

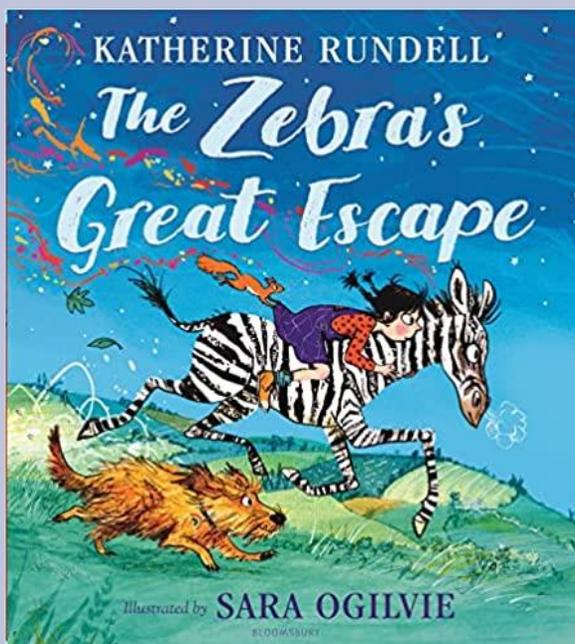
Book Reviews for January and February



Welcome

Barroux 3+

When Polar Bear and his friends are swept away from their icy home, they hope to find refuge in a new land. But when they are turned away from one new place after another, they start to doubt that they will ever find somewhere they will be made welcome.

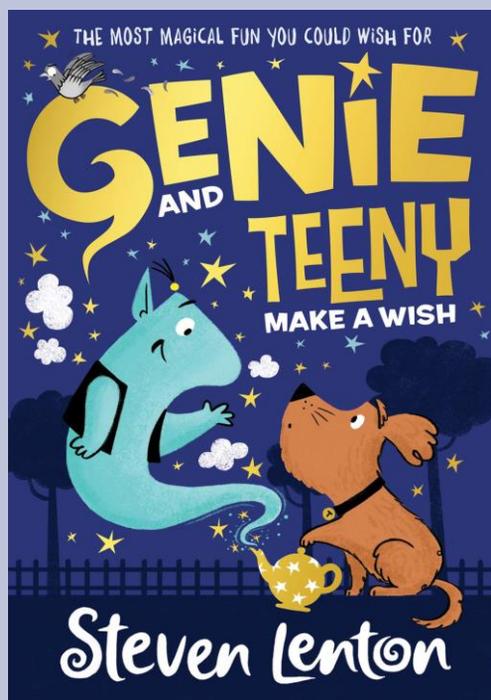


The Zebra's Great Escape

Katherine Rundell and Sara Ogilvie 5+

Mink doesn't believe in rules. She loves running wild and free. So, when a zebra appears in the square where she lives and she finds out that his parents have been captured by the evil Mr Spit, she knows that it's up to her to help.

So begins a grand adventure to rescue a whole menagerie of animals - an adventure that will take all of Mink's courage and determination.



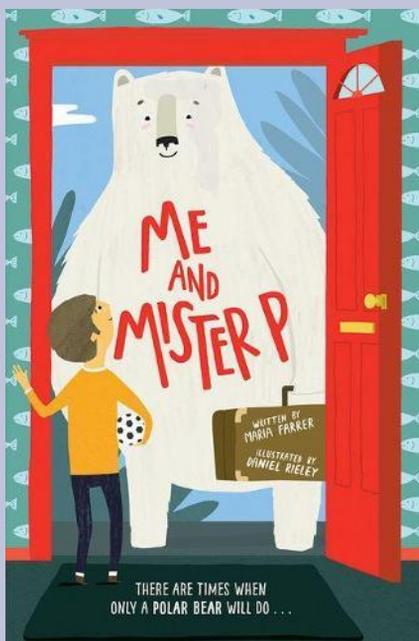
Genie and Teeny Make a Wish

Steven Lenton 5+

Meet Grant the genie, and his best friend – the puppy Teeny...

When Grant the Genie is cast out of Genie World, he lands on Earth with a big, fat bump! Without a lamp to call home, he has to settle for an old cracked teapot instead.

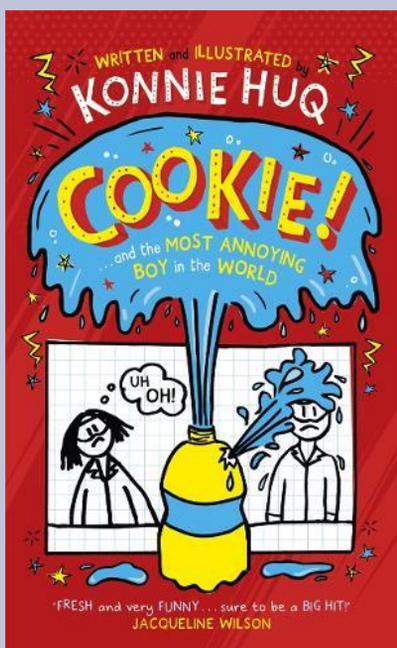
Grant is very lonely until he meets the puppy, Teeny. Then Genie and Teeny are kidnapped by the evil purple-loving Lavinia Lavender, and find themselves on-course for a rollercoaster of an adventure – when all they really want is a place to call home...



Me and Mister P Maria Farrer 7+

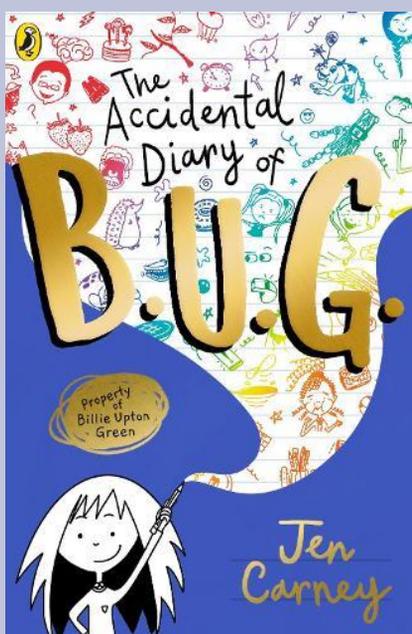
Arthur is having a bad day. And it's all Liam's fault. Liam spoils everything, because Liam is different. He hates loud noises. He makes strange ones himself. And Liam gets all his parents' attention.

All Arthur wants is a completely normal family, so he decides to run away to find one. But on his doorstep, he meets a polar bear called Mister P, who is determined to move into Arthur's house, along with a smelly dead fish. Life changes considerably with an enormous, clumsy polar bear about. But why has Mister P come to stay? And will he change the Hawks' football team's fortunes as their lucky mascot?



Cookie! And the Most Annoying Boy in the World Konnie Huq 7+

Cookie wants a lot of things: a pet, to get onto the TV show Brainbusters and for her best friend Keziah not to move to Solihull. But what she actually gets is a new next-door neighbour who is the most annoying boy in the world.



The Accidental Diary of B.U.G. Jen Carney 7+

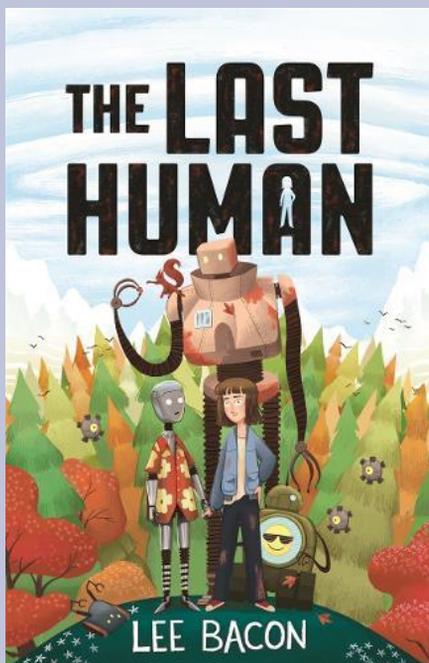
Billie Upton Green is not at all in favour of the recent craze at her school to call everyone by their initials, as she notes in her accidental diary, which was supposed to be a spelling practice book.

Reading her diary, we also find out about Janey McVey, the new girl in class, who is pretty annoying, and the rather more exciting news that Billie's two mums are about to get married. Woohoo!

When a teacher's purse is stolen at school and the headmaster asks Billie to 'keep her ear to the ground' for information.

Friendship drama, school ups and downs and family changes all combine in a sensitive and funny story.

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The Last Human

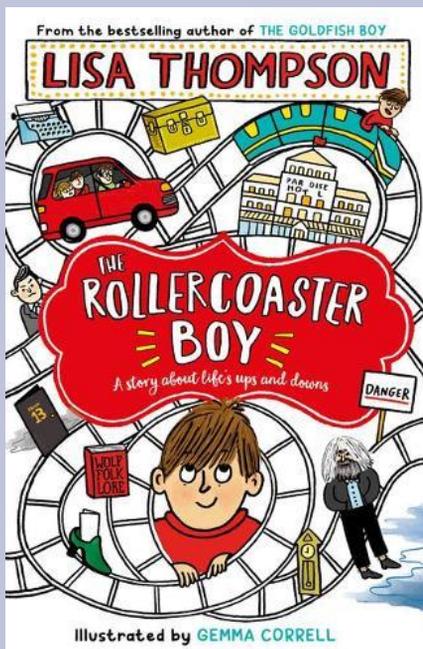
Lee Bacon 9+

An unlikely friendship. A dangerous voyage. A story about what it means to be human.

Humans went extinct thirty years ago. Now the world is ruled by machines. And twelve-year-old robot XR_935 is just fine with that. Without humans around, there is no war, no pollution, no crime. Every member of society has a purpose. Everything runs smoothly and efficiently.

Until the day XR discovers something impossible.

Until the day XR discovers a twelve-year-old human.

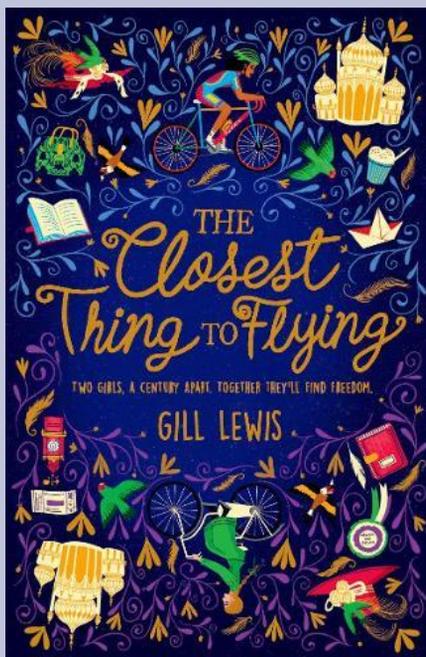


The Rollercoaster Boy

Lisa Thompson 9+

In the middle of the night, Todd and Laurie's dad bundles them into the car and drives them to the Paradise Hotel. He paints a picture of a luxurious mansion surrounded by acres of land.

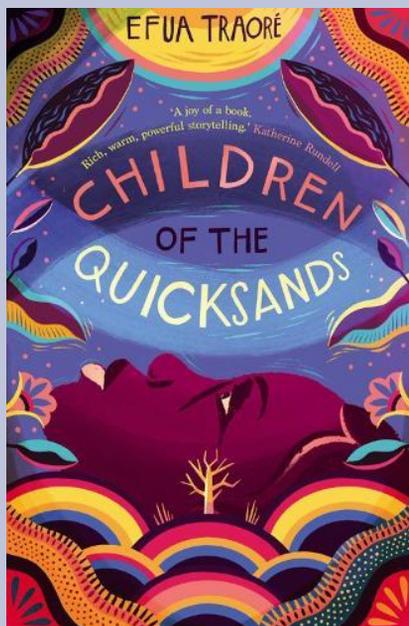
The reality is a rundown dump - and the disappointment means Dad takes to his bed. Todd and Laurie have the run of the place, and meet Scout, the daughter of the owner, who tells them about the night many years ago when a famous novelist vanished from her room on the top floor, which was locked from the inside... with clues to crack, a **mystery** to solve, and Dad to worry about, this holiday is full of twists and turns.



The Closest Thing to Flying

Gill Lewis 9+

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

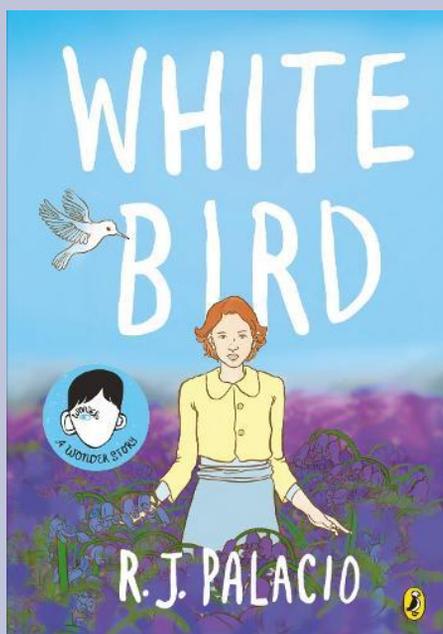


The Children of the Quicksands

Efuia Traore 9+

The Children of the Quicksands is a richly imagined magical fantasy adventure set in West Africa.

City girl Simi is sent to stay with her long-lost grandmother in a remote Nigerian village. There's no TV, internet or phone. Her grandmother dispenses advice and herbal medicine to the village, but she's tight lipped about their family history. Something must have happened, but what? Determined to find out, Simi disobeys her grandmother and goes exploring. Caught in the sinking red quicksand of a forbidden lake, her fantastical journey begins ...

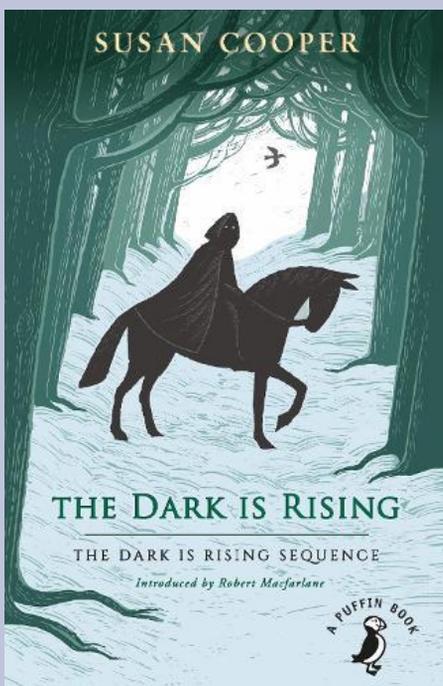


White Bird – graphic novel

R.J. Palacio 9+

Julian discovers the moving and powerful tale of his grandmother, who was hidden from the Nazis as a young Jewish girl in occupied France during the Second World War.

An unforgettable story about strength, courage and the power of kindness to change hearts, build bridges, and even save lives.



The Dark is Rising

Susan Cooper 10+

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.

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. Includes exclusive material: In the Backstory you can read an interview with the author and discover the ancient beliefs that inspired the story.