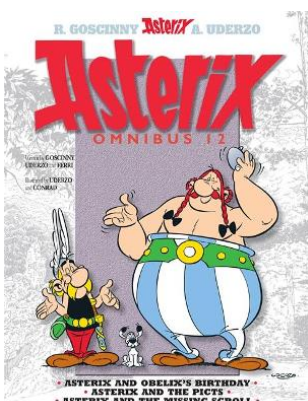


Attack Of The Deranged Mutant Killer Monster Snow Goons Calvin & Hobbes

Author: Bill Watterson **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 14/05/1992

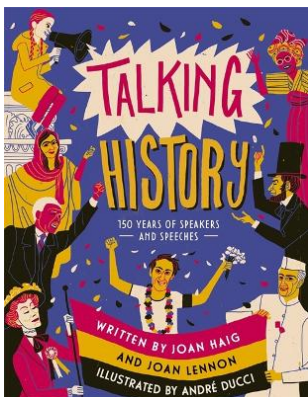
Chosen as a recommended read by our Guest Editor, Neill Cameron Bill Watterson's Calvin and Hobbes is one of the great artistic works of the last century; thrilling, beautiful, wise and incredibly funny. I could have picked any of the collections, as they're all absolutely fantastic and basically essential reading. But I went for this one, based mostly on the fact it has the greatest title of any book ever created. ~ Neill Cameron Neill Cameron has more brilliant must-read book recommendations on his Guest Editor page.



Asterix: Asterix Omnibus 12 Asterix and Obelix's Birthday, Asterix and The Picts, Asterix and The Missing Scroll

Author: Rene Goscinny, Jean-Yves Ferri **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 07/11/2019

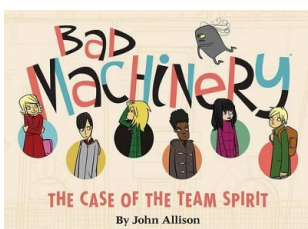
In Asterix and the Picts Asterix and Obelix rescue a mysterious Pict named MacAroon and must journey to Caledonia, now Scotland, to return him to his lady love. However, the treacherous chieftain, MacCabeus, plans to marry her and claim the throne - with the help of the Romans! In Asterix and Obelix's Birthday, the pair celebrate their 50th birthday with adventures around the world and well-wishes from friends including Edifis, Panacea and the pirates. In Asterix and the Missing Scroll, Caesar has finished writing the history of his campaigns in Gaul but his version of events don't seem quite right. Can the Gauls make sure the truth is revealed in time?



Talking History

Author: Dr Joan Lennon & Dr Joan Dritsas Haig **Format:** Hardback
Release Date: 20/01/2022

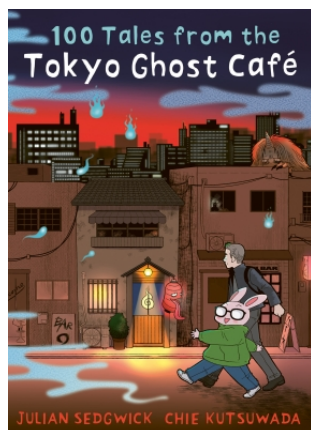
This book was inspired by a teacher who used to play famous speeches to her pupils as she taught them to knit. This is not something I can envisage happening in any schools now – but the inspiration has led to this fascinating book – which has 16 famous speeches (or extracts from those speeches) laid out in such a way as to add huge value to the words of the speeches. Each chapter takes a different speech, explaining the story of who made the speech and why they made it. If the speech was incredibly long (and some were!) the main points are captured here. There are panels explaining the speaker's message and also how they used the language and their language to emphasize their message. The large glossary at the back helps with any difficult words or concepts. Although the book is arranged in date order due to the clever way signposts are given at the end of each chapter a reader can follow a theme through the book. As an example – starting with the Gettysburg Address (Lincoln) a link to follow the legacy of slavery takes you to Obama's speech 50 years on from the Selma Marches, then the black history signpost takes you to Mandela's Statement from the dock and so on backwards and forwards across the whole book. What a genius way of organising a book that is probably better dipped into thematically than read cover to cover! André Ducci's screen-printed style illustrations make the whole a colourful and inviting book to use. A fascinating book to look at historical themes – highly recommended for class and school libraries, and a useful resource for home learning.



Bad Machinery, Volume 1: The Case of the Team Spirit

Author: John Allison **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 02/04/2013

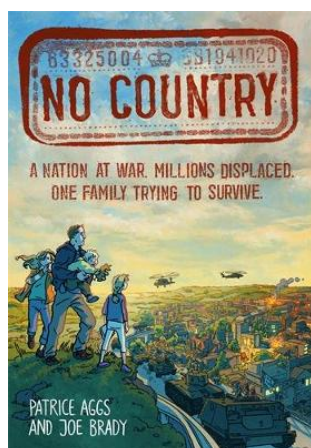
Recommended by Stephen L Holland, Guest Editor, June 2021: Energetic, behavioural comedy in which six school-aged sleuths investigate local mysteries. Their expressions are as priceless as the dialogue: Allison nails the young ones' pouts and passion (often inversely proportioned to whatever merits it) and the way everything is taken so personally. Whatever your age, you will recognise so much here like the first time you went round for tea at a friend's, encountering new food and alien customs.



100 Stories from the Tokyo Ghost Cafe

Author: Julian Sedgwick **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 23/11/2023

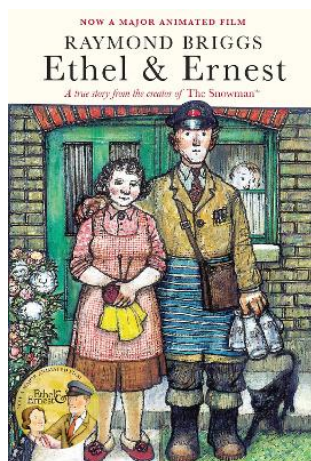
November 2023 Graphic Novel of the Month Akira is lost and alone in Japan, he knows he must find his family and rescue his little sister, but he can't quite remember what from. Accompanied by new companions, Julian and Chie, he must trek across northern Japan to complete his mission. Along their journey the threesome encounters a host of yokai monsters and infamous ghosts, including an immortal cat and plenty of haunted houses. 100 Tales from the Tokyo Ghost Café is a genre-defying gift of a novel. The interlinking ghost stories range from bone-chilling terrifying to hilarious to emotionally stirring and will appeal to a breadth of readers. Moreover, they can be read as standalone stories or enjoyed as a whole. The story is told in a mix of prose and manga, an expertly handled blend that will open the prose story to manga aficionados and the manga story to those who tend towards traditional novels. With Japanese words and folklore featuring heavily throughout, this is must read for young people interested in learning more about Japanese culture.



No Country

Author: Joe Brady **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 04/03/2021

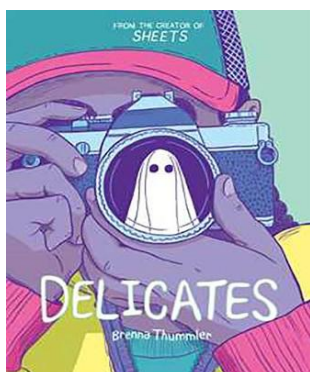
Longlisted for the UKLA Book Award 2022 ages 11-14 | June 2021 Book of the Month Set in an unspecified time not too dissimilar to now, and in a country that strongly resembles our own, this tense, gripping graphic novel demonstrates just how quickly civilisation can fall apart. Bea lives with her dad, big sister and little brother; her mother has already had to flee their country, which is in the midst of a civil war, the forces of the state fighting the rebel Free Kingdom movement, with civilians bearing the brunt, enduring food shortages, power cuts and bomb attacks along with casual brutality from both sides. The family know they'll have to leave soon, and the book describes the events that trigger their decision to go and live as refugees. The story describes what it's like to live in a society where trust has collapsed, and where everyone is scared and desperate. But it underlines too the power of family to hold together during the most difficult times and the importance of hope. Powerful and original, it makes for thought-provoking reading, text and illustrations carrying a very strong message. Brian Conaghan explores similar territory in his prize-winning dystopian novel The Bombs That Brought Us Together while the refugee experience is captured in A M Dassau's Boy, Everywhere.



Ethel & Ernest

Author: Raymond Briggs **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 27/10/2016

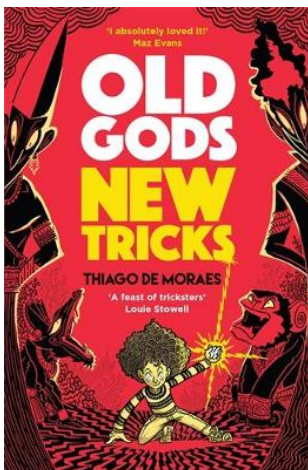
A marvellous, life-enhancing book for all ages, now a major animated film starring Jim Broadbent, Brenda Blethyn and Luke Treadaway. Utterly original, deeply moving and very funny, Ethel & Ernest tells the story of Raymond Briggs' parents' marriage, lady's maid Ethel and milkman Ernest, from their first chance encounter in 1928, through the birth of their son Raymond in 1934, to their deaths, within months of each other, in 1971. Told in Briggs' unique strip-cartoon format, Ethel and Ernest live through the defining moments of the twentieth century: the darkness of the Great Depression, the build up to World War II, the trials of the war years, the euphoria of VE Day and the emergence of a generation from post war austerity to the cultural enlightenment of the 1960s. Ethel & Ernest is a heartfelt and affectionate tribute to an ordinary couple and an extraordinary generation.



Delicates

Author: Brenna Thummler **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 23/03/2021

June 2021 Book of the Month Recommended by Stephen L Holland, Guest Editor, June 2021: Eliza Duncan is a direct and diligent, no-nonsense teen with a passion for photography and a focus on ghosts. Marjorie Glatt found her laundromat infested with white-sheeted ghosts: with its washes, tumble-dries and ironing, they thought it the perfect health spa. She adopted one called Wendell as her best friend. But now she has been adopted-by her school's most popular students who rule the roost by putting everyone else down. Marjorie, once a victim of this, feels awkward about her newfound immunity for she fails to speak up for others, particularly when they start picking on Eliza who's determined that there are ghosts, that she'll snap one on celluloid, and soon has her sights set on Wendell. Astonishingly complex, this comes with layers of self-awareness, self-examination yet blind spots and moments of betrayal from even the kindest of corners. Also: is this not the most perfect cover? What a narrative drive! Thummler totally owns her unique colour palette.



Old Gods New Tricks

Author: Thiago de Moraes **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 06/07/2023

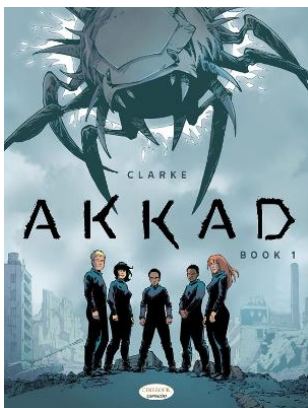
July 2023 Book of the Month This highly talented author/illustrator, perhaps best known for his Myth Atlas, translated into 18 languages, puts his depth of knowledge of mythology around the world to very good use in this fresh and original take on a story about gods and humans. Indeed, each chapter starts with a quote from a genuine encyclopaedia of mythology, but this does not overwhelm, just adds another layer to the storytelling and actually visually represents our heroine's research. Trixie is well named and has quite a reputation for trickery herself. She is the fiercely intelligent and independent daughter of two anthropologists, and she uses her passion for studying myths to work out that it is the Gods who have taken power (electricity) from the world threatening total disaster for humans. Not only that, but she plots to enlist (trick) the most famous trickster gods from different cultures to help her steal it back and to save the world. The concept of all the deities knowing each other and squabbling, like all families do, is highly entertaining. Trixie really has to pit her wits against a variety of challenges to get each god on her team, but she will need them all to face the rip-roaring conclusion on Olympus. Although there is a lot of humour and obviously lots of magical adventures, this is a story with depth, wisdom and pathos which reminded me of Terry Pratchett because the world created is treated with utter seriousness and belief. One almost suspects that Mr De Moraes has met many of these gods himself! The brilliant illustrations only add to the wide-ranging appeal of, what I hope will be, the first of many adventures with the redoubtable Trixie.



The Hideaway

Author: Pam Smy **Format:** Hardback **Release Date:** 09/09/2021

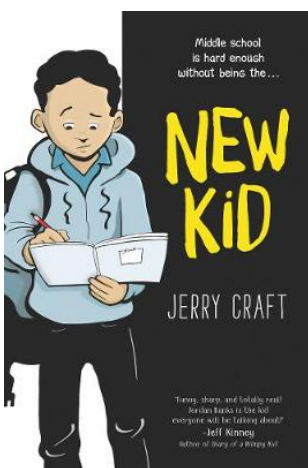
A Julia Eccleshare Pick of the Month September 2021 | September 2021 Book of the Month Billy is desperate to make things change at home. Her father disappeared before he was born: he and mum had been ok when they had been alone together but now his mother's new partner has spoilt everything. Billy is frightened for himself and he is frightened for his mum. To make a point he runs away for a few days hiding in a semi-ruined pill-box in a local graveyard. Cleverly telling the story in two narratives, from Billy's perspective and his mum's and interweaving other characters and their experience from whom they can learn, Pam Smy explores a range of complex emotions thrown up by a difficult situation.



Akkad - Book 1

Author: Clarke **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 11/08/2022

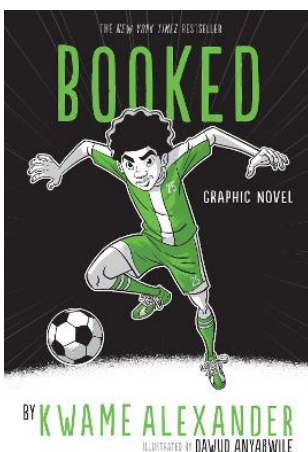
Shortlisted for the Excelsior Award Blue 2023 In the near future, Earth is falling to a catastrophic alien invasion: giant beetle-like creatures emerge without warning from spatio-temporal rifts, wipe out resistant in a certain zone, then seal it behind a completely impenetrable barrier. Entire sections of the planet have already been lost forever. With conventional weaponry powerless, the USA authorise a program that will turn five teenagers into pure geniuses. Will the test subjects find a defence, though... or will they become out of control themselves?



New Kid

Author: Jerry Craft **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 21/02/2019

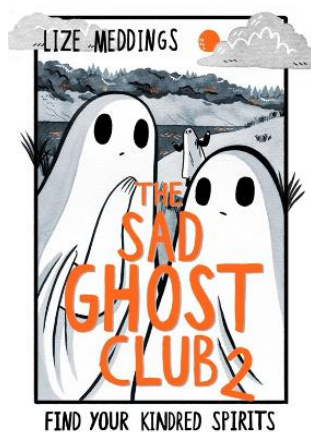
Winner of the Newbery Medal, Coretta Scott King Author Award, and Kirkus Prize for Young Readers' Literature Perfect for fans of Raina Telgemeier and Gene Luen Yang, New Kid is a timely, honest graphic novel about starting over at a new school where diversity is low and the struggle to fit in is real, from award-winning author-illustrator Jerry Craft.



Booked Graphic Novel

Author: Kwame Alexander **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 01/09/2022

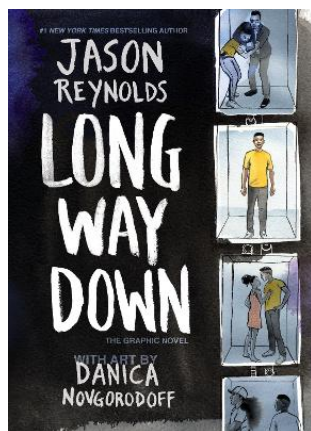
September 2022 Graphic Novel of the Month Kwame Alexander's stirring free-verse novel about a football-loving, book-hating boy dealing with life's big challenges lends itself perfectly to the graphic novel format. Brilliantly paired with illustrator Dawud Anyabwile, this is an exhilarating read, with the super-charged text and images working in perfect harmony to engage the most reluctant of readers, especially as its main character discovers the magic and freedom to be had from books. Twelve-year-old Nick is a whirl of energy, pumped by his love of football, but dragged down by living in a "prison of words" – his dad is a linguistics professor, and Nick does not share his love of language and books. Father-son conflict aside, Nick's troubles escalate when he has to deal with bullies, a split in his family, and injury, but Mr Mac, a rapper turned-cool-school-librarian, helps Nick navigate the storm and find support from books. Fizzing with energy, empathy, emotion and a dash of romance, Booked is an authentic, inspirational delight.



The Sad Ghost Club Volume Two

Author: Lize Meddings **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 06/01/2022

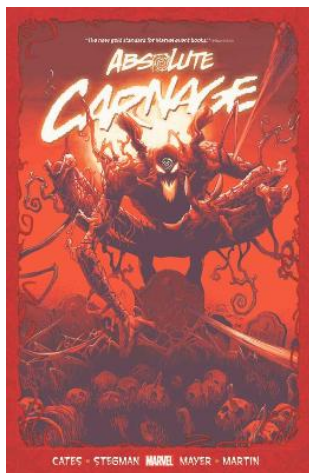
January 2022 Graphic Novel of the Month This second volume of Lize Meddings' The Sad Ghost Club series of graphic novels is a beautifully original, beautifully told tale that will speak to readers who feel anxious, invisible or lonely. Its relatable portrayal of friendship offers hope and support, alongside an empathetic steer on how to find a way through social anxieties and insecurities. If that wasn't enough, it's completely compelling, and witty with it. "Being around people is so hard" - a sentiment many young readers might identify with through this story's relatable "sad ghost" characters. While our two ghosts have become comfortable with their friendship, anxiety returns when a fellow lonely soul wants to join them. "Another person is going to be even more exhausting". "What if this new person hates me?" What if they "forget I even exist". After grappling with such insecurities, and navigating the complexities of relating to - and communicating with - other people, this glorious graphic novel concludes with a bolstering "I can do this" assertion, and more like-minded ghosts than you can shake a wand at. In a word - wonderful.



Long Way Down The Graphic Novel

Author: Jason Reynolds **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 19/11/2020

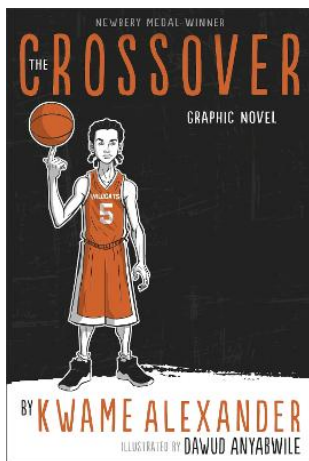
Winner of the Yoto Kate Greenaway Medal 2022 Shortlisted for the CILIP Carnegie Medal 2019, Jason Reynolds's original Long Way Down novel-in-verse (stunningly illustrated by Chris Priestley) has here been adapted into a glorious graphic novel. The story is as gripping and moving as ever, its atmosphere perhaps even more poignant courtesy of Danica Novgorodoff's impactful watercolour illustrations. It's an incredibly poignant story about breaking the cycles of brutal gang culture that will surely now find an even bigger audience. Two days ago fifteen-year-old Will witnessed the fatal shooting of his big brother. The initial smart of his grief is evoked with characteristic cut-to-the-point lyricism, hauntingly portrayed in a murky, lilac-hued street scene: "When bad things happen, we can usually look up and see the moon, big and bright, shining over us. But when Shawn died, the moon was off." Tragically, Will knows the drill in these situations - no crying, no snitching, take revenge. "The Rules weren't meant to be broken. They were meant for the broken to follow," so Will gets his brother's gun and heads into the elevator to exact revenge on Shawn's murderer. But at each level Will encounters figures from his past, among them his friend Buck who died last year, Dani who was shot in a playground, his Uncle Mark, his father. So many lives lost to violence, and their reappearance causes Will to think; to question his plans and question the rules.



Absolute Carnage

Author: Donny Cates **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 30/01/2020

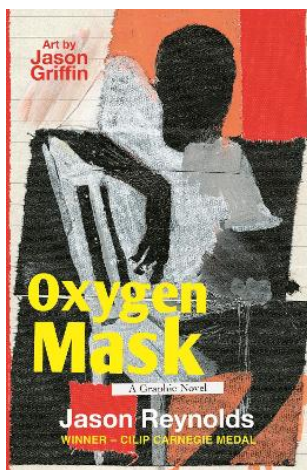
Winner of the Excelsior Award Red 14+ KS4 Cletus Kasady is back, and he's deadlier than ever. On a hunt for every Super Hero in the Marvel Universe who has worn a symbiote, Carnage has his eyes on his first victims...starting with some of our favorite Marvel heroes. Everyone is a target!



The Crossover Graphic Novel

Author: Kwame Alexander **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 05/03/2020

March 2020 Book of the Month The novel of The Crossover is a Newberry Medal Winner, and a Coretta Scott King Award Winner in the US and was Shortlisted for the Carnegie Medal in the UK. This graphic novel version is the whole story complete with large and small two-coloured illustrations gracing every page. This is a deceptively simple read – a novel in verse about siblings getting through middle school, their lives, their crushes, their family interactions, and basketball. The boys are twins Josh and Jordan Bell, sons of a famous basketball player, and aiming to make a mark in the world of basketball. There are rivalries between the boys, they revel in their differences, but family holds them together whatever the world throws at them. The words and pictures work so well together, you will be on the edge of your seat, rooting for the team as they play and crying with the twins when things go awry. To tell such a complex story with so few words, with such emotional depth – Alexander is a master of devastating and uplifting storytelling. Anyabwile's illustrations enhance a superb story – adding expressions and movement to an already great novel.



Oxygen Mask A Graphic Novel

Author: Jason Reynolds **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 02/06/2022

July 2022 Graphic Novel of the Month This remarkable collaboration between Carnegie medal winning Jason Reynolds and acclaimed artist Jason Griffin has created both a lasting memorial to what the world endured in the pandemic of 2020 and a testament to the enduring horror of racism and what humans do to each other and the world. Printed on yellowed lined paper with every appearance of a notebook it looks and feels like an artefact of the troubled times we have all survived. This is lived experience we can all share with the creators, who have captured so brilliantly the sheer claustrophobia of being trapped within four walls, as indeed is the narrator. With a mother glued to the news with its rolling horror and a brother glued to his video games, a father coughing in isolation and a sister plotting protest, the boy wonders why the human race seems so intent on destroying themselves. The collage illustrations mainline emotion and every word of the spare poetic narrative hits home. The connection between George Floyd unable to breathe, tear gas victims unable to breathe, COVID victims unable to breathe and the world in the grip of pollution, unable to breathe is truly powerful. But what we and the narrator realise is that the everyday mundane moments that we share with our loved ones is our "oxygen mask" and the repeated refrain as we are reminded to "breathe in through the nose and out through the mouth" brings solace and hope. While capturing a specific moment in time the messages are timeless and enduring. This is essential reading.

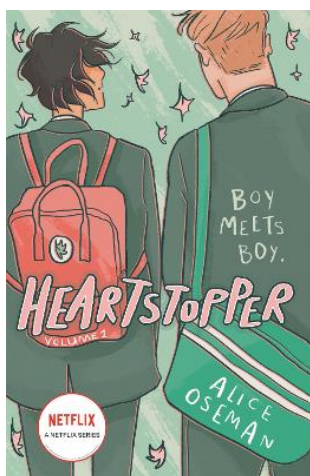


[Re]Start: It's Never Too Late

Author: James Pattinson, Julia Cockerham, Latreya Nelson, Eddy Nicholls **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 23/02/2023

March 2023 Book of the Month Is it a graphic novel? Is it a journal? Is it a self-help manual? Actually, this genre-busting book is all three at once as it lends an empathetic guiding hand to young people setting out on their life journeys, and those needing to change direction. As the positive subtitle shouts, "it's never too late." "This project was conceived to help people feel better about their current situation and what their future could be." So shares project founder James Pattinson, who drew on his life experience and training of 16-24-year-olds to create this book, with three young creatives also contributing to the project. The narrative graphic novel aspect sees seven characters sign up to the [Re]Start programme, each of them facing different challenges — from anxiety and being a young carer, to struggles with family expectations and body image. As readers follow the protagonists' journeys, there are prompts for self-reflection, spaces to jot down thoughts, and inspirational quotes from the likes of Michelle Obama and Stephen Hawking. Playing the role of a compassionate older sibling who always gives the best advice, and issuing a powerful message of

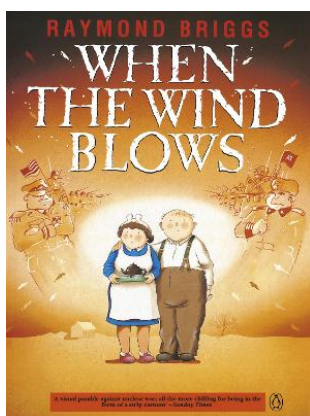
confidence, [Re]Start comes hugely recommended for young adults who aren't sure where they're going, or want to change their path.



Heartstopper Volume One

Author: Alice Oseman **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 07/02/2019

Soon to be a live-action Netflix series!* Boy meets boy. Boys become friends. Boys fall in love. A bestselling LGBTQ+ graphic novel about life, love, and everything that happens in between. Charlie and Nick are at the same school, but they've never met ... until one day when they're made to sit together. They quickly become friends, and soon Charlie is falling hard for Nick, even though he doesn't think he has a chance. But love works in surprising ways, and Nick is more interested in Charlie than either of them realised. By Alice Oseman, winner of the YA Book Prize, Heartstopper is about love, friendship, loyalty and mental illness. It encompasses all the small stories of Nick and Charlie's lives that together make up something larger, which speaks to all of us. This is the first volume of Heartstopper, which is soon to be a live-action Netflix series.



When the Wind Blows

Author: Raymond Briggs **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 25/09/1986

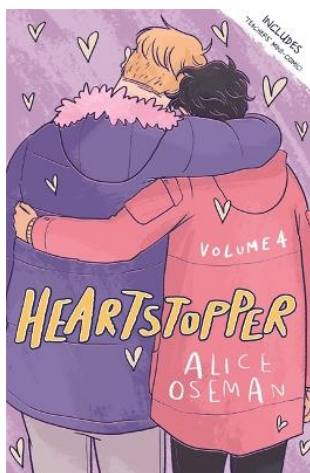
Raymond Briggs' world-famous graphic account of one ordinary couple's attempt to stand firm in the face of nuclear annihilation remains as powerful today as it was when it was first published in 1982. Following Jim and Hilda Blogg in the days before and after a nuclear attack on Britain, When the Wind Blows is alternately funny, shocking, heartbreaking and devastating. Few can read it and not be deeply moved. Despite writing some of the most beloved and enduring children's books of all time - The Snowman, Father Christmas and Fungus the Bogeyman - When the Wind Blows is very much a story for adults. Not only does it articulate the fears of the generations who grew up in the shadow of the Cold War, but it also speaks today of our own fears, living as we do in a nuclear age. Written and illustrated by Briggs, When the Wind Blows has never been out of print.



Future Girl

Author: Asphyxia **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 04/03/2021

The first thing that strikes you about this book is the fascinating, colourful effects on every page. This book is presented as a personal journal – one that is packed with artwork, collage and beautiful, striking full colour and line illustrations. The mix makes this a book that students will want to pick up and browse even before they get involved in the story. Asphyxia is a deaf artist, writer and public speaker and is a well-known Australian activist for deaf people, as well as writing previous junior fiction titles. Set in the near future in a Melbourne on the edge of disaster we live with Piper, a 16-year-old deaf student, who's Mum wants her to appear normal – so Piper struggles to cope with hearing aids at school and uses 'normal' speech, so she fits in. She meets the son of a deaf mother, Matthew, who is a CODA – Child of a Deaf Adult – and realises that a whole world of communication is available to her in sign language. With this revelation comes a new world opening up that takes Piper into groups and friendships she has not seen before – away from the usual world of reconstituted food with created flavours into a whole way of life growing wild food and learning how to cook it. This theme of the sustainability of our world is such a hot topic – and the detail, illustration and information here is fascinating. I would recommend reading it for that alone, but what I found the most fascinating was being almost inside Piper's thoughts as she discovered and learned Auslan (Australian Sign language). Having attended several Deaf Awareness training sessions in my working life I just wish someone had given me this book instead – it seems to place you inside a deaf person's mind, so you can really grasp the difficulties and joys of being deaf, and the hearing world's reaction to that. This book should be in every secondary school – it gives such a vivid picture of life for a deaf person, whilst the presentation is so beautiful it draws the reader in. Do read it! Find more books with Positive Images of Disability.



Heartstopper Volume Four

Author: Alice Oseman **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 06/05/2021

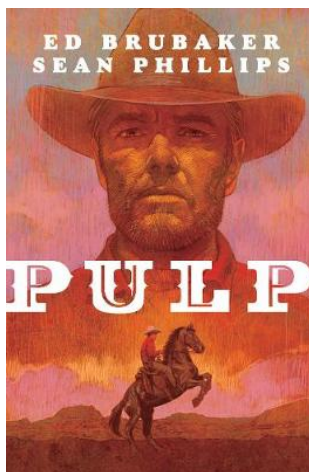
Boy meets boy. Boys become friends. Boys fall in love. The bestselling LGBTQ+ graphic novel about life, love, and everything that happens in between: this is the fourth volume of Heartstopper, for fans of The Art of Being Normal, Holly Bourne and Love, Simon.



Alienated

Author: Simon Spurrier **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 04/02/2021

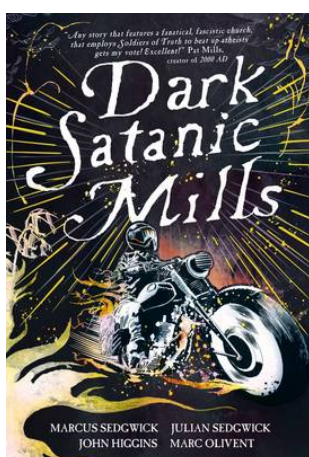
Shortlisted for the Excelsior Award Black 16+ KS5 Three teenagers discover an unearthly creature with incredible powers who needs prey to survive - but as they try to use his powers for good, it may be these humans who pose the greatest threat to the world. Eisner Award-nominated writer Simon Spurrier (Sandman Universe, Coda) and acclaimed artist Chris Wildgoose (Batman: Nightwalker) present a subversive coming-of-age story about changing the world - and the lines we'll cross to get everything we want in it.



Pulp

Author: Ed Brubaker **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 26/01/2021

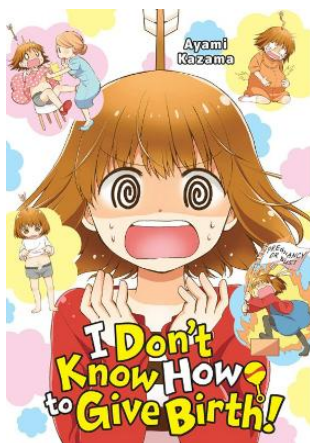
Winner of the Excelsior Award Black 16+ KS5 One part thriller, one part meditation on a life of violence, Pulp is unlike anything award-winning Brubaker & Phillips have ever done before. This celebration of pulp fiction set in a world on the brink is another must-have hardcover from one of comics' most acclaimed teams.



Dark Satanic Mills

Author: Marcus Sedgwick, Julian Sedgwick **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 07/11/2013

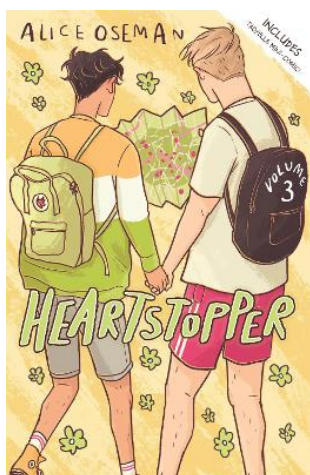
Shortlisted for the 2015 CILIP Kate Greenaway Medal - November 2013 Book of the Month Award-winning Marcus Sedgwick has teamed up with authors and illustrators to create a page turning, apocalyptic story told in a striking black and white comic book form. Set in a dark future with England in a state of physical collapse as the waters rise and cities are destroyed by gangs and political collapse as politicians have been discredited, it tells of a world ruled by dangerous religious sects which violently control all aspects of the citizen's lives. Christy, a fearless bike rider and fighter for freedom, is wanted for a murder she did not commit. How she must escape on a wild ride across the country but who can she trust? And how can she survive? A roller coaster of a read and thought provoking with it.



I Don't Know How to Give Birth!

Author: Ayami Kazama **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 11/08/2020

Shortlisted for the Excelsior Award Black 16+ KS5 A humorous and heartfelt autobiographical comic essay of a manga artist new to the challenges of motherhood! Follow her journey as she learns the ins and outs of pregnancy and childbirth - and the impossibility of finding comfy maternity underwear!



Heartstopper Volume Three

Author: Alice Oseman **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 06/02/2020

Boy meets boy. Boys become friends. Boys fall in love. An LGBTQ+ graphic novel about life, love, and everything that happens in between: this is the third volume of HEARTSTOPPER, for fans of The Art of Being Normal, Holly Bourne and Love, Simon. Charlie didn't think Nick could ever like him back, but now they're officially boyfriends. Nick's even found the courage to come out to his mum. But coming out isn't just something that happens once - there's Nick's older brother, and a school trip to Paris, not to mention all the other friends and family - and life can be hard, even with someone who loves you by your side. As their feelings get more serious, Charlie and Nick will need each other more than ever before. Heartstopper is about love, friendship, loyalty and mental illness. It encompasses all the small stories of Nick and Charlie's lives that together make up something larger, which speaks to all of us. This is the third volume of Heartstopper, which has now been optioned for television by See-Saw Films.