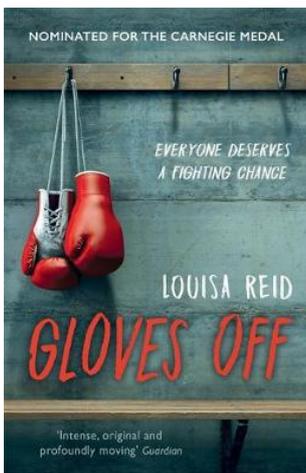


Rules for Being a Girl

Author: Candace Bushnell, Katie Cotugno **Format:** Paperback
Release Date: 16/04/2020 **Year Groups:** Key Stage 4

This compelling read tells a familiar story of the authority figure (a popular teacher here) who behaves inappropriately and when his victim comes forward, she is not believed and her life takes a real turn for the worse, including in this case, work being marked down and university applications scuppered by the same teacher in revenge for her speaking out. What makes this book stand out is the complexity and authenticity of Marin’s internal dialogue and the fact that the dilemmas she faces and the choices she makes are all too believable. The book really gets to the heart of how difficult it is for girls and women to make sense of this kind of violation, and brilliantly explores the way they doubt themselves and the way that predators exploit these feelings. Marin’s experience opens her eyes to things that had previously passed unnoticed- the casual sexism of classmates and the institutional sexism of a school dress code and of an English curriculum which featured only male authors and even her own lack of awareness of what life is like for outsiders. While English teachers will celebrate Marin’s decision to express her protest in print via her student newspaper editorials, librarian’s will relish the feminist book club she also sets up (and the excellent book recommendations that are given) This is an important book for both sexes to read and one which will hopefully start lots of conversations about equality, sexual harassment, and those unwritten social norms that govern our behaviour.

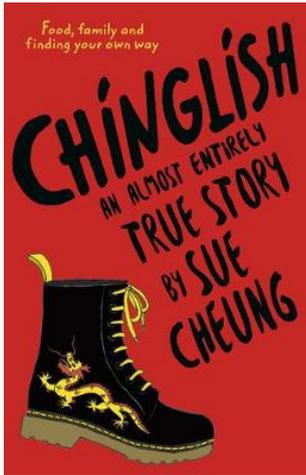


Gloves Off

Author: Louisa Reid **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 05/03/2020
Year Groups: Key Stage 3, Key Stage 4

Longlisted for the UKLA Book Awards 2021 In English teacher Louise Reid’s first venture into the verse novel, she uses the form magnificently using layout and different font sizes and styles to show as well as tell Lily’s story. We meet her in the opening poem, Roadkill at her lowest ebb. Bullied at school and battered and abused outside it, betrayed by childhood ‘friends’ and mentally trapped in a self-critical prison. This is an unflinching portrait of a girl who does not fit in and who hates herself. But it is also a picture of a family in poverty and the link between poverty and obesity is well known, but not often acknowledged and ‘fat shaming’ is a particularly insidious and dangerous form of bullying where the victims are often blamed. The author also gives a voice to Bernadette, the loving mother equally trapped in her own misery, overweight and virtually housebound and to Lily’s feelings for her which veer back and forth from love to shame and blame. The layers of characterisation and backstory are subtly and delicately revealed in this beautifully paced narrative. Equally touching is the depiction of her father, quiet, loyal and desperate to help. It is at

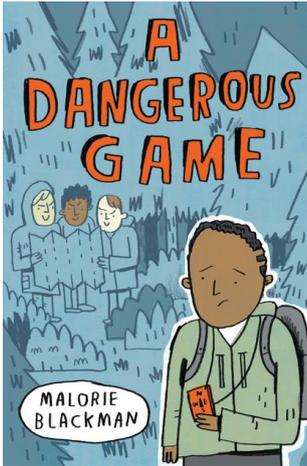
his suggestion that Lily takes up his old hobby of boxing. With training and the gym comes fitness, but more importantly other support structures and tentative friendships and Lily's bravery helps Bernadette take some positive steps too. Their journey is not easy but never anything other than utterly convincing and psychologically authentic. This important novel has home truths for both sexes to ponder and a cleverly neutral cover and the highly accessible verse format means that it can be promoted to even the most reluctant of readers.



Chinglish

Author: Sue Cheung **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 05/09/2019
Year Groups: Key Stage 3, Key Stage 4

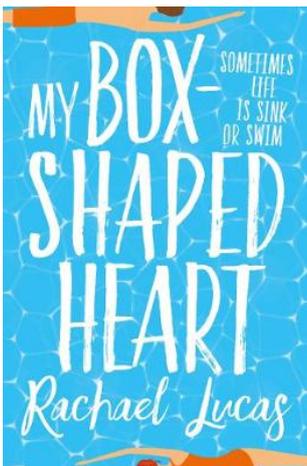
September 2019 Debut of the Month Jo is the kind of open, honest, amusing character readers immediately care about. Told through her wittily illustrated diary, Jo's tale begins with a(nother) upheaval. She and her family have just moved to their new Chinese takeaway, but her hopes for a fresh start are immediately dashed when she sees there's no living room, and she has to share a room with little sister Bonny while big brother Simon lives with their grandparents. Jo's experience of feeling "doubly different" is poignantly portrayed - she's an outsider at school because she's Chinese, and an outsider among her wider Chinese family because her own family is dysfunctional, and because she doesn't speak the same language. Thank goodness, then, that she forms a friendship with fellow outcast, Tina the Goth, who stands up to racist school bullies. But while Jo begins to feel hopeful about her future and takes steps towards realising her dream of working in fashion, she and Bonny are increasingly neglected by their parents, and then there's Dad's aggressive outbursts. The mid-1980s setting prompts many amusing references, from ra-ra skirts and Gary Kemp's perm, to sending drawings to Take Hart and going to Wimpy for a Knickerbocker Glory - but above all this is a highly readable, highly empathetic, impactful novel about familial abuse and neglect, trying to fit in, and finding your way in the world. Based on her own experiences, author Sue Cheung's big-hearted story will chime with readers of 12+ who know how it feels to fall between cracks and dream of a different life.



A Dangerous Game

Author: Malorie Blackman **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 15/09/2018 **Year Groups:** Key Stage 3

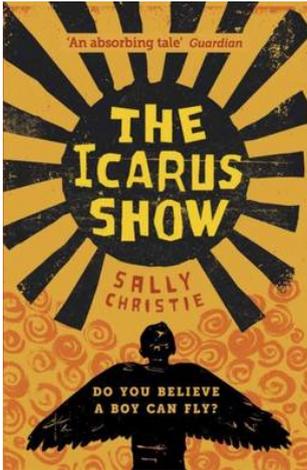
A Julia Eccleshare Pick of the Month October 2018 A Julia Eccleshare Pick of the Month October 2018 | Interest Age 8+ Reading Age 8 Former Children's Laureate Malorie Blackman tells a gripping adventure story of a school trip that goes horribly wrong. Sam longs to go on the school trip to the Highlands but he is sure his parents will say no as he has a long term sickness - sickle cell disease - which means he needs to be looked after carefully. When they surprisingly say yes, Sam is thrilled. But his delight soon turn to fear as he realises that the class bullies are planning something that is designed to humiliate him but which will end up putting them all at risk. How Sam deals with the bullies, including showing incredible courage in rescuing one from real danger, and how he deals with his own illness with another kind of bravery is all brilliantly captured in Malorie Blackman's vivid drama.



My Box-Shaped Heart

Author: Rachael Lucas **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 17/05/2018 **Year Groups:** Key Stage 3, Key Stage 4

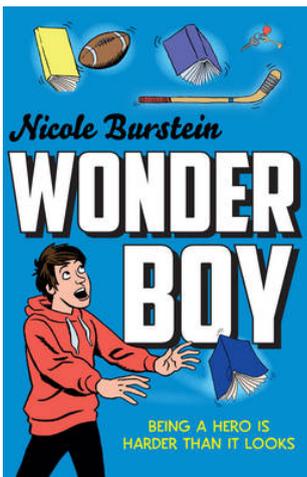
16-year-old Holly feels like an outsider, except when she's swimming at her local pool: "Under the surface, deep in the blue-lit water, nobody can see me. There's nobody to judge the clothes I wear, or the way my hair frizzles". It's at the pool she meets Ed, who's "not like the boys at school who are either geeky or cocky and smart-arsed and think they're all that. He's different". While romantic feelings, evoked in all their dizzying wonder, swell poolside, at home the seas are stormier. Struggling with depression, Holly's mum has "become so inward-looking that she hasn't a clue what I do with my time". But as Holly's home-life begins to brighten, Ed reveals that he's grappling with a serious domestic situation of his own. Warm-hearted, highly readable and romantic, with the bleaker elements of both teenagers' lives handled with a sensitive lightness of touch, readers will undoubtedly root for Holly and Ed to find their happy ever after.



The Icarus Show

Author: Sally Christie **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 05/01/2017
Year Groups: Key Stage 3

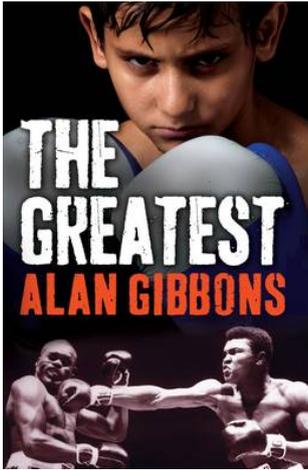
One of our Books of the Year 2016 | Longlisted for the UKLA 2017 Book Award There's something appealing just about the format and feel of this book - a small hardback, it looks inviting and eminently readable. And it is just that. Alex is getting by at school through the simple expedient of making himself invisible. But the balance of power there changes with the arrival of mysterious notes from someone calling themselves Icarus, promising to fly. As excitement spreads, and Alex learns who Icarus is, the knowledge is both thrilling and troubling - after all, Icarus's flight ended in tragedy. Ultimately, though it considers some of the most depressing and depressingly familiar aspects of human behaviour, this is a story of hope, with a little nod to magic in it too. ~ Andrea Reece From the same publisher, and in the same pick-up-able format, the Costa shortlisted Jessica's Ghost takes a similarly thoughtful and life-affirming look at friendship.



Wonderboy

Author: Nicole Burstein **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 04/08/2016
Year Groups: Key Stage 3, Key Stage 4

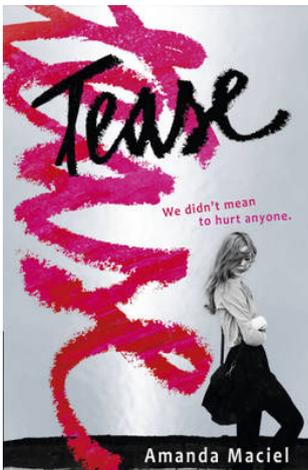
August 2016 Book of the Month | In a nutshell: ways to change the world Joseph is not classic super-hero material: he's asthmatic and rubbish at sports, bullied regularly and nicknamed Wilco because he always complies when someone demands he does their homework. Imagine his surprise and excitement therefore when he develops special powers including telekinesis. Could this be his chance to get his own back on the bullies, impress the gorgeous Indira and even join super-heroes unlimited the Vigils? Well, yes and no. The story that follows is a sharply-observed comedy of teen life, with a serious undertone. Amongst the comic-book action Burstein shows what heroism - the kind that calls for real courage - really is, and reminds readers that heroes and villains too are often those we least expect them to be. ~ Andrea Reece



The Greatest

Author: Alan Gibbons **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 13/08/2014
Year Groups: Key Stage 3, Key Stage 4

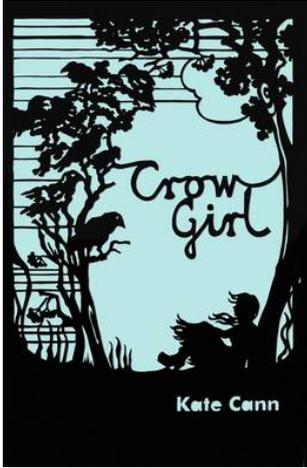
Interest Age Teen Reading Age 7+ Muhammed Ali's life story provides daily inspiration for a young boy, also called Ali, who takes on the bigger lad who bullies him. The setting for their confrontation is the boxing ring. Barrington Stoke novels are written and produced specifically with reluctant and dyslexic readers in mind and this will be a real page turner for all. Gibbons uses short sentences to tell the story, each one of which directly moves the story on, with no extraneous details. The blow by blow account of young Ali's fight is gripping, while timelines of Muhammed Ali's fights intersperse chapters, breaking up the text but also throwing more light on what is happening in the ring. A really effective piece of writing for young readers, particularly boys. ~ Andrea Reece Particularly suitable for struggling, reluctant and dyslexic readers aged 12+ Barrington Stoke is the foremost publisher of dyslexia friendly books and those for reluctant readers. Here on Lovereading4kids we are constantly selecting new titles and refreshing our special dyslexia friendly category. Click here to view our current selection which is broken down by age range.



Tease

Author: Amanda Maciel **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 01/05/2014
Year Groups: Key Stage 4

May 2014 Debut of the Month *** This book contains a strong storyline which centres around teen suicide. A gripping and thought-provoking story that goes right to the heart of the extremes to which the powerful emotions of adolescence can lead. A teen suicide and the bullying that seems to have gone before it must be explored and explained even if everyone thinks they know how it happened. When Emma hangs herself Sara Wharton is blamed. Not for the action but for being a central cause of it. But was she? Sara her own way of looking at it; she is sure of where blame lies. But, she tells her story, Sara begins to consider the events differently.



Crow Girl

Author: Kate Cann **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 01/01/2012

Year Groups: Key Stage 3

Interest Age 11+ Reading Age 8+. Brand new edition of a bestselling teen novel ideal for girls - an original tale of romance and growing up. Lily dreads going back to school after the summer - will the bullying this year be as bad as the last? Hiding away from reality, she forms an unlikely alliance with the crows in the woods. With them on side, she gains the confidence to make herself noticed at Kyle Hooper's Halloween party, showing everyone she exists. Award-winning publisher Barrington Stoke have a decade of experience in publishing books for the dyslexic, struggling and reluctant reader and have sold nearly 3 million books worldwide. Their tried and tested easy-to-read layouts ensure accessibility for all reluctant readers.
