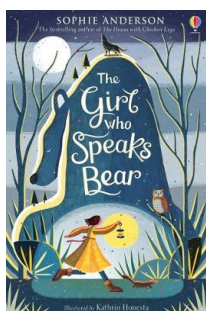


Education Library Service Recommended Secondary Fiction Spring Term 2020

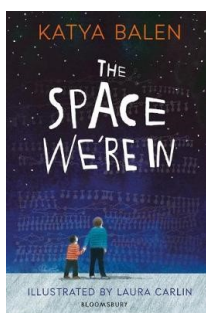


Anderson, Sophie

The Girl Who Speaks Bear

Usborne	Pbk	6.99	9781474940672
Interest age:	9+	Reading age:	9+

Yanka has been found in a bear cave as a baby and is exceptionally big and strong. She wonders where she is from. She knows her Mamochka, the lady who found her, loves her dearly and treats her as a daughter. One morning she wakes to find she has legs of a bear and leaves the village as she wants no one to find out. A blend of Russian folklore and fantasy. Links with "The House with chicken legs."

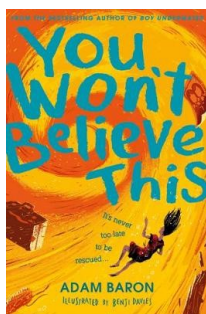


Balen, Katya

The Space We're In

Bloomsbury	Hbk	10.99	9781526601940
Interest age:	10+	Reading age:	10+

Frank is 10 and has an autistic younger brother, Max, who is 5. Frank tries to help Max, but at times gets frustrated with him and notices the impact Max has on their family. A debut novel which I thought was amazing. The reader really feels the challenges facing a family where a child has autism. An unexpected tragedy hits and Frank tries to help Max and his family. Great for empathy. Tissues a must.

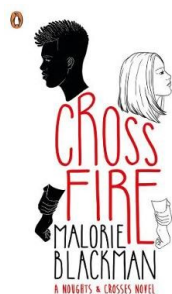


Baron, Adam

You Won't Believe This

Harper Collins	Pbk	6.99	9780008267049
Interest age:	9+	Reading age:	9+

9-year-old Cymbeline is in trouble. Someone is playing cruel tricks on his teacher, and everyone thinks it is him. He needs to find out who is doing it, especially after his best friend Veronique has confessed to the crimes. Veronique's grandma is dangerously ill, she has stopped eating and Cymbeline is certain it is connected to her arrival in Britain many years earlier as a boat person from Vietnam. Will he manage to solve both mysteries before something really awful happens? Poignant story with touches of humour and well-drawn characters. Follows on from "Boy underwater" but not necessary to have read first..



Blackman, Malorie

Cross Fire

Penguin	Pbk	7.99	9780241388440
Interest age:	14+	Reading age:	14+

Fifth volume in the noughts and crosses series, which ends on a cliff hanger, so assume there will be another in the series. The noughts and crosses seem to be integrated, but below the surface little has changed. Tobey Durbridge becomes Prime Minister and asks Callie Rose to help him legally, when he is framed for murder. Yet their families are divided, and two young people, Troy and Libby, from both families, are kidnapped. Can be read on its own, but better for those with series knowledge. Usual quality writing you expect from Blackman.

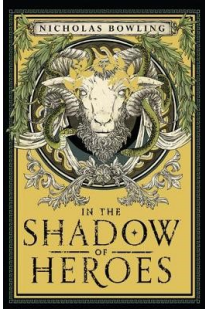


Bourne, Holly

What Magic Is This?

Barrington Stoke Pbk 7.99 9781781128855
Interest age: 14+ Reading age: 9+

Sophia, Mia and Alexis are clinging on to a spark of hope that maybe magic exists and they can cast spells to help Sophia regain the boy who has dumped her. But, as their sleepover progresses, each of the girls reveal long-buried secrets that strengthen their friendship. Excellent short read with good characterisation and an uplifting positive message about the nature of true friendship. Some conversational swearing. The spell-casting is of a mild nature.

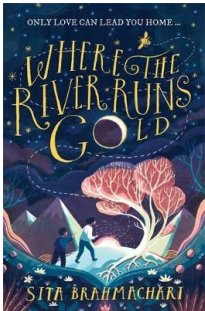


Bowling, Nicholas

In the Shadow of Heroes

Chicken House Pbk 6.99 9781911077688
Interest age: 12+ Reading age: 11+

When his master disappears and a slave called Tog arrives with a secret message, Cadmus is swept up on a quest that leads to Emperor Nero and his crazed determination to possess the Golden Fleece of Greek mythology. An intriguing historical adventure, characters developed well.

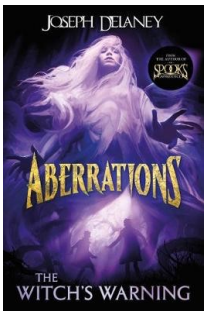


Brahmachari, Sita

Where the River Runs Gold

Orion Pbk 6.99 9781510105416
Interest age: 11+ Reading age: 10+

In a dystopian world after a great environmental catastrophe 11-year-old twins Shifa and Themba are sent to a Freedom Fields farm, supposedly to help their society by pollinating plants in the absence of bees. However, once there, Shifa discovers the harsh truth of their captive existence and is determined to escape back to her family in the city and save her brother. But, who can she trust, is the "map" her brother has been given reliable, and can they survive the perils of the journey? An engaging adventure with a very strong environmental theme and good characterisation. It seems a book for our "Extinction rebellion" times. Worth promoting.

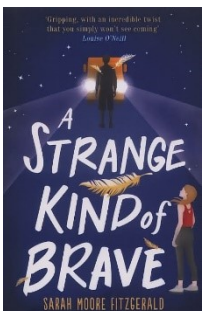


Delaney, J

The Witch's Warning

Penguin Pbk 6.99 9780241349953
Interest age: 13+ Reading age: 11+

The first in a promising new series. Crafty is an assistant to the mysterious gate mancers, who fight against the horrifying monsters stalking their world - the aberrations. And their battle is only just beginning. New and even more dangerous aberrations are appearing all the time, and, worse yet, it seems someone from within Crafty's team is working against them to help the creatures attack. Set in the same world as the Spooks series but with new characters.

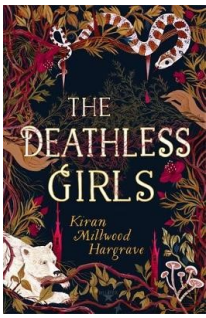


Fitzgerald, Sarah Moore

A Strange Kind of Brave

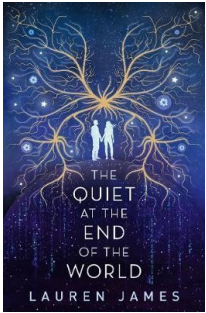
Orion Pbk 7.99 9781510104129
Interest age: 11+ Reading age: 11+

When Luca Spinelli decides to move to a town in Ireland where she spent several summers, she incurs the wrath of local thug Jake McCormack. Jake owns most of the run-down town, but he doesn't own the building Ariana wants for her new restaurant. Despite Jake's threats, Ariana opens the restaurant and it is a huge success. But Jake isn't happy, and he won't rest until Ariana and Luca are either dead or have left town. Luca is scared of the bully, but after having been made miserable by bullies at his last school, he decides to stand up to him. A very gripping, but easy to read novel which has a brilliant twist at the end. Some violence and mild swearing.

**Hargrave, Kiran Millwood****The Deathless Girls**

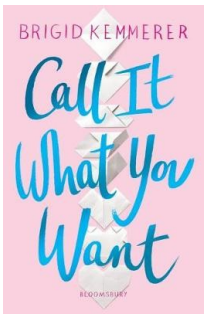
Hachette	Hbk	12.99	9781510106741
Interest age:	14+		Reading age: 14+

A gothic horror story for YA based on the legend of Dracula from the point of view of the women taken to be Dracula's bride. Lil and her twin sister Kizzy are 16 and part of a traveller community. They are taken as prisoners by Boyar Valcar and are forced to work in the castle kitchens. Lil is drawn to a fellow slave girl, Mira and the two develop a relationship. Kizzy is sent to Dracula. One of the guard attempts to rape Lil but somehow, she manages to escape and kill him, so she, Mira and Fen (a boy who is sweet on Kizzy) try to rescue Kizzy. A well written and compelling read. There is swearing, animal cruelty and Lil eats a mushroom which induces visions. There is a strong sense of setting and the characters are well-drawn and develop throughout the story.

**James, Lauren****The Quiet At the End of the World**

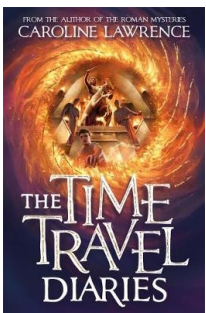
Walker	Pbk	6.99	9781406375510
Interest age:	14+		Reading age: 12+

Two children discover a secret that could alter human existence in a world where a virus has caused global infertility. Lowrie and Shen are the youngest people on the planet after a virus caused global infertility. Closeted in a pocket of London and doted upon by a small, ageing community, the pair spend their days mudlarking and looking for treasure - until a secret is uncovered that threatens not only their family but humanity's entire existence. An intriguing science fiction adventure story with a touch of romance.

**Kemmerer, Brigid****Call It What You Want**

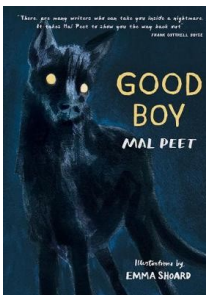
Bloomsbury	Pbk	7.99	9781526605344
Interest age:	13+		Reading age: 13+

Rob had it all - friends, a near-guaranteed lacrosse scholarship to college and an amazing family - but all that changed when his dad was caught embezzling funds from half the town. Now he's a social pariah. Maegan always does the right thing. But when her sister comes home from college pregnant, she's caught between telling their parents the truth about the father and keeping her sister's trust. When Rob and Maegan are paired together for a project, they form a deep connection. But Rob's plan to fix his father's damage could ruin more than their new friendship. Engaging plot with good characters, written in alternate chapters by Maegan and Rob. Cover makes it look as if it is a very light chick lit style story but this does it a disservice as it is thoughtfully written with a good plot.

**Lawrence, C****The Time Travel Diaries**

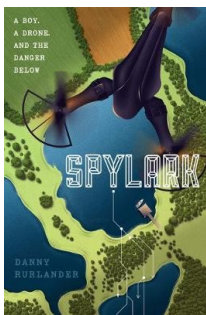
Piccadilly	Pbk	6.99	9781848128002
Interest age:	11+		Reading age: 11+

Alex has a mission to go back to Roman London to find a Blue-eyed girl and if he does, he will receive a million pounds from the eccentric billionaire who has invented a time machine. There are only 3 rules, 1. Naked you go and naked you must return. 2. Drink, don't eat. 3. As little interaction as possible. Alex finds himself, 'naked' in Roman London but he is not alone, he has been followed by one of his class, who in real time bullies him! Alex has a lot of challenges and adventures in Roman London, but he does eventually find his way back successfully.

**Peet, Mal****Good Boy**

Barrington Stoke	Pbk	7.99	9781781128527
Interest age:	14+		Reading age: 8+

Sadie keeps having a nightmare about a black dog. As a child her Mum soothed her, and they got a real dog to help too. As an adult she has joined the police force. One night Sadie is called whilst on duty to an incident on a council estate. She discovers two dying teenagers, who have been shot and another when the dog attacks someone. Powerfully written for hi-lo readers and great production with illustrations to enhance the text.

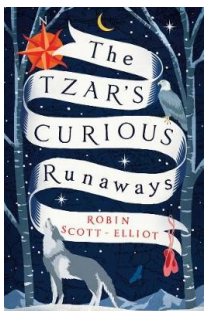


Rurlander, Danny

Splyark

Chicken House Pbk 6.99 9781911490708
Interest age: 10+ Reading age: 10+

After his RAF pilot father went missing in action Tom was sent to live in the Lake District with his Great Aunt. He felt angry and alone, but this was then compounded by an accident that has left him struggling with mobility. He spends every spare moment in his workshop developing electronic gadgets, and particularly drones which he uses to explore his surroundings in freedom. But when he stumbles upon a terrorist plot he knows no one will believe him. However, Maggie and Joel who are using his Aunt's holiday cottage for the summer turn out to be keen to help, but they soon get in over their heads and time is running out. Fast paced engaging adventure with good characterisation. A little suspension of disbelief is needed but it is a ripping yarn for either gender, particularly boys, and a satisfying ending.

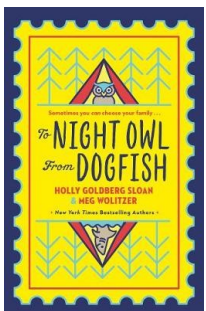


Scott-Elliott, Robin

The Tzars Curious Runaways

Everything with Pbk 8.99 9781911427131
words
Interest age: 11+ Reading age: 11+

Set in St Petersburg, Russia in 1725, in the court of Peter the Great. Katinka Dashkova has a hunched back and had been "collected" by the Tzar as one of his "curiosities." However, the Tzar is dead and the Tzarina is searching for the curiosities to kill or imprison them. Katinka is a wonderful ballerina despite her back. She is friends with Alexi, the Giant and Nikolai, the dwarf who are "different" like her also. The three set off across Russia to return to Katinka's family. The Steppe and Ural Mountains landscapes are harsh and the trio have only their determination and a supposedly magic map to help them on their travels. The tale is a mix of fantasy, history and adventure with well portrayed characters. Their resilience and pulling together to overcome their difficulties and differences shines through.



**Sloan, Holly
Goldberg/Wolitzer, Meg**

To Night Owl From Dog Fish

Egmont Pbk 6.99 9781405294836
Interest age: 11+ Reading age: 10+

Avery and Bett have one thing in common, their Dad's are having a relationship. The two dads think it would be a good idea for the two girls to get to know each other and book them both on the same summer camp. Avery and Bett are very different, Avery (Night Owl) is bookish, intense, nervous and likes to know what's happening. Bett (Dog Fish) outgoing, fearless and lives for the moment. The girls initially communicate via email and both are determined they are not going to get on. However, when they finally meet and have to communicate things change. Very amusing and entertaining in parts. Great for Year 7 , Reading for Pleasure, especially girls.

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