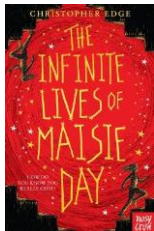
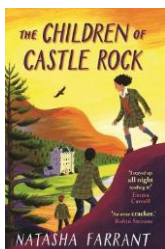


Years 7 and 8



The Infinite Lives of Maisie Day **Christopher Edge**

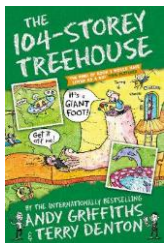
How do you know you really exist? It's Maisie's birthday and she can't wait to open her presents. She's hoping for the things she needs to build her own nuclear reactor. But she wakes to an empty house and outside the front door is nothing but a terrifying, all-consuming blackness. Trapped in an ever-shifting reality, Maisie knows that she will have to use the laws of the universe and the love of her family to survive. And even that might not be enough... (Review from lovereading4kids.co.uk)



The Children of Castle Rock **Natasha Farrant**

When Alice's family home has to be sold, she and her father Barney will do whatever it takes to buy it back - even if whatever it takes isn't strictly legal. Both hilarious and heartfelt, this is the classic adventure story brought bang up to date, and told in Natasha's inimitable voice. (Review from lovereading4kids.co.uk)

(Review from lovereading4kids.co.uk)



The 104-Storey Treehouse **Andy Griffiths and Terry Denton**

The higher Andy Griffiths and Terry Denton's treehouse grows, the better. There are few books that reach such levels of absurd comedy and adventure, and the authors' ability to weave the craziest adventures into satisfying plots is phenomenal. As the treehouse reaches 104 storeys, new additions include a stupid-hat level, and a money-making machine that also makes honey. They still have their books to write for Mr Big though, and as always are up against the delivery deadline. But Andy's got toothache and can't laugh because of the pain. Could a Joke Writer 2000™ pencil be the answer to their problems? 104 Storeys and 300+ pages of brilliant, ingenious cartoon adventure. (Review from lovereading4kids.co.uk)



The Eleventh Trade **Alyssa Hollingsworth**

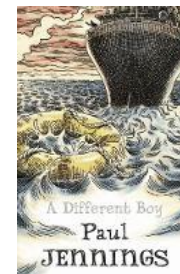
For fans of WONDER and REFUGEE BOY - meet Sami, a twelve-year-old refugee from Afghanistan. Back in Afghanistan, before the Taliban came, Sami's grandfather was a famous musician. People would come from miles around and pay thousands to hear him play the rebab. Now Sami and his grandfather are refugees living in Boston. The rebab is their most valuable possession and a reminder of home. Then one terrible day, the rebab is stolen. Sami's grandfather is devastated. His last link with home is gone and with it, his livelihood. Sami resolves to get the rebab back as a surprise for Eid. (Review from lovereading4kids.co.uk)



Pages & Co: Tilly and the Bookwanderers **Anna James**

Tilly loves stories and has firm favourites among their characters. She can so easily imagine conversations with Anne from Anne of Green Gables or Alice from Wonderland. But she

never expects to actually meet them! When Tilly finds that she has entered the story herself – and particularly when she takes her friend Oskar with her too – she knows that something very strange indeed is happening. Can a trip to the wonderful Underlibrary sited deep in the British Library itself illuminate just what is happening to Tilly and how her beloved grandparents are involved too? Anna James weaves a richly invented story with great skill and makes every passionate reader's greatest dream of being able to hang out with their favourite characters come true. (Review from lovereading4kids.co.uk)



A Different Boy **Paul Jennings**

'The ship was a towering fortress looming over the pier. Anton stared enviously at the emigrants lining up in front of the wide gangplank. Heading off on a voyage to a land of peace and plenty. Leaving the land of broken buildings and crushed hopes behind. Looking forward to sunshine and steaks. How he wished that he was one of the lucky ones.' Loosely based on Paul Jennings' journey to Australia as a 'ten pound Pom', the story of Anton, who escapes from an orphanage and successfully stows away on a boat headed for the land of 'sunshine and steaks' has a timeless reality of its own. (Review from lovereading4kids.co.uk)



Agatha Oddly: The Secret Key **Lena Jones**

Meet thirteen-year-old Agatha Oddly - a bold, determined heroine, and the star of a stylish new detective series. Agatha Oddly has been a detective for as long as she can remember -

she's just been waiting for her first big case. And nothing gets bigger than saving the City of London from some strange goings-on. With a scholarship to the prestigious St Regis School, a cottage in the middle of Hyde Park, a room full of beloved sleuthing novels, and a secret key that gives her access to a whole hidden side of London, Agatha is perfectly poised to solve the mystery of what's going on.

But just who can she trust when no one is quite who they seem... (Review from brownsbfs.co.uk)



*The Battle of Beetles **M G Leonard**

Darkus and his friends continue their unforgettable adventure in this final instalment of the Beetle trilogy. Arch-villainess Lucretia Cutter has a secret Biome hidden in the Amazon rainforest: can Darkus and his friends, human and beetle alike, find it before it's too late? If they can't stop Lucretia, she will release her hoard of giant Frankenstein beetles, and the planet will never be the same again. (Review from lovreading4kids.co.uk)



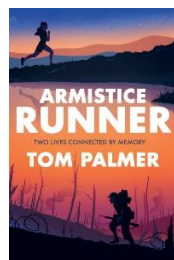
Inkling **Kenneth Oppel**

Mishaps and madness ensue when magical drawing ink comes to life in the Rylance home and 11-year-old Ethan tries to prove he's just as talented as his famous father. A moving but light-hearted story about grief, family and a sixth-grade rivalry.

When Ethan's class is given the task of creating a graphic novel and magical ink jumps out of his father's sketchbook, a strange series of events is set into motion.

To his younger sister, Inkling is Lucy, her beloved dog; to his father, Inkling is a second chance at a dwindling career and a chance to solve his family's money worries.

Friends and enemies alike try to use Inkling to ace tests and create bestselling comic books, but to Ethan, Inkling is his friend - and he must do everything in his power save him. (Review from lovreading4kids.co.uk)



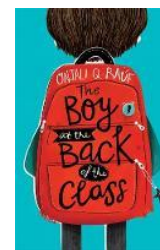
Armistice Runner **Tom Palmer**

World War One remains a subject of fascination for readers of all ages, but Tom Palmer finds an original way in to the topic in this poignant new story. Lily is a keen fell runner, though she's fed up of coming in as runner up in races. A visit to her grandparents reveals a surprise: her great-grandfather ran on the fells too. His experiences are recounted vividly in his diary, both his runs in his beloved Cumbria and his experiences as a soldier, recruited to run between positions on the front line, carrying crucial information to the allies. Their shared experiences form a powerful connection, and help Lily to understand herself better, and also to help her grandma when she needs it most. Today and yesterday are seamlessly woven together in a story that will move readers in lots of different ways. (Review from lovreading4kids.co.uk)



A Darkness of Dragons **S A Patrick**

In a world of dragons, song spells, pipers and battles... Patch Brightwater is a boy in disgrace. Thrown in jail for playing a forbidden spell, he is no one's idea of a hero. But then he discovers a deadly truth - the evil Piper of Hamelyn is on the loose. With the help of Wren, a girl cursed to live as a rat, and Barver, a fire-breathing dracogriff, Patch must stop the Piper sparking the biggest battle of them all. Three accidental heroes versus one legendary villain... an epic adventure is born. (Review from lovreading4kids.co.uk)



The Boy at the back of the class **Onjali Q**

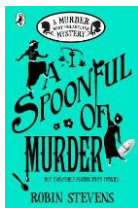
Rauf

Told with heart and humour, The Boy at the Back of the Class is a child's perspective on the refugee crisis, highlighting the importance of friendship and kindness in a world that doesn't always make sense. There used to be an empty chair at the back of my class, but now a new boy called Ahmet is sitting in it. He's nine years old (just like me), but he's very strange. He never talks and never smiles and doesn't like sweets - not even lemon sherbets, which are my favourite! But then I learned the truth: Ahmet really isn't very strange at all. He's a refugee who's run away from a War. A real one. With bombs and fires and bullies that hurt people (Review from lovreading4kids.co.uk)



The Paw House **Megan Rix**

Hamish's summer isn't going as planned. First, his parents left him to go on a business trip to Japan, and now he's found himself stuck in the Scottish highlands with an aunt he's never met, a grumpy girl called Izzy, and a lot of animals. He's never even stroked a dog - what on earth is he supposed to do here? Before long Hamish finds himself taking the dogs for walks, adopting a piglet, even rescuing a tiny puppy in the dead of night. But something's not right: Aunt Helen is worried about the future of the sanctuary, and with more animals in need arriving every day, something's got to be done before they lose their home forever. With the help of some unexpected new friends, can Hamish save the animals and turn the fate of the Paw House around? (Review from lovreading4kids.co.uk)



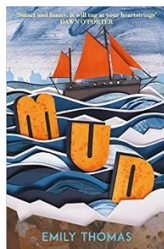
*A Spoonful of Murder **Robin Stevens**

This is the latest book in Robin Stevens' best-selling boarding school crime series, number six, and I do hope it's not the last: very few books deliver such a delicious spoonful of character, crime, setting and pace. This adventure takes place in Hazel's home, Hong Kong, and the dreadful crimes that take place are horribly close to her own family. The mystery will keep readers eagerly turning the pages, while 1930s Hong Kong is more than just a fascinating backdrop. The relationship between Daisy and Hazel still holds surprises, while there are new characters too to almost steal the limelight. It would be a crime to miss a book this good. ~ (Review from lovereading4kids.co.uk)



* Kat Wolfe Investigates **Lauren St John**

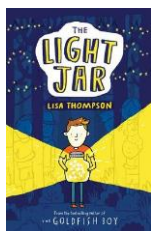
This new series has everything that marks out the best, most satisfying and enjoyable children's books. For a start there's a smart but impulsive, ready-for-anything central character in Kat Wolfe, who quickly finds an equally enterprising new best friend, Harper Lamb. Then there's a procession of the best pets/animal helpers ever, from half-feral Savannah cat Tiny to flighty racehorse Charmed Outlaw, to movie-line quoting parrot Bailey. Put them into an adventure involving genuinely threatening double-crossing secret agents, and incompetent would-be assassins, all set in a beautiful and perfectly described Dorset coastal village, mix in warm family relationships, and you have one of the best new adventure stories of the year. Lauren St John brings all the elements together with seemingly effortless ease and there can't be a young reader in the country who won't lap this up. (Review from lovereading4kids.co.uk)



Mud **Emily Thomas**

This is Emily Thomas' first book. Lydia, our heroine, is Emily of course. She lives in a blended family with 3 siblings of her own and 3 children belonging to her father's new wife. Lydia writes a diary, which was a present from her mother before she died. Lydia is a fan of 'I Capture the Castle' by Dodie Smith, another one which includes diary entries. At the start of the story, the children's father tells them they are going to be moving in with Kate and her children, and, worse, that they are going to leave their lovely spacious home with all its comforts and the services of a cleaning lady, and go to live on a cold, damp boat. This is to save money, and as the story progresses we find out just what dire straits their father is in. He is suffering from depression and takes consolation in alcohol.

All in all a gem of a book with themes of friendship, love, growing up, survival, alcoholism and family break-up. (Review by Mrs Seddon)



*The Light Jar **Lisa Thompson**

The brand new read-in-one-sitting mystery from the bestselling author of *The Goldfish Boy*, 2017's breakout children's book hit. Nate and his mother are running away, hiding out in a tumbledown cottage in the middle of a forest. When Mum heads off for provisions, and then doesn't return, Nate is left alone and afraid, with the dark closing in all around him. But comfort can come from the most unexpected of places - a mysterious girl trying to solve the clues of a treasure hunt and the reappearance of an old friend from his past. Will Nate find

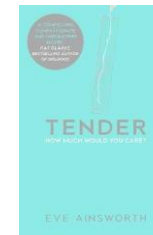
the bravery needed to face the troubles of his present and ultimately illuminate the future? (Review from lovereading4kids.co.uk)



*The 1000 Year Old Boy **Ross Welford**

There are stories about people who want to live forever. This is not one of those stories. This is a story about someone who wants to stop... Alfie Monk is like any other nearly teenage boy - except he's 1,000 years old and can remember the last Viking invasion of England. Obviously no one believes him. So when everything Alfie knows and loves is destroyed in a fire, and the modern world comes crashing in, Alfie embarks on a mission to find friendship, acceptance, and a different way to live... ... which means finding a way to make sure he will eventually die. (Review from lovereading4kids.co.uk)

Years 9 and 10 and 11



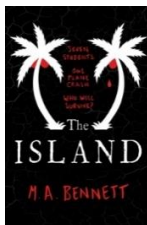
Tender **Eve Ainsworth**

Touching on mental health, family, friendship and the pressures that teenage carers face, as author Cat Clarke says, *Tender* is a compassionate, compelling and unflinching novel. Marty and Daisy spend their lives pretending. Marty pretends his mum's grip on reality isn't slipping by the day. Daisy pretends her parents aren't exhausting themselves while they look after her incurably ill brother. They both pretend they're fine. But the thing about pretending is, at some point, it has to stop. And then what? (Review from lovereading4kids.co.uk)



The Colour of the Sun **David Almond**

The day is long, the world is wide, you're young and free. One hot summer morning, Davie steps boldly out of his front door. The world he enters is very familiar - the little Tyneside town that has always been his home - but as the day passes, it becomes ever more mysterious. A boy has been killed, and Davie thinks he might know who is responsible. He turns away from the gossip and excitement and sets off roaming towards the sunlit hills above the town. As the day goes on, the real and the imaginary start to merge, and Davie knows that neither he nor his world will ever be the same again. (Review from lovereading4kids.co.uk)



The Island **M A Bennett**

Seven students. One plane crash. No rules. Link is a fish out of water. Newly arrived from America, he is finding it hard to settle into the venerable and prestigious Osney School.

Who knew there could be so many strange traditions to understand? And what kind of school ranks its students by how fast they can run round the school quad - however ancient that quad may be?

When Link runs the slowest time in years, he immediately becomes the butt of every school joke. And some students are determined to make his life more miserable than others . . . When a school summer trip is offered, Link can think of nothing worse than spending voluntary time with his worst tormentors.

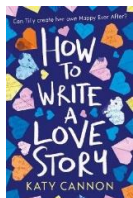
But when his parents say he can only leave Osney School - forever - if he goes on the trip, Link decides to endure it for the ultimate prize.

But this particular trip will require a very special sort of endurance. (Review adapted from brownsbfs.co.uk)



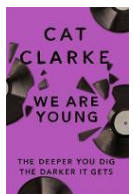
Dogchild **Kevin Brooks**

Set in the future when humanity is reduced to two warring tribes living amongst the rubble and remains of former civilisation, Dogchild tells the tale of Jeet. Taken by a pack of wild dogs as a baby, Jeet was raised as one of their own. It wasn't until his pack ventured into the walled city in an ill-advised raid that Jeet was 'rescued from the only family he had ever known, and 'rehumanised.' (Review adapted from Sally Perry's published in The School Librarian)



How to write a Love Story **Katy Cannon**

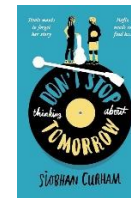
Tilly Frost has grown up reading her grandmother's bestselling romance novels - so when the one and only Beatrix Frost is taken ill, Tilly finishes writing her latest work. Then Tilly agrees to start the next book. But what is her gran hiding from her? And how can Tilly write a heart-pounding romance when she's never been in love? Can she turn her school crush into something more? One thing Tilly should know is that the course of true love never did run smooth... (Review from lovereading4kids.co.uk)



We are Young **Cat Clarke**

It starts with a wedding. And a car crash. On the same night Evan's mother marries local radio DJ 'Breakfast Tim', Evan's brand-new step-brother Lewis is found unconscious and terribly injured, the only survivor of a horrific car crash. A media storm erupts, with the finger of blame pointed firmly at loner stoner Lewis. Everyone else seems to think the crash was drugs-

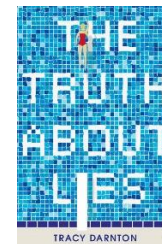
related, but Evan isn't buying it. With the help of her journalist dad, Harry, she decides to find out what really happened that night. As Evan delves deeper into the lives of the three teenagers who died in the crash, she uncovers some disturbing truths and a secret that threatens to tear her family - and the community - apart. Raw and riveting, heartbreaking and hopeful: an unforgettable story from the author of Girlhood. (Review from lovereading4kids.co.uk)



Don't stop thinking about tomorrow **Siobhan Curham**

Curham

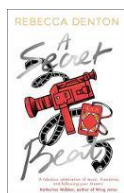
An uplifting story of friendship, unity and hope that highlights the important and topical issues surrounding young carers and young refugees. Fourteen-year-old Stevie lives in Lewes with her beloved vinyl collection, her mum ... and her mum's depression. When Stevie's mum's disability benefits are cut, Stevie and her mother are plunged into a life of poverty. But irrepressible Stevie is determined not to be beaten and she takes inspiration from the lyrics of her father's 1980s record collection and dreams of a life as a musician. Then she meets Hafiz, a talented footballer and a Syrian refugee. Hafiz's parents gave their life savings to buy Hafiz a safe passage to Europe; his journey has been anything but easy. Then he meets Stevie... As Stevie and Hafiz's friendship grows, they encourage each other to believe in themselves and follow their dreams. (Review from lovereading4kids.co.uk)



The Truth about Lies **Tracy Darnton**

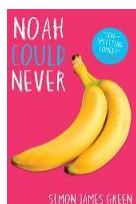
Jess has an incredible memory. She can remember every single detail of every single day since she was eleven. But Jess would rather not be remarkable and, after years of testing at the hands of a ruthless research team, she has finally managed to escape. Just when Jess thinks that she's managing to settle in

to living a normal life, everything changes. Her boarding-school roommate dies and the school is thrown into a state of chaos and grief. Then new boy Dan appears and Jess can't help but find herself drawn to him. But building relationships is hard when you can't reveal who you really are and Jess is getting hints that someone knows more about her than she would like. Is it time to run again? Will she ever be truly free? (Review from lovereading4kids.co.uk)



A Secret Beat **Rebecca Denton**

Sparkling with wit, A Secret Beat explores celebrity, fandom, and being true to yourself. It's sharp, fresh, and so much fun. * Carlie Sorosiak, author of If Birds Fly Back and Wild Blue Yonder. * I loved A Secret Beat, not least because Rebecca Denton's writing is so sharp and alive. Alexia is a smart, intrepid heroine, and the London setting is absolutely electric. This book explores the many facets of ambition, moral complexity, all of the dark corners of growing up, and what it really means to do the right thing. * (Review from lovereading4kids.co.uk)



Noah could Never **Simon James Green**

The sequel to 'Noah can't even.' Noah and Harry are now officially boyfriends, but is Noah ready for the difference? It's no help that a group of cosmopolitan French exchange students have descended on Little Fobbing - including sexy Pierre Victoire, who seems to have his eye on Harry! Meanwhile, Noah's paired up with a girl ... who, most outrageously, is not even French. But that's not all: the police are monitoring Noah, and he can't tell if it's because his dad and secret half-brother, Eric, have made off with his gran's fake diamonds; because his PE teacher is receiving mysterious cash infusions from Russia; or because drag queen Bambi Sugapops is hiding out at Noah's house in the midst of a knock-down, bare-knuckled drag feud. Will Noah ever catch a break?! (Review adapted from lovereading4kids.co.uk)



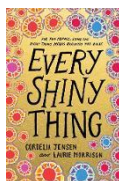
Behind Closed Doors **Miriam Halahmy**

Fifteen-year-olds Tasha and Josie are near-neighbours who never thought they had anything in common. But when their families let them down, they find themselves unlikely allies in a battle for survival. On the margins of adulthood, these two girls also find themselves also on the margins of society. And where do you go for safety when there is no security at home? (Review from lovereading4kids.co.uk)



Phantom **Leo Hunt**

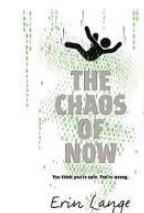
Tech in her veins. Anarchy in her blood. In the City, they have it all - sunlight, a corp job, a corpbloc home miles above the poisoned earth below. Four-hundred storeys down, in the darkness of the undercity slums, lives sixteen-year-old orphan Nova. Nova is a hacker. Aided by the program Phantom, she can sneak up to the City, leech what she needs and sink back down again, invisible as a ghost. But Nova has caught someone's eye, and that's Phantom-creator and legendary anti-corp hacker the Moth. Now the Moth has a job for Nova. A job that will send her miles into the sky. To bring the City crashing down. (Review from lovereading4kids.co.uk)



Every Shiny Thing **Cordelia Jensen and Laurie Morrison**

In this beautifully constructed middle grade novel, Lauren's autistic older brother has recently been sent to a therapeutic boarding school, and it seems to Lauren that her parents are

unfairly 'living it up' now that he's gone. Lauren joins a simplicity group at her Quaker school and recruits Sierra, her new neighbor, for the group. She misunderstands the group's anti-materialism mission and slowly begins to take things from her parents and to shoplift, using the money she gets selling stolen goods to give to kids on the autism spectrum. Meanwhile, foster kid Sierra has been in a toxic relationship with both of her parents, as an enabler and caretaker. Sierra realizes she's falling into the same enabling patterns with Lauren. And Lauren must learn that what she is doing is not fighting injustice, however good her intentions. Told in alternating viewpoints between Sierra's verse chapters and Lauren's prose chapters, this is a story about fairness for young readers first grappling with an unequal world. (Review from lovereading4kids.co.uk)



The Chaos of Now **Erin Lange**

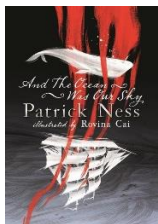
When Jordan Bishop set himself on fire at Haver High school as a result of internet bullying, it triggered a nationwide crackdown. New laws empower teachers to become cyber snoops in case of abuse on social media. For teen hacker, Eli Bennett, the laws put fundamental freedoms at risk. And he's not alone in thinking this. Approached by two mysterious hackers, Eli is recruited into a group that wants justice for Jordan the way Jordan would've wanted it. But what starts as a bit of fun to rile the cyber snoops soon spirals out of control. Revenge on Jordan's bullies could be classed as bullying itself... At best, Eli's school career is in jeopardy, at worst, once more lives are at risk. (Review from lovereading4kids.co.uk)



Frostfire **Zoe Marriott**

Perfect for fans of Tamora Pierce, [Maggie Stiefvater](#) and [Cassandra Clare](#) this is a literary fantasy about

war, racial identity and first love, in which Frost has left her homeland to travel to the neighbouring country of Ruan in the hope of finding a deity she believes will rid her of a curse. It is a refreshing and provocative real-world take on the fantasy genre: in this world there is no magic and the setting is more akin to Northern India or Tibet than the usual Tolkien-inspired pseudo-Europe. Zoe Marriott's first novel, *The Swan Kingdom*, was chosen as a USBBY Outstanding International Book. Her third book, *Shadows on the Moon*, won the prestigious Sasakawa Prize. (Review from lovereading4kids.co.uk)



And the Ocean was our Sky **Patrick Ness**

The whales of Bathsheba's pod live for the hunt. Led by the formidable Captain Alexandra, they fight a never-ending war against men. Then the whales attack a man ship, and instead of easy prey they find the trail of a myth, a monster, perhaps the devil himself... With their relentless Captain leading the chase, they embark on the final hunt, one that will forever change the worlds of whales and men. . (Review adapted from lovereading4kids.co.uk)



Ash Princess **Laura Sebastian**

Theodosia was six when her country was invaded and her mother, the Queen of Flame and Fury, was murdered before her eyes. Ten years later, Theo has learned to survive under the relentless abuse of the Kaiser and his court as the ridiculed Ash Princess. When the Kaiser forces her to execute her last hope of rescue, Theo can't ignore her feelings and memories any longer. She vows revenge, throwing herself into a plot to seduce and murder the Kaiser's warrior son with the help of a group of magically gifted and volatile rebels. But Theo doesn't expect to develop feelings for the Prinz. Forced to make impossible choices and unable to trust even those who are on her side,

Theo will have to decide how far she's willing to go to save her people and how much of herself she's willing to sacrifice to become Queen. (Review from lovereading4kids.co.uk)



The Hurting **Lucy van Smit**

Nell's family arrives in Norway in financial disgrace. She is dominated by her family - her religious father and her sister, whose cancer stops Nell from embracing her dreams of a musical career. She doesn't believe in love, either, until she falls for Lukas. But Lukas has his own dark agenda, and in this tale of hidden secrets and shocking twists, he manipulates Nell closer to the point of no return. How far is she willing to go for love? (Review 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

Books highlighted with a * are on the longlist for the Berkshire Book Award. This is an award voted for by young people of 11-14 years old. To vote for your 6 favourites on the longlist, go to the website:
<https://www.berkshirebookaward.org.uk/longlist18>