



VERULAM
SCHOOL

Verulam School Reading Lists



**Current, diverse & topical book
titles available in the library**



This document contains:

- Books of Chinese Origin
- Books to Celebrate Muslim Culture
- Books of Black Origin
- Books of South Asian Origin
- Books for Gamers
- Books of LGBTQ+ Origin
- Books to Promote Inclusion and Disability
- Books to help Mental Health
- Books for Career Paths
- Books for Remembrance and WW1
- Books to Remember the Holocaust





VERULAM
SCHOOL



BOOKS OF CHINESE ORIGIN



Books of Chinese Origin

Title	Author	Genre	Blurb
Danny Chung Does not do Maths	Maisie CHan	Humour	<p>Eleven-year-old Danny Chung loves drawing more than anything - certainly more than maths, which, according to his dad and everyone else, is what he is 'supposed' to be good at. He also loves having his own room where he can draw in peace, so his life is turned upside down when a surprise that he's been promised turns out to be his little, wrinkly, ex-maths-champion grandmother from China. What's worse, Nai Nai has to share his room, and she takes the top bunk! Nai Nai can't speak a word of English, which doesn't make things easy for Danny when he is charged with looking after her during his school holidays. Babysitting Nai Nai is NOT what he wants to be doing! Before long though it becomes clear to Danny that there is more to Nai Nai than meets the eye, and that they have more in common than he thought possible ...</p>
American Born Chinese	Gene Lurn Yang	Coming of Age / Graphic Novel	<p>All Jin Wang wants is to fit in. When his family moves to a new neighborhood, he suddenly finds that he's the only Chinese American student at his school. Jocks and bullies pick on him constantly, and he has hardly any friends. Then, to make matters worse, he falls in love with an all-American girl...Born to rule over all the monkeys in the world, the story of the Monkey King is one of the oldest and greatest Chinese fables. Adored by his subjects, master of the arts of kung-fu, he is the most powerful monkey on earth. But the Monkey King doesn't want to be a monkey. He wants to be hailed as a god...Chin-Kee is the ultimate negative Chinese stereotype, and he's ruining his cousin Danny's life. Danny's a popular kid at school, but every year Chin-Kee comes to visit, and every year Danny has to transfer to a new school to escape the shame. This year, though, things quickly go from bad to worse...These three apparently unrelated tales come together with an unexpected twist, in a modern fable that is hilarious, poignant and action-packed. American Born Chinese is an amazing rise, all the way up to the astonishing climax--and confirms what a growing number of readers already know: Gene Yang is a major talent.</p>
Descendant of the Crane	Joan He	Fantasy	<p>In New York Times and Indie bestselling author Joan He's debut novel, Descendant of the Crane, a determined and vulnerable young heroine struggles to do right in a world brimming with deception. This gorgeous, Chinese-inspired fantasy is packed with dizzying twists, complex characters, and intricate politics. TREASON For princess Hesina of Yan, the palace is her home, but her father is her world. He taught her how to defend against the corruption and excesses of the old kings, before revolutionaries purged them and their seers and established the dynasty anew. Before he died, he was supposed to teach her how to rule. TRIAL The imperial doctors say the king died a natural death, but Hesina has reason to believe he was murdered. She is determined to uncover the truth and bring the assassin to justice.</p>



Books of Chinese Origin

Title	Author	Genre	Blurb
<p>These Violent Delights</p>	<p>Chloe Gong</p>	<p>Thriller</p>	<p>The year is 1926, and Shanghai hums to the tune of debauchery. A blood feud between two gangs runs the streets red, leaving the city helpless in the grip of chaos. At the heart of it all is eighteen-year-old Juliette Cai, a former flapper who has returned to assume her role as the proud heir of the Scarlet Gang—a network of criminals far above the law. Their only rivals in power are the White Flowers, who have fought the Scarlets for generations. And behind every move is their heir, Roma Montagov, Juliette’s first love...and first betrayal. But when gangsters on both sides show signs of instability culminating in clawing their own throats out, the people start to whisper. Of a contagion, a madness. Of a monster in the shadows. As the deaths stack up, Juliette and Roma must set their guns—and grudges—aside and work together, for if they can’t stop this mayhem, then there will be no city left for either to rule.</p>
<p>Chinglish: An Almost Entirely True story</p>	<p>Sue Cheung</p>	<p>Coming of Age</p>	<p>Jo Kwan is a teenager growing up in 1980s Coventry with her annoying little sister, too-cool older brother, a series of very unlucky pets and utterly bonkers parents. But unlike the other kids at her new school or her posh cousins, Jo lives above her parents' Chinese takeaway. And things can be tough – whether it's unruly customers or the snotty popular girls who bully Jo for being different. Even when she does find a BFF who actually likes Jo for herself, she still has to contend with her erratic dad's behaviour. All Jo dreams of is breaking free and forging a career as an artist. sTold in diary entries and doodles, Jo's brilliantly funny observations about life, family and char siu make for a searingly honest portrayal of life on the other side of the takeaway counter.</p>
<p>Jade Fire Gold</p>	<p>June CL Tan</p>	<p>Adventure</p>	<p>Ahn is no one, with no past and no family. Altan is a lost heir, his future stolen away as a child. When they meet, Altan sees in Ahn a path to reclaiming the throne. Ahn sees a way to finally unlock her past and understand her arcane magical abilities. But they may have to pay a far deadlier price than either could have imagined. Ferocious action, shadowy intrigue, and a captivating romance collide in June CL Tan’s debut, a stunning homage to the Xianxia novel with a tender, beating heart, perfect for fans of The Bone Witch and We Hunt the Flame.</p>



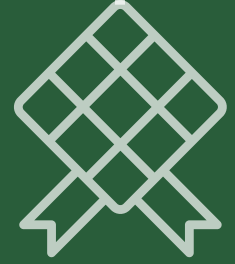
Books of Chinese Origin

Title	Author	Genre	Blurb
Sam Wu is not afraid of Space	Katie & Kevin Tsang	Humour	Brilliantly funny new series about the bravest scaredy-cat in the world. Sam Wu is NOT a scaredy-cat (except he is). When a trip to the Space Museum goes terrifyingly wrong, Sam begins a mission to prove to the school bully, and all of his friends, that he is a fearless space adventurer. A madcap story of ghost hunting, snakes and mischievous pet cats called Butterbutt.
Sam Wu is not afraid of the Dark	Katie & Kevin Tsang	Humour	The brilliantly funny third SAM WU book - the bravest scaredy-cat in the world! Perfect for reluctant readers and fans of Pamela Butchart. Sam Wu is NOT afraid of anything. Except for quite a lot of things. Like ghosts. Sharks too. And also THE DARK! And so when Sam goes camping in the woods with his friends and cousin Stanley, who knows what scary kind of things they'll face . . .?
Sam Wu is not afraid of Zombies	Katie & Kevin Tsang	Humour	There's hardly anything that Sam Wu is afraid of. Unless you count ghosts, sharks, the dark and maybe even spiders. But definitely NOT zombies. Except for actual real ones maybe. So when Sam's arch nemesis, Ralph Zinkerman the Third announces that he has zombie werewolves living in his basement, for the first time ever, Sam really isn't sure if he wants to be the one to save the day. Ralph has always been pretty mean to him and, well, just one little nibble from the zombie werewolves wouldn't hurt that much, would it? Common childhood fears dealt with in a hilarious, manner.
Sam Wu is not afraid of Spiders	Katie & Kevin Tsang	Humour	Sam Wu is NOT afraid of anything. Well, maybe some things. Like ghosts, sharks . . . the dark's pretty worrying too. And not to mention SPIDERS! But Sam's not going to let anyone know. And so when Tulip, the school tarantula, disappears from her cage, Sam decides it's up to him and his friends to save the school from the eight-legged escapee . . .





VERULAM
SCHOOL



Books to Celebrate Muslim Culture



Books to celebrate Muslim culture

Title	Author	Genre	Blurb
Amazing Muslims Who Changed the World	Burhana Islam	Non-fiction	Do you think you know who first thought of the theory of evolution? Have you ever wondered who created the oldest university in the world? Is Joan of Arc the only rebel girl who led an army that you've heard of? If so, then you need this stunningly illustrated treasure trove of iconic and hidden amazing Muslim heroes! You'll find people you might know, like Malala Yousafzai, Sir Mo Farah and Muhammad Ali, as well as some you might not.
Among the Mosques: A Journey Across Muslim Britain	Ed Hussain	Travel / Religion	An open-hearted guide to modern Muslim Britain, exploring the challenges and changes faced in an increasingly divided nation. Islam is the fastest growing faith community in Britain. Domes and minarets are redefining the skylines of our towns and cities as mosques become an increasingly prominent feature. Yet while Britain has prided itself on being a global home of cosmopolitanism and modern civilisation, its deep-rooted relationship with Islam – unique in history – is complex, threatened by rising hostility and hatred, intolerance and ignorance. There is much media debate about embracing diversity in our communities, but what does integration look like on the ground, in places like Dewsbury, Glasgow, Belfast and London? How are Muslims, young and old, reconciling progressive values – of gender equality, individualism, the rule of law and free speech – with literalist interpretations of their faith? And how is this tension, away from the public gaze, unfolding inside mosques today?
Once upon an Eid: Stories of Hope and Joy by 15 Muslim Voices	S K Ali	Short Stories	Once Upon an Eid is a collection of short stories that showcases the most brilliant Muslim voices writing today, all about the most joyful holiday of the year: Eid! Eid: The short, single-syllable word conjures up a variety of feelings and memories for Muslims. Maybe it's waking up to the sound of frying samosas or the comfort of bean pie, maybe it's the pleasure of putting on a new outfit for Eid prayers, or maybe it's the gift-giving and holiday parties to come that day. Whatever it may be, for those who cherish this day of celebration, the emotional responses may be summed up in another short and sweet word: joy. The anthology will also include a poem, graphic-novel chapter, and spot illustrations.
Little Badman and the rise of the Punjabi zombies	Humza Arshad	Humour	Welcome to Big School. Humza Khan – aka Little Badman, Eggington's greatest rapper – might have finally met his match. Evil teacher geniuses and giant killer hamsters (see previous Little Badman adventures for details) are nothing compared to starting a new school. He's already been out rapped by the school bully, laughed at by his classmates. Oh, and we haven't even mentioned the ancient magical orb causing havoc and very possibly leading to world destruction. At least Humza has found someone to help with his homework. It's just a shame this friend isn't exactly . . . alive.



Books to celebrate Muslim culture

Title	Author	Genre	Blurb
Little Badman and the Radioactive Samosa	Humza Arshad	Humour	Little Badman, aka Humza Khan, has saved the world twice. So it's lucky when Humza and his friends narrowly avoid being hit by rock from outer-space. What does get hit is a box of delicious samosas, which turn radioactive! Now the trio have superpowers, which is pretty cool. What's less cool is the giant hamsters on the loose. Looks like a job for Little Badman and his crew.
Little Badman and the Time-travelling Teacher of Doom	Humza Arshad	Humour	I'm Humza Khan, the greatest eleven-year-old rapper Eggington ever had. I've also faced deadly alien slugs, killer aunties and double maths. But now, I (and my best friend Umer I guess) face something even scarier - my dad! He's pretty fed up with us being naughty, so he's sending us away . . . to school. But this is not ordinary school. This is a special summer school in Pakistan, and man something weird is going on - someone has been messing with time! I may have to save the world again . . .
Little Badman and the Invasion of the Killer Aunties	Humza Arshad	Humour	Humza Khan is the greatest eleven-year-old rapper Eggington has ever known: he is Little Badman and he is destined to be rich and famous. But when Humza's music teacher is taken ill his dreams are put on hold. His Auntie has stepped in as substitute, and nobody seems to care about the unorthodox teaching because of the endless sweet treats. As other teachers start to disappear, with more Aunties appearing in their place, Humza knows something isn't right. With the help of his elderly Uncle and friends Umer and Wendy, Humza discovers that the suspicious Aunties might not be as friendly as they seem. Now he must find a way to destroy them before they take over the world...
You Think You Know Me	Mohamud, Ayaan	Coming of Age	A stunning debut about finding the strength to speak up against hate and fear, for fans of The Hate U Give and I Am Thunder. Hanan has always been encouraged to be a good girl, a quiet girl, never making trouble. When her classmates treat her as a target for their racist bullying, and her teachers use her as their perfect Muslim poster girl, she keeps smiling and keeps her mouth shut. They don't see past her headscarf, but she knows she is so much more than that. Then a local man is murdered, tensions run high and Muslims become targets for even worse abuse. After a terrifying attack, Hanan decides that it's time to make her voice heard...it's time to shake the world.
Talking About Islamophobia	Sabeena Akhtar	Religion / Current Affairs	A highly topical look at how and why Islamophobia manifests itself and at what can be done to make our society a safe space for us all. Islamophobia is a form of religious prejudice aimed at Muslims and it is on the rise. But not everyone agrees that Islamophobia exists - and some people think that we should be afraid of Muslims and Islam. This book, aimed at young readers aims to encourage a conversation about Islamophobia - what it is, where it comes from and what can be done to stand against it. It shares the perspectives of those who have faced discrimination due to their faith, and takes a frank look at the frontlines of hate crime where Islamophobia is found - in the media, in politics and in daily interactions.



Books to celebrate Muslim culture

Title	Author	Genre	Blurb
Accidental Trouble Magnet (Planet Omar)	Zanib Mian	Humour	Welcome, readers, to the imaginative brain of Omar! You might not know me yet, but once you open the pages of this book you'll laugh so hard that snot will come out of your nose (plus you might meet a dragon and a zombie - what more could you want?). My parents decided it would be a good idea to move house and move me to a new school at the same time. As if I didn't have a hard enough time staying out of trouble at home, now I've also got to try and make new friends. What's worse, the class bully seems to think I'm the perfect target and has made it his mission to send me back to Pakistan. But I've never even been to Pakistan! And my cousin told me the pizza there is yuck. The only good thing is that Eid's just around the corner which means a feast of all my favourite food and presents. I'm really hoping I can stay in Mum and Dad's good books long enough to get loads... This series is perfect for fans of Tom Gates and Wimpy Kid.
Unexpected Super Spy (Planet Omar)	Zanib Mian	Humour	The second book in the series. Omar and his friends have been saving up their pocket money for ages so they can have the world's most epic Nerf Blaster battle. But when Omar discovers that his mosque is in trouble, they decide to donate their pennies to help save it. Everything goes perfectly until the money mysteriously goes missing. Can they work out who has taken it in time to stop the mosque closing down? And what exactly is Omar's sister Maryam hiding in her room...?
Incredible Rescue Mission (Planet Omar)	Zanib Mian	Humour	The third book in the series. When Omar and his friends come back after the school holidays, their lovely teacher seems to have been replaced by somebody much more grumpy. Overhearing other teachers talking about her, Omar decides something terrible has happened. Could she possibly have been abducted by ... aliens?! Omar persuades his friends to mount a rescue mission but what they find is very surprising!
Epic Hero Flop (Planet Omar)	Zanib Mian	Humour	The fourth book in the series. When Omar's best friend Daniel messes up at school, Omar decides to take the blame to save him from getting in trouble - which makes him feel like a hero! With this taste of heroism, Omar takes the blame for a couple of small things other kids in the class have done - without realising that when something more serious happens, the signs will point to him since he's been so unusually troublesome. The teachers are sure the culprit must be Omar. Can his friends prove his innocence and show that he wasn't responsible for the chaos?
Ultimate Rock Blast (Planet Omar)	Zanib Mian	Humour	The fifth book in the series. Omar and his friends are blasting off on another adventure—this time at a rocket-building competition. All of his family's Science Sundays prepared Omar to lead his friends on their quest to build the best rocket in their school, sending them to the nationals. But when their rocket is sabotaged, Omar and his friends have to use their expertise in science and mysteries to find the culprit. This fifth book in the charming, warm hearted, and hilarious series about a boy growing up in a close-knit Muslim family, packed with eye-popping artwork by Kyan Cheng, is explosively fun!





VERULAM
SCHOOL

Books of Black Origin



Books of Black Origin

Title	Author	Genre	Blurb
Black and British	David Olusoga	History	A short, essential introduction to Black British history by award-winning historian and broadcaster David Olusoga. When did Africans first come to Britain? Who are the well-dressed black children in Georgian paintings? Why did the American Civil War disrupt the Industrial Revolution? These and many other questions are answered in this essential introduction to 1800 years of the Black British history: from the Roman Africans who guarded Hadrian's Wall right up to the present day.
Natives	Akala	Sociology	From the first time he was stopped and searched as a child, to the day he realised his mum was white, to his first encounters with racist teachers - race and class have shaped Akala's life and outlook. In this unique book he takes his own experiences and widens them out to look at the social, historical and political factors that have left us where we are today. Covering everything from the police, education and identity to politics, sexual objectification and the far right, Natives speaks directly to British denial and squeamishness when it comes to confronting issues of race and class that are at the heart of the legacy of Britain's racialised empire.
Noughts & Crosses Trilogy	Malorie Blackman	Science fiction & dystopian	Two young people are forced to make a stand in this thought-provoking look at racism and prejudice in an alternate society. Sephy is a Cross - a member of the dark-skinned ruling class. Callum is a Nought - a "colourless" member of the underclass who were once slaves to the Crosses. The two have been friends since early childhood, but that's as far as it can go. In their world, Noughts and Crosses simply don't mix. Against a background of prejudice and distrust, intensely highlighted by violent terrorist activity, a romance builds between Sephy and Callum - a romance that is to lead both of them into terrible danger. Can they possibly find a way to be together?
The Poet X	Elizabeth Acevedo	Coming of age	Xiomara has always kept her words to herself. When it comes to standing her ground in her Harlem neighbourhood, she lets her fists and her fierceness do the talking. But X has secrets - her feelings for a boy in her bio class, and the notebook full of poems that she keeps under her bed. And a slam poetry club that will pull those secrets into the spotlight. Because in spite of a world that might not want to hear her, Xiomara refuses to stay silent. A novel about finding your voice and standing up for what you believe in, no matter how hard it is to say. Brave, bold and beautifully written - dealing with issues of race, feminism and faith. "Crackles with energy and snaps with authenticity and voice...."



Books of Black Origin

Title	Author	Genre	Blurb
The Black Flamingo	Dean Atta	Coming of age	A boy comes to terms with his identity as a mixed-race gay teen - then at university he finds his wings as a drag artist, <i>The Black Flamingo</i> . A bold story about the power of embracing your uniqueness. Sometimes, we need to take charge, to stand up wearing pink feathers - to show ourselves to the world in bold colour.
Legendborn	Tracey Deonn	Coming of age	<p>After her mother dies in an accident, sixteen-year-old Bree Matthews wants nothing to do with her family memories or childhood home. A residential program for bright high schoolers at UNC-Chapel Hill seems like the perfect escape—until Bree witnesses a magical attack her very first night on campus. A flying demon feeding on human energies. A secret society of so called “Legendborn” students that hunt the creatures down. And a mysterious teenage mage who calls himself a “Merlin” and who attempts—and fails—to wipe Bree’s memory of everything she saw. The mage’s failure unlocks Bree’s own unique magic and a buried memory with a hidden connection: the night her mother died, another Merlin was at the hospital. Now that Bree knows there’s more to her mother’s death than what’s on the police report, she’ll do whatever it takes to find out the truth, even if that means infiltrating the Legendborn as one of their initiates. She recruits Nick, a self-exiled Legendborn with his own grudge against the group, and their reluctant partnership pulls them deeper into the society’s secrets—and closer to each other. But when the Legendborn reveal themselves as the descendants of King Arthur’s knights and explain that a magical war is coming, Bree has to decide how far she’ll go for the truth and whether she should use her magic to take the society down—or join the fight.</p>
The Black Kids	Christina Hammonds Reed	Coming of age	<p>Ashley Bennett and her friends are living the charmed life. It’s the end of senior year and they’re spending more time at the beach than in the classroom. Everything changes one afternoon in April, when four LAPD officers are acquitted after beating a black man named Rodney King half to death. Suddenly, Ashley’s not just one of the girls. She’s one of the black kids. As violent protests engulf LA and the city burns, Ashley tries to continue on as if life were normal. Even as her self-destructive sister gets dangerously involved in the riots. Even as the model black family façade her wealthy and prominent parents have built starts to crumble. Even as her best friends help spread a rumor that could completely derail the future of her classmate and fellow black kid, LaShawn Johnson. With her world splintering around her, Ashley, along with the rest of LA, is left to question who is the us? And who is the them?</p>



Books of Black Origin

Title	Author	Genre	Blurb
Dear Justyce	Nic Stone	Coming of age	Shortly after teenager Quan enters a not guilty plea for the shooting death of a police officer, he is placed in a holding cell to await trial. Through a series of flashbacks and letters to Justyce, the protagonist of Dear Martin, Quan's story unravels. From a troubled childhood and bad timing to a coerced confession and prejudiced police work, Nic Stone's newest novel takes an unflinching look at the flawed practices and ideologies that discriminate against African American boys and minorities in the American justice system.
Roll of Thunder, Hear my Cry	Mildred Taylor	Historical Fiction	Why is the land so important to Cassie's family? It takes the events of one turbulent year—the year of the night riders and the burnings, the year a white girl humiliates Cassie in public simply because she's black—to show Cassie that having a place of their own is the Logan family's lifeblood. It is the land that gives the Logans their courage & pride - no matter how others may degrade them, the Logans possess something no one can take away.
The Hate U Give	Angie Thomas	Coming of age	Sixteen-year-old Starr Carter moves between two worlds: the poor neighborhood where she lives and the fancy suburban prep school she attends. The uneasy balance between these worlds is shattered when Starr witnesses the fatal shooting of her childhood best friend Khalil at the hands of a police officer. Khalil was unarmed. Soon afterward, his death is a national headline. Some are calling him a thug, maybe even a drug dealer and a gangbanger. Protesters are taking to the streets in Khalil's name. Some cops and the local drug lord try to intimidate Starr and her family. What everyone wants to know what really went down that night? And the only person alive who can answer that is Starr. But what Starr does or does not say could upend her community. It could also endanger her life.
Concrete Rose	Angie Thomas	Coming of age	If there's one thing seventeen-year-old Maverick Carter knows, it's that a real man takes care of his family. As the son of a former gang legend, Mav does that the only way he knows how: dealing for the King Lords. With this money he can help his mom, who works two jobs while his dad's in prison. Life's not perfect, but with a fly girlfriend and a cousin who always has his back, Mav's got everything under control. Until, that is, Maverick finds out he's a father. Suddenly he has a baby, Seven, who depends on him for everything. But it's not so easy to sling dope, finish school, and raise a child. So when he's offered the chance to go straight, he takes it. In a world where he's expected to amount to nothing, maybe Mav can prove he's different. When King Lord blood runs through your veins, though, you can't just walk away. Loyalty, revenge, and responsibility threaten to tear Mav apart, especially after the brutal murder of a loved one. He'll have to figure out for himself what it really means to be a man.



Books of Black Origin

Title	Author	Genre	Blurb
Ghost Boys	Jewell Parker Rhodes	Coming of age	12-year-old Jerome is shot by a police officer who mistakes his toy gun for a real threat. As a ghost, he observes the devastation that's been unleashed on his family and community in the wake of what they see as an unjust and brutal killing. Soon Jerome meets another ghost: Emmett Till, a boy from a very different time but similar circumstances. Emmett helps Jerome process what has happened, on a journey towards recognizing how historical racism may have led to the events that ended his life. Jerome also meets Sarah, the daughter of the police officer, who grapples with her father's actions.
Punching the Air	Ibi Zeboi & Yusef Salaam	Historical Fiction	Amal Shahid has always been an artist and a poet. But even in a diverse art school, he's seen as disruptive and unmotivated by a biased system. Then one fateful night, an altercation in a gentrifying neighborhood escalates into tragedy. "Boys just being boys" turns out to be true only when those boys are white. Suddenly, at just sixteen years old, Amal's bright future is upended: he is convicted of a crime he didn't commit and sent to prison. Despair and rage almost sink him until he turns to the refuge of his words, his art. This never should have been his story. But can he change it? A moving and deeply profound story about how one boy is able to maintain his humanity and fight for the truth, in a system designed to strip him of both.
Bone by Bone by Bone	Tony Johnston	Coming of age	Friendship between white and black in 1950s, Tennessee. Tony Johnston draws on her own childhood memories to limn a portrait of a sensitive and compassionate boy fighting for a friendship his father forbids. David's daddy is determined that his son will grow up to be a doctor like himself. David studies the human bones, and secretly teaches them in turn to his black friend, Malcolm. In a rage, Dr. Church forbids Malcolm to ever enter their home—and threatens to kill him if he does. David tries to change his daddy's mind, but when Malcolm crosses the line, Dr. Church grabs his shotgun.
Beasts of Prey	Ayala Gray	Fantasy	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 and magical creatures to pay off her family's debts and secure their eventual freedom. But the night her loved ones' own safety is threatened by the Zoo's cruel master, Koffi unleashes a power she doesn't fully understand—and the consequences are dire. As the second son of a decorated hero, Ekon is all but destined to become a Son of the Six—an elite warrior—and uphold a family legacy. But on the night of his final rite of passage, a fire upends his plans. In its midst, Ekon not only encounters the Shetani—a vicious monster that has plagued the city and his nightmares for nearly a century—but a curious girl who seems to have the power to ward off the beast. Koffi's power ultimately saves Ekon's life, but his choice to let her flee dooms his hopes of becoming a warrior. Desperate to redeem himself, Ekon vows to hunt the Shetani down and end its reign of terror, but he can't do it alone.



Books of Black Origin

Title	Author	Genre	Blurb
Freedom	Catherine Johnson	Historical Fiction	An action-packed story about a boy's experience of slavery in Britain. The Guardian Nathaniel doesn't want to move to England with his master's family, leaving behind his mother and sister on the Jamaican plantation. But then he remembers what his mother told him: once a slave sets foot on English soil, they're free. Perhaps he can earn his fortune and buy his family's freedom, too... Bursting with action and vibrant characters With real events and historical figures woven into the story.
Children of Blood and Bone	Tomi Adeyemi	Fantasy	They killed my mother. They took our magic. They tried to bury us. Now we rise. Zelig remembers when the soil of Orisha hummed with magic. When different clans ruled - Burners igniting flames, Tiders beckoning waves, and Zelig's Reaper mother summoning forth souls. But everything changed the night magic disappeared. Under the orders of a ruthless king, anyone with powers was targeted and killed, leaving Zelig without a mother and her people without hope. Only a few people remain with the power to use magic, and they must remain hidden. Zelig is one such person. Now she has a chance to bring back magic to her people and strike against the monarchy.
And Still I Rise	Doreen Lawrence	Memoir	In April 1993, Stephen Lawrence was murdered by a group of young white men on a street in south-east London. No one was ever convicted of his killing. From the first police investigation onwards, the case was badly mishandled. In the end, long after the case against the five suspects had been dropped, the government had to give in to mounting pressure and hold a public inquiry, which became the most explosive in recent British legal history. Sir William Macpherson concluded that the Metropolitan Police had been 'institutionally racist', and handed out damning judgements of its attitude to the victim and his family. These facts, though, leave the reader unprepared for Doreen Lawrence's own story of her son's murder. Here, in this raw, honest book, she writes about her life for the first time, and recreates the pain, frustration and bafflement she experienced as she realized that there would never be a moment when she could say to herself that justice had been done. An inspirational book from one of the most extraordinary British women of our time, "And Still I Rise" demands to be read.
Uncomfortable Conversations with a Black Boy	Emmanuel Acho	Social Commentary	"You cannot fix a problem you do not know you have." So begins Emmanuel Acho in his essential guide to the truths Americans need to know to address the systemic racism that has recently electrified protests in all fifty states. "There is a fix," Acho says. "But in order to access it, we're going to have to have some uncomfortable conversations." In Uncomfortable Conversations With a Black Man, Acho takes on all the questions, large and small, insensitive and taboo, many white Americans are afraid to ask—yet which all Americans need the answers to, now more than ever. With the same open-hearted generosity that has made his video series a phenomenon, Acho explains the vital core of such fraught concepts as white privilege, cultural appropriation, and "reverse racism." In his own words, he provides a space of compassion and understanding in a discussion that can lack both.



Books of Black Origin

Title	Author	Genre	Blurb
Face	Benjamin Zephaniah	Coming of age	In this startling debut novel from Benjamin Zephaniah, the author tackles the moving and compelling story of a young man, Martin, whose life is completely changed when his face is badly scarred in a joyriding accident. Brilliantly written with a real ear for dialogue, this is Benjamin Zephaniah breaking new boundaries.
Teacher's Dead	Benjamin Zephaniah	Coming of age	For young people dealing with ideas in a post-truth world, Benjamin Zephaniah's story of violence, truth and the media is as powerful and pertinent as when it was first published. A teacher is dead, murdered by two of his students in front of the whole school. Right in front of Jackson Jones. But Mr Joseph was a good man - people liked him, respected him. How could those boys stab him and jog away like nothing had happened? Unable to process what he has seen, Jackson begins his own everyone knows who did it, but as Jackson uncovers more about the boys, he becomes convinced that people need to understand why.
Refugee boy	Benjamin Zephaniah	Coming of age	Alem is on holiday with his father for a few days in London. He has never been out of Ethiopia before and is very excited. They have a great few days together until one morning when Alem wakes up in the bed and breakfast they are staying at to find the unthinkable. His father has left him. It is only when the owner of the bed and breakfast hands him a letter that Alem is given an explanation. Alem's father admits that because of the political problems in Ethiopia both he and Alem's mother felt Alem would be safer in London - even though it is breaking their hearts to do this. Alem is now on his own, in the hands of the social services and the Refugee Council. He lives from letter to letter, waiting to hear from his father, and in particular about his mother, who has now gone missing...
Gangsta Rap	Benjamin Zephaniah	Coming of age	Ray has trouble at home and trouble at school. It's the last straw for everyone when Ray and his friends Prem and Tyrone are permanently suspended. But they know what they want, more than most, perhaps. Their headmaster decides to give them a second chance, a chance to live their dream of forming a rap group. Through a specialized social program, the boys are taught the business of the music industry, what it takes to record an album, and how to lay down a track. Within weeks they have become the Positive Negatives, and within a few months they have signed a record deal and are on their way to the top. But their dream soon becomes a nightmare as violence escalates around them. Suddenly, not only their careers but their very lives are at stake. The Positive Negatives are determined to prove that you don't need to be a gangster to be a great rapper.
Terror Kid	Benjamin Zephaniah	Coming of age	Rico knows trouble. He knows the look of it and the sound of it. He also knows to stay away from it as best as he can. Because if there's one thing his Romany background has taught him, it's that he will always be a suspect. Despite his best efforts to stay on the right side of the law, Rico is angry and frustrated at the injustices he sees happening at home and around the world. He wants to do something - but what? When he is approached by Speech, a mysterious man who shares Rico's hacktivist interests, Rico is given the perfect opportunity to speak out about injustice. After all, what harm can a peaceful cyber protest do...



Books of Black Origin

Title	Author	Genre	Blurb
Orangeboy	Patrice Lawrence	Coming of age	Sixteen-year-old Marlon has promised his widowed mum that he'll be good, and nothing like his gang-leader brother Andre. It's easy when you keep yourself to yourself, listening to your dead dad's Earth, Wind and Fire albums and watching sci-fi. But everything changes when Marlon's first date with the beautiful Sonya ends in tragedy; he becomes a hunted man and he has no idea why. With his dad dead and his brother helpless, Marlon has little choice but to enter Andre's old world of guns, knives and drug runs in order to uncover the truth and protect those close to him. It's time to fight to be the last man standing.
Beloved	Toni Morrison	Modern Fiction	Winner of the Pulitzer Prize, Toni Morrison's <i>Beloved</i> is a spellbinding and dazzlingly innovative portrait of a woman haunted by the past. Sethe was born a slave and escaped to Ohio, but eighteen years later she is still not free. She has borne the unthinkable and not gone mad, yet she is still held captive by memories of Sweet Home, the beautiful farm where so many hideous things happened. Meanwhile Sethe's house has long been troubled by the angry, destructive ghost of her baby, who died nameless and whose tombstone is engraved with a single word: <i>Beloved</i> . Sethe works at beating back the past, but it makes itself heard and felt incessantly in her memory and in the lives of those around her. When a mysterious teenage girl arrives, calling herself <i>Beloved</i> , Sethe's terrible secret explodes into the present.
Booked	Kwame Alexander	Sport	Like lightning/you strike/fast and free/legs zoom/down field/eyes fixed/on the checkered ball/on the goal/ten yards to go/can't nobody stop you can't nobody cop you... In this follow-up to the Newbery-winning novel <i>THE CROSSOVER</i> , soccer, family, love, and friendship, take center stage as twelve-year-old Nick learns the power of words as he wrestles with problems at home, stands up to a bully, and tries to impress the girl of his dreams. Helping him along are his best friend and sometimes teammate Coby, and The Mac, a rapping librarian who gives Nick inspiring books to read. This electric and heartfelt novel-in-verse by poet Kwame Alexander bends and breaks as it captures all the thrills and setbacks, action and emotion of a World Cup match!
Crossover	Kwame Alexander	Sport	"With a bolt of lightning on my kicks . . . The court is sizzling, My sweat is drizzling. Stop all that quivering. Cuz tonight I'm delivering," announces dread-locked, 12-year old Josh Bell. He and his twin brother Jordan are awesome on the court. But Josh has more than basketball in his blood, he's got mad beats, too, that tell his family's story in verse, in this fast and furious middle grade novel of family and brotherhood. Josh and Jordan must come to trips with growing up on and off the court to realize breaking the rules comes at a terrible price, as their story's heart-stopping climax proves a game-changer for the entire family.
Rebound	Kwame Alexander	Sport	Before Josh and Jordan Bell were streaking up and down the court, their father was learning his own moves. In this prequel to Newbery Medal winner <i>The Crossover</i> , Chuck Bell takes center stage, as readers get a glimpse of his childhood and how he became the jazz music worshipping, basketball star his sons look up to.



Books of Black Origin

Title	Author	Genre	Blurb
Crongton Knights	Alex Wheatle	Coming of age	Living on the South Crongton council estate has its worries - and life for McKay has been even tougher since his mum died. His dad has been working all hours to keep the bailiffs from their door. His brother is always out riding the streets at night, tempting trouble. And now, having strayed off his turf on a 'heroic' (if misguided) mission to help out a girl, McKay finds himself facing a friend's crazy ex-boyfriend, some power-tripping hood-rats and a notoriously violent gangster with a vendetta which hits too close to home. Poor McKay. He never asked for trouble . . . But during one madcap night of adventure and danger, he will find out who his true friends are and what it means to stick with your family.
Liclle Bit	Alex Wheatle	Coming of age	Venetia King is the hottest girl at school. Too bad Lemar is the second shortest guy in his year. Everyone calls him Liclle Bit, and his two best friends, McKay and Jonah, never tire of telling him he has no chance with girls. Things aren't much better at home. His mum is permanently hassled, his sister a frustrated single mum and his dad moved out years ago. As a new gang war breaks out on his estate, Lemar discovers that South Crongton's notorious gang leader has taken an interest in him. Before he knows what's happening, he's running errands. When he puts his own family in danger, Liclle Bit will be forced to question his choices. How can he possibly put things right?
Straight Outta Crongton	Alex Wheatle	Coming of age	Round these ends, it's hard to hold on to your dreams. Life's a constant hustle for Mo. Her mum's boyfriend Lloyd is just another man who likes to beat down women; the South Crong streets are fraught with hazards and nasty G's; and when it comes to matters of the heart . . . she's still hung up on Sam. No wonder she's vexed so much of the time. Thank god her sisters, Elaine and Naomi, are on her side: if one of them falls then they all fall. But when badness goes down and a life is left hanging in the balance, Mo has to face her hot urge for revenge . . . and she might end up losing more than she wins.
The Humiliations of Welton Blake	Alex Wheatle	Coming of age	Welton Blake has done it! He's asked out Carmella McKenzie - the best-looking girl in school - and she's only gone and said yes! But just as he thinks his luck is starting to change, Welton's phone breaks, kick-starting a series of unfortunate and humiliating events. With bullies to avoid, girls ready to knock him out and all the drama with his mum and dad, life for Welton is about to go very, very wrong ...
The Dirty South	Alex Wheatle	Coming of age	It's a generation on from Wheatle's East of Acre Lane, and the soundtrack has changed from reggae to hip hop, but the career options open to young black males are still brutally limited. Set in Brixton, 20 years after the race riots, The Dirty South follows the adventures of Brickly teenager Dennis Huggins as he drifts into the easy, dangerous life of the shotter - or drug dealer - and discovers that hard as the struggle for respect on the streets is, the struggle for love is harder still. At least Dennis has involved parents looking out for him; too many of his friends have no guidance other than that offered by their fellow shotters, or the dubiously motivated black Muslims.



Books of Black Origin

Title	Author	Genre	Blurb
<p>Tristan Strong Punches a Hole in the Sky</p>	<p>Kwame Mbalia</p>	<p>Coming of age</p>	<p>Seventh-grader Tristan Strong feels anything but strong ever since he failed to save his best friend when they were in a bus accident together. All he has left of Eddie is the journal his friend wrote stories in. Tristan is dreading the month he's going to spend on his grandparents' farm in Alabama, where he's being sent to heal from the tragedy. But on his first night there, a sticky creature shows up in his bedroom and steals Eddie's journal. Tristan chases after it — is that a doll? — and a tug-of-war ensues between them underneath a Bottle Tree. In a last attempt to wrestle the journal out of the creature's hands, Tristan punches the tree, accidentally ripping open a chasm into the MidPass, a volatile place with a burning sea, haunted bone ships, and iron monsters that are hunting the inhabitants of this world. Tristan finds himself in the middle of a battle that has left black American gods John Henry and Brer Rabbit exhausted. In order to get back home, Tristan and these new allies will need to entice the god Anansi, the Weaver, to come out of hiding and seal the hole in the sky. But bartering with the trickster Anansi always comes at a price. Can Tristan save this world before he loses more of the things he loves?</p>
<p>Noble Conflict</p>	<p>Malorie Blackman</p>	<p>Fantasy</p>	<p>Years after a violent war destroyed much of the world, Kaspar has grown up in a society based on peace and harmony. But beyond the city walls, a vicious band of rebels are plotting to tear this peace apart. It is up to the Guardians - an elite peacekeeping force - to protect the city, without ever resorting to the brutal methods of their enemy. When Kaspar joins the Guardians, he has a chance encounter with a rebel - a beautiful girl named Rhea. Haunted from that moment on by strange visions and memories - memories that could only belong to Rhea - he realises he hasn't been told the truth about what the rebels really want, and what he's really fighting for.</p>
<p>The Gilded Ones</p>	<p>Namina Forna</p>	<p>Fantasy</p>	<p>Sixteen-year-old Dekka lives in fear and anticipation of the blood ceremony that will determine whether she will become a member of her village. Already different from everyone else because of her unnatural intuition, Dekka prays for red blood so she can finally feel like she belongs. But on the day of the ceremony, her blood runs gold, the color of impurity—and Dekka knows she will face a consequence worse than death. Then a mysterious woman comes to her with a choice: stay in the village and submit to her fate, or leave to fight for the emperor. They are called alaki-near-immortals with rare gifts. And they are the only ones who can stop the empire's greatest threat. Knowing the dangers that lie ahead yet yearning for acceptance, Dekka decides to leave the only life she's ever known. But as she journeys to the capital to train for the biggest battle of her life, she will discover that the great walled city holds many surprises.</p>





VERULAM
SCHOOL

Books of South Asian Origin



Books of South Asian Origin

Title	Author	Genre	Blurb
A Long Pitch Home	Natalie Lorenzi	Sport	Bilal and his family move from Pakistan to Virginia. His father, however, stays in Pakistan. Back in Pakistan, Bilal was an excellent cricket player; in Virginia he joins a summer baseball team, but of course he must figure out the differences and adjust to the new game. This is a wonderful story about adjusting to a new culture.
Ajay and the Jairpur moon	Varsha Shah	Adventure	Abandoned on the Mumbai railways, Ajay has grown up with nothing but a burning wish to be a journalist. Finding an abandoned printing press, he and his friends Saif, Vinod, Yasmin and Jai create their own newspaper: The Mumbai Sun. As they hunt down stories for their paper, the children uncover corruption, fight for justice and battle to save their slum from bulldozers. But against some of the most powerful forces in the city, can Ajay and his friends really succeed in bringing the truth to light? Not to mention win the most important cricket match ever ... A high-stakes adventure story full of heart, written against the backdrop of modern India.
The Best at It	Maulik Pancholy	Coming of Age	A story about an Indian-American boy, Rahul Kapoor, who is trying to discover what he is best at and who he wants to be. He decides to try out Mathletes and finds a welcome home, but struggles with an invitation to the Sadie Hawkins dance. He's just not sure he likes girls. This is an intensely engaging and funny story about a boy dealing with identity, OCD and anxiety.
Ahimsa	Supriya Kelkar	Historical Fiction	In 1942, Anjali's mother joins Gandhi's resistance movement in India. This means some big changes for 10 year old Anjali and her family's way of life, and Anjali must work to overcome her prejudices against some of India's lower classes, like the "untouchables." Despite her dedication to nonviolence, Anjali's mother goes to jail and Anjali must decide if she is going to take up her work. This is a moving story of a girl's journey towards learning about inequality and the importance of social justice.



Books of South Asian Origin

Title	Author	Genre	Blurb
Orange for the Sunsets	Tina Athaide	Historical Fiction	Nisha and her twin brother are half-Muslim, half-Hindu siblings living with their father in India just before the time of Partition. When the word comes that their town is to become part of the new Pakistan state, Nisha, her brother, her Hindu father and grandmother must make the harrowing and dangerous journey to the Indian border. Each chapter is an entry in Nisha's diary as she leaves her comfortable life behind and struggles with her own questions of identity.
Family life	Akil Sharma	Historical Fiction	1972 Uganda is not the typical setting for a children's novel, and yet, readers will draw many parallels between the shocking events in which the Ugandan government expelled ethnic Indians from the country, and present-day xenophobic tensions and arguments over national borders. The narration, which alternates between two friends—Indian Asha and Ugandan Yesofu—explores the nature of loyalty, nationality and allows the reader to view the country's chaos through two different lenses. Powerful and moving
Ajay and the Mumbai Sun	Varsha Shah	Coming of Age	For eight-year-old Ajay and his older brother Birju, life in Dehli in the late 1970s follows a comfortable, predictable routine: bathing on the roof, queuing for milk, playing cricket in the street. Yet, everything changes when their father finds a job in America - a land of carpets and elevators, swimsuits and hot water on tap. Life is exciting for the two brothers as they adjust to prosperity, girls and 24-hour TV, until one hot, sultry day when everything falls apart. Darkly comic, Family Life is a story of a boy torn between duty and survival amid the ruins of everything he once knew.
The Royal Rebel	Bali Rai	Coming of Age	Abandoned on the Mumbai railways, Ajay has grown up with nothing but a burning wish to be a journalist. Finding an abandoned printing press, he and his friends Saif, Vinod, Yasmin and Jai create their own newspaper: The Mumbai Sun. As they hunt down stories for their paper, the children uncover corruption, fight for justice and battle to save their slum from bulldozers. But against some of the most powerful forces in the city, can Ajay and his friends really succeed in bringing the truth to light?



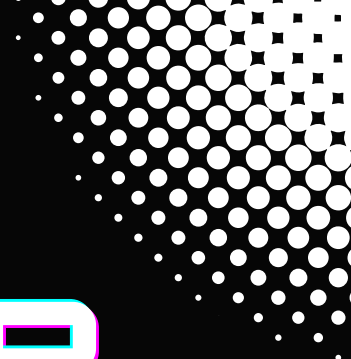
Books of South Asian Origin

Title	Author	Genre	Blurb
When Shadows Fall	Sita Brahmachari	Coming of Age	Kai, Orla and Zak grew up together, their days spent on the patch of wilderness in between their homes, a small green space in a sprawling grey city. Music, laughter and friendship bind them together and they have big plans for their future – until Kai's family suffers a huge loss. Trying to cope with his own grief, as well as watching it tear his family apart, Kai is drawn into a new and more dangerous crowd, until his dreams for the future are a distant memory. Excluded from school and retreating from his loved ones, it seems as though his path is set, his story foretold. Orla, Zak and new classmate Om are determined to help him find his way back. But are they too late?
The Boy who Met a Whale	Nirzana Farook	Adventure	From the author of The Girl Who Stole an Elephant comes another brilliant escapade. A thrilling adventure set in fictional Sri Lanka, jam-packed with peril and kidnap and a huge blue whale! Razi, a local fisherboy, is watching turtle eggs hatch when he sees a boat bobbing into view. With a chill, he notices a small, still hand hanging over the side...Inside is Zheng, who's escaped a shipwreck and is full of tales of sea monsters and missing treasure. But the villains who are after Zheng are soon after Razi and his sister, Shifa, too. And so begins an exhilarating adventure in the shadow of the biggest sea monster of them all...
The Boxer	Nikesh Shukla	Sport Coming of Age	Told over the course of the ten rounds of his first fight, this is the story of amateur boxer Sunny. A seventeen year old feeling isolated and disconnected in the city he's just moved to, Sunny joins a boxing club to learn to protect himself after a racist attack. He finds the community he's been desperately seeking at the club, and a mentor in trainer Shobu, who helps him find his place in the world. But racial tensions are rising in the city, and when a Far Right march through Bristol turns violent, Sunny is faced with losing his new best friend Keir to radicalisation. A gripping, life-affirming YA novel about friendship, radicalisation and finding where you belong.
Un(arranged) Marriage	Bali Rai	Coming of Age	Set partly in the UK and partly in the Punjab region of India, "(Un)Set partly in the UK and partly in the Punjab region of India, "(Un)arranged Marriage" is a perceptive look at a young man's fight to free himself from family expectations and an arranged marriage he doesn't want.)arranged Marriage" is a perceptive look at a young man's fight to free himself from family expectations and an arranged marriage he doesn't want.
The Night Diary	Veera Hiranandani	Historical Fiction	Nisha and her twin brother are half-Muslim, half-Hindu siblings living with their father in India just before the time of Partition. When the word comes that their town is to become part of the new Pakistan state, Nisha, her brother, her Hindu father and grandmother must make the harrowing and dangerous journey to the Indian border. Each chapter is an entry in Nisha's diary as she leaves her comfortable life behind and struggles with her own questions of identity.





VERULAM
SCHOOL



BOOKS FOR GAMERS



Books for Gamers

Title	Author	Genre	Blurb
Ready Player One	Ernest Cline	Gaming	<p>In the year 2044, reality is an ugly place. The only time teenage Wade Watts really feels alive is when he's jacked into the virtual utopia known as the OASIS. Wade's devoted his life to studying the puzzles hidden within this world's digital confines, puzzles that are based on their creator's obsession with the pop culture of decades past and that promise massive power and fortune to whoever can unlock them. But when Wade stumbles upon the first clue, he finds himself beset by players willing to kill to take this ultimate prize. The race is on, and if Wade's going to survive, he'll have to win—and confront the real world he's always been so desperate to escape.</p>
Minecraft: Last Block Standing	Nick Eliopoulos	Gaming	<p>The only official chapter book series based on Minecraft comes to an epic conclusion with Book 6-- Last Block Standing! As the world of Minecraft falls under the Evoker King's control, Morgan, Ash, and their friends get ready for the final showdown. But with their enemy now in possession of the most powerful building block in Minecraft, do they really stand a chance of defeating him? And meanwhile, in the real world, the kids deal with the devastating news that Ash and her family may be moving away! Will both worlds come to an end, or is this just a new beginning? Find out in Last Block Standing! the sixth book in the Woodsword Chronicles!</p>
Minecraft: Night of the Bats	Nick Eliopoulos	Gaming	<p>The first official chapter book series based on Minecraft! The adventures continue in the Minecraft Chapter Book series as five young Minecraft players find themselves transported inside the game they love. When zombie hordes attack them in the game, and bats invade their school in the real world, Ash, Morgan, and their friends realize that it's going to take all their talents to get to the bottom of these monstrous migrations. This illustrated hardcover series will thrill and engage fans of Minecraft and action-packed fantasy stories alike.</p>
Minecraft: The Island	Max Brooks	Gaming	<p>Minecraft: The Island by Max Brooks, #1 New York Times bestselling author of World War Z, is the first official Minecraft novel. In the tradition of iconic stories like Robinson Crusoe and Treasure Island, Minecraft: The Island will tell the story of a new hero stranded in the world of Minecraft, who must survive the harsh, unfamiliar environment and unravel the secrets of the island.</p>



Books for Gamers

Title	Author	Genre	Blurb
Escape from a Video Game: The Lost Files	Dustin Brady & Jesse Brady	Gaming	You may have escaped the game, but your mission is far from over. Unlock the Lost Files to join forces with Raj, a kid who'd live the rest of his life inside of a video game if he could. Together, you'll track down the shadowy villain responsible for the worlds you've been exploring. Be careful-this is your most dangerous adventure yet.
Escape from a Video Game: Endgame	Dustin Brady & Jesse Brady	Gaming	Young gamers control the action in this interactive series from the bestselling author of Trapped in a Video Game. With more than 30 endings and an unlockable bonus adventure, this third book in the series promises hours of screen-free fun. This is one book that will super-power the interest of any "I'd rather be gaming" kid. In this pick-your-path adventure, you join eight strangers inside a video game for a chance to be the last one standing. The challenge is simple: survive to the end. There's just one problem: Everyone else in your group is trying out-survive you. Will you figure out a way to be the lone survivor before it's too late? This action-packed adventure is perfect for fans of Battle Royale.
Escape from a Video Game: Mystery of the Starship	Dustin Brady & Jesse Brady	Gaming	Young gamers control the action in this interactive mystery from the bestselling author of Trapped in a Video Game. With more than 30 endings and an unlockable bonus adventure, this second book in the series promises hours of screen-free fun. This is one book that will super-power the interest of any "I'd rather be gaming" kid. In this pick-your-path adventure, you join eight strangers inside a video game for a chance to win a million dollars. The challenge is survive to the end, and you're rich. There's just one A traitor is hiding among your group. One-by-one, crew members of the spaceship start disappearing. Can you find the traitor before it's too late? This whodunnit space adventure is perfect for fans of Among Us.
Escape from a Video Game: Secret of the Phantom Island	Dustin Brady & Jesse Brady	Gaming	Young gamers control the action in this interactive new series from the bestselling author of Trapped in a Video Game. With more than 30 endings and an unlockable bonus adventure, The Secret of Phantom Island promises hours of screen-free fun. Cooper Hawke and the Secret of Phantom Island is the greatest video game nobody has ever played. The treasure-hunting adventure was supposed to set a new standard for gaming. Then, just one month before its release date, it fell off the face of the earth. Now, for the first time, you get a chance to play the mysterious game - from the inside. As you outsmart enemies, solve puzzles, and explore the island's hidden areas, you'll discover that there's more to this game than the world realized.



Books for Gamers

Title	Author	Genre	Blurb
<p>Escape from a Video Game: Secret of the Phantom Island</p>	<p>Dustin Brady & Jesse Brady</p>	<p>Gaming</p>	<p>Young gamers control the action in this interactive new series from the bestselling author of Trapped in a Video Game. With more than 30 endings and an unlockable bonus adventure, The Secret of Phantom Island promises hours of screen-free fun. Cooper Hawke and the Secret of Phantom Island is the greatest video game nobody has ever played. The treasure-hunting adventure was supposed to set a new standard for gaming. Then, just one month before its release date, it fell off the face of the earth. Now, for the first time, you get a chance to play the mysterious game - from the inside. As you outsmart enemies, solve puzzles, and explore the island's hidden areas, you'll discover that there's more to this game than the world realized.</p>
<p>The Ultimate History of Video Games</p>	<p>Steven Kent</p>	<p>Gaming</p>	<p>As video games evolve, only the fittest companies survive. Making a blockbuster once cost millions of dollars; now it can cost hundreds of millions, but with a \$160 billion market worldwide, the biggest players are willing to bet the bank. Steven Kent has been playing video games since Pong and writing about the industry since the Nintendo Entertainment System. In volume 2, he narrates gaming's entrance into the twenty-first century, as Nintendo, Sega, Sony, and Microsoft battle to capture the global market. The home console boom of the '90s turned hobby companies like Nintendo and Sega into Hollywood-studio-sized business titans. But by the end of the decade, they would face new, more powerful competitors. The PlayStation 2, Nintendo GameCube, and Sega Dreamcast all made radically different bets on what gamers would want. And then, to the shock of the world, Bill Gates announced the development of the one console to beat them all—even if Microsoft had to burn a few billion dollars to do it. In this book, you will learn about.</p>
<p>The Double Life of Danny Day</p>	<p>Mike Thayer</p>	<p>Gaming</p>	<p>A boy who lives every day twice uses his ability to bring down bullies at his new school. My name is Danny Day, and I live every day twice. The first time, it's a "discard day." It's kind of like a practice run. At the end of the day, I go to bed, wake up, and poof everything gets reset, everything except my memory, that is. The second time, everything is normal, just like it is for everyone else. That's when everything counts and my actions stick. As you could probably guess, "Sticky Day" Danny is very different from "Discard Day" Danny. When Danny's family moves across the country, he suddenly has to use his ability for more than just slacking off and playing video games. Now he's making new friends, fending off jerks, exposing a ring of cheaters in the lunchtime video game tournament, and taking down bullies one day at a time ... or is it two days at a time?</p>





VERULAM
PRIDE

Books of LGBTQ+ Origin



Books of LGBTQ+ Origin

Title	Author	Genre	Blurb
The Black Flamingo	Dean Atta	Coming of Age	A boy comes to terms with his identity as a mixed-race gay teen - then at university he finds his wings as a drag artist, <i>The Black Flamingo</i> . A bold story about the power of embracing your uniqueness. Sometimes, we need to take charge, to stand up wearing pink feathers - to show ourselves to the world in bold colour.
Love, Simon	Becky Albertalli	Coming of Age	Simon Spier is sixteen and trying to work out who he is - and what he's looking for. But when one of his emails to the very distracting Blue falls into the wrong hands, things get all kinds of complicated. Because, for Simon, falling for Blue is a big deal . . .
Somday	David Levithan	Coming of Age	For as long as A can remember, life has meant waking up in a different person's body every day, forced to live as that person until the day ended. A always thought there wasn't anyone else who had a life like this. But A was wrong. There are others. A has already been wrestling with powerful feelings of love and loneliness. Now comes an understanding of the extremes that love and loneliness can lead to—and what it's like to discover that you are not alone in the world. In <i>Someday</i> , David Levithan takes readers further into the lives of A, Rhiannon, Nathan, and the person they may think they know as Reverend Poole, exploring more deeply the questions at the core of <i>Every Day</i> and <i>Another Day</i> : What is a soul? And what makes us human?
Everyday	David Levithan	Coming of Age	It's all fine until the morning that A wakes up in the body of Justin and meets Justin's girlfriend, Rhiannon. From that moment, the rules by which A has been living no longer apply. Because finally A has found someone he wants to be with—day in, day out, day after day.
Another Day	David Levithan	Coming of Age	Every day is the same for Rhiannon. She has accepted her life, convinced herself that she deserves her distant, temperamental boyfriend, Justin, even established guidelines by which to live: Don't be too needy. Avoid upsetting him. Never get your hopes up. Until the morning everything changes. Justin seems to see her, to want to be with her for the first time, and they share a perfect day—a perfect day Justin doesn't remember the next morning. Confused, depressed, and desperate for another day as great as that one, Rhiannon starts questioning everything. Then, one day, a stranger tells her that the Justin she spent that day with, the one who made her feel like a real person... wasn't Justin at all. In this enthralling companion to his <i>New York Times</i> bestseller <i>Every Day</i> , David Levithan tells Rhiannon's side of the story as she seeks to discover the truth about love and how it can change you.



Books of LGBTQ+ Origin

Title	Author	Genre	Blurb
Jack of Hearts (and Other Parts)	L.C. Rosen	Coming of Age	<p>Meet Jack Rothman. He's seventeen and loves partying, makeup and boys – sometimes all at the same time. His sex life makes him the hot topic for the high school gossip machine. But who cares? Like Jack always says, 'it could be worse'. He doesn't actually expect that to come true. But after Jack starts writing an online sex advice column, the mysterious love letters he's been getting take a turn for the creepy. Jack's secret admirer knows everything: where he's hanging out, who he's sleeping with, who his mum is dating. They claim they love Jack, but not his unashamedly queer lifestyle. They need him to curb his sexuality, or they'll force him. As the pressure mounts, Jack must unmask his stalker before their obsession becomes genuinely dangerous...</p>
The Art of Being Normal	Lisa Williamson	Coming of Age	<p>Two boys. Two secrets. David Piper has always been an outsider. His parents think he's gay. The school bully thinks he's a freak. Only his two best friends know the real truth – David wants to be a girl. On the first day at his new school Leo Denton has one goal – to be invisible. Attracting the attention of the most beautiful girl in year eleven is definitely not part of that plan. When Leo stands up for David in a fight, an unlikely friendship forms. But things are about to get messy. Because at Eden Park School secrets have a funny habit of not staying secret for long...</p>



Books of LGBTQ+ Origin

Title	Author	Genre	Blurb
<p>Boy Meets Boy</p>	<p>David Levithan</p>	<p>Coming of Age</p>	<p>This is the story of Paul, a sophomore at a high school like no other: The cheerleaders ride Harleys, the homecoming queen used to be a guy named Daryl (she now prefers Infinite Darlene and is also the star quarterback), and the gay-straight alliance was formed to help the straight kids learn how to dance. When Paul meets Noah, he thinks he's found the one his heart is made for. Until he blows it. The school bookie says the odds are 12-to-1 against him getting Noah back, but Paul's not giving up without playing his love really loud. His best friend Joni might be drifting away, his other best friend Tony might be dealing with ultra-religious parents, and his ex-boyfriend Kyle might not be going away anytime soon, but sometimes everything needs to fall apart before it can really fit together right. This is a happy-meaningful romantic comedy about finding love, losing love, and doing what it takes to get love back in a crazy-wonderful world.</p>
<p>Not My Problem</p>	<p>Ciara Smyth</p>	<p>Coming of Age</p>	<p>Aideen has plenty of problems she can't fix. Her best (and only) friend is pulling away. Her mother's drinking problem is a constant concern. She's even running out of outlandish diseases to fake so she can skip PE. But when Aideen stumbles on her nemesis, overachiever Meabh Kowalski, in the midst of a full-blown meltdown, she sees a problem that—unlike her own disaster of a life—seems refreshingly easy to solve. Meabh is desperate to escape her crushing pile of extracurriculars. Aideen volunteers to help. By pushing Meabh down the stairs. Problem? Solved. Meabh's sprained ankle is the perfect excuse to ditch her overwhelming schedule. But when another student learns about their little scheme and brings Aideen another "client" who needs her "help," it kicks off a semester of traded favors, ill-advised hijinks, and an unexpected chance at love. Fixing other people's problems won't fix her own, but it might be the push she needs to start.</p>





VERULAM
SCHOOL

**BOOKS
PROMOTING
DIVERSITY,
INCLUSION
& DISABILITY**



Books to promote inclusion and disability

Title	Author	Genre	Blurb
Trailblazer	Austin Aslan	Science Fiction	In this fast-paced science fiction novel, 12-year-old Mace Blazer loves all things mechanical and now he's got the opportunity to pilot an amazing vehicle that transforms from race car to jet plane, to submarine. He's excited to become a TURBOonaut and race against the best in the Trimorpher Races! Mace is not deaf, but because he has two Deaf parents, he's fluent in American Sign Language
Soar	Joan Bauer	Sport	Jeremiah's medical challenge is that he has a weak heart which keeps him on the sidelines. His adopted father moves a lot, and when they move to a new town with a demoralized baseball team embroiled in scandal, Jeremiah becomes the motivating coach they need to lift them up. Wonderful writing makes this a book not just for baseball fans
Someday Birds	Sally Pla	Action	Charlie's widowed father has been wounded in Afghanistan and so he and his bi-racial (their mother is Mexican, father is white) siblings set out on a road trip to see him. The narrator, 12 year old Charlie, is autistic and fascinated by birds, his siblings include a boy-crazy teen sister and 10 year old twin boys. When their road trip stalls, Ludmila, a stranger who has been at their father's bedside intervenes and takes them on the journey from California to Virginia. Along the way, Charlie decides to watch for all the birds he had hoped to one day spot with his father
Pig Heart Boy	Malorie Blackman	Coming of Age	I was always a spectator, never a participant. I didn't call that living. I was alive - but that was all.' Cameron is thirteen, and all he wants is a 'normal' life - friends, swimming, school, family. But his life is far from normal. Not every thirteen-year-old desperately needs a new heart because theirs doesn't work properly. Finally, one doctor offers hope. Cameron could - if he and his parents agree - take part in a radical and controversial procedure involving the transplant of a pig's heart into his human body. It's risky. And it's never been done before . . . While Cameron comes to terms with the idea, he finds the world around him is much less accepting. But surely everyone will understand that it's better to have a pig's heart that works than a human heart that doesn't - won't they . . .?



Books to promote inclusion and disability

Title	Author	Genre	Blurb
Dear Evan Hansen	Val Emmich	Coming of Age	<p>When a letter that was never meant to be seen by anyone draws high school senior Evan Hansen into a family's grief over the loss of their son, he is given the chance of a lifetime: to belong. He just has to stick to a lie he never meant to tell, that the notoriously troubled Connor Murphy was his secret best friend. Suddenly, Evan isn't invisible anymore. And Connor's parents, with their beautiful home on the other side of town, have taken him in like he was their own, desperate to know more about their enigmatic son from his 'closest friend'.</p> <p>As Evan gets pulled deeper into their family, he knows that what he's doing can't be right, but if he's helping people, how wrong can it be? No longer tangled in his once-incapacitating anxiety, this new Evan has a purpose. He's confident. He's a viral phenomenon. Until everything is in danger of unravelling and he comes face to face with his greatest obstacle: himself.</p>
The Fault in Our Stars	John Green	Coming of Age	<p>I fell in love the way you fall asleep: slowly, then all at once. Despite the tumour-shrinking medical miracle that has bought her a few years, Hazel has never been anything but terminal, her final chapter inscribed upon diagnosis. But when a gorgeous plot twist named Augustus Waters suddenly appears at Cancer Kid Support Group, Hazel's story is about to be completely rewritten.</p>
Wink	Rob Harrell	Coming of Age	<p>Ross Molloy just wants to be normal. He doesn't want to lose his hair, or wear a weird hat, or deal with the disappearing friends who don't know what to say to 'the cancer kid'. But with his recent diagnosis of a rare eye cancer, simply blending in is no longer an option. Ross - and his friends and his family - all need to work out how to deal with this devastating challenge that Life has thrown down. Maybe Batpig can come to the rescue? Based on Rob Harrell's own real life experience of eye cancer, and including amazing comic-strip artwork, this poignant and authentic novel is unforgettable, hilarious and uplifting.</p>
A Monster Calls	Patrick Ness	Coming of Age	<p>Conor has the same dream every night, ever since his mother first fell ill, ever since she started the treatments that don't quite seem to be working. But tonight is different. Tonight, when he wakes, there's a visitor at his window. It's ancient, elemental, a force of nature. And it wants the most dangerous thing of all from Conor. It wants the truth. Patrick Ness takes the final idea of the late, award-winning writer Siobhan Dowd and weaves an extraordinary and heart breaking tale of mischief, healing and above all, the courage it takes to survive.</p>



Books to promote inclusion and disability

Title	Author	Genre	Blurb
Ways to Live Forever	Sally Nicholls	Coming of Age	<p>My name is Sam. I am eleven years old. I collect stories and fantastic facts. By the time you read this, I will probably be dead. Sam loves facts. He wants to know about UFOs and horror movies and airships and ghosts and scientists, and how it feels to kiss a girl. And because he has leukemia he wants to know the facts about dying. Sam needs answers to the questions nobody will answer. "Ways to Live Forever" is the award-winning novel from an extraordinarily talented young writer. Funny and honest, it is one of the most powerful and uplifting books you will ever read.</p>
Wonder	R.J. Palacio	Coming of Age	<p>'My name is August. I won't describe what I look like. Whatever you're thinking, it's probably worse.' Auggie wants to be an ordinary ten-year-old. He does ordinary things - eating ice, playing on his Xbox. He feels ordinary - inside. But ordinary kids don't make other ordinary kids run away screaming in playgrounds. Ordinary kids aren't stared at wherever they go. Born with a terrible facial abnormality, Auggie has been home-schooled by his parents his whole life. Now, for the first time, he's being sent to a real school - and he's dreading it.</p>
Freak the Mighty	Philman Rodman	Coming of Age	<p>Maxwell Kane is feared and bullied because of his mental slowness and enormous size. But this is not the only cross he has to bear; Maxwell's father is in jail for murdering his mother. Kevin is smart, quirky and funny with insatiable curiosity and zest for life but he suffers from a rare genetic condition, which inhibits the growth of his body. Yet the combination of Kevin and Maxwell is formidable, when together they become Freak the Mighty</p>
It's a Kind of Funny Story	Ned Vizzini	Coming of Age	<p>Ambitious New York City teenager Craig Gilner is determined to succeed at life - which means getting into the right high school to get into the right job. But once Craig aces his way into Manhattan's Executive Pre-Professional High School, the pressure becomes unbearable. He stops eating and sleeping until, one night, he nearly kills himself. Craig's suicidal episode gets him checked into a mental hospital, where his new neighbors include a transsexual sex addict, a girl who has scarred her own face with scissors, and the self-elected President Armelio. There, Craig is finally able to confront the sources of his anxiety.</p>



Books to promote inclusion and disability

Title	Author	Genre	Blurb
Death and Life of Charlie St Cloud	Ben Sherwood	Coming of Age	As a boy, Charlie St Cloud narrowly survived a car crash that killed Sam, his little brother. Years later, still unable to recover from his loss, Charlie has taken a job tending to the lawns and monuments in the New England cemetery where Sam is buried. When he meets Tess Carroll, a captivating, adventurous woman in training for a solo sailing trip around the globe, they discover a beautiful and uncommon connection that, after a violent storm at sea, eventually forces them to choose between death and live, past and present, holding on and letting go.
Face	Benjamin Zephaniah	Coming of Age	In this startling debut novel from Benjamin Zephaniah, the author tackles the moving and compelling story of a young man, Martin, whose life is completely changed when his face is badly scarred in a joyriding accident. Brilliantly written with a real ear for dialogue, this is Benjamin Zephaniah breaking new boundaries.
A Boy Called Hope	Lara Williamson	Coming of Age	I'm Dan Hope and deep inside my head I keep a list of things I want to come true. For example, I want my sister, Ninja Grace, to go to university at the North Pole and only come back once a year. I want to help Sherlock Holmes solve his most daring mystery yet. And if it could be a zombie mystery, all the more exciting. I want my dog to stop eating the planets and throwing them up on the carpet. And finally, the biggest dream of all, I want my dad to love me.
The Astonishing Colour of After	Emily X.R. Pan	Coming of Age	Leigh doesn't know what it means, but when a red bird appears with a message, she finds herself travelling to Taiwan to meet her maternal grandparents for the first time. Leigh is far away from home and far away from Axel, her best friend, who she stupidly kissed the night her mother died - leaving her with a swell of guilt that she wasn't home, and a heavy heart, thinking she may have destroyed the one good thing left in her life. Overwhelmed by grief, Leigh retreats into her art and into her memories, where colours collide and the rules of reality are broken. The only thing Leigh is certain about is that she must find out the truth.
Henry Tumour	Anthony McGowan	Coming of Age	It wasn't my choice: Henry was in charge. As if school bullies and his mum's tofu sandwiches weren't enough for Hector Brunty, he now has another dilemma: a talking brain tumour. Henry Tumour turns out to be the perfect alter-ego, advising Hector on haircuts, high-fashion, and tactics for snogging the best-looking girl in school, Uma Upshaw. Controlling his speech and brain chemicals is one thing, but soon Henry Tumour is trying to make more decisions about Hector's life than he'd like. Can Hector overpower his tumour in order to get what he really wants ...before they both go under the knife?



Books to promote inclusion and disability

Title	Author	Genre	Blurb
The Sad Ghost Club	Lize Meddings	Coming of Age	<p>I know exactly what you mean.' Six simple words, and suddenly Sam doesn't feel so alone. A heart-warming series about friendship, compassion and finding your kindred spirits. This is the story of one of those days - a day so bad you can barely get out of bed, when it's a struggle to leave the house, and when you do, you wish you hadn't. But even the worst of days can surprise you. When one sad ghost, alone at a crowded party, spies another sad ghost across the room, they decide to leave together. What happens next changes everything. Because that night they start the The Sad Ghost Club - a secret society for the anxious and alone, a club for people who think they don't belong. Stunningly illustrated, this is Volume 1 in the beloved graphic novel series perfect for fans of Heartstopper and for anyone who's ever felt invisible.</p>
Mocking-bird	Kathryn Erskine	Coming of Age	<p>11-year-old Caitlin has Asperger's Syndrome, and has always had her older brother, Devon, to explain the confusing things around her. But when Devon is killed in a tragic school shooting, Caitlin has to try and make sense of the world without him. With her dad spending most of his time crying in the shower, and her life at school becoming increasingly difficult, it doesn't seem like things will ever get better again.</p>
One in a hundred Thousand	Linni Ingemundsen	Coming of Age	<p>"Perfectly captures how it feels to be an outsider. I loved it." Tamsin Winter Fifteen year old Sander wishes he was like everyone else. But he has Silver-Russell syndrome, a condition that affects one in a hundred thousand. It means he is smaller than all the other kids in school, a place where the biggest and the loudest get all the attention. Like Niklas. Everyone thinks Niklas is cool and good-looking - except Sander. He doesn't like the way Niklas brags, behaves like a jerk and lies. Niklas is one of life's tall people and next to him, Sander always ends up feeling small. But Sander is different in more ways than one. He notices things other people miss, and he's noticed something about Niklas... A moving coming-of-age classic, about fitting in, standing out and the power of friendship.</p>



Books to promote inclusion and disability

Title	Author	Genre	Blurb
Turtle Boy	Evan Wolkenstein	Coming of Age	<p>Meet Will Levine. Here are three things Will loves: turtles, the nature reserve behind school, being left alone. And one thing Will really hates: his nickname. Kids at school call Will Turtle Boy because of his funny-looking chin. But when Will meets RJ, he learns not everyone is his enemy. RJ has a bucket list of adventures which extends way beyond his hospital room, and he needs help ticking them off.</p>
Armistice Runner	Tom Palmer	War	<p>Lily has lots of worries. She's struggling to compete in her fell-running races and, worse, she's losing her gran to Alzheimer's. But then she discovers her great-great-grandfather's diaries from the First World War. Could his incredible story of bravery help her reconnect with her gran and even give her the inspiration she needs to push through and win?</p>
What the World Doesn't See	Mel Darbon	Coming of Age	<p>Maudie and Jake's family is falling to pieces - their mum's been struggling with her grief since they lost Dad and one night she vanishes. When Jake is put into care, Maudie can't take it anymore. She comes up with a wild plan to pull their family back together - by kidnapping Jake. On the run in Cornwall, Jake and Maudie each find something they hadn't expected - freedom and love. But can they find Mum and a way to heal together?</p>





Books to help with Mental Health

Anxiety

Self-esteem

Wellbeing

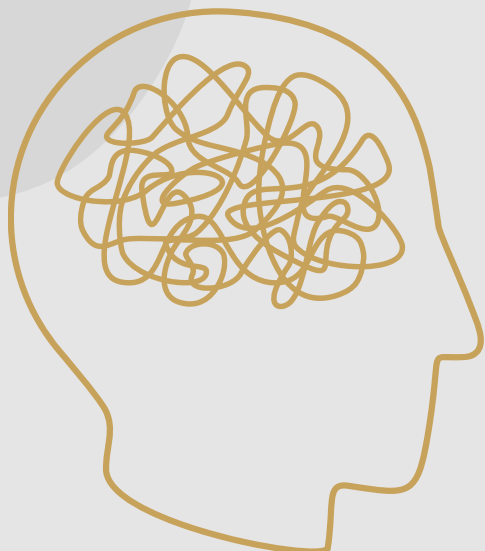
Depression

Bereavement

Loneliness

Mental health

Stress



Books to help mental health

Title	Author	Blurb
Awesome Power of Sleep	Nichola Morgan	<p>The essential guide to sleep from award-winning teenage well-being expert Nicola Morgan, author of bestselling <i>Blame My Brain</i>, <i>The Teenage Guide to Stress</i> and <i>The Teenage Guide to Friends</i>. Late nights, addictive technology and minds racing with exam stress and friendship it's no wonder the teenage stereotype is tired eyes and sleeping through the weekend. Just like adults, teenagers are sleeping less now than ever before, yet sleep is crucial to our health and well-being. Internationally renowned expert on the teenage brain, Nicola Morgan, tackles this essential subject – asking why teenagers so desperately need a good night's sleep, exploring what a lack of sleep does to their developing brains, and explaining how to have the best sleep possible. Authoritative, accessible and informed by the latest scientific evidence, Nicola Morgan writes a fascinating and helpful guide for both teenagers and adults alike.</p>
Positively Teenage	Nichola Morgan	<p>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. Full of practical, proven strategies for physical and mental health, <i>Positively Teenage</i> will show you lots of ways to flourish physically and mentally - from doing things you enjoy to learning new skills; looking after your diet, exercise and attitude to being healthy online; getting great sleep to understanding your personality - allowing you to take control of many areas of your life. With these new strengths and skills, you can survive any storms and thrive on the challenges of your exciting life.</p>
Blame my Brain	Nichola Morgan	<p>Contrary to popular (parental) opinion, teenagers are not the lazy, unpleasant - frankly, spotty - louts they occasionally appear to be. During the teenage years the brain is undergoing its most radical and fundamental change since the age of two. Nicola Morgan's carefully researched, accessible and humorous examination of the ups and downs of the teenage brain has chapters dealing with powerful emotions, the need for more sleep, the urge to take risks, the difference between genders, the reasons behind addiction or depression, and what lies ahead.</p>
Teenage Guide to Stress	Nichola Morgan	<p>Explains what stress is and looks at the ways teenage stress is different. This book deals with a number of issues that affect teenagers - from anger depression and sexual relationships to cyber-bullying exams and eating disorders - and offers guidance and advice. It also shows how to deal with and prevent the symptoms of stress.</p>



Books to help mental health

Title	Author	Blurb
<p>Being You: The Body Image Book for Boys</p>	<p>Charlotte Markey</p>	<p>From early childhood boys often feel pressured to be athletic and muscular. But what impact does this have on physical and mental well-being through their teens and beyond? Worryingly, a third of teen boys are trying to 'bulk up' due to body dissatisfaction, and boys and men account for 25% of eating disorder cases. What can we tell our boys to help them feel happy and confident simply being themselves? Being You has the answers! It's an easy-to-read, evidence-based guide to developing a positive body image for boys aged 12+. It covers all the facts on puberty, diet, exercise, self-care, mental health, social media, and everything in-between. Boys will find answers to the questions most on their mind, the truth behind many diet and exercise myths, and real-life stories from other boys. Armed with this book, they will understand that muscles don't make a man – it's enough simply being you!</p>
<p>Queer Up: An Uplifting Guide to LGBTQ+</p>	<p>Alexis Caught</p>	<p>A positive and uplifting book for young people who are queer or curious – and their allies looking to support them. In this empowering and uplifting book, award-winning podcaster Alexis Caught sets out to help queer and curious teenagers explore their LGBTQ+ identity and understanding. Alongside the author's personal experiences are first-hand stories from notable LGBTQ+ figures, providing a inclusive account of what it means to grow up queer. With chapters on questioning, coming out, friends and family, love, sex, shame, pride and allyship, this is insightful, thoughtful and reassuring book is essential reading for any questioning teen and their allies looking to support them.</p>
<p>My Anxiety Handbook: A Guide for Young People</p>	<p>Sue Knowles</p>	<p>Helping young people with anxiety learn to recognise and manage their symptoms, this anxiety survival guide teaches 12 to 18 year olds how they can overcome their biggest worries. Showing that anxiety is a normal human emotion that many people face, this book helps young people understand the ins and outs of their own anxiety and helps them to challenge the difficult patterns they may get into. Co-written with a college student who has experienced anxiety herself, it is a relatable and straightforward guide. As well as providing tried-and-tested advice and exercises that are proven to reduce feelings of anxiety, it includes recovery stories from young people who have managed their symptoms successfully. With practical chapters on sleep, exam stress, transitions, and seeking extra help, this is a go-to guide for any tween, teen or young person living with anxiety.</p>
<p>Looking After Your Mental Health</p>	<p>Alice James</p>	<p>We talk about our physical health – but not so much about how we're feeling. With lots of practical advice, this lively, accessible guide explains why we have emotions, and what can influence them. Covering everything from friendships, social media and bullying to divorce, depression and eating disorders, this is an essential book for young people.</p>



Books to help mental health

Title	Author	Blurb
Dare to be You	Matthew Syed	<p>From the bestselling, award-winning author of <i>You Are Awesome</i> comes the much-anticipated follow-up, <i>Dare to Be You</i>. What would you dare to try if you stopped worrying about fitting in? If you're the kind of person who I don't like standing out from the crowd ... I wish I could be more like the cool kids ... There's no point trying to change things ... then this book is for you. Because guess what? There's no such thing as normal. Drawing examples from sport, science and even business, <i>Dare to Be You</i> empowers young readers to follow their own path, love what makes them different and question the world around them. With <i>You Are Awesome</i>'s trademark mix of hilarious text, stylish illustration, personal insights and inspiring real-life examples, including Greta Thunberg and Malala Yousafzai, Matthew Syed introduces children to the power of diverse thinking. When you stop doubting yourself, embrace change and let your kindness loose, you become your own action hero. This ground breaking, practical and positive book will help kids develop the inner confidence to grow into happy adults who know - and, more importantly, LIKE - themselves.</p>
The Year I Didn't Eat	Samuel Pollen	<p>14-year-old Max only has one person he can really talk to. Her name is Ana - also known as anorexia, his eating disorder. Max writes to Ana every day. She feeds on his fears, encouraging him to lose more and more weight. For Christmas, Max gets an unusual present from his older brother Robin: a geocache. He hides it in the forest near their house, thrilled by the anonymity it gives him. Anyone can leave Max a note - and soon, he gets one from the mysterious 'E'. Could it be the Evie, the new girl at school, playing tricks on him? In the midst of a family crisis, Max's eating disorder quickly deteriorates. Ana pulls him further and further away from his family and friends, until he feels totally alone. Can anyone help him find a way out? Drawing on debut author Samuel Pollen's own experiences, this is an unforgettable, uplifting story of one boy's battle with anorexia.</p>
How Not to Lose it	Anna Williamson	<p>The go-to mental health guide for kids from expert Anna Williamson - therapist, Childline counsellor and ambassador for Mind and The Prince's Trust. Exam stress? Friendship issues? Panic attacks? <i>How Not to Lose It</i> will help you be the boss of all of this, and more. It's not just your body that should be fit and healthy - your mind needs to be, too! <i>How Not to Lose It</i> is the go-to guide for achieving a balanced mind and strong emotional well-being. Topics include: anxiety, depression, stress, friendship, bullying, relationships, family life and bereavement, phobias, peer pressure, self-harm, self-esteem and confidence.</p>
What's Happening to Me?: Boys Edition	Alex Firth	<p>A guide to puberty for boys discusses the changes that occur, covering such topics as height, skin, facial hair, the reproductive system, eating, exercise, hormones, sex, relationships, and what happens to girls during puberty.</p>



Books to help mental health

Title	Author	Blurb
<p>Growing Up for Boys</p>	<p>Alex Firth</p>	<p>A frank and friendly book explaining puberty and how to stay happy and confident as boys go through physical, psychological and emotional changes. Covers everything boys want to find out about, including moods and feelings, what happens to girls, diet, exercise, body image, sex and relationships, contraception, sexual health, self-confidence, drink and drugs, exam stress and cyberbullying</p>
<p>Social Media Survival Guide</p>	<p>Holly Bathie</p>	<p>Empower your kids to stay safe online with this fun, comprehensive guide for kids aged 10+. Packed with entertaining illustrations alongside practical information, the Social Media survival Guide answers questions about all aspects of social media - the good and the bad - making it a must-have tool for young people (and parents) to help navigate the online world safely and confidently and learn the best approaches to taking care of themselves.</p>
<p>You're Crushing it: Positivity for Living your Real Life</p>	<p>Lex Croucher</p>	<p>A. Your heart and stomach have been steamrolled into a grisly organ pancake B. You are being put through an emotional spiralizer that creates human courgetti C. Both of the above.</p> <p>You're a courgetti pancake.</p> <p>No, Instagram filters won't make it look any better. And, yes, we all feel this way.</p> <p>An honest, thoughtful and hilarious survival guide for young people by social media sensation, Lex Croucher. Learn that you can face whatever today throws at you, because it has terrible aim anyway. And realise that only you scrutinise your flaws – seriously, no one else is paying attention, there's far too much interesting stuff on Netflix. A must-read for anyone who wants to embrace their actual, real, unedited life. Lex Croucher's frank and candid text is the survival guide to help you make it through the crazy, topsy-turvy, whirlwind ride we call life. Brace yourself! Topics include: family and friends, body confidence, technology and social media, relationships, mental health, success and more.</p>





Books for Career Paths



Books for Career Paths

Title	Author	Blurb
Get Better Grades	Margie Agnew	The authors offer practical tips on how to organize work, write brilliant essays, remember those forgettable facts, cope with exam nerves and prepare properly for tests and exams. This book also contains sun sign problems, facts about examiners, questionnaires and quizzes, a handy reference section and even an agony aunt.
Ultimate Gamer: Career Mode	Craig Steele	Written by Craig Steele--who has led gaming workshops at Resonate and Insomnia--and illustrated in graphic-novel style by Berat Pekmezci, this book will give you the low-down on the coolest jobs in the gaming industry. Learn how to storyboard, code and test games, just like your favourite devs, or boost your Twitch subs by learning how to go pro. Think you have the skills to compete in eSports tournaments, or do you need some tips on getting good? This book will give you the know-how on making it big in all areas of the gaming industry!
Dare to be You	Matthew Syed	From the bestselling, award-winning author of <i>You Are Awesome</i> comes the much-anticipated follow-up, <i>Dare to Be You</i> . What would you dare to try if you stopped worrying about fitting in? If you're the kind of person who I don't like standing out from the crowd ... I wish I could be more like the cool kids ... There's no point trying to change things ... then this book is for you. Because guess what? There's no such thing as normal. Drawing examples from sport, science and even business, <i>Dare to Be You</i> empowers young readers to follow their own path, love what makes them different and question the world around them. With <i>You Are Awesome</i> 's trademark mix of hilarious text, stylish illustration, personal insights and inspiring real-life examples, including Greta Thunberg and Malala Yousafzai, Matthew Syed introduces children to the power of diverse thinking.
Business for Beginners	Lara Bryan	Dive into the world of business with this lively introduction, whether you want to be an entrepreneur or a smarter consumer. With bright, infographic pictures, it describes how to start your own business, manage your money and beat the competition and explains global supply chains and interest rates.
Economics for Beginners	Lara Bryan	Nobody has everything they need, all the time – so how can we make do with what we have? Economics is all about understanding the choices we make to solve this problem. With bright, infographic pictures, this informative book describes why markets are so important, how businesses work out what to sell, and how governments choose how to run a country.



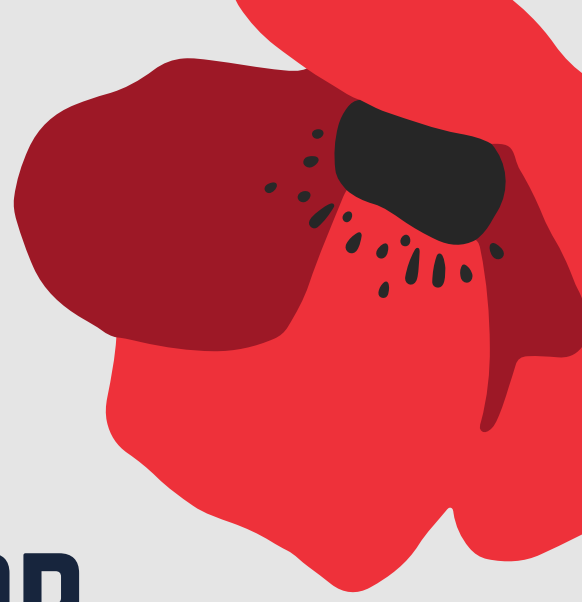
Books for Career Paths

Title	Author	Blurb
The Careers Handbook: The Ultimate Guide to Planning Your Future	Sarah Pawlewski	From creating life-saving vaccines to developing the most incredible computer games, this job guide features hundreds of careers, including trending opportunities. Do you have a passion but can't work out how to make a career out of it? Do you want to change your career but don't know where to start? Are you worried about career development? Or are you overwhelmed by so much advice you are lost in a sea of information? You're not the only one - and The Careers Handbook is here to steer you in the right direction. This indispensable guide is ideal for teenagers and newly qualified graduates. Career counsellors will also find this a trustworthy companion for helping students with their future career planning. So, whether you want to become a nurse or home decorator, a chef or cyber-security analyst (or you simply have no idea!) this book is your ultimate source. Concise and combining a user-friendly approach with a bold, graphic design, The Careers Handbook is like having your very own career coach
Get Coding!	Louie Stowell	Through six missions and bite-sized chunks, this book will teach your child how write code, then build their own website, app and games using HTML, CSS and JavaScript and become a technology star of the future!
Politics for Beginners	Alex Frith	An informative guide to political systems, elections, voting and government, and issues including feminism, human rights, freedom of speech and fake news, all explained with clear text and bright, infographic style illustrations. Includes tips on how to argue and debate, a glossary, and links to specially selected websites with more information.
Physics for Beginners	Rachel Firth	Part of the best-selling '...for Beginners' series that brings to life the wide world of physics. Rather than explaining details about how to <i>do</i> physics, this book focusses on explaining what different branches of physics are <i>about</i> , how we know about them, and what mysteries remain for budding physicists to uncover. It doesn't shy away from the hard stuff, tackling black holes, quantum mechanics and even Einstein's theories of relativity.





VERULAM
SCHOOL



BOOKS FOR
REMEMBRANCE
AND WW1





Books for Remembrance and WW1

Title	Author	Genre	Blurb
Remembrance	Breslin, Theresa	War	Scotland, 1915. A group of teenagers from two families meet for a picnic, but the war across the Channel is soon to tear them away from such youthful pleasures. All too soon, the horror of what is to become known as The Great War engulfs them, their friends and the whole village. From the horror of the trenches, to the devastating reality seen daily by those nursing the wounded, they struggle to survive - and nothing will ever be the same again.
Whistling in the dark	Shirley Hughes	War	Liverpool, 1940: Thirteen-year-old Joan's home is under constant threat from the Nazis' terrifying nightly air raids. Everyone is on edge, faced with strict food rationing, curfews, and blackouts. It's not an easy time to be a teenager. Joan's one solace is going to the movies with her best friend, the unflappable Doreen, but when the bombings intensify, even that becomes too dangerous. There's also the matter of a strange man who Joan sees lurking near their home. Who is he, and why does he think Joan can help him? Even more unsettling, as the Blitz worsens, Joan and her friends make a discovery down by the old mill that will tear the whole community apart. In the hardship of war, everything seems to be rationed -- except true friendship.
Regeneration	Barker, Pat	War	Regeneration, one in Pat Barker's series of novels confronting the psychological effects of World War I, focuses on treatment methods during the war and the story of a decorated English officer sent to a military hospital after publicly declaring he will no longer fight. Yet the novel is much more. Written in sparse prose that is shockingly clear—the descriptions of electronic treatments are particularly harrowing—it combines real-life characters and events with fictional ones in a work that examines the insanity of war like no other. Barker also weaves in issues of class and politics in this compactly powerful book. Other books in the series include The Eye in the Door and the Booker Award winner The Ghost Road.
Stay Where You Are and Then Leave	Boyne, John	War	The day the First World War broke out, Alfie Summerfield's father promised he wouldn't go away to fight - but he broke that promise the following day. Four years later, Alfie doesn't know where his father might be, other than that he's away on a special, secret mission.
The Trenches: A First World War Soldier	Eldridge, Jim	War	Then, while shining shoes at King's Cross Station, Alfie unexpectedly sees his father's name - on a sheaf of papers belonging to a military doctor. Bewildered and confused, Alfie realises his father is in a hospital close by - a hospital treating soldiers with an unusual condition. Alfie is determined to rescue his father from this strange, unnerving place . . .





Books for Remembrance and WW1

Title	Author	Genre	Blurb
Death of a Hero	Aldington, Richard	War	First published in 1929, <i>Death of a Hero</i> was described by its author as both a jazz novel and a memorial to a generation. The hero is George Winterbourne. Leaving the Edwardian gloom of his embattled parents behind him, George escapes to Soho, which buzzes, on the eve of war, with talk of politics, pacifism and free love. He paints, he marries, he takes a mistress: the perfect hero of his time, whose destiny -- like all those of that lost generation -- is the bloody nightmare of the trenches.
Biggles the Camels are Coming	Johns, W.E.	War	At the end of WW1, Biggles and fellow pilots contend with enemies in their own Sopwith Camels. "The Camel closed up until it was flying beside him; the pilot smiling. Biggles showed his teeth in what he imagined to be an answering smile. 'You swine,' he breathed: 'you dirty, unutterable, murdering swine! I'm going to kill you if it's the last thing I do on earth.'"
Biggles and the Cruise of the Condor	Johns, W.E.	War	A visit to Biggles' uncle, Dickpa, lands Biggles, Algy and mechanic Smyth in a dangerous adventure looking for an ancient Inca treasure hoard.
Biggles Learns to Fly	Johns, W.E.	War	Sep 1916 Norfolk Flying School trains dogged delicate-looking Bigglesworth 16. He ships to France on less than 15 air hours. Though gunner Mark saves his first flight, hot dogfights force him to learn or die. Downed twice over Lines, he evades and chases Boche in air and on land, plans new tactics against Hun circuses, drops French spy.
Eleven, Eleven	Paul Dowswell	War	Set during the final 24 hours before the armistice at 11 a.m. on 11th November 1918, the story follows a German storm trooper, an American airman and a British Tommy. Their destinies converge during the death throes of the first ever conflict to spread across the globe. War becomes incredibly personal as nationality and geography cease to matter to each of these teenagers on the Western Front, and friendship becomes the defining aspect of their encounter. But who will live and who will die before the end of the day?





Books for Remembrance and WW1

Title	Author	Genre	Blurb
The Silver Donkey	Hartnett, Sonya	War	<p>One morning in the woods of World War I France, two young sisters stumble upon an astonishing find — a soldier, temporarily blinded by war, who has walked away from battle longing to see his gravely ill younger brother. Soon the care of the soldier becomes the girls' preoccupation, but it's not just the secret they share that emboldens them to steal food and other comforting items for the man. They are fascinated by what he holds in his hand — a tiny silver donkey. As the girls and their brother devise a plan for the soldier's safe passage home, he repays them by telling four wondrous tales about the humble donkey — from the legend of Bethlehem to a myth of India, from a story of rescue in war to a tale of family close to the soldier's heart. Sonya Hartnett explores rich new territory in this inspiring tale of kindness, loyalty, and courage.</p>
A Farewell to Arms	Ernest Hemingway	War	<p>A Farewell to Arms is the unforgettable story of an American ambulance driver on the Italian front and his passion for a beautiful English nurse. Set against the looming horrors of the battlefield - the weary, demoralized men marching in the rain during the German attack on Caporetto; the profound struggle between loyalty and desertion—this gripping, semiautobiographical work captures the harsh realities of war and the pain of lovers caught in its inexorable sweep. Ernest Hemingway famously said that he rewrote his ending to A Farewell to Arms thirty-nine times to get the words right.</p>
Five Children on the Western Front	Saunders, Kate	War	<p>Cyril is off to fight, Anthea is at art college, Robert is a Cambridge scholar and Jane is at high school. The Lamb is the grown up age of 11, and he has a little sister, Edith, in tow. The sand fairy has become a creature of stories ... until he suddenly reappears. The siblings are pleased to have something to take their minds off the war, but this time the Psammead is here for a reason, and his magic might have a more serious purpose. Before this last adventure ends, all will be changed, and the two younger children will have seen the Great War from every possible viewpoint - factory-workers, soldiers and sailors, nurses and the people left at home, and the war's impact will be felt right at the heart of their family.</p>
War Horse	Michael Morpurgo	War	<p>In 1914, Joey, a beautiful bay-red foal with a distinctive cross on his nose, is sold to the army and thrust into the midst of the war on the Western Front. With his officer, he charges toward the enemy, witnessing the horror of the battles in France. But even in the desolation of the trenches, Joey's courage touches the soldiers around him and he is able to find warmth and hope. But his heart aches for Albert, the farmer's son he left behind. Will he ever see his true master again?</p>





Books for Remembrance and WW1

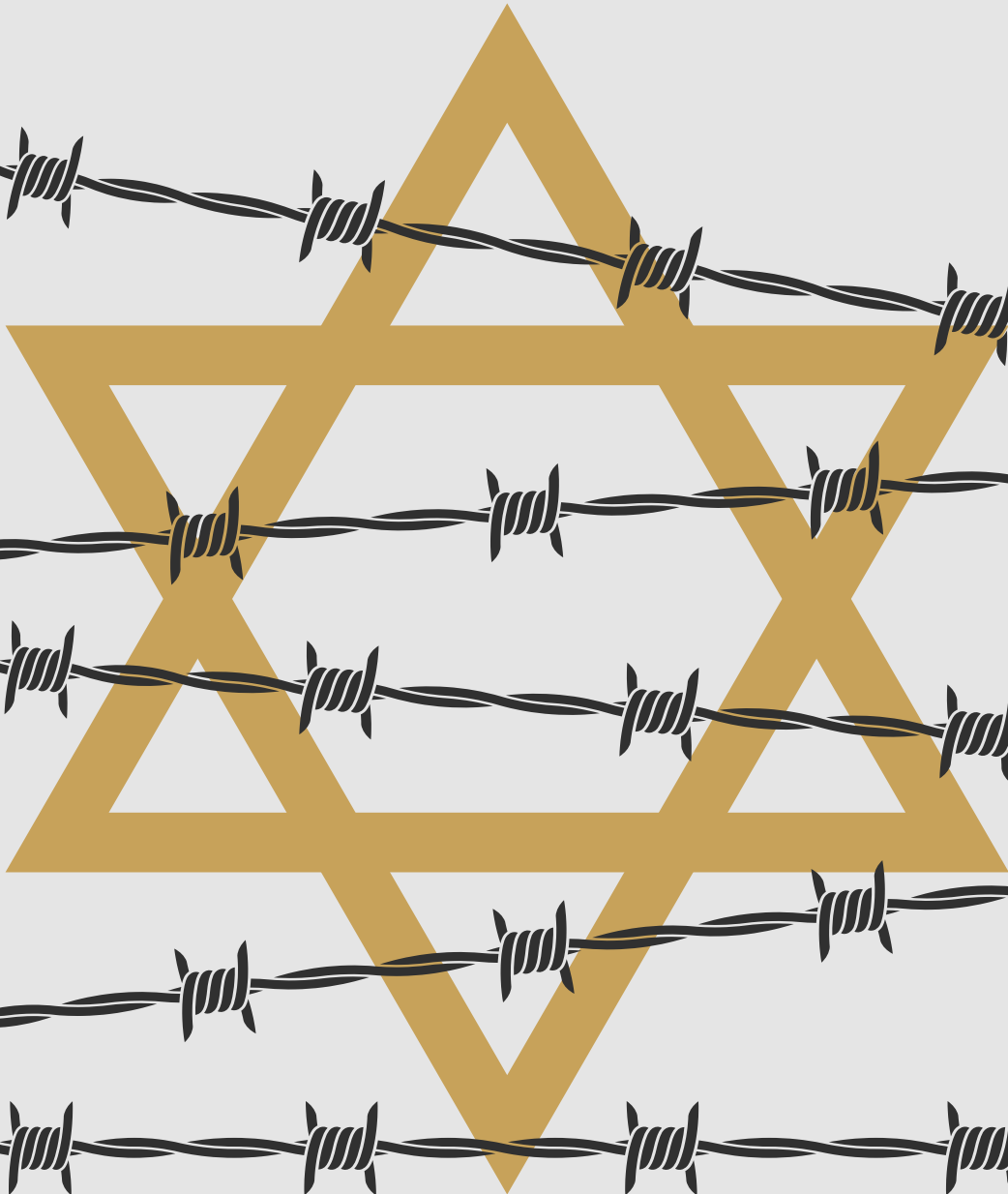
Title	Author	Genre	Blurb
Farm Boy	Michael Morpurgo	War	Set on a farm in rural Devon, <i>Farm Boy</i> is a collection of Grandpa's reminiscences and stories touchingly told to his grandson. Superbly told by a master storyteller and stunningly illustrated by Michael Foreman -- an exquisite book. Joey was the last working horse on the farm, and the apple of Grandpa's eye. In <i>War Horse</i> , published twelve years ago, Joey was sent away from the farm to be a warhorse in WWI. Grandpa had joined the cavalry in order to find, and fight, with Joey. <i>Farm Boy</i> brings us forward fifty years with Grandpa not only telling his grandson, Joey's story but also a 'shameful secret' which he has held for years -- Grandpa has never learned to read and write. The story is set in Iddesleigh in Devon and lovingly evokes the bonds between farm and farmer; grandson and grandfather.
Private Peaceful	Michael Morpurgo	War	From the Children's Laureate of England, a stunning novel of the First World War, a boy who is on its front lines, and a childhood remembered. "They've gone now, and I'm alone at last. I have the whole night ahead of me, and I won't waste a single moment of it . . . I want tonight to be long, as long as my life . . ." For young Private Peaceful, looking back over his childhood while he is on night watch in the battlefields of the First World War, his memories are full of family life deep in the countryside: his mother, Charlie, Big Joe, and Molly, the love of his life. Too young to be enlisted, Thomas has followed his brother to war and now, every moment he spends thinking about his life, means another moment closer to danger.
Armistice Runner	Tom Palmer	War	Lily has lots of worries. She's struggling to compete in her fell-running races and, worse, she's losing her gran to Alzheimer's. But then she discovers her great-great-grandfather's diaries from the First World War. Could his incredible story of bravery help her reconnect with her gran and even give her the inspiration she needs to push through and win?
All Quiet on the Western Front	Erich Remarque	War	One by one the boys begin to fall...In 1914 a room full of German schoolboys, fresh-faced and idealistic, are goaded by their schoolmaster to troop off to the 'glorious war'. With the fire and patriotism of youth they sign up. What follows is the moving story of a young 'unknown soldier' experiencing the horror and disillusionment of life in the trenches.





VERULAM
SCHOOL

Books to remember the Holocaust



Books to remember the Holocaust

Title	Author	Blurb
<p>Refugee</p>	<p>Alan Gratz</p>	<p>Three different kids. One mission in common: ESCAPE. Josef is a Jewish boy in 1930s Nazi Germany. With the threat of concentration camps looming, he and his family board a ship bound for the other side of the world...Isabel is a Cuban girl in 1994. With riots and unrest plaguing her country, she and her family set out on a raft, hoping to find safety and freedom in America...Mahmoud is a Syrian boy in 2015. With his homeland torn apart by violence and destruction, he and his family begin a long trek toward Europe...All three young people will go on harrowing journeys in search of refuge. All will face unimaginable dangers—from drownings to bombings to betrayals. But for each of them, there is always the hope of tomorrow. And although Josef, Isabel, and Mahmoud are separated by continents and decades, surprising connections will tie their stories together in the end.</p>
<p>The Book Thief</p>	<p>Marcus Zusak</p>	<p>It is 1939. Nazi Germany. The country is holding its breath. Death has never been busier, and will be busier still. By her brother's graveside, Liesel's life is changed when she picks up a single object, partially hidden in the snow. It is The Gravedigger's Handbook, left behind there by accident, and it is her first act of book thievery. So begins a love affair with books and words, as Liesel, with the help of her accordion-playing foster father, learns to read. Soon she is stealing books from Nazi book-burnings, the mayor's wife's library, wherever there are books to be found. But these are dangerous times. When Liesel's foster family hides a Jew in their basement, Liesel's world is both opened up, and closed down. In superbly crafted writing that burns with intensity, award-winning author Markus Zusak has given us one of the most enduring stories of our time.</p>
<p>When Hitler Stole Pink Rabbit</p>	<p>Judith Kerr</p>	<p>Suppose your country began to change. Suppose that without your noticing, it became dangerous for some people to live in Germany any longer. Suppose you found, to your complete surprise, that your own father was one of those people. That is what happened to Anna in 1933. She was nine years old when it began, too busy with her schoolwork to take much notice of political posters, but out of them glared the face of Adolf Hitler, the man who would soon change the whole of Europe – starting with her own small life. Anna suddenly found things moving too fast for her to understand. One day, her father was unaccountably missing. Then she herself and her brother Max were being rushed by their mother, in alarming secrecy, away from everything they knew – home and schoolmates and well-loved toys – right out of Germany...</p>



Books to remember the Holocaust

Title	Author	Blurb
Milkweed	Jerry Spinelli	<p>He's a boy called Jew. Gypsy. Stopthief. Filthy son of Abraham. He's a boy who lives in the streets of Warsaw. He's a boy who steals food for himself, and the other orphans. He's a boy who believes in bread, and mothers, and angels. He's a boy who wants to be a Nazi, with tall, shiny jackboots of his own-until the day that suddenly makes him change his mind. And when the trains come to empty the Jews from the ghetto of the damned, he's a boy who realizes it's safest of all to be nobody. Newbery Medalist Jerry Spinelli takes us to one of the most devastating settings imaginable-Nazi-occupied Warsaw during World War II-and tells a tale of heartbreak, hope, and survival through the bright eyes of a young Holocaust orphan.</p>
Once	Morris Gleitzman	<p>Once by Morris Gleitzman is the story of a young Jewish boy who is determined to escape the orphanage he lives in to save his Jewish parents from the Nazis in the occupied Poland of the Second World War. Everybody deserves to have something good in their life. At least Once. Once I escaped from an orphanage to find Mum and Dad. Once I saved a girl called Zelda from a burning house. Once I made a Nazi with a toothache laugh. My name is Felix. This is my story.</p>
Silver Sword	Ian Serraillier	<p>This is a story of many different things. Of a terrible war and an occupied land. Of the Balicki children who are determined to survive. Of a dangerous journey from war-torn Poland to Switzerland. Of a paper knife that gives them the courage to carry on when nearly all hope is lost</p>

