



READING CHALLENGE Y7 2026

By the end of the Summer Term, you will be expected to read **AT LEAST 4 books**. You can use this list or choose your own books. You **MUST** read from at least **4 DIFFERENT GENRES** and **1 MUST** be from the **CLASSICS** genre. You will receive a GLR for every book you read.

You will need to produce **ONE** detailed **BOOK REVIEW** by the end of the summer term.

ENJOY YOUR READING CHALLENGE!

ADVENTURE AND MYSTERY

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| Peter Abrahams | Into the Dark An idyllic day of snowshoeing on Grampy's land with Joey Strade turns out to be less than idyllic for teenage super-sleuth Ingrid Levin-Hill when she stumbles upon a body in the snow. The discovery sends the town of Echo Falls into a tailspin, and Grampy is sent to jail. |
| David Almond | Bone Music Sylvia has never been so far away. Her mother has brought her to this village, this place of silence and dark, endless forest, and she yearns for the city, the bright lights, her friends, even a phone signal. Late one night she hears the music, a weird spiralling sound. It is played by Gabriel, a troubled beautiful boy. |
| Kirsty Applebaum | Troofriend What if you could have the perfect best friend? Someone who would never argue with you and was always on your side? What if you could choose their hairstyle, their clothes, the colour of their eyes? What if they would do anything for you? Would it matter if they weren't human. |
| Kirsty Applebaum | The Middler Maggie's never thought much about the Quiet War. It's just somewhere the eldest kids get sent when they turn fourteen, like her big brother, Jed. But when she meets Una, a wanderer from outside the town boundary, she starts to see things differently. What if everything she's been told is wrong? |
| J.J. Arcanjo | Crook Haven (Book 1 The School for Thieves) (BBA 2024 Longlist) When talented pickpocket Gabriel is recruited to Crookhaven, he is welcomed into a whole new world. This secret school trains its students in classes like Forgery, Deception and Crimnastics – all so that one day they will go out into the world and do good. |
| Alasdair Beckett-King | Murder at the Museum Bonnie Montgomery is the world's greatest detective. Not that anyone – other than Grampa Banks – has heard of her....But they will have heard of Montgomery Bonbon, the gentleman detective who (apart from the beret and the bristling moustache) looks suspiciously like a ten-year-old girl. Their case: a mysterious death at the Hornville Museum. |
| Zillah Bethell | The Song Walker (Carnegie shortlist 2024) When a young girl wakes up in the middle of the desert, she has not idea who she is. She's wearing one shoe, a plain black dress and she's carrying a strange, heavy case. She meets Tarni, who is on a mysterious quest of her own. Together, the two girls trek across the vast and ever-changing Australian Outback in search of answers. Except both are hiding secrets..... |
| Susie Bower | The Three Impossibles Mim grew up surrounded by secrets. On the day she was born, her mother died and a strange curse was cast upon her family. Ever since, she's been isolated in a dismal castle behind high walls, forbidden from venturing to the Outside. |

But Mim has never been able to stop asking questions. And when her father hires a bogus governess, Madame Marionette – who brings along an entourage of thugs and a secret, caged ‘pet’ – Mim sets her enquiring mind to work on unravelling the mysteries around her.

Tim Bowler

Storm Catchers Fin is devastated when his sister is kidnapped. Poor frightened Ella, snatched away from the house in the middle of a storm. Fin will never forgive himself for leaving her on her own. Still, at least they’ll get her back when they’ve paid the money. However, the kidnapper has more than just money on his mind. As his plans unfold, Fin and his family are forced to confront their deepest darkest secrets. A storm is breaking, and it’s going to change everything....

Tim Bowler

River Boy (Carnegie Winner 1997) Grandpa is dying. He can barely move his hands any more but, stubborn as ever, refuses to stay in hospital. He’s determined to finish his last painting, ‘River Boy’, before he goes. At first Jess can’t understand his refusal to let go, but then she too becomes involved in the mysterious painting. And when she meets the river boy himself, she finds she is suddenly caught up in a challenge of her own that she must complete – before it’s too late

Sita Brahmachari

Where the river runs gold Kairos City was beautiful once, before the storm. Now the flowerbeds are built over with brick, the bees are long gone and the children are sent to Freedom Fields to pollinate crops by hand for the good of the nation. Eleven-year-old Shifa knows her twin Themba won’t survive this harsh existence for long: they have no escape. But then she uncovers an impossible secret. If she can protect it on their perilous journey home, Shifa could change everything....

Sita Brahmachari

When Secrets set Sail Years ago, it was The House of the Ayahs, giving shelter to nannies who couldn’t return to their homeland. Now, it is a refugee centre – facing the threat of closure. Quiet Usha instantly clashes with fiery new arrival Imitiaz. But then a surprising visitor delivers a message: a broken promise from the house’s past must be fixed. Only by working together can the girls set the secrets of generations free, and *save their home*

Peter Bunzl

Cogheart (Book one of The Cogheart Adventures Series) Some secrets change the world in a heartbeat. Lily’s life is in mortal peril. Her father is missing and now silver-eyed men stalk her through the shadows. What could they want from her? With her friends – Robert, the clockmaker’s son and Malkin, her mechanical fox – Lily is plunged into a murky and menacing world. Too soon Lily realizes that those she holds dear may be the very ones to break her heart....

Peter Bunzl

Moonlocket (Book two of The Cogheart Adventure Series) It’s hard to escape the secrets from the past. Storm clouds gather over Lily and Robert’s summer when criminal mastermind the Jack of Diamonds appears. For Jack is searching for the mysterious Moonlocket – but that’s not the only thing he wants. Suddenly, dark secrets from Robert’s past plunge him into danger. Jack is playing a cruel game that Robert is a part of. Lily and Malkin, the mechanical fox, must stay one step ahead before Jack plays his final, deadly card....

Peter Bunzl

Skycircus (Book three of The Cogheart Adventure Series) Old secrets can weigh heavy when you want to fly. Invited to a one-off spectacular show by Slimwood’s Stupendous Travelling Skycircus, Lily, Robert and mechanical fox Malkin can’t wait to jump onboard. However, behind the daredevil deeds of the bewitching bird-girl and the lobster-handed boy, something sinister lurks. And soon, the watchful ringmistress, Madame Lyons-Mane, reveals a deadly plan for Lily. Could the secrets of Lily’s past hold their only chance of escape from this terrible trap?

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| Jess Butterworth | When the Mountains Roared When Ruby's dad uproots her from Australia to set up a hotel in the mountains of India, Ruby is devastated. Not only are they living in a run-down building in the middle of the wilderness surrounded by wild animals, but Ruby is sure that India will never truly feel like home – not without her mum there. Ever since her mum died, Ruby has been afraid. Of cars. Of the dark. Of going to sleep and never waking up. But then the last remaining leopards of the mountain are threatened and everything changes. Ruby vows to do all she can to protect them – if she can only overcome her fears.... |
| Jess Butterworth | Swimming against the Storm Eliza has lived her entire life in a small fishing village, growing up alongside turtles, pelicans and porpoises. But now, with sea levels rising, her home is at risk of being swept away. Determined to save their land, Eliza and her younger sister go searching for the wolf-like loup-garou. If they can prove this legendary creature exists, the government will have to protect its habitat – and their community. But there's one problem: the loup-garou has never been seen before. And with a tropical storm approaching and the sister deep, deep in the swampland, its not just their home at risk, but their lives as well |
| Jess Butterworth | Into the Volcano When Seb's best friend Clay is injured in a shooting, Seb feels helpless. When Vivi's grandmother dies in the same incident, Vivi feels lost. Seb believes the magic of nature could help heal Clay – if he can just make a wish on a special rainbow pool. Vivi believes her grandmother would have wanted her to go with Seb to help save his friend. |
| Emma Carroll | Escape to the River Sea (inspired by the world of Eva Ibbotson) Rosa Sweetman has escaped war in Europe and is longing for her family to collect her from a country house in the north of England. The arrival of a family friend, Yara Fielding, sweeps Rosa on an adventure into the lush Amazon rainforest in search of jaguars, giant sloths and somewhere to belong. What she finds is Yara's lively family on the banks of the river, where together they must face a great danger. |
| Emma Carroll | Skychasers Orpan Magpie can't believe her eyes when she sees a boy swept off his feet by a kite....or <i>something</i> that twists and dances in the wind. She goes to his rescue only to find herself dangling in the sky. The world looks so different from on high and suddenly Magpie knows what she wants – to be the first to fly in a balloon above the King and Queen of France |
| Lauren Child | Ruby Redfort (Books 1-6 Look into my Eyes; Take your last Breath; Catch your Death; Feel the Fear; Pick your Poison; Blink and you Die) A genius code-cracker, a daring detective, and a gadget-laden special agent who just happens to be a thirteen-year-old girl. |
| Sophie Cleverly | The Lost Twin (Book 1 of 6 Scarlet and Ivy series) When troublemaker Scarlet goes missing from Rookwood School her twin sister, Ivy, is invited to 'take her place' – in more ways than one. It's not long before Ivy discovers that secrets are rife and the truth has been concealed....Ivy is determined to solve the mystery of her sister's disappearance, even if that means going up against the terrifying Miss Fox. Even if that means <i>pretending</i> to be Scarlet for as long as it takes. |
| Sharon Creech | Ruby Holler (Carnegie Winner 2002) Since Dallas and Florida had lived in the Boxton Creek Home longer than any of the other children there, they knew all the rules. They look set to stay in the orphanage for good until an elderly couple ask the children to come and live with them in Ruby Holler and share some wonderful adventures. |
| Rachel Delahaye | Electric Life (Carnegie Longlist 2024) Alara's incredible gaming skills bring her to the attention of Estrella's leaders. She is chosen to go on a dangerous mission to |

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| | London Under, the original older, long-deserted and distrusted city on top of which Estrella (the Star city) was built, to gather ‘vital’ intelligence. Estrella is the perfect society, an immaculate, sanitised, connected environment where everything is channelled through the digital medium. |
| Emily Diamand | Flood Child Flood Child is set in the 22 nd Century, in a partially flooded England. Following climate change, the surviving English have gone back to simpler ways turning their backs on a technological past while Scotland is in the ascendancy, seeking to expand its borders and power-base. Both must deal with the Reavers, troublesome piratical tribes who pillage the waterways. Lilly Melkun, an English fisher-girl, is out sailing with her sea-cat when the bloodthirsty Reavers come raiding – and kidnap the Prime Minister’s daughter. Her village in turmoil, Lilly decides to find the girl. In a daring sea dash she sets out with an extraordinary ransom tucked inside her belt: a mysterious talking jewel from a past computer age, that she later discovers everybody wants. |
| Kate DiCamillo | Louisiana’s Way Home (Carnegie 2020 Longlist) When Louisiana’s granny tells her they must leave town – now! – to flee an ancient curse, Louisiana figures she will soon changer her mind. After all, Granny can be <i>very</i> melodramatic. But Granny does not intend for them to return. Ever. Far away from her friends and everything she knows, Louisiana struggles to oppose the winds of fate and to find her way home. Could it be that she is destined only for goodbyes? |
| Kate DiCamillo | Beverly, Right Here Beverly Tapinski has run away from home plenty of times before, but now that she’s fourteen she figures it’s not running away. It’s leaving. Determined to make it on her own, Beverly finds a job and a place to live and resolves not to depend on anyone – or to have anyone depend on her. But despite her best efforts, she can’t help forming connections with those around her. And as she does, Beverly begins to see herself through their eyes. |
| Siobhan Dowd | London Eye Mystery Salim gets on board the London Eye, but when it lands - no Salim. Where could he have gone? His cousins, Ted and Kat, turn detectives. |
| Catherine Doyle | The Storm Keeper’s Island Once in a generation, Arranmore Island chooses a new Storm Keeper to wield its power and keep its magic safe from enemies. The time has come for Fionn’s grandfather, a secretive and eccentric old man, to step down. Soon, a new Keeper will rise. But, deep underground, someone has been waiting for Fionn. As the battle to become the island’s next champion rages, a more sinister magic is waking up, intent on rekindling an ancient war. |
| Tonke Dragt | The Letter for the King When Tiuri answers a desperate call for help, he finds himself on a perilous mission that could cost him his life. He must deliver a secret letter to the King who lives across the Great Mountains – a letter upon which the future of the entire realm depends. It means abandoning home, breaking all the rules and leaving everything behind – even the knighthood he has dreamed of for so long |
| Sarah Driver | Sea (The Huntress Trilogy) Book 1 of 3 Ever since Ma died, Mouse has looked after her little brother, Sparrow, dreaming of her destiny as captain of The Huntress. Now Da’s missing, Sparrow is in danger, and a deathly cold is creeping across the world..... |
| Helena Duggan | A Place called Perfect (Book 1 of 3 Place called Perfect Series) Violet never wanted to move to Perfect. Who wants to live in a town where everyone has to wear glasses to stop them going blind? And who wants to be neat and tidy and perfectly behaved all the time? Violet quickly discovers there’s something weird going on in the town – she keeps hearing voices, her Mam is acting strange and her Dad has disappeared. When she meets Boy she realizes that her Dad is not the only person to |

have vanished....and that the mysterious Watchers are guarding a perfectly creepy secret!

- Helena Duggan **The Trouble with Perfect (Book 2 of 3 Place called Perfect Series)** Boy's not bad – is he? Strange things are happening in the town that used to be Perfect. Things are being stolen....then children start going missing too. And everyone is blaming Violet's best friend, Boy. To find out what's going on, Violet must uncover secrets from the past and battle a gruesome zombie monster. Town is in trouble – double trouble – and it's up to Violet to save it.
- Judith Eagle **The Accidental Stowaway** Liverpool, 1910. When Patch runs up the gangway of RMS *Glorious* she is just looking for a quick place to hide. Too late, she realises the ship is moving! Patch has become an accidental stowaway....
- Abi Elphinstone **Sky Song** In the snowy kingdom of Erkenwald, whales glide between icebergs, wolves hunt on the tundra and polar bears roam the glaciers. But the people of this land aren't so easy to find – because Erkenwald is ruled by an evil Ice Queen and the tribes must stay hidden or risk becoming her prisoners at Winterfang Palace.
- Nizrana Farook **The Girl Who Stole an Elephant** Chaya can talk her way out of anything – except stealing the Queen's jewels. Even if she had the best of reasons....So she escapes on the back of a stolen elephant and leads her friends on a jungle adventure, where leeches lurk and revolution is stirring. And this gives Chaya an idea. Maybe she can leave her village a thief but return a hero?
- Natasha Farrant **Voyage of the Sparrowhawk** It's the first spring since the Great War. In the village of Barton, life is returning to normal. Except not for everyone, and not for two children in particular....Lottie is on the run with a stolen chihuahua and Ben and his dog are surviving alone. Soon the authorities are closing in with talk of orphanages, missing brothers and The Law. But Ben has his boat, the Sparrowhawk, and Lotti has a plan....
- Ele Fountain **Melt** Yutu lives in a remote, Arctic village with his elderly grandmother. Their traditional way of life is threatened by the changing snow and ice, which melts faster every year. Bea is trying to adapt to yet another new school. Worse still, her father's new job takes up any spare time, and his behaviour has become odd and secretive. On a trip she hopes will fix things, their fates take a drastic turn and Bea's life becomes entwined with Yutu's in a way she could never have imagined.
- Ele Fountain **Wild** Jack craves adventure, even if this means getting into trouble at school. He thinks he can get away with it as his mum is too busy to notice. But then she suggests that he comes along with her on a work trip – and doesn't tell him where they're going.
- Nick Garlick **Storm Horse** With his mother missing and his father dead, twelve year old Flip's new home is a remote Dutch island. Menaced by the local bullies and followed everywhere by a mysterious girl, he wonders how he'll ever adapt to life on his uncle's farm. But everything changes the day a sinking ship leaves a drowning horse floundering in the waves. Risking his life to rescue it, Flip is told the horse may stay with him only if he can teach it how to work for its keep. From that moment on a friendship grows. But can a boy and a horse really save each other? And what other dark storms threaten their hard-won happiness?
- Alan Garner **The Owl Service** Something was stirring in the valley, something powerful and old. Something which had no place in the rational modern world. Gwyn heard noise behind him, and he turned. A lump of pebble-dash had come off the wall, and another fell, and in their place on the wall two eyes were watching him.
- Kereen Getten **When life gives you mangoes (Carnegie Longlist 2022)** Nothing much happens in Sycamore, the small village where Clara lives – at least, that's how it seems. She loves

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| | eating ripe mangoes fallen from trees, running outside in the rainy season and escaping to her secret hideout with her best friend Gaynah. There's only one problem: she can't remember anything about the previous summer. |
| Kathleen Glasgow | The Agathas After falling from grace last summer, Agatha Christie-obsessed Alice Ogilvie needs to stay out of trouble. While smart and reclusive Iris Adams just want to get out of Castle Cove. But now they have a murder to solve. There are clues the police are ignoring, a list of suspects a mile long and some very dangerous cliffs. Amateur detectives Alice and Iris are about to uncover just how many secrets their sleepy seaside town is hiding.... |
| Connie Glynn | Undercover Princess (Book 1 of The Rosewood Chronicles) All I've ever wanted is to NOT be a princess. And then I end up getting roomed with a girl who's obsessed with them. Lottie Pumpkin is an ordinary girl who longs to be a princess. Ellie Wolf is a princess who longs to be ordinary. When the two girls end up in the same dorm at Rosewood Hall boarding school, they make the decision to swap identities. But someone seems to have figured out what they've done, and – as Lottie quickly learns – life at Rosewood is much more complicated than in the fairy tales she loves.... |
| Connie Glynn | Princess in Practice (Book 2 of The Rosewood Chronicles) Lottie Pumpkin is an ordinary girl who plays a princess to the outside world. Ellie Wolf is the princess she is protecting from prying eyes. At Rosewood Hall boarding school, Lottie and Ellie must hide who they are from everyone. But theirs isn't the only secret. Students are being poisoned and no one knows why. It falls to Lottie and Ellie to find the truth before danger finds them first.... |
| Julia Golding | Dragonfly A Princess is ordered to marry a Prince in order to unite their lands. They hate each other on sight. They are kidnapped and that's when the adventure begins. |
| Radiya Hafiza | Rumaysa Ever After Ever since she escaped her tower, Rumaysa has been searching the land, far and wide, determined to find her long-lost parents. But after she receives a mysterious invitation from Saira White, Queen of Bishnara, she is soon pulled into a dark, magical adventure, one that threatens her own happily ever after.... |
| Vashti Hardy | Brightstorm (A Sky-Ship Adventure Book 1) Arthur and Maudie Brightstorm are devastated by the news that their father, a darling explorer, has died in a failed attempt to reach South Polaris. But a mysterious clue leads the twins to question the story they've been told. To find the truth, they must undertake the journey of a lifetime. |
| Vashti Hardy | Wildspark Prue Haywood is on a mission: getting the ghost machins of Medlock to remember the people they used to be. She needs to find her brother, Francis. If she fails, her brother will stay dead. And if she succeeds, all of society may fall apart. |
| Sophie McKenzie | Girl, Missing (Book 1) Lauren is adopted and eager to know more about her mysterious past. But when she discovers she may have been snatched from her family as a baby, her whole life suddenly feels like a sham. Could her adoptive parents really have been responsible for kidnapping her? |
| Kiran Millwood Hargrave | The Girl of Ink and Stars Forbidden to leave her island, Isabella dreams of the faraway lands her cartographer father once mapped. When her friend disappears, she volunteers to guide the search. The world beyond the walls is a monster-filled wasteland - and beneath the dry rivers and smoking mountains, a fire demon is stirring from its sleep. Soon, following her map, her heart and an ancient myth, Isabella discovers the true end of her journey: to save the island itself. |
| Kiran Millwood Hargrave | The Island at the End of Everything There are some places you would not want to go. Even if I told you that we have oceans filled with sea turtles and dolphins, or forests lush |

with parrots that call through air thick with warmth....Nobody comes here because they want to. The island of no return.

- Kiran Millwood Hargrave **The Way Past Winter** Mila wakes to find her brother Oskar has vanished. He wouldn't just to and yet a golden clue suggests he's followed a stranger who visited after dark. Then she learns that all the boys in the village have gone....except one – the boy-mage called Rune. Together Mila and Rune set out to find them in an extraordinary journey across mountains overrun by wolves to the furthest frozen seas of the North
- Michelle Harrison **A Pinch of Magic (Book 1 of 3 – A Pinch of Magic Adventure) (Book 2: A Sprinkle of Sorcery Book 3: A Tangle of Spells)** The Widdershins sisters, Betty, Fliss and Charlie are trapped, prevented from leaving their home on Crowstone by an ancient family curse. When they inherit three magical objects with the power to change their fate, adventure beckons. But are they being led into even greater danger?
- Michelle Harrison **The Other Alice** When Alice goes missing and a talking cat turns up in her bedroom, Midge searches Alice's stories for a clue. Soon he discovers that her secret book, The Museum of Unfinished Stories, is much more than just a story.
- Michelle Harrison **One Wish** Tanya's life has never been easy – she can see fairies and it keeps getting her into trouble. Nothing like the ones in books, they don't grant wishes, are extremely grumpy and cast spells if Tanya steps out of line.
- Sam Hepburn **If You Were Me** A fast-paced, exciting and tense thriller. Aliya's family have not long escaped Afghanistan for Britain, when her brother is accused of a bomb attack.
- Lucy Hope **Wren** Wren's family have lived in the old Welsh castle for generations. The walls sigh, the cold never leaves and the sea is just outside the door. But something powerful is trapped there, just like Wren. Flight is the answer but what if only one of you has wings?
- Sharna Jackson **High Rise Mystery** If you think finding a body is a fun adventure, you're 33% right. In the right place at the wrong time. There's been a murder in The Tri, and super-sleuths Nik and Norva are the detective duo the Block needs to solve it.
- Catherine Johnson **Blade and Bone** A forensic crime thriller set in Revolutionary Paris. Young surgeon Ezra McAdam must hasten to Paris to rescue his friend Loveday Finch and her charge Mahmoud, the Ottoman prince, who have been caught up in the Revolution.
- Lena Jones **The Secret Key (Book 1 of the Agatha Oddly Series)** Agatha Oddlow has been a detective for as long as she can remember – she's just been waiting for her first big case. And nothing gets bigger than saving the city of London from some strange goings-on. With a home in the middle of Hyde Park, a room full of beloved sleuthing novels and a secret key that gives her access to a whole hidden side of London, Agatha is perfectly poised to solve this mystery. But just who can she trust when no one is quite who they seems....
- Lena Jones **Murder at the Museum (Book 2 of the Agatha Oddly Series)** Agatha Oddlow's just stumbled across her next big case....a murder at the British Museum. But as Agatha starts to dig beneath the surface she begins to suspect that a wider plot is afoot below London – a plot involving a disused Tube station, a huge fireworks display and five thousand tonnes of gold bullion. Luckily, Agatha's on the trail....
- Tanya Landman **Hell and High Water** When his father is arrested and transported to the Colonies, Caleb is left alone. After a desperate journey in search of an aunt he's never met he receives a strange, cold welcome. Then a body washes up on the nearby beach and Caleb is caught up in a terrifying net of lies and intrigue.

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| Patrice Lawrence | The Elemental Detectives Elemental spirits – the fiery Dragons, the airy Fumis, the watery Chads and the earthbound Magogs – have existed peacefully alongside humans for hundreds of years. Until today.... |
| M.G. Leonard | Twitch (Book 1 Twitchers) Twitch has three pet chickens, four pigeons, swallows nesting in his bedroom and a passion for birdwatching. On the first day of the summer holidays he arrives at his secret hide to find police everywhere. A convicted robber has broken out of prison and is hiding in Aves Wood. Can Twitch use his talents for birdwatching in the hunt for the dangerous prisoner and find the missing loot? |
| M.G. Leonard | The Highland Falcon Thief Harrison Beck and his Uncle Nat are enjoying the final journey of the Highland Falcon, Britain’s most famous steam train. But when a precious jewel goes missing, Harrison and his new friend Lenny find themselves at the centre of the investigation. Can they solve the mystery and catch the culprit before they reach the end of the line? |
| Gill Lewis | The Closest Thing to Flying When Semira discovers a diary written by Hen, a girl living over one hundred years ago, she finds the friend she has been desperately seeking. A friend who reaches through time to bring not just comfort but inspiration to be brave, to fight for her place in the world, and maybe even to uncover the secrets of her own past....Writing the diary changed one girl’s life. Reading it changes another’s. |
| Beth Lincoln | The Swifts (Carnegie Longlist 2024) Expertly combining the gothic eccentricity of Lemony Snicket with the murder mystery chops of Robin Stevens, Lincoln's page-turning debut centres on a spate of slayings in a very unusual family home and the diminutive detective determined to crack the case. |
| Sylvia V. Linsteadt | The Wild Folk In the land of Farallone, City boy Tim and Country girl Comfrey are guided on a quest by two young hares. Their task is to save the mystical Wild Folk from destruction. But the Wild Folk don’t trust humans, and the children face impossible challenges and meet extraordinary creatures as they battle to save the land they love. |
| Bren MacDibble | Across the Risen Sea Neoma and Jag and their small community are ‘living gentle lives’ on high ground surrounded by the risen sea. When strangers from the Valley of the Sun arrive unannounced, the two friends find themselves drawn into a web of secrecy and lies that endangers their whole way of life. Soon daring, loyal Neoma must set off on a solo mission across the risen sea, determined to rescue her best friend and find the truth that will save her village. |
| Ross MacKenzie | The Colour of Hope (BBA 2023 Longlist) Years ago, the Emperor used dark magic to steal all the colour from the world. Now he keeps it for himself, enjoying its life-giving power while everyone else must exist in cold shades of grey. That is, until a miracle baby is born – everything she touches turns to colour. But the child’s life is in danger from her very first breath. |
| Catherine MacPhail | Underworld A school trip goes disastrously wrong when a visit to local caves turns into something far more sinister. |
| Hilary McKay | The Time of Green Magic Abi and her two step-brothers, Max and Louis, find that strange things happen when they are alone in their eerie, ivy-coloured new house. Abi, reading alone, finds herself tumbling deep into books, while Louis summons a startling guest through his bedroom window. Even Max has started to notice shapes in the shadows. Their busy parents see none of it – but Louis’ secret visitor is growing too alarming to keep hidden, and he finds he cannot manage without Max and Abi’s help. Can they find out where the mysterious creature has come from – and how to get it back there? |

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| Sophie McKenzie | Blood Ties Theo and Rachel must work fast to unravel the past and discover the dangerous secret that unites them. |
| Elle McNicoll | Like a Charm Edinburgh is a city filled with magical creatures. No one can see them....except Ramya Knox. As she is pulled into her family's world of secrets and spells, Ramya sets out to discover the truth about the Hidden Folk with only three words of warning from her grandfather: Beware the Sirens. Plunged into an adventure that will change everything, Ramya is about to learn that there is more to her powers than she ever imagined. |
| Colin Meloy | Wildwood Who dares to enter the forbidden wilderness? Prue McKeel is keeping out of trouble. Or trying to. Then her baby brother is abducted by crows and hauled off to the woods beyond the city. It is up to Prue to bring him back. On her mission she is plunged into the world of Wildwood where she meets more trouble – and magic – than she ever thought possible |
| Tamzin Merchant | The Hatmakers Cordelia comes from a family of magical hatmakers. In her world, Making – crafting items from enchanted ingredients – is a rare and special skill. Cordelia can't wait to make her first hat. But then her father disappears – and someone seems to be using Maker enchantments to start a war. Cordelia must use courage, friendship and just a touch of magic to save the Makers forever.... |
| Ross Montgomery | The Midnight Guardians When evacuee Col's childhood imaginary friends come to life, he discovers a world where myths and legends are real. But they bring dire news: Col's sister is in danger. Together with his guardians – a six-foot tiger, a badger in a waistcoat and a miniature knight – Col must race to Blitz-bombed London to save her. But there are darker forces at work, even than the Nazi bombings. Soon Col is pursued by the terrifying Midwinter King, who is determined to bring an eternal darkness down over everything. |
| Andy Mulligan | Trash Raphael lives on a dumpsite, eking out a living sifting through rubbish. He makes an extraordinary and deadly discovery which will change his life. |
| Louis Nowra | Into that Forest An extraordinary tale of two girls, lost in the wild, rescued and adopted by Tasmanian tigers. It's a story of survival, freedom and love. Astonishingly vivid and achingly poignant, it will transport you to Australia's wild frontier and stay in your mind long after you've finished reading. |
| Katharine Orton | Nevertell Sometimes it takes a little courage to discover magic. Eleven-year-old Lina has never seen the world beyond the prison camp until the night she escapes with her best friend, Bogdan. As the pair journey across a snowy Russian wilderness, they are pursued by a vengeful sorceress and her pack of shadow wolves. The children will need every ounce of bravery – and a little sorcery of their own – if they are to survive. |
| Lesley Parr | The Valley of Lost Secrets (Carnegie Longlist 2022) September 1939. When Jimmy is evacuated to a small village in Wales, it couldn't be more different from London. Green, quiet and full of strangers, he instantly feels out of place. But then he finds a skull hidden in a tree, and suddenly the valley is more frightening than the war. Who can Jimmy trust? His brother is too little; his best friend has changed. |
| Michelle Paver | Wolf Brother (Chronicles of Ancient Darkness series Book 1 of 6) A boy. A wolf. A legend for all time. Torak is alone: wounded, terrified and on the run. His father lies dead, slaughtered by a demon bear. His only ally is an orphaned wolf cub.... |
| Nicola Penfold | Between Sea and Sky Pearl and her younger sister Clover live on their floating oyster farm, isolated from those living on a land ravaged by environmental disasters. They spend their days swimming with porpoises and exploring the mudflats, but life is still far |

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| | from carefree. Clover is an illegal second child – and Pearl will do anything to protect her. |
| Nicola Penfold | Where the World turns Wild For Juniper and her little brother Bear, escaping their cage of a city has always been a secret dream. But when scientists discover the siblings are key to a merciless plan, their escape becomes more than that. Now it's a flight for their lives. As Juniper and Bear journey further from the city, they soon learn that there's cruelty in nature as well as beauty. Will they ever find the home they're searching for? |
| Sara Pennypacker | Pax Pax and Peter have been inseparable ever since Peter rescued him as a cub but when Peter is forced to return his fox to the wild his world is torn apart. Despite the encroaching war, and the three hundred miles between them, Peter sets out to find his fox. Meanwhile Pax waits hopefully for his boy.... |
| Chris Priestley | Seven Ghosts Jake and the other finalists in a story-writing competition have been invited to at stately home for a tour like no other. As their guide leads them through grand rooms, hidden nooks and magnificent grounds, they are about to hear the stories of seven ghosts who haunt these walls. But strange shapes and shadows follow Jake as he journeys through the house. The tour guide's behaviour becomes ever more suspicious. With each tale that he hears, Jake begins to feel more uneasy, and soon he will discover that something is very, very wrong.... |
| Philip Pullman | Count Karlstein No one in the village of Karlstein dares to leave their homes on All Souls' Eve – the night Zamiel the Demon Huntsman comes to claim his prey. But the evil Count Karlstein has struck a terrible bargain with Zamiel, and so the lives of his two nieces, Lucy and Charlotte, are in danger. Their only hope lies with Hildi, a castle maidservant. One thing is certain – the Demon Huntsman will not return to his dark wood unsatisfied! |
| Katherine Rundell | The Good Thieves When Vita's grandfather is cheated out of everything he owns, she is determined to set things right. So with the help of three very unusual children she puts together a death-defying plan – one that will take them all on a wild adventure across New York City.... |
| Katherine Rundell | The Wolf Wilder Feodora and her mother live in the snowbound woods of Russia, in a house full of food and fireplaces. Ten minutes away, in a ruined chapel, lives a pack of wolves. Feodora's mother is a wolf wilder, and Feo is a wolf wilder in training. A wolf wilder is the opposite of an animal tamer: it is a person who teaches tamed animals to fend for themselves, and to fight and to run, and to be wary of humans. |
| Katherine Rundell | The Explorer From his seat in the tiny aeroplane, Fred watches the mysteries of the Amazon jungle pass by below him. He has always dreamed of becoming an explorer, of reading his name among the lists of great adventurers. If only he could land and look about him. As the plane smashes into the canopy, Fred is suddenly left without a choice. He and the three other children may be alive, but the jungle is a vast, untamed place. With no hope of rescue, the chance of getting home feels terrifyingly small |
| Annet Schaap | Lampie (Carnegie 2020 Longlist) Every evening Lampie the lighthouse keeper's daughter must light a lantern to warn ships away from the rocks. But one stormy night disaster strikes. The lantern goes out, a ship is wrecked and an adventure begins. In disgrace, Lampie is sent to work as a maid at the Admiral's Black House, where rumour has it a monster lurks in the tower. But what she finds there is stranger and more beautiful than any monster. Soon Lampie is drawn into a fairy tale adventure in a world of mermaids and pirates, where she must fight with all her might for friendship, freedom and the right to be different |

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| Marcus Sedgwick | Wrath (Carnegie Longlist 2023) Cassie Cotton has always been unusual, a bit different – but this only makes her more intriguing to her school friend Fitz. Cassie can hear a noise that no one else can, and she believes it's a sound that shows the Earth is in distress, damaged by human activity that is causing climate change. When this belief leads to her being ridiculed and bullied at school, Cassie disappears. Fitz is determined to find her, but he has no idea where to start looking, or if he'll be in time to help her.... |
| Marcus Sedgwick Kim Slater | Revolver Gripping psychological revenge thriller set in Alaska in 1910. Smart There's been a murder, but the police don't care. It was only a homeless old man after all. Kieran cares. |
| Rebecca Stead | Liar and Spy Georges has just moved to a new apartment block and he immediately gets caught up in a spying game with Safer, a boy who lives on another floor. |
| Rebecca Stead | First Light Peter can't wait to join his parents on a scientific expedition to the ice caps of Greenland. But while he's there, he begins to suspect there might be another reason for this trip. And in another world, there is Thea, who lives with her family under the ice, as is desperate to see what's above it. When Thea and Peter meet, two worlds will collide, and a host of secrets will be released. |
| Robin Stevens | Murder Most Unladylike Daisy Wells and Hazel Wong set up a secret detective agency at Deepdean School for Girls. Then they find a dead Science Mistress in the Gym. |
| Robin Stevens/Siobhan Dowd | The Guggenheim Mystery This summer, I went on holiday to New York, to visit Aunt Gloria and Salim. While I was there, a painting was stolen from the Guggenheim Museum, where Aunt Gloria works. Everyone was worried and upset. I did not see what the problem was. I do not see the point of paintings, even if they are worth £9.9 million. Perhaps that's because of my very unusual brain, which works on a different operating system to everyone else's. |
| Lucy Strange | The Island at the Edge of Night Abandoned at a boarding school on a bleak and remote Scottish, Faye discovers that she and the other pupils have been sent there for doing something wicked. But what is it that Faye has done? She might be bold enough to explore the prison-like island but has she the courage to face a secret deep within herself? |
| Lucy Strange | The Secret of Nightingale Wood 1919. Mama is ill. Father has taken a job abroad. Nanny Jane is too busy to pay any attention to Henrietta and the things she sees – or thinks she sees – in the shadow of their new home. All alone, Henry discovers that Hope House is full of strange secrets: a forgotten attic, ghostly figures, mysterious firelight that flickers in the trees beyond the garden. One night she ventures into the darkness of Nightingale Wood. What she finds there will change her whole world.... |
| Lucy Strange | Our Castle by the Sea England is at war. Growing up in a lighthouse, twelve-year-old Pet's world has been one of storms, secret tunnels and stories about sea monsters. But now the clifftops are a terrifying battleground, and her family is torn apart. This is the story of a girl who is small, afraid and unnoticed. A girl who freezes with fear at the enemy planes ripping through the skies overhead. A girl who is somehow destined to become part of the strange, ancient legend of the Daughters of Stone.... |
| Jonathan Stroud | The Screaming Staircase (Book 1 of Lockwood & Co series) The dead are back to haunt the living. Evil spirits crowd the streets after dark. Are you in danger of being ghost-touched? With ghostly criminal cases on the rise, psychic investigations agents are in demand as never before. The smallest, most ramshackle – but arguably the best – of these agencies is Lockwood & Co. Meeting the dashing, scatty Anthony Lockwood; his loyal, book-loving deputy George Cubbins; and their newest agent, brave Lucy Carlyle. Together they must use their talents to keep you – and themselves – alive.... |

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| Thomas Taylor | Malamander Who will uncover the secret of The Malamander? In the basement of the Grand Nautilus Hotel, a mysterious girl crashes into Herbie Lemon's room and cries, "Hide me!" In the window of the Eerie Book Dispensary, a mechanical mermonkey sits and waits. And out beyond the pier, something stirs. Could the legendary Malamander have returned? |
| Jenny Valentine | Finding Violet Park Lucas Swain becomes intrigued by the urn of ashes left in a taxi cab office. <i>"I met Violet Park after she died, but it didn't stop me from getting to know her"</i> |
| Jakob Wegelius | The Murderer's Ape Sally Jones is an extraordinary gorilla and a brilliant ship's engineer who sails the high seas on <i>The Hudson Queen</i> with her loyal friend the Chief. One day the shipmates are offered a mysterious job that promises to pay big bucks, but then disaster strikes, the job goes wrong and the Chief is falsely convicted of murder. |
| Jakob Wegelius | The False Rose (Book 2 The Murderer's Ape) When Sally Jones and The Chief discover a curious rose-shaped necklace hidden onboard their beloved Hudson Queen, it's the start of a perilous adventure for the seafaring gorilla and her faithful friend. Determined to get to the bottom of the mystery, they set sail for Glasgow. There, they fall into the clutches of the city's most ruthless gang, commanded by a fearsome smuggler queen who will stop at nothing to snatch the necklace for herself. |
| Robert Westall | The Scarecrows (Carnegie Medal Winner 1981) There were three people, standing in the darkest place, watching him. Simon is outraged by the news that his mum plans to remarry. He can't bear her new fiancé or the way his mother and sister seem to have forgotten his late father. Overwhelmed by hatred and anger, he seeks solace in a nearby abandoned mill. But another powerful hatred lingers within its walls. And it is about to be unleashed.... |
| Eloise Williams | Gaslight 1899. All Nansi knows is that her mother disappeared on the day she was fished out of the docks. She can't remember anything else. Now, with no family to turn to, she works for Sid at the Empire Theatre, sometimes legally, sometimes thieving, trying to earn enough money to hire a detective to search for her mother. Everything changes when Constance and Violet join the theatre. Nansi is forced to be part of Violet's crooked psychic act. But it's Constance who is keeping the real secrets. Nansi is about to learn that her world is even more dangerous than she realised. Can she save her mother? Can she save herself? |
| Eloise Williams | Wilde Moving to live with her aunt, Wilde is afraid that strange things are happening around her. She just wants to fit in at her new school, but in rehearsals for a school play telling the legend of a witch called Winter, 'The Witch' starts leaving pupils frightening letters cursing them. Can Wilde find out what's happening before everyone blames her? Or will she always be the outsider? |
| Eloise Williams | Seaglass Lark needs a break. Her mother is ill, her sister has stopped speaking and she's fallen out with her best friend. When her family arrives at a caravan park on the Welsh coast. Lark and her little sister rush off to explore. But soon this freedom gets frightening. Is there a figure in the fog? What happened at the ruined house in the woods? Why is her sister so fascinated by a girl in a green dress? |
| Amy Wilson | A Girl called Owl Owl has always wanted to know who her father is, but when you've got a mum who won't tell you anything and a best friend with problems of her own, it's difficult to find time to investigate. When Owl starts seeing strange frost patterns on her skin and crying tears of ice, her world shifts. Could her strange new powers be linked to the father she's never met? |

- Lauren Wolk **Echo Mountain (Carnegie Shortlist 2021)** By the time our first mountain winter came, we had a snug, safe home with four good rooms – one for us children, one for our parents, one for our kitchen, and one for everything else. A root cellar for what we'd grown the whole summer long. A place where we could start again. But that was before my father's accident changed everything.
- David Wolstencroft **The Magic Hour (Book 1 The Magic Hour)** Ailsa Craig is always late. Late to her own birth, late to school, even late to her own house exploding (although it's never a good idea to be punctual to things like that). Until Ailsa finds an extra hour every day, which exists in a parallel Edinburgh.
- Katherine Woodfine **The Clockwork Sparrow (Book 1 of The Sinclair's Mysteries Series)** You are cordially invited to attend the grand opening of Sinclair's Department store. Enter a world of bonbons, hats, perfumes and mysteries around every corner.
- Katherine Woodfine **The Midnight Peacock (Book 4 of The Sinclair's Mysteries Series)** The festive season has come to Sinclair's and Sophie and Lil are spending the holidays at snowy Winter Hall. But it turns out that this is no ordinary house party....As sinister secrets come to light, our intrepid heroines find themselves faced with a more baffling mystery than ever before! With the help of their friends, can they uncover the truth in time to foil a truly diabolical plot? Or will Mr Sinclair's New Year's Eve Midnight Peacock Ball spell disaster for the dauntless young detectives? Prepare for shocks and surprises in the thrilling conclusion to the Sinclair's Mysteries!
- Katherine Woodfine **Peril in Paris (Taylor & Rose Secret Agents Book 1)** All aboard the train to Paris! It's 1911, and the young detectives of Taylor & Rose are turning their talents to espionage. On a case for the mysterious Secret Service Bureau, the daring Miss Sophie Taylor and Miss Lilian Rose must leave London for the Paris. Danger lurks beneath the bright lights of the city – and intrigue and murder lie in store.
- Moria Young **The Road to Ever After** Davy David, an orphan, lives by his wits in the dead-end town of Brownvale. When a stray dog called George turns Davy's life upside down just days before Christmas, he sets in motion a chain of events which forces them to flee.

CLASSICS

- Richard Adams **Watership Down (Carnegie Medal Winner 1972)** In this epic story, a young rabbit called Fiver senses that something terrible is about to happen to the warren - he is sure of it. Fiver's sixth sense is never wrong according to his brother, Hazel. They had to leave immediately, and they had to persuade the other rabbits to join them. And so begins a long and perilous journey of a small band of rabbits in search of a safe home. Fiver's vision finally leads them to Watership Down, but here they face their most difficult challenge of all . . .
- Joan Aiken **The Wolves of Willoughby Chase (part of the Wolves of Willoughby Chase sequence series)** Even the wolves that surround the great house of Willoughby Chase are not as cruel and merciless as the evil Miss Slighcarp. Bonnie and Sylvia must use all their wits to survive.
- Joan Aiken **The Gift Giving: Favourite Stories** In this book you will find Joan Aiken's favourite stories – tales of pirates, ghost dogs, mermaids and dragons.
- Lucy M. Boston **The Children of Green Knowe** Tolly's great-grandmother isn't a witch, but both she and her old house Green Knowe are full of a very special kind of magic. Green Knowe is not the lonely place Tolly has imagined. There are other children living in the house....children who had been happy there centuries before.

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| Louisa M Alcott | Little Women Four sisters growing up in 1860s America. They may be poor, but life is rich as they put on wild theatricals, make new friends, argue, learn from their mistakes, nurse each other through sickness and get into all sorts of trouble. |
| Jane Austen | Northanger Abbey Loveable, impressionable heroine growing up and learning to live in the real world. |
| Nina Bawden | The Peppermint Pig Johnnie was only the runt of the litter, a little peppermint pig. He had cost Mother a shilling, but somehow his great naughtiness and cleverness kept Poll and Theo cheerful, even though it was one of the most difficult years of their lives |
| Frances Hodgson Burnett | The Secret Garden Contrary, strong-willed, angry, misunderstood Mary Lennox, turns a household upside down. |
| Charlotte Bronte | Jane Eyre Jane falls in love with her rich employer, only to find he has a dark secret... |
| Lewis Carroll | Alice in Wonderland The adventure start with the sighting of a white rabbit... |
| Charles Dickens | Great Expectations Full of twists and turns. Pip receives an inheritance from an unknown benefactor which changes his life, but is it for the best? That's the mystery. |
| Arthur Conan Doyle | Sherlock Holmes Read any one (or more) of the Sherlock Holmes stories. How about The Hound of the Baskervilles ? A detective story with a supernatural element. |
| Arthur Conan Doyle | A Study in Scarlet (Holmes and Watson's first mystery) Holmes and Watson are summoned to a south London house, where they find a dead man whose contorted face is a twisted mask of horror. The body is unmarked by violence but on the wall a mysterious word has been written in blood. |
| Penelope Farmer | Charlotte Sometimes Charlotte Makepeace's first day at boarding school is a bewildering blur of unfamiliar faces, timetables, rules and lists. All the other girls know the routine – and each other. No one invites her into their exclusive circles of whispers and giggles. But on Charlotte's very first night something mysterious starts to happen. She wakes up in the same bed, in the same dormitory, in the same school. But something has changed. Somehow Charlotte has slipped forty years in time.... |
| Elizabeth Goudge | The Little White Horse For a fleeting instant Maria thought she saw a little white horse with a flowing mane and tail, head raised, poised, halted in mid-flight, as though it had seen her and was glad. Maria Merryweather, a stranger to Moonacre, is fascinated by the mysterious story of the long-lost Moon Princess and the magical little white horse. Before long she is determined to restore peace and happiness to the valley. And Maria usually gets her way.... |
| Kenneth Grahame | The Wind in the Willows Depicting the adventures of Rat, Mole, Badger and the pretentious Mr Toad, The Wind in the Willows sees these four animals getting into all sorts of trouble as they wander along the river, through the Wild Wood and around the grand Toad Hall. |
| Lou Kuenzler | The Return of the Railway Children With bombs raining on London, schoolgirl Edie is forced to flee the chaos of the city for the safety of the countryside and a new home with her aunt Roberta. Together with fellow evacuees Greta and Gus, Edie comes to love her home beside the railway at Three Chimneys. But does a dark secret lurk at the heart of the village....and are Greta and Gus hiding a secret of their own? |
| E Nesbitt | Five Children and It A sand fairy that grants wishes, but the wishes never turn out as the children imagine! |
| E Nesbitt | The Phoenix and the Carpet Five children find a magic carpet, able to journey through time and space, and inside it a strange egg which hatches into the Phoenix, an ancient and honourable bird who helps them have adventures which never turn out exactly as planned. |

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| E Nesbitt | The Treasure Seekers A classic story about the incorrigible Bastables and their dog Pincher. |
| Anna Sewell | Black Beauty Black Beauty is born in a beautiful meadow and cared for. But life takes him far from home to gruelling work as a cab horse in the city. |
| R.L Stevenson | Treasure Island Timeless sea adventure and the search for lost treasure. <i>“Yo-ho-ho, and a bottle of rum!”</i> |
| P.L.Travers | I go by Sea, I go by Land First published in 1941, this is the moving story of eleven-year-old Sabrina Lind. When the Second World War reaches her peaceful Sussex home, Sabrina and her little brother are sent on the long voyage across the sea to safety with their aunt in America. Will they ever see their parents again? |
| HG Wells | The Time Machine Science Fiction story about time travel and the possible consequences. |

DYSTOPIAN AND SCIENCE FICTION

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| Douglas Adams | The HitchHikers Guide to the Galaxy It’s an ordinary Thursday lunchtime for Arthur Dent until his house gets demolished. The Earth follows shortly afterwards to make way for a new hyperspace bypass and his best friend has just announced that he’s an alien. |
| Julie Bertagne | Exodus It is 2099 - and the world is gradually drowning, as mighty Arctic ice floes melt, the seas rise, and land disappears forever beneath storm-tossed waves. |
| Alastair Chisholm | Adam-2 Adam-2 has been locked in the basement of a lost building for over two hundred years – until he emerges into a world ruined by a civil war between humans and advanced intelligence. Hunted by both sides, Adam discovers that he holds the key to the war, and the power to end it – to destroy one side and save the other. But first, Adam must decide who – and what – he really is |
| Madeleine L’Engle | A Wrinkle in Time Charles and Meg, and their friend Calvin, travel through a ‘wrinkle in time’ in search of their missing father. But can they beat the evil forces they meet on their dangerous journey through time and space? |
| Lois Lowry | The Giver It is the future. There is no war, no hunger, no pain. No one in the community wants for anything. Everything needed is provided. But everything is not as perfect as it seems. |
| Bren MacDibble | The Dog Runner Ella and her brother, Emery, are alone in a city that’s starving to death. If they are going to survive, they must get away, up-country, to find Emery’s mum. But how can two kids travel such big distances across a dry, barren and dangerous landscape? Well, when you’ve got five big doggos and a dry-land dogsled, the answer is you go mushing. But when Emery is injured, Ella must find a way to navigate them through rough terrain, and even rougher encounters with desperate people.... |
| Bren MacDibble | How to Bee How will the world survive in a future without bees? Nine year old Peony lives in a shack in the orchard and dreams of becoming the best ‘bee’ the farm has ever seen, scrambling through the fruit trees to pollinate by hand with feather wands. She has love, she has enough to eat and if she could just become a ‘bee’ she’d be super-cherries happy. But her mother wants her to live in the city, where all the fruit is sent. Torn between two different worlds, Peony fights to protect her family and the world she loves |
| Simon Mayo | Itch (Book 1 of 3 The Itch Series) Itch is just an ordinary kid. He loves science and collecting things. He has no superpowers (and he doesn’t have any eyebrows either, thanks to his latest experiment going wrong). He doesn’t have any powerful sidekicks, |

just his little sister, Chloe and his tomboy cousin, Jack. All Itch has is a rucksack full of elements from the periodic table. But then he discovers an unusual rock and it turns out to be something that no scientist in the world has ever seen. Those who want the rock will stop at nothing to get it. Itch has to draw on everything he knows – plus all the courage he can muster – to keep himself alive.

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| Marissa Meyer | Cinder (The Lunar Chronicles, Book 1) A forbidden romance. A deadly plague. Earth's fate hinges on one girl . . . CINDER, a gifted mechanic in New Beijing, is also a cyborg. Hated by her stepmother and blamed for her stepsister's sudden illness. |
| William Nicholson | The Wind Singer In a world where rules are everything, when Kestrel dares to rebel, the Chief Examiner sentences her whole family to the harshest punishment. |
| Philip Reeve | Railhead The Great Network is a place of drones and androids, Hive Monks and Station Angels. The place of the thousand gates, where sentient trains criss-cross the galaxy in a heartbeat. Once Zen was just a petty thief, stealing to support his family and living by his wits. Now everything has changed. Zen is still a thief – but it could be that the key to the whole universe rests on finding out what else he is.... |
| Philip Reeve | Black Light Express (sequel to Railhead) There was nothing, and then there was a train. A train with two passengers: a petty thief from a dead-end town, and an android girl who could be more human than the rest of us. Join Zen and Nova as they find out what really lies beyond the end of the universe.... |
| Ross Welford | Into the sideways world When twelve-year-olds Willa and Manny hear of a mysterious animal prowling their town, they are determined to prove it is real. Following it into a cave one full moon, they are swept into an alternative world – one where pollution and conflict were conquered decades ago. But no one believes them, and with a global war looming in our world their quest for proof becomes ever-more urgent, in a nail-biting race against time. And once you find a perfect world, can you ever leave it behind? |
| Rick Yancey | The Fifth Wave Cassie runs from the beings that only look human, who have scattered Earth's last survivors. |

FANTASY GOTHIC AND HORROR

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| Sophie Anderson | The House with Chicken Legs Marinka dreams of a normal life, where her house stays in one place long enough for her to make friends. But her house has chicken legs and moves on without warning. For Marinka's grandmother is Baba Yaga, who guides spirits 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.... |
| Sophie Anderson | The Girl who Speaks Bear (Carnegie Shortlist 2021) Found abandoned in a bear cave as a baby, Yanka has always wondered where she is from. She tries to ignore the strange whispers and looks from the villagers, wishing she was as strong inside as she is on the outside. When Yanka has to flee her house, looking for answers about who she really is, a journey far beyond anything she ever imagined begins – from icy rivers to smouldering mountains, meeting an ever-growing herd of extraordinary friends along the way. |
| Sophie Anderson | The Castle of Tangled Magic Magic awaits, all you have to do is believe.... When thirteen-year-old Olia steps through a magical doorway, she discovers another land. A land tangled by magic, where hope is lost, and a scheming wizard holds all the power. Soon Olia learns that she is destined to save this land, but with time running out and her new friends and family in danger, she must search for the magic within herself to save everything and everyone she loves` |

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| Jean Atkin | The Crow House Wigtown is Scotland's Book Town: a Georgian village by the sea, with a wide street lined with bookshops. New step-brother Callum is hostile and Holly is left mostly on her own. But odd and alarming things begin to happen in No.71 North Main Street – or 'The Crow House', as Holly and Callum discover it was once known. |
| Kelly Barnhill | The Girl who drank the Moon Every year the people of the Protectorate leave a baby as a sacrifice to the witch who lives in the forest. But the witch, Xan, is a kind one. She rescues the children and delivers them to welcoming families on the other side of the forest, nourishing the babies with starlight on the journey. |
| Mira Bartok | The Wonderling Welcome to the home for wayward and misbegotten creatures, run by the evil Miss Carbunkle, a cunning villainess, who believes her terrified young charges exist only to serve and suffer. For the Wonderling, an innocent, one-eared "groundling" – a mix of fox and boy – the Home is all he has ever known. But when unexpected courage leads him to protect a young bird groundling, Trinket, from being bullied, she in return gives the Wonderling two incredible gifts: a real name – Arthur, like the good king in the old stories – and a best friend. |
| Frank Beddor | The Looking Glass Wars (Book 1 of a trilogy – Book 2: ArchEnemy, Book 3: Seeing Redd) You think you know the true story of Alice in Wonderland? Well think again. Alyss is destined to become Queen of Wonderland until her parents are murdered. She flees to safety in our world. Years pass. Now it is time to return. Step into a dazzling new world. Dare to enter the Looking Glass Maze. This is Wonderland as you have never seen it before! |
| Sylvia Bishop | On Silver Tides Kelda's sister seemed like a perfectly normal baby until her seventh day, when it was time to throw her in the river. Then they found out she couldn't breath underwater. |
| Holly Black | Dolls Bones A chilling ghost story " <i>My name is Eleanor Kerchner. I died in 1895. Now it's time to play.</i> " |
| Theresa Breslin | Whispers in the Graveyard (Carnegie Medal Winner 1994) 'They want me to join them. All I have to do is to reach out to them ...' Solomon struggles in school. He is bullied by his teachers and let down by his parents. His only refuge is in the local kirkyard, among ancient graves that lie in the shadow of the rowan tree. But when workmen uproot the tree and a dark and terrifying power is unleashed. Will Solomon be able to save himself and the people he cares about from the terrible curse within? |
| Aisha Bushby | Moonchild: Voyage of the Lost and Found Magic has always been part of twelve-year-old Amira's life, even though her world frowns upon it. When a mysterious storm begins to rage and Amira's magical cat companion goes missing, she decides to set sail. An extraordinary adventure awaits – one that will change Amira's life forever.... |
| Eoin Colfer | Artemis Fowl Twelve-year-old villain, Artemis Fowl, is the most ingenious criminal mastermind in history. His bold and daring plan is to hold a leprechaun to ransom. |
| Cressida Cowell | The Wizards of Once (Book 1 of 4) Once there was Magic, and the Magic lived in the dark forests. <i>Until the Warriors</i> came....Xar is a Wizard boy who has no Magic, and will do anything to get it. Wish is a Warrior girl, but she owns a banned Magical Object, and she will do anything to conceal it. Xar and Wish have been taught since birth to hate each other like poison. This is the thrilling tale of what happens when their two worlds collide. Xar and Wish must forget their differences if they're going to make it to the dungeons at Warrior Fort. Where something that has been sleeping for hundreds of years is stirring.... |
| Alison Croggon | The Threads of Magic Pip lives on his wits in the city of Clarel. When he pickpockets the wrong man, he finds himself in possession of a strange object – a heart in a silver |

casket. Not only does the heart seem to be trying to communicate with him, but a group of assassins are now on his trail. For Pip has unwittingly broken an ancient spell. And as the heart seeks revenge for all it has suffered, the boy is drawn deeper into the forbidden world of magic....

- Christelle Dabos **A Winter's Promise (Book 1 of The Mirror Visitor Quartet)** A mix of awkward misfit and misunderstood genius, Ophelia cares little about appearances or other people's opinions of her. She possesses two special gifts: a talent for reading the pasts of objects and the ability to travel through mirrors. Her peaceful existence on Anima is interrupted when she is promised in marriage to the taciturn Thorn, a member of a powerful clan from a cold and distant ark.
- Joseph Elliott **The Good Hawk (Book 1 of the Shadow Skye Series)** Agatha patrols the sea wall with pride, despite those in her clan who question her right to be there, because of the condition she was born with. Jaime is a reluctant Angler, full of self-doubt and afraid of the sea. When disaster strikes, the pair must embark on a terrifying journey to a land where forgotten magic and dark secrets lurk in every shadow....
- Eva Frantz **The Mystery of Raspberry Hill** The grown-ups all think she's going to die soon – she can see it in their eyes. Still, when twelve-year-old Stina is sent to be treated at Raspberry Hill Sanatorium, she can't believe her luck. She even gets to ride in a real motor car to the magnificent old hospital, hidden deep in the forest.
- Cornelia Funke **The Glass of Lead & Gold** In the snow-covered city of Londra, young Tabetha survives by finding treasures in the mudbanks of the river Themse. On Christmas Eve, a sinister stranger asks her to keep her eyes open for a priceless, long-lost magical object: the Glass of Lead and Gold. As word of the Glass spreads across the city, Tabetha finds herself with some unlikely companions, including a one-armed girl and a rather impressive soup chef. But will Tabetha discover that there are even greater fortunes to be found than the magical Glass?
- Neil Gaiman **The Graveyard Book** A baby escapes a murderer intent on killing the entire family and finds safety and security in the local graveyard.
- Sally Gardner **Tinder** Otto is tired of war, but when he defies Death he walks a dangerous path.
- Frances Hardinge **A Skinful of Shadows** When a creature dies, its spirit can go looking for somewhere to hide. Some people have space inside them, perfect for hiding. Makepeace, a courageous girl with a mysterious past, defends herself nightly from the ghosts which try to possess her. Then a dreadful event causes her to drop her guard for a moment. And now there's a ghost inside her.
- Frances Hardinge **Twilight Robbery (sequel to Fly by Night)** As dusk approaches, the good people of Toll-by-Day slam shut their doors and tremble. For, as the shadows lengthen, the city of Toll-by-Night emerges from the darkness – a city full of scoundrels, brigands and murderers. Stuck in this wicked underworld, orphan Mosca Mye and her conman companion Eponymous Clent find themselves embroiled in a dark and treacherous kidnap plot, with only a midwife, a wayward goose and a war-crazed knight to help them....
- Kiran Millwood Hargrave **A Secret of Birds and Bone** Sofia lives outside the city of Siena with her mamma, littler brother Ermin, and their pet crow Corvith. Her mother is a bone-binder, famous for her keepsakes and charms. But ever since an unexpected visit from a silver-veiled stranger, Mamma has not been herself. She no longer takes pleasure in her work, nor will she let Sofia help her. When Mamma is arrested on Sofia's birthday, the children are taken to the city orphanage. It's there that Sofia decides she is no longer a helpless child. Clutching her mamma's gift, an intricate bone locket, she sets out to unravel the secrets that bind her family to Siena itself: its catacombs and towers, its birds and rivers. Its rulers and people. A journey to darkness, danger, destiny – and hope.

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| A.F. Harrold | The Worlds We Leave Behind (2023 Carnegie Longlist) Hex never meant for the girl to follow him and his friend Tommo into the woods. He never meant for her to fall off the rope swing and break her arm. When the finger of blame is pointed at him, Hex runs deep into the woods and his fierce sense of injustice leads him to a strange clearing in the woods – a clearing that has never been there before – where an old lady in a cottage offers him a deal. |
| S.G.Harvey | The Wand Tree: Book of Magic Joe Silva is an ordinary thirteen-year old boy who struggles to fit in at the boarding school he has attended since the age of three. All that is about to change.... Jo is plunged into a world of magic and danger where he meets a family he didn't know existed, learns the value of friendship and battles for his life against powerful and overwhelming odds. |
| Charlie Higson | The Enemy Everyone over the age of fourteen has succumbed to a deadly zombie virus and now the kids must keep themselves alive. |
| Rhian Ivory | The Boy who drew the future Blaze has to draw people's futures to survive, with threats of the workhouse and witch trials hanging over him. Noah tries all he can to stop drawing, but the more he fights, the more it takes over. He just wants to pass for normal in his new school. As he gets closer to Beth, will he give himself away? One boy hiding in the past, one in the present. Can their futures set them free? |
| Lauren James | Green Rising (Carnegie Longlist 2023) Gabrielle, Theo and Hester have grown up in an ecological catastrophe: climate change is making Earth uninhabitable. But when they join thousands of teenagers around the world in developing a strange new power – the ability to grow plants from their skin – it seems there may be hope for the planet after all. |
| Jane Johnson | The Secret Country (Book 1 of the Eidolon Chronicles series) A trip to the local pet shop is just the start of an amazing adventure for Ben Arnold, as a talking cat shows him the way into a magical secret country..... |
| Ursula Le Guin | Wizard of Earthsea A tale of wizards, dragons and terrifying shadows. |
| Ann Sei Lin | Rebel Skies Mikoshima is an empire in turmoil. The sky cities and the groundlings are battling for power, and the air is filled with ferocious paper spirits that are loyal to no one. When they destroy Kurara's home, she joins the crew of an airship to become a spirit hunter. But her ability to bend paper to her will means so much more that she knew – and the true battle is only just beginning. Which side will Kurara choose? |
| Joan Lennon | Walking Mountain It's no secret that the Mountain walks – but now, unbelievably, catastrophically, it has started to walk backwards! Pema's life is all about taking care of things; Singay's is all about messing them up. But when they hear someone crying inside the Mountain they have no choice but to work together, catapulted into a race against time. From the Mountain all the way to the Sea, dangers abound. People, places, animals – nothing is what it appears to be. And the price of failure? The end of the world....again. |
| Penelope Lively | The Ghost of Thomas Kempe (Carnegie Medal Winner 1973) Bottles have been smashed, doors slammed and strange messages scrawled everywhere. And James is being blamed. It's not fair. Why won't his parents believe in ghosts? Because the ghost of Thomas Kempe is very real. And he's got it in for James.... |
| Geraldine McCaughrean | The Supreme Lie Fifteen-year-old Gloria is maid to Afaia's tyrannical head of state, Madame Suprema. When the country is hit by unprecedented flooding, Madame Suprema runs away, fearing she will be blamed for the crisis. To cover up this cowardly act, Gloria is made to step into Madame Suprema's shoes and is thrust into a world of corrupt and desperate politicians. |
| Hilary McKay | Fairy Tales There was a village, with a forest behind it, close behind, like a shadow. The village had an inn, and the inn had a doorway, and the doorway had a doorstep, and |

one winter's morning there was a parcel on that doorstep. You can't leave a parcel on a doorstep for long. Not if it's alive. So they took it in, the innkeeper and his wife, and they brushed off the frost and unknotted the string, unfolded the shabby brown blanket, and there was a baby.

Taran Matharu

The Outcast (Book 4: Prequel to The Summoner Trilogy) Arcturus is just an orphaned stable boy when he accidentally summons a demon. As Hominum's first common summoner, he becomes the key to a secret that the powerful nobility would do anything to keep hidden. With rebellion simmering among the masses, the nobility is more desperate than ever to keep in control and Arcturus is immediately whisked away to Vocans Academy to be taught the lost arts of summoning, spell craft and demonology. In no time Arcturus finds himself on an adventure that takes him deep into the Orc jungles, where allies and enemies are blurred. As his newfound summoner skills are put to the test, Arcturus must choose a side....or watch the Empire crumble.

China Mieville

Un Lun Dun Zanna and Deebea are two girls leading ordinary lives, until they stumble into the world of UnLondon, where all the lost and broken things of London end up.

Ross Montgomery

The Chime Seekers When an evil faerie steals Yanni's baby sister and swaps her for a changeling. Yanni is swept into a dangerous race against time to get her back. But faeries delight in tricks and rescuing her won't be easy. With the help of his cousin, Amy, and the reluctant changeling. Yanni must travel to goblin palaces and battle-swept oceans, discovering ancient treasures and secrets along the way. Yanni will need every drop of courage and even a few tricks of his own, if he's to outwit the faerie and save his sister....

Ross Montgomery

Spellstone Evie is used to being overlooked – until she is recruited into the Order of the Stone, a secret magical organization, and discovers that being unremarkable might just be her greatest strength. Now, evil is returning to the land, and Evie is the only person who can stop it. But how can she defeat the most dangerous magician in the world world, when she doesn't even know her own powers?

Struan Murray

Orphans of the Tide (Book 1 Orphans of the Tide) When a mysterious boy washes in with the tide, the citizens believe he's the Enemy – the god who drowned the world – come again to cause untold chaos. Only Ellie, a fearless young inventor living in a workshop crammed with curiosities, believes he's innocent. But the Enemy can take possession of any human body, and the ruthless Inquisition are determined to destroy it forever. To save the boy, Ellie must prove who he really is – even if that means revealing her own dangerous secret....

Struan Murray

Shipwreck Island (Book 2 Orphans of the Tide) Orphans Ellie and Seth have crossed an endless ocean in search of freedom and peace. Arriving on the shores of a colourful tropical island ruled by a mysterious queen, it seems they might just have found the perfect new home. But there is trouble brewing in paradise and soon Ellie and Seth find themselves caught up in a dangerous struggle for power – and forced to confront terrible truths from their past....

Zohra Nabi

The Kingdom over the Sea When Yara's mum passes away, she leaves behind a letter with a set of strange instructions. If Yara wants to know the truth about her past, she must travel to Zehaira – a place that isn't on any map. A city of sorcerers, alchemists and magic. But Zehaira is not what it used to be – magic has been outlawed, and the

sultan is plotting a sinister scheme that threatens the lives of the people who wield it. As the secrets of Yara's past unfold, can she help her new friends and find her place in this magical world?

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| Jenny Nimmo | Midnight for Charlie Bone (Book 1) Charlie doesn't wasn't to believe that he has a special talent: it means he will be sent away to the dreaded Bloor's Academy. But the voices in the photographs whisper to Charlie of dark secrets from the past – and a mystery that he must solve. Could the Academy hold the key? |
| Jenny Nimmo | Charlie Bone and the Time Twister (Book 2) When Charlie's long-lost relative Henry Yewbeam appears, twisted through time from an icy winter deep in the past, not everyone is pleased to see him. Henry will need all Charlie's help to keep hidden from the evil Bloors – and to stay alive.... |
| Katherine Orton | Glassheart Nona and her Uncle travel everywhere together, replacing stained-glass windows in war-torn buildings. When a mysterious commission takes them to the lonely moors of Dartmoor, Nona discovers a wild and powerful magic which threatens everything. Can Nona protect those she loves – even if it means fighting darkness itself? |
| Phillip Pullman | Northern Lights Frozen lands of the Arctic, where witch-clans reign and ice-bears fight. Lyra goes on an extraordinary journey. |
| Terry Pratchett | Amazing Maurice and his Educated Rodents (Carnegie Winner 2001) Piper plus rats equals lots and lots of money. Until they run across someone playing a <i>different</i> tune. |
| Terry Pratchett | Wee Free Men Armed with only a frying pan and her common sense, young witch-to-be Tiffany Aching must defend her home against the monsters of Fairyland. |
| J.P. Rose | The Haunting of Tyrese Walker (BBA Longlist 2024) After a shocking event leaves Tyrese struggling with grief, he's taken to visit family in Jamaica. From the first night, strange things start happening: impossible visions, blackouts, swarms of insects, and the discovery of a grave hidden deep in the forest.... |
| Katherine Rundell | Impossible Creatures On the day Christopher Forrester rescues a drowning baby griffin from a hidden lake, his life changes forever. The adventure that awaits him will take him to the Archipelago, a secret, unmapped cluster of islands where all the creatures of myth still live side by side with humans. The adventure also brings him Mal, a girl on the run, with whom he will transform the destiny of the world.... |
| Kate Saunders | Five Children on the Western Front Set on the eve of the First World War. A sand fairy and five children - war will change their lives for ever. |
| S.F. Said | Tyger (Carnegie Longlist 2024) Adam has found something incredible in a rubbish dump in London. A mysterious, mythical, magical animal. A Tyger. And the tyger is in danger. Adam and his friend Zadie are determined to help, but it isn't just the tyger's life at stake. Their whole world is on the verge of destruction. Can they learn to use their powers before it's too late? |
| Victoria Schwab | City of Ghosts Cass can pull back the Veil that separates the living from the dead. When Cass's parents start hosting a TV show about the world's most haunted places, the family heads off to Edinburgh. Here, graveyards, castles and secret passageways teem with restless phantoms. But when Cass meets a girl who shares her "gift", she realizes how much she still has to learn about the Veil – and herself. And she'll have to learn fast. The city of ghosts is more dangerous than she ever imagined. |
| Marcus Sedgwick | Ravencave (Carnegie Longlist 2024) A grim discovery brings disturbing revelations in this chilling ghost story from the late Marcus Sedgwick. While mucking about in the ruins of an old farm while on holiday in Yorkshire, James hears strange |

laughter echoing around the walls. The ghost of a young girl appears to him and urges James to follow her but at first he's too afraid. When she appears again, this time James follows. But will he be able to face the terrible truth she reveals ...?

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| Matthew Skelton | Endymion Spring In the dead of night, a cloaked figure drags a heavy box through icy streets. The chest is magically sealed by a carved serpent's head – and can only be opened when its fangs taste blood. Centuries later, an ordinary boy touches a strange book and feels something sharp pierce his finger. The book is blank, but its paper seems to quiver...as if it is alive. |
| Lucy Strange | Sisters of the Lost Marsh On a poor farm surrounded by marshlands, six sisters - Grace, Willa, Freya, and triplets Deedee, Darcy, and Dolly - live in fear of their father. Their beloved grandmother tries to protect them, but the future seems bleak. When the Full Moon Fayre makes a rare visit to Hollow-in-the-Marsh, the girls slip out to see the famous Shadow Man, an enigmatic puppeteer. Afterwards, oldest sister Grace is missing. Can Willa save her sister from one fate, and yet outrun her own? |
| Pari Thomson | Greenwild: The world behind the door (Carnegie Longlist 2024) Daisy Thistledown is on the run. She has escaped from boarding school, and she's desperate to find her missing mother. Now her flight will take her through a hidden doorway – and into another world. Behind the door is the Greenwild. Full of incredible botanical wonders, this land of green magic holds the key to finding Daisy's mother. And someone wants to destroy it. |
| J. R. R. Tolkien | The Hobbit A strange and magical adventure. |
| Dominique Valente | Starfell: Willow Moss and the Lost Day (Book 1 of the Starfell series) Willow Moss, the least powerful sister in a family of witches, has a magical ability for finding lost things – like spectacles, or socks. Useful, but not exactly exciting.....Then the most feared witch in all of Starfell comes asking for Willow's help. Last Tuesday has gone missing and without it the whole world could unravel. Now Willow holds the fate of Starfell in her rather unremarkable hands.... |
| Amy Wilson | Shadows of Winterspell Stella has been living behind the magic of Winterspell Forest for most of her life. Lonely, she enrolls at the local school but as she begins to make friends, discovers that she is at the heart of a fae legend that could change everything. |
| Matilda Woods | Otto Tattercoat and the Forest of Lost Things In the eternally frozen city of Hodeldorf, the Tattercoats live up on the roofs and by a strict code: only steal what you need, don't leave a trace of yourself behind, and if another Tattercoat is in trouble, you must always help them out. So when Otto's mother goes missing, and he is lured into a factory for children with nowhere else to go, the Tattercoats must come to the rescue. Dare they enter the Forest of Lost Things, where wolves, witches and other wonders hide in the shadows? And can they find a way to bring sunshine and warmth to Hodeldorf once more? |

HISTORICAL

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| John Boyne | The Boy at the top of the Mountain When Pierrot becomes an orphan, he must leave his home in Paris for a new life with his Aunt Beatrix. However, this is no ordinary time, |
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| | for it is 1935 and the Second World War is fast approaching; and this is no ordinary house, for this is the Berghof, the home of Adolf Hitler. |
| Elen Caldecott | The Short Knife (Carnegie Longlist 2021) The Roman Empire has withdrawn from Britain, throwing it into the chaos of the Dark Ages. Mai has been kept safe by her father and her sister, Haf. But when Saxon warriors arrive at their farm, the family is forced to flee to the hills where British warlords lie in wait. Can Mai survive in a dangerous world where even the people she loves most can't be trusted? |
| Emma Carroll | The Somerset Tsunami When Fortune Sharpe carves a boat from a tree with her beloved brother, Jem, she's only having a bit of fun. But now is not the time for a girl to be drawing attention to herself and she is sent away to fine work dressed as a boy. Luckily a rich manor house is hiring. Yet Berrow Hall's inhabitants harbour dangerous secrets of their own, the suspicious owner is hunting for witches, and the house itself is a little too close to the sea.... |
| Emma Carroll | Letters from the Lighthouse A bomb blast....a chance encounter....her mother's coat. This is all Olive can remember of the night her sister Sukie went missing. With London unsafe, Olive and her brother are evacuated to the Devonshire coast to stay with a mysterious lighthouse keeper. There, Olive must solve a mystery of her own: a strange coded note which seems to link Sukie to Devon, and to something dark and impossibly dangerous |
| Emma Carroll | Secrets of a Sun King London, 1922. When Lilian Kaye finds a parcel on her grandad's doorstep, she is shocked to see who sent it: a famous Egyptologist, found dead that very morning, according to every newspaper in England! The mysterious package holds the key to a story....about a king whose tomb archaeologists are desperately hunting for. Lil and her friends must embark on an incredible journey – to return the package to its resting place, to protect those they love, and to break the deadly pharaoh's curse.... |
| Emma Carroll | Frost Hollow Hall Winter, 1881. In the middle of a frozen lake, a girl is skating. She's not supposed to be here. No one is. Not since Kit Barrington drowned at Frost Hollow Hall ten years ago. But the dead don't scare Tilly Higgins. The ice is thin. It cracks. Suddenly she's under the water, drowning. Near death, a strange spirit appears to her, a boy so beautiful Tilly's sure he's an angel. But he's a ghost. A very troubled ghost. And he desperately needs her help. |
| Emma Carroll | When we were Warriors Summer, 1942. Air raids, rationing, the threat of invasion: everything is pretty grim, and often pretty dull. That's what Stanley thinks, anyway – until his home is bombed and he's evacuated to a remote old house with the mysterious name Frost Hollow Hall....It's what Olive thinks too – until she finds a body washed up on the beach at Budmouth Point....Velvet just wishes to be useful – and when the air-raid warden brings in a ban that puts all the pets in peril, she grabs her chance. |
| Lauren Child | The Little Match Girl strikes back (Carnegie Longlist 2024) It only takes one strike: A powerful feminist reworking of the Hans Christian Andersen classic, from bestselling and award-winning creators Emma Carroll and Lauren Child. |
| Phil Earle | While the Storm Rages September 1939. The world is on the brink of war. As his dad marches off to fight, Noah makes him a promise, to keep their beloved family dog safe. When the government advises people to have their pets put down in readiness for the chaos of war, hundreds of thousands of people do as they are told. But not Noah. He's not that sort of boy. With his two friends in tow, he goes on the run, to save his dog and as many animals as he can. No matter what. |

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| Phil Earle | When they Sky Falls (Carnegie Longlist 2022) 1941. War is raging. And one angry boy has been sent to the city, where bombers rule the skies. There, Joseph will live with Mrs F, a gruff woman with no fondness for children. Her only loves are the rundown zoo she owns and its mighty silverback gorilla, Adonis. As the weeks pass, bonds deepen and secrets are revealed, but if the bombers set Adonis rampaging free, will either of them be able to end the life of the one thing they truly love? |
| Cathy Faulkner | Digging for Victory Devon, 1941. Bonnie wants to help in the war effort like her brother, Ralph, rather than tend the home vegetable patch. So when the mysterious Mr Fisher is billeted at their family home, Bonnie's mission to uncover his secrets begins. Why is he here? Is he a shirker? Or worse ... a German spy? |
| Sally Gardner | Invisible in a Bright Light It is 1870: opening night at the Royal Opera House in a freezing city by the sea, where a huge, crystal chandelier in the shape of a galleon sparkles magically with the light of 750 candles. Celeste, a theatre rat, wakes up in a costume basket from what she hopes is a bad dream, to find that everyone at the theatre where she works thinks she is someone else. When the chandelier falls, she is haunted by a strange girl who claims to know Celeste's past and why she must risk playing a game called the Reckoning to try to save the people she loves |
| Sally Gardner | The Red Necklace A tangle of secrets, a thread of magic and a touch of humour set in revolutionary France. |
| Jamila Gavin | Never Forget You England, 1937. Gwen. Noor. Dodo. Vera. Four very different teenage girls, with one thing in common. Their parents are all abroad, leaving them at boarding school, where they soon form an intense friendship. The friends think that no matter what, they will always have each other. Then everything changes. |
| Morris Gleitzman | Once A young Jewish boy who is determined to escape the orphanage he lives in to save his Jewish parents from the Nazis in the occupied Poland of the Second World War. |
| Annelise Gray | Race to the Death (Book 1 Circus Maximus) Dido lives and breathes horses. She dreams of being the first girl to race to victory in ancient Rome's greatest sporting arena – the Circus Maximus. Risk, rivalry and betrayal force her to flee her home, leaving behind her beloved horse. To follow her dream, Dido must learn who to trust. And who to fear. Winning glory comes at a high price in a terrifying and thrilling race to the death. |
| Laurie Halse | Chains Isabel and her sister, Ruth, are slaves. Sold from one owner to the next, arrive in New York as the Americans are fighting for their independence |
| Jane Hardstaff | The Executioner's Daughter (Book 1 of 2) The crowds at the Tower of London love nothing better than watching an execution. Preferably while eating a pie. Not Moss. She'll never get used to beheadings, no matter what Pa says. She watches the river as it flows past and longs to escape. Salter lives on the river. Using his wits and his boat, he believes that life is mostly about staying alive, and if that means stealing – well, that's life! But danger is lurking on the riverbank, and its murky depths hide a secret that could change everything.... |
| Jane Hardstaff | River Daughter (Book 2) Moss has left her old life in the Tower behind her. Her father has swapped his executioner's axe for a blacksmith's forge and, with Salter, she finally has the home she always dreamed of. But when an old enemy returns, Moss has no choice but to leave everything she loves. She sets off on a deadly journey to put an end to the evil that is enveloping London like a stinking fog. It's a decision that may cost her friendship with Salter – and her life |

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| Sonya Hartnett | The Midnight Zoo World War II, Eastern Europe. Two boys and their baby sister are fleeing the Nazis when they come to a town with a zoo where the animals have stories to tell |
| Sonya Hartnett | The Children of the King The world is at war and Cecily, Jeremy and May have been sent to the countryside, to keep safe from the bombs that are falling on London. There they discover two strange boys hiding in the ruins of an old castle. The castle belongs in the past, but its story will take these children on an extraordinary adventure |
| Monica Hesse | The Girl in the Blue Coat Amsterdam, 1943 Hanneke spends her days procuring and delivering sought-after black-market goods to paying customers, her nights hiding the true nature of her work from her concerned parents, and every waking moment mourning her boyfriend, who was killed on the front line when the Germans invaded. |
| Mary Hoffman | The Ravenmaster's Boy Young Kit finds himself on a plague cart wedged between the bodies of his mother and father. But he is alive and is rescued and taken into the home of the Ravenmaster at the Tower of London. He soon finds he can speak the language of the big black birds, a skill which proves useful when he finds himself caught up in a story of queens and treason, princesses and executioners. There can be no change in the history of Henry VIII's first two wives but without Kit and the ravens another Tudor monarch might never have survived. |
| Mary Hooper | At the Sign of the Sugared Plum Hannah goes to London to be with her sister. Is the plague as bad as people think? |
| Anne Holm | I Am David David escapes from the concentration camp where he has spent his entire life and flees across Europe. He is utterly alone – who can he trust? What will await him? |
| Shirley Hughes | Hero on a Bicycle Italy, 1944: Florence is occupied by Nazi German forces. The Italian resistance movement has not given up hope, though – and neither have Paolo and his sister, Constanza. Both are desperate to fight the occupation, but what can two siblings do against a whole army with only a bicycle to help them? |
| Hiba Noor Khan | Safiyyah's War (Carnegie Shortlist 2024) War comes to the streets of Paris and Safiyyah's life changes for ever. Her best friend's family have fled, and the bombing makes her afraid to leave the mosque where she lives. But when her father is arrested by the Nazi's for his secret Resistance work, it falls to Safiyyah to run the dangerous errands around the city. It's not long before hundreds of persecuted Jews seek sanctuary at the mosque. Can Safiyyah find the courage to enter the treacherous catacombs under Paris and lead the Jews to safety? |
| Judith Kerr | When Hitler Stole Pink Rabbit Unforgettable story of a Jewish family fleeing from Germany at the start of the Second World War. |
| Anthony McGowan | Dogs of the Deadlands (Carnegie Longlist 2024) Chernobyl, 1986. Natasha's world is coming to an end. Forced to evacuate her home in the middle of the night, she must leave her puppy behind and has no idea if she'll ever return. Some time later, growing up in the shadow of the ruined nuclear power plant, pups Misha and Bratan have to learn how to live in the wild – and fast. Creatures with sharp teeth, claws and yellow eyes lurk in the overgrown woods. And they're watching the brothers' every move.... |
| Michael Morpurgo | Private Peaceful Heroism or cowardice? A stunning story of the First World War |
| Tom Palmer | After the War: From Auschwitz to Ambleside (Carnegie Longlist 2021) Summer 1945. The Second World War is finally over and Yossi, Leo and Mordecai are among three hundred children who arrive in the English Lake District. Having survived the horror of the Nazi concentration camps, they've finally reached a place of safety and peace, where they can hopefully begin to recover. But Yossi is haunted by thoughts of the |

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| | loved ones he has lost and disturbed by terrible nightmares. As he waits desperately for news of his missing father, he fears that Mordecai and Leo – the closest thing to family he has left – will move on without him. Will life by the the beautiful shores of Lake Windermere be enough to bring hope back into all their lives? |
| Tom Palmer | D-Day Dog Jack can't wait for the school trip to the D-Day landing beaches. It's his chance to learn more about the war heroes he has always admired – brave men like his dad, who is a Reserve soldier. But when his dad is called up to action and things at home spiral out of control, everything Jack believes about war is thrown into question. |
| Philip Reeve | Here Lies Arthur (Carnegie Winner 2008) Gwyna is only a slave girl when Arthur's magician, Myrddin, takes her under his wing. Amid the battles that rage across the land, she learns how to spin a tale so powerful it becomes true.... |
| Gavriel Savit | Anna and the Swallow Man Krakow, 1939, is no place to grow up. There are a million marching soldiers and a thousand barking dogs. And Anna Lania is just seven years old when the Germans take her father and suddenly, she's alone. Then she meets the Swallow Man. He is a mystery, strange and tall. |
| Ian Serraillier | Silver Sword Alone and fending for themselves in a Poland devastated by World War Two, Jan and his three homeless friends cling to the silver sword as a symbol of hope. |
| Anthea Simmons | Lightning Mary One stormy night, lightning strikes a group of women with a baby sheltering under a tree. Only the baby survives: her name is Mary Anning. Growing up on the wild Dorset coast, Mary follows after her father in the perilous hunt for valuable fossils uncovered by waves and landslips: ancient creatures, turned to stone. Yet tragedy and despair are never far away. As a girl fighting to fulfil her dream of becoming a scientist, everything is against Mary. But Mary hasn't survived the lightning strike for nothing. Soon she'll make her greatest discovery of all.... |
| Jill Paton Walsh | Fireweed It's 1940, and London is in the grip of Hitler's Blitz. For fifteen-year old runaways Bill and Julie, wartime London is a playground, a world free from interfering parents and responsibilities. But although ducking Nazi missiles and camping in bombed-out houses seems almost fun for a while, the reality of living through a war quickly begins to set in. Winter is coming, and Bill and Julie will discover that playing at being grown-ups can be a very dangerous game indeed.... |
| Robert Westall | The Machine Gunners (Carnegie Medal Winner 1975) Chas McGill has the second-best collection of war souvenirs in Garmouth, and he desperately wants it to be the best. When he stumbles across the remains of a German bomber crashed in the woods – its shiny, black machine-gun still intact – he grabs his chance. Soon he's masterminding his own war effort with dangerous and unexpected results.... |
| Sheena Wilkinson | Star by Star It's 1918 and Stella has lost her suffragette mother to the terrible flu pandemic that is sweeping Europe. The Great War is finally coming to a close, and women are going to be able to vote for the first time. Stella wants to change the world – but she can't do it all by herself. Just as stars come one by one to brighten the night sky, so history is made person by person, girl by girl, vote by vote. |
| Eloise Williams | Honesty & Lies Winter, 1601. Greenwich Palace, London. On her first day in London, Honesty manages to get a job with Alice as a maid at the court of Queen Elizabeth I. But while Honesty seeks attention and praise to make a better life for herself, Alice must stay invisible, hiding a terrible secret. In a world of treason and revenge, their friendship will put them both in danger. Can they even trust each other? |
| Lucy Worsley | Lady Mary Mary Tudor's world is turned upside down when her father, Henry the Eighth, declares his marriage to her mother is over and that Mary isn't really his child. How can he do such a thing? Banished from court and alone for the first time in her life, |

Mary must fight for what is rightfully hers. Despite what anyone says, she will always be a princess. It is in her blood. But without her fierce mother by her side, will Mary find the strength? Is there anyone Mary can trust? How will she survive?

HUMOUR

- Frank Cottrell Boyce **Sputnik's Guide to Life on Earth** If you've got a massive job to do – start by making a list. That's what Prez's grandad always says. So when Prez meets Sputnik – a small, loud alien in a kilt who tells him that Earth is about to be destroyed – he begins by making a list. If he can find ten things worth seeing or doing on Earth then the planet will be saved. But Prez's list of things worth seeing and doing is not quite the same as Sputnik's
- Lissa Evans **Wed Wabbit** Fidge is having a bad week. She's been flung into a bizarre world alongside three companions: two deeply weird and the third is her awful cousin Graham. She has to solve a series of nearly impossible clues, defeat a dictator who can't pronounce the letter 'r' and deal with three thousand Wimbley Woos (yes, you read that sentence correctly). And the whole situation – the whole entire thing – is her fault.
- Ross Welford **Time Travelling with a Hamster** My dad died twice. Once when he was thirty nine and again four years later when he was twelve. The first time had nothing to do with me. The second time definitely did, but I would never even have been there if it hadn't been for his 'time machine'...When Al Chaudhury discovers his late dad's time machine, he finds that going back to the 1980s requires daring and imagination. It also requires lies, theft, burglary, and setting his school on fire. All without losing his pet hamster, Alan Shearer...
- Ross Welford **The Dog who Saved the World** When eleven-year-old Georgie befriends an eccentric retired scientist, she becomes the test subject for a thrilling new experiment: a virtual-reality 3D version of the future. But then a deadly disease threatens the life of every dog in the country and Georgie's beloved dog, Mr Mash, gets sick. And that's only the start of her troubles. Soon, Georgie and Mr Mash must embark on a desperate quest: to save every dog on earth, and maybe even all of humanity
- Ross Welford **What not to do if you turn invisible** Twelve-year-old Ethel only meant to cure her spots, not turn herself invisible. It's terrifying at first – and exciting – but the effect fails to wear off and Ethel is thrown into a heart-stopping adventure as she struggles to conceal her invisibility while uncovering the biggest secret of all: who she really is.

NON FICTION

- Eleanor Coerr **Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes** Hiroshima-born Sadako is lively and athletic – the star of her school's running team. And then the dizzy spells start. Soon gravely ill with leukemia, an aftereffect of the atom bomb that fell on her city, Sadako approaches her illness as she did her running – with irrepressible spirit. Recalling a Japanese legend, Sadako sets to work folding paper cranes. For the legend holds that if a sick person folds one thousand cranes, the gods will grant her wish and make her healthy again. Based on a true story, Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes celebrates the courage that made one young woman a heroine in Japan.
- Vince Cross **My true story: Hero at Dunkirk** 1940, and Britain has been plunged into the Second World War. For Joe Read, the battles raging in France are nothing more than whispered rumours and distant gunfire until he is called up for a secret mission to the beaches of Dunkirk. What follows is a three-day adventure that Joe will never forget, and a chapter in the war that will change the course of history.

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| Mona Golabek | The Children of Willesden Lane A true story of hope and survival during the Second World War. Fourteen-year-old Lisa Jura was a musical prodigy who hoped to become a concert pianist. But when Hitler's armies advanced on pre-war Vienna, Lisa's parents were forced to make a difficult decision. Able to secure passage for only one of their three daughters through the Kindertransport, they chose to send gifted Lisa to London for safety. As she yearned to be reunited with her family while she lived in a home for refugee children on Willesden Lane, Lisa's music became a beacon of hope. |
| Kathy Kacer | Hiding Edith: A true story In 1938, Edith and her family joined the many Jewish people forced to leave their homes to escape the Nazis. In a desperate bid for survival, Edith was entrusted to the care of a children's home in Moissac, France, where other Jewish children were hiding. All the people of the town promised to keep the children's identity a secret. Could they possibly succeed? Would Edith ever see her family again? |
| Raj Kaur Khaira | Stories for South Asian Super Girls Discover 50 inspirational stories of South Asian women and their INCREDIBLE achievements. |
| Dara McAnulty | Diary of a Young Naturalist Diary of a Young Naturalist portrays Dara's intense connection to the natural world, and his perspective as a teenager juggling exams and friendships alongside a life of campaigning. |
| Sue Reid | My true story: Give us the Vote! Dora Thewlis is sixteen years old, and works a ten-hour day at the loom. She longs for a meaningful life and a better world for women. She is thrilled at the chance to go to London to march with the suffragettes. But will her devotion to the cause survive the misery and humiliation of arrest and prison? |
| Phil Robins | Can I come home please? The Second World War – by the children who lived through it. This book shows what life was like during the Second World War for the children who lived through it. What was it like going to school in Nazi Germany, or helping to put fires out during the Blitz? How did it feel to be evacuated, or to arrive in Britain as a refugee and then be told you were an 'enemy alien'? Can you imagine running for your life as a doodlebug hurtled towards you, or drifting in a lifeboat for eight days, in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean? In this book, eyewitnesses interviewed by the Imperial War Museum tell you just how it felt to be there. |
| Katherine Rundell | The Golden Mole A gorgeously illustrated collection of the lives of some of the Earth's most astounding animals, The Golden Mole is a chance to be awestruck and lovestruck – to reckon with the beauty of the world, its fragility, and its strangeness. |
| Yeva Skalietska | You don't know what war is. The Diary of a young girl from Ukraine Chronicling 12 life-changing days for 12-year-old Yeva Skalietska, You don't know what war is details the terrifying flight of Yeva and her grandmother from bomb-ravaged Kharkiv to safety in Dublin with unflinching candour and poignant reflection. |

REALISTIC FICTION

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| Kwame Alexander | Rebound Charlie Bell is in mourning, and struggling to figure out how he feels about his best (girl) friend, CJ. When he gets into trouble one too many times, he's packed off to stay with his grandparents. There his cousin Roxie introduces him to a whole new world: basketball. A legend on the courts is born. But can Charlie resist when trouble comes knocking once again? |
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| David Almond | My Name is Mina Mina writes and writes in her notebook, and here is her journal: her stories and dreams, experiences and thoughts, her scribbles and nonsense, poems and songs. Her vivid account of her vivid life. |
| Katya Balen | The Light in Everything (Carnegie Shortlist 2023) When shy Tom and angry Zofia end up moving into the same home as they await the arrival of a new baby, frustrations and heartache rise to the surface in this powerful, moving story of blended families and embracing change. |
| Katya Balen | October, October (Carnegie Winner 2022) October and her dad live in the woods. They sleep in the house Dad built for them and they know the trees and the rocks and the lake and the stars like best friends. They live in the woods and they are wild. And that's the way it is. Until the year October turns eleven. That's the year October rescues a baby owl. It's the year Dad falls out of the biggest tree and goes to hospital. The year the woman who calls herself October's mother comes back. The year everything changes. |
| Katya Balen | The Space we're in (Carnegie Longlist 2021) Frank is ten. He likes cottage pie and football and cracking codes. Max is five. He eats only Quavers and some colours are too bright for him and if he has to wear a new T-shirt he melts down down down. Sometimes Frank wishes Mum could still do huge paintings of stars and asteroids like she used to, but since Max was born she just doesn't have time. When tragedy hits Frank and Max's lives like a comet, can Frank piece together a universe in which he and Max aren't light years apart? |
| Ali Benjamin | The Thing about Jellyfish Suzy is twelve when her best friend, Franny, drowns one summer at the beach. How can someone all of a sudden, just no longer be there? Suzy realizes that they must have got it wrong: Franny didn't just drown - she was stung by a poisonous jellyfish. |
| Malorie Blackman | Pig Heart Boy You're thirteen. All you want is a normal life. But most normal kids don't need heart transplants. |
| Sita Brahmachari | Tender Earth Laila Levenson has always been the baby of the family, but now, with her older siblings, Mira and Krish, leaving home just as she starts secondary school, everything feels like it's changing. Can the reappearance of Nana Josie's Protest Book, and the spirit it releases in Laila, her friends and the local community, help her find her own voice and discover what she truly believes in? |
| Catherine Bruton | No ballet shoes in Syria Aya is eleven years old and has just arrived in Britain with her mum and baby brother, seeking asylum from war in Syria. When Aya stumbles across a local ballet class, the formidable dance teacher spots her exceptional talent and believes Aya has the potential to earn a prestigious ballet scholarship. But at the same time, Aya and her family must fight to be allowed to remain in the country, to make a home for themselves, and to find Aya's father – separated from the rest of the family during the journey from Syria. |
| Sophie Cameron | Away with words (Carnegie shortlist 2024) Following the friendship that blossoms between a newcomer in Scottish town who doesn't speak much English yet and a local girl with selective mutism, Cameron's empowering novel is a thoughtful and lyrical exploration of the power of communication. |
| Sally Christie | The Icarus Show Alex has worked out a foolproof way to avoid being picked on. Don't React. It's so simple, it's brilliant! Or is it? |
| David Cockcroft | Running with Horses (Carnegie Longlist 2023) After witnessing his Dad's violent death, Rabbit has moved to the coast with his Mum for a new start. Struggling with visions of the past and future, Rabbit wonders if he will ever feel normal again. Then he meets |

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| | Joe. A friend he can trust, who understands him. But Joe has a dangerous older brother – Billy. Soon Rabbit is in over his head, and the frightening underworld is rising to engulf him once more. |
| Joseph Coelho | The Girl who became a Tree: A story told in poems (Carnegie shortlist 2021) A story of a girl with a hurt she can't express. A tale of a creature? A tail of deepest red. A journey in a library where a forest lurks. A message that is stolen. A fable of growing hurts. |
| Gillian Cross | Wolf (Carnegie Medal Winner 1990) Cassy lives with her granny, until the night that she hears strange footsteps coming into their flat. The next morning, she is packed off to her mum's - a squat in London that her beautiful, simple mother shares with a couple of actors. Cassy does her best to throw herself into her mother's life, even agreeing to take part in their travelling show called 'Wolf'. But she can't ever get rid of the feeling that something is following her, and something bad is going to happen. Her fear grows as time passes, until Cassy knows she must face up to her past: who her father is, why he left and where he has gone. What she doesn't know is that some questions are better left unanswered... |
| Sarah Crossan | One Grace and Tippi are twins - conjoined twins. And their lives are about to change. |
| Christopher Paul Curtis | Bud, not Buddy (Lit in Colour Reading List) Bud (not Buddy) is ten years old and all alone in the world. Hi Momma never told him who his father was, but she did leave one important clue...Armed with his suitcase of secret things and his own Book of Rules, Bud runs away from his horrible foster family. His journey is full of surprises, but will it lead him to his father? |
| A.M. Dassu | Boy, Everywhere Sami is a typical 13 year-old: he loves his friends, football, PlayStation and iPad. But a bombing in a mall changes his life. Sami and his family flee their comfortable home in Damascus to make the perilous and painful journey towards a new life in the UK. Leaving everything behind, Sami discovers a world he'd never encountered – harsh, dangerous, but also at times unexpectedly kind and hopeful. |
| Deborah Ellis | The Breadwinner Afghanistan: Parvana's father is arrested and taken away by Taliban soldiers. Under Taliban law, women and girls are not allowed to leave the house on their own. |
| Akwaeke Emezi | PET (Carnegie Longlist 2021) There are no monsters any more, or so the children in the city of Lucille have been taught. Jam and her best friend, Redemption, have grown up with this lesson all their lives. But when Jam meets Pet she begins to question what she's been told. Pet has come to hunt the evil lurking in Redemption's house....But how do you save the world from monsters if no one will admit they exist? |
| Anne Fine | Tulip Touch Nobody wants Tulip in their gang. She skives off school, cheeks the teachers and makes herself unpopular with her classmates by telling awful lies. |
| Anne Fine | Flour Babies (Carnegie Medal Winner 1992) When the annual school science fair comes round, Mr Cartright's class don't get to work on the Soap Factory, the Maggot Farm or the Exploding Custard Tins. To their intense disgust they get the Flour Babies – sweet little six-pound bags of flour that must be cared for at all times. Young Simon Martin, a committed hooligan, approaches the task with little enthusiasm. But, as the day pass, he not only grows fond of his flour baby, he also comes to learn more than he ever could have imagined about the pressures and strains of being a parent |
| Ele Fountain | Boy 87 Shif is just an ordinary boy who likes chess, maths and racing his best friend home from school. But one day, soldiers with guns come to his door – and he knows |

that he is no longer safe. Shif is forced to leave his mother and little sister, and embark on a dangerous journey; a journey through imprisonment and escape, new lands and strange voices, and a perilous crossing by land and sea. He will encounter cruelty and kindness; he will become separated from the people he loves.

Zana Fraillon

The Ones that Disappeared Some stories need to be told....A moving, beautifully-written and poignant novel about child trafficking and the search for freedom. Kept by a ruthless gang, three children manage to escape from slavery. But freedom isn't just waiting on the outside. Separated, scared and looking after a small child, Esra will do whatever she can to reunite with her friend Miran, who was captured by the police – the police who she mustn't trust. Hiding in the shadows of the forest, Esra is found by a local boy with his own story. Together they will create a man out of mud. A man who will come to life and lead them through a dark labyrinth of tunnels until they finally have the courage to step above ground. Until they finally have the courage to speak their story. Until they finally have the courage to be free.

Zana Fraillon

The Lost Soul Atlas For as long as Twig can remember, it's been him and Da – family over everything. So when Twig finds himself alone on the streets, he feels totally lost. That is until he meets Flea, a cheerful pickpocket, who feels like the best friend he never had. But then Twig wakes up in the Afterlife with just a handful of memories from Earth and one big question – how did he get there?

G.R. Gemin

Sweet Pizza Joe loves his Italian heritage: the language, the opera, the lasagne! But it's hard to celebrate his Italian roots in Bryn Mawr, South Wales, where his mam is tired of running the family's tatty cafe. Just like his great-grandfather who opened the cafe in 1929, Joe is an entrepreneur. He vows to save the family business, and to spice up the tired High Street with a little Italian flavour!

Alex Gino

George BE WHO YOU ARE. When people look at George, they think they see a boy. But she knows she's not a boy. She knows she's a girl.

Kiran Millwood Hargrave **Julia and the Shark (Carnegie Shortlist 2023)** When her father is required to repair a remote lighthouse on a remote island, Julia finds herself on a strange and magical summer holiday. Her mother becomes increasingly determined to find the great Greenland shark – an awesome but elusive creature that soon fills Julia's thoughts as well.

Helen Harvey

Emmy levels up Emmy is brilliant at the computer game, Illusory Isles. Her avatar is a powerful fire elemental with magma claws and flaming breath. When Emmy's gaming video gets a front-page feature, thousands of devoted fans flock to watch her battle the ultimate online baddie, the Mulch Queen herself. Life at school is the exact opposite. Emmy is friendless and bullied by Vanessa AKA the Queen of Mean. To Vanessa and her gang, Emmy is a weirdo with bad handwriting, horrible fashion sense and no dad. But if Emmy can take on the Mulch Queen online, perhaps she can also find a way to take on Vanessa too?

Rachel Hickman

One Silver Summer After losing her mum in an accident, Sass is sent to live with her uncle in England. Far from her native Brooklyn, the rocky shores and crumbling castles of Cornwall seem like the perfect place to hide her grief. And when she stumbles across a silver horse in a sunlit meadow Sass feels a surprising sense of peace....only to have it broken by a boy. Arrogant and distrustful, the horse's trainer, Alex, doesn't approve of the trespassing American. Yet after a few chance meetings, he begins to feel a connection to the curious girl with the sad eyes, and offers to teach her to ride. Sass never expected to feel anything again – least of all love – but the lessons reveal a far different Alex, and soon their friendship turns into something more. But Alex has a

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| | secret- a bombshell about his family that could shatter Sass's trust....and force him to abandon the one girl who made him believe in himself. |
| Cath Howe | My Life on Fire (BBA Longlist 2024) At first, when Ren's house burns down, she feels lucky to be alive. But soon she just feels really cross. Why does everyone else have so much when she's lost everything? Maybe, thinks Ren, they deserve to lose stuff too.... |
| Jaco Jacobs | A Good Day for Climbing Trees Sometimes, in the blink of an eye, you do something that changes your life forever. Like climbing a tree with a girl you don't know. Marnus is tired of feeling invisible, living in the shadow of his two brothers. His older brother is good at breaking swimming records and girls' hearts. His younger brother is already a crafty entrepreneur who has tricked him into doing the dishes all summer. But when a girl called Leila turns up on their doorstep one morning with a petition, it's the start of an unexpected adventure. Finally, Marnus gets the chance to be noticed.... |
| Nathanael Lessore | Steady for this (Carnegie shortlist 2024) Shaun (aka MC Growls) is ready to win Raptology. But when a livestream goes epically wrong, Growls's dirty laundry is exposed – literally. He's finally achieved his dream of going viral – just not in the good way. Now he's a joke at school, there's no way he can show his face at Raptology, and to cap it all off the council is banging on the door with an eviction notice. There's only one way through. It's time to step up to the mic.... |
| Julian Sedgwick | Tsunami Girl (Carnegie Longlist 2022) Part prose and part Manga, Tsunami Girl is a coming-of-age story for our times. When fifteen-year-old Yuki Hara Jones and her beloved grandpa are caught in the 2011 Japan Earthquake and Tsunami, her life is changed forever. Beyond the immediate disaster lie even greater challenges, and a journey to a zone between this world and the next. With the help of an unlikely friend, and an imaginary super-hero creation, Yuki must seek a new life from the darkest of places. |
| Suzanne LaFleur Elizabeth Laird | Love, Aubrey Something terrible has happened. Eleven-year-old Aubrey is on her own. A House without Walls Thirteen-year-old Safiya and her family have been driven out of Syria by civil war. Safiya knows how lucky she is – lucky to be living near family and not in a refugee camp, lucky to be alive. But it's hard to feel grateful when her house is a tent and as they struggle to survive, Safiya realizes that her family has always been incomplete. With her own future in the balance, it's time to uncover the secrets that was has kept buried. |
| Aimee Lucido | In the Key of Code (Carnegie Longlist 2021) When twelve-year-old Emmy starts a new school, she has never felt more out of tune. But in her computer science class, taught by the wonderful Ms Delaney, Emmy discovers that music is the key to unlocking the secrets of coding. As she finds a friend in classmate Abigail and falls in love with programming, she stops feeling like a wrong note and starts to feel like she truly belongs. |
| Yassmin Abdel-Magied | You must be Layla Layla believes she was right to stand up for herself against a bully, but it's landed her a suspension – not the way she (or her parents) would have wished to begin her time at her fancy new school! This is just a setback though, and she's determined to prove that she does deserve her scholarship by making new friends and setting her sights on inventing something that could win the big robotics competition. |
| Jenny McLachlan | Stargazing for Beginners When Meg looks at the stars, she sees adventure. She sees escape. She sees her future. Meg's big ambition is to become an astronaut. But her hopes are thrown into chaos when her mum disappears to follow up yet another of her Very Important Causes....and leaves Meg and her baby sister behind. Can Meg take care |

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| | of Elsa and still follow her own path? She'll need a miracle of cosmic proportions. But then nobody ever got anywhere by dreaming small.... |
| Elle McNicoll | A Kind of Spark Addie knows exactly who she is. Addie knows that sharks are more interesting than dolphins, she knows her favourite words in the thesaurus, and she knows that her older sisters are opposites. |
| Beverley Naidoo | The Other Side of Truth This is the story of 12 year-old Sade and her brother Femi who flee to Britain from Nigeria. |
| Sally Nicholls | Ways to Live Forever My name is Sam. I am eleven years old. I collect stories and fantastic facts. By the time you read this, I will probably be dead. |
| Susin Nielsen | No fixed address (Carnegie 2020 Longlist) Felix Knutsson and his mum Astrid have a secret: they are living in a van. Astrid promises it's only till she finds a new job, and begs Felix not to breathe a word. So when Felix starts at a new school, he does his best to hide it from his friends, even though his home has some serious downsides, like no privacy, heating, space and – worst of all – no bathroom. But Felix has a plan to turn his and Astrid's lives around. All he needs is a little luck and a lot of brain power.... |
| Karyn Parsons | How High the Moon It's 1944, and in a small Southern town in the USA, eleven-year-old Ella spends her days running wild with her cousins and friends. But life isn't always so sunny. The deep racial tension that divides their town never goes away, and Ella misses her Mama – a beautiful jazz singer, who lives in Boston. |
| Onjali Q. Rauf | The Boy at the Back of the Class There used to be an empty chair at the back of my class, but now a new boy called Ahmet is sitting in it. He's nine years old (just like me), but he's very strange. He never talks and never smiles and doesn't like sweets – not even lemon sherbets, which are my favourite! But then I learned the truth: Ahmet really isn't very strange at all. He's a refugee who's run away from a War. A real one. With bombs and fires and bullies that hurt people. And the more I find out about him, the more I want to help. That's where my best friends Josie, Michael and Tom come in. Because you see, together we've come up with a plan.... |
| Onjali Q. Rauf | The Star outside my Window I've always wanted to be a star hunter. Grown-ups call them astronomers, but I think Star Hunter sounds much better. I was going to become one when I finished school, but I can't wait that long any more. You see, I have to find my mum. Everyone says she's gone, but I know that's not true – I know she's turned into a star. She's breaking all the rules of the universe to find me again. And I'm going to break all the rules I know to help her do it. |
| Jason Reynolds | Look both ways (Carnegie shortlist 2021) When the bell rings and school is finished for the day, the walkers are finally set free. For ten blocks they have no-one telling them what to do; they can talk about bogies, skateboard, plan dramatic escapes, make jokes, face bullies, and hear about the school bus that fell from the sky.... |
| Jewell Parker Rhodes | Ghost Boys ALIVE – Twelve year old Jerome doesn't get into trouble. He goes to school. He does his homework. He takes care of his little sister. The Jerome is shot by a police officer who mistakes his toy gun for a real threat. DEAD – As a ghost, watching his family trying to cope with his death, Jerome begins to notice other ghost boys. Each boy has a story and they all have something in common....Bit by bit, Jerome begins to understand what really happened – not just to him, but to all of the ghost boys. |
| Meg Rosoff | Just in Case (Carnegie Winner 2007) The day David Case saves his brother's life, his whole world changes. Suddenly every moment is fizzing with what ifs, and it's up to David to outwit fate. Or try to. He changes his name and the way he looks. He leaves home and finds himself caught up in a series of strange and extraordinary |

misadventures. He even falls in love. But is David really in control of his life? And if he isn't – who is?

Libby Scott & Rebecca Westcott

Ways to be me Ten-year-old Tally had high hopes for year six. Being in the top class at school means there is a lot to look forward to – the most important thing being the school production. Tally is convinced she'll win the lead role. But at home...things aren't going so well. Mum and Dad have been making Tally feel pressured and upset, and Tally wishes things didn't bother her so much – but they do, and sometimes she feels so misunderstood and frustrated, she could explode. Then Tally's Mum and Dad tell her about somethings she's never heard about before, something called Autism, and everything changes.

Libby Scott & Rebecca Westcott

Can you see me? Tally is autistic, but she hides it as much as she can. She knows how uncomfortable people feel around her – they don't understand autism. They don't understand her. By masking her autism, Tally is hiding her real self, but when your real self is fierce and wonderful, it can't stay hidden forever.

Libby Scott & Rebecca Westcott

Do you know me? (Sequel to Can you seem me?) Tally is autistic and proud. She used to try to hide her autism, but now she is determined to make sure people see who she really is.

Rebecca Stead

Goodbye Stranger Bridge has always been a bit of an oddball, but since she recovered from a serious accident, she's found fitting in with her friends increasingly hard. Tab and Em are getting cooler and better and they don't get why she insists on wearing novelty cat ears every day. Bridge just thinks they look good.

William Sutcliffe

The Summer we turned Green It's the summer holidays, and thirteen-year-old Luke's life has been turned upside down. First his older sister Rose moved 'across the road', where a community of climate rebels is protesting the planned airport expansion. Then his Dad followed her. Dad only went to get Rose back, but now he's out there building totem poles, wearing sandals and drinking mead (whatever that is) with the best of them....Can Luke save his family when all *they* want to do is save the planet?

Jenna Evans Welch

Love & Gelato Lina is spending the summer in Tuscany, fulfilling her mother's dying wish that she should get to know her father. With the help of her mother's journal, Lina uncovers a magical world of secret romance, art and hidden bakeries. People come to Italy for love and gelato, someone tells her, but sometimes they discover much more.

Lara Williamson

The Boy who Sailed the Ocean in an Armchair Becket Rumsey is all at sea. His dad has run away with him and his brother Billy in the middle of the night. And they've left everything behind, including their almost-mum Pearl. Becket has no idea what's going on – it's a mystery. So with the help of Billy and a snail called Brian, Becket sets out on a journey of discovery.

Lara Williamson

A Boy called Hope I'm Dan Hope, and deep inside my head I keep a list of things I want to come true. For example, I want my sister, Ninja Grace, to go to University at the North Pole and only come back once a year. I want to help Sherlock Holmes solve his most daring mystery yet. And if it could be a zombie mystery,

Verse novels

Kwame Alexander

The Door of No Return (Carnegie shortlist 2024) A gripping and vivid coming-of-age story steeped in African history and folklore, *The Door of No Return* follows an

eleven-year-old Kofi as he unexpectedly finds himself on a precarious journey fighting for his life and his freedom.