# COVER STORY 2024 - 2025

Teen Reads at your library







# Finding your next great read

Cover Story is our annual pick of the best teen reads. We think they are all brilliant, but if you are seeking a specific genre, check the key below:



All of these books are available to browse and reserve at your local library in person, or by clicking the book image. Many of them are also available as eBooks or eAudiobooks to download via our online apps. Look out for the symbols below and click to download.



Available as eBook



Available as eAudiobook



This Book Won't Burn Samira Ahmed

ISBN: 9780349125527 Little Brown, 2024

After Noor's father abandons his wife and daughters, they decide to start over in a new town where Noor can keep her head down and finish out high school in peace. However, when she sees books are being removed from the school library shelves in an attempt to censor LGBTQ+ writers and authors of colour, she realises she must stand up and fight for what she believes in, regardless of the consequences.



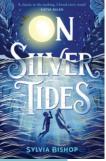
#### Sleep Like Death Kalynn Bayron

ISBN: 9781526641090 Bloomsbury, 2024





Eve's whole life has been devoted to one thing, learning the skills she needs to defeat the evil sorcerer who transformed one of her mothers into a songbird. With her ability to conjure weapons from lightning, communicate with wild animals, and her deadliness with both knife and bow, she should be ready. But are her skills enough? And why is her other mother suddenly acting so strangely? A dark and atmospheric re-imagining of the story of Snow White.



#### On Silver Tides Sylvia Bishop

ISBN: 9781839133589 Anderson Press, 2024





The silvermen are a secret community who can breathe underwater. living on the waterways of Britain. By following the rules of their ancient traditions they have managed to stay hidden until Isla, Kelda's little sister, is born different. According to silverman Lore she should be sacrificed to preserve the health of the rivers, so Kelda's family are forced to flee north to save Isla's life. Their journey up to the wilds of Scotland comes with startling revelations about the true history of their people, the unearthing of old family secrets, and the discovery of an ancient magic that binds the rivers to the sea.



#### Champion of Fate Kendare Blake





ISBN: 9780861547500 Rock the Boat, 2023 Since she was a child, Reed has been training to join the Aristene, an exclusive group of immortal female warriors. She has one task remaining before she can join their ranks; shepherding a young prince to ensure he earns glory in battle. But the task turns out to be harder than she expected. As her feelings for the prince change, Reed is faced with a tough choice - does she become an Aristene and give up on love, or follow her heart and abandon her chance at immortality?



#### The Undying of Obedience Wellrest Nicholas Browning

ISBN: 9781912626687 Chicken House, 2023





Ned and Obedience are two teens thrown together by fate, science, and bodysnatching in this deliciously dark gothic mystery set in 1832. Ned has spent an isolated life as the grandson of a gravedigger but has begun to notice strange goings-on amongst the headstones. Obedience is dealing with her own problems; namely the arrival of a potential suitor who appears to have ulterior motives and a fixation on long-dead Uncle Herbert's unusual scientific research. Frankenstein meets Tuck Everlasting in this gruesome yet charming read.



#### The Tall Man Mary Cathleen Brown

ISBN: 9781911427391

Everything with Words, 2024
The locals call it the Tall Man house, after a local legend who supposedly did terrible things there over two hundred years ago. So, when Tom hears a strange boy's voice in the cellar of his new home, he suspects he might be hearing traces of the Tall Man's crimes, echoing across time. Having stirred up dark forces from the past, Tom's life may now be in danger in this scary time-travel mystery.



#### **Bird Boy Catherine Bruton**

ISBN: 9781839946493 Nosy Crow, 2024



After losing his mum, city-born Will has been sent to live with his uncle in the middle of the countryside, where he finds himself friendless, isolated, and miserable. The chance discovery of an Osprey's nest in the mountains changes everything, helping him to forget his problems and even make a new friend. But with the Ospreys in trouble, Will faces a difficult choice. Is he prepared to help the birds even if it means sacrificing his new-found happiness?



#### Of Jade and Dragons Amber Chen

ISBN: 9780241624364 Penguin, 2024



Why was Ying's father murdered? To find out, Ying must disguise herself as a boy and complete the trials required to enter the all-male Engineers' Guild. Her father was a great engineer, and the guild must hold answers about his death, but can Ying best the competition? Can she maintain her disguise long enough to track down her father's killer and exact her revenge? And should she trust her only ally; the royal prince who may have secrets of his own...



#### The Night Hunt Alexandra Christo

ISBN: 9781471413995 Hot Key Books, 2023



The Gods have already killed Atia's parents, and now they are coming for her. As the last of the Nefas, monsters who feed on fear, her only chance of surviving is to fight back; by killing a banshee, a vampire, and one of the gods who hunts her. Joining her on this nearimpossible task is an unlikely ally; a Herald, whose job it is to ferry the dead to the Underworld. Infused with Greek myth, this is a richly detailed fantasy with lashings of romance and gore.



#### Jay's Guide to Crushing It Ruby Clyde

ISBN: 9780702325076 Scholastic, 2023







At her last school Jay was badly bullied for her short hair and love of skateboarding, so a new school offers the chance for a fresh, more conventional, start. But as Jay begins to miss her old life, she begins sneaking down to the local skate park in disguise as a boy, leading to some unexpected and very embarrassing misunderstandings. A very funny and romantic celebration of learning to embrace what makes you, you.



#### So Let Them Burn Kamilah Cole

ISBN: 9780349125442 Atom, 2024



Faron is the Childe Empyrean, a normal girl who was chosen by the gods themselves to fight against an invading army of dragon-riders. Five years of peace later, Faron is a national hero, leaving her sister Elara desperate to make her own mark. When Elara unintentionally soul-bonds with an enemy dragon, the two sisters find themselves on opposite sides of an inevitable conflict as ancient powers collide with political plots in this exhilarating tale of sisterhood, romance, and ancestral connection.



#### This Tale is Forbidden Polly Crosby

ISBN: 9780702325601 Scholastic. 2024







When Nesta's grandmother goes missing, she must leave their isolated cottage and travel to the city in hope of finding her. She soon discovers that all the warnings were true; in the city women are forced to follow strict rules and are punished if they rebel, thanks to a history re-written to portray famous fairytale characters as weak and utterly reliant on men. Nesta must form new alliances to find her grandmother, reveal the true stories, and find her own happy ending.



#### Where the heart should be Sarah Crossan

ISBN: 9781526666598 Bloomsbury, 2024







Set in Ireland in 1846, the country is being devasted by the Great Hunger as teenage Nell gets a job as a scullery maid for the local Lord. Whilst her family and the local villagers are starving, she is surrounded by seemingly endless food and even begins to grow close to Lord Wicken's heir. But as she's falling in love for the first time, everything else is falling apart. A heart wrenching story told in verse, set during historical events.

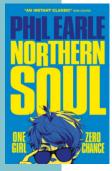


#### Cross my Heart and Never Lie Nora Dåsnes

ISBN: 9780008653750 Farshore, 2024



Written in a diary format with colourful illustrations, this is a quick read about a young girl wanting to fit in, fall in love, and play the saxophone. In this graphic novel, translated from Norwegian, Tuva is caught between her two best friends as she starts a new school year: does she want to get a boyfriend like Linnéa, or stay playing in the woods with Bao? A lovely read about friendship, growing up and being who you are.



#### Northern Soul Phil Earle

ISBN: 9781800902039 Barrington Stoke, 2024



Marv is in love; one glance at his new neighbour Carly, and his world has been turned upside-down. After an evening of listening to love songs and begging the universe for help, he is astounded to be visited by the King of Soul himself, Otis Redding. Otis offers to guide this love-struck teen in the ways of wooing, with advice straight from the 1960s and a suspiciously northern accent... What follows is a hilarious and charming tale of first loves, first kisses, and first heartbreaks all in less than one-hundred pages.



#### A Tempest of Tea Hafsah Faizal

ISBN: 9781529098938 First Ink, 2024









Arthie has swiftly risen through the ranks of the criminal underworld as the proprietor of Spinthrift; a tearoom by day, bloodhouse by night, that caters to both humans and vampire clientele. However, her hard-won reputation has made her a target of the ruling Horned Ram and Arthie must assemble a crew of outlandish outlaws for a dangerous heist that will give her the leverage she needs to ensure Spinthrift's survival. Mystery, romance, vengeance, and tea make a delicious blend in this uniquely crafted fantasy.



#### Girl, Goddess, Queen Bea Fitzgerald

ISBN: 9780241624289 Penguin, 2023







Rather than be married off to her mother's choice of arrogant and overbearing suitor, this re-imagining of the Greek myth sees Persephone travelling to the Underworld to enlist Hades in her plot to overthrow the gods. This fantasy has humour, a slow-burn romance, and a solid grounding in Greek mythology accompanied by some beautiful and atmospheric illustrations. Think you know the legend of Persephone? Well, think again!



#### The Things We Leave Behind Clare Furniss

ISBN: 9781471169816 Simon & Schuster, 2024





In this eerily believable alternate version of modern Britain, London has become the epicentre of civil unrest following the divisive election of a pseudo-celebrity with extreme political views. Clem, forced to flee with her little sister Billie to a recently independent Scotland, recalls the long, traumatic journey she took to reach safety. Memories blend with fairytales as Clem attempts to soften the brutal reality of her story, protecting herself from the trauma she experienced in a country distorted by bigotry and fear.



#### The Big Ask Simon James Green

ISBN: 9781800902428 Barrington Stoke, 2024







The "it" couple of the school have broken up, leaving Alfie Parker wondering if he could ask newly single (and long-term crush) Harvey Ledger to be his prom date. But Harvey is straight and would never be interested in a self-proclaimed "tragic" guy like Alfie... right?! This funny and heartfelt read from the brilliant Simon James Green is short, accessible and perfect for fans of Alice Oseman and Rainbow Rowell.



#### Catch your Death Ravena Guron

ISBN: 9781803705422 Usborne Publishing Ltd, 2023



When uber-wealthy Emily Vanforte is murdered during a family dinner at the grand Bramble Estate, three stranded teens are forced to solve the mystery of her death so they might escape the snowstorm unscathed. But when everyone's a suspect, can the girls even trust each other? Told from three different perspectives with police interviews breaking up the chapters, this thrilling whodunnit is perfect for fans of Karen M. McManus and Holly Jackson.



#### Island of Whispers Frances Hardinge

ISBN: 9781529088083 Two Hoots, 2024







The mist makes the dead linger on the island of Merlank, and ghosts can kill. Milo's father is the Ferryman; tasked to take the dead safely on their way, travelling by sea to free their spirits. When he's left with no choice, Milo must take over the role and journey through the seas alone, pursued by two magicians and a lord set on revenge. A beautifully illustrated life-affirming tale about loss that combines elements of fairy tales, fantasy, and ghost stories.



#### Goddess Crown Shade Lapite

ISBN: 9781529503715 Walker Books, 2024



Men have always held the power in the kingdom of Galla, but with the King and his male heirs all dead the last woman standing is Kalothia. Having grown-up in a forest, hidden for her own safety, she has much to learn about the vicious world of courtly mind games and political intrigue. Luckily, Kalothia's unusual upbringing has given her some unique skills that hopefully will help in her attempts to prove herself a worthy ruler. An exciting fantasy with a twisting plot.



#### Indi Raye is totally faking it Lauren Layfield

ISBN: 9781444959727 Hodder, 2023



Indi is starting a new school and is desperate to fit in, but why can't she stop lying to everyone about her not-so-perfect life? Written as a teenager's diary, this hilarious book about growing up, friendships, crushes, pet lizards, and working in a chip shop is sure to make you laugh! This debut novel by CBBC presenter Lauren Layfield is perfect for fans of Geek Girl and the Lottie Brooks series.



#### King of Nothing Nathanael Lessore

ISBN: 9781471413247 Hot Key. 2024





After being forced to attend a youth group, "King of the School" Anton has no choice but to spend time with his social opposite, Matthew. Together the boys build a secret friendship as Anton tries (and fails) to improve Matthew's reputation, without his "real" mates ever finding out. But who will truly be there for him when the going gets tough? A hilarious yet heartfelt coming of age story, from the Carnegie-nominated author of Steady for This.



#### Ryan and Avery David Levithan

ISBN: 9780008655686 Electric Monkey, 2023







Ryan and Avery meet at queer prom, and we follow their relationship out of sequence, jumping backwards and forwards through time, in this unique love story told across their first ten dates. Whilst Avery's parents are supportive of him and his boyfriend, Ryan's parents are doing everything they can to keep the two boys apart. A lovely LGBTQ+ romance, perfect for fans of Alice Oseman and Simon James Green



#### I hope this doesn't find you Ann Liang

ISBN: 9780702324321 Scholastic. 2024



Sadie, school captain and top of her class, has a secret to being the perfect student; she writes angry, scathing emails to anyone who annoys her, but leaves them in her drafts, never to be sent. But when all her emails are suddenly shared, everyone learns what she really thinks of them, and they aren't pleased. Now, to fix the school's reputation, she's being forced to spend more time with her cocaptain Julius, the target of her angriest emails and the most infuriating person she's ever met...



#### OtherworldlyF T Lukens

ISBN: 9781398521506 Simon & Schuster, 2024









Knox is a supernatural being with magical powers whose time on earth is ending. Ellery is a non-believer convinced that the neverending winter in their region must have a scientific explanation. After a chance meeting, Knox offers a deal, signed in blood, that will fix both their problems and leave them bound together in a paranormal pact. As Ellery confronts the fantastical, Knox gets to experience the human world, and their magical bond begins to change into something new... A smart, funny romance perfect for the winter months.



#### Mexikid: A Graphic Memoir Pedro Martin

ISBN: 9781916558069 Guppy Books, 2023





As a Mexican American, Pedro sometimes feels like he doesn't fit in anywhere, and as one of nine siblings his voice can be a little lost in the crowd. This graphic novel/memoir follows a road trip taken with his family from the US to Mexico, to pick up his Abuelito - a crimefighting grandfather and alleged participant in the Mexican revolution. With everyone packed into a Winnebago, this epic journey is full of hilarious moments, delightful characters, and gives a heartfelt insight into Pedro and his family.



#### A Taste of DarknessAmy McCaw & others

ISBN: 9780702329173 Scholastic, 2023







A haunted doll, a deadly house party, creatures in the woods, teenage vampires, and demons from the underworld; the thirteen short stories that haunt these pages are guaranteed to send shivers down your spine. These atmospheric tales have enough twists and turns to keep even the most hardened horror fans guessing, and with renowned YA authors such as Louie Stowell and Kat Dunn contributing their eerie imaginings, we would advise against reading this collection before bedtime... Due to some gory moments, this is recommended for readers aged 13+



#### Instant Karma Marissa Meyer

ISBN: 9780571386543

Faber, 2024



When over-achiever Prudence discovers that she has the ability to wield karmic justice against those around her, she utilises her newfound power to right all the wrongs she sees in her coastal town. But the person who frustrates her the most, Quint, is seemingly immune to her karmic interventions. He's also cute and cares about animals, spending most of his time volunteering at a marine animal rescue centre, and Pru begins to realise he might not be as irritating as she first thought...



#### All that it ever meant Blessing Musariri

ISBN: 9781035902514 🥒 Zephyr, 2023





Mati's Father is attempting to reconnect with his children after a tragic loss by taking them on a family road-trip across Zimbabwe. With her siblings barely talking to each other, Mati begins to confide in Meticais; a charismatic, beautifully dressed, gender-neutral entity who is invisible to everyone else. As she ruminates on her losses, while witnessing the beauty of Zimbabwe, Mati begins to reveal the true story of what happened to her family. Mysterious and meditative, this lyrical novel is a beautiful examination of grief, family, and reconciliation.

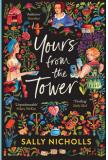


#### You better watch out Sarah Naughton

ISBN: 9780702329753 Scholastic, 2023



Eleri is not used to having admirers, so when a mysterious Secret Santa starts leaving anonymous gifts for her in the abandoned flats near her house, at first she is flattered. Then the presents start getting weird... Eleri begins to wonder if her secret admirer is just a prankster with a dark sense of humour, or if something more sinister is going on. With a large cast of characters and a fast-moving plot, this is a great read for those who like their Christmases' a little creepy...



#### Yours from the tower Sally Nicholls

ISBN: 9781839134814 Anderson Press, 2024

Living far apart after their years together at boarding school, best friends Tirzah, Polly, and Sophia are each faced with unique challenges and difficult choices as they navigate the adult world and their potential futures. Love, marriage, friendship, family, and the politics of 1896 are all explored in this funny yet moving collection of letters between the three teenage girls. With plenty of gossip, intrigue, and Victorianera romance, this is a coming-of-age tale with plenty of costume drama, as well as a celebration of female friendship.



#### The No-Girlfriend Rule Christen Randall

ISBN: 9781782694465 Pushkin Children's, 2024



Hollis is determined to play Secrets & Sorcery after being rejected from her boyfriend's game due to the 'no-girlfriends' rule his friends have imposed. After finding an all-female crew to game with, her weekly adventures in the Second Realm soon have her embracing her inner adventurer, as well as blurring the lines between role-play and reality thanks to a certain charming bard and the teammate who plays him. Grab your D20 and roll for adorable with this delightful queer romcom set in the world of table-top roleplaying games.



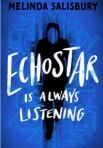
#### Better left buried Mary E Roach

ISBN: 9781368098403 Hyperion, 2024





Lucy thought she was having a holiday, but instead her privatedetective Mum has taken her to the smallest, most isolated town in Tennessee, where they immediately encounter a dead body inside an abandoned amusement park. Intrigued by her Mum's secretive links to the town, Lucy starts investigating the murder herself, with the help of the mysterious motorbike-riding Audrey. Together they begin to uncover a connection to an unsolved case from years before. A highly entertaining murder mystery for fans of Karen McManus.



#### Echostar is always listening Melinda Salisbury

ISBN: 9781800902701 Barrington Stoke, 2024

Ruby is struggling at school, so when her best friend tells her about Echostar, an app that helps you to cheat in lessons and exams, she decides to try it out. At first the app seems great, almost like a friend, but when it starts 'helping her out' by playing increasingly nasty pranks on her classmates, Ruby begins to wonder if Echostar really has her best interests at heart. Especially when it refuses to be deleted... A fast-paced. modern thriller that will have you side-eyeing your smartphone.

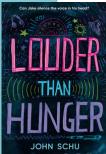


#### 100 tales from the Tokyo Ghost Café Tokyo Ghost Café Julian Sedgwick & Chie Kutsuwada



ISBN: 9781913101886 Guppy Books, 2024

Our two authors, Julian and Chie, are travelling to Fear Mountain; home to spirits and strange apparitions, to help a young boy named Akira find his home. Short stories and manga are combined in this novel-with-a-difference as our protagonists encounter a variety of yokai monsters and famous ghosts including a ghost cat and a phantom skateboarder. Part cozy, part creepy, this second collaboration after 2021's Tsunami Girl is sure to appeal to fans of manga and ghost stories alike.



#### Louder than Hunger John Schu

ISBN: 9781529514568 Walker Books, 2024



Bullied by his peers, Jake is struggling to cope. Avoiding people his own age, he prefers to spend his time volunteering at a local nursing home and begins to control his eating as a way of making himself feel smaller. This tear-jerking novel-in-verse uses the author's own adolescent experience of disordered eating to explore how body dysmorphia and restrictive eating habits can affect men and boys. With an incredibly moving afterword from the author, this is a difficult but impactful read.



#### If I have to be haunted Miranda Sun

ISBN: 9780008612443 Magpie, 2024







Cara Tang can see ghosts, just as her grandmother could, but she steadfastly ignores them in an attempt to live a normal life. But when her classmate, the infuriatingly charming Zach Coleson, is murdered and his ghost begs her for help, she will have to face the supernatural world she has spent her life avoiding and embrace the power that she has long kept buried inside. A romantic, funny, and fantastical adventure that blends mythology and mystery in a magical quest across dimensions.



#### Sister Spirit Efua Traore

ISBN: 9781035907571

Zephyr, 2024



Tara is convinced that tracking down her birth parents will stop her disturbing dreams, so after finding clues in an old diary, she travels to Olumo Rock in Nigeria to seek answers and enrols in the boarding school nearby. The area turns out to be full of magic and history, but Tara's visions are only getting worse. Can Tara solve the mystery surrounding her birth parents before the dreams consume her? Inspired by Yoruba mythology, this unique and intriguing mystery lingers long after the final pages.



#### Us in the before and after Jenny Valentine

ISBN: 9781471196584 Simon & Schuster, 2024

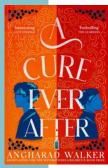








Elk and Mab have been BFFs since they were eleven, with such a strong bond that not even death itself can divide them. Over a long, hot summer these two friends, one girl and one ghost, must grapple with their new reality, lingering tensions, and the tangled choices that led to that fatal night. Grief, love, and quantum physics are all woven together in this sensitive exploration of traumatic loss and its aftermath. Perfect for fans of John Green and Sarah Barnard.



#### A cure ever after Angharad Walker

ISBN: 9781915026293 Chicken House, 2024



In this alternative London, emotional turmoil has real, physical consequences. Os, greedy for a better life, is cursed with Midas-fingers; the ability to turn anything, or anyone, to solid gold. While this may be of benefit within the Financial Guild, he struggles to let anyone close. Kitt is equally out of place in his studies to become a doctor, where his ability to read feelings may hamper his ability to heal. They must work together to uncover the dark secret at the core of this corrupt and dangerous society.



#### Like a girl Rebecca Westcott

ISBN: 9780702318467 Scholastic, 2024



Eden and Bea used to be best friends, but since Year 7 Bea has been queen of the Glossy Girls, a group of cruel friends who use social media to humiliate their classmates. Eden just wants to avoid being noticed but, when she beats Glossy Mikki in a track race, hiding in the shadows is no longer an option. Now Eden faces a choice: join the cool gang, or risk social annihilation. Sport, community, and solidarity are all celebrated in this moving story perfect for fans of Holly Bourne.



#### Taylor Blake is a LegendLaura James Williams

ISBN: 9781526668059 Bloomsbury, 2024







Taylor is convinced that France is the coolest country in the world, so she is beyond excited about the imminent French exchange, especially when her partner turns out to be an actual, very handsome, boy! The French are the world experts in kissing, aren't they? So will she finally get the first kiss of her dreams? This funny story about first love, first kisses and the importance of friendship is ideal for fans of Jacqueline Wilson and Holly Smale.



#### How to find a missing girl Victoria Wlosok

ISBN: 9781510202726 Hodder, 2023



After Iris's older sister goes missing, she sets up her own detective agency in order to crack the case, much to the disapproval of the local police force. But Iris and her sapphic gang of crime-fighters are determined, and when Iris' ex-girlfriend, Heather, also goes missing while on a stakeout, they accidently discover that she is being cheated on. Iris is certain that Heather is going to lose it, except, when they tell her she just seems resigned and utterly exhausted. Then Heather goes missing too... Perfect for fans of Holly Jackson, this thriller, with podcast and interview sections, tells Iris's story as she and her friends uncover the truth behind the two missing girls.

# Cover story by genre



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## LGBTQIA+

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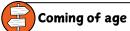


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### Folklore & Mythology

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On Silver Tides Sylvia Bishop
The Night Hunt Alexandra Christo
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### Epic Fantasy

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Champion of Fate Kendare Blake
Of Jade and Dragons Amber Chen
So Let Them Burn Kamilah Cole
A Tempest of Tea Hafsah Faizal
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### **Thrillers**

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The Things We Leave Behind Clare Furniss
Catch your Death Ravena Guron
You better watch out Sarah Naughton
Better left buried Mary E Roach
Echostar is always listening Melinda Salisbury
How to find a missing girl Victoria Wlosok

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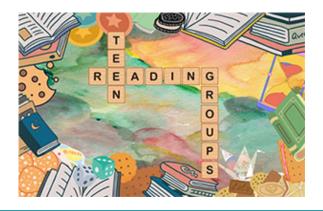




# Teen Reading Group

Monthly sessions for 11 to 14 year olds. Discover fantastic authors, make new friends and find inspiration for writing your own short stories and poetry.

Celebrate the love of reading in these relaxed and social sessions. Biscuits and drinks are provided!



Scan to join!





