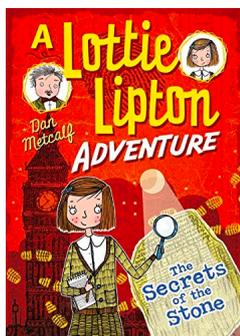


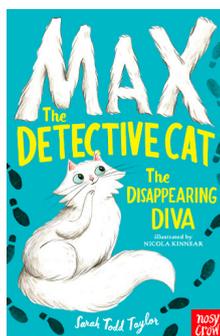
Our Top Mystery Picks

Try these first:



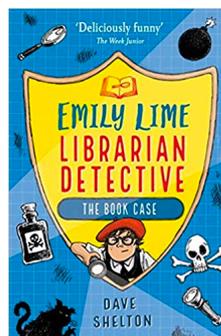
The Lottie Lipton series
by Dan Metcalf

There's been a break-in at the British Museum, can you help Lottie save the day?



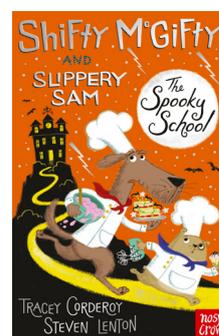
Max the Detective Cat series
by Sarah Todd Taylor

The pampered cat turns detective extraordinaire in this adventure.



Emily Lime
by Dave Shelton

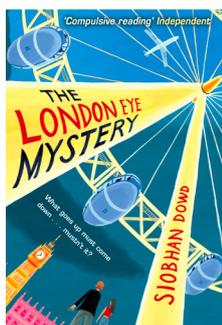
There's been a bank robbery in town, a break-in at school and a villain is on the loose. Can the Librarian Detective get to the bottom of things?



Shifty McGifty and Slippery Sam series
by Tracey Corderoy & Steven Lenton

These two brave bakers don't just make amazing cakes, they solve wacky mysteries too!

Then these:



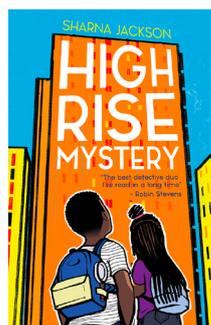
The London Eye Mystery
by Siobhan Dowd

Ted and Kat's cousin goes missing on the London Eye, can they follow the clues across London to find him?



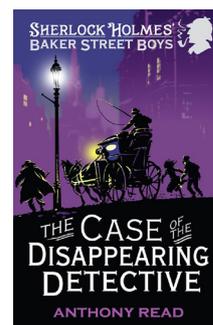
The Last Chance Hotel
by Nicki Thornton

A haunted 'whodunit' about an unusual hotel and its very unusual guests...



High Rise Mystery series
by Sharna Jackson

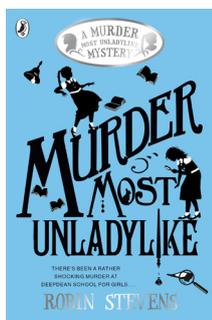
A teacher has been murdered! Are Nick and Norva the ones to solve the case?



The Baker Street Boys series
by Anthony Read

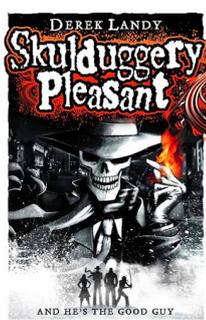
A fast-paced adventure about Sherlock Holmes' gang of street-urchin detectives.

These for older readers:



Murder Most Unladylike series
by Robin Stevens

Hazel and Daisy set up their own detective agency but never expected to have real murders to solve!



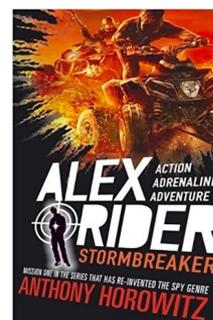
Skulduggery Pleasant series
by Derek Landy

Skulduggery Pleasant: wise-cracking detective, powerful magician, mastery of dirty tricks. Oh yeah. And dead.



The Sinclair's Mystery series
by Katherine Woodfine

Sophie and her friends must work fast to solve a crime and prove her innocence in this Edwardian mystery!

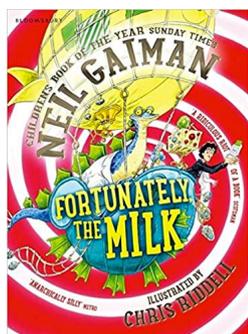


Alex Rider series
by Anthony Horowitz

14 year old Alex turns from schoolboy to superspy after being recruited into the MI6 after the mysterious death of his guardian.

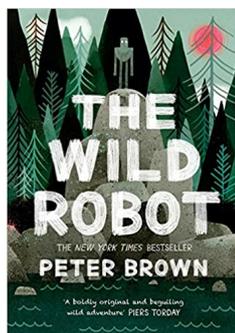
Our Top Science - Fiction Picks

Try these first:



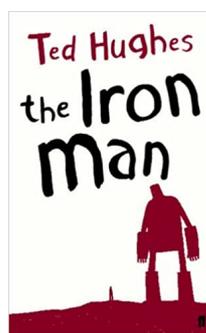
Fortunately, the Milk...
by Neil Gaiman

Don't miss this gloriously entertaining novel about time-travel, dinosaurs, milk and dads.



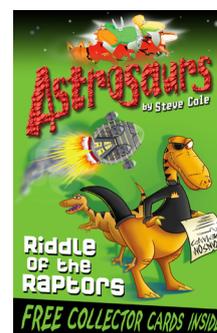
The Wild Robot
by Peter Brown

An action-packed novel about what happens when nature and technology collide.



The Iron Man
by Ted Hughes

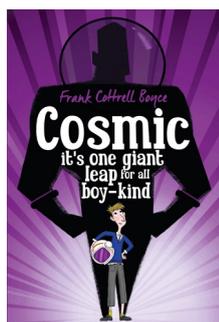
The Iron Man came to the top of the cliff. Where had he come from? Nobody knows.



Astrosaurs series
by Steve Cole

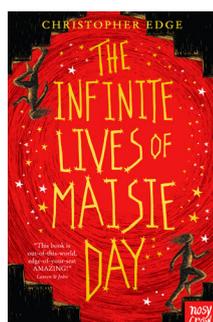
Meet Captain Teggs Stegosaur and the crew of the amazing spaceship DSS Sauropod as the ASTROSAURS fight evil across the galaxy!

Then these:



Cosmic
by Frank Cottrell-Boyce

Interstellar shenanigans and a side-splitting story of long-legged Liam and his quest to be the first child in space.



The Infinite Lives of Maisie Day
by Christopher Edge

A mind-bending mystery for anyone who's ever asked questions.



Time Travelling with a Hamster
by Ross Welford

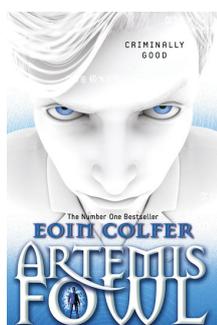
On AI's twelfth birthday he receives a mission: travel back to 1984 in a secret time machine and save his father's life.



Cogheart
by Peter Bunzl

When Lily's inventor father vanishes after a Zeppelin crash, Lily is determined to hunt down the truth behind his disappearance.

These for older readers:



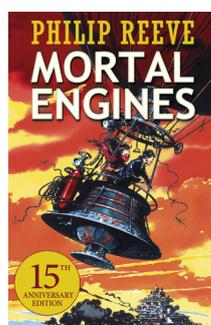
Artemis Fowl series
by Eoin Colfer

Follow the adventures of an inimitable twelve-year-old criminal mastermind: Artemis Fowl.



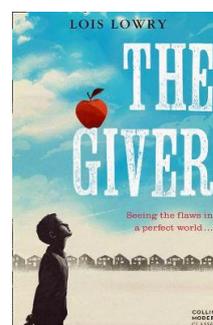
A Wrinkle in Time
by Madeleine L'Engle

Meg, Charles, and Calvin embark on a journey through space and time, from universe to universe, as they endeavor to save their father and the world.



Mortal Engines series
by Philip Reeve

A steampunk adventure set thousands of years in the future, in the aftermath of the Sixty Minute War which destroyed the civilisation of the 21st century.

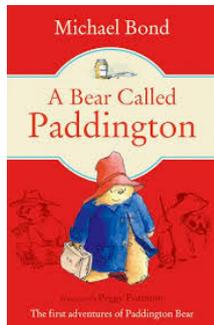


The Giver
by Lois Lowry

12-year-old Jonas lives in a perfect society, where everyone is well-fed and healthy and carefree and happy. But is it perfect?

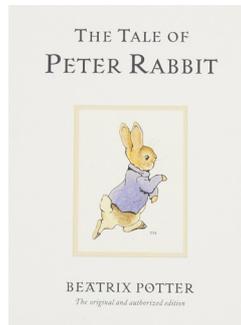
Our Top Classic Picks

Try these first:



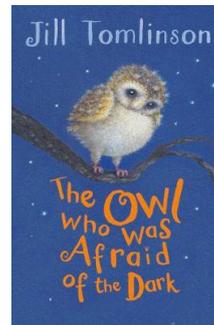
A Bear Called Paddington
by Michael Bond

Ordinary things become quite extraordinary when a bear called Paddington is involved.



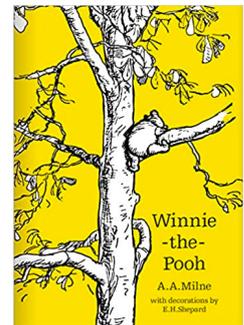
The Tale of Peter Rabbit
by Beatrix Potter

Shhh, come quietly into Mr McGregor's garden and see what you will find there...



The Owl Who Was Afraid of the Dark
by Jill Tomlinson

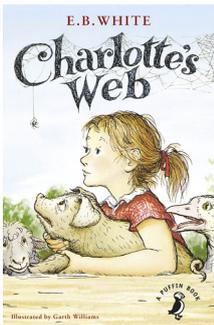
Plop, the Baby Barn Owl, is like every Barn Owl there ever was, except for one thing - he is afraid of the dark.



Winnie-the-Pooh
by A. A. Milne

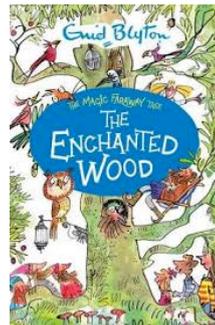
Winnie-the-Pooh may be a bear of very little brain, but thanks to his friends Piglet, Eeyore and, of course, Christopher Robin, he's never far from an adventure.

Then these:



Charlotte's Web
by E. B. White

A classic tale of friendship, bravery and some animal magic.



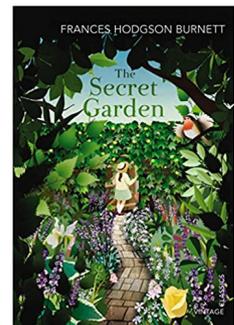
The Enchanted Wood
by Enid Blyton

When Joe, Beth and Frannie move to a new home, they discover the Faraway Tree - the beginning of many magical adventures!



Stig of the Dump
by Clive King

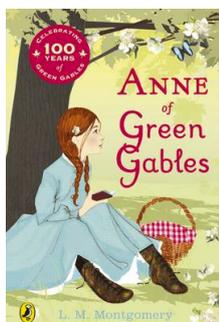
Barney meets 'somebody with a lot of shaggy hair and two bright black eyes' wearing a rabbit skin and speaking in grunts. He names him Stig.



The Secret Garden
by Frances Hodgson Burnett

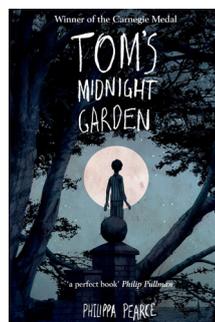
Orphan Mary Lennox is sent to Misselthwaite Manor to live with her uncle and discovers the most magical place anyone could imagine...

These for older readers:



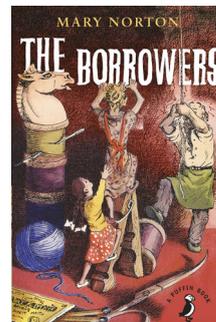
Anne of Green Gables
by L. M. Montgomery

Marilla and Matthew are in for a big surprise. They are waiting for an orphan boy to help with the work at Green Gables - but a skinny, red-haired girl turns up instead.



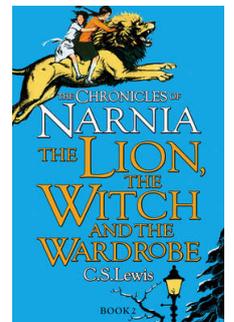
Tom's Midnight Garden
by Philippa Pearce

An engaging, magical tale about a boy who discovers a distinctive garden that only appears when the clock downstairs chimes on a mysterious 13th hour.



The Borrowers
by Mary Norton

The Borrowers are tiny people who live secretly in the walls and floors of an English house and "borrow" from the big people in order to survive.



The Chronicles of Narnia series
by C. S. Lewis

A quartet of wide-eyed evacuees encounter wicked witches and saintly lions in the magical land of Narnia.

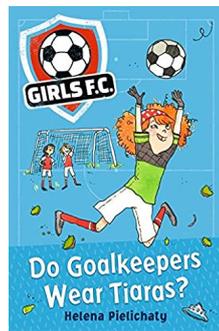
Our Top Sports Picks

Try these first:



Cool!
by Michael Morpurgo

Robbie, football fan and animal lover, ends up in a coma after an accident - what will wake him up?



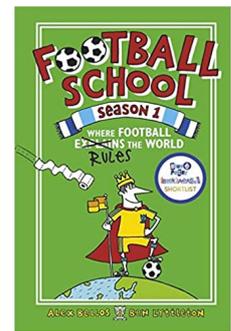
Girls F.C. series
by Helen Pielichaty

Join the Girls FC as they show the world what it really means to play 'like a girl'!



Flying Fergus
by Chris Hoy

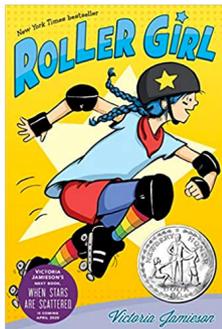
When Fergus gets a rusty second-hand bike for his ninth birthday he discovers something amazing when he takes it for a ride...



Football School series
by Alex Bellos

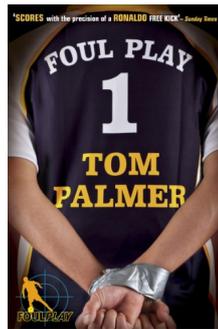
Teaching you about the world through football, this book is packed with awesome true stories, real science and fascinating facts and will make you laugh loads.

Then these:



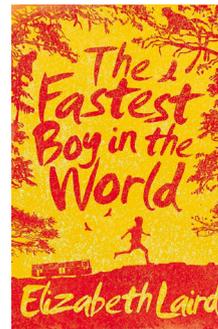
Roller Girl
by Victoria Jamieson

Astrid and Nicole are best friends. But while Astrid wants to go to the roller derby, Nicole chooses ballet camp!.



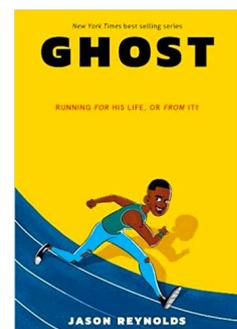
Foul Play series
by Tom Palmer

Danny is obsessed with two things: football - especially City Football Club - and investigating crimes.



The Fastest Boy in the World
by Elizabeth Laird

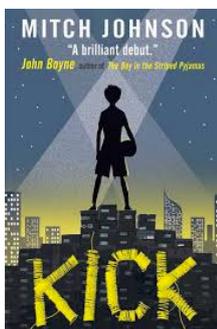
A twenty-mile run and a grandfather's life hanging in the balance. Can the small bare-footed runner with the big heart do it?



The Run series
by Jason Reynolds

Each book gives an insight into a different member of the track team's life on and off the track. None of them have it easy!

These for older readers:



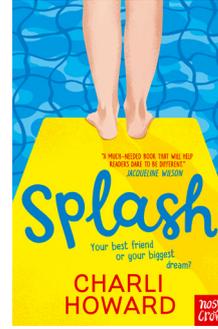
Kick
by Mitch Johnson

Budi dreams of being a footballer. Not an simple dream when you're working in an Indonesian sweatshop!



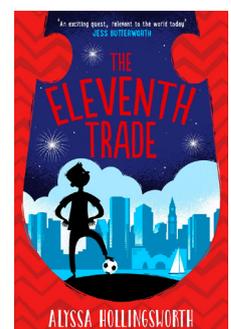
Running on Empty
by S. E. Durrant

When AJ's grandfather dies, everything becomes his responsibility. Can he support his parents and keep up with his running?



Splash
by Charli Howard

Molly is in her final year of primary school, with secret dreams of becoming an Olympic swimmer. Will she give up on her dreams for a shot at popularity?

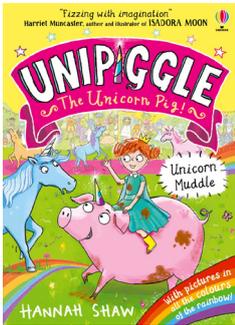


The Eleventh Trade
by Alyssa Hollingsworth

Meet Sami, a twelve-year-old refugee from Afghanistan, as he searches for friendship, a place to call home and his grandfather's most prized possession.

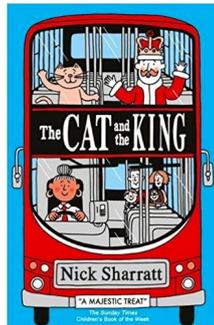
Our Top Funny Picks

Try these first:



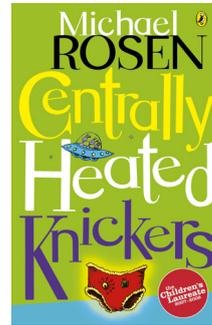
Unipiggle
by Hannah Shaw

Welcome to Twinkleland Kingdom, where everything is 100% perfect. Except Princess Pea - she loves getting muddy and having fun!



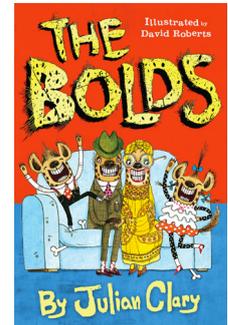
The Cat and the King
by Nick Sharratt

The cat and the King must find a new home after their castle burns down in an Unfortunate Incident with a dragon.



Centrally Heated Knickers
by Michael Rosen

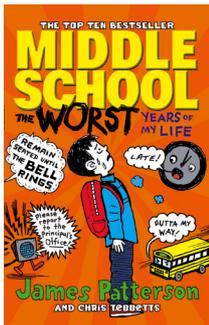
Discover the wierd and wonderful world of martians, woolly saucepans and centrally heated knickers in these 100 poems.



The Bolds series
by Julian Clary

Mr and Mrs Bold are just like you and me: they live in a nice house, they have jobs and they love to have a bit of a giggle. One slight difference: they're hyenas.

Then these:



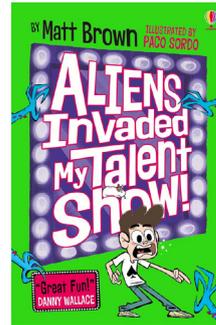
Middle School series
by James Patterson

Rafe has enough problems at home without throwing his first year of middle school into the mix..



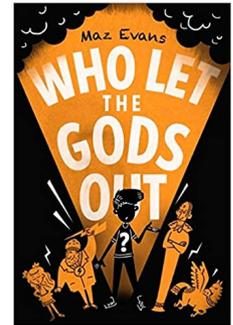
Baby Aliens series
by Pamela Butchart

Quirky characters, laugh-out-loud humour - there's all sorts going on in this primary school!



Aliens Invaded My Talent Show
by Matt Brown

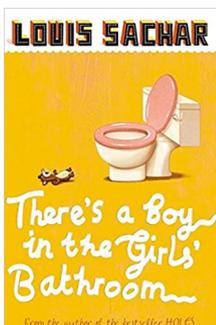
Because magic, aliens and talent shows are sure to be a horrible mix...Aren't they?



Who Let the Gods Out series
by Maz Evans

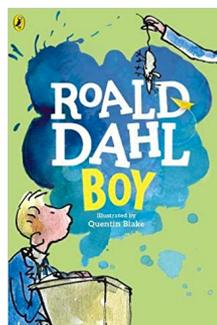
These gods are used to getting their own way and they're more than capable of creating a little chaos themselves.

These for older readers:



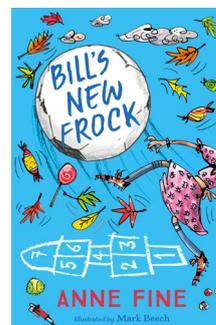
There's a Boy in the Girls' Bathroom
by Louis Sachar

Carla knows that Bradley could change, if only he weren't afraid to try.



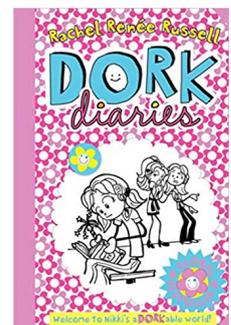
Boy
by Roald Dahl

Roald Dahl vividly shares his memories; some are funny. Some are painful. Some are unpleasant. All are true.



Bill's New Frock
by Anne Fine

Bill Simpson wakes up to find he's a girl, and worse, his mother makes him wear a frilly pink dress to school.

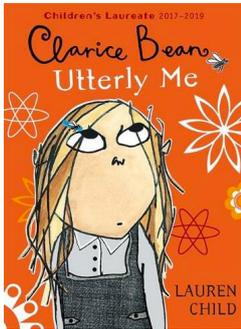


Dork Diaries series
by Hannah Renee Russell

Nikki Maxwell has never been popular but now she's started at a new school, she's hoping to leave her old dorky ways behind!

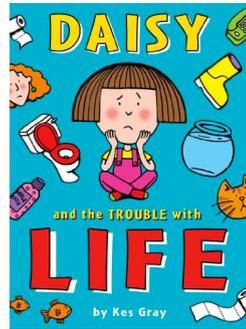
Our Top Realistic - Fiction Picks

Try these first:



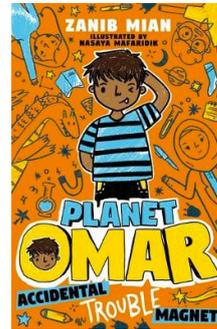
Clarice Bean, Utterly Me
by Lauren Child

'This is me, Clarice Bean. I'm not an only child, but sometimes I wish I was.'



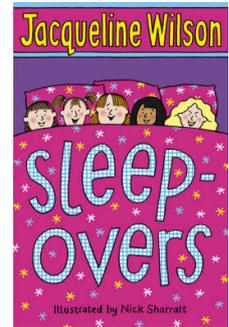
Daisy and the Trouble with Life
by Kes Gray

The trouble with life is it's SOOOOOOOOOO unfair.



Planet Omar series
by Zanib Mian

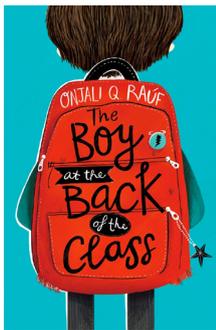
Welcome, readers, to the imaginative brain of Omar! The Planet Omar series is perfect for fans of Tom Gates and Wimpy Kid.



Sleepovers
by Jacqueline Wilson

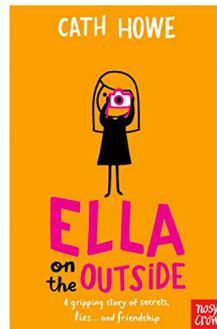
When the girls begin planning sleepover birthday parties, Daisy is dreading her own - she doesn't know what her friends will make of her rather special older sister...

Then these:



The Boy at the Back of the Class
by Onjali Q. Rauf

When a new boy joins their class, a group of friends come up with a daring plan to help him.



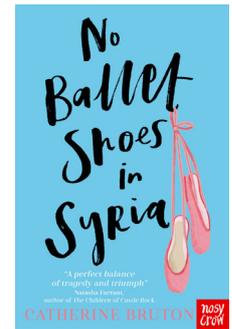
Ella on the Outside
by Cath Howe

A gripping story of lies, friendship, and blackmail...



Wonder
by R. J. Palacio

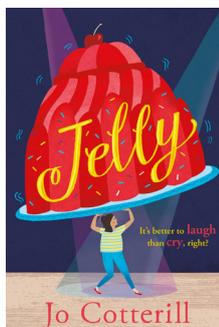
Auggie has had 27 operations, yet his first foray into school life, isn't so much about his appearance but more about how people react to him.



No Ballet Shoes in Syria
by Catherine Bruton

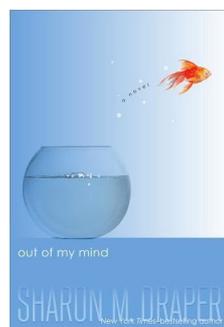
Aya has travelled so far to get to England. She misses her home, her friends - and most of all, being able to dance.

These for older readers:



Jelly
by Jo Cotterill

Jelly is funny and loud, but hurting inside, especially about her weight.



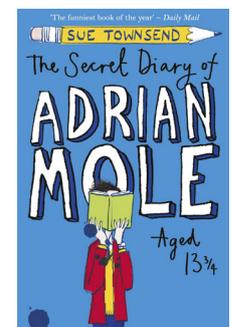
Out of my Mind
by Sharon M. Draper

Born with cerebral palsy, Melody, 10, has never spoken a word but she can remember every detail of everything she has ever experienced.



Smile
by Raina Telgemeier

Raina just wanted to be a normal girl, but one night she trips and falls severely injuring her two front teeth...



The Secret Diary of Adrian Mole
by Sue Townsend

Meet Adrian Mole, a hapless teenager providing an unabashed, pimples-and-all glimpse into adolescent life.

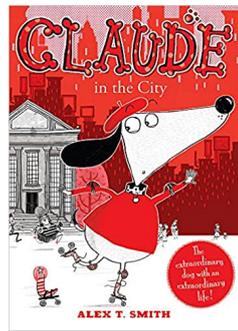
Our Top Animals/Nature Picks

Try these first:



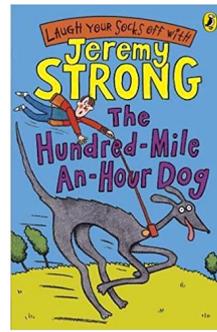
Guinea Pig Superstar!
by Ali Pye

Join Harry Stevenson - small guinea pig and unlikely hero - on two BIG new adventures.



Claude series
by Alex T. Smith

Meet Claude, the ordinary dog with an extraordinary life.



The Hundred-Mile An-Hour Dog
by Jeremy Strong

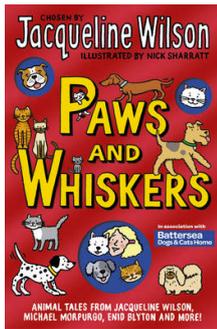
Streaker is no ordinary dog. She's a rocket on four legs with a woof attached, and Trevor has got until the end of the holidays to train her.



Rabbit and Bear series
by Jim Gough

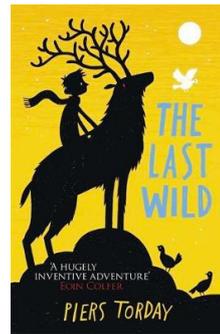
In this laugh-out-loud story, a rabbit and bear discover that things are always better when they're shared with a friend.

Then these:



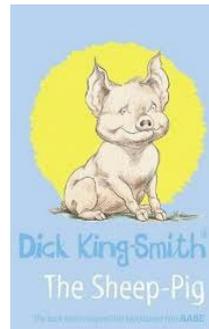
Paws and Whiskers
by Jacqueline Wilson

A special anthology featuring the very best stories about cats and dogs from the world of children's literature



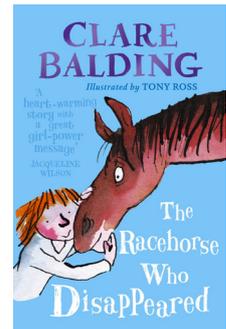
The Last Wild
by Piers Torday

This is a story about a boy named Kester. He is extraordinary, but he doesn't know that yet...



The Sheep-Pig
by Dick King-Smith

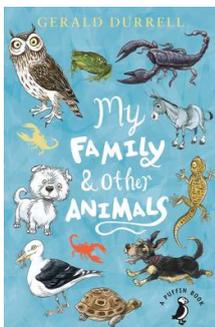
When Babe, the little orphaned piglet, is won at a fair by Farmer Hogget, he is adopted by Fly, the kind-hearted sheep-dog.



The Racehorse Who Disappeared
by Clare Balding

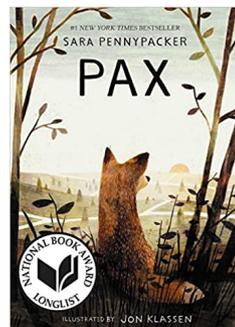
Clare Balding's brilliant adventure for Charlie Bass and her funny family of humans and animals.

These for older readers:



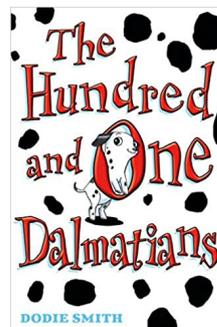
My Family and Other Animals
by Gerald Durrell

With snakes in the bath and scorpions on the lunch table, the family home on the Greek island of Corfu is a bit like a zoo!



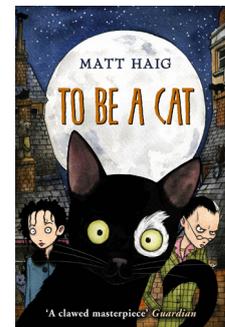
Pax
by Sara Pennypacker

This is the story of Peter, Pax, and their journeys back to each other as war rages throughout the country.



The Hundred and One Dalmatians
by Dodie Smith

The classic tale about 101 Dalmatians and their fight for survival against the evil Cruella De Vil.



To Be a Cat
by Matt Haig

Barney just wants to escape. To find another life. To be a cat, for example. A quiet, lazy cat. Things would be so much easier - wouldn't they?

Our Top Spooky Picks

Try these first:



The Goosebumps series
by R. L. Stine

Readers beware - you're in
for a scare!



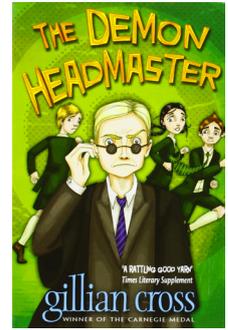
The Spooksville series
by Christopher Pike

The bizarre town is host to
a wide array of supernatural
and unexplained occurrences.



The Creakers
by Tom Fletcher

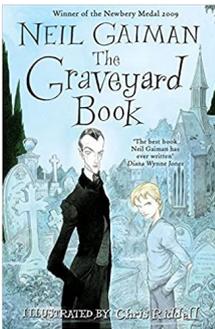
What lurks in the shadows
under the bed? A spine-
tingling mystery that
introduces readers to some
rather sticky, stinky monsters.



The Demon Headmaster
series
by Gillian Cross

Dinah starts a new school
where the children are too
well-behaved - robotic almost
- and oddly keen to please the
creepy headmaster...

Then these:



The Graveyard Book
by Neil Gaiman

Brought up by ghosts, ghouls
and spectres, Bod has an
eccentric childhood learning
about life from the dead.



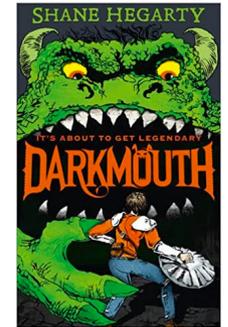
Coraline
by Neil Gaiman

Another mother and father
with black-button eyes are
waiting for Coraline to join
them. And they want her to
stay with them. For ever.



The Witches
by Roald Dahl

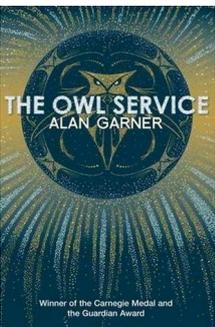
In fairy-tales, witches always
wear silly hats and cloaks,
and they ride on broomsticks.
But this is not a fairy-tale. This
is about REAL WITCHES.



Darkmouth
by Shane Hegarty

Legends (also known as
terrifying, human-eating
monsters) have invaded the
town of Darkmouth.

These for older readers:



The Owl Service
by Alan Garner

Alison, Roger and Gwyn
are drawn into the replay
of a tragic Welsh legend - a
modern drama played out
against a background of
ancient jealousies.



The Monstrous Child
by Francesca Simon

Meet Hel, an ordinary
teenager - and goddess of the
Underworld. She's just got
one question: why is life so
unfair?



Thornhill
by Pam Smy

A darkly gripping tale of two
girls separated by thirty years
but pulled together by the
looming house of Thornhill.

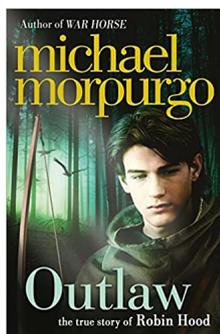


Alex Rider series
by Anthony Horowitz

A motley collection of
ghost-hunters on a terrifying
mission to save their
reputation in one of the
scariest haunted houses in
fiction.

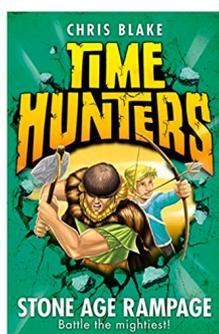
Our Top Historical Picks

Try these first:



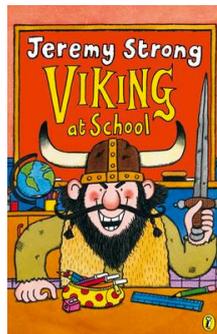
Outlaw
by Michael Morpurgo

After a fierce storm, a boy discovers a human skull, buried beneath the roots of an ancient tree. A skull with a legendary story...



Time Hunters series
by Chris Blake

Join Tom on an incredible treasure hunt through time and battle history's mightiest warriors. A time-travelling series - perfect for fans of Beast Quest.



Viking at School
by Jeremy Strong

When Tim and Zoe take Sigurd the Viking to school with them a series of seriously funny disasters results.



Arthur and the Golden Rope
by Joe Todd-Stanton

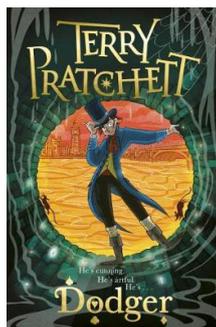
Welcome to Professor Brownstone's vault - containing ancient relics from around the world!

Then these:



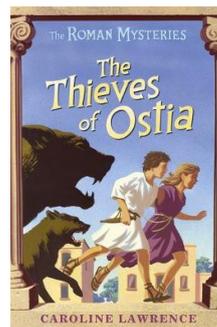
Secrets of a Sun King
by Emma Carroll

A fabulous tale of mysterious packages, Egyptian tombs and a pharaoh's deadly curse.



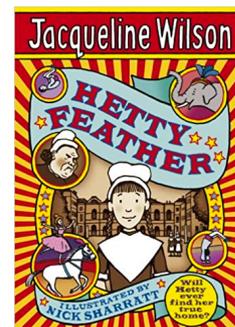
Dodger
by Terry Pratchett

Set in Victorian London, starring cunning but kind Dodger, as he sets off on a whirlwind adventure through the city streets



The Roman Mysteries series
by Caroline Lawrence

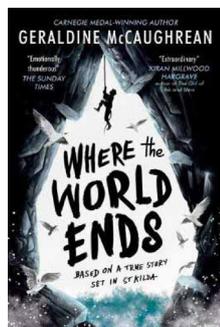
The daughter of a ship's captain living in Ostia, the port of Rome, Flavia Gemina is a natural at solving mysteries.



Hetty Feather
by Jacqueline Wilson

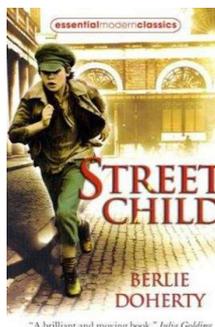
London, 1876. Hetty Feather is just a tiny baby when her mother leaves her at the Foundling Hospital.

These for older readers:



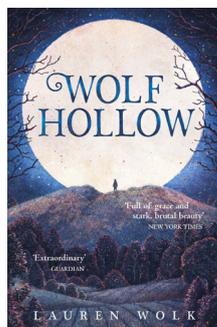
Where the World Ends
by Geraldine McCaughrean

In the summer of 1727, a group of boys are put ashore on a remote sea stack to harvest birds for food. No one returns to collect them.



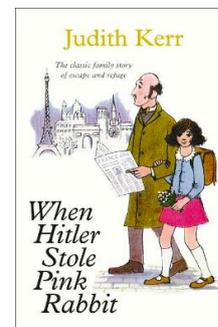
Street Child
by Berlie Doherty

The unforgettable tale of an orphan in Victorian London, based on the boy whose plight inspired Dr Barnardo to found his famous children's homes.



Wolf Hollow
by Lauren Wolk

Evil comes to rural Pennsylvania in an unlikely guise in this novel of the American homefront during World War II.

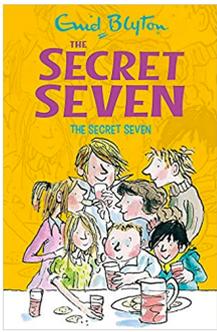


When Hitler Stole Pink Rabbit
by Judith Kerr

This semi-autobiographical and unforgettable story, of a Jewish family fleeing from Germany before the start of the Second World War.

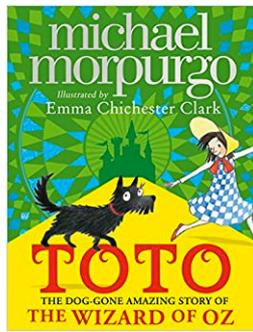
Our Top Adventure Picks

Try these first:



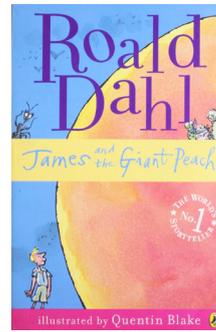
The Secret Seven series
by Enid Blyton

These timeless stories are perfect for young fans of mystery, adventure or detective series.



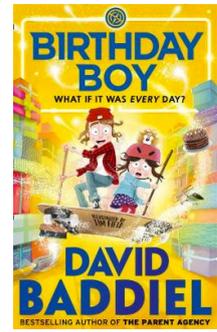
Toto: The Wizard of Oz
by Michael Morpurgo

A surprising, charming and uplifting twist on The Wizard of Oz, told by a very special and unforgettable character: Dorothy's pet dog, Toto.



James and the Giant Peach
by Roald Dahl

One day James meets a strange old man who gives him a bag full of magical crystals and James' life takes a most extraordinary turn.



Birthday Boy
by David Baddiel

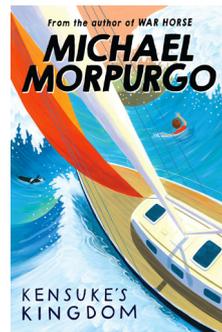
Sam Green really, really loves birthdays. He is so excited about his 11th birthday, in fact, that he wishes it was his birthday every day.

Then these:



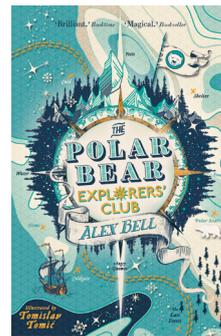
Max and the Millions
by Ross Montgomery

Max discovers a secret civilisation of tiny people in the office of his school's missing caretaker...



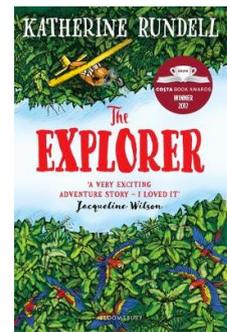
Kensuke's Kingdom
by Michael Morpurgo

Washed up on an island in the Pacific the night before his twelfth birthday, Michael struggles to survive on his own.



The Polar Bear Explorers' Club
by Alex Bell

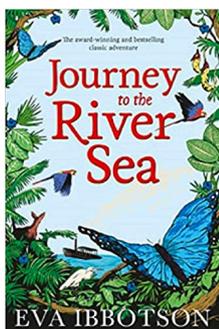
Stella and three other junior explorers get separated from their expedition. Can they cross the frozen wilderness and live to tell the tale?



The Explorer
by Katherine Rundell

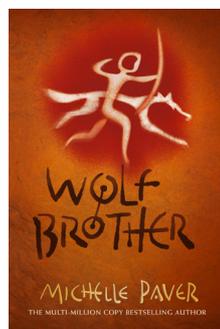
Four children in the Amazon jungle with no hope of rescue, the chance of getting home feels impossibly small. Except, it seems, someone has been there before them...

These for older readers:



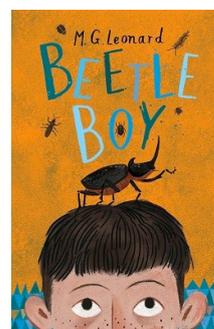
Journey to the River Sea
by Eva Ibbotson

An Amazon adventure set in the wilderness of Brazil filled with mystery and memorable characters.



Wolf Brother series
by Michelle Paver

A terrifying quest in a world of wolves, tree spirits and Hidden People, a world in which trusting a friend means risking your life.



Beetle Boy
by M.G. Leonard

An unmissable tale of a disappearing scientist and his son's quest to find him

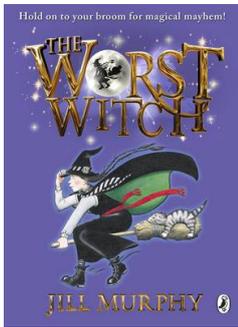


The Invention of Hugo Cabret
by Brian Selznick

Orphan, clock keeper and thief, Hugo lives in the walls of a busy Paris train station, where his survival depends on secrets and anonymity.

Our Top Fantasy Picks

Try these first:



The Worst Witch series
by Jill Murphy

Mildred Hubble is a trainee at Miss Cackle's Academy for Witches, but she's making an awful mess of it.



Wizards of Once series
by Cressida Cowell

In this whirlwind adventure, Xar and Wish must forget their differences if they're going to make it to the dungeons at Warrior Fort.



The Dragon in the Library
by Louie Stowell

It's up to Kit and her friends to save the library... and the world.



Hilda series
by Luke Pearson

Join Hilda as she explores and meets some very interesting creatures.

Then these:



A Pinch of Magic
by Michelle Harrison

The Wildershins are cursed and cannot leave their island. Can they break the curse and save their family?



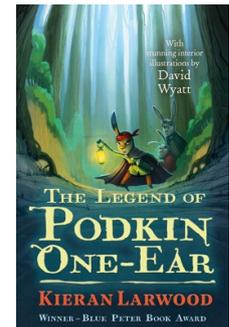
Nevermoor series
by Jessica Townsend

Morrigan has to pass four impossible tasks. If she wants to join The Wondrous Society.



The Lost Magician
by Piers Torday

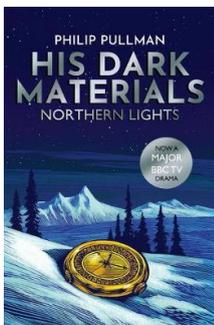
The stories of the Library are locked in eternal war, and the children's only hope is to find their creator - a magician who has been lost for centuries.



The Legend of Podkin One-Ear
by Kieran Larwood

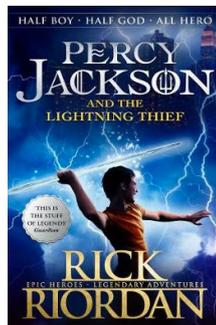
Podkin and his two younger siblings have to escape their family burrow. Can they face the Gorm on their own?

These for older readers:



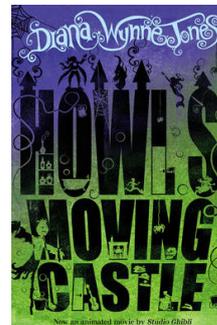
His Dark Materials series
by Philip Pullman

Set in an alternate universe of species-shifting daemons, magical artefacts and forbidden knowledge; join Lyra on her quest for answers about Dust and her family secrets.



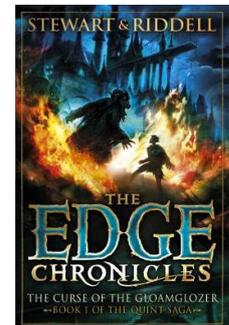
Percy Jackson series
by Rick Riordan

Half boy. Half God. ALL Hero. "I was just a normal kid, going to school, playing basketball, skateboarding... Until I accidentally vaporised my maths teacher."



Howl's Moving Castle
by Diana Wynne Jones

Young Sophie Hatter from the land of Ingary catches the unwelcome attention of the Witch of the Waste and is put under a spell...



The Edge Chronicles
by Paul Stewart and Chris Riddell

14-year-old Quint is the only remaining son of famous sky-pirate Wind Jackal. Can he save the city from the curse of the gloamglozer...