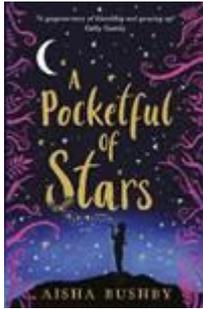


Recommended Reads of 2020



[A Pocketful of Stars](#)

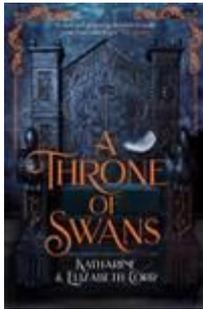
Author: Aisha Bushby

Publisher: Egmont

Interest age: 9-11

Reading age: 8+

Safiya must uncover the truth of her mother's history to help her survive the present. A beautifully written and page-turning read, set in London and Kuwait, that deals with changing friendships, family dynamics and learning how to say goodbye.



[A Throne of Swans](#)

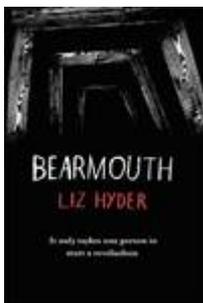
Author: Katharine & Elizabeth Corr

Publisher: Hot Key Books

Interest age: 12+

Reading age: 12-14

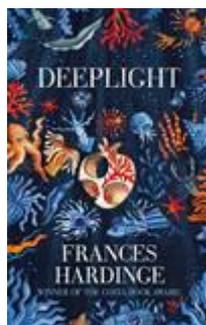
If you love Melinda Salisbury's royal politics and treacherous courts, you'll love this brilliant Game of Thrones-esque fantasy. Tons of intrigue, mystery, family drama, glamorous gowns and hidden swords



[Bearthmouth](#)

Author: Liz Hyder
Publisher: Pushkin
Interest age: 9+
Reading age: 10+

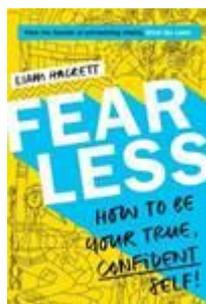
Newt has been living and working in the horrendous conditions of Bearmouth mine from an early age. Any kind of way out isn't even contemplated until Newt meets Devlin. This story is exciting, ambitious, unpredictable and breathtakingly brilliant.



[Deeplight](#)

Author: Frances Hardinge
Publisher: Macmillan
Interest age: 12+
Reading age: 12+

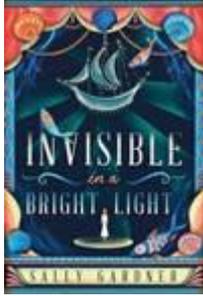
Hark and his best friend Jelt spend their days on a strange island hunting for magical "godware". But everything is about to change for them in this breathtaking, richly imagined story, full of heart and soul and incredible world-building.



[Fearless! How to be your true, confident self](#)

Author: Liam Hackett **Illustrator:** Mike Perry
Publisher: Scholastic
Interest age: 9+
Reading age: 10+

A self-help guide for youngsters struggling with self-esteem, peer pressure or 'fitting in'



[Invisible in a Bright Light](#)

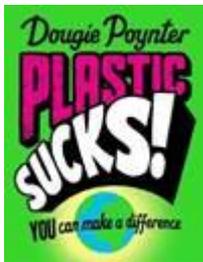
Author: Sally Gardner

Publisher: Zephyr Books (imprint of Zeus)

Interest age: 11-14

Reading age: 10+

A mysterious and riveting fantasy thriller, with elements of horror, that will especially appeal to readers who enjoy puzzles and problem-solving. It will keep you pinned to your seat for hours.



[Plastic Sucks! You Can Make a Difference](#)

Author: Dougie Poynter

Publisher: Macmillan

Interest age: 9-11

Reading age: 9+

Plastic is one of the problems of our age, but what can we do about reducing how much we use? There's a great mix here, from advice to learning about eco-entrepreneurs and experts. An excellent guide for older primary kids that is useful and timely.



[Pumpkin Heads](#)

Author: Rainbow Rowell **Illustrator:** Faith Erin Hicks

Publisher: Macmillan

Interest age: 12-16

Reading age: 11+

A story of friendship and romance told in a funny and inclusive graphic novel that celebrates the joy and diversity of Halloween traditions in the USA.



[The Surprising Power of a Good Dumpling](#)

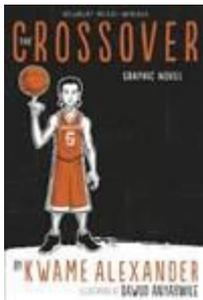
Author: Wai Chim

Publisher: Allen & Unwin

Interest age: 12+

Reading age: 12+

Anna's Ma hasn't got out of bed for weeks and it's up to Anna to take care of her family. But when Ma finally leaves her room, things don't exactly go as Anna had planned. This beautiful book takes a nuanced and sensitive approach to a loved one experiencing a mental health problem, and highlights the importance of our own emotional wellbeing.



[The Crossover: Graphic Novel](#)

Author: Kwame Alexander **Illustrator:** Dawud Anyabwile

Publisher: Andersen Press

Interest age: 9+

Reading age: 9+

Dynamically-illustrated graphic novel version of a bestselling, award-winning story of twin basketball players and their coming-of-age.



[The List of Things That Will Not Change](#)

Author: Rebecca Stead
Publisher: Andersen Press
Interest age: 12+
Reading age: 11+

Bea's dad is gay and he's marrying his boyfriend Jesse, who Bea loves. Bea lives half of her week with mum, half of the week with dad. When Sonia, Jesse's daughter, comes to stay, Bea is really excited about the prospect of a new sister, but it all feels strange to Sonia. Will Bea get the sister she's always wanted?



[The Starlight Watchmaker](#)

Author: Lauren James
Publisher: Barrington Stoke
Interest age: 9+
Reading age: 11+

Lowly, abandoned android thinks he has nothing in common with aristocrats, until he investigates a crime with one. A charming and funny story with a touch of satire and a tinge of steampunk, which can be read as a tale of friendship or a light romance.

Blue Peter Book Award – Shortlist 2021 for younger readers

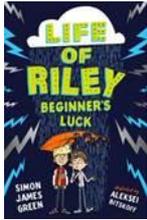
Title: A Kind of Spark Author: Elle McNicoll

When 11 year old Addie, who is autistic, learns about the 16th century women who were persecuted for witchcraft, she starts to lobby for a local memorial in her small Scottish village. With the help of a new girl at school, she fights valiantly against injustice and oppression



Title: Life of Riley: Beginner's Luck Author: Simon James Green

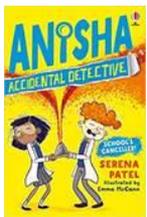
Following a badly timed sneeze at a funfair, Riley finds himself cursed - everything he does is doomed to be a complete disaster, whether it's wetting himself onstage or losing the school rabbit. Could his cool new friend Brad Chicago be the antidote?



Title: Anisha Accidental Detective: School's Cancelled!

Author: Serena Patel Illustrator: Emma McCann

Can Anisha Mistry find out who sabotaged her science experiment and flooded the school with foam when all the potential suspects have alibis?



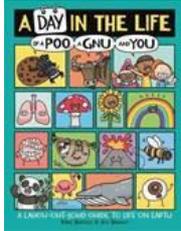
Title: The Humans Author: Jonny Marx

This highly-illustrated reference book celebrates the incredible achievements of various ancient civilisations, exploring their lifestyles, discoveries and inventions, many of which have influenced modern-day society.



Title: A Day in the Life of a Poo, a Gnu, and You Author: Mike Barfield

A very unusual fact book with laugh-out-loud strip cartoons about everything from eyeballs to Bactrian camels.



Title: Inventors Author: Robert Winston This engaging non-fiction book celebrates more than 50 incredible inventors from across the globe and throughout history.

