



As the final half term before Christmas begins, we are so pleased to be able to share a new selection of books which cover a wide range of interests and reading accessibility. This is obviously not an exhaustive list – there are so many books they could explore. Whatever they are curious about, or take interest in, consider looking at books around the topic, or encouraging them to research into the area further through non-fiction texts such as online articles.

As part of PiXL's Let's Talk programme, we'll be exploring the topics of remembrance and also the importance of community this half term with our schools. If this is something you'd like to explore through reading with your child, there are a few book recommendations linked to these.

Please note that unless otherwise stated, the texts are suitable from Year 7 and up, but please do research the books before selecting them to ensure that they are appropriate for your child, as these are just a publisher's guide.

Whether you're looking for books or audiobooks to get out of the library now, or for Christmas presents, we hope you and your child enjoy reading this half term and that you have a wonderful end to this year.



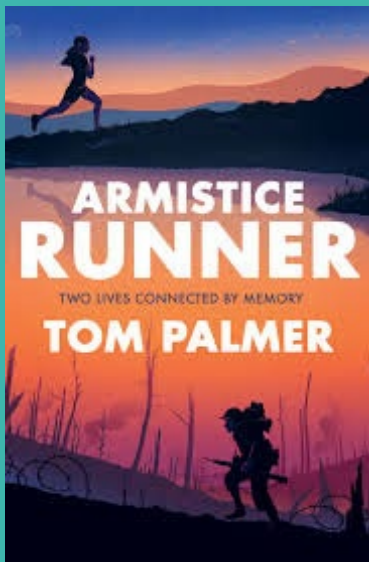
A Poem for Every Winter Day

ED. ALLIE ESIRI

Within the pages of Allie Esiri's gorgeous collection, A Poem for Every Winter Day, you will find verse that will transport you to sparkling winter scenes, taking you from Christmas, to New Year's Eve and the joys of Valentine's Day.

SHORTER-LENGTH READS

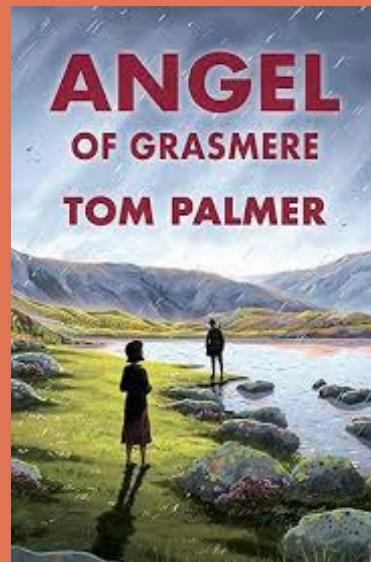
The books below are all shorter-length texts, which could be engaging for anyone, but they are published in a dyslexia-friendly font to help make them accessible to all. If your child doesn't have dyslexia, they can still read these wonderful books!



Armistice Runner

TOM PALMER

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 to win?



Angel of Grasmere

TOM PALMER

July 1940 - As Tarn struggles to come to terms with the loss of her beloved brother in the chaos of the British retreat at Dunkirk, she and her friends scour the hills around their Lake District home, watching for any signs of the long-dreaded Nazi invasion. But, as the war drags on, with little good news from the front, the locals become aware of someone carrying out anonymous acts of kindness. With no one claiming credit, they come to think of this unidentified stranger as a kind of guardian angel, but when his identity is finally revealed, can Tarn come to terms with the truth?



The Ghost Garden

EMMA CARROLL

Summer 1914. When Fran unearths a bone in the garden of Longbarrow House on the same afternoon that Leo breaks his leg, it must surely be a coincidence. But Fran can't shake the uneasy feeling that the events are somehow connected, and there is a shift in the atmosphere that leaves her troubled and anxious. Roped into keeping Leo company, Fran is forced to listen to his foolish theories about the looming threat of war in Europe.



Edgar and Adolf

PHIL EARLE AND MICHAEL WAGG

When he inherits a special football badge, German teenager Adi sets off on a mission to fulfil his grandfather's dying wish and return the badge to its rightful owner: former England footballer, Edgar Kail. After tracking him down, Adi gets the chance to learn more about the achievements of his grandfather and the story unfolds of a special friendship that spanned twenty years and survived the horror of the Second World War.

LONGER-LENGTH READS

The Snow Angel

LAUREN ST. JOHN

Growing up in vibrant, crowded Nairobi, Makena has only one dream: to climb Mount Kenya like her hero, her mountain guide father. But when her beautiful world is shattered, she finds that in the city's darkest places, there are a thousand ways to fall, each more deadly than any crevasse.

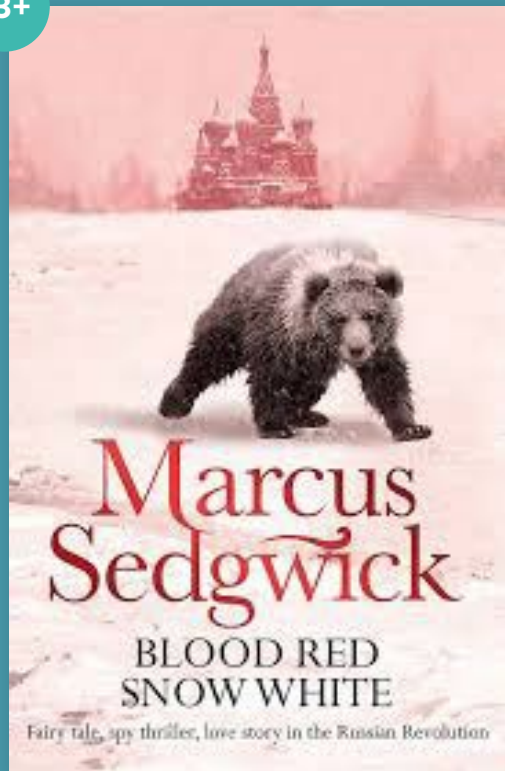


Blood Red, Snow White

MARCUS SEDGWICK

Set in the rich and atmospheric landscape of Russia during the revolution that sent shockwaves around the world, this is the partly true story of Arthur Ransome – a writer accused of being a spy. Fictionalising history and blending it with one man's real life, Marcus Sedgwick expertly crafts this innovative and stimulating novel.

13+



A Darkness of Dragons

S.A. PATRICK

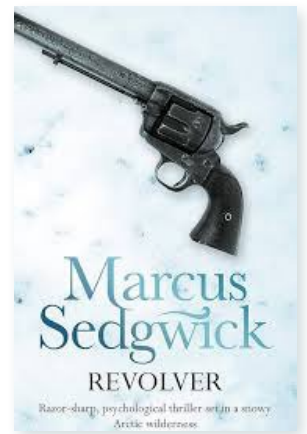
Patch Brightwater is a boy in disgrace. Thrown in jail for playing a forbidden spell, he is no one's idea of a hero. But then he discovers a deadly truth – the evil Piper of Hamelyn is on the loose...



Revolver

MARCUS SEDGWICK

1910. A cabin north of the Arctic Circle. Fifteen-year-old Sig Andersson is alone. Alone, except for the corpse of his father, who died earlier that day after falling through a weak spot on the ice-covered lake. His sister, Anna, and step-mother, Nadya, have gone to the local town for help. Then comes a knock at the door. It's a man, the flash of a revolver's butt at his hip, and a mean glare in his eyes...



13+

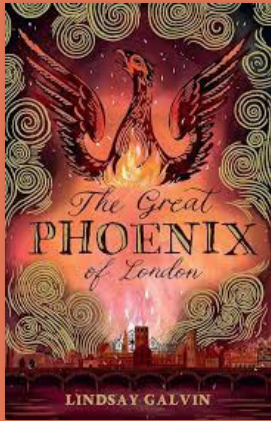
Cinderella is Dead

KALYNN BAYRON

Sophia knows the story off by heart – because every girl has to recite it daily, from when she's tiny until the night she is sent to the royal ball for choosing. And every girl knows that she has only one chance. For the lives of those not chosen by a man at the ball are forfeit. But Sophia doesn't want to be chosen – she's in love with her best friend Erin and hates the idea of being traded like cattle. And, when Sophia's night at the ball goes horribly wrong, she must run for her life...



13+

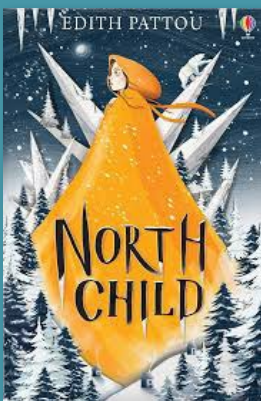


The Great Phoenix of London LINDSAY GALVIN

When fire breaks out, eleven-year-old Gil is separated from his family in the chaos. One of his few remaining possessions is a mysterious ball of rock that fell from the sky. As he races to beat the inferno spreading across the city, neither he, nor his new friend Jennet, has any idea that the stone in his satchel is an unhatched bird of myth and fire. And that there are some who will stop at nothing to get their hands on a legendary phoenix...

While the Storm Rages PHIL EARLE

September 1939. The world is on the brink of war. As his dad marches off to fight, Noah makes him a promise, to keep their beloved family dog safe. When the government advises people to have their pets put down in readiness for the chaos of the war, Noah and his two best friends go on the run to save his dog and as many animals as they can...



North Child EDITH PATTOU

Rose is an unusual child, a North Child. For Rose was born facing north and the old stories say she is destined to travel far from home on a dangerous journey. Making a pact with an enormous white bear, Rose travels on his back to a mysterious castle that holds a dark enchantment, a darker temptation and the key to her true destiny.



When the War Came Home

LESLEY PARR

The First World War has ended, but it hasn't gone away. When Natty has to move to a new village, she meets two young soldiers who are still battling the effects of war and shellshock. Her cousin Huw can't forget the terrible things he's seen, but another young soldier Johnny doesn't even remember who he is. Natty wishes she could help, but she's fighting her own battles and she starts to unravel a mystery...

Shadow Creatures

CHRIS VICK

Mose and her daughter Agna are incomers in the village, treated with suspicion. But young Liva, left out of the secrets her sister Tova and brother Hakken share, idolises Agna and follows her everywhere. Unwittingly, they lead the German soldiers to a perfect island. Once a haven for picnics and storytelling, it is transformed into a grim Prisoner of War camp. This is an unlikely place to find buried treasure, but it's there...



Witch

FINBAR HAWKINS

12+

After witnessing the brutal murder of her mother by witch-hunters, Evey vows to avenge her and track down the killers. But she has promised her mother that she will keep Dill, her little sister, safe. As the lust for blood and retribution rises to fever pitch, will Evey keep true to the bonds of sisterhood and to the magic that is her destiny?



Seven Million Sunflowers

MALCOLM DUFFY

12+

15-year-old Kateryno and her family live in Kharkiv. Their lives are shattered when, on February 24th 2022, the Russian army invades. Their apartment block is struck by a missile. After weeks living in their basement, Kateryno, her mother and brother decide to leave, joining seven million Ukrainian refugees. They come to England and meet their host family, the Hawkins. But their new beginning brings a whole new set of problems.



The Sunbearer Trials

AIDEN THOMAS

14+

Teo, the seventeen-year-old trans son of the goddess of birds, isn't worried. As a Jade, it's unlikely he'll be chosen to compete in the Trials, and even if his best friend Niya competes, she's a born-and-bred Gold semidiós with unparalleled abilities. But, for the first time in over a century, Sol chooses not one, but two Jade competitors: Teo and Xio – the thirteen-year-old child of the god of bad luck. With the odds stacked against them, Teo is determined to get himself and his friends through the trials unscathed...



Midnight's Twins

HOLLY RACE

14+

Fern King is about to uncover a place that she could not have imagined in all her wildest dreams. Annwn is the dream mirror of our world, a place where Dreamers walk in their slumber, their dreams playing out all around them. An enchanted, mysterious place that feeds our own world – as, without dreams, without a place where our imaginations and minds can be nourished, what kind of humans would we be? But Annwn is a place as full of dangers as it is wonders: it is a place where dreams can kill you...



NON-FICTION RECOMMENDATIONS

Deborah Meaden Talks Money

DEBORAH MEADEN

Money is such a huge part of our lives, so learning how to make it work best for you is crucial. Knowledge is power! Whether you want to earn money, save money, set goals or set up and grow a business, Deborah will be your personal guide, demystifying the world of finance and sharing the knowledge and insights that have made her one of the UK's most successful entrepreneurs.

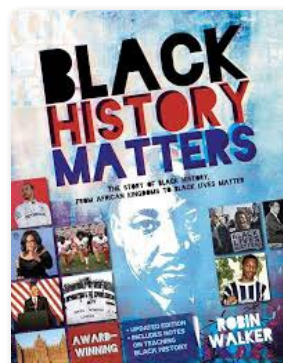


Black History Matters

ROBIN WALKER

12+

Black history is an integral part of world history. From the injustices of the past and present, we can learn and be inspired to make the world we live in more fair, equal and just. This book chronicles thousands of years of Black history, from African kingdoms, to slavery, apartheid, the battle for civil rights, the global Black Lives Matter protests of 2020 and much more.



Together We Can: 40 Inspirational stories about what humans can achieve when we work as a team

NED HARTLEY

From inventing vaccines in record time to dealing with climate change, the biggest challenges we face can only be overcome when teams of people work together towards a common goal. This book is a celebration of what we can achieve when human beings work collaboratively.

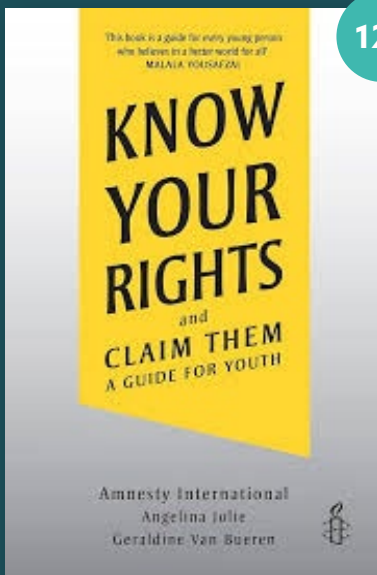




Be the Change - Be Kind: Rise up and make a difference to the world

MARCUS SEDGWICK

Every one of us experiences the world differently – we have different worries and problems and we all have unique hopes and dreams – but there’s one thing that can unite us and make the world a better place, and that’s kindness! This is your handbook on how to use your own voice to empower yourself and others to spread kindness.



12+

Know your rights and claim them

ANGELINA JOLIE, AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL
AND GERALDINE VAN BUEREN

Know Your Rights celebrates the difference young people have made in every corner of the world and shows you how to challenge injustice wherever you may find it. It presents expert advice and guidance on a variety of issues, including protecting your safety, digital security and mental health.