese mythology

Tom Palmer *Resist: One Girl's Fight Back Against the Nazis*

The story of one girl's everyday heroism in the face of terror in occupied Europe

J.P. Rose *The Haunting of Tyrese Walker*

A chilling adventure of a boy lost and haunted in a forest in Jamaica

Katya Balen *The Light in Everything*

A powerful tale of a boy and a girl forced to get on with each other when their parents fall in love with each other

NON-FICTION

Space! The Universe as You've Never Seen It Before

Music: The Definitive Visual History

The Ancient Worlds Atlas: A Pictorial Guide to Past Civilizations

My personal book notes