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FRONT TO BACK



We have collected 30 of the best children's books published in the last year and put them in a booklist which contains something for everyone.

All of these books are available to reserve via our catalogue and many are available to download through the Richmond libraries' free e-book services.

Visit www.richmond.gov.uk/libraries to learn about all of our children's events, clubs and initiatives.

Marnie Midnight and the Moon Mystery- Laura Ellen Anderson ISBN 9780008591335- Farshore - 2023



It is Marnie the moth's first day at Minibeast Academy. She wants to learn to do moon magic like her great heroine, Lunora Wingheart. But any mention of the moon is now banned in the Academy. Marnie and her new friends embark on a hair-raising adventure outside the Academy walls to find moon magic and save the moon. A highly imaginative illustrated adventure for ages 7+

Finding Hope - Nicola Baker ISBN 9781398527164- Simon & Schuster - 2024

Ava is staying on her Aunt and Uncle's farm and she really wants to make a good impression. Unfortunately she knows nothing about farms and every time she tries to help things go disastrously wrong. Then she finds a tiny lamb and everything changes. This is a warm-hearted story about families and making friends, full of convincing detail about life on a farm. 8+ eBook available



Foxlight - Katya Balen

ISBN 9781526652102 - Bloomsbury - 2023

Fen and Ray were abandoned as babies and have always been desperate to know who their birth mother is. When a fox appears they are convinced that it has been sent to lead them back to her and decide to follow it. However the wild world that they find themselves in turns out to be scary and dangerous.

Can they persevere and get the answer they seek? **9+**

eBook available



Scrap - Guy Bass

ISBN 9781788955973 - Little Tiger Press - 2023



Robot K1-NG has not seen a human for years. He thought that they all been banished from his planet after they lost a war with the robots. Then he looks down from his junk pile one day and to his astonishment is confronted by two little humans. He is even more astonished when they ask for his help to save them from the other robots. Fantasy adventure for ages **8+**

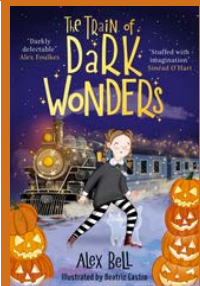
eBook available

The Train of Dark Wonders - Alex Bell

ISBN 9780861545964 - Rock The Boat - 2023

Bess has inherited the Odditorium, a strange and wonderful museum that belonged to her grandfather. But all is not well; There are no visitors and the whispering plants that climb the walls need feeding before they eat the building. Professor Ash's mysterious train of dark wonders, with carriages full of eyeball plants and teacup goblins, may be the place she can find the help she needs. **9+**

eBook available



A Most Mysterious Monster - Matt Brown

ISBN 9781839945403 - Nosy Crow - 2023



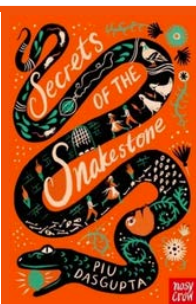
When the Carnival Monstroso, with its collection of real live monsters, rolls into Lower Drudging, it throws the town into a panic. For one girl, however, the werewolves and vampires are the most exciting thing that she has ever seen. She soon finds herself teaming up with one of them to help save the town from a new threat. Funny and entertaining, for ages **8+**

eBook available

Secrets of the Snakestone - Piu Dasgupta
ISBN 9781839946318 - Nosy Crow - 2024

The Snakestone is a powerful charm that could do untold damage in the wrong hands. Now it has gone missing somewhere in Paris. A servant girl and a boy from the sewers team up in a race against time to track it down before it falls into the hands of the sinister Brotherhood of the Blood.

A vivid mystery adventure full of great characters. **9+**
eBook available



The Boy who Fell from the Sky - Benjamin Dean
ISBN 9781398518742 - Simon & Schuster - 2024

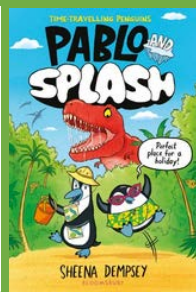


Zed thought that shooting stars were demons coming to earth and that it was the job of Hunters like his father to track them down. Then he encounters a demon and is shocked to find not a monster, but a boy just like him. Is everything he has been told about the shooting stars a lie? And can he help the demon return home? An unusual fantasy adventure. **8+**
eBook available

Pablo and Splash - Sheena Dempsey
ISBN 9781526662606 - Bloomsbury - 2024

Fed up with freezing her beak off in the Antarctic, penguin Splash persuades her best friend Pablo that what they need is a holiday somewhere warm. However instead of basking on a beach the intrepid duo find themselves dodging dinosaurs, thanks to an unfortunate encounter with a time travel machine.

A gently funny graphic novel for ages **6+**
eBook available



Pirates of Darksea - Catherine Doyle
ISBN 9781526655103 - Bloomsbury - 2024



One night a parrot taps on Max Reid's window. He is clutching an invitation to join the legendary Captain O'Malley on an adventure sailing the seas in a secret kingdom called the Darksea. There is an island-eating monster to fight, and hopefully some magic left over to help Max's sick brother. Adventures galore in this fantasy for ages **9+**
eBook available

Ember Spark and the Thunder of Dragons - Abi Elphinstone
ISBN 9781398500693 - Simon & Schuster - 2023

Under the hill near Ember's home is a secret hideout full of magical creatures who need protecting from the outside world. With their guardian out of action it is up to Ember, along with her magical hamster Forty Winks, to keep them out of the clutches of the evil Jasper Hornswaggle. Packed full of mythical creatures and fantastical inventions, this is a warm-hearted and gentle fantasy for ages **8+**
eBook available



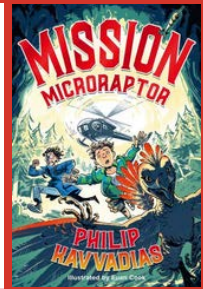
Peril on the Atlantic - A. M. Howell
ISBN 9781801316743- Usborne - 2023



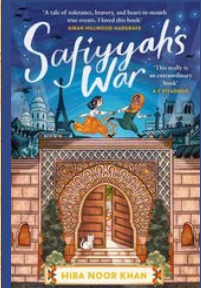
When Alice Townsend stumbles across an attack on board the liner 'Queen Mary', one of the most exciting and beautiful ships afloat, she realises that someone is out to sabotage the ship. Can she uncover the clues that will lead her to the culprit before it is too late?
A historical mystery that will appeal to fans of 'Adventures on trains'. **9+**
eBook available

Mission Microraptor- Philip Kuvvadias
ISBN 9781915026941 - Chicken House - 2024

Finn is having the strangest school trip ever. First he finds a weird dragon-like creature. Now a scary woman in black has told him that the creature is actually a 65 million year-old microraptor and that if they don't jump off his hotel balcony now they will be in big trouble.
Things couldn't get any worse-could they?
A thriller with a great balance of tension and humour. **8+**
eBook available



Safiyah's War - Hiba Noor Khan
ISBN 9781839133138 -Andersen Press - 2023

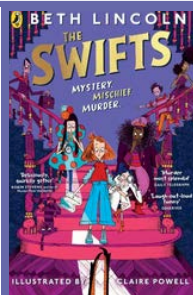


Set during World War 2 and based on a true story, this nail-biting thriller follows a young French girl as she gets involved in a daring and dangerous plan, centred on the Grand Mosque of Paris, to spirit the Jews of Paris out of the hands of the Nazis and away to safety. **9+**
eBook available

The Swifts - Beth Lincoln
ISBN 9780241536452 - Puffin - 2023

Shenanigan Swift's many strange relatives have gathered in the family mansion, determined to find the hidden family fortune. Is one of them also a murderer? When Arch-Aunt Schadenfreude is pushed down the stairs Shenanigan turns detective and sets out to find the culprit before they can strike again. An intriguing whodunit in a quirky setting with a cast of unusual and engaging characters. **9+**

eBook available



The Fight for the Hidden Realm - Siobhan McDermott
ISBN 9781444970142 - Hodder - 2024



Zhi Ging is a trainee Silhouette, apprentice to the Immortals, in the underwater city of Hok Who. The training is tough, the other apprentices are unfriendly and now she will need all her new-found talents to fight an evil spirit that threatens the city. Dragons and magic fill the pages of this fantasy adventure with a feisty heroine that draws on Chinese myth and culture. **9+**

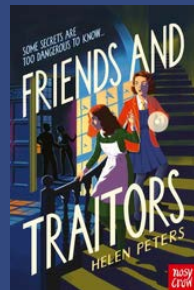
The Secret of the Moonshard - Struan Murray
ISBN 9780241535585 - Puffin - 2024

Since she was a baby Domino has been imprisoned in a floating laboratory above the city of Abzalaymon. When she overhears her captors plotting war with the city below she and her gang decide to descend to the city and warn them. But the scientists are close behind. Is Domino prepared to risk everything to save Abzalaymon?

Bursting with imagination, this is a fantasy adventure for **9+**
eBook available



Friends and Traitors - Helen Peters
ISBN 9781788004640 - Nosy Crow - 2023



Sidney Dashworth's school has been evacuated to a stately home in the English countryside, away from an expected Nazi invasion. Nosing around her new home at night she overhears strange conversations between the Earl and some mysterious guests. Is the owner of the stately home plotting to help the Nazis? And can Sidney and her fellow sleuth, one of the Earl's maids, stop them? A pacy thriller. **9+**
eBook available

The Letter with the Golden Stamp - Onjali Q. Raúf
ISBN 9781510108929 - Orion - 2024

New neighbours have moved in across the street from Audrey and her family, but no-one has seen them or knows anything about them! With the help of her friends and younger siblings, Audrey tries to solve the mystery of who these new neighbours are whilst she cares for her poorly mum and siblings. Her investigation leads her all the way from Wales to London! **8+**



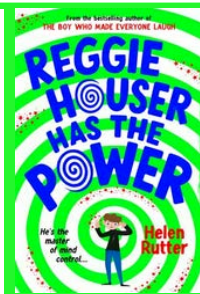
The Housetrap - Emma Read
ISBN 9781913322786 - Chicken House - 2023



Enter the abandoned house in the middle of Badwell woods if you dare. The whole building is a giant puzzle that will rearrange itself around you, trapping you inside, and the only way that you can get out is to solve the puzzle. Oh yes, did I mention the ghosts? A creepy adventure with plenty of twists and conundrums to unravel. **9+**
eBook available

Reggie Houser has the Power - Helen Rutter
ISBN 9780702314650 - Scholastic - 2024

Reggie thinks that his powers of hypnotism will impress people in his new school and at first he is right. Then some of his new 'friends' want him to use his powers to do things that he knows are wrong. Is Reggie going to do the right thing if it means ruining his new friendships? Entertaining, funny and insightful. **9+**



The Girl who couldn't Lie - Radhika Sanghani
ISBN 9781805316749 - Usborne - 2024

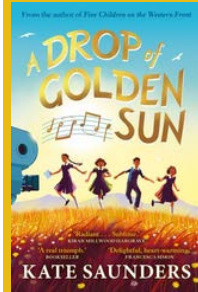


Priya hates upsetting her parents or causing her friends to fall out with each other, so without thinking about it she tells little lies to smooth things over. Then something extraordinary happens; when she puts on her grandmother's bangle she finds that she can only tell the truth. Chaos and embarrassment ensues and now she can't get the bangle off... **9+**
eBook available

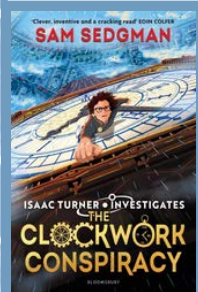
A Drop of Golden Sun - Kate Saunders
ISBN 9780571310982 - Faber- 2024

It's 1973 and Jenny is going to be a movie star! She was chosen to play one of the four siblings in a film about a family living in occupied France during WW2. Although she's nervous about her acting, dancing and singing, she makes friends with her lovely film-family and together they have adventures in France. A heartwarming historical novel. **9+**

eBook available



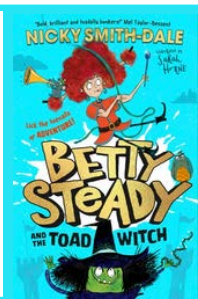
The Clockwork Conspiracy - Sam Sedgman
ISBN 9781526665386 - Bloomsbury - 2024



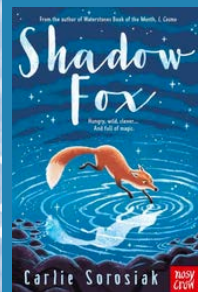
When Isaac Turner's dad vanishes in the belfry of The Houses of Parliament, Isaac and new friend Hattie embark on a breathless hunt to track him down across roofs and through hidden tunnels at the heart of London. A fast-paced thriller full of technical detail and clues to solve, from the co-author of the 'Adventures in Trains' series. **9+**
eBook available

Betty Steady and the Toad Witch - Nicky Smith-Dale
ISBN 9780008600341 - Farshore - 2024

Betty Steady, Guardian of Wobbly Rock, has been trapped by an ogre and the Toad Witch's army threatens to overrun the kingdom. Can Betty's slightly useless sidekicks Figg (an imp the size of a carrot), Elle Emen O'Pea (a trumpet-playing mouse) and Rupert Sometimes (an owl) save the day? Hectic and laugh-out-loud hilarious, for fans of Mr Gum. **7+**



Shadow Fox - Carlie Sorosiak
ISBN 9781839946585- Nosy Crow - 2024



This fantasy story is told by a fox who insists that all good stories are about foxes. She's reliant on the kindness of strangers for food after fish started mysteriously disappearing from the local lake. When Nan, a lady who always gives the fox the best meals, vanishes, the fox teams up with her granddaughter Bee to find out what has happened. A sweet story about friendship, family and magical foxes. **8+**
eBook available

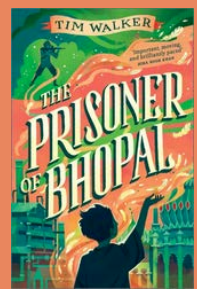
Hercules: The Diary of a (sort-of) Hero - Tom Vaughan
ISBN 9780702324635 - Scholastic - 2024

Hercules Braver is desperate to be the coolest new kid in his school but his plan swiftly falls apart after he accidentally karate chops the school bully. Luckily his handsome, charming Greek birth dad seems able to make Herc's wishes come true. How does he do it? Is Hercules' dad an actual Greek god? A funny read for fans of Wimpy Kid and Barry Loser. **7+**

eBook available



The Prisoner of Bhopal - Tim Walker
ISBN 9781839133732 - Andersen Press - 2024



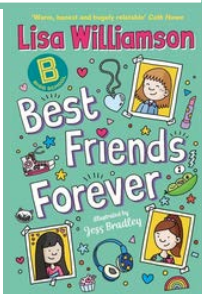
Anil's Great Grandfather was a soldier in the First World War who survived a poison gas attack thanks to a magical ability to sense the wind. Now a deadly cloud of poison gas is threatening Anil's town. Can he sense the wind like his Great Grandfather and save his town from the poison cloud? This is an intriguing and sobering story set against the background of real events in 1915 and 1984. **10+**

eBook available

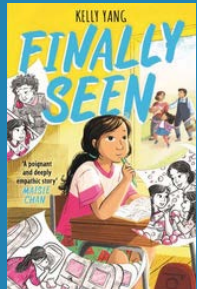
Best Friends Forever - Lisa Williamson
ISBN 9781913101558 - Guppy Books - 2023

Starting High School is stressful for anyone. For Lola the big worry is her friendship with her best mate Evie. They have been inseparable since they were babies but now, for the first time ever, they are going to be in different classes. Will they stay as close as ever or will other people come between them? Jacqueline Wilson fans will enjoy this relationship drama. **9+**

eBook available



Finally Seen - Kelly Yang
ISBN 9781913311872 - Knights Of - 2023



For five years Lina has been living with her grandmother in China whilst her parents and little sister start a new life in America. Finally, Lina is going to join them, leaving her Lao Lao behind and travelling to the US to live with her family. But Lina doesn't speak much English and although her parents sent her postcards about their life, it seems like they weren't telling the truth. Will Lina like her new life with her family? **9+**

eBook available