

SUMMER READING NEWSLETTER FOR KEY STAGE 3 & 4

As the end of the academic year approaches, you and your child will no doubt be planning what to do over the summer. This academic year has been a difficult one for many of us and so this break from routine will provide opportunities for children to go out and do activities they haven't been able to for a while. In addition to these things, it would be beneficial for children to continue their reading.

Reading benefits many areas of education and life. In addition to the obvious benefits on reading comprehension and attainment, it also impacts upon:

- Vocabulary
- Understanding of grammar
- Spelling skill
- Writing attainment
- Attitudes to reading and writing
- Knowledge and understanding of the world and other people
- Achievement in other subjects, including maths
- Empathy and understanding of emotions
- Mental well being
- Development of our sense of 'self' and identity

To help you and your child select some books to read this summer, we have collated a range of books for you to explore which may help with their transition, or which your child may really enjoy immersing themselves in over the summer holiday. Please note that unless otherwise stated, the texts are suitable from Year 7 and up, but please do research the books before selecting them to ensure that they are appropriate for your child.

In addition to the books below, this newsletter provides you with a range of interactive, virtual cultural experiences that can help to build their wider knowledge and interests. This is obviously not an exhaustive list – there's so much they could explore. Whatever they are curious about, or take interest in, consider looking at books around the topic, or encouraging them to research into the area further through non-fiction texts such as online articles. Whatever you explore with your child this summer, we wish you a wonderful summer and hope that you enjoy adventuring through a range of stories too.



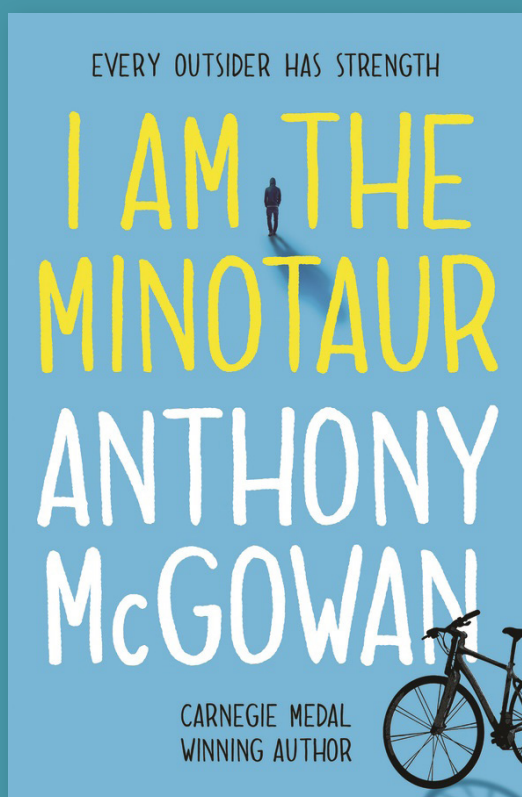
SHORTER-LENGTH

Accessible novels for 11-14 year olds with dyslexia-friendly font and engaging stories:

I am the Minotaur

ANTHONY MCGOWAN

Matthew wants to fit in, but it's hard when you're avoiding the bullies and trying to impress your dream girl, Ari. When Ari's bike is stolen, he tries to make a good impression by getting it back. Will it lead to trouble or will he learn that heroes are found in unlikely places?



Lightning Strike

TANYA LANDMAN

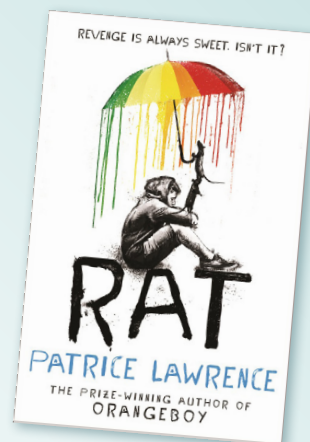
Summer 1888 and Eliza is angry. Angry that conditions at the factory where she works are so harsh. Angry that no one seems to care. When Eliza speaks out, her words spark fury among the other workers and the flame of rebellion is lit. Can one girl inspire an uprising that will change her world?

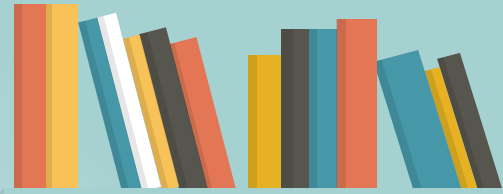


Rat

PATRICE LAWRENCE

When his mum is sent back to prison, Al knows exactly who's to blame. Mr Brayker from downstairs has been making trouble for Al's mum ever since they moved in. Al is determined to get his revenge, but things don't turn out exactly as he'd imagined...





CLASSICS

Treasure Island

ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON

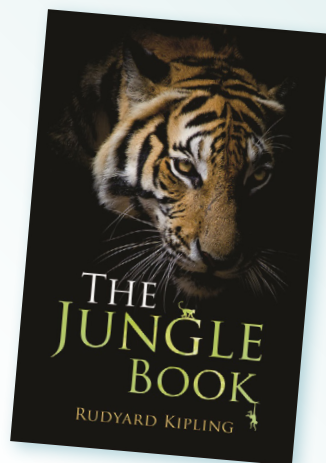
Join the adventurous Jim Hawkins as he stumbles across a mysterious treasure map, sails a schooner and braves fearsome pirates in this exciting, swashbuckling tale.



The Jungle Book

RUDYARD KIPLING

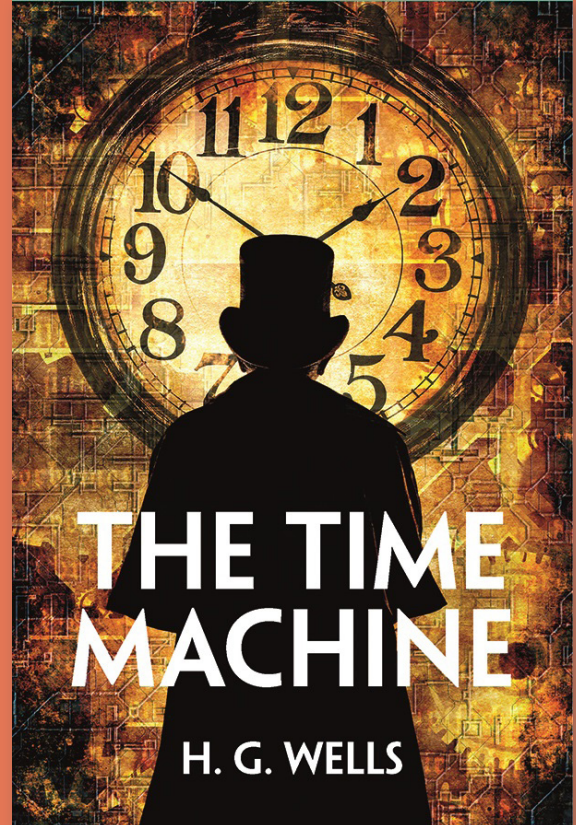
The extraordinary tale of Mowgli, the abandoned 'man cub', who is raised by wolves in the depths of the Indian jungle. As he grows up, he embarks on a series of thrilling adventures with his friends Baloo the Bear and Bagheera the Panther.



The Time Machine

HG WELLS

When the Time Traveller explains his theory about travelling through time to his dinner guests, they are initially sceptical. He returns a week later with an astonishing tale about encountering strange new worlds and different species. The guests are left wondering if he sets foot in his Time Machine again, will he ever return?



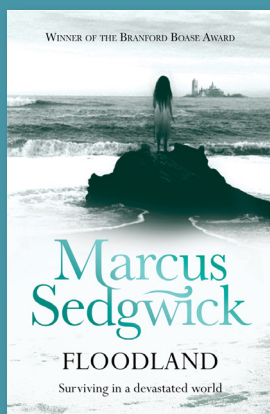
BETTERFUTUREBRIGHTERHOPE

PiXL Reading



Hachette publishers have kindly offered parents 20% off the books on this newsletter which they have published, if you choose to purchase through them. To place your order and pay via card, please ring our customer services team on +44 (0)1235 759555 or email hukcustomerservices@hachette.co.uk including your name, delivery address and contact telephone number, along with the ISBNs that you would like to order. Please do not include card details on email. Please quote the promotional code **PIXLSUMMERNEWSLETTER** over the phone for 20% off your order.

SHORTER READS



Floodland £6.99 9781858817637

MARCUS SEDGWICK

Imagine that a few years from now England is covered by water, and Norwich is an island. Zoe, left behind in the confusion when her parents escaped, survives there as best she can. Alone and desperate among marauding gangs, she manages to dig a derelict boat out of the mud and gets away to Eels Island. But Eels Island is full of danger too.



Bone Music £12.99 9781444952919

DAVID ALMOND

This wonderful tale transports the reader from the city to the forests and fells of Northern England. Under a boundless starry sky, the unforgettable Sylvia Carr reconnects with the ancient past and discovers what it really means to be young in the world today.



BETTER FUTURE BRIGHTER HOPE

PiXL Reading



LONGER READS

Contender: The Chosen

TARUN MATHARU £7.99 9781444938944

In a world far from our own, where enemies come in many forms, the ultimate battle for survival is about to begin... An epic new trilogy from the bestselling author of the Summoner series.



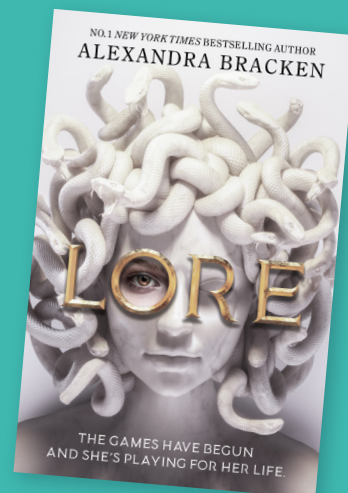
Splinters of Sunshine

PATRICE LAWRENCE
£7.99 9781444954777

After a fun Christmas Eve decorating the tree and singing along with his mum to Queen, fifteen-year-old Spey wakes up on Christmas morning to find the ex-prisoner father he's never met asleep on the sofa. On a road trip like no other, can Spey and his dad find his missing friend Dee, and will they be ready to confront a criminal gang together?



www.pixl.org.uk



Lore

ALEXANDRA BRACKEN
£8.99 9781786541529

A lifetime ago, Lore Perseous left behind the brutal, opulent world of the Agon families - ancient Greek bloodlines that participate in a merciless game every seven years. A game that is about to begin again...





Shadow and Bone (13+)

LEIGH BARDUGO £7.99 9781510109063

Summoner. Saint. Orphaned and expendable, Alina Starkov is a soldier who knows she may not survive her first trek across the Shadow Fold - a swathe of unnatural darkness crawling with monsters. But when her regiment is attacked, Alina unleashes dormant magic not even she knew she possessed. Welcome to Ravka... a world of science and superstition where nothing is what it seems.



Hani and Ishu's Guide to Fake Dating (13+)

ADIBA JAIGIRDAR £7.99 9781444962246

Hani and Ishu couldn't be less alike - and they definitely don't like each other. But when fates collide and they pretend to date each other, things start to get messy... A heart-warming queer YA love story.





NON-FICTION

What's the T? (14+)

JUNO DAWSON

£8.99 9781526362827

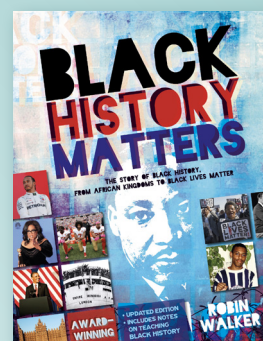
Discover what it means to be a young transgender and/or non-binary person in the twenty-first century in this frank and funny guide for 14+ teens. In *What's the T?*, Stonewall ambassador and bestselling trans author, Juno Dawson defines a myriad of labels and identities and offers uncensored advice on coming out, sex and relationships with her trademark humour and lightness of touch.



Black History Matters

ROBIN WALKER £9.99 9781445166902

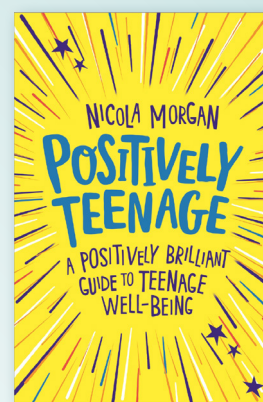
An important and hard-hitting chronicle of black history, written by a celebrated black historian. From the injustices of the past and present, we can learn and be inspired to make the world we live in more fair, equal and just. *Black History Matters* chronicles thousands of years of black history, from African kingdoms, to slavery, apartheid, the battle for civil rights, the global Black Lives Matter protests of 2020 and much more.

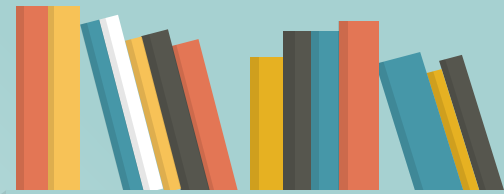


Positively Teenage

NICOLA MORGAN £7.99 9781445158143

Positively Teenage gives you tools to approach your teenage years with optimism and understanding and to develop real wellbeing for life. The media so often portray adolescence negatively but this book shows you how to approach these years far more positively so that you can really flourish and be in control.





Exploring a wide variety of experiences and activities helps to introduce your child to knowledge and interests they may not otherwise have acquired. You may already have lots of ideas for getting out and about over the summer, but we have also collated a few ideas to start you off below. These may spark an interest in something your child may then want to read about, either through a story book or through non-fiction texts.

In this ten-part podcast series, the most frequently asked questions about Shakespeare's life are explored. The podcasts are available [here](#)

Watch this video by the puppeteers behind Joey, the horse from the stage production of War Horse [here](#)

Explore areas of the Natural History Museum in London through virtual tours [here](#)

Watch this interview event with Tim Peake, focusing on his experience in space [here](#)

Read about the history of Stonehenge, possibly the world's most famous pre-historic site [here](#)

Culture Trip have a variety of interesting blog posts to read about various topics and countries, such as Sri Lanka [here](#)

Explore the use of colour and shape in art on the Tate website. As you read, carefully view the artworks presented and consider the questions [here](#)

Explore the English Timeline on the British Library website [here](#)