

Years 7 and 8



The Star-Spun Web **Sinead O'Hart**

With a fabulous heroine at its heart and propelled by a fast-paced adventure in not just one world but others too, *The Star-Spun Web* is a spell-binding fantasy adventure. As a little baby, Tess de Sousa is left on a doorstep by her father in an effort to keep her safe. To be safe, he knows he has to get her out of one world and into another. Apparently orphaned, Tess, with her pet tarantula for company, grows up in Ackerbee's Home for Lost and Foundlings where she is encouraged to use her brain to do difficult scientific research and is very much loved by all. (Review by Julia Eccleshare from lovereadingforkids.co.uk)



Fleecker

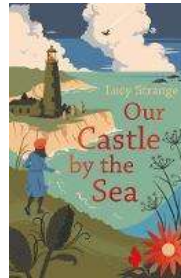
Kit's father is away AGAIN, and although she's supposed to be staying with her brother and sister, Kit steals away to visit her grandfather at Moonstone Manor.

The costume museum once filled with extravagant wonders, is now an aging house with creaking floorboards and damp walls.

The decadent fashion designs seem dull and lifeless.

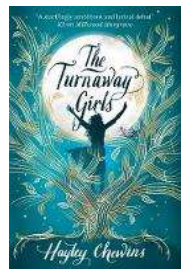
The fabrics worn and dusty. But there is still magic within Moonstone's walls, and Kit will soon discover that the old costumes hold their own secret splendour . . . because on the

stroke of midnight, the costumes come to life. And they've got a lot to say. (Synopsis from brownsbfs.co.uk)



Our Castle by the Sea **Lucy Strange**

From the bestselling author of *THE SECRET OF NIGHTINGALE WOOD* comes an exciting wartime mystery entwined with magic and myth ... 'A beautiful story.' KIRAN MILLWOOD HARGRAVE, author of *The Girl of Ink & Stars* '[A] mesmerising second novel' *THE TELEGRAPH* 'A poignant and uplifting tale packed with adventure, atmosphere and intriguing characters.' *MAIL ON SUNDAY* England is at war. Growing up in a lighthouse, Pet's world has been one of storms, secret tunnels and stories about sea monsters. But now the clifftops are a terrifying battleground, and her family is torn apart. This is the story of a girl who is small, afraid and unnoticed. A girl who freezes with fear at the enemy planes ripping through the skies overhead. A girl who is somehow destined to become part of the strange, ancient legend of the Daughters of Stone ... (Review from lovereading4kids.co.uk)



The Turnaway Girls **Hayley Chewins**

On the strange, stormy island of Blightsend, twelve-year-old Delphernia Undersea has spent her whole life in the cloister of turnaway girls, hidden from sea and sky by a dome of stone and the laws of the island. Outside, the Masters play their music. Inside, the turnaway girls silently make that music into gold. Making shimmer, Mother Nine calls it. But Delphernia can't make shimmer. She would rather sing than stay silent.

When a Master who doesn't act like a Master comes to the skydoor, it's a chance for Delphernia to leave the cloister. Outside the stone dome, the sea breathes like a wild beast, the sky watches with stars like eyes, and even the gardens have claws. (Synopsis from lovereading4kids.co.uk)



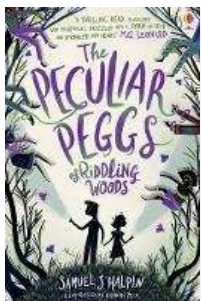
Scavengers **Darren Simpson**

Landfill has lived his whole life as a scavenger, running with wooflers, swimming with turtles and feasting on fresh gull. Old Babagoo has always looked after him, on one condition - follow his rules. NEVER COME LOOKING OUTSIDE. NEVER RISE ABOVE THE WALL. But despite the dangers, Landfill longs to see Outside. And some rules are made to be broken. (Synopsis from lovereading4kids.co.uk)



The Whispers **Greg Howard**

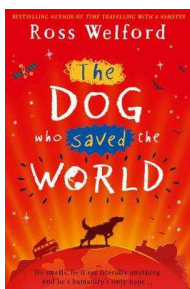
A coming-of-age tale that will make you laugh and cry, perfect for fans of *Time Travelling With a Hamster* and *The Goldfish Boy*. Before she disappeared, Riley's mama used to tell him stories about the Whispers, mysterious creatures with the power to grant wishes. Riley wishes for lots of things. He wishes his secret crush Dylan liked him back. He wishes the bumbling detective would stop asking awkward questions. But most of all he wishes his mother would come home . . . Four months later, the police are no closer to finding out the truth - and Riley decides to take matters into his own hands. But do the Whispers really exist? And what is Riley willing to do to find out? (Synopsis from lovereading4kids.co.uk)



The Peculiar Peggs of Riddling Woods

Samuel J Halpin

This is the story of a sleepy town called Suds. A place where stories fill the air of children who keep turning grey and disappearing without a trace... Poppy and Erasmus are certain there's something peculiar going on in Suds, and they're determined to unravel its secrets. But when they discover the answers might lie in the dark and twisting woods, can they find the courage to creep inside and solve this riddling mystery? (Synopsis from loveread4kids.co.uk)



The Dog who Saved the World **Ross**

Welford

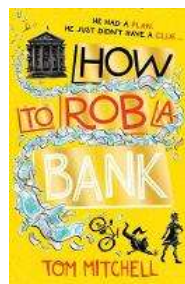
Ross Welford has a knack for combining science and philosophical questions in stories that stem from things we all understand – family, friendship, self-discovery and love. Georgie and her friend Ramzy are fascinated by the eccentric Dr Pretorius and the amazing VR machine she's created in her secret hideout on the Whitley Bay seafront. She claims it can send them into the future, something Georgie is willing to try, despite the dangers, if the future holds a cure for the disease that is threatening all dogs – including her beloved Mister Mash – and even humanity itself. Welford cleverly balances tension with humour and sets readers thinking about

what's really important in our lives. (Recommended by students in 7B1. Synopsis from loveread4kids.co.uk)



Oh my Gods **Alexandra Sheppard**

Life as a half-mortal teenager should be epic. But, for Helen Thomas, it's tragic. She's just moved in with her dorky dad and self-absorbed older siblings - who happen to be the ancient Greek gods, living incognito in London! Between keeping her family's true identities secret, trying to impress her new friends, and meeting an actually cute boy, Helen's stress levels are higher than Mount Olympus. She needs to rein in her chaotic family before they blow their cover AND her chances at a half-normal social life. Or is Helen fated for an embarrassment of mythical proportions? (Recommended by students in 7B1. Synopsis from loveread4kids.co.uk)



How to rob a Bank **Tom Mitchell**

A hilarious, filmic and fast-paced crime-caper by 2019's funniest new voice in teen fiction. Some people rob banks because they're greedy. Others enjoy the adrenaline rush. Me? I robbed a bank because of guilt. Specifically: guilt and a Nepalese scented candle... When fifteen-year-old Dylan accidentally burns down the house of the girl he's trying to impress, he feels that only a bold gesture can make it up to her. A gesture like robbing a bank to pay for her new home. Only an unwanted Saturday job, a tyrannical bank manager, and his unfinished history homework lie between Dylan and the heist of century. And really, what's the worst that could happen? A

funny, cinematic, ill-advised comedy-crime adventure perfect for gamers, heist movie fans, and anyone who loves a laugh. (Recommended by students in 7B1. Synopsis from loveread4kids.co.uk)



The Last Zoo **Sam Gayton**

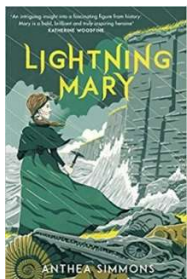
Pia lives in a zoo in the middle of the Pacific Ocean with her parents (both ghosts), several old and cranky genies, a devil, and two young angels. She spends her days trimming genie-beards, trying to avoid being tricked into selling her soul, and waiting for the angels to make a miracle big enough to save the world. Then the angels go missing. Can she solve the riddles of the mysterious haloes the angels have left behind? Is the zoo's devil really trying to help her? And what does this all have to do with her best friends, the Rekkers? Pia needs to solve the mystery fast, because everything around her seems to be ending: her friendships, her childhood, and maybe even the world itself. (Recommended by students in 7B1. Synopsis from loveread4kids.co.uk)



Happy Girl Lucky **Holly Smale**

Introducing The Valentines. Fame - It Runs in the Family! Sisters Hope, Faith and Mercy have everything: fame, success, money and beauty. But what Hope wants most of all is love, and it doesn't matter how far she has to go to find it. Except real-life isn't like the movies. Even if you're a Valentine . . .

Happy Girl Lucky is the first hilarious, heart-warming book in The Valentines series. From the internationally bestselling author of *Geek Girl*, *Holly Smale* (Synopsis from lovereading4kids.co.uk)



Lightning Mary **Anthea Simmons**

The inspiring story of Mary Anning who, born at the end of the eighteenth century, fought against all the odds to become a pioneering scientist and fossil hunter. Inspired by her father who took her out on fossil hunting expeditions on the cliffs and beaches around Lyme Regis, Mary was fascinated by the beauty of the finds and by what they said about the past. Her exceptional curiosity was matched by incredible courage which led her to take dare-devil risks as she searched for rare examples. She also knew their worth and was never shy in selling them well to the many visitors to the area who came to wonder. Anthea Simmons tells Mary's story as an exciting adventure and also as a rousing story of what an intelligent and brave woman can do. (Synopsis by Julia Eccleshare from lovereading4kids.co.uk)

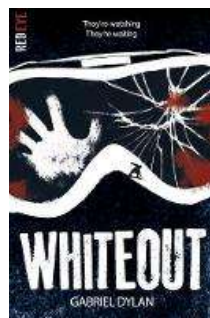


Katie Watson and the Painter's Plot **Mez Blume**

This is the first of Mez Blume's stories about Katie. Visiting Otterly Manor, the young girl goes on an adventure and is transported back into the England of Shakespeare's day when she steps back in time through the medium of a painting. The author is a history enthusiast and aims to give children some

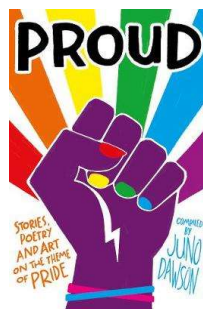
accurate information about the historical period in the context of an adventure. Katie has to solve the mystery of Otterly Manor and also get back home to the twenty first century before it is too late. (Synopsis by Mrs Seddon)

Years 9, 10 and 11



Whiteout **Gabriel Dylan**

A group of Bristolian sixth-formers experience a whole lot more than the thrills and chills of the ski-slopes they're expecting when one of their party discovers a trail of blood in their lodge. For outcast Charlie this trip was supposed to be a break from his troubled home life, but he and his peers are now up to their necks in a gruesome, gory nightmare. Matters take a monstrous, mythical turn after ski instructor Hanna tells the students a tale "about things that lived in the woods. Things that only came out at night"... (Review by Joanne Owen from lovereadingforkids.co.uk)



Proud **Juno Dawson (Compiler)**

Compiled by YA author and broadcaster Juno Dawson, this inspiring anthology of illustrated short stories by LGBTQ+ writers shines a light on a kaleidoscopic array of experiences through an equally kaleidoscopic breadth of genres, themes and styles.

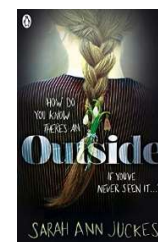
From Chinese lesbian fairytale *The Phoenix's Fault* by Cynthia So, to Simon James Green's hilarious, heart-

warming *Penguins* (who would've thought a pair of penguins could steal a person's coming out thunder?!), this is a powerfully diverse collection. (Review by Joanne Owen from lovereadingforkids.co.uk)



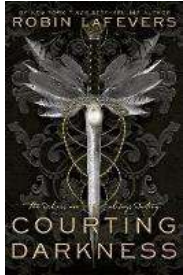
Nothing but the Truth **Dick Lehr**

Inspired by the true story of a young man's false imprisonment for murder, this is a gripping novel about a daughter's fight for justice against the odds. In his first book for teenagers, Dick Lehr, a former reporter for the Boston Globe's famous Spotlight Team, has re-imagined a case he investigated to create a compelling story about a daughter determined to prove her father's innocence. On a hot summer night in Boston, a thirteen-year-old African-American girl became the innocent victim of gang-related gunfire. Amid public outcry, an immediate manhunt was on to catch the murderer, and a young African-American man was quickly apprehended, charged, and - wrongly - convicted of the crime. (Synopsis from lovereading4kids.co.uk)



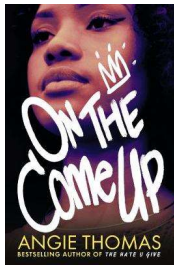
Outside **Sarah Ann Juckes**

Here's the thing about being Inside. Ain't no one believes that they are. Ele has never been Outside, but she knows it exists - she just has to prove it. Her whole world is Inside. Trapped with her books and the Others and Him. She has never seen a tree or felt the rain but that's about to change. Ele's getting out. For good. ____ In the spirit of Emma Donoghue's Room, Outside is a poignant story of strength, friendship and unconditional love, even in the most challenging of circumstances.



Courting Darkness **Robin Lafevers**

When Sybella accompanies the Duchess of Brittany to France, she expects trouble, but she isn't expecting a deadly trap. Surrounded by enemies both known and unknown, Sybella searches for the undercover assassins from the convent of St. Mortain who were placed in the French court years ago. Genevieve has been undercover for so many years, she no longer knows who she is or what she's supposed to be fighting for. When she discovers a hidden prisoner who may be of importance, she takes matters into her own hands. As these two worlds collide, the fate of the Duchess, Brittany, and everything Sybella and Genevieve have come to love hangs in the balance. (Synopsis from lovereading4kids.co.uk)



On the Come Up **Angie Thomas**

Bri is a smart hip-hop writer from rough, tough Garden Heights, the same housing project that provided the setting for Thomas's remarkable debut, *The Hate U Give*. Her underground rap legend dad was murdered twelve years ago, leading to her (now clean) mom seeking solace in drugs. Bri's dad's legacy means she has a hell of a lot of baggage when she performs at a big open mic event. While she chokes the first round after being goaded by her opponent in a scene that will have you desperately urging her on, Bri's powerful lyrics and performance mark her out as something special. But as her hip-hop reputation is on the rise, so other aspects of her life take a downturn. (Review by Joanne Owen from lovereading4kids.co.uk)



Monsters **Sharon Dogar**

An incredible take on the early turbulent years of a young Mary Shelley. Set in 1814 Mary Godwin, the sixteen-year-old daughter of radical socialist and feminist writers, runs away with a charming young poet Percy Bysshe Shelley.

1814: Mary Godwin, the sixteen-year-old daughter of radical socialist and feminist writers, runs away with a dangerously charming young poet - Percy Bysshe Shelley. From there, the two young lovers travel a Europe in the throes of revolutionary change, through high and low society, tragedy and passion, where they will be drawn into the orbit of the mad and bad Lord Byron. But Mary and Percy are not alone: they bring Jane, Mary's young step-sister. And she knows the biggest secrets of them all . . . Told from Mary and Jane's perspectives, Monsters is a novel about radical ideas, rule-breaking love, dangerous Romantics, and the creation of the greatest Gothic novel of them all: Frankenstein. (Synopsis from lovereading4kids.co.uk)



Rayne and Delilah's Midnite Matinee **Jeff**

Zentner

About to graduate from high school, best friends Josie and Delia host a humorous horror movie show on public access TV, with Delia channelling her estranged dad's love of low-budget fright fests and Josie working towards a career in TV. Experts in the art of witty back-and-forth tennis-rally banter, the girls are super close, but unsettling changes are on the horizon. Delia is desperately torn-up by being abandoned by her dad and, having tracked him down to Florida, has to decide whether she wants to contact him, just when it looks like Josie is about to

leave her to take up an internship in another city. (Review by Joanne Owen from lovereading4kids.co.uk)

For more book recommendations, please contact Mrs Seddon (term-time only) sseddon@gillotts.org.uk and see also lovereadingforkids.co.uk