

## Education Library Service Recommended Primary 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."



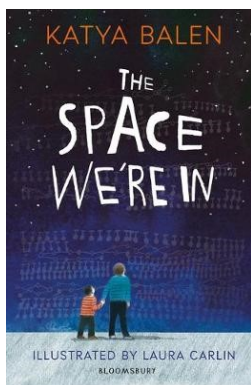
**Bacon, Lee                      The Last Human**

Piccadilly Press    Pbk    £6.99    9781848128248  
Interest age:              9+                      Reading age:        9+

Set in a future when humans are thought to be extinct and the world is run by robots. A robot, XR, discovers a 12 year old girl called Emma. Emma needs the robots help as her parents and others in their underground community are sick. The robots defy their programming and decide to help Emma as she teaches them much about what it is to be human.

Useful for discussions on robots and the environment.

Wellwritten with great characters and something a little different.

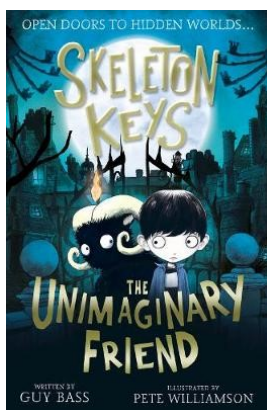


**Balen, Katya                      The Space We're In**

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. Great for empathy. Tissues a must.



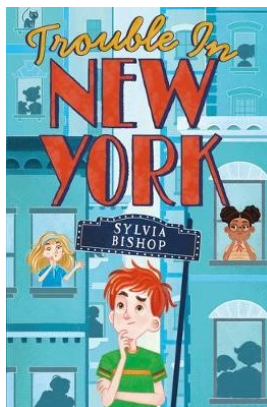
**Bass, Guy**

**Skeleton Keys: The Unimaginary Friend**

Stripes Pbk £6.99 9781788950305  
Interest age: 8+ Reading age: 8+

Skeleton Keys was once an imaginary friend, but on becoming real, he now has the job of rounding up and banishing to Oblivion mad bad and dangerous unimaginations to stop them wreaking havoc in the real human world. However, when Ben's imaginary friend the Gorblimey becomes unimaginary, Skeleton Keys is not convinced that he is loyal and kind. But, little do any of them know that there is more than one imaginary in town, and one of them is definitely dangerous and out for revenge.

Super easy to read fantasy tale for young readers of either gender. Good characterisation, with plenty of humour and some age appropriate jeopardy.



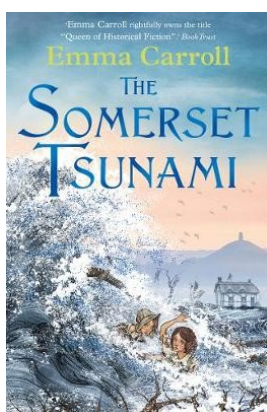
**Bishop, Sylvia**

**Trouble in New York**

Scholastic Pbk £6.99 9781407184418  
Interest age: 9+ Reading age: 9+

Jamie Creeden has always wanted to be a newspaper reporter so when he is given a tour of the famous Morning Yorker newspaper, he can't believe his luck. But this draws him into a world of villains, double-crosses and carefully planted clues, where he can trust absolutely no one. Can Jamie, along with his new friends Eve and Rose, solve the mystery that lies at the heart of New York City?

The 1960's setting may at first seem unappealing but this is a world without modern technology where newspapers are vitally important. The plot is intriguing with surprising twists and turns, humour, and some age appropriate jeopardy. Overall, a really good leisure read for either gender.



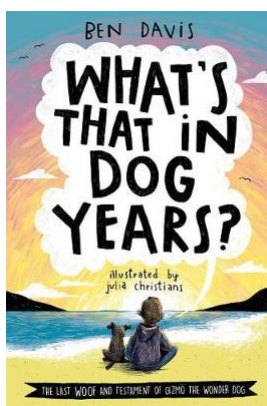
**Carroll, Emma**

**The Somerset Tsunami**

Faber Pbk £6.99 9780571332816  
Interest age: 10+ Reading age: 10+

Fortune is 13 and lives in a hamlet in 1616 with her Mum, brother and sister. Fortune carves a boat from a tree for fun. Her Mum sends her away in the dead of night to find work dressed as a boy, as she is worried, they will be hunted as witches for working on a Sunday. Fortune finds work in a manor house in Barrow Hill. She is to work with the owner's son but he disappears and at a similar time a huge wave floods the local area. Fortune and the owner's daughters leave the devastation to try to live with Fortune's Mum, but the authorities find them here and try Fortune as a witch.

Well written and compelling, but some of the witch hunting scenes and descriptions of flood are disturbing.



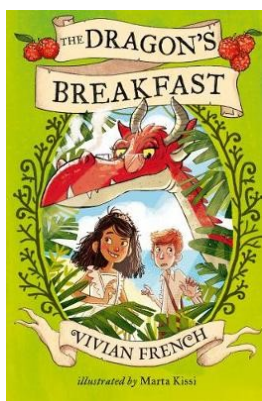
**Davis, Ben**

**What's That in Dog Years?**

OUP Pbk £6.99 9780192749215  
Interest age: 10+ Reading age: 10+

George is 13 and struggling with his parents' separation & has anxiety issues. He is helped by his best friend and dog who the family have had before George was born. George knows Gizmo is getting older but is shocked when he is told his dog won't get better. George wants to make the best of their time together and draws up a bucket list for Gizmo so they can have fun and adventures together.

A well-written and totally compelling read to make you laugh and cry. Covers lots of issues – death of a pet, bullying, friendship, child carers, family breakdown. A few instances of the work "f\*rt" to do with Gizmo. The best story I've read in a while, but need to be aware Gizmo dies though.



**French, Vivian                      The Dragon's Breakfast**

Walker                      Pbk    £6.99    9781406379365  
 Interest age:            8+                      Reading age:    8+

The Kingdoms of Thrum and Struggen are arguing over some long lost gold which is supposed to be buried on Bullion Island. They both want the treasure, but it is guarded by a dragon. Princess Pom of Struggen heads off to the island with Billy-an orphan- in search of adventure. Once there, Billy helps a strange creature called a Mumble. The Mumble shows them where the dragon lives. Fortunately, Angelina the dragon is very old and a vegetarian. They trick her by dropping all her gold into the sea, which means there is none for the two kingdoms to fight over. Surprisingly Angelina is happy as she doesn't have to stay on guard in her cave anymore.

An amusing story with some very expressive black and white illustrations.



**French, Vivian                      Lottie Luna and the Bloom Garden**

Harper Collins          Pbk    £6.99    9780008342982  
 Interest age:            7+                      Reading age:    7+

First in a series about Lottie Luna who is a young werewolf. She has super powers – strength, x-ray vision etc. She starts a new school and becomes involved with solving the mystery of the school garden being vandalised.

Easy to read story for younger readers with black and white line drawings throughout which break up the text.

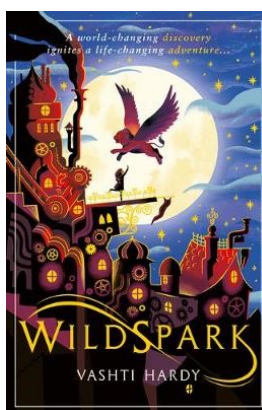


**Gosling, Sharon                      The Golden Butterfly**

Stripes                      Pbk    £6.99    9781788950329  
 Interest age:            9+                      Reading age:    9+

Luciana's famous magician grandfather - the Magnificent Marko has just died and she feels bereft. However, when the sinister leader of the Grand Society of Magicians appears at her home searching for the means to perform her grandfather's spectacular Golden Butterfly illusion, Luciana feels she must investigate. She goes to London with her friend Charley, and they are soon propelled into a mystery and make some surprising discoveries.

Super mystery tale set in Victorian Britain with a feisty heroine, and plenty of twists and turns in the plot to keep the reader hooked. Could be enjoyed by either gender.



**Hardy, Vashti                      Wildspark**

Scholastic                      Pbk    £6.99    9781407191553  
 Interest age:            10+                      Reading age:    10+

Prue Haywood's family is still shattered by grief after the death of her beloved older brother. But everything changes when a stranger arrives at the farm looking for new apprentices to join a secret guild of inventors in the city of Medlock. This "Ghost Guild" have discovered how to capture the souls of dead people and bring them back to life in mechanical animals. Prue seizes the chance to join up in the hope of bringing her brother back.

Excellent fantasy adventure with good characterisation and a narrative which grips from the start. The issue of grief and moral discussions about what it means to be a "person" are well put and add extra depth.

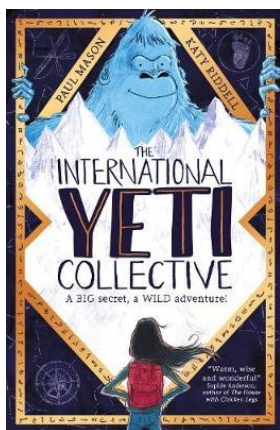


**Hemming, Alice      The Midnight Unicorn**

Scholastic      Pbk    £7.99    9781407197715  
 Interest age:    9+                      Reading age:    10+

When her kingdom is under threat, a queen sends her twin baby daughters Alette and Audrey away to safety. Alette goes with the queen’s magician and protector, while Audrey goes with the royal nanny. Thirteen years later, the queen’s evil brother has been ruling the kingdom, but Alette and Audrey are starting to dream about each other. The time has come for them to meet up and claim back their throne. When they do, then the magical Midnight Unicorn might come back to protect the kingdom.

A rather long, but well written fairy tale, which should appeal to fans of the genre.

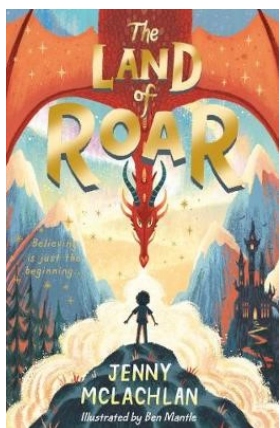


**Mason, Paul                      The International Yeti Collective**

Stripes                      Pbk    £6.99    9781788950848  
 Interest age:    9+                      Reading age:    9+

Ella is with her celebrity explorer uncle in the Himalayas, where he is looking for yetis. Ella realises that the yetis may not want to be found. Tick is a yeti, and he is fascinated by humans, as was his Mum. So much so that she was forced to leave their group. Tick tries to get a closer look at humans and puts the group at risk too, so is asked to leave.

The start of a series. Story told from 2 points of view – yeti and Ella. An adventure story about tolerance with some fantasy, myths and legends thrown in.



**McLachlan, Jenny              The Land of Roar**

Egmont                      Pbk    £6.99    9781405293679  
 Interest age:    9+                      Reading age:    9+

Twins Arthur and Rose used to love to playing in the imaginary world of the Land of Roar. They found it by climbing through the folding bed in their grandad's attic. Roar was filled with things they loved such as dragons, mermaids and wizards. It also contained things that scared them including a creepy scarecrow. But they’re about to start Secondary school now and make believe is a thing of the past. Or is it? When they’re cleaning out Grandad’s attic and Arthur sees him pulled inside the old camp bed and disappear, they discover that Roar is very real indeed. Super fantasy adventure which could be enjoyed by either gender. The characterisation is excellent , and the narrative propels the reader along at a fast pace.



**Pirotta, Saviour                      The Stolen Spear**

Maverick                      Pbk    £6.99    9781848864085  
 Interest age:    8+                      Reading age:    8+

Wolf is a young boy who lives in a village, now known as Skara Brae. Life is hard and the people must be tough. Wolf finds it difficult to be brave but has to pluck up his courage when he is accused of being the reason his community have had a sacred spear stolen. He builds a boat and travels with his dog to find the missing spear, so he can bring it back to his village. He is taken prisoner, forced to work and solves a mystery during his adventure.

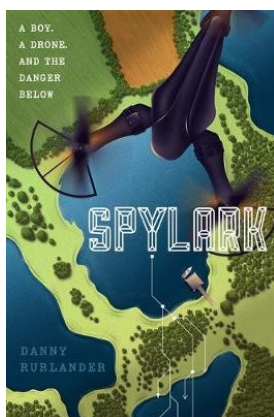
A readable and relatable story set at the end of the Stone Age, beginning of the Bronze Age and ties in with the curriculum.



**Priestley, Chris      Seven Ghosts**

Barrington      Pbk    £6.99    9781781128947  
Stoke  
Interest age:    10+                      Reading age:    9+

Jake is invited as part of a group of finalists in a writing competition to an old stately house where strange things start to happen. Their guide for the day tells them stories of seven different child ghosts who haunt the house, and Jake increasingly becomes uneasy and suspects something is very wrong indeed. Excellent creepy series of ghosts stories which is a very satisfying short read, even if the reader guesses the ending.



**Rurlander, Danny      Spylark**

Chicken house    Pbk    £6.99    9781911490708  
Interest age:    10+                      Reading age:    10+

After his RAF pilot father went missing Tom was sent to live in the Lake District with his Great Aunt. He felt angry and alone, especially after an accident left him struggling with mobility. He spends every spare moment developing electronic gadgets, particularly drones which he uses to explore his surroundings. He stumbles upon a terrorist plot but 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 all soon get in over their heads and time is running out. Fast paced engaging adventure with a modern "Swallows and amazons" feel. A ripping yarn for either gender, particularly boys, with a satisfying ending.



**Wooding,Chris      Jack from Earth**

Scholastic      Pbk    £6.99    9781407180656  
Interest age:    9+                      Reading age:    9+

Jack is aware that there is something not quite right about his parents, they always dress in the same clothes and never seem to sleep. In his latest school he is befriended by a boy called Thomas. Jack's birthday is coming up and his parents aren't planning a celebration, so Thomas makes a surprise visit with a cake and the adventures begin. Jack and Thomas find themselves in outer space, where they have to fight off a variety of different space creatures. A case of mistaken identity arises, and Jack finds himself in even greater danger. The cover suggests a light-hearted story, but this is deceptive, dealing with friendship, relationships and self-identity. Great for RFP especially boys.

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