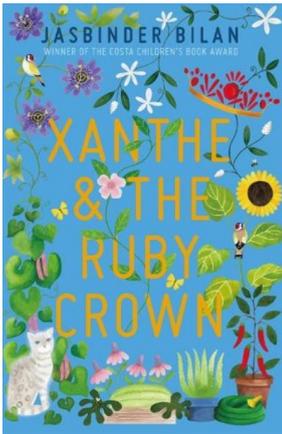


Recommended Primary Fiction Autumn Term 2023



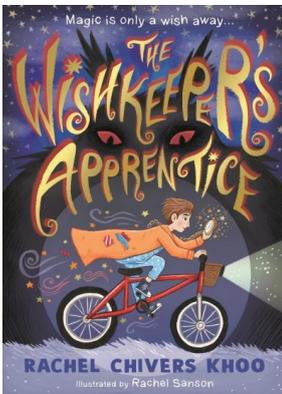
Bilan, Jasbinder **Xanthe and the Ruby Crown**

Chicken House Pbk 7.99 9781913322601
Interest age: 10+ Reading age: 10+

A very moving story, set in Nottingham. Xanthe visits her Nani who keeps forgetting things, Xanthe has many happy memories of visits to Nani in the past, the flat with its lovely rooftop garden, she and has made good friends with Romeo who lives next door. Everything seems to be changing, her Nani keeps forgetting things , her mum becomes anxious and Romeo seems to have a new friend.

Xanthe is visited by Leo a cat who only seems to appear at night. Leo leads her to a secret place where she discovers the past, the truth which Nani has been trying to erase from her mind for many years from when she and her family lived in Africa. . Xanthe thinks these memories might help Nani in the present and works secretly with Romeo and his new friend to uncover the mysteries and secrets.

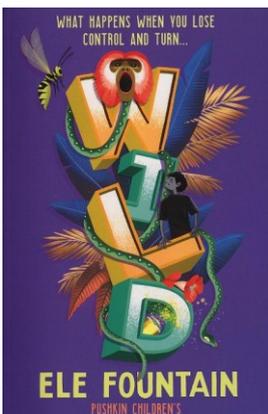
A great story including, magic , adventure, mystery, history and family relationships.



Chivers Khoo, Rachel **The Wishkeeper's Apprentice**

Walker Pbk 7.99 9781529507904
Interest age: 8 Reading age: 8

When Felix meets a little man fishing coins out of the town's fountain, he discovers that whenever anyone in the town makes a wish, it is Rupus Beewinkle who makes it come true. The wishkeeper needs an apprentice to help him, and as Felix is the only one to be able to see him, this becomes Felix's new job. There's a terrifying wishsnatcher on the loose, determined to destroy every wish, and along with it, everyone's hopes and dreams. Felix soon discovers that his normal everyday family life could be at stake. A delightfully charming and perfectly plotted adventure that packs a real emotional punch. Felix is lonely at school and feels estranged from his older sister – both situations some readers will recognise. With moments of gentle humour, short chapters, and many sweet illustrations by Rachel Sansom throughout, A great debut novel.



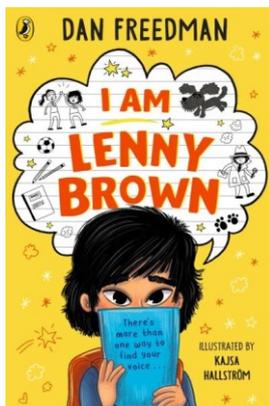
Ele Fountain **Wild**

Pushkin Pbk 7.99 9781782693840
Interest age: 9+ Reading age: 9+

Since Jack's dad died, he's had a heavy feeling inside. As a result he starts skiving school and hanging around with a group who like to cause trouble. He hides his new habits from his mum, an environmental anthropologist, because she's too busy with work and conservation trips to notice or spend time with him. Jack starts stealing, egged on by his new group of "friends" and his mum eventually becomes concerned. She suggests a trip together for her work. Jack finds himself on an expedition deep into the rainforest. He wanted adventure – but realises he now could be in real danger.

Written in usual Ele Fountain style with short chapters and accessible text. Would be another great story for rainforest / jungle / environment / deforestation projects.

A compelling adventure fuelled by important contemporary issues.



Freedman, Dan I am Lenny Brown

Penguin Pbk 7.99 9780241610541
Interest age: 8 Reading age: 8

Lenny Brown is 8 and is chatty and happy when he's at home with his Mum and Rocky (his dog) but at school it's a different story because there, Lenny can't speak. He has plenty to say but the words just won't come out of his mouth. He has a brilliant teacher who looks out for him, but when he must move house, and school, Lenny is devastated. He starts to put his thoughts, feelings and worries into a diary. And, gradually, and with Rocky's help, he finds a new way to express himself.

Short chapters, varied fonts and black and white illustrations make this story appealing and accessible to a wide range of readers.

A story of loneliness, courage, kindness and joy whose key message is that there is no such thing as 'normal'. We are all unique.

NB Please note there are a few instances of the word "f*rt" in relation to Rocky the dog.

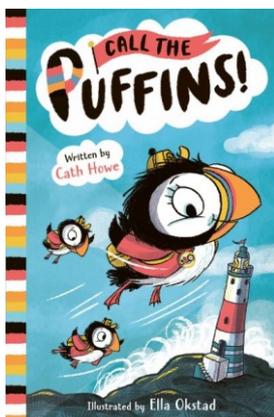


Goodfellow, Matt The Final Year

Otter Barry Pbk 8.99 9781915659040
Interest age: 9+ Reading age: 9+

A first novel written in verse by Matt Goodman, a children's poet. Set in Manchester this is the story of Nate going into and throughout his last year of primary school. Nate and his best friend are put in different classes for the first time and his best friend finds a new friend in Turner the school bully. Nate has a new teacher Mr Joshua, who sees a spark in Nate and encourages him to write poetry. Nate's family faces hard times and when his youngest brother is rushed into hospital this reaches a new level.

A story about finding your place in the world and the people that matter.

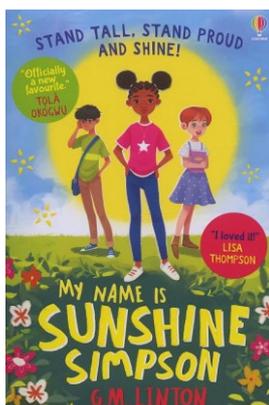


Howe, Cath Call the Puffins!

Welbeck Pbk 6.99 9781801300360
Interest age: 7 Reading age: 7

First in a new shorter novels series about puffins. On the island of Egg a group of young puffins are training to join a search and rescue team. The story starts with Muffin, a young puffin, who is leaving the family burrow to follow in her dad's footsteps and apply to join the Puffin Rescue team and is anxious not to let him down. With Muffin's fellow recruits the puffins must work together to help all the birds on the island

Black and white illustrations throughout to help break up the text. Information at the end about puffins.



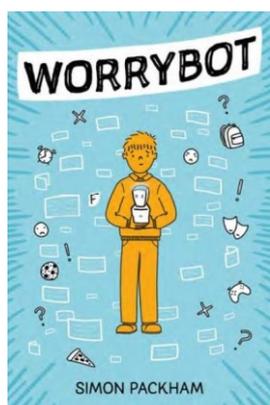
Linton, G.M. My Name is Sunshine Simpson

Usborne Pbk 7.99 9781801313346
Interest age: 9+ Reading age: 9+

A debut novel with a wonderful main character who is realistic and with whom readers will empathise.

Sunshine Simpson's larger-than-life Grandad, who came over to England with the Windrush, is always telling her to get out and find her own adventures, but unfortunately bad luck has a habit of coming her way. Her new friend Evie is fast becoming a frenemy, her home haircut is a disaster, and Sunshine finds thinking what to do for the school showcase so stressful! Everything seems to be going wrong! Especially with Grandad getting older every week.

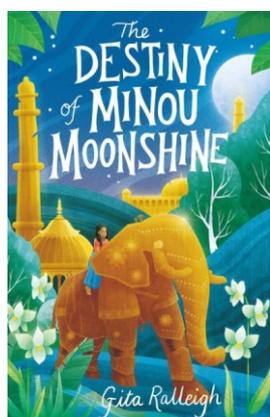
Sunshine needs to find her voice, but can she break through the clouds to stand tall, stand proud, and show the world she can shine? A book that made me laugh and cry! Would be great for reading groups and reading for pleasure as well as Windrush projects. I loved it!!!



Packham, Simon Worrybot

Uclan Pbk 7.99 9781915235473
Interest age: 9 Reading age: 9

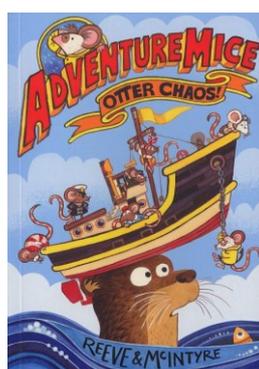
Josh worries about everything. His family is moving, and he must change schools. Previously, he had his own worrybot – a homemade cardboard robot where he wrote his worries and posted them. It helped, but Josh is worried his anxiety will return. When he starts his new school, he is surprised to find there is a robot in his class, which allows his classmate Charlie to join in lessons remotely. The two become best friends, but all is not as it seems! And there's Noah, the class bully to contend with too. A story with a twist. Would be good to read aloud, or for a reading group.



Ralleigh, Gita The Destiny of Minou Moonshine

Zephyr Hbk 14.99 9781804545478
Interest age: 9+ Reading age: 9+

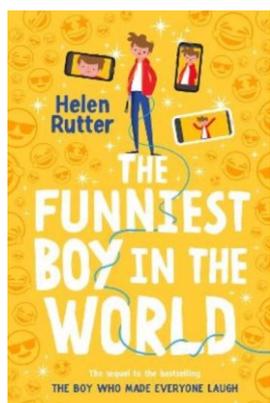
A debut fantasy novel, set in an alternative colonial India. A steampunk adventure that reads well and is compelling. The queendom of Moonlally has fallen under a tyrant's rule. Their queen is dead, worship of their goddess, the Dark Lady, is forbidden, and the precious black diamond that protects the city is missing. When fierce orphan girl Minou Moonshine's life is unexpectedly shattered, she joins a band of rebels, the Green Orchids, who are plotting to overthrow the General. Armed with a secret and a map, Minou sets off with her friends and a mechanical elephant, through the jungles of Indica, in search of the Dark Lady. A story combining fantasy, friendship and faith. Suggested title by Reading Agency and Blue Peter for their award.



Reeve, Philip Adventure Mice – Otter chaos

David Fickling Pbk 6.99 9781788452670
Interest age: 7 Reading age: 7

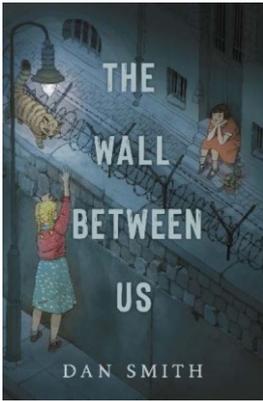
Pedro the mouse is tiny but is looking for adventure. He gets into difficulty and is rescued by the Adventure mice - a brave, determined team who keep all the Mouse Islands safe from harm. His dream is to show he's brave enough to join them. He gets the chance to prove himself when an otter starts causing trouble nearby. First in a series with great illustrations throughout by Sarah McIntyre



Rutter, Helen The Funniest Boy in the World

Scholastic Pbk 7.99 9780702314674
Interest age: 11+ Reading age: 10+

When celebrity comedian Leo Leggett post a social media clip of Billy and he suddenly becomes the most famous funny kid in the country, Billy learns that all is not always as it seems. A sensitive and emotional book, dealing with the influence and power of social media. Young people being drawn in and brainwashed by celebrities. Billy's friends and families stand by him offering advice and emotional support. Billy gets the better of Leo and stand up for himself.



Smith, Dan

The Wall Between Us

Chicken House Pbk 7.99 9781912626762
Interest age: 10+ Reading age: 10+

Set in Berlin in 1961, Anja and Monika are best friends and share a cat called Otto. However, when the Berlin Wall is constructed, they find themselves divided, they can no longer be friends and be part of each other's family. Anja is determined to find a way to communicate to Monika, starting with flashing torches, but this stops when all the windows are boarded up. Anja then realises that Otto the cat finds a way to cross to the other side and manages to send messages in the cat's collar. Anja then follows the cat one evening and realises how she might be able to successfully reach her friend. She manages this at night, thinking that no one will ever find out. Unfortunately, this isn't the case, as there are eyes everywhere, even at the dead of night. Anja finds herself trapped and there is no way back.

A very tense, emotional story told in a very moving diary format from the point of view of Anja and Monika in alternate chapters. A thrilling wartime adventure story that will appeal to both girls and boys.

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