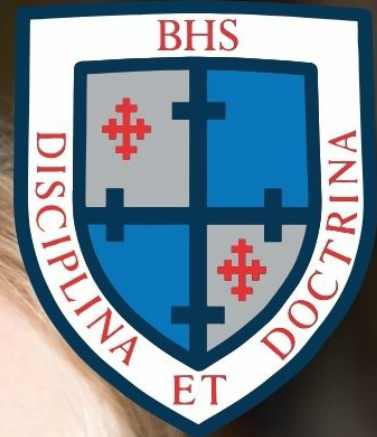


BEACONSFIELD HIGH SCHOOL



**SUMMER
READING 2026**

Beaconsfield High School Library
Recommended Summer Reads for Year 7 - 2026

This is a selection of students' favourite books which we hope you will enjoy. The list has been carefully selected so there is something for everyone and hopefully you will come across a genre you haven't read before.

I would like you to all choose one of these books to read and I look forward to you telling me all about it in your Library lessons in September.

Look out for the summer reading postcard at the end of this list!

Mrs Seal, Librarian

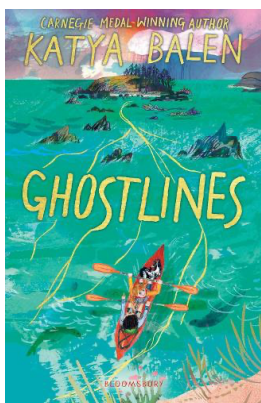
Fiction



Sophie Anderson: The House with Chicken Legs Runs Away

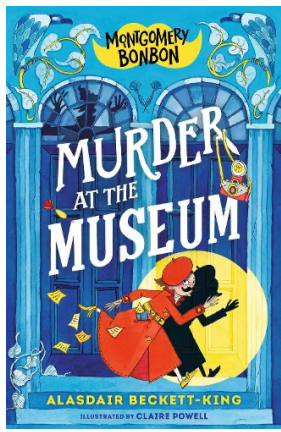
All Marinka's life, she has lived in her house with chicken legs. Running across the world on magical adventures, Marinka knows how her house is feeling, and it listens to her, too. But something is wrong. And before anyone can stop it, the house has pulled itself apart and run away.

With her friend Benjamin and jackdaw Jack, Marinka races after the house to find answers. Travelling across far-distant lands, through new realms and magical places, Marinka must face up to her fears to save her friends. But her house might not want to stop running...



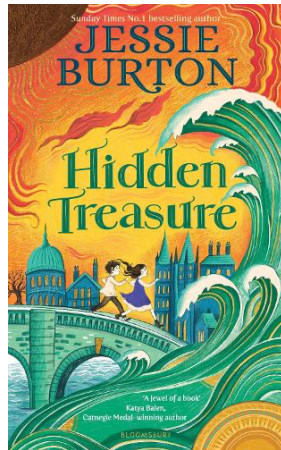
Katya Balen: Ghostlines (Carnegie shortlist 2026) (BHS Book of the Term, Summer 1 2026)

A sea-soaked story of friendship, community and discovering what it means to carry home in your heart, from Carnegie Medal-winning author Katya Balen. On the Island of Ayrie, everybody knows everyone. They know each other's stories as they know every road, every hill and the coming of the tide. In the summer, there are bonfires to celebrate the migration of the puffins. Everything is familiar, nothing much changes, and for Tilda, nothing ever should – it is beautiful, it is perfect and it is home.



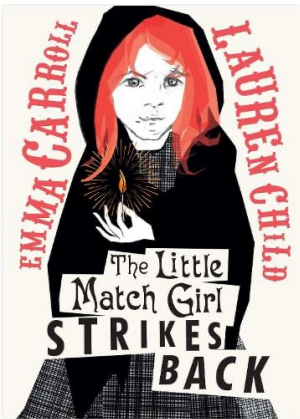
Alasdair Beckett-King: Murder at the Museum (BBA Longlist 2024)

Many people go their whole lives without noticing anything that is afoot, amiss, or even untoward; without ever experiencing that toe-tingling, stomach-twisting sensation that a mystery is about to unfold. Not Bonnie Montgomery - the world's best detective. Not that anyone (other than Grampa Banks) has heard of her... But they might have heard of the great Montgomery Bonbon, the well-dressed gentleman detective who (apart from the hat and moustache) looks suspiciously like a 10-year-old girl. Their newest case: solving the mystery surrounding a highly suspicious death at the Hornville Museum. Together they'll interview some dodgy witnesses, scour the scene for clues and - above all - hope no one notices that Bonnie and Montgomery are never in the same room at the same time.



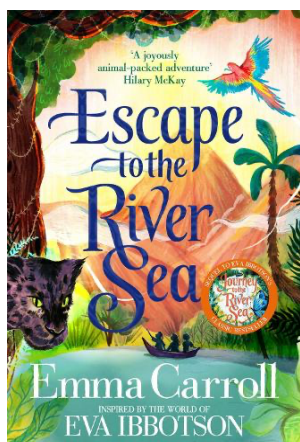
Jessie Burton: Hidden Treasure

For the people who live on the banks of the Thames, the river is a living, breathing thing. It can take your treasures. It can hide your treasures. And, sometimes, it can give them back. Bo and Billy are two children who have never met. Billy is an orphan. Bo's dad died when she was small and now her brother is off to war. Both children are poor, but they have each found half of a priceless treasure, given up by the river. A treasure which - when the pieces are reunited - holds the power to give back to *one* of them the most precious thing they have ever lost.



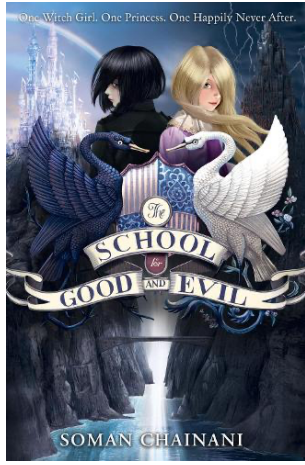
Emma Carroll: The Little Match Girl Strikes Back [Carnegie Longlist 2024]

It only takes one strike: A powerful feminist reworking of the Hans Christian Andersen classic, from bestselling and award-winning creators Emma Carroll and Lauren Child. Bridie works hard to feed her family, selling matches on the streets of Victorian London. After an incident leaves her with only three matches left, the magical strike of each one sees her tumble into visions of a brighter future. Realizing she has the power to change her own fortune, Bridie leads the match factory workers out on strike, achieving the remarkable through their unity and courage.



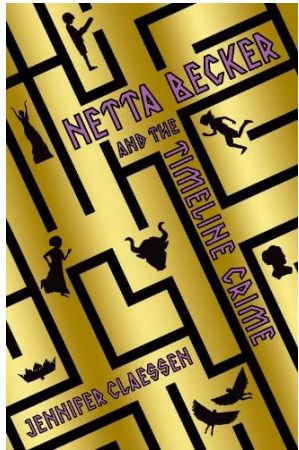
Emma Carroll: Escape to the River Sea

In 1946, Rosa Sweetman, a young Kindertransport girl, is longing for her family to claim her. The war in Europe is over and she is the only child left at Westwood, a rambling country estate in the north of England, where she'd taken refuge seven years earlier. The arrival of Yara Fielding starts an adventure that will take Rosa deep into the lush beauty of the Amazon rainforest in search of jaguars, ancient giant sloths and somewhere to belong. What she finds is Yara's lively, welcoming family on the banks of the river and, together, they face a danger greater than she could have imagined.



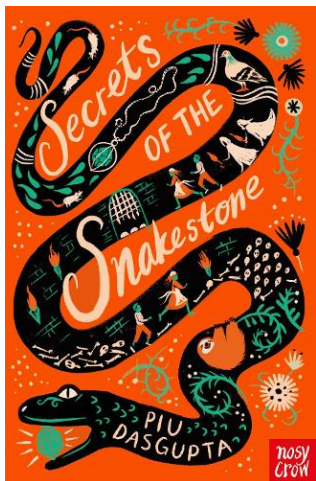
Soman Chainani: The School for Good and Evil

Every four years, two girls are kidnapped from the village of Gavaldon. Legend has it these lost children are sent to the School for Good and Evil, the fabled institution where they become fairy-tale heroes or villains.



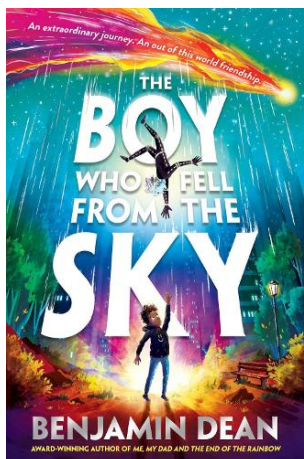
Jennifer Claessen: Netta Becker and the Timeline Crime

A mysterious labyrinth. A desperate king. A rebellious princess. Being stuck in a crumbling old villa in Crete with her annoying, history-obsessed little brother Remy isn't exactly Netta's idea of a fun summer holiday. But before she can even get bored, Netta starts having very real dreams where she is dragged back thousands of years to Ancient Greece. Here, King Minos is preparing for the opening of his precious labyrinth, and there are rumours that a monster lurks inside. As Netta becomes more drawn to the past, her present-day self starts slipping away. Netta and Remy must figure out what is pulling her back before they run out of time - and if they don't solve the puzzle soon, Netta might just become history herself.



Piu Dasgupta: Secrets of the Snakestone

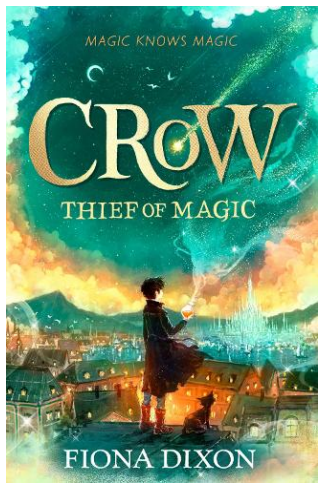
Zelie and Jules race from the jungles of Calcutta to the sewers of Paris pursued by a secret society in this dynamic fantasy adventure about a mysterious, magical locket.



Benjamin Dean: The Boy who fell from the sky (BBA Winner 2025)

Twelve-year-old Zed has always been fascinated by the Demons that fall from the sky. His whole life his dad has worked as a Hunter, tasked with eliminating Demons once and for all, and Zed hopes to one day follow in his footsteps. But then one night Spark appears and disrupts everything Zed thought he knew. Because this Demon is nothing like the myths – he's a frightened boy, no older than Zed, who wants to go back home.

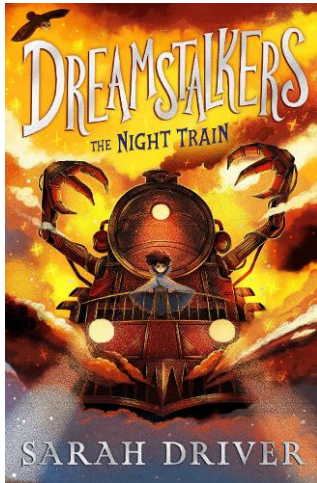
Can Zed stand up for what's right, even if it means going against his own family?



Fiona Dixon: Crow: Thief of Magic

Twelve-year-old Crow is a thief.

Scraping a living on the winding streets of Starsgard, Crow works for the leader of the criminal underworld, stealing from the city's wealthy ruling class. But when a routine job takes Crow to the home of a mysterious sorcerer, his whole life is turned upside down – and after a planned heist goes wrong, leaving Crow alone and with nowhere to turn, he finds himself a new position as the sorcerer's apprentice.



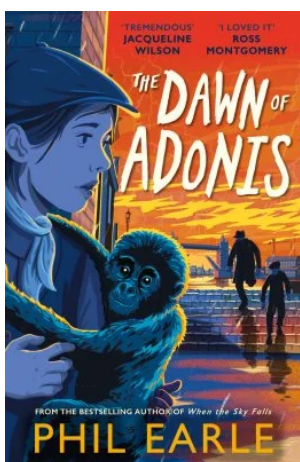
Sarah Driver: The Night Train (Book 1 Dreamstalkers)

Everything changed the day the dreams disappeared... and the nightmares came. Twelve-year-old Bea lives with her mother Ula and her owl Pip in a cottage on the wild moors. Since the day the dreams disappeared, and an affliction of nightmares began sweeping across the lands, everyone is leaving and their settlement is being abandoned. But when Ula grows sick with the affliction, she won't leave – and she's keeping a secret from Bea.



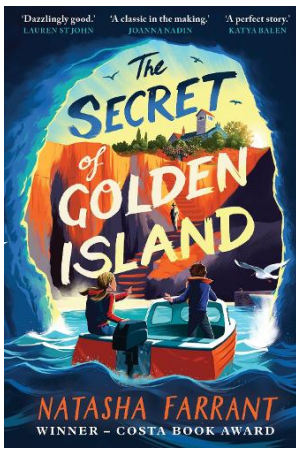
Malcom Duffy: Seven Million Sunflowers (BBA Shortlist 2025)

Escaping war is only half the battle as the Kovalenko family swap Ukrainian dangers for life with a British family. 15-year-old Kateryno and her family live in Kharkiv. Their lives are shattered when on February 24th 2022 the Russian army invades. Their apartment block is struck by a missile. After weeks living in their basement, Kateryno, her mother, and brother, decide to leave, joining seven million Ukrainian refugees. They come to England and meet their host family, the Hawkins. But their new beginning brings a whole new set of problems.



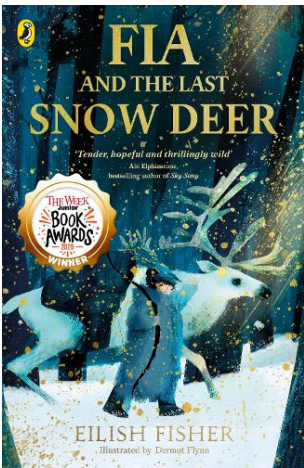
Phil Earle: The Dawn of Adonis

A prequel to Earle's acclaimed *When the Sky Falls* that is every bit as enthralling and emotive, *The Dawn of Adonis* traces the origin story of the eponymous gorilla as he arrives at London's docks in 1911.



Natasha Farrant: The Secret Of Golden Island

Skylar is longing for the grandfather she had before his stroke and trying to survive the school bully when she meets Yakov. He is just desperate to go home. They recognise something in each other. A need for friendship, but something else fizzy beneath the surface. A refusal to accept the bad hand that life has dealt them. A reckless desire to change things up for the better. So when the island just off the coast of their town goes up for sale, it's no surprise they want it. But how can two children possibly buy an island? And what will they risk to be able call it their own?



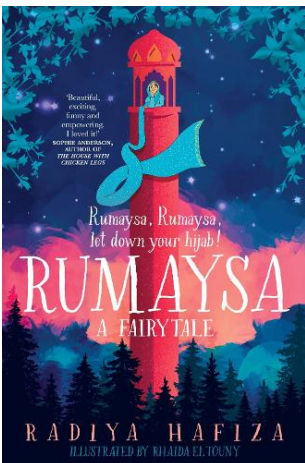
Eilish Fisher: Fia and the last snow deer (Carnegie longlist 2026)

Born under the same solstice sky thirteen years ago, Fia and her reindeer Solas have a powerful and unbreakable connection. But now, struggling to survive a seemingly eternal winter, Fia's village turn their sights on Solas - both for the meat the last remaining reindeer can provide and an ancient prophecy promise that an ultimate sacrifice will once more return sunlight and life to the world ...



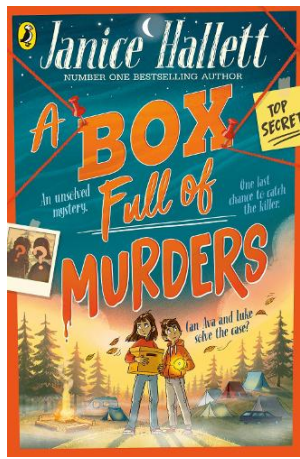
Matt Goodfellow: The First Year (Carnegie Shortlist 2025)

Nate's eleven and has just finished Primary School. After a challenging final year, life is looking up. His brother has recovered from a life-threatening heart condition, he's got the love of his mum, brothers and Auntie San, and he's off to Secondary School with his two best mates.



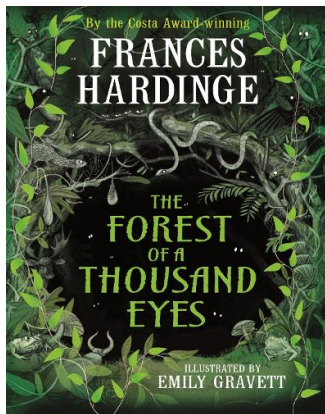
Radiya Hafiza: Rumaysa

For as long as she can remember Rumaysa has been locked away in her tall, tall tower, forced to use her magic to spin straw into gold for the evil Witch and unable to leave. Until one day, after dropping a hijab out of her small tower-window, Rumaysa realizes how she might be able to escape . . . Join Rumaysa as she adventures through enchanted forests and into dragon's lairs, discovers her own incredible magical powers and teams up with Cinderayla and Sleeping Sara!



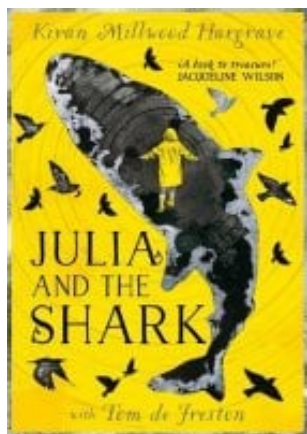
Janice Hallett: A Box full of Murders

When siblings Ava and Luke discover a mysterious notebook in their dad's attic, they are instantly intrigued. And, as they read through letters, diary entries, newspaper cuttings and notarised secret recordings, they realise that a decades-old, still unsolved, murder case is unfolding right in front of them . . .



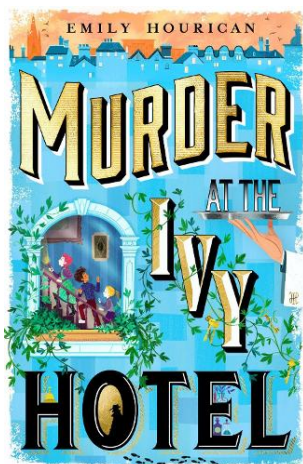
Frances Hardinge: The Forest of a Thousand Eyes

The hungry Forest is moving forward like an army, a green and constant threat to the humans living in and on an increasingly crumbling Wall. Feather, accompanied only by her scaled ferret, Sleek, must avoid the Forest's tentacles, and the many dangerous creatures it shelters, to return the community's precious spyglass to its rightful place. Along the way, she develops her resilience, and meets other people living on the Wall, whose stories and experiences open her mind, and those of her community, to new horizons.



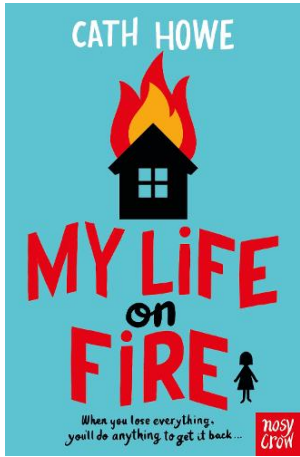
Kiran Millwood Hargrave: Julia and the Shark (Carnegie Longlist 2023)

My name is Julia. This is the story of the summer I spent on an island, living in a lighthouse. The summer I almost lost my mum and found a shark older than trees. Don't worry though, that doesn't spoil the ending.



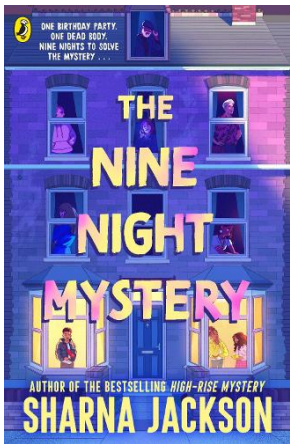
Emily Hourigan: Murder at the Ivy Hotel

Alternating perspectives from two brilliant sisters – responsible and emotional Meredith and fierce, logical Macy. Full of suspense, sleuthing and twisting discoveries, as the kids take the lead, working to cleverly uncover the identity of a mysterious guest and his even more mysterious death...



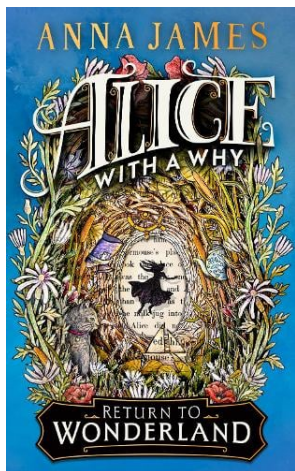
Cath Howe: My Life on Fire (BBA Longlist 2024)

Ren's family lose their home in a fire. They're living with her grandmother now and things are a bit tense. Ren lost her collection of things, her clothes; her brother lost his little bear and is inconsolable. Ren starts replacing things with other people's possessions. They've got loads of stuff, after all. But she gets caught and has to strike a terrifying deal to avoid detection...



Sharna Jackson: The Nine Night Mystery

A page-turning murder-mystery about identity, full of surprising twists, from the award-winning author of *High-Rise Mystery* and *The Good Turn*. Last night Wesley and his friends Josephine and Margot threw their neighbour Rachel a surprise birthday party. This morning, Rachel is dead. And Wesley is the one who finds her body. Rachel's friends throw a traditional Caribbean Nine Night celebration to help guide her soul to the next world. But Wesley, Margot and Josephine don't have time to mourn Rachel.



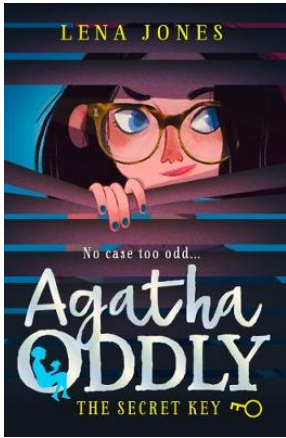
Anna James: Alice with a why: Return to Wonderland

England, 1919. Alyce – with a Y – lives with her grandmother, the original Alice, having lost her father during the Great War. When a mysterious invitation to a tea party hits her square in the face, Alyce realises her grandmother's strange stories of a place called Wonderland might have some truth to them after all. But the land Alyce finds herself in feels different from the Wonderland of her grandmother's stories – for it is trapped in its own war. The Sun King and the Queen of the Moon are fighting over a stolen hour, and soon Alyce is tasked with setting it right. With the help of the Hatter, the Cheshire Cat and a Sailor Fox, Alyce will have to solve Wonderland's problems and, eventually, find her way back home.



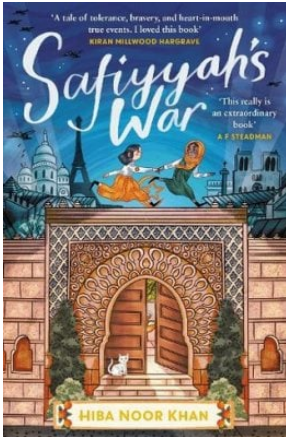
Curtis Jobling: Red Tide (Vampire Empire Book 1)

The people of Unst, Norse and Pict alike, enjoy lives of relative peace – none more so than Hilde, daughter to Jarl Frida, and Cormac, the blacksmith's boy. Hilde yearns for a life of adventure, like the one her mother had before her, carving her name in the great sagas as a legendary shieldmaiden. But Hilde should be careful what she wishes for. When a terrible Viking warband arrive upon the island, shrouded by an otherworldly fog and hellbent upon horror, Hilde and Cormac's worlds are turned upside down. They bring with them terrors and secrets, the likes of which a Norse girl and a Pictish boy could never have dreamt of in their worst nightmares.



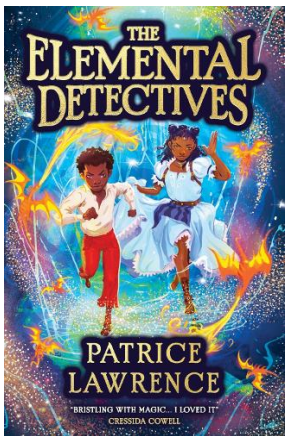
Lena Jones: The Secret Key (Book 1 of The Agatha Oddly Series)

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....



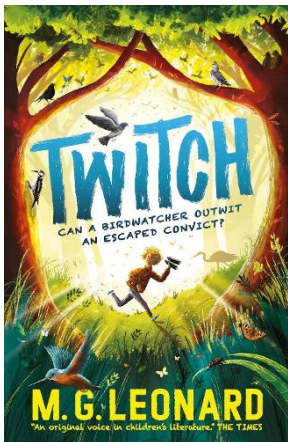
Hiba Noor Khan: Safiyyah's War [Carnegie Shortlist 2024]

War comes to the streets of Paris and Safiyyah's life changes for ever. Her best friend's family have fled, and the bombing makes her afraid to leave the mosque where she lives. But when her father is arrested by the Nazis for his secret Resistance work, it falls to Safiyyah to run the dangerous errands around the city. It's not long before hundreds of persecuted Jews seek sanctuary at the mosque. Can Safiyyah find the courage to enter the treacherous catacombs under Paris and lead the Jews to safety?



Patrice Lawrence: The Elemental Detectives

Step into a London lit up by the Elemental spirits: the fiery Dragons, the airy Fumis, the watery Chads and the earthbound Magogs. But humans have been causing chaos for centuries, trampling through the landscape trailing noise, mess and pollution. What if the Elements could slow down this new world... or stop it all together?



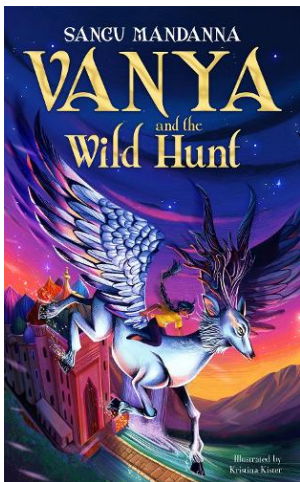
M.G. Leonard: Twitch (Book 1 The Twitchers)

Twitch has three pet chickens, four pigeons, swallows nesting in his bedroom and a passion for birdwatching. On the first day of the summer holidays, he arrives at his secret hide to find police everywhere: a convicted robber has broken out of prison and is hiding in Aves Wood. Can Twitch use his talents for birdwatching to hunt for the dangerous prisoner and find the missing loot?



Beth Lincoln: The Swifts [Carnegie Longlist 2024]

On the day they are born, each Swift is brought before the sacred Family Dictionary. They are given a name and a definition, and it is assumed they will grow up to match. Unfortunately, Shenanigan Swift has other ideas. So what if her relatives all think she's destined to turn out as a troublemaker, just because of her name? Shenanigan knows she can be whatever she wants - pirate, explorer or even detective.



Sangu Mandanna: Vanya and the Wild Hunt

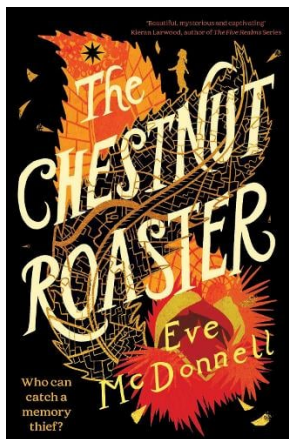
When her family is attacked by a monster she believed only existed in legends, Vanya discovers that her parents have been keeping secrets, and that monsters do exist. Soon, she is whisked off to the enchanted school of Auramere, where she joins the ranks of archwitches and archivists.

Auramere is full of magic ... and monsters. And the Wild Hunt is on the prowl. It's up to Vanya to unmask its leader and stop them from destroying the only place she's ever truly belonged.



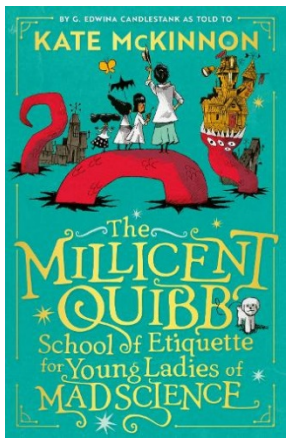
Pil van Martin: The Spick and the Span (Carnegie longlist 2026)

Thanks to many generations of careless magicians, the city of Helm is overflowing with magic, which has made it a very dangerous place to live. Leave anything alone for too long and it will transform into something else: your house will turn to gingerbread; your teapot will start pouring pond water or – if you're really unlucky – your floor will turn to lava.



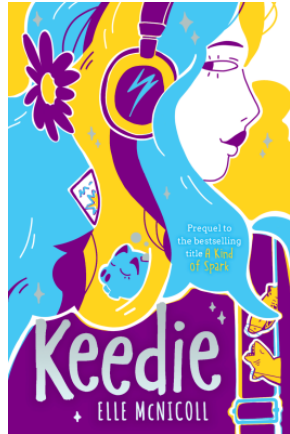
Eve McDonnell: The Chestnut Roaster

"Starting on All Fools Day, twelve years ago, I remember everything. EVERYTHING. That was a wet Saturday, and that was the day I was born." 12-year-old Piaf has the ability to (and burden of) remembering everything that has happened since the day she was born. When she discovers everyone in Paris has forgotten the entire last year, 1887, including the disappearance of several gifted children, Piaf and her twin brother Luc embark on a dangerous journey that brings them to the depths of Paris's underground twin, the Catacombs, to capture the memory thief and find the lost children.



Kate McKinnon: The Millicent Quibb School of Etiquette for Young Ladies of Mad Science

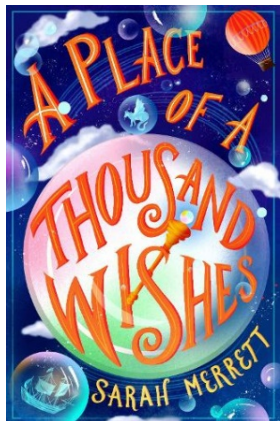
Perfect reading for fans of *A Series of Unfortunate Events* and *The Swifts*, the debut children's novel from celebrated comedian and Saturday Night Live star McKinnon finds a trio of sisters who want to be mad scientists enrol in a highly unusual school to defeat an evil cabal.



Ellie McNicoll: Keedie

Set in Juniper five years before *A Kind of Spark*, *Keedie* is a powerful coming-of-age story that thoughtfully tackles bullying, navigating friendships, and the joys and difficulties of being an autistic teenager.

As Keedie and her twin sister Nina approach their fourteenth birthday, they seem to only be growing further apart. Keedie instead feels drawn to, and fiercely protective of, their quiet younger sister Addie - who on the surface is the opposite of loud and fiery Keedie, but in fact they have more in common than anyone knows.



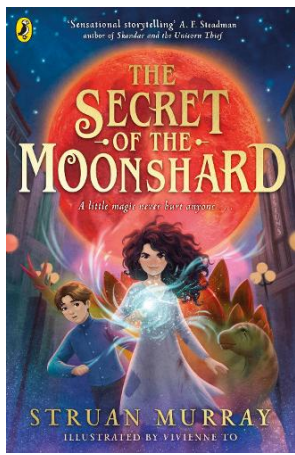
Sarah Merrett: A Place of a Thousand Wishes

Time 1899. Mason makes the world's best ice cream, but a sinister and dangerous stranger wants to destroy his business. But then Mason receives an invite to the mysterious manor of Darlington the Miraculous, a Wish Maker who creates stunning bubbles that can float wishes to the skies and make them come true. Darlington has his own reasons for wanting to fulfil Mason's wish— they share some very special magical gifts— but he hasn't reckoned with the sinister stranger!



Ross Montgomery: Spellstone

Evie is used to not being noticed. But when she meets the mysterious Wainwright, she discovers that going unnoticed might just be what makes him unique. Recruited into a secret magical organisation, Evie finds herself at the heart of an ancient and magical battle.



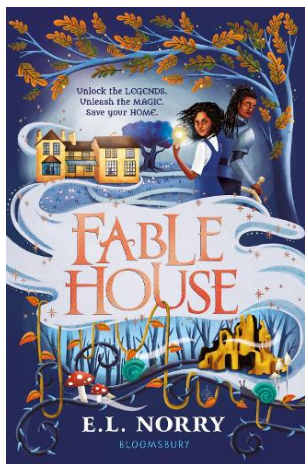
Struan Murray: The Secret of the Moonshard

Domino is an eleven-year-old girl with a strange affliction: if she goes anywhere near magic, it will kill her. All her life she's been trapped in a floating laboratory, safe from magic but not from the cruel children and the crueller Science Barons who live there. Domino believes the Barons are trying to invent a cure for her magic allergy, but when a mysterious wizard arrives and unleashes total chaos, she discovers that everything she's been told is a lie.



Zohra Nabi: The Kingdom over the sea

When Yara's mother passes away, she leaves behind a letter and a strange set of instructions. Yara must travel from the home she has always known to a place that is not on any map – Zehaira, a world of sorcerers, alchemists and simmering magic.



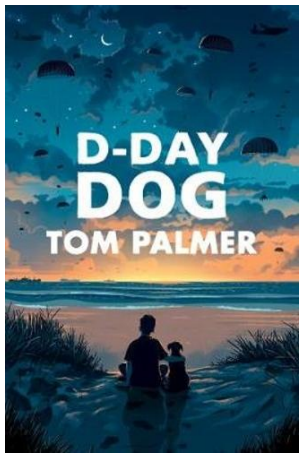
E.L. Norry: Fable House

When a doorway opens up to the fae realm from a children's home for mixed race children, Heather calls on a Black Arthurian knight for help in this bewitching combination of fantasy adventure and folklore.



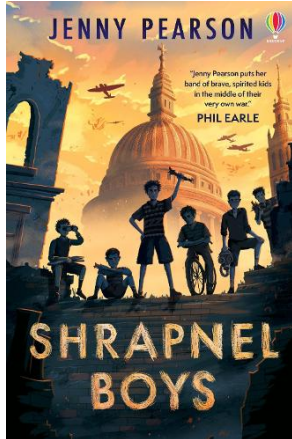
Beth O'Brien: Wolf Siren (Carnegie longlist 2026)

Red is not allowed to go into the woods. Everyone knows that they are dangerous – because of their strange magic and the wolves that lurk there... But Red finds herself increasingly drawn to the woods and the place where her grandmother disappeared without a trace three years ago. When the woodcutter fails to return home one night and wolves are spotted close to the village boundary, fear drives a deep and dangerous divide between the villagers and the nature they live alongside.



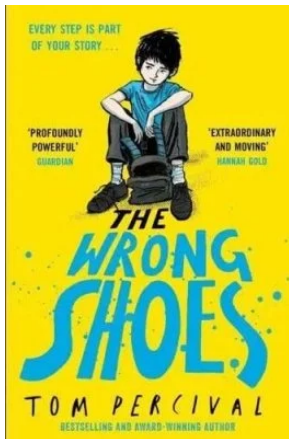
Tom Palmer: D-Day Dog

Jack can't wait for the school trip to the D-Day landing beaches. It's his chance to learn more about the war heroes he has always admired - brave men like his dad, who is a reserve soldier. But when his dad is called up to action and things at home spiral out of control, everything Jack believes about war is thrown into question. Finding comfort only in the presence of his loyal dog, Finn, Jack is drawn to the heart-wrenching true story of one particular D-Day paratrooper. On 6 June 1944, Emile Corteil parachuted into France with his dog, Glen - and Jack is determined to discover their fate ...



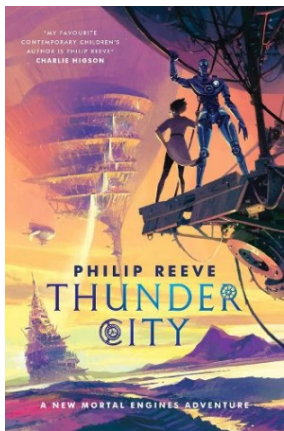
Jenny Pearson: Shrapnel Boys (Carnegie longlist 2026)

When war comes to London in 1939, Ronnie Smith is scared and excited: scared of the bombs that fall at night, but excited to race his friends to collect the best bits of shrapnel every morning. But for Ronnie, the battles aren't just in the sky and on the streets. They're at school and at home too. His little brother is up to no good with a secret job and dangerous new friends, and Ronnie's worried he's getting himself into big trouble.



Tom Percival: The Wrong Shoes

Will has the wrong shoes – he's always known it but doesn't know how to change it. Navigating the difficulties of home and school when you feel you stick out is tough, but finding confidence with the help and empathy of friends can be all you need to see the way.



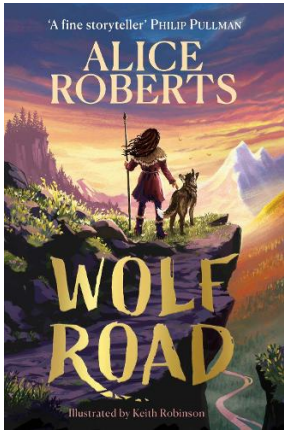
Philip Reeve: Thunder City

An epic, thrilling, action-packed city-eat-city adventure starring brave fighter Tamzin Pook, who must travel from the spectator sport combat arena in Margate to the Thunder City, where a chilling, ruthless villain has seized power. She will face Revenants - animal/machine hybrids with ferocious appetites - dangerous mercenaries and must learn to trust a group of oddballs whose eccentricities mask their huge hearts and steadfast courage.



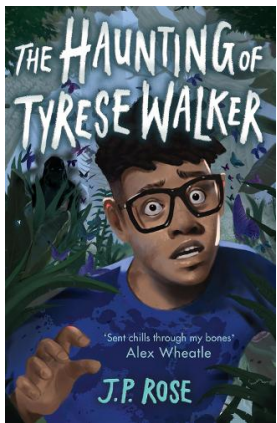
Philip Reeve: Bridge of Storms

Brave fighter Tamzin Pook and her oddball gang of mercenaries are caught up in the squall of another adventure across the Hunting Grounds. When they visit the city of Museion, they find themselves unexpectedly chased by a gang of bloodthirsty raiders intent on their capture. Their epic attempt to escape leads to a showdown on a majestic bridge during a ferocious ice storm - can Tamzin and her friends lead Museion out of danger?



Alice Roberts: Wolf Road

Tuuli is a prehistoric girl, travelling with her tribe through the seasons – making camp, hunting for food and protecting themselves against the many hazards that the climate throws at them. Tuuli knows there's a bigger world out there, and when she spots a strange boy lurking outside their camp, she realises that he might hold the adventure she is looking for.



J.P. Rose: The Haunting of Tyrese Walker (BBA Longlist 2024)

After a shocking event leaves Tyrese struggling with grief, he's taken to visit family in Jamaica. From the first night, strange things start happening: impossible visions, blackouts, swarms of insects, and the discovery of a grave hidden deep in the forest. Tyrese can't explain what's going on and he's scared that he's losing his grip on reality. Then Tyrese is warned he's being hunted by the mysterious Shadow Man. Under threat, Tyrese and his friends set out on a terrifying journey across the island to try and uncover the Shadow Man's sinister history. Who can Tyrese trust when his own mind is falling apart and there's nowhere left to hide?



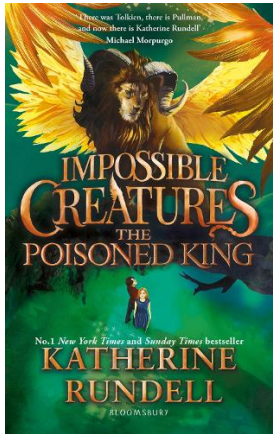
J.P. Rose: Birdie (Carnegie shortlist 2026)

Birdie Bagshaw has never known her parents. Having grown up in a children's home for mixed race children in 1950s Leeds, now she has come to live with her great-aunt in the Yorkshire Dales. From her arrival, Birdie is treated like an outsider by the local children. When their bullying drives Birdie to hide in the nearby coal mine, she finds an unexpected rescuer in the form of Mr Duke, the last remaining pit pony in the village.



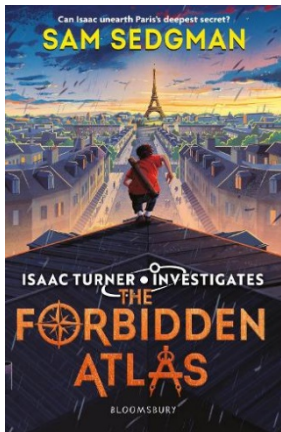
Katherine Rundell: Impossible Creatures (Impossible Creatures Book 1)

A boy called Christopher is visiting his reclusive grandfather when he witnesses an avalanche of mythic creatures come tearing down the hill. This is how Christopher learns that his grandfather is the guardian of one of the ways between the non-magical world and a place called the Archipelago: a cluster of magical islands, where all the creatures we tell of in myth live and breed and thrive alongside humans. They have been protected for thousands of years from being discovered; now, terrifyingly, the protection has worn thin, and creatures are breaking through.



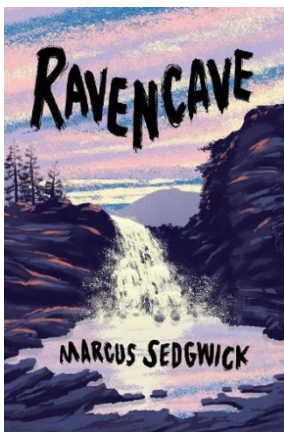
Katherine Rundell: The Poisoned King (Impossible Creatures Book 2)

The dragons call out, and the ratatoskas tell of murder. Come with us now. There is justice to be done. When Christopher Forrester is unexpectedly woken by a miniature dragon chewing on his face, his heart leaps for joy. For months he's dreamed of returning to the Archipelago – the secret islands where all the creatures of myth still live. But he did not know it would involve a rescue mission on the back of a sphinx, or a plan to enter a dragon's lair. Nor did he imagine it would involve a girl with a flock of birds at her side, a new-hatched chick in her pocket and a ravenous hunger for justice...



Sam Sedgman: The Forbidden Atlas

The gripping sequel to the bestselling *The Clockwork Conspiracy* pitches Isaac and Hattie into a Parisian crime caper when an invaluable item is stolen from the French National Archives.



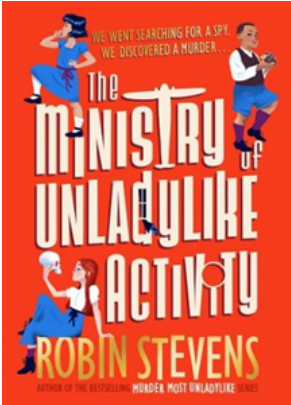
Marcus Sedgwick: Ravencave

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.....?



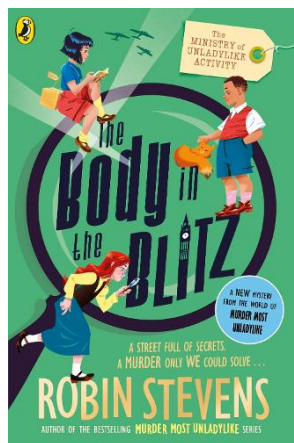
Alexandra Sheppard: Alyssa and the Spell Garden

Blending modern urban concerns with enchanting spell magic, this effervescent fantasy from the author of *Oh My Gods* and *Friendship Never Ends* sees eleven-year-old Alyssa use her powers to try to save her North London community.



Robin Stevens: The Ministry of Unladylike Activity

Britain is at war, and a secret arm of the British government called the Ministry of Unladylike Activity is training up spies. Enter May Wong: courageous, smart, stubborn - and desperate to do whatever she can to help end the war, so she can go home to Hong Kong. May knows that there is no one more perfect to become a spy than a child. A child can go places, see things and listen in on conversations in a way that no adult ever can.



Robin Stevens: The Body in the Blitz (Book 2 The Ministry of Unladylike Activity)

March 1941. Britain is at war, and a secret agency called the Ministry of Unladylike Activity is training up children as spies - because grown-ups always underestimate them. Enter May, Eric and Nuala: courageous, smart, and the Ministry's newest recruits. May's big sister Hazel has arranged for them to stay on a quiet street close to the Ministry, home to an unlikely collection of people thrown together by the war. And it is in the basement of the bombed-out house at the end of that street that they discover something mysterious. Something that was not there when the Blitz wreckage was first combed through. Something that has been placed there recently. A body.



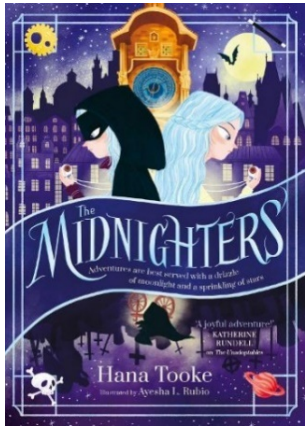
Pari Thomson: Greenwild (Book 1 Greenwild) (Carnegie Longlist 2024)

Open the door to a spellbinding world where the wilderness is alive and a deep magic rises from the earth itself. Daisy Thistledown has escaped from boarding school and has a mystery to solve. Her search for her missing mother will lead her across London and through a hidden doorway to another world, filled with plants and bursting with magic: the Greenwild. But all is not well in this astonishing land. Before long Daisy finds herself confronting a dangerous presence that threatens green magic on both sides of the door. Daisy must band together with a botanical genius, a boy who can talk to animals, and a cat with an attitude, to channel the power that can revive the Greenwild and find her missing mother - and save her own world too.



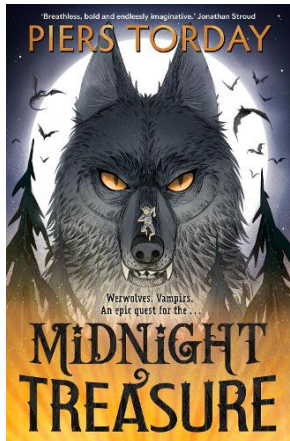
Nicki Thornton: The Last Chance Hotel (Book 1 Seth Seppi Mystery)

Seth is the oppressed kitchen boy at the remote Last Chance Hotel, owned by the nasty Bunn family. His only friend is his black cat, Nightshade. But when a strange gathering of magicians arrives for dinner, kindly Dr Thallomius is poisoned by Seth's special dessert. A locked-room murder investigation ensues - and Seth is the main suspect. The funny thing is, he's innocent. Can he solve the mystery and clear his name, especially when magic's afoot?



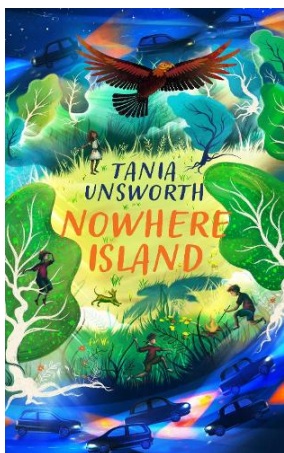
Hana Tooke: The Midnighters

Emilia Vaskova has always felt different. In a family of famous scientists, there's not much room for superstition or omens – but they seem to follow Emilia wherever she goes. It doesn't help that she appears to predict events before they happen, and has a peculiar fear of shadows.....



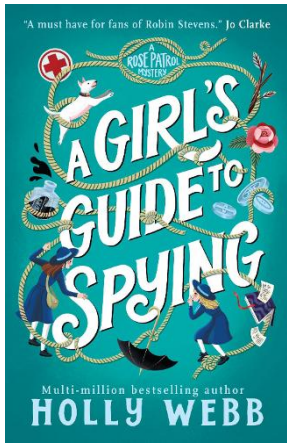
Piers Torday: Midnight Treasure

A breathtaking new fantasy world from the award-winning author of *The Last Wild*. In an empire of vampires and werewolves, Tibor and Roza are hunting a treasure more valuable than gold ... For readers who loved Katherine Rundell's *Impossible Creatures* or S.F. Said's *Tyger*.



Tania Unsworth: Nowhere Island

Set on a hidden island at the intersection of several busy highways, this is an original and action-packed survival adventure about trust, friendship, resilience and what really makes a home.



Holly Webb: A girl's guide to spying

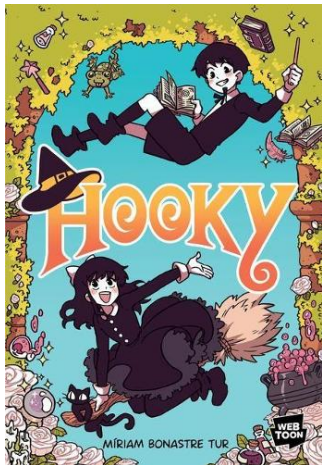
Did you know that the Girl Guides worked undercover for MI5 during the First World War? When Phyl is dragged along to the Girl Guides by her younger sister, Annie, the last thing she expects is the adventure of a lifetime. Then her Guide captain offers her a job as a messenger for MI5. Phyl is desperate to help the war effort and is thrilled to be working with spies.



Amy Wilson: Snowglobe

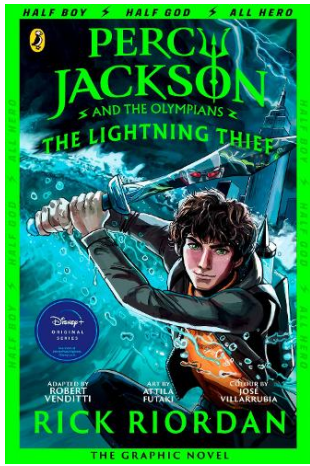
When daydreamer Clementine discovers a mysterious house standing in the middle of town that was never there before, she is pulled towards it by the powerful sense of a mother she never knew. The place is full of snowglobes, swirling with stars and snow and each containing a trapped magician, watched over by Gan, the bitter keeper of the house. One of these is Dylan, a boy who teases her in the real world but who is now desperate for her help.

Graphic Novels



Miriam Bonastre Tur: Hooky (Vol.1)

When Dani and Dorian missed the bus to magic school, they never thought they'd wind up declared traitors to their own kind! Now, thanks to a series of mishaps, they are being chased by powerful magic families seeking the prophesied King of Witches and royals searching for missing princes. But they aren't alone. With a local troublemaker, a princess, and a teacher who can see the future on their side, they might just be able to clear their names...but can they heal their torn kingdom?



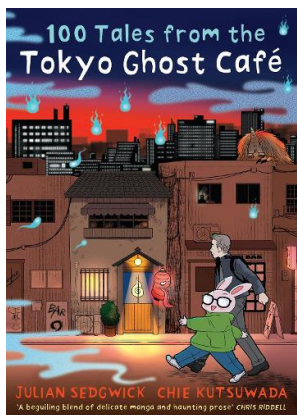
Rick Riordan: Percy Jackson and The Lightning Thief

Perfectly capturing the dynamism and energy of the original novel, this rollicking graphic novel version of *Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief* sees our schoolboy hero attracting the ire of the Greek god Zeus.



Carlos Sanchez: Rune: The Tale of a Thousand Faces

Best friends Chiri and Dai stumble into a forgotten realm, tormented by the evil Shadow King who yearns to spread terror and unleash wild magic on everyone. But will these best friends, with the help of the druids, warriors, and magical goats they encounter be able to find their way home? And more importantly, can they evade the darkness that was awoken on their arrival and seal the pathway between worlds before it is too late?



Julian Sedgwick: 100 Tales from the Tokyo Ghost Café

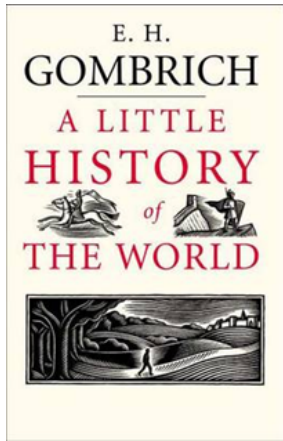
Abducted by spirits from his village, lost boy Akira must make the long journey in north Japan to find his family and save his young sister, before time runs out. Voyaging deeper and deeper into a Japan 'between the worlds', Akira and his companions encounter a host of yokai monsters and famous ghosts, discovering a sometimes comical and sometimes terrifying world of interlinked and ghostly short stories along the way.



Jaimal Yogis: City of Dragons (Vol.1)

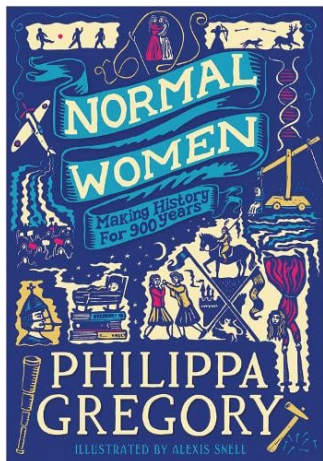
Grace and her friends must protect a newly hatched dragon from mysterious evildoers. When Grace moves to Hong Kong with her mum and new stepdad, her biggest concern is making friends at her fancy new boarding school. But when a mysterious old woman gifts her a dragon egg during a field trip, Grace discovers that the wonderful stories of dragons she heard when she was a young girl might actually be real - especially when the egg hatches overnight.

Non-Fiction



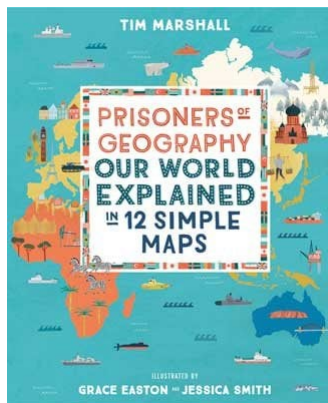
A Little History of the World by E.H. Gombrich

"All stories begin with 'Once upon a time.' And that's just what this story is all about: what happened, once upon a time." So begins *A Little History of the World*, an engaging and lively book written for readers both young and old. Rather than focusing on dry facts and dates, E. H. Gombrich vividly brings the full span of human experience on Earth to life, from the stone age to the atomic age.



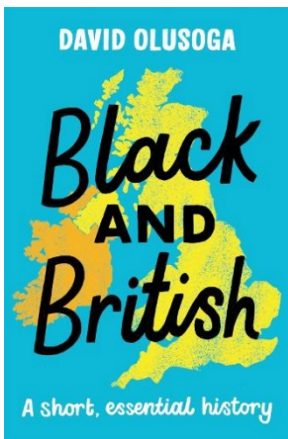
Philippa Gregory: Normal Women: Making History for 900 years

Deftly adapted for teen readers from her own adult bestseller, Philippa Gregory's whirlwind tour of 900 years of strong women is packed with eye-opening revelations on every page.



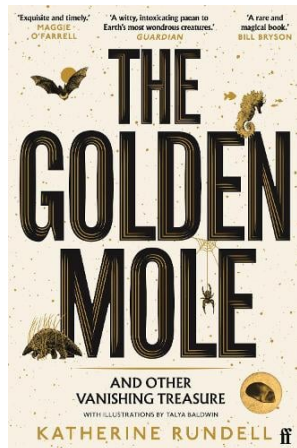
Tim Marshall: Prisoners of Geography (Our world explained in 12 simple maps)

Covering everything from the locations of national landmarks to the uneven spread of natural resources, *Prisoners of Geography: Our World Explained in 12 Maps* provides fascinating answers to the most oft-asked questions in today's global politics. Perfect both for younger readers coming to the subject for the first time and informed adults seeking clear explanations for current events, this is an invaluable resource in rapidly changing times as well as a beautiful book to treasure forever.



David Olusoga: Black and British

Revised and rewritten for younger readers, Olusoga's insightful and invaluable history of the Black experience in the British Isles ranges from forgotten Africans in the Roman legions to the multicultural society of the present day.



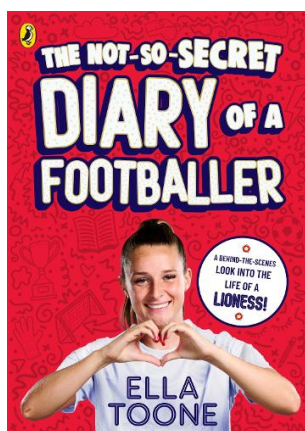
Katherine Rundell: The Golden Mole

In *The Golden Mole*, Katherine Rundell takes us on a globe-spanning tour of the world's strangest and most awe-inspiring animals, including pangolins, wombats, lemurs and seahorses. But each of these animals is endangered. And so, this most passionately persuasive and sharply funny book is also an urgent, inspiring clarion call: to treasure and act - to save nature's vanishing wonders, before it is too late.



Yeva Skalietska: You don't know what war is. The Diary of a young girl from Ukraine

Chronicling 12 life-changing days for 12-year-old Yeva Skalietska, *You Don't Know What War Is* details the terrifying flight of Yeva and her grandmother from bomb-ravaged Kharkiv to safety in Dublin with unflinching candour and poignant reflection



Ella Toone: The not-so-secret diary of a footballer

England football star Ella Toone reveals just what it is like to be a Lioness going into a major tournament in this brilliant behind-the-scenes diary for young readers.

Summer Reading

POSTCARDS



Dear Student

POSTCARD

Here at BHS we enjoy recommending great books to read, so I'd love to hear about what you have been reading over the summer holidays.

Please send me a postcard to tell me a little about any books you've enjoyed, not just from the reading list.

Please hand your postcard in to the LRC during the first week of term.

All cards will be displayed in the LRC and students will receive a GLR.

Have a wonderful summer and happy reading!

Mrs Seal



Mrs Seal

Librarian

Beaconsfield High School

Wattleton Road

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