

BETTERFUTUREBRIGHTERHOPE

PiXL Reading

# SECONDARY NEWSLETTER

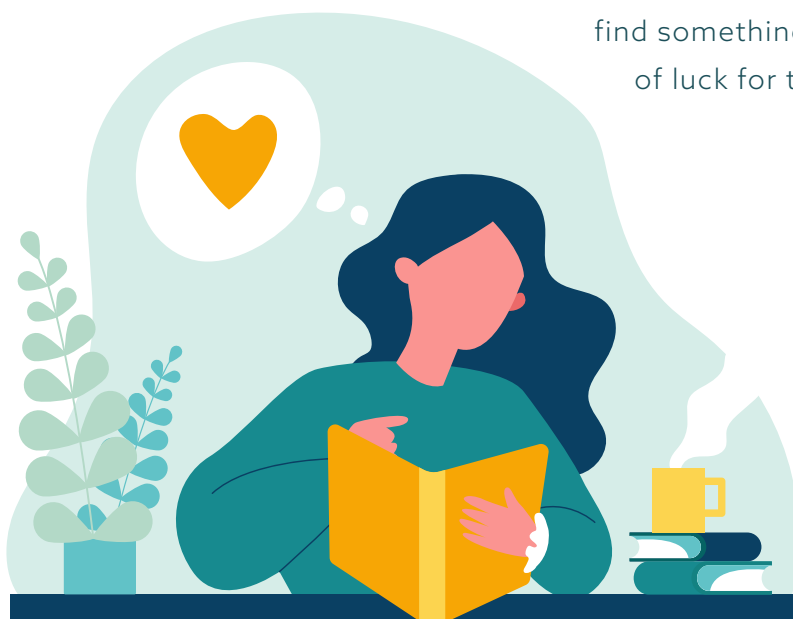


This newsletter provides a selection of books to choose from, covering a wide range of interests, topics and reading accessibility. Reading is so important for learning, but it's also been proven to help with mental health and wellbeing too – something that we know is so important for all of us.

We are delighted that this half term, we are joined by Phil Earle, author of *When the Sky Falls*, and Namina Forna, author of *The Gilded Ones*, so that they can share the top books they've been reading recently. Simply scan the QR codes provided on the relevant pages with your phone's camera to watch their videos.

**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, as these are just a publisher's guide.**

We hope that amongst all these recommendations, you find something for you and we wish you the very best of luck for this half-term.



**SHORTER READS**

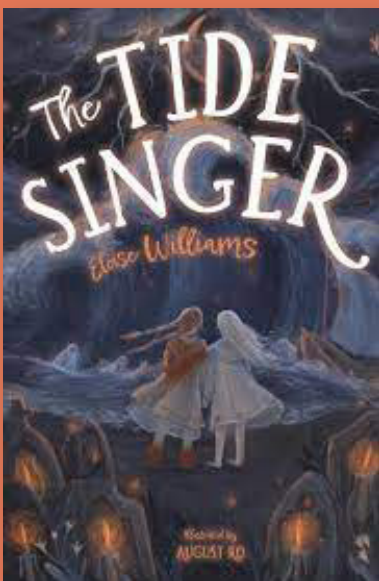
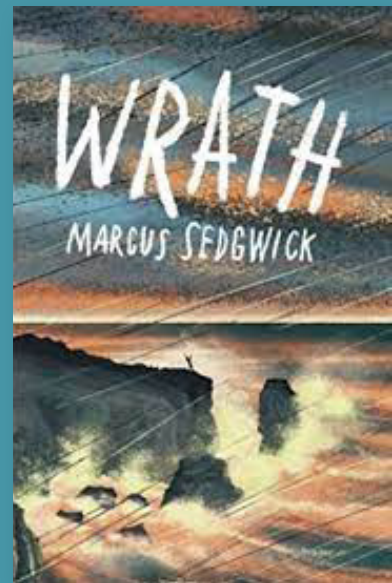
**Wrath** MARCUS SEDGWICK

PRE-ORDER FOR RELEASE ON MARCH 3<sup>RD</sup>

Cassie Cotton has always been unusual, a bit different – but this only makes her more intriguing to her classmate Fitz. Cassie can hear a noise that most people don't notice or recognise, and she believes it's a sound that shows the Earth is in distress, damaged by human activity that is causing climate change.

When this belief leads to her being ridiculed and bullied at school, Cassie disappears. Fitz is determined to find her, but he has no idea where to start looking, or if he'll be in time to help her...

You can hear Marcus Sedgwick talk about his new book by scanning this QR code:



**The Tide Singer** ELOISE WILLIAMS

PRE-ORDER FOR RELEASE ON MARCH 3<sup>RD</sup>

In the wake of a tempest hitting her town, Morwenna is left to take care of a stranger washed ashore. The storm is just another of many that have plagued the town for years – people blame the tide singers, legendary sea people who are said to charm storms with their singing. Morwenna has never believed the tales, but when she is left alone with the stranger, she realises this is no ordinary girl. Can the stories be true? Can the girl control the tides with nothing more than her voice? Her arrival brings danger of a different kind, and Morwenna must draw on all the courage she has in order to stop a conflict that could destroy her home...

You can hear Eloise Williams talk about her new book by scanning this QR code



## PHIL EARLE RECOMMENDS

Phil Earle is the author of many books for young people, including the award-winning new novel *When the Sky Falls*. Having struggled with reading himself when he was younger, Phil now writes fantastic books and is keen to share stories with young people which may help them to find the book that will interest them. His next book, *While the Storm Rages*, publishes in June and will no doubt be just as successful as *When the Sky Falls* – so do consider pre-ordering that too! Scan the QR code to the right to watch Phil's recommendations video.

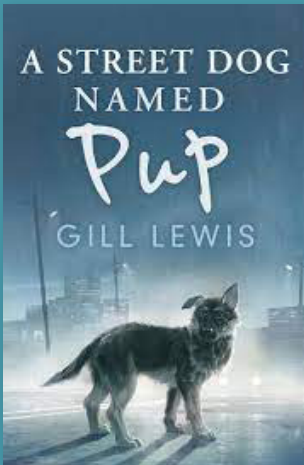


## The Outlaws Scarlett and Browne

JONATHAN STROUD (13+)

England has been radically changed by a series of catastrophes – large cities have disappeared and London has been replaced by a lagoon. The surviving population exists in fortified towns where they cling to traditional ways, while strangely evolved beasts prowl the wilderness beyond. Conformity is rigidly enforced and those who fall foul of the rules are persecuted: some are killed, others are driven out into the wilds. Only a few fight back – and two of these outlaws, Scarlett McCain and Albert Browne, display an audacity and talent that makes them legends.





## A Street Dog Named Pup

GILL LEWIS

Between dog and human there is a special bond. A bond that must never be broken... Pup and his boy are inseparable. But both their worlds change forever when Pup is cruelly taken away and abandoned in Dead Dog Alley. With nowhere else to turn, Pup joins a pack of misfit Street Dogs, who help him learn to fight for survival on the streets. Pup holds on to the hope of one day being reunited with his boy. But as that hope shrinks with every passing day, Pup begins to wonder if their bond is irreversibly broken.

## When the War Came Home

LESLEY PARR



The First World War has ended, but it hasn't gone away. When Natty has to move to a new village, she meets two young soldiers who are still battling the effects of war. Huw can't forget the terrible things he's seen, but Johnny doesn't even remember who he is. As Natty tries to keep a secret and unravel a mystery,

she finds her own way to fight for what she believes in – and learns that some things should never be forgotten.

You can hear Lesley Parr talk about her new book by scanning this QR code:



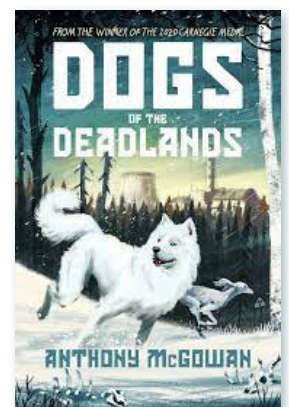
## Dogs of the Deadlands

ANTHONY MCGOWAN

PRE-ORDER FOR RELEASE ON SEPT 1<sup>ST</sup>

Chernobyl 1986. Those left behind must fight to survive.

The world is coming to an end. Dragged from her bed in the middle of the night and forced to leave her beloved puppy behind, Natasha has no idea if she'll ever return home. Growing up in the shadow of the ruined nuclear power plant, pups Misha and Bratan need to learn how to live wild – and fast. Creatures with sharp teeth, scythe-like claws and yellow eyes lurk in the overgrown woods. And they're watching the brothers... But will the dogs survive without humans? And can humans live without them?





**The Secret Sunshine Project** BENJAMIN DEANPRE-ORDER FOR RELEASE ON MARCH 31<sup>ST</sup>

Bea's family are happy. Like, really happy. Like, kind of gross but also cute happy. So when they visit London Pride together and have the ultimate day out, Bea doesn't think her family could possibly get any happier. But a year later, a grey cloud is following Bea's family around. Dad has passed away, and without him around they have no choice but to pack their bags and move to the countryside to live with Gran.

With Bea's big sister, Riley, taking the news hard, Bea will do anything to cheer her up. So with the help of new friends, The Secret Sunshine Project is formed – Bea's plan to bring Pride to the countryside and a smile back to Riley's face. There's just one teeny tiny problem – the village mayor. A grumpy old woman who's on a mission to rain on Bea's parade...

**While the Storm Rages** PHIL EARLEPRE-ORDER FOR RELEASE ON JUNE 2<sup>ND</sup>

September 1939. Britain is on the brink of war. As Noah Price's dad marches off to fight, he asks his son to honour one vital promise: that he will keep their dog, Winn, safe. No matter what. Noah agrees, but his best intentions are crushed when the government advises people to have their pets put to sleep as part of the war preparations. Children are heartbroken, queues outside vets' surgeries stretch for miles. But Noah is a resourceful and impetuous child. He won't just do what he is told. Far from it. With his two friends in tow, he makes a pledge. To go on the run, and save as many animals as he can, whatever the cost.

So begins the most thrilling of adventures, involving a stolen ark, a motley crew of animals and a crashed Spitfire. Can Noah possibly save the animals, and lead them all to the promised land?



LONGER-LENGTH READS



**Furthermoor** DARREN SIMPSON  
PRE-ORDER FOR RELEASE ON MARCH 3<sup>RD</sup>

*Enter a world as vast and dark as your imagination, in this unforgettable coming-of-age story about courage, friendship and finding your voice.*

The real world is a hostile place for twelve-year-old Bren, his schooldays stalked by vicious bully, Shaun, and his family life fractured at home. Ever since his sister Evie died in an accident, Bren's only safe space is Furthermoor, an imagined world of mechanised trees and clockwork animals, where Evie is still alive. In Furthermoor, no one can hurt Bren... until the mysterious Featherly arrives.

You can hear Darren Simpson talk about his new book by scanning this QR code:



**The Thief Who Sang Storms** SOPHIE ANDERSON  
PRE-ORDER FOR RELEASE ON MARCH 31<sup>ST</sup>

*The Island of Morovia is shaped like a broken heart. The humans live on one side of the island, and the alkonosts – the bird-people – live on the other. But it wasn't always this way...*

Linnet wishes she could sing magic, like her father, Nightingale – and bring the two sides of her island together again. For her land has been divided by a terrible tragedy, and Linnet has been banished with her father to the deepest swamps, leaving behind her best friends, Hero and Silver. So when her father is captured, Linnet must be brave and embark on a treacherous journey. Through alligator pools and sinking sands, she finds new friends. Yet without her singing magic, Linnet discovers something even more powerful. Something that could save her father, and heal the broken heart of her island once more...



## Robin Hood Series ROBERT MUCHAMORE

The first book in this series is called *Hacking, Heists and Flaming Arrows*.

You can't go far without a quick brain and some rule-bending in a place like Locksley. After its vast car plants shut down, the prosperous town has become a wasteland of empty homes, toxic land and families on the brink. And it doesn't help that the authorities are in the clutches of profit-obsessed Sheriff of Nottingham, in cahoots with underworld boss Guy Gisborne.

When his dad is framed for robbery, Robin and his brother Little John are hounded out of Locksley and must learn to survive in the Sherwood Forest, stretching three hundred kilometres and sheltering the free spirits and outlaws. But Robin is determined to do more than survive. Small, fast and deadly with a bow, he hatches a plan to join forces with Marion Maid, harness his inimitable tech skills and strike a blow against Gisborne and the Sheriff.



## Monstrous Design

KAT DUNN (13+)



*With swashbuckling, super-fast paced action, the second book in The Battalion of the Dead series explores a dazzling new adventure.*

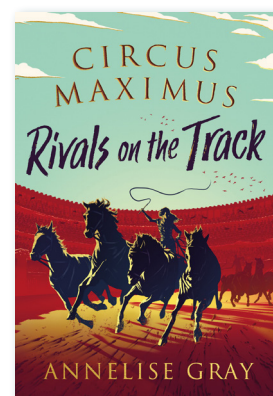
1794, London: where luxury and squalor rub shoulders and men of science conspire to raise the dead and make monsters. From the glamorous excesses of

the Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens to the city's seedy underbelly, Camille continues her search for Olympe de l'Aubespine - the girl born of magic and mayhem. But with half the battalion trapped in Paris and a new enemy lying in wait in London, time is running out. Camille must decide how much she's willing to risk. To get what you want, how far is too far?

## Rivals on the Track

ANNELISE GRAY

The sequel to *Circus Maximus Race to the Death: Dido* is the only girl ever to have raced to victory at the Circus Maximus, Rome's greatest sporting arena. Now she and her beloved horse, Porcellus, are in hiding, and the Emperor Caligula has put a price on their heads. Can she outwit the emperor and his bounty hunters? And will a shocking family secret stop her in her tracks, or spur her on to make a daring return, helped by a one-eyed mare with a heart as brave as her own?



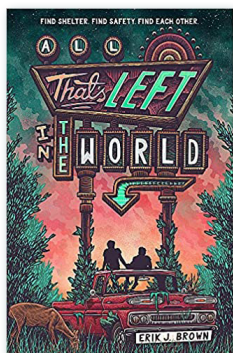
To hear Annelise talk about the first book in the series, scan the QR code here.



## All That's left in the World

ERIK J. BROWN

PRE-ORDER FOR RELEASE ON MARCH 8<sup>TH</sup>



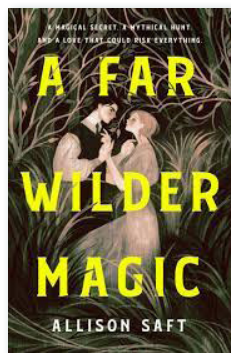
When the Superflu wipes out most of the population, Jamie finds himself completely alone in a cabin in the woods – until an injured stranger crosses his path. Life is dangerous now and, armed with a gun, Jamie goes to pull the trigger. But there's something about Andrew... something that

stops Jamie in his tracks. Jamie takes him in and, as Andrew heals and they eventually step out into the strange new world, their relationship starts to feel like more than just friendship. But trouble isn't far behind. As the boys make the perilous journey south, they'll come face to face with a world torn apart and society in ruins. And who, or what, will they find waiting for them at the end of it all?

## A Far Wilder Magic

ALLISON SAFT (14+)

PRE-ORDER FOR RELEASE ON MARCH 8<sup>TH</sup>



When Margaret Welty spots the legendary hala, the last living mythical creature, she knows the Halfmoon Hunt will soon follow. Whoever is able to kill the hala will earn fame and riches and unlock an ancient magical secret. While Margaret is the best sharpshooter in town, only teams of two can register, and she needs an alchemist.

Weston Winters isn't an alchemist – yet. He's been fired from every apprenticeship he's landed, and his last chance hinges on Master Welty taking him in. But when Wes arrives at Welty Manor, he finds only Margaret. She begrudgingly allows him to stay, but on one condition: he must join the hunt with her...

## Kemosha of the Caribbean

ALEX WHEATLE (13+)

Kemosha and her brother have lived their whole lives in slavery. Sold away to work in lawless Port Royal, Kemosha takes her chance to escape brutal treatment. With fortune on her side, Kemosha befriends Ravenhide, a man with a mysterious past who teaches her the art of swordfighting, and introduces her to the beautiful runaway Isabella. Yet Kemosha's greatest test yet is upon the deck of the Satisfaction: the notorious Captain Morgan's ship. His next adventure on the high seas could be the making of Kemosha – and her one chance to earn enough pieces of eight to buy the freedom of her brother...





## NAMINA FORNA RECOMMENDS

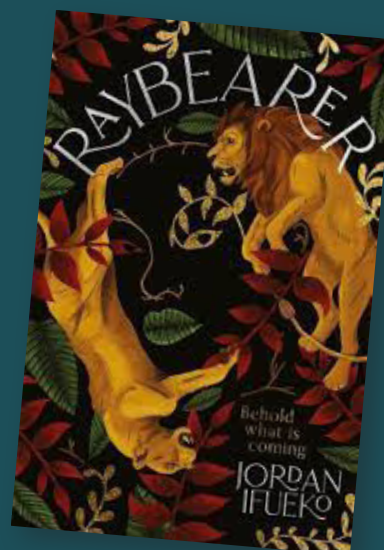
Namina Fornia is the author of *The Gilded Ones* and the sequel *The Merciless Ones*, which will be published in May. She is passionate about sharing book recommendations with young people to not only encourage them to read, but to help them find a world which speaks to them and in which they see themselves and their situations represented. She hopes some of these suggestions may do just that for you. Scan the QR code to the right to watch Namina's recommendations video.



## Raybearer

JORDAN IFUEKO (14+)

Tarisai has always longed for the warmth of a family. She was raised in isolation by a mysterious, often absent mother known only as The Lady. The Lady sends her to the capital of the global empire of Aritsar to compete with other children to be chosen as one of the Crown Prince's Council of Eleven. If she's picked, she'll be joined with the other Council members through the Ray, a bond deeper than blood. That closeness is irresistible to Tarisai, who has always wanted to belong somewhere. But The Lady has other ideas, including a magical wish that Tarisai is compelled to obey: kill the Crown Prince once she gains his trust.



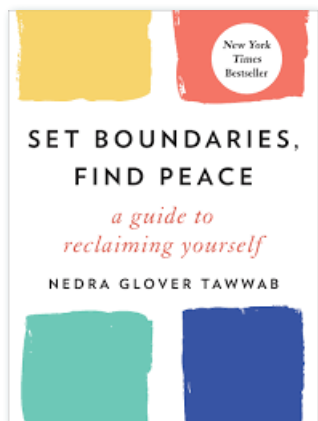
## One True Loves ELISE BRYANT (14+)

Lenore Bennett has always been a force. A star artist and style icon at her high school, she's a master in the subtle art of not giving a you know what. But now that graduation is here, she's a little less sure. She's heading to NYU in the fall with a scarlet U (for "undeclared") written across her chest. Her parents always remind her that Black kids don't have the luxury of figuring it out as they go – they have to be 110% prepared. But it's a lot of pressure to be her ancestors' wildest dreams when Lenore's not even sure what her dreams are yet. When her family embarks on a post-graduation Mediterranean cruise, her friend Tessa is sure Lenore's in for a whirlwind romance. But Lenore knows that doesn't happen to girls like her. Then she meets Alex Lee. After their parents bond over the Cupid Shuffle, she ends up stuck with him for the remainder of the cruise. He's a hopeless romantic and a golden boy with a ten-year plan. In short, he's irritating as hell. But as they get to know each other during the picturesque stops across Europe, Alex may be able to help Lenore find something else she's been looking for, even if she doesn't want to admit it to herself: love.

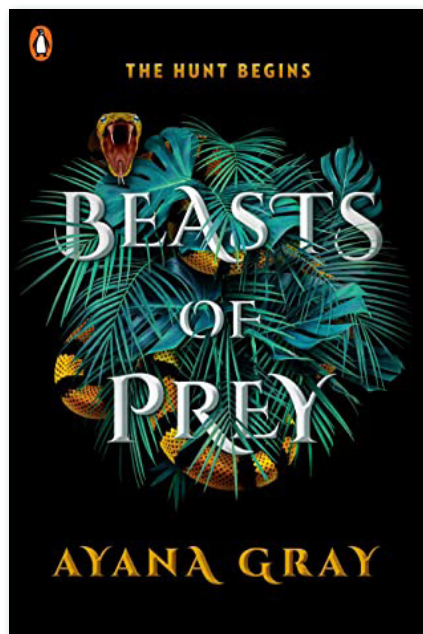


## Set Boundaries, Find Peace: A Guide to Reclaiming Yourself

NEDRA GLOVER TAWWAB



Healthy boundaries. We all know we should have them in order to achieve work/life balance, cope with toxic people, and enjoy rewarding relationships with partners, friends and family. But what do "healthy boundaries" really mean – and how can we successfully express our needs, say "no," and be assertive without offending others? In this book, Nedra, licensed counsellor, sought-after relationship expert and one of the most influential therapists on Instagram, demystifies this complex topic for today's world. In a relatable and inclusive tone, her book presents simple-yet-powerful ways to establish healthy boundaries in all aspects of life.



**Beasts of Prey** AYANA GRAY (13+)  
PRE-ORDER FOR RELEASE ON MARCH 3<sup>RD</sup>

Magic doesn't exist in the broken city of Lkossa anymore, especially for girls like sixteen-year-old Koffi. Indentured to the notorious Night Zoo, she cares for its fearsome mythical creatures to pay off her family's debts. But when they are threatened by the Zoo's cruel master, Koffi unleashes a power she doesn't fully understand.

As the son of a decorated hero, Ekon is destined to become an elite warrior. Until a fire at the Night Zoo upends his future and, on the brink of his final rite of passage, Ekon is cast out – his reputation left in tatters.

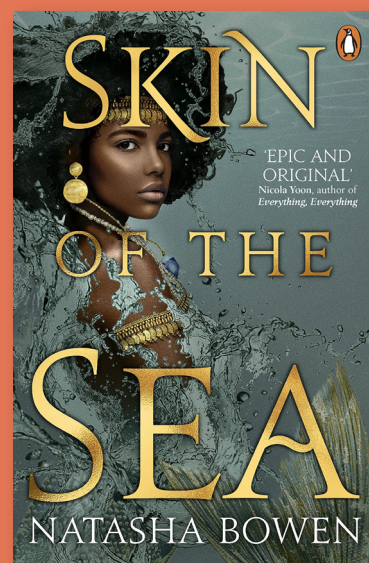
For Koffi and Ekon, the outlook is bleak – unless they can capture the Shetani, the vicious monster that plagues their city. As they enter the Greater Jungle, a world steeped in wild magic and danger, the tentative alliance between them is tested to the extreme...

**Skin of the Sea**

NATASHA BOWEN (13+)

This book is a powerful new imagining of a devastating time in history, told through the eyes of a bold and unforgettable heroine, infused with West African mythology.

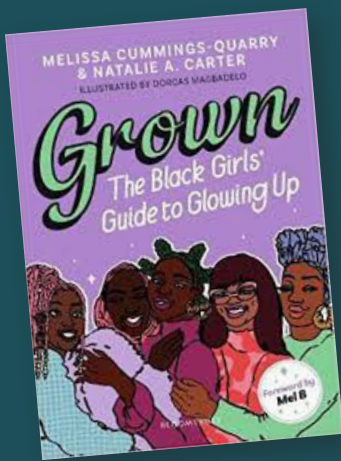
This is the story of a great love – a love that will threaten worlds and anger Gods. This is a story that will change history. Simidele is one of the Mami Wata: mermaids duty-bound to collect the souls of those who die at sea and bless their journeys back home to the Supreme Creator. But when a living boy is thrown overboard a slave ship, Simi saves his life, going against an ancient decree and bringing terrible danger to the Mami Wata. Now, Simi must journey to the Supreme Creator to make amends – a journey of vengeful gods, treacherous lands and legendary creatures. If she fails, she risks not just the fate of all Mami Wata, but also the world as she knows it. Watch Natasha talk about Skin of the Sea, and the inspiration behind it, here



**NON-FICTION RECOMMENDATIONS**

## Grown: The Black Girls' Guide to Glowing Up

MELISSA CUMMINGS-QUARRY & NATALIE A. CARTER



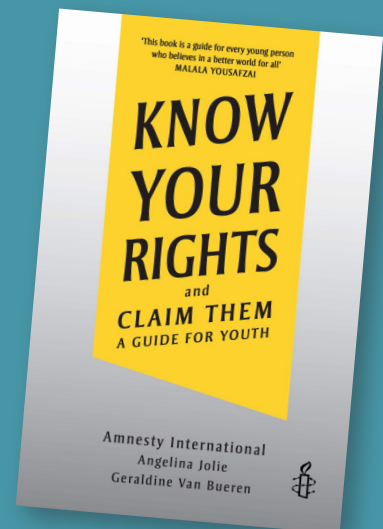
Being a teenager and trying to understand who you are and what you stand for is hard. Period. But if you're a Black girl and don't always see yourself represented in the books you read, the films you watch, the adverts you see or the history you're taught, it can be even tougher. *Grown: The Black Girls' Guide to Glowing Up* was written with one thing in mind: you.

From understanding identity to the politics of hair to maintaining squad goals to dealing with microaggressions to consent to figuring out what career you might want, *Grown* has got your back. Natalie A. Carter and Melissa Cummings-Quarry, founders of Black Girls' Book Club, share stories - the wins and the Ls - and offer honest, practical advice that will show you how to own your choices. To live your truth without fear. To be grown on your own terms without limits or apologies.

## Know Your Rights and Claim Them

ANGELINA JOLIE, AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL & GERALDINE VAN BUEREN QC

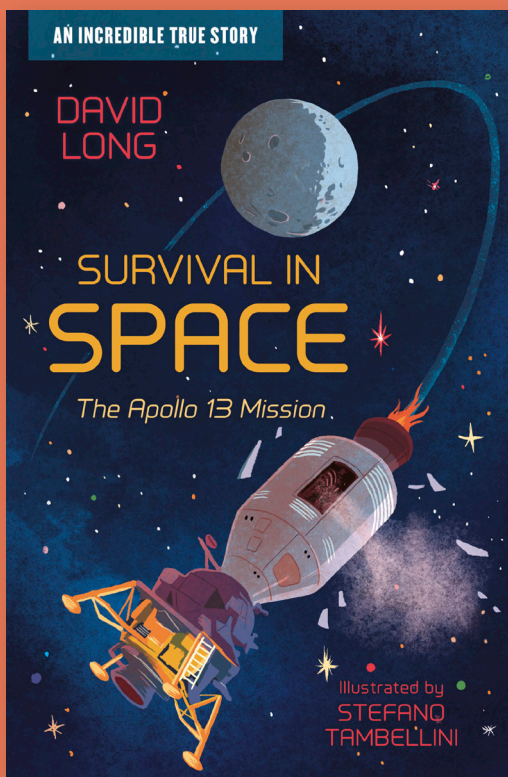
If you are aged under 18, you have your own set of human rights. Child rights are unique freedoms and protections designed for you. Governments should uphold them but all across the world they are violated. This book gives you the knowledge and tools to claim your rights. It introduces them and explains why they matter in the real world. From gender and racial equality, to the rights of free expression, health, a clean climate and a sustainable environment, they are yours to claim.





## Survival in Space: The Apollo 13 Mission

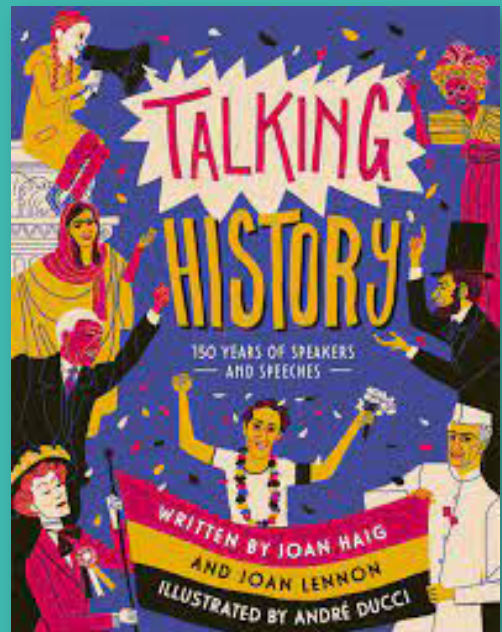
DAVID LONG



April 1970: Apollo 13 was launched from the Kennedy Space Center in Florida. It should have been the third manned Apollo mission to land on the moon. But when an explosion on board damaged the spacecraft, it became a perilous and near-impossible fight for survival. The crew on board travelled further into space than any other humans before them.

## Talking Histories

JOAN HAIG & JOAN LENNON



Abraham Lincoln inspired a nation, Funmilayo Ransome-Kuti fought for women's rights and Greta Thunberg made her voice heard on global warming. The stirring words of the 16 speakers included in this book have formed milestones in modern history and engaged generations on important issues including war, women's rights, climate change and civil rights. Covering speeches from the last 150 years, this book explores the events leading up to each speech, allows you to read their words and to discover the impact these speakers have had on our world. Presented in graphic novel style, this is a book to inspire a new generation of thinkers and talkers.