### Cross, Gillian  
#### Shadow cat

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<th>Publisher</th>
<th>Format</th>
<th>Price</th>
<th>ISBN</th>
<th>Interest age</th>
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<td>O.U.P.</td>
<td>Pbk</td>
<td>£6.99</td>
<td>9780192736734</td>
<td>10+</td>
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Nolan leaves school one day to discover that his mum has dyed her hair bright green, sold everything they own, and they’re going on a road trip in a camper van following a rock band, as his mother is one of their greatest fans. On the way he meets Feather, the adopted daughter of a famous rock star. This mismatched pair appear to have nothing in common, until they discover an escaped wild cat, a serval, that needs their protection. Together they vow to keep it a secret. But the band’s manager wants the serval too and will stop at nothing to get their hands on it.

Exciting tale which would appeal to both boys and girls, with the narrative told from their different points of view, which adds to the very believable characterisation. Not just a tale for animal lovers, or girls.

**NOTE:** Nolan’s mum acts strangely throughout the book and it becomes clear she is mentally unwell. At the end of the book, she is being treated for bipolar disorder.

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### Eastham, Ruth  
#### The Jaguar trials

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13 year old Ben is on a trip through the Amazon with his friend Rafael and his explorer father, trying to solve the riddle of the location to El Dorado. When their boat is sabotaged, Ben and Rafael find themselves alone in the jungle, but are befriended by a local tribe who are convinced that Ben has been chosen to undergo the dangerous jaguar trials and lift the curse on the spirits of the dead. The boys then set off with local girl Yara to try and complete the trials before they are stopped by a scheming professor.

Exciting adventure tale with good characterisation, and some violence, but not graphic and appropriate to the age level. Could be enjoyed by both girls and boys and would be useful to support S.America/Amazon projects.

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### Fischel, Emma  
#### The Monster of Shiversands Cove

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<th>Interest age</th>
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<td>£4.99</td>
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Stan is on a seaside holiday with his family when everything starts going a bit odd. First there’s the fairy his little brother is captivated by, but which is not twinkly and harasses Stan and bites him. Then, there’s the huge sea monster in the bay that Stan becomes convinced is after his little brother. Stan and his friend Pearl then come up with a plan to capture the sea monster, but all does not quite go as planned.

Excellent fast paced adventure tale, short chapters, black & white illustrations, very good characterisation. Would particularly appeal to boys, but could be enjoyed by girls as well. Would make good reading group book.
Fitzgerald, Ruth  Emily Sparkes and the competition calamity

Little,Brown  Pbk  £6.99  9780349001845
Interest age:  10+  Reading age:  10+

Emily Sparkes is eleven and may have found herself a new best friend and avoided humiliation at the hands of the worst boy in the universe, but now her creativity has caused her other problems. Emily has accidentally entered her mother into a competition to find the nation's Mum in a Million. So when Mrs Sparkes is shortlisted, Emily is more shocked than anyone! Desperate not to be publicly humiliated on TV, she has to come up with a plan for a mum makeover.
Second in the series and similar to the first in style. Not great literature but very accessible and readable. One for the girls.

Golding, Julia  Mel Foster and the demon butler

Egmont  Pbk  £6.99  9781405277341
Interest age:  10+  Reading age:  10+

Set in Victorian England, Mel Foster starts the story as a cabin boy, mending the sails of a ship on a near-doomed mission to discover the North Pole. When the crew return to London, they realise the world has changed. The queen hasn't been seen for weeks and her evil butler has taken charge - he is hatching a plan that could destroy the British Empire. The country lives in fear of him and only a brave few have the power to stop him. With the help of "The Monster Resistance", Mel has to overcome the demon butler and his evil army.
First in a new series, this is a gothic fantasy adventure with loyal and enduring friendships through adverse conditions.

Gregg, Stacy  The Island of Lost Horses

HarperCollins  Pbk  £6.99  9780007580279
Interest age:  9+  Reading age:  9+

12-year-old Beatriz and her marine biologist mother live on their boat sailing around the Caribbean. Moored by a small island, she stumbles across a wild mare with strange markings in the jungle and feels a strong connection between them. As a result she meets an elderly local woman who gives her the diary of Felipa, a C15th Spanish girl, and leads her to discover the background to these rare horses. It is then a race against time to save them from an impending hurricane.
One for the horsey girls, good characterisation, but a little suspension of disbelief needed, particularly in the Spanish diary episodes.

Irving, Ellie  Fleeced

Corgi  Pbk  £6.99  9780552568364
Interest age:  9+  Reading age:  9+

Ten year old Charlie's life changes when his dad wins a sheep in a bet at the pub. They call the sheep Alan Shearer, even though it's female! The family are trying to set up a farm and have moved from the south to Argonaut Farm in Scotland which was left to the family in a will.
A romp of a story with wacky characters and a warm family-based message.
Judge, Malcolm  The Hamburgers of doom
Curious Fox  Pbk  £6.99  9781782023234  Jonny Jakes investigates
Interest age:  9+  Reading age:  9+
The first in a series.  Jonny Jakes is an undercover reporter for banned school newspaper 'The Woodford Word.'  Nothing will stop his pursuit of the truth.  Not teachers.  Not parents.  Not double detention.  When a new head teacher arrives halfway through term, Jonny smells a rat.  Jonny must stop an alien invasion after realising the new head teacher is an extra terrestrial who controls minds using sweets.  A light story which is a fun read which has some black and white line drawings to break up the text.

Kennen, Ally  How to speak spook (and stay alive)
Scholastic  Pbk  £6.99  9781407148755
Interest age:  10+  Reading age:  10+
Donald is ten and has a talent for seeing and being able to talk to ghosts.  This is useful as his father is a ghost.  His mother is a medium, but not as talented as Donald so he often has to go and help her solve the problems of unhappy ghosts.  So when his mother is called on to go to a seaside caravan park during February half term and help with some very serious destructive hauntings, Donald has to go too, but takes his best friend Merry with him.  However, they soon discover that not only is a giant dinosaur ghost rampaging through the caravan park, but also that the school bully Danny is also staying on site.  Excellent fast paced supernatural adventure with good characterisation which hooks the reader from page one.  Plenty of humour mixed with the jeopardy and would appeal to both boys and girls.

McCombie, Karen  Catching fallen stars
Scholastic  Pbk  £6.99  9781407138893
Interest age:  10+  Reading age:  9+
Glory and her younger brother Rich have been sent to live in the country after they were both injured when a bomb fell close to their house in London.  They find things difficult at first as the local children are unfriendly and the woman they are staying with has lived alone for years and doesn't really want them there.  However, Glory, who is narrating the story, soon discovers that first impressions can be misleading.  An easy to read story which engages the reader, but has a slightly too cosy ending.

Mabbitt, Will  The Unlikely adventures of Mabel Jones
Puffin  Pbk  £6.99  9780141355146
Interest age:  8+  Reading age:  8+
When Mabel Jones age seven, unknowingly commits 'The Deed' (picks her nose and eats it) she finds herself swiftly bundled into a sack and carried off to the pirate ship the Feroshus Maggot.  Crewed by a strange bunch of pirates and captained by the dreaded Idryss Ebeneezer Split (a wolf with a false leg carved from a human thighbone, a rusty cutlass sheathed in his belt and a loaded pistol tucked in his pants with no fear of the consequences), the Feroshus Maggot takes Mabel on the adventure of a lifetime.  She has to steal pieces of a key to a treasure which she hopes will send her back home.  A debut novel which is well written and a romp of a story.  There are expressive black and white line drawings throughout & appealing characters with a touch of humour and make an entertaining read.  A severed hand is mentioned and illustrated; character death and battle violence in context of pirates.
**Magorian, Michelle**  
*The Smile*  
Barrington Pbk £6.99 9781781125007  
Stoke  
Interest age: 7+  
Reading age: 7+  

Josh has a problem. There's a new little person in the house, his baby brother Charlie. It's supposed to be a happy thing but he's proving to be a nightmare, keeping Josh awake and taking all the attention. However, he soon learns to bond with him.  
Simple story for young readers with pleasant colour illustrations in the Little Gems short stories series.

**Palacio, R.J.**  
*Auggie & me*  
Corgi Pbk £7.99 9780552574778  
Interest age: 10+  
Reading age: 10+  

Three stories told from the point of view of three people who featured in 'Wonder'. Firstly from Julian who was very mean to Auggie, and then from two of his friends. Although the events in this book occur in Wonder, but are told from a different perspective, it is really a sequel and would be better read as such. Would be of interest to fans of Wonder.

**Rayner, Shoo**  
*Dragon Gold*  
Dragonfly Pbk £4.99 9781910080047  
Interest age: 7+  
Reading age: 7+  

Ryan always wins everything thanks to his very competitive Dad. Harri his friend would love to know what it would be like to win, just once but he feels there is no chance. However, when the school challenge is to bring in a dragon that can fly for 10 seconds, he knows he is in for a good chance. A real witch happens to come into his mum's shop and gives him a real dragons egg, which he carefully nurtures.

**Wood, Laura**  
*Poppy Pym and the Pharaoh’s Curse*  
Scholastic Pbk £6.99 9781407158549  
Interest age: 9+  
Reading age: 9+  

Poppy Pym has grown up in the circus, eating candy floss for breakfast and learning about lion taming until her circus family decides she needs a more traditional education, and they send her to boarding school. At first, Poppy has trouble fitting in at St Smithen’s, but when an ancient Egyptian ruby comes to the school and dangerous accidents start occurring, it’s up to Poppy and her friends to save her new home and solve the mystery of the Pharaoh’s curse.  
Humorous mystery romp with good characterisation and witty text, which would appeal most to girls. Debut novel.

**Woodfine, Katherine**  
*The Mystery of the clockwork sparrow*  
Egmont Pbk £ 9781405276177  
Interest age: 10+  
Reading age: 10+  

A new department store is to open in Piccadilly, and Sophie, a young orphan has been given a job as a shop assistant. Unfortunately, the night before it opens some valuable items are stolen from an exhibition in the store and Sophie is the prime suspect. However, she has made two good friends at the store and they are determined to solve the mystery and prove her innocence.  
An engaging mystery which gives a flavour of life in London in the early 1900s.
Purchasing these books
If you wish, you can purchase the above books through the **ELS Book Purchase Scheme** in association with Peters Bookselling Service of Birmingham. You can order books for the school library using Peters’ online catalogue, ‘Petranet’. There is a review and an age category for each book, and most titles also show the jacket image and an excerpt from the text. To see the list when logged in to Petranet, click on ‘View your bookshelf’ on the Menu page. The three lists available are Picture Books, Primary Fiction and Secondary Fiction. All books apart from textbooks receive 22% discount and can be supplied with plastic jackets if required. They are delivered and invoiced direct to school. Please contact ELS if you would like to know more.

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