School should be a safe place for Jess, a refuge from her difficult home life - but thanks to Kez and her friends, it’s everything she dreads. Despite being beautiful and popular, Kez’s home life isn’t any easier as she is bullied by her father. She clings to the fact she is better off than Jess - or so she thinks. Good, easy read to explore bullying from two viewpoints. Looks at how the bully may be made and how it makes their victims feel.

Nick is a football-mad boy who dislikes reading. Despite this Nick has a fantastic vocabulary because his father makes him read the dictionary he has written every day. Nick tries to figure out how to navigate his parents’ break-up, stand up to bullies, and impress the girl of his dreams. Novel written in verse. Appeal to reluctant Year 8+ boys. Some high level language which has definitions at the bottom of the page.

Gloria is tired of her ordinary life. So when a mysterious boy bent on breaking the rules strolls into her classroom, Gloria is ready to fall under his spell. But Uman in not all he seems and by the time she learns the truth about him, she is a long way from home and everyone wants to know, “Where's Gloria?” An intriguing crime thriller which keeps you guessing until the end.

Hudson has Asperger's and his mum and stepdad have just told him he’s going to be a big brother. Which is a lot to take in, when he also has to deal with his grandad's funeral, his dad's issues and the way his own brain works. Hudson's self-awareness about his Asperger's and how it affects him (and others) gives him a distinctive and insightful voice that offers an astute and ultimately uplifting take on the world.
**Cotterill, Jo**  
*A library of lemons*  
Piccadilly  Pbk  5.99  9781848125117  
Interest age:  10+  
Reading age:  10+  

Calypso is ten and has become a child carer for her father who has acute depression after the death of her mother. When a new girl, Mae, arrives at school, Calypso quickly develops a strong friendship with her, as she also has a passion for reading. As time goes on Calypso realizes she is happy and that Mae has filled a gap she did not know she had. A well-written, sensitive and moving story about dealing with the process of grieving and depression through the magic of reading and friendship.

**Crossan, Sarah**  
*One*  
Bloomsbury  Pbk  7.99  9781408827215  
Interest age:  13+  
Reading age:  11+  

Grace and Tippi are twins - conjoined twins. When Grace gets sick, separation might be the only option left open to them. But that could mean spending the rest of their lives in wheelchairs or even death. It means being torn apart. Written in blank verse, this is a revealing look at the issues of never being away from someone, never being able to have a private relationship except with each other. Well researched and convincingly written with plenty of humour. Some swearing and discussion about sex. Carnegie Medal winner, now in paperback.

**Earle, Phil**  
*Superhero street*  
Orion  Pbk  6.99  9781444013887  
Interest age:  9+  
Reading age:  9+  

Mouse is desperate to be a superhero as well as get some attention from his very busy parents who are struggling to cope with his five younger brothers. When mum foils a jewellery shop robbery, she and Mouse are treated as superheroes. However, this attracts the attention of a foiled jewel thief out for revenge and Mouse is the only one who is not taken in. Excellent engaging characters, plenty of humour and mild jeopardy, could be enjoyed by both boys and girls.

**Fanning, Kieran**  
*The black lotus*  
Chicken House  Pbk  6.99  9781909489929  
Interest age:  12+  
Reading age:  12+  

First in "The Samurai Wars" series. Ghost, Cormac and Kate each have a special skill; Ghost can become invisible, Cormac can run very fast and even up walls and Kate can talk to animals. They are recruited to Black Lotus, a training school for ninjas. When the Moon Sword is stolen by Samurai, the three travel through time to retrieve it from 16th century Japan in order to stop a dictator destroying present day New York.

**Foster, Stewart**  
*The bubble boy*  
Simon & Schuster  Pbk  6.99  9781471145407  
Interest age:  11+  
Reading age:  11+  

Eleven-year-old Joe can't remember a life outside of his hospital room, with its beeping machines and view of London's rooftops. His condition means he's not allowed outside, not even for a moment, and his few visitors risk bringing life-threatening germs inside his 'bubble'. But then someone new enters his world and changes it for ever. Perhaps a little slow to start but a funny and emotional story with a strong main character.
Furniss, Clare  How not to disappear

Simon & Schuster  Pbk  7.99  9781471120312
Interest age:  14+  Reading age:  12

Hattie's just discovered that she's pregnant with Reuben's baby. Gloria, Hattie's great-aunt, is ill with dementia. Together they set out on a road trip - Gloria to finally confront her past and Hattie to face the hard choices that will determine her future. Will make you laugh and cry. Some strong language and references to sex. New in Paperback.

Gemin, G.R.  Sweet pizza

Nosy Crow  Pbk  6.99  9780857636300
Interest age:  9+  Reading age:  9+

Joe's family run the local cafe in Bryn Mawr. It's seen better days and Joe's mam wants to sell it. But it was started before the war by Joe's Italian great-great grandfather, and he can't bear to see it shut. He vows to save the family business, and find out more about his past at the same time. An enjoyable and compelling story with a warm sense of community and realistic characters. On the Guardian Children's Fiction Prize Longlist 2016.

Huckerby, Mark & Ostler, Nick  Defender of the realm

Scholastic  Pbk  6.99  9781407164236
Interest age:  10+  Reading age:  10+

First in a series. 14 year old heir to the throne, Alfie, didn't expect to be King so soon. He definitely did not expect to be "Defender of the realm"- a legendary superhero, fighting a secret, centuries-long battle to protect his nation from evil. An exciting story full of fast-paced action and adventure with magic and monsters too. Archie is a reluctant and likeable hero and the story should appeal to both genders.

Rudden, Dave  Knights of the borrowed dark

Puffin  Pbk  6.99  9780141356600
Interest age:  11+  Reading age:  11+

Denizen Hardwick doesn't believe in magic - until he's ambushed by a monster created from shadows and sees it destroyed by a word made of sunlight. Now Denizen is about to discover that there's a world beyond the one he knows where an unseen enemy awaits. Fortunately for humanity, between us and the shadows stand the Knights of the Borrowed Dark. Unfortunately for Denizen, he's one of them. First in a series.

Scarrow, Alex  Re-made

Macmillan  Pbk  6.99  9781509811205
Interest age:  13+  Reading age:  12+

Leon and his younger sister Grace have recently moved to London and are struggling to settle into their new school when an unidentified plague strikes. They witness people in the streets turning to liquid before their eyes, and they run for their lives. But Leon and Grace are amongst a small minority of people who are immune for a reason - a reason they need to figure out before it's too late. Some swearing and descriptions of people dying.
A race-against-time story of a boy who travels back to 1984 to prevent a go-kart accident, and save his father's life. But time travel is a complicated business, and once the timeline is interfered with and chaos follows, there are plenty edge-of-your-seat moments, clever twists and lots of humour to balance with the more emotionally-charged scenes. A fantastic, original time-travel adventure which is fast paced and very thought provoking.

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