

Education Library Service Recommended Secondary Fiction Autumn Term 2021

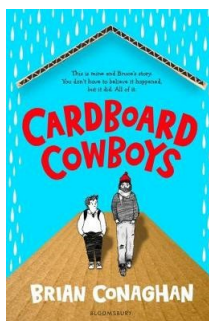


Charlton, Darren

Wranglestone

Stripes	Pbk	7.99	9781788951210
Interest age:	14+	Reading age:	14+

Set in a dystopian future where people turn into zombies when they die. 16 year old Peter has grown up on a small island on a lake which is part of a small community of survivors. Their main problem are the herds of Restless Dead which wander the nearby mainland. In winter the lake freezes and the Dead can wander across in search of fresh blood. Peter wishes he could be more like Cooper – a boy a little older than him who is very capable of taking care of himself. When strangers come to the island Peter puts the whole community at risk, but Cooper sticks up for him. Cooper later admits to Peter that he is in love with him. Just as they embark on a new relationship, Cooper is bitten but doesn't die. Peter tries to help him but the camp is overrun by zombies and no-one wants to help them. A gripping story combining love and horror. Very similar to the "Walking Dead" tv series, but with a twist.

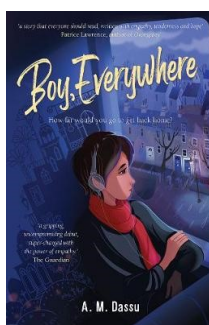


Conaghan, Brian

Cardboard Cowboys

Bloomsbury	Pbk	6.99	9781526628602
Interest age:	10+	Reading age:	10+

Lenny is 12 and has just moved to secondary school. Here he gets bullied at school due to his size. He happens to meet Bruce who is 52 and lives in a cardboard box. The two become great friends, when Lenny is bunking off school to avoid the bullies. Bruce helps Lenny to cope with the bullying. There are comedy elements with Lenny and Bruce, who becomes a father figure to Lenny, and the two go on a road trip. The book touches on what it's like to miss a family member (Lenny's brother). A well written and gripping must read, great story and great writing. First book written by Brian Conaghan for younger readers. A contemporary feel good story. Great for top primary. covering a variety of issues.

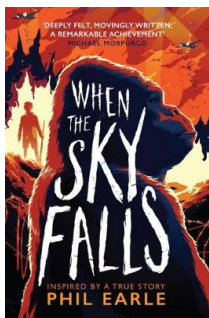


Dassu, A.M

Boy, Everywhere

Old Barn Books	Pbk	7.99	9781910646649
Interest age:	11+	Reading age:	11+

Sami is 13, living comfortably in Damascus, Syria with his Mum, Dad and younger sister Sara. He's happy at school, has good friends and enjoys like many boys of his age, football, playing on his PlayStation and iPad. That is until a bombing in the shopping centre changes his life forever. None of his family are injured, but his father a doctor at the hospital decides the family need to flee to the UK. The story retells this emotional and heart wrenching tale from the point of view of Sami. The journey, the stay in the refugee camp, their short period of time with relatives and finally their own home and a new beginning. A powerful and moving story, sometimes harrowing but ultimately uplifting.

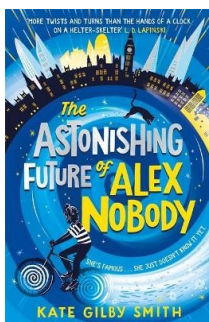


Earle, Phil

When the Sky Falls

Andersen Pbk 7.99 9781783449651
Interest age: 10+ Reading age: 10+

Inspired by a true story, set in 1940 Joseph's Dad has gone to war and he has been sent to stay with Mrs. F, a gruff woman, who makes no secret of the fact she doesn't like children. Joseph is amazed to find that she runs the now closed city zoo and is tasked with helping her while it is shut, along with another girl in his class. At the zoo Joseph meets Adonis, a huge silverback gorilla. Gradually the two form a friendship. If bombs fall near it is up to Joseph to shoot Adonis, if his cage is damaged but will he be able to do this? The characters are totally believable, and the rawness of Joseph's family is heart-breaking. Written with great sensitivity, empathy and emotion.

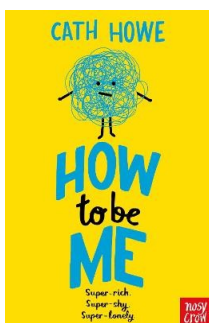


Gilby Smith, Kate

The Astonishing Future of Alex Nobody

Orion Pbk 6.99 9781510108370
Interest age: 10+ Reading age: 10+

All her life strangers seem to have come to watch Alex and she doesn't know why. Her Mum died when she was born and so she has been brought up by her uncle who encourages her to have an enquiring mind. Alex has always been nothing special and more of an outcast at school. Then Jasper joins her class, and everyone likes him, but to Alex's surprise it is her he wants to be friends with. He's mysterious and even over time she gets to know very little about him and his family. Then he mysteriously disappears. Alex time travels to 2100 to discover what's happening and unlock secrets. A story with a mystery and unexpected events, which keep you reading.

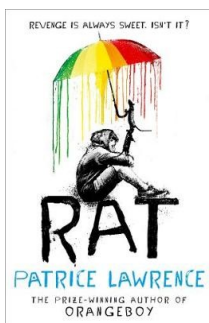


Howe, Cath

How to Be Me

Nosy Crow Pbk 6.99 9781788005975
Interest age: 10+ Reading age: 10+

Lucas lives with his Dad, Dad's fiancé and au pair but feels very lonely and withdrawn since his Mum died. Lucas and his Dad don't speak about his Mum's death and don't seem to understand each other. The family are rich, but Lucas is shy. His Dad signs Lucas up for a drama club during the summer holidays. Lucas dreads going and tries to get out of it to start with. Over time he learns about himself, his feelings and overcoming his loneliness as those he meets at the drama club encourage him to open up and start talking and he makes new friends. A sensitively written and accessible story which is heart-warming and uplifting.



Lawrence, Patrice

RAT

OUP Pbk 7.99 9780198494935
Interest age: 11+ Reading age: 8+

When his mum is sent back to prison, Al knows exactly who's to blame. Mr Brayker, who lives downstairs, has been making trouble for Al's mum ever since they moved in, and Al's determined to get his revenge. Ignoring advice from his gran and sister, Plum, Al takes things into his own hands with a plan that involves the only two creatures he can rely on: his pet rats, Venom and Vulture. But things don't turn out exactly as he'd imagined. Very relatable story with excellent characterisation. Exploration of Al's feelings and situation includes humour and a light touch considering the tough topics covered. Very enjoyable, easy to read and short HiLo title using Barrington Stoke Dyslexia friendly font.

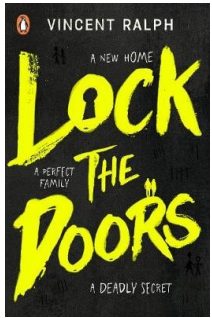


McNicoll, Elle

Show Us Who You Are

Knights Of Pbk 6.99 9781913311131
Interest age: 11+ Reading age: 10+

Cora lives with her Dad and brother, who is much older. She is autistic and finds life hard, especially since the death of her Mum. When Cora goes with her brother to his boss' house, she meets Adrien, the son of the boss of Pomegranate Technologies. Adrien has ADHD and the two become great friends and understand each other. Gradually she learns more about the company and what they are trying to do. At first, she thinks it's brilliant, they are recreating people after their death with holograms. Gradually she discovers the truth and has grave concerns. She has to let others know the company's secrets. A compelling story with science fiction elements and great characters.

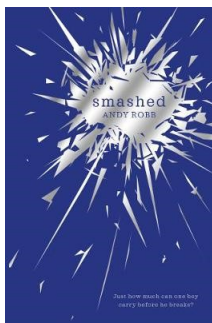


Ralph, Vincent

Lock the Doors

Penguin Pbk 7.99 9780241370445
Interest age: 13+ Reading age: 13+

After years of living with his mother and a series of her abusive boyfriends, Tom has a new step-dad, step-brother and stepsister. His step-dad is genuinely nice and Tom is excited when they move into a new house and can finally start to relax. The only problem is that Tom has discovered desperate messages written on his bedroom wall when the wallpaper is removed, and there is evidence that there was previously a bolt on the outside of his door. Tom has OCD and his family don't take his concerns seriously. When Tom is asked to show a new girl around school, he discovers she used to live in his old house. As he tries to discover the truth Tom is leading his new family into danger. An excellent gripping thriller with good characterisation.

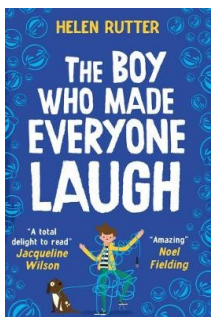


Robb, Andy

Smashed

Uclan Pbk 7.99 9781912979400
Interest age: 14+ Reading age: 12+

Jamie is almost 16 when one night everything goes weird; his father hits his mother after a night out. Jamie struggles to cope with the responsibility of suddenly being the man of the house and supporting his mother and 6 year old sister. He feels the crushing weight of sudden "manhood", but pushes all his feelings down and cannot let his guard down and talk to his friends or teachers. Then he discovers the beneficial effects of alcohol making him feel like Super Jim. But how far will these coping mechanisms actually hold him up? Compelling read with superb characterisation, extremely well written so that the reader is fully engaged in the developing narrative. All the unfolding events are very believable as is the humour. The narrative is told in the first person which is very effective in drawing the reader in and making the character of Jamie relatable, and the ending satisfying and also realistic.

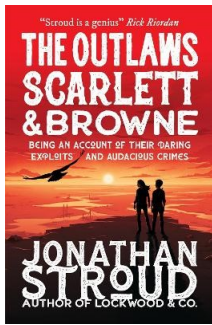


Ruffer, Helen

The Boy Who Made Everyone Laugh

Scholastic Pbk 6.99 9780702300851
Interest age: 10+ Reading age: 10+

Billy Plimpton is 11 years old and has a stammer. He loves telling jokes and wants to be a stand-up comedian. How will this be possible with his stammer? Billy starts his secondary school and is bullied and teased about his stammer, but gradually he learns to be happy in his own skin, to accept himself and do what he likes doing. Great storytelling and style and realistic characters who highlight the issues for anyone with a stammer being accepted for who they are.



Stroud, Jonathan

The Outlaws Scarlett & Browne

Walker	Pbk	7.99	9781406394818
Interest age:	12+	Reading age:	12+

The first book in a new series set in a fragmented future England. Scarlett is a feisty and sassy heroine who is not averse to shooting, fights, robbing banks and monsters. When she finds a wrecked coach there is one survivor, Albert Browne. He seems a hopeless case and Scarlett (against her better judgement) agrees to escort him to safety. They are pursued across the county and gradually Scarlett discovers a little of Albert's past. A great exciting read with much mystery and humour. Amazing and relatable characters.

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Education Library Service, Inspire HQ, Glaisdale Parkway, Nottingham NG8 4GP

Tel: 0115 804 4499

E-mail: elsg@inspireculture.org.uk