



READING CHALLENGE Y8 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. Please try and read from a variety of genres. You will receive a GLR for every book you read, up to a maximum of 12 books.

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

ADVENTURE AND MYSTERY

David Almond

The Colour of the Sun One hot summer morning, Davie steps boldly out of his front door. A boy has been killed, and Davie thinks he might know who is responsible. He turns away from the gossip and excitement and sets off roaming towards the sunlit hills about the town. As the day goes on, the real and imaginary start to merge, and Davie knows that neither he nor his world will ever be the same again

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?

Emily Barr

The Girl who came out of the Woods Arty has lived in a hidden matriarchy in the hills of India all her life. But now a deadly plague is threatening her tiny commune, and she must leave her home and go into the modern world for help, before it's too late.

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.....

Tim Bowler

Buried Thunder What secrets lay buried in the heart of the forest? When Maya strays into the forest she also walks straight into a nightmare. It's not just the horrific discovery she makes among the trees, it's what's waiting for her at home. Something too terrifying to believe in. She's not even sure she believes it herself.

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
Jess Butterworth	Running on the Roof of the World After twelve-year old Tash's parents are seized by soldiers, she and her best friend Sam resolve to rescue them. However, to do so, they must escape Tibet, cross the mountains and seek help from the Dalai Lama in India. An extraordinary journey begins....
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.
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.
Chris Columbus	The House of Secrets (Book 1 of 3) When Brendan, Cordelia and Nell move to Kristoff House they have no idea that they are about to unleash the dark magic locked within. Now the Walker kids must battle against deadly pirates, bloodthirsty warriors and a bone-crunching giant. If they fail they will never see their parents again and a crazed witch will take over the world
Andreina Cordani	The Girl Who.... Leah is the perfect survivor. She was seven years old when she saw her mother and sister killed by a troubled young man. Her case hit the headlines and her bravery made her a national sweetheart: strong, courageous and forgiving. But Leah is hiding a secret about their deaths. And now, ten years later, all she can think of is revenge.
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 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 22nd 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 change her mind. After all, Granny can be very 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.
Jennifer Donnelly	A Gathering Light (Carnegie Winner 2003) Mattie is torn between her familial responsibilities, her desire to be a writer, and the excitement of a first romance. Her dilemmas and choices are quietly reflected in the life of a young woman found drowned in a lake, a woman that Mattie only gets to know through reading her letters. When finally the tales of Mattie and the drowned girl merge, their stories beautifully combine in a brilliant and perfect conclusion
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 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.....
Timothee de Fombelle	Alma: The Wind Rises It is 1786. Alma lives with her family in an African valley. She spends her days exploring their blissful homeland. But everything changes when her little brother finds a secret way out of the valley. Alma sets out to find him but soon has to face terrible dangers in a continent ravaged by the violence and horrors of the slave trade. The journey to bring her brother home soon becomes a thrilling adventure to save herself, her family, and the memory of her people
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....
Candy Gourlay	Bone Talk Samkad dreams of becoming a mighty headhunter like his father, carrying his own weapons and etching tattoos across his chest to proclaim his greatness as a warrior. His best friend is a girl his age, Little Luki, and Little Luki wants to become a mighty warrior too....except in their culture, girls don't grow up to become warriors. The two friends have no idea about the world outside their isolated mountain village until a boy from the Lowlands turns up....a boy who can speak many tongues and who tells stories about the world outside that seem ridiculous and unbelievable especially the part about invaders called 'Americans' who are coming to take over the village

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.
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.
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.
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?
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 seem....
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....
Elizabeth Laird	Paradise End Carly is fascinated by Paradise End, the mysterious, luxurious mansion near her own boring house. She imagines herself leading a life of glamour and excitement behind its grand wrought-iron gates, but she must always return to her dull, normal life. Then one day Carly meets Tia, who invites her inside Paradise End. Tia's family is fabulously rich and extravagant but, as the two girls become close friends, Carly begins to uncover awful secrets that lie beneath the glittering façade
Nick Lake	Nowhere on Earth (Carnegie 2020 Longlist) It starts with a plane crash. There are survivors: a teenage girl and her little brother. They are running from something. But what? Then the men arrive. They are hunting the girl and boy. And – and that's all we can tell you.....
Richard Lambert	The Wolf Road (Carnegie Longlist 2022) When Lucas survives the car accident that kills his parents, one memory stays with him – of the wolf that caused the crash. Forced to leave his home and live with his nan in the remote wilderness of the Lake District, Lucas struggles to adjust to his strange, new world. And when he learns that a wild creature is killing livestock on the mountains, he knows it's the wolf, that it's come for him, and that he must face it.

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.
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.
John Marsden	Tomorrow when the war began The astonishing adventure begins....Ellie Linton wants one final adventure with her friends before the school holidays are over. Packed in Ellie's parents' car, they drive to a famously beautiful camp in the hills. Returning to their home town of Wirrawee, the seven teenagers realize that something is seriously wrong. Their world has changed forever. Would you give up everything? Would you fight? Would you sacrifice life itself?
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?
Sophie McKenzie	Storm of Lies Hollie has spent her whole life on the quiet south coast. She's faced some tough challenges, but then who hasn't? When she and her best friend, Parker, start a research project on the local sea-wall defences, the last thing she expects is to uncover a trail of lies that lead her – and those she loves most – into terrible danger.
Nadia Mikail	The Cats we meet along the way Aisha hasn't seen her sister for a long time. Two years ago, June left the family home and didn't look back, taking her pink hair and her strong, stubborn personality with her. But now time is running out and priorities have changed. With her boyfriend and his parents (as well as a stray cat called Fleabag), Aisha and her Mak take a roadtrip through Malaysia in search of June – hoping to put the past to rest, to come to terms with the present, and perhaps even to hope for the future.
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.
Mal Peet	Tamar (Carnegie Winner 2005) In the Hunger Winter of 1944, two English spies parachute into Nazi-occupied Holland. Half a century later, a fifteen year old girl named Tamar inherits a box containing a sequence of clues and coded messages from her grandfather. From the past, another Tamar emerges – a man involved in the terrifying world of resistance fighters – and she is his namesake. She unravels a complex story of passionate love, jealousy and tragedy set against the daily fear and casual horror of the Second World War

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 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 a 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....
Paula Rawsthorne	The truth about Celia Frost Celia Frost's life is ruled by a rare disorder that means she could bleed to death from the slightest cut, confirming her to a gloomy bubble of "safety". No friends. No fun. No life. But when a knife attack on Celia has unexpected consequences, her mum reacts strangely – and suddenly they're on the run. Why is her mum so scared? Someone out there knows. And when they find Celia, she's going to wish the truth was a lie....
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
Marcus Sedgwick	Saint Death Anapra, Mexico. Beyond the fence lies America, the Land of the free but freedom doesn't come cheap. Tonight, Arturo must gamble not only for his friend's freedom, but for his friend's life – while his own hangs in the balance. Can he cheat Death herself?
Sherri L. Smith	Flygirl (Lit in Colour Reading List) Ida's daddy was a pilot, and when he took her flying, she never wanted to come down again. But after his death, the sky is off-limits to a young black woman such as Ida. When America enters WWII, the Army forms the WASP – Women Airforce Service Pilots – and Ida has a chance to join, if she's willing to use her

Jonathan Stroud	<p>light skin to pass as a white girl. She wants to fly more than anything, but Ida soon learns that denying one's identity and family is a heavy burden. Can she fulfil her dream without losing herself?</p>
Chris Vick	<p>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.....</p> <p>Girl. Boy. Sea. Bill is lost and alone on an endless sea after a storm sinks his yacht. His future seems as unpredictable as the ocean itself. Everything changes when he rescues another survivor from a different wreck. She is Aya, from the nomadic Berber tribe. As hope of rescue fades, Aya tells tales of magic inspired by Shahrazad, who wove 1001 stories to save her life. In the grip of hunger, at the mercy of the burning sun and the deadly deep, they begin a heart-stopping journey to find home.....</p>
Jakob Wegelius	<p>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. For Sally Jones this is the start of a grand adventure and a desperate quest to clear her friend's name.</p>
Jakob Wegelius	<p>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.</p>
Elizabeth Wein	<p>Code Name Verity I have two weeks. You'll shoot me at the end no matter what I do. That's what they do to enemy agents. It's what we do to enemy agents. I look at all the dark and twisted roads ahead and cooperation is the easy way out. Possibly the only way out for a girl caught red-handed doing dirty work like mine.</p>
Elizabeth Wein	<p>The Pearl Thief June, 1938. Julie Beaufort-Stuart returns for one last summer holiday at Strathfearn, her grandfather's Scottish estate. Soon the big old house will be sold, and Julie's childhood will vanish with it. But there are dangerous currents beneath the surface at Strathfearn that are not ready to let her go.</p>
Eloise Williams	<p>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?</p>
Eloise Williams	<p>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?</p>

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?
Amy Wilson	A Girl called Owl Owl has always wanted to know who her father is, but when you have a mum who will not tell you anything and a best friend with problems of her own, it is 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 has never met?
S.J Wills	Bite Risk (BBA 2024 Longlist) Sel Archer lives in an ordinary town with ordinary residents, except for one night a month....When the full moon rises, all of the adults turn into werewolves, and it's up to Sel and his friends to protect themselves from danger.
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.
Lauren Wolk	Beyond the Bright Sea Twelve-year old Crow has lived her entire life on a tiny, isolated piece of the starkly beautiful Elizabeth Islands in Massachusetts. Abandoned and set adrift in a small boat when she was just hours old, Crow's only companions are Osh, the man who rescued and raised her, and Miss Maggie, their fierce and affectionate neighbour across the sandbar. Crow has always been curious about the world around her, but it is not until the night a mysterious fire appears across the water that the unspoken question of her own history forms in her heart. Soon, an unstoppable chain of events is triggered, leading Crow down a path of discovery and danger.
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!
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 that forces them to flee. A mischievous wind blows the two of them to a boarded-up museum on the outskirts of town where they meet the elderly recluse, Miss Flint. She has planned one last adventure before her time is up and hires the reluctant Davy and George to escort her.

CLASSICS

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.

Jane Austen	Emma Emma Woodhouse 'had lived nearly twenty-one years in the world with very little to distress or vex her', but during the course of this, the wisest and most disturbing of Jane Austen's novels, she at last reaps her share of the world's vexations, with consequences both comic and surprising. In this perfect comedy of manners, the heroine learns to come to terms with the reality of other people, and with her own erring nature, but in the process the small town of Highbury is convulsed by Emma's ill-judged schemes.
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.
Emily Bronte	Wuthering Heights The story of Heathcliff, an orphan who falls in love with a girl above his class, loses her, and devotes the rest of his life to inflicting revenge on her family. In early nineteenth-century Yorkshire, the passionate attachment between a headstrong young girl and an outcast boy brought up by her father causes disaster for them and many others, even in the next generation.
Agatha Christie	The ABC Murders There is a serial killer on the loose, bent on working his way through the alphabet and as a macabre calling card he leaves beside each victim's corpse the ABC Railway Guide open at the name of the town where the murder has taken place. Having begun with Andover, Bexhill and then Churston, there seems little chance of the murderer being caught – until he makes the crucial and vain mistake of challenging Hercule Poirot to frustrate his plans.
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.
Charles Dickens	Great Expectations A terrifying encounter with an escaped convict in a graveyard on the wild Kent marshes; a summons to meet the bitter, decaying Miss Havisham and her beautiful, cold-hearted ward Estella; the sudden generosity of a mysterious benefactor – these form a series of events that change the orphaned Pip's life forever, and he eagerly abandons his humble origins to begin a new life as a gentleman. Dickens' haunting late novel depicts Pip's education and development through adversity as he discovers the true nature of his 'great expectations'
Daphne du Maurier	My Cousin Rachel Orphaned at an early age, Philip Ashley, is raised by his benevolent cousin, Ambrose. Resolutely single, Ambrose is delighted to make Philip his heir, safe in the knowledge that he will treasure his beautiful Cornish estate. Philip's world is shattered when Ambrose sets off on a trip to Florence. There he falls in love and marries and then dies suddenly in suspicious circumstances
E.M. Forster	Howards End The story of a house and two sisters. Helen and Margaret Schlegel struggle to come to terms with the problems of their inheritance in Edwardian England.
Rudyard Kipling	Kim First published in 1901, Kipling's masterpiece tells the story of a half-caste boy who travels through the sub-continent with an aged lama and finds himself involved in the military intrigues of the Great Game. However, the glory of the book is to be found less in Kim's delightful adventures than in the unsurpassed panorama they evoke of Anglo-Indian life at the end of the nineteenth century: brilliant, moving and intensely alive.
Jack London	The Call of the Wild Uprooted from the good life of an estate in California, Buck – the dog hero of The Call of the Wild – is thrust into the turmoil of the Klondike gold rush in the savage and unrelenting northland.

E Nesbit

The Story of the Amulet At the end of *Five Children and It* the five children promised not to ask the Psammead for another wish as long as they lived. They find 'it' again in a pet shop in Camden Town, and their magic adventures start over again. 'It' leads them to a magic amulet – have of it actually – which they use to try and find the other half. It takes them back to ancient Egypt and Babylon. The Queen of Babylon visits them in London, bringing all her ancient customs with her. They visit the lost continent of Atlantis. They see Julius Caesar in the flesh, but none of these adventures runs smoothly, and if they forget the 'word of power' or lose the amulet, what would happen to them?

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.

Dodie Smith

I Capture the Castle 'I write this sitting in the kitchen sink' is the first line of a novel about love, sibling rivalry and a bohemian existence in a crumbling castle in the middle of nowhere.

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?

Mark Twain

The Adventures of Tom Sawyer Meet the boy who can find trouble without even looking. At school, at home, in church and outdoors, if there is mischief afoot, Tom Sawyer will be in the thick of it!

Jules Verne

Journey to the Centre of the Earth An ancient parchment bearing a mysterious cryptogram maps the most hazardous journey of Professor Lidenbrock's career. With his nephew and a guide the Professor travels to Iceland. Their journey to the centre of the earth begins on the summit of a volcano and takes them down through secret passages, across a desolate underground sea populated by prehistoric marine monsters, on what may be a voyage of no return.

DYSTOPIAN AND SCIENCE FICTION

Suzanne Collins

The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes (Prequel to The Hunger Games series) It is the morning of the reaping that will kick off the tenth annual Hunger Games. In the Capitol, eighteen-year-old Coriolanus Snow is preparing for his one shot a glory as a mentor in the Games. The once-mighty house of Snow has fallen on hard times, its fate hanging on the slender chance that Coriolanus will be able to outcharm, outwit, and outmanoeuvre his fellow students to mentor the winning tribute.

Jamie Costello

Monochrome Early one morning, Grace wakes to find herself staring at an ashen sunrise in ominous grey skies. It's like watching a disaster movie, though her family don't seem to think anything is wrong. Grace is one of a handful of people in the country who are seeing the world in shades of grey. But this is only the beginning of the 'greyout'

Jeanne DuPrau

The City of Ember (Book 1 of 2) The People of Sparks (Book 2) Many hundreds of years ago, the city of Ember was created by the Builders to contain everything needed for human survival. It worked but now the storerooms are almost out of food, corruption is spreading through the city and worst of all the lights are failing. Soon Ember could be

	engulfed by darkness. When two children, Lina and Doon, discover fragments of an ancient parchment, they begin to wonder if there could be a way out of Ember. Can they decipher the words from long ago and find a new future for everyone?
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?
Catherine Fisher	Incarceron (Book 1 of 2) Sapphique (Book 2) Imagine a prison so vast that it contains cells and corridors, forests, cities and seas. Imagine a prisoner with no memory, sure he came from Outside – though the prison has been sealed for centuries and only one man has ever escaped. Imagine a girl in a manor house, in a society where time is forbidden, held in a 17 th century world run by computers, doomed to an arranged marriage, tangled in an assassination plot she dreads and desires. One inside, one outside. But both imprisoned. Imagine Incarceron.
Sally Gardner	Maggot Moon When his best friend Hector is suddenly taken away, Standish Treadwell realises that it is up to him, his grandfather and a small band of rebels to confront and defeat the ever-present oppressive forces of the Motherland.
Lauren James	The Quiet at the End of the World Lowrie and Shen are the youngest people on the planet after a virus caused global infertility. Closeted in a pocket of London and doted upon by a small, ageing community, the pair spend their days mudlarking and looking for treasure – until a secret is uncovered that threatens their entire existence. In the quiet at the end of the world, Lowrie and Shen must decide what they are willing to sacrifice to save the whole human race....
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?
Pittacus Lore	I am Number Four (Book 1 of 7: Lorien Legacies) John Smith is not your average teenager. He regularly moves from small town to small town. He changes his name and identity. He does not put down roots. He cannot tell anyone who or what he really is. If he stops moving those who hunt him will find and kill him. But you can't run forever. So when he stops in Paradise, Ohio, John decides to try and settle down. To fit in. For the first time he makes some real friends. People he cares about – and who care about him. Never in John's short life has there been space for friendship, or even love. But it's just a matter of time before John's secret is revealed. He was once one of nine. Three of them have been killed. John is Number Four. He knows that he is next....
Lois Lowry	Gathering Blue (sequel to The Giver) Orphaned and physically flawed in a civilization that shuns and discards the weak, Kira faces a frighteningly uncertain future. When she is summoned by the Council of Guardians, Kira prepares to fight for her life, but the council has unexpected plans for her. Now Kira faces new responsibilities. On her quest for truth, she discovers things that will change her life forever.
Marie Lu	Legend He is Day, the boy who walks in the light. She is June, the girl who seeks her brother's killer. On the run and undercover, they meet by chance. Irresistibly drawn together, neither knows the other's past. But Day murdered June's brother and she has sworn to avenge his death.
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
Gemma Malley	The Declaration (Book 1 of 3) Anna Covey is a 'Surplus'. She should not have been born. In a society in which ageing is no longer feared, and death is no longer an inevitability, children are an abomination. Like all Surpluses, Anna is living in a Surplus Hall and learning how to make amends for the selfish act her parents committed in having her. She is quietly accepting of her fate until, one day, a new inmate arrives. Anna's life is thrown into chaos. However, is she brave enough to believe this mysterious boy? This is a tense and utterly compelling story about a society behind a wall, and the way in which two young people seize the chance to break free.
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.
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....
Manon Steffan Ros	The Blue Book of Nebo (2023 Carnegie Shortlist) Dylan was six when The End came, back in 2018; when the electricity went off for good, and the 'normal' twenty-first-century world he knew disappeared.
Veronica Roth	Carve the Mark Cyra and Akos grew up in enemy countries on a vibrant yet divided planet. Cyra's ability to transfer extraordinary pain with a simple touch makes her a dangerous weapon for her tyrannical brother. When Akos is kidnapped and forced to serve Cyra, it's clear that their hatred is mutual.
Ross Welford	Time Travelling with a Hamster I suppose if you would have asked me before, I'd have said a time machine might look something like a submarine? Or perhaps a space rocket. Instead, I'm looking at a laptop and a tin tub from a garden centre. This is my dad's time machine and it's about to change the world. Well, mine at any rate. Al Chaudhury has a chance to save his dad's life – but to do it he must travel to 1984....
Moira Young	Blood Red Road Raised in isolated Silverlake, Saba is ignorant of the harsh and violent world beyond her home. But when her twin is snatched by black-robed riders, red rage fills her soul. How will Saba find him in a wild, scorching and lawless land?

FANTASY, GOTHIC AND HORROR

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.
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.
Jessie Burton	Medusa: The Girl behind the Myth (2023 Carnegie Shortlist) Exiled to a far-flung island by the whims of the gods, Medusa has little company except the snakes that adorn her

	head instead of hair. But when a charmed, beautiful boy called Perseus arrives on the island, her lonely existence is disrupted with the force of a supernova, unleashing desire, love and betrayal....
Lindsey Barraclough	Long Lankin A chilling, beautiful novel inspired by a haunting folk song about murder, witchcraft and revenge. When Cora and her little sister Mimi are sent to stay with their elderly aunt in the isolated village of Bryers Guerdon, they receive a less than warm welcome, and are desperate to go back to London. But Auntie Ida's life was devastated the last time two young girls were at Guerdon Hall, and now her nieces' arrival has re-awoken an evil that has lain waiting for years.
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!
Martin Bedford	Flip Fourteen year old Alex Gray wakes up one morning to discover he's not in his own bedroom. More surprising is that he doesn't recognize his hands, or his legs. When he looks in the mirror he gets the shock of his life! How is it possible that Alex has become another boy – a boy who everyone calls Philip? How have six whole months passed overnight?
Holly Black	The Cruel Prince (Book 1 of The Folk of the Air series) One terrible morning, Jude and her sisters see their parents murdered in front of them. The fearsome assassin abducts all three girls and brings them to the world of Faerie. Mocked and tormented for being merely mortal, Jude soon realises that to survive in the treacherous, dangerous world of the royal court, she needs to be as cunning and deceitful as the Fey themselves
Natasha Bowen	Skin of the Sea Simidele is one of the Mami Wata, mermaids who collect the souls of those who die at sea and bless their journeys home. But when a boy is thrown overboard a ship of enslaved people, Simi saves his life, going against an ancient decree and bringing terrible danger to the Mami Wata.
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.....Cressida Cowell The Wizards of Once Once there was Magic, and the Magic lived in the dark forests. Until the Warriors 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 something forbidden, something magical, and she will do anything to conceal it. When stars collide, Xar and Wish must forget their differences, if they are ever going to make it to the hidden 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) (Book 2: The Missing of Clairdelune Book 3: The Memory of Babel) A mix of awkward misfit and misunderstood genius, Ophelia cares little about appearances or other people's

	<p>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.</p>
Joseph Elliott	<p>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....</p>
Becca Fitzpatrick	<p>Hush, Hush (Book 1 of a Quartet – Book 2 Crescendo, Book 3 Silence, Book 4 Finale) For Nora Grey, romance was never part of the plan. Not until Patch came along. With his easy smile and eyes that seem to see inside her, Nora is drawn to him against her better judgement. After a series of terrifying encounters, Nora isn't sure if she can trust him. Patch seems to be everywhere she is and to know more about her than her closest friends. When she tries to seek answers, she discovers she is right in the middle of a centuries-old battle between the immortal and the fallen...and it's time to take sides</p>
P.M. Freestone	<p>The Darkest Bloom (Book 1 of the Shadowscent series) In the empire of Aramtesh, scent has power. When disaster strikes and the crown prince lies poisoned, long-suppressed rivalries threaten to blow the empire apart. It's up to Rakel, a poor village girl with a talent for fragrances, and Ash, the prince's loyal bodyguard, to find an antidote. To succeed, the unlikely pair must uncover cryptic, ancient secrets as well as buried truths from their own pasts in an adventure that will ignite your senses.</p>
Cornelia Funke	<p>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?</p>
Frances Hardinge	<p>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. Now there's a ghost inside her.</p>
Frances Hardinge	<p>Gullstruck Island On Gullstruck Island, volcanoes quarrel, beetles sing danger and fish see the future. One thing that unites the many different tribes who live there is the Lost: people who have the ability to cast aside their bodies and send their senses abroad. Then the Lost are all murdered – each one leaving their body, never to return. Except for one....As violence threatens to engulf the island, Arilou is now the last living Lost. She and her sister Hathin must run for their lives, but who will claim them first? The islanders – or the island?</p>
Kiran Millwood Hargrave	<p>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 Sonia 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</p>

	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.
Finbar Hawkins	Witch She watches her mother die at the hands of witch hunters....and a desire for revenge burns like fury in her, summoning magic more potent than ever before or since. But Evey has promised to keep her sister safe too. With a storm gathering, she searches for a light in the darkness. A flicker of hope that will guide them to a brighter, kinder world, where Dill can dance – and they can be free.
Lian Hearn	Across the Nightingale Floor In his black-walled fortress at Inuyama, the murderous warlord, Iida Sadamu, surveys his famous nightingale floor. Constructed with exquisite skill, it sings at the tread of each human foot. No assassin can cross it unheard.
Lauren James	The Reckless Afterlife of Harriet Stoker When Harriet Stoker dies after falling from a balcony in a long-abandoned building, she discovers a group of ghosts, each with a special power. Felix, Kasper, Rima and Leah welcome Harriet into their world, eager to make friends with the new arrival after decades alone. Yet Harriet is more interested in unleashing her own power, even if it means destroying everyone around her. But when all of eternity is at stake, the afterlife can be a dangerous place to make an enemy.
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.
Brigid Kemmerer	A Vow so Bold and Deadly (Book 3 The Cursebreaker series) (Book 1: A Curse so Dark and Lonely, Book 2: A Heart so Fierce and Broken) The thrilling conclusion to the Cursebreaker trilogy ups the ante on regal intrigue as Grey competes for the throne of Emberfell and Lia Mara is forced to decide where her loyalties truly lie.
Joan Lennon	Walking Mountain It is 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. However, 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. Moreover, the price of failure? The end of the world....again.
Aneesa Marufu	The Balloon Thief For Khadija, the only escape from an arranged betrothal is the sky. Seeing a rogue hot air balloon fighting against its ropes, she leaps at her chance for adventure. Khadija soon finds an unlikely ally – but Jacob is an oppressed hari, Khadija a ruling Ghadaean – and revolution is stirring all around them.
Geraldine McCaughrean	The Supreme Lie Fifteen-year-old Gloria is maid to Afalia'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.
Kirsty McKay Robin McKinley	The Undead A kick-ass teen-action-zombie fest. Fast, furious, freaky and funny. Spindle's End An exceptional retelling of The Sleeping Beauty which takes the reader into a magical world filled with modern characters, encountering adventure, love and loss. Rosie is very, very ordinary. No-one, not even an extremely powerful and evil fairy who is out for the princess's blood, would give Rosie a second glance. But then, even Rosie doesn't know the secret of her own birth...and she cannot be hidden forever as her twenty-first birthday approaches. The curse placed on her at her christening will

Emily Bain Murphy	hunt her down through the years, gathering strength, and at some point a princess must become a queen, even if she would rather just stay ordinary.
Emily Bain Murphy	The Disappearances Every seven years something disappears in the remote town of Sterling: people's reflections, the stars in the sky, the ability to dream. Aila realises that her mother may be to blame for the curse. But some mysteries are buried very deep and some secrets want to stay hidden – and one young woman's desire to uncover the truth may not be enough to save the people of Sterling from the past.
Axie Oh	Splinters of Scarlet Marit vowed never to use magic again – its force can be fatal. But when her best friend Eve is adopted by a legendary former dancer, Marit draws upon her powers to secure a job with the wealthy family so that she can watch over her. But Marit has another, secret motivation: her father died while working in the family's mines, and she has reason to believe he was murdered.
Kenneth Oppel	The girl who fell beneath the sea For generations, deadly storms have ravaged Mina's homeland. Her people believe the Sea God, once their protector, now curses them with death and despair. To appease him, each year a maiden is thrown into the sea, in the hopes that one day the 'true bride' will be chosen and end the suffering.
Katherine Orton	This Dark Endeavour In this prequel to Mary Shelley's gothic classic, Frankenstein, 16 year old Victor Frankenstein begins a dark journey that will change his life forever. Victor's twin, Konrad, has fallen ill and no doctor is able to cure him. Unwilling to give up on his brother, Victor enlists his beautiful cousin Elizabeth and best friend Henry on a treacherous search for the ingredients to create the forbidden Elixir of Life.
Mary E. Pearson	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?
Anne Plichota	Dance of Thieves A formidable outlaw family that claims to be the first among nations. A son destined to lead, thrust suddenly into power. Three fierce young women of the Rahtan, the queen's premier guard. A legendary street thief leading a mission, determined to prove herself. And a dark secret, that threatens the entire continent.
Philip Reeve	Oksa Pollock: The Last Hope Oksa Pollock is just a normal thirteen-year old girl, moving with her family from her home in Paris to a new life in London – new friends, a new school and new adventures. However, bizarre things start happening around Oksa. Suddenly, she finds she can produce fire from her hands, move objects with her mind, and even fly. As Oksa experiments with her wonderful new powers, her family notice, and an amazing truth is revealed.
J.P. Rose	Here lies Arthur Gwynna is just a small girl, a mouse, when she is bound in service to Myrddin the bard – a traveller and spinner of tales. But Myrddin transforms her into a lady goddess, a boy warrior and a spy. Without Gwynna, Myrddin will not be able to work the most glorious transformation of all and turn the leader of a raggle-taggle war-band into King Arthur, the greatest hero of all time.
Katherine Rundell	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....
	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....

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 ...?

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?

Martin Stewart

Riverkeep Fifteen-year old Wulliam is dreading taking up his family's mantle of Riverkeep, tending the river and fishing corpses from its treacherous waters. Then everything changes. One night his father is possessed by a dark spirit, and Wull hears that a cure lurks deep within the great sea-beast known as the mormorach. He realizes he must go on an epic journey downriver to find it – or lose Pappa forever.

Stewart & Riddell

The Edge Chronicles: The Curse of the Gloamglozer (Book 1 of the Quint Saga) Welcome to a world like no other. Welcome to The Edge. Built high atop a floating rock, the great city of Sanctaphrax is bound to the ground below by a chain, its inhabitants living with their heads literally in the clouds. However, the city hides a dangerous secret: deep inside the great rock, something horrible is lurking. Quint, the son of a legendary sky pirate captain, may now be the only one who can save the Edge from the curse of the gloamglozer

Maggie Stiefvater

All the Crooked Saints Here is thing everyone wants: a miracle. Here is a thing everyone fears: what it takes to get one. Any visitor to Bicho Raro, Colorado, is likely to find a landscape of dark saints, forbidden love, scientific dreams, miracle-mad owls, estranged affections, one or two orphans, and a sky full of watchful desert stars. At the heart of this place you will find the Soria family, who all have the ability to perform unusual miracles. Moreover, at the heart of this family are three cousins longing to change its future: Beatriz, the girl without feelings, who wants only to be free to examine her thoughts; Daniel, the Saint of Bicho Raro, who performs miracles for everyone but himself; and Joaquin, who spends his nights running a renegade radio station under the

	<p>name Diablo Diablo. They are all looking for a miracle. But the miracles of Bicho Raro are never quite what you expect.</p>
G.P. Taylor	<p>Shadowmancer Shadowmancer takes you into a world of superstition, magic and witchcraft where nothing can be taken for granted and the ultimate sacrifice might even be life itself. Obadiah Demurral is a sorcerer who is seeking to control the highest power in the Universe. He will stop at nothing. The only people in his way are Raphah, Kate, Thomas and the mysterious Jacob Crane.</p>
Pari Thomson	<p>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.</p>
Kate Thompson	<p>The New Policeman There is never enough time in Kinvara. When Helen Liddy is asked what she wants for her birthday, she says, 'Time. That's what I want. Time.' Fifteen year old JJ is continuing the Liddy family tradition with his fiddle playing. But one day he discovers that music might not be in his veins. Can it be true that his great-grandfather was a murderer? When JJ sets out to buy his mother some time he discovers the answer, as well as some truly remarkable things about music, myth and magic. Who knows where time goes? JJ does.</p>
Leslie Vedder	<p>The Bone Spindle (Book 1: a fractured twist on the classic fairytale, Sleeping Beauty) When expert treasure hunter Fi pricks her finger on an old spindle, she awakens the ghost of Prince Briar Rose, who believes a single kiss will break his century-long sleeping curse. To try and free him, Fi joins forces with Shane – an axe-wielding huntswoman – and embarks on a perilous journey to the Forest of Thorns.</p>

HISTORICAL

Sam Angus	<p>Soldier Dog It's 1917. In the trenches of France, miles from home, Stanley is a boy fighting a man's war. He is a dog handler, whose dog must be so loyal that he will cross no-man's-land alone under heavy fire to return to Stanley's side, carrying a message that could save countless lives. But this journey is fraught with danger, and only the bravest will survive. As the fighting escalates and Stanley experiences the true horror of war, he comes to realize that the loyalty of his dog is the only thing he can rely on.</p>
Theresa Breslin	<p>The Rasputin Dagger Russia, 1916: a country on the brink of revolution. Nina Ivanovna must travel to St Petersburg, to escape the past and find a future. Stefan Kolodin, young and idealistic, wants change for Russia and its people. Amidst the chaos of a city in revolt, their lives collide and a passionate, stormy relationship develops. Soon Nina is drawn into the lavish lives of the royal family and begins to fall under the spell of their mysterious monk, Grigory Rasputin. The ruby-studded dagger he owns is, chillingly, a mirror image of the one left to Nina by her father. In addition, it carries a deadly curse.</p>
Theresa Breslin	<p>Remembrance Summer 1915, and the sound of the guns at the Western Front can be heard across the Channel in England. Throughout Britain, local regiments are recruiting for Kitchener's Army. In the village of Stratharden, the Great War will alter irrevocably the course of five young lives.</p>
Theresa Breslin	<p>Prisoner of the Inquisition Zarita, only daughter of the town magistrate, lives a life of wealth and privilege. Saulo, son of a beggar, witnesses his father wrongfully arrested</p>

	and brutally dealt with. Hauled off to be a slave at sea, he swears vengeance on the magistrate and his family. The cruel agents of the Inquisition arrive in Zarita's town bringing suspicion, terror and death. Then, amid the intrigues of the royal court, Zarita and Saulo meet once more, to face final acts of betrayal and revenge.
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 Craigie	Chocolate Cake with Hitler A fictionalised account of the life of Helga, twelve year old daughter of Joseph Goebbels, the Nazi Party's Head of Propoganda. Helga's childhood as the eldest of five children in Germany's First Family has been a gilded one, accompanying her parents to parties and rallies, moving between the city and their idyllic country estate. However, the war has changed everything. Now, as defeat closes in on the Germans, Helga must move into a bunker in the heart of Berlin with her family and key members of the crumbling Nazi leadership – to be with their beloved Hitler.
Vanessa Curtis	The Stolen Ones My name is Inge. I am sixteen. I live with Mama and Papa in Munich. Food is still rationed, though the war ended over ten years ago. My boyfriend is Jewish. I have to hide this from my parents. Sometimes I think they are hiding something from me too. Letters arrive every year on my birthday, but they are not addressed to me. They are for a girl named Kasia. This is her story.
Paul Dowswell	Wolf Children 1945. Berlin has fallen. Hitler's Third Reich has finally surrendered, leaving Germany's capital in ruins. Sixteen-year-old Otto is living on the edge of survival with his brother and friends in a desperate, bombed-out city. The war may be over, but danger lurks in the shadows of the wreckage. Caught between invading armies, ruthless gangs and the constant threat of starvation, Otto and his friends must learn to stay alive. However, the Nazi regime left psychological wounds that are slow to heal: rifts arise in their little group and terrible secrets surface when a sinister figure emerges from the darkness....
Kerry Drewery	The Last Paper Crane Mizuki is worried about her grandfather. He is clearly troubled by something, something that is draining life and laughter from him. Gently Mizuki encourages him to reveal a secret that he has kept to himself for many years, of a promise that he made and was never able to keep. Might Mizuki be able to help, even after all this time? Moving from contemporary Japan to Hiroshima in August 1945, the day the nuclear bomb was so devastatingly dropped on the city, this is an unforgettable novel with hope at its hear.
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 Double Shadow In a bluebell wood stands a picture palace. Arnold Rubens built it to house an invention of his that could change the war torn world forever. It is to be given to his daughter, Amaryllis, on her seventeenth birthday. But it's a present she doesn't want, and in it is a past she has to come to terms with and a boy whose name she can't remember. Who knows what her past has been, or what the future might hold for Amaryllis, lost as she is in this place with no time?

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.
Candy Gourlay	Wild Song (Carnegie Longlist 2024) The year is 1904. Luki has lived a tribal life in the mountains of the Philippines. Now she's growing up, she is expected to become a wife and a mother, but Luki isn't ready to give up her dream to become a warrior. When her tribe are offered a journey to America to be part of the St. Louis World's Fair, Luki will discover that the land of opportunity does not share its possibilities equally . . .
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 these children on an extraordinary adventure....
Mary Hoffman	The Ravenmaster's Boy Young Kit finds himself on a plague cart wedged between the bodies of his mother and father. 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 House of the Magician Lucy dreams of being a maid in one of the houses of the gentry – anything to get her close to the queen and further from her drunken father. By an odd twist of fate, she finds employment at the house of Dr Dee, court magician and consultant to Elizabeth I. Lucy is intrigued by the mysterious work of the doctor and his dark associate, Mr Kelly. She cannot resist poking her nose in, especially if it means catching a glimpse of the queen. However, she learns more than she bargained for, and discovers a terrible secret that she must convey to Her Grace at all costs!
Catherine Johnson	Sawbones Medical science is flourishing, and in London the illegal trade in corpses has never been more....alive. At the dissection table of his master, apprentice Ezra McAdma
Nick Lake	In Darkness Listen. You're the voices in the dark, so the world can't all be gone. There must be people left. I'm going to tell you I got here and how I got this bullet in my arm. I'm going to tell you about my sister who was taken from me by the gangsters. Maybe, maybe, if I tell you my story then you'll understand me better and the things I've done. Maybe you'll forgive me....maybe she will.
Elizabeth Laird	Crusades In the service of a local knight, Adam joins the Crusade to reclaim the Holy Land. Soon determination to strike down the enemy burns within him. Salim, a doctor's apprentice, works in the heart of the mighty Sultan Saladin's camp. He never imagined he would join the battle against the barbaric invaders.
Michelle Magorian	A Little Love Song At seventeen, Rose is convinced no one will ever love her, living as she does in the shadow of her beautiful older sister Diana. If Diana is the swan, Rose is the ugly duckling. It is 1943 and the war has left its mark even in the sleepy seaside town where the girls have been sent out of harm's way. For both girls it is a summer of self-discovery, but especially for Rose who unearths a love story set in another war, a story that becomes more real when she falls in love herself.
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

Hilary McKay	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....
Philip Pullman	The Skylarks War Clarry and her older brother Peter live for their summers in Cornwall, staying with their grandparents and running free with their charismatic cousin, Rupert. But normal life comes to an end as the shadow of a terrible war looms – and when Rupert goes off to fight at the Front, Clarry feels their skylarks summers are finally slipping away from them. Can their family survive this fearful war?
Celia Rees	Ruby in the Smoke Sally Lockheart is living quietly in London when she hears news of her father's tragic death at sea – and receives the ominous warning he left her before he died. Soon Sally is plunged into a terrifying mystery in the dark heart of Victorian London. Her journey will take her from the grimy streets of the East End to a Maharajah's Indian palace to the decadent opium dens of China. Unravelling the mystery will lead her into a world of danger and excitement and to a priceless, blood-soaked jewel.
Mary Ann Rodman	Pirates! It is 1724 and two very different girls, brought together by fate, must forget everything society has taught them about women of their status and find their true path. But living lives as pirates means encountering danger, adventure and romance. In order to survive and find the ones they love, Nancy, a merchant's daughter, and Minerva, a runaway slave, will need to forge a friendship that carries them far beyond the high seas.
Marcus Sedgwick	Yankee Girl It's 1964 and Alice has moved to Mississippi from Chicago with her family. Nicknamed 'Yankee Girl' and taunted by the in-crowd at school, Alice soon discovers the other new girl Valerie – one of the school's first black students – has it much worse. Alice can't stand the way Valerie is treated, and yet she knows she will remain an outsider if she speaks up. It takes a horrible tragedy to finally give Alice the courage to stand up for what she believes.
Ruta Sepetys	Voyages in the Underworld of Orpheus Black (Carnegie 2020 Longlist) I, who can charm the rocks, cause water to change its course with my song, I, who once charmed Death himself, am powerless. In this beautifully-written, literary tour de force, the authors weave together prose, poetry and illustration to create a lyrical and dreamlike story of two brothers in conflict amidst the devastation of WWII London
Alan Shea	The Fountains of Silence (Carnegie Shortlist 2021) Madrid, 1957. Daniel, young, wealthy and unsure of his place in the world, views the city through the lens of his camera. Ana, a hotel maid whose family is suffering under the fascist dictatorship of General Franco. Lives and hearts collide as they unite to uncover the hidden darkness within the city. A darkness that could engulf them all....
Mildred D. Taylor	The Amazing Mind of Alice Makin Alice is growing up in post-war London, a grey world of old bomb sites. Her escape is her imagination but when a new boy starts school, Alice's mind begins playing tricks on her. She is oddly drawn to him and whenever they are together the world becomes a more exciting place. A place where the things she imagines appear to become real.
	Roll of Thunder, Hear my Cry 'We have no choice of what colour we're born....what we do have is some choice over what we make of our lives once we're here'. Cassie cannot understand why she should have to get off the pavement and walk in the road when Miss Lillian comes along, nor why she should be served last at the grocery store when she has been first in the queue. Cassie is learning that life is unfair if you are black and

Alex Wheatle	living in Mississippi. Cassie believes she can do something about all the injustice but, in fighting for her principles, she puts her whole family in danger.
Eloise Williams	Cane Warriors (Shortlisted YA Book Prize 2021) Based on the true story of an eighteenth-century slave uprising, Wheatle's propulsive novel centres on the teenage Moa and the challenging decisions he must make as a 'cane warrior' fighting for freedom from the Jamaican plantations
Wendy Worley	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?

Echoes of Friendship Andy's investigations into his great-grandfather Matt's struggle for survival in the World War One trenches lead him to uncover a mystery – why and how did Matt become friends with a German soldier? A school trip is a chance to find out more....if he can find the money to go. But Andy has struggles of his own in the shape of the Squaddies, a gang of bullies determined to make life a misery. Can learning about the past and making an unexpected friendship of his own give Andy the courage to face up to them?

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

NON FICTION

Jeffrey Boakye	Musical Truth: a Musical History of Modern Black Britain in 28 Songs (Carnegie Longlist 2022) This exhilarating playlist tracks some of the key shifts in modern British history, and explores the emotional impact of 28 songs and the artists who performed them. Redefining British history, the Empire and postcolonialism, this book will invite you to think again about the narratives and key moments in history that you have been taught up to now.
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, <i>Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes</i> 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.
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?
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, <i>The Golden Mole</i> is a chance to be awestruck and lovestruck – to reckon with the beauty of the world, its fragility, and its strangeness.

REALISTIC FICTION

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

The Space we're in 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 Hugh 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?

Malorie Blackman

Noughts and Crosses (Book 1) (Book 2: Knife Edge Book 3: Checkmate Book 4: Double Cross Book 5: Crossfire) (Novella's: An Eye for an Eye and Nought Forever) Sephy is a Cross – a member of the dark-skinned ruling class. Callum is a nought – a 'colourless' member of the underclass who were once slaves to the Crosses. The two have been friends since early childhood. But that's as far as it can go. Until the first steps are taken towards more social equality and a limited number of Noughts are allowed into Cross schools. Against a background of prejudice and distrust, intensely highlighted by violent terrorist activity by Noughts, a romance builds between Sephy and Callum – a romance that is to lead both of them into terrible danger.

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 her 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.

Aisha Bushby

A Pocketful of Stars Safiya and her mum rarely see eye to eye. But when her Mum falls ill, something mysterious happens. Saff finds herself transported back in time to her Mum's childhood home in Kuwait. And it becomes clear that this isn't just a magical place: it's a game. As Saff figures out how to play the game, she realises that opening her heart to the past is the key to changing her future....

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.

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.

Sarah Crossan	Moonrise Joe has not seen his brother for ten years, and it is for the most brutal of reasons. Now Ed's execution date has been set, and Joe is determined to spend those last weeks with him, no matter what other people think....
Sue Divan	Truth be told Tara has been raised by her Mam and Nan in Derry City. Faith lives in rural Armagh. Their lives on opposite sides of a political divide couldn't be more different. Until they come face-to-face with each other and are shocked to discover they look almost identical. Are they connected?
Roddy Doyle	A Greyhound of a Girl Mary's great grandmother is a ghost. But she's not an old ghost. She's a young woman who never lived to see her children grow up. Now she's back on an urgent mission. She needs Mary's help to give a dying woman one last, glorious adventure. This is a story about saying goodbye to life and the people we love.
Phil Earle	Saving Daisy For as long as I could remember it was always about the three of us. Daisy's Mum is gone. Her Dad refuses to talk about it. As far as Daisy's concerned, it's all her fault. As her life starts to spiral out of control, panic leads to tragedy and Daisy's left alone.
Akwaeye 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	Shades of Scarlet When Mum gives her the notebook, Scarlet should be happy. It's beautiful, with its shiny scarlet cover and its blank pages full of promise. But Scarlet is absolutely not in the mood for a peace offering. Does Mum really think she can tear their family apart and expect Scarlet to be happy about it?
Karen Foxlee	Lenny's Book of Everything (Carnegie 2020 Longlist) Lenny Spink is the sister of a giant. Her little brother Davey won't stop growing – and at seven is as tall as a man. When they receive their monthly instalment of <i>Burrell's Build-it-at Home Encyclopedia</i> set, fun and excitement burst into Lenny's and Davey's lives. The amazing, mysterious entries in the book's pages give them a way to dream of escape: Lenny vows to become a beetle expert, while Davey decides he will run away to Canada and build a log cabin. But as Davey's disease progresses, the siblings' richly imagined world becomes harder to cling to in this deeply moving and original novel about grief, family and wonder
Jason Cockcroft	We were wolves (Carnegie Longlist 2022) The boy lives in a caravan on his own in the woods. His dad, John, is in prison but promises he'll be out soon. All the boy needs to do is survive alone for a little while longer. But dark forces are circling – like the bad man he's been warned about, who arrives asking questions; and the rucksack the boy must keep hidden; and maybe, just maybe, more ancient forces that have lain asleep for an age....
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?
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. However, freedom is not 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 must not trust. Hiding in the shadows of the forest, Esra is found by

	<p>a local boy, a 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.</p>
Linzi Glass	<p>The Year the Gypsies came 99 Winslow Lane, Johannesburg. A street lined with bluegum woods and lush foliage. Indoors, twelve-year old Emil Iris's family are living a seemingly idyllic existence, but underneath it all are quarrels, unhappiness and uncertainty. One day, a family of wanderers – an Australian couple and their two sons – come to stay with the Irises. For a while, Emily's parents can put their differences aside and be like a real family. However, as spring goes on, these 'gypsies' cast shadows of different shapes over Emily's family, shadows which shatter them all. Even in her darkest moments, can Emily still find hope from within?</p>
Keith Gray	<p>The Climbers (Carnegie Longlist 2022) Sully is the best tree climber in the village. He can scale Twisted Sister's tangled branches and clamber up Double Trunker with ease. But when new kid Nottingham shows up and astonishes everyone with his climbing skills, Sully's status is under threat and there's only one way to prove who's best.</p>
Kiran Millwood Hargrave	<p>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.</p>
Rachel Hickman	<p>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. 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, does not 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. However, Alex has a 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.</p>
Cath Howe	<p>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....</p>
Elizabeth Laird	<p>Welcome to Nowhere Twelve-year old Omar and his brothers and sisters were born and raised in the beautiful and bustling city of Bosra, Syria. Omar doesn't care about politics – all he wants is to grow up to become a successful businessman who will take the world by storm. However, when his clever older brother, Musa, gets mixed up with some young political activists, everything changes....</p>
Elizabeth Laird	<p>The Garbage King Dani and Mamo should never have met. In Ethiopia's great capital city, they have led unbelievably different lives. Dani's home is a grand house full of servants – Mamo has no home at all. Both boys are on the run, one fleeing a tyrannical father, the other escaping a life of slave labour. Fate has brought them together, and their only chance of survival is to trust each other with their lives.</p>
Patrice Lawrence	<p>Rat (Carnegie 2022 Longlist) When his Mum is sent back to prison, Al knows exactly who's to blame. Mr Brayker, who lives downstairs, has been making trouble for Al's Mum ever since they moved in, and Al's determined to get his revenge. Ignoring advice</p>

	<p>from his gran and sister, Plum, Al takes things into his own hands with a plan that involves the only two creatures he can rely on: his pet rats, Venom and Vulture. But things don't turn out exactly as he'd imagined....</p>
Nathanael Lessore	<p>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....</p>
Aimee Lucido	<p>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.</p>
Michelle Magorian	<p>A Little Love Song At seventeen, Rose is convinced no one will ever love her, living as she does in the shadow of her beautiful older sister Diana. If Diana is the swan, Rose is the ugly duckling. For both girls this is going to be an extraordinary summer. It is 1943 and the war has left its mark even in the sleepy seaside town where the girls have been sent out of harm's way. For the first time in their lives they are free of adult restriction. It is a summer of self-discovery, but especially for Rose who unearths a love story set in another war, a story that becomes more real when she falls in love herself</p>
Manjeet Mann	<p>The Crossing (Lit in Colour Book List) (Carnegie Longlist 2022) Natalie's world is falling apart. She's just lost her Mum, and her brother marches the streets of Dover with a far-right gang. Swimming is her only refuge. Sammy has fled his home and family in Eritrea for the chance of a new life in Europe. Every step he takes is a step into an unknown and unwelcoming future. A twist of fate brings them together and gives them hope. But is hope enough to mend a broken world?</p>
Anthony McGowan	<p>Rook A poignant, beautifully written novella about growing up and family. A companion piece to the hugely successful Brock and Pike, McGowan warms hearts once more with the adventures of Nicky and Kenny</p>
Jenny McLachlan	<p>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. However, 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 of Elsa and still follow her own path? She will need a miracle of cosmic proportions. But then nobody ever got anywhere by dreaming small....</p>
Elle McNicoll	<p>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.</p>
Beverly Naidoo	<p>The Other Side of Truth (Winner Carnegie 2000) A shot. Two shots at the gate in the early morning and a car screeches away down an avenue of palm trees. A tragedy – and a terrible loss for Sade and her younger brother, Femi, children of an outspoken journalist. Now terror is all around them and they must flee their country. At once. And alone. Plans for their journey have to be hastily arranged. Everything must be done in secret. But once Sade and Femi reach England, they will be safe – won't they?</p>
Patrick Neate	<p>Small Town Hero Ever since Dad died I feel like I've got a black hole inside me. It's like my world has been turned upside-down and back to front. Now impossible things are</p>

	happening and the thoughts I imagine in my head are coming true. It's totally mind-bending. And there's something really strange about this game I'm playing, Small Town Hero
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....
Luke Palmer	Grow (Carnegie Longlist 2022) Josh is a football-playing teenager with plenty of friends, until his father is killed in a terrorist bombing. Struggling to cope with grief, Josh withdraws from friends and family, but finds himself targeted by a white supremacist group as a potential recruit. Will he be drawn in or, with the help of unlikely accomplice Dana, find the strength to resist and plant something good in the space grief has left inside him?
Annabel Pitcher	My Sister lives on the Mantelpiece Ten-year-old Jamie Matthews has just moved to the Lake District with his Dad and his teenage sister, Jasmine for a 'Fresh New Start'. Five years ago his sister's twin, Rose, was blown up by a terrorist bomb.
Louisa Reid	Black Heart Blue Hephzibah and Rebecca are twins. One beautiful, one disfigured. Trapped with their loveless parents, they dream of a normal life. But when one twin tragically dies the other must find a way to escape. Because if she doesn't she'll end up like her sister....
Justin A. Reynolds	Forever ends on Friday What if you had another chance to say goodbye? When his best friend, Q, dies in a terrible accident, Jamal is given an extraordinary choice: one more week with Q, alive and kicking. The catch? Q mustn't ever know that he died. Now Jamal has the chance to give Q the best week of his life before he has to say goodbye again....
Meg Rosoff	How I Live Now Fifteen year old Daisy thinks she knows all about love. Her mother died giving birth to her and now her Dad has sent her away for the summer to live in the English countryside with cousins she's never met. There she'll discover what real love is: something violent, mysterious and wonderful. There her world will be turned upside down and a perfect summer will explode into a million bewildering pieces. How will Daisy live then?
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 see 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.

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.
Rebecca Stead	When you Reach Me Miranda's life is starting to unravel. Her best friend, Sal, gets punched by a kid on the street for what seems like no reason and he shuts Miranda out of his life. The key that Miranda's mum keeps hidden for emergencies is stolen and then a mysterious note arrives.
Nic Stone	Dear Justyce Justyce McAllister and Vernell Laquan Banks grew up a block apart in the Atlanta neighbourhood of Wynwood Heights. Justyce and Quan go way back, but they've each taken different paths. While Justyce went to a good school, Quan got caught up in a world of crime and fear. Now Justyce studies law at Yale University, and Quan sits behind bars at the Regional Youth Detention Centre, charged with murder. A dead cop. A gun with Quan's fingerprints all over it. But does that make a killer? As the two boys' paths begin to merge again, the answer becomes increasingly unclear.
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 <i>they</i> want to do is save the planet?
Sophia Thakur	Somebody give this heart a pen (Carnegie Longlist 2021) From internationally acclaimed performance poet Sophia Thakur comes a dazzling first collection of poems. Sophia Thakur takes you on an intimate journey through love, loss, faith and self-discovery. She gives a voice to the experiences that connect people, and encourages readers to look into themselves and explore the tendencies of the heart.
Jenny Valentine	Fire Colour One Iris's father, Ernest, is at the end of his life and she hasn't even met him. Her best friend, Thurston, is somewhere on the other side of the world. Everything she thought she knew is up in flames. Now her mother has declared war and means to get her hands on Ernest's priceless art collection. But Ernest has other ideas. There are things he wants Iris to know after he's gone. And the truth has more than one way of coming to light....
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.
Lauren Wolk	Beyond the Bright Sea My name is Crow. When I was a baby, someone tied me into an old boat and pushed me out to sea. Crow washed up on a tiny, windswept island when she was just a few hours old, with three things: a birthmark in the shape of a feather, a ruby ring, and a sea-soaked letter, of which just a few cryptic words remain.
Lauren Wolk	Wolf Hollow Annabelle has lived in Wolf Hollow all her life: a quiet place, still scarred by two world wars. When cruel, manipulative Betty arrives in town, Annabelle's calm world is shattered, along with everything she has ever known about right and wrong.

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.

Joseph Coelho **The boy lost in the maze (Carnegie shortlist 2024)** A playful and moving tale of self-discovery, this powerful verse novel from Joseph Coelho's masterly pen explores the journey from boyhood to manhood, drawing from Greek myth to explore contemporary concerns.