



WIDE READING FOR YEARS 5-8

A comprehensive range of books to entice children into the wonderful world of imagination, adventure, mystery, excitement, fantasy, discovery, humour and realism.

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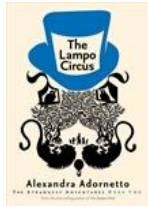
SHADOW THIEF
ALEXANDRA ADORNETTO

HB: 9780732286187 PB: 9780732286293

Drabville is a model town, where Milli Klompet lives with her slightly offbeat family and spends her time longing for adventure. Then one day, along with her cautious best friend and amateur geologist, Ernest Perriclof, Milli discovers 'Hog House'. But the afternoon's entertainment takes a different turn when they are held prisoner by the wacky Mr and Mrs Mayor and a cohort of evil magicians, led by the sinister Aldor.

Aldor is eagerly anticipating the Great Guzzle – a horrifying ceremony during which he plans to swallow the shadows of every citizen in Drabville, absorbing their skills and talents and rendering himself invincible.

Milli and Ernest must evade the Shadow Keepers and outwit the sinister Aldor before the shadows are swallowed and Drabville loses its soul forever.



LAMPO CIRCUS
ALEXANDRA ADORNETTO

HB: 9780732286194

The arrival of Federico Lampo and his travelling circus brings a new threat to Drabville when the children are kidnapped and transported to the grim world of the Conjurers' Realm. Lord Aldor, assisted by Ringmaster Lampo and the vicious Contessa Bombasta, is plotting to conquer the fairy province of Mirth.

The children embark on a quest to warn the Queen of Mirth, encountering some fearsome obstacles, not least the ferocious Grin Bandits and their tooth-extracting apparatus.

As the day of battle draws near, Milli and Ernest realise that if Lord Aldor defeats them, theirs won't be the only lives at stake...

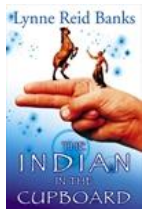


SPECKY MAGEE
FELICE ARENA

PB: 9780207198298

Specky Magee is twelve years of age and mad about Australian Rules football. He is also a very talented player. Not that anyone in his family would know – or care. Specky plays footy every Saturday and there's never anyone barracking for him on the sideline. Specky finds a baby photo of himself dressed up in footy gear. He knows that his parents would never have done this as they hate footy. Specky begins to suspect that he might be adopted, and this story is his search for his father – his real, 'footy-loving' father.

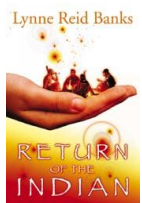
Felice Arena has written a story that combines a compelling storyline with real football action. A story that will appeal to both boys and girls, whether or not they are footy mad.



INDIAN IN THE CUPBOARD
LYNNE REID BANKS

PB: 9780007148981

For Omri, it is a dream come true when the plastic American Indian he locks into the old cupboard comes to life. Little Bull is everything an Indian brave should be – proud, fearless and defiant. But being in charge of a real, live human being is a heavy responsibility, as Omri soon discovers. And when his best friend, Patrick, is let in on the secret, he soon realises that life-changing decisions lie ahead.



RETURN OF THE INDIAN
Lynne Reid Banks

PB: 9780007148998

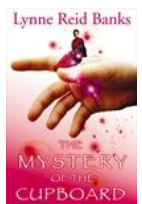
Omri has never forgotten Little Bull, and finally yields to the temptation to see his tiny blood brother again. But when the cupboard door opens, Little Bull is slumped, unconscious, over his horse, two bullet wounds in his back. As Omri tries to help him, he faces the terrifying responsibility of power, the power of life and death.



SECRET OF THE INDIAN
Lynne Reid Banks

PB: 9780007149001

Who would believe that a plastic toy American Indian and a plastic toy cowboy can come to life? When Omri's friend Patrick goes back in time to the Wild West, keeping the secret safe becomes even more difficult for Omri.



MYSTERY OF THE CUPBOARD
Lynne Reid Banks

PB 9780007149018

What will Omri find inside the eaves of his new home? Will there be more little figures that come to life? After Omri reads his great-great-great-aunt's account, he longs to try the key. And when his friend Patrick comes to stay, nothing can stop him.



KEY TO THE INDIAN
Lynne Reid Banks
PB: 9780007149025

Omri and his father travel back in time to find Little Bull and his people in deep trouble, torn between staying in the West and facing extinction or starting a long trek to a new life in Canada. Omri's final parting with Little Bull is incredibly moving yet the book is also very funny



TIGER TIGER
Lynne Reid Banks
PB: 9780007190423

Her heart was throbbing behind her ribs. A real, live tiger? But that was impossible! Of all the beasts brought from far-off countries the tiger was the most formidable. There could be no one bold enough to introduce one into Caesar's palace, Two tiger cubs are snatched from their native jungle and shipped to Rome. On arrival at this strange land crowded with noisy "two-legs" they are cruelly separated. One cub becomes the princess's pampered and adored house pet. The other, fiercer, cub is trained to become the star performer in Caesar's bloodthirsty circus.

Princess Aurelia detests her father's brutal "sport", but must keep her feelings secret – no one dares criticise the almighty Caesar! The only person she can confide in is the slave Julius, her tiger's keeper. But such a friendship is equally forbidden: should the Emperor find out, his

anger would be terrible and the punishment severe. But friendship and love cannot be dictated, and neither tiger nor man is destined for a life in chains. In a world dominated by Caesar's will, all must fight for freedom...

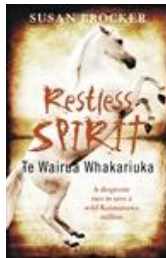


SECRET ORDER OF THE GUMM STREET GIRLS
Elise Primavera
PB: 9780060569488

Franny longs for adventure but can't even do a cartwheel. Pru can do a cartwheel but prefers hiding under her quilt making up safety tips. Cat has no use for safety tips but supposedly has ESP. And Ivy has had a seven-year string of bad luck—a Jinx that's about to get a whole lot worse.

The four are thrown together when a pair of mysterious ruby red slippers turn up, along with the fashionably mad Cha-Cha Staccato, who bears a frightening resemblance to a certain wicked witch. . . .

As hilarious as it is original, *The Secret Order of the Gumm Street Girls* is an unforgettable take on girlhood, piano recitals, *The Wizard of Oz*, and the dependable everyday magic of true friendship.



RESTLESS SPIRIT
Susan Brocker
PB: 9781869506230

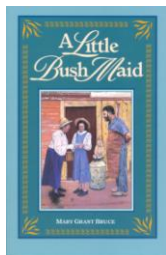
A moving and exciting adventure story for 9–12 year olds, set against the sweeping landscape of the North Island's volcanic plateau and Desert Road, RESTLESS SPIRIT tells the story of a wild white Kaimanawa stallion who cannot be tamed and the two young troubled teens who come to love him.

Lara is new in town and resents it – Kahu is a talented carver, outwardly cocky and confident but riddled with doubts and fears.

Hunters slaughter the young stallion's family and he learns to fear and distrust humans, but when a brutish trainer targets the white stallion during the annual DOC muster, he must learn to trust Lara and Kahu if they are to have any chance of saving him.

To accomplish this, Lara and Kahu must both reach out – Lara to her peers and her estranged mother, and Kahu must reveal his hidden talent. Both must also face the reality that to help the stallion, they must ultimately lose him.

Parallel to their journey, the white stallion must face and overcome his fears. He must call on the strength and wisdom of his ancestors and place his trust in Lara and Kahu.



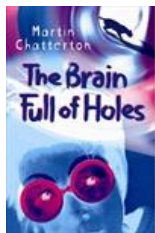
A LITTLE BUSH MAID
Mary Grant Bruce
PB: 9780207191046

Billabong, a large cattle and sheep property in the Australian countryside, is home to twelve-year-old Norah Linton, her widowed father, David, and her older brother, Jim. Norah's prim and proper aunts, who live in the city, consider she is in danger of "growing up wild" – riding all over Billabong on her beloved pony, Bobs, helping with mustering, and joining in all the holidays fun when Jim and his friends come home from boarding school. A fishing trip results in unexpected drama when they discover a mysterious stranger camped in the bush. Who is this stranger and why is he there? Norah's resourcefulness is tested to the full!



BRAIN FINDS A LEG
Martin Chatterton
PB: 9781921049798

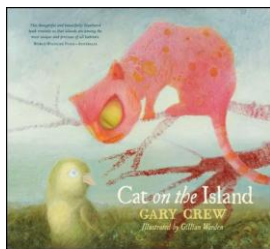
The local wildlife is behaving distinctly out of character ... and just who is the mysterious new student at the local high school, and what is he looking for? Sheldon McGlone has had a tough time of it lately. But just when he thinks things couldn't get more tiresome, a strange new kid turns up in his class. Theo is not only frighteningly brainy, he could also be the key to the weird things happening in the bay (it's not every day that a crocodile turns up wanting to play throw-the-stick and what is the deal with the missing leg?). Perhaps Theo even knows what really happened the day Sheldon's dad disappeared... Sheldon is drawn into the dark secrets of mysterious forces, and soon realises nothing is as it seems—and that it could be deadly!



BRAIN FULL OF HOLES
Mark Chatterton
PB: 9781921272288

Sheldon McGlone is finding it hard to adjust to his new life in Switzerland. It's not surprising really. He's just left his home in Australia and moved half way around the world because his mother has married a member of a specialist scientific crack squad. That's not something that happens every day. And now Sheldon's best friend, The Brain, is also his step-brother. That would be weird even if your best friend wasn't a frighteningly brainy super-sleuth. And The Brain IS a frighteningly brainy super sleuth. But what REALLY has Sheldon worried is The Brain's constant preoccupation with the missing holes in his cheese sandwiches – oh, and also the carnivorous cuckoo-clocks he keeps seeing everywhere!

Sheldon and The Brain are drawn into the crazy world of Quantum Physics, and soon realise what can happen when science takes the lid off Pandora's Box...



CAT ON THE ISLAND
Gary Crew Illustrated by Gillian Warden
HB: 9780207200700

It was raining outside, so I said: 'Gramps, tell me a story.'

This is the true story of David and his father, who came to Stephens Island – a remote and pristine island off Cook Strait between the North and South Islands of New Zealand in 1894. There they built a lighthouse to protect ships entering the strait. Oblivious of the potential damage to the environment, they chopped down the trees and ferns where the local birds sheltered, thereby demolishing their habitat.

But worse than that, they brought their pregnant cat with them. The tiny Stephens Island wrens, being flightless, had no natural defences against the predators and were wiped out in less than two years. The event is cited as the only instance where one species has been directly responsible for the extinction of another.

Of course, once they realised what had happened, conservation authorities began the official eradication of the cats, but by then the damage had been done.

The strikingly beautiful illustrations reinforce the tragedy of the obliteration of this tiny Eden, a timely metaphor for that other paradise known as Earth.

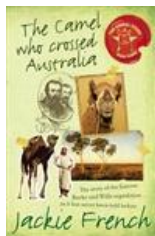


GOAT WHO SAILED THE WORLD
Jackie French
PB: 9780207200779

The HM Bark Endeavour is sailing to Tahiti to map the transit of Venus, but there are rumours that once the task is completed, Lieutenant James Cook has a set of secret orders – orders that command him to search for the Great South Land.

Isaac is twelve and has joined the crew of the Endeavour as a master's servant, good for scrubbing decks and not much else. He's certainly not considered good enough to fetch hay for the Goat who will provide fresh milk for Cook and his officers. And this goat even has more experience at sea than Isaac – she has already sailed around the world once, watching the ocean and lands slip by from her spot on the quarterdeck.

Over the months on board the Endeavour, a friendship grows between the Goat and Isaac, one that will last through shipwreck, bushfire and illness. A friendship that helps in the discovery of exotic new lands ...



CAMEL WHO CROSSED AUSTRALIA
Jackie French
PB: 9780732285432

The story of the famous Burke and Wills expedition ... as it has never been told before

The humans called him 'Bell Sing', but to the other camels he is known as 'He Who Spits Further Than the Wind'.

Transported from the mountains and deserts of the 'Northwest Frontier' (present-day Pakistan and Afghanistan), Bell Sing accompanies explorers Burke and Wills as they try to cross Australia from south to north.

Bell Sing has never had a high opinion of humans – or horses. And this expedition is the worst managed caravan he's even been in. Camel handler Dost Mahomet and soldier John King are also beginning to wonder if their leader is competent, or crazy.

Bell Sing can smell water over the sandhills on the horizon ... and freedom too. Can the expedition succeed? And who – if anyone – will survive?

This is the gritty and true story about one of the most extraordinary and iconic events in Australia's history.



DOG WHO LOVED A QUEEN
Jackie French
PB: 9780732285081

To the world outside her luxurious prison, Mary Queen of Scots is either a shameless beauty who killed her husband, or the rightful queen of England and Scotland, tragically held captive by Elizabeth the First. But to the dog who loved her, Mary is simply his mistress, and the centre of his life.

While Mary desperately plots to seize both her freedom and the throne, her dog Folly's world is one of chasing mice behind the tapestries and enjoying turkey legs with quinces for supper. Until the day comes when they try to take his Queen away ...

Based on the true story of the dog who was with Mary when she died, The Dog Who Loved a Queen is a fascinating tale of religious bigotry, plots and passion – and the unquestioning loyalty of a small Scottish terrier.



SECRET WORLD OF WOMBATS
Jackie French
 PB: 9780207200311

A non-fiction book that explores everything you've ever wanted to know about wombats. Jackie French loves wombats. She's been living with and studying them for over 30 years, and they have been featured characters in many of her books.

Now her beloved wombats take centre stage, as Jackie reveals everything you have ever wanted to know about them – from their zoological history to habitation and habits. Jackie also shares some personal stories from her experiences living with these wonderful creatures. There are also wombat Q&As and wombat jokes sprinkled throughout the book.



HOW HIGH CAN A KANGAROO JUMP?
Jackie French
 PB: 9780732285449

Why does Australia have animals that are so different from others anywhere else in the world?
 Why do kangaroos and wallabies have such big tummies?
 Who were the kangaroos with fangs that lived 10 million years ago?
 What's the best way to become invisible (to kangaroos, at any rate)?
 Which wallaby is a 'living fossil' – the same as the wallabies that grazed 10 million years ago?
 Why do joeys eat their mother's droppings?

Find out in this fascinating new book! PS: What do you call a kangaroo with a flower behind their ear and a big grin? A happy hippy hoppy.

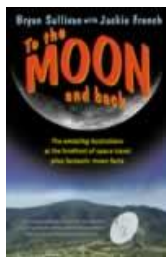


SHAGGY GULLY TIMES
Jackie French
 HB: 9780732284107

Look! Up in the sky! Is it a bird? Is it a plane? No, it's a wombat, a sheep and a dancing kangaroo – And they're on the front page of The Shaggy Gully Times!
 The small bush town of Shaggy Gully is home to many animals, including local celebrities Mothball, Pete and Josephine. Pete the Sheep runs a successful hairdressing salon and Josephine is a renowned ballerina. Mothball is editor of the weekly newspaper, The Shaggy Gully Times. She also can't spell.

This week's edition is jam-packed with exciting news of how a small town comes together to rescue some unfortunately animals from Mr Nasty's zoo. How did the rescue take place and will the newcomer animals fit into life in Shaggy Gully?

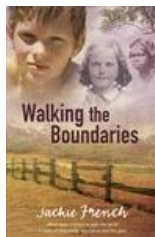
Read all about this and other exciting news in the punniest newspaper ever!



TO THE MOON AND BACK
Bryan Sullivan and Jackie French
 PB: 9780207000090

Who are the Honeysuckle Creek mob? And how did they assist the first moon landing?
 When man took the first step on the moon it was a bunch of Australian technicians who tracked the spacecraft and sent the first television pictures to the world. No, not at Parkes – the movie The Dish got it wrong. They were from Honeysuckle Creek in the ACT. This is their story, told by Bryan Sullivan, one of the technicians on duty at the time, and his wife, children's author Jackie French.

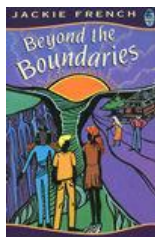
This book also includes information about the space program and the birth of the internet, as well as supplying the answers to questions such as:
 How do you go to the toilet in a spacecraft? Have the astronauts ever seen an alien?
 What made the moon? Can I have a holiday in space?



WALKING THE BOUNDARIES
Jackie French
 PB: 9780207200434

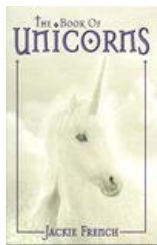
Martin lives in the city with his mum. He's come to walk the boundaries of the farm that's been in his family for generations. It sounds easy, especially as he'll own the land when he gets back. Martin's great-grandfather, Ted, doesn't even want him to walk around the farm's fences, just up the gorge and along the hills.

But up in the gorge Martin meets Meg from almost a century ago and Wullamudulla from thousands of years in the past. Despite their differences they discover that they're all on the same journey ... and that walking the boundaries means more than following lines on a map.



BEYOND THE BOUNDARIES
Jackie French
 PB: 9780207187469

The farm it was now all his, held in trust till he was twentyone. But it would still be in trust. That's what it meant to own the farm You held it in trust, you looked after it, you cherished it. You were the guardian, like all the other guardians, stretching back in time ...
 The boundaries were more than lines on a map. Boundaries shifted in the gorge, till there were no boundaries at all, the lines between different times and different people so indistinct that everything seemed to merge. There is danger the land is calling him and Martin must walk the boundaries again. What will he find on his journey?
 In this sequel to Walking the Boundaries Martin finds the shifting boundaries take him further than he could have imagined deep into the future and further into the past.



BOOK OF UNICORNS

Jackie French

PB: 9780207

There are worlds where fields of dry, baked earth are side by side with enchanted gardens, and places where the strangest creatures are the truest friends. These are the places where unicorns heal hearts and minds, and a place where dreams come true. Unicorns can give you strength to carry on or they can be weak, strange-looking foal, hand-fed like a paddy lamb, asleep beside Grandma's stove. Whether fragile or strong, in this world or a place light years away, these mythical creatures will always be magic!

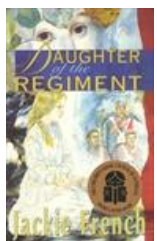


DARK WIND BLOWING

Jackie French

PB: 9780207197963

Mike is just like any other normal kid – he lives with his mum in an ordinary house, in a small town, where nothing unusual ever happens. His next-door neighbour is Lance Loosley, a boy who's known at school as 'Loser' because he's so unpopular. Loser tells Mike that 'Tenterfield' – the old property nearby, which was recently bought by some foreign investors is being used as a laboratory to run dangerous experiments. Of course, Mike doesn't believe Loser for a second. He's always concocting stories to make himself look good. But one day at school, Loser is pushed too far by the other kids. This time the humiliation and teasing is too much, and Loser seeks revenge. He smashes a test tube in class, a test tube that he says contains a deadly virus from the 'Tenterfield' property. Is Loser telling the truth? Have they all driven him into becoming a killer? Will they all die from the virus?



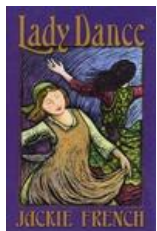
DAUGHTER OF THE REGIMENT

Jackie French

PB: 9780207196744

There was a light in the corner of the chook-house, just below the perches. It was bright and strangely piercing, like a bit of sun had wandered in by mistake. Who is the girl through the hole in the chook-house? Is it a hole in time? And how can you help someone who lived more than 150 years ago? Merry dreads leaving the farm to go to boarding school next year. Cissie is an orphaned girl living with the soldiers at the garrison 150 years ago.

Something more powerful than time has drawn them both together.



LADY DANCE

Jackie French

PB: 9780207197475

The plague is ravaging Europe. A young girl, lost and alone in her village after her family dies finds hope when Lady Dance comes by ...



RIDE THE WILD WIND

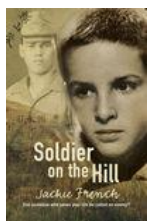
Jackie French

PB: 9780207198304

This collection takes us on a journey through the ages, focusing on the special relationship that exists between humans and horses. The first story, set six thousand years ago in the Ukraine, is the touching tale of a young girl who forms a close bond with a pony that she rears from a foal.

Then we travel to ancient Greece and witness the cruelties of slavery; we experience the terror of the half-million horses in Genghis Khan's army; we wander through the glades of Arthurian England; and in twentieth-century Australia we meet a young Aboriginal boy and the wild stallion he tames. The final story is set in the Australia of the 1950's where the long working partnership between people and horses is finally coming to an end.

These heart-warming stories are full of love and life; it is a collection that few readers will be able to resist.



SOLDIER ON THE HILL

Jackie French

PB: 9780207196379

The hole was moving! The walls were falling down... there was a rope under his arms. There was a face above. An anxious face, yelling something down to him, something he didn't understand. A strange face, with something wrong about the eyes. Tanned skin, unshaven, black hair a bit too long. Joey knows there is a Japanese soldier hiding in the hills. It was a Japanese man, a soldier, who hauled him out of the mineshaft, who lit the fire to bring the searchers, and then disappeared. But nobody believes Joey. After all, it is World War 2 and children have nightmares. Joey knows he will have to find the soldier himself – must find him. Could he be part of the invasion force? Could he be sending messages to waiting submarines?

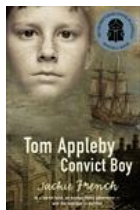


SOMEWHERE AROUND THE CORNER

Jackie French
PB: 9780207183591

Just shut your eyes and picture yourself walking around the corner. That's what my friend told me. Somewhere around the corner and you'll be safe.

The demonstration was wild, out of control. Barbara was scared. She saw the policeman running towards her. She needed to escape. She closed her eyes and did precisely that: she walked somewhere around the corner – to another demonstration – to another time. Barbara was lucky she meet young Jim who took her out of this strange, frightening city to his home. It was 1932, when Australia was in the grip of the depression, and Jim lived in a shantytown. But Barbara found a true friend and a true home – somewhere safe around the corner.



TOM APPLEBY, CONVICT BOY

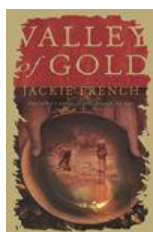
Jackie French
PB: 9780207199424

A story of transportation and life in a new world.

At the tender age of eight, chimney sweep Tom Appleby is convicted of stealing and sentenced to deportation to Botany Bay. As one of the members of the First Fleet, he arrives in a country that seemingly has little to offer – or little that the English are used to, anyway.

Luckily, not long after Tom's arrival in the colony, the fair and kind Sergeant Stanley decides to take on Tom as a servant. Together Tom, Sergeant Stanley and his son, Rob, build a house, set up an orchard and a vegetable garden for themselves – and thrive, unlike many others in the new colony.

Jackie French weaves Tom's story in with the story of the development of Australia. She tells of a colony that, despite its natural abundance, cannot offer what the colonists want – familiarity. While the people's health is better than it ever was in England, their morale is low as they wait for news from home.



VALLEY OF GOLD

Jackie French
PB: 9780207199882

One valley's stories of gold through the ages, from the beginning of the earth 4 billion years ago, through the valley's creation and the history of its alluring deposits.

Interspersed with historical and geological information are stories that bring to life the valley and its occupants. First, around 35,000 BC, we meet Mirrigan, a young Aboriginal man hunting the last of the mainland thylacine to present its skin to his female friend, Dhani. From there we move through stories of European settlement, gold rushes, Chinese immigration, bushrangers, relations between Indigenous and European people, world wars, the Depression and natural disasters. When we arrive at the present day, the substance that has so shaped the valley's recent history – gold – is still an important commodity, but no longer at the expense of the valley.

Jackie French once again manages to inform and entertain in this wonderful collection of stories.



WHITE SHIP

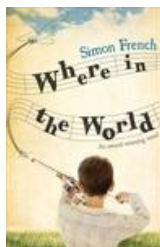
Jackie French
PB: 9780207197987

Michel was happy living with his family on a remote island off the coast of France. Even if he sometimes dreamt of sailing the ocean on a wonderful ship like the Captain's White Ship, his days were too full of fishing and chores to think about it much. But one day disaster strikes the island. Michel and the other children are forced to flee from Catherine de Medici's soldiers on the White Ship and look for a new land to call home.

Finally Michel's dream has come true – but at what cost? And, what's more, something strange has begun to happen to the White Ship: the ship never weighs anchor, no one grows any older, and they never sight land. What's happening to them? And why is Michel haunted by bizarre dreams of an island in a distant southern land and a girl called Rachel?

It takes a catastrophe for Michel to discover the truth behind the White Ship's endless journey and to solve the mystery of Rachel and the strange southern land.

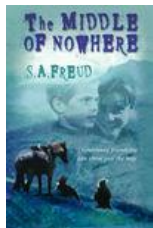
The White Ship is a story of religious persecution, friendship, and an idealism that stretches over four hundred years; but most of all, it's a story about the search for safe harbour and a place to call home.



WHERE IN THE WORLD

Simon French
PB: 9781921272578

Through a series of recollections, this book tells the compelling story of Ari, an 11-year-old boy with a gift for music. For such a young boy, he has already had to face some big issues in life: emigrating with his mother from Germany to Australia; leaving behind his beloved grandfather, with whom he and his mother had lived with since the death of Ari's father in a car accident; developing a relationship with his new stepfather; and learning how to deal with his musical talent, the expectations it places on him and what it means for his future. By remembering his early travels in Europe with his mother, and translating his memories of people and places into pieces of music, Ari grows to realise that life is composed of many kinds of journeys – figurative as well as literal – and accepting those journeys is part of finding your place in the world. With beautifully drawn characters and relationships, this is a gentle and moving book.

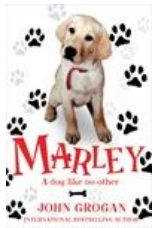


MIDDLE OF NOWHERE

S.A. Freud
PB: 9780207197918

Sometimes friendship can show you the way.

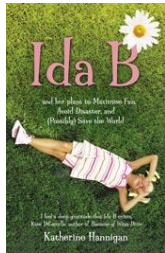
When Shaun Weller's mum and stepfather leave a groovy city suburb and move to an isolated farmhouse in northern New South Wales, Shaun is not too happy. He's stuck in the middle of nowhere with no friends and a new school where bullies are determined to make his life a misery. Then he meets Henley Mitchell. Bird-watching, orienteering-mad Henley is as big a misfit as Shaun, and before long they become firm friends. Life in the bush becomes more bearable, but the bullying only gets worse. Shaun and Henley are ready to despair when an accident changes everything and leads them on the adventure of a lifetime, one that makes the school bully and his gang see that there is far more to these so-called geeks than anyone realised.



MARLEY a dog like no other
John Grogan
PB: 9780007258048

Meet Marley, a yellow furball of a puppy who quickly grows into a large, rowdy Labrador retriever. Marley is always getting into trouble, whether he is stealing underwear, crashing through doors, or drooling on guests, some may say he's the World's Worst Dog!

But those who know and love Marley accept him as a dog like no other. His heart is pure and his larger-than-life personality irresistible. He brings joy to his family, the Grogans, and teaches them what really matters in life.



IDA B.
Katherine Hannigan
PB: 9780007234202

Ida B's life is perfect: she is home-schooled by loving parents on a beautiful farm with its own orchard, creek and mountain (well, a pile of earth too tall to be called a hill). Left to her own devices in this rural haven, she talks to the trees in the orchard and sends miniature rafts down the creek, to which she attaches notes like "What is life like in Canada? Please respond".

But the idyll is shattered when Ida B's mother develops cancer. Her father is forced to stop home-schooling her – and to sell the orchard to a property developer. Feeling angry and betrayed, Ida B rebels in every way



CAPT HOOK
J.V. Hart III. Brett Helquist
PB: 9780060002220

With his long black curls, a shadowy family tree, and an affinity for pet spiders, James Matthew bears little resemblance to his starched-collar, blue-blooded peers at Eton. Dubbed King Jas., he stops at nothing to become the most notorious underclassman in the prestigious school's history. For James, sword fighting, falling in love with an Ottoman Sultana, and challenging the Queen of England are all in a day's skullduggery. But when he sets sail on a ship with a mysterious mission, King Jas.' dream of discovering a magical island quickly turns into an unimaginable nightmare.

Screenwriter J. V. Hart traces the evolution of J. M. Barrie's classic villain from an eccentric outcast to the scourge of Neverland.

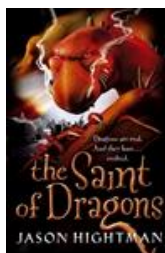


PADDY THE WANDERER
Dianne Haworth
PB: 9781869506254

A well researched and endearing non-fiction account of an amazing Airedale who captured public imagination throughout New Zealand during the Great Depression, and who is today honoured in Wellington by a statue celebrating his status as a much-loved local legend.

Like Scotland's Greyfriar's Bobby, Paddy mourned the loss of his human, in his case a little mistress who died of pneumonia, but instead of haunting a graveyard, Paddy headed for the waterfront. There he became a favourite of the watersiders and seamen, not to mention the taxi and bus drivers of the Central City, who fed and protected him from dog rangers. He certainly got around – taken on board ship and crossing the Tasman, travelling around coastal ports and even flying in a Gypsy Moth – not to mention the dastardly attempt to move him to Auckland by jealous Aucklanders. He was also rumoured to have made it to San Francisco and back.

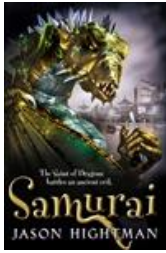
Formally adopted by the Harbour Board, his official title was Assistant Night Watchman responsible for Pirates, Smugglers and Rodents. On his death his funeral procession brought Wellington to a standstill. Not bad for a stray dog.



SAINT OF DRAGONS
Jason Hightman
PB: 9780007159079

Simon St. George meets his long lost father after supposing him dead, only to be informed that he is a descendant of St George the Dragon Slayer and it is his duty to inherit this role himself. For there are dragons in today's society and the world should be rid of their evil once and for all! Trouble is, they are disguised as humans in positions of power....

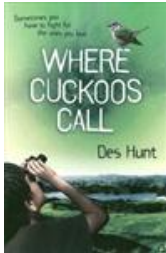
Exciting fantasy adventure with generous lashings of snarky humour.



SAMURAI
Jason Hightman
 PB: 9780007159093

Dragons. They revel in human misery and leave a trail of pain and death wherever they go. They live alone, masquerading as their victims, unrecognisable to all but a select few.

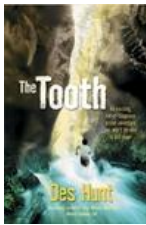
Simon St George is back, and still learning to live with his father – brash Aldric St George. But just as he is getting used to the security of a new family, as well as continuing to learn the business of dragonhunting, he finds out another shocking revelation – he IS NOT the last of the dragonhunters.



WHERE CUCKOOS CALL
Des Hunt
 PB: 9781869506070

The story of a migratory shining cuckoo, raised by 12 year old Ben Mansfield, a keen ornithologist who looks after endangered birds nesting in a sheltered bay on his family farm in the Coromandel Peninsula.

Ben and his mum are dealing with the long term effects of his father's debilitating illness, and when it looks as if the farm will have to sold, Ben's life turns upside down. He must grow up fast as change threatens his family, his home, and his beloved birds, when a resort development is unveiled and marauding hoons hit the beaches on motocross bikes. But Ben finds an unexpected ally – and his decision to defy his father and raise an orphaned Shining Cuckoo takes him far across the Pacific to Vanuatu. But the same ally also lands him in serious trouble when a misguided attempt to help backfires, landing him in deep trouble.



THE TOOTH
Des Hunt
 PB: 9781869506384

Tim Thomas is searching for dinosaur fossils in the hills above Pounamu, his grandparent's sheep station. His mum drowned when he was four, leaving Tim with only a vague memory of her – and of a large tooth embedded in rock. But time is against him as he races to find the exact spot where the tooth lies, before the river gully is dammed and the rising waters cover the site.

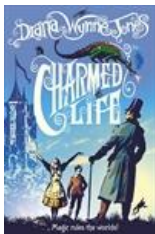
He also has to deal with Sam Mason, the school bully, and when Tim's horse is stolen his attempts to get her back bring him up against a gang of horse thieves. And then when it starts to rain, the waters begin to rise, and Tim is in trouble - deep trouble.



RED SCARF GIRL
Ji-Li Jiang
 PB: 9780064462082

In 1966 Ji-li Jiang turned twelve. An outstanding student and leader, she had everything: brains, the admiration of her peers, and a bright future in China's Communist Party. But that year China's leader, Mao Ze-dong, launched the Cultural Revolution, and everything changed. Over the next few years Ji-li and her family were humiliated and scorned by former friends, neighbors, and co-workers. They lived in constant terror of arrest. Finally, with the detention of her father, Ji-li faced the most difficult choice of her life.

Told with simplicity and grace, this is the true story of one family's courage and determination.



CHARMED LIFE
Diana Wynne Jones
 PB: 9780007

Everybody says that Gwendolyn Chant is a gifted witch with astonishing powers, so it suits her enormously when she is taken to live in Chrestomanci Castle. Her brother Eric (better known as Cat) is not so keen, for he has no talent for magic at all. However, life with the great enchanter is not what either of them expects and sparks begin to fly!

Winner of the Guardian Award.



MAGICIANS OF CAPRONA
Diana Wynne Jones
 PB: 9780007267682

Casa Montana and Casa Petrocchi look after the magical business in the Dukedom of Caprona, watched over by its magnificent guardian statue, the Angel. The families have been feuding for years, so when all the spells start going wrong, each naturally blames the other. Then young Tonino Montana and Angelica Petrocchi disappear. Could the terrible rumours of a White Devil who threatens Caprona be true after all?



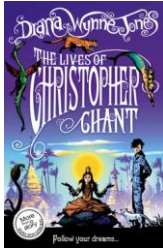
WITCH WEEK
Diana Wynne Jones
PB: 9780007267699

The note said: SOMEONE IN THIS CLASS IS A WITCH.

It was written in ordinary blue ballpoint and had appeared between two of the homework books Mr Crossley was marking.

Anyone could have written it, but the most awful thing was, the note might be true – for this was a school for witch-orphans. The last thing Miss Cadwallader, the Headteacher, would want was a visit from the Divisional Inquisitor.

Mr Crossley wondered what to do about it...



LIVES OF CHRISTOPHER CHANT
Diana Wynne Jones
PB: 9780007

The childhood of Chrestomanci. Everything in this story happens at least twenty-five years before Charmed Life...

Discovering that he has nine lives and is destined to be the next 'Chrestomanci' is not part of Christopher's plans for the future: he'd much rather play cricket and wander around his secret dream worlds. But he soon finds that destiny is difficult to avoid, and that having more than the usual number of lives is pretty inconvenient – especially when you lose them as easily as he does!

Then an evil smuggler, known only as The Wraith, threatens the ways of the worlds and forces Christopher to take action...



MIXED MAGICS
Diana Wynne Jones
PB: 9780007755296

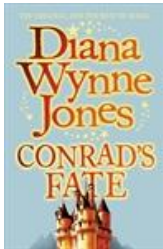
Four stories featuring the marvellous, enigmatic and embroidered-dressing-gowned enchanter, Chrestomanci!

Warlock at the Wheel - In which the Willing Warlock (from Charmed Life) is exiled to a world without magic and meets a formidable opponent – a little girl and her dog!

Stealer of Souls - In which Cat (from Charmed Life) and Tonino (from The Magicians of Caprona) are pitted against an evil enchanter with a dastardly plan.

Carol Oneir's Hundredth Dream - In which Carol, whose lucrative dreaming career is brought to an abrupt halt by a severe case of dreamer's-block, is sent to Chrestomanci in search of a cure. He takes on the case as a personal favour to her dad, whom he went to school with (in The Lives of Christopher Chant).

The Sage of Theare - In which the Sage of Dissolution wreaks havoc, thereby threatening the existence of all the worlds that have ever been!



CONRAD'S FATE
Diana Wynne Jones
PB: 9780007190874

Conrad is young, good at heart, and yet is apparently suffering from the effects of such bad karma that there is nothing in his future but terrible things. Unless he can alter his circumstances – well, quite frankly, he is DOOMED.

Conrad is sent in disguise to Stallery Mansion, to infiltrate the magical fortress that has power over the whole town of Stallchester, and to discover the identity of the person who is affecting his Fate so badly. Then he has to kill that person. But can any plan really be that simple and straightforward? Of course it can't! And things start to go very strangely for Conrad from the moment he meets the boy called Christopher...

This is trademark DWJ – packed with laugh-aloud humour, insane logic, spot-on observations, organised chaos, and all wrapped up in a rattling good adventure which oozes magic from every seam- literally.



PINHOE EGG
Diana Wynne Jones
PB: 9780007228553

As many people know already, it's Chrestomanci's job to control the magic in the related worlds. Using magic is always dangerous, and it always has consequences, so even the best-intentioned witch or warlock needs help and guidance from time to time. Not only that, but there are plenty of ordinary people in the worlds without even a whiff of magical ability, and they need someone to make sure that the magic-users don't get their own way all of the time. Even so, in the village around Chrestomanci Castle, all sorts of magical misuse is going on which very few people seem to be aware of!

When Cat Chant finds the egg in Gammer Pinhoe's attic, he knows he has to have it. Marianne Pinhoe isn't sure what Gammer will think about that, but she lets him take it anyway. Rumour has it it's an elephant egg, but Cat's convinced it's a dragon's egg. Within the safety of

Chrestomanci Castle, the egg eventually hatches – and at the same time, chaos breaks out in the surrounding village. Can Cat and Marianne get to the root of the problem, and can Cat's new charge help?



HOWLS MOVING CASTLE
Diana Wynne Jones
PB: 9780006755234

In the land of Ingary, where seven league boots and cloaks of invisibility do exist, Sophie Hatter catches the unwelcome attention of the Witch of the Waste and is put under a spell. Deciding she has nothing more to lose, she makes her way to the moving castle that hovers on the hills above Market Chipping. But the castle belongs to the dreaded Wizard Howl whose appetite, they say, is satisfied only by the souls of young girls... There she meets Michael, Howl's apprentice, and Calcifer the Fire Demon, with whom she agrees a pact. But Sophie isn't the only one under a curse – her entanglements with Calcifer, Howl, and Michael, and her quest to break her curse is both gripping – and howlingly funny!



CASTLE IN THE AIR
Diana Wynne Jones
PB: 9780006755302

Far to the south in the Land of Ingary, lives a young carpet merchant called Abdullah. In his dreams, he is the long-lost son of a great prince. This dream is a complete castle in the air - or is it? Abdullah's day-dreams suddenly start to come true when he meets the exquisite Flower-in-the-Night, daughter of the ferocious Sultan of Zanzib. Fate has destined them for each other, but a bad-tempered genie, a hideous djinn, and various villainous bandits have their own ideas. When Flower-in-the-Night is carried off, Abdullah is determined to rescue her – if he can find her.

A high spirited Arabian Nights fantasy, the dazzling sequel to Howl's Moving Castle



HOUSE OF MANY WAYS
Diana Wynne Jones
PB: 9780007275670

Charmain Baker is in over her head. Looking after Great Uncle William's tiny cottage while he's ill should have been easy, but Great Uncle William is better known as the Royal Wizard Norland and his house bends space and time. Its single door leads to any number of places – the bedrooms, the kitchen, the caves under the mountains, the past, to name but a few. By opening that door, Charmain is now also looking after an extremely magical stray dog, a muddled young apprentice wizard and a box of the king's most treasured documents, as well as irritating a clan of small blue creatures. Caught up in an intense royal search, she encounters an intimidating sorceress named Sophie. And where Sophie is, can the Wizard Howl and fire demon Calcifer be far behind?



SERPENTS OF ARAKESH
V.M. Jones
PB: 9781969504779

Adam Equinox was abandoned on the doorstep of Highgate Orphanage 12 years ago. He has no idea who – or where – his parents are; no friends; nothing he's good at; and nowhere he really belongs. One day, reeling from yet another visit to the principal's office, he notices Cameron Haig's unusual bookmark. It's the entry form for the Quest Golden Opportunity Competition, a competition Adam – along with 40,000 other kids – would love to win. Adam doesn't seem to stand a chance, until Cameron gives him his ticket. Unbelievably, Adam is chosen as one of the finalists. But it's only when he and his four companions begin the gaming workshop that Quentin Quested reveals why they are really there – and launches them on a real-life quest into the parallel world of Karazan, where the Serpents of Arakesh stand guard over the most precious prize of all.



BEYOND THE SHROUD
V.M. Jones
PB: 9781869504786

Adam is back at the orphanage and desperate to return to Quested Court for the holidays, but with the sinister new boy Weevil, and Matron conspiring against him, it seems impossible that Adam will ever escape Highgate. However, he does manage to get to Quested Court only to find the household in turmoil. Q's five-year-old daughter, Hannah, has disappeared, and it seems that she has gone to Karazan to find her cat, Tiger Lily. Adam and his friends are the only ones who can travel there and bring her home again.

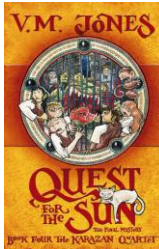
Their search takes them to Shakesh, which lies at the edge of the Shroud – the unexplored outer limit of the map of Karazan – and to rescue Hannah the five friends must undertake the most perilous journey of all. They must head beyond the Shroud, to the hidden stronghold of the evil King Karazeel, Hannah's captor.



PRINCE OF THE WIND
V.M. Jones
PB: 9781869504793

Matron's behind bars, Cook's in charge, and life's finally looking good to Adam Equinox. Too good to last. There's someone new behind the closed door of Matron's office. And he has plans for Highgate . . . plans that will bring Adam's world crashing down around his ears. Face to face with harsh reality, Adam feels as if his adventures in the fantasy world of Karazan happened a lifetime ago. But a mistake made behind the distant walls of Shakesh will soon have consequences more terrible than he and his four friends can ever imagine. The five are reunited at Quested Court for the release of Quentin Quested's final computer game, Power Quest to Karazan – and then the unthinkable happens. The simple flick of a switch triggers a cryptic message that can only be from one person. Evil King Karazeel has somehow found a way of hooking into the computer system at Quested Court – and computer games have become war games.

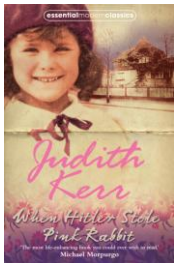
King Karazeel must be overthrown before it's too late. But there's only one person who can defeat him: Zephyr, the Lost Prince of the Wind. That's if he really exists.



QUEST FOR THE SUN
V.M. Jones
PB: 9781869504809

Adam Equinox has discovered his true identity, his heritage, and his destiny. And at last, in answer to his prayers of many years before, he has found somewhere he belongs. But then Adam turns the final page of Zaronel's diary, and discovers a secret a secret unknown by all but Queen Zaronel and her most trusted retainers. There was not one baby prince, but two. Zephyr, Prince of the Wind and Zenith, Prince of the Sun. Adam's search for Zenith, a twin four times his own age, takes him over the Plains of the Dead to the outer reaches of Karazan and beyond.

It is among the savage nomadic gladiators of the far south that Adam at last nears the end of his quest. Here, he is trained to battle the creatures of nightmare, inhabitants of computer-generated darkness; he becomes a virtual gladiator, and earns the title of warrior and the reluctant respect and friendship of the close-knit and ferocious band of fighters. The quest for his lost brother is a trial by fire for Adam, testing his mettle as a prince and a man on the soil of his new kingdom.



WHEN HITLER STOLE PINK RABBIT
Judith Kerr
PB: 9780007274772

Suppose your country began to change. Suppose that without your noticing, it became dangerous for some people to live in Germany any longer. Suppose you found, to your complete surprise, that your own father was one of those people. That is what happened to Anna in 1933. She was nine years old when it began, too busy with her schoolwork and tobogganing to take much notice of political posters, but out of them glared the face of Adolf Hitler, the man who would soon change the whole of Europe – starting with her own small life. Anna suddenly found things moving too fast for her to understand. One day, her father was unaccountably missing. Then she herself and her brother Max were being rushed by their mother, in alarming secrecy, away from everything they knew – home and schoolmates and well-loved toys – right out of Germany...



SKULDUGGERY PLEASANT
Derek Landy
PB: 9780007241620

Stephanie's uncle Gordon is a writer of horror fiction. But when he dies and leaves her his estate, Stephanie learns that while he may have written horror, it certainly wasn't fiction. Pursued by evil forces intent on recovering a mysterious key, Stephanie finds help from an unusual source – the wisecracking skeleton of a dead wizard. When all hell breaks loose, it's lucky for Skulduggery that he's already dead. Though he's about to discover that being a skeleton doesn't stop you from being tortured, if the torturer is determined enough. And if there's anything Skulduggery hates, it's torture... Will evil win the day? Will Stephanie and Skulduggery stop bickering long enough to stop it? One thing's for sure: evil won't know what's hit it.

A 'hoot' of a tale with crackling dialogue which will make you laugh out loud.



PLAYING WITH FIRE
Derek Landy
PB: 9780007257041

With Serpine dead, the world is safe once more. At least, that's what Valkyrie and Skulduggery think – until the notorious Baron Vengeous makes a bloody escape from prison, and dead bodies and vampires start showing up all over Ireland. With Baron Vengeous after the deadly armour of Lord Vile, and pretty much everyone out to kill Valkyrie, the daring detective duo face their biggest challenge yet. But what if the greatest threat to Valkyrie is just a little closer to home...?

More crackling adventures with Stephanie and Skulduggery fighting the good cause.



TROLL FELL
Katherine Langrish
PB: 9780007170722

Peer Ulfsson stood miserably at his father's funeral pyre, watching the sparks whirl up like millions of shining spirits streaking away into the dark. But someone else is also at the funeral. Peer's half-uncle, Baldur Grimsson. Peer watches helplessly as Uncle Baldur sells his father's property and pockets the money. Peer is then forced to move away from the world he knows in Hammerhaven, and live with his two half-uncles at their mill near Troll Fell. Peer hopes his other uncle will be more welcoming and less ferocious than Baldur, but Baldur is an identical twin, and Grimsson is just as mean-spirited and greedy as his brother.

Peer lives a life of servitude, with only the company of his faithful dog, Loki, until he meets spirited Hilde, whose family farm on Troll Fell, and Nis, his uncles' house spirit. Between them, they must foil a plot by the Grimsson brothers to sell one boy and one girl to the trolls who live on Troll Fell. But the Grimssons want riches, and they will do anything to get them. And as everyone knows, trolls are rich... but they are also cunning.



TROLL MILL
Katherine Langrish
PB: 9780007170753

"With a piercing squeal – with an anguished wooden groan – with a roar of muffled waters – Troll Mill woke from its sleep..." For three years Troll Mill has stood empty, and Peer Ulfsson has found a home with his friend Hilde. But in the shadows of eerie Troll Fell, surrounded by sly and mischievous creatures, life doesn't remain peaceful for long... Returning from a hard day's fishing, and with a violent storm brewing, Peer watches horror-struck as his friend Kersten rushes to the shore – thrusting her young baby into his arms – and throws herself into the sea. Struggling home with the baby, Peer passes the old mill, once owned by his wicked uncles, and sees the millwheel turning! But it has been derelict for years... Who or what could be lurking in the shadows?

This exciting, atmospheric novel from rising star, Katherine Langrish, mixes adventure with folklore monsters to create a brilliantly creepy sequel to Troll Fell.



TROLL BLOOD
Katherine Langrish
PB: 9780007214884

When seafaring traders, Gunnar, and his sword-wielding son, Harald Silkenhair, land in Trollsvik, looking for crew to join their journey to Vinland (North America), Hilde is desperate to join the ship. She begs her parents to let her go as Gunnar's wife Astrid's companion, and when Peer agrees to go and look after her, her parents reluctantly agree. But Gunnar and Harald are dangerous men. Harald has killed a man, and Gunnar has been cursed and is losing his wits in fear that the dead man's ghost is following him. Harald has an uncontrollable, raging temper, and a perilous rivalry develops between he and Peer. By the time they finally reach the shores of Vinland, the settlement is looking less of an attractive proposition. And that's before they meet the "Skraelings" (the Native American people) and the terrifying Jenu – the cannibal giant with a heart of ice...

Action-packed, suspense-fueled and with a wonderful cast of characters, Troll Blood is a truly rip-roaring read.



ELLA ENCHANTED
Gail Carson Levine
PB: 9780007755487

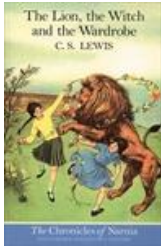
Ella Enchanted is a witty, refreshing take on the popular fairytale Cinderella, which preserves the spirit of the original but adds plenty of humorous twists and a spunky, intelligent female protagonist. Ella is given a blessing at birth by a very stupid fairy: the gift of obedience! But the blessing turns into a horror for Ella, who literally has to do what anyone and everyone tells her, from sweeping the floor to giving up a precious necklace! She has to battle with ogres and wicked stepsisters, make friends and lose them, and even deny she loves her Prince Char to save his life and his kingdom.

The story overthrows the stereotypes of the original Cinderella when Ella breaks the curse – saving not only herself, but Prince Char as well. The curse is only broken because she says 'No!' rather than 'Yes!'. Ella rejects Prince Char's proposal of marriage, only to later propose to him!



MAGICIANS NEPHEW
C.S. Lewis
PB: 9780006

Polly's hand went out to touch one of the rings. Immediately, without a flash or a noise, she vanished. When horrible Uncle Andrew starts experimenting with magic, Digory and Polly find themselves in another world, and at the beginning of an incredible adventure, as the doorway to the magical land of Narnia opens... This is the first adventure in the exciting Chronicles of Narnia.



LION WITCH AND WARDROBE
C.S. Lewis
PB: 9780006

"This is the land of Narnia," said the Faun, "where we are now. And you – you have come from the wild woods of the west!"
"I – I got in through the wardrobe in the spare room," said Lucy.
Lucy steps into the Professor's wardrobe – but steps out again into a snowy forest. She's stumbled upon the magical world of Narnia, a land of unicorns, centaurs, fauns... and the wicked White Witch, who terrorises all.
Lucy soon realises that Narnia, and in particular Aslan, the great Lion, needs her help if the county's creatures are ever going to be free again...



HORSE AND HIS BOY
C.S. Lewis
PB: 9780006

"I'm dreaming," thought Shasta. "I could have sworn that horse spoke."
Bree, the talking horse, has been kidnapped from Narnia, and longs to return. Shasta, on the verge of being sold into slavery, decides to run away with him. Before they know it, they are on a wild and dangerous journey together, through strange cities, eerie tombs and harsh deserts...

This is the third adventure in the exciting Chronicles of Narnia



PRINCE CASPIAN
C.S. Lewis
PB: 9780006

"Look sharp!" shouted Edmund. "All catch hands and keep together. This is magic – I can tell by the feeling!"
Prince Caspian is in terrible danger when his wicked uncle, King Miraz, decides to get rid of the young heir to the throne. In desperation, Caspian blows the magic horn, calling on Peter, Susan, Lucy and Edmund in Narnia's hour of need.

This is the fourth adventure in the exciting Chronicles of Narnia



VOYAGE OF THE DAWN TREADER
C.S. Lewis
PB: 9780006

"Stop it!" cried Eustace. "It's some silly trick you are playing! Ow!" A great cold salt splash had broken right out of the frame and they were breathless from the smack of it, as well as being wet through.

Lucy and Edmund, stuck with their awful cousin Eustace, suddenly find themselves in a picture of a sailing ship – the Dawn Treader – and realise they have been drawn back into the land of Narnia. They are reunited with old friends, the young King Caspian and Reepicheep the mouse on a voyage of discovery to the End of the World...



SILVER CHAIR
C.S. Lewis
PB: 9780006

"We've got to go north," said Edmund, "and reach the ruins of a giant city."

Prince Rilian, Caspian's beloved son, has mysteriously disappeared, and Jill and Eustace are brought into Narnia by Aslan, the great Lion, to find him. But an evil enchantress has dire plans for the prince, and for Narnia...

This is the sixth adventure in the exciting Chronicles of Narnia.

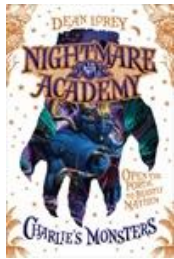


LAST BATTLE
C.S. Lewis
 PB: 9780006

"To my side, all true Narnians! Would you wait till your new masters have killed you one by one?"

Aslan is commanding all Narnians to work for the cruel Calormenes and striking terror into every heart. Jill and Eustace find themselves called into Narnia once more, this time to aid King Tirian in the mightiest of all battles...

This is the seventh adventure in the exciting Chronicles of Narnia.



CHARLIE'S MONSTERS (NIGHTMARE ACADEMY)
Dean Lorey
 PB: 9780007273706

Charlie Benjamin is not like other children – when he sleeps he has terrible nightmares, and when he wakes it is to find his room has been wrecked. Then one day he wakes up to find a monster by his bed. Luckily, a band of monster-hunting strangers arrives and saves him, only to whisk him away for interrogation by the mysterious "Nightmare Division".

It turns out that Charlie has the "Gift" – a rare ability to open portals into the dimension where monsters lurk, and the explanation for the devastating force of his nightmares. But his gift makes him a danger to himself and others: when he is made to open a portal his power is so great that he inadvertently wakes Barakkas, one of the most powerful and evil of all monsters.

Threatened with "Reduction" (a lobotomy that would remove his imagination) Charlie is saved by the wise Headmaster of the Nightmare Academy, where he is taken to explore his talents – and prepare for the coming showdown with Barakkas...



NUMBER THE STARS
Lois Lowry
 PB: 9780732250911

It is 1943 and, to Annemarie Johansen, life in Copenhagen is a complicated mix of ordinary home and school life, food shortages, and constant presence of Nazi soldiers. Bravery seems a vague virtue – one possessed by dragon-slaying knights in the bedtime stories she tells her younger sister, Kirsti. But Annemarie's best friend Ellen is a Jew, and, all too soon, as the German troops begin their campaign to locate all the Jews of Denmark, she herself is called upon for courage.



MADDIGAN'S QUEST
Margaret Mahy
 PB: 9781869

Playing with time is a dangerous game ... would you dare?

In a time not too far from our own, a colourful and bizarre band of brave travellers dare to travel through a post-apocalyptic landscape – the acrobats, clowns, trapeze artists, jugglers and musicians who make up 'Maddigan's Fantasia'.

At the centre of the troupe is 12-year-old Garland, daughter of the late Ferdy Maddigan, the ringmaster of the Fantasia. Garland has made this trip many times before and at each stop there are always new friends to make, enemies to defeat, obstacles to be overcome and puzzles to solve.

But this time, the journey offers more challenges than expected for Garland and Maddigan's Fantasia. Three mysterious children join the performers with no explanation for who they are or where they have come from. They prove a dangerous enigma for Garland, who slowly unlocks their secret.



UNLEASHED
J.A. Mawter
 PB: 9780207200724

The first book in the exciting new Freewheelers series that combines adventure and mystery.

The Freewheelers are a gang of four friends – the twins, Clem and Darcy, and Bryce and Mio. They spend their spare time trick riding on their push bikes or hanging out in the old abandoned kombi van in the alley next to the park.

One day while at the park the kids see a man mistreating a beagle he is walking. They decide to rescue the dog and in the process discover something far more sinister – a pedigree-dog laundering ring. The dogs are beloved pets that are stolen, taken to the local pound and marked as 'deceased'. They are then sold to unknown buyers. The Freewheelers will need to use all their skills to outwit these criminals and save the dogs.



LAUNCHED
J.A. Mawter
PB: 9780207200731

Bryce, Mio, Tong and twins Clem and Darcy are the freewheelers and they live to ride. When they decide to enter a bike trials competition, they set up a training camp only to discover they've got some unwelcome intruders. Tong's bike is stolen, and graffiti appears around the neighbourhood, including Bryce's tag from his days living on the street. Has he gone back to his old ways? To clear his name Bryce must find Tong's bike and the unknown graffitiists, but the only way is to get help from the streetkids he used to know. Then Bryce is caught red-handed with a spray paint can and grounded just before the trials.

The Freewheelers or the streetkids? Who will Bryce choose?

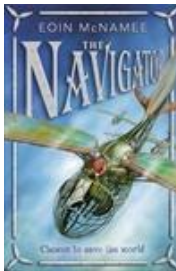


EXTREME!
J.A. Mawter
PB: 97807322

Wheels skate park has been built and is about to be officially opened. It's meant to be an area for skateboarders, in-line skaters, scooters and BMX bikes to share. But now a decision has been made to ban the bikes on the grounds that they are dangerous and cause destruction to the facilities.

Deciding to campaign against this injustice, the freewheelers organize a petition, much to the chagrin of the skateboarders who want them out of the park. Undaunted by a series of dirty tricks, the Freewheelers, supported by Mr Lark, go to the local council to appeal the decision, but their efforts are sabotaged by a rowdy protest from their rivals.

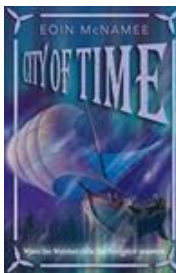
For Mio, it's getting increasingly personal. Mr Lark's precious ID dogtags from the Vietnam war have been stolen while in her care. Someone is sending abusive email from her account, and the school wants to expel her. Her parents are ashamed of her and her best friend in Japan doesn't want to know her after seeing the emails. Mio must take on the skateboarders and ride the course of her life to uncover the truth and win the park back for the BMX riders.



NAVIGATOR
Eoin McNamee
PB: 9780007

Owen's ordinary life is turned upside-down the day he gets involved with the Resisters and their centuries-long feud with an ancient, evil race. The Harsh, with their icy blasts and relentless onslaught, have a single aim – to turn back time and eliminate all life. Unless they are stopped, everything Owen knows will vanish as if it has never been... But all is not as it seems in the rebel ranks. While Owen is accepted by new friends Cati and Wesley, and the eccentric Dr Diamond, others are suspicious of his motives. Could there be a Harsh spy in their midst? Where and what is the mysterious Mortmain, vital to their cause? And what was Owen's father's role in all this many years before?

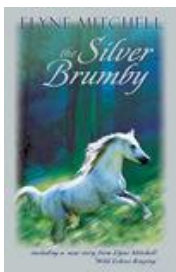
As he journeys to the frozen North on a mission of destruction, Owen comes to understand his own history and to face his destiny.



CITY OF TIME
Eoin McNamee
PB: 9780007

A year has passed since Owen said goodbye to Cati and relinquished his role as the Navigator, leaving the Resisters asleep on their island in time. But despite the victory over the marauding Harsh, Owen's everyday life is still tainted by the enervating stupor affecting his mother. But gradually Owen becomes aware that strange occurrences are happening around the world- meteorological events which don't seem quite natural. And when he spies the vile Johnston snooping around the old Warehouse he suspects that villainy is afoot.

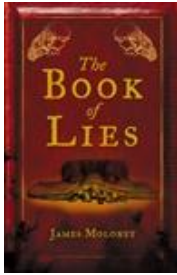
When the Watcher summons, he knows he is needed, and reunited with Cati and Dr Diamond, they set off for the City of Time in search of a means to save the world.



SILVER BRUMBY
Elyne Mitchell
PB: 9780207

A silver brumby is special but he will be hunted by man and horse alike, and must be stronger than both... Thowra, the magnificent silver stallion, is king of the brumbies. He will defend his herd from the mighty horse, The Brolga, in the most savage of struggles. But The Brolga is not the only danger – Thowra needs all his speed and cunning to save the herd from capture by man. In a desperate chase through the mountains, it seems there is no longer anywhere for him to run to...

Wild Echoes Ringing The characters of Socks, the black brumby with the four white legs, and Lightning, the cattedog – who first met in The Thousandth Brumby – are reunited in this previously unpublished story.



BOOK OF LIES

James Moloney

PB: 9780207198311

Three children, Marcel, Nicola and Fergus, have been left mysteriously in an orphanage run by the kindly Mrs Timmins, but overseen by the fearsome wizard Lord Alwyn and his creature Termagant. Marcel learns that the mysterious Book of Lies can tell hood from truth. But can it tell him who he really is? He is not alone in his confusion, either. When the stranger Starkey arrives, Marcel, the haughty Nicola and battle-obsessed Fergus discover that they have a vital part to play in saving the kingdom from evil. But something's not right. Is Starkey friend or foe? And is Lord Alwyn the evil wizard the children first thought? And will the truth really be revealed in the pages of the Book of Lies?



MASTER OF THE BOOKS

James Moloney

PB: 9780207

When Marcel defeated the great dragon of war, Mortregis, he thought he'd destroyed the Book of Lies as well. But one fragment remains, and this is what his brother Fergus has taken with him on a journey that is part quest for revenge, part search for his own place in the world. In this much anticipated sequel to The Book of Lies, Fergus hunts down the ruthless Damon, armed with a weapon that will let him challenge the man in mortal combat. One of them will not live to see the story's end. As Marcel and Nicola pursue Fergus, each with their own cares, Nicola will discover the value of the very thing she has been fleeing and risk losing it forever.

As for Marcel, the new Master of the Books, is he truly a great sorcerer or nothing but a charlatan? Only when the fate of the entire land lies in his hands will he know what his destiny is, and only then may the last fragment of the Book of Lies be destroyed.



TUNNELS OF FERDINAND

James Moloney

PB: 9780207196652

A city under a spell – and the kids are the only ones who can free it. Berrin lives in a futuristic world ruled by the evil Malig Tumora, who is known as 'The Great Father'. Like all the children in this city, Berrin has been raised without parents in a large dormitory that is constantly watched over by a gruesome collection of not-quite-humans called the Dfx. In the storm-water drainage system beneath the city lives a group of children who have formed a resistance group to fight Malig Tumora; they call themselves the Rats. Berrin is recruited and learns that only children who are small enough to move around the pipe system can remain as Rats. Trapped in the pipe system by his adult size is the Rats' founder, Ferdinand. He will only be free when the Rats succeed in rescuing all the adults who are under Malig Tumora's spell. But first they must defeat the security force of half-man, half-wolf creatures called Gadges, led by the very nasty



SCORPION'S TAIL

James Moloney

PB: 9780207196669

The second instalment in James Moloney's compelling Doomsday Rats series takes up the story exactly where Book One left off ... In a futuristic city ruled by an evil scientific genius, the resistance group of children known as the Doomsday Rats might be the only hope of saving mankind. Up until now their greatest advantage has been that no-one knows they live in the underground tunnels – but three of them have just been forced to reveal the secret. Now the rats are fighting for their lives, as they are tracked through the tunnels by the hideous Gadges – the city's security force – using a strange creature with the hearing of a bat and the sight of a vulture. Yet maybe this creature isn't on the Gadges' side after all ...

There's worse to come, as the Rats must face the terrifying Firedrake – and a robotic scorpion that fires missiles from its tail. But when the Gadges decide to flood the tunnel system, how many of the Rats will survive?



MALIG TAMORA

James Moloney

PB: 9780207196676

Book 3 in James Moloney's page-turning Doomsday Rats series.

Berrin has been one of only a handful of humans to escape the control of the evil Malig Tumora. But when Berrin emerges onto the creek bank after a scorpion-like cannon has flooded the tunnels, Malig Tumora's servants, the gruesome-looking Gadges, recapture him. Imprisoned within Malig Tumora's menagerie, Berrin meets Aden, an unusual boy with a powerful learning ability. Together, the boys face many challenges as they complete a series of tests aimed at identifying a suitable clone that will make all remaining humans obsolete.

But Berrin and Aden face a more immediate threat when they come face-to-face with Malig Tumora's most terrifying creation: a computer that turns against its own creator, successfully enlisting the support of the Gadges in return for a blood promise. Berrin's mission intensifies as he sets out to find the moths that are capable of destroying the purple flower, the fragrance of which controls the humans under Malig Tumora's power. When all hope seems lost, can the boys escape the bloodthirsty Gadges and complete the task of saving humankind from a horrifying fate?



IN THE LAIR OF THE MOUNTAIN BEAST

James Moloney
PB: 9780207196683

Berrin and the Rats return to battle against the evil of Malig Tumora. On the streets of the city, the Gadges are on guard. There is no way to destroy the purple flowers which keep the grown-ups in Malig Tumora's power. Or is there? Berrin has heard of a special moth that feeds on the purple flowers. It might be the weapon the Rats are looking for. The moth is said to survive on Mount Windenback, but no one has heard of such a place.

Can Berrin and his team of Doomsday Rats find the precious moth before Malig Tumora discovers it for himself and destroys their last hope?



DOOMSDAY

James Moloney
PB: 9780207200588

Berrin and the Rats are attempting to breed large numbers of the moth rescued from the lair of the mountain beast, in the hope that the resultant caterpillars will devour the flowers that give Malig Tumora control over the adults. Meanwhile, Malig Tumora is mounting a renewed offensive. New robotic dangers appear: vicious new creatures threaten the Rats in their underground tunnels. Time is also running out for Berrin's uncle, the fabled Ferdinand, who is still trapped underground. If Berrin does not free him from the tunnels soon, he will die. A do-or-die showdown ensues between the Rats and Malig Tumora's fearful henchmen, the Gadges. But as the struggle finally swings the way of the Rats, Berrin faces his biggest dilemma. His parents live and work in the ominous Obsidian Building, which also houses Malig Tumora. To destroy his enemy completely, Berrin must risk causing the death of his own parents ...



AMAZING STORY OF ADOLPHUS TIPS

Michael Morpurgo
PB; 9780007182466

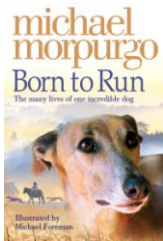
"Something's up. Something big too, very big. At school, in the village, whoever you meet, it's all anyone talks about. It's like a sudden curse has come down on us all. It makes me wonder if we'll ever see the sun again."

It's 1943, and Lily Tregenze lives on a farm, in the idyllic seaside village of Slapton. Apart from her father being away, and the 'townie' evacuees at school, her life is scarcely touched by the war. Until one day, Lily and her family, along with 3000 other villagers, are told to move out of their homes – lock, stock and barrel.

Soon, the whole area is out of bounds, as the Allied forces practise their landings for D-day, preparing to invade France. But Tips, Lily's adored cat, has other ideas – barbed wire and keep-out signs mean nothing to her, nor does the danger of guns and bombs. Frantic to find

her, Lily makes friends with two young American soldiers, who promise to help her. But will she ever see her cat again? Lily decides to cross the wire into the danger zone to look for Tips herself...

Now, many years later, as Michael is reading his Grandma Lily's diary, he learns about The Amazing Story of Adolphus Tips – and wonders how one adventurous cat could still affect their lives sixty years later.



BORN TO RUN (Originally published as BEST MATE)

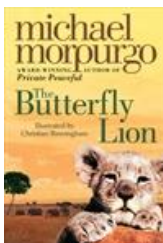
Michael Morpurgo
PB: 9780007230594

The sack wasn't just drifting gently along like everything else, it was turning of its own accord. There was definitely something inside it, struggling against the side of the plastic bag, kicking at it, squeaking and squealing in terror. He had no idea what it might be, only that it was alive and in danger of drowning."

When Patrick saves a litter of greyhound puppies from the canal, he can't bear to hand them all over to the RSPCA. He pleads with his parents: couldn't he just keep one of them? But nothing will convince them and Patrick cries himself to sleep – only to be woken by a greyhound puppy licking his face!

Patrick christens his puppy Best Mate, and that's what he becomes. Patrick's favourite thing is to watch Best Mate running at full stretch on the heath, a speeding bullet, a cheetah-dog. Until one day Best Mate is kidnapped by a greyhound trainer, and begins a new life as a champion

race dog. Suzie, the greyhound trainer's step-daughter, loves Best Mate on first sight and gives him a new name, Bright Eyes. But what will happen when he can't run any more?

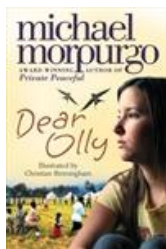


BUTTERFLY LION

Michael Morpurgo
PB: 9780006751038

All my life I'll think of you, I promise I will. I won't ever forget you."

Bertie rescues an orphaned white lion cub from the African veldt. They are inseparable until Bertie is sent to boarding school far away in England and the lion is sold to a circus. Bertie swears that one day they will see one another again, but it is the butterfly lion which ensures that their friendship will never be forgotten.



DEAR OLLY
Michael Morpurgo
PB: 9780006753339

Olly's brother Matt wants to go and work with children who have been made orphans, through war, in Africa. He wants to be a clown and make them laugh. His mother and sister want him to stay in England and go to university. Hero, a swallow, has a journey to make too. He must fly to Africa for the winter to join all the other swallows. His journey is difficult and fraught with danger. Three separate stories are woven into one powerful and moving novel whose central theme not only exposes the horrors of war and of landmines, but also the endurance of the human spirit.



TORO TORO
Michael Morpurgo
PB: 9780007107186

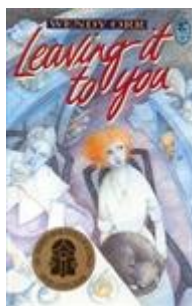
TORO,TORO is the story of a young boy growing up in Andalucia, Spain, on a farm rearing bulls for the bull ring. Antonito hand rears a little black calf and they become firm friends, but the boy doesn't yet understand the fate of the black bulls – the corrida and death. Later, when he learns of the horrors of the bull fight, he frees Paco, the black bull, and rides with him into the hills. There they witness the bombing of their village (it's the year 1936, and the Spanish Civil War has started) and Antonito cannot go back – his family and the farm are destroyed, and Paco has run off, wild with fright. He decides to stay in the hills, where he meets up with the Resistance fighters. During the War, Antonito hears stories round the campfire of the wonderful black bull, who becomes a symbol of freedom for them all. Could this really be Paco? But no-one has ever seen him. After the war, when Antonito is working as a muleteer in the mountains, he falls asleep and dreams of Paco. In the morning, he wakes to see hoof prints on the ground beside him...



BILLY THE KID
Michael Morpurgo
PB: 9780007105472

Billy the Kid is told through the voice of an 80 year old man, who looks back on his life as Chelsea's champion striker until the outbreak of war in 1939 and on through his subsequent life. Billy joins Chelsea as a football apprentice, rises through the reserves to become a real champion. His passion for football sees him through the war years – even as a prisoner of war he organises a friendly against the Italians – but, having been injured by a mine he cannot play for Chelsea on his return to England. Billy turns to vagrancy and alcohol and for years he wanders up and down the country. He re-settles in London in a derelict house and is befriended by a family who move him to a shed in their garden. He, in turn, helps their son with his football who in his turn becomes a Chelsea player. Billy becomes a Chelsea Pensioner and his 80th birthday is celebrated when Chelsea play at home. A novel for both children and adults which deals with some difficult issues.

Michael Morpurgo's storytelling is superb and this will be a welcome follow up to the previous Morpurgo/Foreman collaboration – Farm Boy.



LEAVING IT TO YOU
Wendy Orr
PB: 9780207

Linda sighed. It was even worse than she'd imagined. She rather visit the dentist than visit some old person she didn't even know! Her teacher dreamed up this great idea of visiting old people in the community and she was stuck with cranky old Mrs Pugh. However Linda soon becomes fascinated by this independent Welsh woman with rheumatoid arthritis, a quick temper and a musty house full of cats and antiques. But when Mrs Pugh has to go back to hospital, mysterious things start happening – her antiques start to disappear. Is someone stealing them? Do they want to get rid of Mrs Pugh? How can Linda find out?

•Shortlisted, Children's Book Council Book of the Year Awards, 1993.



INVISIBLE GIRL (The Wall and the Wing)
Laura Ruby
PB: 9780007210084

In a vast and sparkling city where nearly everyone can fly, 12-year-old Gurl is trapped. Orphaned and lonely, she believes she is nothing more than a flightless "leadfoot", until one fateful night when she discovers that she has the power to make herself invisible. But even with this newfound talent, Gurl can't hide from a giant rat man with a taste for cats, a manipulative matron with a penchant for plastic surgery, and a belligerent boy named Bug.

Gradually, Gurl learns to control her power and teams up with Bug to figure out who and what she is. Their quest takes them on a wild ride where they confront mind-bending monkeys, an eccentric genius with a head full of grass and a pocket full of kittens and the handsome but lethal Sweetcheeks Grabowski – the gangster who holds the key to Gurl's past...and the world's future.



BOY WHO COULD FLY
Laura Ruby
PB: 9780007210107

It's six months since the end of the Invisible Girl, and Gurl, AKA Georgie, is attending a posh girls school that she hates, and hardly speaking to Bug, who seems to be too busy making adverts and endorsements to see his old friend.

But when a giant octopus appears in the Hudson and a giant sloth kidnaps a squealing heiress and takes her to the top of the Empire State Building, our two unlikely heroes realise that something very strange is going on.

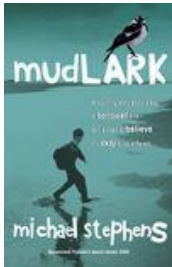
Could it have something to do with the pen that can think for itself? Where's the Professor when you need him? And who is the artist punk they call the Chaos King?



LOSER
Jerry Spinelli
PB: 9780007143771

A powerful novel of a young boy who is like all kids, yet unlike all kids. Loser is unique, a one-off, a touching and powerful book about the pull of individuality over the need to fit in s

Donald Zinkoff has a problem. And it isn't just his name. Though, having a name beginning with Z does cause him lots of problems, not least making him last to be called for everything. Donald's main problem is his happiness; his happiness leads to laughter – loud laughter. It sometimes gets him into trouble at school. It sometimes gives people the wrong impression. His classmates think he is bonkers, a loser. But Donald is blissfully unaware of this. He is the eternal optimist – a delight. Through the novel we see snapshots of Donald's life as he progresses through his first year in school to his graduation to high school.



MUDLARK
Michael Stephens
PB: 9780207199806

A haunting story about a boy, one borrowed bird and a need to believe that it's OK to be different.

Jim Liddell is a 13-year-old boy with an overactive imagination. He is so different from other boys his age, he lives in the world of his imagination. On the last weekend before the end of term he finds himself the 'lucky boy' allowed to take home the class pet, a rescued mudlark, called Mudlark. Mudlark is not long in Jim's care before he escapes from his cage to freedom through the open window of Jim's bedroom.

Mudlark's new-found freedom leads to a coming-of-age experience for Jim. While he is out chasing Mudlark, Jim learns lessons in life from those he encounters. These help him deal with the eventual death of his mother.



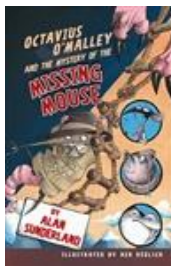
OCTAVIUS O.MALLEY & THE MYSTERY OF THE EXPLODING CHEESE
Alan Sunderland Ill. Ben Redlich
PB: 9780207

Even as the steaming globs of cheese are still running down the walls, it becomes clear that there is something very strange about this case and something stranger still about Octavius O'Malley himself!

Before this journey is over you will meet the most evil rat in the world; take a strange trip through the sewers and over the rooftops of town; and discover a hidden diary in a most unexpected place.

There will be a dangerous train journey, two kidnappings, three narrow escapes and a poisonous plot that threatens to destroy Octavius O'Malley's world forever.

And as if that weren't enough, there is a fat ginger cat lurking in an alley...

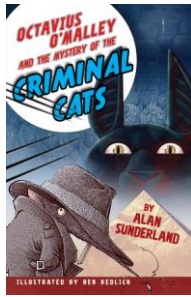


OCTAVIUS O'MALLEY & THE MYSTERY OF THE MISSING MOUSE
Alan Sunderland Ill. Ben Redlich
PB: 9780207

The greatest detective rat of all, Octavius O'Malley, is back. But this time it's personal.

When Patrick the Magnificent goes missing after picking the lock at the First Rodent Bank, Chief O'Malley and Spencer (leader of the River Road Mouse Gang and head of the Society for the Cooperation of Rats and Mice), set out to find him. It isn't long before the trail leads to Kurt Remarque, poisoner and disgraced businessrat – the most evil rat ever to stalk the streets of Rodent City.

But finding the missing mouse is just the start of this spine-tingling mystery. Before it ends, there will be helicopter rides, buried treasure, and doughnuts . . .



OCTAVIUS O'MALLEY & THE MYSTERY OF THE CRIMINAL CATS
Alan Sunderland Ill. Ben Redlich

It started with some missing cobblestones and a bump on the head of one of Rodent City's young police rats. But this time it's not the mice who are to blame ... and even botching the investigation and losing his job can't stop Rodent City's finest detective (self-confessed) from pursuing the case.

A rat has to pay the rent, so Ocko hangs out his shingle as a private investigator. His first client wants him to find her missing son, whose workplace has special significance for our doughnut-lovin' hero.

Could there be a link between the two mysteries?! When Ocko's informant – a down-and-out moggy named Mulligan – puts him on the unsavoury scent of a creepy cat cult, things get dicey indeed for Ocko, Spencer and Patrick.

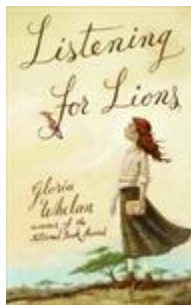
The villain of the piece might not look familiar at first glance, but a diamond-hard mind like Octavius O'Malley's knows that appearances can be deceiving and that sometimes only a rat can smell a rat ...



SHATTERBELT
Colin Thiele
PB: 9780207

It was the same terrifying dream. An explosion and a twisting black pipe Tracy knew people were going to be hurt but she was powerless to stop it unless she could work out the meaning of her dream.

When her mysterious dream suddenly made sense, Tracy realised what she had to do to save the people. She found herself cycling madly towards the mine, but would she be in time to save her special friend



LISTENING FOR LIONS
Gloria Whelan
PB: 978006

Historical fiction with a wicked twist.

Listening for Lions is a breathtaking story of tragedy, deception, and triumph against all odds. National Book Award-winning author Gloria Whelan sets this richly historical coming-of-age adventure in British East Africa in the year 1918.

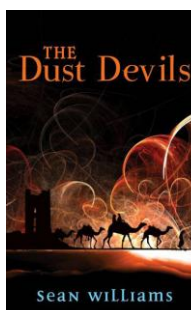
This irresistible novel entangles an orphaned girl in a deceit filled plot. Young Rachel Sheridan is made to leave her beloved Africa for England, where she must pose as the deceased daughter of a nefarious couple in an effort to gain them an enormous inheritance. Her irrepressible spirit and extraordinary wit turn her from victim to heroine in a surprising and empowering tale of a remarkable young woman.



CHANGELING
Sean Williams
PB: 9780732284749

Ros is in real danger. His family are so desperate to save their drought-stricken farm that they'll sacrifice anything – even him – for rain. His only friend is Escher, an unseen entity with a voice that whispers in Ros's head, continuously warning him to leave before it's too late. Escaping from his vengeful family astride a stolen camel, Ros decides to try his luck in the desert, discovering along the way a power he never knew he had. Through Escher, Ros learns to control the Change, a magical force that taps into the land, the water, fire and the air. He also meets Adi, a girl from a travelling clan of nomads, who asks him to save her from a future she's desperate to avoid.

When tragedy strikes, Ros seeks help from a powerful Stone Mage, but when even she can't save him, he starts to question everything that has happened on his journey. He must decide who is telling the truth, and who his real friends are.



DUST DEVILS
Sean Williams
PB: 9780732284756

Continuing Ros's extraordinary adventures in the Broken Lands ...

Adi's body has been borne away across the desert by her Clan, but her spirit remains Ros's constant companion. If he can't find the travellers in time, Adi will be presumed dead and her body cremated, leaving her a ghost forever.

But Ros is not prepared for the dangers lurking in the shifting sands. Rescued from bandits and Dust Devils by a boy named Yury, he takes refuge in Yury's home – an extensive network of tunnels known as Dunetown – and learns that Yury in turn needs Ros's help. His family has been kidnapped by the sand bandits, a ruthless gang led by a psychopath obsessed with treasure and power.

Ros must learn to trust again, and to overcome those who cannot ever be trusted. Darker things lurk in the desert than Dust Devils and sand bandits. And, all the while, Adi's voice is a constant reminder that time is running out ..

'Sean Williams is without doubt the premier Australian speculative fiction writer of the age' Aurealis Magazine



FANTASTICAL ADVENTURES OF THE INVISIBLE BOY

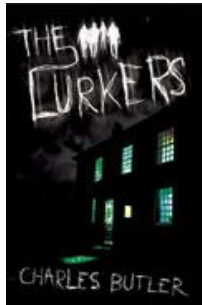
Lloyd Alexander

PB: 9780746060414

When David's dry-as-dust aunt volunteers as his tutor, David is devastated. This is worse than school! But it turns out that Aunt Annie has some secrets to share, and together they set off on an exciting fantastical voyage.

A riotously funny and deeply personal story of wonder, discovery and friendship, full of eccentric characters and fantastical adventures

When David falls ill his tough old Aunt Annie offers to tutor him, and he soon grows fond of The Gawgon, as he nicknames her because of her resemblance to the terrifying Gorgon Medusa of Greek myth. Together they embark on exciting imaginary adventures rescuing King Tut's treasure, scaling mountains and outwitting master criminals



LURKERS

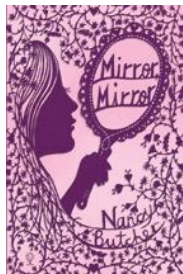
Charles Butler

PB: 9780746070659

I may not have much time to write this. The Gates of Memory are shutting all around the town. I've been trying not to think about it, trying not to draw attention to myself, but I have to face the facts. Today, while I still know what the facts are."

What are the Lurkers? What do they want? And can Verity stop them?

When Verity sees a creepy semi-visible figure in her house, her brother John tells her it is a harmless Lurker. But Lurkers feed on human imagination and this one is using John to become more solid and independent. When Verity discovers the Lurkers' secret plan, she must fight to save her brother's mind. But can she stop them?



MIRROR MIRROR

Nancy Butcher

PB: 9780746073094

Queen Veda is the most beautiful woman in the kingdom and that's the way she wants it to stay. So when she sends all the girls of the realm to a new academy and offers them a beauty wonder pill, her daughter Princess Ana is suspicious.

Echoes of the classic fairy tale "Snow White" are skillfully entwined with contemporary notions of beauty, acceptance and body-image.

A lyrical and absorbing tale that resonates strongly in today's looks-obsessed world.

When Queen Veda sets up the Queen's Academy for Girls, the pretty students happily accept a wonder beauty pill, but Princess Ana is suspicious. She has always had to hide her good looks to keep her mother's affection. So why is the queen suddenly promoting beauty? As a sinister illness sweeps the school, Ana must confront the truth to save her friends.



RAVEN QUEEN

Pauline Francis

PB: 9780746078808

A mesmerising tale of love and tragedy based on the life of Lady Jane Grey, all too often remembered as just a line in a history book. Reveals the treachery, power struggles, and religious turmoil of the Tudor Court.

With internet links to recommended websites about the life and times of Lady Jane Grey.

Winner of the Highland Children's Book Award 2008 and shortlisted for the 2008 Leeds Book Awards 2008.

'I have lived the life of a princess since the day I was born. But it did not bring me what I wanted. I am still trapped.

My beloved Ned speaks of love, freedom, a future. To walk with him in the forest, our raven soaring above us, is my only joy. But my father plans that I shall be betrothed to the King and I am afraid. Queens of England have a habit of dying. I have no desire to take the throne, no wish to find myself in the Tower of London. Wife, Queen - I fear it will bring me to my knees.'



RED EYE

Susan Gates

PB: 9780746085752

Ellis is an expert tracker and Meriel can read the minds of animals – together they make a formidable team, investigating animal mysteries with a touch of the paranormal. When an army of gulls, led by the power-crazed Red Eye, wages war on a remote community, only they can help.

GHOST DOGS

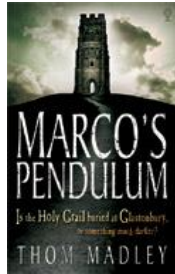


Susan Gates

PB: 9780746085769

Readers will be gripped by the paranormal twist in this second fast-paced adventure in an exciting and original new series. A great read for both boys and girls.

When expert tracker Ellis is sent to investigate stories of greyhound poisoning, he is shocked to come face-to-face with a strange feral boy, and a pack of what seem to be ghostly dogs. Returning to the forest with his animal-mind-reading partner Meriel, he is plunged into danger by the wild boy's lethal supernatural powers, which can freeze a man to death. Ellis's only chance of rescue is Meriel, but she is caught up in reliving her own secret past as a feral child.



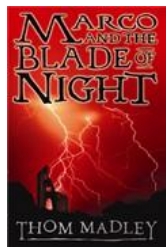
MARCO'S PENDULUM

Thom Madley

PB: 9780746067604

A gripping and page-turning read about the magic which exists in the real world, if you know where to look. Voted winner of the Medway Schools Book Award 2007 by secondary school pupils in Medway, Kent

When Marco is dumped in Glastonbury to stay with his weird hippy grandparents for the summer, he's sure he's going to hate it. But he soon starts to recognise the magic of the place - the magic that a development company is planning to exploit and, his grandparents are sure, destroy in the process. With his newfound talent for dowsing, Marco is quickly drawn into the dangerous struggle to protect the ancient mysticism of Glastonbury



MARCO AND THE BLADE OF NIGHT

Thom Madley

PB: 9780746076989

A gripping and page-turning sequel to "Marco's Pendulum" as Marco and his friends continue to discover that magic exists in the real world, if you know where to look.

Glastonbury is a town steeped in mysticism, magic and religious cults. So when Marco's friend Rosa pulls a strange rusted object out of the riverbank, the rumours start spreading. The power of legends is back in full flow and the hunt for Excalibur is on.



SNATCHED

Graham Marks

PB: 9780746068403

A helter-skelter, action-packed adventure of mystery, danger and dark secrets set in the circus ring and the streets of Victorian London. Shortlisted for the 2008 Rotherham Children's Book Award.

Left for dead in a lion's cage, baby Daniel is adopted by Hubble, owner of a travelling circus. Twelve years later, his carefree life as a bareback rider is shattered by vivid premonitions. When Josie joins the circus, Daniel realises that his visions are coming true. He is snatched away and taken to London, gagged and bound. He must find a way to escape but could the city be the place to finally discover the truth behind his birth?



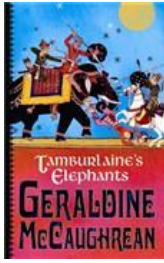
WAY OF THE WARRIOR

Andrew Matthews

PB: 9780746076354

A powerful story of loyalty and betrayal, past and prophecy, set against the violent backdrop of warring clans in sixteenth-century Japan.

Jimmu is haunted by the death of his father, and his destiny is clear - he must train as a samurai, so that one day he can take revenge against his father's rival, and restore his family name. But just as blood is about to be spilled, Jimmu discovers something that casts doubt on his life's mission. Now Jimmu must change his fate, before his own life is placed in jeopardy...



TAMBURLAINE'S ELEPHANTS
Geraldine McCaughrean
HB: 9780746078778

Tamburlaine the Great is a powerful, brutal ruler. His sights are set on Delhi, City of Gems, and Rusti, one of his young warriors, rides out into the flames of battle for his first taste of war.

A tale of friendship, destiny and revenge set in the war-ravaged lands of fourteenth-century India.

Shortlisted for the UKLA Children's Book Award - see "Links" below for more information.

Rusti is a Tartar, travelling and pillaging with the legendary Horde of Tamburlaine, Conqueror of the World. He dreams of honour and riches, and is proud to capture his first prisoners – an elephant and her keeper. Yet amidst the death and destruction, an unlikely friendship takes hold and a long-hidden secret is revealed, shattering everything which Rusti believes.



NORTH CHILD
Edith Pattou
PB: 9780746068373

Rose is a North Child, destined to be a wanderer and travel far from home. Unaware of her fate she agrees to go with a mysterious white bear to a distant castle where she falls in love with an enchanted stranger.

A beguiling epic of magic, love, loss and betrayal based on the traditional fairytale "East of the Sun, West of the Moon".

Shortlisted for the Ottakar's Children's Book Prize 2006.

Rose was born into the world facing north, and as a north child, superstition says that she will be a wanderer, travelling far from home. This prophecy is fulfilled when she is taken on the back of a white bear to a mysterious empty castle, where a silent stranger appears to her night after night. When her curiosity overcomes her, she loses her heart, and must journey to a land east of the sun and west of the moon to reclaim it.

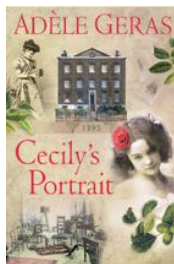


FLYING SOUTH
L. M. Elliott
PB: 9780746073810

It's the sticky-hot summer of 1968, and in the American Deep South it's a time of home-made lemonade and The Beatles. Yet, against a backdrop of civil rights rioting and Vietnam war protests, storm clouds are gathering for Alice.

A captivating coming-of-age novel set against the tumultuous backdrop of the America's Deep South in the 1960s.

Alice has always been blind to the differences of age and race - her closest friendships are with Doc, the family gardener, and Edna, the maid. But when her innocence is shattered and her opinions challenged by her widowed mother's brutish new partner, Alice must learn to stand up for what she believes in and protect those she loves.



CECILY'S PORTRAIT
Adele Geras
PB: 9780746073124

A touching and beautifully crafted tale of hope and ambition, full of authentic historical detail and girl appeal.

Part of the engaging Historical House series, which charts the life and times of 6 Chelsea Walk and the girls who have lived there through some of history's most fascinating periods.

Includes internet links to recommended websites where readers can find out more about the history of photography.

Cecily longs to learn the new art of photography and is determined that her widowed father will come to love it too, especially when she realises that her new friend and photographer, Rosalind, would be a perfect match for him. Will her dreams of uniting them ever come true?



LIZZIE'S WISH
Adele Geras
PB: 9780746060308

First in trilogy of stories set in No. 6 Chelsea Walk, London in 1857. Each novel explores an historical era from a child's perspective.

Includes Internet links to recommended websites where readers can find out more about life in Victorian times.

On an extended visit to her cousins in London, Lizzie visits the newly opened Kew Gardens. Like her elder cousin, who wants to defy her middle-class upbringing and become a nurse, Lizzie has ambition and the will to go against the conventions of her Victorian peers. She wants to be a gardener, and the first step towards her dream is to plant a walnut in the garden of No. 6 Chelsea Walk



ANDIES MOON
Linda Newbery
PB: 9780746073100

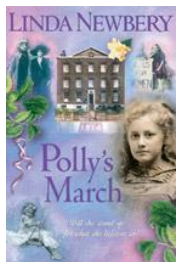
A thrilling story set in 1969 against the vivid backdrop of one of the most thrilling moments in modern history: the moon landing.

Part of the engaging Historical House series, which charts the life and times of 6 Chelsea Walk and the girls who have lived there through some of history's most fascinating periods.

Includes internet links to recommended websites where readers can find out more about the moon landing.

A thrilling story set in 1969 against the vivid backdrop of one of the most thrilling moments in modern history: the moon landing.

Andie dreams of becoming an artist. Her best paintings are inspired by the moon and so she's fascinated by news of the first moon landing. But will it be the same magical place once man has set foot on it, and will her paintings win the attention they deserve?



POLLY'S MARCH
Linda Newbery
PB: 9780746060315

Second in trilogy of stories set in No. 6, Chelsea Walk, London, in 1914. Each novel explores an historical era from a child's perspective

Includes Internet links to recommended websites where readers can find out more about the suffragettes.

When 13-year-old Polly befriends two suffragettes in the top floor flat at No. 6, Chelsea Walk, she finds herself questioning the views of those around her. The Votes for Women campaign strikes a chord with Polly and she becomes determined to join the suffragettes' protest march, even if it means clashing with her family...



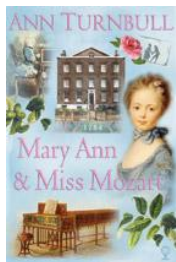
JOSIE UNDER FIRE
Ann Turnbull
PB: 9780746060322

Third in trilogy of stories set in No. 6 Chelsea Walk, London

Each novel explores an historical era from a child's perspective

Includes Internet links to recommended websites where readers can find out more life in London during the Blitz.

It is 1941 and London is suffering from the Blitz. Josie finds it hard to understand her brother's decision to be a conscientious objector. But when she moves to a new school and is drawn into tormenting one of her classmates, Josie learns what it means to stand up for her own beliefs



MARY ANN AND MISS MOZART
Ann Turnbull
PB: 9780746073117

An enchanting story of dreams and determination, set in the colourful world of eighteenth century London.

The Historical House series charts the life and times of girls who lived in 6 Chelsea Walk in some of history's most fascinating periods.

Includes internet links to websites where readers can find out more about Mozart and eighteenth century life.

Mary Ann's greatest wish is to become an opera singer and she's thrilled when she gets the chance to see child prodigy Mozart perform with his sister in Chelsea. But when her father loses his fortune, she fears her singing dreams may be shattered.



MINNAS QUEST
K.M. Peyton
PB: 9780746078815

When strong-willed Minna rescues an abandoned foal, she does not realise that he will become the pride of the Roman cavalry, nor the part they will play when her town is threatened by bloodthirsty pirates.

Minna risks all as she sets out on a perilous journey to save her people.

A gripping tale of passion, courage and adventure set in the vibrant historical setting of Roman England.

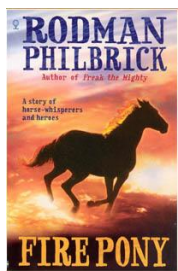
Minna is just a blacksmith's daughter, yet she succeeds in raising a sickly abandoned foal, turning him into the pride of the Roman cavalry. Her stubborn determination and fiery nature burn brightly in the quiet fort of Othona and soon attract the secret admiration of the proud commander, Theo.



NO TURNING BACK
K.M. Peyton
PB; 97807460

Passion, courage and determination burn brightly in Minna's second adventure, from a classic author. Set in a beautifully atmospheric Roman world, this classic story will enchant girls looking for action, adventure and romance.

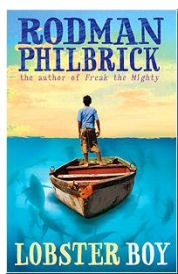
When Minna's true love Theo leaves the lonely fort of Othona for the big city, Minna cannot bear to be left behind and steals away on her beloved pony, Silva, to follow him. But she has no idea that her actions will condemn Theo to fight a deadly duel – with her life as the prize.



FIRE PONY
Rodman Philbrick
PB: 9780746065082

The emotional intensity of "The Horse Whisperer" combined with the excitement and suspense of a mystery thriller. From the award-winning author of "Freak the Mighty".

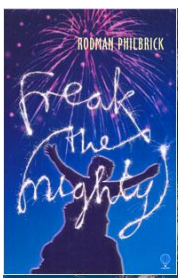
Rodman Philbrick started writing at sixteen and has since gone on to write more than 30 novels. He has gained critical acclaim both sides of the Atlantic and has won numerous honours and awards.



LOBSTER BOY
Rodman Philbrick

An inspirational and compelling story of survival against the savagery of nature, and life as the underdog.

Twelve-year-old Samuel "Skiff" Beaman is a boy with incredible determination. Since the death of his mother, his father has sunk into depression, and now Skiff's pride and joy, their boat the Mary Rose has sunk too. If only he can raise and fix Rose, Skiff is sure he'll be able to get the family business, and his dad, back on track. But to fix the boat he needs \$5000. Determined to raise the money himself, Skiff decides to go out on the open ocean all alone, on a dangerous mission to harpoon a prize giant tuna.



FREAK THE MIGHTY
Rodman Philbrick
PB: 9780746062531

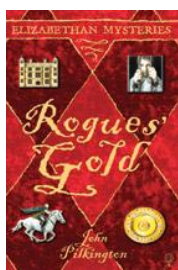
A poignant and uplifting story of friendship triumphing over adversity.

Rodman Philbrick is an outstanding author who has won the prestigious American Library Association Best Book for Young Adults and Quick Pick Awards. Selected for Booktrust's "Booked Up" list of 12 books to encourage Year 7 children to read for pleasure.

"As funny as it is touching and convincing." The Guardian

Max is used to being called Stupid. And he is used to everyone being scared of him. On account of his size and looking like his dad.

Kevin is used to being called Dwarf. And he is used to everyone laughing at him. On account of his size and being some cripple kid. But Greatness comes in all sizes, and together Max and Kevin become Freak the Mighty and walk high above the world.

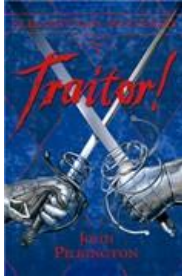


ROGUES GOLD
John Pilkington
PB; 9780746078792

An exciting adventure mystery set in the cut-throat world of Elizabethan England.

After a varied career, John Pilkington began writing radio plays in the 1980's, followed by theatre plays, television scripts for the BBC and a non-fiction book, before writing Rogues' Gold, his first children's book.

When boy actor Ben Button's fellow players are accused of stealing the priceless Lodovico plate, he sets out to save them from the shadow of the hangman's noose. Who really stole the plate, what secret does it hide and how can Ben reveal the truth?



TRAITOR

John Pilkington

PB: 9780746087114

When boy actor Ben Button's fellow players are accused of stealing the priceless Lodovico plate, he sets out to save them from the shadow of the hangman's noose. Who really stole the plate, what secret does it hide and how can Ben reveal the truth? When a series of unexpected disappearances and suspicious accidents start occurring at the Rose theatre, it looks like a group of rival players may be targeting Lord Bonner's men. And things really start to hot up when a mysterious fire threatens to send their plans up in smoke. Can boy actors Ben Button and Matthew Fields settle their differences to discover just who's behind these dirty – and increasingly dangerous – tricks?



FEASTING THE WOLF

Susan Price

PB: 9780746077009

A sweeping dramatic story of courage and honour set in the merciless and cut-throat Viking world.

Farm boys Ottar and Ketil love to hear stories about the Great Army; the ruthless warriors ruled by pirate kings, the glory and riches won in blood-soaked battles.

They can only dream of such adventure until a Viking ship comes to port and the boys decide to join the raiding party. As blood brothers, they have sworn to protect each other. But now the arrows of war threaten to pierce their loyalty, the axes to sever their friendship. If they cannot stand strong together, their bodies may be left on the battlefield to feast the wolves



KISS OF DEATH

Malcolm Rose

PB: 9780746070642

A school trip turns into a nightmare when Kim and Wes leave the plague-village of Eyam with more than they bargained for, and a stolen artefact wreaks revenge.

Historical facts blend with ghosts and ancient curses in the latest offering from acclaimed thriller-writer Malcolm Rose.

Shortlisted for the Lancashire Children's Book of the Year Award, 2008, and the Manchester Book Award 2008.

On a school trip to the plague village of Eyam, Seth is moved by the story of how villagers sacrificed their lives to the dreaded Black Death. Kim and Wes are more interested in what they see at the bottom of the wishing well - money!

But when they snatch the coins they also pick up something they hadn't bargained for, and as the hideous consequences of their theft catch up with them all, Seth is forced to face a terrifying truth. Has Eyam's plague-ridden past resurfaced to seek revenge?