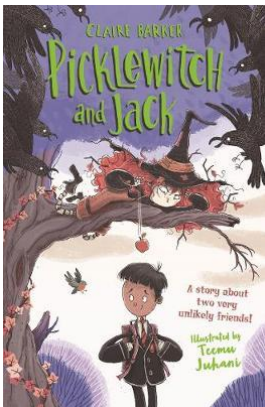


Education Library Service Recommended Primary Fiction Spring Term 2019

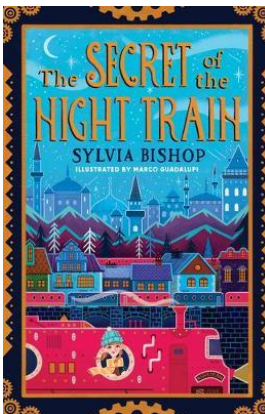


Barker, Claire **Picklewitch and Jack**

Faber and Faber Pbk 6.99 9780571335183
Interest age: 7+ Reading age: 7-9

Picklewitch lives at the bottom of Jack's garden and is determined that Jack is going to be her friend, she gets Jack into a lot of trouble, often without meaning it. Jack becomes very frustrated and wishes she would just disappear, however when she does he realises life is much more fun with Picklewitch around. Picklewitch has her own 'witch' language and ways of spelling! Dictionary at the back of the book.

Very useful for Early young readers, excellent for promoting Reading for Pleasure. First in what promises to be an excellent series.

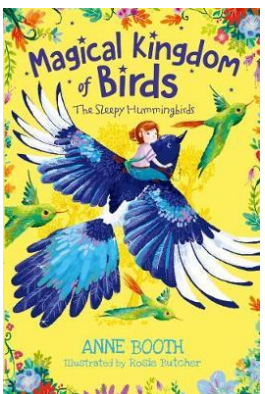


BISHOP, Sylvia **The secret of the night train**

Scholastic Pbk 6.99 9781407184401
Interest age: 9+ Reading age: 10+

Max volunteers to travel to Istanbul from Paris to care for her poorly Great-Aunt Elodie. The first surprise is that the journey turns out to be by train. The second surprise is that, because she is only 11, she is given a very eccentric nun as a travelling companion. But the third surprise is that the mysterious Heartbreak Diamond has been stolen, and is reputed to be on the very train Max is using. Max is soon plunged in to the world of undercover detectives, and skulduggery, and finds how resourceful she can be.

Super, rather quirky mystery tale for girls, with a variety of outlandish and entertaining characters. There is plenty of humour and mystery, and the reader is unlikely to work out the perpetrators. Great fun, but probably needs an experienced reader.



Booth, Anne **Sleepy hummingbirds**

OUP Pbk 5.99 9780192766212
Interest age: 7+ Reading age: 7+

Maya is given a lovely colouring book by her elder sister who is leaving home. As soon as she begins to colour the pages, she is magically transported to a beautiful realm filled with magnificent birds and their fairy friends. But the kingdom is in trouble because the evil Lord Astor has taken over the realm from Princess Willow, and Maya as Keeper of the Book is the only one who can help.

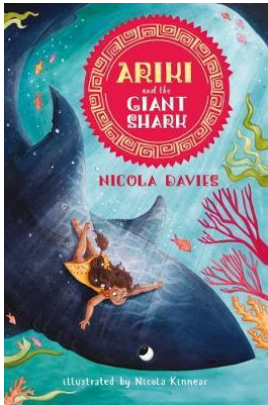
Pleasant tale for emergent girl readers. Central character is good, and it is a bit more substantial than "Rainbow fairies". Easy leisure read with black and white illustrations throughout.



BRIGGS, Andy Drone Racer

Scholastic Pbk 6.99 9781407188423
Interest age: 9+ Reading age: 9+

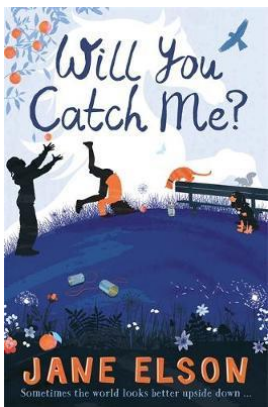
Carson and his friends spend all their spare time and money racing drones. When they find an abandoned drone in a scrapyards, they realise that they are in with a chance of winning a big competition with a large cash prize. The only problem is, the drone has been built for military use, and apart from having a mind of its own, is wanted by government agents, who will take drastic measures to get it back. There is plenty of action and descriptions of races. The character of the drone is charming, but the book will probably appeal more to fans of the sport.



DAVIES, Nicola Ariki and the giant shark

Walker Pbk 5.99 9781406369793
Interest age: 7+ Reading age: 8+

Ariki lives on a Polynesian island and feels most at home in the sea swimming with all the creatures there. But, one day Ariki discovers a giant shark swimming at the edge of the reef, and then when it is joined by many other smaller ones the island's fishermen are too afraid to go out to sea. Without fish the people will starve. Can Ariki and her friends save the day? First in an excellent series for younger readers. Probably would appeal to the girls in particular as Ariki is a well-drawn feisty character, although there are male characters as well. Really good to have a story that has a subtle environmental feel, but also a timeless dash of myth and legend about it.



ELSON, Jane Will you catch me?

Hodder Pbk 6.99 9781444927788
Interest age: 9+ Reading age: 9+

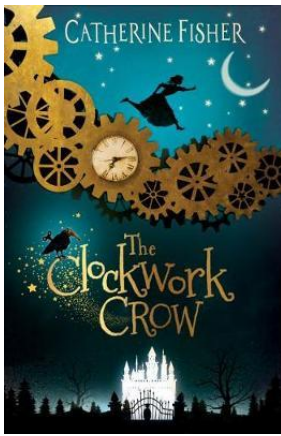
Nell's mum is an alcoholic, and so Nell spends a lot of time in the flat on her own, not only looking after herself, but also her mum when she comes home drunk. Nell is helped by the caring next-door neighbour, Aunty Lou, but knows that the situation can't continue. More than anything Nell wants to find her dad, but her mum won't talk about him. In sheer desperation Nell hatches a plan to find him. By the time Nell puts the plan into operation, her mum is in hospital and the truth has come out. Told from Nell's point of view, the reader feels empathy towards Nell and her situation. The only thing which grated slightly, was Nell seeing and hearing both King Charles and Nell Gwyn, sometimes actually talking to her.



FAYERS, Claire Mirror Magic

Macmillan Pbk 6.99 9781509870066
Interest age: 9+ Reading age: 9+

When their parents die, Ava and her brother Matthew have to go and live in Wyse, the only town left in Britain with a connection to the magical Unworld. Ava accidentally breaks a mirror, and discovers that she has a connection with a boy called Howell, who lives in Unwyse on the other side of the mirror. There are some magicians in Wyse who can order the fair Folk on the other side to send them enchanted goods to sell, but the magic is disappearing, and no-one knows why. Ava and Howell learn that they are the guardians of a very important, if somewhat sarcastic magic book. This puts them in a dangerous situation in both worlds. The jeopardy is balanced well with touches of humour, which should appeal to both boys and girls.

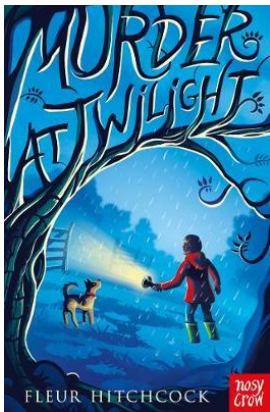


FISHER, Catherine

The Clockwork Crow

Firefly Pbk 6.99 9781910080849
Interest age: 8+ Reading age: 9+

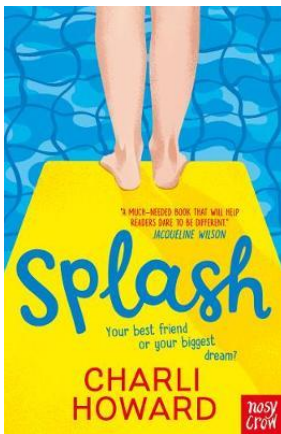
After being orphaned over 12 years ago, Seren Rhys is finally heading to Wales to live with her godfather, his wife and son Tomos. On the way there she is given a newspaper parcel by a stranger late at night in a freezing Victorian train station. The stranger disappears and so she takes the parcel with her. However, when she arrives at her godfather's house, he and his family aren't there and the housekeeper refuses to talk about what has happened. Armed with a talking clockwork bird who might not be telling the truth, and a magical snow globe, Seren sets off on a scary journey into an enchanted world of snow and stars to solve the mystery and restore happiness to Plas-y-Fran. A rather simplistic story which is very easy to read, but has just enough jeopardy to keep the reader interested.



Hitchcock, Fleur Murder at Twilight

Nosy Crow Pbk 6.99 9781788000628
Interest age: 10 Reading age: 10

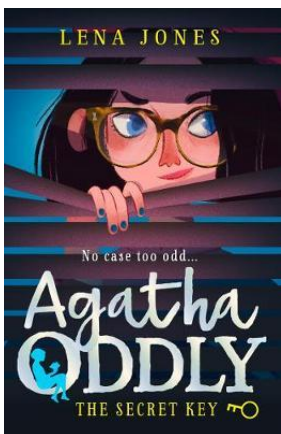
When Viv has a fight with Noah, she doesn't think it'll be the last time she sees him. Her Mum is his nanny. Noah lives a privileged life and she and her Mum live nearby. The two have grown up together, but go to different schools. When she gets back from school, he's nowhere to be found and there are police cars everywhere. Viv goes in search of Noah, wondering if he's run away to get attention. However, he's been kidnapped, and the floodwater is rising. The two of them must escape. There are moments of peril and a minor character is shot. Suitable for top juniors but some may prefer to shelve in teen collections. A tense thriller and at times keeps the reader on the edge of your seat.



Howard, Charli Splash

Nosy Crow Pbk 6.99 9781788001700
Interest age: 10+ Reading age: 10+

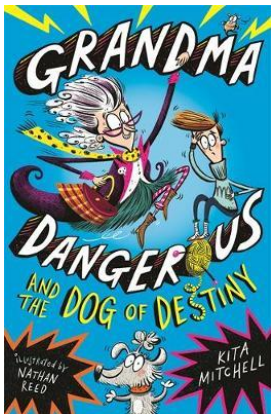
Molly a year-6 girl trains to compete in a swimming championship while dealing with friendship and family issues. Molly is in her final year of primary school, with secret dreams of becoming an Olympic swimmer. Having always lived in the shadow of her manipulative friend, Chloe, Molly finally has the chance to compete in a regional swimming contest and define herself on her own terms. But with the pressure of fitting in, and the sudden arrival of her mysterious mum, will she give up on her dreams for a shot at popularity? A very quick and easy to read but well written book, dealing with issues of body image, family friends and transition to Secondary School.



JONES, Lena The Secret Key

HarperCollins Pbk 6.99 9780008211837
Interest age: 9+ Reading age: 9+

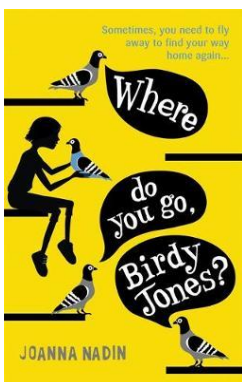
The first in a new series about a young girl called Agatha Oddlow, who is a keen amateur detective. She lives with her dad in Hyde Park, and is just going to school one morning, when she witnesses a woman being run down by a motorbike. She suspects the incident was deliberate, and after tracking the woman down, she finds out that the woman knew Agatha's mother. When a mysterious red slime infiltrates London's water system, Agatha is certain it is connected, and despite warnings, she sets off to investigate. Despite a fair amount of jeopardy, the plot is quite light and easy to follow.



Mitchell, K **Grandma Dangerous and the Dog of Destiny**

Hachette Pbk 6.99 9781408355060
Interest age: 7+ Reading age: 7+

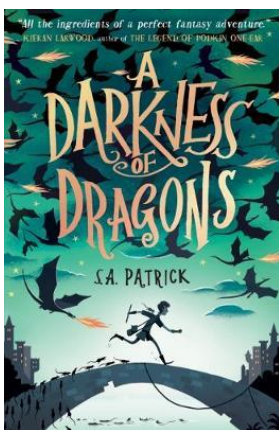
A highly amusing, adventure story. Ollie's Dad is an Explorer and he has gone missing on his last expedition. Ollie's mum receives some information regarding his whereabouts and sets off for Australia and leaves Grandma in charge. Grandma is quite eccentric, and has some very wacky ideas. Grandma, Ollie, Piper and Rose, (Grandma's recently acquired dog, with magical powers), set off in a hot air balloon and thirty packets of biscuits to find Ollie's Dad in Australia. Great for Reading for pleasure, first in a new series.



Nadin, Joanna **Where do you go Birdy Jones?**

Hachette Pbk 6.99 9781510201262
Interest age: 10+ Reading age: 10+

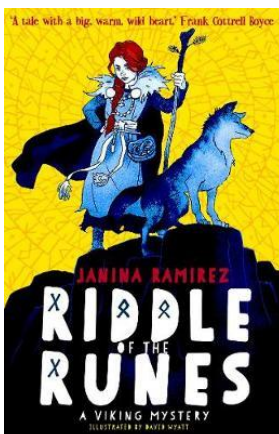
Eleven-year-old Birdy feels alone and as though she doesn't belong at home, or school. Her sanctuary is at her Grandad's pigeon loft, with Dogger, her only friend. A contemporary tale about finding yourself, dealing with loss, new beginnings, the importance of family and communication.



Patrick, S.A. **A darkness of dragons**

Usborne Pbk 6.99 9781474945677
Interest age: 10+ Reading age: 10+

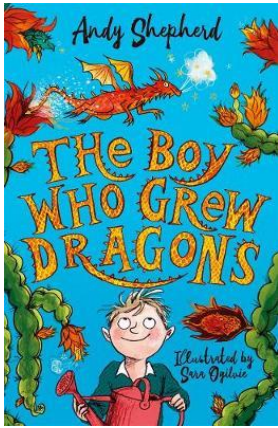
After playing a forbidden spell-song to save a village from rats, 12-year-old apprentice piper Patch Brightwater is thrown in jail. One of the rats he tried to rid the village of turns out to be Wren - a girl under a rat-shaped curse. Together they befriend Barver, a fearsome dracogriff, and set off on a grand adventure filled with sorcerers, dragons, bandits - and one very deadly enemy. An extension of the Pied Piper story which builds on the original story well. Good character description and fast-moving plot. A few gory moments in the dungeon when the man everyone believes is the Pied Piper is burnt by the dragons but no graphic descriptions. First in a series.



Ramirez, Janina **Riddle of the Runes**

OUP Pbk 6.99 9780192766335
Interest age: 8+ Reading age: 9+

Alva is a young girl living in a Viking village. Her father has gone overseas looking for new lands to discover and invade. Meanwhile, two strangers have arrived at her village, with a mysterious casket covered in Viking runes. When the strangers go missing, Alva is determined to help her uncle solve the mystery of the runes, and possibly find some treasure. Written by a historian, this has an excellent sense of time and place. However, the plot and writing style is somewhat stilted. Could be useful for project collections.



SHEPHERD, Andy The Boy Who Grew Dragons

Piccadilly Pbk 5.99 9781848126497
Interest age: 8+ Reading age: 8+

When Tomas takes home a strange fruit that has been growing in his grandad's garden, he is shocked when the fruit suddenly bursts open and a baby dragon pops out. He calls the dragon Flicker and decides he is going to try and keep it, hopefully without his parents finding out. This proves to be quite a challenge, as the dragon soon learns to fly, and deposits exploding poo as it does so. Eventually Tomas confides in his friends who decide that they all want a dragon, and so they all have to camp out in his grandad's garden until the dragon fruit is ripe.

Good characterisation, particularly Tomas's younger sister and Flicker.
Accompanied by fun black and white illustrations throughout.

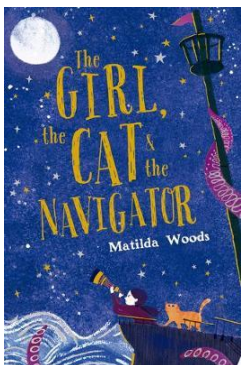


Webb, Holly Chloe Centre Stage

Stripes Pbk 5.99 9781847159496
Interest age: 8+ Reading age: 8+

Chloe has just started at the world-famous Shine School for the Performing Arts. It's like a dream come true. She only hopes she will make friends and make her parents proud. But things don't always go according to plan.

A new series which should be popular with LKS2 girls, particularly those with an interest in singing or dancing.



Woods, Matilda The Girl, the Cat and the Navigator

Scholastic Pbk 6.99 9781407184906
Interest age: 10+ Reading age: 10+

Oona is part of a big family of girls and stows away on her Dad's whaling ship in search of adventure on the Northern ocean. Danger is all around; the crew, the sea and a creature from the deep.

Strong female lead character. The story is unusual with a fairy tale twist.

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

To obtain a login for Petranet, their on-line ordering system, and qualify for a **26%** discount, contact Angie Jacks - angie.jacks@inspireculture.org.uk

Books will be delivered and invoiced direct to school.

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

Tel: 0115 985 4200

E-mail: elsg@inspireculture.org.uk