

Q. What should I be reading this Black History Month?

A. Books that inform, educate and inspire!

BLACK HISTORY MONTH 2020

I'M NOT ADDICTED TO READING



I CAN QUIT AS SOON AS I FINISH ONE MORE CHAPTER

This month's top pick for KS3:



Reading just because you love it is the way forward. Don't just think of it as a pleasant memory. Get inspired with us!

"What's going on?"

A short, essential introduction to Black British history for readers of 12+ by award-winning historian and broadcaster David Olusoga.

When did Africans first come to Britain?

Who are the well-dressed black children in Georgian paintings?

Why did the American Civil War disrupt the Industrial Revolution?

These and many other questions are answered in this essential introduction to 1800 years of the Black British history: from the Roman Africans who guarded Hadrian's Wall right up to the present day.

I have read the original version, written for adults, and I learnt so much and would strongly recommend this writer.

Q. What should I be reading?

A. Whatever inspires you!

I DISAPPEAR
INTO BOOKS

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SUPERPOWER?

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This month's top pick for KS3:



If you love fantasy, magic and folk stories, this is a must read. /a truly beautiful novel.

"What's going on?"

From the writer of 'The Girl who speaks bear' and 'The house with chicken legs':

Magic awaits, all you have to do is believe... When thirteen-year-old Olia steps through a magical doorway, she discovers another land. A land tangled by magic, where hope is lost, and a scheming wizard holds all the power. Soon Olia learns that she is destined to save this land, but with time running out and her new friends and family in danger, she must search for the magic within herself - to save everything and everyone she loves.

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"What's going on?"

It's Christmas-time in the Stanton family house: presents, carol singing, good cheer. But for eleven-year-old Will Stanton, something sinister has begun, inching round his subconscious, shouting silent warnings he can't decipher. Then on Midwinter Day, Will wakes up to a different world: silent, covered in snow and ancient forest, a world of another time. A world where evil lurks.

Because Will is not the ordinary boy he always thought he was. He is the last of the Old Ones and the power to vanquish the evil magic of the Dark lies within him.

Reading is one of life's joys. Snuggle up somewhere cosy and warm with a lovely book this festive time.

A classic wintry tale of good battling evil that you will love!

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“You know you’ve read a good book when you turn the last page and feel a little as if you have lost a friend.”

- Paul Sweeney

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“What's going on?”

Sometimes at the darkest hour, hope shines the brightest...

When Col's childhood imaginary friends come to life, he discovers a world where myths and legends are real. Accompanied by his guardians - a six-foot tiger, a badger in a waistcoat and a miniature knight - Col must race to Blitz-bombed London to save his sister.

But there are darker forces at work, even than the Nazi bombings. Soon Col is pursued by the terrifying Midwinter King, who is determined to bring an eternal darkness down over everything.

Q. What should I be reading this Valentines?

A. Whatever inspires you!

This month's top pick for KS3



Nerd Girl Problem #19
You want to go on a romantic date with your boyfriend for Valentine's Day, but he lives in a book



Stargirl is like no other. Brave, inspiring, unforgettable.

"What's going on?"

*She's as magical as the desert sky.
As mysterious as her own name.*

From the day she arrives in a burst of sunshine, people notice her. People remember her. She captures Leo's heart with just one smile. Everyone is enchanted.

At first.

Then they turn on her. Then they turn on her. Stargirl is suddenly shunned for everything that makes her different, and Leo, panicked and desperate with love, urges her to become the very thing that can destroy her: normal.

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WINNER - COSTA
CHILDREN'S BOOK
AWARD

THE TIMES AND SUNDAY
TIMES CHILDREN'S BOOK
OF THE YEAR

In the aftermath of World War One, everyone is trying to rebuild their lives. If Ben is to avoid being sent back to the orphanage, he needs to find his brother Sam, wounded in action and is now missing. Lotti's horrible aunt and uncle want to send her away to boarding-school (when she has just so successfully managed to get expelled from her last one!). And Clara, their young teacher, is waiting for news of her missing fiancé . . .

Just as they think they've found their feet in the new order, disaster strikes, and Lotti and Ben must get away. And so they hatch a plan - to cross the Channel on Ben's narrowboat and find Sam. And there's something in France that Lotti is looking for, too . . .

Buffeted by storms, chased by the police, Lotti, Ben, Clara and a growing number of dogs set out on an epic journey, on the search for lost loved ones and a place to call home.

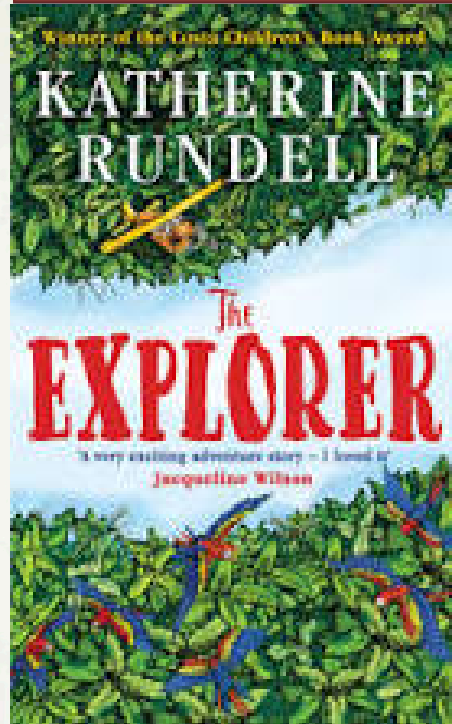
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“What's going on?”

Like a man-made magic wish the airplane began to rise.

The boy sitting in the cockpit gripped his seat and held his breath as the plane roared and climbed into the arms of the sky.

From his seat in the tiny aeroplane, Fred watches as the mysteries of the Amazon jungle pass by below him.

He has always dreamed of becoming an explorer, of making history and of reading his name amongst the lists of great discoveries. If only he could land and look about him.

As the plane crashes into the canopy, Fred is suddenly left without a choice.

He and the three other children may be alive, but the jungle is a vast, untamed place. With no hope of rescue, the chance of getting home feels impossibly small. Except, it seems, someone has been there before them...

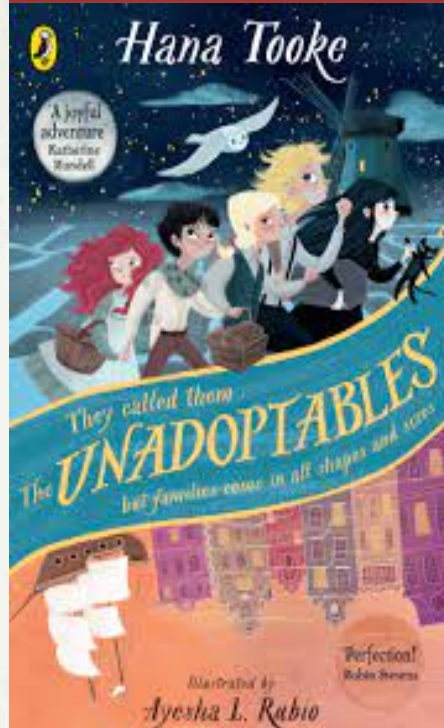
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This month’s top pick for KS3:



This is a really fun read which is incredibly hard to put down. We always tell you to stick to no more than three main characters-I'm so glad that Hana Tooke ignored such advice.

The remarkable. The extraordinary. The brave.

Way back in the autumn of 1880, five babies are discovered at the Little Tulip Orphanage in most unusual circumstances. Those babies are Lotta, Egbert, Fenna, Sem and Milou.

The vile matron calls the children 'the unadoptables' but this talented gang of best friends know that their individuality is what makes them so special - and so determined to stay together.

When a sinister gentleman tries to get them in his clutches, the children make a daring escape across the frozen canals of Amsterdam, embarking on an adventure packed with pirate ships and puppets. But is their real home - and their real family - already closer than they realize?

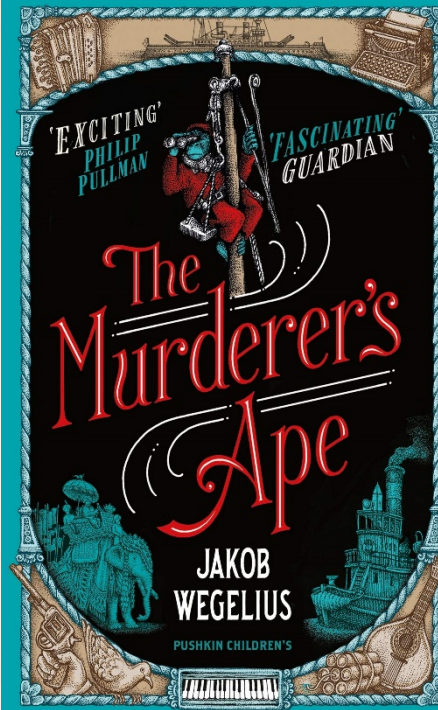
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This month's top pick for KS3:



Wildly inventive and addictive. A truly fabulous read. One to devour for fun!

Sally Jones is not only a loyal friend, she's an extraordinary individual. In overalls or in a maharaja's turban, this unique gorilla moves among humans without speaking but understanding everything.

She and the Chief are devoted comrades who operate a cargo boat. A job they are offered pays big bucks, but the deal ends badly, and the Chief is falsely convicted of murder. For Sally Jones this is the start of a harrowing quest for survival and to clear the Chief's name.

Powerful forces are working against her, and they will do anything to protect their secrets. 'I don't know,' wrote Philip Pullman, 'when I last read a book with such pure and unalloyed pleasure.'

Her tale painstakingly delivered via an old Underwood typewriter, prepare to be utterly enchanted by the misadventures of Sally Jones. Stunning illustrations and wild but thoughtful adventure make for a captivating read.

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“What's going on?”

When Isobel Petty is orphaned, she finds herself being taken away from her home in India and sent to live with a distant uncle in England. On board the S.S. Mariana, she witnesses a shocking act - somebody being thrown overboard in the middle in the night. But when the ship's captain insists that nobody is missing, Isobel and her two new reluctant friends must solve two mysteries - the identities of both the murderer and the victim - before they reach England and the culprit has the chance to escape.

Inspired by *The Secret Garden* and the golden age of crime writing, *The Secret Detectives* is a gripping, beautifully historical mystery, from an incredible new voice in children's fiction