

# Suggested Reading

## for children aged 12+

### **A Shiver of Snow and Sky**

**Author:** Lisa Lueddecke

When the lights in the sky turn red, the inhabitants of Skane know that the Goddess is warning them of great danger ahead. An atmospheric and thrilling quest that is packed with adventure and magic.

### **Invictus**

**Author:** Ryan Graudin **AR:** 5.7

Born out of time, Far McCarthy has always planned to be a time traveller, but his hopes are dashed when a computer appears to malfunction. However, it turns out to have been no malfunction, but a plot – one which will involve him, and everyone he loves.

### **Prisoner of Ice and Snow**

**Author:** Ruth Lauren **AR:** 5.2

Valor's privileged family is brought to its knees when her sister, Sacha, is imprisoned in an ice fortress for stealing a valuable music box from the royal household. Ideal winter reading.

### **The Beast is an Animal**

**Author:** Peternelle van Arsdale

When unimaginable tragedy strikes her village, Alys is only seven years old, yet she can't stop thinking that she is somehow to blame. An epic story of triumph over adversity in the style of traditional folk tales.

### **The Power of Dark**

**Author:** Robin Jarvis

Set in Whitby, allegedly the most haunted place in Britain, this is a creepy, tense and multi-layered gothic horror story. It might be wise to set aside a whole weekend before starting this book as, once begun, it's almost impossible to put down.

### **A Jigsaw of Fire and Stars**

**Author:** Yaba Badoe

Real and supernatural threats mingle as a girl saved from a shipwreck tries to find justice for her dead parents. Romance and magic combine with a powerful setting and subject to make a unique, enjoyable read for teens.

### **The Red Ribbon**

**Author:** Lucy Adlington

It's Ella's job in the camp, where everyone must either work or be killed, to make beautiful clothes for the wives of Nazi officers and female guards. *The Red Ribbon* is a moving story of friendship, kindness and heroism under impossible circumstances.

### **The Mystery of Me**

**Author:** Karen McCombie

A touching story about identity and how something horrific, like an accident, can actually be life-changing in a positive way.

### **A Change Is Gonna Come**

**Author:** Various

This must-have anthology featuring stories and poems from 12 black, Asian and minority ethnic authors deals with the subject of change with wit, emotion and moments that will make you stop in your tracks.

### **The Wordsmith**

**Author:** Patricia Forde

Letta is a Wordsmith: responsible for handing out words to people who need them, she has never questioned why language is rationed. This post-apocalyptic thriller is full of jeopardy, nail-biting tension and some profound themes.

### **No Fixed Address**

**Author:** Susin Nielsen **AR: 4.3**

If Felix can win Canada's biggest junior quiz show, he and his mum can stop living in a car park. Or is that just wishful thinking? Felix's story is hard to put down and the gritty issue of homelessness is tackled with sensitivity and gentle humour.

### **Kerb-Stain Boys: The Crongton Broadway Robbery**

**Author:** Alex Wheatle

Briggsy, his best friend Terror and the love of Terror's life, Caldonia, are 14 year olds living on the wrong side of the tracks. Soon, their vague fantasy of robbing a post office descends into farce. A hilarious, thrilling and uplifting read that's a breath of fresh air.

### **The House in Poplar Wood**

**Author:** K E Ormsbee **AR: 5.0**

Thirteen-year-old twins, Felix and Lee, live in the same house but lead very separate lives. Skilfully combining a gripping plot, intriguing characters and a convincing alternative world, populated by sinister beings, this is a dark and compelling novel.

### **Banana Sunday**

**Author:** Paul Tobin

Fitting into a new school isn't easy, as Kirby discovers. This full-colour graphic novel in a school setting has an intriguing mystery and a trio of wacky, talking primates, which wittily explores "otherness" in a number of ways.

### **Stay A Little Longer**

**Author:** Bali Rai

Since Aman's father died, nothing has been the same. Then she befriends a new neighbour, who is lonely too. This warm, optimistic book carries a vital message about the importance of confronting and resisting homophobia in all parts of society.

### **Conspiracy of Ravens**

**Author:** Leah Moore / John Reppion / Sally Jane Thompson

Anne Ravenhall is just trying to get through her exams at boarding school - until a mysterious aunt leaves her a mysterious locket. Soon, she's caught up in a roaring supernatural adventure...

### **Firebird**

**Author:** Elizabeth Wein

The atmosphere and setting of World War Two Russia are brought vividly to life through Anastasia: she's a young woman full of hope and dreams, yet entirely a product of her country. This novella packs a real punch.

### **Lou Out of Luck**

**Author:** Nat Luurtsema

Lou's life is not going to plan, but maybe she can rescue the situation with a little help from her performance club and a second-best friend who is into stuffed stoats. A great choice for anyone looking for light reading that will make them laugh out loud.

### **Bone Talk**

**Author:** Candy Gourlay

Samkad is a boy from a remote Filipino "headhunter" tribe called Bontok in the highlands of the Philippines, back in around 1899 – on the brink of invasion by American invaders. A brilliant, exciting and fascinating adventure story.

### **For Every One**

**Author:** Jason Reynolds **AR: 5.4**

The wonderful Jason Reynolds has written this seamless long-form poem about achieving your dreams and reaching your potential. A small but perfectly formed and utterly delightful book: an ideal pick-me-up for everyone.

### **A Good Day For Climbing Trees**

**Author:** Jaco Jacobs

Thirteen-year-old Marnus finds himself at the centre of a protest when he and a girl named Leila camp out in a tree to prevent it from being cut down by developers. This is the perfect feel-good book from one of South Africa's top children's authors.

### **Children of Blood and Bone**

**Author:** Tomi Adeyemi **AR: 4.8**

Magic has been gone from the world for years, destroyed by a vengeful king. Zolie joins forces with a rebel princess to bring it back and save her people from domination. Adeyemi has created a thrilling rollercoaster ride of a book.

### **Moxie**

**Author:** Jennifer Mathieu **BL: 5.3**

One day, when Viv finds feminist Riot Grrrl zines in her mum's wardrobe, she's inspired to make her own: Moxie. Jennifer Mathieu expertly takes the Riot Grrrl aesthetic and philosophy and translates it into a modern story for teens.

### **Long Way Down**

**Author:** Jason Reynolds **AR: 4.3**

Written in verse, *Long Way Down* is breathtakingly gripping and spectacular. You almost read it without breathing; the action is so tense, the language so powerful. Give it to every teenager you know!

### **Blackbird**

**Author:** N D Gomes

Alex McCarthy has lost her older sister, Olivia: she's gone missing, on New Year's Eve. At the same time, a flock of dead blackbirds fall mysteriously from the sky... This is a gripping mystery, full of brooding melancholy, red herrings and clues.

### **The Beast Player**

**Author:** Nahoko Uehashi

Elin's mother has a very special job - caring for the magical Toda which protect their kingdom. But when something goes wrong, Elin must flee and discovers an astonishing talent for communicating with creatures. A sophisticated fantasy that will have teen readers gripped.

### **Witch Born**

**Author:** Nicholas Bowling

Alyce flees to London, hunted as a witch, but finds herself running into even greater danger. Can she find out who she really is before it is too late? There are some genuinely frightening moments of witchery in this enjoyable work of alternative history.

### **The Extinction Trials**

**Author:** S M Wilson

In Storm and Lincoln's world, there are two continents... And one is inhabited by vicious, predatory dinosaurs. A tense, brutal fantasy adventure: *The Hunger Games* meets *Jurassic Park*.

### **Arrowhead**

**Author:** Ruth Eastham

With its complex, well-defined characters and vivid setting, *Arrowhead's* narrative shares much of the same dark driving power that drives Viking mythology, in this thrilling time-slip novel.

### **The Lie Tree**

**Author:** Frances Hardinge **AR:** 6.4

This dark, exciting novel delves into the world of religion versus science in the late 1800s, and twists towards a thrilling climax.

### Gorilla Dawn

**Author:** Gill Lewis **AR:** 4.4

This book tells the story of Imara, taken as a small child from her village when rebels raid it, and brainwashed into thinking that she has magical powers.

### The Boy Who Sailed the Ocean in an Armchair

**Author:** Lara Williamson

Becket Rumsey decides to investigate the reasons behind the strange actions of some of the adults in his life. With the help of his brother Billy and his pet snail Brian, he uncovers some difficult truths - and some beautiful ones.

### An Eagle in the Snow

**Author:** Michael Morpurgo **AR:** 5.2

Stuck on a train, a boy listens to a stranger's story about one moment that could have stopped World War II. A thought-provoking story that young history enthusiasts will especially welcome.

### The Many Worlds of Albie Bright

**Author:** Christopher Edge **AR:** 6.2

A son of two scientists, it's only natural that Albie uses quantum theory when his mum dies, to find a parallel universe where she's still alive. Considering the topics covered, it's a light read that even reluctant readers might be tempted to try.

### Boffin Boy and the Poison Garden

**Author:** David Orme

Both loyal Boffin Boy fans, and those discovering the series for the first time, will enjoy this outlandish adventure about a famous female scientist who is planting trees that look disturbingly like people and animals.

### You Killed Me!

**Author:** Keith Gray

Toby wakes in the middle of the night and there's a ghost at the end of his bed. It's the ghost of a man with a hole in his head - a ghost claiming that Toby killed him.

### 13 Hours

**Author:** Narinder Dhani

Twelve-year-old Anni never really questions why her frightened, ill mother won't leave their once grand but now dilapidated house - until, one day, her mum's worst fears are realised. An exciting, page-turning story.

### River of Ink: Genesis

**Author:** Helen Dennis

River Boy is washed up on the banks of the River Thames, unable to find his voice or memory. The only things he can draw on are his visions and mysterious symbols. An exciting first book in a trilogy.

### I am Malala

**Author:** Malala Yousafzai **AR:** 7.1

This is the real life story of one of the most incredible and inspirational young people in the world. Reading this book might just change the way you think and feel.