

Swatch

Glasgow School Libraries' eMagazine

Glasgow
life
Libraries

COVER DESIGN
CONTEST

BLACK HISTORY
MONTH BOOKLIST

PLUS AUTUMN
CRAFTS &
RECIPES

MICHAEL LEE
RICHARDSON

BAFTA-winning filmmaker, author, youth worker



J.M.
GALE

Author of
Cupid's A Psycho

INTRODUCING





FROM THE EDITORS...

Welcome to the beginning of a brand new school year!

We're back with a fantastic Autumn issue packed with goodies.

As it was last time, this issue has an interactive PDF version! Just tap a book cover to learn more about the book.

We've got two brilliant interviews this time round. Eastbank Academy pupils are up first with their chat with BAFTA Scotland award-winning filmmaker, writer and youth worker Michael Lee Richardson. After that, check out author J.M. Gale's conversation with S4 pupils from Hillpark Secondary.

In addition to all of your old favourites, check out page 7 to enter into the competition to design a future cover of the eMagazine! The deadline for entries is January 9, 2023. Digital and hand-drawn entries are accepted.

We hope you enjoy leafing through as much as we've enjoyed putting this together. Happy reading!

Staff Contributors:

Upcoming Releases Ms Sferrazzo

Comics Ms Sferrazzo

Manga Ms Sferrazzo

Funniest Fiction Ms DeLeavey

Sports Mr Wason

Shelf Help Ms DeLeavey

Awards Ms DeLeavey

Audacious Audio Ms Sferrazzo

Featured Booklists Ms DeLeavey

History Ms Sferrazzo

Q+A w/ Michael Lee Richardson

Miss Neumannova &

Eastbank Academy pupils

Q+A w/ J.M. Gale

Mr Wason &

Hillpark Secondary pupils

School Library Spotlight Ms Sferrazzo

& Ms. Clarke

Senior Section Ms Clarke

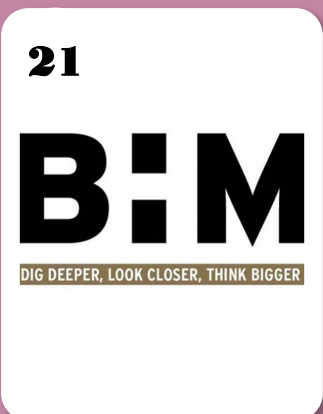
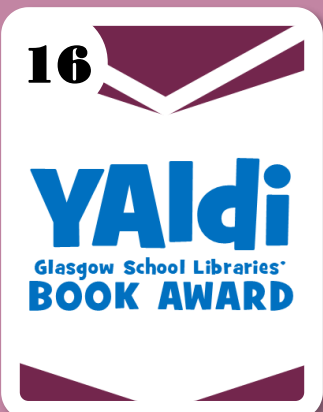
Craft Miss West

Recipe Ms Sferrazzo

Quiz Miss Neumannova

Editors: Ms Sferrazzo & Ms DeLeavey

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SHOW YOUR TALENT

Submit your

ART

SHORT STORIES

POEMS

Cinderella Retold

For the last school year, the EAL Book Club at John Paul Academy have been reading and discussing different versions of the Cinderella fairy tale—from the original European version to more modern adaptations. Club members were then challenged to plot and write their own versions. Here are their Cinderella stories.

Story 1

*And you all lived happily
ever after...*

That's what everyone says, you finally got it, it's every girl's dream. To live in a castle, have a magical wedding and have kids.

And you all lived happily ever after, that's what everyone says. But this isn't the end. It is the beginning of your end.

Thud... You hear the sound coming from your bathroom, only to see your husband lying there in a pool of his own blood.

Help! Help!

He grabs your hand as he softly says, "I'm sorry."

You stand there trying to stop your husband's bleeding, as the royal medic comes and pushes you out of the way. As he tries to save him.

Your kids come to see what is going on so you lure them away. On your way out, you spot a note with the following words: *I'm still here.*

You didn't mind it at first. After 20 minutes the medic comes and breaks to you the saddest news. "I'm sorry. The injuries were too much, and his royal majesty has sadly passed away... There will be an investigation to find out who killed his royal highness. I'm so sorry."

You grieve alone as the medic makes his way out. Your mind is overflowing with thoughts. You lie down on the bed that now feels massive, as if there is a presence missing. You fall asleep for what seemed like thirty minutes but it was eight hours. You wake up to have breakfast alone then make your way to your kids bedroom. Thoughts bursting through your head.

What am I going to tell them... How are they going to react... Will they ever forgive me... Should I wait... What should I say...

Read the rest of the story in the [Cinderella Retold Collection eBooklet](#).

Story 2

Like A Movie

IN THE HOUSE:

MIRIAM – Help! Help! Come here, go, run to the doctor's house!

CINDERELLA – What's wrong? [*Goes down the stairs, see's Miriam standing over her father.*]

Dad!!! Mum, what happened?!

MIRIAM – Stop asking stupid questions, I don't know. I just found him here on the floor. Run now, go to the doctor's house.

[*The doctor comes to the house*]

DOCTOR – I am sorry Miriam, but we have lost him.
[*Doctor leaves*]

MIRIAM - [*sobbing*] This is your fault! [*she screams at Cinderella*]. If you would have went to the ball your Dad would still be alive.

CINDERELLA – What do you mean, that I killed my own dad? How?

MIRIAM – Can't you see the hoof prints? It was obviously the prince and his soldiers. If you would have went to the ball nothing would have happened to him. In a month you are going to the next ball!!!
[*Storms out.*]

CINDERELLA – Since Miriam married dad and moved in with her daughters she thinks she is my mother or something. She can't understand that I don't like the prince because I don't like people that think they are superior to others. And the balls are just something stereotyped that men want.

Read the rest of the script in the [Cinderella Retold Collection eBooklet](#).

Story 3

All That's Left

A beautiful blond girl fled the forest, fleeing from the dangers behind. Branches crach beneath the elegant pair of high heels. She spent months of training just to be able to run in the heels. She felt it was a useful skill considering that she lived in a land of ballgowns and tiaras and always got herself into trouble. Yet she did not realise how much trouble was chasing her this time. As she flew in and out of the trees like a bird soaring after its prey she avoided all obstacles, not losing a second of time. Still what she didn't see coming was a hurdle that would save her this one minute but ruin all the other days of eternity to come. With this in light I think it's best if our princesses in heels continue this story...

Once upon ahhhhhh! CRASH!

"OU...!" I start to exclaim before I'm promptly shut up.

I hear footsteps getting closer, the breaking of branches, horses neighs and rearing, screaming of soldiers to keep up but all I see is darkness. I am half passed out from the force of my collision and at the same time being held down by who knows? I might be about to be demolished by a wolf for all I

know or don't as a matter of fact.

Ten minutes pass and the tight grip on my shoulder starts to loosen and my eyes clear from all the adrenaline of the past our to reveal a man. A MAN! I jump up and scurry backwards, clashing with another tree. The man just stood there laughing.

"You okay?" he laughs, "Never seen a man before?"

I gaze at him deeply, my eyes focusing on still recovering and scanning him up and down like a robot till they stop directly on the official royal badge.

"What's a royal doing out here in the Greenlands?" I question the prince.

"I could ask you the same question," he shoots back. "I could also ask why you were being chased by castle-men."

"Well it's a long story, not for now, I really need to run before they get back," I whisper timidly. "Not much time before they turn around..."

I pause and listen to the rustling of the trees, helping me to hear how far away they are.

"Two minutes and thirty-three seconds."

"Sounds like you do this a lot then," he replies, "maybe I shouldn't have helped you," he laughs again, its sound echoing deep into the earth.

It felt like the earth was shaking. I listened to the wind but everything had gone quiet, too quiet.

"Shhh" I hushed in a low voice, yet again trembling.

The soldiers were not coming back anytime soon, that was for sure. I sensed death in the air. I stepped forward a few paces until... Slash! Blood pools at my feet, a gust of wind surrounding me.

Poof! There I am. The foot of a beautiful red carpeted staircase, soldiers lining the stairs as usual, everything back where it was. Every single day, round and round in circles. No escape.

Perched at the top of the stairs, a smug grin plastered to his face, the Prince!

Read the rest of the story in the [Cinderella Retold Collection eBooklet](#).

Story 4

A Cinderella Story

Oliver and Luke walked down the streets sided by brick houses from school, when they halted at Luke's house.

"I'll see you in school then!" said Oliver.

"Ya, see you tomorrow," replied Luke. As Luke gently closed the door while staring into Oliver's eye, Oliver turned to his right and strolled to his home three houses away from Luke's under the bright blue sky in summer.

As soon as Oliver opened his house door, the cold breeze from the fan and the air conditioning he left on on purpose greeted him. "I'm home!" he exclaimed hoping that someone was home to answer him. But nobody was. He sat on his bed with one leg over the other with an ice cream cup on his left hand and his phone on the other. When scrolling through his TikTok 'for you' page wasn't satisfying anymore he did what he usually does after school, from pressing his home button to pressing Luke's instagram name was like a routine, a habit that he sometimes made it his favourite part of his day.

Do you think the teacher is gonna be in tomorrow?

Which one?

Biology

...

Oliver waits for Luke's answer before waiting for three minutes.

IDK

We'll find out tomorrow then

Read the rest of the story in the [Cinderella Retold Collection eBooklet](#).

Hello Anyone

By Lauren-Lou (S1)

It was the year of 2999. It was a cold and dull day. The streets were empty, the flats stood tall with pitch-black windows covered with vines. The cars stood still in the middle of the road, covered in rust and dirt, rats skittered around the streets. This was now the city of New York. A few years ago it wasn't like this. The streets were lively, people used to leave their homes, now they sit on their phones. I never see anyone anymore, it's lonely.

Hello, my name is Herbert. I am 39 and I repair robots for a living. I live next to the robot factory in a small shack. Every day, I wake up and get dressed, I put on my overalls and a black top, and I go to the factory. When I enter, I am greeted by two large robots. They ask for my ID every day although I am the only one that comes in and out. Every day there is something that needs to be fixed. It could be the mechanical arm that creates the robots, or a software malfunction that fries the system, there is always something that keeps me here. I come to the factory at 4 and leave at 12. I'm exhausted. I no longer have a life. It's the same every day, it never changes.

Today I woke up late. I heard a crash. It was my door. Two large robots burst in. One lifted me and asked in an assertive voice, "why were you not at the factory?"

I looked at them, confused, because I get Saturdays off. They shook me vigorously and asked again. "Well, I slept in. I'm very sorry."

They looked at each other and looked back at me as to say should we let him go. The robot put me down and said to be at the factory in five. As they left the house I stood in utter disbelief. I grabbed my stuff and rushed to the factory and entered the big doors. I wandered round the factory looking for something to fix as the guards stared at me intently,

waiting for me to do something. I heard a scream. It sounded like a lady. It was coming from the basement. I dropped my stuff and ran to an old beaten up door. It looked like it hadn't been opened in years.

I slowly opened the door to not alert the guards. I looked down the long hallway. It was pitch-black with a blue light shining through a door at the end. I walked down the hall getting closer to the light. I opened up a door to see cubicles with people in them. There were all on their phones as I ran down the white stairs, shouting "hello, somebody, please". Nobody responded. I tried to get their attention over and over but it never worked so I gave up and was ready to go home. As I turned to leave I saw the door was closed. I was confused because I never closed it. I climbed the stairs and tried to open the door. It was locked. I turned around in shock when I heard loud footsteps. It was one of the robots.

I put my hands up and pleaded they didn't kill me. They started to repeat "Intruder! Intruder! Attack!". I started to run but they managed to catch up with me. I ran out of the factory to the empty streets, screaming for help. "Please, someone, I don't want to die!"

I blacked out and woke up in a white cubicle with a small phone in front of me. I picked it up and played the little video that was paused. A man started to talk.

"Hello. If you are watching this, you have joined the program."

What program? I thought to myself.

"You might be thinking to yourself, what program?" The man continued. "The one that will change your life." A sucker shot out of the phone. I could no longer think for myself.

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COVER DESIGN CONTEST

Speak to your School Librarian for more information!

Submit a design for the chance to be featured in our city-wide magazine and also for a chance to win a prize. Draw something in the above blank space using the theme 'Reading Is Power'. Hand drawn or digital submissions accepted. All work must be original. Entries will be judged by Glasgow School Librarians. Deadline January 9th, 2023. Submit entries to your School Librarian.

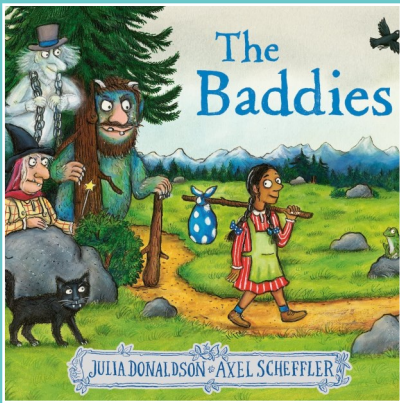
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School:

Year:

UPCOMING RELEASES

SEPTEMBER 2022—NOVEMBER 2022

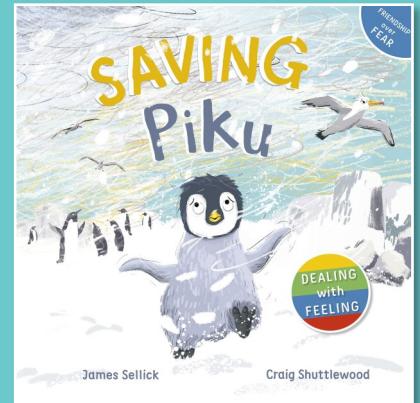
CHILDREN'S



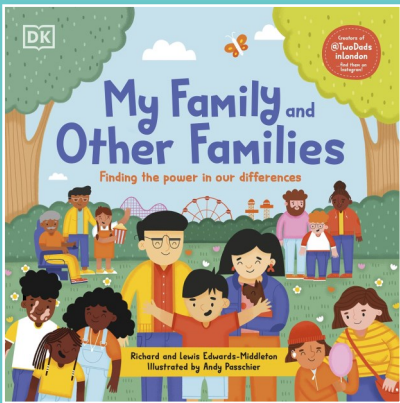
The Baddies
Julia Donaldson & Axel Scheffler
1 September 2022



Meanwhile Back on Earth...
Oliver Jeffers
4 October 2022



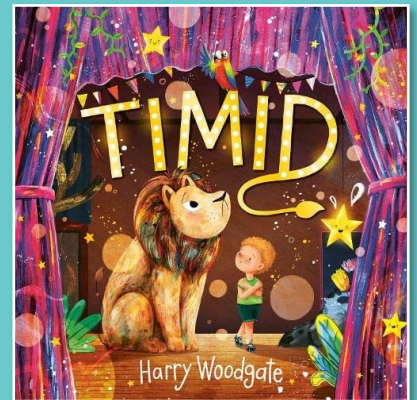
Saving Piku
James Sellick & Craig Shuttlewood
1 November 2022



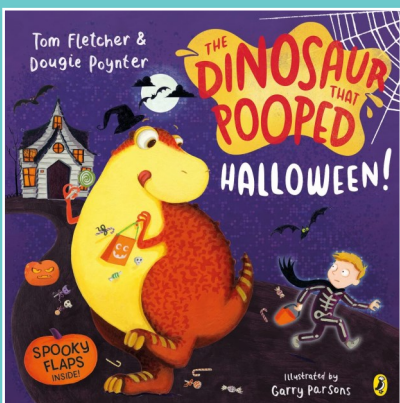
My Family and Other Families
Richard & Lewis Edwards-Middleton
1 September 2022



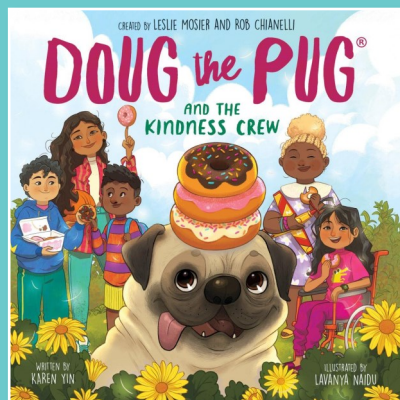
A Way with Words
Stacy Burch & Lucy McLoughlin
13 October 2022



Timid
Harry Woodgate
10 November 2022



The Dinosaur that Pooped Halloween
Tom Fletcher & Dougie Poynter
15 September 2022



Doug the Pug
Karen Yin & Lavanya Naidu
18 October 2022



A Sweet New Year for Ren
Michelle Stirling & Dung Ho
15 November 2022

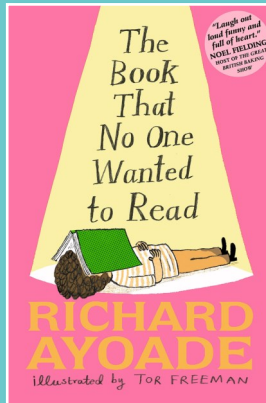
UPCOMING RELEASES

SEPTEMBER 2022—NOVEMBER 2022

JUNIOR FICTION



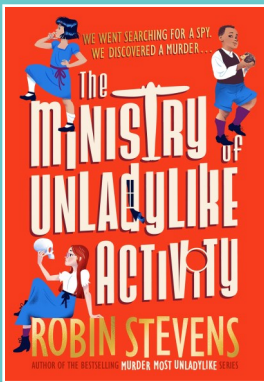
Which Way to Anywhere
Cressida Cowell
15 September 2022



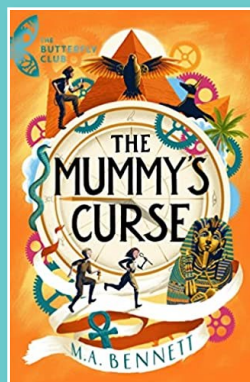
The Book that No One Wanted to Read
Richard Ayoade
6 October 2022



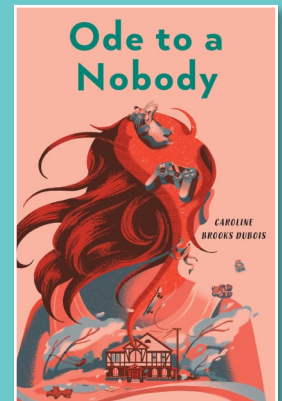
Glasheart
Kate Alice Marshall
1 November 2022



The Ministry of Unladylike Activity
Robin Stevens
29 September 2022



The Mummy's Curse
M. A. Bennett
13 October 2022



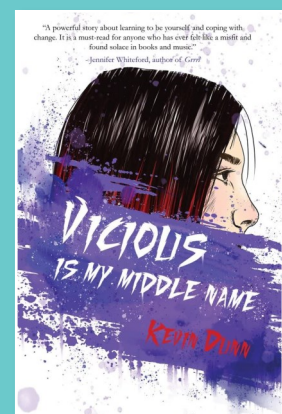
Ode to a Nobody
Caroline Brooks Dubois
8 November 2022



Spaceboy
David Walliams
29 September 2022



The Vanishing of Aveline Jones
Phil Hickey
27 October 2022

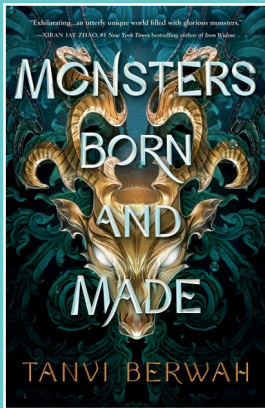


Vicious is My Middle Name
Kevin Dunn
15 November 2022

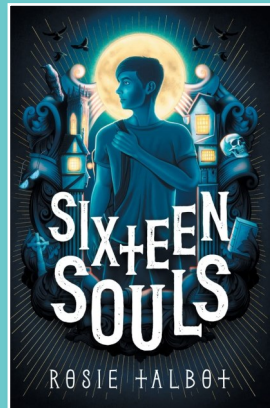
UPCOMING RELEASES

SEPTEMBER 2022—NOVEMBER 2022

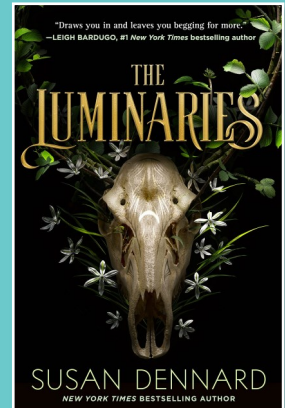
YOUNG ADULT



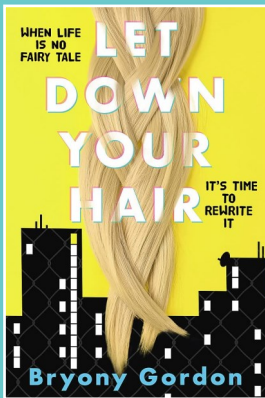
Monsters Born and Made
Tanvi Berwah
6 September 2022



Sixteen Souls
Rosie Talbot
6 October 2022



The Luminaries
Susan Dennard
1 November 2022



Let Your Hair Down
Bryony Gordon
15 September 2022



The Gathering Dark
Ed. by Tori Bovalino
18 October 2022



The Do-Over
Lynn Painter
15 November 2022



The 99 Boyfriends of Micah Summers
Adam Sass
20 September 2022



Fraternity
Andy Mientus
27 October 2022

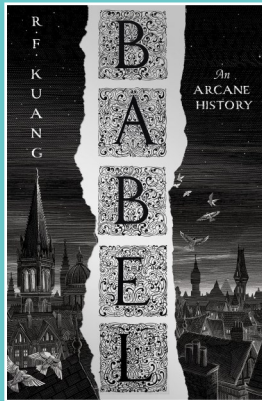


Briarcliff Prep
Brianna Peppins
17 November 2022

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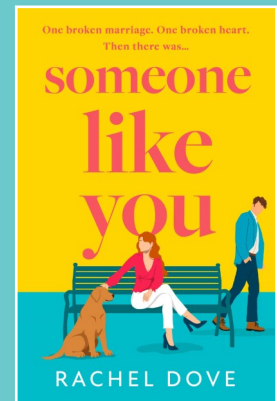
ADULT FICTION



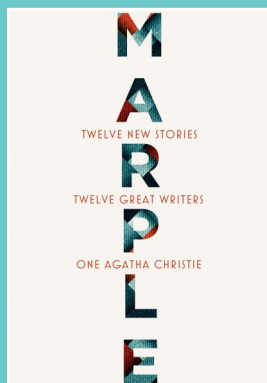
Babel
R. F. Kuang
1 September 2022



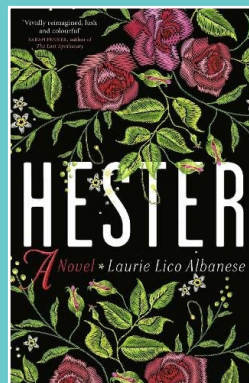
Our Missing Hearts
Celeste Ng
4 October 2022



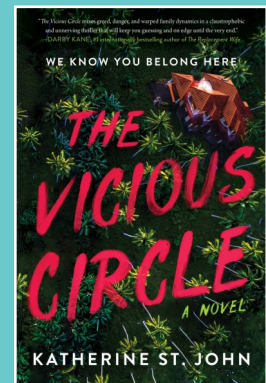
Someone Like You
Rachel Dove
10 November 2022



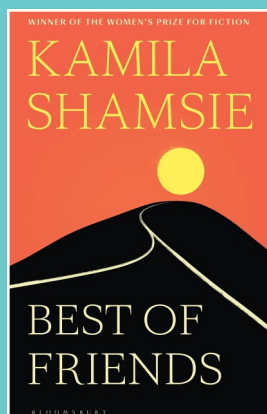
Marple
Multiple Authors
15 September 2022



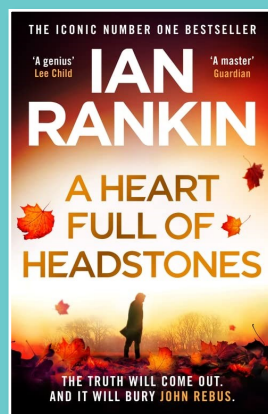
Hester
Laurie Lico Albanese
6 October 2022



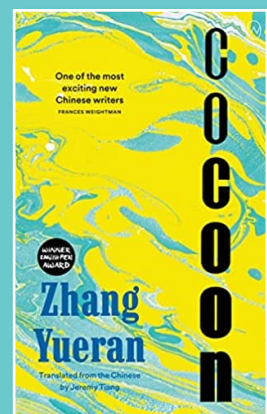
The Vicious Circle
Katherine St John
10 November 2022



Best of Friends
Kamila Shamsie
27 September 2022



A Heart Full of Headstones
Ian Rankin
13 October 2022

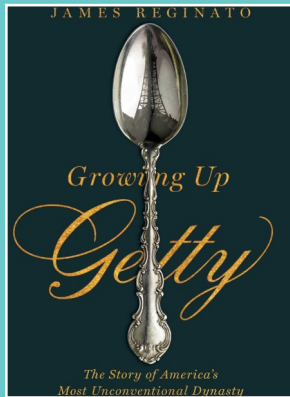


Cocoon
Zhang Yueran
17 November 2022

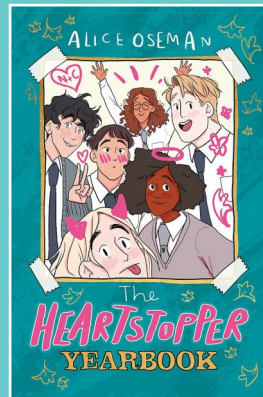
UPCOMING RELEASES

SEPTEMBER 2022—NOVEMBER 2022

NON-FICTION



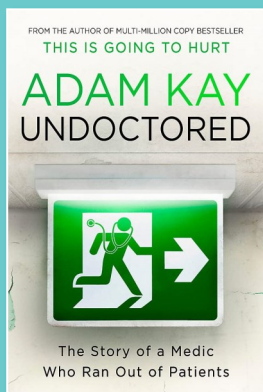
Growing Up Getty
James Reginato
1 September 2022



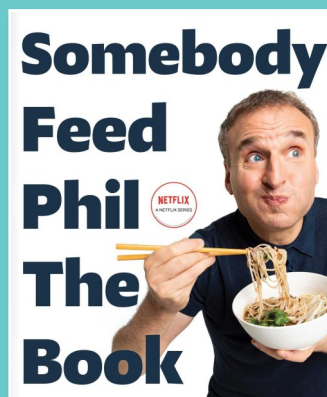
The Heartstopper Yearbook
Alice Oseman
13 October 2022



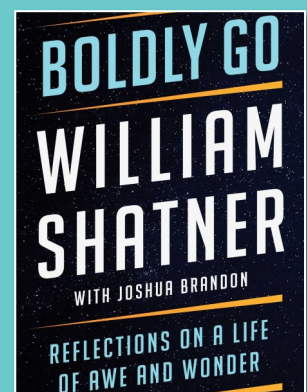
Fast. Simple. Delicious.
Tara Ippolito
1 November 2022



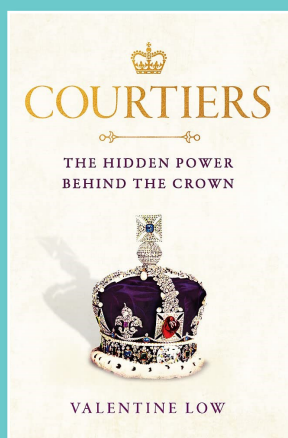
Undoctored
Adam Kay
15 September 2022



Somebody Feed Phil: The Book
Jen Garbee & Phil Rosenthal
18 October 2022



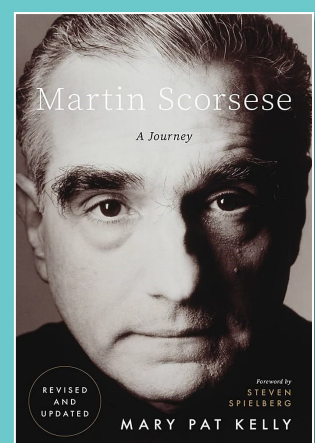
Boldly Go
William Shatner & Joshua Brandon
10 November 2022



Courtiers
Valentine Low
29 September 2022



Veggie One-Pot
Alan Rosenthal
27 October 2022

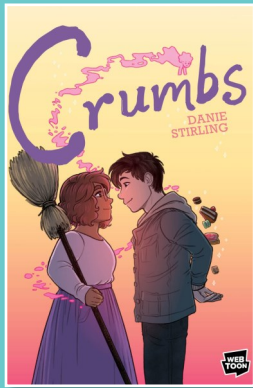


Martin Scorsese: A Journey
Mary Pat Kelly
17 November 2022

UPCOMING RELEASES

SEPTEMBER 2022—NOVEMBER 2022

COMICS/GRAPHIC NOVELS



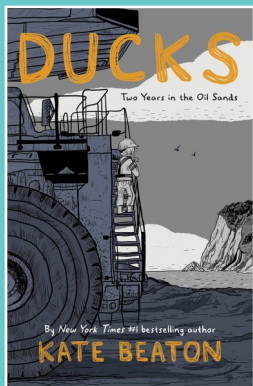
Crumbs
Danie Stirling
1 September 2022



Cryptid Club
Sarah Andersen
13 October 2022



Ghoster Heights
Corey Lansdell et al
8 November 2022



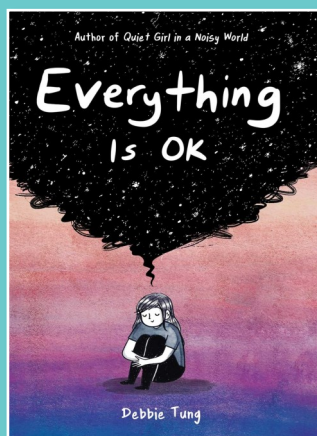
Ducks: Two Years in the Oil Sands
Kate Beaton
15 September 2022



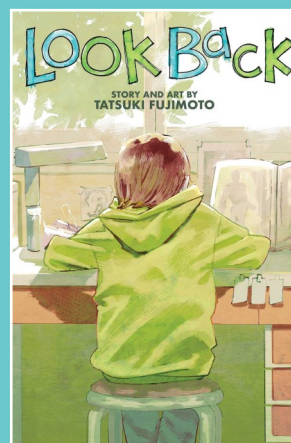
You Are Home
Catana Comics
13 October 2022



Lucky Penny
Ananth Hirsh & Yuko Ota
16 November 2022



Everything is Ok
Debbie Tung
29 September 2022



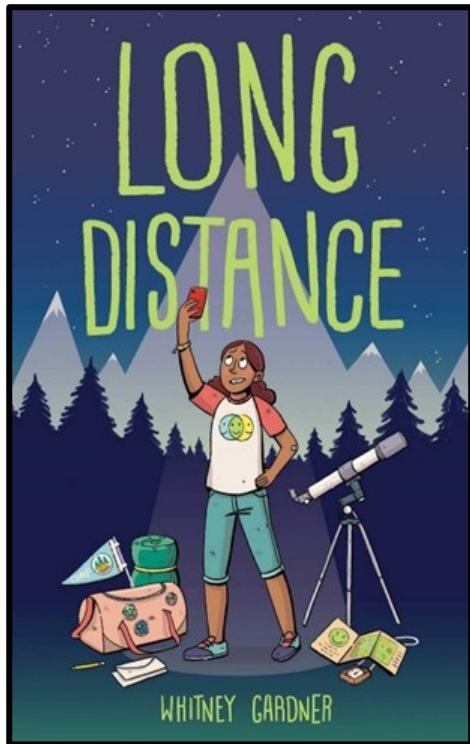
Look Back
Tatsuki Fujimoto
27 October 2022



Last Flight Out
Marc Guggenheim & Eduardo Ferigato
17 November 2022

REVIEWS

Lit, film, and game reviews by pupils and Glasgow School Librarians.



Long Distance by Whitney Gardner
Reviewed by Glasgow School Librarians

When Vega's dad gets a new job in Seattle, Vega has to move and leave her best friend Halley behind. Her two dads are worried about her being lonely in the new town, so they send her to summer camp to meet new people. Vega is very reluctant to make friends but when strange things start to happen and there's no phone signal to call parents, she has to get out of her comfort zone and make friends with others to solve the mystery.

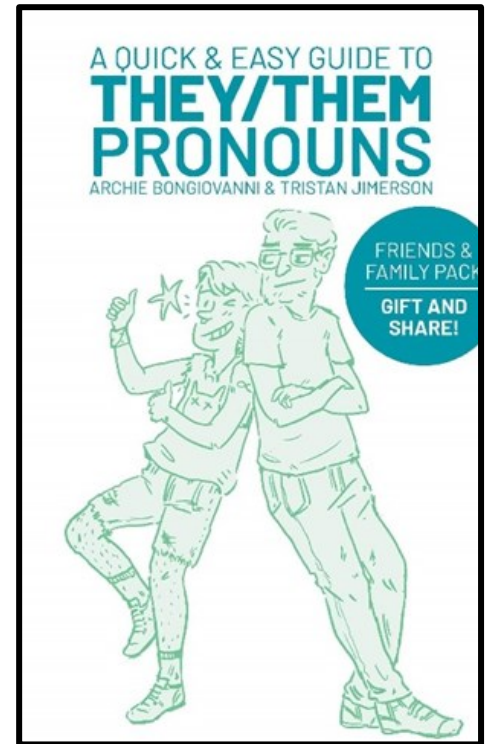
This is a story about the importance of friends, both close and far away.



Mooncakes by Wendy Xu and Suzanne Walker
Reviewed by Glasgow School Librarians

This is a wonderful story to read on Halloween - full of witches and magic, demons, forest spirits and even werewolves! It has it all: the mix of adventure, mystery, friendship, and romance makes it the perfect comic book.

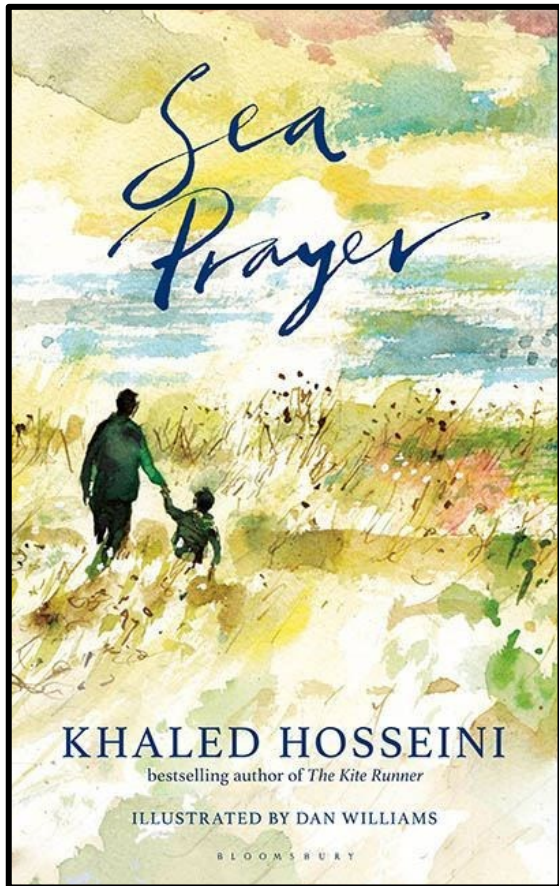
And a big plus for non-binary and disability representation!



A Quick & Easy Guide to They/Them Pronouns by Archie Bongiovanni & Tristan Jimerson
Reviewed by Glasgow School Librarians

A Quick & Easy Guide to They/Them Pronouns is a non-fiction comic book guide to pronouns told from two different perspectives: non-binary Archie and their cisgender friend Tristan. I found it very informative but also funny and I loved that the authors used everyday situations to demonstrate using correct pronouns.

This will be a very helpful guide to someone completely new to using gender-neutral language but also to people who want to educate themselves further.



Sea Prayer

by Khaled Hosseini

Reviewed by Miss Kindness

This graphic novel is written from a Syrian father's perspective. It shows his hopes, fears, and love for his young son as they undertake a perilous journey.

Every picture is beautiful and powerful, including the bustling Old City of Homs; the devastation of warfare; and terror of the merciless sea crossing in a tiny boat.

It was inspired by the true story of 3-year-old Syrian boy, who drowned at sea, highlighting the human cost of this crisis.

I would recommend it to anyone who wants to understand more about refugees as people, just like us. Suitable for all ages and available in Arabic & Spanish editions as well as English.



Needle

by Patrice Lawrence

Reviewed by Miss Kindness

This is a powerful story with a highly likeable main character. I felt so frustrated for Charlene - the odds are stacked against her, as a black teenager in the care system. It shows the importance of having adults who will really listen and empathise. I would now like to read more Patrice Lawrence.

This book uses dyslexia friendly font, so great for everyone, especially if you are looking for a short book with impact.



YALdi

Glasgow School Libraries'
BOOK AWARD

STAY TUNED FOR MORE INFORMATION

eResource Highlights

Supports assignments, projects, and self-led learning.

School or community library card required.



ProQuest Central
Higher/Advanced Higher



Oxford Research
Encyclopedias
All ages



Theory Test Pro
Ages 18+



GALE Literature Resource
Center
Nat5+ English & Drama



Freegal Music is a free music service from Glasgow Libraries. Freegal offers access to over 13 million songs.

App available on the school iPad Self Service.

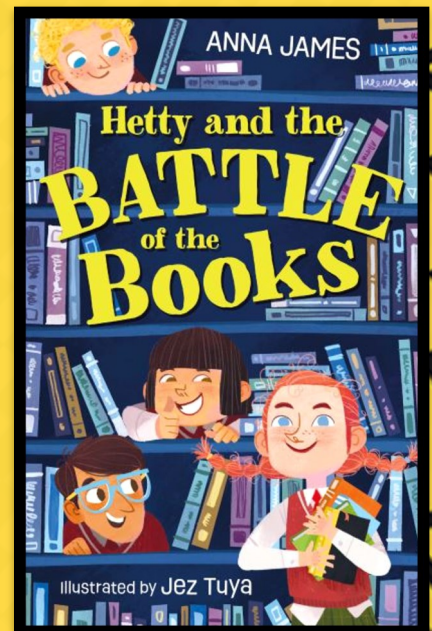
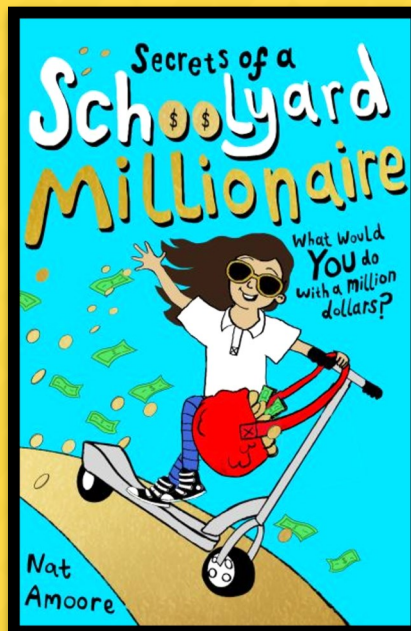
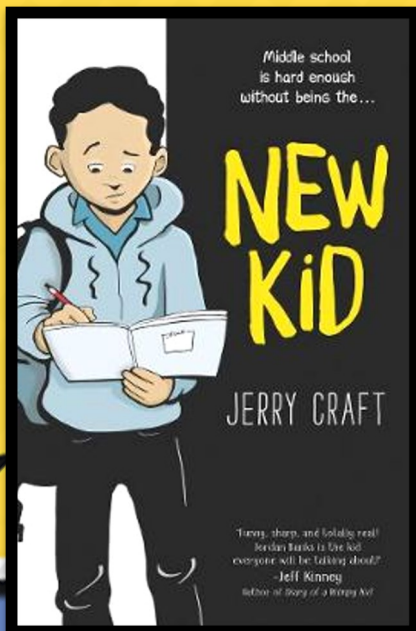
Featured Album



Stranger Things 4: Original Score from the Netflix Series by Kyle Dixon and Michael Stein

FUNNIEST FICTION

Ease those back-to-school jitters with some hilarious school stories!



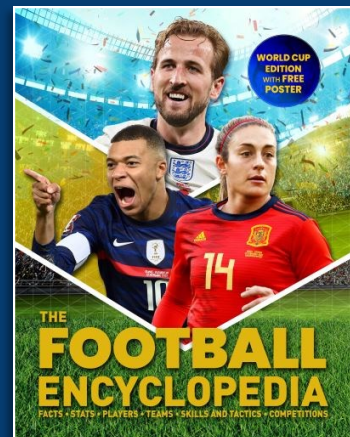
Highlighting the
best new sport books
coming soon to your
School Library.

The Football Encyclopedia

Clive Gifford

15th September 2022

The Kingfisher Football Encyclopedia has a brand-new look to tie in with the 2022 FIFA World Cup in Qatar, which promises to be the biggest football tournament in history.

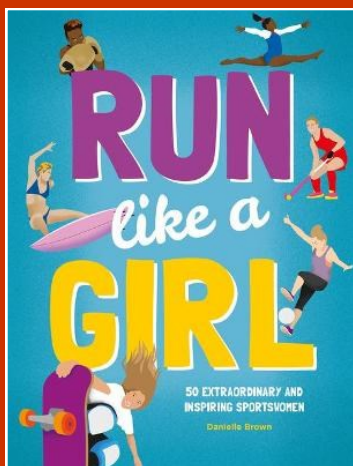


Run Like a Girl: 50 Extraordinary and Inspiring Sportswomen

Danielle Brown

21st Sep 2022

A collection of introductory biographies of 50 women athletes by Danielle Brown MBE, world champion and 5 times Paralympic gold medal winning archer.

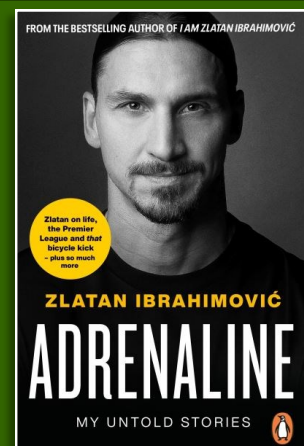


Adrenaline: My Untold Stories

Zlatan Ibrahimovic

28th July 2022

In the decade since his megaselling memoir *I am Zlatan Ibrahimovic*, Zlatan has played at Paris Saint-Germain (2012-2016), Manchester United (2016-2018), LA Galaxy (2018-2019) and Milan (2020-). This outrageous and hilarious follow-up is bursting with personal confessions and revealing anecdotes about the world's best players and managers.



SHELF HELP



HOW READING CAN HELP YOUR WELLBEING

REACH OUT

Anti-Bullying Week 2022 takes place 14th to 18th November 2022. It is coordinated by the Anti-Bullying Alliance in England and Wales, *respectme* in Scotland, and the Northern Ireland Anti-Bullying Forum.

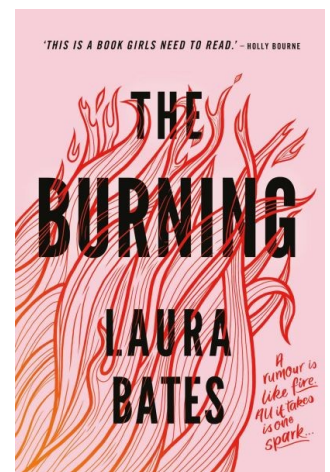
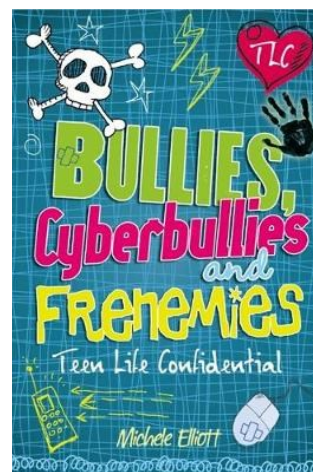
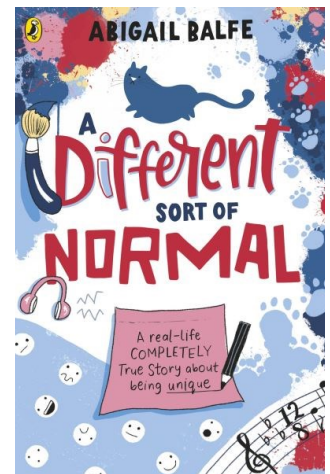
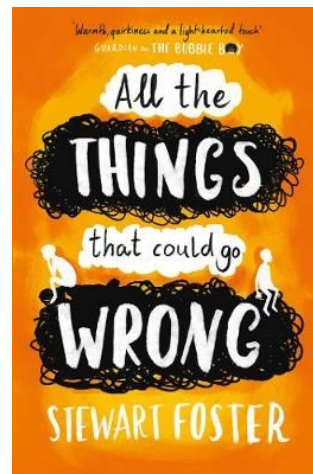
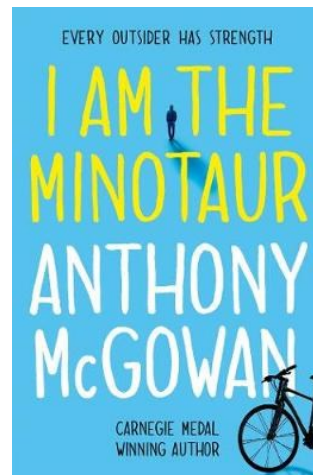
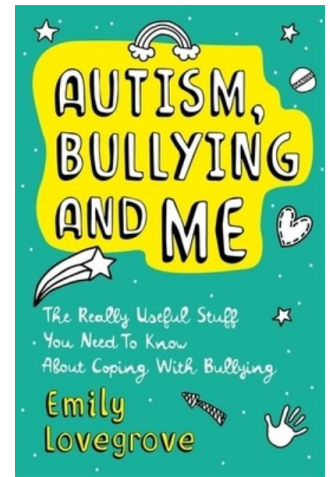
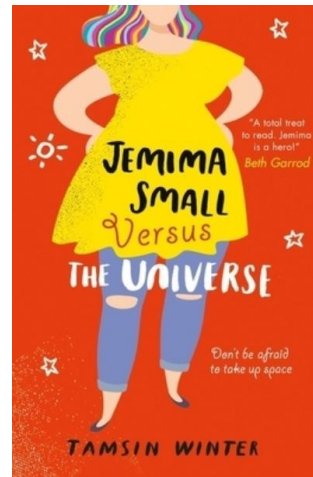
The week will kick off with Odd Socks Day on Monday 14th November, supported by BBC and CBeebies star Andy Day and his band Andy and the Odd Socks.

Our School Librarians have compiled a list of books about bullying to tie in with this year's theme, Reach Out.

BULLYING SUPPORT

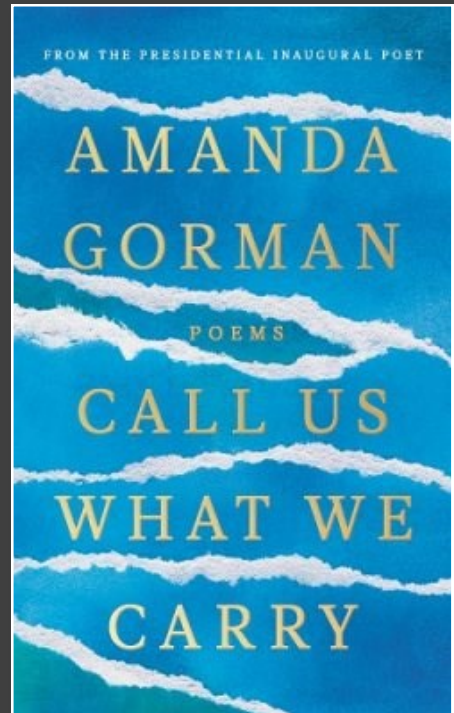
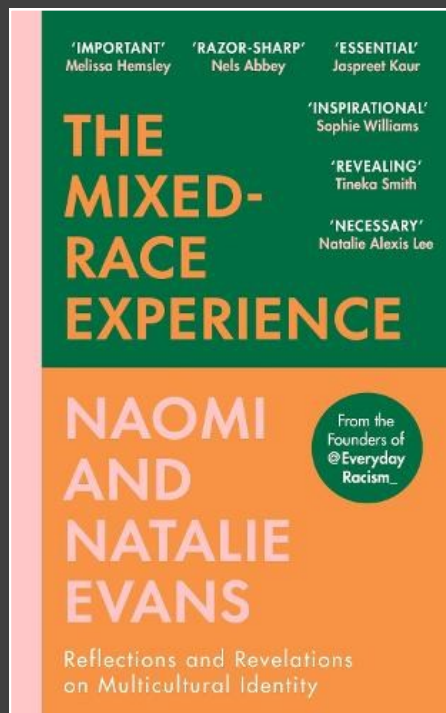
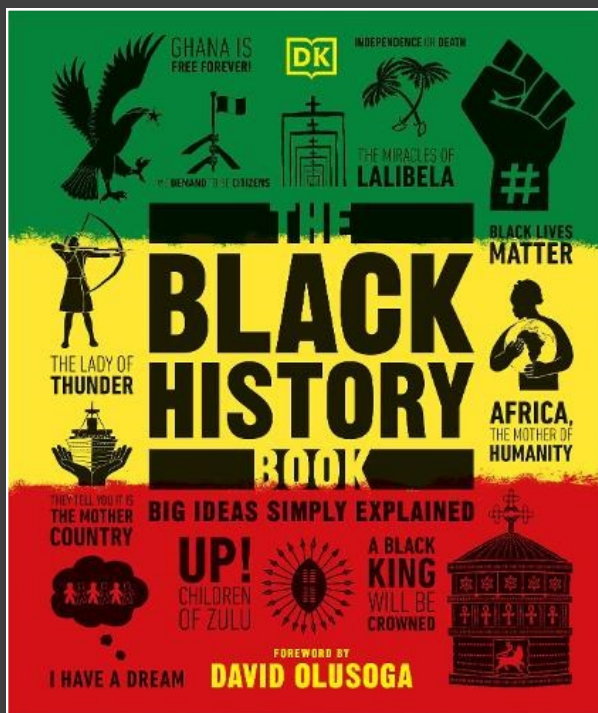
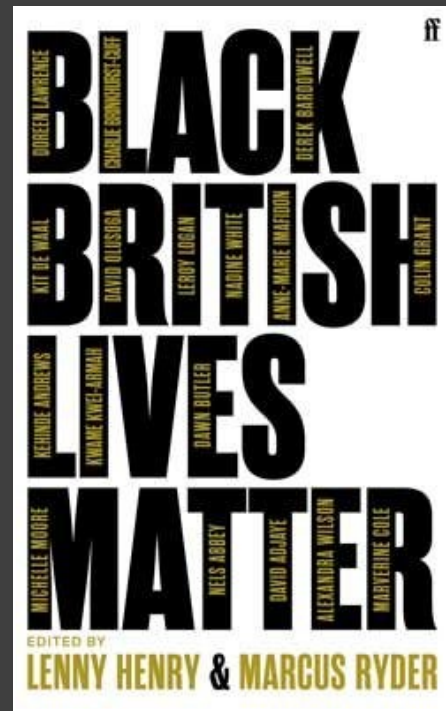
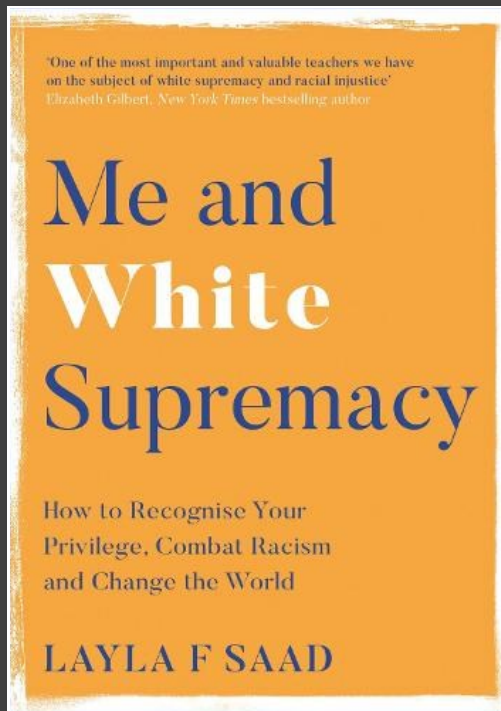
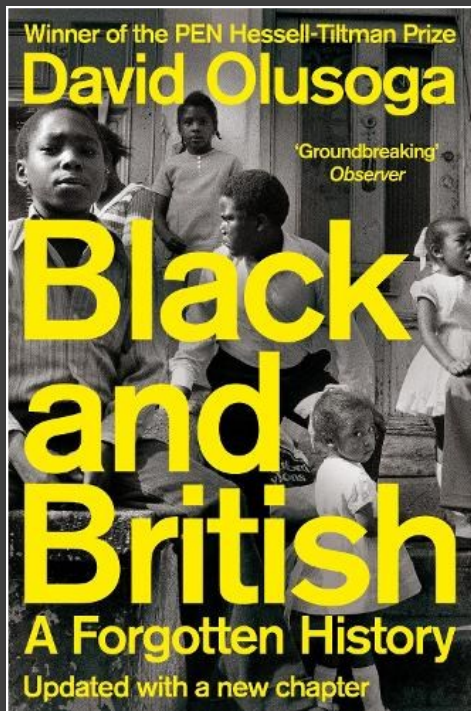


respectme
Scotland's Anti-Bullying Service



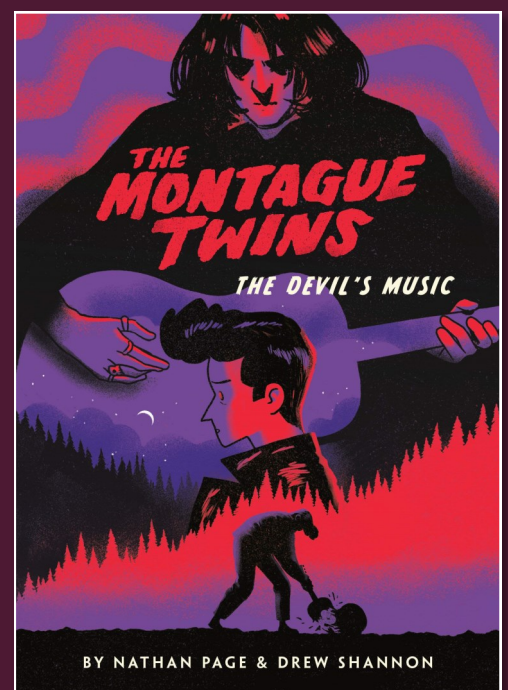
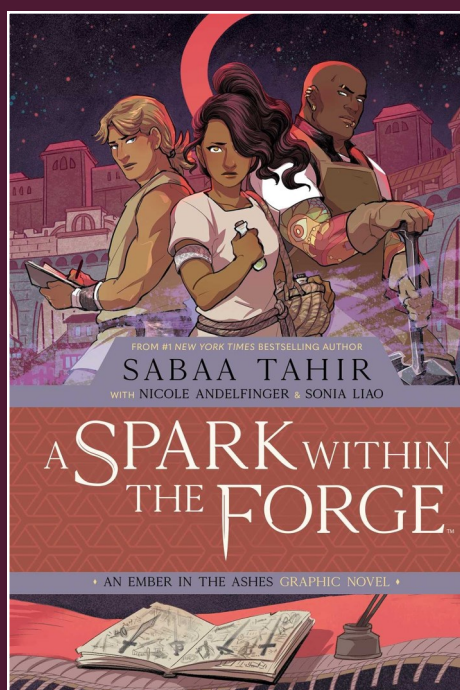
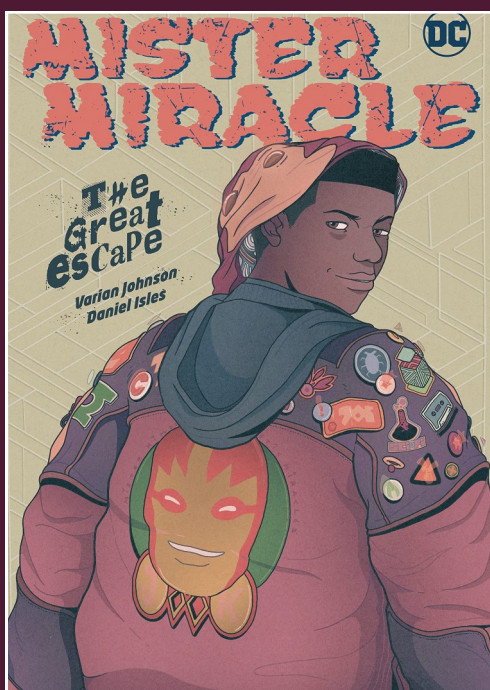
BIM

DIG DEEPER, LOOK CLOSER, THINK BIGGER



THE ROAD SO FAR

A look at some of the best comics published this year!



FEATURED MANGA: Magi: The Labyrinth of Magic

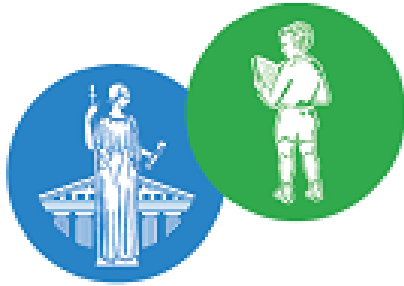




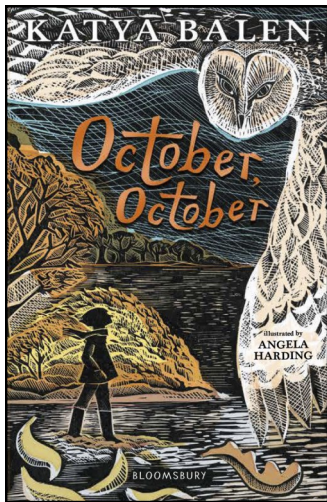
BOOK AWARDS



Highlights from this summer's book awards

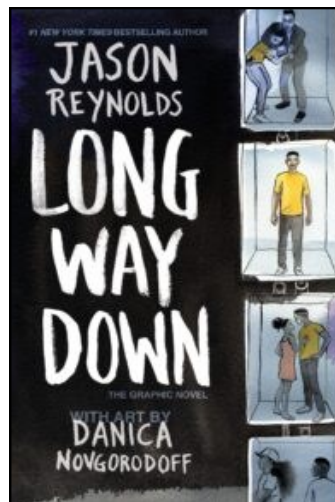


yoto CARNEGIE GREENAWAY AWARDS

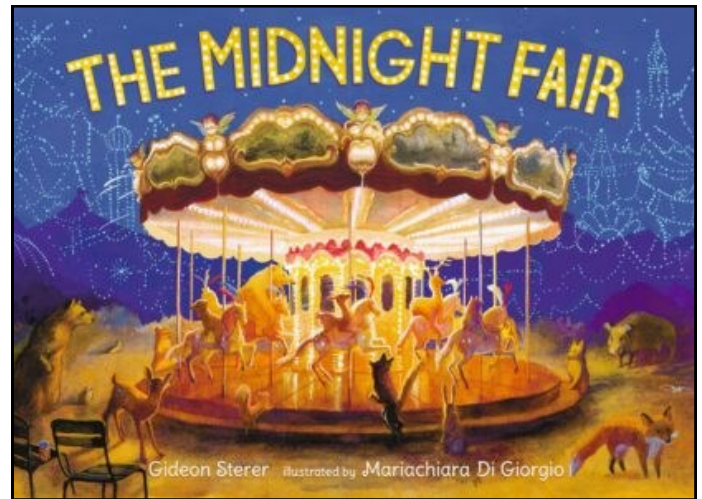


Carnegie Medal

Shadower's Choice Award

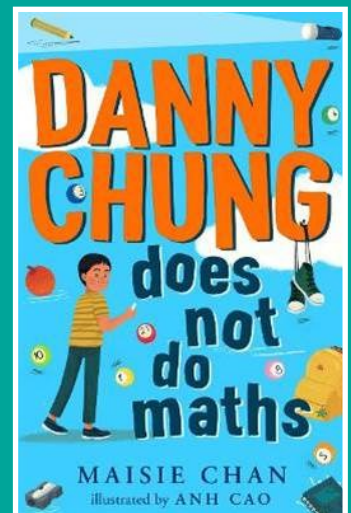
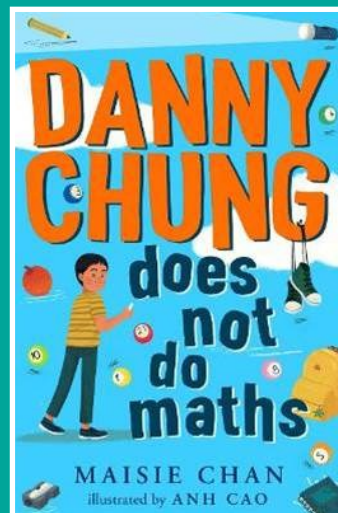


Greenaway Medal



Greenaway Shawdower's Choice

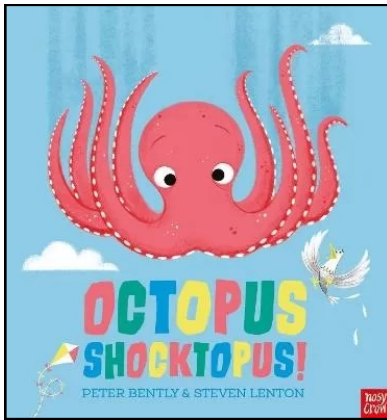
The Branford Boase Award



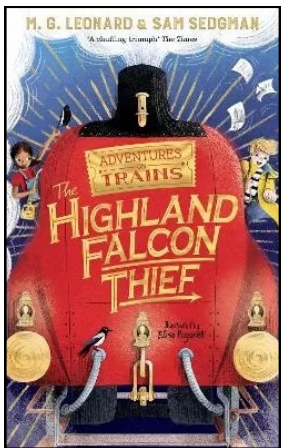


Children's Book Award

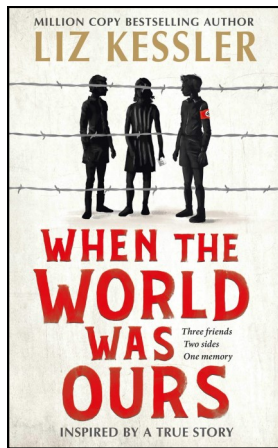
The Federation of Children's Book Groups
Registered Charity 268289



Overall Winner and Books for Younger Children



Younger Readers



Older Readers

MORE AWARDS

Women's
Prize for
Fiction
2022

2022
LOCUS AWARDS
WINNERS

INDIE
BOOK AWARDS



UPCOMING AWARDS

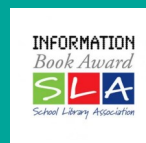
Sept



Oct



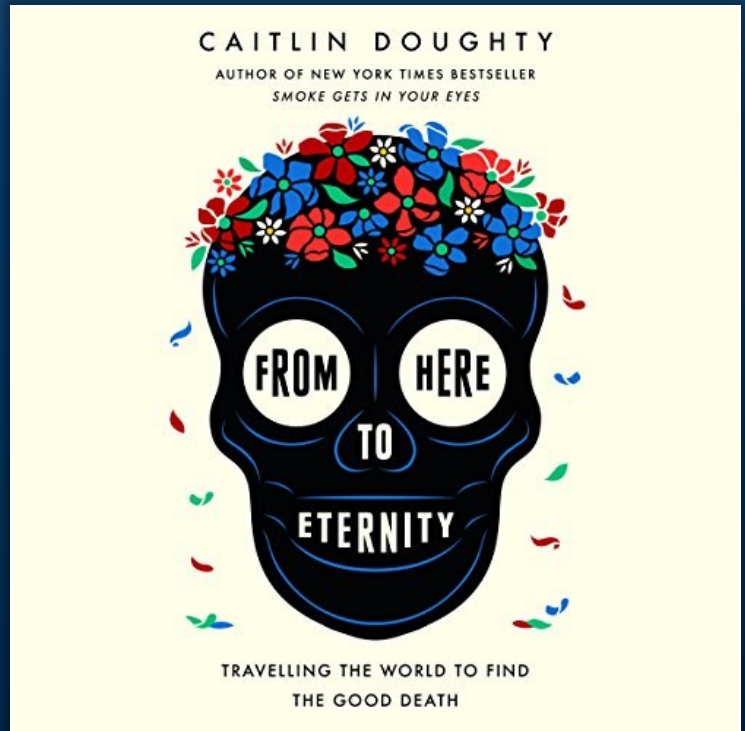
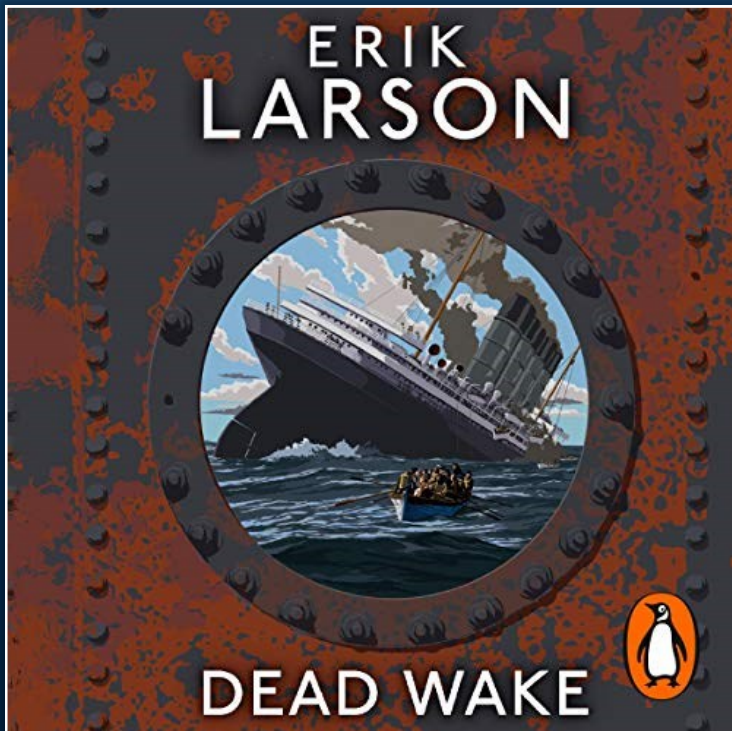
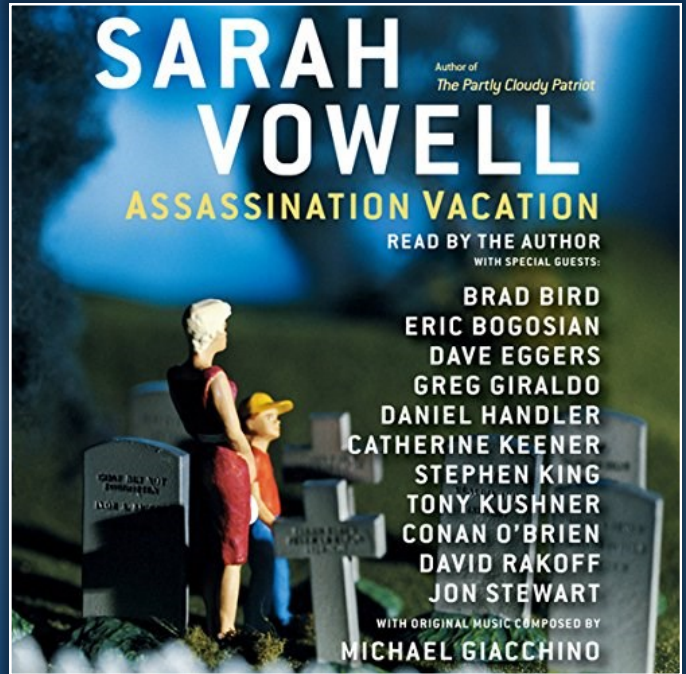
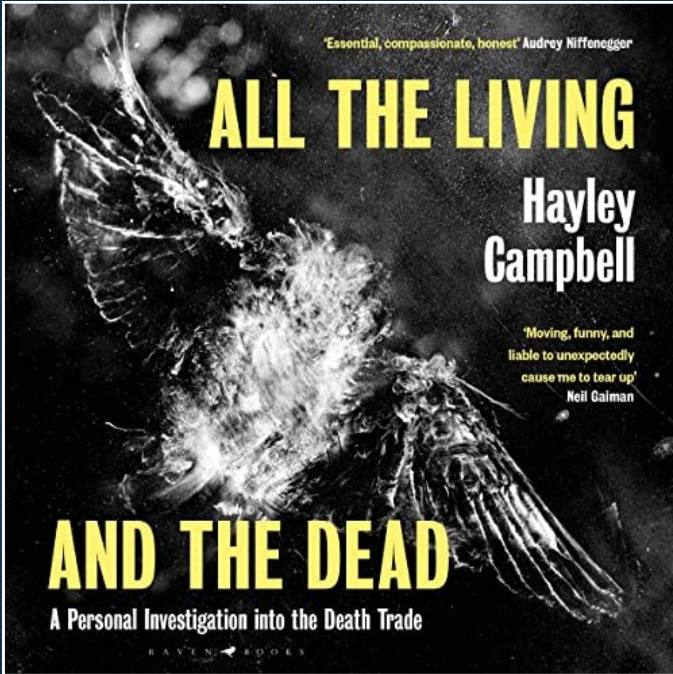
Nov



AUDACIOUS AUDIO

presents

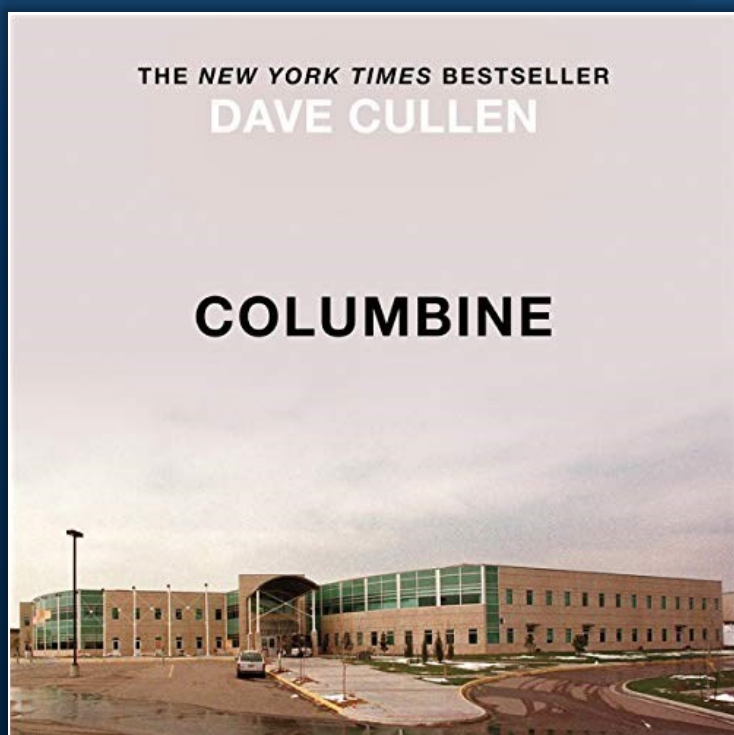
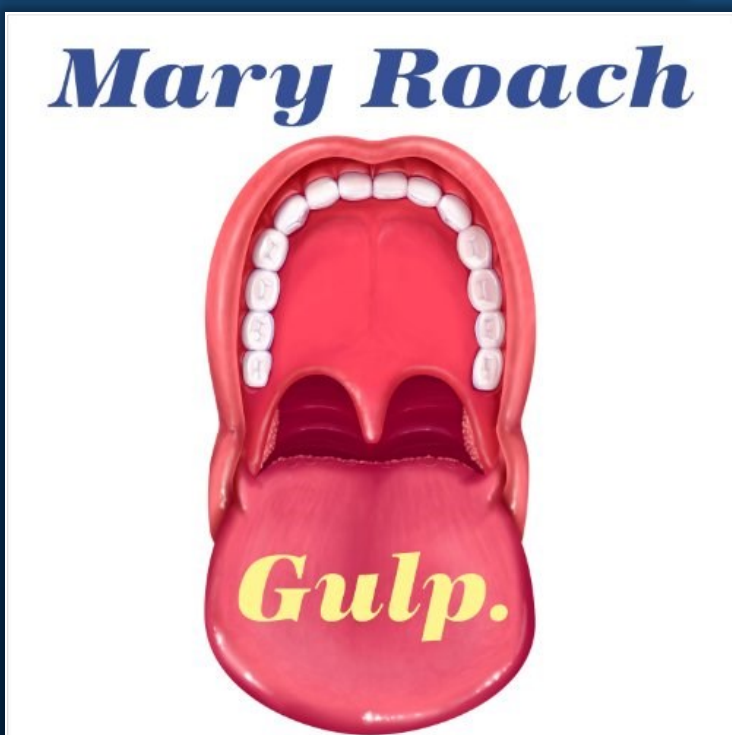
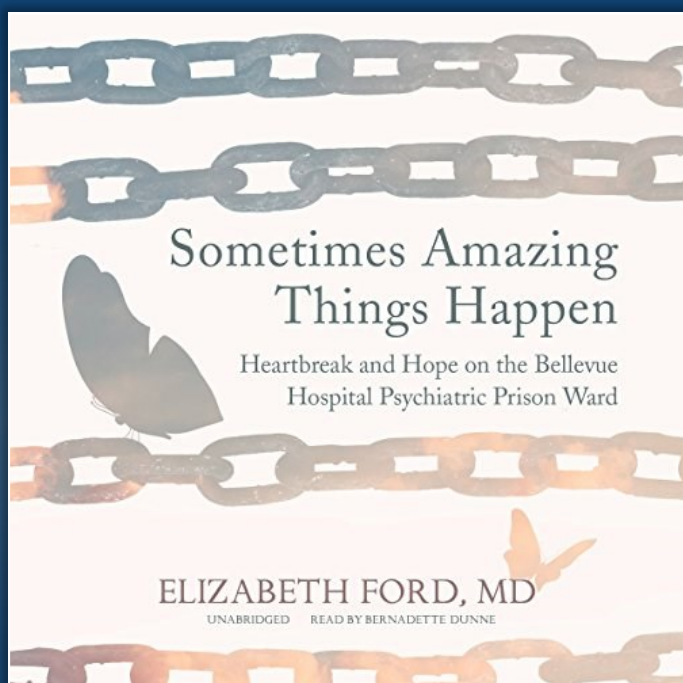
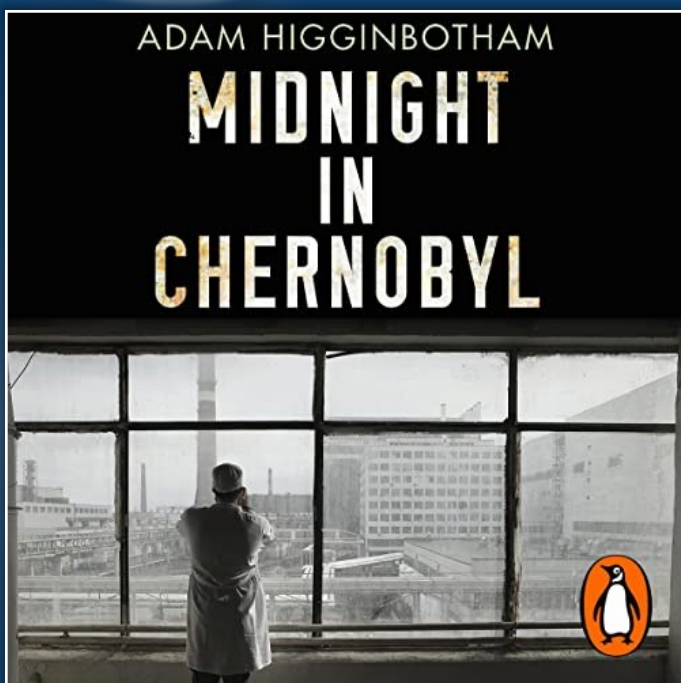
NONFICTION NOVEMBER



AUDACIOUS AUDIO

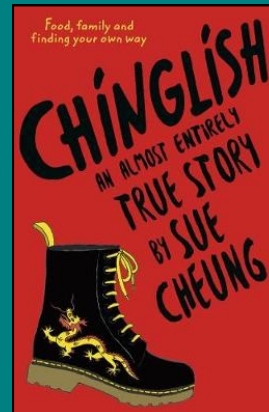
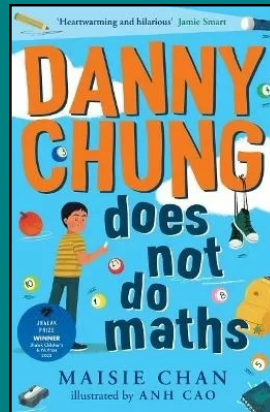
presents

NONFICTION NOVEMBER

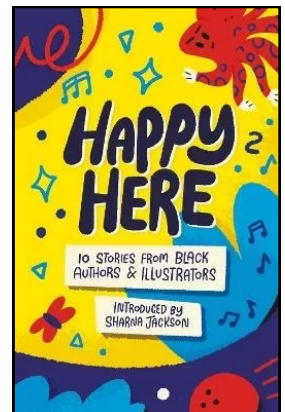
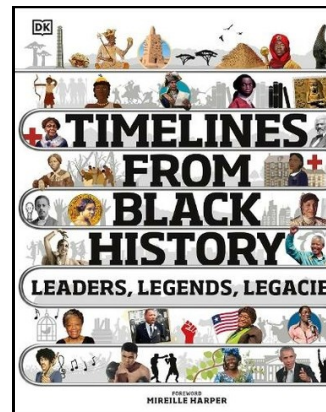
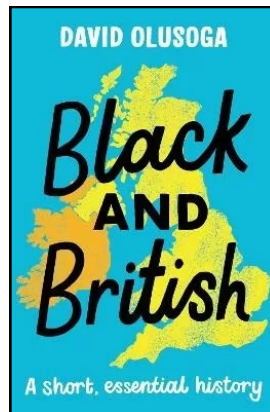


FEATURED BOOKLISTS

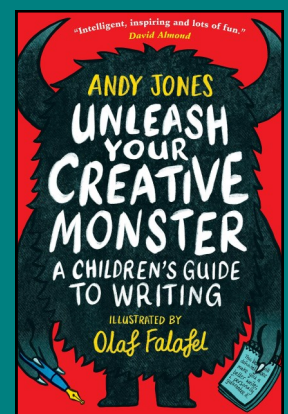
September | East and South East Asian Heritage Month



October | Black History Month



November | National Nonfiction November



EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW



MICHAELLE RICHARDSON

Photo: Sequoia Hearne

MICHAEL LEE RICHARDSON

Eastbank Academy pupils chat with BAFTA Scotland award-winning filmmaker, writer and youth worker Michael Lee Richardson who acted as the school's Author in Residence throughout 2021-2022.

Kaili: How long have you been a writer?

MLR: A lot of people say they've been writing since they could hold a pen, but that's not my story. I wrote my first script when I was 25, and I think that came from frustration more than anything else - I worked in a shop at the time, and was bored with my job! I loved watching TV and films and reading books, I've always loved stories. BBC Scotland ran a competition looking for new writers to write a comedy series based in Scotland, and I thought it would be a good chance to have a go at something new, and it was good to have a deadline to work towards. I wrote my first script for that. I didn't win the competition, but I got some really good feedback on my work from someone at BBC Scotland, and that really encouraged me to write another one, and another one, and another one - and I guess I just kept going!

Milosz: What made you want to be a writer?

MLR: I just love telling stories, I love making people laugh and I love coming up with new ideas, so writing felt the perfect job. Before I started writing, I had already had a lot of different jobs. I worked in a museum for a while, and then I worked as a tour guide around Glasgow - sometimes, if I didn't really know what I was looking at, I'd just make stuff up. I worked in a shop, selling school uniforms. I worked in Greggs. I trained as a teacher, and wasn't very good at it, so I quit. I worked in social media and events. I worked at the GFT. I worked as a youth worker for a long time, and loved it. I suppose, once I'd done all those jobs, I had no choice but to try writing - there weren't many jobs left to do!

Freya: What inspires you when you are writing books?

MLR: My ideas usually come from a strong image, either something I've seen in real life or something I've seen in a photo or a picture. I see someone and start

to think, who are they? Where are they going? Where have they come from? What's their story? The main idea for my short film *My Loneliness is Killing Me* came from walking home from work one night - I used to work till quite late, which is great for people watching! - and seeing this person dressed up really glamorously, in this huge fur coat, who looked really, really sad. On the bus home I was thinking, who is that person? What were their expectations for their night? How did they end up so sad? And the story for the film more or less fell into place, on that bus ride!

Elliott: How did you celebrate your first book release?

MLR: My first full-length books actually came out during the pandemic, so celebration options were limited to a takeaway and a Zoom launch party, unfortunately!

Bug: Is it hard to write books/poems?

MLR: Sometimes! But usually I find when something is hard, it's because something's not really working - and that usually means I have to go back to the start, re-trace my steps, take the idea apart and pull out what I really like about it, then try and put it back together again. When an idea is really good, it's really easy to write.

Brodie: How do you concentrate on writing for long periods of time?

MLR: With great difficulty! I really like a thing called the Pomodoro Method. It's named after the tomato-shaped timer that's really popular in countries like Italy and Spain (countries where they cook a lot of tomatoes, I guess!). The idea is that you sit down to do some work and set a timer for 20 minutes, then work through the time and stop. You then set your timer for 10 minutes, and spend that time doing anything other than work. Once you've done a few rounds of that, you find you've got a bunch of works, and then you have something to work with.

Calvin: What are the stages of writing a book?

MLR: There are lots of different ways to write a book or a script, and people find what works for them. For me, I need to figure out who the characters are and how they relate to each other, and I usually find that the story comes from there. I'm someone who likes to plot everything out, first, and have the story and the plot - how we get from a to b to c - figured out before I start writing. That plotting part is the hardest part, for me, but I need to do it or I find myself getting lost quite quickly! Once I've got that figured out, though, the rest of it comes pretty easily. Putting in the dialogue and the jokes and stuff is the best bit.

Lauren: What do you enjoy about writing?

MLR: Most of the time I actually don't like writing - I usually have to trick myself into doing any work - but I love the feeling of having written! I love it when you can sit back, and see this whole bunch of words that you've written, this story and these characters you've created, or this idea you've come up with. That's when the fun bit starts, for me, when you can start pulling that into some form to share with other people.

Elliott: Do you ever think about retiring?

MLR: All the time! Usually when I'm in the middle of writing something and it's not going well! But I don't think I could, really. Even if I wasn't writing as a job or as a career, I think I'd still be coming up with stories in my head.

Katie: What are your Top 3 books of all time?

MLR: That's a tough one! My friend once told me that the literary character I reminded him of was Lucy from a book called *Not Wanted on the Voyage* by a Canadian author called Timothy Findley, and I'd never read it so he gave me his copy. Lucy is a mysterious seven-foot-tall woman with webbed fingers and toes, who dresses incredibly goth and carries a parasol, who is eventually revealed to be the devil in disguise. And my friend was completely right, me and Lucy are very alike! The other ones are *White Teeth* by Zadie Smith, which was the first book I ever read that was all the things I like in a book, fast and packed and funny with a great set of characters; and the *Carry On* series by Rainbow Rowell, perfect for fans of Harry Potter, snappily dressed vampires and gay wizards.

Could you recommend some of your favourite books, TV shows, movies, podcasts?

MLR: Books: The best book I've read recently was *Rockstar and Softboy*, a graphic novel by Sina Grace

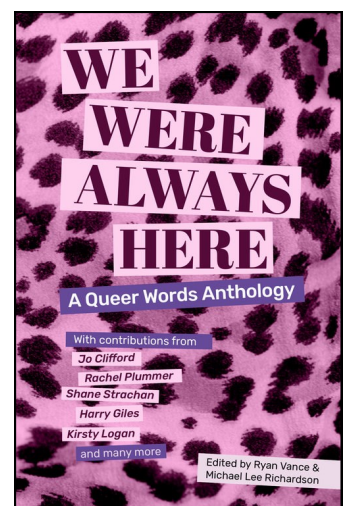
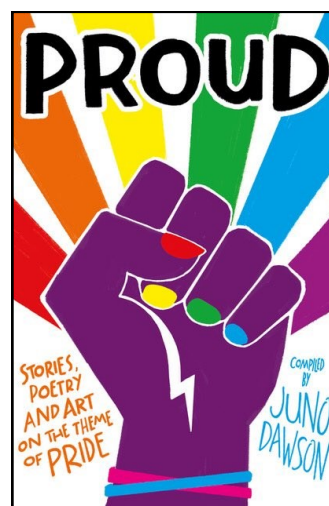
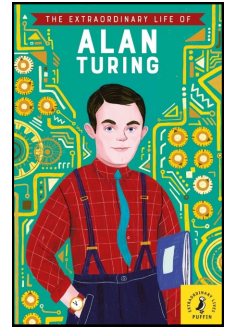
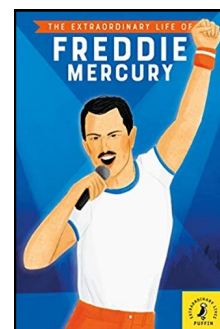
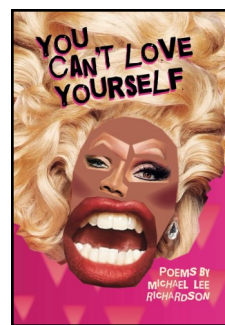
about two gay best friends throwing a party and accidentally summoning a demon - hilarious and fun, and great to see gay friendship represented in stories.

TV Shows: *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*, my forever favorite!

Movies: I always say if I was teaching screenwriting I'd make people sit down and watch *Legally Blonde* every week and then we'd just sit down and talk about *Legally Blonde* - and I stand by that, that's a great film!

Podcasts: I love *You're Wrong About*, which goes back to iconic news stories from the 90s and reexamines them with a fresh perspective; and *Things Gay People Like*, a really funny podcast about... well, things gay people like (I was on the episode about *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*!).

BOOKS AND STORIES



FOLLOW

hrfmichael.co.uk

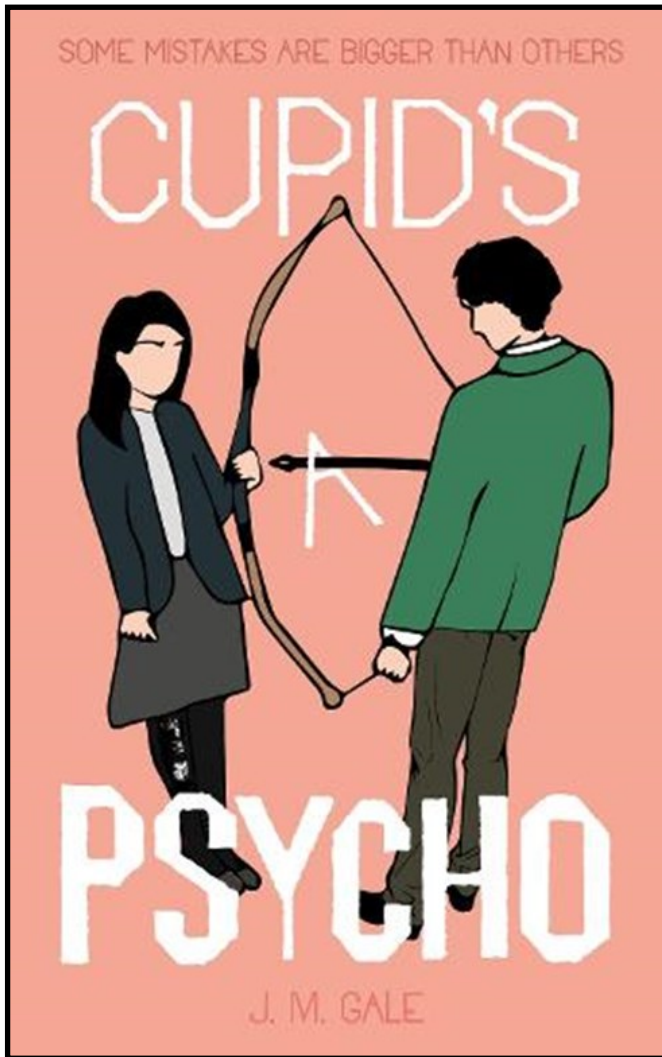
[@HRFMichael](https://twitter.com/HRFMichael)



Photo: Jen Gale

J.M. GALE

S4 pupils from Hillpark Secondary School chat with author J.M. Gale about their writing process and debut novel, *Cupid's A Psycho*, a contemporary love story set in Glasgow



Caitlin: Why did you decide to write/publish the book?

JG: I like telling stories, at school it was quite literally the only thing I was good at. Every young person who declares a desire to write will be told how tough it is. It's certainly true and early on I felt that I had something to prove. Consequently, my writing could be very dense and indigestible. I now aim for a good story well told.

Caitlin: Did you always want to become an author or was it random?

JG: Yes, since childhood though there was a period when I wanted to be a vet. Aged twelve I was put to work shovelling sheep poo. The farmer was amused by the regularity with which I slipped over on sheep placenta. If I had got my science brain together, I would have made a very accident-prone vet.

Caitlin: Have you always enjoyed English and writing?

JG: I was lucky to be taught by gifted storytellers. I hated learning about nouns, verbs and adjectives in

primary school as it seemed to ruin an otherwise enjoyable subject. It was only when I was introduced to Philip Larkin that I saw the value in getting technical.

Hannah A: How long did it take you to write the book?

JG: Too long. It's set in 2016 and I started it a few years later.

Hannah A: How did you start writing it? Did you have a plan?

JG: Cupid's a Psycho started with an overheard conversation. I had a good sketch of a plot after a few wrong turns. Once I knew the characters and where they were going to end up, I worked out how to get there without obvious contrivance. I didn't want the reader to have to suspend their disbelief.

Hannah P: Were there any characters that didn't make the cut in the book? Why's that?

JG: If there were, they could have been cut early on. It can get confusing for the reader and painstaking for the writer, when you introduce too many people too quickly. Core characters need to be identified early on and earn their keep.

Hannah P: Why did you use the subjects that are in the book? Are they related to your past?

JG: It's inevitable that my past will have some influence. I would go to great lengths to avoid confrontation whereas Blithe, the central character, often seeks it. I knew many girls like her and I avoided them, an act of monumental snobbery. When it comes to the boys in the book, I knew so many who were supportive friends and many who were almost maternal to younger kids. No one person inspired one particular character but it just seemed they were missing in literature. Many of the kids who had once struggled alongside me at primary school, continued to struggle into their teens and in some cases to unravel. I've watched that process and that certainly influenced one character. This book makes no mention of a prom or dance. These kids sit in their rooms listening to music and come together when parents foolishly go away for the night. That's exactly what I did.

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GLASGOW SCHOOL LIBRARY SPOTLIGHT: LOCHEND COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL



Lochend Community High School is a co-educational non-denominational secondary school in Easterhouse, in the north east of Glasgow. The school was originally opened in 1963 and moved into its new campus in 2002.

Interview with Lochend Community High School Librarian: Miss Clarke

How long have you been the librarian at Lochend?

I have been the librarian at Lochend for 5 years, since September 2017.

Why did you become a librarian?

I became a librarian a bit later in the day than some. As I was considering making the big step of changing my career, I wanted to make sure the change was geared towards something I enjoyed. It didn't take me long to settle on librarianship. It might be a bit of a stock response, but I've always loved reading and libraries. I always visit the main city libraries whenever I'm on holiday. I managed three out of four on my last trip to Manchester. Not bad for a two-day visit. Library nerd!

What genre(s) of books do you like?

I don't think I'm much of a genre reader as such. Generally, I like modern and contemporary literary fiction. I don't mind a bit of sci-fi, although usually mainly dystopian fiction (it has to be pretty bleak and set on Earth). Some of my favourite authors are Toni Morrison, James Baldwin, Graham Greene,

Agnes Owens, Philip Roth and Christopher Isherwood.

What are you currently reading?

They by Kay Dick, which is a recently rediscovered novella, originally published in 1977 - an unsettling, chilling dystopian novel where the mysterious, sinister group 'They' roam English coastal villages seeking to destroy creativity. I can only read one chapter at a time as I feel so overwhelmed with the feeling of dread. Ticks both boxes! (see above). I'm also reading Underground Railroad by Colson Whitehead which is an absorbing and interesting alternate history on the horror of slavery. I'm finding it difficult to put down. It's certainly living up to the numerous awards it's won. I've started but failed to continue with a couple of books recently. They shall remain nameless.

What animal do you most identify with?

Turkeys. Apparently, they enjoy listening to music and often loudly sing along. Or so I've read.

LIBRARY SPOTLIGHT



As Lochend is a reasonably small school with classes visiting frequently, I have loved the opportunity to get to know the pupils well. This year, we have had regular library visits from pupils in the ENP base. Supporting them with their activities and having a chat with them has been the highlight of my week.

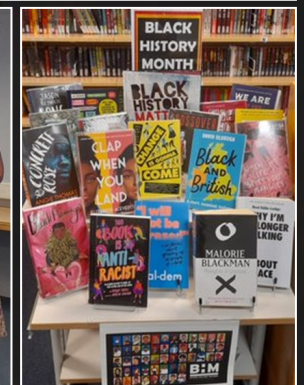
We are a busy and vibrant space with lots going on throughout the year. We have been focussing on supporting the school in their journey towards gaining a Silver Award from LGBT Youth Scotland. I am part of the LGBT Champions Group and we have hosted meetings in the library. The library is also an informal lunchtime meeting place for pupils who are part of the group. They have helped to create displays, chosen books to add to the LGBTQI+ collection and taken part in insightful discussions as to how present the collection. We also hosted an event in the library with writer Michael Lee Richardson, where a group of young people were given the opportunity to work together to create a beautiful collaborative poem about pride. I'm really looking forward to continuing to work with this brilliant group of young people.

It has been a busy year for author events in the library. As well as working with Michael, we have also hosted author visits from Tamsin Winter (as part of the Wee Write Festival) and Victoria Williamson. There will be another author event in the new term as part of the SLIF EAL (English as an Additional Language) book group project that we have also been part of over the past school year. Watch this space!

Another high point of the year in the library at Lochend, was working with the University of Glasgow's Whitewater Writers project. A group of our S3s worked collaboratively to write and produce a novel in five days. On the fifth day the novel was uploaded to Amazon and is now available to buy ([link here](#)). To celebrate the achievement, we held a signing event in the library, which was attended by other pupils and teachers. It was great to see how well the young people worked together and to see their excitement at getting to hold the finished novel in their hands.

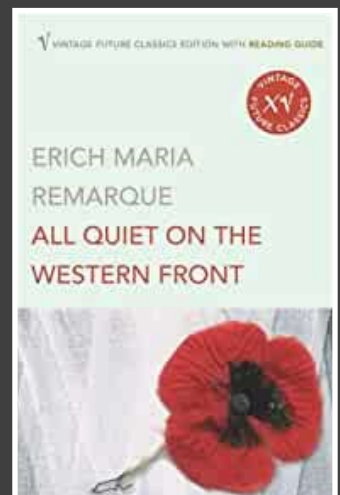
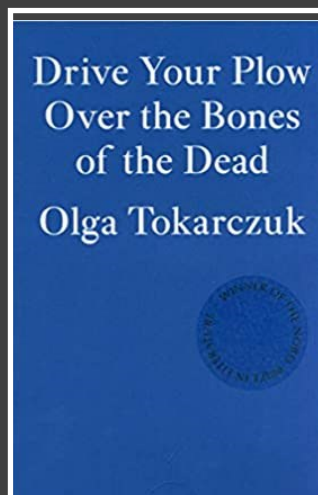
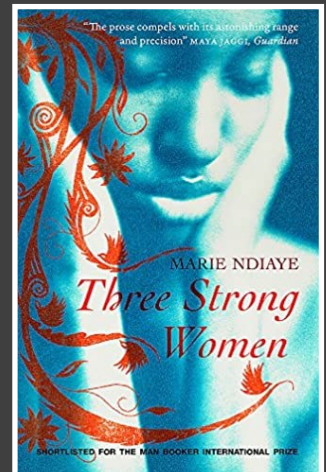
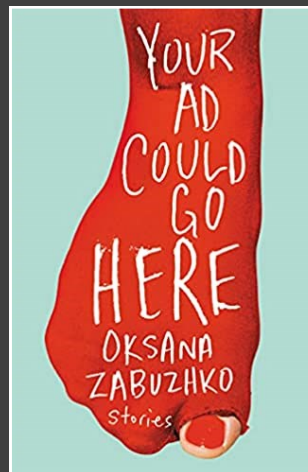
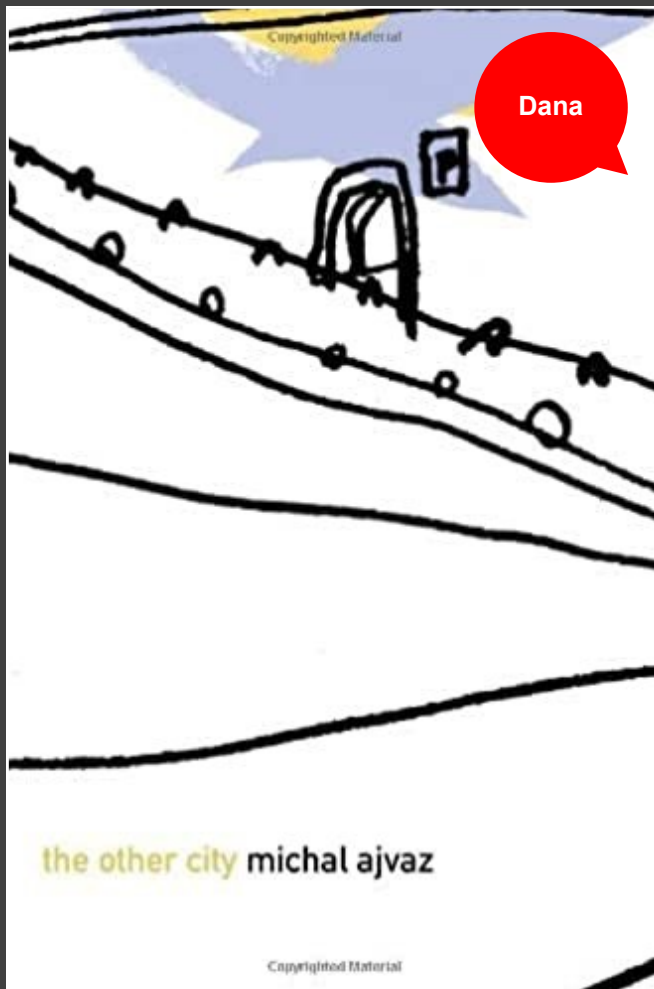
Every year we also celebrate World Book Day, Book Week Scotland and other special times. There are crafts, games, quizzes, other activities, free books and competitions. This year S1 and S2 classes had lots of fun on World Book Day competing to complete an online escape room challenge.

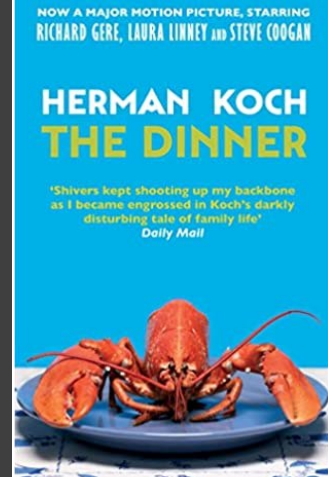
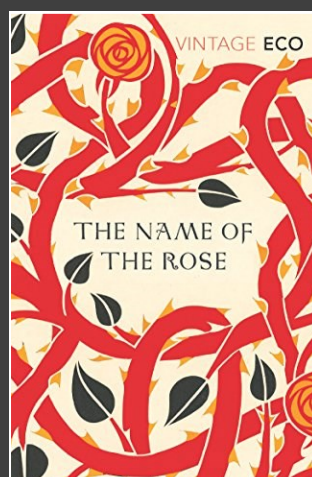
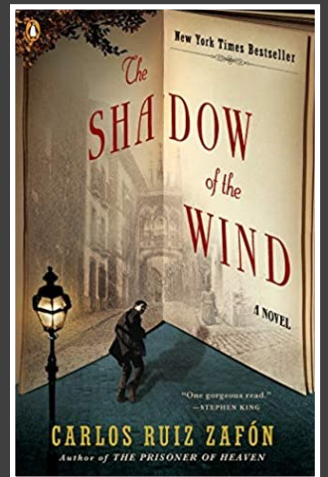
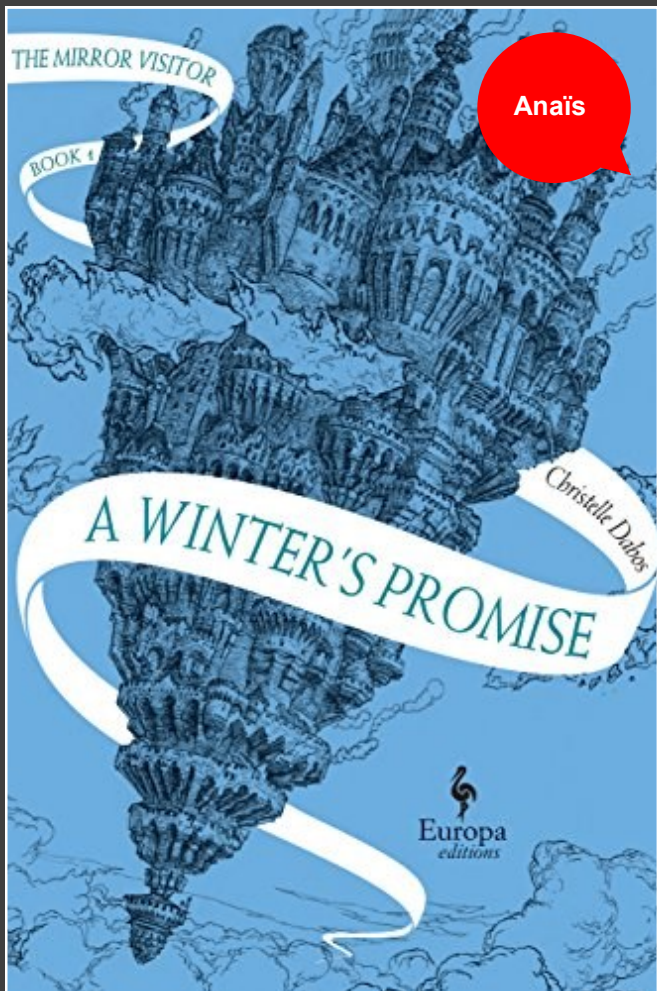
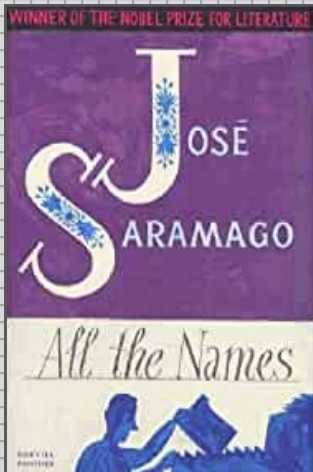
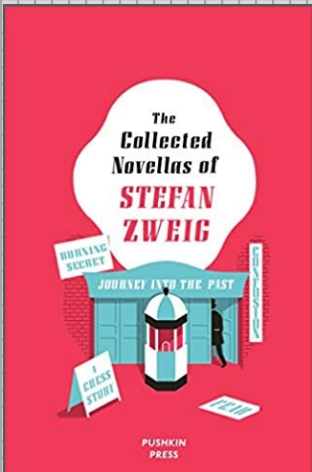
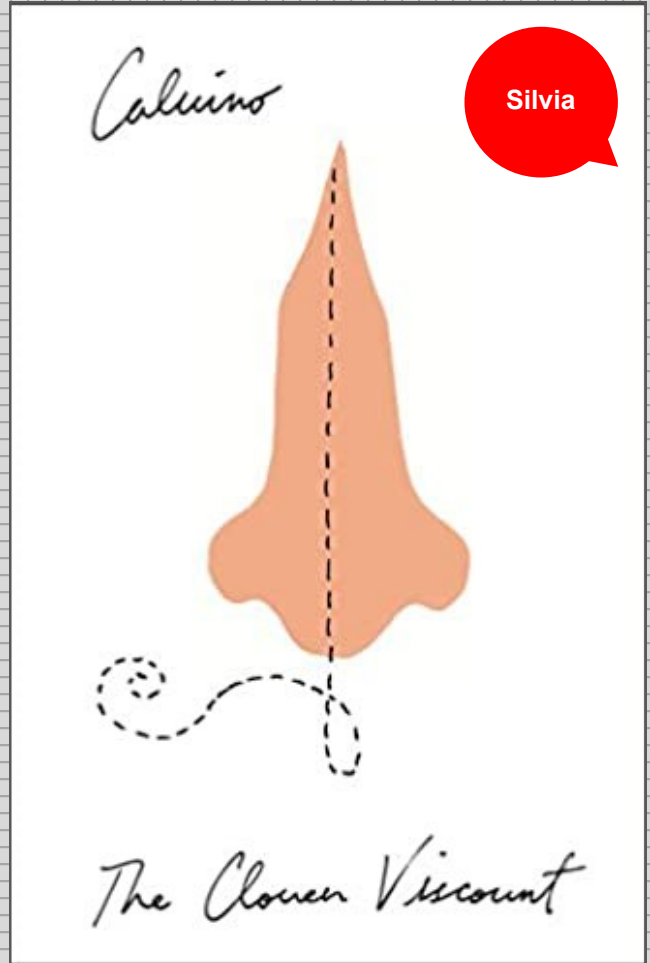
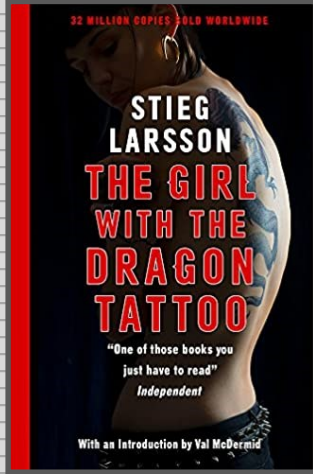
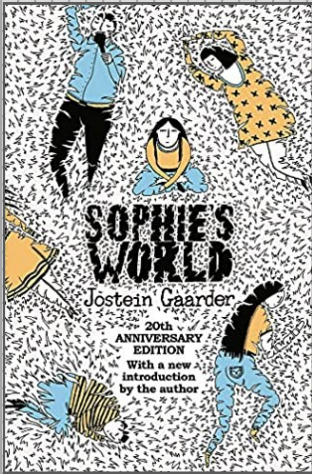
Finally, we were thrilled to win over 100 new books for the library through the Penguin Lit in Colour project which aims to support inclusive reading in schools (<https://www.penguin.co.uk/lit-in-colour> and <https://twitter.com/i/status/1451150734179852288>). Some really interesting titles that have been enjoyed by both staff and pupils.



Found in translation

To celebrate the European Day of Languages in September, we have a selection of novels which have been translated into English from a European language. Our wonderful school librarians Dana, Silvia and Anaïs have recommended titles in their own first languages (Czech, Italian and French).





LET'S CREATE!

ORIGAMI PUMPKIN

PERFECT FOR HALLOWEEN!

Supplies:

1 square of paper of any size or colour.
Example: orange and green 21x21 cm



1



Fold side to side and corner to corner to create the guide lines shown.

2



Fold opposite corners in towards each other to create a square base, open at the top.

3



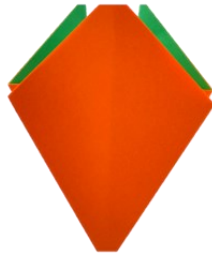
Fold the left and right edges to the centre as shown on the top layer of the square, then unfold.

4



Use this new fold to open and collapse the flap so the outer edge is folded into the centre.

5



Repeat steps 3 and 4 on the remaining sides to create a kite shape.

6



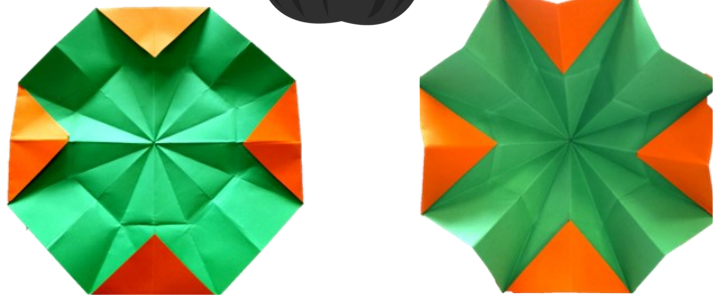
Fold the top paper point down inside to create a triangle. Repeat on all sides.

7



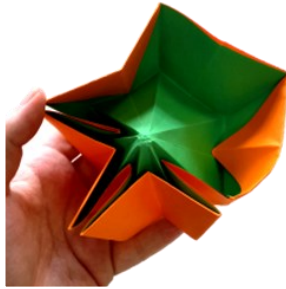
Fold the bottom point of the triangle up to sit just over the top line. Then unfold the paper as shown.

8



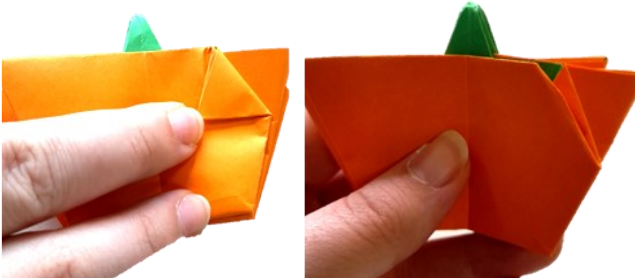
This stage involves carefully going over all your fold lines to make sure they are crisp and moving in the right direction. This will make it easier to complete the next stage. Make sure there are alternating mountain and valley folds all around.

9



Carefully begin to fold the shape back together. The green centre should be folded up towards you, and enclosed by the orange outside. Pinch your way around the shape until you have reached the form on the right.

10



Fold flat, then on one flap at a time, fold down a small triangle, unfold, then take the fold inside the shape.

Repeat on every flap all around then reshape your pumpkin to finish!



Make in different colours for a spooky display!



Test your knowledge on famous witches in literature



1. In which hotel do witches have their meeting at in the book *The Witches* by Roald Dahl?

- A. Premier Inn
- B. The Hotel Magnificent
- C. Courtyard

2. Who froze Narnia in the Hundred Years Winter?

- A. White Witch
- B. Snow Witch
- C. Ice Witch

3. What's the name of the black speaking cat from *Sabrina the Teenage Witch* book series?

- A. Salem
- B. Luna
- C. Archie

4. Which book by Eiko Kadono about a young witch trying to make a living was turned into a famous animated movie by Hayao Miyazaki?

- A. The Worst Witch
- B. Earwig and the Witch
- C. Kiki's Delivery Service

5. Where does the witch Nova Huang from graphic novel *Mooncakes* work?

- A. The Local Library
- B. Her Grandmother's Bookshop
- C. Witch Academy

6. Who is Hannah forced to work with to defeat the evil Blood Witch in the book *These Witches Don't Burn?*

- A. Her werewolf father
- B. Her vampire classmate Jemma
- C. Her ex-girlfriend Veronica



ANSWERS: 1B, 2A, 3A, 4C, 5B, 6C

Three-Ingredient Peanut Butter Cookies

You will need:

- 250g peanut butter
- 250g granulated sugar
- 1 large egg

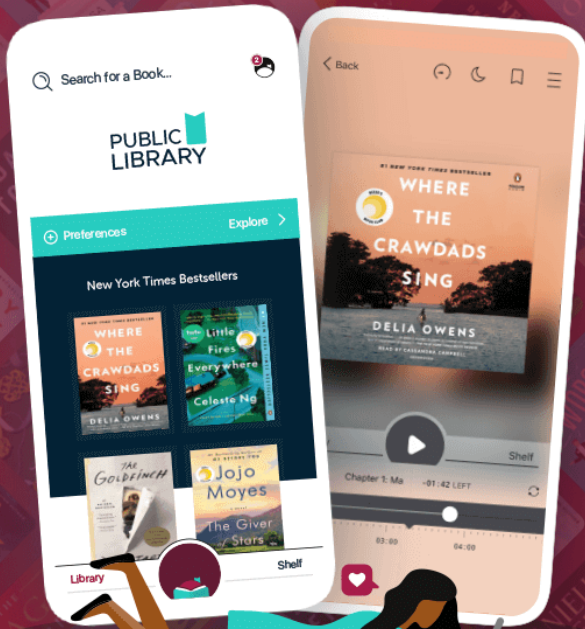
Instructions:

1. Combine ingredients in a bowl until smooth.
2. Form the mixture into balls, approximately 1 tbsp in size and place onto a lined baking tray, at least 1 inch apart.
3. Press down on the top of the cookies with a fork, creating a crosshatch pattern (pictured).
4. Bake at 180 degrees for 10 minutes.
5. They'll be very soft when they come out of the oven, so let them cool for 15 minutes before transferring them to a plate.
6. Enjoy!



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