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Happy reading! – Miss Mullins, Miss Walker, and Miss McGarr



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### Wish List Spotlight:



**You Don't Know What War Is: The Diary of a Young Girl from Ukraine** by Yeva Skalietka

This is the gripping and moving diary of young Ukrainian refugee Yeva Skalietka. It follows twelve days in Ukraine that changed 12-year-old Yeva's life forever. She was woken in the early hours to the terrifying sounds of shelling. Russia had invaded Ukraine, and her beloved Kharkiv home was no longer the safe haven it should have been. It was while she was forced to seek shelter in a damp, cramped basement that Yeva decided to write down her story. And it is a story the world needs to hear.

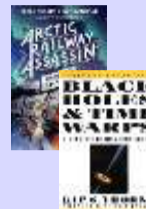
Yeva captured the nation's heart when she was featured on Channel 4 News with her granny as they fled Ukraine for Dublin. In *You Don't Know What War Is*, Yeva records what is happening hour-by-hour as she seeks safety and travels from Kharkiv to Dublin. Each eye-opening diary entry is supplemented by personal photographs, excerpts of messages between Yeva and her friends and daily headlines from around the world, while three beautifully detailed maps (by Kharkiv-native Olga Shtonda) help the reader track Yeva and her granny's journey. *You Don't Know What War Is* is a powerful insight into what conflict is like through the eyes of a child and an essential read for adults and older children alike.

"All that you touch you change. All that you change changes you." – Octavia E. Butler



**Adventures on Trains #6: The Arctic Railway Assassin** by MG Leonard and Sam Sedgman

The bestselling, prize-winning *Adventures on Trains* series embarks on a thrilling sixth adventure as Harrison Beck and Uncle Nat climb aboard the night train to Narvik, travelling to the Arctic Circle to see the northern lights for Christmas. But as their train leaves Stockholm, Hal and Uncle Nat realise they're being followed by a sinister figure, and Hal's powers of observation are tested when Uncle Nat's past comes back to haunt him. Journeying into the never-ending night of the arctic winter, our railway detectives must outsmart an assassin in their most chilling adventure yet, in which nothing is as it seems.



**Influential** by Amara Sage

Almond Brown has no friends in real life... but 3.5 million followers online. A heart-felt, whip-smart deep dive into what it would really be like to be internet famous at 17: a cautionary tale for our time from a writer who has grown up with social media. Almond is forced into the spotlight when she was just a perfectly filtered her mum has been documenting their family through social media since before she was born. And her family enjoy all the rewards that come from that level of influence. Only, it's not the life Almond would have chosen for herself and being on a platform all the time has made her anxious and insecure. When the darkest side of the internet begins to haunt her, Almond feels like she's going to lose everything... If only she could see that she has a real-life, too, full of friends and family who love her, and that it could save her.

**The Hunting Party** by Lucy Foley  
(Recommended for Older Readers)

During the languid days of the Christmas break, a group of thirtysomething friends from Oxford meet to welcome in the New Year together, a tradition they began as students ten years ago. For this vacation, they've chosen an idyllic and isolated estate in the Scottish Highlands—the perfect place to get away and unwind by themselves. They arrive on December 30th, just before a historic blizzard seals the lodge off from the outside world. Two days later, on New Year's Day, one of them is dead. The trip began innocently enough: admiring the stunning if foreboding scenery, champagne in front of a crackling fire, and reminiscences about the past. But after a decade, the weight of secret resentments has grown too heavy for the group's tenuous nostalgia to bear. Amid the boisterous revelry of New Year's Eve, the cord holding them together snaps. Now one of them is dead... and another of them did it. Keep your friends close, the old adage goes. But just how close is too close?

**Hunger** by Knut Hamsun  
(Recommended for Older Readers)

One of the most important and controversial writers of the 20th century, Knut Hamsun made literary history with the publication in 1890 of this powerful, autobiographical novel recounting the abject poverty, hunger and despair of a young writer struggling to achieve self-discovery and its ultimate artistic expression. The book brilliantly probes the psychodynamics of alienation, obsession, and self-destruction, painting an unforgettable portrait of a man driven by forces beyond his control to the edge of the abyss.



**Supernatural Investigations #2: Amari and the Great Game** by BB Alston

After finding her brother and saving the entire supernatural world, Amari Peters is convinced her first full summer as a Junior Agent will be a breeze. But between the fearsome new Head Minister's strict anti-magic agenda, fierce Junior Agent rivalries, and her brother Quinton's curse steadily worsening, Amari's plate is full. So when the secretive League of Magicians offers her a chance to stand up for magic-kind as its new leader, she declines. She's got enough to worry about! But her refusal allows someone else to step forward, a magician with dangerous plans for the League. This challenge sparks the start of the Great Game, a competition to decide who will become the Night Brothers' successor and determine the future of magic-kind. The Great Game is both mysterious and deadly, but among the winner's magical rewards is Quinton's last hope—so how can Amari refuse?

### 2024 YOTO Carnegie Winner Announced

After eight weeks of our year 7 group shadowing this year's YOTO Carnegie Medal for Writing, the winner has been announced. In a ceremony hosted by the winner of last year's Shadowers' Choice Award, Manjeet Mann, it was revealed that Joseph Coelho's Greek-mythology-inspired verse novel *The Boy Lost in the Maze* was chosen as the winner by a panel of judges. This year's Shadowers' Choice Award (voted for by student shadowing panels across the UK) went to another verse novel, *Crossing the Line* by Tia Fisher – a powerful exploration of how teenagers can be swept into county lines. All books shortlisted for this year's Carnegie Medal are now available in the library.



**The Winner: The Boy Lost in the Maze** by Joseph Coelho

In his new verse novel, Joseph Coelho brilliantly blends Greek myth with a 21st century quest. In Ancient Greece Theseus makes a dangerous and courageous journey to find his father, finally meeting the Minotaur in the Labyrinth. While Theo, a modern-day teenage boy, finds himself on a maze-like quest to find his own father. Each story tells of a boy becoming a man and discovering what true manhood really means. The path to self-discovery takes Theo through 'those thin spaces where myth, magic and reality combine'. Doubts, difficulties and dangers must be faced as Theo discovers the man he will become.

**The Shadowers' Choice Award Winner: Crossing the Line** by Tia Fisher

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



**The Door of No Return** by Kwame Alexander



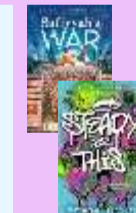
In his village in Upper Kwanta, 11-year-old Kofi loves his family, playing oware with his grandfather and swimming in the river Offin. He's warned though, to never go to the river at night. His brother tells him "There are things about the water you do not know." "Like what?" Kofi asks. "The beasts," his brother answers. One fateful night, the unthinkable happens, and in a flash, Kofi's world turns upside down. Kofi soon ends up in a fight for his life and what happens next will send him on a harrowing journey across land and sea, and away from everything he loves.

**The Song Walker** by Zillah Bethell

When a young girl wakes up in the middle of the desert, she has no idea who she is. She's wearing one shoe, a silky black dress, and she's carrying a strange, heavy case. She meets Tarni, who is on a mysterious quest of her own. Together, the two girls trek across the vast and ever-changing Australian Outback in search of answers. Except both are also hiding secrets...

**Safiyah's War** by Hiba Noor Khan

War comes to the streets of Paris and Safiyah's life changes for ever. Her best friend's family have fled, and the bombing makes her afraid to leave the mosque where she lives. But when her father is arrested by the Nazis for his secret Resistance work, it falls to Safiyah to run the dangerous errands around the city. It's not long before hundreds of persecuted Jews seek sanctuary at the mosque. Can Safiyah find the courage to enter the treacherous catacombs under Paris and lead the Jews to safety?



**Steady for This** by Nathanael Lessore

Shaun (aka MC Growls) is ready to drop his best bars and smash the competition at Raptology. That way, he's convinced Tanisha, his crush, will finally give him a chance. But when a livestream practice goes epically wrong, Growls' dirty laundry is literally exposed. He's finally achieved his dreams of going viral - not in the good way. Now Tanisha won't look at him, he's the joke of the school and there's no way he can show his face at the competition. Will he ever catch a break? Then a new girl on the block appears who might be just the friend Growls needs. Especially when she points out that Raptology could be the answer to his problems after all...

**Choose Love** by Nicola Davies and Petr Horáček



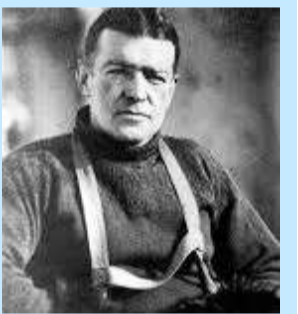
Choose Love is a cycle of poems that highlights the experience of those forced to become refugees. The core of the collection was written in 2018 as part of a project with the charity Refugee Trauma Initiative. With the permission of both individual refugees and aid workers, RTI shared with Nicola a number of true and poignant stories which were then used as the basis for short-form poems. Over the following years Nicola has added to this core of poems to create a coherent collection on the theme of forced migration, its wider causes and consequences.

**Away With Words** by Sophie Cameron

Set in a world where words appear physically when people speak, *Away With Words* explores the importance of communication and being there for those we love. Gala and her dad, Jordi, have just moved from home in Catalonia to a town in Scotland, to live with Jordi's boyfriend Ryan. Gala doesn't speak much English, and feels lost, lonely and unable to be her usual funny self. Until she befriends Natalie, a girl with selective mutism. The two girls find their own ways to communicate, which includes collecting other people's discarded words. They use the words to write anonymous supportive poems for their classmates, but then someone begins leaving nasty messages using the same method – and the girls are blamed. Gala has finally started adapting to her new life in Scotland and is determined to find the culprit. Can she and Natalie show the school who they really are?

### Shackleton's Last Ship Found

"Wreck hunters have found the ship on which the famous polar explorer Ernest Shackleton made his final voyage. The vessel, called "Quest", has been located on the seafloor off the coast of Newfoundland, Canada. Shackleton suffered a fatal heart attack on board on 5th January 1922 while trying to reach the Antarctic. And although Quest continued in service until it sank in 1962, the earlier link with the explorer gives it great historic significance. The British-Irish adventurer is celebrated for his exploits in Antarctica at a time when very few people had visited the frozen wilderness. "His final voyage kind of ended that Heroic Age of Exploration, of polar exploration, certainly in the south," said renowned shipwreck hunter David Mearns, who directed the successful search



"Afterwards, it was what you would call the scientific age. In the pantheon of polar ships, Quest is definitely an icon," he told BBC News. "Shackleton is associated with four expeditions that explored Antarctica, particularly the Trans-Antarctic Expedition (1914-16) which, though unsuccessful, became famous as a tale of remarkable perseverance and survival. Original BBC article [here](#).

**Shackleton's Boat Journey** by Frank Arthur Worsley

On August 1, 1914, on the eve of World War I, Sir Ernest Shackleton and his hand-picked crew embarked on HMS *Endurance* from London's West India Dock, for an expedition to the Antarctic. It was to turn into one of the most breath-taking survival stories of all time. Even as they coasted down the channel, Shackleton wired back to London to offer his ship to the war effort. The reply came from the First Lord of the Admiralty, one Winston Churchill: "Proceed." And proceed they did. When the *Endurance* was trapped and finally crushed to splinters by pack ice in late 1915, they drifted on an ice floe for five months, before getting to open sea and launching three tiny boats as far as the inhospitable, storm-lashed Elephant Island. They drank seal oil and ate baby abattoirs (delicious, apparently). From there Shackleton himself and seven others - the author among them - went on, in a 22-foot open boat, for an unbelievable 800 miles, through the Antarctic seas in winter, to South Georgia and rescue. It is an extraordinary story of courage and even good humour among men who must have felt certain, secretly, that they were going to die. Worsley's account, first published in 1940, captures that bulldog spirit exactly: uncomplaining, tough, competent, modest, and deeply loyal. It's gripping, and strangely moving.

### The Week Junior Book Awards Shortlists Announced

Launched in 2023, The Week Junior Book Awards were established to celebrate children's books and honour creative excellence within the industry. The awards were created by weekly news magazine *The Week Junior*, children's counterpart of *The Week* magazine, and are split into 13 book categories including six new categories for this year. The new categories are Animals and Nature; Graphic Novel; Hobbies and Interests; Picture Book; Poetry, and Wellbeing. They join the established categories: Audiobook; Breakthrough Book; Cover of the Year; Fiction Older; Fiction Younger; Non-Fiction, and STEM. The shortlisted books were selected from more than 370 entries with the help of an expert committee representing booksellers, librarians, literacy charities, children's book reviewers and primary school teachers. The winners will be announced at the awards ceremony in London on 30th September. The shortlists are mostly aimed towards children and therefore skew quite young; however we have one of the nominees from the Fiction Older category in the library (see below) as well as the 2023 Children's Book of the Year – Illustrated.

Click [here](#) to see this year's shortlists.

**2024 Nominee for Children's Book of the Year – Older: Impossible Creatures** by Katherine Rundell



The day Christopher saved a drowning baby griffin from a hidden lake would change his life forever. It's the day he learned about the Archipelago, a cluster of unmapped islands where magical creatures of every kind have thrived for thousands of years—until now. And it's the day he met Mal, a girl on the island who desperately needs his help. Mal and Christopher embark on a wild adventure, racing from island to island, searching for someone who can explain why the magic is fading and why magical creatures are suddenly dying. They consult sphinxes, battle kraken, and negotiate with dragons. But the closer they get to the dark truth of what's happening, the clearer it becomes: No one else can fix this. If the Archipelago is to be saved, Mal and Christopher will have to do it themselves.

**2023 Children's Book of the Year – Illustrated: Frankie's World** by Aoife Dooley

From acclaimed autistic Irish comedian Aoife Dooley comes a fresh and funny debut middle-grade graphic novel about fitting in and standing out. Frankie is different from everyone in her class, and she can't figure out why. She has trouble concentrating, and her classmates tease her for not having a dad at home. To try to make sense of the world, Frankie doodles her daily adventures in a journal. One day, when Frankie sneaks into her mom's room and sees her biological father's name on her birth certificate, she decides to go on a mission to track him down. Could Frankie's father be the key to finding out why Frankie feels so adrift? A unique story told with a light touch and an abundance of warmth and wit, *Frankie's World* is laugh-out-loud funny and a love letter to daring to be different.



### National Insect Week

Organised by the Royal Entomological Society and supported by partner organisations throughout the UK and Europe, Insect Week is a celebration of all things insect. National Insect Week is held annually during the last week of June – this year, it falls on the 24<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup>. The aim of the week is to engage the general public in the importance of insects and entomology, and it consists of hundreds of events and activities across UK, allowing the public to discover insects and meet the entomologists that study them. Learn more on the insect week website [here](#).

#### Insect Facts:

- There are over 24,000 insect species in the United Kingdom, with hundreds in almost every garden and green space.
- The technical definition of insect is "a small arthropod animal that has six legs and generally one or two pairs of wings". Minibeast is a more general term for small invertebrates, also incorporating arachnids (like spiders) and gastropods (like slugs and snails).
- Honeybees are the most important crop pollinator and pollinate over 100 different fruits and vegetables.
- Fruit flies were the first living creatures sent into space.
- Dragonflies have lived on Earth for 300 million years.
- The stag beetle is the largest species of insect to be found in the UK.
- In 2021, scientists found a 60% decline in the number of flying insects in the UK compared with 2004.
- Insects are vital to life on Earth - they maintain healthy soil, recycle nutrients, assist with decomposition, pollinate flowers and crops, and control pests. They can also be used as key indicators for monitoring ecosystems.

**Extraordinary Insects** by Anne Sverdrup-Thygesen

A journey into the weird, wonderful and truly astonishing lives of the small but mighty creatures who keep the world turning. Out of sight, underfoot, unseen beyond fleeting scuttles or darting flights, insects occupy a hidden world, yet are essential to sustaining life on earth. Insects influence our ecosystem like a ripple effect on water. They arrived when life first moved to dry land, they preceded - and survived - the dinosaurs, they outnumber the grains of sand on all the world's beaches, and they will be here long after us. Working quietly but tirelessly, they give us food, uphold our ecosystems, can heal our wounds and even digest plastic. They could also provide us with new solutions to the antibiotics crisis, assist in disaster zones and inspire airforce engineers with their flying techniques. But their private lives are also full of fun, intrigue and wonder - musical mating rituals; house-hunting for armies of beetle babies; metamorphosing into new characters; throwing parties in fermenting sap; cultivating fungi for food; farming smaller species for honey dew and always ensuring that what is dead is decomposed, ready to become life once again. Here, we will discover life and death, drama and dreams, all on a millimetric scale. Like it or not, Earth is the planet of insects, and this is their extraordinary story.



**A Buzz in the Meadow** by Dave Goulson

In 2003 Dave Goulson bought a derelict farm in the heart of rural France, together with 33 acres of surrounding meadow. Over the course of a decade, he created a place for his beloved bumblebees to thrive along with myriad insects of every kind. In this book you will learn how a deathwatch beetle finds its mate, about the importance of houseflies, why butterflies have spots on their wings, about dragonfly sex, bed-bugs and wasps. But it is also a wake-up call, urging us to cherish and protect life on earth in all its forms. *A Buzz in the Meadow* is a captivating look at our natural world and a call to arms for nature-lovers everywhere.



**Living Jewels: The Natural Design of Beetles** by Paul Beckmann

This book is a visual feast of beetles; its purpose is to introduce some amazing creatures who, for the most part, lead their lives and go about their business unseen. Due to their diminutive size, the majority of beetles seem to fly under the radar of human notice. The immature phases of their life cycles are spent hidden in the soil, within layers of tree bark, or in the roots of plants. The adult portion of their lives is usually brief, confined to a single season. The order Coleoptera - the beetles - has evolved over 230 million years. Shaping themselves to fit every conceivable climate and landscape on earth, they have developed a phantasmagorical diversity of shapes and sizes, colours, patterns and textures. In the beetle's natural world his fabulous decoration is the camouflage that allows the beetle to blend seamlessly into the leaf litter of the forest floor or the shiny foliage of the rainforest canopy. Bark-like texture allows a long-horned beetle to disappear on a branch, patterning on a flower beetle mimics dappled sunlight and shadow through leaves. When lifted out of the concealing clutter their beauty comes into vivid focus. They are presented here, magnified and isolated against stark white backgrounds, to allow for a close inspection and appreciation of their complex structures, varieties of form, and kaleidoscope of colours and patterns.