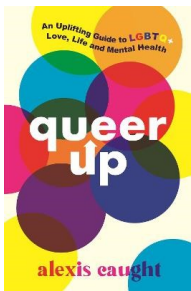




Education Library Service Secondary Best Book List Summer Term 2022



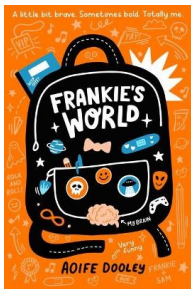
Caught, Alexis

Walker
Interest age: 14+

Queer Up

9781406399226
Reading age: 11+

An in-depth guide for teenagers looking to explore LGBTQ+ identities, including coming out, growing up queer and allyship. It's full of information, advice and personal stories, including a very moving one from Russell T Davies. It's very readable and the layout is good.



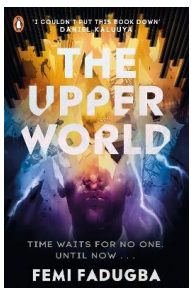
Dooley, Aoife

Scholastic
Interest age: 10

Frankie's World

Pbk 8.99 9780702307355
Reading age: 10

A graphic novel for KS2 or 3. Frankie is different and visits hospital regularly as she is small for her age. She and her class are soon to leave primary school. Frankie is very aware that she is different and wonders why this is so. Everyone seems to make fun of her at school. Her Dad left when Frankie was tiny, and she wonders if he is different too? So is on a mission to find him with her best friend Sam (who is in a wheelchair). She discovers that she and her Dad both have autism. There are notes about autism in the back and the author, who had an autism diagnosis age 27. Graphic novel format with graphics in orange, blue and black shades.



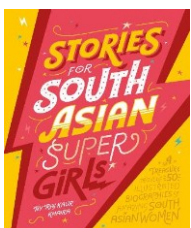
Fadugba, Femi

Penguin
Interest age: 14+

The Upper World

Pbk 7.99 9780241505618
Reading age: 14+

The story of two teenagers a generation apart, connected across time by one bullet about to devastate both of their lives. Everything changes when Esso gains access to a mysterious world where he can see glimpses of the past and future, and when Rhia starts understanding the physics of it. The two must work together to master the secrets of the Upper World and seize control of their own destinies before it's too late. A very complex story but very engaging and the characters seem very real. If you understand Physics, you probably can reach another level of understanding. There are equations in the back to help you!



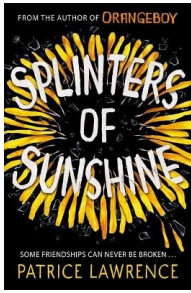
Khaira, Raj Kaur

Penguin
Interest age: 10+

Stories for South Asian Super Girls

Hbk 12.99 9780241554357
Reading age: 10+

Through the inspirational stories of 50 famous and under-celebrated women from Afganistan, Pakistan, India, Bangladesh, Nepal and Sri Lanka, South Asian girls will have a chance to dream about lives for themselves that radically differ from the limited narratives and stereotypes written for them by their culture, wider society and the mainstream media.

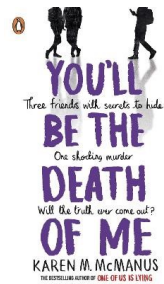


Lawrence, Patrice

Splinters of Sunshine

Hodder Pbk 7.99 9781444954777
Interest age: 14+ Reading age: 13+

Spey wakes up on Christmas morning to find his ex-prisoner dad turning up unannounced. Then he receives a mysterious package in the post with half a collage he made with his old friend Dee on her sixth birthday. Because of a tragedy, Dee ended up in care outside of London, drawn into the world of county lines gangs. Spey decides she must be in danger but he doesn't know where she is. There's only one person Spey can think of who might be able to help. On a roadtrip like no other, can Spey and his dad find Dee, and will they be ready to confront a criminal gang together? Gripping thriller with good characterisation and sensitively portrayed family drama.

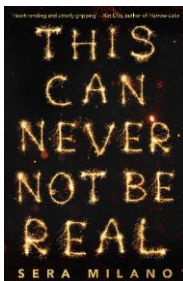


McManus, Karen M

You'll be the Death of Me

Penguin Pbk 7.99 9780241473665
Interest age: 13+ Reading age: 11+

Ivy, Mateo and Cal used to be best friends back in middle school. Now all they have in common is a bad day. So for old time's sake they skip school together one last time. But when the trio spot Brian 'Boney' Mahoney ditching class too, they follow him, and stumble right into a murder scene. They all have a connection to the victim. And they're all hiding something. When their day of freedom turns deadly, it's only a matter of time before the truth comes out. Excellent mystery thriller, with very good characterisation, and the twists and turns of the plot keep the reader hooked all the way to the end. Chapters are told by each of the three main protagonists which help to keep a lively narrative pace, and reveal the characters' motivation. Super leisure read for teens.



Milano, Sera

This Can Never Not Be Real

Electric Monkey Pbk 7.99 9780755500338
Interest age: 14+ Reading age: 11+

Five 16 year olds go with their friends to a concert event in the grounds of a local historic house. The story follows the events of that one night when terrorists armed with guns and bombs turn up with the aim of killing everyone. The testimonies of the five teenagers who survive form the story. Despite their survival they are all changed by the horrific experience but all find hope in the future despite everything. The motivations of the terrorists are never divulged. Gripping from the first page as the terrorists prowl the grounds and people try to escape. An easy-to-read narrative with clear characterisation. Character deaths throughout and unsettling subject make this unsuitable for younger readers although there are no graphic descriptions of injuries or deaths. Clear message of hope, friendship and love forged in an intense situation the main thrust of the story.

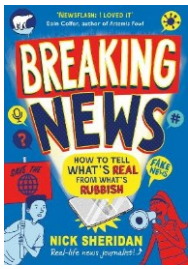


Rhodes, Jewell Parker

Paradise on Fire

Orion Pbk 7.99 9781510109858
Interest age: 10+ Reading age: 10+

A very moving adventure, and survival story, set in America but easily translates to the UK. Haunted by a tragic fire that killed her parents and best friend, Addy has grown up in the Bronx with her grandmother, who enrolls her in a summer wilderness program. There, she joins five other city kids of colour to spend a summer out West. Deep in the forest, the kids learn new skills: camping, hiking, rock climbing, and more. They overcome their suspicion of their white guides and mentors. Most importantly, they learn to depend upon each other for companionship and survival. They are then faced with a real forest fire caused by a campfire. Addy uses her survival skills to lead her friends to safety, this part of the story is very fast paced and full of real tension.



Sheridan, Nick

Breaking News

Simon & Schuster Pbk 9.99 9781398506787
Interest age: 10+ Reading age: 10+

The inside track on how news and journalism works, navigating the news and not believing everything you read. Up-to-date and useful info conveyed in an accesible style.

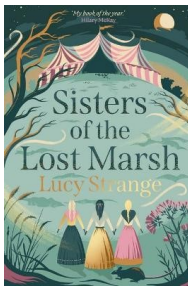


Simpson, Darren

Furthermore

Usborne Pbk 7.99 9781474976701
Interest age: 11+ Reading age: 11+

Bren is twelve and bullied by Shaun, another boy at school. Bren’s family are struggling to cope, after the death of his older sister who was hit by a car. His Mum is working all hours, and his Dad is on extended bereavement leave. All are suffering with depression. Bren finds solace in Furthermore, an imagined world with clockwork animals and mechanised trees where Evie is still alive. This was a game Bren and Evie invented when she was alive. When Featherly appears and takes Evie’s watch, which is how Bren travels into Furthermore, Bren has to confront his fears and the bullying he’s been subject to. This story about the power of imagination, courage and finding your own voice. It tackles bullying, bereavement and depression. A very powerful read. Bren finds the strength to face the bully and his fears. A dark, deep, and profound story for secondary children. Great Writing and would be useful for schools discussing bullying. Set in Nottingham.

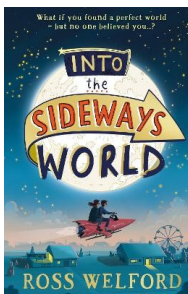


Strange, Lucy

Sisters of the Lost Marsh

Chicken House Pbk 7.99 9781913322373
Interest age: 10+ Reading age: 10+

Life is hard for Willa, Grace and Freya, and their three younger sisters. Six motherless girls working a farm, living in fear of their cruel father and the superstition that obsesses him - The Curse of Six Daughters. With the arrival of the mysterious Full Moon Fayre, there's a chance for the eldest girls to steal a moment's fun, but the day the fayre moves on, Grace vanishes. Willa goes after her, following a trail that leads into the dangerous Lost Marsh, where it is said a will-o'-the-wisp lures lost souls into the dark waters of the mire. If Willa is to survive and reunite her family, she will need to unravel the secrets her father has kept hidden, and face her own deepest fears. Compelling and absorbing tale with excellent strong female characters that you really root for. The mystery, fantasy and folklore elements weave together well and keep the reader’s attention, as well as adding depth to the world building. Feels quite a dark and deep narrative for primary, but would suit a thoughtful reader wanting to be stretched, and a really good crossover title for KS3.

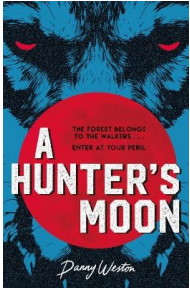


Welford, Ross

Into the Sideways World

Harper Collins Pbk 6.99 9780008333843
Interest age: 10+ Reading age: 10+

When Willa and Manny stumble upon a seemingly perfect world without pollution or conflict, they try desperately to make people in their own troubled world believe them. A very intriguing Science Fiction story set in very plausible parallel universe, interesting plot and concepts which will provide lots of opportunity for discussion.



Weston, Danny

A Hunter's Moon

Uclan Pbk 7.99 9781912979677
Interest age: 13+ Reading age: 12+

Legend says that in the deep dark Forest of Tay live the 'Walkers in the Woods' and they will send out a fearsome beast known as the Cu Sith to avenge them if the forest is cut down. But the local landowner thinks this is nonsense, so when crofters start to disappear and sheep are killed after he cuts down some of the trees he decides it's a wolf on the prowl. Fraser McCloud and his young assistant Callum are then engaged to hunt this wolf. Fraser McCloud believes it's a wolf but Callum is not so sure, and when he meets the local innkeeper's daughter Mhairi who seems to know a lot about the Forest and the Cu Sith, and then the killings become more audacious, he starts to feel he has every reason to be very afraid. Very dark atmospheric thriller set in Scotland with a cast of compelling characters. Grips for the first page and keeps the reader's attention throughout as the plot twists and turns mixing myth and reality, and employing well described mild horror elements. Very good leisure read for either gender.

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

Tel: 0115 804 4499

E-mail: elsg@inspireculture.org.uk