

G R E E N M O U T H

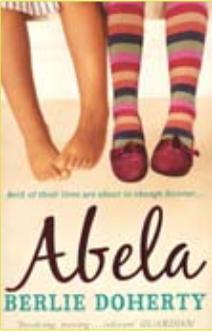
Books with bite

A selection of books to borrow from your school library or any of Tower Hamlets public libraries or idea stores.

Books reviewed by Tower Hamlets Schools Library Service staff, secondary school librarians and idea store staff.

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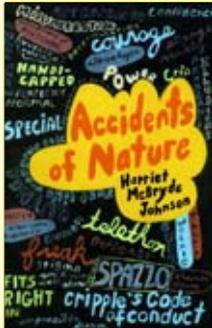
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Abela: The Girl Who Saw Lions - *Berlie Doherty*

Andersen 2007

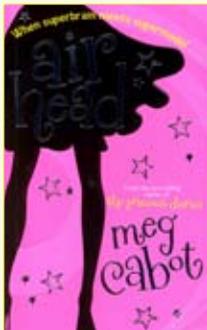
In Tanzania, Abela's mother and sisters are dying of AIDS. In order to get himself into England a conniving uncle plans to pass her off as his daughter. In Sheffield, Rosa is devastated for another reason. Her mother announces that she wants to adopt a child from Tanzania, Rosa's father's country. A compelling story with a surprising ending.



Accidents of Nature - *Harriet McBryde Johnson*

Andersen Press 2008

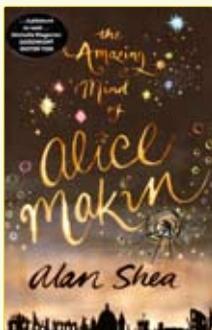
17-year-old Jean has cerebral palsy and is wheelchair-bound, but she goes to school and has able-bodied friends. Arriving at Camp Courage she meets Sara, who welcomes her to 'Crip Camp' and nicknames her Spazzo. Sara is full of rage and revolution against pitying insults and the lack of respect for disabled people and so Jean comes to question her old beliefs. The camp session is only ten days, but that may be all it takes to change a life forever.



Airhead - *Meg Cabot*

Macmillan 2008

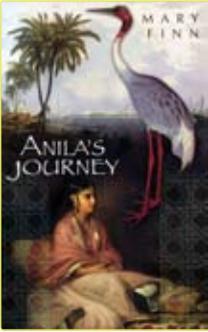
Teenagers Emerson Watts and Nikki Howard have nothing in common. Em's a tomboy-brainiac who couldn't care less about her looks. Nikki's a stunning supermodel, the world's most famous airhead. A freak accident changes everything as Em's brain is surgically transplanted into Nikki's body....



The Amazing Mind of Alice Makin - *Alan Shea*

Chicken House 2008

When Reggie starts school, Alice seems oddly drawn to him. Together, the world becomes a more exciting and colourful place. A place where imagination becomes real: where a bubble-gum machine can suddenly explode into a thousand coloured balls, a handful of fireworks become the greatest show ever, and a row on the lake becomes a terrifying adventure. It seems that together they can do extraordinary things, but what is their story, and how will it end?



Anila's Journey - *Mary Finn*

Walker 2008

Anila is the daughter of an Irish businessman and his Bengali mistress in 19th-century India. Her mother has died and her father left years ago, promising to send for Anila and her mother, but now it seems he is missing. Anila, a talented artist, finds a job painting birds for a British naturalist on a trip down the Ganges. In doing so, she learns about her homeland, her family and herself.



Apache : Girl Warrior - *Tanya Landman*

Walker 2007

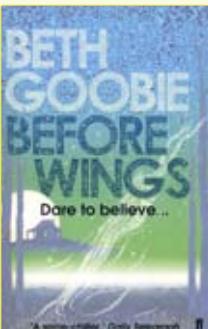
When Siki sees the brutal murder of her little brother in a raid on their Apache camp, she vows to avenge his death by becoming an Apache warrior - a step viewed with both sympathy and hostility by other members of the tribe. She senses some hidden secret regarding her background, but cannot openly pursue this as it is not the tribe's culture to speak of the dead. Meanwhile, the White Man is spreading his influence across their range.



The Arrival - *Shaun Tan*

Hodder and Stoughton 2007

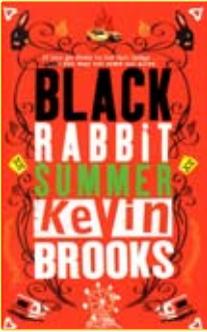
Imagine leaving those you love behind to start a new life in a strange new place where you don't understand the language, don't recognise its animals or know how its machines work. Slowly the kindness of strangers helps you begin to make sense of this place. Through the silent, surreal, sepia illustrations in this remarkable book we follow the story of every migrant or refugee who has made the journey. All this, without the use of words. A remarkable achievement.



Before Wings - *Beth Goobie*

Faber 2008

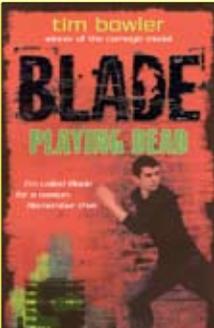
'A brilliantly original story that will both haunt and inspire'. This beautifully written love story is woven around 15-year-old Adrien's experiences at the Lakeshore summer camp. Having survived a brain aneurysm two years earlier, the issues of life and death are skilfully explored through Adrien's thoughts and actions.



Black Rabbit Summer - Kevin Brooks

Puffin 2008

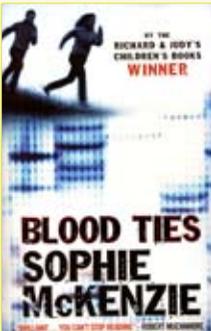
Five teenagers, formerly close friends, agree to a reunion in their old den on local waste ground. All turns sour when old rivalries resurface and a local girl goes missing. Could it be one of the group? In trying to find out the truth, Pete puts himself in horrible danger. A broodingly intense and sinister crime thriller with strong, vital characters.



Blade : Playing Dead - Tim Bowler

Oxford University Press 2007

Blade has been fending for himself for as long as he can remember - living on the streets, earning himself a reputation for handling weapons that scares even himself. This short, sharp thriller sees Blade run into trouble when he picks pockets on someone else's turf.... Three other titles in the series .



Blood Ties - Sophie McKenzie

Simon & Schuster 2008

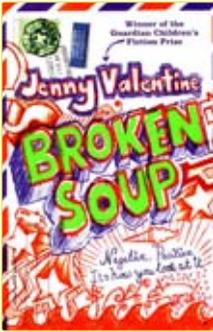
A fast-paced, compulsive and thought-provoking thriller about identity and embracing the explosive subjects of genetic research and cloning. Teenagers Theo and Rachel are drawn together in a dangerous and dramatic adventure as they discover who, and what, they are, and the long-hidden secret that unites them.



Bog Child - Siobhan Dowd

David Fickling 2008

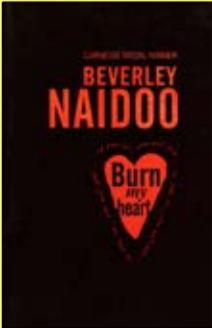
At 18, Fergus is caught up in the conflict of Northern Ireland in the 1980s. His brother is on hunger strike in the Maze prison. Digging for peat in the mountains, Fergus finds the ancient, preserved body of a child and it looks like she's been murdered. A voice comes to him in his dreams, and the mystery of the bog child unfurls. This powerful novel explores the sacrifices made in the name of peace.



Broken Soup - Jenny Valentine

HarperCollins 2008

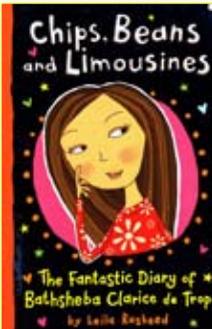
When Rowan is handed a photo negative of her dead brother by a good-looking stranger, she is sure it is all a big mistake. Who was the boy? Why was he so insistent that the negative belonged to Rowan? Her curiosity is piqued and the incident becomes a turning point in Rowan's life as it leads her to make new discoveries about her brother. Part mystery, part family break up story, it's snappy, hard-hitting and emotional.



Burn My Heart - Beverley Naidoo

Puffin 2007

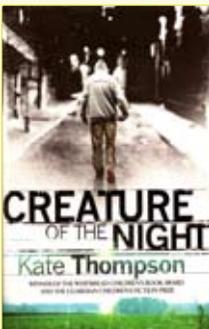
Matthew and Mugo grew up together on Matthew's family farm in Kenya, but the class and race divide is always there. When the Mau Mau arrive to enlist the support of all the workers on the farm, where should Mugo's loyalties lie?



Chips, Beans And Limousines - Leila Rasheed

Usborne 2008

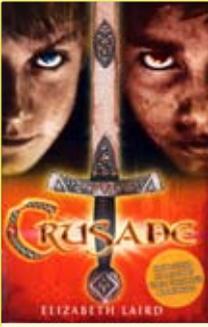
Bath has two lives; in one she is the glamorous heroine of her novelist mother's books. In reality she is an only child whose mother is always too busy for her, she has no friends and she isn't particularly pretty. But then she is confronted by her down-and-out father and discovers that her role in the fantastic new Bathsheba film will be played by hot US actress Avocado Dieppe.... A very funny and enjoyable story .



Creature Of The Night - Kate Thompson

Bodley Head 2008

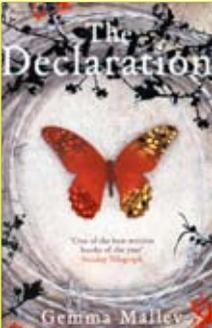
Bobby doesn't want to live in the country - he wants to get back to his wild gangland life in Dublin. But the longer he spends in the old cottage, the more he realises that something very strange is going on there. His little brother starts to talk about a new friend, a little old woman who comes through the dog-flap to visit him in the middle of the night. And there's talk of a murder.... A very modern Irish fairytale - sharp, gritty, urban and sinister.



Crusade - Elizabeth Laird

Pan Books 2008

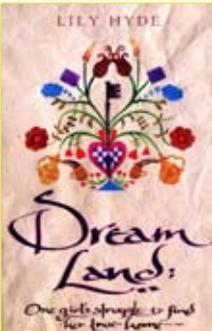
Two boys - two faiths - one unholy war. Adam is a Christian and eager to join the Crusade to reclaim Jerusalem. Salim is a Moslem leading an uneventful life in Acre - until news comes that the unholy Crusaders are about to attack. Salim's work leads him to Sultan Saladin's camp and into battle, where he comes face to face with a fellow teenager - the young Adam.



The Declaration - Gemma Malley

Bloomsbury 2008

Anna Covey is a 'Surplus'. She should not have been born. In 2140, medical breakthroughs have enabled eternal life, so there is no need for children, they are an abomination. But a new Surplus arrives who challenges everything Anna has ever believed about society, nature and morality, and her life is thrown into chaos. But is she brave enough to believe this mysterious boy?



Dream Land - Lily Hyde

Walker 2008

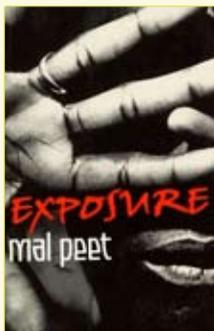
Safi's parents have always dreamed of returning to Grandpa's native village in Crimea, but exchanging their sunny Uzbekistan house for a squalid camp is more like a nightmare. Will the return to a country where no one welcomes them tear Safi's family apart? Can this strange land ever become home? This is a compelling story, endorsed by Amnesty International, about the Crimean Tatars' struggle to reclaim the land from which they were exiled in the Second World War.



Dogfight - Craig Simpson

Corgi 2008

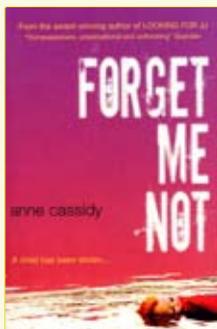
Norway, 1940. 15 year - olds Finn and Loki are keen to join the Resistance and to become pilots, like their fathers. Their task is to deliver maps of the fjords showing where a German battleship is to the British. Conditions are dangerous, it is a cold Norwegian winter, food is short and no-one is sure who is collaborating with the Germans. Excitement mounts as they steal a German seaplane to deliver the plans.



Exposure - Mal Peet

Walker 2008

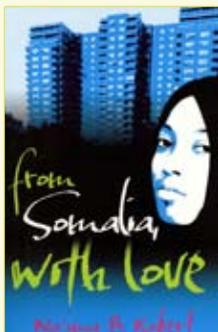
What if Othello and Desdemona were Posh and Becks? Shakespeare's play is reworked and set in South America. When Otello, a \$50million striker, is wrongly implicated in a scandal, the footballer and his beautiful wife Desmerelda are caught in a tragic spiral of destruction, together with a street kid named Bush, who's trying to stay alive in the pre-election "clean-up" of street children. Follows 'Keeper' and 'Penalty' as the third novel in the Paul Faustino series.



Forget Me Not - Anne Cassidy

Scholastic 2008

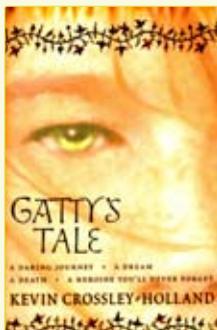
When a neighbour's child goes missing, the police investigation throws up an episode in Stella's mum's life that she had been trying to forget - the disappearance of another child many years ago. The revelations mean she is a prime suspect in the current case. Vintage Anne Cassidy.



From Somalia With Love - Na'ima B Robert

Frances Lincoln 2008

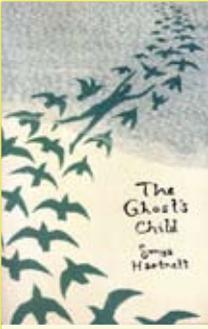
Although she tries hard to be a good Muslim girl, Safia came to the East End of London from Somalia when she was two years old and considers herself to be an East End girl first. Now, after 12 long years, her father is coming to join them. Safia knows that there will be changes and challenges ahead, but nothing has prepared her for the reality of dealing with her father's cultural expectations.



Gatty's Tale - Kevin Crossley-Holland

Orion 2007

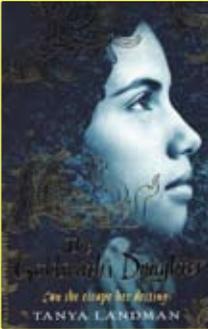
In the year 1203, nine companions set out from Wales on a great pilgrimage across Europe to Jerusalem. Not all of them will come home. At the heart of the drama is Gatty, a field-girl. Eager, bold and resolute, and wide open to new experience, she has an extraordinary journey of her own to make. The rollercoaster plot gives a tremendous picture of medieval life.



The Ghost's Child - Sonya Hartnett

Walker 2008

In telling her life story to a young boy, Maddy relates how she came home from a world tour to meet Feather, a boy living on a beach. He abandons his wild ways and moves into a cottage with her, but is never capable of loving Maddy as she does him. He leaves to find contentment and Maddy is heartbroken. As Maddy tells her story we begin to get a sense of the real identity of the boy she is talking to.



The Goldsmith's Daughter - Tanya Landman

Walker 2008

In Tenochtitlan, people live in fear of the gods. Itacate, the goldsmith's daughter, born under an ill-fated sky, is prophesied to bring ill-fortune to those around her. She has a passion and skill for the art of the goldsmith, but she can tell no one for fear of death. When she falls in love with a Spanish invader and her secret is endangered, she must fight for her life. The brutality of the conquest of the Aztecs by the Spanish Conquistadors is chillingly told.



Here Lies Arthur - Philip Reeve

Scholastic 2008

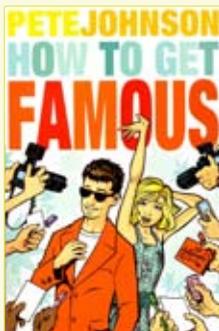
"There's nothing a man can do that can't be turned into a tale...". Britain. AD 500. Gwyna's new master Myrddin says he's not an enchanter, yet he works his own kind of magic. He turns Gwyna from a slave-girl into a goddess, a boy, and a spy - and Arthur into a legend. But is Arthur really everything he is cracked up to be?



Hero - Perry Moore

Corgi 2008

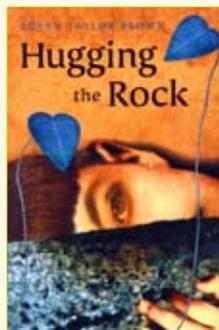
Thom's dad hates superheroes, and he hates gays, so Thom has a problem on both counts. Thom is only just learning to use his superhero powers to heal people alongside the other heroes, and in doing so, begins to find out why his dad feels the way he does.



How to Get Famous - *Pete Johnson*

Yearling 2008

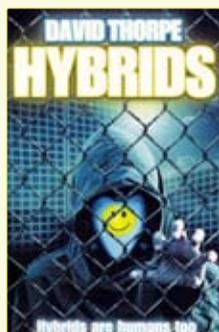
Tobey knows he's got something special and he's determined that everyone will know it too, so when he and his friend Georgia get to audition for starring roles in the local play, it could be their big chance. But then disaster strikes . . . Georgia gets selected but not Tobey! Can Tobey turn this tragedy around and find a way to be famous after all?



Hugging the Rock - *Susan Taylor Brown*

Frances Lincoln 2006

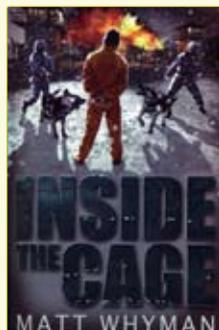
Before she leaves, Rachel's mum tells her that her father, the Rock, will look after her. Rachel can't imagine how anything as cold and distant as a Rock can replace her mother. How can she explain how she feels? Lonely and bewildered, Rachel retreats from the world, but slowly and painfully comes to understand her mother's bipolar disorder, and how much her father loves her.



Hybrids - *David Thorpe*

HarperCollins 2007

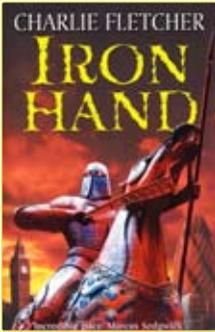
Johnny and Kestrella are hybrids - victims of "Creep", which causes sufferers to merge with items of technology when over-exposed to their use. Kestrella persuades a wary Johnny to help her find her missing mother, but the Gene Police have other plans for him. Powerful, compelling, and narrated alternately by Johnny and Kes, questions our human dependence on technology, and our reactions in the face of nationwide panic.



Inside The Cage - *Matt Whyman*

Simon & Schuster 2007

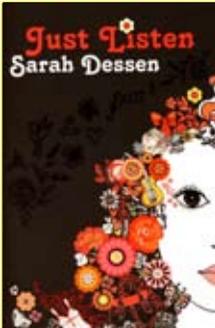
After he hacks into Fort Knox, 17-year-old Carl soon finds himself transported by the American military to the harsh regime of a detainment and interrogation facility in the High Arctic. There he finds that the truth and his bare cage are the least of his problems. A scintillating, fast-paced action thriller.



Iron Hand - Charlie Fletcher

Hodder 2008

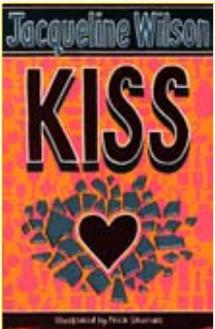
Continuing the adventure begun in “Stoneheart”, George and Edie are plunged into a world beneath London where sculptures move and stone carvings fight. Iron Hand is a breathless series of scrapes and escapes that involve some of the best known statues of London including the timely intervention of Boadicca and her daughters.



Just Listen - Sarah Dessen

Puffin 2007

Annabel had everything going for her, but loses nearly everything. She feels isolated from her friends, and her family is falling apart around her. Owen, an oddball loner, befriends her, and gradually convinces her to face up to her devastating secret, and to start putting her life back together. A compelling story of love and belonging.



Kiss - Jacqueline Wilson

Corgi 2008

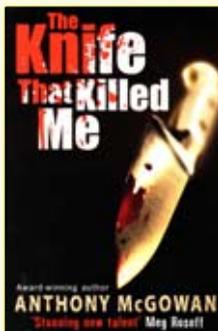
Sylvie and Carl have grown up together, playing fantasy games and always in and out of each other’s houses. As they grow up, Sylvie’s feelings for Carl deepen, but what about Carl? And who is this Paul character that Carl keeps talking about?



The Knife of Never Letting Go - Patrick Ness

Walker 2008

Todd is the last boy left in Prentisstown, where only men live in a world of noise, as their every thought can be heard. Approaching his 13th birthday, Todd finds himself in great danger and must flee. When Todd discovers a patch of silence he also discovers his first female, Viola, and together they attempt to evade Todd’s pursuers. As they flee he discovers much about himself, his family, about friendship and about prejudice.



The Knife That Killed Me - *Anthony McGowan*

Random House 2008

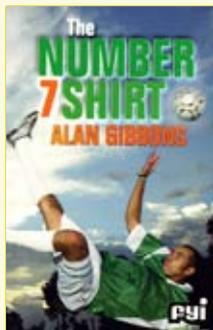
Exploring knife crime and unwritten codes of conduct among young people, this book disturbs with its immersion in violence, drugs and self-harm. We are embroiled in the twisted doings of a school bully and Paul's attempts to avoid becoming another one of his victims. The nightmarish tension throughout makes it not for the squeamish.



M is for Magic - *Neil Gaiman*

Bloomsbury 2007

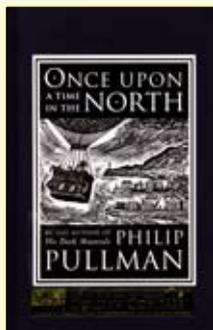
Laugh at the detective story about Humpty Dumpty's demise, be spooked by the sinister jack-in-the-box who haunts the lives of the children who own it, and intrigued by the boy who is raised by ghosts in a graveyard in this bite-sized collection. If you want to read some good, strange, scary or creepy stories that only take about an hour to read, check this book out.



The Number 7 Shirt - *Alan Gibbons*

Barrington Stoke 2008

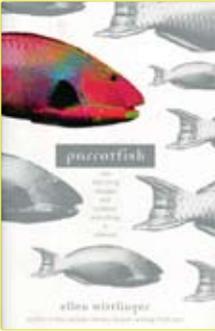
Football is Jimmy's life. When he gets into the Man U Academy, it's a dream come true - but he still has lots to learn. Lucky for him, he's got help... his football heroes. They all have one thing in common - the number 7 shirt. Will Jimmy win now he's got all the help he needs?



Once Upon A Time In The North - *Philip Pullman*

Doubleday 2008

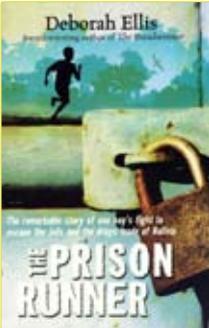
A full 35 years before the events of "Northern Lights", Lee Scoresby (and his daemon Hester) arrive in the town of Novy Odense and become involved in a stand-off between a put-upon sailor named van Berda and the power of corporate privilege. After meeting a shady figure from his past, Lee decides he must choose a side, which is how he comes across lorek Byrnison, the armoured bear.



Parrotfish - Ellen Wittlinger

Simon and Schuster 2007

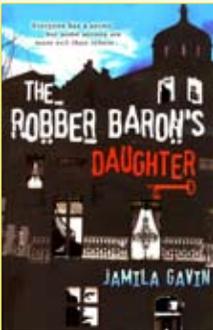
When Angela cuts off her hair, changes her name to Grady, and begins to live as a boy, her family and friends have trouble accepting the change. At school there is outright hostility, but Grady finds support from his new best friend Sebastian for whom this is nothing unusual - after all, parrotfish in the ocean can change their gender at will.



The Prison Runner - Deborah Ellis

Oxford University Press 2008

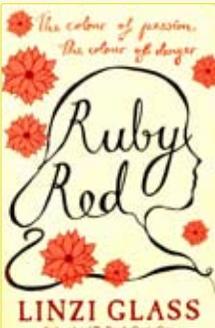
12-year-old Diego is caught up in the corruption and injustice of Bolivia. With his family in prison, he tries to alleviate their situation by earning more, but soon finds himself caught up in the vicious cocaine trade, and on the run from the ruthless drug mafia in unyielding jungle terrain.



The Robber Baron's Daughter - Jamila Gavin

Egmont 2008

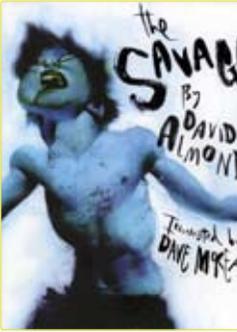
Nettie lives a privileged life in a luxury London mansion, surrounded by servants, bodyguards and her adoring parents. However, her world shatters when her beloved tutor, Miss Kovachev, mysteriously disappears from the Round Tower. Why won't her parents tell her anything? Secrets are everywhere. Nettie is forced to discover that her father is a fabulously wealthy international crook involved in people smuggling.....



Ruby Red - Linzi Glass

Penguin 2008

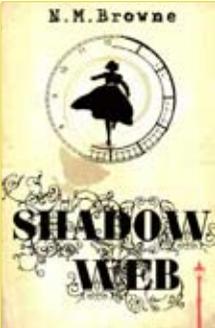
In Ruby Winter's world, colour opens some doors and slams others shut. Her opulent Johannesburg neighbourhood is a far cry from the streets of Soweto, where anger and hatred simmer beneath the surface. Everyone around her is conscious of race, colour and creed; but not Ruby. This beautifully written book cleverly combines the issue of apartheid in 1970's South Africa with teenage romance.



The Savage - *David Almond*

Walker 2008

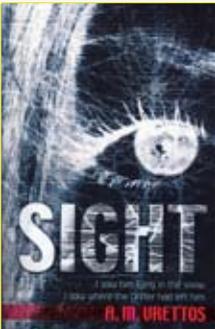
Blue Baker is writing a story about a wild boy living in the local wood, eating raw game and garbage. Blue's dad has died and Hopper the town bully is knocking him about. But Blue's story has a life of its own - weird, wild, magic and dark. When the savage pays a night-time visit to Hopper, Blue starts to wonder where he ends and the savage begins.



Shadow Web - *N. M. Browne*

Bloomsbury 2008

Jessica googles her own name and, weirdly, finds another girl, same age, same name, also living in London. They meet, shake hands and are instantly catapulted into each other's worlds. Jessica finds herself in a parallel London where the history is different, and the Jessica, whose life she now inhabits, is involved in a sinister conspiracy. To get home she must convince everyone that she is the 'other' Jessica.



Sight - *Adrienne Maria Vrettos*

Egmont 2007

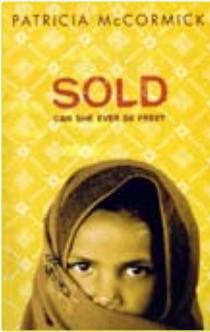
As the serial killings of the shadowy 'Drifter' resume around her mountain town in the American West after a ten-year break, 15-year-old Dylan is forced to confront her psychic powers and visions to try to identify the killer in this powerful and haunting thriller, with its absorbing array of small town characters.



Skulduggery Pleasant : Playing with Fire - *Derek Landy*

HarperCollins 2008

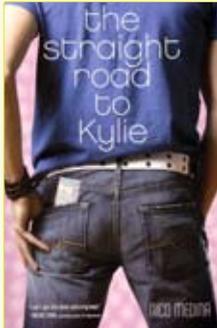
Stephanie, or Valkyrie Cain as she is now called, has learned how to fight, her powers have increased and she is a lot more sure of herself. Skulduggery Pleasant has a new and formidable opponent, Baron Vengeous, who schemes to recreate the horrible Grottesquery - an unkillable monster assembled from the most fearsome beasts of legend. It is up to the ingenious and fearless Valkyrie and Skulduggery to stop the Grottesquery from coming fully to life.



Sold - Patricia McCormick

Walker 2008

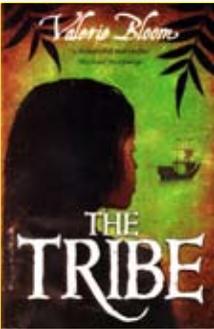
When the monsoon washes away all of Lakshmi's family's crops in the mountains of Nepal, her stepfather insists that she takes a job in the city. Lakshmi undertakes the long journey to India full of hope, proud to be able to earn and help her family. Then she learns the unthinkable truth: she has been sold into prostitution. Will there be any escape?



The Straight Road To Kylie - Nico Medina

Simon and Schuster 2007

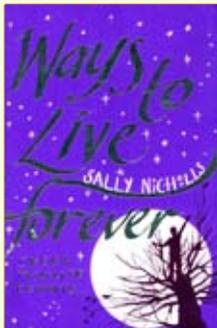
What would you do to get tickets for a Kylie Minogue concert? Anything? Jonathan - who everyone knows is gay - is prepared to go BACK in the closet and masquerade as Laura's boyfriend for just such a reward. But things get complicated - Jonathan's friends turn their back on him, and he finds the guy of his dreams. Can Jonathan survive being straight just to see his idol? The obstacles that Jonathan faces will make you laugh out loud!



The Tribe - Valerie Bloom

Macmillan 2008

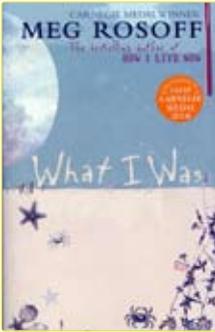
Maruka, a feisty Taino girl who loves hunting and fishing, narrates this story of love, war and betrayal set in the fifteenth century Caribbean. Pale-skinned men arriving on Maruka's island are welcomed and feted, but the Taino are repaid with treachery and forced into slavery. The tribe must turn to their sworn enemies, the Kalinas, for help.



Ways To Live Forever - Sally Nicholls

Marion Lloyd 2008

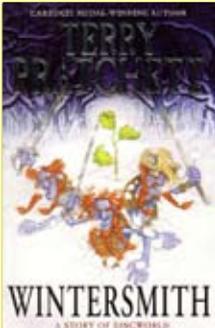
11-year-old Sam is a boy who likes facts. He wants to know about UFOs and horror movies and airships and ghosts - and death. Because he has leukaemia he wants to know the facts about dying. Sam needs answers to the questions nobody will answer. Funny and honest, it is one of the most powerful and uplifting books you will ever read.



What I Was - Meg Rosoff

Penguin 2007

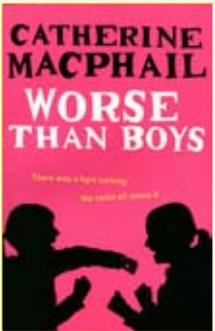
It's 1962. Hilary, already expelled from two schools, arrives at St Oswald's to start again. With its code of conduct, and the importance attached to rank, loyalty and cross country runs, it provides an unlikely setting for a story of first love. "Without St Oswald's I would not have met the boy with the beautiful eyes, the flickering half-smile and no past. Without St Oswald's I would not have met Finn. And without Finn, there would be no story."



Wintersmith - Terry Pratchett

Corgi 2007

Tiffany Aching - young witch - made one tiny mistake, and now the spirit of winter is in love with her. He gives her roses and icebergs, says it with avalanches, and showers her with snowflakes - which is tough when you're 13, but also just a little bit . . . cool. With Nac Mac Feegle's help, and a bit of advice from witches Granny Weatherwax and Nanny Ogg, Tiffany must put the mess right - or there will never be another springtime ... 'Crivens!'



Worse than Boys - Catherine MacPhail

Bloomsbury 2007

When Hannah Driscoll is accused of betraying her friends, she is forced out of the Lip Gloss Girls gang, and soon joins their rivals, the Hell Cats. In doing so, however, she learns a lot about true friendship, real values and honesty. A gritty story of the exploits and ethics of girl gangs.



The Young Inferno - John Agard

Frances Lincoln 2008

John Agard's Young Inferno transposes Dante's epic poem into the modern day, as a hoodie-clad protagonist is guided by Aesop through the nine circles of hell. Fabulously illustrated by Satoshi Kitamura.

