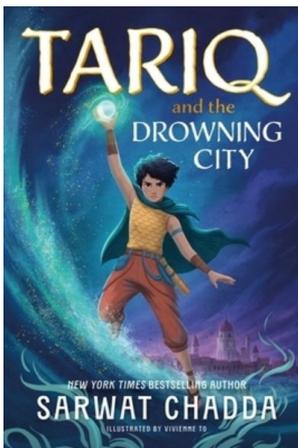


## Recommended Secondary Books Autumn Term 2024

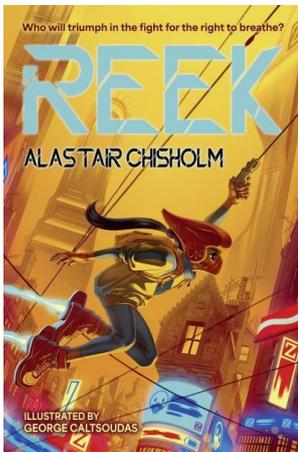


### Chadda, Sarwat

### Tariq and the Drowning City

Hachette	Pbk	£7.99	9781408369296
Interest age:	9+		Reading age: 9+

Tariq and his river clan have fled to the big city of Ethrial as their home has been destroyed by a dam. When Tariq begins to have terrifying visions of a tidal wave destroying the city, no-one believes him and he is arrested. But, he then makes two unlikely friends in Livia a young inventor and Artos a young city guard. Together they go on a dangerous search for the long-lost elemental World's Egg Spiritstone which Tariq believes will save the city and his clan. But, will they find it and be able to use it in time to save everyone? Exciting quest adventure with a very strong undercurrent message of human impact on the environment. The three main characters are well drawn, and there is plenty of adventure and jeopardy to keep reader's engaged. Good start to this new leisure reading trilogy.



### Chisholm, Alastair

### Reek

Barrington Stoke	Pbk	£7.99	9781800902589
Interest age:	9+		Reading age: 8

Fast paced dystopian cli-fi thriller. Set in Edinburgh in a post climate disaster fresh air has become a commodity controlled by a large corporation. Sparrow is the main character who has left school and works to keep her family alive. When one of her friends, who is an inventor makes an important discovery, others will do everything in their power to stop Sparrow.

An exciting and compelling adventure story which is short and easy to read, with plenty of twists and turns in the plot.

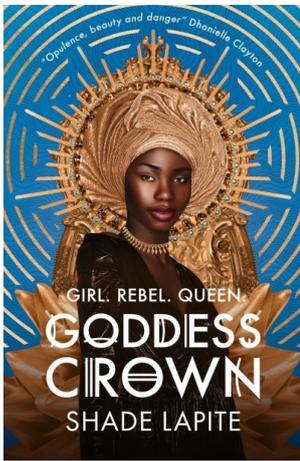


### Kothari, Dev

### Bringing Back Kay-Kay

Walker	Pbk	£7.99	9781529516043
Interest age:	11+		Reading age: 9+

When Lena's beloved older brother disappears from the train bringing him home from camp, the police are sure he is just another teenage runaway, but Lena knows they are wrong. Tired of not being listened to, powerless to reach her parents through their grief and unable to imagine a future without her brother in it, Lena sets off to find him. As Lena journeys across India to retrace Kay-Kay's last known steps, she embarks on a parallel journey of discovery. Because it seems there is a side to Kay-Kay she has never known. The more she learns about her brother in the weeks leading up to his disappearance, the more determined Lena is to find him - and to finally be the sister he has so clearly needed. But will she be too late? Superb poignant and compelling narrative that grips the reader throughout. Lena is a brave and heroic central character who reader's will really root for. Very easy to read writing style as well. Excellent leisure read.



**Lapite, Shade**

**Goddess Crown**

Walker	Pbk	£8.99	9781529503715	
Interest age:	14+		Reading age:	12+

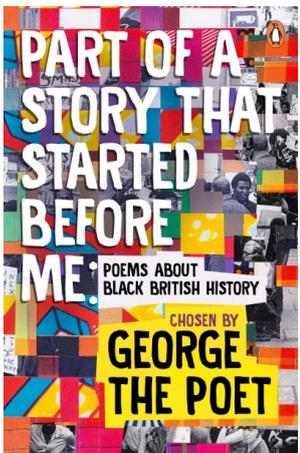
16-year-old Kalothia has grown up hidden away in the eastern forest in secret after her parents were killed by the king of Galla. But, on the death of the king, assassins attack her home, kill everyone who has protected her, and so she flees to the king's court to find answers and revenge. But, when Kalothia is shocked to discover her real identity, she also finds she has to navigate the plots, politics and dangers of the Gallan court and it's entrenched patriarchy. Can Kalothia's wit and courage help her to survive and be a force for change? Very good fantasy tale which grips the reader from the start. Kalothia is a central character that readers will really root for, and the plot has many twists and turns and jeopardy to keep the reader's attention throughout. The undercurrent theme of gender politics is well-handled, and the mild romance theme adds an extra dimension to the characterisation. Overall a very satisfying and enjoyable read for older teens.



**Lessore, Nathanael**      **King of Nothing**

Hot Key	Pbk	£7.99	9781471413247	
Interest age:	11+		Reading age:	11+

Anton and his crew are in Year 9 and respected and feared by the whole school. Anton's father went to prison when he was in primary school, and this has given him a reputation to live up to. Without this, and his crew, he believes he is nothing. But, when he gets in really serious trouble at school, his mum decides he needs to take a hard look at his life choices, and his friendship group. She compels him to help out at a local community project with the Happy Campers social group. Then Matthew, who Anton has always dismissed as a 'loser', saves his life on a camp weekend, and they begin to develop a very unlikely friendship. Anton soon begins to question himself about everything he once thought was so important. What sort of a man does he want to be? Superb, witty, very realistic and immersive narrative about teenage life in modern diverse Britain. The characterisation is brilliantly drawn so that readers will clearly recognise Anton and his crew. Matthew is also a hugely endearing character and readers will really warm to both boys as their relationship develops. Easy to read for younger teens whilst handling deep themes of 'manliness' and relationships at all levels. Very satisfying read.



**George the Poet (selected by)**      **Part of a Story that Started Before Me - Poems About Black History**

Penguin	Pbk	£9.99	9780241567005	
Interest age:	14+		Reading age:	

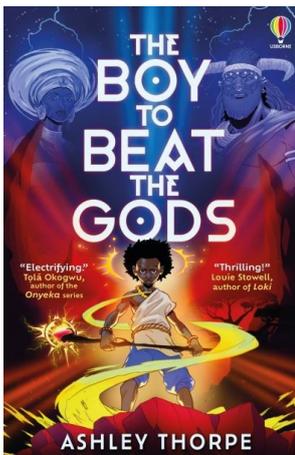
Part of a Story That Started Before Me' is an original and fascinating collection of poetry. History and personal experience, compiled by George the Poet, spoken word performer and social commentator. The collection takes you on a journey through history from the Romans to the New Millenium complimented by historical notes from Dr Christienna Fryar. Introducing readers to unsung people of the past and recognising the impact they have had on Britain today.



**Sanghani, Radhika      The Girl Who Couldn't Lie**

Usborne                  Pbk                  7.99                  9781805316749  
Interest age:          11+                                  Reading age:                  11+

Priya Shah lies a lot to everyone around her as she pretends everything in her life is perfect, so she doesn't disappoint anyone. But when she puts on a bangle left to her by her grandmother, who she was always honest with, she begins to find that she is totally unable to tell a single lie. Priya is convinced she is cursed, and totally mortified. She tells her dad she hates his cooking, she tells Dan Zhang about her huge crush on him, she shares her best friends' secrets at school. She can't get the bangle off, and she can't stop the truths pouring out of her. As more things go wrong, and Priya's truth-telling spirals out of control, can Priya learn to be honest without hurting the people she loves? Very relatable, warm, funny and sometimes amusingly excruciating young teen relationship story. Plenty of friendship scenarios will be all too familiar to some readers, and the magic element is just a device to create the drama. Very enjoyable leisure read.



**Thorpe, Ashley                  The Boy to Beat the Gods**

Usborne                  Pbk                  7.99                  9781805075639  
Interest age:          10+                                  Reading age:                  10

Kayode dreams of eating the forbidden fruit of the Orishas, so he can gain power and stop the gods who terrorise his people. When a fruit appears in front of him he leaps on it. He joins forces with a shapeshifting trickster god and a vengeful princess to save his sister, but his power won't last for ever. It's a story of one boy versus six gods. Exciting fantasy inspired by West African Yoruba mythology. Set in pre-colonial Nigeria and inspired by the author's ancestry.

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