
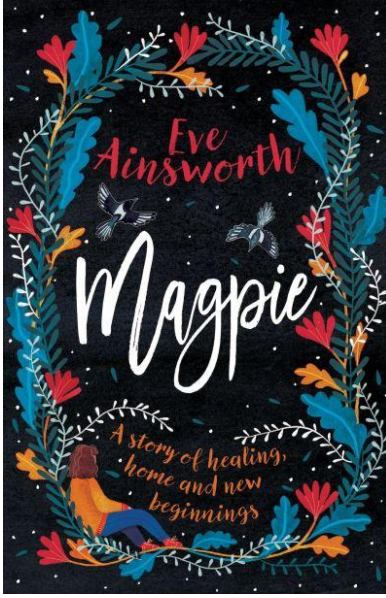


Year 8 Reading List 2024-2025

		<p>Aspiring rapper Shaun (aka Growls) wants to enter an MC battle with his best friend Shanks but when they are humiliated by a viral video that gets shown around school, he finds himself lonely and isolated, coupled with the threat of his family being evicted from their home as his mother struggles to pay the bills. But a ray of sunshine appears in the form of new friend Siobhan who he develops a very sweet friendship with. She has her own issues but shows Shaun how life can be different and encourages him to enter the rap battle as a solo artist and improbably, this all turns out a great success.</p>
		<p>When Lara's school announces a young business competition, her friends are buzzing with ideas. But Lara's focus is on her football training - this is her big chance to take her playing to the next level!</p> <p>As Lara and her friends set their sights on the prize, can she figure out a way to balance everything and have fun? Certain people seem to be taking pleasure in watching Lara struggle to keep her cool... If Lara is going to achieve her dreams, she's going to have to work it!</p>



Alice hasn't felt safe for a long time. Because of him - Ross. But now she, Mum and Henry have moved away, where Ross will never find them. A fresh start, Mum says. New school, new friends, new life. This time, she's never going back.

Still, Alice can't escape the feeling she is being watched. Is her shiny new life about to fall apart? Or can Alice learn to trust again - and fight for everything she has ever wanted?

NOTE : Alice's step-father was psychologically abusive to the whole family and also physically abusive to her mother. They left him when he first hit Alice. This all takes place in flashbacks.

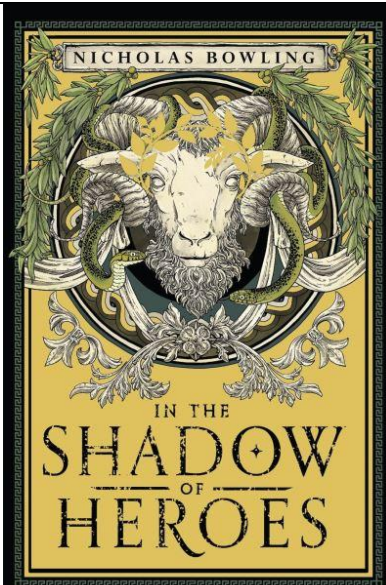


Have you ever experienced dreams so vivid it seems like you have lived them? Or had deja vu so strong you're convinced you must have been there before?

Late one night a schoolgirl is attacked in a city park. When a stranger rushes to her rescue, Genna Adams believes it's luck that their paths crossed. Then a week later, the same boy saves her from being kidnapped and Genna realises this is no coincidence. But the explanation offered by the boy, Phoenix, is even stranger than she could have imagined - a long-forgotten foe has tracked her across lifetimes to lay claim to Genna's very soul.

As the hunters close in, Genna has no choice but to trust her mysterious protector - and soon she is swept into a deadly adventure, racing across time to save herself and, ultimately, the human race.

Because for Genna, death is only the beginning...



When his master disappears and a slave called Tog arrives with a secret message, Cadmus is swept up on a quest that leads to Emperor Nero and his crazed determination to possess the Golden Fleece of Greek mythology.

The journey will push him to the edge of the Roman Empire and reveal unexpected truths about himself.

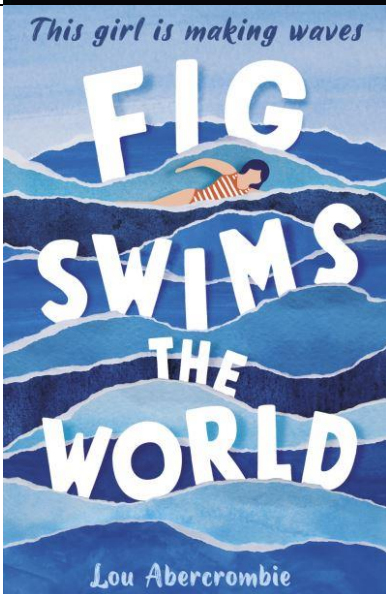


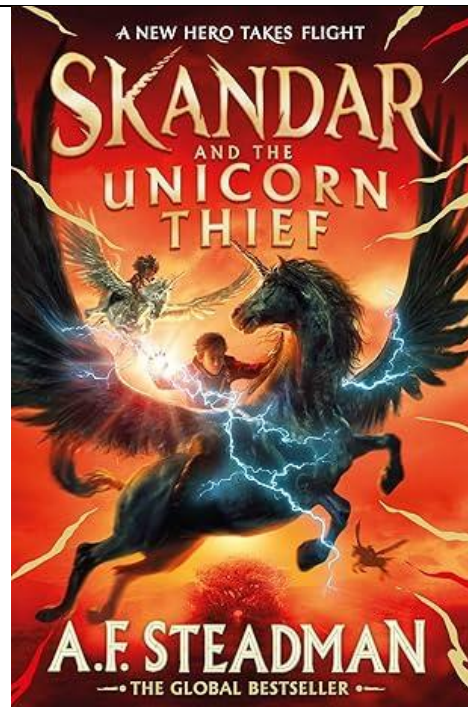
Fig Fitzsherbert is good at a lot of things: making lists, playing the piano, advanced mathematics. But it's never quite enough for her high-flying mother, who every New Year's Day sets Fig an impossible resolution.

So one year, Fig decides to set her own challenge instead: she's going to swim her way round the world. There's just one tiny problem ... Fig can't swim.

Taking it one length at a time, Fig embarks on the adventure of a lifetime. But with her mother closing in, will she be able to keep her head above water and complete her challenge?

NOTE : Fig in effect runs away from home to complete her goal, obtaining a fake passport and using her mother's credit card without permission. She stays in touch with her younger brother, a school and adult friends but only lets her parents know she is safe twice

	<p>It's basically the worst school detention ever. When classmates (but not mate-mates) Hallie, Angelo, Gustav and Naira are forced to come to school on a SATURDAY, they think things can't get much worse. But they're wrong. Things are about to get seriously scary.</p> <p>What has dragged their teacher underground? Why do the creepy caretakers keep humming the tune to Itsy Bitsy Spider? And what horrors lurk in the shadows, getting stronger and meaner every minute ...? Cut off from help and in danger each time they touch the ground, the gang's only hope is to work together. But it's no coincidence that they're all there on detention. Someone has been watching and plotting and is out for revenge ...</p>
	<p>Jay - sorry, Jennifer - and her family move to a new town for a fresh start, after bullying at her last school went too far. Jennifer's mum insists that she do things differently, so gone are her jeans, T-shirts, skateboard and short hair.</p> <p>Jennifer wants to keep her mum happy, so she follows Mum's plan to start looking and acting like a girl. But it soon starts to wear on Jennifer, and she starts leading a double life, dressing in her brother's clothes to sneak out to go skateboarding in the local park. That's where Jennifer feels most like herself, where she can be Jay again.</p> <p>But then Jay gets tangled up in a crush with Alex, a closeted boy at the skate park who thinks Jay is a boy. But is her friend Mina flirting with Jay...as a girl? Can Jay keep their different worlds from colliding?</p> <p>A romantic comedy that shows readers that sometimes the basics can be quite complicated!</p>



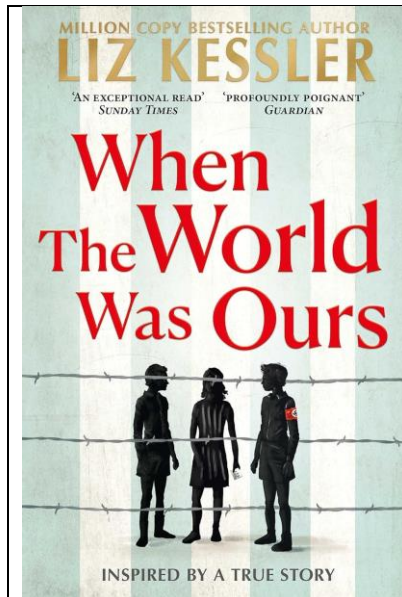
Thirteen-year-old **Skandar Smith** has only ever wanted to be a unicorn rider. To be one of the lucky few selected to hatch a unicorn. To bond with it for life; to train together and race for glory; to be a hero.

But just as Skandar's dream is about to come true, things start to take a more dangerous turn than he could ever have imagined. A dark and twisted enemy has stolen the Island's most powerful unicorn – and as the threat grows ever closer, Skandar discovers a secret that could blow apart his world forever . . .

Get ready for unlikely **HEROES**, elemental **MAGIC**, sky battles, ancient secrets, nail-biting races and **FEROCIOUS UNICORNS**, in this **EPIC ADVENTURE** series that will have your heart soaring.



A Kind of Spark tells the story of 11-year-old Addie as she campaigns for a memorial in memory of the witch trials that took place in her Scottish hometown. Addie knows there's more to the story of these 'witches', just like there is more to hers. Can Addie challenge how the people in her town see her, and her autism, and make her voice heard?



Vienna. 1936. Three young friends spend a perfect day together, unaware that around them Europe is descending into a growing darkness and that events will soon mean that they are ripped apart from each other as their lives take very different directions... Inspired by a true story, *When the World was Ours* is an extraordinary novel that is as powerful as it is heartbreaking and shows the bonds of love, family and friendship allow glimmers of hope to flourish, even in the most hopeless of times.