

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 KS4:



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?"

Featuring top Young Adult authors and introducing a host of exciting new voices, this anthology of stories and poetry from BAME (Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic) writers on the theme of change is a long-overdue addition to the YA scene.

Contributors include Tanya Byrne, Inua Ellams, Catherine Johnson, Patrice Lawrence, Ayisha Malik, Irfan Master, Musa Okwonga and Nikesh Shukla.

Plus introducing four fresh new voices in YA fiction: Mary Bello, Aisha Bushby, Yasmin Rahman and Phoebe Roy.

This anthology is not only incredible and insightful, but means that our students will actually read fiction by amazing BAME writers, something that the English Literature GCSE does not really allow us to do. Please do seek this out!

Q. What should I be reading?

A. Whatever inspires you!

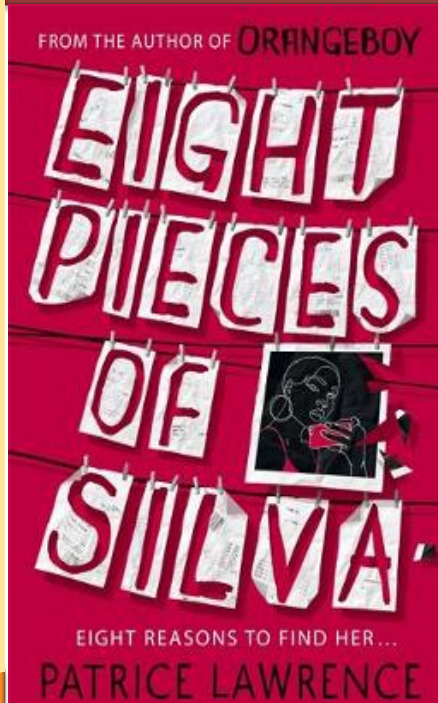
I DISAPPEAR  
INTO BOOKS

WHAT'S YOUR  
SUPERPOWER?

[www.belcastroagency.com](http://www.belcastroagency.com)

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This month's top pick for KS4:



Reading can just be for fun! Netflix's next trashy series perhaps?

What's going on? -

Becks is into girls but didn't come out because she was never in. She lives with her mum, stepdad and eighteen-year-old Silva, her stepdad's daughter. Becks and Silva are opposites, but bond over their mutual obsession with K-pop.

When Becks' mum and stepdad go on honeymoon to Japan, Becks and Silva are left alone. Except, Silva disappears. Becks ventures into the forbidden territory of Silva's room and finds the first of eight clues that help her discover her sister's secret life.

Meanwhile, Silva is on a journey. A journey to make someone love her. He says he doesn't, but he's just joking. All she has to do is persuade him otherwise ...

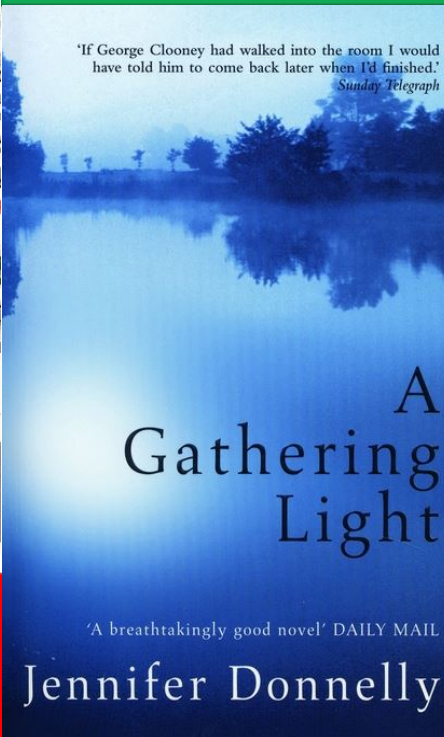


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This month's top pick for KS4:



An acclaimed and beautifully written murder mystery treat to enjoy this Christmas!

"What's going on?"

When Mattie Gokey is given a bundle of letters to burn she fully intends to execute the wishes of the giver, Grace Brown. When Grace Brown is found drowned the next day in Big Moose Lake, Mattie finds that it is not as easy to burn those letters as she had thought. And, as she reads, a riveting story emerges - not only Grace Brown's story but also Mattie's hopes and ambitions for the future and her relationships with her friends and family.

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

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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

This month's top pick for KS4:

“An insouly beautiful writer” JOHN GREEN

THE  
*Rest of Us*  
JUST  
LIVE  
HERE

PATRICK  
NESS

TWICE CARNEGIE MEDAL WINNER

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“What's going on?”

Award-winning writer Patrick Ness's bold and irreverent novel powerfully asks what if you weren't the Chosen One? The one who's supposed to fight the zombies, or the soul-eating ghosts, or whatever this new thing is, with the blue lights and the death? What if you were like Mikey? Who just wants to graduate and go to prom and maybe finally work up the courage to ask Henna out before someone goes and blows up the high school. Again. Because sometimes there are problems bigger than this week's end of the world and sometimes you just have to find the extraordinary in your ordinary life. Even if your best friend might just be the God of mountain lions...

Q. What should I be reading this Valentines?

A. Whatever inspires you!

This month's top pick for KS4



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



Also a great film on Netflix!

Self-proclaimed fat girl Willowdean Dickson (dubbed "Dumplin'" by her former beauty queen mom) has always been at home in her own skin. Her thoughts on having the ultimate bikini body? Put a bikini on your body.

With her all-American beauty best friend, Ellen, by her side, things have always worked . . . until Will takes a job at Harpy's, the local fast-food joint. There she meets Private School Bo, a hot former jock. Will isn't surprised to find herself attracted to Bo. But she is surprised when he seems to like her back.

Full of self-doubt, she sets out to take back her confidence by doing the most horrifying thing she can imagine: entering the Miss Clover City beauty pageant—along with several other unlikely candidates—to show the world that she deserves to be up there as much as any girl does.

Along the way, she'll shock the hell out of Clover City—and maybe herself most of all.

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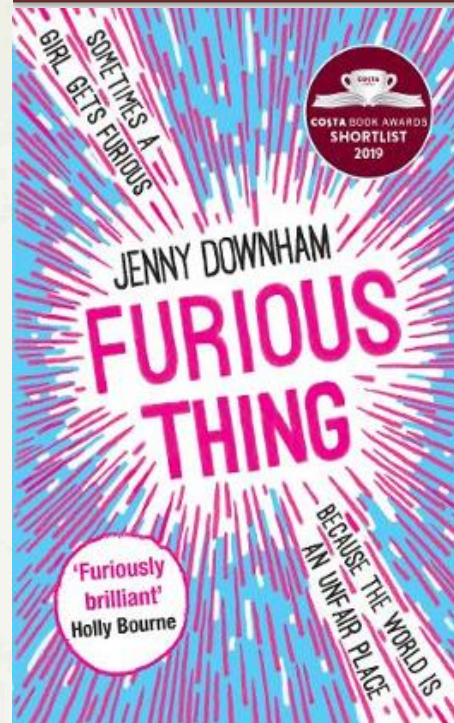
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“What's going on?”

Powerful and very timely, this blistering YA novel from the author of *Before I Die* examines several contentious issues such as anger management and 'gaslighting' to create a complex, sensitively handled modern narrative.

Lexi's angry. And it's getting worse. If only she could stop losing her temper, her step-father would accept her, her mum would love her again, and her step-brother would return her feelings. She wants these things so badly, she tries to push her fury down. But it isn't easy. Her rage is there for a reason. And if she stays quiet - she might just lose herself...

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“What's going on?”

*People lived because she killed. People died because he lived.*

Nobody knows that Zafira is the Hunter. Forced to disguise herself as a man, she braves the cursed forest to feed her people. If she is exposed as a girl, all of her achievements will be rejected.

Nasir is the infamous Prince of Death, assassinating those foolish enough to defy his autocratic father, the sultan. If he refuses he will be punished in the most brutal of ways.

Both are legends in the kingdom of Arawiya - but neither wants to be. And when Zafira embarks on a quest to restore magic to her suffering world, Nasir is sent by the sultan on a similar mission: retrieve magic and kill the hunter. But an ancient evil stirs as their journey unfolds, and the prize they seek may pose a threat greater than either can imagine . . .



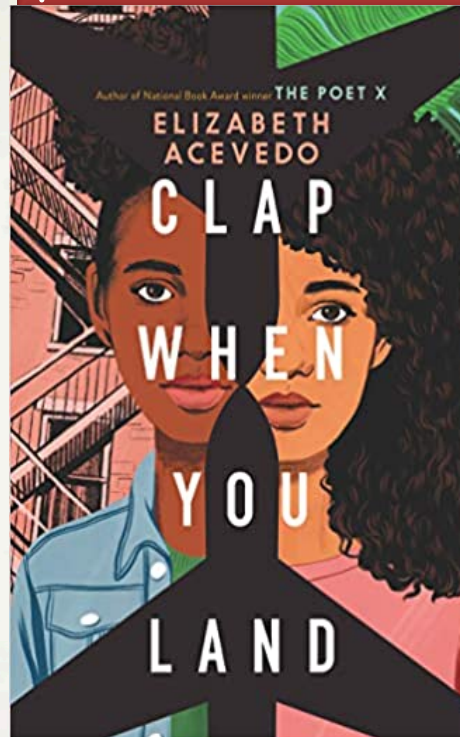
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Camino Rios lives for the summers when her father visits her in the Dominican Republic. But this time, on the day when his plane is supposed to land, Camino arrives at the airport to see crowds of crying people...

In New York City, Yahaira Rios is called to the principal's office, where her mother is waiting to tell her that her father, her hero, has died in a plane crash.

Separated by distance - and Papi's secrets - the two girls are forced to face a new reality in which their father is dead and their lives are forever altered.

And then, when it seems like they've lost everything of their father, they learn of each other.



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“Big hearted and dizzyingly flamboyant, Atta's verse novel about a black gay teen reclaiming his identity as a drag artist is an outspoken triumph from the opening couplet to the last.”

This is not about being ready, it's not even about being fierce, or fearless, it's about being free.

Michael waits in the stage wings, wearing a pink wig, pink fluffy coat and black heels.

One more step will see him illuminated by spotlight.

He has been on a journey of bravery to get here, and he is almost ready to show himself to the world in bold colours ...  
Can he emerge as *The Black Flamingo*?

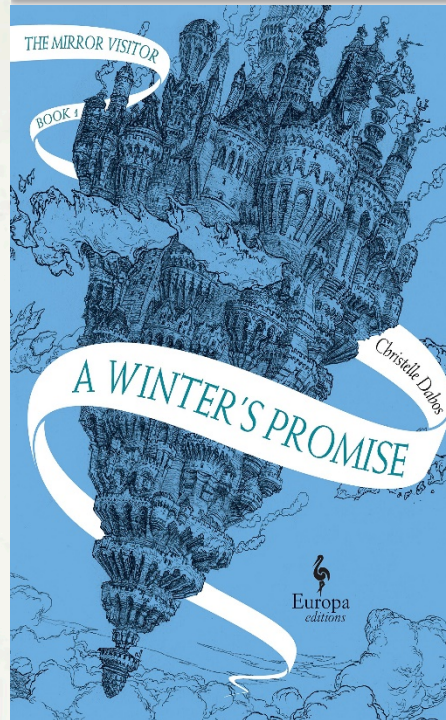
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Long ago, following a cataclysm called “The Rupture,” the world was shattered into many floating celestial islands. Known now as Arks, each has developed in distinct ways; each seems to possess its own unique relationship to time, such that nowadays vastly different worlds exist, together but apart. And over all of the Arks the spirit of an omnipotent ancestor abides.

Ophelia lives on Anima, an ark where objects have souls. Beneath her worn scarf and thick glasses, the young girl hides the ability to read and communicate with the souls of objects, and the power to travel through mirrors. Her peaceful existence on the Ark of Anima is disrupted when she is promised in marriage to Thorn, from the powerful Dragon clan. Ophelia must leave her family and follow her fiancée to the floating capital on the distant Ark of the Pole. Why has she been chosen? Why must she hide her true identity? Though she doesn't know it yet, she has become a pawn in a deadly plot.