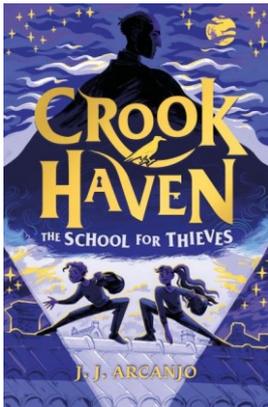


Recommended Primary Fiction Books Summer Term 2023



Arcanjo, J J. Crook Haven – The School For Thieves

Hachette Pbk 7.99 9781444965735
Interest 10 Reading age: 10.00
age:

13-year-old Gabriel is a brilliant pickpocket, a skill which he uses to keep feed himself and his Grandmother. However, one day, he's caught but instead of being arrested, he is invited to train at Crookhaven, a mysterious school for crooks. Students are trained in lock-picking, forgery and 'crim-nastics', with the intention of doing good out in the world, by conning the bad and giving back to the innocent.

With a school wide competition to be crowned Top Crook and many mysteries to uncover, Gabriel's first year at Crookhaven will be one to remember.

The start of a series. Fast pacy read which is good for Reading for Pleasure



Conaghan, Brian Swimming On The Moon

Bloomsbury Pbk 7.99 9781526653925
Interest 10 Reading age: 10.00
age:

Anna and Anto are twins. They have a strong connection, but Anto is autistic and non-verbal. His best friend is a coat hanger and he communicates through his moods and arranging Lego bricks. They both realise their parents have fallen out of love for each other but are united in their love and care of their children, and worry they will be separated. Anna narrates the story and feels responsible for Anto and keeping her family together. When Anna is chosen to be part of a dance competition in Rome she hopes a family trip to Italy will bring her parents together.

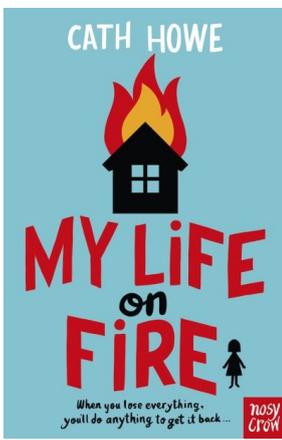


Conway, Anne-Marie How To Be More Hedgehog

Uclan Pbk 7.99 9781912979813
Interest 9+ Reading age: 9+
age:

Lily has a stammer and this often saps her confidence at school. When her class has to create presentations about environmental issues, Lily finds herself compelled to get involved. However, when a video of her practicing her class presentation is uploaded onto YouTube stammering and struggling to get the words out, kids at school start whispering, and even her best friend Mia laughs behind her back. Lily's confidence takes a nose-dive and she can only see one way out: run away to Dad in Scotland and start all over again. But Lily quickly realises that running away isn't the answer and that her stammer will follow her wherever she goes.

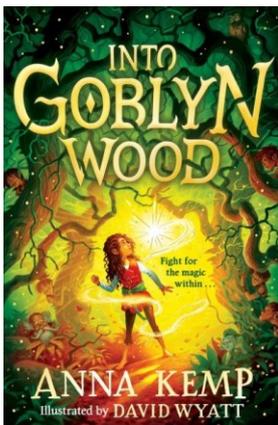
Heart warming family and friendship story with excellent characterisation. Lily and her family and friendship situation is highly relatable, and readers will be encouraged to empathise with her. Uplifting narrative which would could be enjoyed by either gender.



Howe, Cath My Life On Fire

Nosy Crow Pbk 7.99 9781839942839
 Interest 9+ Reading age: 9+
 age:

Ren's family's house burns down and she and her parents and younger brother go to live with their Grandma, which makes things strained. Caster cannot believe there is a class thief. Told in alternate voices between the two and their different perspectives. A story of family upheaval and kleptomania. Compelling story with short chapters which is great for empathy and would be a great class read for KS2.

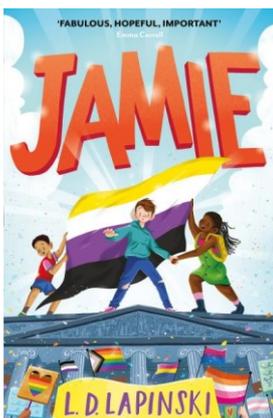


Kemp, Anna Into the Goblyn Wood

Simon & Schuster Pbk 7.99 9781398503830
 Interest 9+ Reading age: 9+
 age:

Hazel has always known she was different, but she doesn't know where she came from. She has grown up in an orphanage where her only accepting friend is Pete. They both long to escape to the Goblyn Wood and join the fabled Wild Children and live free. But when they finally escape, Pete is kidnapped by a strange terrifying force. Hazel is determined to save Pete, but this takes her deep into Goblyn Wood, where she is confronted by the hidden fairy world, as well as her own latent magical abilities. But time is running out, and who can Hazel trust to help her?

Exciting fast paced magical adventure with an engaging central character. Plenty of twists and turns in the plot, as well as a variety of different supporting characters make this an enjoyable leisure read. The world building is also very absorbing with a map which is always a bonus. However, there are fairy deaths which are described appropriately, as well as some mild violence, so a note of caution for younger readers. Also, the book ends on a cliffhanger which is very unsatisfying.

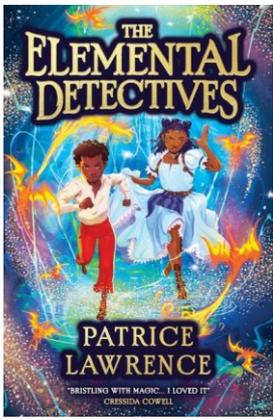


Lapinski, L. D. Jamie

Orion Pbk 5.99 9781510111950
 Interest 9+ Reading age: 9+
 age:

Jamie Rambeau is an 11 year old non-binary kid who has two best friends, Daisy and Ash. When they find out that they will be separated in Year Seven because the choices are one school for boys and another for girls, their friendship suddenly seems at risk. No one has thought where Jamie would go. Jamie takes matters into their own hands, and with the support of their friends, they raise awareness with a rooftop protest against the binary rules for the local schools. Jamie realises that they will still be friends with Daisy and Ash forever.

Uplifting and inclusive story that highlights non-binary issues and starting a new school. Includes short information boxes that educates about LGBTQ+ issues, specifically non-binary, as part of the story. Written in an engaging, easy to read way with good characterisation of Jamie. Jamie and their friends protest is set at Nottingham Council Building.

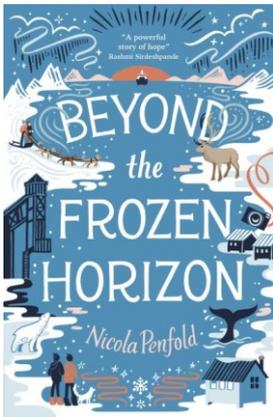


Lawrence, Patrice The Elemental Detectives

Scholastic Pbk 7.99 9780702315626
Interest 9+ Reading age: 10+
age:

Marisee's grandmother is the Keeper of the Wells of London, which is a vital role for the health of its citizens. Madam Blackwell has taught Marisee all about the hidden magical side of London and the four elemental spirits that control it. But when Madam Blackwell disappears early one morning, Marisee discovers that there is a fatal sleeping sickness infecting London's people. The mysterious Shepherdess is behind this sickness, and will stop at nothing to destroy the city in revenge for how the people have polluted the environment. Marisee is determined to find her grandmother and save the city, and finds some unlikely allies in a young Caribbean slave boy Robert, river spirits, and ghosts.

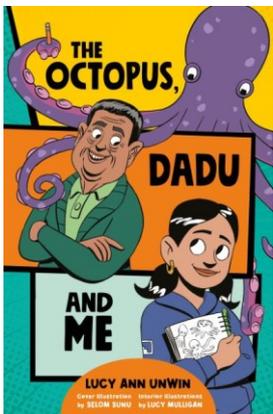
Exciting magical adventure with a mystery at its heart. Strong themes of the environment as well as slavery and ill treatment of the poor, and the setting of C17th London allows these themes to be explored. Good characterisation, and plenty of action to keep reader's interest. Quite long and involved narrative though, so needs some reader commitment. Would appeal to readers of either gender.



Nicola Penfold Beyond the Frozen Horizon

Little Tiger Pbk 7.99 9781788954471
Interest 10 Reading age: 10.00
age:

Set in the not-too-distant future, organisations are researching new ways to support human life sustainably. Rory's mum is a geologist on one of these projects, and Rory is excited to join her on a work trip to the Arctic. But the project isn't all that it seems, and Rory soon learns what's at stake for the people and animals that live there... A compelling story about the arctic environment with a strong female protagonist.



Unwin, Lucy Ann The Octopus, Dadu and me

Uclan Pbk 7.99 9781912979806
Interest 10-12 Reading age: 10-12
age:

Sashi is 12 and close to her Dadu (Dad's dad) but after a visit to his care home with her Mum & Dad, her dad decides they should no longer visit, as Dadu has been shouting and does not remember them. (Sashi's Dad is worried about his daughter and that her happy memories of her grandfather will be overtaken by ones caused by his dementia.) Sashi finds peace at the local aquarium and here she meets Ian, who she believes should be with his family and not trapped. Sashi decides she will help him escape, but Ian is an octopus!

Sashi is part of a mixed-race family and has a wonderful Grandpa, spending a lot of time with her growing up, but this is changing with the onset of his dementia. A story told with wonderful empathy. Sashi loves drawing so has some of her cartoons included.

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