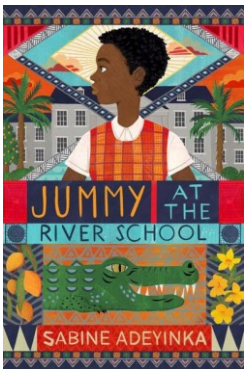


Education Library Service Primary Best Book List Autumn Term 2022



Adeyinka, Sabine

Jummy at The River School

Chicken House	Pbk	£6.99	9781913696047
Interest age:	8+		Reading age: 9+

Jumoke has won a place at the finest girls' boarding school in Nigeria. Nothing can dampen her spirits, not even when she learns that her best friend Caro won't be joining her. School is everything Jummy dreamt of, but when Caro suddenly arrives at the school to work for the matron rather than to be a student, Jummy and her friends come up with a daring plan to persuade the principle to let Caro be admitted. Terrific Enid Blyton-esque boarding school story, but with a very strong sense of place, and a very clear Nigerian accent to the first person narrative. The characters are very relatable, and the reader really roots for them. The descriptions of Nigerian school and cultural life are very vivid, but may put off the more parochial reader, whilst drawing in other readers. Super leisure read.

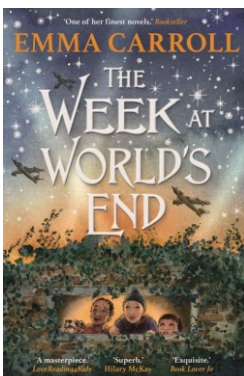


Brandt, Lucy

Leonora Bolt Secret Inventor

Penguin	Pbk	£6.99	9780241436769
Interest age:	8		Reading age: 8

Inventor Leonora Bolt is 9 & lives in a lighthouse on remote Crabby Island, with her pet otter Twitchy Nibbles and Mildred, an eccentric housekeeper for company. Apart from occasional visits from disagreeable Uncle Luther, she knows little of the outside world. She wants to escape and is working on a new gadget, the Switcheroo, which she hopes will transport her to the mainland. She is interrupted when Jack, a young castaway, is washed ashore on an inflatable lobster. She asks about life on the mainland and realises that much of what Uncle has told her is untrue. She realises that her uncle is not who he seems and intends to use the Switcheroo for his own ends. A wacky adventure with larger-than-life characters, a devious villain and a fast-paced plot with science and engineering featuring. Entertaining black-and-white illustrations throughout and short chapters. Great for lower KS2. Looks like the start of a series.



Carroll, Emma

The Week at the World's End

Faber	Pbk	£7.99	9780571332830
Interest age:	10+		Reading age: 10+

An adventure story set in 1962 and the threat of war between Russia and America. Stevie and Ray live in World's End Close, where nothing much happens, until one day when they discover a young girl hiding in the coal shed. Who is she? Who is she hiding from? Is somebody trying to murder her?

An intriguing mystery story, strong sense of time and strong characters. Readers will be able to identify with the sense of impending war which is totally out of their hands, that is until they find their voice.



Chisholm, Alastair

The Consequence Girl

Nosy Crow	Pbk	£7.99	9781839941207
Interest age:	10		Reading age: 10

The world of Colony is in ruins. No one knows what caused society to begin tearing itself apart - but the secret may lie with Cora, a girl living on the mountainside far away from others.

Cora possesses an extraordinary gift: the power to see back in time, from an event back to its causes, and sometimes she can change events. The present is looking for Cora, she is forced on the run - and must decide who she is, what she can do... and how to fix the future.

A rip-roaring fantasy / science fiction adventure story with lots of twists and turns. Style just as compelling as Orion lost and Adam-2



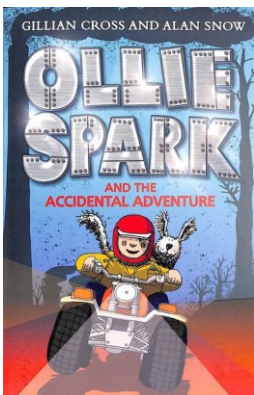
Cotton, Katie

The Secret of Splint Hall

Andersen Press	Pbk	£7.99	9781839131967
Interest age:	10+		Reading age: 10+

Set in the post war period, sisters Isobel and Flora have nearly lost everything, they are sent to live with their aunt at Splint Hall. The girls start to unravel some family secrets, then the adventures begin.

A well written fantasy , historical adventure story, the characters are well drawn and true to their historic backdrop.



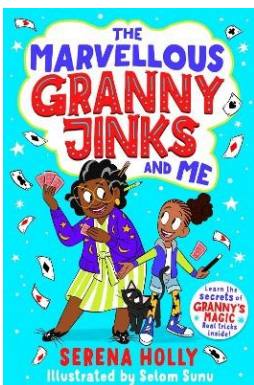
Cross, Gillian

Ollie Spark and the Accidental Adventure

David Flickling Books	Pbk	£6.99	9781788452397
Interest age:	7+		Reading age: 7+

Ollie is a whiz at mending machines and solving mysteries. He gets more than he bargained for when his aunt buys a van that certainly needs a lot of fixing. Ollie accidentally gets 'van snatched' and then the excitement and adventures start when he finds himself in a mysterious city with a strange language and some very mysterious people. He's also adopted by a lost dog which he names 'Gasket'.

A fast-paced adventure story with a strong environmental message too! Look out for Ollie's next adventure.

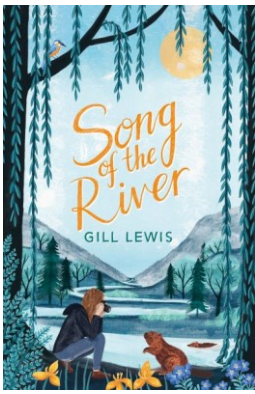


Holly, Serena

The Marvellous Granny Jinks and Me

Simon & Schuster	Pbk	£6.99	9781398503038
Interest age:	7		Reading age: 7+

When Jada finds a box of magic tricks in her Granny's flat she uncovers her Granny's secret dream of becoming a magician. However, Jada's Dad hates magic. With themes of courage, making friends, managing relationships an uplifting story and a new series for younger readers. Has illustrations throughout to make accessible. Inspired by the true story of Jenny Meyers, the first Black woman to be accepted into the Magic Circle. Included some magic tricks at the end for you to try.

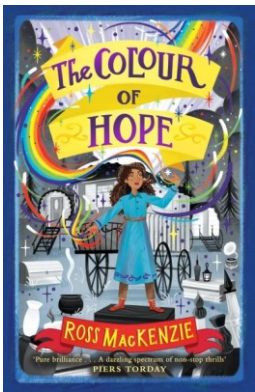


Lewis, Gill

Song of the River

Barrington Stoke Pbk £6.99 9781800900615
Interest age: 9 Reading age: 9

Life seems bleak for Cari and her Mum. Her Dad died suddenly in a bike accident and Mum has moved them away from the city to a new home in the countryside, where she plans to run a tea shop. Then things go from bad to worse as their new home gets flooded and their business gets destroyed, in a bad storm. The community support them, and Cari learns about environmental fragility. She is told the hope of stopping future floods may lie in the community allowing beavers to be reintroduced to their valley, as the changes that these amazing animals make to the waterways might prevent another flood. Cari knows she must get involved, but there is resistance from some of the locals. A great shorter tale (Barrington Stoke) about resilience, the environment, and a flood.

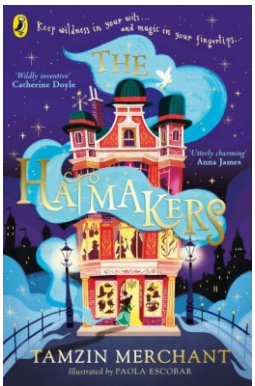


MacKenzie, Ross

The Colour of Hope

Andersen Press Pbk £7.99 9781839132025
Interest age: 10 Reading age: 10

Years ago the Emperor and his Necromancer stole all the colour from the world. So, the world has no colour, only shades of grey. A miracle baby girl is born, but her life is in danger. The Emperor's Ripper Dogs and Black Coats come hunting. Sandy, a mage rescues Hope and brings her up under cover, by giving her a medicine to hide her colour. A rumour of "the rainbow child" brings hope to people. Can Hope restore the world's colour. Really enjoyable, immersive read. Deals with grief, denial, loss courage and hope.

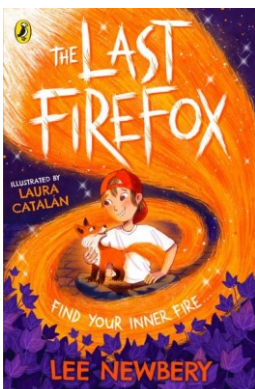


Merchant, Tamzin

The Hatmakers

Puffin Pbk £7.99 9780241426319
Interest age: 10+ Reading age: 10+

In a magical alternative reality, Cordelia and other guild Makers put aside long-standing disputes to thwart a plot to bring war between England and France. Cordelia comes from a long line of magical milliners, who weave alchemy and enchantment into every hat. In Cordelia's world, Making - crafting items such as hats, cloaks, watches, boots and gloves from magical ingredients - is a rare and ancient skill, and only a few special Maker families remain. Cordelia's father is lost at sea while he is collecting special hat ingredients. Cordelia is determined to find him but meanwhile Cordelia gets caught up in a malicious plan to reignite an old war by stirring up old rivalries. A gripping fantasy, adventure story with a strong sense of history.

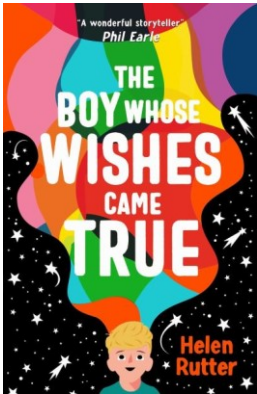


Newbery, Lee

The Last Firefox

Penguin Pbk £7.99 9780241493533
Interest age: 8+ Reading age: 9

Charlie would like to be braver and to have the courage to stand up to the bullies at school. He feels he needs this, to be a proper big brother to the new baby his two dads are hoping to adopt. Then a magical door to another world brings him a Firefox which is under threat from a bad king and a shape-shifting beast. To keep the fox cub safe, Charlie must be brave and overcome his fears if he's to succeed in his mission looking after the firefox. The story blends fantasy and reality together. It's great to see an adoptive family with same-sex parents to this story about loyalty, love, self-confidence and finding your inner courage.

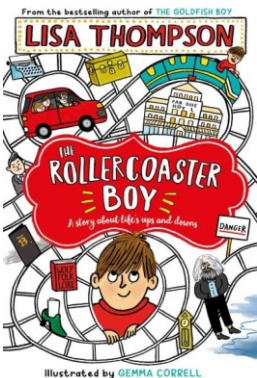


Rutter, Helen

The Boy Whose Wishes Came True

Scholastic	Pbk	£6.99	9780702300868
Interest age:	10+	Reading age:	10+

Eleven year old Archie Crumb is bullied at school and having a tough time at home, as his Dad left & has a new family. His Mum is so down, she rarely gets out of bed, so Archie is a child carer, and has to mostly look after her. One day Archie bumps his head, falling off his bike and sees stars – his local favourite footie player, who grants him 9 wishes. Archie realises he has to be very specific in what he wishes for, some bring him laugh but ultimately, he realises that only he has the power to really change his life. A moving story about a child carer which is uplifting and handles some serious subjects.



Thompson, Lisa

The Rollercoaster Boy

Scholastic	Pbk	£6.99	9780702301599
Interest age:	10+	Reading age:	10+

Todd and Laurie's dad is either on top of the world, taking them on fun adventures, or down in the depths and sleeping all the time. In the middle of the night, he bundles them into the car and drives them to the Paradise Hotel. He paints a picture of a luxurious mansion surrounded by acres of land - a fairground, a swanky swimming pool, a grand ballroom, firework displays. The reality is a rundown dump - and the disappointment means Dad takes to his bed. Todd and Laurie have the run of the place, and meet Scout, the daughter of the owner, who tells them about the night many years ago when a famous novelist vanished from her room on the top floor, which was locked from the inside... with clues to crack, a mystery to solve, and Dad to worry about, this holiday is full of twists and turns. A very well written family/adventure story dealing with the issue of mental health well. The mystery element holds the attention of the reader well.

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