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Happy reading! – Miss Mullins and Miss Walker



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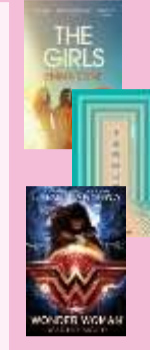
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"The beginning is the most important part of the work." – Plato



Fence: Striking Distance by Sarah Rees Brennan

Sixteen-year-old Nicholas Cox is the illegitimate son of a retired fencing champion who dreams of getting the proper training he could never afford. After earning a place on the elite Kings Row fencing team, Nicholas must prove himself to his rival, Seiji Katayama, and navigate the clashes, friendships, and relationships between his teammates on the road to state championships—where Nicholas might finally have the chance to spar with his golden-boy half-brother. Coach Williams decides to take advantage of the boys' morale after a recent victory and assigns them a course of team building exercises to further deepen their bonds. It takes a shoplifting scandal, a couple of moonlit forest strolls, several hilariously bad dates, and a whole lot of introspection for the team to realize they are stronger together than they could ever be apart.



The Girls by Emma Cline (Recommended for Older Readers)

Northern California, during the violent end of the 1960s. At the start of summer, a lonely and thoughtful teenager, Evie Boyd, sees a group of girls in the park, and is immediately caught by their freedom, their careless dress, their dangerous aura of abandon. Soon, Evie is in thrall to Suzanne, a mesmerizing older girl, and is drawn into the circle of a soon-to-be infamous cult and the man who is its charismatic leader. Hidden in the hills, their sprawling ranch is eerie and run down, but to Evie, it is exotic, thrilling, charged—a place where she feels desperate to be accepted. As she spends more time away from her mother and the rhythms of her daily life, and as her obsession with Suzanne intensifies, Evie does not realize she is coming closer and closer to unthinkable violence, and to that moment in a girl's life when everything can go horribly wrong.



Wonderwoman: Warbringer by Leigh Bardugo

She will become a legend but first she is Diana, Princess of the Amazons. And her fight is just beginning... Diana is desperate to prove herself to her warrior sisters. But when the opportunity comes, she throws away her chance at glory and breaks Amazon law to save a mere mortal, Alia Keralis. With this single heroic act, Diana may have just doomed the world. Alia is a Warbringer - a descendant of the infamous Helen of Troy, fated to bring about an age of bloodshed and misery. Diana and Alia will face an army of enemies, mortal and divine, determined to destroy or possess the Warbringer. To save the world, they must stand side by side against the tide of war.

Termush by Sven Holm (Recommended for Older Readers)

Welcome to Termush: a luxury coastal resort like no other. All the wealthy guests are survivors: preppers who reserved rooms long before the Disaster. Inside, they embrace exclusive radiation shelters, ambient music and lavish provisions; outside, radioactive dust falls on the sculpture park, security men step over dead birds, and a reconnaissance party embarks. Despite weathering a nuclear apocalypse, their problems are only just beginning. Soon, the Management begins censoring news; disruptive guests are sedated; initial generosity towards Strangers ceases as fears of contamination and limited resources grow. But as the numbers - and desperation - of external survivors increase, they must decide what it means to forge a new moral code at the end (or beginning?) of the world...



Silver Under Nightfall by Rin Chupeco (Recommended for Older Readers)

Remy Pendergast is a masterful hunter, but rumours that he's half-vampire are tarnishing his reputation among fellow Reapers. Desperate to clear his name and investigate newly mutated bloodsuckers, Remy sets out alone... until fate intervenes. Enter Xiaodan Song, a kind-hearted heiress, and her arrogant lord fiancé, Zidan Malekh. While joining forces with the vampire couple may not help Remy's reputation, they hold the key to defeating the deadly creatures. As they navigate the dangerous terrain and face new threats, Remy develops complicated feelings for the couple. With each passing day, he begins to question everything he thought he knew about vampires.

Belladonna by Adalyn Grace

Orphaned as a child, Signa Farrow has been raised by a string of guardians, each more interested in her wealth than her well-being - and each has met an untimely end. Her only remaining relatives are the elusive Hawthornes, an eccentric family living at Thorn Grove, an estate both glittering and gloomy. When a restless spirit appears claiming she was poisoned, Signa realizes the Hawthornes could be in grave danger, and enlists the help of a surly stable boy to hunt down the killer. But Signa's best chance of uncovering the murderer is an alliance with Death himself. And as the mystery unfolds, Signa realizes their growing connection may be more irresistible than she dared imagine...

The Diverse Book Awards Longlist Announced

The Diverse Book Awards, created by best-selling author Abiola Bello and award-winning publicist Helen Lewis, is now in its 5th year. The awards 'want to highlight the best of the diverse voices published in the UK & Ireland both traditionally and self-published. [The organisers] believe there's a need to showcase the talent of marginalised voices, so [they] came up with The Diverse Book Awards to open a space where the spotlight is on them.' This year's longlist (broken down into 4 categories) has now been announced. Below you can find some of the titles we have in the library that are featured on the longlist. View all of this year's longlisted books [here](#).



Children's:

Jamie by LD Lapinski



Jamie Rambeau is a happy 11-year-old non-binary kid who likes nothing better than hanging out with their two best friends Daisy and Ash. But when the trio find out that in Year Seven they will be separated into one school for boys and another for girls, their friendship suddenly seems at risk. And when Jamie realises no one has thought about where they are going to go, they decide to take matters into their own hands, and sort it all out once and for all. As the friends' efforts to raise awareness eventually become a rooftop protest against the binary rules for the local schools, Jamie realises that if they don't figure out a way forwards, they might be at risk of losing both their friends forever.

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 Nathaneal 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's 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...

Young Adult:

A Million to One by Adiba Jaigirdar



Adiba Jaigirdar gives Titanic an Ocean's 8 makeover in a heist for a treasure aboard the infamous ship that sank in the Atlantic many years ago. A thief. An artist. A acrobat. An actress. While Josefa, Emilee, Hinnah, and Violet seemingly don't have anything in common, they're united in one goal: stealing the Rubiyat, a jewel-encrusted book aboard the RMS Titanic that just might be the golden ticket to solving their problems. But careless mistakes, old grudges, and new romance threaten to jeopardize everything they've worked for and put them in incredible danger when tragedy strikes. While the odds of pulling off the heist are slim, the odds of survival are even slimmer...

This Book Kills by Ravena Guron



All Jess Choudhary wants is to keep her head down, do her work, and make it through high school without any problems. As a scholarship student—and one of only two students of Indian heritage—her future at the elite school depends on her ability to keep a low profile and spotless record. But when one of the most popular and richest kids in the school ends up dead in the exact same way as a character in a short story she wrote, Jess unintentionally finds herself at the centre of the investigation. And then Jess receives an anonymous text thanking her for the inspiration. As rumours run rampant about who the murderer could be, Jess knows if she doesn't solve this mystery herself, she'll be dead too.

What the World Doesn't See by Mel Darbon



Run away from what they see. Discover who you are. 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 any more. 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? A powerful and insightful novel about grief, disability and first love; a story about getting lost and finding yourself.

The First Move by Jenny Ireland



Juliet believes girls like her - girls with arthritis - don't get their own love stories. She exists at the edges of her friends' social lives, skipping parties to play online chess under a pseudonym with strangers around the world. There, she isn't just 'the girl with crutches'. Ronan is the new kid: good looking, smart, a bad boy plagued by guilt over what happened to his brother Cian. Chesslife is his escape; there, he's not just 'the boy with the brother'. Juliet thinks someone like Ronan could never be interested in someone like her - and she wouldn't want him to be anyway because he always acts like he's cooler than everyone else. Whereas, Ronan thinks life is already too complicated for dating and just wants to keep his head down at school. Little do they know they've already discovered each other online, and have more in common than they think...

Away With Words by Sophie Cameron



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?

YA Book Prize Winner Announced

The YA Book Prize, launched by *The Bookseller* (a magazine that reports news on the publishing industry), was launched in 2014 to celebrate fiction for teenagers and young adults from the UK and Ireland. This year's winning novel is *Gwen & Art are Not in Love*, an LGBT medieval romcom by Lex Croucher. The winning book was announced by judge and author Alice Oseman at Edinburgh International Book Festival on the 22nd of August. Below are the details of some of the other shortlisted books that are available in the school library. Previous winners of the YA Book Prize include *When Our Worlds Collided* by Danielle Jawando, *Hani and Isha's Guide to Fake Dating* by Adiba Jaigirdar, and *Loveless* by Alice Oseman - all of which are also available to borrow. View the full 2024 shortlist [here](#).

Gwen and Art are Not in Love by Lex Croucher



It's been hundreds of years since King Arthur's reign. His descendant, Arthur, a future Lord and general gadabout, has been betrothed to Gwendolyn, the quick-witted, short-tempered princess of England, since birth. The only thing they can agree on is that they despise each other. They're forced to spend the summer together at Camelot in the run-up to their nuptials, and within 24 hours, Gwen has discovered Arthur kissing a boy, and Arthur has gone digging for Gwen's childhood diary and found confessions about her crush on the kingdom's only lady knight, Bridget Leclair. Realizing they might make better allies than enemies, Gwen and Art make a reluctant pact to cover for each other, and as things heat up at the annual royal tournament, Gwen is swept off her feet by her knight, and Arthur takes an interest in Gwen's royal brother.



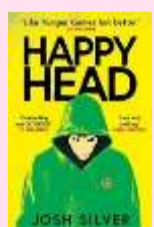
How to Die Famous by Benjamin Dean

London-born Abel has landed the role of a lifetime for an upcoming blockbuster. On the face of it he's Hollywood's latest teen star, but below the surface he's an undercover journalist on a mission to expose the 'squeaky clean' entertainment industry and the part they played in his brother's 'accidental' death. As Abel steps into the spotlight alongside fellow actors Lucky, Ryan and Ella, he soon discovers that beneath the glittering surface of fame and riches lies a darker world of secrecy, scandal and murder. Nobody is who they seem when the cameras are off, and everybody has something to hide. But who's next in line to die famous?

This is How You Fall in Love by Anika Hussain



Zara and Adnan are just friends. Always have been, always will be. Even if they have to pretend to be girlfriend and boyfriend... Zara loves love in all forms: 90s romcoms and romance novels and grand sweeping gestures. And she's desperate to have her own great love story. Crucially, a real one. So when her best friend Adnan begs her to pretend to date him to cover up his new top-secret relationship, Zara is hesitant. This isn't the kind of thing she had in mind. But there's something in it for Zara too: making her parents, who love Adnan, happy might just stop them arguing for a while. She may not be getting her own love story, but she could save theirs. So Zara agrees and the act begins: after all, how different can pretending to be in a relationship with your best friend be to just hanging around with them like usual? Turns out, a lot. With fake dating comes fake hand-holding and fake kissing and real feelings... And when a new boy turns up in Zara's life, things get more confusing than ever. The course of true love never did run smooth, but Zara's love story is messier than most...



HappyHead by Josh Silver

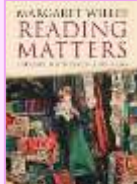
We are in an epidemic. An epidemic of unhappiness. Friends, here is the good news: HappyHead has the answer. When Seb is offered a place on a radical retreat designed to solve the national crisis of teenage unhappiness, he is determined to change how people see him and make his parents proud. But as he finds himself drawn to the enigmatic Finn, Seb starts to question the true nature of the challenges they must undergo. The deeper into the programme the boys get, the more disturbing the assessments become, until it's clear there may be no escape...

Man Finds Childhood Book at Car Boot Sale



West Sussex resident 49-year-old Simon Papouis, who lost all of his belongings as a child, was 'stunned' to rediscover one of his childhood books at a car boot sale. Simon was given a copy of *ET the Extra Terrestrial* when he was 8 years old. In 2003, he visited a boot sale in Surrey, where he came across the exact same book, complete with his name and old address written on the inside cover. He said of the discovery, "When I spotted the *ET* book at a car boot sale it was like seeing an old friend - and when I saw the writing, I felt sick, it felt like a set-up." Since then, Simon has been on a mission to rebuild his collection of lost childhood belongings, even spending £10,000 on an unopened model car kit identical to one he had in the 1980s. Original BBC article by Zac Sherratt [here](#).

Reading Matters: Five Centuries of Discovering Books by Margaret Willes



An entertaining journey through five centuries of acquiring, reading, and enjoying books in Britain and America. It is easy to forget in our own day of cheap paperbacks and mega-bookstores that, until very recently, books were luxury items. Those who could not afford to buy had to borrow, share, obtain second-hand, inherit, or listen to others reading. This book examines how people acquired and read books from the sixteenth century to the present, focusing on the personal relationships between readers and the volumes they owned. Margaret Willes considers a selection of private and public libraries across the period.

Jacqueline Wilson 'Delighted to be Viewed as Gay Icon'



Beloved British author Jacqueline Wilson announced in 2020 that she was in a long-term relationship with a woman. Since then, she has found a 'new and unexpected audience' in the LGBT community - she told the BBC "I'm very touched to be thought of as a gay icon, it's an absolute delight." Wilson, who has written over 100 books for children and young adults, has recently published her first adult novel, *Think Again*, which features LGBT themes and relationships. The new book is the sequel to her *Girls series* (the first of which, *Girls in Love*, was published in 1997) and follows the protagonist Ellie and her best friends Nadine and Magda as they enter their 40s. Wilson says the idea "has been on my mind for years and started when my daughter asked me if I ever wonder what happens to my characters when they grow up". Original BBC article by Yasmin Rufo [here](#).

Jacky Daydream by Jacqueline Wilson



Jacqueline Wilson takes a look back at her own childhood in this captivating story of friendships, loneliness, books, toys, parents and much more. With photographs and new illustrations by Nick Sharratt, this book will delight all of Jacky's fans - and be a treat for new readers too.

The Longest Whale Song by Jacqueline Wilson



Ella's mum's in a deep coma having just had a new baby. That means Ella has to live with Jack, her hopeless stepfather and cope with her tiny new-born brother, as well as worrying about Mum. The only thing that's going right is her school project. It's all about whales and how they sing out to each other to attract a mate - sometimes for hours. Maybe a whale song could reach Mum, wherever she is, and bring her back to Ella and baby Samson. Surely it's worth a try?

The Story of Tracy Beaker by Jacqueline Wilson



'I'm Tracy Beaker. This is a book all about me. I'd read it if I were you. It's the most incredible dynamic heart-rendering story. Honest. Tracy is ten years old. She lives in a Children's Home but would like a real home one day, with a real family. Meet Tracy, follow her story and share her hopes for the future in this beautifully observed, touching and often very funny tale, all told in Tracy's own words.

National Twilights Day

National Twilights Day is observed annually on the 13th of September in honour of paranormal romance series *Twilight*, written by Stephenie Meyer. The books were a global and cultural phenomenon when they were first released in the 2000s and *Twilight* has dipped in and out of popular culture ever since. At the moment the series is seeing a surge in popularity once more, and with that in mind maybe you'll want to celebrate National Twilights Day by reading one of the books or having a movie marathon. The day was created in 2019 and is observed on the 13th of September as this is the birthday of the author, as well as the series' protagonist Bella Swan.



The Twilight Saga #1: Twilight by Stephenie Meyer

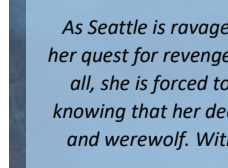
When 17-year-old Isabella Swan moves to Forks, Washington to live with her father she expects that her new life will be as dull as the town. But in spite of her awkward manner and low expectations, she finds that her new classmates are drawn to this pale, dark-haired new girl in town. But not, it seems, the Cullen family... Bella is convinced that Edward Cullen in particular hates her, but she feels a strange attraction to him, although his hostility makes her feel almost physically ill. He seems determined to push her away - until, that is, he saves her life from an out-of-control car. Bella will soon discover that there is a very good reason for Edward's coldness. He, and his family, are vampires - and he knows how dangerous it is for others to get too close.

The Twilight Saga #2: New Moon by Stephenie Meyer



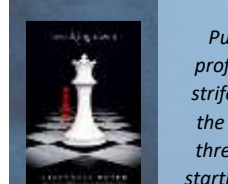
For Bella Swan there is one thing more important than life itself: Edward Cullen. But being in love with a vampire is even more dangerous than Bella could ever have imagined. Edward has already rescued Bella from the clutches of an evil vampire, but now, as their daring relationship threatens all that is near and dear to them, they realize their troubles may be just beginning...

The Twilight Saga #3: Eclipse by Stephenie Meyer



As Seattle is ravaged by a string of mysterious killings and a malicious vampire continues her quest for revenge, Bella once again finds herself surrounded by danger. In the midst of it all, she is forced to choose between her love for Edward and her friendship with Jacob - knowing that her decision has the potential to ignite the ageless struggle between vampire and werewolf. With her graduation quickly approaching, Bella has one more decision to make: life or death. But which is which?

The Twilight Saga #4: Breaking Dawn by Stephenie Meyer



Pulled in one direction by her intense passion for Edward Cullen, and in another by her profound connection to werewolf Jacob Black, a tumultuous year of temptation, loss, and strife have led Bella Swan to the ultimate turning point. Her imminent choice to either join the dark but seductive world of immortals or to pursue a fully human life has become the thread from which the fates of two tribes hang. Now that Bella has made her decision, a startling chain of unprecedented events is about to unfold with potentially devastating, and unfathomable, consequences.