



Swatch

Glasgow School Libraries' eMagazine

WEE
write.



Q+A'S :
DARREN SIMPSON

>>>>



>> ELY PERCY <<



>> S.M. WILSON <<

>> PLUS <<

NY ALI: COMICS RECS
BOOK REVIEWS
POEMS + SHORT STORIES
CRAFTS / QUIZ / RECIPE
BOOK LISTS GALORE



From the Editors...

Welcome to our first interactive issue! Tap a book cover picture to learn more about the book. This feature is only available on the PDF document, but you can still have a quick browse in our online flip-book format.

Smithycroft, Knightswood, and St Mungo's pupils interview authors Ely Percy, Darren Simpson, and S.M. Wilson as part of Glasgow Libraries' Wee Write! festival.

Our comic spotlight features Glasgow-based designer and illustrator, Ny Ali (a.k.a. Nytastic) who shares her favourite comics.

On top of our usual content, St Andrew's, Shawlands Academy and All Saints pupils have compiled some excellent lists for Dive Into History, Senior Nonfiction, and Freegal. Happy reading!

Staff Contributors:

Upcoming Releases Ms Sferrazzo

Manga Ms. Sferrazzo

Comics Miss McGlinn w/ Ny Ali

Funniest Fiction Miss McGlinn

Sports Mr. Wason

Dive into History Mr McGregor

Shelf Help Miss O'Neill & Ms Spaltro

Awards Ms DeLeavey

Audacious Audio Ms Sferrazzo

Q+A w/ Ely Percy Miss Neumannova & Smithycroft Secondary School pupils

Q+A w/ Darren Simpson Ms Spaltro & Knightswood Secondary School pupils

Q+A w/ S.M. Wilson Ms Cayzak & St. Mungo's Academy pupils

School Library Spotlight Ms Sferrazzo & Mr. Hogg

Senior Fiction Ms Clarke

Craft Miss West

Recipe Ms Sferrazzo

Quiz Miss Neumannova

Lost Mines of Phandalin: Miss O'Neill

Editors: Ms DeLeavey & Ms Sferrazzo

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SHOW YOUR TALENT

Submit your

ART

**SHORT
STORIES**

POEMS

Fireplace Encouragement

by Kaspian, S1

All Saints Secondary

Sitting by the fireplace

So warm and so very bright.

Every time it crackles,

It gives me a fright.

My dog sleeping near in a curled position,

Watching my brother run along the carpet,

Making friction.

"I love my family" I say,

Eating bread

I should get ahead, and be early to bed,

Fall asleep quick...laying in bed

Hearing a tick,

The clock going off,

The day is over.

No need to scoff,

There is always tomorrow

Go get that book you wanted to borrow,

Go, do the thing you wanted to do.

Don't imagine.

It's all up to you.

Kaspian's wonderful poem is the result of an S1/S2 poetry workshop with the Belfast-based Glaswegian poet Charles Lang in All Saints Secondary School. The classes took part in an inspiring session based on the theme of 'Home'.



Carbon Fields

By Genevieve , S3

Saint Thomas Aquinas Secondary School

Smoke and steam seeped into my lungs contaminating the bitter, cold morning air. The sheared steel beams loomed over my head, threatening to collapse. Soot covered the track, three inches deep. The platform stretched for miles. Over time, its bright yellow paint had worn away leaving a mustard-coloured residue. The metal of the bench was icy, causing my bare skin to become raw.

The metal hand of the rusty clock struck eight. Only 7 hours left. I went over to the track and sat down, swinging my legs back and forth. I ran my fingers over the eroded bumps that warn people that the edge is near. However, I had no use for this warning as there have been no trains on this track since 2030, maybe earlier. Another hour had passed as the clock struck nine. Only 6 hours left. At this point, I was biding my time until there was too much carbon to breathe properly.

I hopped down from the ledge onto the sooty layer concealing the track. If I wanted to find out what happened I'd have to take the long route, tracing the tracks laid out by history. Three hours passed and still no answer at this point. It was useless to go on further. But still I persisted. A quick look at my watch informed me I only had 5 hours left; soon enough it would be time to depart this metropolis. Or die.

I heard a deep rumbling, and the track shook as if an earthquake was imminent. I felt as if the ground was going to devour me. Then I peered into the cloud of smoke that concealed the rest of the track from which emerged a freshly painted red steam train, like the ones you see in history books. The ones from the 1850s. At this point, I realised I didn't want to die. I hurried to the edge of the track and flattened myself against the railings as the train hurtled onwards. I checked my watch: only 4 hours left of oxygen and already my thoughts were hazy and in danger of being derailed. Should I turn back and experience the comfort of a false security or continue onward.

Onwards. I walked no goal in mind - just a nice stroll. A never ending one. The further I walked, the more desolate my surroundings became, changing from city skyscrapers to the rolling hills of countryside. Then nothing. The sky morphed into an endless grey field of clouds. The grass slowly decayed into what can only be described as barren wasteland, devoid of life. But still I walked forward. Cold winter wind battering me backwards, I fought my way forward, my shawl wrapped around me trying to contain the body heat that was rapidly depleting. I kept my head down until colour caught my attention. A blue butterfly unaffected by the violence of the weather. Unconcerned that the ice-cold wind could freeze the wings of its tiny body. Eventually the wind became so fierce my knees gave way, leaving me on the ground.

Slowly, my eyes opened shattering the scrim of ice that had formed on my eyelashes. I could see my breath forming clouds before my eyes. I looked at my watch. Five minutes left. I was aroused from my sleepy thoughts by the butterfly which had landed on my nose, its majestic wings resting on my face. Its wings were frigid like an ice rink on a winter's morning.

I rose to my feet. I had nowhere to go. I wouldn't be able to find my way back after walking for hours. The butterfly flew back and forth between me and the undiscovered plains. It flew back one more time before fluttering away. I followed. Forcing my stiff legs to continue, I walked for hours and hours, or so it felt. Eventually we made it back to the station. I had only departed from this station hours ago, but it felt like years. I had made it back. Rosy red ears, flushed cheeks and white as a sheet but still I was alive. The butterfly hovered above me for a minute before ascending to the clouds. In an act of desperation, I reached out to my only company; my hope. Snap. Its fragile wings drifted to the ground. My blood ran cold, all colour drained from my face. I collapsed to the ground, distraught. Tears rolled down my face as I looked at my hands, there were no wings, no body. My eyes were drawn to the track. People bustling full of joy and happiness their translucent skin glistening in the evening sun.

"Finally. I made it. Friend."

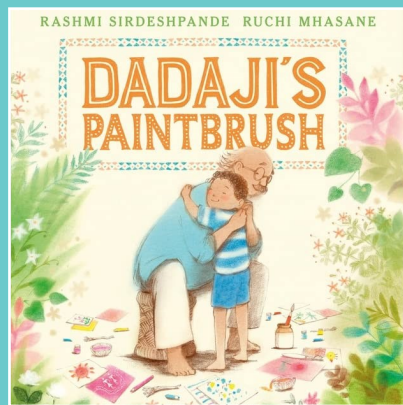
UPCOMING RELEASES

JUNE 2022—AUGUST 2022

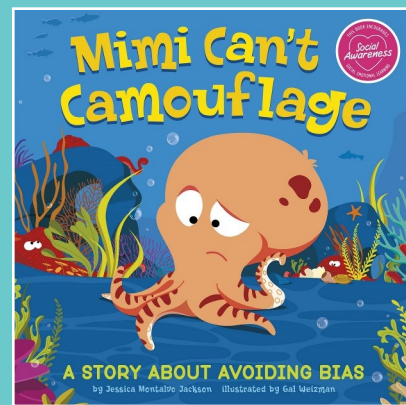
CHILDREN'S



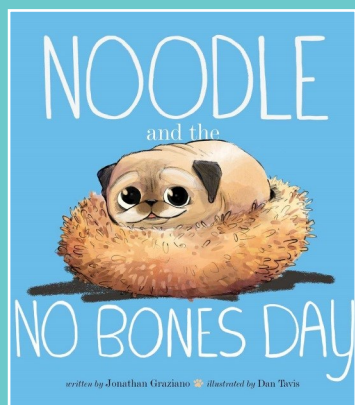
Blobfish
Olaf Falafel
2 June 2022



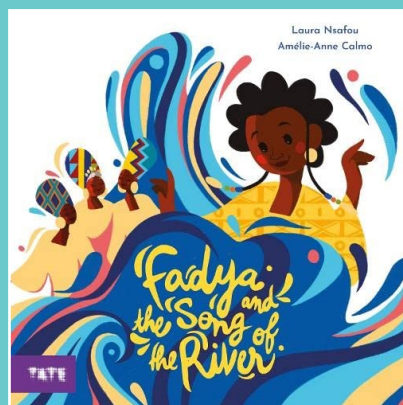
Dadaji's Paintbrush
Rashmi Sirdeshpande
& Ruchi Mhasane
7 July 2022



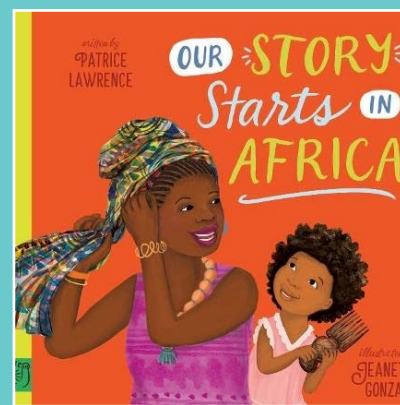
Mimi Can't Camouflage
Jessica Montalvo Jackson
& Gal Weizman
1 August 2022



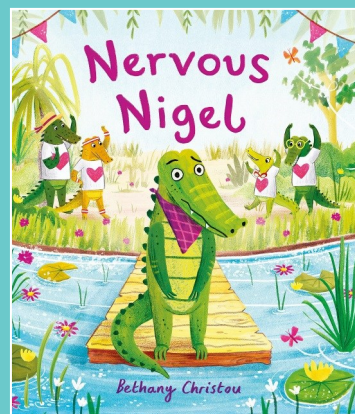
Noodle and the No Bones Day
Jonathan Graziano & Dan Tavis
7 June 2022



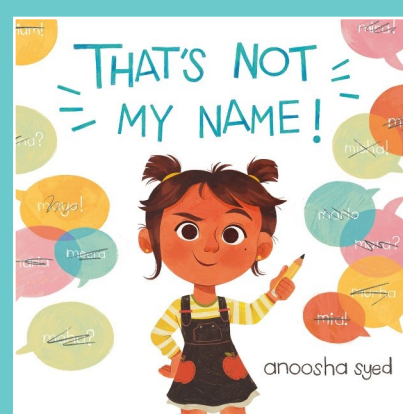
Fadya & the Song of the River
Laura Nsafo
& Amelie-Anne Calmo
7 July 2022



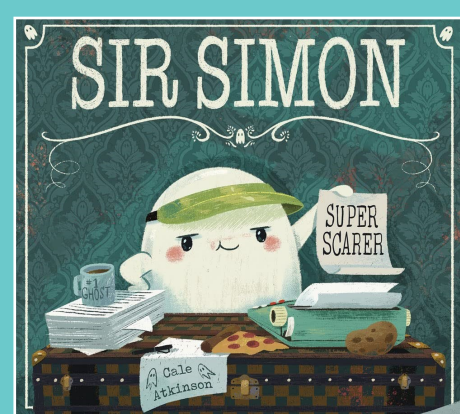
Our Story Starts in Africa
Patrice Lawrence
& Jeanette Gonzales
25 August 2022



Nervous Nigel
Bethany Christou
21 June 2022



That's Not My Name
Anoosha Syed
12 July 2022

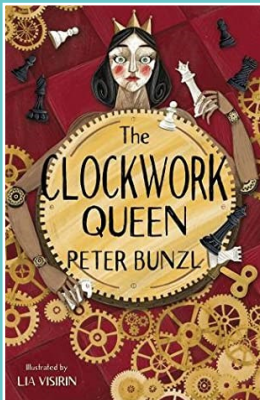


A Billion Balloons of Questions
Amy Moreno & Carlos Vélaz
19 May 2022

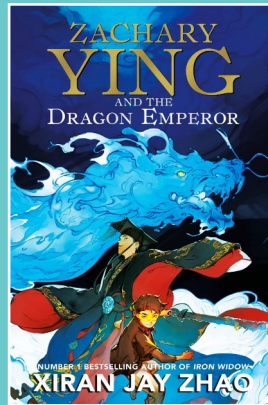
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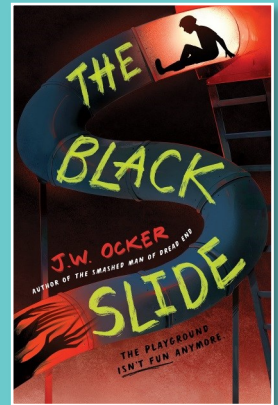
JUNIOR FICTION



The Clockwork Queen
Peter Bunzl
2 June 2022



Zachary Ying & the Dragon Emperor
Varsha Shah
7 April 2022



The Black Slide
J.W. Ocker
16 August 2022



A Flash of Fireflies
Aisha Bushby
9 June 2022



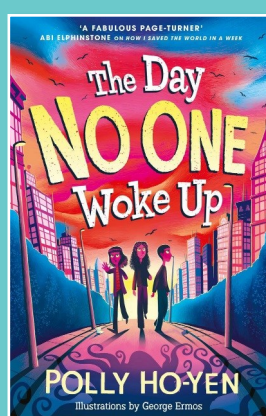
The Double Trouble Society
Carrie Hope Fletcher
7 July 2022



13: A Novel
Jason Robert Brown & Dan Elish
18 August 2022



Onyeka & the Academy of the Sun
Tola Okogwu
9 June 2022



The Day No One Woke Up
Polly Ho-Yen
21 June 2022

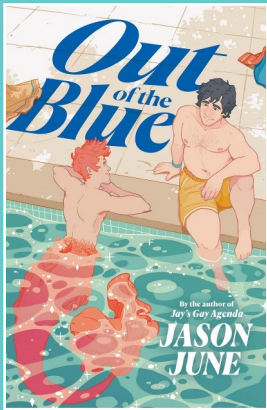


Miracle Season
Beth Hautala
23 August 2022

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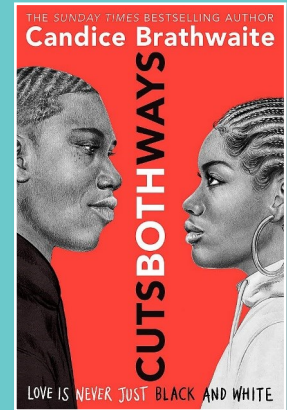
YOUNG ADULT



Out of the Blue
Jason June
9 June 2022



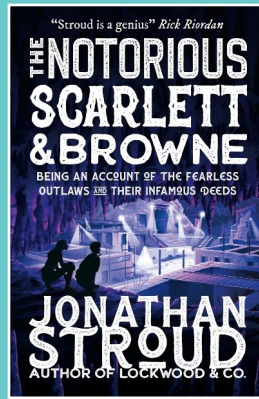
Her Dark Wings
Melinda Salisbury
7 July 2022



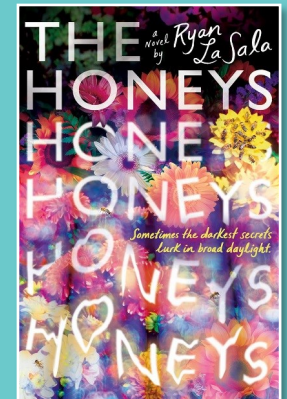
Cuts Both Ways
Candice Brathwaite
4 August 2022



The Writing on the Wall
Jenny Eclair
23 June 2022



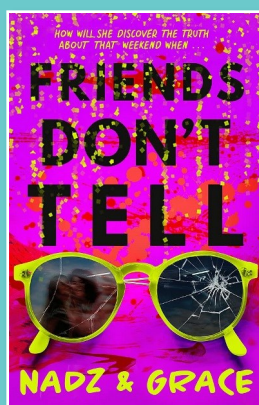
The Notorious Scarlett & Browne
Jonathan Stroud
7 July 2022



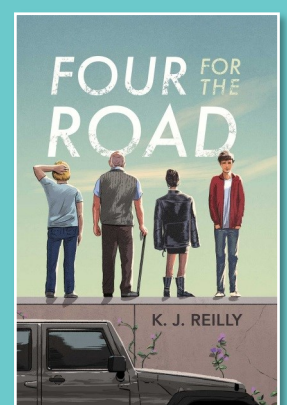
The Honeys
Ryan La Sala
16 August 2022



Just Your Local Bisexual Disaster
Andrea Mosqueda
28 June 2022



Friends Don't Tell
Nadz & Grace
21 July 2022

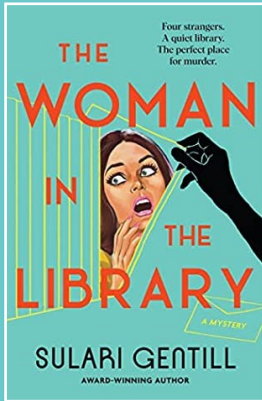


Four for the Road
K. J. Reilly
23 August 2022

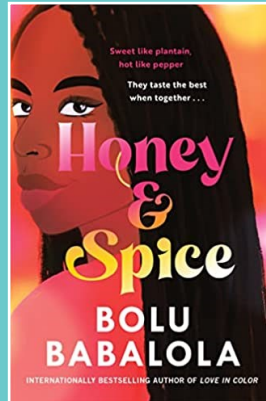
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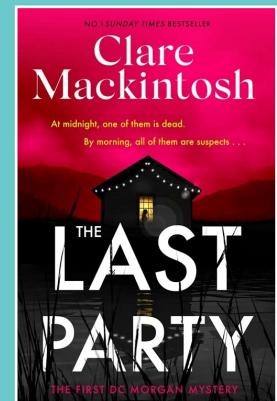
ADULT FICTION



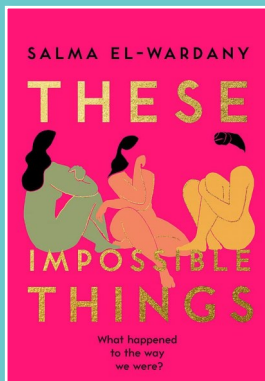
The Woman in the Library
Sulari Gentill
7 June 2022



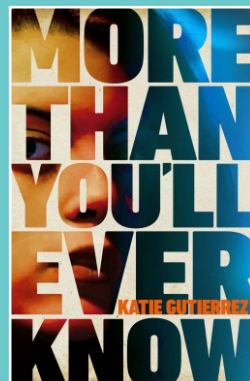
Honey & Spice
Bolu Babalola
5 July 2022



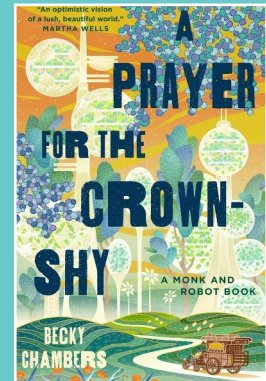
The Last Party
Clare Mackintosh
4 August 2022



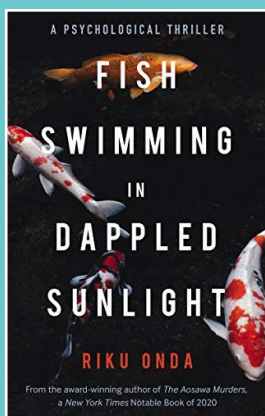
These Impossible Things
Salma El-Wardany
9 June 2022



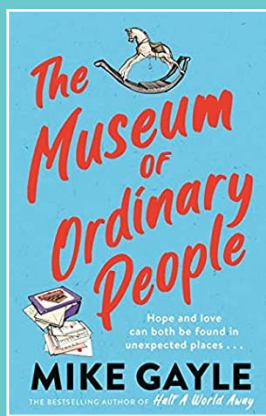
More Than You'll Ever Know
Katie Gutierrez
7 July 2022



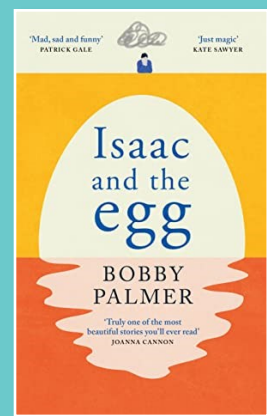
A Prayer for the Crown-Shy
Becky Chambers
15 August 2022



Fish Swimming in Dappled Sunlight
Riku Onda
16 June 2022



The Museum of Ordinary People
Mike Gayle
7 July 2022

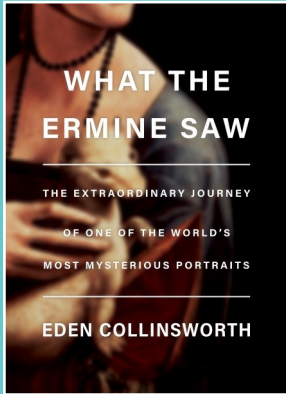


Isaac and the Egg
Bobby Palmer
18 August 2022

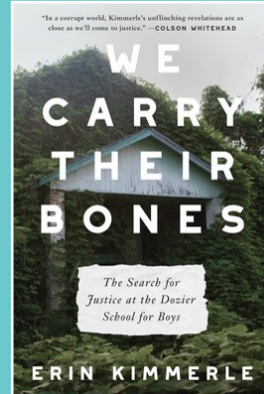
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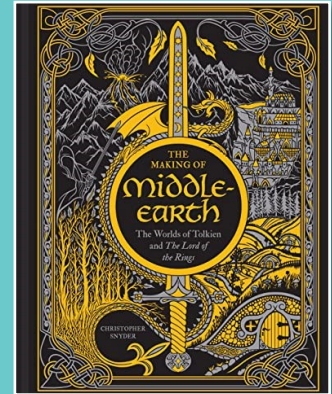
NON-FICTION



What the Ermine Saw
Eden Collinworth
7 June 2022



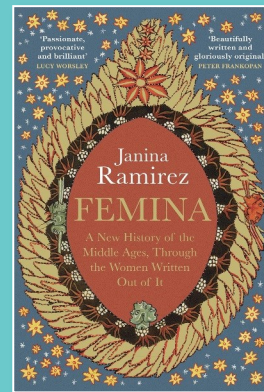
We Carry Their Bones
Erin Kimmerle
21 July 2022



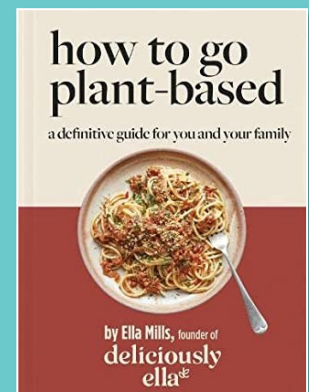
The Making of Middle Earth
Christopher Snyder
2 August 2022



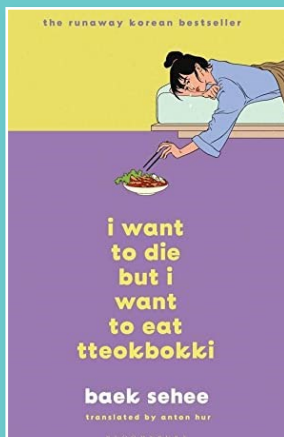
Black in Time
Alison Hammond
9 June 2022



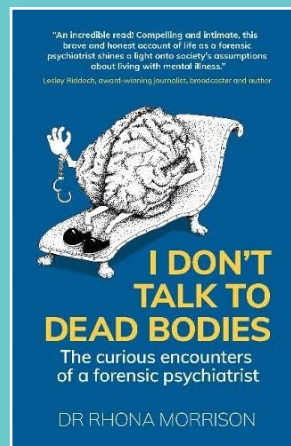
Femina
Janina Ramirez
21 July 2022



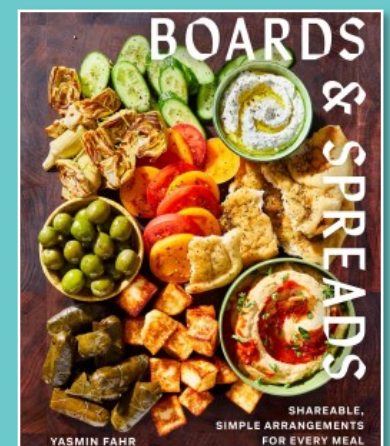
How to Go Plant-Based
Ella Mills
18 August 2022



I Want to Die but I Want to Eat Tteokbokki
Baek Sehee
23 June 2022



I Don't Talk to Dead Bodies
Dr Rhona Morrison
28 July 2022



Boards & Spreads
Yasmin Fahr
23 August 2022

UPCOMING RELEASES

JUNE 2022—AUGUST 2022

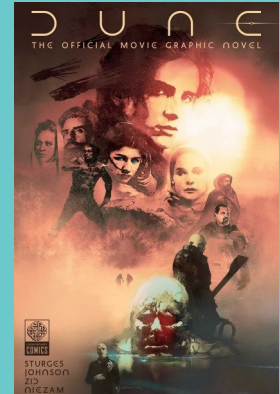
COMICS/GRAPHIC NOVELS



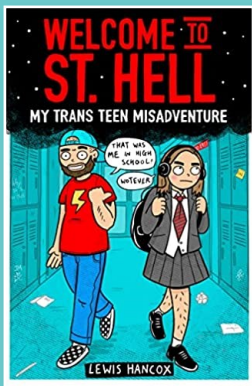
Into the Heartlands
Roseanne A Brown et al
2 June 2022



Sadé and Her Shadow Beasts
Rachel Faturoti et al
7 July 2022



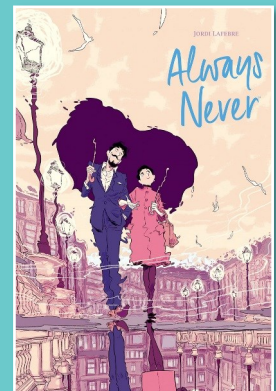
Dune
Sturges et al
4 August 2022



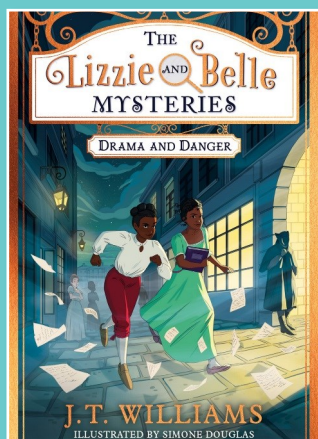
Welcome to St. Hell
Lewis Hancox
2 June 2022



The Dragon in the Bookshop
Ewa Jozefkowicz
7 July 2022



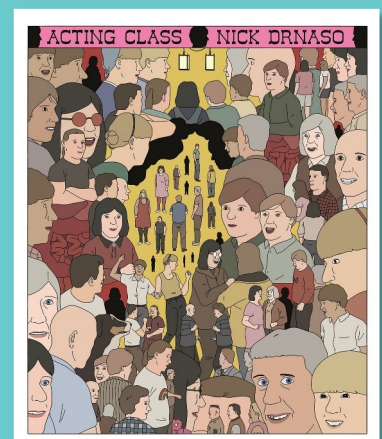
Always Never
Jordi LaFebre
18 August 2022



Drama and Danger
J. T. Williams & Simone Douglas
9 June 2022



Blackwater
Jeannette Arroyo & Ren Graham
20 July 2022



Acting Class
Nick Drnaso
18 August 2022

REVIEWS

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



The Theft of Sunlight
by Intisar Khanani,
Reviewed by Laiba, S2
Holyrood Secondary School

This story takes place in a fictional, ancient city called Taron. The main character is Rae. Rae's best quality is that she does exactly what she says. Rae's friend's sister gets kidnapped then Rae tries to help the princess. A key theme, throughout the book, is trust. I recommend it for anyone who likes a plot with adventure, and a few plot twists, which makes it interesting. I give this book 5 stars. I can't wait to read the sequel 'A Darkness at the Door' due out in July.



The Magic Fish
by Trung Le Nguyen,
Reviewed by Miss Neumannova

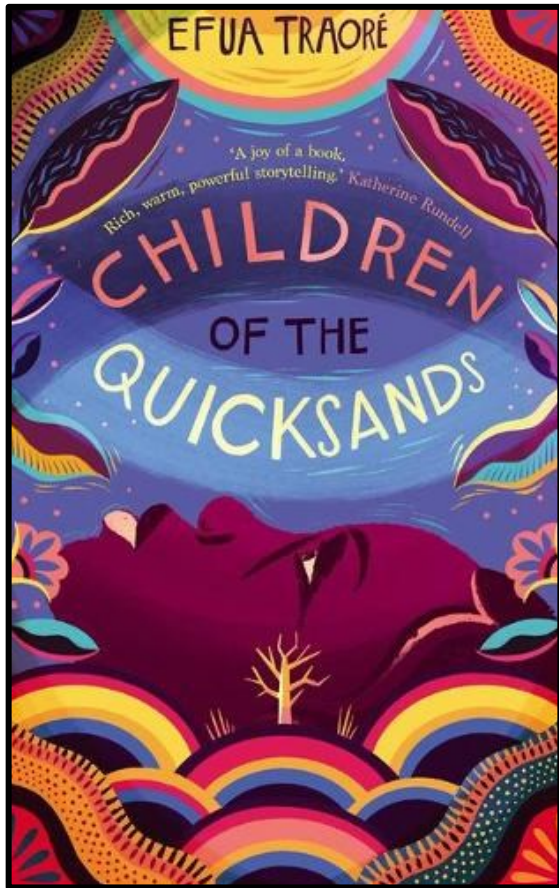
The Magic Fish is a beautiful comic book written and illustrated by Trung Le Nguyen. The main character is a boy called Tién, whose family moved to America from Vietnam. His mum struggles with English and Tién doesn't know how to describe his feelings in Vietnamese. Tién is trying to find the language to come out to his mum using fairy tale books borrowed from a local library that they read together every evening. Through these stories, Tién learns about his mother's immigrant past and she learns about her son's identity. The title is available to read for free with Libby app.



Iron Widow
by Xiran Jay Zhao,
Reviewed by Tasmia, S3
Shawlands Academy

It was a really interesting and emotional read. If you are sensitive or emotional, like me, it is really sad but very good.

I would recommend this book to Sci-Fi lovers and people who want to cry.



Children of the Quicksands

by Efua Traore

Reviewed by Miss Kindness

Thirteen-year-old Simi is sent to stay with her grandmother, who is a respected medicine woman in a remote Nigerian village. Soon, they are both in danger from a forbidden lake, quicksand and a legend of disappearing children.

The book is written in English, but there are some Yoruba words too (with a glossary), which helps to describe the beauty of the village and everyday life there such as the food, music, and nature. It's a gripping adventure, with a brave heroine.



The Week: Junior

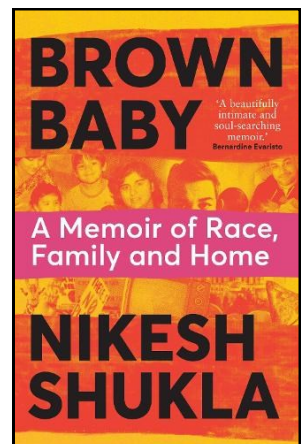
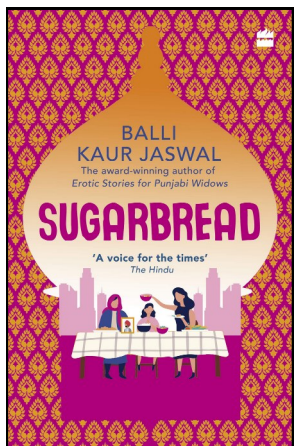
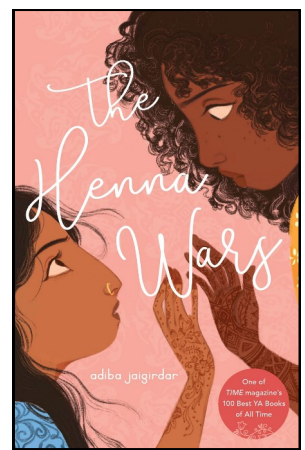
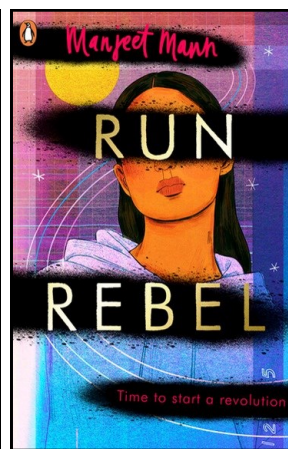
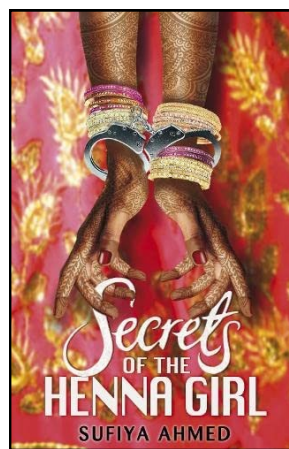
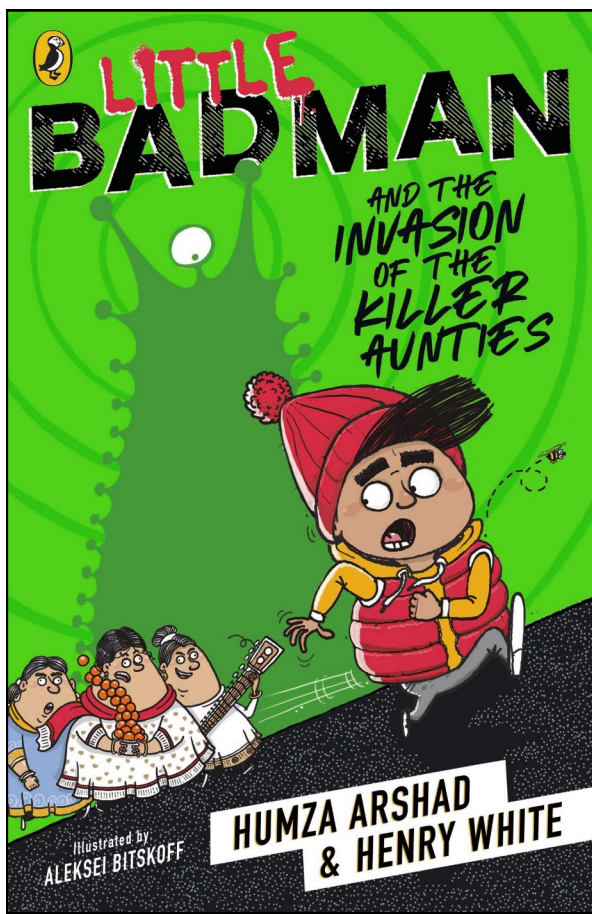
Reviewed by Ms DeLeavey

The Week: Junior is a multi-award winning weekly magazine packed with news, and fun facts for young people. Topics are explored in a really fun way. There are loads of pictures and the articles are concise. They run competitions too. This is an excellent introduction to current affairs for young people ages 8-14+, that would be useful Social Studies and Modern Studies assignments. Available to borrow for free on the Libby app.

جنوب ايشياي ويرااست ماڃ

South Asian Heritage Month

South Asian Heritage Month (July 17th - August 18th) is now in its third year, celebrating South Asian and the diaspora. This year's theme is 'Journey of the Empire' and you can learn more about it on the official [website](#). Thank you to Adam, S4, from Shawlands Academy for compiling this list of South Asian YA authors and for designing the banner.



MANGA

Featuring: One Punch Man



A manga series that packs quite the punch!

From Goodreads: Nothing about Saitama passes the eye-ball test when it comes to superheroes, from his lifeless expression to his bald head to his unimpressive physique. However, this average-looking guy has a not-so-average problem—he just can't seem to find an opponent strong enough to take on! Every time a promising villain appears, he beats the snot out of 'em with one punch! Can Saitama finally find an opponent who can go toe-to-toe with him and give his life some meaning? Or is he doomed to a life of superpowered boredom?

From Miss McGlenn, Hyndland Secondary



YA Graphic Novel Review

I am NOT Starfire by Mariko Tamaki (Art by Yoshi Yoshitani)

Mandy does NOT enjoy being the daughter of a superhero. She is the opposite of everything her mother is. Her Mom is Starfire, a tall, sparkly, Tamaran superhero who fights aliens by day as a member of the Titans and a mom by night. Mandy is not a sparkly superhero. Mandy has no superpowers. She is a 16-year-old who dyes her hair black, hates everyone and walked out on her SAT's. To Starfire, Mandy seems like the alien! When someone from Starfire's past arrives on Earth, Mandy must make a choice to give up before the battle has even begun, or step into the unknown and do everything she can to save her mom. *I Am Not Starfire* is a story about mothers and daughters; about knowing where you come from and that being different is certainly not a terrible thing.

Senior Graphic Novel Review
Sweet Tooth (Book 1) by Jeff Lemire

Seven years ago, The Affliction raged around the world and killed billions. The only children born since have been part of a new breed of human-animal hybrids. Gus is one of these children, a sweet soul with an even sweeter tooth and the features of a deer. Gus lives in a forest hideout with his father who warns him never to go out into the world as there are people out there who hunt hybrids. When Gus's father dies, the boy decides to travel outside of the forest but is hunted down and attacked by a group of vicious hunters. A mysterious, hulking, and violent man named Jeppard saves him and promises to take Gus to The Preserve, a fabled haven for hybrid children. Eisner Award winner Jeff Lemire presents this post-apocalyptic story looking at the values of innocence and the unlikely friendships that can emerge even during the darkest of times.



COMIC RECOMMENDATIONS FROM NY ALI (NYTASTIC)



In this issue we are delighted to have Ny Ali share her comic recommendations with us. Ny is a Muslim comic artist and creator based in Glasgow. She graduated with an HND in Illustration and Business. Ny has exhibited at Glasgow Comic Con, Acme Scotland Comic Con, Rai Con Small Press Day, and Glasgow Zine Fest.

Ny has been involved in several projects, most notable being the Full Colour project with BHP comics and more recently 'We Can be Heroes' project with St Alberts Primary School.

The Full Colour Anthology brings together the freshest voices in Scottish comics and collects their short-form work in one stunning volume. The Full Colour Project, created to foster diversity in comics and mentor young people from Black, Asian, and Minority Ethnic backgrounds, came to fruition with this collection of bold new comics.

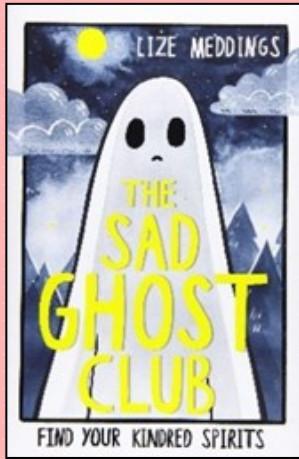


We Can be Heroes is a social enterprise project that was launched in 2020 with St Alberts Primary School which brings comic illustrators and writers together to create brand-new stories. This project is funded by the Scottish Government School Library Improvement Fund :

"We wanted to write new stories that featured children like the children in our school, with the same names, the same community, the same experiences. There were not enough books like that around for us to read."

Ny is trying to change the Scottish comic market by being the first female Muslim comic artist in the industry. To see more of Ny's work, you can see her Etsy store, her stall at comic cons or find her on social media @nytastic on Instagram, Twitter, and Facebook.

NY'S COMIC RECOMMENDATIONS



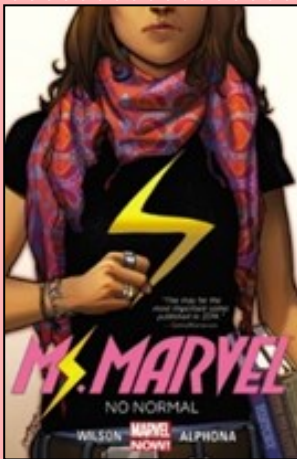
The Sad Ghost Club
by Lize Meddings

The Sad Ghost Club features an insight into those who are silently dealing with anxiety, loneliness, and friendship. With relatable situations, easy to follow along panels and heart-warming scenes. You will find that you are not alone.



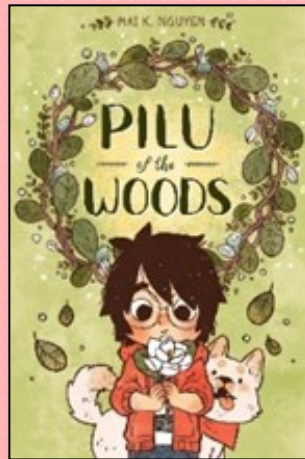
The Curios of Paper Moon
by Kat Hall

The Curios of Paper Moon follows Clair, a treasure hunter who seeks rare and mysterious items Set in a lovely fantasy world with wonderful characters.



Ms Marvel: No Normal
by G. Willow Wilson

Ms Marvel is the first relatable Marvel superhero representing Muslim teens and families.



Pilu of the Woods
by Mai K. Nguyen

This adorable graphic novel has themes of loss, friendship and never forgetting your roots.

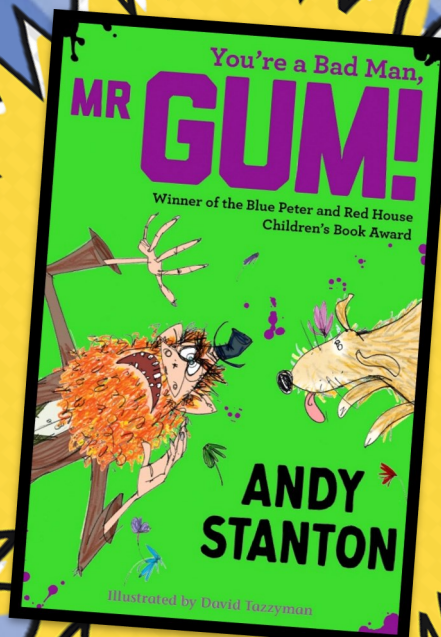
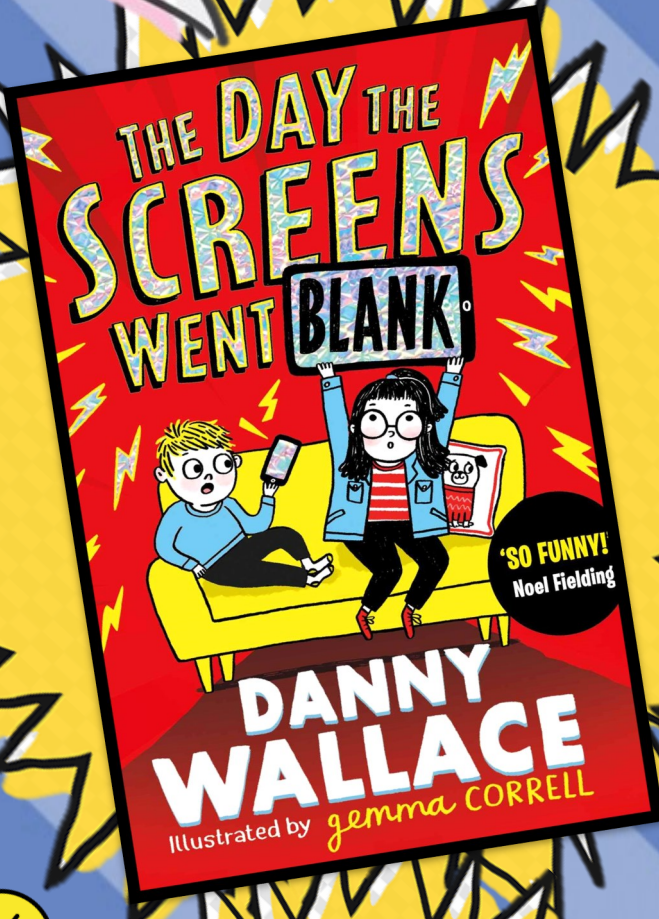


Anya's Ghost
by Vera Brosgol

Anya's Ghost is a mysterious tale of Anya and Emily. Starting a new school in a new country, Anya becomes friends with ghost girl Emily...but she is hiding a secret.

FUNNIEST FICTION

Laugh your way into the Summer holidays with these rib-tickling titles!

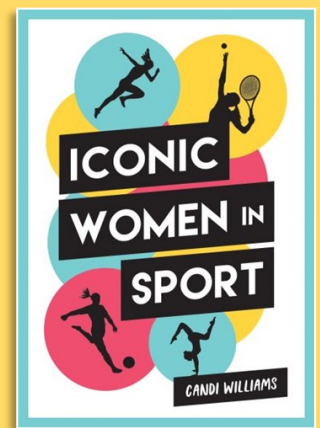


Highlighting the best new sport books coming soon to your school library.

Iconic Women in Sport

By Candi Williams
14th July 2022

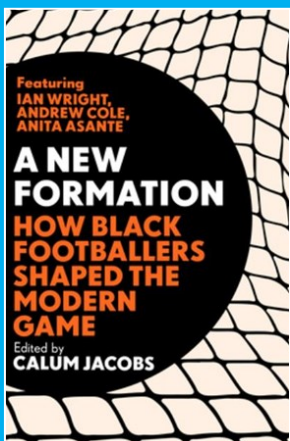
An illustrated compendium of kickass women in sport, from around the world and throughout history. This includes legends like Billie Jean King and modern-day superstars like Simone Biles and Dina Asher-Smith. The perfect book to inspire any sports fan.



A New Formation: How Black Footballers Shaped the Modern Game

Edited by Calum Jacobs
28th April 2022

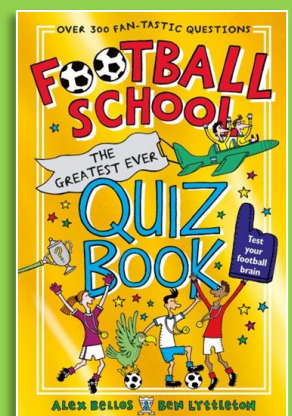
An original exploration of the ways in which leading Black British footballers have shaped the modern game. Tackling the big questions of representation and identity whilst acknowledging the influence a collective black identity has had on a very British sport.



Football school: The Greatest Ever Quiz Book

By Alex Bellos & Ben Lyttleton
2nd June 2022

How much do you know about football - and the world? Test yourself and your friends with over 300 brain-busting questions from Football School. Discover questions on star strikers, crafty coaches, momentous matches and much, much more.



DIVE INTO HISTORY

For this month, pupils at St. Andrew's Secondary have given us their favourite Historical Fiction titles! As you can imagine, it is a mixed bag, but we can assure you that every one of these are excellent. Most have featured in previous issues but we felt they were so good that were worth another mention!

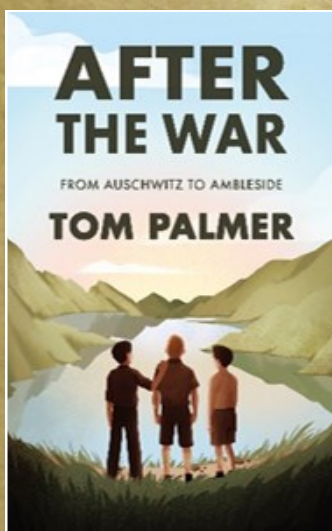


Dread Nation

by Justina Ireland

Trained at Miss Preston's School of Combat for Negro Girls in both weaponry and etiquette, Jane McKeene is poised for a successful career protecting the wealthy from the en-

croaching plague of walking dead. But when families begin to go missing, Jane uncovers a conspiracy that pits her against some powerful enemies. Sent far from home, Jane will need all her resourcefulness, wit and strength of character to survive.



After the War

by Tom Palmer

Summer 1945. The Second World War is finally over and Yossi, Ben and Mordecai are among three hundred children who have arrived in the English Lake District. Having survived the horrors

of the Nazi concentration camps, they've finally reached a place of safety and peace, where they can hopefully begin to recover. But Yossi is haunted by thoughts of his missing father and disturbed by terrible nightmares. As he waits desperately for news from home, he fears that Mordecai and Ben -- the closest thing to family he has left -- will move on without him.



The Book Thief

by Markus Zusak

It is 1939. Nazi Germany. The country is holding its breath. Death has never been busier, and will become busier still. Liesel Meminger is a foster girl living outside of Munich, who scratches out a mea-

gre existence for herself by stealing when she encounters something she can't resist--books. With the help of her accordion-playing foster father, she learns to read and shares her stolen books with her neighbours during bombing raids as well as with the Jewish man hidden in her basement.

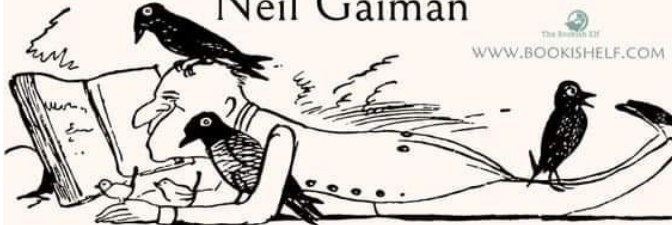
Shelf Help

LONELINESS

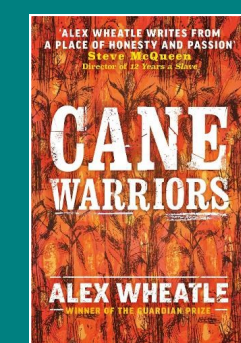
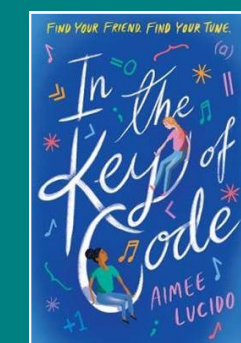
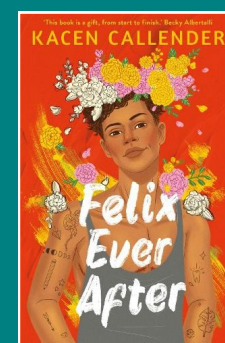
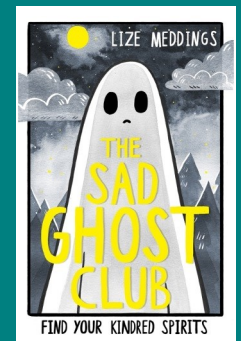
In May and June every year, there are two very important mental health events. Mental Health Awareness Week took place from 9th to 15th May, focusing on loneliness with the slogan **Let's Connect**. Ninth of June is **Empathy Day** and this year you are all encouraged to be Empathy Superheroes. Could your superpower be helping a lonely person feel seen and understood and being their friend? If you aren't sure how to get started, check out some helpful books (all on the Empathy Day recommended books list this year). Speak to your friendly neighbourhood school librarian for help finding the books in your School Library.

"Fiction gives us empathy: it puts us inside the minds of other people, gives us the gifts of seeing the world through their eyes. Fiction is a lie that tells us true things, over and over." -

Neil Gaiman

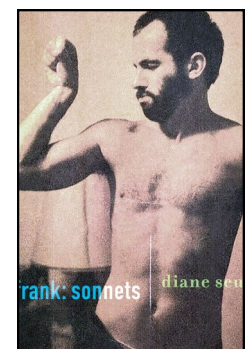
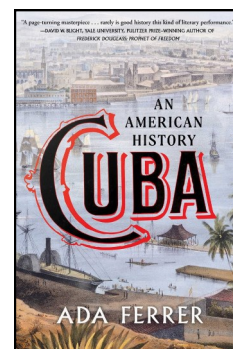
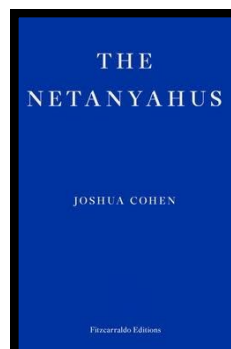
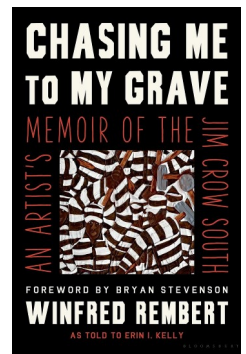
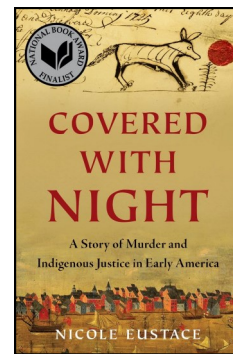
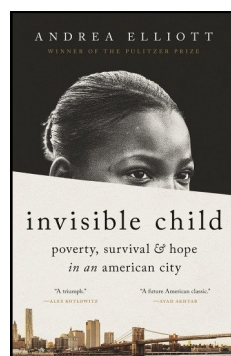
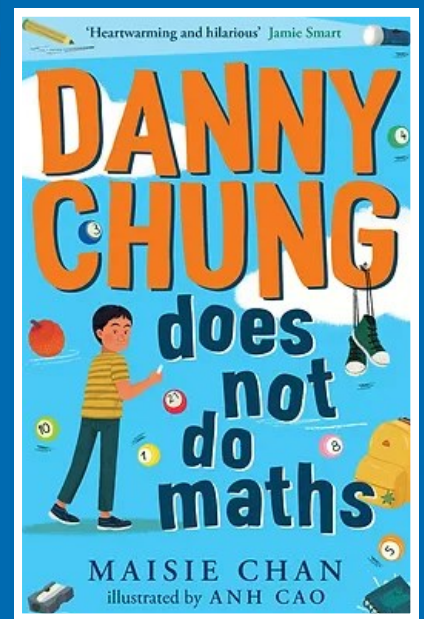


The Bookish of
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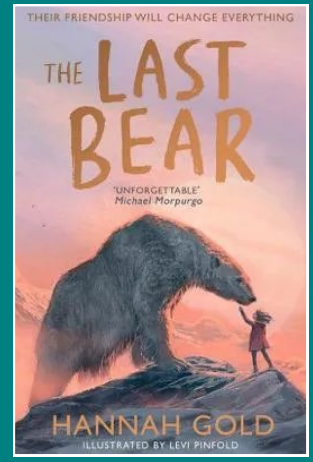
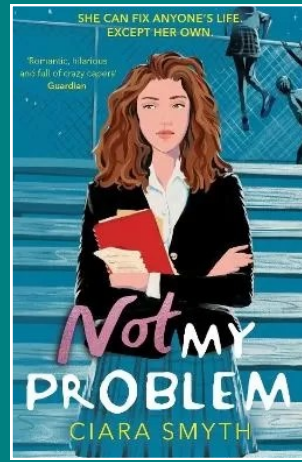
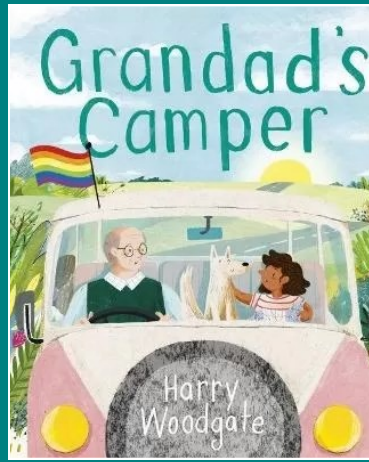


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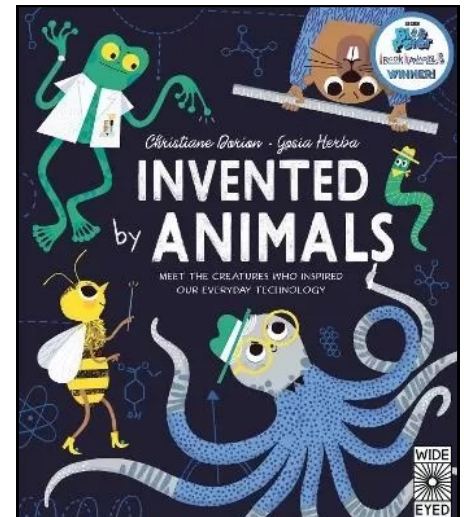
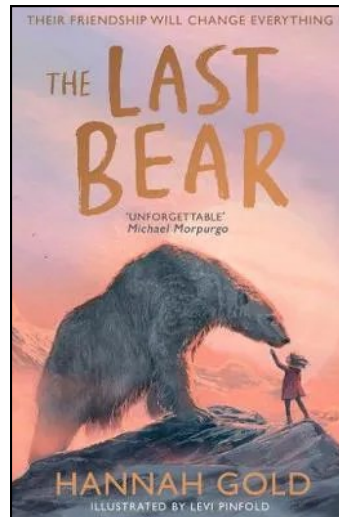
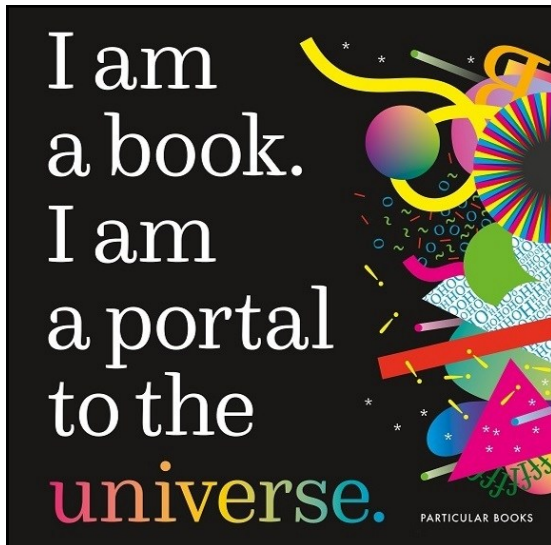
SCOTTISH
TEENAGE
BOOK PRIZE
2022



AWARDS

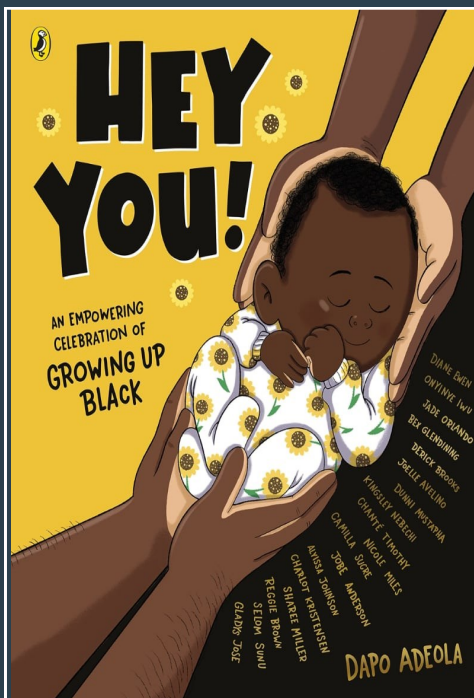


ROYAL SOCIETY YOUNG PEOPLE'S BOOK PRIZE 2021



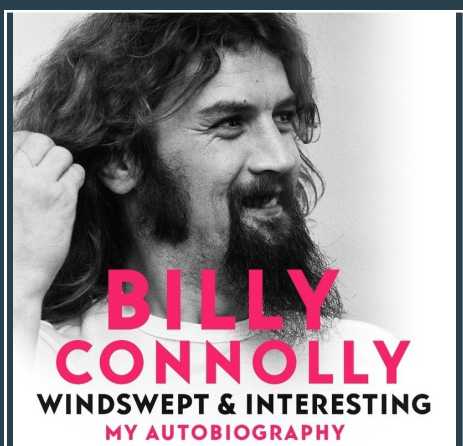
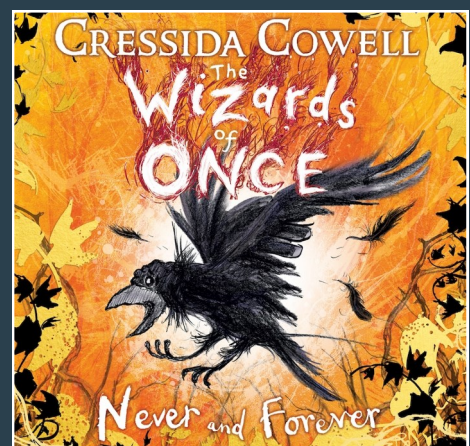
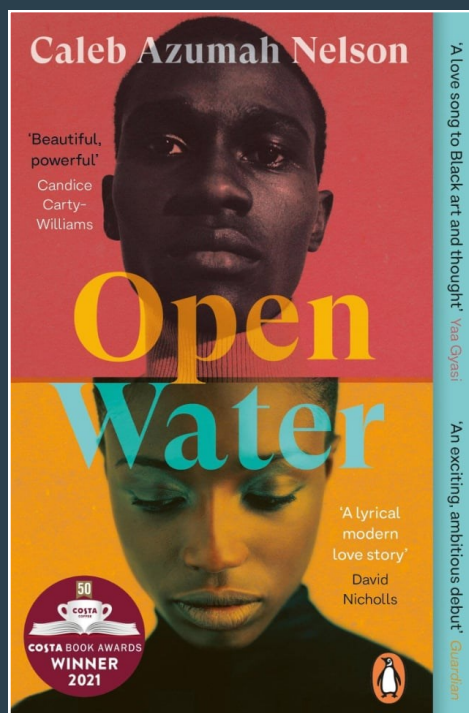
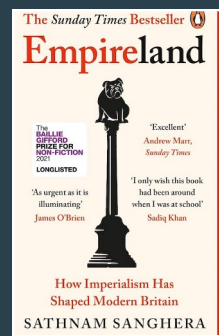
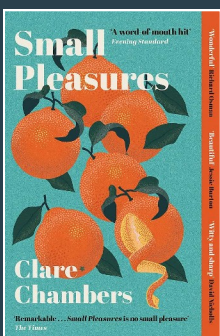
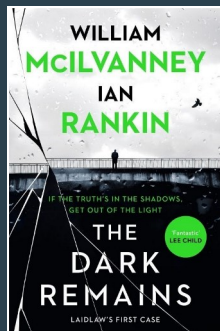
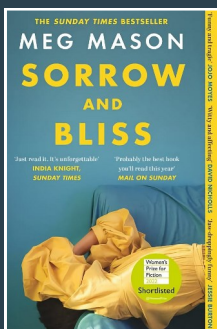
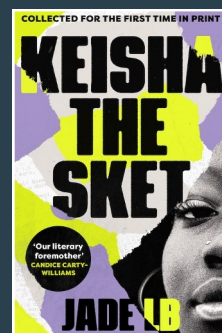
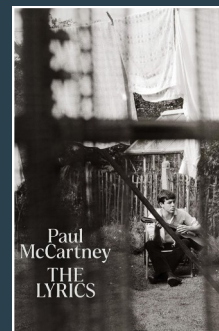
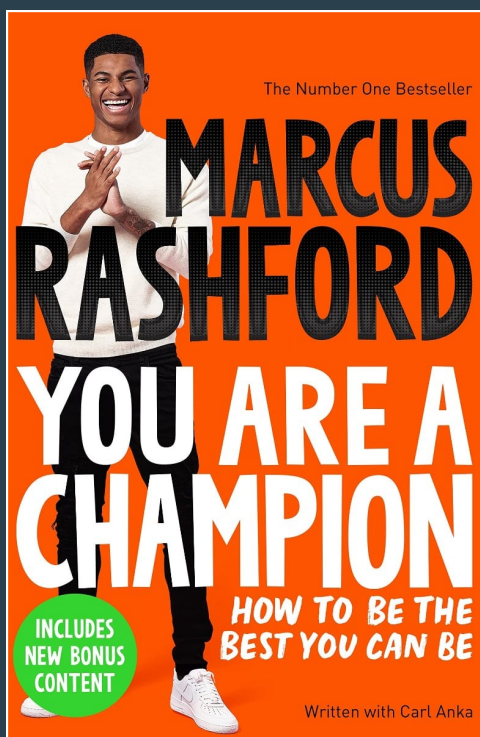
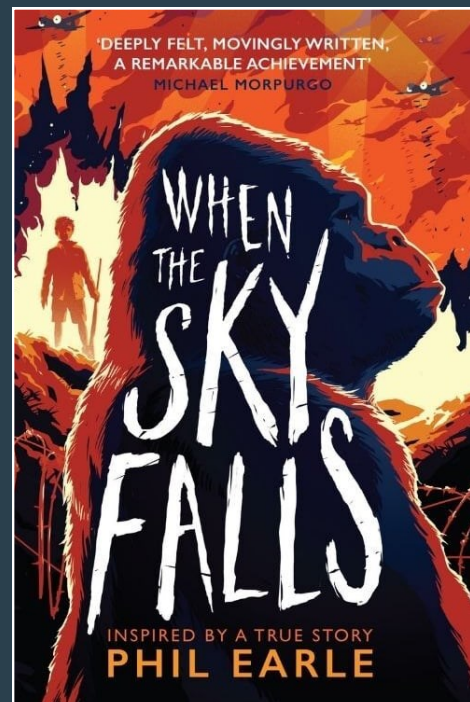
OWNED VOICES

Owned Voices, is a creative writing workshop aimed at authors from backgrounds traditionally under-represented in publishing. The award was launched in 2021 where the winners received £250 and are paired with mentors from the publishing industry. Learn more about this amazing initiative and this year's winners on the Owned Voices [website](#). Congratulations to the [winners](#): Amber Boothe—*The Faces of Barracane* and Letitia Jarrett—*Callaloo Brunch*.

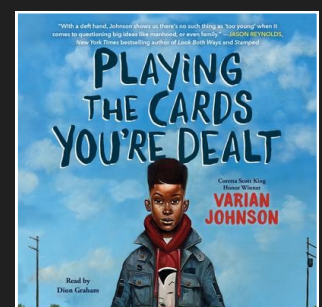
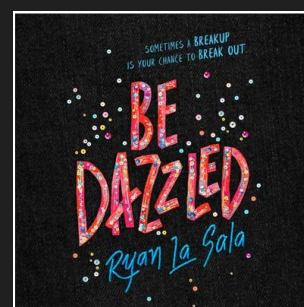
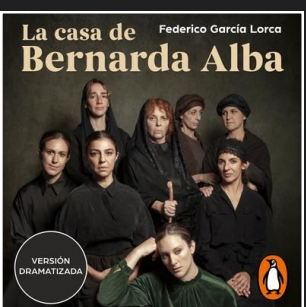
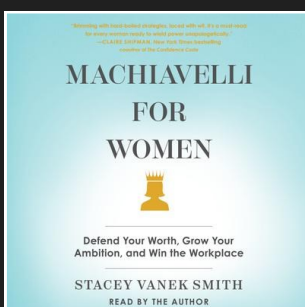
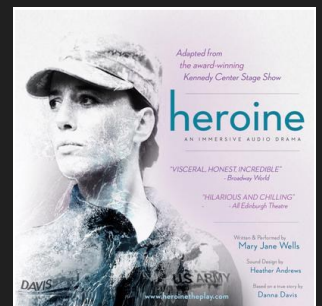
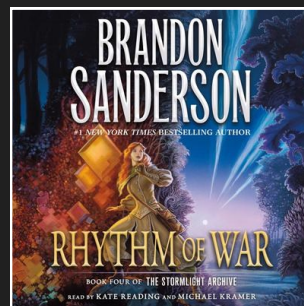
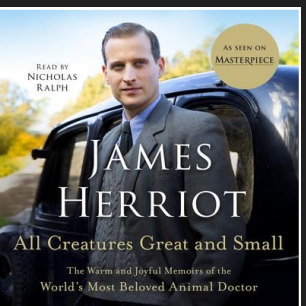
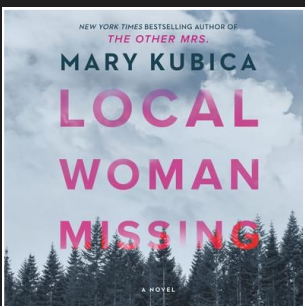
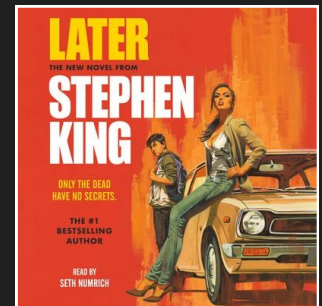
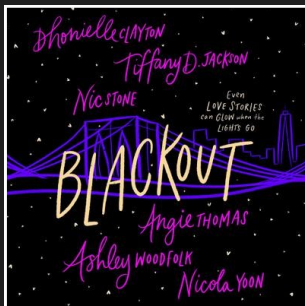
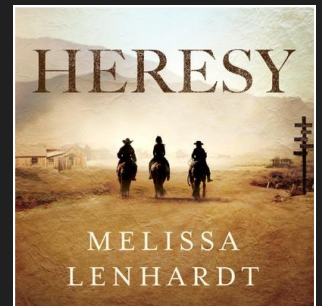
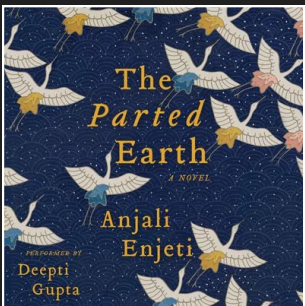
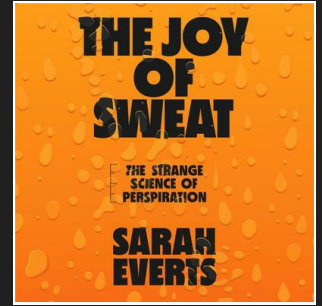
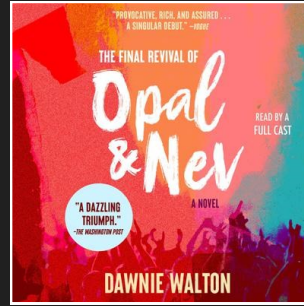
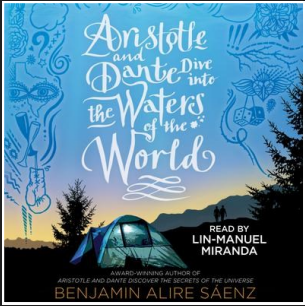
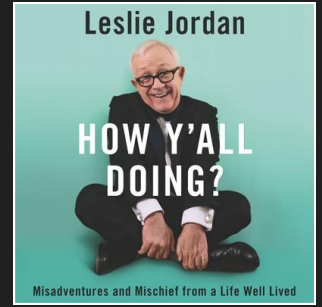
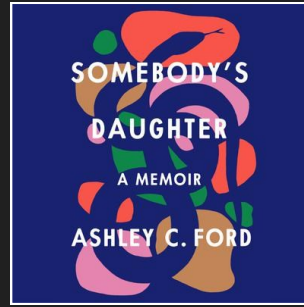
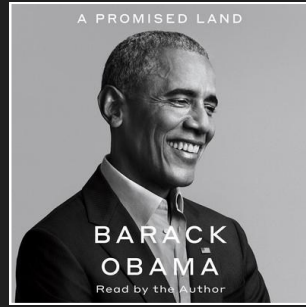
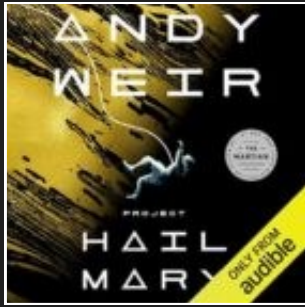



The British Book Awards

2022

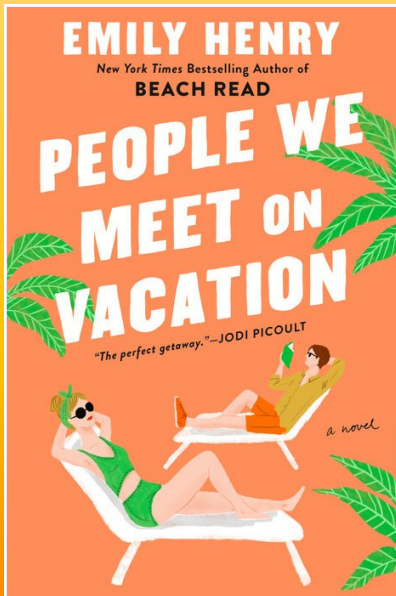


AWARDS



AUDACIOUS AUDIO

Whether your ideal summer is lounging on the beach or hiding from the sun and binging reality television, there's an audiobook for that!



People We Meet on Vacation by Emily Henry

Poppy and Alex. Alex and Poppy. They have nothing in common. She's a wild child; he wears khakis. She has insatiable wanderlust; he prefers to stay home with a book. And somehow, ever since a fateful car share home from college many years ago, they are the very best of friends. For most of the year they live far apart—she's in New York City, and he's in their small hometown—but every summer, for a decade, they have taken one glorious week of vacation together.

Until two years ago, when they ruined everything. They haven't spoken since.

Poppy has everything she should want, but she's stuck in a rut. When someone asks when she was last truly happy, she knows, without a doubt, it was on that ill-fated, final trip with Alex. And so, she decides to convince her best friend to take one more vacation together—lay everything on the table, make it all right. Miraculously, he agrees.

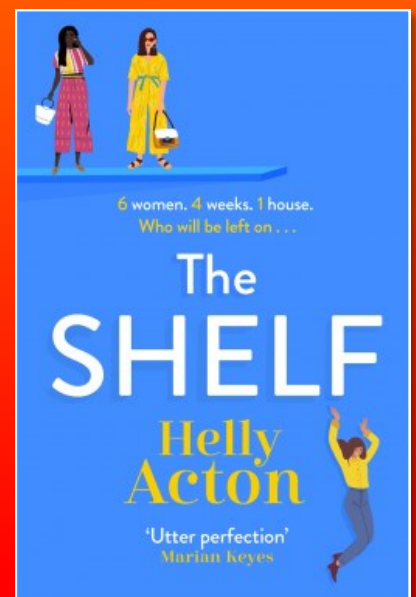
Now she has a week to fix everything. If only she can get around the one big truth that has always stood quietly in the middle of their seemingly perfect relationship. What could possibly go wrong?

The Shelf by Helly Acton

Everyone in Amy's life seems to be getting married (or so Instagram tells her), and she feels like she's falling behind.

So, when her boyfriend surprises her with a dream holiday to a mystery destination, she thinks this is it - he's going to finally pop the Big Question. But the dream turns into a nightmare when she finds herself on the set of a Big Brother-style reality television show, *The Shelf*.

Along with five other women, Amy is dumped live on TV and must compete in a series of humiliating and obnoxious tasks in the hope of being crowned 'The Keeper'. Will Amy's time on the show make her realise there are worse things in life than being left on the shelf? A funny, feminist and all-too-relatable novel about our obsession with coupling up, settling down and the battle we all have with accepting ourselves.



ELY PERCY

Ely Percy is an award-winning Scottish writer, best known for their novel 'Duck Feet' which became an instant hit. Ely visited Smithycroft Secondary School Library as part of Glasgow Life Libraries' Wee Write! Festival and was interviewed by S3 pupil, Murron.

Murron: *What made you write young adult fiction instead of adult texts?*

EP: I didn't set out to write a YA novel with *Duck Feet*. I didn't even set out to write a novel! There was a call out in a magazine for short stories on the theme of 'shoes' and I thought I'd have a go. That first chapter (also called *Duck Feet*) was simply a story about a twelve-year-old girl who starts high school and feels like the odd-one out when she's put in the non-swimmers' group away from all her pals during their P.E. lessons - I never imagined that a few weeks later I'd have a dozen stories from the point-of-view of that same wee girl, or that I'd *still* be writing about her a decade and half later.

Very early on, I showed a few *Duck Feet* stories to my sister, and she passed them round all her pals without telling me! I remember going to our local pub one night and being accosted by folk from my old school who started asking questions like: "What's Kirsty going to do next?" And "Does her da ever find a job?" and "Why is she still pals wi that wee witch Charlene?"

At that point, I knew I had an audience albeit a tiny one. But I didn't know if anyone else outside our town would read these stories. And it felt really important that I should write the stories for ordinary people who grew up in the same area and the same time period as I did. Because I remembered what it was like growing up and never seeing anyone like me or my school pals in books or on telly. So I decided, even if it ended up being only me and folk I knew who read it, I would write the book that a



Photo credit: Becca Horn

younger me would have liked to read.

Later on, when *Monstrous Regiment* asked me to turn all the stories into a novel, I did hope that teenagers would pick it up. But I wasn't sure. Because it had taken such a long time to find a publisher. I thought maybe they wouldn't be able to relate to it.

So *Duck Feet* was marketed as a coming-of-age novel, a novel that is a celebration of growing up working-class in the West coast of Scotland. My publishers never said it was or wasn't for teens - they just let folk make up their own minds. I think it's amazing that it's found its way into so many Scottish high schools. *During the time I was answering these questions I found out that *Duck Feet* had gone out of print for the THIRD time!

Murron: *How important do you think Scottish language is? Especially for young people.*

EP: I'm probably not the best person to answer this question because I'm not a linguist - I'm just

someone with a really good ear for voice and dialogue. There are lots of Scots language experts and activists who know a lot more about this subject than me so I don't want to say anything that might sound like I'm contradicting them. That said, my parents bought me *Oor Wullie* and *The Broons* growing up and I got a lot of joy from those books - I think those were probably the gateways to me going on and reading books by writers like James Kelman and Anne Donovan and Sheena Blackhall! I do think it would be very sad if Scottish writers were forced to only write in standard English.

Murron: *How important do you think it is to have queer representation in young adult books?*

EP: As a queer agender person, I think it would have been massively helpful to me to have seen LGBTQIA people represented in fiction when I was growing up. Of course, in the 90s there wasn't really much of a choice in terms of teen fiction across the board - the only teen books I can really remember were *Sweet Valley High*, and I hated them with a passion!

Funnily enough, years later my friend (and fellow author) Zoe Strachan recommended a book called *Boy Meets Boy* by David Levithan: she described it as something along the lines of "Sweet Valley but with queer teenage boys". Now, it's been nearly twenty years since I read this book so I'm not sure how well it's aged, but at that point in time (2003) it felt quite ground-breaking! I was actually thinking about this the other day because I was watching *Heart Stopper* on Netflix and it reminded me a wee bit of *Boy Meets Boy*, I haven't read the graphic novel version of *Heart Stopper*, but I think it's wonderful that so many YA books nowadays do explore queer identities. More please!

Murron: *Duck Feet Doesn't shy away from the adult experiences young people do, do you think that is important?*

EP: I think authenticity in fiction is really important. And I think the reason I didn't get on with most of the books I read that were aimed at young people in the 1990s was because they didn't sound like

real teenagers to me. Now, it's possible that I'm misremembering this, but I don't recall there being any swearing in those books (or not much swearing), and the only mentions of sex and drugs and alcohol (if any) felt incredibly patronising.

Because here's the thing: teenagers swear, and they talk about sex (a lot), and some of them have sex or claim to have sex; teenagers sneak out to pubs and clubs underage and they go to dodgy house parties and they experiment with cigarettes and drugs and alcohol. At least, that's what teenagers did when I was at high school, and I don't believe for a second that this has changed!

Murron: *What stimulates your story writing? How do the stories come to you?*

EP: Most of my work has been about Scotland and Scottishness. And I tend to write about underdogs and characters who are often underrepresented and / or misrepresented in mainstream literature.

For example, my first novel *Vicky Romeo Plus Joolz* was narrated from the point-of-view a twenty-one-year-old working-class butch lesbian, a voice we seldom get to hear. I wrote this book out of pure frustration because I couldn't find any fiction about young, queer, Scottish folk.

More recently, I wrote a short story called *The Alien Invasion* that has a neurodivergent narrator who claims to have been abducted by aliens. It was published in a special issue of Scottish sci-if journal *Shoreline Of Infinity* which was put together specifically to showcase the work of disabled and neurodivergent creators.

I've also got dystopian story with a neurodivergent narrator - this one is called *Space Raiders*, and it's coming out this month in *Extra Teeth* magazine.

Murron: *Are you writing anything new?*

EP: Yes. I was awarded funding from *Creative*

Scotland at the end of last year so that I could work on a crime novel. It's set in the same world as *Vicky Romeo Plus Joolz*, and the narrator is an ex Elvis impersonator whose journey as a transgender man and performer intertwines with the solving of a murder.

Murron: *How long have you wanted to be a writer?*

I was about seventeen when I told people I wanted to be a writer, although I specifically wanted to be a poet and a playwright back then!

Murron: *At school did you always enjoy reading and writing?*

Yes and no. I had to relearn how to read and write again after sustaining a traumatic brain injury when I was fourteen. There weren't any facilities for teenagers in Scotland in 1993 so I was sent to an adolescent psychiatry unit. It was a horrible place; I found it very isolating, and I felt sad and angry at my parents and the doctors for making me stay there. I was also reliant on visitors to bring me books and that's when my vendetta against *Sweet Valley High* began. I remember I used to write letters to my friends when I was in the unit - we didn't have the internet or mobile phones back then - and having to wait for the post meant it was often several days before I got a reply. So I started writing to the letter page of *Big!* That was the teen magazine I used to read. I remember writing two or three times a week to Victor Bogoff telling him how much I hated the world and everyone in it. It was very cathartic! But I never expected anyone would actually read my letters let alone print them. I remember the first day I went back to school, and this girl I didn't know very well shouted at me across the cafeteria: "Ohmygod! You're famous! You're in *Big!* Magazine!" I never sent anything to *Big!* again after that. I didn't have to. I felt validated. But I kept on writing...

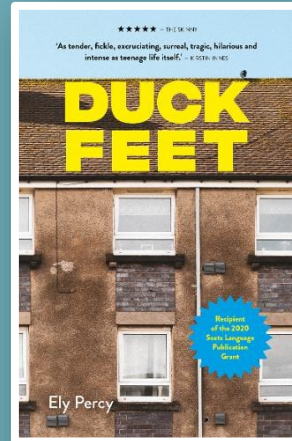
Find out more about Ely Percy's work at:

Elypercy.com



BOOKS

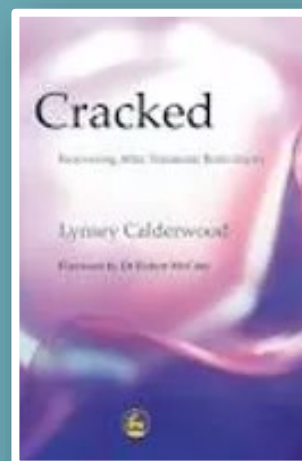
Tap on the book jacket to learn more.



Duck Feet
Monstrous Regiment
Publishing
2021



*Vicky Romeo
Plus Joolz*
Knight Errant
2019



Cracked:
*Recovering After
Traumatic Brain Injury*
Jessica Kingsley
Publisher
2002

DARREN SIMPSON

Author Darren Simpson chats with Knightswood Secondary School pupils about his books, libraries, and his inspiration as part of Glasgow Libraries' Wee Write! festival.

Jay: Why did you want to become an author?

DS: I didn't have a big moment of inspiration or anything like that. When I was younger, I actually wanted to be a drummer. The reason I first tried writing was a desire to do something creative that I could do all by myself, wherever and whenever I wanted. I loved writing from the start, as I found it really relaxing and empowering – you really can invent anything, and you need so little to do it!

Cole: What is the book *Scavengers* about?

DS: *Scavengers* is about a boy called Landfill who grows up with wild animals in a wasteland called Hinterland, and who has been raised by his guardian to fear everything beyond Hinterland's walls. But Landfill starts to take risks to see the world beyond the wall for himself, and the book follows the consequences of those risks.

Aiden: What inspired you to write your book *Furthermoor*?

DS: *Furthermoor* started with an idea for a setting: a mechanical forest full of crystals and clockwork. I wanted to use this setting in a way that wasn't in the fantasy genre, so I set the story in the real world and put the mechanical forest in the protagonist's imagination. I was really inspired by day-dreams and imaginary worlds, and wanted to write a story to explore them.

William: What would you like your readers to take from your stories?

DS: Each book has its own message. *Scavengers*



encourages readers to question hate and prejudice, and to judge the world for themselves. *The Memory Thieves* is about the importance of dealing with bad experiences and talking about our feelings. And *Furthermoor* encourages readers to believe in themselves, especially if they're being bullied. All of my books are about courage and empowerment, I guess.

Kirsten: Who are your favourite authors?

DS: When I was younger, I loved reading Roald Dahl books – especially *The Twits* and *George's Marvellous Medicine*. Roald Dahl was a big influence on me, I think. I also really loved reading Asterix comics and Terry Pratchett books – they're so funny and smart!

Adam: What books would you recommend to your readers if they enjoyed your stories?

DS: I can't think of any books that are particularly like mine, but other contemporary books I'd recommend are *A Kind of Spark* by Elle McNicoll,

Adam-2 by Alastair Chisholm and *Cane Warriors* by Alex Wheatle. There are so many great books out there for young readers and teens!

Jaiden: What advice can you give to young people who'd like to be authors?

DS: Write whatever excites you and persevere. It's normal not to make it first time and to get lots of rejection, but it's never a waste of effort. As long as you keep at it and don't give up, you'll get better and better at writing and will eventually get published.

Samarin: What is your favourite place and animal and why?

DS: My favourite animals are sloths, because they're cute when they're dry and terrifying when they're wet! And my favourite place is here with you in the Knightswood Secondary School Library, of course!

Thomas: Did you use your School Library when you were in Secondary School? Do you still use your local Library?

DS: I use my local library for research and ideas, and also take my sons to there regularly – they love all the free books and graphic novels! I used my School Library a lot when I was in high school, not only to explore and read books, but also to hang out. Libraries have such a great atmosphere, and are awesome places to spend breaktimes with schoolfriends.

Thomas: Describe a Library in 3 words.

DS: Informative. Entertaining. Chilled.

Find out more about Darren Simpson's work at:

Darrensimpsonwrites.co.uk



BOOKS

Tap on the book jacket to learn more.



Scavengers

Usborne Publishing
2018



The Memory Thieves

Usborne Publishing
2020



Furthermore

Usborne Publishing
2022

S.M. WILSON



Photo provided by S.M. Wilson

*Award-winning author S.M. Wilson chats with St Mungo's Academy pupils as part of Glasgow Libraries' Wee Write! festival. Her book, *The Infinity Files*, was shortlisted for this year's Scottish Teenage Book prize.*

Julia: What made you want to be an author?

SMW: I always enjoyed reading and writing stories since I was rather young. I wrote my first book when I was about 8 years old and the first book I published was in 2011.

Julia: Were any characters inspired by real-life people?

SMW: Every character has some sort of trait from someone in real-life whether that is a small detail or not. I do also tend to self-insert myself into many of the characters I write.

Julia: Do you have a favourite character? Whether that is one of your own or someone else's.

SMW: I like characters that are written to be annoying or hated by the reader, it makes it more down to earth and realistic.

Julia: What advice would you give to someone working on their first book?

SMW: Write what you want to read so it keeps you interested and try to write even just a sentence a day and read a lot.

Jack: Do you still work as a nurse?

SMW: Yes, I still work as a full-time nurse. Being an author, you do not get paid much as J.K Rowling, most authors have to get a full-time job.

Julia: How do you develop your plot and characters?

SMW: I do not plan ahead my stories. I figure out the characters, setting and rough idea of what I want the story to be and let it flow as I write it.

Find out more about S.M. Wilson's work at:

Susan-wilson.com



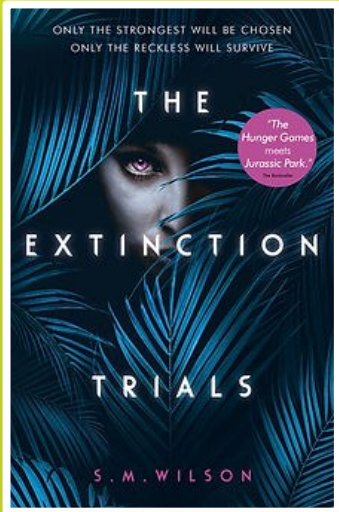
BOOKS

Tap on the book jacket to learn more



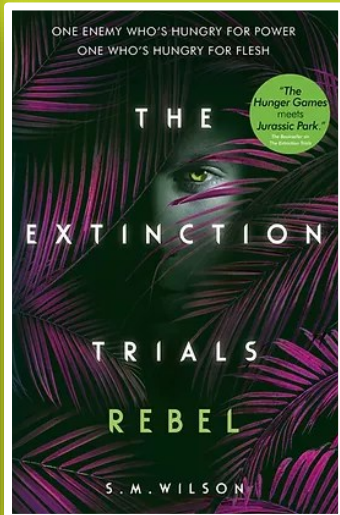
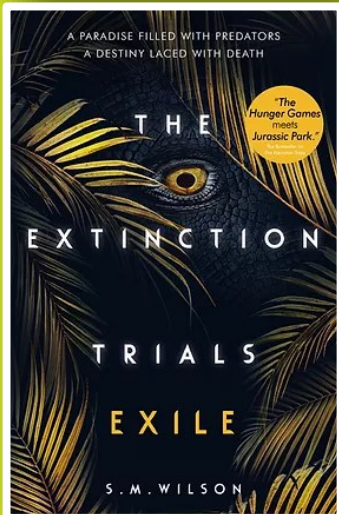
The Infinity Files

Usborne Publishing
2020



The Extinction Files trilogy

Usborne Publishing



Get started now!

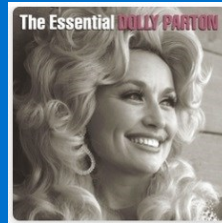
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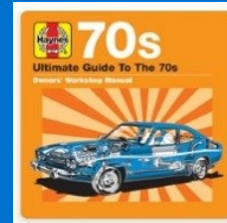
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All Saints Secondary School pupils share their top songs available from Freegal app. Tell us know yours and we'll feature them in the next issue of Swatch!

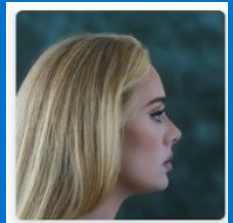
James, S5



9 to 5
by Dolly Parton
The Essential Dolly Parton



Rock the Boat
by The Hues Corporation
Haynes Ultimate Guide to The 70s



Oh My God
by Adele
30

Maja, S2



Radioactive
by Imagine Dragons
Now That's What I Call Dad Rock



Blood // Water (live)
by Grandson
JBTV Music Television presents

Miss Clarke



Tainted Love
by Gloria Jones
Anthems: Mod, Ska & Northern Soul—Ministry of Sound



25 Miles
by Edwin Starr
War - The Best of Edwin Starr



One in a Million
by Gloria Jones
The Stars of Soul, Volume 1

GLASGOW SCHOOL LIBRARY SPOTLIGHT: BELLAHOUSTON ACADEMY



Bellahouston Academy was originally founded in 1876, although not on its current site. It suffered a major fire in 1991, and after a short nomadic lifestyle, the school returned to its current building. The library was moved to an area next to the Fuel Zone at that point.

Interview with Bellahouston Academy Librarian: Mr Hogg

How long have you been a librarian?

I've been a librarian for what seems like centuries but is actually 36 years. I've worked at Garthamlock, Penilee, Rosshall, Govan and Bellahouston. I started at Bellahouston in the summer of 2012.

Why did you become a librarian? What is your favourite aspect?

I'm still not sure why I became a librarian. Hopefully I'll figure it out one of these days. I finished school and did a year in college before going to Strathclyde University. I did a joint undergraduate degree (Librarianship and History) there, which they stopped soon after I left! Graduated from university one week, started as a school librarian the next, and I've been one ever since! Favourite aspects? Hmm. The pupils (sometimes), the

staff (sometimes), the physical library itself, and how I've changed it over the years to get it the way I want it. Plus, my librarian colleagues – a good bunch. It's also amazing how satisfying it can be to simply order new books, then unpack them and get them on shelves.

What are you currently reading?

What I'm reading changes frequently, but it will probably be some sort of fantasy or science fiction novel. The more epic, the better. I'm also partial to a good historical fiction novel.

Describe a library in three words.

Chaotic. Welcoming. Tidy (I wish).

What animal do you most identify with?

As the son of a shepherd, it has to be a Border Collie.

LIBRARY SPOTLIGHT



Could you tell us about your work and the role you have in the school?

I would say that the role of the librarian is whatever you make it. Although at times it seems to mainly consist of putting chairs in. At Bellahouston, I only have two (usually quite busy) days, so it can get a bit hectic. I have classes from English changing books, plus I'm open at intervals and lunchtimes.

The library is quieter since the computers were removed and I usually have some prefect helpers who look after the issuing and returning while I'm on patrol.

A lot of what I do here is based around Accelerated Reader, mostly putting little coloured labels on books. Hopefully next session I'll be able to do more on promotion and support for classes doing AR. The school is also looking towards becoming a Reading School and we will hope to integrate Accelerated Reader into that.

During this session I've created library displays for Book Week Scotland, LGBT+ History Month, World Book Day and Mental Health Awareness Week, as well as taking part in Storytelling, Empathy Lab and Diversity Collection training.



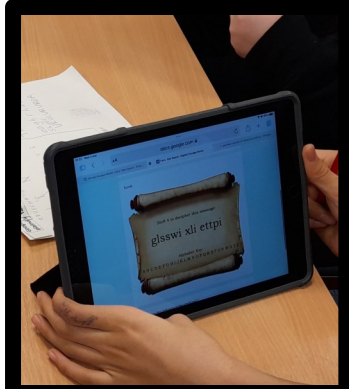
MR. HOGG, LIBRARIAN



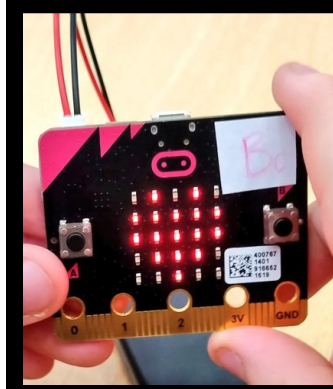
School Library EVENTS



Smithycroft
Women's Day



All Saints
Escape room



Knightswood
Code Club



King's Park
Spring display



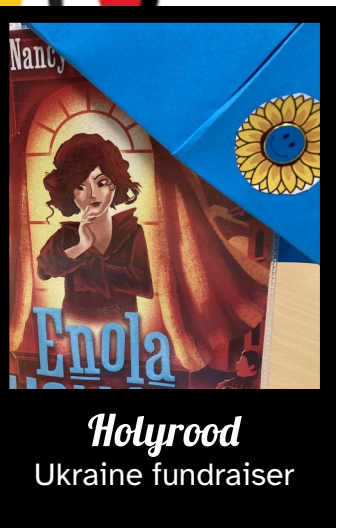
Various
Keep the Heid and Read



Shawlands & St Margaret Mary's
World Book Day festivities



Knightswood
Prepping for Pride



Holyrood
Ukraine fundraiser



St. Mungo's
Storytelling for Wellbeing



John Paul
Easter egg hunt



Shawlands
Ramadan Reads

HEAT


WAVE

Books to transport you to hot places,
dreamy days, weird holidays,
adventurous travels and cruel summers.

For further information and inspiration:
BBC, Pan Macmillan, Penguin,

FROM THE MAN BOOKER PRIZE-LONGLISTED
AUTHOR OF *THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD*

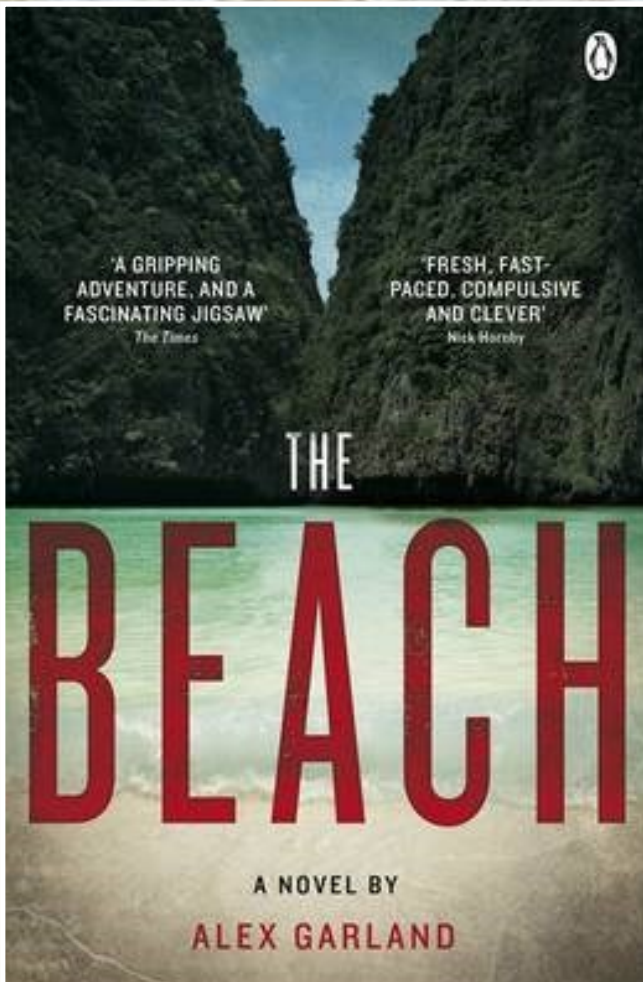
COLSON WHITEHEAD



SAG HARBOR

'The ultimate coming-of-age tale' Nikesh Shukla
'A universal tale of adolescent angst' *Financial Times*

VINTAGE

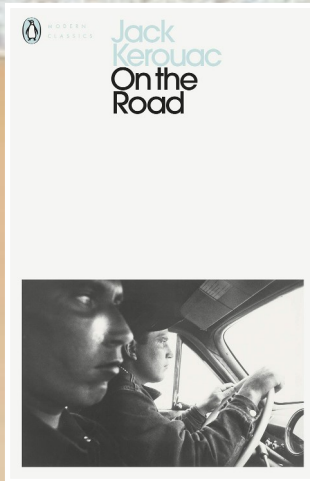


'A GRIPPING ADVENTURE, AND A FASCINATING JIGSAW'
The Times

'FRESH, FAST-PACED, COMPULSIVE AND CLEVER'
Nick Morley

THE BEACH

A NOVEL BY
ALEX GARLAND



Jack Kerouac
On the Road



OUTLINE

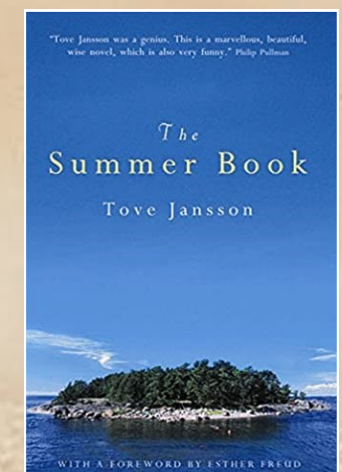
RACHEL CUSK



Rumer Godden

The Greengage Summer

One of the finest English novelists
Ovile Prescott



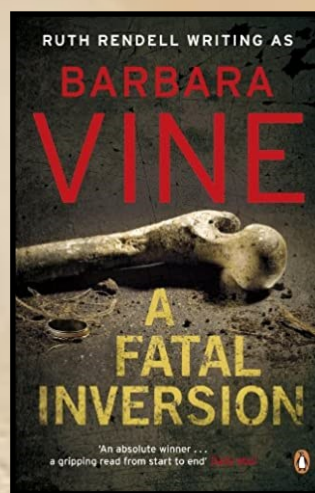
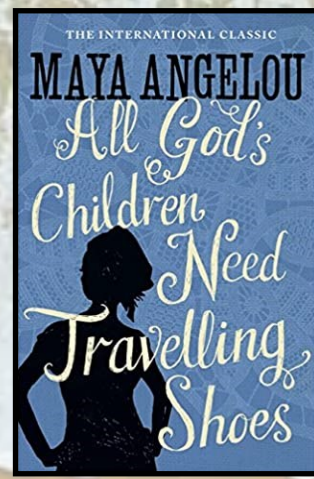
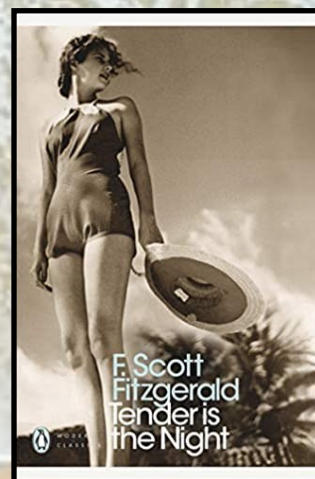
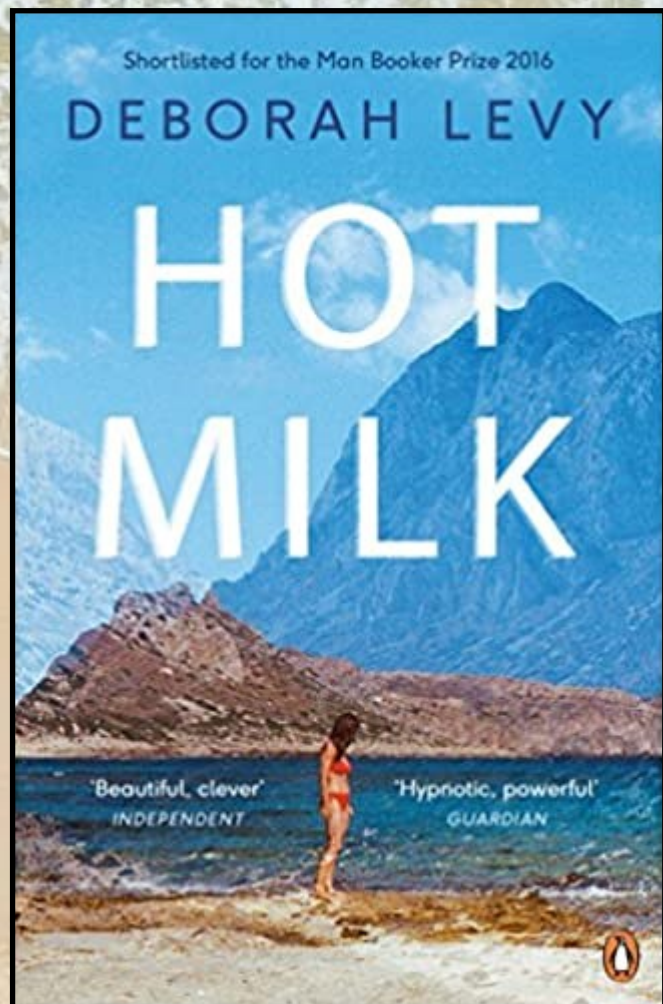
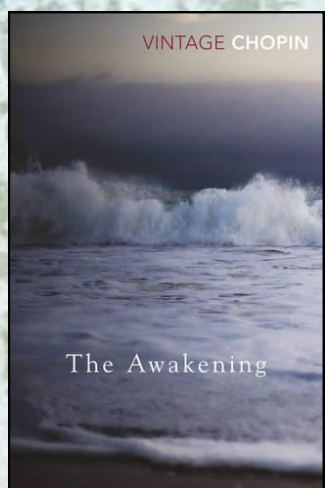
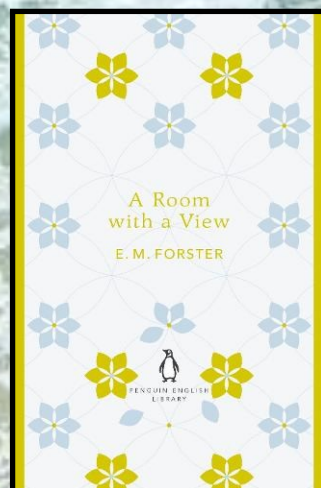
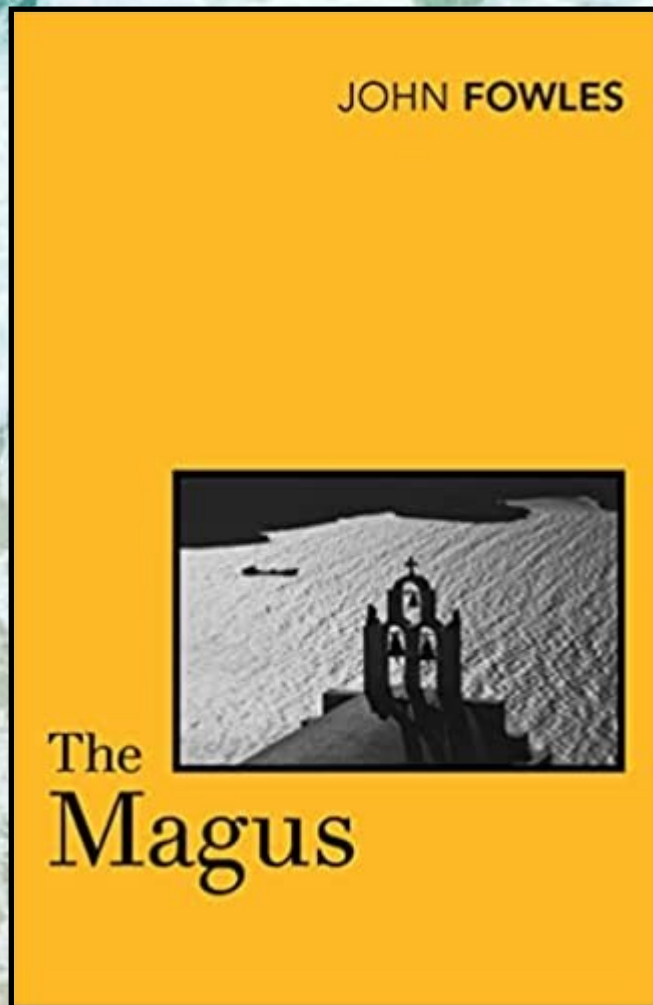
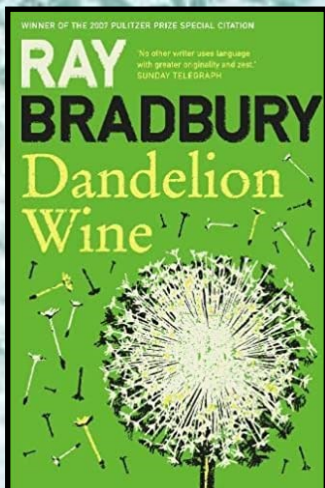
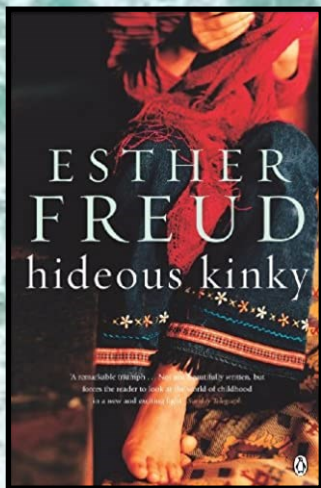
'Tove Jansson was a genius. This is a marvellous, beautiful, wise novel, which is also very funny.' Philip Pullman

The Summer Book

Tove Jansson

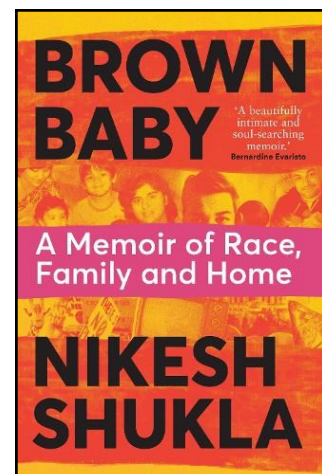
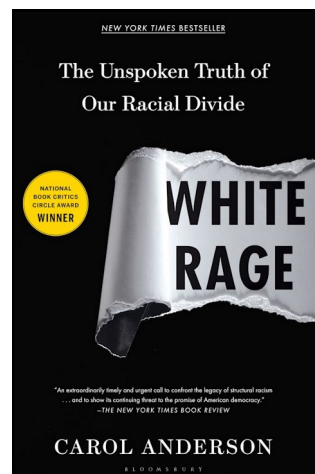
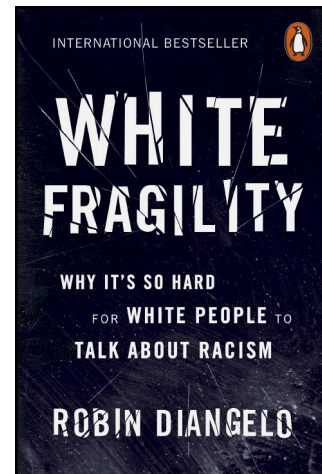
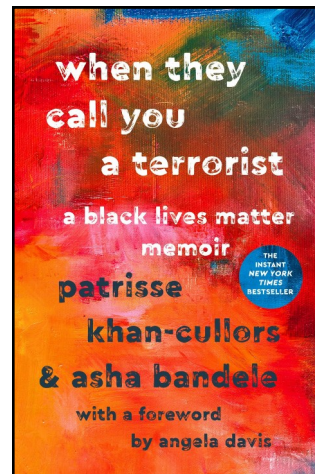
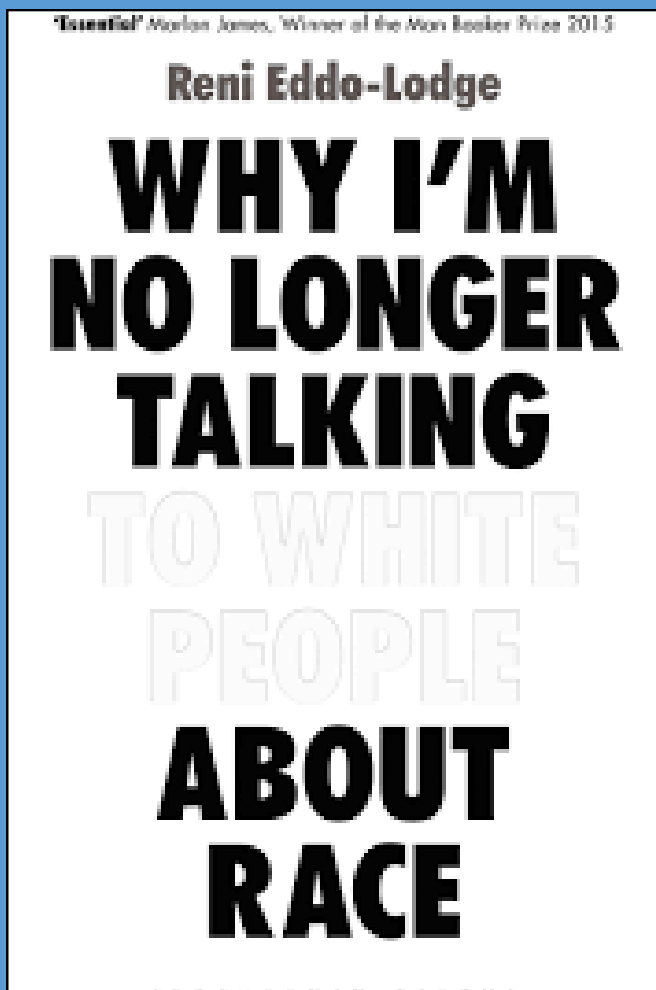
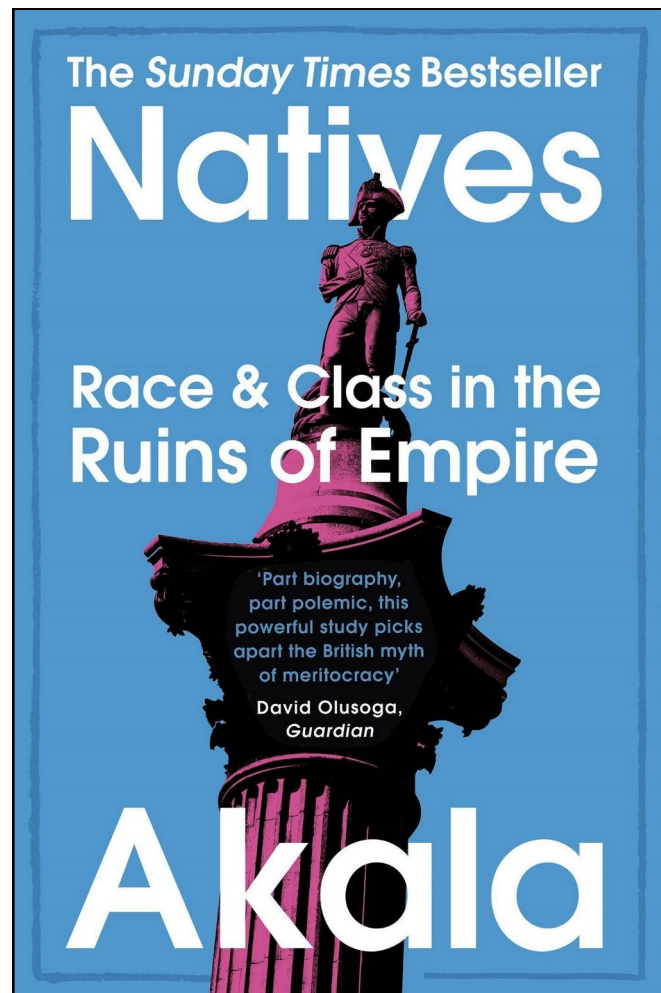
WITH A FOREWORD BY ESTHER FREUD

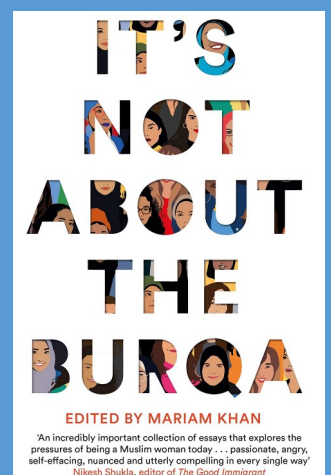
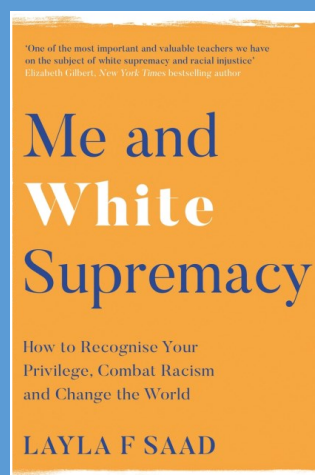
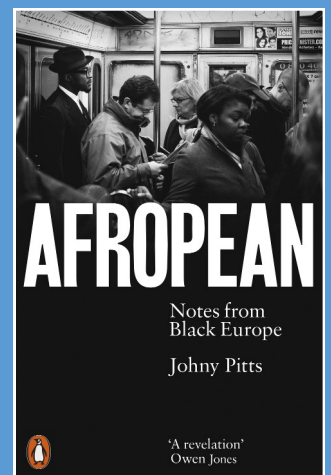
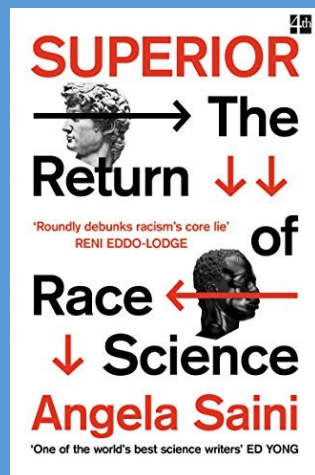
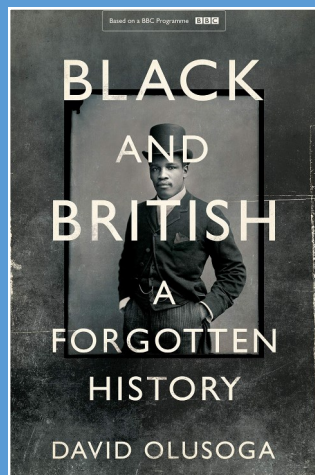
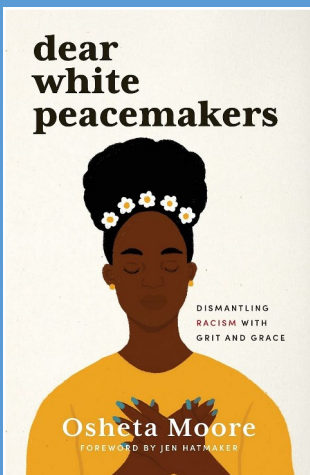
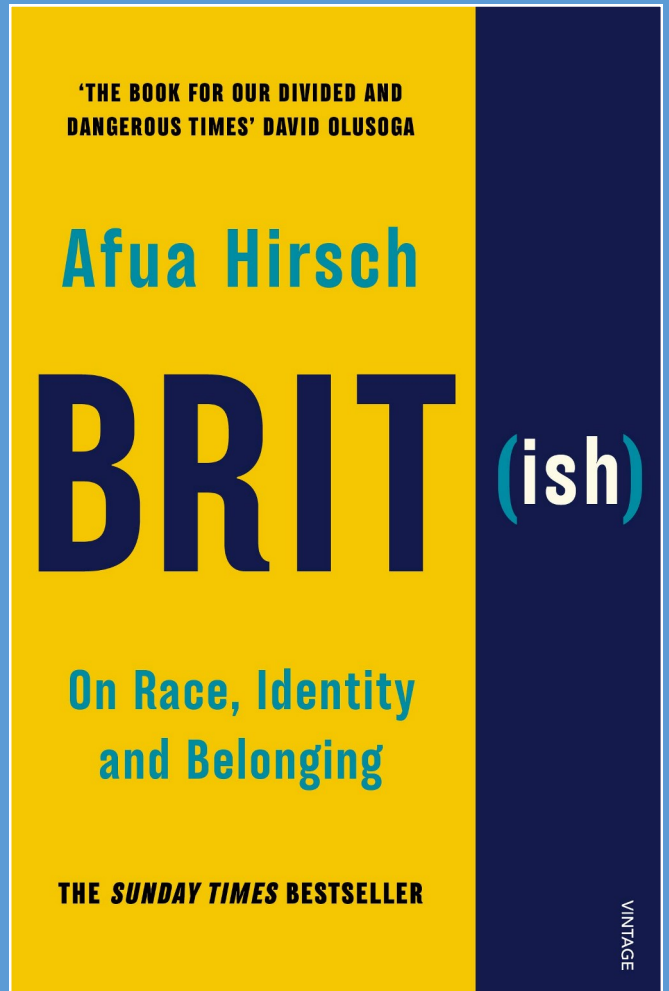
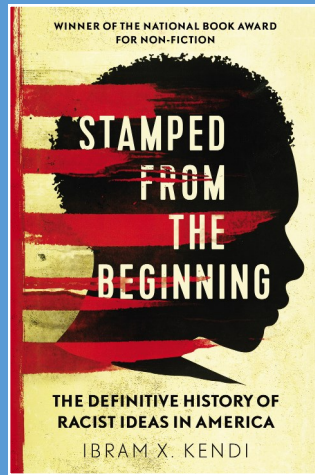
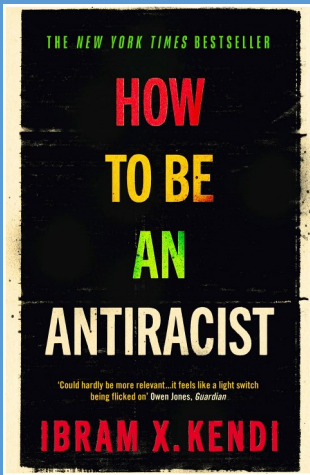
SENIOR FICTION



ANTI-RACISM

A selection of books chosen by Shawlands Academy pupils for the School Library. Their list was featured on the Glasgow Libraries' Libby app as part of UN International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.





Make
an

Origami

photo

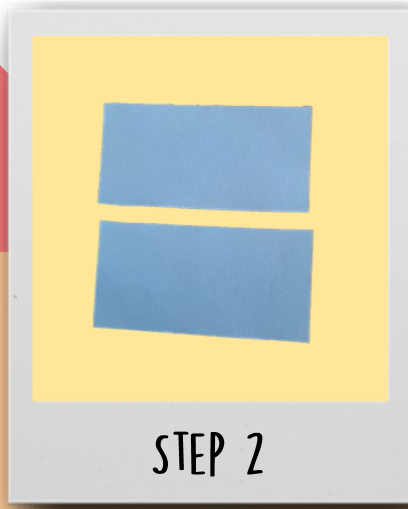
Holder

A quick and easy craft for displaying your favourite
summer snaps!

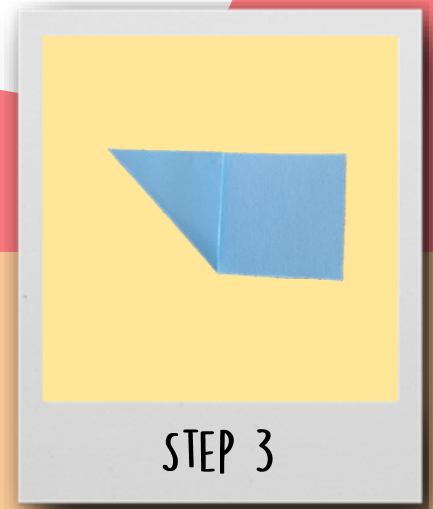
You will need 2 squares of paper in different colours and scissors.



Take both pieces of paper and cut
into 4 small squares.
Put one colour to one side.



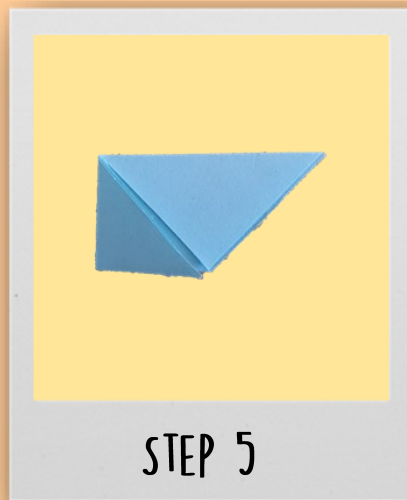
Of the colour that you want to be
your corners, cut each square in
half to make 2 small rectangles.



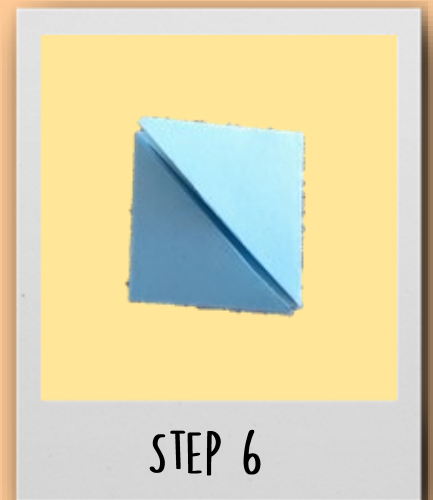
Taking one rectangle, fold the bot-
tom left corner up to the middle of
the top edge of the rectangle.



Fold the top right corner down to
the middle of the bottom edge of
the rectangle, then rotate as
shown.



Fold the bottom left corner up
with the opposite side, creating a
small right-angle triangle.



Repeat the same, but with the top
right corner to have two small
right angle triangles forming a
square.



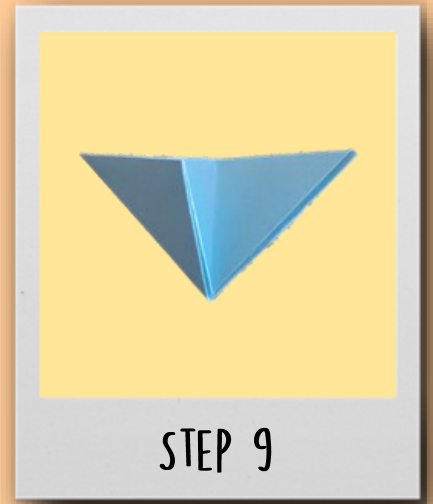
STEP 7

Using the line between triangles as a guide, fold your square in half, then unfold.



STEP 8

Unfold the right side triangle as pictured above.



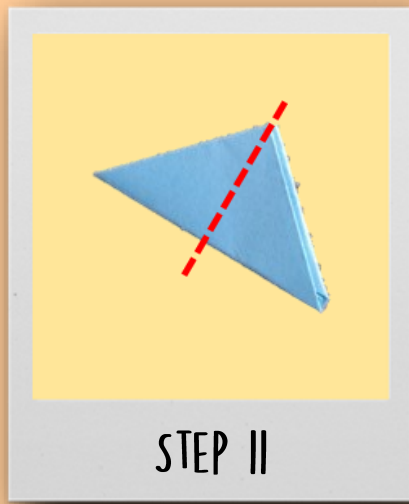
STEP 9

Fold the left triangle up so that the bottom edge meets the midline of the right triangle.



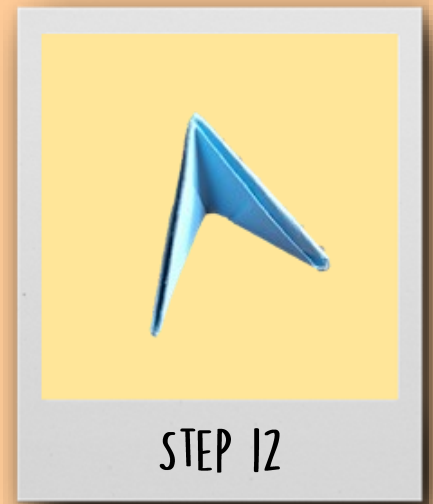
STEP 10

Carefully tuck the right triangle inside the fold of the left triangle. Make sure the folds line up and that the triangle lines flat.



STEP 11

Your paper should now look like this—1 small right angle triangle. Carefully fold this in half along the dotted line.



STEP 12

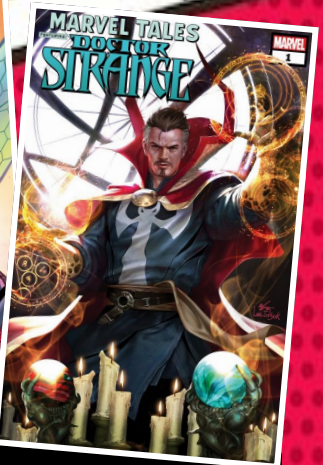
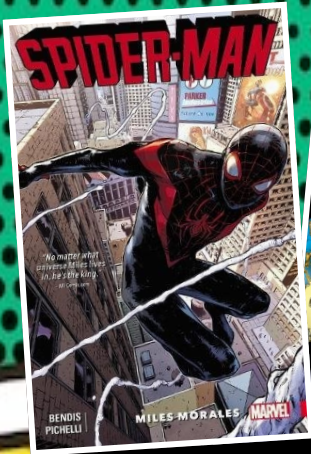
You have completed a corner! Repeat steps 1-11 on 5 more small rectangles (6 in total) to complete your corners.



LASTLY ...

To finish, carefully slot the corners of the 4 squares into the folds of these corners, alternating the direction to give a zig-zag shape (or create your own shapes). Use your new photo holder to display summer snaps, important information, or as a mini display!

SUPERHEROES



Match the superhero with their super power

SUPERHEROES

1. Spider-Man
2. Storm
3. Shuri
4. Wasp
5. Doctor Strange

SUPER POWERS

- A. Transforming into birds
- B. Shrinking in size
- C. Shooting webs
- D. Using magic spells
- E. Controlling the weather

Answers

1.C, 2.E, 3.A, 4.B, 5.D

PERFECTLY SOFT CHOCOLATE CHIP COOKIES

Ingredients

- 170g unsalted butter, softened
- 150g packed dark brown sugar
- 50g granulated sugar
- 1 large egg, room temperature
- 2tsp vanilla extract
- 250g all-purpose flour
- 1tsp bicarbonate of soda
- 1/2tsp salt
- 225g chocolate chips of your choice

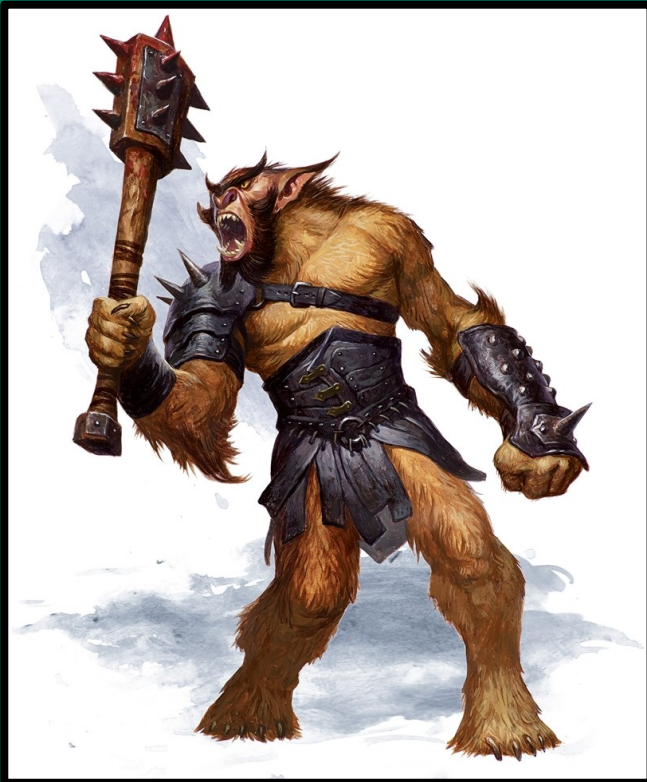
Instructions

1. Mix together butter, brown sugar, and granulated sugar until creamy.
2. Add in the egg and vanilla extract.
3. Combine flour, bicarbonate of soda, and salt in a separate bowl and mix well.
4. Combine the flour mixture with the butter and sugar until a dough is formed. The dough will be slightly crumbly. Mix in the chocolate chips.
5. Chill, covered, for at least 2 hours.
6. Preheat oven to 180C.
7. Line a tray with baking paper and place balls of approximately 1.5tbsp of cookie mixture 2 inches apart.
8. Bake for 12 minutes in the centre of the oven. Cookies will appear uncooked upon removal, but trust the process! Let them cool a bit and enjoy.



Welcome to Phandalin

Follow our intrepid adventurers as they navigate the mysterious world of the Forgotten Realms.



Klarg the Bugbear (Source: DND Beyond)

Set up a role-playing games club in your School Library! Clubs are running in John Paul Academy, Knightswood Secondary School and Lourdes Secondary Library.

Any school staff interested in setting up a Role-Playing Game club, speak to your School Librarian. We've put together a Best Practice Guide to help you. If you're starting with Dungeons and Dragons, we have a detailed walkthrough on creating characters to use with pupils.

There's an anxious pause as the apples fly over the head of the snarling wolf, but he takes the bait and disappears in close pursuit, towards the back of the cave and out of sight. As the intrepid party watch in relief, and Nerinala rushes forward to aid Parakeet, they all see something move behind a crate—two pointed ears, and two tiny horns between them, appear briefly then duck down again. Nobody draws attention to it, but meaningful glances are shared between the adventurers. Kaya's gaze is so focused on the spot that she fails to see the wolf's ears appear above another crate further along. Risconulf also sees another two sets of pointed ears and horns, and two sets of feet poking out from under a heap of sacks. A brief but frantic flurry of gestures has the party agreed that Kaya, short swords drawn, steals quietly forward towards the barrels and the sacks. But nobody expected the sudden appearance of a vicious bugbear, morning star in hand. This is Klarg, leader of the Cragmaw goblins. As he brings down a mighty blow on the stunned human, the others draw their weapons and the lupine members of the party howl in fury.

In response to their call, the other wolf leaps back over the crates and the goblins jump into the fray. The wolf Cat leaps to Kaya's side, and tears into the bugbear's leg—he loses balance under the ferocity of her attack and lies prone on the cave floor, snarling in pain and fury. Cazador takes advantage of his fall to bring down his short sword, but the bugbear rolls to one side and the blade slams down into the rocky floor. Ricsonulf hits one goblin with a mace blow of such force that it flies into a crate which breaks apart. As everyone ducks to avoid the wood, and the wolves leap to catch these new sticks, Klarg jumps back up and swings the morning star at Cazador. But his balance is off, and he hits the cave floor.

While one goblin rushes forward to battle with Nerinala, oddly undaunted by her greater height and fuzziness, Kaya once again fails to cut Klarg with her short swords. Parakeet rushes to Nerinala's aid, bringing the goblin to his knees with a swipe of his claws and a nasty bite. Narwhal, inspired by Parakeet, sweeps down on another goblin but the creature's wriggling means she bites only air, and whines in embarrassment. Wyn, always fiercely on the side of the animals, seeks to revenge Parakeet as she confronts the mangy wolf (Ripper by name, and, much to the discomfort of the goblins, by nature), but her fury affects her aim, and she grows only more enraged as he scoffs at her puny half-elf efforts.

Amakir claims the life of the goblin attacking Nerinala with a deft slash of her scimitar. Nerinala turns her attention to Klarg, casting Sacred Flame with a prayer to her goddess, before turning her fuzzy wrath on the remaining goblins. Cat brings Klarg down with a vicious bite, and Cazador, Ricsonulf, and Kaya take full advantage; in the background, Wyn sings a strangely familiar otherworldly battle song, *Don't Stop Me Now*. Their battle turns into an oddly rhythmic dance, but ends abruptly with Parakeet ripping out the bugbear's throat. Ripper howls at the death of his master. Despite her earlier fury, animal lover Wyn has to be held back from giving into her instinct to comfort the animal. She is pushed in the direction of the remaining goblins, but her tears mean she cannot see her targets. Narwhal steps up, delivers a single bite, and paws triumphantly at the now ex-goblin. The intrepid party focus all their energies on the wolf driven mad with grief and the sole remaining goblin who is suddenly having serious concerns about his lifespan. Sadly, his fears are quickly realised as Cat dismisses him from this plane with a single bite. Nerinala holds the tearful Wyn as Kaya and Ricsonulf back Ripper into a corner. The latter's aim with a dagger is true, and as the creature limps towards his dead master, Kaya deals the final blow. He has just enough energy left to curl up on Klarg's body before he dies.

After taking some time to recover, with Wyn snuggled up with the wolves, everybody's curiosity gets the better of them, and they begin to look more closely around the cave. In the sacks and crates, they find a range of weapons and armour, as well as clothes, meat and flour, all taken from wagons travelling the High Road from Neverwinter. The majority of the crates are emblazoned with the image of a blue lion, which seems strangely familiar to Nerinala. But though she wracks her brains, she cannot identify it. Her frustration is soon forgotten, however, as she unearths a battered wooden treasure chest buried among the sacks. A lucky find indeed, and she can't help but squeal with delight at what's inside—heavy bags of copper and silver coins, two small bottles containing potions of healing, and, most intriguingly, a small jade statue of a stressed-looking little frog with golden orbs for eyes. For some reason, somewhere far back in her mind, as though it's a memory from another life, she hears a song *It's Not Easy Being Green*. As the melody fades, she shrugs it off, and with a blush remembers Sildar, left in the adjoining cave. Much to her relief, he is still there, but still very weak. There's no way he can walk or stay on a horse all the way to Phandalin. How will they get him

there? Wyn, seeking any form of distraction from her guilt over the death of Ripper, suggests that they search for a cart. If it's large enough, they could also take as many of the crates and sacks as they can manage with them. Perhaps someone in Phandalin will know where they came from? With everybody in agreement, Wyn, with the wolves scouting ahead in case more goblins appear, heads out through the caves. In the trees outside, she finds a small ramshackle wagon. It takes a few journeys to carry the spoils of their cave explorations (and Sildar) outside. Once Nerinala makes her blissfully unaware crush comfortable, the wolves are set to draw the wagon, with Wyn guiding and encouraging them, and the others pushing from behind. After some twenty minutes, they are once again on the Triboar Trail, and they relieve the wolves of their burden, harnessing the donkeys to the wagon instead.

The journey back to Phandalin is mercifully without incident. As they wind their way through the town towards the Stonehill Inn, Nerinala notices a familiar symbol across the square— a blue lion! Once they've made sure that Sildar is comfortable in a room at the Inn, and the wolves in an outhouse with food and water, they take the wagon across, and head inside with some of the crates and sacks. A stern-looking woman behind a counter sees them through the people browsing, but they are too far away to see astonishment cross her face before she recovers herself, and marches across to them. "What is all this? Who are you? Where did you find my goods?" She raises an eyebrow, and glares suspiciously at our intrepid adventurers. Wyn suddenly wishes she had some wolves to hide behind.

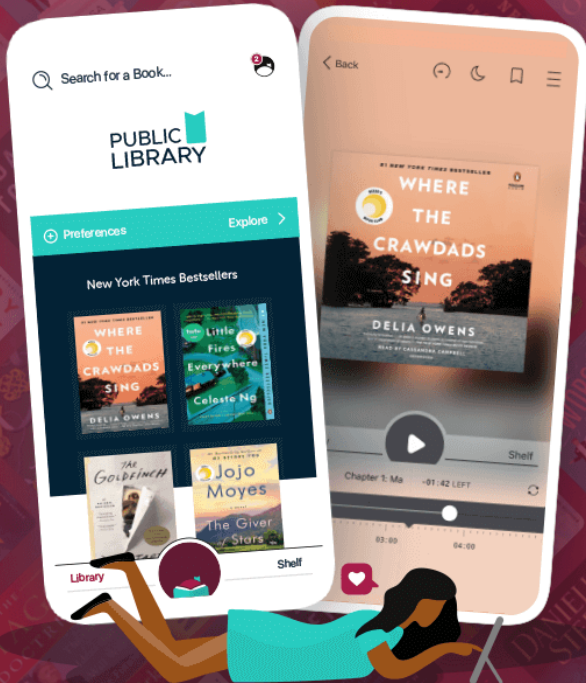


Linene Graywind, Master of the Lionshield Coster trading post branch in Phandalin.

Source: Scabard RPG Resources

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