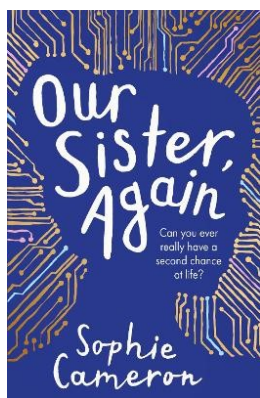


**Bennett, M. A.**

**The Ship of Doom**

Welbeck Pbk 6.99 9781801300049  
Interest age: 9+ Reading age: 10+

London, 1894. Luna makes the surprise discovery that her aunt's butterfly club is actually a secret society of time travellers who plunder the future for scientific wonders to bring back to the Victorian age. But, when the society thrusts Luna herself, and her two companions Konstantin and Aidan forward to 1912 to steal Marconi's lifesaving wireless radio machine from the RMS Titanic, they soon discover the awful truth about the ship's destiny, and how even small changes can dramatically affect time and history. Exciting historical adventure thriller, with plenty of twists and turns in plot. The time travelling is not at all confusing to the reader as the plot is well written and there are helpful chapter headings. Excellent feisty relatable characters, and a creepy mysterious villain to help increase the plot tension. Good first start to a series.

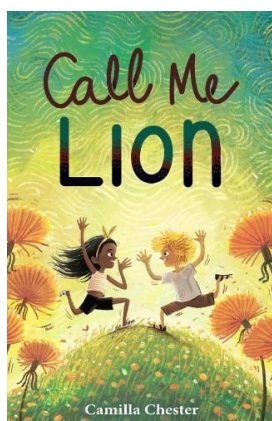


**Cameron, Sophie**

**Our Sister, Again**

Stripes Publishing Limited Pbk 7.99 9781788953917  
Interest age: 10+ Reading age: 10+

Isla and her family live on a remote Scottish island and are grieving the loss of her older sister Flora. They take part in a top-secret trial which revives loved ones as fully lifelike AI robots using their digital footprint. Isla has her doubts about it but the 'new' Flora is a perfect replica. But not everyone on the island feels the same. Isla and her family discover how they can protect the 'new' Flora and bring the community back together. Powerful and compelling story about grief, what it means to be human, hope, and family. Setting of the Scottish island is described well and there is good characterisation. The intriguing plot will provide good discussion points.



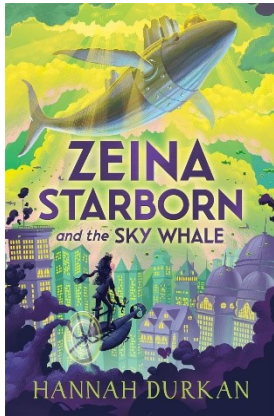
**Chester, Camilla**

**Call Me Lion**

Firefly Press Pbk 7.99 9781913102890  
Interest age: 8+ Reading age: 9+

Leo has spent his life dreaming of performing on the West End. His love of dancing is getting him through the heatwave, but his selective mutism means he is unlikely to be able to perform in public and puts his spot in the end-of-summer dance show on the line. When chatty Richa moves in next door, Leo finds her easy to bond with. She talks enough for the both of them - at least to begin with. When he learns her secret, it's clear that she needs his support as much as he needs hers. With Richa's help, will Leo be able to follow his dreams? Or will Leo's inability to talk to Richa cost him their friendship?

Very lovely heart-warming and uplifting tale of non-visible disability and friendship. The two main characters of Leo and Richa are very relatable, as are their experiences, and the first person narrative by Leo really helps to inspire empathy in the reader. Short chapters, easy to read, and overall very good indeed.



**Durkan, Hannah**

**Zeina Starborn and the Sky Whale**

Orion Pbk 7.99 9781510109599  
Interest age: 9+ Reading age: 9+

Zeina Starborn lives a below life in the smog and dreams of exploring the skies. She wins the chance to visit the Willoughby Whale Hotel, a structure built on the back of a gigantic flying whale. She meets Jackson, the heir to the Willoughby fortune and who she believes is spoilt and lives a privileged lifestyle. Zeina finds herself in a daring adventure, during which she meets explorers, inventors, and mighty sky whales in this richly inventive fantasy. Gradually she comes to learn more and starts to question what she is told about this world which is so new to her.

Zeina and Jackson must put aside their differences and work together to uncover the secret plot around them as they embark on the journey of a lifetime.

An adventure story with intrigue, kindness, and hope.

Winner of the Northern Writers Award 2020. Paperback published May 2022



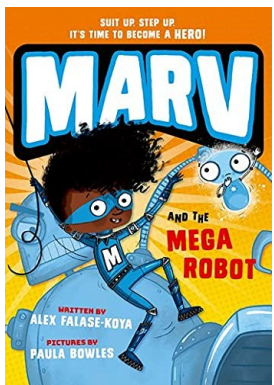
**Evelyn, Alex**

**The Secret Wild**

Walker Pbk 7.99 9781406399394  
Interest age: 9+ Reading age: 9+

Fern has spent her whole life in the rainforest, with her botanist parents. She loves nothing more than climbing, exploring and talking to the trees. When she suddenly has to leave all that behind and move to London, with only an eccentric uncle for company, Fern feels totally uprooted. When she meets a little plant that can understand her every word, she feels she has a friend. However, strange things are happening in London and Fern realises her new plant friend is starting to wilt. She asks the boy next door to help her. Together can they solve the mystery?

A debut novel. Would be great for linking with plants topics and good for reading groups.



**Falase-Koya, Alex**

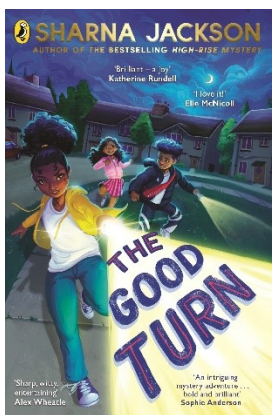
**Marv and the Mega Robot**

Oxford Pbk 5.99 9780192780423  
Interest age: 7+ Reading age: 7+

Marvin inherits his Grandpa's super suit and goes on his first heroic adventure.

Marvin is an ordinary boy who loves spending time with Grandpa, reading comics, and making science experiments with his best friend Joe. But everything changes when he discovers a mysterious superhero suit hidden in the attic...to his amazement, Marvin learns that he is next in a long line of superheroes. Now the time has come to meet his destiny!

A fun short chapter book, great for early readers.

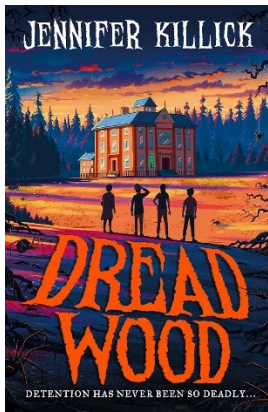


**Jackson, Sharna**

**The Good Turn**

Penguin Pbk 7.99 9780241523599  
Interest age: 9+ Reading age: 9+

11 year old Josie wants to make a difference in the world and her community. When she learns about Josephine Holloway - a woman who started the first Girl Scout Troop for Black girls in America - she's certain she must start her own. Enlisting her friends Margot and Wesley, the trio begin their quest for their Camping badge. Drawn to an abandoned car factory nearby, they stumble across something strange. A square, ancient television and two tatty armchairs. Beside it, a wooden sideboard with an old photograph of a young, happy couple. What is this? Who, or what, lives here - and why? Fast paced and engaging story covering issues of family, community and race. Very relatable well-drawn central characters and good leisure read for either gender.



**Killick, Jennifer**

**Dread Wood**

Farshore	Pbk	7.99	9780755503711
Interest age:	9+	Reading age:	9+

When classmates Hallie, Angelo, Gustav and Naira are forced to come to school for a Saturday detention, they think things can't get much worse. But they're wrong. Things are about to get seriously scary. What has dragged their teacher underground? Why do the creepy caretakers keep humming the tune to Incy Wincy Spider? And what horrors lurk in the shadows, getting stronger and meaner every minute? Cut off from help and in danger each time they touch the ground, the gang's only hope is to work together.

Exciting mild horror tale that grabs the reader's attention from the first page. The drama and dangers are relentless making this a compelling leisure read. However, the characters are also well drawn and relatable, and their inner journeys as they are honest with each other and rely on one another are believable. A cracking read.



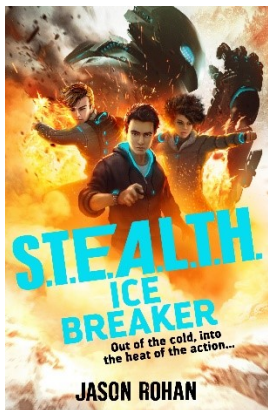
**McLachlan, Jenny**

**Dead Good Detectives**

Farshore	Pbk	7.99	9781405298155
Interest age:	9+	Reading age:	9+

Sid Jones loves hanging out in the graveyard with her best friend Zen imagining there are ghosts, and creating a detailed map of her seaside village of Fathom. But then Sid accidentally releases a 300-year-old pirate from the Halfway House - a magical inn full of lost souls from across the ages, all trapped there by the sinister landlord Old Scratch. Sid now discovers she can see ghosts, and worst of all the big pirate Bones and his annoying parrot are following her everywhere, thinking she can help them find their lost treasure so they can be set free from this earthly plane. But Old Scratch is watching, and he is not happy about Sid helping out.

Very enjoyable ghost adventure tale with well-rounded central characters that the reader really roots for. The mystery and the scenes of mild jeopardy help to keep the reader's interest. Short chapters and some monochrome illustrations. Good leisure read.



**Rohan, Jason**

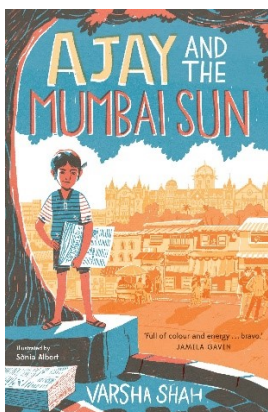
**S.T.E.A.L.T.H. Ice Breaker**

Nosy Crow	Pbk	7.99	9781839943409
Interest age:	10	Reading age:	10

Second in the series, after "Access denied."

Continues from the first this time Arun, Donna and Sam must rescue 2 British intelligence operatives who are trapped on a train in an Austrian tunnel.

For fans of Alex Rider and great for reading for pleasure.



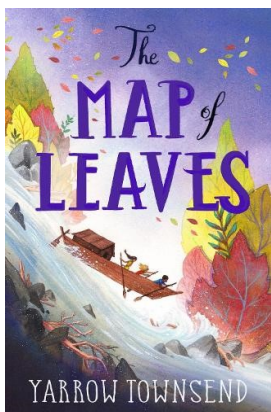
**Shah, Varsha**

**Ajay and the Mumbai Sun**

Chicken House	Pbk	7.99	9781913696337
Interest age:	9	Reading age:	9

This is the story of Ajay, a slum boy in Mumbai who starts his own newspaper, The Mumbai Sun, to right the social injustices and political corruption he sees around him. With his friends Yasmin, a child labourer in a T-shirt factory who dreams of being an illustrator, Jai, a talented cricketer and street beggar, Saif, an "apprentice engineer" and Vinod, an aspiring cook who slaves in the kitchens of a restaurant. Despite the poverty, corruption and social inequality that grind them down, they are Intelligent, adaptable, determined, and resilient.

A debut children's novel from Varsha Shah, winner of the Times / Chicken House competition. It centres on the newspaper set up by a group of poor Mumbai slum children with a passion for journalism and uncovering the truth.



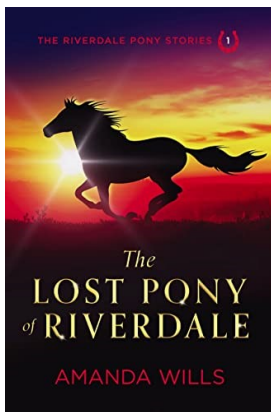
**Townsend, Yarrow**

**The Map of Leaves**

Chicken House                      Pbk    7.99    9781913696481  
Interest age:                        9+                      Reading age:    9+

Since Ma died, Orla has lived alone in a woodshed by the river. Her garden provides everything she needs. But when people begin to fall sick, Governor Atlas decrees that the plants are the cause and must be destroyed. Armed only with her mother's book of remedies Orla sets out on a barge-boat to discover the truth, find a cure for the sickness and save her garden. But, she soon finds that despite her strong determination to go it alone, that she needs the help of her two unlikely fellow travellers, as the journey becomes every more dangerous.

Very good adventure tale with a mystery to solve at its core. Excellent characterisation, plenty of jeopardy and some well described villains, and a race against time to help the plot rattle along. Good to have a feisty but flawed heroine, and refreshing for science and plant lore to be central themes rather than magic. Great leisure read.



**Willis, Amanda**

**The Lost Pony of Riverdale**

Cherry Tree                        Pbk    7.99    9781739807016  
Interest age:                        9+                      Reading age:    9+

When 11 year old Poppy moves reluctantly from the city to an old cottage on Dartmoor she is persuaded by the lure of a pony coming with the house. But, life at Riverdale is not straightforward, and this is compounded by her father's work trip abroad and then her step-mother Caroline starting to act oddly. Then one day Poppy glimpses a flash of grey in the woods, and starts to discover the secret of the wild grey pony Cloud Nine, and becomes determined to try and save him from the big Dartmoor pony roundup. But, enlisting the help of her adrenaline-junkie little brother Charlie who is on the hunt for big cats on the moor soon finds Poppy faced with a terrible dilemma – saving her brother or the pony she has always longed for.

Very enjoyable family and horsey drama that will appeal to any young readers who enjoy some mystery, adventure and animals. Well drawn relatable characters draw the reader in, and the plot is compelling with short chapters that are easy to read. The serious themes of coping with loss are handled sensitively, and there is a good balance with the mystery and adventure. Good leisure read.

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