

Education Library Service Recommended Secondary Fiction Autumn Term 2020

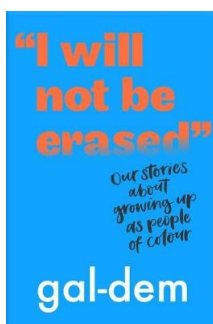


Cutheo, Lucy

Blood Moon

Walker	Pbk	7.99	9781406393446
Interest age:	14+		Reading age: 14+

Frankie is a teenage girl who is intelligent, independent and confident in herself. She fancies Benjamin, who's on the rugby team. They make out and take things a bit further and Frankie's period starts. This gets out on social media and causes Frankie much angst and upset. A debut novel. Written in verse. This is a story about the pressures of social media, periods, and growing up for teenage girls. Written from Frankie's point of view. It's about the power of female friendships and what you can achieve together.

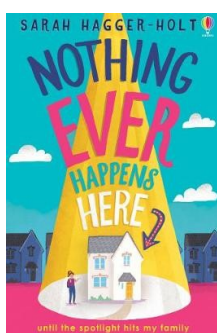


gal-dem

I Will Not Be Erased

Walker	Pbk	7.99	9781406386370
Interest age:	14+		Reading age: 14

A thought provoking and moving collection of 14 short stories published by gal-dem a platform created and produced by women and non-binary people of colour. Uses material from the writers' teenage diaries, poems and chat to express a wide range of experiences and growing up. As part of the story the authors often write a letter to their teenage self, now they are older. Readable, relatable, powerful and thought provoking. Discusses drug use and sexual relationships in detail.

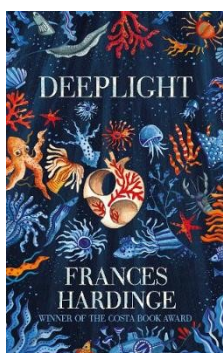


Hagger-Holt, Sarah

Nothing Ever Happens Here

Usborne	Pbk	6.99	9781474966238
Interest age:	11		Reading age: 10+

The story of how 12 year old Izzy deals with her Dad coming out as transgender, as well as her normal everyday life and school. Sensitively told story and very readable with very realistic main characters, who the reader empathises with and the main character develops throughout the story.

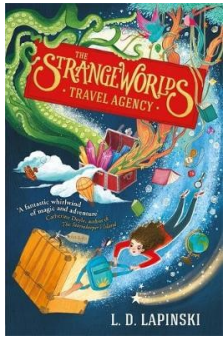


Hardinge, Frances

Deeplight

Macmillan	Hbk	12.99	9781509836956
Interest age:	12+		Reading age: 12+

Hark and his best friend Jelt, live on the island of Lady's Crave. They are scavengers and sell anything they can, living off their wits. However, Hark is caught damaging property and is indentured for 3 years. Here he learns more about the underwater gods of the Myriad. Hark recovers an artefact from the sea and nothing is as it seems. A god tries to claim Jelt in an attempt for the Gods to return but Hark aims to stop them and will try anything to save Jelt. A dark fantasy tale yet compelling. YA Book Prize Shortlist 2020.

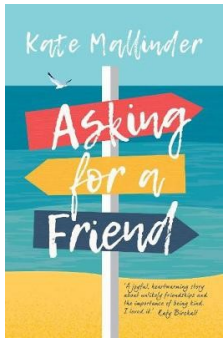


Lapinski L.D

The Strange Worlds Travel Agency

Orion Pbk 6.99 9781510105942
Interest age: 10+ Reading age: 10+

At the Strangeworlds Travel Agency, each suitcase transports you to a different world. All you have to do is step inside...When 12-year-old Flick Hudson accidentally ends up in the Strangeworlds Travel Agency, she uncovers a fantastic secret: there are hundreds of other worlds just steps away from our world.. All you have to do to visit them is jump into the right suitcase. Then Flick gets the invitation of a lifetime: join Strangeworlds' magical travel society and explore other worlds. A fantastic fantasy, magical adventure story, reminiscent of many children's classics/favourites, Enid Blyton, E Nesbit and J.K Rowling, but will be enjoyed and loved by many. First in the series. Great for promoting Reading for Pleasure.



Mallinder, Kate

Asking for a Friend

Firefly Pbk 7.99 9781913102296
Interest age: 11+ Reading age: 11+

Agnes, Hattie and Jake travel on the school bus together but don't know each other well. Agnes is autistic, and desperate to see her older sister, in Weston, who has recently left home to work there. Agnes remembers Hattie her bus buddy mentioned going to Weston last year, so asks her about the place. Hattie's aunt runs a Bed & Breakfast there, and so the two plan a week in Weston as a 'study break.' As Agnes is studious so Hattie wonders about asking Jake, the boy who sits behind them on the bus, to come too. However, Agnes subjects him to her lie detection test first. All three have secrets and don't admit the real reasons they need to get away. Agnes must find her sister. Hattie can't bear being home now all her friends have ghosted her. Jake is afraid he's ill and has absolutely no idea how to tell anyone. The story unfolds in short chapters, told alternately by Agnes, Hattie and Jake. Great story for boys or girls. Believable characters who grow together and gradually learn each other's secrets and how to move on. Highly recommended and a thoroughly enjoyable read.

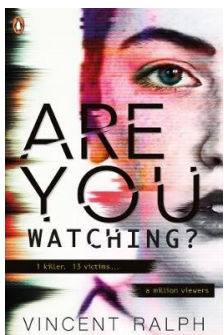


Oliver, Ben

The Loop

Chicken House Pbk 7.99 9781912626557
Interest age: 14+ Reading age: 14+

It's Luka Kane's sixteenth birthday and he's been inside The Loop for over two years. Every inmate is serving a death sentence with the option to push back their execution date by six months if they opt into "Delays", scientific and medical experiments for the benefit of the elite in the outside world. But rumours of a war on the outside are spreading amongst the inmates, and before they know it, their tortuous routine becomes disrupted. The government issued rain stops falling. Strange things are happening to the guards. It's not long until the inmates are left alone inside the prison. Luka must overcome fellow prisoners hell-bent on killing him, the warden losing her mind, the rabid rats in the train tunnels, and a population turned into murderous monsters. Can Luka save his family, and discover who is responsible for the chaos that has been inflicted upon the world. Not for the faint hearted, this is a busy plot, packed with lots of incident and twists. First story in a dystopian trilogy, it goes from one hopeless situation to another. Good world building and main characters. May be enjoyed by "Hunger Games" or Michael Grant fans. Some swearing throughout. The film/TV rights have been taken up.

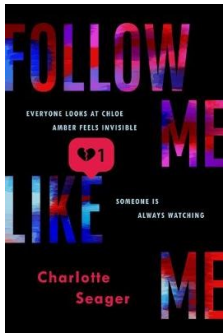


Ralph, Vincent

Are You Watching?

Penguin Pbk 7.99 9780241367421
Interest age: 14+ Reading age: 12+

Jess's mum was murdered 10 years ago by a serial killer called the Magpie Man. Now Jess is 17 and is going to be on a reality show about her life which will be shown on YouTube. Jess is convinced that the Magpie Man will be watching her and so wants to goad him into making a mistake so the police will finally be able to catch him. Told in short chapters with a likable main character, this is a tense thriller which is easy to read. Contains attempted suicide and swearing.

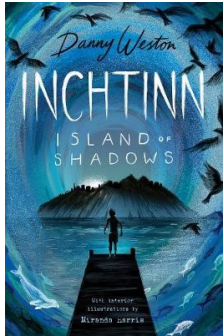


Seager, Charlotte

Follow Me, Like Me

Macmillan Pbk 7.99 9781529002065
Interest age: 13+ Reading age: 12+

Two stories intertwine when schoolmates Chloe and Amber get involved with Sven and Ren and their relationships become strange and frightening. When sixteen-year-old Chloe replies to a DM from a gorgeous stranger, she has no idea what she's inviting into her life. As her online fan becomes increasingly obsessive, her real life starts to come apart at the seams and Chloe realises she needs to find a way to stop him before things spiral out of control. Misfit Amber's online obsession with an older boy is taking over her life. But when she hears a terrible rumour about him, she drops everything to try and prove his innocence - even if it means compromising her own. Chloe and Amber both experience a blur between their on-line lives and their real lives, uncovering some truths that they would rather remain hidden. A leisure read for older teens, more girl than boy appeal.



Weston, Danny

Inchtinn: Island of Shadows

Uclan Publishing Pbk 7.99 9781912979059
Interest age: 11+ Reading age: 10+

Noah is terrified of water and had left his last school because of a humiliating incident in a swimming lesson. He is forced to travel with his emotionally distant mother to the remote Scottish island of Inchtinn, where an old leper hospital was located in the 1500's. Since the death of his father seven years ago in the Second World War, his mother has been struggling for inspiration for her next bestselling children's book and hopes an adventurous trip will help them both. However, the island is dangerous and Noah is forced to face his all his fears in order to save them both. Well drawn characters. The mother and her novels are clearly modelled on someone like Enid Blyton, Noah calling her novels 'trivial' and "all the same' with the characters "always eating improbable amounts" and that she didn't understand that Noah wanted to be "challenged by what he read". Tense and chilling ghost story for younger teens.

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angie.jacks@inspireculture.org.uk

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