



We hope you and your family had a lovely Easter break. As we return for the final term of the academic year, we hope that this newsletter will provide you and your child with a selection of books to choose from. The selection covers a wide range of interests, topics and reading accessibility.

If your child is preparing for exams, whether internal or GCSE examinations, they will no doubt be spending time revising and preparing for these. Part of this revision will involve reading – but immersing ourselves in the world of a book is also a way to reduce stress and improve mental wellbeing.

If your child is struggling to read, please do speak to your school about this, and consider ways you could support them at home. For example, by reading with them, to them, and encouraging them to find a book which suits their interests as well as their reading level. We hope that this selection may spark some ideas for this. However, it's also worth bearing in mind that some students prefer to 'read' through audio books and that this is still a valid form of them hearing the written word pronounced in a fluent and expressive way.

**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.



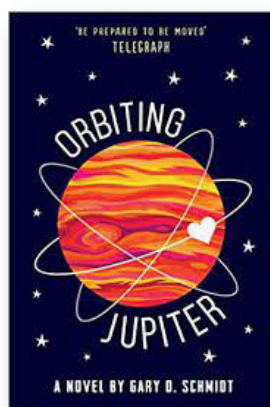
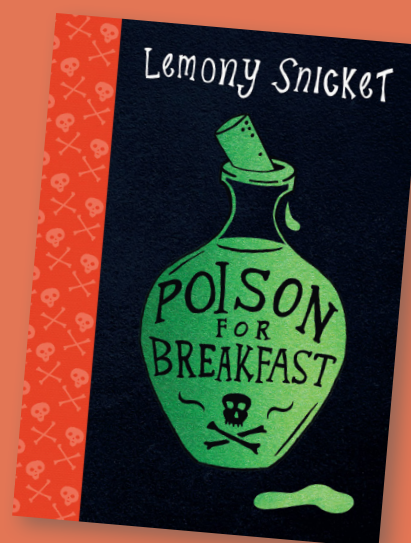
## SHORTER READS

**Poison for Breakfast**

LEMONY SNICKET

For more than twenty years, Lemony Snicket has led millions of young readers through a mysterious world of bewildering questions and unfortunate events. With this latest book – a love letter to readers young and old about the vagaries of real life – long-time fans and new readers alike will experience Snicket's distinctive voice in a new way.

This true story – as true as Lemony Snicket himself – begins with a puzzling note under his door: You had poison for breakfast. Following a winding trail of clues to solve the mystery of his own demise, Snicket takes us on a thought-provoking tour of his predilections...

**Orbiting Jupiter**GARY D. SCHMIDT  
(12+)

A heart-breaking story, narrated by twelve-year-old Jack, whose family is caring for fourteen-year-old Joseph. Joseph is misunderstood. He was incarcerated for trying to kill a teacher. Or so the rumours say. But Jack and

his family see something others in town don't want to. What's more, Joseph has a daughter he's never seen. The two boys go on a journey through the bitter Maine winter to help Joseph find his baby – no matter the cost...

**Fagin's Girl**

KAREN McCOMBIE

Orphan Ettie Shaw is penniless and homeless on the streets of London when she is spotted by her older brother, Joe. Joe has fallen in with a notorious pickpocket gang run by a man called Fagin, and Ettie has to disguise herself as

a boy so she can go back with him to Fagin's lair. At first, Ettie is able to help out with mending and other domestic jobs but when one of the other boys falls ill, Fagin demands that Ettie go out pickpocketing with Joe – and everything goes horribly wrong...

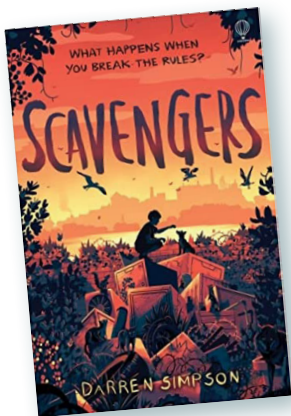
## LONGER-LENGTH READS

**Wolfbane**

MICHELLE PAVER

This is the final book in the nine-book series Wolf Brother; it can be read as a stand-alone book or as part of the series.

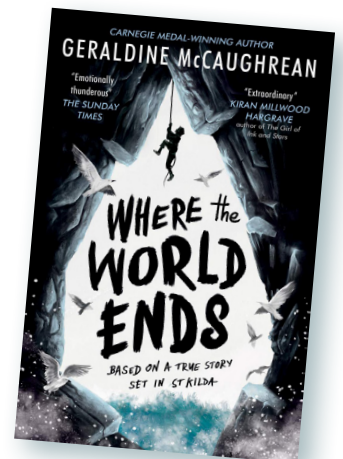
It is early spring, a turbulent, perilous time of sudden storms, frozen river fractures and drifting ice. Fleeing from a demon intent on devouring his souls, Wolf is swept out to sea far from the forest and his pack. The ocean too teems with danger: sea wolves, sharks and hunters of the deep, and the demon is gaining ground. Torak and Renn must race to save their pack-brother, battling the harsh, icy waves and merciless torrents. If they can't find Wolf in time, the bond between them will be severed forever...

**Scavengers** DARREN SIMPSON

Landfill has lived his whole life as a scavenger, running with wooflers, swimming with turtles and feasting on fresh gull. Old Babagoo has always looked after him, on one condition – follow his rules. NEVER COME LOOKING OUTSIDE. NEVER RISE ABOVE THE WALL. But despite the dangers, Landfill longs to see Outside. And some rules are made to be broken.

**Where the World Ends** GERALDINE McCAUGHREAN

Every summer Quill and his friends are put ashore on a remote sea stac to hunt birds. But this summer, no one arrives to take them home. Surely nothing but the end of the world can explain why they've been abandoned – cold, starving and clinging to life, in the grip of a murderous ocean. How will they survive?



## A Glasshouse of Stars

SHIRLEY MARR

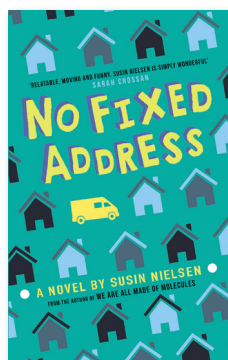


Meixing Lim and her family have arrived in the New Land to begin a New Life. Everything is scary and different. Their ever-changing house is confusing and she finds it hard to understand the other children at school. Yet in her magical glasshouse, with a strange black and white cat, Meixing finds a place to dream.

But then Meixing's life comes crashing down in unimaginable ways. Only her two new and unexpected friends can help. By being brave together, they will learn how to make the stars shine brighter.

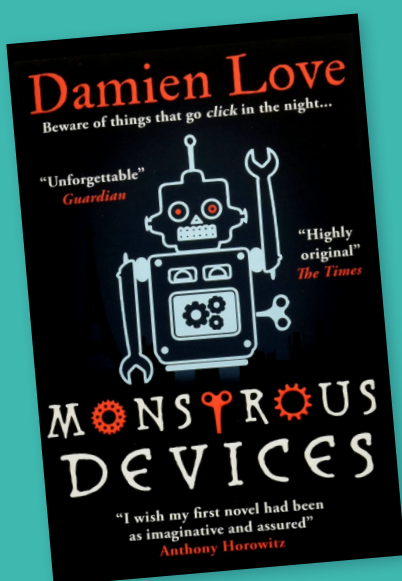
## No Fixed Address

SUSIN NIELSEN



Felix Knutsson is nearly thirteen, lives with his mother and pet gerbil Horatio, and is brilliant at memorising facts and trivia. But Felix and his mom Astrid have a secret: they are living in a van. Astrid promises it's only for a while until she finds a new job, and begs Felix not to breathe a word about it. So when Felix

starts at a new school, he does his very best to hide the fact that most of his clothes are in storage, he only showers weekly at the community centre, and that he doesn't have enough to eat. When his friends Dylan and Winnie ask to visit, Felix always has an excuse. But Felix has a plan to turn his and Astrid's lives around. All he needs is a little luck and a lot of brain power...

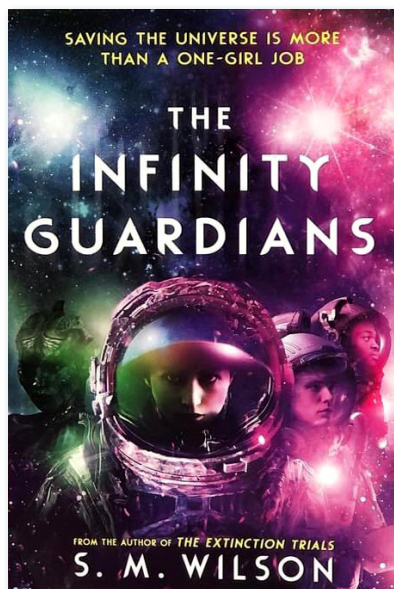


## Monstrous Devices

DAMIEN LOVE

When twelve-year-old Alex receives an old tin robot in the post, the note from his grandfather simply reads: 'This one is special'. But as strange events start occurring around him, it doesn't take Alex long to suspect that the small toy is more than special; it might also be deadly. Just as things are getting out of hand, Alex's grandfather arrives, whisking him away from his otherwise humdrum life and into a world of strange, macabre magic. From Paris to Prague, they flee across snowy Europe in a quest to unravel the riddle of the little robot, and outwit relentless assassins of the human and mechanical kind. How does Alex's grandfather know them? And can Alex safely harness the robot's power, or will it fall into the wrong, wicked hands?





## The Infinity Guardians

S.M. WILSON (12+)

This is the sequel to the first book, *The Infinity Files*. If your child has not read this book, but the blurb below sounds interesting to them, they may like to read the first book before starting this one.

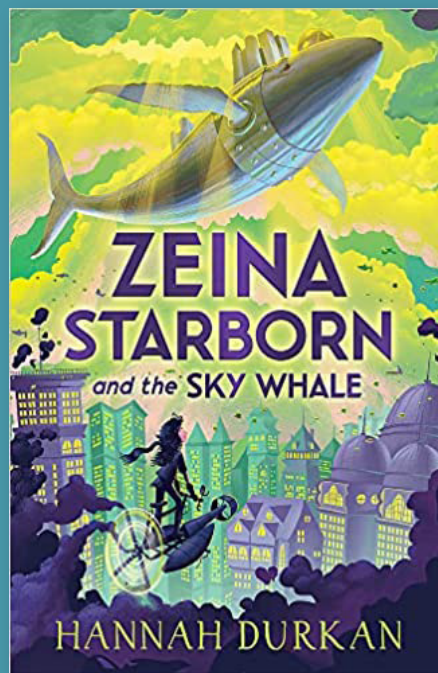
Ash Yang is the youngest ever Guardian of the Infinity Files, responsible for the universe's most powerful and dangerous artefacts. And whether her planet-hopping missions take her to crumbling space ports, volcanic disasters or cloud cities, her new team – loyal Ezra, tech-genius Amara and daring Trik – have got her back. But when a ruthless enemy tracks them across the galaxies, Ash must protect not just her team and their home, but the whole universe.

## Zeina Starborn and the Sky Whale

HANNAH DURKAN

PRE-ORDER FOR RELEASE ON MAY 12<sup>TH</sup>

Zeina Starborn spends her days dreaming of adventure in the sky and escaping the smog-filled city of Ravenport. So, when she wins the chance to visit the famous Willoughby Whale Hotel – a ginormous structure built on the back of a flying whale – Zeina grabs it. Even clashing with Jackson, spoiled heir to the Willoughby fortune, can't dampen her excitement. But a series of clues makes her question what she's been told about this dazzling world of inventors, explorers and mighty sky whales. Zeina and Jackson must put aside their differences to uncover the secret plot around them as they embark on the journey of a lifetime.



## The Sky Over Rebecca

MATTHEW FOX

When mysterious footprints appear in the Stockholm snow, ten-year-old Kara must discover where they've come from – and who they belong to. They lead Kara to Rebecca, a thirteen-year-old Jewish girl, and her younger brother Samuel. Kara realises they are refugees – from another time, World War Two – and are trying to find their way home.

The grief and loneliness that Rebecca and Samuel have endured is something Kara can relate to – feeling like you're always on the outside looking in – and she finds herself compelled to help them. Through her eyes, we rediscover the magic that lies in the world around us, if only we have the courage to look for it.

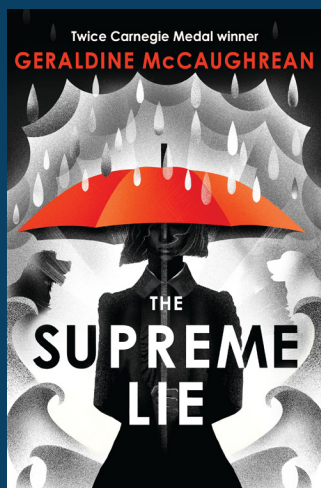


## An Arrow to the Moon

EMILY X.R. PAN (13+)

Hunter Yee has perfect aim with a bow and arrow, but all else in his life veers wrong. He's sick of being haunted by his family's past mistakes. The only things keeping him from running away are his younger brother, a supernatural wind and the bewitching girl at his new high school. Luna Chang dreads the future. Graduation looms ahead, and her parents' expectations are stifling. Then her life is turned upside down by the strange new boy in her class, the arrival of unearthly fireflies, and an ominous crack spreading across the town of Fairbridge. As Hunter and Luna uncover hidden secrets and navigate the feud between their families, everything around them begins to fall apart. All they can depend on is their love, but time is running out, and fate will have its way.





## The Supreme Lie

GERALDINE McCAUGHREAN (13+)

Fifteen-year-old Gloria is maid to Afaia's tyrannical Head of State, Madame Suprema. When the country is hit by unprecedented flooding, Madame Suprema runs away, fearing she will be blamed for the crisis. To cover up this cowardly act, Gloria is made to step into Madame Suprema's shoes and is thrust into a world of corrupt and desperate politicians. As Gloria becomes aware of the forces toying with her every move, she must take decisions that could save, or end, thousands of lives – including her own...

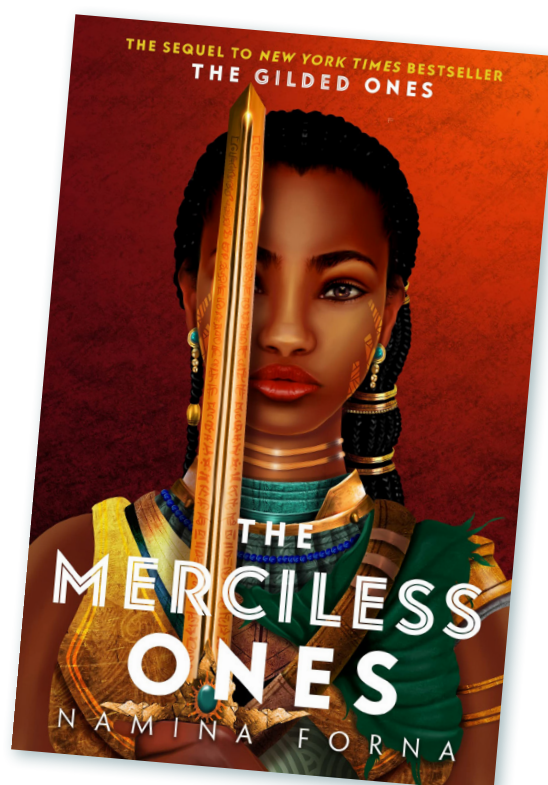
## The Merciless Ones NAMINA FORNA (14+)

PRE-ORDER FOR RELEASE ON MAY 26<sup>TH</sup>

This is the sequel to Namina's first book, *The Gilded Ones*. If your child has not read this book, but the blurb below sounds interesting to them, they may like to read the first book before starting this one.

It's been six months since Dekka freed the goddesses in the ancient kingdom of Otera, and discovered who she really is, but war is waging across the kingdom, and the real battle has only just begun. For there is a dark force growing in Otera – a merciless power that Dekka and her army must stop.

Yet hidden secrets threaten to destroy everything Dekka has known. And with her own gifts changing, Dekka must discover if she holds the key to saving Otera... or if she might be its greatest threat.





## NON-FICTION RECOMMENDATIONS



## 100 Things to Know About Saving the Planet

VARIOUS AUTHORS

How could plastic-eating bacteria help reduce waste? Can a river be given human rights? Could we generate all the power we need from the sun and the wind? How do woolly sweaters help penguins in peril? Would building a giant sunshade in space stop the world from overheating? Find the answers to these questions and more in this bold, graphic and exciting book, full of big, small and unexpected ways to save the planet.

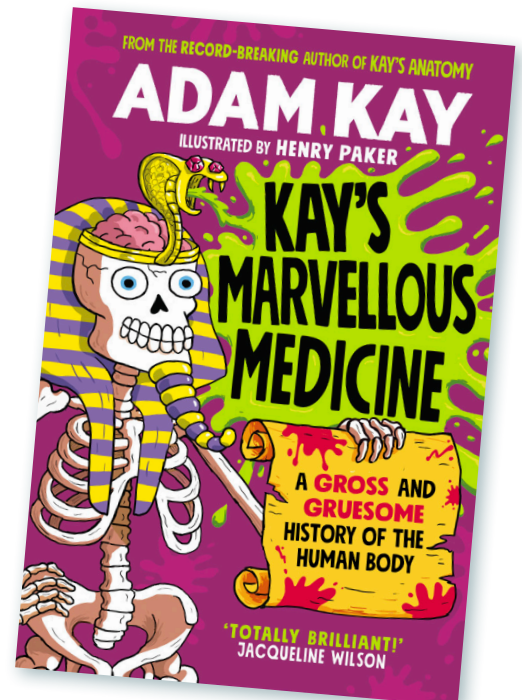
## Kay's Marvellous Medicine

ADAM KAY

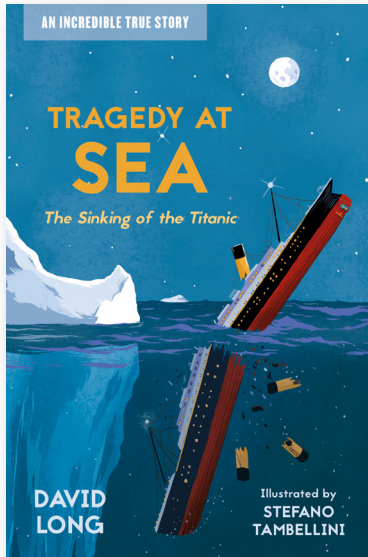
The olden days were pretty fun if you liked wearing chainmail or chopping people's heads off but there was one TINY LITTLE problem back then... doctors didn't have the slightest clue about how our bodies worked. It's time to find out why Ancient Egyptians thought the brain was just a useless load of old stuffing that might as well be chucked in the bin, why teachers forced their pupils to smoke cigarettes, why hairdressers would cut off their customers' legs, and why people used to get paid for farting. (Unfortunately, that's no longer a thing - sorry.) You'll get answers to questions like:

- Why did patients gargle with wee?
- How did a doctor save people's lives using a washing machine, a can of beans and some old sausages?
- What was the great stink? (No, it's not what doctors call your bum.)

If you're sure you're ready, then pop a peg on your nose (there was a lot of stinky pus back then), pull on your wellies (there was a lot of poo there too), wash your hands (because they certainly didn't) and explore this gross and gruesome history of the human body!







## Tragedy at Sea: The Sinking of the Titanic

DAVID LONG

On 10 April 1912, RMS Titanic set sail from Southampton on her maiden voyage to New York. This "Ship of Dreams" was the largest and most luxurious ocean liner in the world. It was claimed she was unsinkable. But four days later, when the ship struck an iceberg, the loss of Titanic and over 1,500 passengers would become one of the most infamous maritime disasters in history.

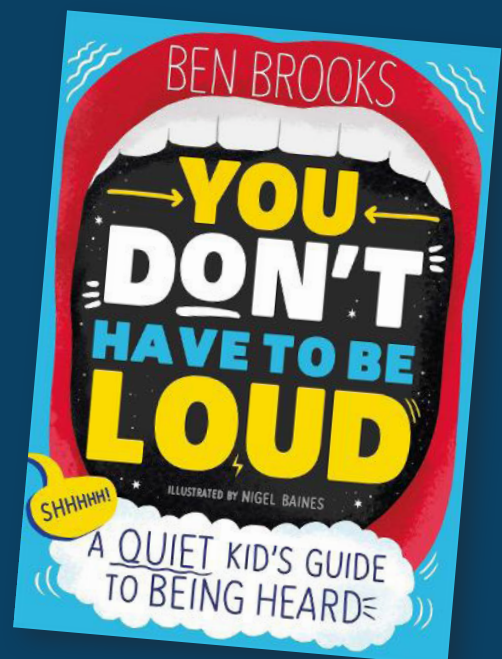
In this fact-filled retelling of its construction and doomed maiden voyage, David Long brings Titanic's tragic tale to life.

## You Don't Have to be Loud: A Quiet Kid's Guide to Being Heard

BEN BROOKS

Drawing on the narrative of his own life growing up as a painfully shy child, Ben Brooks explores what it is to be 'quiet' – what it means, what it can feel like and how we can embrace it – and debunks some of the myths about what it means to be a shy person. Around 60% of adults identify as 'shy' – just one of the facts that Ben uses to 'normalise' shyness, outlining stories of famously shy people from the past and the present – Charles Darwin, David Bowie, Greta Thunberg, Rosa Parks, Beyonce, Emma Watson – revealing the stories of successful adults who grew up shy but didn't let it get in the way of their passion and creativity.

Shy kids often have great innate skills – listening, creativity, kindness, compassion and problem-solving – so being shy or quiet is not something to 'outgrow' but something to embrace and be proud of.

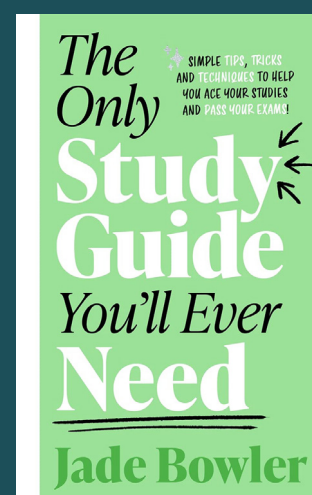


## FOR OLDER STUDENTS

**The Only Study Guide You'll Ever Need**

JADE BOWLER

We've all been there: a new school year starts and there's 8 months till your exams – that's plenty of time, right? Then there's 6 months, 3 months, 1 month and oh, now there's 2 weeks left and you haven't started studying... What happens next is a panic-induced mayhem of highlighting everything in the textbook (without even questioning if it's actually helpful). But I'm here to change this! In *The Only Study Guide You'll Ever Need*, I'll cover a range of different topics, including: how to get started and pick up that pen, learning techniques that actually work, the dos and don'ts of timetabling and combatting fear of failure, perfectionism, exam stress and so much more!

**Humankind: A Hopeful History** RUTGER BREGMAN

It's a belief that unites the left and right, psychologists and philosophers, writers and historians. It drives the headlines that surround us and the laws that touch our lives. From Machiavelli to Hobbes, Freud to Dawkins, the roots of this belief have sunk deep into Western thought. Human beings, we're taught, are by nature selfish and governed by self-interest. Humankind makes a new argument: that it is realistic, as well as revolutionary, to assume that people are good. By thinking the worst of others, we bring out the worst in our politics and economics too.

In this major book, internationally bestselling author Rutger Bregman takes some of the world's most famous studies and events and reframes them, providing a new perspective on the last 200,000 years of human history. From the real-life *Lord of the Flies* to the Blitz, a Siberian fox farm to an infamous New York murder, Stanley Milgram's Yale shock machine to the Stanford prison experiment, Bregman shows how believing in human kindness and altruism can be a new way to think – and act as the foundation for achieving true change in our society. It is time for a new view of human nature.

