

2021-22 RECOMMENDED READS – YEAR 8



**Ainsworth, Magpie
Eve**

This is the story of Alice who has to learnt to rebuild her life after she, her mother and siblings run away from her abusive stepfather. It's not easy fitting in to a new school and making new friends, it's even harder for Alice to trust again.

T



**Attah, Ayesha
Harruna** **The Deep
Blue
Between**

At the turn of the 20th century, Hassana and Husseina are separated and enslaved. Once freed and cared for, they experience various cultures and religions as they try to survive in their new lives. This dual narrative explores the lives of twin sisters in the colonial worlds of the Gold Coast of Africa and Brazil. While they grow apart in distance, they remain connected through their dreams.

T



Caldecott, Elen **The Short
Knife**

This book is set in Britain just after the Romans have left and the country is plunged into the dark ages with Saxon warriors invading towns and villages. Mai is forced to leave their family farm and flee from the warriors into the dangerous hills where British warlords lie in wait. A story of survival set in the Welsh countryside.

T



Dassu, A M **Boy,
Everywhere**

Sami and his family embark on a harrowing journey from Syria to the UK via a smuggler's den in Turkey to escape the bombing in their country. But Sami hates it in the UK, he had a privileged life in Syria and now lives in poverty in Manchester where he is constantly bullied. All he wants is to return to his old life in Damascus.

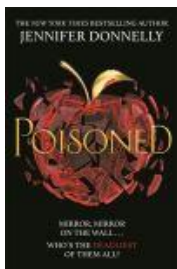
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David, Keren **What We're
Scared of**

Evie and Lottie are twins but are very different people - Evie is funny and sharp, Lottie is anxious and shy. The only thing they have in common is they are Jewish. It's not something they've given much thought about before but then their mother, in her new role as a radio host, starts being targeted by antisemitic trolls and they become caught up in the ugly threats made against them all.

T



Donnelly, Jennifer

Poisoned

Snow White as you have never read it before. Sophie is kind and gentle and therefore a threat to her stepmother, the Queen, who orders a huntsman to cut out her heart. Luckily, seven brothers save her with a clockwork heart, but she must travel through the kingdom to find her real heart and her self belief if she is to survive and save the kingdom from the tyrannical queen. A dark but ultimately hopeful tale with plenty of adventure and twists along the way.

T



Dowswell, Paul

The Great Revolt

A gripping historical novel set during the peasants' revolt of 1381. Richard II has imposed a new tax on his people, even the lowly serfs who can barely afford to feed themselves and have no rights of movement or to earn wages. Tilda and her father are caught up in the rebellion and travel to London to confront the King but what started as a peaceful protest soon turns into violence and treachery.

T



Elliott, Rebecca

Pretty Rude

Haylah, would-be stand-up teenage comedian, is back. Haylah is dealing with a lot of angst in her life, her estranged father, her new boyfriend as well as setting up a YouTube channel. Putting yourself out there on social media can be tough and she has to deal with some horrible trolls.

T



Fukuda, Andrew

This Light Between Us

In 1935 Alex from Bainbridge Island, Washington USA becomes pen pals with Charlie from Paris, France. Alex is horrified to find out that Charlie is actually a girl. Their correspondence continues over the years which sees Alex, a Japanese American sent to an internment camp after the bombing of Pearl Harbor and Charlie, a Jew, face the horrors of the concentration camps in Europe.

T



Gratz, Alan

Ground Zero

Set in two different locations and time this book tells the story of Brandon, caught up in the horrors of the attack on the World Trade Centre in New York in 2001 and Reshmina, growing up in the shadow of war in Afghanistan in 2020.

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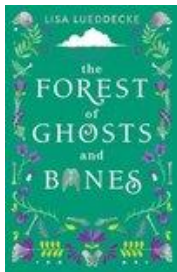


Gros, Kathleen

Jo: an adaptation of Little Women (sort of)

This modernised adaptation of Little Women in graphic form features thirteen-year-old Jo March, a budding journalist who is just trying to figure out life. When her friend Laurie confesses he has feelings for her, Jo realises she must confront her own feelings for her female friend Freddie. While Jo juggles her friend and family relationships, she must come to terms with her sexuality and who she is.

T



Lueddecke, Lisa
The Forest of Ghosts and Bones

A fantasy novel inspired by Hungarian myths and legends. Castle Marcosza is shrouded in poisonous rain on the Eve of Saints. Magic has been outlawed in Marcosza but when Beata's brother is taken by the rain, she must defy authorities and use her magic powers to save her brother.

T



Panitch, Amanda
It's My Party and I Don't Want to Go

Ellie has undiagnosed anxiety and is horrified at the thought of her forthcoming Bar Mitzvah, where she will be expected to stand up in front of hundreds of people, give a speech, sing and generally be the centre of attention. Her plan for getting out of it is to work with her best friend Zoe to sabotage the event.

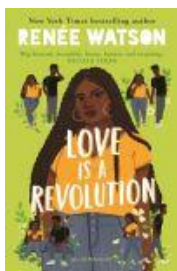
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Sedgwick, Julian
Tsunami Girl

A story inspired by the 2011 events of the Japan earthquake and Tsunami. Yuki has been struggling at school and goes to live with her grandfather, a well know manga artist. Disaster strikes and Yuki loses her grandfather in the Tsunami. Yuki must learn to get over her loss and rebuild her life. Told through prose and manga this is truly a story of resilience.

T+



Watson, Renee
Love is a Revolution

Nala is persuaded to go to an open mic night with her cousin and falls for Nye the MC. Nye is an activist and is spending his summer organising community activities. In order to impress him, Nala tells a few tiny lies but she begins to realise that it's not always easy to keep up with her lies.

T



Wein, Elizabeth
The Last Hawk

Ingrid was six when the Nazis came to power in Germany. She has a severe stutter and her parents fear that the new law regarding less able children will mean she will be sterilised or worse, experimented upon. Ingrid is an amazing glider pilot and gets the chance to fly with her hero test pilot Hanna Reitsch on a propaganda tour. She learns some shocking truths about a secret mission and her loyalties are torn apart.

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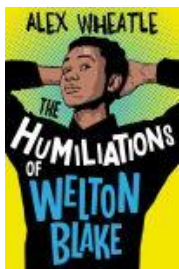


Wenxuan, Cao
Dragonfly Eyes

This story spans fifty years in the lives of Ah-Mei and her grandmother Nainai as they move from France to Shanghai where they encounter prejudice and racism for their Europeaness.

T





Wheatle, Alex

The Humiliations of Welton Blake

A laugh out loud story which follows the life of Welton Blake as he navigates the trials and pitfalls of going on a first date. The horror of losing his phone, dealing with bullies and the embarrassing behaviour of his dad who is trying to get back with his mum.

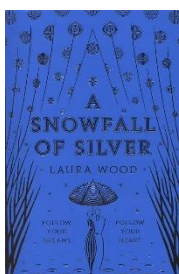
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Williamson, Lisa
Paper Avalanche

Ro doesn't have any friends and that's just the way she wants to keep it. She has a secret; her mum is a compulsive hoarder and she can't let anyone know in case she is taken into care. Along comes dynamic Tanvi who is recovering from cancer; she is determined to make friends with Ro again and drag her into lots of activities. The book covers mental health issues, family relationships and illness.

T



Wood, Laura
A Snowfall of Silver

It's 1931 and Freya embarks on a journey from Cornwall to London to pursue her dream of becoming an actress on the stage. Life in the theatre isn't exactly as Freya had expected and she has to navigate the path of love and romance as well as pursuing her dream of appearing on the stage.

T

T = Younger Teen Reads

T+ = Older Teen Reads



= Available as an eBook/eAudio

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