

BETTERFUTUREBRIGHTERHOPE

PiXL Reading

# SECONDARY NEWSLETTER



As the final half term before Christmas begins, we are so pleased to be able to start it off with a fantastic new selection of books which cover a wide range of interests and reading accessibility. We've also included several QR codes which you can scan with your phone to watch videos of authors talking about their books or reading extracts from them. We hope that this will help inspire your child as they hear more about the books.

Whether your child is interested in reading about extinct creatures, a character who grew up in the social media spotlight, or perhaps thrillers for young adults, there is something that we hope will capture the eye of everyone. This is obviously not an exhaustive list – there are so many books they could explore. Whatever they are curious about, or take interest in, consider looking at books around the topic, or encouraging them to research into the area further through non-fiction texts such as online articles.

**Please note that unless otherwise stated, the texts are suitable for Year 7 and up, but please do research the books before selecting them to ensure that they are appropriate for your child as these are just a publisher's guide.**

Whether you're looking for books or audiobooks to get out of the library now, or for Christmas presents, we hope you and your child enjoy reading this half term and that you have a wonderful end to this year.

**Hachette publishers have kindly offered parents 20% off the books they publish which have been featured on this newsletter. The Hachette logo is next to each of the books this applies to.**

To place your order directly with Hachette and pay via card, please ring their customer services team on **+44 (0)1235 759555** or email **hukdcustomerservices@hachette.co.uk** including your name, delivery address and contact telephone number, along with the ISBNs that you would like to order. Please do not include card details on email. Please quote the promotional code **PIXLNOVEMBERNEWSLETTER** over the phone for 20% off your order.



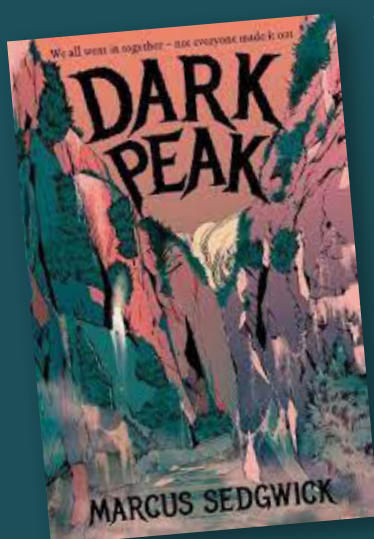
## SHORTER READS

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

**Dark Peak**

MARCUS SEDGWICK

During a long, hot summer, two children, Stephanie and Stephen, go missing while on a school trip to Lud's Church, a deep chasm in the heart of the Peak District. Porter, and his friend Sam, are sent to fetch for help. When they return, they are surprised to find that although Stephanie has been found, no one is even looking for Stephen anymore. Why can no one remember what's happened to him? What happened in Lud's Church? And why does Porter get the feeling that supernatural forces from deep in the past are at play?



Watch Marcus talk about *Dark Peak*, and the inspiration behind it, by scanning the QR code.

**Keeper**

ALAN GIBBONS

New boy Shane Logan has a temper, but he's also a talented goalie. When Peter and his friends invite Shane to join their football team, he delivers a star performance in the first match. But Shane's not the only one who makes an impression. Hanging over him like a shadow is his dad, Mick, who yells orders and insults from the side lines. What is Mick's problem? Any why does Shane seem afraid of him? The more Peter gets to know Shane, the more he worries that something is wrong...



## The Royal Rebel

BALI RAI

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



## The Disconnect

KEREN DAVID (13+)

Could you last six whole weeks without your phone? Six weeks without sharing photos, without group messages, without being kept in the social media loop? An eccentric entrepreneur has challenged Esther's year group to do just that, and the winners will walk away with £1,000. For Esther, whose dad and sister live thousands of miles away in New York, the prize might be her only chance to afford flights for a visit... But can she really stay disconnected long enough to win?



## LONGER READS

### A Darkness of Dragons

S.A. PATRICK



Patch Brightwater is a boy in disgrace. Thrown in jail for playing a forbidden spell, he is no one's idea of a hero. But then he discovers a deadly truth – the evil Piper of Hamelyn is on the loose...

### Midnight's Twins

HOLLY RACE (14+)



Dreams come true, but so do your nightmares... Fern King is about to uncover a place that she could not have imagined in her wildest dreams. Annwn is the dream mirror of our world, a place where Dreamers walk in their slumber, their dreams playing out all around them. An

enchanted, mysterious place that feeds our world – as, without dreams, without a place where our imaginations and minds can be nourished, what kind of humans would we be? But Annwn is a place as full of dangers as it is wonders: it is a place where dreams can kill you...

### Trouble Makers

CATHERINE BARTER (13+)



Fifteen-year-old Alena never really knew her political activist mother, who died when she was a baby. She has grown up with her older half-brother Danny and his boyfriend Nick in the East End of London. Now, the area is threatened by a bomber who has been leaving explosive devices in supermarkets. It is only a matter of time before a bomb goes off.

### Eight Princesses and a Magic Mirror

NATASHA FARRANT



Here are eight princesses: bold, empowered, full of curiosity, adventure and determined to be true to themselves. Farrant's original stories are set in different times all around the world, blending modern and traditional storytelling.

**The Christmas Pig** J.K. ROWLING

£20 9781444964943

Jack loves his childhood toy, Dur Pig. DP has always been there for him, through good and bad. Until one Christmas Eve, when something terrible happens – DP is lost. But Christmas Eve is a night for miracles and lost causes, a night when all things can come to life...even toys.

**The Snow Angel**

LAUREN ST. JOHN



Growing up in vibrant, crowded Nairobi, Makena has only one dream: to climb Mount Kenya like her hero – her mountain guide father. But when her beautiful world is shattered, she finds that in the city's darkest places, there are a thousand ways to fall, each more deadly than any crevasse. Watch Lauren read an extract from *The Snow Angel*, by scanning the QR code.

**Witch**

FINBAR HAWKINS (12+)



After witnessing the brutal murder of her mother by witch-hunters, Evey vows to avenge her and track down the killers. But she has promised her mother that she will keep Dill, her little sister, safe. As the lust for blood and retribution rises to fever pitch, will Evey keep true to the bonds of sisterhood and to the magic that is her destiny? Watch Finbar talk about *Witch*, and read an extract from it, by scanning the QR code.

**Girl** TAMSIN WINTER

What's it like to grow up online and have every tantrum, every spot – even your first period – broadcast to hundreds of thousands of followers?

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

**Dark Lady** AKALA (13+)

£12.99 9781444943245



Henry is an orphan, an outsider, a thief. He is also a fifteen-year-old invested with magical powers... This brilliant, at times brutal, novel will glue you to your seat as you are hurled into a time when London stank and boys like Henry were forced to find their own route through the tangled streets and out the other side.

**Lionheart Girl**

YABA BADOE (12+)



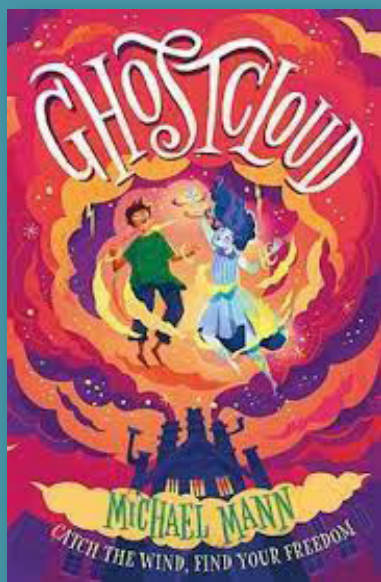
Born into a family of West African witches, Sheba's terrified of her mother, who is deadly dangerous. But, like mother like daughter, magic runs through her blood and Sheba discovers powers of her own. Her touch can unravel people's innermost thoughts; their hopes, their fears – their secrets... Watch Yaba talk about *Lionheart Girl*, and the inspiration behind it, by scanning the QR code.



## **Ghostcloud** MICHAEL MANN £12.99 9781444959291

Kidnapped and forced to shovel coal underneath a half-bombed, blackened power station, 12-year-old Luke's life is miserable. Then, he discovers he can see things others can't. Ghostly things. Specifically, a ghost-girl named Alma, who can ride clouds and bend their shape to her will. With Alma's help, Luke discovers he is in fact a rare being – half-human, and half-something else...

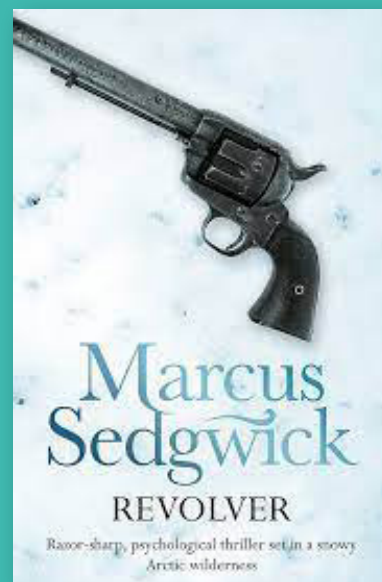
Then Luke learns of the terrible truth of why children are being kidnapped and forced to work in the power station, and he becomes even more desperate to escape.



## **Revolver** MARCUS SEDGWICK £7.99 9781444002409

1910. A cabin north of the Arctic Circle. Fifteen-year-old Sig Andersson is alone. Alone, except for the corpse of his father, who died earlier that day after falling through a weak spot on the ice-covered lake. His sister, Anna, and step-mother, Nadya, have gone to the local town for help. Then comes a knock at the door. It's a man, the flash of a revolver's butt at his hip, and a mean glare in his eyes...

Watch Marcus talk about *Revolver* by scanning the QR code.



## Love, Secret Santa S.A. DOMINGO

**£7.99** 9781444953756

A festive, clean, teen romance.

It's nearly Christmas, but Angel Green isn't celebrating – she's too busy studying for a scholarship exam. On top of that, she's organising her school's charity fundraising campaign to help a local hospice. Unfortunately, her fundraising partner is totally unreliable. Thank goodness for her Secret Santa who keeps leaving her amazing presents, including an intriguing hand-made advent calendar. Angel is dying to find out who it is...

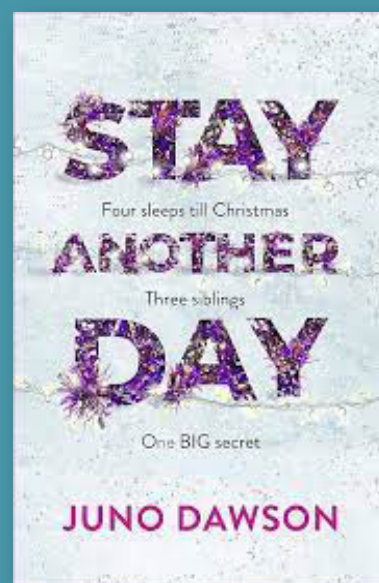


## Stay Another Day JUNO DAWSON (13+)

**£7.99** 9781786541086

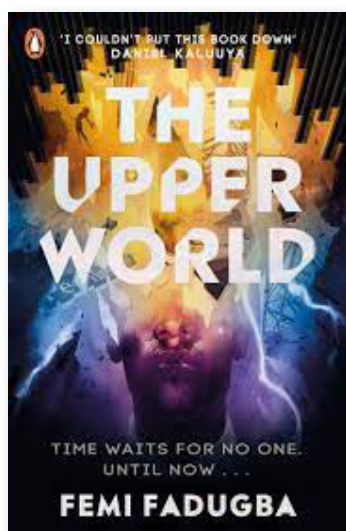
When three very different siblings, Fern, Rowan and Willow, go home for a Christmas reunion at their family home in Edinburgh, it's not long before some VERY BIG SECRETS threaten their cosy holiday...

This year, Fern is bringing her gorgeous boyfriend home and she wants everything to be perfect. But her twin brother, Rowan, would rather go out on the pull than pull crackers with the family. And their younger sister, Willow, is terrified of Christmas Day.



## The Upper World

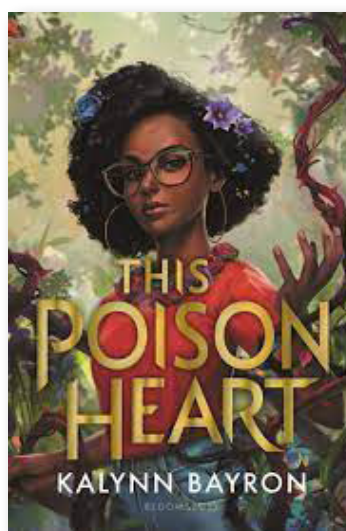
FEMI FADUGBA (13+)



Esso is running out of time and into trouble. When he discovers he has the ability to see glimpses of the future, he becomes haunted by a vision of a bullet fired in an alleyway with devastating consequences. A generation later, fifteen-year-old Rhia is desperately searching for answers – and a catastrophic moment from the past holds the key to understanding the parents she never got to meet. Whether on the roads of South London or in the mysterious Upper World, Esso and Rhia's fates must collide. And when they do, a race against the clock will become a race against time itself...

## This Poison Heart

KALYNN BAYRON (13+)



In this book, Kalynn Bayron brings a message of proud inclusivity to this empowering fantasy about a young woman finding the strength to challenge everything she has been told is true. Ever since she can remember, Briseis has had power over plants. It's a power she and her adoptive mothers have spent her whole life trying to hide. And then, Briseis inherits an old house from her birth mother and suddenly finds herself with the space and privacy to test her powers for the first time, as well as discovering inherited generations of secrets...

Watch Kalynn talk about *This Poison Heart*, and the inspiration behind it, by scanning the QR code.

## NON FICTION

## Books from the Extinct Series

BEN GARROD

TV scientist Ben Garrod presents the biggest extinction events ever, told from the point of view of evolution's superstars, the most incredible animals ever to swim, stalk, slither or walk our planet. His unique exploration of the most destructive, yet most creative, force in nature makes top level science fun. His two newest books in the series are Tyrannosaurus Rex and Lisowicia, but there are several others to explore too! Watch Ben talk about the series, and his reasons for writing it, by scanning the QR code.



## FOR OLDER READERS

Instructions for a  
Teenage Armageddon

ROSIE DAY £12.99 9781526364180

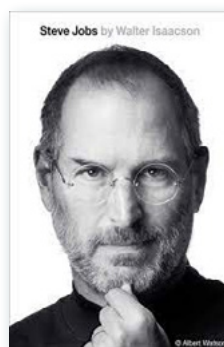


This book is a call to arms. Because, although you may be going through the hardest and most confusing years of your life, it's time to channel your extraordinary power, spirit and ability to rise up and change the world. Rosie Day has written and curated a collection of letters from incredible and inspiring women to guide you through each stage. You will realise your worth, battle your brain and learn to tackle stress and hormones.

## Steve Jobs: A Biography

WALTER ISAACSON

£12.99 9780349140438



The death of Steve Jobs shocked the world. In this book, Walter Isaacson presents the only biography written with the collaboration of Jobs, the definitive portrait of one of the undisputed icons of our time: the chronicle of the hectic life and abrasive personality of the genius whose creativity, energy and desire for perfectionism revolutionised six industries. Aware that the best way to create value in the 21st century is to connect creativity with technology, Jobs founded a company in which impressive leaps of the imagination go hand in hand with astonishing achievements in technology. This biography is full of teachings about innovation, character, leadership and values.

