






# Year 6's Recommended Reads!




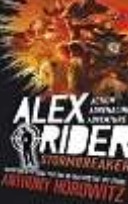


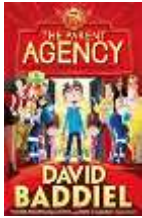



*"There is no such thing as a child who hates to read; there are only children who have not found the right book."*

UPDATED: September 2020


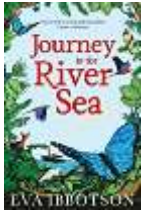



The following list includes books that we have personally read and would **fully** recommend. They all fall into the 9-12 age range so would be perfect for Year 5. We, the school library or the Essex libraries have copies of practically all of these books so if you would like to borrow one, ask and we will see what we can do! Happy reading...


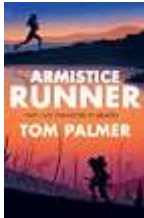

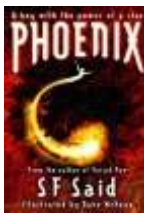

Book Cover	Title	Author	A Brief Guide...
	<b>Goodnight Mr Tom</b>	<b>Michele Magorian</b>	<p>The story of young Willie Beech, evacuated to the country as Britain stands on the brink of the Second World War.</p> <p>A sad, deprived child, he slowly begins to flourish under the care of old Tom Oakley - but his new-found happiness is shattered by a summons from his mother back in London.</p> <p>As time goes by Tom begins to worry when Willie doesn't answer his letters, so he goes to London to find him, and there makes a terrible discovery</p>
	<b>Itch</b>	<b>Simon Mayo</b>	<p>Itchingham Loft - known as Itch - is fourteen, and loves science, especially chemistry. He's also an element-hunter: he's collecting all the elements in the periodic table. Which has some interesting and rather destructive results in his bedroom.</p> <p>Then, Itch makes a discovery. A new element, never seen before. At first no one believes him - but soon someone hears about the strange new rock and wants it for himself. And Itch and his family are catapulted into a breathless adventure with terrifyingly high stakes</p>
	<b>No Ballet Shoes in Syria</b>	<b>Catherine Brunton</b>	<p>Aya is eleven years old and has just arrived in Britain with her mum and baby brother, seeking asylum from war in Syria. When Aya stumbles across a local ballet class, the formidable dance teacher spots her exceptional talent and believes that Aya has the potential to earn a prestigious ballet scholarship. But at the same time, Aya and her family must fight to be allowed to remain in the country, to make a home for themselves and to find Aya's father - separated from the rest of the family during the journey from Syria.</p>

	<h2>Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief</h2>	<p><b>Rick Riordan</b></p>	<p><i>Look, I didn't want to be a half-blood. I never asked to be the son of a Greek God.</i></p> <p>I was just a normal kid, going to school, playing basketball, skateboarding. The usual. Until I accidentally vaporized my maths teacher. Now I spend my time battling monsters and generally trying to stay alive.</p> <p>This is the one where Zeus, God of the Sky, thinks I've stolen his lightning bolt - and making Zeus angry is <i>a very bad idea</i>.</p>
	<h2>The London Eye Mystery</h2>	<p><b>Siobhan Dowd</b></p>	<p><b>11.32am.</b> Ted and his sister Kat watch their cousin Salim get on board the London Eye. The pod rises from the ground, high above the city. <b>12.02am.</b> The pod lands and the doors open. Everyone exits - everyone but Salim.</p> <p>Has he spontaneously combusted? (Ted's theory.)  Has he been kidnapped? (Aunt Gloria's theory.)  Is he even still alive? (The family's unspoken fear.)</p> <p>Even the police are baffled - so it's up to Ted, whose brain runs on its own unique operating system, to solve this mystery and find Salim.</p> <p>Teaming up with Kat, Ted follows a trail of clues across London - while time ticks dangerously by..</p>
	<h2>Wonderscape</h2>	<p><b>Jennifer Bell</b></p>	<p>When Arthur, Ren and Cecily investigate a mysterious explosion on their way to school, they find themselves trapped aboard <i>The Principia</i> – a scientific research ship sailing through hazardous waters, captained by one Isaac Newton.</p> <p>Lost in the year 2473 in the Wonderscape, an epic in-reality adventure game, they must call on the help of some unlikely historical heroes, to play their way home before time runs out.</p>
	<h2>Alex Rider – Storm Breaker</h2>	<p><b>Anthony Horowitz</b></p>	<p>In the first book in the number one bestselling Alex Rider series by Anthony Horowitz, fourteen-year-old Alex is forcibly recruited into MI6. Armed with secret gadgets, he is sent to investigate Herod Sayle, a man who is offering state-of-the-art Stormbreaker computers to every school in the country. But the teenage spy soon finds himself in mortal danger.</p>

	<h2 style="text-align: center;">The Parent Agency</h2>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>David Baddiel</b></p>	<p>“I wish I had better parents!” Barry said, a third time. And then suddenly the entire room started to shake...</p> <p>Barry Bennett hates being called Barry. In fact it’s number 2 on the list of things he blames his parents for, along with 1) ‘being boring’ and 3) ‘always being tired’.</p> <p>But there is a world, not far from this one, where parents don’t have children. That’s far too random for something so big and important. In this world, children are allowed to choose their parents.</p> <p>For Barry Bennett, this world seems like a dream come true. Only things turn out to be not quite that simple...</p>
	<h2 style="text-align: center;">War Horse</h2>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Michael Morpurgo</b></p>	<p>In the deadly chaos of the First World War, one horse witnesses the reality of battle from both sides of the trenches. Bombarded by artillery, with bullets knocking riders from his back, Joey tells a powerful story of the truest friendships surviving in terrible times. One horse has seen the best and the worst of humanity. The power of war and the beauty of peace. This is his story.</p>
	<h2 style="text-align: center;">Private Peaceful</h2>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Michael Morpurgo</b></p>	<p>Told in the voice of Private Tommo Peaceful, the story follows twenty-four hours at the front, and captures his memories of his family and his village life by no means as tranquil as it appeared.</p> <p>Full of vivid detail and engrossing atmosphere, leading to a dramatic and moving conclusion, Private Peaceful is both a compelling love story and a deeply moving account of the First World War.</p>
	<h2 style="text-align: center;">Why the Whales Came</h2>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Michael Morpurgo</b></p>	<p>Gracie and her friend Daniel have always been warned to stay away from the Birdman and his side of the island. But then they find a message in the sand and discover the Birdman is not who they thought. They build up a lovely friendship with him, but when the children get stranded on Samson Island they don’t know whether to believe the birdman’s story that the island is cursed.</p>

	<h2 style="text-align: center;">The Wreck of the Zanzibar</h2>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Michael Morpurgo</b></p>	<p>“We all knew what was going to happen. We’d seen it before. A ship about to founder staggers before she falls. A huge wave broke over her stern and she did not come upright again.” Life on the Scilly Isles in 1907 is bleak and full of hardship. Laura’s twin brother, Billy, disappears, and then a storm devastates everything. It seems there’s little hope. But then the Zanzibar is wrecked on the island’s rocks, and everything changes . . .</p>
	<h2 style="text-align: center;">Our Castle by the Sea</h2>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Lucy Strange</b></p>	<p>England is at war. Growing up in a lighthouse, Pet's world has been one of storms, secret tunnels and stories about sea monsters. But now the clifftops are a terrifying battleground, and her family is torn apart. This is the story of a girl who is small, afraid and unnoticed. A girl who freezes with fear at the enemy planes ripping through the skies overhead. A girl who is somehow destined to become part of the strange, ancient legend of the Daughters of Stone ...</p>
	<h2 style="text-align: center;">The Skylark War</h2>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Hilary McKay</b></p>	<p>Clarry and her older brother Peter live for their summers in Cornwall, staying with their grandparents and running free with their charismatic cousin, Rupert. But normal life resumes each September – boarding school for Peter and Rupert, and a boring life for Clarry at home with her absent father, as the shadow of a terrible war looms ever closer.</p> <p>When Rupert goes off to fight at the front, Clarry feels their skylark summers are finally slipping away from them. Can their family survive this fearful war?</p>
	<h2 style="text-align: center;">A Wrinkle in Time</h2>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Madeleine L'Engle</b></p>	<p>When Charles Wallace Murry goes searching through a 'wrinkle in time' for his lost father, he finds himself on an evil planet where all life is enslaved by a huge pulsating brain known as 'It'. How Charles, his sister Meg and friend Calvin find and free his father makes this a very special and exciting mixture of fantasy and science fiction, which all the way through is dominated by the funny and mysterious trio of guardian angels known as Mrs Whatsit, Mrs Who and Mrs Which.</p>
	<h2 style="text-align: center;">The Golden Butterfly</h2>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Sharon Gosling</b></p>	<p>It's 1897 and since the Magnificent Marko dramatically departed the stage, no magician has come close to performing a trick as spectacular as the Golden Butterfly. With her grandfather gone, Luciana feels that the world has lost its wonder. Then the imposing leader of the Grand Society of Magicians appears, searching for something belonging to Marko, and Luciana is drawn into a world of danger and deception. As she battles to protect her grandfather's greatest legacy, can she distinguish reality from illusion?</p>

	<h2 style="text-align: center;">The Phantom Tollbooth</h2>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Norton Juster</b></p>	<p>When Milo finds an enormous package in his bedroom, he's delighted to have something to relieve his boredom with school. And when he opens it to find – as the label states – One Genuine Turnpike Tollbooth, he gets right into his pedal car and sets off through the Tollbooth and away on a magical journey!</p> <p>Milo's extraordinary voyage takes him into such places as the Land of Expectation, the Doldrums, the Mountains of Ignorance and the Castle in the Air. He meets the weirdest and most unexpected characters (such as Tock, the watchdog, the Gelatinous Giant, and the Threadbare Excuse, who mumbles the same thing over and over again), and, once home, can hardly wait to try out the Tollbooth again. But will it be still there when he gets back from school?</p>
	<h2 style="text-align: center;">Journey to the River Sea</h2>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Eva Ibbotson</b></p>	<p>It is 1910 and Maia, tragically orphaned at thirteen, has been sent from England to start a new life with distant relatives in Manaus, hundreds of miles up the Amazon. She is accompanied by an eccentric and mysterious governess who has secret reasons of her own for making the journey. Both soon discover an exotic world bursting with new experiences in <i>Journey to the River Sea</i>, Eva Ibbotson's highly colourful, joyous adventure.</p>
	<h2 style="text-align: center;">The Railway Children</h2>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>E. Nesbit</b></p>	<p>When Roberta, Peter and Phyllis's father is taken away and they move to a tiny cottage in the countryside, the only advantage is the nearby railway. Join them on their adventures as they befriend all those who work with the trains, prevent a railway disaster and try to discover the truth behind their father's disappearance.</p>
	<h2 style="text-align: center;">Tom's Midnight Garden</h2>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Philippa Pearce</b></p>	<p>When Tom is sent to stay at his aunt and uncle's house for the summer, he resigns himself to endless weeks of boredom. As he lies awake in his bed he hears the grandfather clock downstairs strike . . . eleven . . . twelve . . . thirteen . . .</p> <p>Thirteen! Tom races down the stairs and out the back door, into a garden everyone told him wasn't there. In this enchanted thirteenth hour, the garden comes alive - but Tom is never sure whether the children he meets there are real or ghosts .</p>
	<h2 style="text-align: center;">The Jungle Book</h2>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Rudyard Kipling</b></p>	<p><i>The Jungle Book</i> introduces Mowgli, the human foundling adopted by a family of wolves. It tells of the enmity between him and the tiger Shere Khan, who killed Mowgli's parents, and of the friendship between the man-cub and Bagheera, the black panther, and Baloo, the sleepy brown bear, who instructs Mowgli in the Laws of the Jungle.</p>






	<h2 style="text-align: center;">Check Mates</h2>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Stewart Foster</b></p>	<p>Felix is struggling at school. His ADHD makes it hard for him to concentrate and his grades are slipping. Everyone keeps telling him to try harder, but no one seems to understand just how hard he finds it. When Mum suggests Felix spends time with his grandfather, Felix can't think of anything worse. Granddad hasn't been the same since Grandma died. Plus he's always trying to teach Felix <i>boring</i> chess. But sometimes the best lessons come in the most unexpected of places, and Granddad soon shows Felix that there's everything to play for.</p>
	<h2 style="text-align: center;">Armistice Runner</h2>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Tom Palmer</b></p>	<p>Lily has lots of worries. She's struggling to compete in her fell-running races and, worse, she's losing her gran to Alzheimer's. But then she discovers her great-great-grandfather's diaries from the First World War. Could his incredible story of bravery help her reconnect with her gran and even give her the inspiration she needs to push through and win?</p>
	<h2 style="text-align: center;">Skellig</h2>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>David Almond</b></p>	<p>When a move to a new house coincides with his baby sister's illness, Michael's world seems suddenly lonely and uncertain.</p> <p>Then, one Sunday afternoon, he stumbles into the old, ramshackle garage of his new home, and finds something magical. A strange creature - part owl, part angel, a being who needs Michael's help if he is to survive. With his new friend Mina, Michael nourishes Skellig back to health, while his baby sister languishes in the hospital.</p> <p>But Skellig is far more than he at first appears, and as he helps Michael breathe life into his tiny sister, Michael's world changes for ever . . .</p>
	<h2 style="text-align: center;">Phoenix</h2>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>SF Said</b></p>	<p>Lucky thinks he's an ordinary Human boy. But one night, he dreams that the stars are singing to him, and wakes to find an uncontrollable power rising inside him.</p> <p>Now he's on the run, racing through space, searching for answers. In a galaxy at war, where Humans and Aliens are deadly enemies, the only people who can help him are an Alien starship crew – and an Alien warrior girl, with neon needles in her hair . . .</p>
	<h2 style="text-align: center;">Varjak Paw</h2> <p style="text-align: center;">Books which follow in the series: <b>The Outlaw Varjak Paw</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>SF Said</b></p>	<p>Varjak Paw is a Mesopotamian Blue kitten. He lives high up in an old house on a hill. He's never left home, but then his grandfather tells him about the Way - a secret martial art for cats.</p> <p>Now Varjak must use the Way to survive in a city full of dangerous dogs, cat gangs and, strangest of all the mysterious Vanishings.</p>

	<p><b>My Brother is a Superhero</b></p> <p>Books which follow in the series:  <b>My Gym Teacher is an Alien Overlord</b>  <b>My Evil Twin is a Supervillain</b>  <b>My Arch Enemy is a Brain in a Jar</b></p>	<p><b>David Solomons</b></p>	<p>Luke is a comic-mad eleven-year old who shares a treehouse with his geeky older brother, Zack. Luke's only mistake is to go for a wee right at the wrong time. While he's gone, an alien gives his undeserving, never-read-a-comic-in-his-life brother superpowers and then tells him to save the universe. Luke is massively annoyed about this, but when Zack is kidnapped by his arch-nemesis, Luke and his friends have only five days to find him and save the world...</p>
	<p><b>A Murder Most Unladylike</b></p> <p>Books which follow in the series:  <b>Arsenic for Tea (+ many more)</b></p>	<p><b>Robin Stevens</b></p>	<p>When Daisy Wells and Hazel Wong set up their very own secret detective agency at Deepdean School for Girls, they struggle to find any truly exciting mysteries to investigate. Then Hazel discovers the Science Mistress, Miss Bell, lying dead in the Gym. She assumes it was a terrible accident – but when she and Daisy return five minutes later, the body has disappeared. Now Hazel and Daisy not only have a murder to solve: they have to prove one happened in the first place.</p>
	<p><b>The Goldfish Boy</b></p> <p>The Light Jar</p>	<p><b>Lisa Thompson</b></p>	<p>Twelve-year-old Matthew is trapped in his bedroom by crippling OCD, spending most of his time staring out of his window as the inhabitants of Chestnut Close go about their business. Until the day he is the last person to see his next door neighbour's toddler, Teddy, before he goes missing. Matthew must turn detective and unravel the mystery of Teddy's disappearance...</p>
	<p><b>The Last Wild</b></p> <p>Books which follow in the series:  <b>The Dark Wild</b>  <b>The Wild Beyond</b></p>	<p><b>Piers Torday</b></p>	<p>In a world where animals no longer exist, twelve-year-old Kester Jaynes sometimes feels like he hardly exists either. Locked away in a home for troubled children, he's told there's something wrong with him. So when he meets a flock of talking pigeons and a bossy cockroach, Kester thinks he's finally gone crazy. But the animals have something to say. And they need him...</p>
	<p><b>Time Travelling With a Hamster</b></p> <p>The Dog Who Saved The World</p>	<p><b>Ross Welford</b></p>	<p>“My dad died twice. Once when he was thirty nine and again four years later when he was twelve.” On Al Chaudhury’s twelfth birthday his beloved Grandpa Byron gives him a letter from Al’s late father. In it Al receives a mission: travel back to 1984 in a secret time machine and save his father’s life. Al soon discovers that time travel requires daring and imagination. It also requires lies, theft, setting his school on fire and ignoring philosophical advice from Grandpa Byron. All without losing his pet hamster, Alan Shearer...</p>
	<p><b>Gaslight</b></p> <p>Seaglass</p>	<p><b>Eloise Williams</b></p>	<p>1899. All Nansi knows is that her mother disappeared on the day she was fished out of Cardiff docks. She can't remember anything else. Now, with no other family to turn to, she works for Sid at the Empire Theatre, sometimes legally, sometimes thieving, trying to earn enough money to hire a detective to find her mother.</p>

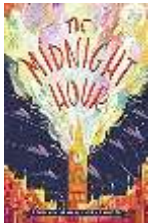
	<h2 style="text-align: center;">A Boy Called Hope</h2>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Lara Williamson</b></p>	<p>'I'm Dan Hope and deep inside my head I keep a list of things I want to come true. For example, I want my sister, Ninja Grace, to go to university at the North Pole and only come back once a year. I want to help Sherlock Holmes solve his most daring mystery yet. And if it could be a zombie mystery, all the more exciting. I want my dog to stop eating the planets and throwing them up on the carpet. And finally, the biggest dream of all, I want my dad to love me.'</p>
	<h2 style="text-align: center;">The Boy Who Sailed The Ocean In An Armchair</h2>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Lara Williamson</b></p>	<p>All Becket wants is for his family to be whole again. But standing in his way are two things: 1) His dad, his brother and him seem to have run away from home in the middle of the night and 2) Becket's mum died before he got the chance to say goodbye to her. Arming himself with an armchair of stories, a snail named Brian and one thousand paper cranes, Becket ploughs on, determined to make his wish come true.</p>
	<h2 style="text-align: center;">Dead Man's Cove</h2> <p style="text-align: center;">Books which follow in the series: Kidnap in the Caribbean Kentucky Thriller (and more)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Lauren St John</b></p>	<p>When orphaned Laura Marlin moves from a children's home to live with her uncle in Cornwall, she longs for a life of excitement just like the characters in her favourite detective novels. A real life adventure is on hand as she is deposited at her uncle's spooky house . . . Why does her uncle, Calvin Redfern, forbid her to go to Dead Man's Cove? What's the truth about Tariq, the silent Indian boy who lives with the flamboyant Mukthars? Who is J? Who has left the message in a bottle for Laura to discover? Accompanied by her trusty companion, Skye, a three-legged husky, the dog she's always wanted, Laura's adventures begin in this first captivating mystery.</p>
	<h2 style="text-align: center;">The Thieves of Pudding Lane</h2>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Jonathan Eyes</b></p>	<p>A young boy orphaned by the Plague learns to survive as a thief on the streets of London - until fire breaks out... London, 1666. Sam is soon starving on the streets. He's quickly recruited as one of sinister Uncle Jack's children, and taught to pick pockets (punishable by death) - and if he crosses Uncle Jack, it could be just as bad...</p>
	<h2 style="text-align: center;">Street Child</h2> <p style="text-align: center;">Books which follow in the series: <b>Far From Home</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Berlie Doherty</b></p>	<p>When his mother dies, Jim Jarvis is left all alone in London. He is sent to the workhouse but quickly escapes, choosing a hard life on the streets of the city over the confines of the workhouse walls. Struggling to survive, Jim finally finds some friends...only to be snatched away and made to work for the remorselessly cruel Grimy Nick, constantly guarded by his vicious dog, Snipe. Will Jim ever manage to be free?</p>



	<h2 style="text-align: center;">The Children of Castle Rock</h2>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Natasha Farrant</b></p>	<p>When Alice Mistlethwaite is shipped off to boarding school in Scotland it's nothing like she imagines. Run by the mysterious Major, there are no punishments and the students are more likely to be taught about body painting or extreme survival than maths or English! Then Alice's dad goes missing and she must run away to find him. Can she persuade her new friends to help? So begins an epic quest across wild Scottish highlands and islands, where friendships will be made and broken, lies will be untangled and the children will face danger and excitement at every turn.</p>
	<h2 style="text-align: center;">Mystery of the Clockwork Sparrow</h2> <p style="text-align: center;">Books which follow in the series: <b>The Jewelled Moth (and more)</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Katherine Woodvine</b></p>	<p>You are cordially invited to attend the Grand Opening of Sinclair's department store! Enter a world of bonbons, hats, perfumes and MYSTERIES around every corner. WONDER at the daring theft of the priceless CLOCKWORK SPARROW! TREMBLE as the most DASTARDLY criminals in London enact their wicked plans! GASP as our bold heroines, Miss Sophie Taylor and Miss Lilian Rose, CRACK CODES, DEVOUR ICED BUNS and vow to bring the villains to justice...</p>
	<h2 style="text-align: center;">Secrets of the Sun King</h2>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Emma Carroll</b></p>	<p>A discovery from ancient Egypt . . . A cursed package . . . The untold story of a young pharaoh . . . When Lilian Kaye finds a parcel on her grandad's doorstep, she is shocked to see who sent it: a famous Egyptologist, found dead that very morning, according to every newspaper in England! The mysterious package holds the key to a story . . . about a king whose tomb archaeologists are desperately hunting for. Lil and her friends must embark on an incredible journey - to return the package to its resting place, to protect those they love, and to break the deadly pharaoh's curse...</p>
	<h2 style="text-align: center;">Boy At The Back of The Class</h2> <p style="text-align: center;">The Star Outside my Window</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Onjali Q. Rauf</b></p>	<p>There used to be an empty chair at the back of Mrs. Khan's classroom, but on the third Tuesday of the school year a new kid fills it: nine-year-old Ahmet, a Syrian refugee. The whole class is curious about this new boy--he doesn't seem to smile, and he doesn't talk much. But after learning that Ahmet fled a Very Real War and was separated from his family along the way, a determined group of his classmates bands together to concoct the Greatest Idea in the World--a magnificent plan to reunite Ahmet with his loved ones.</p>
	<h2 style="text-align: center;">The House with Chicken Legs</h2>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Sophie Anderson</b></p>	<p>Marinka dreams of a normal life, where her house stays in one place long enough for her to make friends. But her house has chicken legs and moves on without warning. For Marinka's grandmother is Baba Yaga, who guides spirits between this world and the next. Marinka longs to change her destiny and sets out to break free from her grandmother's footsteps, but her house has other ideas...</p>

	<h2>The Eye of the North</h2>	<p><b>Sinead O'Hart</b></p>	<p>When Emmeline's scientist parents mysteriously disappear, she finds herself heading for a safe house, where allies have pledged to protect her. But along the way, she is kidnapped by the villainous Doctor Siegfried Bauer, who is bound for the ice fields of Greenland. There he hopes to summon a mystical creature from the depths of the ancient glaciers, a creature said to be so powerful that whoever controls it can control the world. Unfortunately, Bauer isn't the only one determined to unleash the creature. The North Witch has laid claim to the mythical beast, too, and Emmeline--along with a scrappy stowaway named Thing--may be the only one with the power to save the world as we know it. Can Emmeline face one of the greatest legends of all time--and live to tell the tale?</p>
	<h2>Closest Thing to Flying</h2>	<p><b>Gill Lewis</b></p>	<p>Present day: Semira doesn't know where to call home. She and her mother came to England when she was four years old, brought across the desert and the sea by a man who has complete control. Always moving on, always afraid of being caught, she longs for freedom. 1891: Hen knows exactly where to call home. Her stifling mother makes sure of that. But her Aunt Kitty is opening her eyes to a whole new world. A world of animal rights, and votes for women, and riding bicycles! Trapped in a life of behaving like a lady, she longs for freedom. When Semira discovers Hen's diary, she finds the inspiration to be brave, to fight for her place in the world, and maybe even to uncover the secrets of her own past.</p>
	<h2>Brightstorm</h2>	<p><b>Vashti Hardy</b></p>	<p>Twins Arthur and Maudie receive word that their father died in a failed attempt to reach South Polaris. But a mysterious clue leads the twins to question the story they've been told, and they join the crew of a new exploration attempt in the hope of learning the truth. Will Arthur and Maudie find the answers they seek?</p>
	<h2>Boy Under Water</h2>	<p><b>Adam Baron</b></p>	<p>Cymbeline Igloo (yes, really!) has NEVER been swimming Not ever. Not once. But how hard can it be? He's Googled front crawl and he's found his dad's old pair of trunks. He's totally ready. What he's not ready for is the accident at the pool – or how it leads his mum to a sudden breakdown. Now, with the help of friends old and new, Cymbeline must solve the mystery of why his mum never took him near water – and it will turn his whole life upside down...</p>
	<h2>The Storm Keeper's Island</h2> <p>Books which follow in the series: <b>The Lost Tide Warriors</b></p>	<p><b>Catherine Doyle</b></p>	<p>Fionn Boyle comes from a long line of brave seafarers, people with the ocean behind their eyes. But he can't help but fear the open sea. For years, Fionn's mother has told him stories of Arranmore Island, a strange place that seems to haunt her. Fionn has always wondered about this mysterious island, and from the day he arrives he starts noticing things that can't be explained. He can sense the island all around him, and it feels like the island is watching him, too.</p>

Once in a generation, Arranmore Island chooses a new Storm Keeper to wield its power and keep its magic safe from enemies. The time has come for his grandfather, a secretive and eccentric old man, to step down. But as Fionn and the other descendants of Arranmore's most powerful families fight to become the island's next champion, a more sinister magic is waking up, intent on rekindling a long-ago war and changing Fionn's life and the island's future forever.



# The Midnight Hour

**Benjamin  
Read  
&  
Laura Trinder**

Emily's parents have vanished into the secret world of the Midnight Hour - a Victorian London frozen in time - home to magic and monsters. Emily must find them in the city of the Night Folk, armed only with a packed lunch, a stowaway hedgehog and her infamously big mouth.

With bloodthirsty creatures on her tail, Emily has to discover the truth to rescue her parents. What family secret connects her to the Midnight Hour? And can she save both worlds before she runs out of sandwiches?