

S1-3 READING LIST

* indicates that the title is available from Edinburgh City Libraries as e-book / *ea indicates e-audio version available from ECL

Relationships

Becky Albertalli: Simon vs the Homo Sapiens Agenda (*ea)

Simon Spier is 'coming out' and keeping it quiet from most people except Blue, his anonymous email correspondent. A touching tale of family and friendship, this story has an added element of mystery as Simon, under pressure from a blackmailer, tries to discover Blue's real identity .

Elizabeth Acevedo : The Poet X *

Written in verse, this is the story of Xiomara, fighting against her background and mother's expectations to join a slam-poetry group in school.

Emily Barr : The One Memory of Flora Banks *

Flora, a 17-year old teenager, can't retain new memories . The slow-paced and repetitive tone of the book conveys this well as she struggles her way through everyday life and relationships.

Clementine Beauvais : Piglettes *

Three girls refuse to let online bullying get them down and hit back by taking a road trip to Paris.

Malorie Blackman : Noughts and Crosses (*ea)

The complicated relationship between Sephy (a privileged 'Cross') and Callum (a 'nought' - a second class citizen) is told in an intelligent, original and captivating story . It continues in **Knife Edge *** , **Checkmate** etc. Also read **Boys Don't Cry**, a story of teenage fatherhood seen through the eyes of Dante, whose ex-girlfriend turns up on the doorstep with the daughter he didn't know he had...

Akemi Dawn Bowman : Starfish

Kiko, a teenage girl failing to find peace in her relationship with her mother, also struggles to come to terms with her ambitions , her Japanese heritage and the break-up of her parents' marriage. A complex, very moving novel, about anxiety and family dynamics.

Sarah Crossan & Brian Conaghan : We Come Apart *

Nicu and Jess are an unlikely pairing, whose relationship causes parental disapproval and prejudice. Written in verse form, this is a hard-hitting story of Romani life and domestic abuse. Crossan's other titles include **Toffee ***, **One *** and **Resist. ***

Siobahn Dowd : Pavee and the Buffer-Girl *

The story of the friendship between Jim, an Irish traveller and Kit, a girl settled in the town of Dundray. Beautifully illustrated, the pictures play a large part in the story-telling, which covers issues such as racism, literacy and bullying.

Phil Earle

In **Heroic**, Sonny struggles to cope with the changes in his brother who is newly-returned from fighting in Afghanistan. Also read **Being Billy** about a teenage boy put into care when his parents become unable to look after him.

Anthony McGowan : Lark

This book, part of a series called 'The Truth of Things' and a sequel to **Brock, Pike** and **Rook**, can easily be read as a stand-alone title. It follows brothers, Nicky and Kenny, who decide to go for a walk on the Yorkshire Moors but get into difficulties when bad weather moves in. The relationship between the brothers - Kenny has learning difficulties - is beautifully portrayed, as is the way in which they face poverty and upheaval in their family life. A recommended winner of the 2020 Carnegie book prize.

Jennifer Niven :All the Bright Places *

This is an emotional and quirky story about two teenagers struggling with mental illness and grief.

R.J Palacio : Wonder *

Auggie, a boy with a severe facial deformity, is starting life at a new school. Written from various viewpoints, this is an amazing book, full of warmth and humour. Also try Benjamin Zephaniah : **Face**

Mal Peet : The Keeper *

A famous goalkeeper tells how an old fashioned coach helped him become a world class player. The story continues in **The Penalty *** and **Exposure ***. Insight into life in 1960s America and Britain is given in **Life : An Exploded Diagram ***, suitable for more mature readers

Bali Rai

Rani and Sukh has overtones of 'Romeo and Juliet' with its theme of forbidden love between two warring families; **The Crew** deals with a bunch of teenagers who find £15000 and become involved in the violent world of drug-dealers as a result.

Jason Reynolds : Ghost

Castle Cranshaw (aka Ghost) loves to run, using it to escape his family's troubles. But when a coach picks him out as having real talent and teams him up with other runners, his life changes forever.

Robin Talley : Lies We Tell Ourselves *

Set in 1959, against a background of civil rights in America, this is a tale of prejudice and the unlikely friendship between Sarah, a black student, and Linda, daughter of an ardent segregationist.

Angie Thomas : The Hate You Give * (*ea)

Starr flits between two worlds - the poor, black neighbourhood of her childhood and the white, middle-class setting of her school. When her best friend is shot by a police officer, she has to decide where she truly belongs. Also read **On The Come-Up ***, about Bri who dreams of becoming a hip-hop legend.

Jason Wallace : Out of Shadows (*ea)

The story of Robert, an English boy sent to boarding school in Zimbabwe at a time of high racial tension there. Powerful account of prejudice and bullying.

Lara Williamson : A Boy Called Hope*

When his Dad runs off with the lady from the local chip shop and becomes a celebrity TV presenter, Dan is desperate to re-connect with him. A book full of humour and emotional highs and lows.

Nicola Yoon : Everything, Everything * (*ea)

Maddy is confined to the house by her many allergies, but with the internet, is able to strike up a friendship with Olly, the boy next-door. Also read **The Sun Is Also a Star ***, in which Tasha falls in love, just as she's about to be deported from the USA back to Jamaica

Benjamin Zephaniah : Refugee Boy *

Alem is an African boy seeking political asylum in Britain, a theme echoed in Rachel Anderson's : **Asylum**

Adventure and Thriller

M.A Bennett : S.T.A.G.S

Greer Macdonald, struggling to fit in at her new school, is delighted to receive a weekend invitation to the home of the very popular Henry de Warlencourt. Her excitement lessens, however, when she realises the targets of the 'huntin' shootin' fishin' ' weekend are not wild animals but house-guests ...

Theresa Breslin : Divided City

Set in Glasgow, this hard-hitting but humorous book shows the developing friendship between two teenage boys, set against a background of sectarianism and attacks on asylum seekers .

Michael Byrne : Lottery Boy

A homeless boy finds a winning lottery ticket which could change his life forever - but will it be for the better ?

Ally Carter : Gallagher Girls series

Gallagher Academy is secretly a school for spies - the girls there are multi-lingual, can tap phones and track people - but find it very difficult to have 'normal' relationships. Follow their adventures in **I'd Tell You I Love you, But Then I'd Have to Kill You** etc

Lari Don: Mind Blind *

Ciaran Bane is a criminal with the useful talent of being able to read minds - but this often feels like a curse . When he's forced to work with Lucy, they encounter death, crime, betrayal and chases... A fast-paced novel set partly in Edinburgh

Michael Grant *

The Gone series tells of teenage love, deception and power struggles in a world where all adults have disappeared. The Messenger of Fear stories are darker, more violent tales in which Mara and the Messenger seek revenge on those who have committed malicious deeds.

Bear Grylls : Mission Survival series

A series of 8 books, including Rage of the Rhino, Tracks of the Tiger and Way of the Wolf - in which teenage adventurers face challenges of survival and protecting the environment and the places and animals endangered there.

Karen McManus : One of Us Is Lying *

Simon, the creator of a gossip app, dies the night before he reveals his classmates' individual secrets - who killed him ? Described as a mix of Pretty Little Liars and the Breakfast Club , this thriller keeps you guessing. The story continues in One of Us Is Next *. Two Can Keep a Secret * tells how teenagers Ellery & Malcolm start to investigate disappearances and murders from the past and is also worth reading.

Patrick Ness: The Knife of Never Letting Go *

An escape story based around Todd ,the last boy in Prentisstown, a place where you can hear other people's innermost thoughts and where females don't exist... Known as the 'Chaos Walking' trilogy, the story continues in The Ask and The Answer * and Monsters of Men*

Alex Nye : Darker Ends

Set in present-day Glencoe, two siblings await the return of their parents in an isolated inn. When a stranger seeks shelter from a storm, all is not what it seems ...

Tom Palmer

Black Op, set in Krakow, Euro 2012; a group of undercover spies pose as members of England's youth football team In Ghost Stadium, three friends decide to spend the night in an abandoned football stadium, not sure if it is haunted or not ...

Terry Pratchett : Nation *

Survival story set in the 1860s telling of the friendship between Mau and Daphne, who are thrown together after a volcanic eruption. Humorous in places and very moving.

Ransom Riggs : Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children *

The story of a children's home where strange children were quarantined in the 1940s; part fantasy and illustrated with vintage photography, this is a haunting and memorable story

Katherine Rundell : The Explorer

Four children fight for survival after their plane crashes over the Amazon jungle.

Chris Ryan : Siege

Max , a teenage member of the Special Forces Cadets, gets involved in an armed siege in an inner-city school. A story full of action, likely to be enjoyed by those interested in the SAS etc.

Robin Stevens : Murder Most Unladylike*

Daisy Wells and Hazel Wong are schoolgirls at an English boarding-school determined to track down the killer of their Science mistress before the police arrive. A light read, very 'jolly hockey sticks'; likely to appeal to fans of St Clare's and Mallory Towers. Other titles in the series include **Death In the Spotlight** * and **Top Marks for Murder** *

Lisa Thomson : Goldfish Boy *

The story of Matthew, a 12 year old boy trapped at home by his OCD, who becomes key in solving the mysterious disappearance of the toddler next-door. Reminiscent of Mark Haddon's **The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time***; also read Kim Slater : **Smart***

Scott Westerfield : Uglies *

When you turn 16 you can become a Pretty and enter a high-tech, fun-filled world; but Shay and Tally aren't sure it's what they want ...

Alex Wheatle : Kerb-Stain Boys

Briggsy and Trev live on the dead-end Crongton estate and their future prospects are bleak. Inspired to action by Caldonia, a girl they're trying to impress, they dream up a plan to raid the local Post Office and get rich quick...

War, Revolution and History

Laurie Halse Anderson : Chains *

A story of slavery and spies set in New York City at the time of the American Revolution. It centres on Isabel and her younger sister Ruth, who not only fight for their personal freedom, but also strive for truth in the midst of political upheaval and treachery.

Nathacha Appanach : Last Brother

Set in Mauritius during WW2, a moving story of friendship between Raj, a boy of Indian descent and David, a Czech boy denied entry to Palestine.

Theresa Breslin : Spy For the Queen of Scots

Story of the friendship between Mary and Jenny, and of what happens when Mary returns from France to claim her crown.

Raymond Briggs : Ethel and Ernest

Beautifully illustrated, this tells the true story of Raymond Briggs' parents from their meeting in 1928 ; in graphic novel form, it follows their experiences during WW2, their family life and their ultimate separation by death. A simple and very moving book.

Paul Dowswell

Set during WW1 and WW2 respectively, **Eleven Eleven** and **Auslander** are books packed

with action and intrigue.

Morris Gleitzman : Once *

The story of Felix, a young Polish boy searching for his Jewish parents at the time of Nazi power. Despite its serious subject-matter, there are moments of great humour in the book, and the story continues in the sequels, Then, Now & After. Also try John Boyne : The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas * (*ea)

Roberto Innocenti : Rose Blanche

Similar to John Boyne's The Boy In The Striped Pyjamas * (*ea) this is a beautifully-illustrated picture book about a young girl who witnesses children being rounded up into a truck when the Germans invade her town ...

Tanya Landman : One Shot

Based on the life of Annie Oakley, this is the tale of Maggie, whose skill with a gun helps her family to survive in the harshest of times ...

Nicola Morgan : Fleshmarket

Set in C19th Edinburgh, Robbie gets caught up in the murky and criminal world of Burke and Hare. Gripping and well-written, with a stomach-churning first chapter.

Sally Nicholls : Things A Bright Girl Can Do *

The story of three young girls, from different social backgrounds, their lives during WW1 and their involvement in women's rights. Also try All Fall Down, which centres on Isobel, a young girl growing up at the time of the Black Death.

Elizabeth Wein : Code Name Verity

The story of Verity and Madeleine, who become best friends during WWII. When Verity is captured by the Gestapo, she chooses to write down her confession and the secrets of the Allied Forces ...also try Rose Under Fire, the story of a young female pilot during WW2.

Fantasy and Science Fiction

Tomi Adeyemi : Children of Blood and Bone *

Set in a fantasy land in West Africa, this tells of Zolie who must restore magic, which, along with those who practise it, is being erased from Orisha. A tale of power, friendship and the search for justice, this is book one in a trilogy called The Legacy of Orisha

John & Carole Barrowman : Hollow Earth

A story of magic, mystery and mythology and twins who have the power to make artwork come to life.

Joseph Delaney

The books in the Spooks series form 'The Wardstone Chronicles' and tell of Tom, the 7th son of a 7th son, who has the ability to see ghosts and spirits. Very popular series, full of action and suspense .

Amy Ewing : Jewel *

The story of Violet, aka Lot 197, a girl destined to be auctioned off and sold to a family where she will be responsible for producing a healthy heir. A similar theme is explored in Louise O'Neill's : **Only Ever Yours (*ea)**

Frances Hardinge

Cuckoo Song is set against the background of WW1 and is a magical fantasy story which combines family issues with a creepy thriller. In **A Face like Glass ***, Neverfell lives in Caverna, a strange place where faces can't show emotion. **The Lie Tree *** is set in Victorian times and focusses on Faith who finds a 'lie tree' which will gradually reveal the secrets of her father's death to her.

Leo Hunt : 13 Days of Midnight

Luke inherits eight ghosts when his estranged father dies. They want revenge for their long enslavement and create havoc when they realise Luke can't control them - but he needs their help before Halloween ...

Lauren James : The Loneliest Girl in the Universe

A sci-fi thriller with a twist, this tells of Romy, the only surviving member of a spaceship travelling to a new planet. Alone in space, she is delighted to hear about a new ship which has launched from Earth. It has a single passenger on board - a boy called J, with whom - through email - she slowly falls in love ...

Philip Reeve : Railhead (*ea)

The story of a boy called Zen and futuristic trains which roam through the galaxy in hyperspace tunnels.

Neil Shusterman : Dry*

A novel depicting how people act and change in times of hardship, as seen through the eyes of Alyssa, who is living through Tap-Out (a serious drought) in California ...

Caighlan Smith : Children of Icarus

Clara and her shadow enter the labyrinth hoping to find the angels and bring Icarus home, but all hell breaks loose ... full of mythological references and reminiscent of 'The Maze Runner'. The story continues in **Children of Daedala**.

Humour

Guy Bass : Stitch-Head *

Stitch Head, the first creature created by Dr Erasmus, is desperately trying to save his master, now mad, from being destroyed by the owner of a visiting freak-show. Lots of humour and great drawings in this book, which is essentially a tale of loyalty & friendship.

Chloe Bennett : Boywatching

Light-hearted story of Chloe, a teenage girl desperate to find a 'hot date' for the annual school dance.

Morris Gleitzman : Toad Rage

The story of Limpy, a cane toad, who sets off for the Olympics to find out why humans hate him so much.

Mandy Hubbard : Fool Me Twice

Landon and Mackenzie were a happy couple - until he dumped her ! Now it's one year later and Landon's got amnesia; he thinks they are still an item, Mack thinks it's perfect timing for revenge ...

Jeff Kinney : Diary of a Wimpy Kid *

Comic fiction, written in diary form, telling of the friendship between school 'new-boy' Greg and his side-kick, Rowley.

Tom Pichon *

The Tom Gates series is the story of a schoolboy who, forever doodling and reading comic books, is the bane of his teacher's life. Very funny, easy to read ; titles include **Tom Gates Best Book Day Ever**, **Tom Gates: A Tiny Bit Lucky** and **Tom Gates Is Absolutely Fantastic**

Andy Robb : Geekhood *

Archie excels in the world of computer role-play but finds real-life situations more challenging, especially those with girls ...

Ali Sparkes : Thunderstruck

When Alisha and Theo are struck by lightning, they meet Doug and Lizzie , children from the 1970s. Together they try to protect Beechwood Junior School from the mysterious powers which threaten it, in this action-filled and humorous story.

David Walliams *

Billionaire Boy tells of a boy, Joe, who has all the money in the world but not a single friend...; in **Awful Auntie**, Alberta is determined to stop her niece Stella inheriting the family's stately home...

Ross Welford : What Not To Do If You Turn Invisible

In a desperate attempt to stop the school bullies picking on her because of her acne, Ethel Leatherhead tries a sunbed and an internet potion - and turns invisible ! At first this seems great fun, but Ethel soon realizes that invisibility has downsides as well. A lovely, humorous story, with touching accounts of family life and friendships. Also try : **The 1000 Year Old Boy *** (*ea) by Ross Welford