**Avery, Tom**  
*Not as we know it*

Andersen Pbk £6.99 9781783442263
Interest 9+  
Reading age: 9+

A moving story set in the 1980’s. Jamie and Ned are eleven year old twins. They spend all their time together; riding their bikes, beachcombing outside their house, watching their favourite episodes of Star Trek and doing lessons as they are home schooled due to Ned’s illness. Ned has cystic fibrosis and looks much younger and smaller than his brother and one day, he may leave Jamie behind.

When they discover a strange creature on the beach, Ned wants to keep him secretly in their garage, so they keep 'Leonard' in a bath-tub in the garage and Ned seems to form an instant connection with the mysterious creature. Jamie begins to hope that the creature might bring some miracle, and cure his brother.

A well written story which is a heart-wrenching tale and has silhouette drawings throughout.

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**Caldecott, Elen**  
*Diamonds and daggers*

Bloomsbury Pbk £5.99 9781408847527  
The Marsh Road mysteries

Interest 9+  
Reading age: 9+

Three friends Piotr, Minnie and Andrew are very excited when the local theatre puts on a production with a famous Hollywood actress in the lead role. But then, the actress's valuable necklace is stolen, and Piotr’s dad, the theatre security guard is the prime suspect. Piotr’s family decide they are not welcome in England and are going to move back to Poland. Can the three friends find out who really stole the necklace in time to stop Piotr leaving England forever.

A mystery story which introduces the clues to the reader, who can try and work it out for themselves.

First in a series.

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**Cameron, Ann**  
*The Most beautiful place in the world*

Tamarind Pbk £4.99 9781848531154

Interest 8+  
Reading age: 8+

Juan is a 7 year old shoe-shine boy, who lives with his grandmother in Guatemala. It is a poor but beautiful place, with volcanoes rising from the shores of a blue lake, and flocks of brilliantly plumed wild parrots living in the trees. He works hard every day to earn his keep but dreams of going to school.

Originally published in 1988 this is an easy read for LKS2 children and useful for projects.
Duddle, Jonny  The Jolley-Rogers and the cave of doom
Templar  Pbk  £5.99  9781848772410
Interest  7+  Reading age:  8+
age:
Second KS2 book about the Jolley-Rogers pirate family. The family go to the beach for a
day out and when they go in a cave and don't come out, Jim Lad is suspicious and sends
Bones the dog to Dull-on-Sea to find his friend Matilda before he too ventures in to the
cave. Jim Lad soon discovers a magical haul of treasure inside the cave has bewitched his
family. Will the cave's spooky inhabitant, a sinister sea witch, keep them prisoner forever,
or can Matilda and Bones come to the Jolley-Rogers' rescue?
Excellent adventure for girls and boys alike. Funny, well-written with illustrations
throughout.

Earle, Phil  Demolition Dad
Orion  Pbk  £6.99  9781444013863
Interest  9+  Reading age:  10+
age:
Jake Biggs is proud of his dad George who is the best in town at demolishing old
buildings. They also share a passion for wrestling, so much so that Jake persuades his
dad to become a wrestler called "The demolition man" in secret on weekends. But when
Jake persuades his dad to enter a pro-wrestling competition in the USA, things don't quite
turn out the way he expected.
Super story for boys about relationships, and other serious themes such as bullying,
depression, and coping with disappointment, but with a light and humorous touch. Easy
to read, excellent characterisation, short chapters, and illustrations throughout that
enhance the text.
NOTE: Jake climbs into a crane and he and friends enter and become trapped in a ruined
building.

Elson, Jane  How to fly with broken wings
Hodder  Pbk  £6.99  9781444916768
Interest  10+  Reading age:  10+
age:
Willem is 12, has Aspergers and has two main aims in life: to fly and to make at least two
friends of his own age. But Finn and the boys from the Beckham Estate Boyz gang bully
him and make him jump off things, until he jumps from a high wall and breaks his ankle.
He then makes his first friend, Sasha Barton, who longs to fly too. And when Magic Man
Archie arrives to run a youth project with stories of war-flying spitfires, he will change the
lives of the kids on the Beckham Estate for ever. And perhaps find a way for Willem and
Sasha to fly.
Poignant story of an unlikely friendship in a backdrop of a deprived London estate with
gang violence. Split narration between Willem and Sasha very effective in providing good
characterisation, appeal to readers and fast pace.
NOTE: Contains scenes of bullying, including one character forced to jump from the roof
of his block of flats. Also contains one character death and unsupervised plane flying.

Everest, D.D.  Archie Greene and the magician's secret
Faber  Pbk  £6.99  9780571307395
Interest  8+  Reading age:  9+
age:
Archie Green is a very normal boy who lives with his grandmother. However, when he
receives a mysterious book on his 12th birthday which was deposited in a law firm in the
1600's, this results in a trip to an old bookshop in Oxford. But the bookshop is attached to
a vast magical library under the streets of Oxford and Archie suddenly finds himself an
apprentice bookkeeper. Archie also discovers he has a family he knew nothing about who
are also part of the library staff, but that he has special skills and only he can talk to the
magical books and thwart an evil sorcerer.
Well-written, easy to read magical tale for either girls or boys. Good characterisation,
action packed, and perfect for Harry Potter enthusiasts.
Fine, Anne  Blue Moon Day
Random House  Pbk  £6.99  9780552571883
Interest age:  9+  Reading age:  9+
A collection of new stories on the theme of school, but are mostly about boarding schools or ones for young offenders. The stories are linked by another story about the boy who is reading the book that the stories are in. Although the stories are diverse, he manages to glean something - a thought or information from each one which could be applied to his own life.
Some stories are better than others, but the collection as a whole is quite interesting.

Gayton, Sam  Hercufleas
Andersen Pbk  £6.99  9781849396363
Interest age:  10+  Reading age:  10+
Greta’s parents have been eaten by the giant Yuk and every new moon it comes back to her town to eat more people. Greta is determined to go to the city of Avalon and find a hero whose courage and self-belief are greater than himself. Meanwhile, Hercufleas the super flea is born and wants to go on an adventure, but becoming Greta’s hero will take all his courage and resourcefulness.
Unusual fantasy adventure, which could appeal to thoughtful boys and girls. Very good characterisation.
NOTE: Some pages have white text printed on black dyed pages. Some character deaths, but not graphically described.

MacKenzie, Ross  The Nowhere Emporium
Kelpies  Pbk  £6.99  9781782501251
Interest age:  10+  Reading age:  10+
When the mysterious Nowhere Emporium arrives in Glasgow, orphan Daniel Holmes stumbles upon it quite by accident. Before long, the 'shop from nowhere' - and its owner, Mr Silver - draw Daniel into a breathtaking world of magic and enchantment. Recruited as Mr Silver’s apprentice, Daniel learns the secrets of the Emporium’s vast labyrinth of passageways and rooms that contain wonders beyond anything Daniel has ever imagined. But when Mr Silver disappears, and a shadow from the past threatens everything, the Emporium and all its wonders begin to crumble. Can Daniel save his home, and his new friends, before the Nowhere Emporium is destroyed forever?
Well told with good characters. Engaging from the beginning. The two stories, that of Mr Silver’s past and the present day weave together well and are clearly indicated at the beginning of each chapter.

McNiff, Dawn  Worry magic
Hot Key Books  Pbk  £5.99  9781471403712
Interest age:  10+  Reading age:  9+
Courtney is a constant worrier, she worries about her mum and dad's constant fights, her Gran being ill, and that her best friend Lois suddenly seems to be more interested in growing up and hanging out with mean girl Bex than with her. But one day, during a particularly bad argument at home she begins to feel a bit funny, then appears to wake from a dream and everything gets better, just like in her dream. When this happens several times she becomes convinced that she's magicking her worries away.
Intriguing tale for Jacqueline Wilson fans with good characterisation. A bit slow to start, but overall tackles the family and friendship relationship issues well.
Nicholls, Sally  
*An Island of our own*

Scholastic  
Pbk  
£6.99  
9781407124339  
Interest: 10+  
Reading age: 10+

Jonathan, Holly and Davy have been struggling since their mother's death. Jonathan has given up university to look after 12 year old Holly and infant Davy to keep the family together. He does his best working in a café but they struggle to make ends meet. On a visit to eccentric Great-Aunt Irene, they receive some photographs that could lead them to an inheritance. But they're not the only ones after the treasure...

Story written from the point of view of Holly as they try to find their Aunt's fortune. Lots of short chapters, good character development and humorous feel to story whilst enlightening reader to what life is like as a child carer.

Robshaw, Brandon  
*The Big wish*

Chicken House  
Pbk  
£6.99  
9781908435897  
Interest: 10+  
Reading age: 8+

If you had a million wishes, what would you do with them? When eleven-year-old Sam wishes on a star and it comes true, he decides to change his life. But when he discovers that changing things has consequences that aren't always good, it's then that he begins to think again.

An imaginative adventure story about the things an 11 year old might wish for. Note: Sam takes on the school bully and his abusive father which makes it a better short story for older primary readers.

Rosen, Michael  
*Don't forget Tiggs!*

Andersen  
Pbk  
£5.99  
9781783442690  
Interest: 5+  
Reading age: 7+

Mr and Mrs Hurry are always rushing about. But that means they forget some rather important things - like eating ... and shopping ... and taking their son Harry to school. Thankfully, Tiggs the cat is around to remind them. But will anyone remember to give Tiggs his dinner?

Gentle short story for readers beginning to read on their own. Lots of repetition. Amusing plot with B & W line drawings by Tony Ross.

Strong, Jeremy  
*Romans on the rampage*

Puffin  
Pbk  
£5.99  
9780141357713  
Interest: 8+  
Reading age: 8+

Stories told from the point of view of a pet raven, Croakbag, in Roman times. Usual Jeremy Strong style, well written with humour and wordplay. Some useful curriculum information about the Romans amongst the laughs.
**Townsend, John**  
*Operation Code-cracker*  
A & C Black  
Pbk  
£4.99  
9781472906816  
Interest: 9+  
Reading age: 9+  
Code-loving Max is unexpectedly recruited to spy on his friend's uncle, a suspected terrorist. But nothing is quite as it seems in this new world of espionage, double-crosses, kidnaps and car chases - and in the end, it may be Max's skill with word puzzles that saves the day.  
Very short action thriller for upper KS2 boys, which could engage reluctant boy readers.

**Wallace, Danny**  
*Hamish and the Worldstoppers*  
Simon & Schuster  
Pbk  
£6.99  
9781471123887  
Interest: 9+  
Reading age: 10+  
Ten year old Hamish Ellerby has started to notice something unusual happening. Every once in a while, everything just stops. The birds in the air, cars on the road, people and clocks. Everything except Hamish. Minutes go by, and then there is a flash and everything starts up again. To begin with Hamish thinks he can have some fun, until he begins to discover hideous stinking creatures during the "pause" who appear to be stealing the grown-ups. When Hamish's own mother and brother are taken, he finally decides to find other children unaffected by the pause and fight back.  
Brilliantly original and highly humorous adventure with excellent array of bizarre adult characters. Would particularly appeal to boys, but there are female characters as the tale develops. Black and white line drawings, changes in page colour and typesetting enhance the story. Worth promoting.  
NOTE: Includes 10 year olds stealing and riding mopeds and driving an ice-cream van!

**Walter, Jon**  
*Close to the wind*  
David Fickling  
Pbk  
£6.99  
9781910200179  
Interest: 10+  
Reading age: 10+  
There's a ship down at the dock. There are a few tickets left, if you have enough money and know the right people. Malik's mother has been missing for days, and his grandfather is insisting that they leave on the next and final ship: The Samaritan. This journey will take them to a country which promises safety and a new life. The only problem is, they don't have a ticket, and people are stopping at nothing to get a place on board. Malik's grandfather asks two friends to extract one of his teeth in which he has a diamond hidden. This is done without any painkillers and is a quite bloody and painful event. He hopes that the diamond will pay for his and Malik's tickets for the boat, but his friends steal the diamond while he is asleep.  
Engaging and moving story of a young refugee escaping from a land at war. While there are breaks in the narrative, there are no chapters.

**Paws and Whiskers**  
Corgi  
Pbk  
£6.99  
9780552570862  
Interest: 7+  
Reading age: 8+  
An anthology which features stories about cats and dogs from the world of children's literature, chosen by author and Battersea Dogs and Cats Home patron Jacqueline Wilson. The book includes a new story by Jacqueline herself, 'Leonie's Pet Cat', as well as extracts from classics such as 'The Hundred and One Dalmations' by Dodie Smith and ‘Gobbolino the Witch's Cat' by Ursula Moray Williams, and from modern favourite writers such as Anne Fine and Patrick Ness. Also a section in which authors write about their own personal experiences.  
All stories quite short and suitable for PFIC except for Patrick Ness and "The knife of never letting go"!
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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