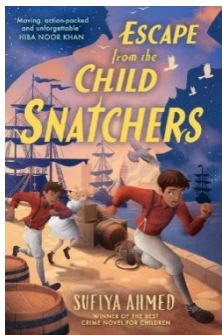


## Recommended Primary Books

### Summer Term 2026

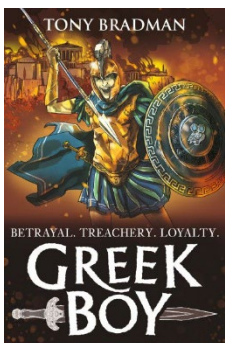


Ahmed, Sufiya      *Escape from the Child Snatchers*

Andersen Press      Pbk      £7.99      9781839136511

Interest age: 9+      Reading age: 9+

Early 1900s India, Humza and his friend Ranj are on a mission to bring back Dani, Humza's elder brother who went missing in London two years ago, so they stow away on a big ship bound for England. Once the boys arrive at the London docks, they are greeted by a seemingly kind English gentleman, who ushers them into an inn. There they meet the innkeeper's daughter, Daisy, who warns the boys to run - they've been taken by the child snatcher. And so begins a nail-biting adventure across London. Can the boys stay out of the clutches of the child snatcher? And can they ever find Dani and bring him back home? Fast-paced, quite short adventure tale with plenty of plot twists and short chapters. The boys are very engaging characters and the narrative really keeps the reader turning the pages.

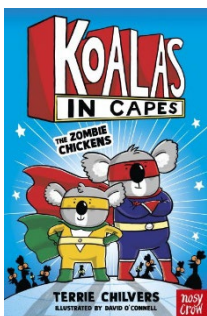


Bradman, Tony      *Greek Boy*

Walker      Pbk      £7.99      9781529522136

Interest age: 10+      Reading age: 9+

Nikos lives in Athens as war is brewing with the Persians. When his politician father is expelled and accused of spying for the enemy, and the Persians invade Greece, Nikos and his family are also expelled. Nikos then takes the dangerous decision to go undercover in the Persian army to clear his father's name. His quest for the truth takes him from the burning of Athens to the famous battles of Salamis and Platea. Gripping historical novel with excellent characterisation and a strong sense of the harsh and brutal violence of the times.

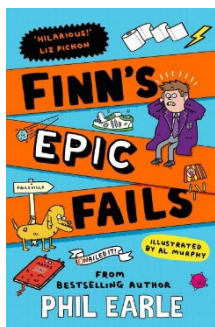


Chilvers, Terrie      *The Zombie Chickens*

Nosy Crow      Pbk      £7.99      9781805132202

Interest age: 7+      Reading age: 7+

Bob and Archie are two enthusiastic koalas who are just getting to grips with their new superpowers. But, Pawtopia is being terrorised by an army of Zombie Chickens created by the evil Dr Colossus. Can our furry heroes thwart the feathered supervillain? Will the local kangatroopers police force be on their side if they do? Silly superhero adventure for young emergent independent readers.



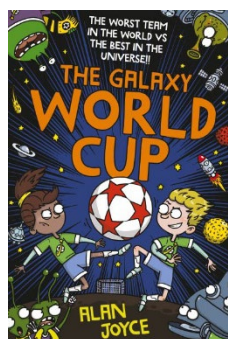
Earle, Phil Finn's Epic Fails  
Simon & Schuster Pbk £7.99 9781398546165  
Interest age: 10+ Reading age: 10+

Finn just wants to survive Year 7, but his life is destined to be a series of epic fails. It's only Tuesday and his scheming, unicorn-obsessed little sister has already stuck a horn to his head with superglue, and his properly evil older brother has wedged him 278 times. Don't even ask what happened at swimming, in front of the whole class. At least he has best friends Laszlo and Google by his side as he attempts to turn failure into victory. A very humorous, light-hearted first person 'diary' that deals with some serious issues surrounding family, friendship and school life. Could be a great read for Wimpy Kid or Tom Gates fans.



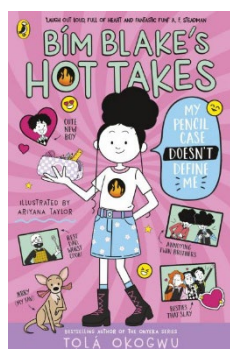
Hussain, Iqbal The Night I Borrowed Time  
Penguin Pbk £8.99 9780241742624  
Interest age: 10+ Reading age: 9+

Eleven-year-old Zubair is a seventh son and this means a lot of big brothers. But when Zubair's granny arrives from Pakistan and gives him a mysterious amulet, he discovers he has also inherited the gift of time-travel. With his dad a shadow of his former self since his car accident, and his mum always tired and angry, Zubair has a genius idea. He'll use time-travel to fix things between them. But each trip comes at a cost. If he changes something small in the past, it can have a huge effect on his future. And if he gets it wrong, the results could be devastating. Fast-paced tale which manages successfully to mix family drama with the history of partition in India. The consequences of decisions and actions are well handled, and this helps to keep the reader engaged. The central character is also very relatable. Overall an enjoyable and intriguing leisure read.



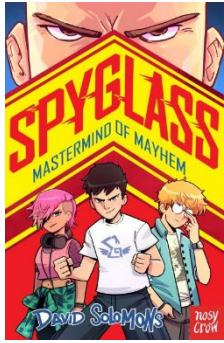
Joyce, Alan The Galaxy World Cup  
Scholastic Pbk £7.99 9781917171366  
Interest age: 7+ Reading age: 7+

When aliens mistake Nick and his friends for the world's greatest football players, they are taken across the Milky Way to compete in a football tournament against a bizarre array of real aliens. But, the only problem is, they really are the very worst five-a-side football team in the world, ever. Can they pull together as a team, and actually score some goals? Very silly adventure tale with a cast of misfit characters that the reader will really root for.



Okogwu, Tola My Pencil Case Doesn't Define Me  
Penguin Pbk £8.99 9780241761458  
Interest age: 10+ Reading age: 9+

Bim Blake has just started Year 7 and is learning how to navigate all the new expectations of skirt length, pencil case coolness and cute boys. It is all a lot harder than she thought it would be. Then she also has to cope with her dad behaving weirdly, her three annoying older brothers, two of her aunts having a family feud and friendship dramas. Life feels like chaos. Light-hearted diary style transition novel with a relatable central character and everyday woes that readers will recognise. Good leisure read.



Solomons, David      Mastermind of Mayhem

Nosy Crow      Pbk      £7.99      9781805132363

Interest age: 9+      Reading age: 9+

When Adam and his friends accidentally reveal the secret location of ex-MI6 quartermaster, Professor Goodspeed, they don't expect supervillains to turn up on their doorstep, looking for his most dangerous invention. Drawn into a dastardly plot, the friends must rescue the Professor and take on evil Dr Toe and all his henchmen to boot. Fast-paced spoof spy tale with plenty of humour and daring-do which would be enjoyed by any young reader.

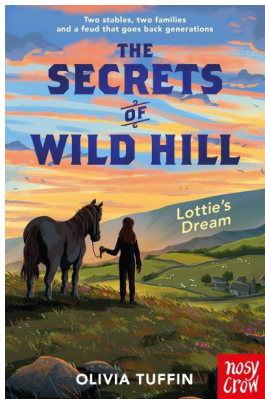


Sparkes, Amy      The Unchosen One

Walker      Pbk      £7.99      9781529525700

Interest age: 9+      Reading age: 9+

Tassie has grown up in the Citadel, carefully protected by her guardian. But, she longs for adventure and excitement. So, when the Wisest of the Wise Witches comes to visit and proclaims her the Chosen One, destined to save her people from death and destruction, Tassie is overjoyed. However, it doesn't actually mean adventure. So, Tassie decides to go on a quest for an alternative Chosen One, ably assisted by her best friend Spin the griffin and a rather slippery elf. What can possibly go wrong as they are pursued by wraiths and time is running out? Humorous fantasy tale with a very likeable central character, and plenty of madcap escapades and twists and turns in the plot to keep the reader's attention throughout. Set for a sequel.



Tuffin, Olivia      Lottie's Dream

Nosy Crow      Pbk      £7.99      9781805137641

Interest age: 10+      Reading age: 9+

Lottie Manderson is passionate about horse riding, and will do anything to spend time at her grandparents' stables, Wild Hill, with her much-adored pony, Patch. But then Lottie's grandad has an accident and it becomes very clear that the yard at Wild Hill is facing financial disaster. It seems that the only person Lottie can really talk to is Felix, the quiet, rich boy from the stables behind the high fence. But whose side is he on and can she even trust him knowing that he's the grandson of her family's worst enemy? Super relationship drama which could be enjoyed by even the least horse-mad reader. Lottie is a very relatable character, and the internal family relationships, as well as the tension of an inter-family feud create intrigue and drama to keep readers engaged.