Thompson, Lisa  
The Goldfish boy  
Scholastic  
Pbk  
6.99  
9781407170992  
Interest age: 10+  
Reading age: 10+  

12-year-old Matthew is trapped in his bedroom by crippling OCD. When the toddler next door goes missing, Matthew must turn detective and unravel the mystery of the disappearance with help from friends Melody and Jake. Excellent characters showing how suppressed grief can affect mental health and the consequences for family life and friendships.

Weston, Danny  
The Haunting of Jessop Rise  
Anderson Press  
Pbk  
7.99  
9781783444618  
Interest age: 11+  
Reading age: 11+  

Alone and penniless after his father is killed, fourteen-year-old William faces the rest of his childhood in a brutal workhouse. Then his long-estranged and wealthy Uncle Seth sends for him. But on arriving at Uncle Seth's grand house in North Wales, Jessop Rise, William finds himself caught up in a dark and terrifying mystery. Superb, gripping, and very spooky gothic horror tale, with excellent characterisation, and a well-written narrative that continually builds tension. Would suit boys or girls.

Niven, Jennifer  
Holding up the universe  
Penguin  
Pbk  
7.99  
9780141357058  
Interest age: 13+  
Reading age: 13+  

Jack suffers from a condition which means that he can't recognise faces at all. Jack hasn't told anyone about his condition, but now he is struggling. Libby is obese but now she has lost some weight and wants to try and go to school again. Told in alternating chapters by Libby and Jack, whose characters are very well drawn and hook you in from the very first chapter. Contains swearing and sexual references.

Dawson, Juno  
Margot and me  
Hot Key  
Pbk  
7.99  
9781471406089  
Interest age: 14+  
Reading age: 12+  

Fliss and her ill mother go to stay with her grandmother, Margot, in Wales - the grandmother who she doesn't get on with. Then Fliss discovers a diary Margot wrote as a teenage evacuee and Fliss begins to understand that Margot is someone she can admire which helps when Fliss is told that her mum is dying and she will be staying in Wales with her grandmother. Great characterisation that weaves the two stories together well. Bullying, sexual references and a little swearing.
Laird, Elizabeth  Welcome to nowhere
Macmillan  Pbk  6.99  9781509840472
Interest age:  11+  Reading age:  11+

Follows the journey of Omar, a 12-year-old refugee and his family who are forced to flee from their war-torn Syrian home, and find refuge in neighbouring Jordan. His youngest sister is seriously ill and admitted to hospital in the refugee camp where they find out that she has a serious undiagnosed heart problem. The book ends on a hopeful note. Easy to read story, but contains complex issues. Well worth reading.

Edge, Christopher  The Jamie Drake equation
Nosy Crow  Pbk  6.99  9780857638403
Interest age:  9+  Reading age:  9+

Jamie is an ordinary 11-year-old boy whose Dad is working on the International Space Station. Jamie worries about his safety but is equally fascinated by Space and sets out to explore what he thinks is a disused Observatory. However, it is there he meets Professor Forster and his adventures begin. A fascinating, thoughtful and humorous family sci-fi adventure.

Neilson, Susin  Word nerd
Anderson Press  Pbk  7.99  9781783444601
Interest age:  11+  Reading age:  11+

Ambrose Bukowski is a twelve-year-old who is home-schooled by his over protective mother. He strikes up an unlikely friendship with their landlord's son, Cosmo, an ex-con who's been in prison and had a drug habit. They have nothing in common except for Scrabble. A small deception grows out of control when Ambrose convinces a reluctant Cosmo to take him to a Scrabble club. A great read, which is well worth promoting.

Mayo, Simon  Blame
Corgi  Pbk  7.99  9780552569071
Interest age:  13+  Reading age:  13+

What happens when society wants you banged up in prison for a crime your parents committed? That's the situation in which Ant finds herself. None of the inmates are themselves criminals but tensions are high inside the prison. Ant calls home - and when things finally erupt, she realises she has got one chance to break out. A well-written, hard-hitting novel, which is extremely gripping. Some violence and swearing.

Bell, Alex  The haunting
Red eye  Pbk  6.99  9781847154583
Interest age:  13+  Reading age:  11+

Emma is confined to a wheelchair after a terrible accident which took place in her Gran's pub when she was 10. Seven years later she decides to return. But the ancient Waterwitch pub still has its ghosts, having been built from timber salvaged from a notorious shipwreck. And, as Emma soon discovers, some spirits will not rest until they have their revenge. An easy to read novel with short chapters, which is quite gory in parts, but would be enjoyed by fans of this genre. Some swearing.
Gibbons, Alan  The trap
Orion  Pbk  7.99  9781780622453
Interest age:  14+  Reading age:  12+
A young man who went to Syria to join ISIS returns to Britain to go undercover for MI5, while his family are forced to hide their identity. A shorter length teen novel about espionage, a missing brother and the war on terrorism. Spanning Iraq, Syria and England, the story grapples with one of the greatest challenges of our time. A powerful read with punchy text & short chapters, addressing pertinent themes & with no easy answers.

Weatherley, L.A.  Broken sky
Usborne  Pbk  8.99  9781409572022
Interest age:  14+  Reading age:  12+
Amity is a teen pilot, battling in one-on-one combat to maintain peace in a world where war has been replaced by dogfights. But when Amity discovers the regime is corrupt, she begins to question everything. Who can she trust? Set in a very different 1940’s America, this dystopian thriller is fast paced with good believable characters. An exciting read. Has been likened to “Divergent”. Some sexual references.

Welford, Ross  What not to do if you turn invisible
Harper Collins  Pbk  6.99  9780008156350
Interest age:  11+  Reading age:  10+
Turning invisible at will: it's one way of curing your acne. But far more drastic than 13 year-old Ethel Leatherhead intended when she tried a combination of untested medicines and a sunbed. It's fun at first, being invisible. However when one day the invisibility fails to wear off, Ethel is thrown into a nightmare of lies and deception as she struggles to keep herself safe, to find the remedy that will make her seen again - and solve the mystery of her own birth.

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