

Education Library Service Recommended Secondary Fiction Autumn Term 2017

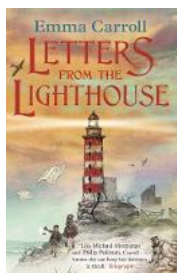


Bell, Alex

The Haunting

Red Eye	PBK	6.99	9781847154583
Interest age:	13+		Reading age: 11+

Seven years ago, when Emma was ten, she was in the cellar of her Gran's haunted pub, "The Waterwitch", when a wall collapsed. She has been in a wheelchair ever since. When Emma returns to the pub she is surprised to find a couple of her friends squatting there. Will they be able to help her get the evil witch back into a bottle before she harms anyone else? 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.

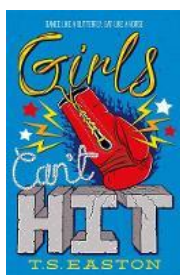


Carroll, Emma

Letters from The Lighthouse

Faber & Faber	PBK	6.99	9780571327584
Interest age:	10+		Reading age: 10+

After months of bombing raids in London, twelve-year-old Olive Bradshaw and her little brother Cliff are evacuated to the Devon coast with Mr Ephraim, the local lighthouse keeper. But he's not used to company and he certainly doesn't want any evacuees. Sukie, their older sister, went missing in an air raid just before they left London and Olive is desperate to discover what happened to her. When she finds a strange coded note which seems to link Sukie to Devon, Olive starts to untangle a secret mystery. A brilliant WW2 story about evacuation with a true sense of mystery and adventure.

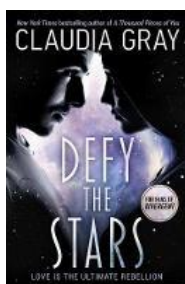


Easton, T.S.

Girls can't hit

Hot Key	PBK	6.99	9781471406102
Interest age:	12+		Reading age: 12+

Fleur Waters never takes anything seriously - until she turns up at her local boxing club one day, just to prove a point. She's the only girl there, and the warm-up alone is exhausting but the workout gives her an escape from home and rare glow of satisfaction. She goes back the next week, determined to improve. Fleur's overprotective mum and her friends don't get it, but Fleur realises that sometimes in life it's better to drop your guard and take a wild swing! Engaging story about friendship and feminism. Themes well hidden in a humorous dialogue and great characters. Occasional swearing



Gray, Claudia

Defy the stars

Hot Key	PBK	7.99	9781471406362
Interest age:	13+		Reading age: 12+

Noemi is a young and fearless soldier of Genesis, a colony planet of a dying Earth. But the citizens of Genesis are rising up - they know that Earth's settlers will only destroy their planet the way they have destroyed their own. And so a terrible war has begun. When Noemi meets Abel, one of Earth's robotic Mech warriors, he is bound by his programming to obey her - even though her plan could result in his destruction. But has begun to develop emotions, a personality and even dreams. Great sci-fi novel which explores the nature of being human.

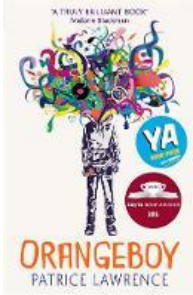


Hamill, Christine

The Best Medicine

Little Island PBK 6.99 9781910411513
Interest age: 11+ Reading age: 10+

12-year-old Philip manages to ride the ups and downs of life with plenty of humour. He idolises comedian Harry Hill, and this helps him put up with his teachers, "Yeti" the bully, and even his unrequited love for the perfect Lucy. However, when his mother develops breast cancer, and undergoes treatment, Philip struggles to cope. To make matters worse, Harry Hill doesn't reply to any of his letters for help, or so it seems. Superbly realistic narrative with excellent characterisation, hilariously funny, very touching and easy to read. Short chapters which pull the reader along. Would appeal to boys or girls. Well worth promoting.

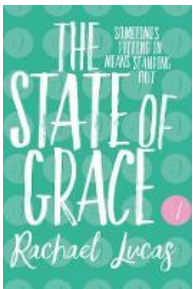


Lawrence, Patrice

Orangeboy

Hodder PBK 7.99 9781444927207
Interest age: 14+ Reading age: 14+

Sixteen-year-old Marlon has made his mum a promise - he'll never follow his big brother, Andre, down the wrong path into violence and gangs. So far, it's been easy, but when a date ends in tragedy, Marlon finds himself hunted. They're after the mysterious Mr Orange, and they're going to use Marlon to get to him. Marlon's out of choices - can he become the person he never wanted to be, to protect everyone he loves? Fast paced thriller with well-drawn characters and a strong sense of place and menace. On Costa Children's Book Award 2016 Shortlist, Waterstones Children's Book Prize Shortlist 2017 and YA Book Prize Shortlist 2017

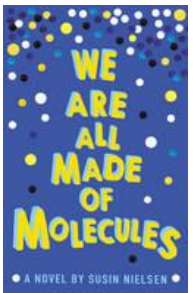


Lucas, Rachel

The State of Grace

Macmillan PBK 6.99 9781509839551
Interest age: 12+ Reading age: 12+

Fifteen-year-old Grace is funny and plain-spoken. She has Asperger's but just wants to fit in, so when it turns out that the cutest boy in school likes her, she finds herself falling in with the cool crowd. However her dad is away from home and her mum is distracted so there is no one at home to see Grace's younger sister spiralling out of control, binge-drinking on cider, culminating in her hospitalisation. The story is easy to read and compelling. The characterisation is great and captures teenage awkwardness well. The plot is relatable and emotions are well described. A good story for the girls and great to have the main character as a girl with Asperger's.



Nielson, Susin

We are all made of molecules

Andersen Press PBK 7.99 9781783443765
Interest age: 13+ Reading age: 12+

Stewart is 13 & academically brilliant, but socially clueless. Ashley is 14 she's the 'It' Girl in her class, but her grades aren't good. Her dad has come out, left her and her Mum and moved out - then Stewart and his dad move in with Ashley and her mum. Things get a whole lot more mixed up when they both attract the attention of school hunk Jared. An accessible story told in alternate chapters from Stewart and Ashley's point of view. The characters are extremely engaging with humour throughout.

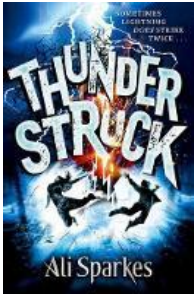


Sloan, Holly Goldberg

Short

Scholastic PBK 6.99 9781407177472
Interest age: 10+ Reading age: 10+

Julia is very short for her age, and this causes her lots of worry. However, when she is chosen to spend her summer holiday playing a munchkin in a theatre production of the Wizard of Oz she begins to look at life differently. Julia becomes friendly with Olive who is an adult actor with dwarfism who doesn't let her size define her. Julia is challenged by her experiences and begins to grow on the inside. Very engaging, uplifting tale for thoughtful girl readers. Excellent characterisation, and strong first person narrative voice.

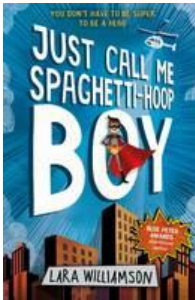


Sparkes, Ali

Thunderstruck

O.U.P	PBK	6.99	9780192739360
Interest age:	10-13	Reading age:	10+

A contemporary school ghost story with time travel to the 1970s and the medieval period of the plague. Theo and Alisha get struck by lightning but survive, and from then on they both seem to have the ability see Doug and Lizzie, young ghosts who died during a lightning strike in the same place but in the summer of 1976. The four of them create a group the 'Strike Club'. However, things start to get even more strange with further disturbing and ghostly happenings from a much further distant past.



Williamson, Lara

Just call me Spaghetti-Hoop Boy

Usborne	PBK	6.99	9781474921305
Interest age:	10+	Reading age:	10+

Adam Butters is 11 years old and is adopted. He is happy with his adopted family but decides he is going to search for his birth mother. He likes eating spaghetti hoops and is determined to be a superhero, particularly as he has found out that before he was adopted his mum named him ACE. He believes everyone loves superheroes as they solve problems and make people happy and feels his adopted mum needs cheering up. Great characters who are totally believable. The descriptions of family life made me laugh. A hopeful, uplifting ending.

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angie.jacks@inspireculture.org.uk

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