

50 books to read this summer



BOOKS TO TRANSPORT YOU INTO THE PAST

HETTY FEATHER

by Jacqueline Wilson,
illustrated by Nick Sharratt
(Penguin)

A girl who was abandoned as a baby tries to find her mother in Victorian London.

MOHINDER'S WAR

by Bali Rai
(Bloomsbury)

A 13-year-old in Nazi-occupied France helps an RAF pilot who has crash-landed while on a mission during the Second World War.

MURDER MOST UNLADYLIKE

by Robin Stevens
(Penguin)

This mystery set in the 1930s follows two schoolgirls who set out to solve a shocking crime.

TAYLOR AND ROSE SECRET AGENTS: PERIL IN PARIS

by Katherine Woodfine,
illustrated by Karl James Mountford
(Egmont)

In 1911, a pair of young spies leave London to do a job for the Secret Service Bureau in the French capital.

VIPER'S DAUGHTER

by Michelle Paver
(Head of Zeus)

Two brave Stone Age youngsters face an enemy more dangerous than anyone they have ever seen.

BOOKS THAT WILL MAKE YOU LAUGH OUT LOUD

ACCIDENTAL SUPERSTAR

by Marianne Levy
(Macmillan)

A girl's life is thrown into disarray when a video of her singing in her bedroom goes viral.

COOKIE AND THE MOST ANNOYING GIRL IN THE WORLD

by Konnie Huq

(Templar)
Cookie's brilliant idea is stolen by a girl who somehow thinks the pair are best friends.

DIARY OF A WIMPY KID

by Jeff Kinney
(Penguin)

In the first of a long-running series, Greg Heffley documents the start of his time in middle school.

PLANET OMAR: ACCIDENTAL TROUBLE MAGNET

by Zanib Mian,
illustrated by Nasaya Mafaridik
(Hachette)

Nothing seems to go right for Omar when his scientist parents move him to a new house and school, but he soon discovers things are better than he first thought.

THE BRILLIANT WORLD OF TOM GATES

by Liz Pichon
(Scholastic)

Tom's diary is full of crazy mischief and doodles as he makes his way through a series of school mishaps.

BOOKS FILLED WITH MAGIC AND MYSTERY

ARTEMIS FOWL

by Eoin Colfer
(Puffin)

A 12-year-old criminal genius takes on a band of high-tech fairies to help save his family.

HARRY POTTER AND THE PHILOSOPHER'S STONE

by J.K. Rowling
(Bloomsbury)

The smash-hit series begins with a magical orphan boy being offered the chance to study at an amazing school for wizards.

THE LION, THE WITCH AND THE WARDROBE

by C.S. Lewis

(HarperCollins)
Four siblings step through a wardrobe door and enter a world of adventure in this timeless classic.

THE WEE FREE MEN

by Terry Pratchett, illustrated by Laura Ellen Anderson

(Penguin)
Nine-year-old Tiffany wants to be a witch but first she must protect her land from some angry creatures.

THE WIZARDS OF ONCE

by Cressida Cowell

(Hachette)
Two rivals must work together to defeat the evil Queen.

BOOKS SET IN FAR-FLUNG PLACES

COSMIC

by Frank Cottrell-Boyce
(Macmillan)

Long-legged Liam battles it out with adults in his quest to be the first child in space.

THE GIRL WHO STOLE AN ELEPHANT

by Nizrana Farook
(Nosy Crow)

Jewel thief Chaya leads a gang of friends into the jungle after committing an outrageous robbery.

JOURNEY TO THE RIVER SEA

by Eva Ibbotson
(Macmillan)

A girl is sent from the UK to Brazil to start a new life, but the person accompanying her has a secret reason for heading to the Amazon.

THE EXPLORER

by Katherine Rundell,
illustrated by Hannah Horn

(Bloomsbury)
Four children crash-land in a jungle and soon they suspect that they are not alone.

TREASURE ISLAND

by Robert Louis Stevenson,
illustrated by Fran Parreno

(Usborne)
A young man finds a mysterious map, but many obstacles stand between him and the treasure he seeks.

BOOKS THAT FEATURE CREATURES

ATTACK OF THE SMART SPEAKERS

by Tom McLaughlin
(OUP)

Unsuspecting users of virtual assistants face a deadly enemy when their devices sprout legs and try to take over the world.

CHARLOTTE'S WEB

by E.B. White,
illustrated by Garth Williams

(HarperCollins)
An ingenious spider comes up with a plan to save a pig's life.

EVIE AND THE ANIMALS

by Matt Haig,
illustrated by Emily Gravett

(Canongate)
When pets start to go missing all over town, only one girl – with a special ability – can save the day.

REDWALL

by Brian Jacques
(Vintage)

A group of animals must band together to stop an evil army of rats from taking over their home.

THE WILD ROBOT

by Peter Brown
(Piccadilly Press)

A stranded robot adopts an orphaned gosling and adapts to her remote new home. When humans arrive on the island to retrieve the robot, the pair enlist the help of their home's other inhabitants.

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BOOKS TO MAKE YOU THINK

HIGH-RISE MYSTERY

by Sharna Jackson

(*Knights Of*)

In a sweltering summer, Nik and Norva dedicate their time off school to solving a baffling crime.

THE BOY AT THE BACK OF THE CLASS

by Onjali Q. Raúf,

illustrated by Pippa Curnick

(*Hachette*)

A group of classmates try to help a refugee who has joined their school to find his family.

THE BOY WHO MADE THE WORLD DISAPPEAR

by Ben Miller, illustrated

by Daniela Jaglenka Terrazzini

(*Simon & Schuster*)

Harrison didn't mean bad things to happen but when he's given a black hole instead of a balloon at a party, his temper gets the better of him.

THE LONDON EYE MYSTERY

by Siobhan Dowd

(*Puffin*)

Ted and Kat must figure out where their cousin Salim has gone when he enters a London Eye pod but isn't there when it comes back round.

THE VIRUS

by Ben Martynoga,

illustrated by Moose Allain

(*David Fickling*)

Discover the science behind viruses such as Covid-19 and how our own bodies get hijacked.

BOOKS THAT WILL SEND A SHIVER DOWN YOUR SPINE

A SERIES OF UNFORTUNATE EVENTS: THE BAD BEGINNING

by Lemony Snicket

(*Egmont*)

Violet, Klaus and Sunny Baudelaire find themselves up against evil Count Olaf, who covets their fortune.

CORALINE

by Neil Gaiman,

illustrated by Chris Riddell

(*Bloomsbury*)

A girl discovers that her creepy new home is harbouring dangerous secrets.

HIS DARK MATERIALS: NORTHERN LIGHTS

by Philip Pullman,

illustrated by Chris Wormell

(*Scholastic*)

Orphan Lyra must evade dangerous forces and find the truth behind Dust.

THE HOUSE WITH A CLOCK IN ITS WALLS

by John Bellairs

(*Templar*)

A magical experiment uncovers a lethal timepiece that can destroy the world.

THE WITCHES

by Roald Dahl,

illustrated by Quentin Blake

(*Puffin*)

The Grand High Witch has a plan to get rid of every child in the country. Who can stop her?

BOOKS FULL OF ACTION AND ADVENTURE

AGENT ASHA: MISSION SHARK BYTES

by Sophie Deen,

illustrated by Anjan Sarkar

(*Walker*)

The newest recruit for the Children's Spy Agency must battle the world's biggest tech company and find out why the internet has disappeared.

GLITCH

by Sarah Graley

(*Scholastic*)

Izzy can go inside her new video game but must try to save her friendship with Eric while navigating Dungeon City.

STORMBREAKER

by Anthony Horowitz

(*Walker*)

In the first of a hit series, a daring young spy investigates a mysterious man who is offering free computers to schools.

THE TAYLOR TURBOCHASER

by David Baddiel,

illustrated by Steven Lenton

(*HarperCollins*)

When car-mad Amy wishes her wheelchair was fast, Rahul creates a fantastic vehicle for her.

WAR HORSE

by Michael Morpurgo,

illustrated by François Place

(*Egmont*)

The incredible story of a horse making its way through the First World War.

BOOKS WITH FASCINATING HEROES

ASHA AND THE SPIRIT BIRD

by Jasbinder Bilan

(*Chicken House*)

A girl goes on a mission across the world's tallest mountain to find her missing father, convinced that her grandmother is watching over her.

BATMAN: OVERDRIVE

by Shea Fontana,

illustrated by Marcelo Di Chiara

(*DC*)

In this graphic novel Bruce Wayne, the boy who will become Batman, tries to solve a crime and fix his deceased father's car.

KNIGHTS AND BIKES

by Gabrielle Kent,

illustrated by Rex Crowle

(*Knights Of*)

Demelza's boring life on the island of Penfurzy changes forever when she teams up with newcomer Nessa to find secret treasure.

THE INFINITE

by Patience Agbabi

(*Canongate*)

Elle uses her abilities as a Leaping to travel through time after getting a warning from the future.

UNCLE GOBB AND THE DREAD SHED

by Michael Rosen,

illustrated by Neal Layton

(*Bloomsbury*)

Malcolm faces off against his uncle, who wants young people who misbehave to be locked in sheds.

BOOKS TO INSPIRE YOU

GHOST

by Jason Reynolds,

illustrated by Selom Sunu

(*Knights Of*)

A young runner realises he can become the city's fastest sprinter if he can keep out of trouble.

HOW TO MAKE A BETTER WORLD

by Keilly Swift

(*DK Books*)

Anyone can improve the world around them with these helpful tips.

ROLLER GIRL

by Victoria Jamieson

(*Puffin*)

Astrid wants to take up roller derby but she'll have to do it without her best friend, who has gone to a ballet camp with Astrid's biggest rival.

THIS BOOK IS ANTI-RACIST

by Tiffany Jewell,

illustrated by Aurélia Durand

(*Quarto*)

Learn what racism is, the damage it does and how you can help to defeat it.

WONDER

by R.J. Palacio

(*Penguin*)

A boy with a rare facial disfigurement deals with challenges in school, and discovers the awesome power of kindness.