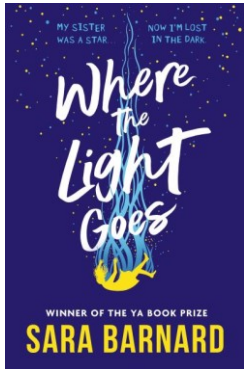


Recommended Secondary Fiction Autumn Term 2023

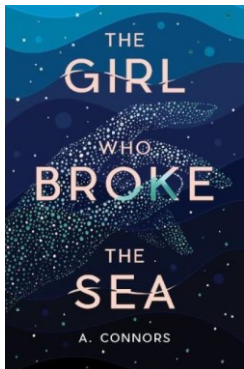


Barnard, S

Where the Light Goes

Walker	Pbk	8.99	9781529509137
Interest age:	14+	Reading age:	14+

A very powerful and moving story about the suicide of a young girl 'Lizzie Beck' who rose to fame as a young pop star. It is told from the point of view of her younger sister, Emmy. You become totally immersed in her world, experiencing the grief and pain first hand, the rollercoaster of emotions and how it affects her relationships with her boyfriend, close family, and friends. At times very raw and intense, demonstrating the devastating affects social media can have on young lives.



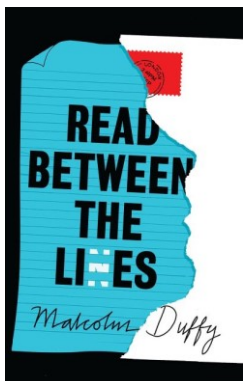
Connors, A

The Girl Who Broke the Sea

Scholastic	Pbk	8.99	9780702317583
Interest age:	14+	Reading age:	12+

Lily's scientist mother brings her to live in Deephaven, the world's first fully sustainable deep-sea rig, her mum has taken a job to help an old colleague with an amazing discovery three miles underwater. Lily has been expelled from school, and this is her last chance after a lifetime of increasingly destructive episodes. Her mother hopes that Deephaven will be a new start. Lily feels ever more alone and misunderstood by her over achieving classmates, and then she has a surprising encounter with a seemingly intelligent microscopic sea creature and soon life in Deephaven becomes ever more unsettling and dangerous.

Superb and gripping narrative with an interesting premise and excellent characterisation. The plot and characterisation grips the reader from the start, and the plot twists and jeopardy propel the reader through the book. Lily's feelings and experiences are very well described and the reader really roots for her. The unusual environment and it's tense and claustrophobic living conditions are also well described.

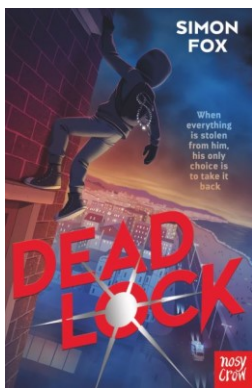


Duffy, M

Read Between the Lines

Zephyr	Pbk	7.99	9781800241718
Interest age:	14+	Reading age:	12+

Two very different teenage boys end up being thrown together when their respective parents get engaged. Ryan is a very good, 'model' student and son. Tommy is quite the opposite and has just come home from a period in a juvenile detention center. However, the one thing they have in common is dyslexia, Ryan was diagnosed at Primary school and has learned how to manage his problem. Tommy has always successfully managed to hide his from his teachers and parents. The two boys realise how they can help each other and eventually become good friends. A very realistic and often amusing story which will appeal to older teens.

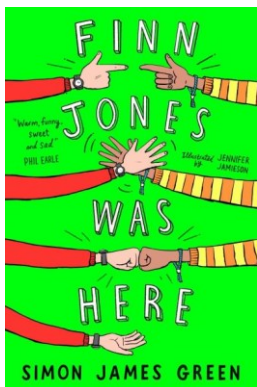


Fox, Simon

Deadlock

Nosy Crow Pbk 7.99 9781839944420
Interest age: 11+ Reading age: 11+

A fast-paced thriller about Archie who is a 13 year old boy. Archie's mum has died and Archie and his Dad are battling through their grief. His dad is a policeman who works for the antiques and art crimes team. He's taught Archie how to pick locks and crack safes. As a way of overcoming their loss, they compete against one another to see who can complete lock-breaking challenges the fastest. When Archie's dad is arrested for the theft of a precious diamond necklace. Archie goes on the run, with nothing but an address of somewhere safe to stay. When Archie arrives at the safe house, he meets Bunny, the daughter of a convicted criminal. Together they are drawn into a plot of trying to prove Archie's Dad's innocence and grand theft and police corruption. An action packed story, with lots of twists and turns.



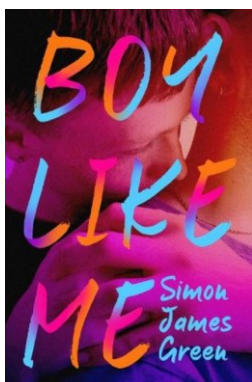
Green, Simon James

Finn Jones Was Here

Scholastic Pbk 7.99 9780702303647
Interest age: 11+ Reading age: 10+

When 11 year old Eric goes to his best friend Finn's funeral, he receives a peculiar message from Finn that suggests his friend has just made his biggest prank ever by faking his own death. Eric then proceeds, with the aid of an acquaintance Cooper who has been sent by Finn, to follow a series of cryptic instructions to ever more madcap challenges, and these take him through his memories of his friendship with Finn and make discoveries about himself that will change him for ever.

Poignant and witty exploration of what makes a friendship, including dealing with sadness, grief and loss. Terrific fun challenges with plenty of humour keep this story light, and the quest element of the challenges keeps the reader turning the pages. Extremely well written characterisation which is very believable, and you really root for Eric. Excellent leisure read with real emotional depth.



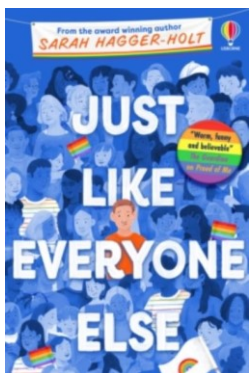
Green, Simon James

Boy Like Me

Scholastic Pbk 8.99 9780702313653
Interest age: 14+ Reading age: 14+

It's 1993 and thanks to Section 28, there can be no mention of gay relationships in schools. When a school librarian leads Jamie to a disguised novel in the library that reflects his own confused feelings towards boys, he notices that he's not the only one who has checked the book out. In the margins of the pages, he and another student start to leave messages for each other, and Jamie starts to believe that he's not alone...and maybe also has a shot at finding love. That is, until the secret novel is discovered by the head teacher

A moving and powerful love story set in the time of Section 28. A story also about discovering who you are, friendship, and the power of a library. Likeable characters and plenty of humour makes this a very enjoyable read for older teens.

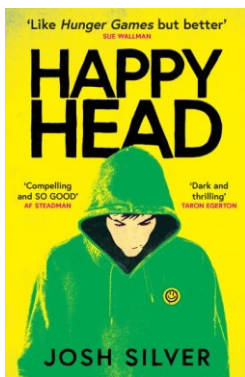


Hagger-Holt, Sarah

Just Like Everyone Else

Usborne Pbk 7.99 9781801315784
Interest age: 12+ Reading age: 12+

Aiden is 13 and has four younger sisters. He feels their home is noisy, and at times needs to escape. His passion is fell running. Aiden's Mum shares everything with her children and when she tells them she is going to be a pregnancy surrogate for a gay couple, Justin and Atif, Aiden is embarrassed. He wants his family to be more like everyone else. He is also worried that he might be gay too. It's also about standing up to bullies and looking after your friends. A sensitively told story of a young teenager coming to terms with his own identity. Fantastically realistic characters, who the reader with empathise with.



Silver, Josh

HappyHEAD

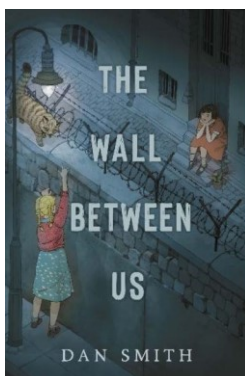
Rock the Boat
Interest age:

Pbk 8.99
14+

9780861545537
Reading age: 14+

When Seb is offered a place on a radical retreat designed to solve the national crisis of teenage unhappiness, he is determined to change how people see him and make his parents proud. Seb finds himself drawn to troubled Finn. But the assessments the participants must undertake become more unsettling by the day and Finn and Seb start to question the true nature of the challenges they must undergo and what HappyHead wants from them. It becomes clear there may be no escape...

An engaging, thrilling, and unnerving read. A thought-provoking, powerful story that asks the question of what would happen if our mental health and wellbeing were put in the wrong hands and what defines happiness. Tackles issues such as mental health, fitting in, and the trust we put in systems. Good cast of characters that are portrayed well. The ending is a cliff-hanger, setting it up for a sequel.



Smith, Dan

The Wall Between Us

Chicken House
Interest age:

Pbk 7.99
10+

9781912626762
Reading age: 10+

Set in Berlin in 1961, Anja and Monika are best friends and share a cat called Otto. However, when the Berlin Wall is constructed, they find themselves divided, they can no longer be friends and be part of each other's family. Anja is determined to find a way to communicate to Monika, starting with flashing torches, but this stops when all the windows are boarded up. Anja then realises that Otto the cat finds a way to cross to the other side and manages to send messages in the cat's collar. Anja then follows the cat one evening and realises how she might be able to successfully reach her friend. She manages this at night, thinking that no one will ever find out. Unfortunately, this isn't the case, as there are eyes everywhere, even at the dead of night. Anja finds herself trapped and there is no way back. A very tense, emotional story told in a very moving diary format from the point of view of Anja and Monika in alternate chapters. A thrilling wartime adventure story that will appeal to both girls and boys.



Winter, Tamsin

Bad Influence

Usborne
Interest age:

Pbk 7.99
11+

9781474979078
Reading age: 11+

A very powerful story about a young teenage girl, who really wants to fit in and be liked by the 'in/it' crowd at school. She finds out some devastating things that people are saying, calling her behind her back. It is her very well documented description of her journey to realising that who she is, is unique and strong and can finally face the bullies in the face, through the strength of her own words. A real rollercoaster of emotion which I think many young teens, male and female will empathise with.

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