

How to encourage reading in teenagers



"JUST THINK OF IT AS IF YOU'RE READING A LONG TEXT-MESSAGE."



"BUT IF YOU DON'T LEARN TO READ AND WRITE, HOW ARE YOU EVER GOING TO TEXT?"

Reading for pleasure is the single biggest indicator of a child's future success – more than their family circumstances, their parents' educational background or their income.

[The Evidence - World Book Day](#)

What is your reading history?

- Did you struggle?
- What motivated you to read?
- Did you come from a family of readers?
- Are you an active reader now?

Our reading habits

- What is your favourite book?
- What have you read recently?
- What do you read?
- Do you read all genres?
- What guides your choices?

It's important to remember that our children's reading habits don't have to look like ours. It's not about us liking what they read, it's about children enjoying what they read.

Why is there a dip in reading after primary?

- They've learnt to read fluently.
- Stopped being read to regularly.
- Struggle, so the fun isn't there anymore.
- Less interesting than phones, computers, TV.
- Not choosing more challenging books.

Most read books in primary school:

1. *The Twits* by Roald Dahl (7-9 years)
2. *Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Old School* by Jeff Kinney (8-12 years)
3. *Gangsta Granny* by David Walliams (9-12 years)
4. *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* by Jeff Kinney (8-12 years)
5. *Billionaire Boy* by David Walliams (9-12 years)
6. *Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Rodrick Rules* by Jeff Kinney (9-12 years)
7. *Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Dog Days* by Jeff Kinney (9-12 years)
8. *Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Hard Luck* by Jeff Kinney (8-12 years)
9. *Diary of a Wimpy Kid: The Last Straw* by Jeff Kinney (9-12 years)
10. *Diary of a Wimpy Kid: The Ugly Truth* by Jeff Kinney (8-12 years)

Most read books in secondary school:

1. *Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Old School* by Jeff Kinney (8-12 years)
2. *Gangsta Granny* by David Walliams (9-12 years)
3. *Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Rodrick Rules* by Jeff Kinney (9-12 years)
4. *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* by Jeff Kinney (8-12 years)
5. *Diary of a Wimpy Kid: The Long Haul* by Jeff Kinney (9-12 years)
6. *Billionaire Boy* by David Walliams (9-12 years)
7. *Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Dog Days* by Jeff Kinney (9-12 years)
8. *Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Hard Luck* by Jeff Kinney (8-12 years)
9. *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* by Roald Dahl (7-11)
10. *Diary of a Wimpy Kid: The Last Straw* by Jeff Kinney (9-12 years)

Why it matters that teens are reading less.

- Most of us spend much more time with digital media than we did a decade ago. But today's teens have come of age with smartphones in their pockets. Compared to teens a couple of decades ago, the way they interact with traditional media like books and movies is fundamentally different.
- It's been reported that an average secondary school pupil spends more than 6 hours a day texting, on social media and online during their free time.
- Time spent playing video games rose from under an hour a day to an hour and a half on average. One out of 10 secondary aged pupils, spent 40 hours a week or more gaming (which is similar to a full time job!)

Why do children stop reading?

- The format of books doesn't interest them.
- They aren't interested in the topic
- They don't see the point of reading.
- Reading a book feels overwhelming.
- They choose books that are too easy or too hard for them.
- They're struggling with reading skills.
- Limited experience with print and books.
- Having too much screen time.

Pupil voice (Summer 2023)

2. Do you think reading is important? (0 point)

[More Details](#)

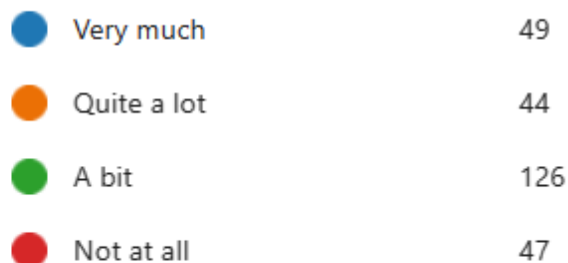
 [Insights](#)



4. Do you enjoy reading? (0 point)

[More Details](#)

 [Insights](#)



12. Do you have books at home? (0 point)

[More Details](#)

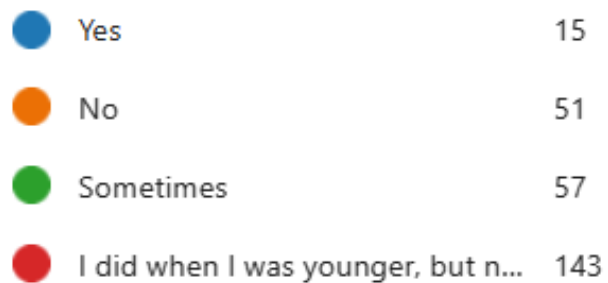
 Insights



13. Do you read at home with your family? (0 point)

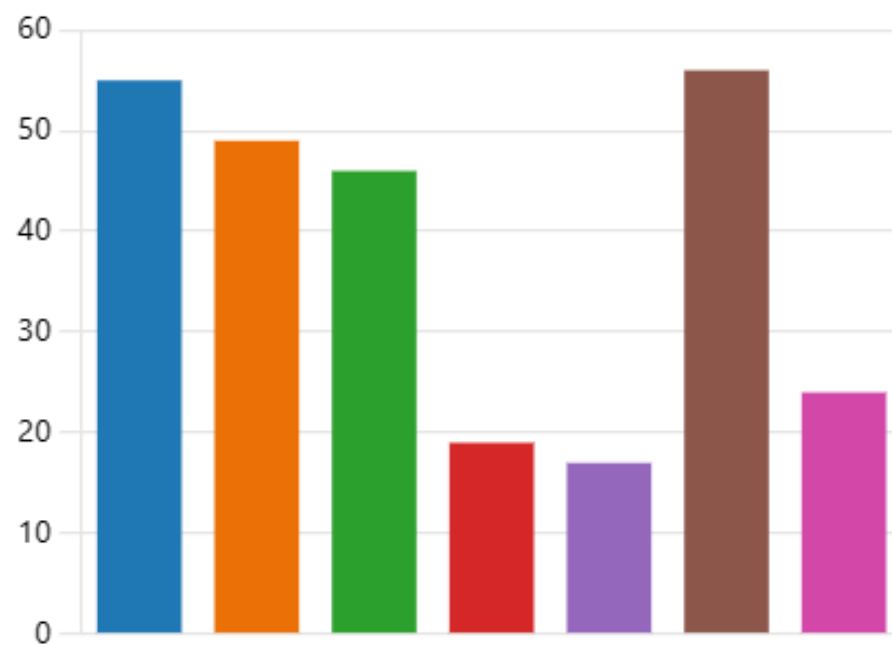
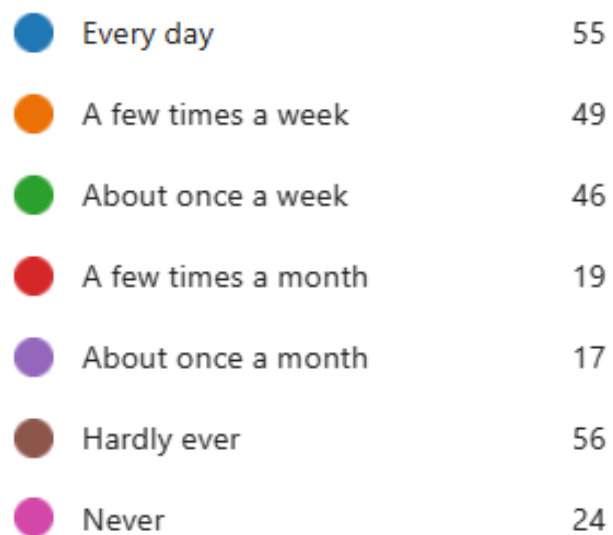
[More Details](#)

 Insights



5. How often do you read for fun? (0 point)

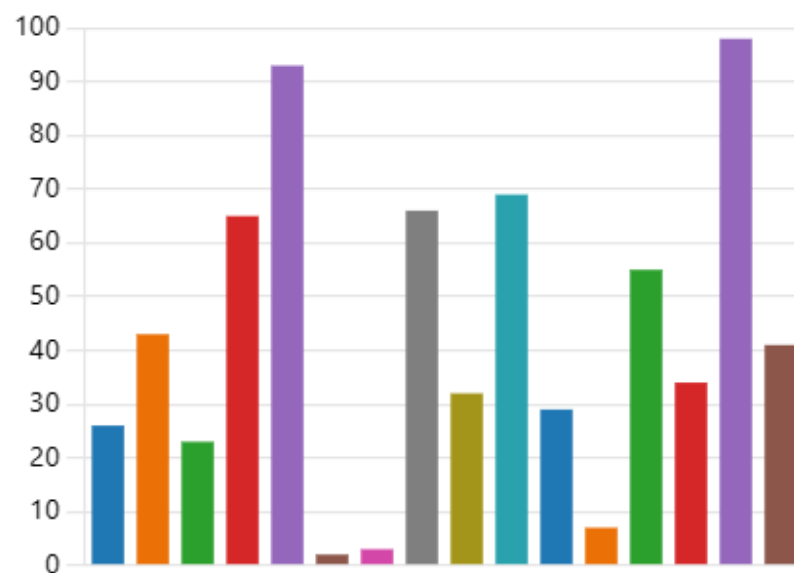
[More Details](#)



6. Describe how you feel about reading. Pick no more than three words. (0 point)

[More Details](#)

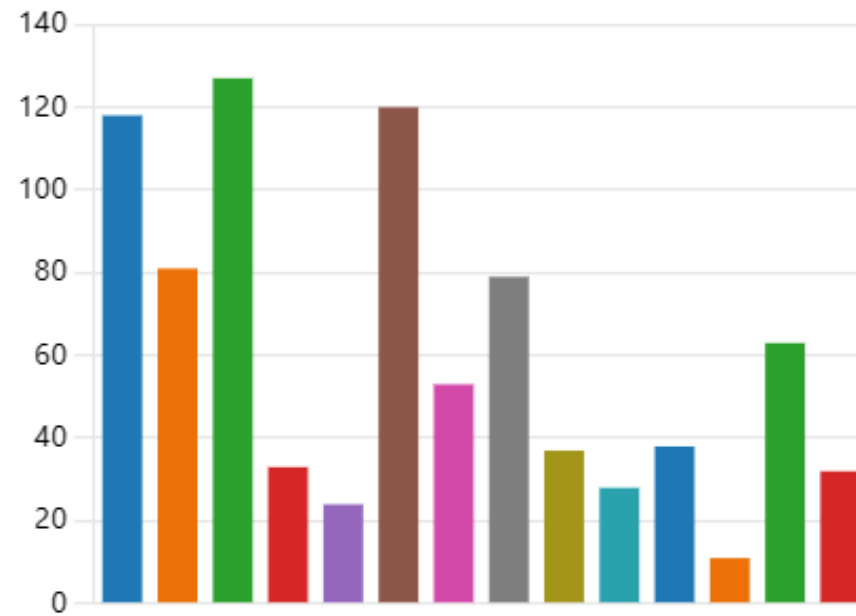
Exciting	26
Difficult	43
Confident	23
Fun	65
Boring	93
Scary	2
Worried	3
Imagination	66
Adventure	32
Peaceful	69
Escape	29
Safe	7
Interesting	55
Stressful	34
Relaxing	98
Learning	41



7. Which of the follow fiction do you enjoy reading? Tick as many as you like. (0 point)

[More Details](#)





● Funny	118
● Scary	81
● Adventure	127
● Animals	33
● Fairy tales	24
● Mystery	120
● Sci-fi	53
● Fantasy	79
● History	37
● Classics	28
● Graphic novels / comics	38
● Poems	11
● Sports	63
● None of the above	32



19. What is your preferred reading time? (0 point)

[More Details](#)

 Insights

 Morning	16
 Afternoon	37
 Evening	52
 Before bed	161



What can parents and
carers do?

Tips to encourage reading

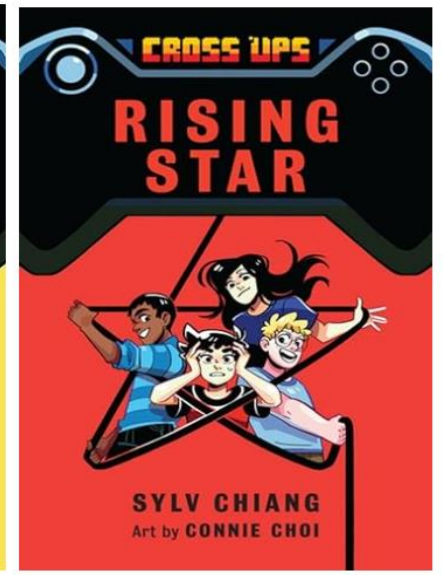
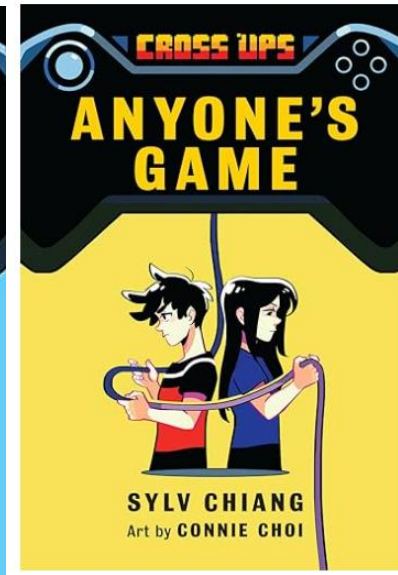
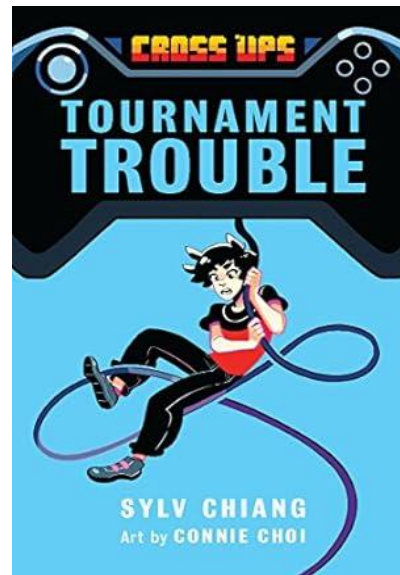
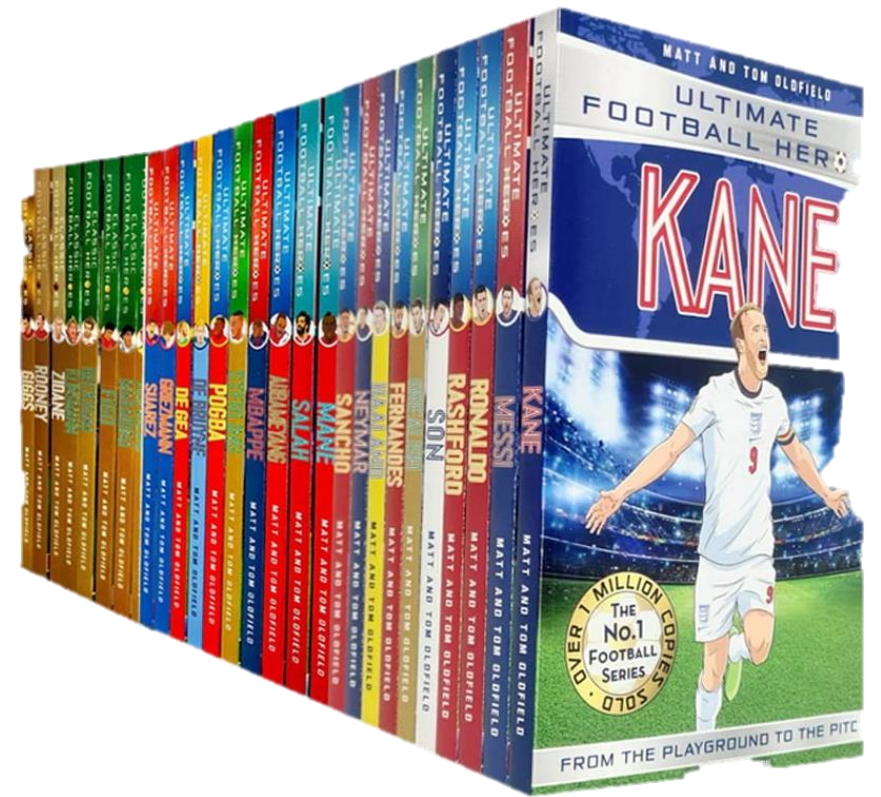
1. Set an example – children who see reading as a matter-of-fact activity often build strong reading habits themselves.
2. Give them the opportunity to choose their own books.
3. Build on their interests.
4. Don't be picky with what they read.
5. Read some books written for teens.
6. Make reading aloud a natural part of family life.
7. Acknowledge your teen's mature interests
8. Ask questions about what they are reading.
9. When a topic of interest develops which involves the whole family (e.g. holiday) get books on the topic to share with the family.
10. Research suggests that in most cases, forcing a child to read will yield no positive results. Some families find that giving a reading time when the whole family reads works. Even if the child is reluctant, they know that the time is reserved for reading.

Building a love of reading

Reconnect reading to hobbies and interests:

Try to avoid making too many associations between reading and school work – refocus reading as an enjoyable experience, linked to hobbies and interests.

Find out what your child is currently excited about and see if they might like to read something



Magazine subscriptions.



Short Stories

One of the key reasons children are sometimes discouraged from reading is the time it takes to finish a book. It can seem like a thankless task when you can just watch an episode of something on Netflix in half an hour. Short stories are great for those teens with a lower attention span as they provide full satisfaction in one sitting. A short story is also great for future GCSE skills as they show how to structure an entire story in a relatively low number of words, encapsulating a beginning, middle and end within a short time frame – this will model to your child how to do the same when they need to write their own creative writing in the English Language GCSE. There are lots of short story compilations out there in a variety of different genres.

chirp

Audio books - are they cheating?

audible 

NO!

Time is an issue and audio books help.

A engaging reader is reading the stories which can make it much more enjoyable.

“We found no significant differences in comprehension between reading, listening, or reading and listening simultaneously,” 2016 study Bloomsburg University



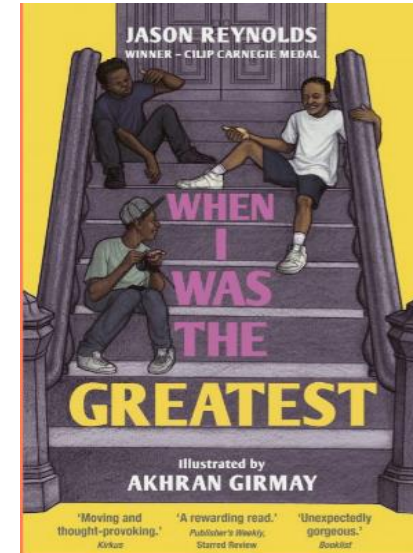
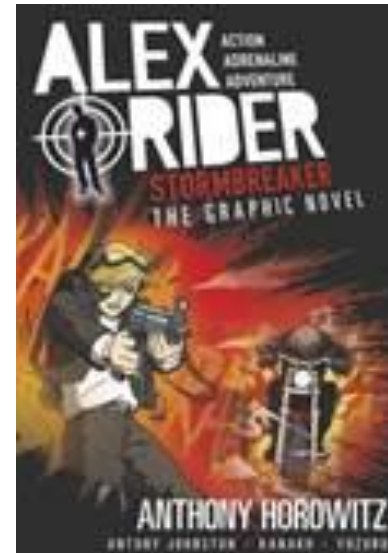
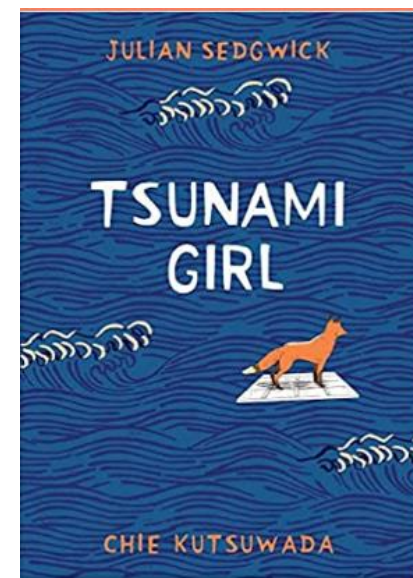
SCRIBD



Spotify®

Graphic novels

- Improves visual literacy and vocabulary.
- Inspires creativity.
- Enhances social and emotional learning.
- Help with children who struggle with their reading.
- Better grasp on Literary themes.



Celebrate reading as a social activity.

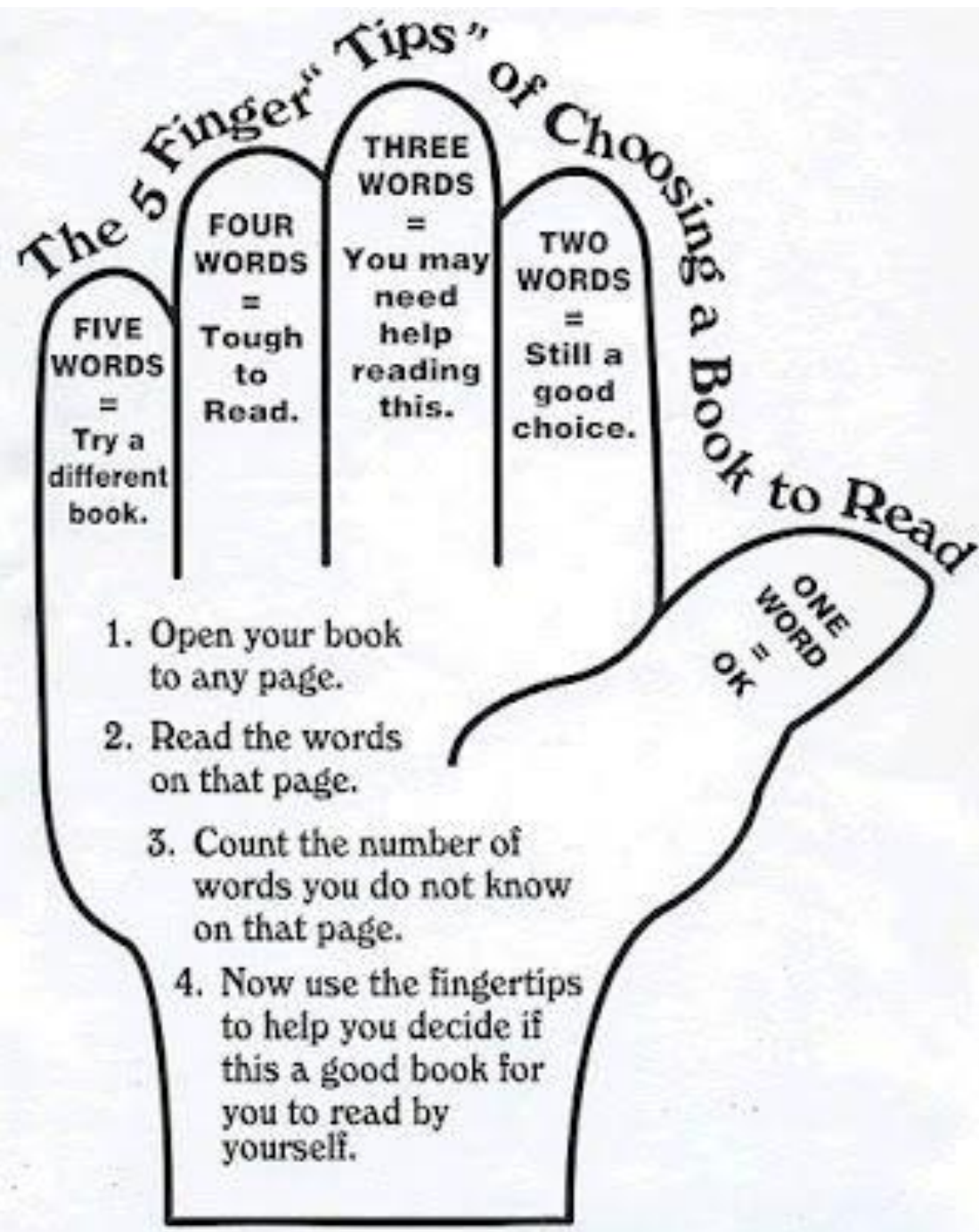
Talk about books and reading – let your child see you reading and talking together about what you are currently reading. Sharing books and reading experiences can make reading enjoyable and entertaining.

Help them find their own spaces to talk about books, such as Goodread or #BookTok on TikTok.

Questions to ask your child to help make the right book choices.

- DO you like different types of movies/TV/games?
- How do you know you don't like (genre) if you don't try one?
- Can you give a book 30 pages to try it?
- Are there things you would like to know more about?
- Are there people you would like to know more about?
- Is there a time in history that sounds interesting?

How to help your child pick
their next book



The School Reading List

Recommended reading books for primary & secondary aged children in the UK

EYFS & KS1 books

KS2 books

KS3-5 books

Secondary KS3, KS4 and KS5 11-18 books lists



**‘ Today a
reader,
tomorrow a
leader. ’**

Margaret Fuller

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✓ Home Learning

Books for Year 7

Books for Year 8

Books for Year 9

Books for Year 10

Books for Year 11

AQA, CCEA, EDUQAS, Edexcel, OCR & WJEC GCSE English set texts

Books for Year 12

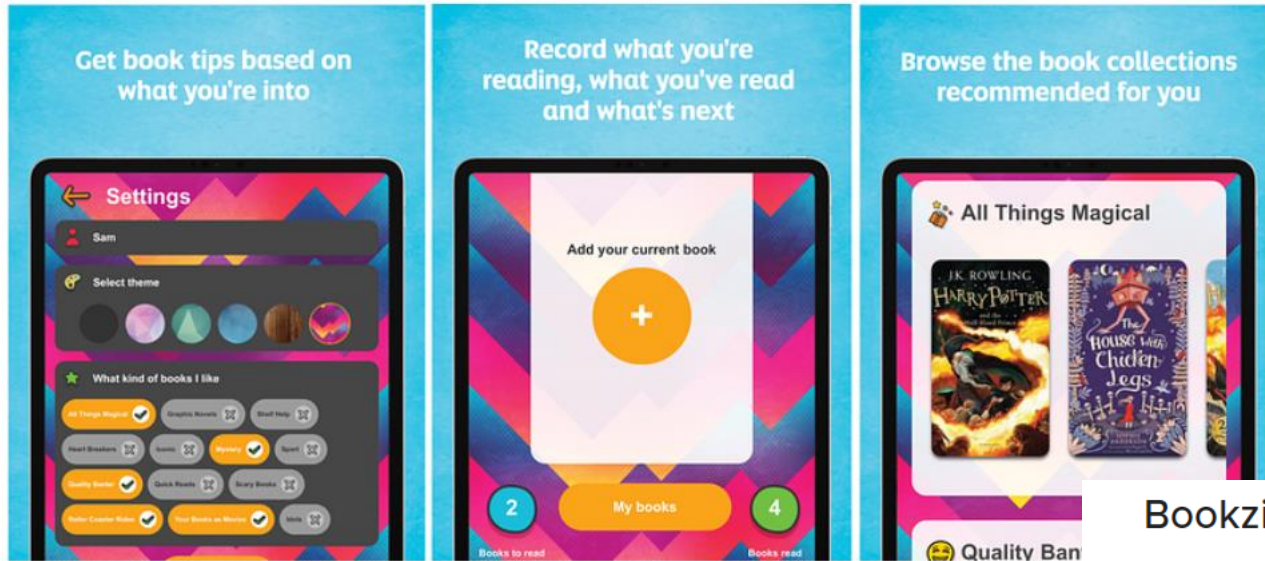
Books for Year 13

Bulk orders

YA Books of the Month

Bookzilla

Scottish Book Trust's free book finder reading app developed by young people, for young people.



Bookzilla is a free app for upper primary and early secondary school students in Scotland. The app helps pupils find books to read for pleasure, whether they are already regular readers or just embarking on their reading journey. Young people can receive tailored book recommendations, see what's popular among their classmates and challenge themselves to try something new with a reading dare. The app promotes different featured collections every month. Find out more about how you can [use Bookzilla in your school](#).

David Walliams

9

Albert Uderzo
Candy harper
Clare Balding
Anthony Browne
Gwyneth Rees
Leigh Hobbs
Holly Smale
Oliver Jeffers
Matt Cosgrove
Anne Fine
Maz Evans
Alan Brough
Enid Blyton
Roald Dahl
Tom fletcher
Jaqueline wilson
David Baddiel
Liz Pichon
Tom gates
Cathy Cassidy
David Walliams
Ahn do
Andy Griffiths
Morris Gleitzman
Michael Morpurgo
Paul Jennings
Francesca Simon
Emily Rodda
Malorie Blackman
Robert Muchamore
Andy Stanton
Jeremy Strong
Terry Deary
James Howe
Humza Arshad
R.J. Palacio
Michael murpurgo
Knife And Packer
Vivian French
R.A. Spratt
R. A. Spratt
Liz Kessler
Sophie Cleverly

YourNextRead - Discover and Share

YourNextRead was founded in 2009 as a novel way to explore book recommendations.

Its focus was on creating connections using insight from real readers and using a novel experience to explore these connections and find serendipitous recommendations.

We've had a fantastic run of 10 years, but our philosophy was always to have a free-to-use site without adverts, and this has led to difficulty in being able to maintain the site over time.

Rather than have the site continue to slowly degenerate, we have decided to archive the previous exploration experience (for the time being...)

While we explore the next steps with the site, please find some links below which we hope will help your journey!

GOODREADS

AMAZON BESTSELLERS

EXCUSEMYREADING



Your book recommendations are below

Print page

**Step 1:** Choose age/stage

12+

[Change age/stage](#) +**Step 2:** Choose type of book

x Funny

[Change type of book](#) +[Search again](#) >

Showing 1 - 8 results

View 8



Relevance



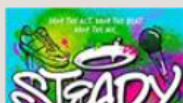
Monster Support Group The Werewolf's Tale

Author: Laura Suarez



Steady for This

Author: Nathanael Lessore



If I Ran the Country

Author: Rich Knight Illustrator:
Alan Sanders

The Search for the Giant Arctic Jellyfish

Author: Chloe Savage



In the planner:

Reading Log			
Week Beg	Title	Page	Signed & Dated by an Adult
04/09/2023			
11/09/2023			
18/09/2023			
25/09/2023			
02/10/2023			
09/10/2023			
16/10/2023			
23/10/2023	HALF TERM		
30/10/2023			
06/11/2023			
13/11/2023			
20/11/2023			
27/11/2023			
04/12/2023			
11/12/2023			
18/12/2023			
25/12/2023	CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY		
01/01/2024	CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY		
08/01/2024			
15/01/2024			
22/01/2024			
29/01/2024			
05/02/2024			
12/02/2024	HALF TERM		

Recommended Reading Lists				
Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
Freedom (1783) by Catherine Johnson	Wink by Rob Harrell	Chaos Walking trilogy by Patrick Ness	The Fault in Our Stars by John Green	Looking for Alaska by John Green
Artichoke Heats by Sita Brahmachari	Little Bit by Alex Wheatle	Every Line of You by Naomi Gibson	Grow by Luke Palmer	Felix Ever After by Kacen Callender
Kick by Mitch Johnson	Kirb Stain Boys by Alex Wheatle	Lionheart Girl by Yaba Badoe	13 minutes: A novel by Sarah Pinborough	Savage Her Reply by Deirdre Sullivan
The Goldfish Boy by Lisa Thompson	How I live now by Meg Rosoff	The Girl with the Louding Voice by Abi Dare	American Gods by Neil Gaiman	When Shadows Fall by Sita Brahmachari
	The Black Flamingo by Dean Atta	Cane Warriors by Alex Wheatle	Rebecca by Daphne Du Maurier	All the Truth That's in Me by Julie Berry
	A Change is Gonna Come by Various authors	Maladapted by Richard Kurti	One of Us is Lying by Karen M. McManus	I Boy by Kevin Brooks
	Booked by Kwame Alexander	The Call by Peadar O'Guilin	Poet X by Elizabeth Acevedo	Release by Patrick Ness
	Long Way Down by Chris Priestley	Orangeboy by Patrice Lawrence	A Good Girls Guide to Murder by Holly Jackson	The Help by Kathryn Stockett
	HeartStopper books by Oseman	Black Rabbit Summer by Kevin Brooks	Things Fall Apart by Chinua Achebe	Life of Pi by Yan Martel
	The Book Thief by Markus Zusak			Brave New World A Huxley

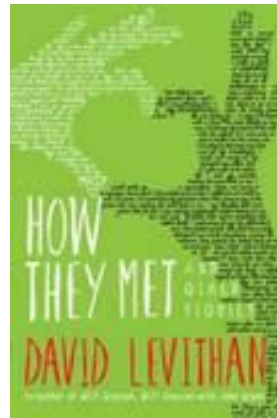
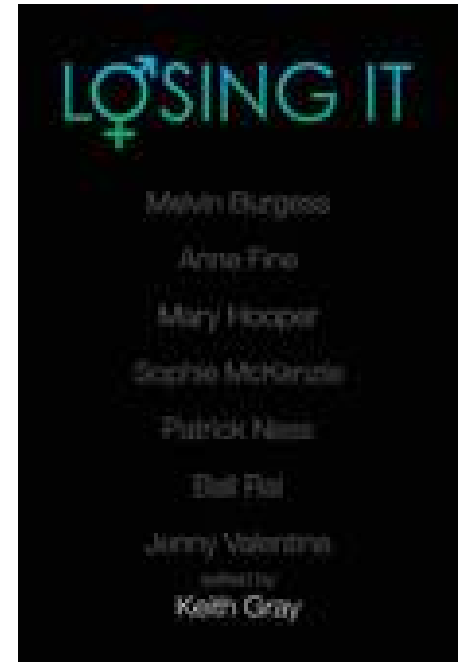
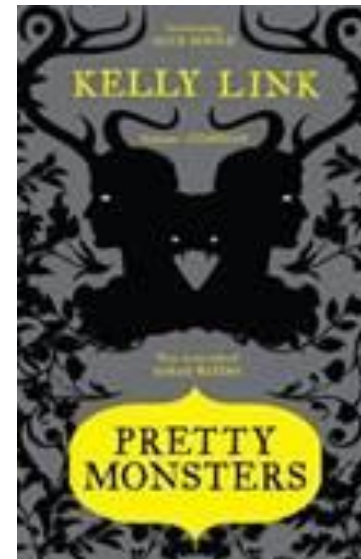
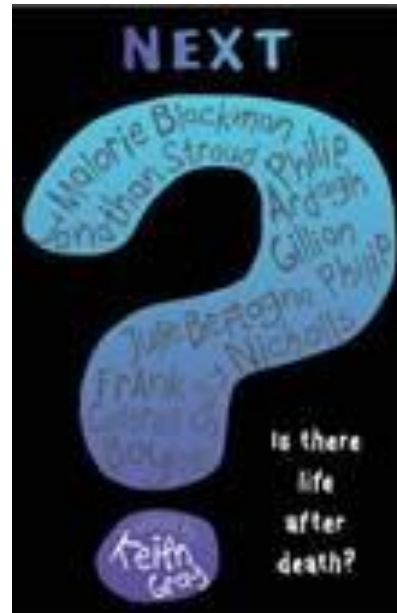
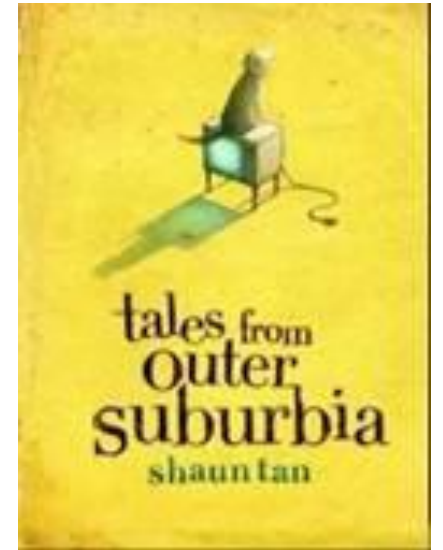
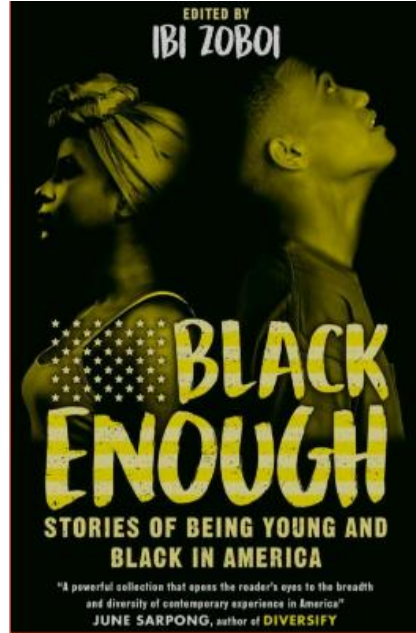
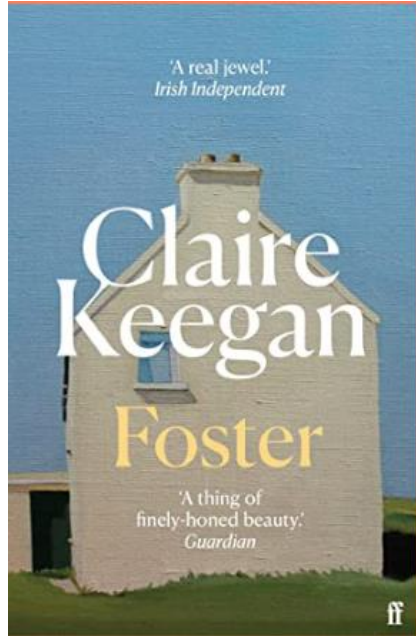
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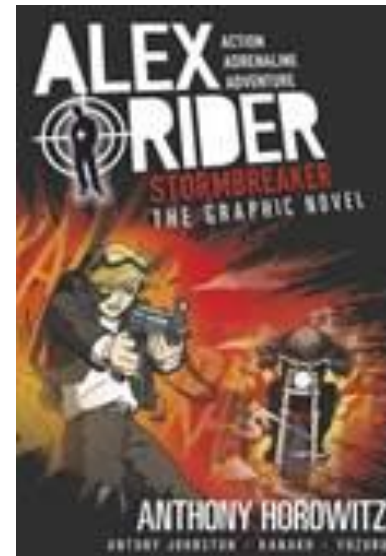
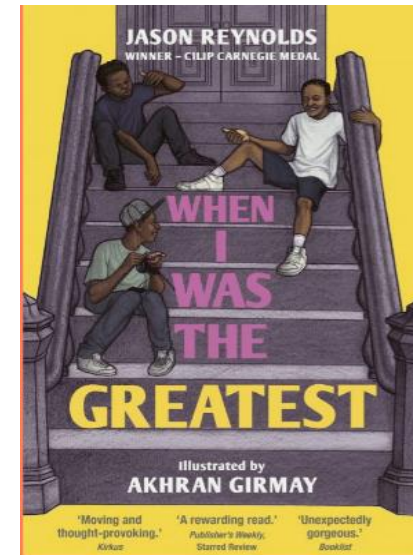
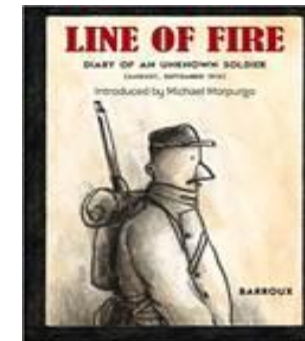
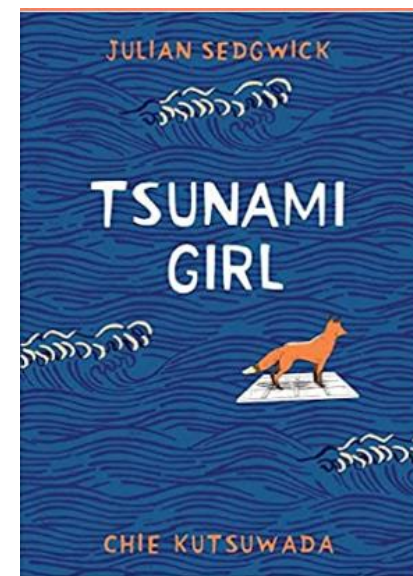
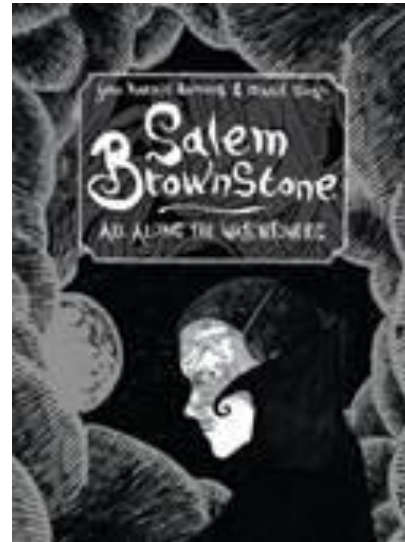
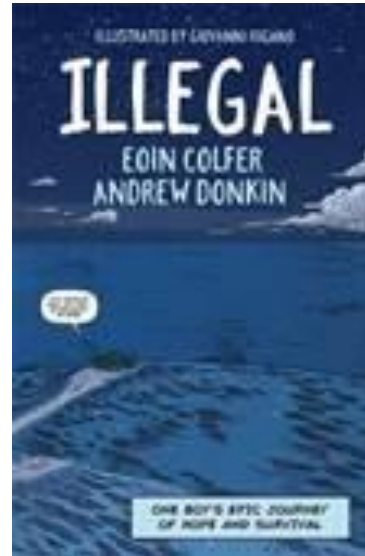
Building Vocabulary – and How to Spell Them

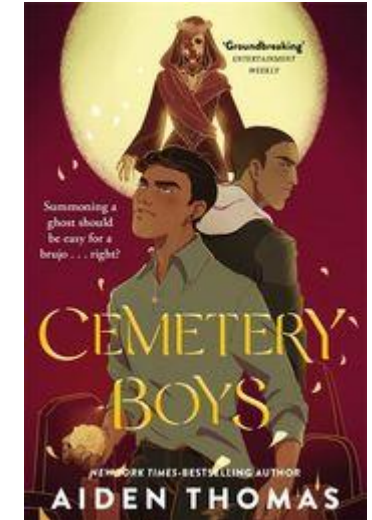
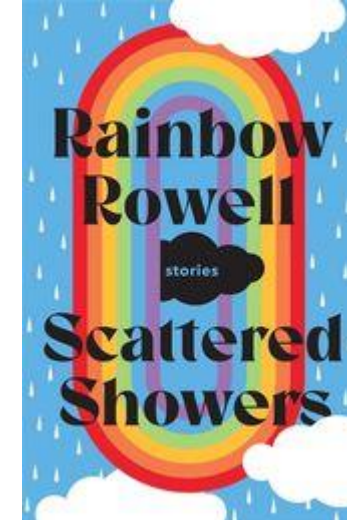
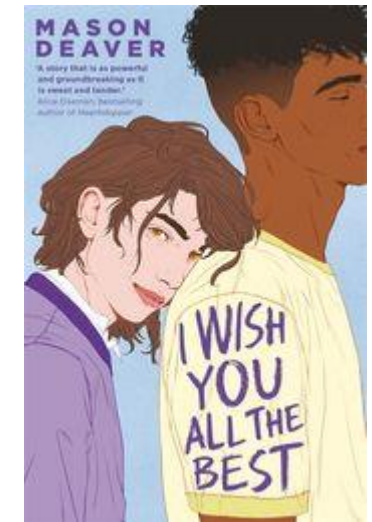
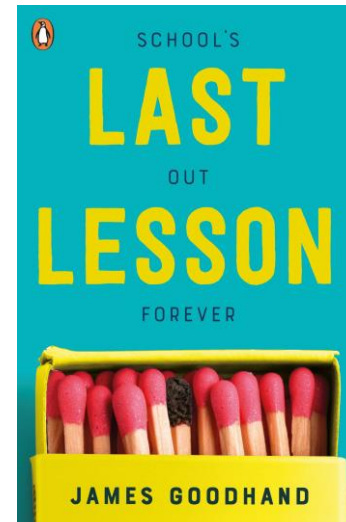
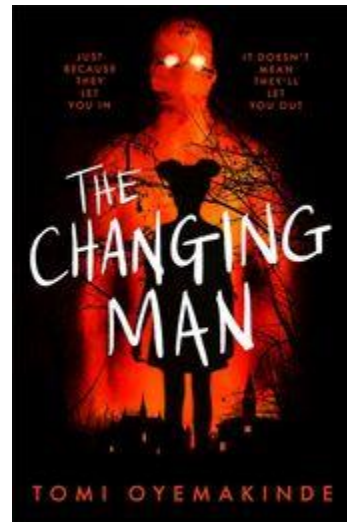
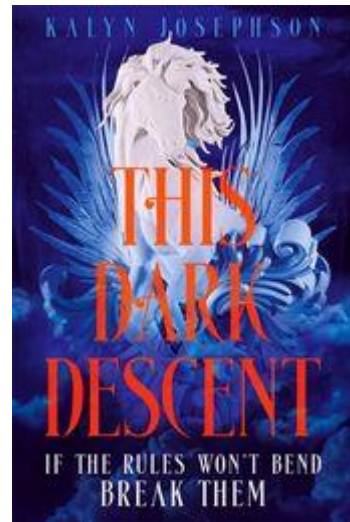
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Adversity	Dogmatic	Oppressive
Ambiguity	Enlighten	Orthodox
Antipathy	Epiphany	Patriarchy
Antithesis	Exploitation	Pernicious
Coherence	Femininity	Persistence
Compassion	Flaw	Rebellion
Complicity	Hierarchy	Reconcile
Conscience	Incredulous	Redemption
Contemporary	Inevitability	Relentless
Context	Justice	Repentant
Contradiction	Juxtaposition	Repression
Contrition	Malevolent	Resolute
Controversy	Manipulation	Revolution
Deception	Masculinity	Subvert
Demeanour	Materialism	Suffering
Dilemma	Morality	Superficial
Dissent	Nostalgia	Supernatural
Superstition	Transpire	Virtue
Taciturn	Transpire	Zealous

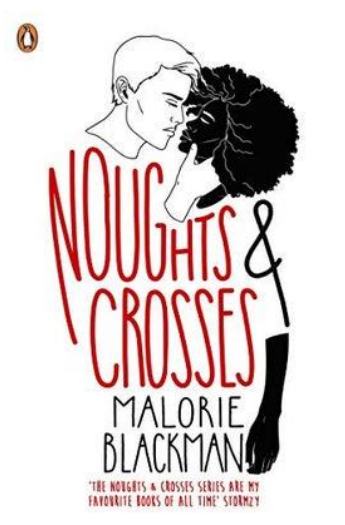
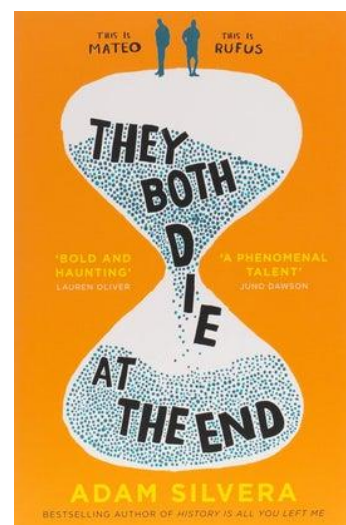
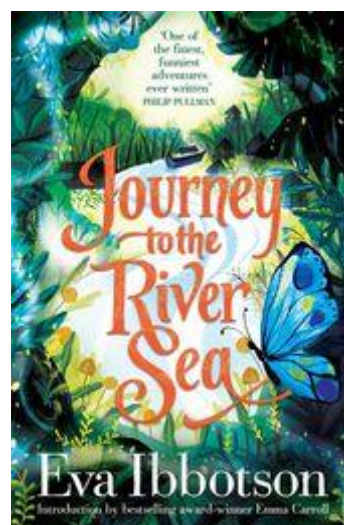
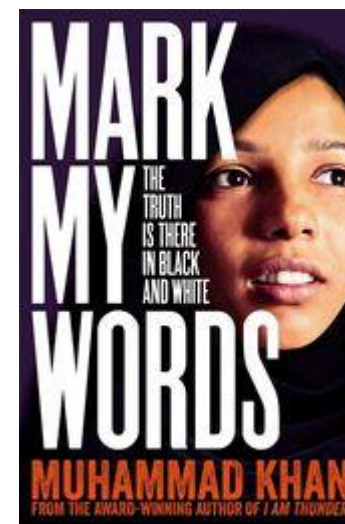
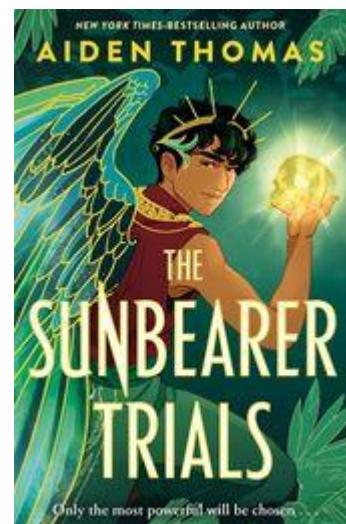
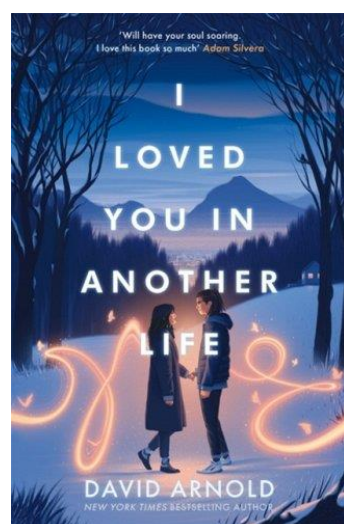
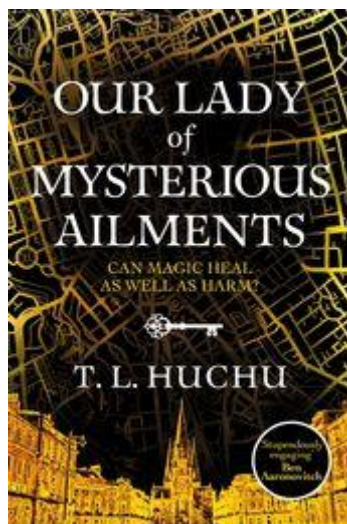
Short Stories



Graphic novels







THE HUNGER GAMES

