

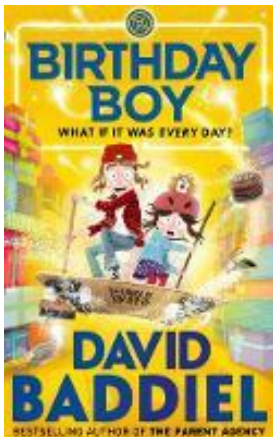
## Education Library Service Recommended Primary Fiction Autumn Term 2018



**Anderson, Sophie    The House with Chicken Legs**

Usborne            Pbk    6.99    9781474940665  
Interest age:    9+            Reading age:    9+

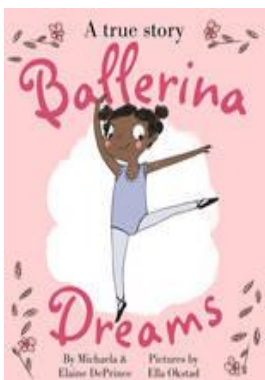
Marinka's house is enchanted, it has chicken legs and moves on without warning. She dreams of a normal life, but believes she is the granddaughter of Baba Yaga and her destiny is to guide spirits through The Gate between this world and the next. Marinka longs to change her destiny and sets out to break free from her grandmother's footsteps, but her house has other ideas. A well written fantasy story which re-imagines the Slavic folktales of Baba Yaga. It touches on issues such as loneliness, death and your destiny. Had a lot of promotion on Twitter and may be useful for reading groups.



**Baddiel, David            Birthday Boy**

HarperCollins    Pbk    6.99    9780008200510  
Interest age:    9+            Reading age:    9+

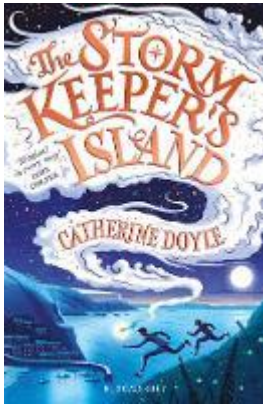
On Sam's 11th birthday he sees a shooting star wishes that it could be his birthday every day. The next morning his parents bring him a birthday breakfast and some presents. This continues every day, until his parents run out of money, and Sam's room is full of unwanted presents. As his 12th birthday approaches, Sam's grandad goes missing, but the police and everyone else are so busy planning surprises for his various other birthdays, that they don't have time to look for his grandad. Sam decides that he doesn't want it to be his birthday every day, and tries to find where the shooting star had landed, so he can reverse the wish. With help from his sister and pet guinea pig, Sam finds his grandad, and suddenly his birthdays are forgotten. Amusing story, which has occasional black and white illustrations.



**DePrince, Michaela & Elaine            Ballerina dreams**

Faber                    Pbk    6.99    9780571329731  
Interest age:    6+            Reading age:    7+

At the age of 3, Michaela DePrince found a photo of a ballerina that changed her life. She was living in an orphanage in Sierra Leone at the time, but was soon adopted by a family and brought to America. Michaela never forgot that photo of the dancer and decided to make her dream of being a ballerina come true. She has been dancing ever since, and after a spell as a principal dancer in New York, now dances for the Dutch National Ballet in Amsterdam. Simple story for young children. Good for aspiration, black and women achievers.



**Doyle, Catherine      The Storm Keeper's Island**

Bloomsbury      Pbk      6.99      9781408896884  
 Interest age:      9+      Reading age:      10+

Celtic myth story transporting 11-year-old Dublin kid Fionn Boyle out of the present and into several pasts on an island humming with otherworldly force. Fionn's grandfather holds the evil sorceress Morrigan at bay with candles full of memories. When Fionn sets foot on Arranmore Island, he is drawn in to the magical legacy of his family, and the ongoing battle between the Morrigan and Dagda. The time has come for Fionn's grandfather to step down. Soon, a new Storm Keeper will rise. As a battle rages, over who will become the island's next champion, a more sinister magic is waking up, intent on rekindling an ancient war. Well written story, with more to follow.



**Durrant, S.E.      Running on empty**

Nosy Crow      Pbk      6.99      9780857637406  
 Interest age:      10+      Reading age:      10+

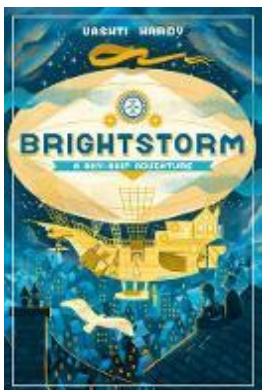
AJ's grandfather has always been the one to keep his unusual family together, so when he dies things start to unravel at the edges. AJ is worried about his parents (they both have learning difficulties) as they don't really seem to notice. In order to deal with his grief and to keep his anxiety at bay, AJ does what he and his grandfather did best: running. Only AJ seems to be heading ever closer to disaster as he tries to cope with keeping the family together. Warm family story but minimal plot.



**Foxlee, Karen      A most magical girl**

Piccadilly      Pbk      5.99      9781848125759  
 Interest age:      9+      Reading age:      10+

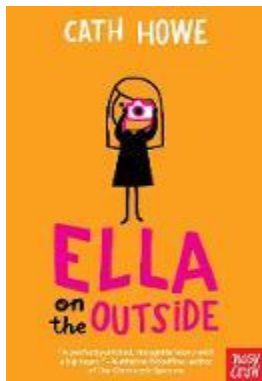
After the rather sudden departure of her mother, Annabel is sent to live with her aunts. They claim to be Shoreditch witches from a very old family line. They're keen to introduce Annabel to their world of transformation, potions and broomsticks but are horrified when Annabel announces that young ladies shouldn't believe in such things. However, Annabel is swept into an urgent quest to recover the Morever Wand, needed to defeat the evil Mr Angel who has built a Dark Magic machine and plans on turning the world Dark. Can Annabel, with the urchin girl Kitty save the world in time? Good world building and characterisation from the beginning. NOTE : There are some scenes of violence and death, which are not gruesomely described or dwelt on, but may upset more sensitive readers.



**Hardy, Vashti      Brightstorm**

Scholastic      Pbk      6.99      9781407181707  
 Interest age:      9+      Reading age:      9+

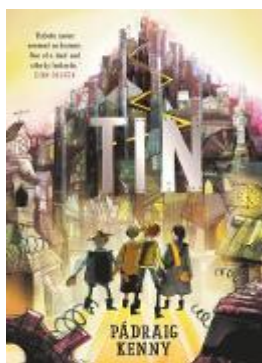
Twins Arthur and Maudie receive word in Lontown that their famous explorer father died in a failed attempt to reach South Polaris. Also he's been accused of trying to steal fuel from his competitors! The twins don't believe the news, and they answer an ad to help crew a new exploration in the hope of learning the truth and salvaging their family's reputation. As the winged ship Aurora sets sail, the twins must keep their wits about them and prove themselves worthy of the rest of the crew. A debut novel which may have a sequel and is a rollicking fantasy adventure story with believable characters. Great story which may be useful for reading groups.



**Howe, Cath**                      **Ella on the outside**

Nosy Crow              Pbk    6.99    9781788000338  
 Interest age:        9+                      Reading age:        9+

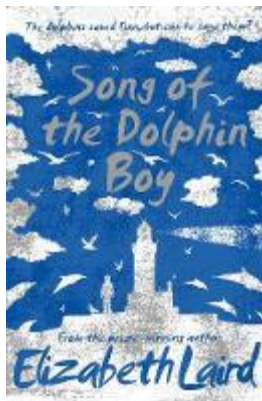
Ella is the new girl at school. She doesn't know anyone and she doesn't have any friends. And she has a terrible secret. Her father is in prison. Ella can't believe her luck when Lydia, the most popular girl in school, decides to be her new best friend - but what does Lydia really want? And what does it all have to do with Molly, the quiet, shy girl who won't talk to anyone? Ella finds out the true nature of what friendship means. Well told absorbing tale with well-drawn characters. Useful for discussion.



**Kenny, Padraig**                      **Tin**

Chicken House              Pbk    6.99    9781911077657  
 Interest age:        9+                      Reading age:        9+

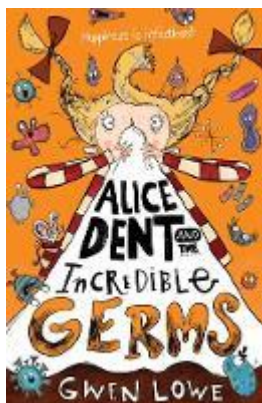
Set in a 1930's steampunk Britain a group of mechanicals (robots) set out to save their friend and the country from a rogue engineer. The debut novel follows Christopher who is thought to be a real boy, but after an accident a secret is revealed and his world is changed forever. Well written with great characters.



**Laird, Elizabeth**                      **Song of the Dolphin Boy**

Macmillan              Pbk    6.99    9781509828234  
 Interest age:        9+                      Reading age:        9+

Finn has always felt that something was missing, until one day, he falls into the sea and finds that he is completely at home swimming with the dolphins. He discovers he has a bond with the dolphins. They are in danger of being injured by the rubbish and plastic that floats out into the water - a supermarket is going to release thousands of balloons that could drift out to sea and cause even more damage. Finn is desperate to help, so goes to the Lighthouse Crew, a group of local kids who have always left Finn out. Raises issues of looking after the environment & plastic in the sea, which is very topical currently.



**Lowe, Gwen**                      **Alice Dent and the incredible germs**

Chicken House              Pbk    6.99    9781910002919  
 Interest age:        8+                      Reading age:        8+

When Alice Dent gets a cold, she has no idea how much trouble it's about to cause. Because this is no ordinary virus: it is a dreaded Pirus of happiness with some odd side effects such as giggling and a magnetic attraction to animals. But when the mysterious Best Minister for Everything Nicely Perfect and his scary masked henchmen find out, they decide to stamp out the Pirus, and intend to stamp out Alice as well. Humorous romp which could be enjoyed by both boys and girls. Good cast of characters which children will identify with as they thwart the adults.

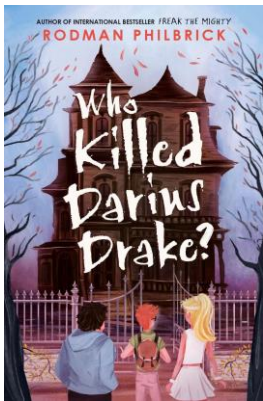


**Montgomery, Ross Max & the Millions**

Faber Pbk 6.99 9780571333486  
Interest age: 9+ Reading age: 9+

Max goes to boarding school, which he hates because, being deaf he feels very isolated from the other boys. His only "friend" is the school caretaker, with whom he shares a love of making tiny models. One day, the caretaker disappears, and when Max goes in his room to find him, he discovers thousands of tiny beings living in different areas of the caretaker's bedroom. These tiny people are already at war with each other, and it is up to Max to persuade them all to live together peacefully, and also keep them safe from the Headmaster.

An unusual plot, which is fast-paced, and helps the reader to understand and empathise with people who are deaf.

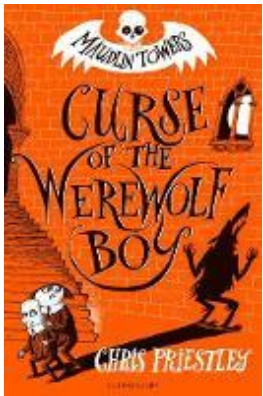


**Philbrick, Rodman Who killed Darius Drake?**

Usborne Pbk 6.99 9781474946728  
Interest age: 9+ Reading age: 10+

When genius orphan Darius employs school tough guy Arthur 'Bash-Man' to help him find out who sent a note asking 'who killed Darius Drake?', they get caught up in a mystery. Darius's grandfather was imprisoned for forging evidence in the hunt for a diamond necklace, and it's still missing. So they start searching - and find tons of trouble.

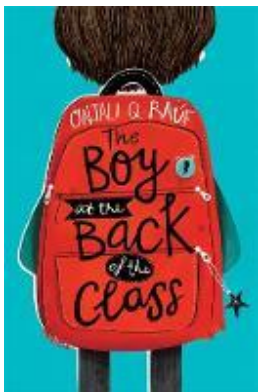
Well written key characters and fast moving plot. Story told from Arthur's point of view. Arthur gets shot but there is no graphic description.



**Priestley, Chris Curse of the werewolf boy**

Bloomsbury Pbk 6.99 9781408873083  
Interest age: 8+ Reading age: 9+

Mildew and Sponge don't think much of Maudlin Towers, the blackened, gloom-laden, gargoyle-infested monstrosity that is their school. But when somebody steals the School Spoon and the teachers threaten to cancel the Christmas holidays until the culprit is found, our heroes must spring into action and solve the crime! With the "help" of a time machine they discover the truth behind the theft and much more! Fun stories which use some archaic language which may not engage some readers. For those with a good vocabulary who like amusing stories.



**Rauf, Onjali Q The Boy at the Back of the Class**

Orion Pbk 6.99 9781510105010  
Interest age: 9+ Reading age: 10+

Told with humour and empathy this is a 9-year-old child's perspective on the refugee crisis, highlighting the importance of friendship and kindness.

A new boy, Ahmet has joined the class and at first the children find him very strange as he doesn't talk. When they learn he is a refugee who's run away from the war in Syria they want to befriend him, find out about him and help. Together four friends come up with a plan.

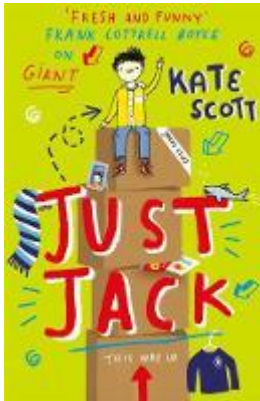
Great writing, great story and useful for so much, including reading groups.



**Scott, Hayley      Meet the witches**

Usborne            Pbk    5.99    9781474928120  
 Interest age:    7+            Reading age:    8+

When Stevie has to move from the city to a country cottage she is sad to leave her friends and old life. But then her granny gives her a teacup house with a family of rabbits - the Twitches - as a parting gift. However, on moving day, Mr Twitch is accidentally dropped in the garden, and Stevie searches high and low to find him. Meanwhile, the rabbits are magically alive when the humans aren't looking, and so young Silver goes on a dangerous expedition to rescue her father from the garden. Super girly tale for emergent independent readers at KS1/2, with engaging characters and plenty of drama, jeopardy, and fun. First in a series.

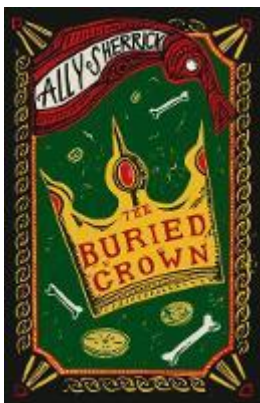


**Scott, Kate            Just Jack**

Piccadilly            Pbk    5.99    9781848126244  
 Interest age:    8+            Reading age:    8+

A warm and funny story about making new friends and being yourself. Jack knows LOTS about starting a new school. Since Dad left, he and his mum have moved house five times. He also knows all about fitting in. The trick is to act exactly like everyone else and make sure no one ever notices him. But it's hard work trying to be something he isn't and Jack doesn't have any good friends. That is, until Tyler comes along. Tyler is funny and different and might be the key to getting Jack to realise that although he is brilliant at pretending to be other people, the very best thing he can be is JUST JACK.

Enjoyable story with lovely characters told with gentle and clever humour.



**Sherrick, Ally            The buried crown**

Chicken House            Pbk    6.99    9781910655320  
 Interest age:    10+            Reading age:    10+

It's 1940 and Britain is on the brink of invasion. Londoner George is evacuated to the countryside while his brother Charlie fights overseas. But the war is closer than he thinks. Nearby, an ancient burial ground hides a crown Hitler is desperate to possess, as whoever owns the crown will rule the country. George and Kitty, the granddaughter of a Jewish archaeologist, must find and protect it before it's too late. Enjoyable historical adventure story with both boy and girl main characters. Illustrates the real fear of invasion that there was at that time and covers something of the Nazi view of Jews and how German refugees were viewed in Britain at the time. Good for WW2 projects and general reading for pleasure.



**Tarakson, Stella      Here comes Hercules!**

Sweet cherry            Pbk    4.99    9781782263555  
 Interest age:    7+            Reading age:    8+

When Tim breaks his mum's Greek vase, he finds himself in charge of the very clumsy Greek demigod, Hercules who had been imprisoned in the vase. Hercules tries to help Tim in various ways, but all end in disaster, until Tim finally solves the puzzle which sends Hercules back to his own time. However, the evil goddess Hera is now on Tim's trail.

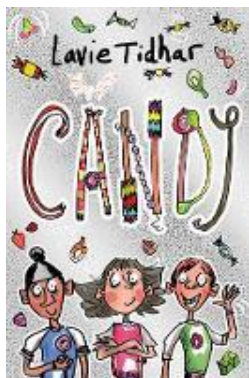
Humorous light tale with some ancient greek background information which would make an entertaining leisure read, but could also be used in projects.



**Tasane, Steve                      Child I**

Faber                      Pbk    6.99    9780571337835  
 Interest age:    10+                      Reading age:    10+

Child I thinks he is ten years old. He isn't sure because he has lost his family and home, and is now living in a refugee camp. All his money and important documents have been stolen, so he can no longer prove who he is. The guards in the camp don't use the children's names, just letters. Child I tries to find food for himself and his friends, and also play games with them to cheer them up. The camp guards are surly and can be violent, but in the end, their heartlessness shows through as they watch the camp being bulldozed, and all the refugees are herded into metal crates. The novel is based on real events in various refugee camps around the world. It is very easy to read, but also thought-provoking.



**Tidhar, Lavie                      Candy**

Scholastic                      Pbk    6.99    9781407184272  
 Interest age:    8+                      Reading age:    8+

An enjoyable, if farfetched, story set in time where eating sweets and biscuits is a crime and are banned. 12-year-old Nelle is a private detective, who lives with her Mum. When a notorious candy gangster asks for help she cannot refuse and is swept into a world of candy smuggling and chocolate crime! Having no leads, she goes to the Library and finds it is one of the sweet smuggling hot beds! Characters – villains and detective are typical gumshoe or baddies with character profiles at the back. Great fun.



**Williamson, Victoria                      The fox girl and the white gazelle**

Kelpies                      Pbk    6.99    9781782504900  
 Interest age:    10+                      Reading age:    10+

Reema and her family have come to live in Scotland as refugees from Syria, but are struggling with the transition, and the loss of Reema's older brother. Meanwhile, Caylin is struggling to cope as her mother is lost in an alcoholic haze after the sudden death of Caylin's grandfather. Then both girls discover an injured fox and her cubs in the garden of their block of flats, and suddenly they have a new purpose in life, which brings them into conflict, and eventually an unlikely friendship. Excellent characterisation and gritty plot, which help the story progress quickly. NOTE: Caylin steals from classmates and is very aggressive, there is some racism language directed at Reema, and two of the fox cubs die.

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