

Education Library Service Primary Best Book List Summer Term 2022



Coelho, Joseph Frankenstiltskin

Walker Pbk 7.99 9781406389678
Interest 8+ Reading age: 8+
age:

Joining the family business, animal-lover Bryony proves to be an extraordinary taxidermist, whose tender fingers create displays which comfort, educate and astound. But when Bryony's proud father boasts of her skill, who should come calling but the secretive King of all Mythica. Locking her away, he gives her three horrible and impossible tasks. It's only then that a strange, sinister creature emerges from the shadows of the castle, offering Bryony a helping hand. But at what cost? Gruesome alternative fairy tale with age-appropriate unpleasantness, but a feisty heroine and black and white illustrations throughout. Good leisure read.

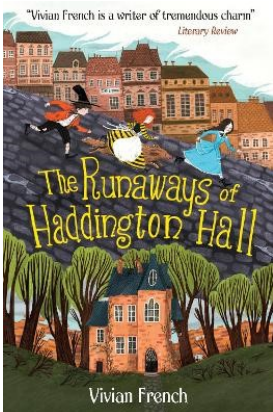


Elson, Jane Storm Horse

Hachette Pbk 6.99 9781444955699
Interest 10 Reading age: 10
age:

Daniel lives on a London housing estate and is dyslexic. He finds school and reading challenging. One day Daniel sees a mysterious horse nearby and is determined to save him and keep him secret. He is inspired by his great grandfather's letters to a famous American racehorse, Seabiscuit, who won a race despite the odds. Others in Daniel's reading group find reading challenging and together they form the Secret Horse society and look after the horse, which they name Jammy Dodger, who helps them overcome adversity too.

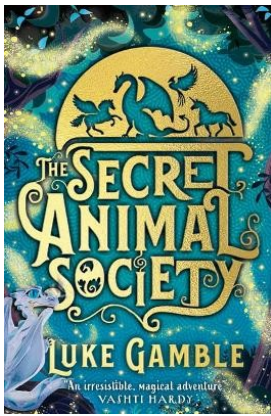
A great read with empathy and great to have the main character as dyslexic and who struggles with reading.



French, Vivian The runaways of Haddington Hall

Walker Pbk 6.99 9781406387537
Interest 9+ Reading age: 9+
age:

Minnie O'Sullivan is a young laundry maid, but after admitting to the Reverend Obadiah Marpike that she accidentally tore one of his shirts, she finds herself accused of assault and whisked away to a nightmarish home for wayward girls. Her friends plot to help her, but first they'll have to outwit Mrs Haddington, a hard-hearted philanthropist and the dastardly Obadiah Marpike, a conman hiding in plain sight. Very enjoyable Victorian period yarn with feisty likeable characters. There are plenty of twists and turns in the plot to keep the reader turning the pages, and a cast of deliciously Dickensian-style supporting characters to add plenty of colour to the narrative. It is easy to read, but uses a good deal of archaic language which adds to the Victorian feel of the tale.



Gamble, Luke The Secret Animal Society

Scholastic Pbk 7.99 9780702309618
 Interest 9+ Reading age: 9+
 age:

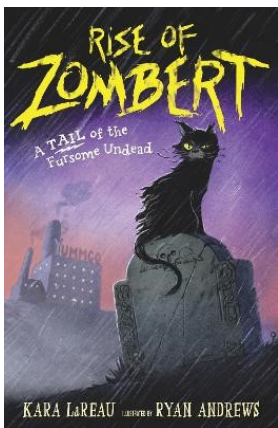
Edith Wight is sent to be with her uncle over the school holidays, as her Mum and Dad are working abroad. She didn't know this uncle existed and finds him eccentric. He runs a vet practice in a remote part of the New Forest, which is surrounded in secrecy. Edith comes to realise that the reason for this is they are protecting some of the Earth's unusual fantasy creatures from folklore. Edith soon realises she can talk to the animals and becomes an apprentice to her uncle. When her uncle is called to the Himalayas on a quest to save a sick yeti, Edith goes along too and is an enormous help. However, the Syndicate have a different view and aim to hunt and kill every mythical creature as trophies and so starts an unbelievable adventure. A debut novel which reads well and looks like the start of a series written by a vet. An absorbing adventure / fantasy story with a compelling plot and great characters. Great for Reading for Pleasure.



**Green, Simon Sleepover Takeover
 James**

Scholastic Pbk 6.99 9780702303630
 Interest 8+ Reading age: 9+
 age:

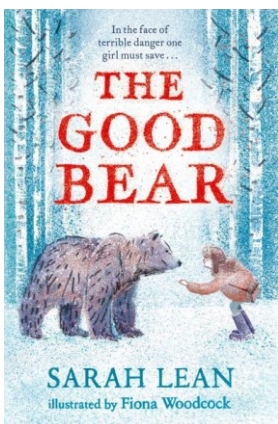
When unpopular Otis wakes up in the morning at a sleepover birthday party, it's a scene of carnage and mayhem: there's a donkey drinking at the chocolate fountain, a huge inflatable helium sausage looms above, doves everywhere, and the birthday boy Rocco has a tattoo on his forehead! But what's weirdest of all is that neither Otis nor the other children can remember what happened! Otis and Rocco team up in the hope of solving the mystery, becoming friends along the way. A very fun and entertaining story about friendship and being yourself. Very well written first-person narrative enhancing the humour and the ridiculous situations making it a very good and amusing read. Good for reading for pleasure.



LaReau, Kara Rise of Zombert

Walker Pbk 6.99 9781406395334
 Interest 9 Reading age: 9
 age:

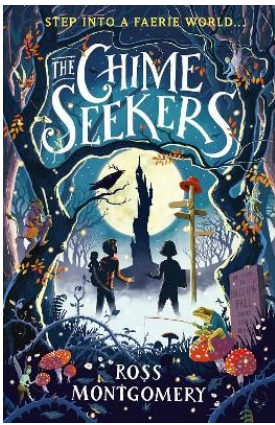
Whilst Mellie is helping her best friend Danny make a horror film they rescue a scraggy cat in a bin. Mellie decides to keep the cat and names him Bert. She hides him in her room, as she thinks her parents won't approve. Bert beheads her cuddly toys and leaves corpses of beheaded frogs, squirrels, dragonflies etc for Mellie. Danny thinks Bert is a zombie cat but something strange is going on at the local food factory, from where Bert has escaped. A creepy story but gore isn't graphically described. Style is zany and I can see some children loving it. Great characters and black and white illustrations throughout.



Lean, Sarah The Good Bear

Simon & Schuster Pbk 7.99 9781471194658
 Interest 9 Reading age: 9
 age:

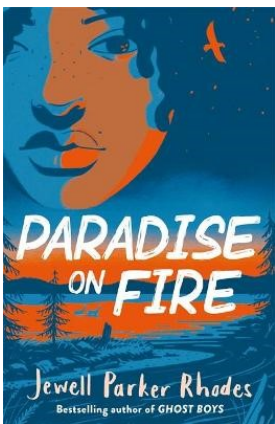
Set in 1978 Thea is sent to spend Christmas with her Dad and his family in Norway. She was really looking forward to this, as her Dad has been distant. She dreams of telling him of her aspirations to become a writer and hopes he may buy her a typewriter for Christmas. However, reality is very different – her Father is distant and she there is his new family as he has a girlfriend who has a family of her own. Thea discovers a bear who is very hungry, and heeds help. However, when the villagers learn about the bear, they are fearful and arrange a shooting party. A story set in Norway with a great description of time and place. The story covers blended families, Animal cruelty and relationships.



Montgomery, Ross The Chime Seekers

Walker Pbk 7.99 9781406391190
 Interest 9+ Reading age: 9+
 age:

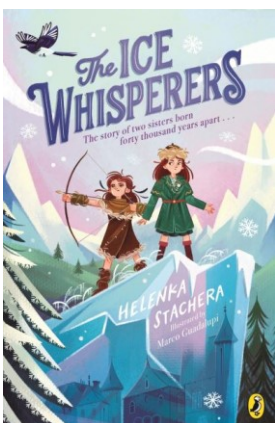
Yanni's family have moved from the town to a small country village. But, Yanni didn't want to move, and is growing to hate all the change brought on by having a new baby sister Ari. But, then a strange and sinister faerie enters the house, tricks Yanni and swaps his sister for a Changeling. Suddenly Yanni is swept into a dangerous race against time to get her back. With the help of his cousin Amy, and the reluctant Changeling, Yanni must travel to goblin palaces and battle-swept oceans, discovering ancient treasures and secrets along the way. Yanni will need every drop of courage and even a few tricks of his own, if he's to outwit the faerie and save his sister. Very exciting, dark fantasy adventure. Very good characterisation which encourages empathy, and a fast paced twisting and turning plot that propels the reader along. Some very creepy mild horror scenes which some readers will love, and a cast of interesting and varied characters. Very good leisure read overall.



Rhodes, Jewell Parker Paradise on Fire

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

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.



Stachera, Helena The Ice Whisperers

Penguin Pbk 7.99 9780241491287
 Interest 9+ Reading age: 9+
 age:

When Bela's mother dies, she is summoned to deepest Siberia to stay with an uncle she's never met. Exploring his strange scientific workshop, she uncovers a secret she was never meant to find - a doorway that opens an to icy land, frozen in time and full of legends come to life. But this frozen land is in danger, and it's up to Bela to find a way to save it. To succeed, she must join forces with the impossible: a long-lost sister she never knew she had, born 40,000 years before... Follow Bela as she finds out more about her family and embarks on a quest with her long-lost sister Ren-ya. Very enjoyable story about the two sisters on a quest with the frozen environment portrayed well. Good characterisation and plot with themes of family and belonging. Illustrations are interspersed throughout which will appeal to some.



Strange, Lucy Sisters of the Lost Marsh

Chicken House
Interest 10+ Reading age: 10+
age:

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.

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