

Brilliant Reads

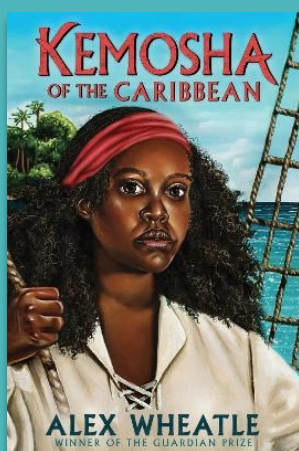
Welcome to a new termly newsletter from Gordano School Library highlighting quality children's and teen titles. This aims to support parents and carers in book selection. We hope you will find it useful.

NEW RELEASES

Edinburgh is a city filled with magical creatures. No one can see them... until Ramya Knox. As she is pulled into her family's world of secrets and spells, Ramya sets out to discover the truth behind the Hidden Folk with only three words of warning from her grandfather: Beware the Sirens. Plunged into an adventure that will change everything, Ramya is about to learn that there is more to her powers than she ever imagined

This magical adventure with a great new heroine, who happens to be dyspraxic, is the first in a duology. Elle McNicoll's brilliant positive representation for neurodivergent young people continues, after *A Kind of Spark* and *Show Us Who You Are*.

(11+)



Kemosha and her brother have lived their whole lives in slavery. Sold away to work in lawless Port Royal, Kemosha takes her chance to escape brutal treatment. With fortune on her side, Kemosha befriends Ravenhide, a man with a mysterious past who teaches her the art of swordfighting, and introduces her to the beautiful runaway Isabella. Yet Kemosha's greatest test yet is upon the deck of the Satisfaction: the notorious Captain Morgan's ship. His next adventure on the high seas could be the making of Kemosha - and her one chance to earn enough pieces of eight to buy the freedom of her brother...

"A vivid and powerful story centred around the struggles of a young enslaved woman who is determined to stand up for herself and fight for what is right, often in the face of danger and cruelty. Another tour de force by Alex Wheatle a truly gifted storyteller -- David

Olusoga

(13+)



When twelve-year-old Ami arrives at The Escape, she thinks it's just a game - the ultimate escape room with puzzles and challenges to beat before time runs out. Meeting her teammates, Adjoa, Ibrahim, Oscar and Min, Ami learns from the Host that they have been chosen to save the world and they must work together to find the Answer. But as he locks them inside the first room, they quickly realise this is no ordinary game.

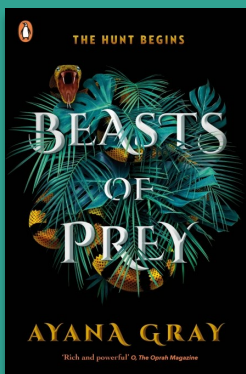
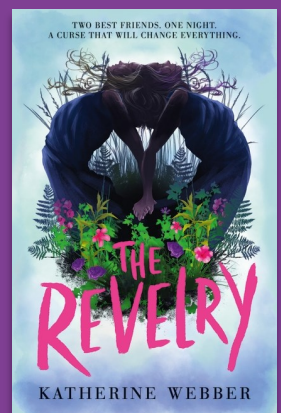
From a cavernous library of dust to an ancient Mayan tomb, a deserted shopping mall stalked by extinct animals to the command module of a spaceship heading to Mars, the perils of The Escape seem endless. Can Ami and her friends find the Answer before it's too late?

A brilliant and original new tale from a unique writer who likes to take his readers on thrilling adventures that also make them think. (11+)

I am girl of Ember Grove, and these are my woods... Growing up in Ember Grove, Bitsy Clark knows better than to mess with the long-held traditions of her hometown. Until her best friend, Amy, persuades her to sneak into the Revelry - the end of school party in the woods, to which only those leaving are invited. When she wakes the next day, Bitsy can't remember anything from the night before. Weirder still, whenever she tries to speak about the Revelry, Bitsy chokes on the words. But this is just the beginning, and what starts out as a run of bad luck starts to feel like a curse. As Bitsy's life goes from bad to worse, things only get better and better for her best friend. It's as if there's only so much luck to go round and Amy's getting all of it...

A brilliant and dark tale of friendship set in strange, mystical surroundings

(13+)

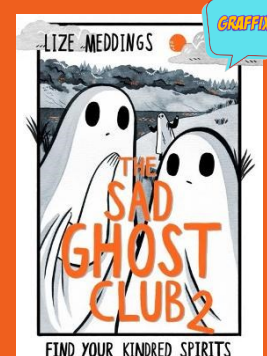


Magic doesn't exist in the broken city of Lkossa anymore, especially for girls like sixteen-year-old Koffi. Indentured to the notorious Night Zoo, she cares for its fearsome mythical creatures to pay off her family's debts. But when they are threatened by the Zoo's cruel master, Koffi unleashes a power she doesn't fully understand. As the son of a decorated hero, Ekon destined to become an elite warrior. Until a fire at the Night Zoo upends his future and, on the brink of his final rite of passage, Ekon is cast out - his reputation left in tatters. For Koffi and Ekon, the outlook is bleak - unless they can capture the Shetani, the vicious monster that plagues their city.

An extraordinary adventure inspired by Pan-African mythology, soon to be a Netflix movie! (YA)

When two strangers meet at a party and realise they both feel different from everyone else there, they start the The Sad Ghost Club - a secret society for the anxious and alone, a club for people who think they don't belong. But when a third ghost wants to join the club, things get a bit more complicated. Can the two ghosts overcome their insecurities and uncertainties in their new friendship, and find a way to welcome new members to the club?

This is the second volume of this graphic novel series, written for and about anyone who has ever felt invisible. (11+)



Author Spotlight:

Sue Wallman



Sue Wallman is an author of thrillers for teens (12+), a genre that has been very popular with students lately. She has recorded a virtual visit for Year 9 for World Book Day and agreed to answer a few questions for us.



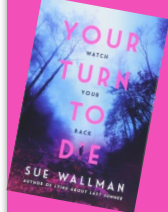
How did you start writing and what made you write this genre particularly?

I've always loved reading and writing. I worked with words as a magazine journalist for many years but writing fiction is different and it took me a long time to get a book deal. My main problem was that I didn't have enough happening in my plots, and it was only when I tried writing thrillers that things came together for me. With thrillers, I'm forced to have more plot, and it's enjoyable writing about slippery characters!



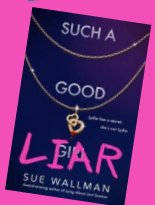
Your books all have amazing covers. Do you get a say in what they look like, and do you have a favourite?

I'm glad you think so! I don't have as big a say in my covers as you might think. Sometimes things get put on the cover that I didn't have in the story and I'm someone who thinks a narrative link is important so I write them in. For example, in *Your Turn to Die* there are woods on the cover which weren't in the original manuscript. I decided to set the last scene in some woods and it actually improved the story because it made it more creepy. I think my favourite cover is the one for *Lying About Last Summer*, partly because it was my first. I was sent it via email which I received when I was on a train and I gasped when I saw it. It was such an exciting moment. When I saw it in real life, I realised it had "spot varnish" - raised bits to make the swimming pool water more realistic - and I thought that was a great touch.



You have a new book coming out in May, can you tell us a bit more about it?

Such a Good Liar is about a girl who assumes someone else's identity and arrives on an exclusive island looking for revenge.

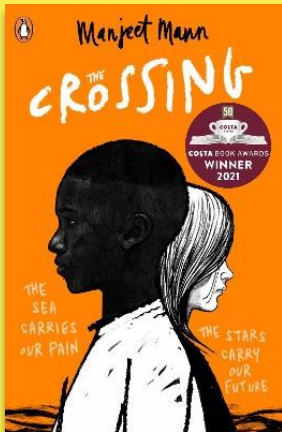


What other books in the genre would you suggest our students might like?

I loved *Every Line of You* by Naomi Gibson last year. I've just finished an advance copy of Tracy Darnton's *Ready or Not* (out in May) which has a gloriously uneasy vibe to it. My students (I'm also a school librarian) really rate *Ace of Spades* by Faridah Abike-Iyimide and I can't wait to read that.



BOOK AWARD NEWS



Winner of the 2021 Costa Children's Book Award The Costa Judges said: 'Powerful, intelligent and emotive - it demonstrates in its very fabric just how little truly separates us...we all agreed this brilliant book is a wonder and will enrich all who read it.'

Natalie's world is falling apart. She's just lost her mum and her brother marches the streets of Dover full of hate and anger. Swimming is her only refuge. Sammy has fled his home and family in Eritrea for the chance of a new life in Europe. Every step he takes on his journey is a step into an unknown and unwelcoming future. A twist of fate brings them together and gives them both hope. But is hope enough to mend a broken world?

The Waterstone's Children Book Prize shortlists have just been announced.



For more information, visit the [Waterstone's website](https://www.waterstones.com/childrens)

