

PiXL Reading

SECONDARY NEWSLETTER



As the end of the academic year approaches, you and your child will no doubt be planning what to do over the summer. Amongst the ideas you have already, we hope reading may play a part as well. The benefits of reading are vast, as we shared in September, from supporting students' empathy and understanding of emotions, the world and others, to achievement across the curriculum – including maths.

To help you and your child select some books to read this summer, we have collated a range of books which you may like to explore together. We hope there will be something for everyone, but this is by no means an exhaustive list – this is the golden age of children's literature and there are so many options out there! Whatever your child is curious about, or takes interest in, look at books around the topic, or encourage them to research into the area further through non-fiction texts such as online articles. They may also like to explore different genres – whether it be fantasy, adventure, sci-fi or young adult thrillers.

If your child is struggling to read, please do speak to your school about this before the summer, and explore 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 in a fluent and expressive way.

Please note that unless otherwise stated, the texts shared in this newsletter 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 the publisher's guide.

Whatever you explore with your child this summer, we wish you a wonderful summer break and very much hope that you enjoy adventuring through a range of stories too.



SHORTER-LENGTH READS

The books below are all shorter-length texts, which could be engaging for anyone, but they are published in a dyslexia-friendly font to help make them accessible to all. If your child doesn't have dyslexia, they can still read these wonderful books!



Ghost Stadium

TOM PALMER

12+

A thrilling ghost story from the author of the popular Football Academy series. Lucas, Irfan and Jack want to mark the beginning of their summer holidays in style! Tricking their parents with a camping cover story, the boys sneak into the old, abandoned football stadium to spend the night. Are the rumours about it being haunted true? They're about to find out...

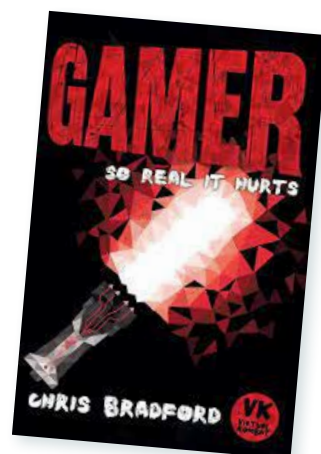
The Royal Rebel BALI RAI

Born in 1876, Princess Sophia Duleep Singh was the daughter of the last Sikh ruler of the Punjab, and goddaughter of Queen Victoria. After her father lost control of his empire and was exiled to England, Sophie had a privileged but troubled upbringing that left her unsure about where she belonged. Sensitive to injustice, she became a suffragette and fought hard to win the vote for women. This is the extraordinary story of her life.



Gamer CHRIS BRADFORD

Street kid, Scott, jumps at the chance to be a Virtual Kombat gamer. If he can battle his way up the ranks, the ultimate prize will be his. But then, his friend Kate goes missing in the battle arena and Scott's dream turns into a nightmare...





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...



The Disconnect

KEREN DAVID

13+

Could you disconnect from your phone for six weeks? An eccentric entrepreneur has challenged Esther's year group to do just that and the winners will walk away with £1,000. For Esther, whose dad, sister and baby nephew live thousands of miles away in New York, the prize might be her only chance to afford flights for a visit... But can she really stay disconnected for long enough to win?

LONGER-LENGTH READS

A Girl Called Corpse

REECE CARTER

With no memory of who she was before she was taken by the Witches, Corpse is bound to haunt the rock-that-didn't-exist forever – until she learns of a treasure, one that can reunite Corpse with her family and her name. She must set off for answers, on a journey across the stormy sea, battling magic, zombie-skeletons and monsters. But the Witches want the treasure too...

**The Goblin's Revenge**

ANDY PRENTICE

A fantasy adventure gamebook where YOU choose how the story unfolds. Prepare for menacing monsters, ghostly magic and a thrilling race against time! The evil sorcerer, Darkmane, has the kingdom in his grip and the only hope of stopping him is a treacherous quest to try and find the last remaining rebels and help them end his reign. With picture puzzles to solve, an exciting dice-based combat system and an epic story full of emotion and humour, this unique gamebook will have you gripped from beginning to end!





Peregrine Quinn and the Cosmic Realm

ASH BOND

Peregrine Quinn has always loved hearing her godfather Daedalus Bloom's stories about his life as an immortal, but that's all they were – stories. That is, until the portals that connect the Terran Realm with the Cosmic Realm mysteriously shut down and Daedalus, the only one who can fix them, is kidnapped. Peregrine is swept into a nail-biting adventure. She soon realises that not only are the creatures from her godfather's stories real, but they're shooting at her with laser blasters...

Countdown to Yesterday

SHIRLEY MARR

James is stuck in the present and that's the last place he wants to be. His parents have suddenly separated and he has to get used to living two completely different lives. Now, he has two homes to stay in, two bedrooms to divide his things between and two different routes to take to school. Unfortunately, nothing is adding up to the one great life James used to have and he wishes he could go back to the past, to his Top Six good memories with Mum and Dad. Then, during Science Week, James meets Yan, a girl who looks at the world with x-ray eyes, and he discovers that travelling back in time might not be impossible after all. But are his best memories really as perfect as he remembers?



Secrets of the Snakestone

PIU DASGUPTA

Zélie is often accused of being a witch, but she doesn't believe in magic – until Jules climbs up from the reeking Parisian sewer and hands Zélie the golden locket he discovered there. The locket once held the magical Snakestone, and Zélie knows that if she can find the stone, she might also find her missing father...



Girl (in real life)

TAMSIN WINTER

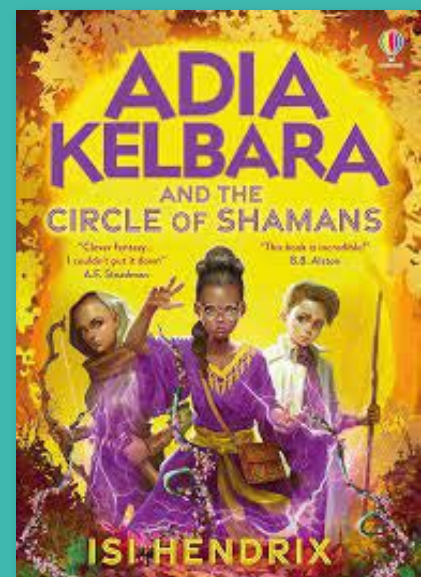
Most parents try to limit their kids' online exposure. But not Eva's. Her parents run a hugely successful YouTube channel, and Eva is the star of the show. But Eva is getting sick of being made to pose in stupid mum-and-daughter matching outfits for sponsored posts. The freebies aren't worth the teasing at school. And, when an intensely humiliating "period party" post goes viral, Eva is outraged. She's going to find a way to stop the channel, even if she has to sabotage it herself.

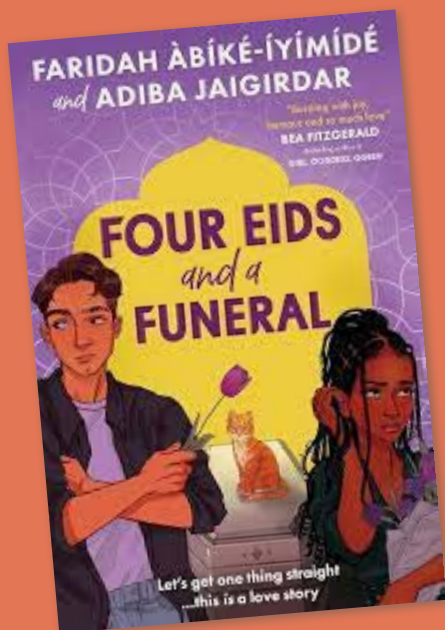


Adia Kelbara and the Circle of Shamans

ISI HENDRIX

Life in the swamplands is tough for twelve-year-old orphan Adia. Her aunt and uncle believe she is an ogbanjie, a demon-possessed child thought to bring misfortune. And when Adia manifests mysterious powers, accidentally destroying her village, she starts to think they might be right. Adia flees to the far-away Academy of Shamans, hoping someone at the school can figure out what is wrong with her and fix it. But she doesn't expect to stumble across a bunch of squabbling deities with a secret...





Four Eids and a Funeral

FARIDAH ÀBÍKÉ-ÍYÍMÍDÉ AND ADIBA JAIGIRDAR

A gorgeous, bright and swoony YA Muslim rom-com from two bestselling, award-winning stars of YA!

Said Hossain hates Tiwa Olatunji. And Tiwa would happily never see Said again in her life. Growing up, the two were inseparable, but they have barely spoken since the incident many Eids ago and both of them would like to keep it that way. But when Said comes home for a funeral and the town's Islamic Centre burns down on the same day, they have to face each other again and sparks fly...

13+

Royal Scandal: Let Chaos Reign

AIMÉE CARTER

Don't miss the sequel to *Royal Blood*!

When American teen Evan Bright came to live with her long-lost father – the actual King of England – she instantly became the most-hated member of the royal family. The vicious clickbait articles and back-stabbing new relatives are tough enough, but now she's facing much scarier threats. First, there are protesters outside the palace gates and creepy messages. But when an armed intruder accesses the grounds to attack Evan and her boyfriend Kit, she starts to believe that someone within the palace is plotting her downfall...

14+





14+

The Gilded Ones Trilogy

NAMINA FORNA

The bold and immersive West African-inspired fantasy series is finally complete! In this world, girls are outcasts by blood and warriors by choice.

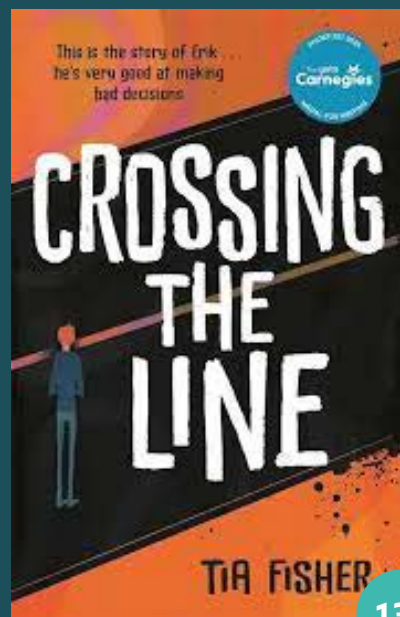
Sixteen-year-old Deka lives in Otera, a deeply patriarchal ancient kingdom, where a woman's worth is tied to her purity, and she must bleed to prove it. But when Deka bleeds gold - the colour of impurity, of a demon - she faces a consequence worse than death. She is saved by a mysterious woman who tells Deka of her true nature: she is an Alaki, a near-immortal with exceptional gifts. The stranger offers her a choice: fight for the Emperor, with others just like her, or be destroyed...

Crossing the Line

TIA FISHER

Erik's life has been falling apart ever since his dad died. Homework and being good at school stop feeling important when you're the new man of the house. When Erik's bad behaviour attracts the wrong crowd, he's sucked into a terrifying new world of drug dealing, trap houses and violence. Making money feels good but Erik soon learns that a small favour can become a huge debt. And when his sisters' lives are threatened, Erik will have to cross one more line to save them...

Written in stunning verse, this is a poignant story about seeking safety and asking for help in times of crisis.



13+

Someone is Watching You

TESS JAMES-MACKEY

Nia would do anything to win the approval of her boyfriend Scott and his friends, especially mean girl Olivia. Olivia dares Nia to explore an abandoned prison. Facing dark tunnels, distant noises and creepy mementoes left behind by incarcerated criminals will surely all be worth it to finally become part of the group. But it isn't long before Nia and her little sister, Kayla, find themselves trapped inside. And then Kayla vanishes. Suddenly, this feels like more than a game gone wrong...

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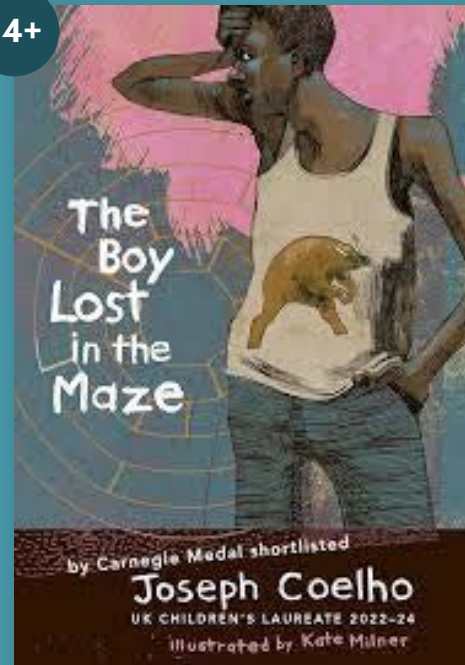


The Boy Lost in the Maze

JOSEPH COELHO

In Ancient Greece, Theseus makes a dangerous and courageous journey to find his father, finally meeting the Minotaur in the Labyrinth. While Theo, a modern-day teenage boy, finds himself on a maze-like quest to find his own father. Each story tells of a boy becoming a man and discovering what true manhood really means.

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NON-FICTION RECOMMENDATIONS

Staying Safe Online

LOUIE STOWELL

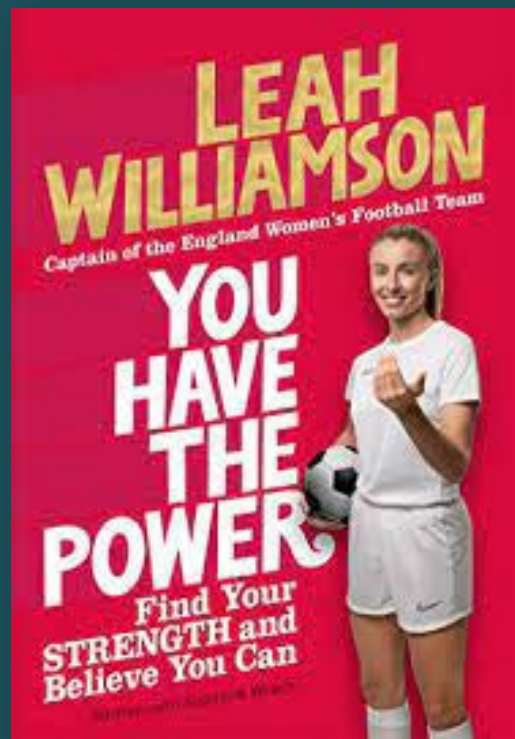
The internet is full of amazing possibilities but, just like the real world, there are a lot of potential dangers and difficulties too. You need to know what to watch out for and how to protect yourself. Whether you're worried about oversharing on social media or coming across dangerous people, this guide gives you tips and tools to take control and stay safe online.

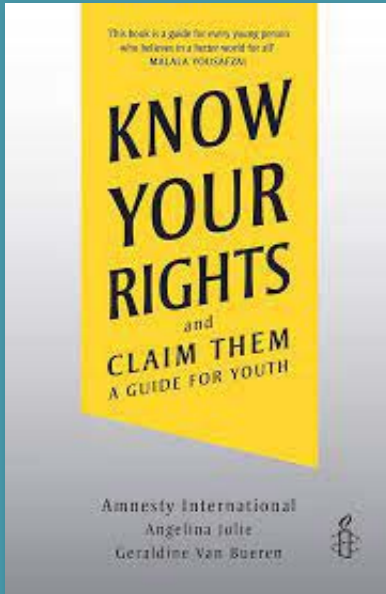


You have the Power: Find Your Strength and Believe You Can

LEAH WILLIAMSON

Leah led the Lionesses to victory in the 2022 European Championships – now, she wants to show young people that they can achieve anything they put their minds to – no matter what other people say. This positive guide for life will inspire young people to lead like a pro and motivate them to do what they love.





Know Your Rights and Claim Them

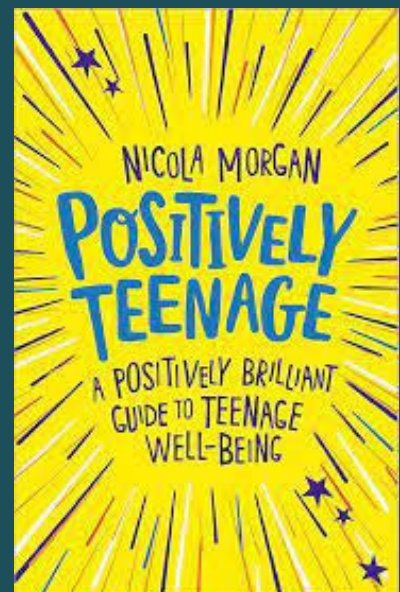
AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL, ANGELINA JOLIE
AND GERALDINE VAN BUEREN

If you are aged under 18, you have your own set of human rights. Child rights are unique freedoms and protections designed for you. 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 to free expression, health, a clean climate and a sustainable environment, they are yours to claim.

Positively Teenage: A positively brilliant guide to teenage well-being

AIMÉE CARTER

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. You'll find simple strategies to develop a positive attitude, growth mindset, self-understanding, determination and resilience and you'll see how those strengths will help you cope with any challenges, enjoy life and achieve your potential.



Usborne's '100 Things to Know' Books

These informative books are packed with surprising facts and useful information! They are handy reference books for home, school and building general knowledge. The series contains books on music, saving the planet, history, food, the human body and much more!

If you're looking for activity books, you may like to explore the 'STEM Scribble Books' and the 'Write Your Own' series from Usborne.



Usborne's Scribble Books

Full of activities to explore, discover, solve and create. You can buy a pack of four: Science, Engineering, Technology and Maths – through which you can create an earthquake detector, solve puzzles, crack codes and much more!



Usborne's 'Write Your Own' Books

This series provides young people with a range of ideas and inspiration to get their creative juices going! The collection contains books such as 'Write and Draw Your Own Comics', as well as books on scripts, poems, sci-fi and fantasy stories, magazines and more!

