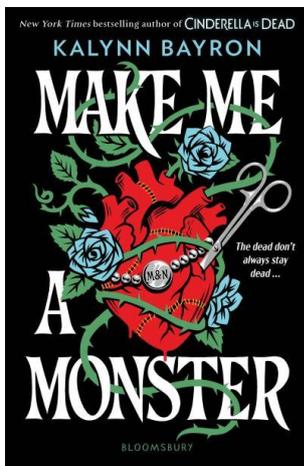


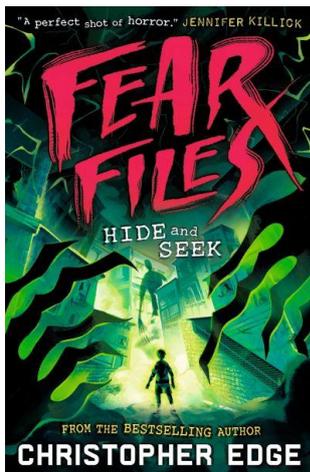
## Recommended Secondary Books Spring Term 2026



**Byron, Kalynn    Make Me A Monster**

Bloomsbury    Pbk    8.99    9781526680464  
Interest    14+    Reading age:    12+  
age:

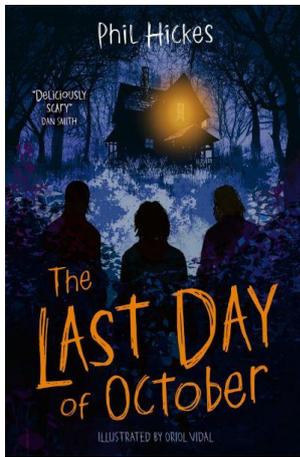
17 year old Meka is used to death. After all, it's the family business. As a mortician's assistant at her parents' funeral home, Meka is not squeamish. Luckily, her boyfriend Noah doesn't mind, and nor do her two best friends. Then tragedy strikes and Meka's world is torn apart. Nothing makes sense, especially when strange things start to happen: Strangers follow her. Mysterious items are left at her door. And worst of all, the dead don't seem to be staying dead. Meka thought she understood death better than anyone, but it turns out the family business is more complicated than it seemed. And Meka isn't the only one desperate to unearth their secrets, because the truth may be worth dying for. Dark and creepy tale for older teens referencing themes from "Frankenstein", great for horror fans.



**Edge, Christopher    Fear Files**

Walker    Pbk    7.99    \*9781529527377  
Interest    10+    Reading age:    9+  
age:

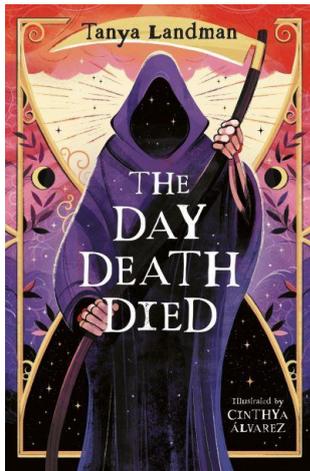
Adam didn't think his camping trip with his best friend, Sol, could get any worse. Stumbling upon an abandoned ghost town, they find themselves playing a strange game of hide and seek. But who or what is trying to find them? Can Adam stay one step ahead? Nobody knows who started 'The Darkive', a top-secret database of the unexplained. A database of first-hand accounts of strange unexplained experiences. Fast paced story with a strong eerie atmosphere and plenty of little twists. Short format has good appeal to less confident readers.



**Hickee, Phil                    The Last Day Of October**

Barrington    Pbk    7.99    9780008748517  
Stoke  
Interest        10+                    Reading age:        8/9+  
age:

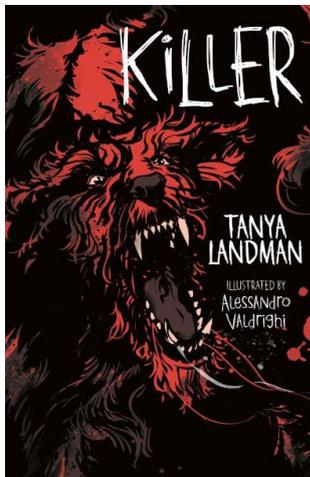
Seeking creepy thrills instead of candy, Cody and his friends set out on Halloween to search for the ruins of the haunted McBride House in the woods near his home in Oregon. The house has taken on a sinister legendary status after it burned down a hundred years ago with tragic consequences, and it's said that the ghosts of the family who lived there return each year on the last day of October. But when they find the house, the truth of what is happening on this eerie autumn night is more terrifying than the three teenagers could ever have imagined... Short but very creepy ghost story with a tense ending.



**Landman, Tanya                    The Day Death Died**

Barrington    Pbk    6.99    9780008764890  
Stoke  
Interest        11+                    Reading age:        6+  
age:

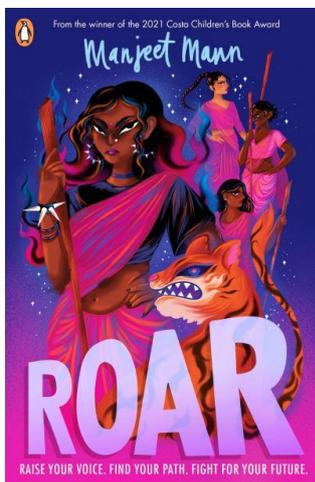
Jack's mum is ill and Jack is devastated when Death arrives to take her away. Jack doesn't want to let her go, so he fights back and drives Death away. But what consequences will there be when Death is banished from the world? An effective and thought provoking story in a very simple style , ideal for Hi-Lo teens.



**Landman, Tanya                    Killer**

Barrington    Pbk    6.99    9780008764906  
Stoke  
Interest        11+                    Reading age:        6+  
age:

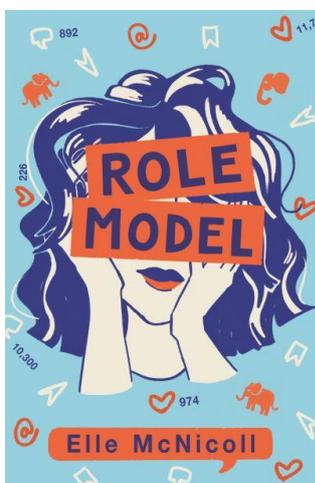
When the prince and his lady go out hunting, they leave their baby in the care of their faithful wolfhound, Gelert. But when they return, their baby is missing, and a horrific attack has taken place. What has happened and who will pay the price? Great retelling of this tragic Welsh myth in a very simple style , ideal for Hi-Lo teens.



### Mann, Manjeet      Roar

Penguin      Pbk      9.99      9780241647622  
 Interest      14+      Reading age:      12+  
 age:

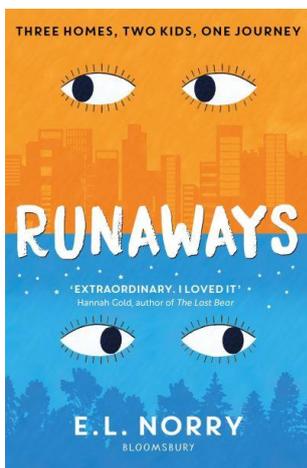
Rizu lives a comfortable life in the gated middle class suburbs of Delhi; her biggest worries are getting her homework done and keeping up with the mean girls at school. That is, until she's accused of being a witch and the hysteria that follows triggers a chain reaction. Alone and fearing for her life, Rizu runs away and joins a group of pink sari wearing, stick wielding women, known for their revenge vigilantism. Together they can help Rizu take back her life and seek justice against those who wronged her. Hard hitting verse novel with strong characters and covers a number of themes including discrimination, the caste system, mental health and female empowerment. Inspired by the activities of the Gulabi gang in Uttar Pradesh.



### McNicoll, Elle      Role Model

Knights of      Pbk      7.99      9781915820075  
 Interest      11+      Reading age:      10+  
 age:

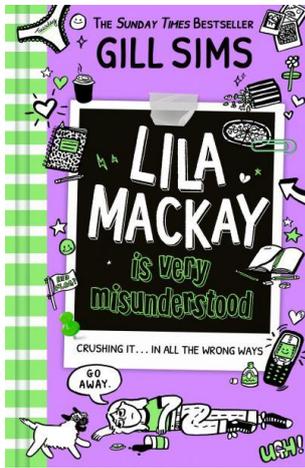
13 year old Aerial Sharpe has moved to a new house, a new city and a new school, and finding her new life very tough. The girls who are supposed to be her new friends, are not helping either. Then her mother is made Prime Minister, and suddenly Aerial is thrust in to the limelight to be a special neurodivergent role model for teenage Britain. How will she handle the eyes on her, and keep her sense of self? Short and pithy first person narrative which is a raw and close up exploration of neurodivergent young people's experience of big changes.



### Norry, E.L      Runaways

Bloomsbury      Pbk      7.99      9781526683335  
 Interest      11+      Reading age:      10+  
 age:

Jamie and July are both eleven-year-olds living in London - but they have very different lives. They meet for the first time at Waterloo Station in the last week of the holidays. They are both desperate to get away from home. July is really worried about her unreliable mum - she needs to get help. Jamie has done something terrible - and left in a panic. Despite their worries, the sun is shining and, as they escape everything they've left behind in the city. A very moving and very readable story, Jamie and July find themselves in very challenging but quite different family situations. Their paths cross unexpectedly, and they find support in each other.



**Sims, Gill**

Electric  
Monkey

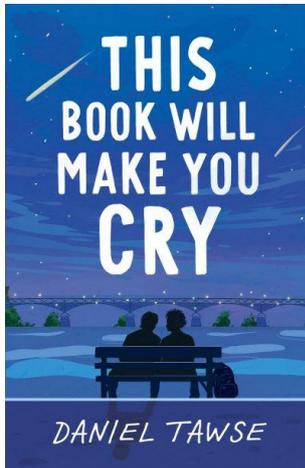
Interest 12+  
age:

14 year old Emily is gloomily spending the summer with her mum's best friend Uncle Tom, helping him renovate his house, without her broken phone and misplaced iPad. How is she supposed to survive without her tech, her BFF and her social life? No one understands her despair, least of all her mum and her uncle. Then she finds her mum's old diary. Massive cringe. But as Emily starts to read, she's stunned to discover that her mum was once a teenager too. A nineties teenager called Lila MacKay, who was very misunderstood. As Emily becomes more and more invested in Lila's teenage life, she begins to wonder if perhaps she and her mother are not so different after all. Very well observed humorous tale of family, relationships and growing up. Both the central characters of Emily and Lila are very well drawn and relatable, and there is a subtle underlying depth of empathy. Fun leisure read.

**Lila Mackay Is Very  
Misunderstood**

Pbk 9.99 9780008513788

Reading age: 11+



**Tawse, Daniel**

**This Book Will Make You Cry**

Hachette

Pbk

9.99 9781444971620

Interest 14+  
age:

Reading age: 12+

Last year, Iggy almost drowned on a magical Mediterranean holiday. Determined to piece together the fragments of their forgotten summer, they return to Europe to retrace their steps. But, when they bump in to the gorgeous but mysterious Roscoe, Iggy realises that this trip is the perfect chance to make new memories. But as their summer romance comes to an end in Paris, will this be the start of a new life for Iggy and Roscoe, or their last chance to say goodbye? Compelling characters and immersive plot, which covers strong themes of PTSD, mental health, identity and bullying. The first person narrative tone really draws the reader but also helps to keep a light touch on the deep issues covered.

**You can buy these books for your classroom or school library from Peters Library suppliers**

Register for a login at <https://peters.co.uk/register> and qualify for a **30%** discount. Enter the voucher code 'INSP30' before submitting the order. Books will be delivered and invoiced direct to school. For further details and contact information, visit <https://peters.co.uk/>

**Education Library Service, Inspire HQ, Glaisdale Parkway, Nottingham NG8 4GP**

**Tel: 0115 804 4499**

**E-mail: [elsg@inspireculture.org.uk](mailto:elsg@inspireculture.org.uk)**