



READING CHALLENGE Y9 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.

ENJOY YOUR READING CHALLENGE!

ACTION, ADVENTURE AND MYSTERY

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| Akala | The Dark Lady A pickpocket with an exceptional gift. A prisoner of extraordinary value. An orphan haunted by dreams of the mysterious Dark Lady. |
| 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. |
| 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. |
| Tracy Darnton | The Rules When a letter from her dad arrives, Amber knows she's got to drop everything and run. He's managed to track her down and he'll stop at nothing to draw her back into his extreme prepper way of life. Now the Rules she's been trying to escape are the ones keeping her safe. But for her long? |
| 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. |
| Jennifer Donnelly | A Gathering Light Based on a real murder at the turn of the century, this outstanding debut novel is a powerful and moving coming-of-age book. 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 |
| Siobhan Dowd | Bog Child (Carnegie Winner 2009) Digging for peat in the mountain with his Uncle Tally, Fergus finds something that makes his heart stop. Curled up deep in the bog is the body of a child. And it looks like she's been murdered. As Fergus tries to make sense of the mad world around him – his brother on hunger-strike in prison, his growing feelings for Cora, his mam and da arguing over the Troubles, and him in it up to the neck - a little voice comes to him in his dreams, and the mystery of the bog child unfurls. |
| Louise Finch | The Eternal Return of Clara Hart (2023 Carnegie Shortlist) Wake up. Friday. Clara Hart hits my car. Go to class. Anthony rates the girls. House party. Anthony goes upstairs with Clara. Drink. Clara dies. Wake up. Friday again. Clara Hart hits my car. Why can't I break this loop? |

| | |
|--------------------------|---|
| Marie-Louise Fitzpatrick | On Midnight Beach 1976. It's a summer different to any other. The days are hot, hot, hot and a dolphin has turned up in Ross Bay. Emer sneaks to the beach at midnight to swim with the wild visitor....and to meet Dog Cullen with his lovely eyes, one green, one blue. Who cares if a neighbouring town is raging about the fortune 'dolphin fever' brings to Emer's village? Emer has never felt so alive. |
| Lisa Fuller | Ghost Bird Stacey and Laney are twins – mirror images of each other – and yet they're as different as the sun and the moon. Stacey works hard at school, determined to get out of their small town. Laney skips school and sneaks out of the house to meet her boyfriend. But when Laney disappears one night, Stacey can't believe she's just run off without telling her. |
| 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.... |
| Sharon Gosling | The Diamond Thief (The Diamond Thief Trilogy Book 1) No one performs on the circus trapeze like sixteen-year old Remy Brunel. But Remy also leads another life, prowling through the backstreets of Victorian London as a jewel thief. Forced by the evil circus owner Gustave to attempt the theft of one of the world's most valuable diamonds, she discovers an underworld of treachery and fiendish plots. Meanwhile, young detective Thaddeus Rec is determined to find the jewel and clear his name. Will Thaddeus manage to rescue the jewel? Or is it really Remy that he needs to save? |
| Ravena Guron | Catch your Death When three girls are stranded at the grand Bramble Estate during a snowstorm, they stumble into a murder plot. Someone has poisoned wealthy Emily Vanforte in the middle of a family dinner – which means Devi, Lizzie and Jayne are trapped in the house with a killer and a mystery to solve. |
| Alwyn Hamilton | Rebel of the Sands Dustwalk is Amani's home. The desert sand is in her bones. But she wants to escape. More than a want. A need. Then a foreigner with no name turns up to save her life, and with him the chance to run. But to where? The desert plains are full of danger. Sand and blood are swirling, and the Sultan's enemies are on the rise. |
| Charlie Higson | Young Bond: Bloodfever An Eton boy's family disappears at sea. James uncovers a shadowy society operating in a hidden corner of the school. And far from England, in the bandit-infested interior of Sardinia, a sinister Italian count has built himself a mountain fortress. Is there a connection? Young Bond is about to find out - and face a lethal group of villains beneath the burning Mediterranean sun. |
| Matt Killeen | Devil, Darling, Spy Sarah is used to spying in the champagne-fuelled parties of Nazi Berlin. But now she must track a deadly virus through central Africa and unmask the mysterious White Devil before the disease can be turned into a weapon. They think she is a terrified little girl. But she is a warrior set to burn them all. |
| 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. The 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 closer friends, Carly begins to uncover awful secrets that lie beneath the glittering façade.... |
| 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.

- Tricia Levenseller **Daughter of the Pirate King** Sent on a mission to retrieve an ancient hidden map-the key to a legendary treasure trove-seventeen-year-old pirate captain Alosa deliberately allows herself to be captured by her enemies, giving her the perfect opportunity to search their ship. More than a match for the ruthless pirate crew, Alosa has only one thing standing between her and the map: her captor, the unexpectedly clever and unfairly attractive first mate, Riden. But not to worry, for Alosa has a few tricks up her sleeve, and no lone pirate can stop the Daughter of the Pirate King.
- Geraldine McCaughrean **Where the World Ends** In the summer of 1727, a group of men and boys are put ashore on a remote sea stack to harvest birds for food. No one returns to collect them. Why? Surely nothing but the end of the world can explain why they have been abandoned to endure storms, starvation and terror. How can they survive, housed in stone and imprisoned on every side by the ocean?
- 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.
- 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....
- Brian Selznick **The Marvels** The illustrated story begins in 1766 with Billy Marvel, the lone survivor of a shipwreck, and charts the adventures of his family of actors over five generations. The prose story opens in 1990 and follows Joseph, who has run away from school to an estranged uncle's puzzling house in London, where he, along with the reader, must piece together many mysteries.
- Tess Sharpe **The Girls I've Been** To understand my story, you first have to know about the girls I've been. And that starts with my delightful con artist of a mother – because I didn't choose a life of deception, I was born into it.
- Chris Vick **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.....
- Jakob Wegelius **The Murderer's Ape** Sally Jones is an extraordinary gorilla and a brilliant ship's engineer who sails the high seas on *The Hudson Queen* 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. By freighter, steam train and bi-plane the intrepid ape journeys from Lisbon to Bombay and beyond in search of the truth. But powerful forces are working against her, and they will do anything to protect their own secrets....

| | |
|----------------|--|
| Elizabeth Wein | 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. A man is missing, presumed murdered, and many locals are blaming the McEwens, a Traveller family who have made camp at Strathfearn as long as Julie can remember. She is determined to prove her friends innocent. But before she can get to the bottom of the mystery Julie finds herself caught tight in a net woven of old drudges, intriguing strangers, buried secrets and rare, glimmering river pearls. |
| 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. |

CLASSICS

| | |
|--------------------|--|
| Truman Capote | Breakfast at Tiffany's Holly Golightly is generally up all night drinking cocktails and breaking hearts. She hasn't got a past. She doesn't want to belong to anything or anyone, not even to her one-eyed, rag-bag pirate of a cat. One day, Holly might find somewhere she belongs.... |
| Agatha Christie | The Mysterious Affair at Styles After the Great War, life can never be the same again. Wounds need healing, and the horror of violent death banished from memory. Captain Arthur Hastings is invited to the rolling country estate of Styles to recuperate from injuries sustained at the Front. It is the last place he expects to encounter a murder. Fortunately he knows a former detective, a Belgian refugee, who has grown bored of his retirement..... |
| Wilkie Collins | The Moonstone The Moonstone, a priceless Indian diamond which had come to England as spoils of war, is given to Rachel Verrinder on her eighteenth birthday. That very night, the stone is stolen; suspicion falls on a hunchbacked housemaid, on Rachel's cousin Franklin Blake, on a troupe of mysterious Indian jugglers, and on Rachel herself. The phlegmatic Sergeant Cuff is called in, and with the help of Betteredge, the Robinson Crusoe-reading loquacious Steward, the mystery of the missing stone is ingeniously solved. |
| F.Scott Fitzgerald | Tender is the Night To the just-fashionable French Riviera come Dick and Nicole Driver – handsome, rich, glamorous and enormous fun. Their dinners are legend, their atmosphere magnetic, their intelligence fine. But something is wrong. Nicole has a secret and Dick a weakness. Together they head towards the rocks on which their lives crash – and only one of them really survives. |
| George Orwell | Down and out in Paris and London George Orwell's vivid memoir of his time living among the desperately poor and destitute is a moving tour of the underworld of society. Written when Orwell was a struggling writer in his twenties, it documents his 'first contact with poverty': sleeping in bug-infested hostels and doss houses of last resort, working as a dishwasher in Paris, surviving on scraps and cigarette butts, living alongside tramps, a star-gazing pavement artist and a starving Russian ex-army captain. |

| | |
|--------------|---|
| Dodie Smith | Exposing a shocking, previously hidden world to readers, Orwell gave a human face to the statistics of poverty for the first time. In doing so, he found his voice as a writer 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. Cassandra Mortmain's journal records her fadingly glamorous stepmother, her beautiful, wistful older sister and the man to who they owe both their isolation and poverty – Father. The author of one experimental novel, and a minor <i>cause celebre</i> , he has since suffered from writer's block and is determined to dray his family down with him. But if the iron has entered Father's soul it hasn't penetrated Cassandra's |
| Evelyn Waugh | Scoop Lord Copper, newspaper magnate and proprietor of the <i>Daily Beast</i> , has always prided himself on his intuitive flair for spotting ace reporters. That is not to say he has not made the odd blunder, however, and may in a moment of weakness make another. Acting on a dinner-party tip from Mrs Algernon Stitch, he feels convinced that he has hit on just the chap to cover a promising little war in the African Republic of Ishmaelia. Here begins Waugh's exuberant comedy of mistaken identity and his brilliant satire on Fleet Street and its relentless and hectic pursuit of hot news. |
| Laura Wood | The Agency for Scandal Isobel Stanhope is keeping a lot of secrets. She's head over heels in love with a Duke who doesn't know she exists; her family's fortune is lost; and then there's her job at the Aviary, an investigative agency run by women that specializes in blackmailing powerful men. When Izzy's secret crush becomes embroiled in her most dangerous case yet, the two must work together to uncover a sinister plot, unmask a villain, and definitely not fall in love. That would create QUITE a scandal.... |

DYSTOPIAN AND SCIENCE FICTION

| | |
|------------------|---|
| Ally Condie | Matched On her seventeenth birthday, Cassia meets her Match. Society dictates he is her perfect partner for life. Except he's not. In Cassia's society, Officials decide who people love. How many children they have. Where they work. When they die. But, as Cassia finds herself falling in love with another boy, she is determined to make some choices of her own. And that's when her whole world begins to unravel. |
| 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' |
| Lauren DeStefano | Wither By age sixteen, Rhine Ellery has four years left to live. She can thank modern science for this genetic time bomb. A botched effort to create a perfect race has left all males with a lifespan of 25 years, and females with a lifespan of 20 years. |
| Annabel Donald | Be Nice Twenty-one teenage girls stranded on a desert island – a brilliant reworking of <i>Lord of the Flies</i> |
| Sally Gardner | My Side of the Diamond Jazmin has been shunned ever since her best friend Becky disappeared. But Becky didn't just disappear – she jumped off a tall building and seemingly never reached the ground. It was as if she simply vanished into thin air. Did Jazmin have something to do with her disappearance? Or was it more to do with Icarus, so beguiling and strangely ever youthful, with whom Becky became suddenly besotted.... |

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| Michael Grant | Monster The GONE series may be over, but it's not the end of the story, this is the first book of a new, explosive series. When the dome came down, they thought it was the end of the troubles. Truth is, it was just the beginning. Shade Darby witnessed events that day, with devastating consequences, and vowed never to feel that powerless again. Now, four years later, she gets her hands on a part of the meteor that began it all – and that's when she changes. Trouble is, Shade's not the only one mutating, and the authorities cannot allow these superpowers to go unchecked.... |
| Lauren James | The Loneliest Girl in the Universe Romy Silvers is the only surviving crew member on a spaceship bound for a new planet. She is the loneliest girl in the universe, until she hears that a second spaceship has launched from Earth, with a single passenger on board. A boy called J. |
| Gemma Malley | The Declaration 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 inevitable, children are an abomination |
| Patrick Ness | The Knife of Never Letting Go (Book 1 of Chaos Walking: A Trilogy – Book 2: The Ask and the Answer, Book 3: Monsters of Men (Carnegie 2011 Winner) Prentissstown isn't like other towns. Everyone can hear everyone else's thoughts in a constant, overwhelming, never-ending Noise. There is no privacy. There are no secrets. Then, just one month away from the birthday that will make Todd Hewitt a man, he unexpectedly stumbles on a spot of complete silence. Which is impossible. |
| Ben Oliver | The Loop (Book 1) Luka Kane will die in the Loop, a prison controlled by artificial intelligence. Delays to his execution are granted if he submits to medical experiments, but escape is made impossible by the detonator sewn into his heart. On Luka's sixteenth birthday, the monotony of life in the Loop alters: the government-issued rain stops falling and rumours of outside unrest start to spread. This might be his one chance to escape – and to stop the deletion of humankind.... |
| 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 | Divergent In this dystopian Chicago, society is divided into five factions, each dedicated to the cultivation of a particular virtue – Candor (the honest), Abnegation (the selfless), Dauntless (the brave), Amity (the peaceful), and Erudite (the intelligent). On an appointed day of every year, all sixteen-year-olds must select the faction to which they will devote the rest of their lives |
| Neal Shusterman | Scythe (Book 1 of 3) (Book 2 Thunderhead and Book 3 The Toll) What if death was the only thing left to control? In a perfect world, the only way to die is to be gleaned by a professional scythe. When Citra and Rowan are chosen to be apprentice scythes, they know they have no option but to learn the art of killing. However, the terrifying responsibility of choosing their victims is just the start. Corruption is the order of the day and Citra and Rowan need to stick together to fight it. Then they are told that one of them will have to glean the other.... |
| Neal Shusterman | Dry The drought – or the tap-out, as everyone calls it – has been going on for a while. Life has become an endless list of don'ts: don't water the lawn, don't take long showers, don't panic. But now there is no water left at all. Suddenly, Alyssa's quiet suburban street spirals into a warzone of desperation and violence. When her parents go missing, she and her younger brother must team up with an unlikely group in search of water. Each of them will need to make impossible choices to survive |
| Neal Shusterman | Unwind In a society where unwanted teens are salvaged for their body parts, three runaways fight the system that would "unwind" them |

FANTASY. GOTHIC AND HORROR

- Leigh Bardugo **Six of Crows** (Book 1 of 2) Criminal prodigy, Kaz Brekker has been offered a chance at a deadly heist: break in to the Ice Court – a military stronghold that has never been breached – and retrieve a hostage whose knowledge could change Grisha magic forever. To succeed would mean riches beyond Kaz's wildest dreams, but he can't pull it off alone....
- Leigh Bardugo **Shadow and Bone (Book 1 of 3: The Grisha)** Alina Starkov is a soldier. When her regiment is attacked whilst crossing the Shadow Fold – a swath of unnatural darkness crawling with monsters – Alina unleashes dormant magic not even she knew she possessed. Now Alina will enter a lavish world of royalty and intrigue as she trains with the Grisha – the country's magical military elite – and falls under the spell of their notorious leader, the Darkling. He believes Alina can summon a force capable of destroying the Shadow Fold and reuniting their war-ravaged country, but only if she can master her untamed gift.
- Kalynn Bayron **Cinderella is Dead** It's 200 years since Cinderella found her prince....but the fairytale is over. Sophia knows the story though, off by heart. Because every girl has to recite it daily, from when she's tiny until the night she's sent to the royal ball for choosing. And every girl knows that she has only one chance. For the lives of those not chosen by a man at the ball....are forfeit. But Sophia doesn't want to be chosen. She doesn't want to go to the ball at all. Not when she's afraid the girl she loves might be chosen too. Pushed beyond breaking by a society that denies everything she is, Sophia sets out on a journey that will remake her world....into one where SHE gets to choose.
- Alex Bell **Charlotte Says** Following the death of her mother in a terrible fire, Jemima flees to the remote Isle of Skye, to take up a job at a school for girls. There she finds herself tormented by the mystery of what really happened that night. Then Jemima receives a box of Frozen Charlotte dolls from a mystery sender and she begins to remember – a séance with the dolls, a violent argument with her step-father and the inferno that destroyed their home. And when it seems that the dolls are triggering a series of accidents at the school, Jemima realizes she must stop the demonic spirits possessing the dolls – whatever it takes
- Holly Black **The Cruel Prince** 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 cunning and deceitful as the Fey themselves. But the stairway to power is fraught with shadows and betrayal. And looming over all is the arrogant and charismatic Prince Cardan.
- Tim Bowler **Starseeker** Luke is in trouble. Skin and the gang have a job for him. They want him to break into Mrs Little's house and steal her jewellery box. They want him to prove that he's got what it takes. That he's part of the gang. But Luke finds more than just a jewellery box in the house. He finds something so unexpected it will change his life forever....
- 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....

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| Alexandra Christo | To Kill a Kingdom Princes Lira is siren royalty and revered across the sea until she is cursed into humanity by the ruthless Sea Queen. Now Lira must deliver the heart of the infamous siren killer or remain a human forever. Prince Elian is heir to the most powerful kingdom in the world, and captain to a deadly crew of siren hunters. When he rescues a drowning woman from the ocean, she promises to help him destroy sirenkind for good. But he has no way of knowing whether he can trust her.... |
| Eoin Colfer | The Supernaturalist Cosmo Hill is a human guinea pig in an orphanage used by corporations to test new products. Statistics say he has about a year left to live – unless he escapes. But escapes what? To a world of high-tech gang warfare, SWAT teams of paralegals and a plague of four-fingered parasites who are invisible to everyone except three misfits who call themselves Supernaturalists. Could Cosmo be one of them? Are they the family he’s always wanted? And if he does become a Supernaturalist, will his life get any longer – or a whole lot shorter? |
| 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 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. |
| 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. |
| Sharon Dogar | Monsters 1814: Two 16 year-old stepsisters run away with a married man. The results are devastating and the ripples will be felt for centuries. This is the incredible story of Mary Shelley – radical, rebellious and entranced. It is the story of a young woman who defies tradition and society, and who draws upon the monstrous elements of her own life to create <i>Frankenstein</i> and the most memorable monster of them all |
| Berlie Doherty | The Company of Ghosts It was a seascape, moody with rocks and cliffs and wild showers of spray. Ellie’s own reflection was drawn into it, like a ghost image among the lights and shadows. ‘That’s our island’, Morag said. ‘It looks mysterious. It is. That’s where we’re going tomorrow’. Ellie is excited to be going with Morag’s family to their beautiful island, but when she finds herself abandoned there, things begin to change. Footsteps, shadows, strange lights, a haunting song: more and more she becomes aware that she is not really on her own.... |
| Namina Forna | The Gilded Ones Deka lives in fear of the blood ceremony that will determine whether she can become a member of her village. If she bleeds red, she will belong. But on the day of the ceremony, her blood runs gold – the colour of impurity, a demon. |
| P.M. Freestone | The Darkest Bloom (Book 1 of the Shadowscent series) In the empire of Aramtash, 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. |
| Neil Gaiman | The Ocean at the End of the Lane This is what he remembers, as he sits by the ocean at the end of the lane: A dead man on the back seat of the car; An ancient little girl, and an old woman who saw the mood being made; A beautiful housekeeper with a monstrous smile; And dark forces woken that were best left undisturbed. They are memories hard |

| | |
|------------------|---|
| | to believe, waiting at the edges of things. The recollections of a man who thought he was lost but is now, perhaps, remembering a time when he was saved.... |
| Frances Hardinge | A Skinful of Shadows When a creature dies, its spirit can go looking for somewhere to hide. Some people have space inside them, perfect for hiding. Makepeace, a courageous girl with a mysterious past, defends herself nightly from the ghosts which try to possess her. Then a dreadful event causes her to drop her guard for a moment. And now there's a ghost inside her. The spirit is wild, brutish and strong, but it may be her only defence in a time of dark suspicion and fear. As the English Civil War erupts, Makepeace must decide which is worse possession – or death |
| Frances Hardinge | Fly by Night Everybody knew that books were dangerous, read the wrong book, it was said, and the words crawled around your brain on black legs and drove you mad....In a land where books are considered dangerous, Mosca Mye, an orphan with an all-consuming hunger for words, and her loyal companion (a large and homicidal goose) are about to become the unlikely heroes of a revolution.... |
| Frances Hardinge | Unraveller In a world where anyone can create a life-destroying curse, only one person has the power to unravel them. Kellen does not fully understand his talent, but helps those transformed maliciously - including Nettle. Recovered from entrapment in bird form, she is now his constant companion, and closest ally. But Kellen has also been cursed, and unless he and Nettle can remove his curse, Kellen is in danger of unravelling everything - and everyone - around him... |
| 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. |
| 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 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. |
| 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.... |
| 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 Cursebreak 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. |

| | |
|-----------------------|--|
| Shelby Mahurin | Blood & Honey (Book 2 of The Serpent & Dove series) Lou, Reid, Coco and Ansel are on the run from coven, kingdom and church-fugitives with nowhere to hide. To survive, they need allies. Strong ones. But as Lou becomes increasingly desperate to save those she loves, she turns to a darker side of magic that may cost Reid the one thing he can't bear to lose. |
| 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 Afaia's tyrannical head of state, Madame Suprema. When the country is hit by unprecedented flooding, Madame Suprema runs away, fearing she will be blamed for the crisis. To cover up this cowardly act, Gloria is made to step into Madame Suprema's shoes and is thrust into a world of corrupt and desperate politicians. |
| 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. |
| Emily Bain Murphy | 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. |
| Patrick Ness | Burn (Carnegie Longlist 2021) On a cold Sunday evening in early 1957, Sarah Dewhurst waited with her father in the parking lot of the Chevron gas station for the dragon he'd hired to help on the farm. This dragon, Kazimir, has more to him than meets the eye. Sarah can't help but be curious about him, an animal who supposedly doesn't have a soul but is seemingly intent on keeping her safe from the brutal attentions of Deputy Sheriff Emmett Kelly. |
| Garth Nix | Clariel (Prequel to The Old Kingdom Trilogy) Sixteen-year-old Clariel has only recently arrived in the royal city of Belisaere, and she is not adjusting well to her new life filled with courtiers, false flattery, secrets and endless rules of propriety. But when a dangerous Free Magic creature is discovered, Clariel is given a chance to prove herself. She is delighted – until events rapidly spiral out of her control. The ancient rules binding Abhorsen, King and Clayr appear to be crumbling, and Clariel must decide between her duty and her dreams. |
| Caroline O'Donoghue | All Our Hidden Secrets (Book 1 All Our Hidden Secrets) Maeve Chambers doesn't have any special gifts. That is until she finds a dusty old pack of tarot cards, and starts giving uncannily accurate readings to everyone around her. But when she reads for her ex-best friend Lily, a strange card appears in the deck – and everything goes wrong. Lily doesn't come to school the next day, or the next, and Maeve knows she's been taken somewhere the police will never find her. Only the cards – and something older, something even more powerful – can bring her back. |
| Caroline O'Donoghue | The Gifts that Bind Us (Sequel to All our Hidden Secrets) Maeve and her friends have spent the summer practising their gifts: Maeve can read minds, Roe picks locks, Fiona can heal and Lily channels electricity. But with strange things happening at school and old enemies appearing in new places, it's clear their powers are attracting the wrong |

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| | attention. And it's not long before Maeve's gift starts to wane, drained by someone – or something – hiding even from her second sight. |
| Kenneth Oppel | The Nest The first time I saw them, I thought they were angels....Steve's newborn baby brother is seriously ill and his parents are struggling to cope. When a mysterious wasp queen invades his dreams and makes him an offer that could transform his life, all Steve has to do is say yes. But 'yes' is a powerful, dangerous word. And once it is uttered, can it be taken back? |
| Mary E. Pearson | 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. |
| Stephanie Perkins | The Woods are always watching Best friends Neena and Josie spent high school as outsiders, but at least they had each other. Now, with university and a two-thousand-mile separation looming on the horizon, they have one last chance to be together: a three-day hike deep into the woods. A detour off-trail leads them straight into a waking nightmare...and then into something far worse. Something that will test them in horrifying ways. |
| Philip Pullman | La Belle Sauvage: The Book of Dust Volume 1 Eleven-year-old Malcolm Polstead and his daemon, Asta, live with his parents at the Trout Inn near Oxford. Across the River Thames (which Malcolm navigates often using his beloved canoe, a boat by the name of La Belle Sauvage) is the Godstow Priory where the nuns live. Malcolm learns they have a guest with them; a baby by the name of Lyra Belacqua . . . |
| Philip Pullman | The Secret Commonwealth: The Book of Dust Volume 2 Lyra Silvertongue is now a young woman in her second year as an Oxford student. When her daemon, Pantalaimon, witnesses a murder, they are forced to navigate their relationship in a way they could never have imagined, drawn into the complex and dangerous factions of a world that they had no idea existed. |
| Philip Reeve | Mortal Engines (Book 1 of the Mortal Engines Quartet Series) (Book 2: Predator's Gold Book 3: Infernal Devices Book 4: A Darkling Plain) London is on the move again. The city has been lying low, skulking in the hills to avoid the bigger, faster, <i>hungrier</i> citites loose in the Great Hunting Ground. The great town moves off after its quarry as events within the walls begin to take a sinister turn.... |
| Katherine Rundell | Impossible Creatures On the day Christopher Forrester rescues a drowning baby griffin from a hidden lake, his life changes forever. The adventure that awaits him will take him to the Archipelago, a secret, unmapped cluster of islands where all the creatures of myth still live side by side with humans. The adventure also brings him Mal, a girl on the run, with whom he will transform the destiny of the world.... |
| 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? |
| 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? |

| | |
|--------------------|--|
| Adam Silvera | Infinity Son Two brothers thrown into an epic war generations in the making. A fight for good and evil, between those born with power and those who took it. One brother has the power to end it all. The other will stop at nothing in his pursuit of glory. Who will live forever, and who will die trying? |
| Stewart & Riddell | The Curse of the Gloamglozer (The Edge Chronicles: Quint Saga Book 1 of 3) Fourteen-year-old Quint Verginix is the only remaining son of famous sky-pirate Wind Jackal. He and his father have journeyed to the city of Sanctaphrax – a great floating rock, bound to the ground below by a chain, its inhabitants living with their heads literally in the clouds. But the city hides a dangerous secret: deep inside the great rock, something horrible lurks. With his father away, Quint may be the only one who can save Sanctaphrax from the dreaded curse of the gloamglozer . . . |
| Deirdre Sullivan | Savage her Reply (A retelling of The Children of Lir) When Aife's sister dies, she is forced to marry her widower, the chieftain Lir. She promised to protect her sister's children, but Lir's mistreatment drives Aife to use her magic against them. The savage retelling of a classic Irish fairy tale gives voice to Aife, the scorned woman who took terrible vengeance on the children of Lir. Rich, lyrical prose speaks of loss, jealousy, revenge. And, finally, forgiveness. |
| Krystal Sutherland | House of Hollow Dark, dangerous things happen around the Hollow sisters. Ever since they disappeared as children – only to reappear a month later, with no memory of what had happened to them – odd, eerie occurrences follow in their wake. When Grey, the eldest, goes missing again, Iris and Vivi are left to figure out the mystery – but they aren't the only ones looking for her. |
| Emily J. Taylor | Hotel Magnifique The legendary Hotel Magnifique is like no other: a magical world of golden ceilings, enchanting soirees and fountains flowing with champagne. It changes location every night, stopping in the same place only once a decade. |
| Leslie Vedder | 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. |
| Angharad Walker | Once upon a Fever Since the world fell sick, sister Payton and Ani Darke have lived in the hospital of King Jude's where their father is a methic. Both girls are set on finding a cure for the fever that has put their mother in an eternal sleep. Sensible Payton looks to scientific experiment, while impulsive Ani is intrigued by remedies from the past – from the forbidden wilderness beyond the hospital's walls. |
| Adrienne Young | Sky in the Deep (Book 1) Raised to be a warrior, seventeen year old Eelyn fights alongside her Aska clansmen in an ancient rivalry against the Riki clan. Her life is brutal but simple: fight and survive. Until the day she sees the impossible on the battlefield – her brother, fighting with the enemy – the brother she watched die five years ago. |

HISTORICAL

| | |
|------------------|--|
| Aidan Chambers | Postcards from no man's land Jacob Todd, abroad on his own for the first time, arrives in Amsterdam for the commemoration of the Battle of Arnhem where his grandfather fought fifty years before. He meets the terminally ill Geertrui, an old lady who tells an extraordinary story of love and betrayal, linking Jacob with her own Dutch family in a way he never suspected and leading him to question his place in the world. |
| Tracey Chevalier | Girl with a Pearl Earring When Griet becomes a maid in the household of the painter Johannes Vermeer, she thinks she knows her role: housework, laundry and the care of |

his six children. But as she becomes part of his world and his work, their growing intimacy spreads tension and deception in the ordered household and, as the scandal seeps out, into the town beyond.

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.

Anthony Doerr

All the Light we Cannot See For Marie-Laure, blind since the age of six, the world is full of mazes. The miniature of a Paris neighbourhood, made by her father to teach her the way home. The microscopic layers within the invaluable diamond that her father guards in the Museum of Natural History. The walled city by the sea, where father and daughter take refuge when the Nazis invade Paris. And a future which draws her ever closer to Werner, a German orphan, destined to labour in the mines until a broken radio fills his life with possibility and brings him to the notice of the Hitler Youth.

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

Jamila Gavin

Coram Boy *A tale of two cities* - Gloucester and London. *A tale of two boys* – Toby, saved from an African slave ship; Aaron, the illegitimate son of the heir to a great estate. *A tale of fathers and sons* – Otis, dealing in the vilest trade of all, and his son Meshak, not quite of this world; Sir William Ashbrook, landowner, and Alexander, the son he disinherits. An epic journey fraught with every danger and excitement, until love triumphs over hatred and corruption

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 . . .

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

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| Lian Hearn | 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. Across the Nightingale Floor (Book 1 Tales of the Otori) 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. |
| Mary Hooper | Fallen Grace London, 1861. Grace Parkes, a pale but determined figure, clutches a precious bundle closely to her as she travels on the train to the famed Brookwood Cemetery. Grace has a heartbreaking duty to carry out. |
| Catherine Johnson | The Curious Tale of the Lady Caraboo A very curious tale indeed....Out of the blue arrives an exotic young woman from a foreign land. Fearless and strong, 'Princess' Caraboo rises above the suspicions of the wealthy family her take her in. But who is the real Caraboo? In a world where it seems everyone is playing a role, could she be an ordinary girl with a tragic past? Is she a confidence trickster? Or is she the princess everyone wants her to be? Whoever she is, she will steal your heart.... |
| Sally Nicholls | The Silent Stars go by Three years ago, Margot's life was turned upside down when her fiancé, Harry, went missing in action on the Western Front. Worse, she was left with a devastating secret which threatened to ruin her life and destroy her family's reputation. |
| George Saunders | Lincoln in the Bardo The American Civil War rages while President Lincoln's beloved eleven-year-old son lies gravely ill. In a matter of days, Willie dies and is laid to rest in a Georgetown cemetery. Newspapers report that a grief-stricken Lincoln returns to the crypt several times to hold his boy's body. From this seed of historical truth, George Saunders spins an unforgettable story of familial love and loss, as Willie Lincoln finds himself trapped in a transitional realm where ghosts mingle and squabble, and a monumental struggle erupts over his soul. |
| Ruta Sepetys | I Must Betray You (Carnegie Shortlist 2023) Cristian has lived his entire life in the grip of a repressive dictatorship. The country is governed by fear. When the secret police blackmail him, Cristian has an impossible choice. Save the life of his sick grandfather by informing on his family, or risk his life - and all of theirs - by resisting? At 17, Cristian dreams of being free but doesn't know where to turn. In this climate of constant suspicion, can he trust his best friend, his girlfriend or even his family? |
| Ruta Sepetys | 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.... |
| Alex Wheatle | 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 |

NON FICTION

| | |
|-------------|---|
| Bill Bryson | Notes from a Small Island His aim was to take stock of the nation's public face and private parts (as it were), and to analyse what precisely it was he loved so much about a country that had produced Marmite; people who said 'Mustn't grumble' and 'Ooh lovely' at the sight of a cup of tea and a plate of biscuits, and Gardeners' Question Time |
|-------------|---|

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| Jung Chang | Wild Swans The story of three generations of women in her own family – the grandmother given to the warlord as a concubine, the Communist mother and the daughter herself – Jung Chang reveals the epic history of China’s twentieth century |
| Gerald Durrell | My family and other animals I don’t know why my brothers and sisters complain so much. With snakes in the bath and scorpions on the lunch table, our house, on the island of Corfu, is a bit like a circus. So they should feel right at home.... |
| E.H. Gombrich | A Little History of the World E.H. Gombrich’s bestselling history of the world for young readers tells the story of mankind from the Stone Age to the atomic bomb, focusing not on small detail but on the sweep of human experience, the extent of human achievement, and the depth of its frailty. The product of a generous and humane sensibility, this timeless account makes intelligible the full span of human history. In forty concise chapters, Gombrich tells the story of man from the Stone Age to the atomic bomb. In between emerges a colourful picture of wars and conquests, grand works of art, and the spread and limitations of science. This a text dominated not by dates and facts, but by the sweep of mankind’s experience across the centuries, a guide to humanity’s achievement and an acute witness to its frailties |
| Wendy Holden | Born Survivors Among millions of Holocaust victims sent to Auschwitz II-Birkenau in 1944, Priska, Rachel and Anka each passed through its infamous gates with a secret. Strangers to each other, they were newly pregnant, and facing an uncertain fate without their husbands. Alone, scared, and with so many loved ones already lost to the Nazis, these young women were privately determined to hold on to all they had left: their lives, and those of their unborn babies. That the gas chambers ran out of Zyklon-B just after the babies were born, before they and their mothers could be exterminated, is just one of several miracles that allowed them all to survive and rebuild lives after World War II |
| Laurie Lee | Cider with Rosie The vivid memoir of childhood in a remote Cotswold village, a village before electricity or cars, a timeless place on the verge of change |
| Sungju Lee | Every Falling Star The memoir of Sungju Lee, a North Korean boy who was forced at the age of twelve to live on the streets and fend for himself. Sungju tells what it was like to be separated from his parents; to be alone; to have to create a new family with his gang, his “brothers”; to be hungry every day; and to fear arrest, imprisonment and even execution |
| Frank McCourt | Angela’s Ashes A story of extreme hardship and suffering, in Brooklyn tenements and Limerick slums – too many children, too little money, his mother Angela barely coping as his father Malachy’s drinking bouts constantly bring the family to the brink of disaster. It is a story of courage and survival against apparently overwhelming odds |
| Christopher Nolan | Under the eye of the clock This is the story of Joseph Meehan, born cruelly handicapped and know to the world as ‘the crippled boy’. Filled with insight into the soul inside a broken body and warm with the beauties of the Irish landscape it is the story of Joseph’s fight to escape the restrictions and confines of his existence |
| Katherine Rundell | The Golden Mole A gorgeously illustrated collection of the lives of some of the Earth’s most astounding animals, The Golden Mole is a chance to be awestruck and lovestruck – to reckon with the beauty of the world, its fragility, and its strangeness. |
| Simon Singh | Big Bang The story of the brilliant minds that deciphered the mysteries of the Big Bang. A fascinating exploration of the ultimate question: how was our universe created? |
| Nigel Slater | Toast An autobiography of a childhood remembered through food. Whether recalling his mother’s surprisingly good rice pudding, his father’s bold foray into spaghetti and his dreaded Boxing Day stew, or such culinary highlights as Arctic Roll and Grilled Grapefruit |

(then considered something of a status symbol in Wolverhampton), this remarkable memoir vividly recreates daily life in 1960's suburban England.

Ellie Wiesel

Night Ellie Wiesel was sent to the Nazi concentration camp at Auschwitz and Buchenwald. This is his account of that atrocity: the ever-increasing horrors he endured, the loss of his family and his struggle to survive in a world that stripped him of humanity, dignity and faith

REALISTIC FICTION

Sufiya Ahmed

Secrets of the Henna Girl (Lit in Colour Reading List) Zeba Khan is like any other sixteen-year-old girl: enjoying life, waiting for exam results...and dreaming of the day she'll meet her one true love. But her parents have other plans. In Pakistan for the summer, Zeba's world is shattered. Her future is threatened by an unthinkable – and forced – duty to protect her father's honour. But does she hold the secrets that will help her escape?

Elizabeth Acevedo

With the Fire on High Emoni wants to be a chef more than anything, but having a two-year-old daughter, and being seventeen and still at school, isn't exactly making life easy. The one place she can let everything go is in the kitchen, where she has magical hands – whipping up extraordinary food beloved by everyone from her grandmother to her best friend Angelica. Emoni knows, though, that there are rules she has to play by. And yet, once she gets cooking, her passion to feed will nourish her soul and dreams too. With the fire on high, anything is possible....

Elizabeth Acevedo

Clap when you land (Carnegie Shortlist 2021) Camino lives for her father's visits to the Dominican Republic. But this year, on the day when his plane is supposed to land, Camino arrives at the airport to see crowds of crying people. In New York City, Yahaira is called to the principal's office, where her mother is waiting to tell her that her father, her hero, has died in a plane crash. Separated by distance – and Papi's secrets – the two sisters are forced to face a new reality in which their lives are forever altered. Now Camino and Yahaira are both left to grapple with their grief, their new-found love for one another and what it will take to keep their dreams alive.

Laurence Anholt

The Hypnotist In the dead of night, Pip is plucked from an orphanage and hired as a farm hand. But Pip is black. The farmer and his wife are white. And this is 1960s America, where race defines you. Jack Morrow has left his native Ireland dreaming of a new life in the American South. He has certain skills that he mostly keeps hidden. Skills in hypnotism and mind control....Pip and Jack's lives become inextricably linked as the heat of racial tension builds to a terrifying storm.

Sara Barnard

Fierce Fragile Hearts Two years after a downward spiral took her as low as you can possibly go. Suzanne is starting again. Again. She's back in Brighton, the only place she ever felt she belonged, back with her best friends Caddy and Rosie. But they're about to leave for university. When your friends have been your light in the darkness, what happens when you're the one left behind?

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.

Sita Brahmachari

When Shadows Fall (Carnegie Shortlist 2023) Kai, Orla and Zak grew up together, their days spent on the patch of wilderness in between their homes, a small green space in a sprawling grey city. Music, laughter and friendship bind them together and they have big plans for their future - until Kai's family suffers a huge loss.

| | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| Holly Bourne | Soulmates Every so often two people are born who are the perfect match for one another. Soulmates. But what if meeting your soulmate is earth-shattering – literally? An epic, electrifying and extraordinary debut about falling in love. |
| Holly Bourne | The places I've cried in public (Shortlisted for the Bookseller YA Book Prize 2020) It looked like love. It felt like love. But this isn't a love story. Amelie fell hard for Reese. And she thought he loved her too. But she's starting to realize that real love isn't supposed to hurt like this. So now she's retracing their story, revisiting all the places he made her cry. Because if she works out what went wrong, perhaps she can finally learn how to get over him. |
| Wai Chim | The Surprising Power of a Good Dumpling (Lit in Colour Reading List) Anna Chiu has her hands full looking after her siblings and helping out at her Dad's restaurant, all while her Mum stays in bed. The new delivery boy, Rory, is a welcome distraction and even though things aren't right at home, Anna's starting to feel like she could just be a normal teen. But when Mum finally gets out of bed, things go from bad to worse. And as Mum's condition worsens, Anna and her family question everything they understand about themselves and each other. |
| 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.... |
| 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. |
| Robert Cormier | The Chocolate War The headmaster of Trinity College asks Archie Costello, the leader of the Vigils, a secret society that rules the school, to help with the selling of 20,000 boxes of chocolates in the annual fund-raising effort. Archie sees the chance of adding to his power - he is the Assigner, handing out to the boys tasks to be performed if they are to survive in the school. Freshman, Jerry Renault, a newcomer to the corrupt regime, refuses to sell chocolates. Enormous mental and physical pressure is put on him but he will not give in - the result is an inevitable, explosive tragedy. |
| Sarah Crossan | Moonrise They think I hurt someone. But I didn't. You hear? Cos people are gonna be telling you all kinds of lies. I need you to know the truth. Joe hasn't seen his brother for ten years, and it's for the most brutal of reasons. Ed is on death row. But now Ed's execution date has been set, and Joe is determined to spend those last few weeks with him, no matter what people think....This poignant, stirring, huge-hearted novel asks big questions. What value to you place on life? What can you forgive? And just how do you say goodbye? |
| Sarah Crossan | The Weight of Water Armed with a suitcase and an old laundry bag filled with clothes, Kasienka and her mother head for England. |
| Sarah Crossan & Brian Conaghan | We Come Apart Nicu is so not Jess's type. He's all big eyes and ill-fitting clothes, eager as a puppy, even when they're picking up litter in the park for community service. Appearances matter to Jess. She has a lot to hide. Nicu shouldn't even be looking at Jess. His parents are planning his marriage to a girl he's never met back home in Romania. But he want to work hard, do better, stay here. As they grow closer, their secrets surface like bruises. And as the world around them grows more hostile, the only safe place Jess and Nicu have is with each other |

| | |
|---------------------------|--|
| Kit de Waal | Becoming Dinah (Carnegie Longlist 2020) Dinah is running away – from the commune she was raised in, from the wreckage of her family, and from everything she used to be. But when her grumpy neighbour Ahab persuades her to take a road trip to chase a stolen campervan, she finds herself on a very different journey from the one she'd planned. One that will risk her life, but might finally show her which way to turn.... |
| Sue Divin | Guard your Heart Aidan and Iona were both born on the day of the Northern Ireland peace deal. Now, they're 18. Aidan is Catholic, Irish, and Republican. With his Da gone and his Ma dead, his hopes are pinned on exam results earning him a one-way ticket out of Derry. To anywhere. Iona, Protestant and British, has a brother in the police. She's got university ambitions, a strong faith and a fervent belief that boys without one track minds are a myth. But one night, Aidan wanders across the Peace Bridge and becomes the victim of a brutal hate crime. Iona is a witness. Their lives tangle. And so what? It's not the Troubles..... |
| 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? |
| Jenny Downham | Furious Thing (Carnegie Longlist 2021) Lexi's angry and it's getting worse. If only she could stop losing her temper and behave herself, her step-father would accept her, her mum would love her like she used to and her step-brother would declare his crushing desire to spend the rest of his life with her. She wants these things so badly she determines to swallow her anger and make her family proud. But pushing fury down doesn't make it disappear. Instead, it simmers below the surface waiting to erupt. There'll be fireworks when it does |
| Akwaeke Emezi | PET (Carnegie Longlist 2021) There are no monsters any more, or so the children in the city of Lucille have been taught. Jam and her best friend, Redemption, have grown up with this lesson all their lives. But when Jam meets Pet she begins to question what she's been told. Pet has come to hunt the evil lurking in Redemption's house....But how do you save the world from monsters if no one will admit they exist? |
| Louise Finch | The Eternal Return of Clara Hart (Carnegie Shortlist 2023) Wake up. Friday. Clara Hart hits my car. Go to class. Anthony rates the girls. House party. Drink. Clara dies. Wake up. Friday again. Clara Hart hits my car. Why can't I break this loop? |
| Sarah Moore Fitzgerald | Apple Tart of Hope Oscar Dunleavy, who used to make the world's most perfect apple tarts, is missing, presumed dead. No-one seems too surprised, except for Meg, his best friend, and his little brother Stevie. |
| Marie-Louise Fitzpatrick | On Midnight Beach (Carnegie Shortlist 2021) 1976. It's a summer different to any other. The days are hot, hot, hot and a dolphin has turned up in Ross Bay. Emer sneaks to the beach at midnight to swim with the wild visitor....and to meet Dog Cullen with his lovely eyes, one green, one blue. Who cares if a neighbouring town is raging about the fortune 'dolphin fever' brings to Emer's village? Emer has never felt so alive. |
| 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? |
| Nikita Gill | The Girl and the Goddess Meet Paro. A girl with a strong will, a full heart and much to learn. Born into a family reeling from the ruptures of Partition, follow her as she crosses the precarious lines between childhood, teenage discovery and realising her adult life. |

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| Keith Gray | 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. |
| Simon James Green | Boy like me (Carnegie Longlist 2024) Notes in the margins of a library book spark a romance between two teenage boys in this powerful coming-of-age and coming-out story full of heart and courage. |
| Chaz Hayden | The first thing about you When new boy Harris meets cute girl in his class Nory, he is determined to prove he is more than just the kid in the powered wheelchair. Luckily, he has a secret weapon. His new nurse Miranda. Beautiful and confident, Miranda sees Harris for who he really is – funny, smart and totally worth Nory's affections. It seems everything is working out for Harris for once. But Miranda has her own demons, and Harris starts to wonder if she has his best interests at heart. |
| Will Hill | After the Fire The things I've seen are burned into me like scars that refuse to fade. Father John likes rules. Especially about never talking to Outsiders. Because Father John knows the truth. He knows what is right, and what is wrong. He knows what is coming. Moonbeam is starting to doubt, though. She's starting to see the lies behind Father John's words. She wants him to be found out. What if the only way out of the darkness is to light a fire? |
| Bonnie-Sue Hitchcock | Everyone dies famous in a small town Meet the teenagers who live in the small towns across these states, separated by distance, but whose stories are woven together in the most unexpected of ways. Whether they are brought together by the spread of wildfire, by the priest who is moved from state to state, or by the hunt for a missing child, these incredible tales blaze with secrets, rage and love. |
| Rhian Ivory | Hope It's the summer between school and sixth-form. When Hope doesn't get into drama college and her friends do, all her plans fall apart. She's struggling with anger, grief for her father and a sense that her own body is against her. A chance meeting on a ferry gives her someone to talk to. But is she brave enough to ask for help? Can she find her plan B? |
| Danielle Jawando | And the Stars were Burning Brightly (Carnegie Longlist 2021) When fifteen-year-old Nathan discovers that his older brother Al, has taken his own life, his whole world is torn apart. Al had so many dreams....so why did he do it? Convinced that his brother was in trouble, Nathan decides to retrace Al's footsteps. As he does, he meets Megan, Al's former classmate, who is as determined as Nathan to keep Al's memory alive. Together they start seeking answers, but will either of them be able to handle the truth about Al's death when they eventually discover what happened? |
| Patrice Lawrence | Needle (2023 Carnegie Shortlist) Charlene Yewless loves knitting. The only thing she loves more than knitting is her little sister, Kandi, whom she hasn't seen since their Mum died. When the special blanket she's knitting for Kandi is destroyed by her foster Mum's son, Charlene loses it. She stabs him in the hand with her knitting needle and finds herself sitting in a police cell. Can she find a way to say sorry when her freedom and her future are at stake? |
| Patrice Lawrence | Eight pieces of Silva (YA Bookseller shortlist 2021) Becks and Silva live under the same roof, but they couldn't be less like sisters. Becks likes watching loud superhero movies, girls, and chatting to anyone and everyone. Silva likes privacy; her bedroom is an oasis, and she has an unspoken rule that none of her family are allowed inside. But then Silva goes missing. Becks enters Silva's room and finds eight clues about Silva's secret life. |
| Patrice Lawrence | Orangeboy Not cool enough, not clever enough, not street enough for anyone to notice me. I was the kid people looked straight through. Not any more. Not since Mr Orange. |

| | |
|------------------|--|
| | Sixteen year old Marlon has made his mum a promise – he'll never follow his big brother, Andre, down the wrong path. So far, it's been easy, but when a date ends in tragedy, Marlon finds himself hunted. They're after the mysterious Mr Orange, and they're going to use Marlon to get to him. Marlon's out of choices – can he become the person he never wanted to be, to protect everyone he loves? |
| Patrice Lawrence | Rose, Interrupted Seventeen-year-old Rose and her thirteen-year-old brother, Rudder, have escaped a strict religious sect. Goodbye, rigid rules about everything; hello, mobile phones and make-up. But there's loads of stuff in their new life that Rose has zero idea how to handle. When Rudder accidentally sets a devastating chain of events in motion, Rose must decide whether to sacrifice everything and return to the life she hates, to save the people she loves |
| Patrice Lawrence | 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 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.... |
| Aimee Lucido | In the Key of Code (Carnegie Longlist 2021) When twelve-year-old Emmy starts a new school, she has never felt more out of tune. But in her computer science class, taught by the wonderful Ms Delaney, Emmy discovers that music is the key to unlocking the secrets of coding. As she finds a friend in classmate Abigail and falls in love with programming, she stops feeling like a wrong note and starts to feel like she truly belongs. |
| Manjeet Mann | Run Rebel (Carnegie shortlist 2021) Amber is trapped by – by her father's rules, by his expectations, by her own fears. Now she's ready to fight – for her mother, for her sister, for herself. Freedom always comes at a price. Run, Rebel is a trailblazing verse novel that thunders with rhythm, heart and soul |
| Manjeet Mann | The Crossing (Lit in Colour Book List) 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? |
| Anthony McGowan | Lark (other books in the series which follow Nicky and Kenny's story include Brock, Pike and Rook) Things are getting tense at home for Nicky and Kenny as they wait for a visit from their estranged mum. To escape, they go for a walk on the moors, taking their little Jack Russell terrier with them. But what should have been a laugh, a lark, turns deadly when the weather changes and they are caught in a blizzard. Nothing will ever be quite the same again.... |
| Glenda Millard | The Stars at Oktober Bend Alice Nightingale is fifteen, with hair as red as fire and skin as pale as bone, but something inside her is broken. Manny James runs at night, trying to escape his memories. He sees Alice on the roof of her river-house, looking like a figurehead on a ship sailing through the stars. He has a poem in his pocket and he knows the words by heart. He is sure that girl has written them. |
| Nicola Noon | The Sun is also a Star Natasha: I'm a girl who believes in science and facts. Not fate. Not destiny. Daniel: I've always been the good son, the good student, living up to my parents' high expectations. But when I see her, I forget about all that. Something about |

| | |
|--------------------|--|
| | Natasha makes me think that fate has something much more extraordinary in store - for both of us. |
| 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? |
| Non Pratt | Every Little Piece of My Heart When Sophie receives a parcel from her best friend, Freya, she expects it to contain the reason why Freya left town so suddenly, without goodbyes and without explanation. Instead, she finds a letter addressed to Win, a girl Freya barely knew – or did she? As more letters arrive for more people on the periphery of Freya’s life, Sophie and Win begin to piece together who Freya was and why she left. Sometimes it’s not about who’s gone, but about who they leave behind.... |
| 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.... |
| Randy Ribay | Patron Saints of Nothing (Carnegie Longlist 2020) Jay Reguero plans to spend the summer playing video games before heading to university. But then he discovers that his Filipino cousin Jun was murdered as part of President Duterte’s war on drugs. No one in the family wants to talk about what happened, so Jay travels to the Philippines to find out the real story. As he uncovers more about Jun, he is forced to face some uncomfortable truths about his cousin’s death – and the part he played in it |
| 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. |
| 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? |
| Jion Sheibani | The Silver Chain Azadeh is a budding violinist on a music scholarship at an expensive private school, dealing with life as a sixteen-year-old: trying her best to fit in, keep up and have fun. When her mum’s mental health starts to spiral out of control, Azadeh’s life begins to unravel. As much as she and her dad try to keep a lid on everything, their problems insist on taking over. But, armed with her poems and her violin, Azadeh discovers that through words and music she can find a path back to her friends, to herself and even to her Mum. |
| Adam Silvera | They both die at the end On September 5th, a little after midnight, Death-Cast calls Mateo Torrez and Rufus Emeterio to give them some bad news: they’re going to die today. Mateo and Rufus are total strangers, but, for different reasons, they’re both looking to make a new friend on their End Day. The good news: there’s an app for that. It’s called the Last Friend, and through it, Rufus and Mateo are about to meet up for one last great adventure – to live a lifetime in a single day. |

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| Emma Smith-Barton | The Million Pieces of Neena Gill Neena's always been a good girl. But when her brother disappears without a trace, her family becomes fractured beyond repair- and Neena finds herself spiralling out of control as she tries to find out what happened to Akash. Surrounded by broken friendships, a broken heart and an increasingly broken grip on her sanity, Neena's never felt more hopeless. But, as she's about to discover, sometimes it's in our darkest moments that we find our true strength. |
| Nic Stone | Dear Martin Justyce McAllister is top of his class, captain of the debate team and set for an Ivy League college – but none of that matters to the police officer who just put him in handcuffs. Released without charge, Justyce is frustrated that despite leaving his rough neighbourhood, he can't seem to escape the scorn of his former peers or the attitude of his new classmates. |
| 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. |
| 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. |
| Angie Thomas | The Hate U Give What's the point of having a voice if you're gonna be silent in those moments you shouldn't be? Sixteen year old Starr lives in two worlds: the poor neighbourhood where she was born and raised and her posh high school in the suburbs. The uneasy balance between them is shattered when Starr is the only witness to the fatal shooting of her unarmed best friend, Khalil, by a police officer. Now what Starr says could destroy her community. It could also get her killed. |
| Angie Thomas | On the Come Up Sixteen-year old Bri wants to be one of the greatest rappers of all time. It's hard to get your come up, though, when you're labelled "trouble" at school and your fridge at home is empty after your mom loses her job. But Bri's success is all that stands between her family and homelessness, so she doesn't just want to make it – she <i>has</i> to. Even if it means becoming exactly what the public expects her to be |
| Angie Thomas | Concrete Rose A searing exploration of black manhood set seventeen years before the events of <i>The Hate U Give</i> . With his King Lord dad in prison and his Mum working two jobs, seventeen-year-old Maverick Carter helps the only way he knows how: slinging drgus. Life's not perfect, but he's got everything under control. Until he finds out he's a father....Suddenly it's not so easy to deal drugs and finish school with a baby dependent on him for everything. So when he's offered the change to go straight, he takes it. But when King Lord blood runs through your veins, you don't get to just walk away. |
| Emily Thomas | Mud A girl, a family, all at sea. 'The point is, Lydia,' said Dad, 'I've put this house on the market, and I've bought a big boat. A lovely old Thames barge. Her name is <i>Lady Beatrice</i> , and we're all going to go and live on her.' 'Gosh...' I said, finally, as calmly as I could. 'I hope this is one of your jokes, as this will absolutely, completely ruin my life. Sorry. No'. |

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| Jenny Valentine | Hello Now In the beginning, there was only me and Mum. Then Novo arrived. I was like an atom in his orbit. Suddenly in the moment. In the Now. Goodbye to life as I know it. And Hello Now..... |
| Renee Watson | What Momma left me Serenity is heartbroken. Her mother is dead, her father is gone, and she and her brother are starting over by moving in with their grandparents. At first, things seem good: a friend who makes her feel connected and a boy who makes her feel seen. But when her brother seems to be going down the wrong path, the old fears set in. Will he end up like their dad? Will she end up like their mom? Can Serenity let go of the past and the secrets she's been keeping? Can she repair her heart? |
| 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. |
| Lisa Williamson | Paper Avalanche When it comes to flying under the radar, Ro Snow is an expert. No friends, no boys, no parties. And strictly no visitors. It may be lonely, but at least this way the truth remains where it should – hidden. Then Tanvi Shah, the girl who almost died, comes tumbling back into her life, and Ro finds herself losing control of her carefully constructed lies. But if Ro's walls come crumbling down, who's going to take care of Bonnie.... |
| Laura Wood | A Snowfall of Silver In the autumn of 1931, eighteen-year old Freya runs away from her home in Cornwall to follow her dream of becoming an actress. When she finds work with a touring theatrical company, Freya thinks her path to success is clear. Amidst all the glamour and bustle of stage life, she discovers – for the first time – a place to belong. But can reality ever live up to her expectations? What if her life – and falling in love – turn out to be nothing she planned? |
| Nicola Yoon | Instructions for Dancing If Evie Thomas knows one thing, it's that love doesn't last. When she sees a couple kiss, she gets a vision of their whole relationship, from the moment they first catch each other's eye to the last bitter moment of their break-up. It's more than enough reason for her to keep boys at arm's length. But then, at La Brea Dance Studio, she meets X – tall, dreadlocked, fascinating. And as they dance around and towards each other, Evie finds herself wondering if, after all, love might just be worth the risk.... |
| Jeff Zentner | Goodbye Days Can a text message destroy your life? As Carver waits for his best friends Mars, Eli and Blake to drive over and pick him up, he sends a text message that changes everything. The next thing he learns is that their car has crashed. And all three of his friends are dead. Carver blames himself – worse, there could be a criminal investigation into the accident. Then Blake's grandmother asks Carver to remember her grandson with 'goodbye day' together, doing all the things Blake loved. Soon the other grieving families want memorial days too. But not everyone is willing to forgive, and Carver's own despair threatens to pull him under. Will the goodbye days really help? |
| Jeff Zentner | In the Wild Light Cash's life in his small Tennessee town is hard. He lost his Mom to an opioid addiction and his grandfather's illness is getting worse. His smart but troubled best friend, Delaney, is his only salvation. But Delaney is meant for greater things, and she finds a way for Cash to leave with her. Will abandoning his old life be the thing that finally breaks Cash, or will it be the making of him? |
| Gabrielle Zevin | Memoirs of a Teenage Amnesiac When Naomi wakes up in an ambulance, she has no memory of how she got there or of anything that has happened in the last three-and-a-half years. She doesn't recall that her parents are divorced, who her high-school friends are and isn't sure if she has a boyfriend or not. |

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.
- Tia Fisher **Crossing the Line (Carnegie shortlist 2024)** Erik's world is changing. Fast. Life at home hasn't been the same ever since Dad died. Getting good grades and following school rules stops feeling important when you're the new man of the house. When his bad behaviour catches the attention of a local gang, Erik is pulled into a terrifying world of trap houses, drug dealing and violence. At first, it's easy money – but Erik soon learns that a small favour can become a huge debt. When his little sisters' lives are threatened can he cross one more line to save them?