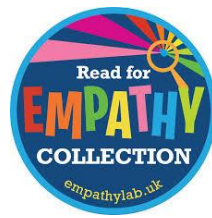


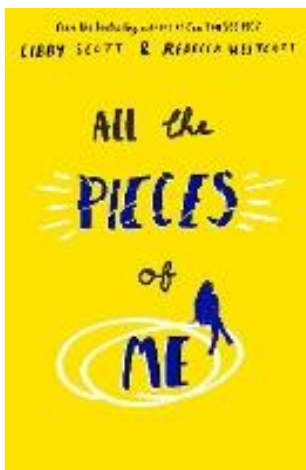
HGS Book Recommendations

June 2024



Empathy is our ability to experience and understand someone else's feelings. It creates stronger, kinder communities. People won't thrive without this crucial life skill, and developing it improves wellbeing, reading for pleasure and active citizenship. Research shows that empathy is a learnable skill, and that books play a key role in developing it. When we identify with book characters, we learn to see things from other people's point of view. As we read, we are building our empathy skills.

Read for Empathy Collection 2024



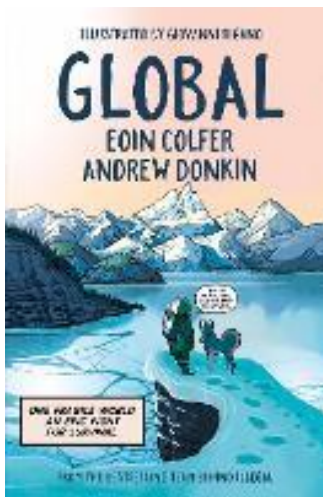
KS
3

From the bestselling authors of *Can You See Me?* comes the fourth exceptional Tally book by Libby Scott and Rebecca Westcott, following on from *Ways to be Me*, *Can You See Me?* and *Do You Know Me?*

Year 9 can be tough for everyone, but for Tally it feels even tougher. Everything seems to be changing as she and her friends get older. Make-up, boys, social media, GCSE prep - why is it all starting to feel so different?

Tally has always known that being autistic means some things are harder for her than they are for other people. But becoming a teenager has left Tally feeling like she has no idea who she even is anymore. When Libby's mum shared a short piece of Libby's writing online it soon went viral, with tens of thousands of people saying that Libby's writing helped them understand autism for the first time.

This fictionalised portrayal of a young autistic girl is written by Rebecca Westcott, with diary entries by Libby Scott, making it a truly original and authentic book that will give readers of all ages a deeper understanding of what it's like to be autistic.



KS
3

This is a powerful, hopeful and timely graphic novel about the real effects of climate change: two young people on different continents whose lives are catastrophically changed by global warming.

Yuki lives in an increasingly deserted Inuit township in Nova Scotia.

One day she sets out into the wilderness of the Arctic tundra planning to photograph a rare grolar bear (a terrifying grizzly-polar crossbreed created by climate change) - if she can prove it's a grolar, she can protect it from being shot. With only her faithful dog for company and adrift on a fragment of melting glacier, she finds herself being stalked across the changing wilderness by a starving grolar bear, with only her wits and her harpoon to keep her alive.

Sami lives in a fishing village on the Bay of Bengal. But because of the ever-rising ocean level, each day is a struggle to survive. One night, Sami sets out to return to his old, submerged family home, alone. He takes a deep breath and dives beneath the moonlit waters, hoping to find his past. But a cyclone is coming ...



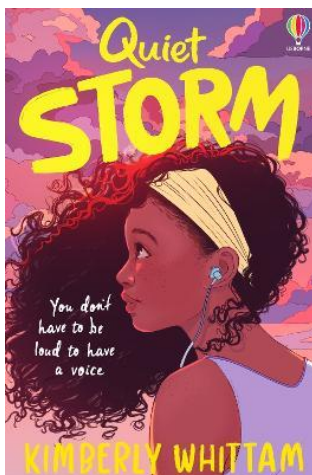
KS
3

KS
4

The year is 1904. Luki has lived a tribal life in the mountains of the Philippines. Now she's growing up, she is expected to become a wife and a mother, but Luki isn't ready to give up her dream to become a warrior.

When her tribe are offered a journey to America to be part of the St. Louis World's Fair, Luki is eager to escape the constraints of life in her mountain village. But as she travels overseas, she will discover that the land of opportunity does not share its possibilities equally . . .

Candy Gourlay explores the utterly relatable challenges of finding yourself and staying true to your heart, in a beautifully unique story. Steeped in Filipino tradition, the novel is alive with cultural richness and an immersive story of adventure, love and self-belief.



KS
3

Wils



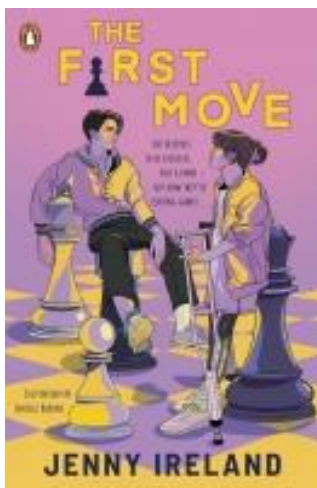
KS 3 KS 4

This sequel to Dassu's award-winning debut, *Boy, Everywhere*, finds Ali and Sami living their dream, playing football for the school team and hanging out in their friend Mark's new luxury pool.

But money goes missing and racism rears its ugly head when their friend Aadam is accused of the theft. Can the boys prove Aadam's innocence, keep their friendship - and help fight Aadam's threatened deportation?

Can Ali navigate his emotions and stay focused now his dad is back on the scene and his half-brother has joined his school?

A powerful story about friendship, being an ally and finding your place in the world.



KS 3 KS 4

Juliet believes girls like her - girls with arthritis - don't get their own love stories. She exists at the edges of her friends' social lives, skipping parties to play online chess under a pseudonym with strangers around the world. There, she isn't just 'the girl with crutches'.

Ronan is the new kid: good looking, smart, a bad boy plagued by guilt over what happened to his brother Ciaran. Chess life is his escape.

Juliet thinks Ronan thinks someone like Ronan could never be interested in someone like her - and she wouldn't want him to be anyway - he always acts like he's cooler than everyone else.

Little do they know they've already discovered each other online, and have more in common than they think . . .



KS 4 KS 5

The Urban Promise Prep School vows to turn boys into men. As students, J.B., Ramon, and Trey are forced to follow the prestigious program's strict rules. Extreme discipline, they've been told, is what it takes to be college bound, to avoid the fates of many men in their neighbourhoods. This, the Principal Moore Method, supposedly saves lives.

But when Moore ends up murdered and the cops come sniffing around, the trio emerges as the case's prime suspects. With all three maintaining their innocence, they must band together to track down the real killer before they are arrested.

But is the true culprit hiding among them?

This exquisitely taut thriller shines a glaring light on how the system too often condemns Black and Latinx teen boys to failure before they've even had a chance at success.

For fans of Angie Thomas, Jason Reynolds, and Karen McManus.



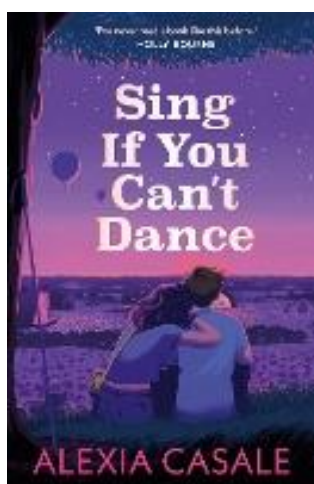
15-year-old Roza thinks she's leaving Albania for better things in the UK.

As she arrives, she realises her father has sold her to get out of debt.

Adelina and Jozif Braka now consider Roza their property. They work her hard, beat and starve her, and refuse to let her go out. But she must tell people they are her parents.

She runs to the police, but the Brakas produce a forged birth certificate. She is dismissed as attention-seeking and returned to them for punishment. She doesn't think life can get much worse.

However, when she tries to escape, she's sent to a holding house full of other enslaved girls.

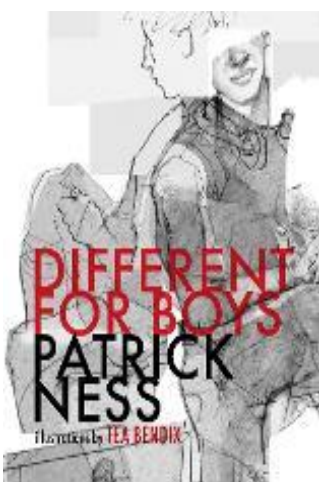


Ven has her future all planned out. Her dance group is going places and so is she . . . Then she collapses. On stage.

In hospital, Ven discovers that she has a medical condition - one that threatens to ruin everything.

No more dancing . . . walking is challenging enough. But she doesn't want your pity. Ven is determined to have a big, exciting life. Sure, her future might be different, but it's not over . . . Because if you can't dance, you can always sing!

Refreshing, uplifting and original, Sing if you Can't Dance is the unforgettable story of a teenager living life on her own terms.



A poignant and moving LGBTQ+ story that explores sexuality and masculinity with a touch of humour, by twice Carnegie Medal-winner and bestselling author Patrick Ness.

Ant Stevenson has many questions, like when did he stop being a virgin? Are there degrees of virginity? And is it different for boys? Especially for boys who like boys?

Ant tries to figure out the answers to his questions as he balances his relationships with three very different boys: Charlie, who is both virulently homophobic and yet close friends with Ant; Jack, whose camp behaviour makes him the target of Charlie's rage; and finally Freddie, who just wants Ant to try out for the rugby team.

From the bestselling author of the Chaos Walking trilogy comes a timely and important story about inclusivity, prejudice and friendship.