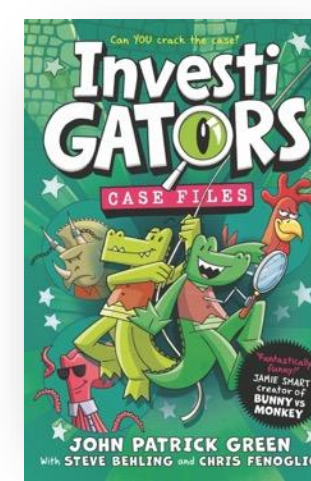
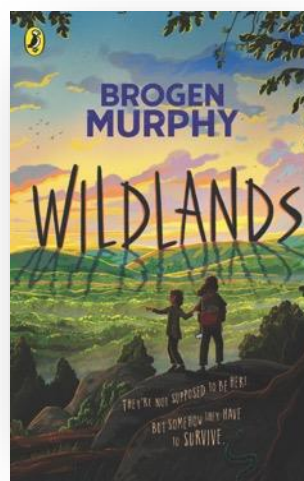
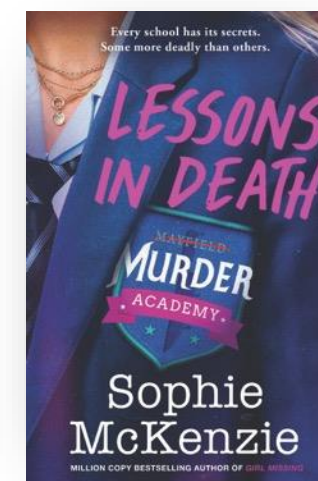
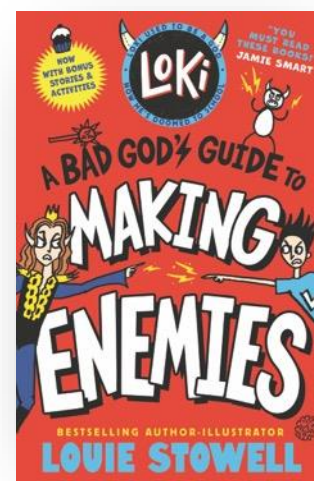
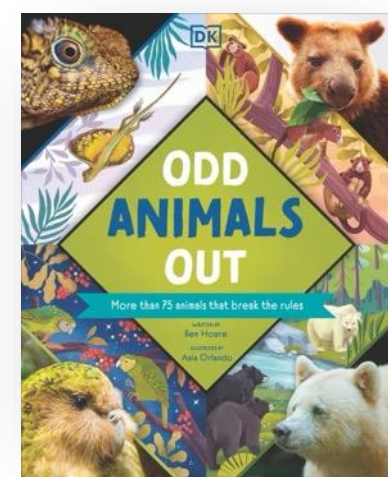
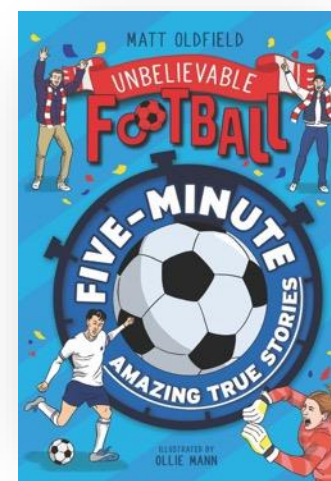
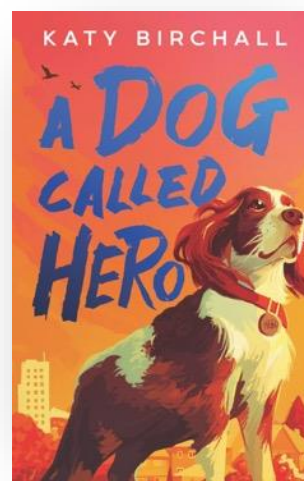
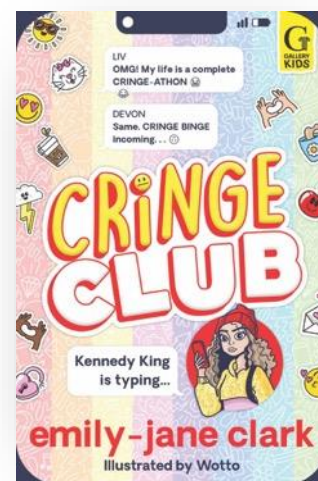
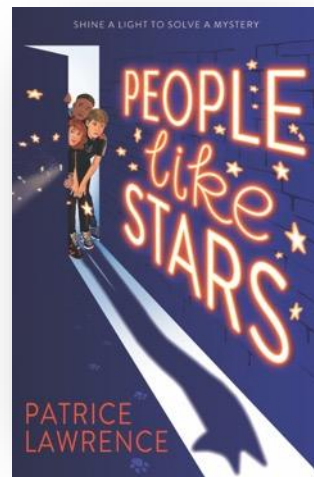
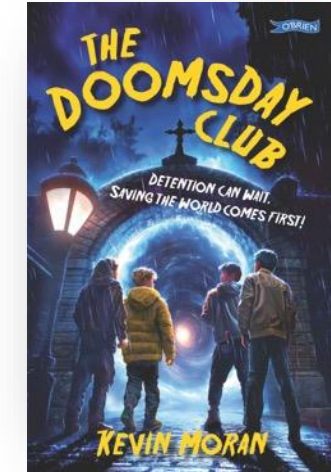




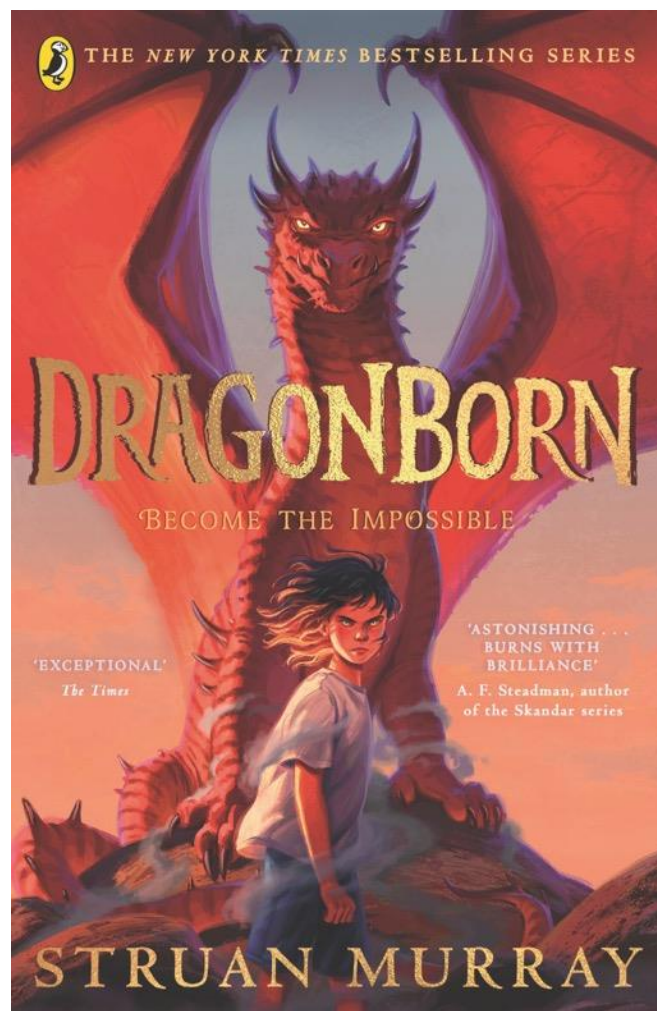
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This year's books



Dragonborn

By Struan Murray



Genre: fantasy, adventure

Key themes: belonging, bravery, grief (death of a parent)

An epic fantasy adventure, set in a world where dragons live among humans.

When a stranger reveals a shocking family secret, Alex is uprooted from home and taken to the island of Skralla – a place inhabited by dragons, giants, and everything in between. Here she must learn to unlock the power hidden inside her. But danger lurks in the shadows: fearsome dragon Drak Midna is preparing for war. Can Alex use her newfound abilities to protect Skralla?

Pages: 368

Blitzers

By Alastair Chisholm and Francesca Ficorilli



Genre: thriller, science fiction

Key themes: online toxicity, friendship, new tech

A pacey, dyslexia-friendly novella with a science fiction twist.

The latest must-have gaming gadget, Blitzers are fighting mechs that players pitch against each other in digital arenas to challenge their fighting skills. Except Danny's Blitzer refuses to fight. How can he get his Blitzer to behave like everyone else's? While looking for answers, Danny stumbles upon a deadly secret about the Blitzers' true purpose...

Pages: 152

Always Angel

By Kimberly Whittam



Genre: real-life drama

Key themes: foster care, mental health, friendships

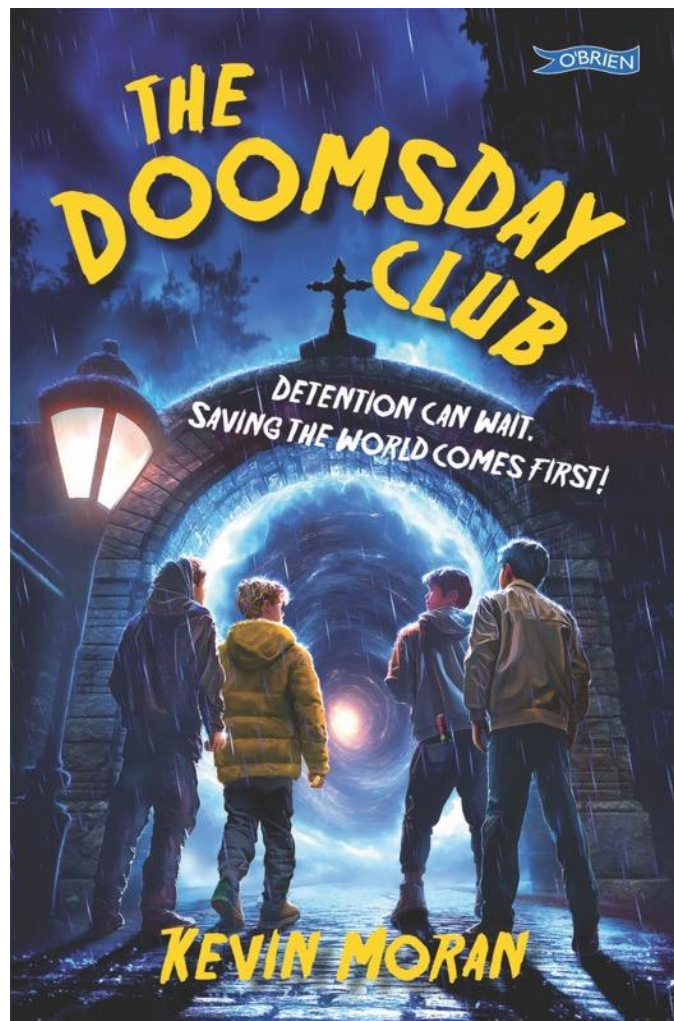
A powerful, emotive story about school, friendships and finding your voice.

Angel and school don't mix. She doesn't mean to be trouble, but there are so many worries in her head that things just run out of control sometimes. Now, with her second chances running out and new friend Tiana encouraging her to make certain choices, can Angel find something to focus on that will help her find a way through the chaos and show everyone who she really is?

Pages: 240

The Doomsday Club

By Kevin Moran



Genre: quest, horror

Key themes: mythology, monsters, friendships

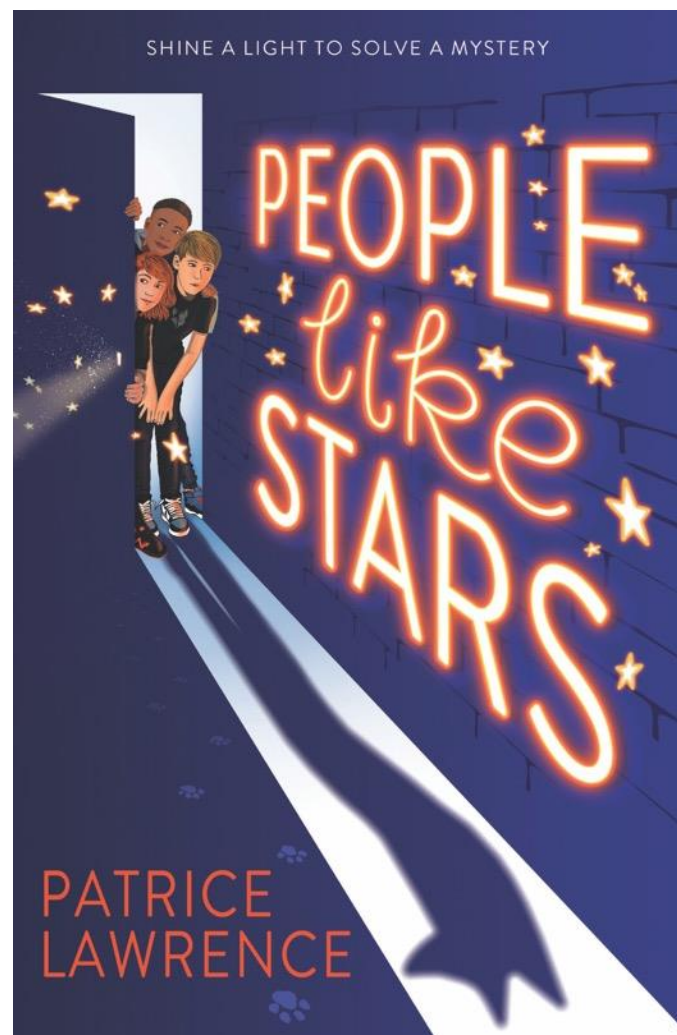
A page-turning supernatural adventure.

Frenemies Conan, Jack, Yash and Jerry are stuck in detention when they witness a monstrous-looking beast emerge from a portal outside their school. Equally fascinated and terrified, their investigation quickly leads them to something far more sinister: something ancient that puts them all in mortal danger. Can the boys put aside their differences and work together to save the world?

Pages: 272

People Like Stars

By Patrice Lawrence



Genre: real-life drama, mystery

Key themes: family, mental health, challenge

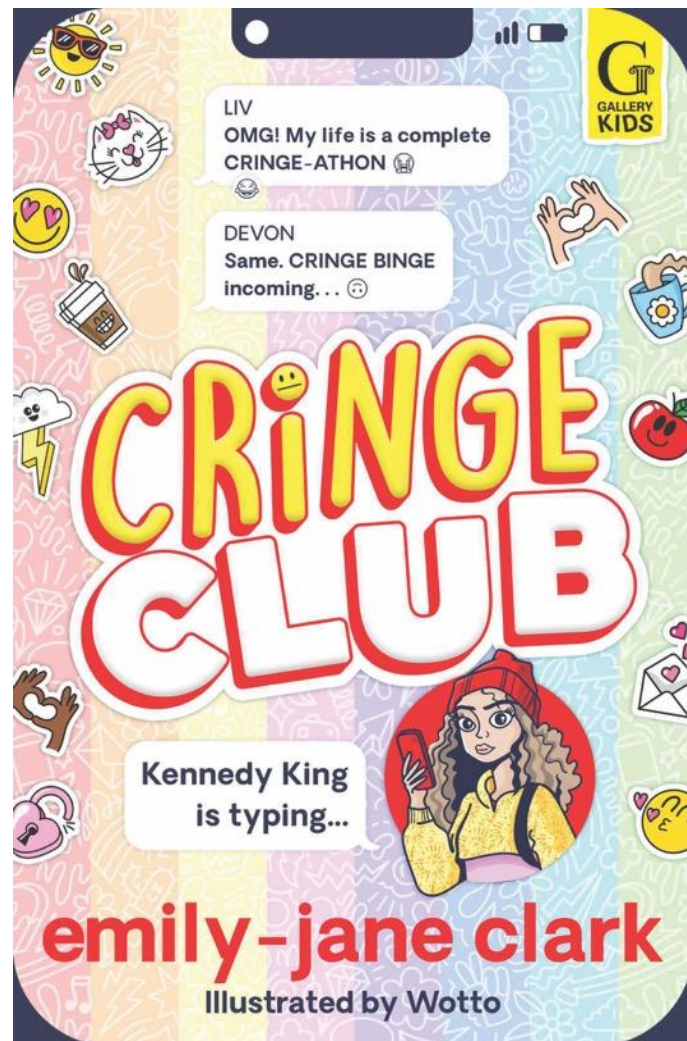
An intricately woven story about fractured families, growing up, and facing challenge.

A story of three teenagers – Ayrton, Stanley and Senna – and how their fractured family situations shape their everyday lives. They don't know each other – yet – but are about to discover that one big secret connects them together. As each of them moves closer to the truth, and to finding each other, they must face some challenging discoveries.

Pages: 304

Cringe Club

By Emily-Jane Clark and Wotto



Genre: funny, diary

Key themes: school, friendships, identity

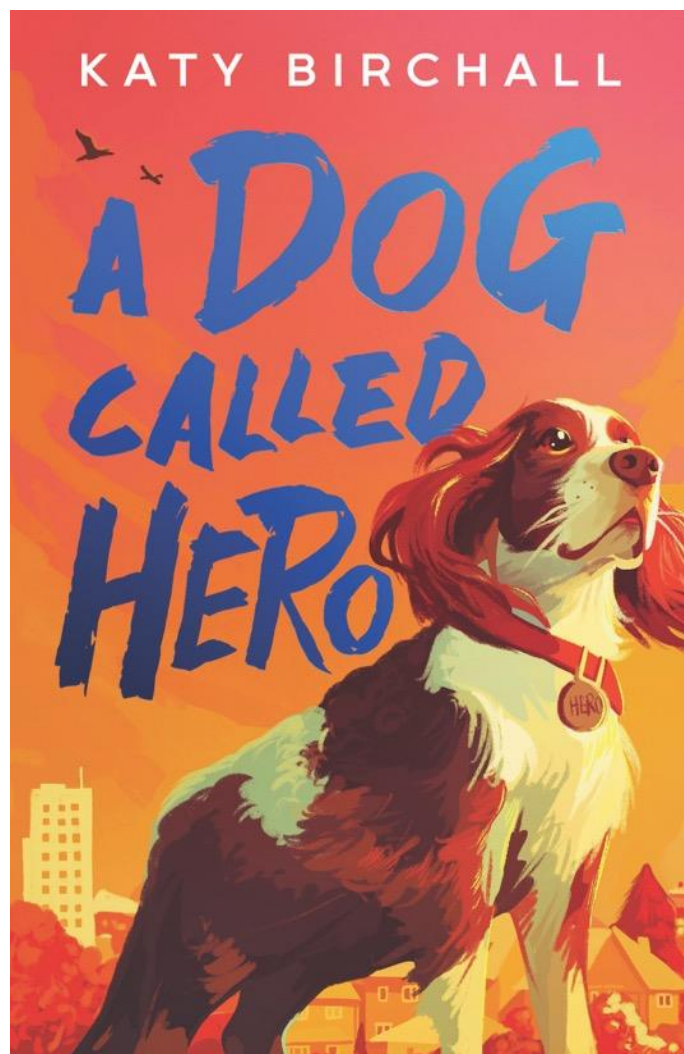
A funny, highly relatable story about friends, school and fitting in.

Kennedy has started the 'Cringe Club' group chat to keep in touch with her old friends after moving to the city – and to vent about the cringe-fest and trauma of starting at a new school. Written entirely in phone messages and voice-notes, Kennedy and her friends encounter the cringiest of situations every day as they navigate school, bullies, friends and family.

Pages: 352

A Dog Called Hero

By Katy Birchall



Genre: mystery, crime

Key themes: grief (death of a parent), belonging, family

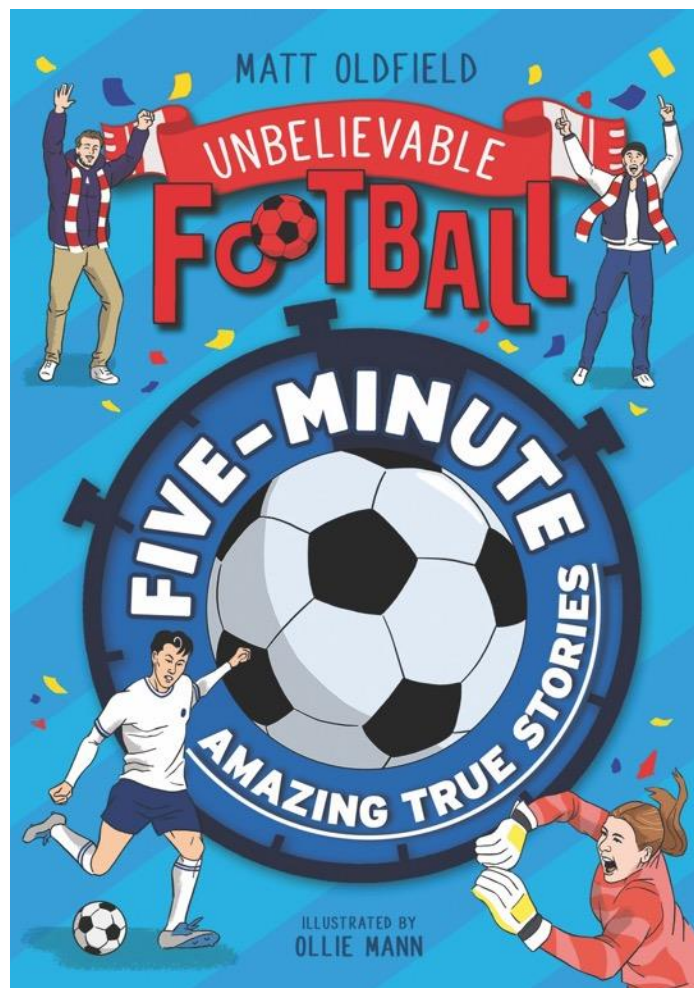
A multi-layered mystery that keeps you guessing.

Although it's a year since he died, Haley's grown up hearing about detective work from her police-officer dad. So when a priceless diamond is stolen at the glamorous party her and her mum are catering, it's natural for Haley to start investigating – especially when the theft jeopardises her mum's business. With help from former police dog Hero, can Haley crack the case?

Pages: 400

Unbelievable Football: Five-Minute Amazing True Stories

By Matt Oldfield and Ollie Mann



Genre: nonfiction, short stories

Key themes: football, community

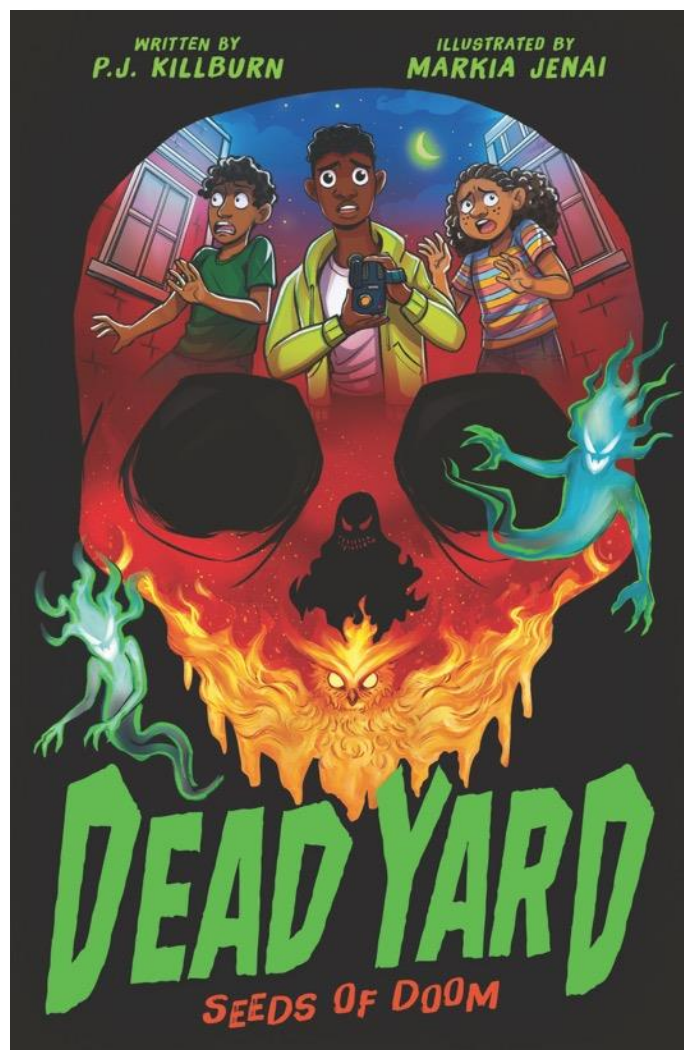
A collection of short, real-life tales about football.

From surprising football heroes and incredible comebacks to the worst red cards and dirtiest football tricks, this collection of true stories is packed full of football action, drama and brilliant football knowledge to discover. Accessible, narrative non-fiction that shows how sport can unite, inspire and amaze in equal measure.

Pages: 272

Dead Yard: Seeds of Doom

By P. J. Killburn and Markia Jenai



Genre: adventure, funny

Key themes: ghosts and spirits, family, mystery-solving

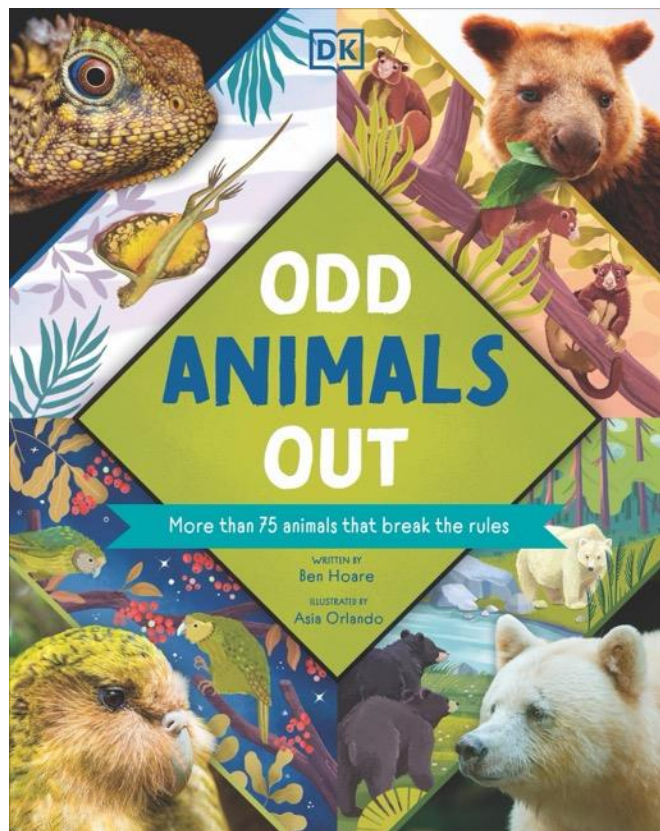
A fun paranormal adventure-mystery.

Jermain has accidentally broken a rule at the traditional Dead Yard ceremony for his cantankerous Great Uncle Carl's passing – and is now being haunted by Carl, something neither of them are very happy about! But as Jermain tries to get Carl to leave him alone, even stranger things start happening – something much creepier than Carl has set its sights on the town...

Pages: 208

Odd Animals Out

By Ben Hoare and Asia Orlando



Genre: nonfiction

Key themes: nature, facts, celebrating difference

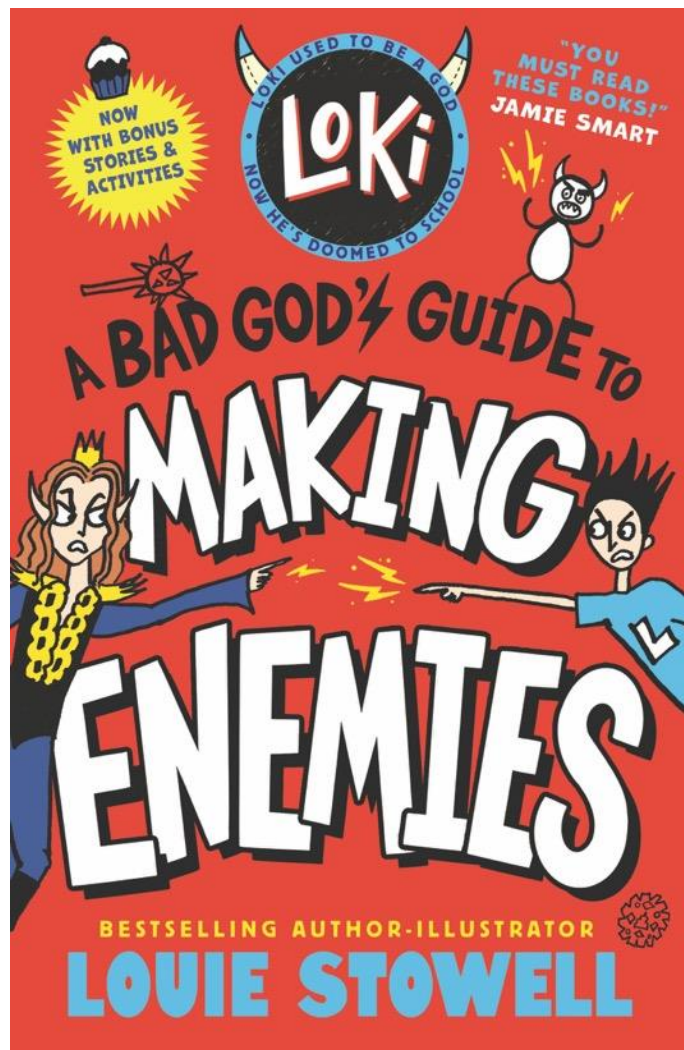
This dip-in-and-out, photographic fact book features animals that love to stand out from the crowd.

Did you know there's a vegetarian shark? A snake that can fly? A penguin that prefers sun to snow? Find out about loads of amazing, rule-breaking creatures in this dip-in, nature-themed fact book – what makes them special and why. With colourful illustrations, small blocks of text and packed with real-life photographs, it celebrates difference and the brilliance of the animal kingdom.

Pages: 80

Loki: A Bad God's Guide to Making Enemies

By Louie Stowell



Genre: diary, funny

Key themes: school, friendship, Norse mythology

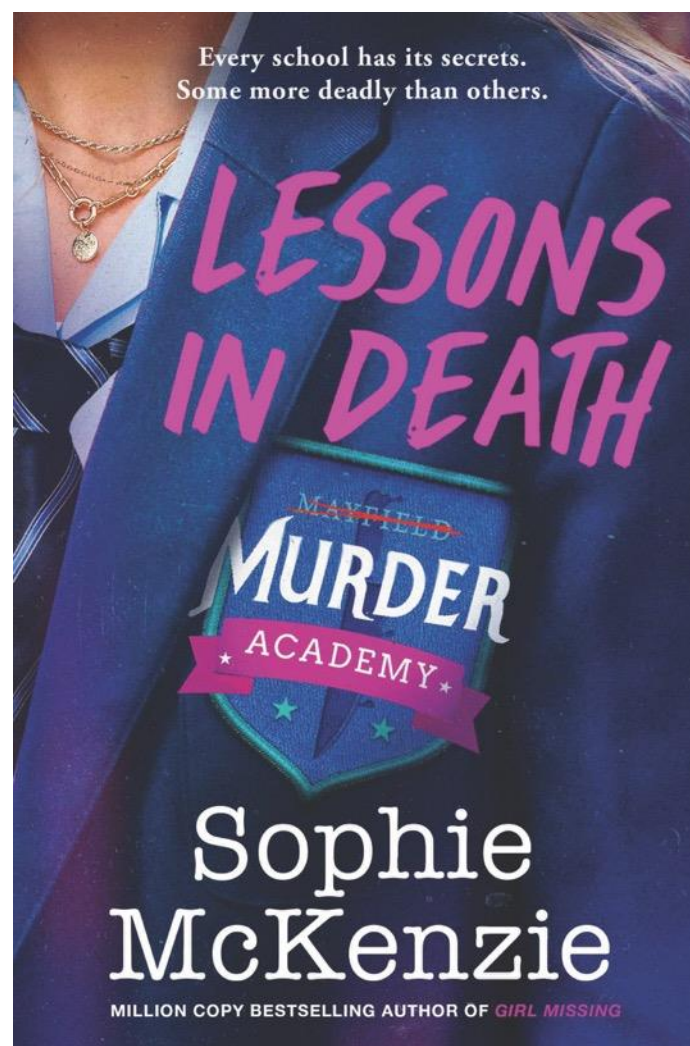
The hilarious school diary of trickster god Loki.

Imprisoned in the body of a teenage boy, Loki is supposed to be learning 'moral improvement'. But with a talent for getting into trouble – and then weaselling his way out of it – moral improvement is still a long way off. From friendship disasters to vengeful elves and a dreaded school dance, Loki's doodle-packed diary is a laugh-out-loud lesson in how not to behave!

Pages: 272

Murder Academy: Lessons in Death

By Sophie McKenzie



Genre: crime, mystery

Key themes: friendship, school, danger

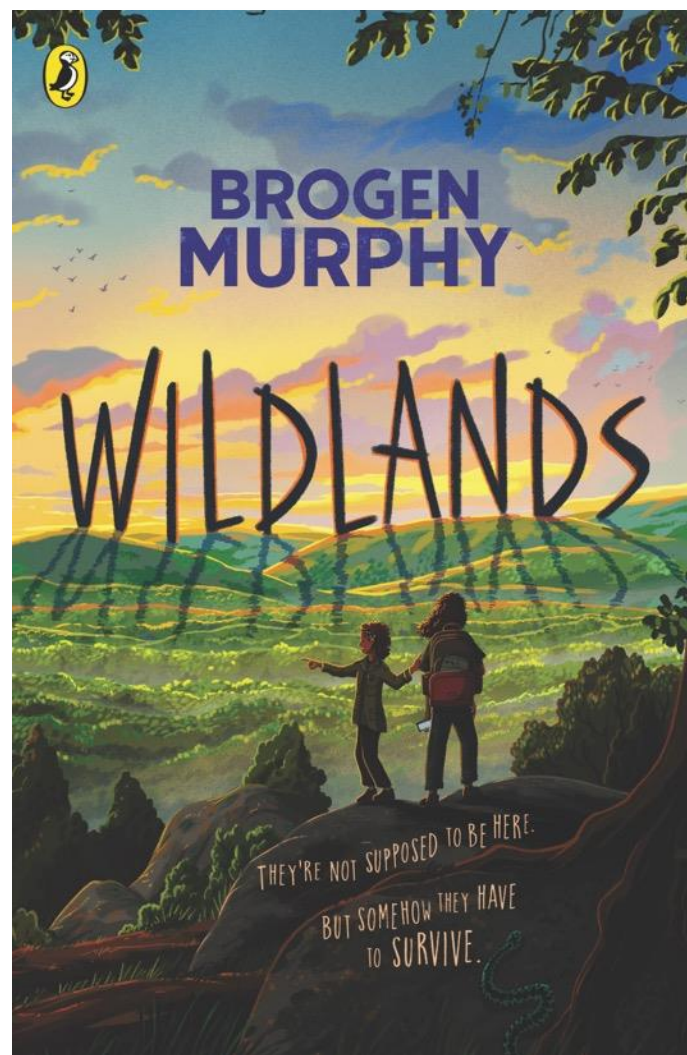
A school murder mystery with lots of peril.

Georgia is shocked when she finds the dead body of her drama teacher in the library at school. But then, after going for help, the body has gone – and now almost nobody will believe what she saw. With best friend Billy and new girl Wren's help, can Georgia find the evidence she needs to prove Mr Truckle has been murdered – and find the murderer?

Pages: 240

Wildlands

By Brogen Murphy



Genre: adventure, survival

Key themes: environment, family, identity (donor-conception)

A pacey adventure-survival story.

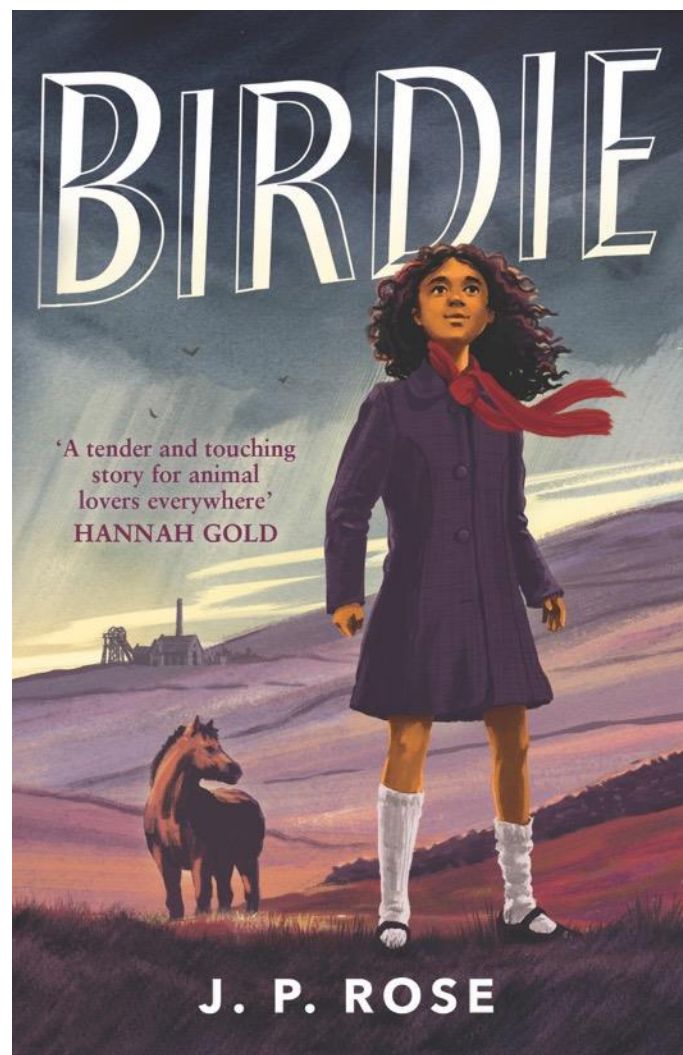
In the not-too-distant future, the Wildlands are a vast, rewilded area of Britain and a strict no-go area for humans. So when siblings Astrid and Indie are accidentally stranded there, they're in big trouble.

Disorientated, with limited food and water and no phone signal, they will have to face many unpredictable dangers to find their way out of the wilderness.

Pages: 416

Birdie

By J. P. Rose



Genre: real-life drama, animals

Key themes: kinship care, racial discrimination, courage

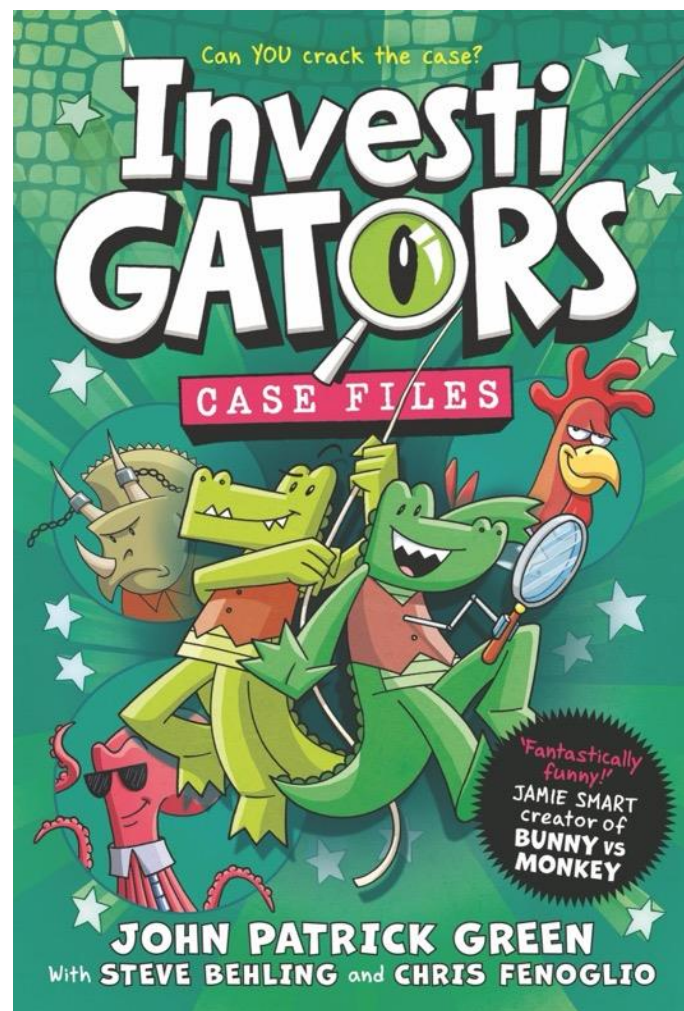
A quiet, character-driven story about belonging.

When Birdie is sent to live with her great aunt in a rural mining village, everyone makes it clear that she is an outsider. Looking for escape and solace, Birdie discovers and befriends the mine's last pit pony. But when she learns the pony's future is in jeopardy, she is determined to change people's minds and find a way to save him.

Pages: 256

InvestiGators: Case Files

By John Patrick Green, Steve Behling and Chris Fenoglio



Genre: graphic novel, funny

Key themes: crime, mystery, problem-solving

A fun and funny graphic novel with six crime cases to solve.

Alligator detectives Mango and Brash have their work cut out for them in this collection of six different cases. From 'The Missing Mayo Mystery' to 'The Electric Enigma Encounter', the dynamic duo have the latest gadgets and their street smarts to hand, but want readers' help too – using the prompts in each chapter, can you beat the Gators and solve the case first?

Pages: 208

Avalanche

By Simon Fox



Genre: action, thriller

Key themes: danger, tech, family

A high-stakes, action-packed thriller.

Tom thought going to a luxury ski resort would be a dream holiday, but things take a dangerous turn when ruthless mercenaries take over the chalet, kidnap his mum and her boss, and trigger an avalanche that leaves them all trapped and cut off from help. Time is ticking... Tom must find out what the bad guys are after and stop them from getting their hands on it.

Pages: 288

Which will you choose?

