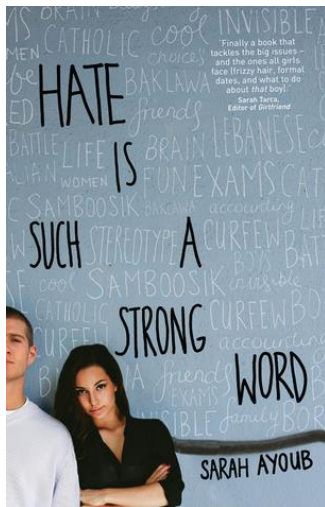


A Song for Ella Grey – David Almond

Themes: Friendship/ Family/ Supernatural

This book is written from the best friend's memory. A tale of friendships, of self, teenage rebellion, and the twisted fate of star crossed lovers with a Supernatural twist.

I did find this book to be a little odd, but it does have a lot of symbolism. It could be a good book to review for a reading response I would suggest this book mainly to girls aged 15 and up.



Hate is such a strong word – Sarah Ayoub

Theme: Racism

This story is told in the first person of a 17 year old girl Sophie. She is Australian Lebanese, and is trying to find where in the world she fits in and can be happy. This book addresses strict parental rules on girls, racism both internal and external from and about her Lebanese culture. Peer pressure and having the bravery to speak up are also subjects touched on.

I would recommend this book to mainly girls but even though the character is 17 years old it could be read by 14/15 year olds and up.



Me, Earl, and the dying girl – Jesse Andrews

Themes: death/ humour – Sarcasm / friendship

This has been made into a movie.

Greg Gaines, 'friend to everyone, but no one,' finds himself having to change his status, when a girl he sort of knows, Rachel, has cancer, and is dying. Greg has one real friend Earl (who comes from a troubled home to put it lightly)

They make an unlikely pair who share an interest in making movies. This is a good read about a confused kid who is trying to deal with the tough subject of death. Not knowing how to act, or what to do, he fumbles his way through this and ends up sort of finding himself.

Both boys and girls would enjoy this book and it would be acceptable for Teenagers aged 14 years up.



Flawed – Cecelia Ahern

Series:

- Flawed - book one
- Perfect - book two

Theme: Dystopian Fiction

This book is really well written. This series is about a society where the littlest bit of bad judgement can see you hauled in front of the guild, and branded as 'Flawed'. This is a literal branding, a searing of flesh.

Celestine is the main character, perfect or so she thought. She ends up becoming the Katniss character, the beacon of hope and change. Even if she doesn't want it.

I would recommend this series to teenagers 15 years and up mainly girls.

City of Bones – Cassandra Clare

Series: The Mortal Instruments

- City of Bones – Book one
- City of Ashes – Book two
- City of glass – Book three
- City of Fallen angels – Book four
- City of Lost Souls – Book five
- City of Heavenly Fire – Book six

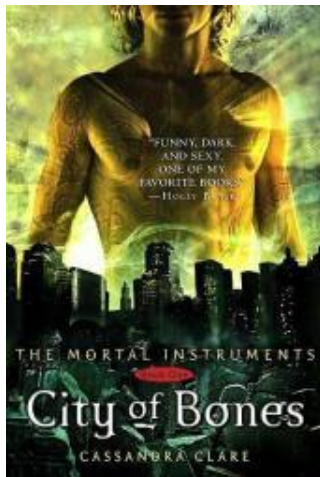
Theme: Fantasy good vs evil / Romance

This is a good versus evil, with a bit of grey mixed in book.

Clary Fray has seen something no mundane human should see, the Shadow hunters dispatching a demon.

This is the beginning of a twisting tale of friendship, love, family and Betrayal.

I would recommend this book to mainly girls from 12/13 years of age and up.



Legend – Marie Lu



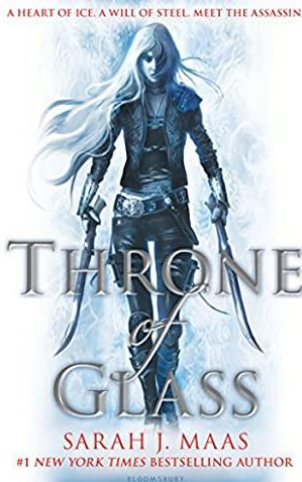
Series: Legend

- Legend – Book one
- Prodigy – Book two
- Champion – Book three
- Rebel – Book four

Theme: Dystopian Fiction

The United States has become a broken union, a republic and ‘the colonies’. This story is told by two main characters. June the prodigal child from the rich sector, and Day a Robin Hood Character from the poor sector. All Day wants to do is protect his family from the terror within. All June wants to do is work for the military. When their lives intertwine one of them realises they are living a lie.

I would recommend this book to both boys and girls aged 13 years and Up. The chapters are short and very easy to read good for a possible reluctant reader.



Throne of Glass – Sarah J Maas

Series: Throne of Glass

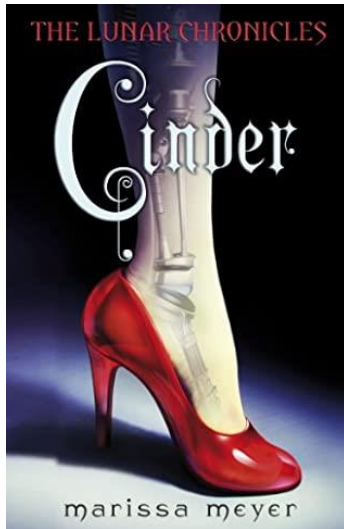
- Throne of Glass – Book one
- Crown of Midnight – Book two
- Heir of Fire – Book three
- Queen of shadows – Book four
- Empire of storms – Book five
- Tower of Dawn – Book six
- Kingdom of Ash – Book seven

Themes: Fantasy/ Mystery/ Gore/ Romance

Celaena is to be the Prince’s champion, in a fight to the death tournament. But there is a real killer outside the tournament arena, who threatens Celaena’s chance to win her freedom.

Great for a person who enjoys fantasy writing. It is well written, I would recommend this book to mainly girls, but some boys could enjoy this series.

The age I would recommend it appropriate for would be 16 years and up.



Cinder – Marissa Meyer

Series: Lunar Chronicles

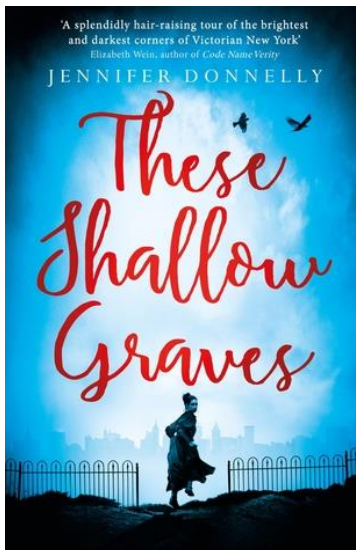
- Cinder – Book one
- Cress – Book three
- Fairest – Book three & a half
- Winter – Book Four

Themes: Science Fiction/ Romance

Cinder is a cyborg girl who is a brilliant mechanic. She has a life similar to Cinderella, with two stepsisters and an ungrateful stepmother. Cinder makes a new friend – the crowned prince.

This book has a few good twists, like a plague and an alien race that comes for a visit.

I would recommend this book to both boys and girls from 14 years of age and up.



These Shallow Graves – Jennifer Donnelly

Themes: Historical/ Murder mystery

Josephine Montfort is of high society with her life already mapped out. But tragedy strikes and Jo needs to get to the truth. This sends her to places that she is not accustomed to. The seedy world of New York City 1890, where cut throats, ladies of the night, and pickpockets dwell.

A good storyline with a few plot twists to keep you guessing.

I would recommend this book to mainly girls 16 years and up.



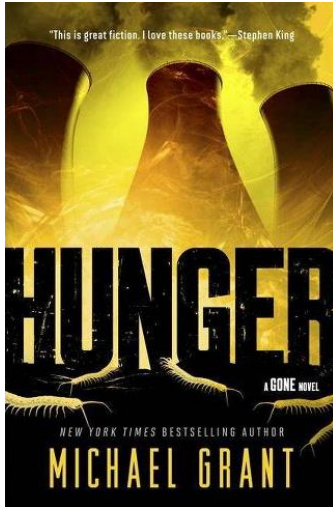
A Good Hiding – Shirley-Anne McMillan

Themes: Family/ pregnancy

Set in Belfast Ireland, Nollaig has decided to run away. Her father is a Drunk, her mother is dead and she is pregnant. Noll is only 15 years old and scared that if she tells anyone, she'll be placed in a foster situation. Through some strange events she ends up in the basement of a church, a few blocks from home. Her friend Stephen is the only one who knows where she is and her situation. The strange events lead everyone to think the worst.

This is a good book about social issues I would recommend this book to mainly girls 15 years and up.

Hunger – Michael Grant



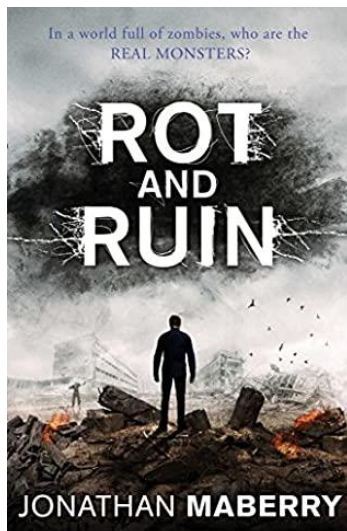
Series: Gone series.

- Gone
- Hunger
- Lies
- Plague
- Fear
- Light

Themes: Dystopian/ Horror/ Science Fiction

This is a series that must be read in order otherwise it doesn't make sense. Everyone is starving and they start to be divided between 'freaks and non-freaks'. They also deal with other issues like mutated worms and bulimia is brought up for one of the characters. Some of the issues that start to happen is the group eating pets and possible cannibalism. I would recommend this series to either boys or girls 14 years and up.

Rot and Ruin – Jonathan Maberry



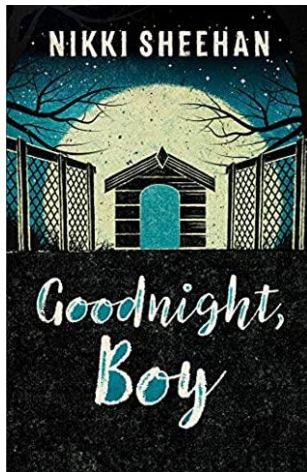
Series: Benny Imura

- Rot and Ruin
- Dust and Decay
- Dead and Gone
- Flesh and Bone
- Tooth and Nail
- Fire and Ash
- Bits and Pieces

Themes: Horror/ Mystery/ Murder

This is a series about living after a traumatic event and starting again. The traumatic event being people have succumbed to a virus, turning them into zombies. This story follows two brothers and their relationship which is not the best. This is a fast paced well written book with twists and turns. It shows that human nature will always be fraught with those who want to prey on the weaker.

I would recommend this series to both boys and girls 15 years and up.



Goodnight, Boy. – Nikki Sheehan.

Themes: Human interest/ Death/ Abuse

This book is about a boy who was an 'orphan' in Haiti during the devastating earthquake. The story goes back and forth between the past and present told by the child to his dog, Boy.

This is a well written book about a hard subject line. I did find the ending rushed but it does tidy it up well. Most of the questions get answers. I would recommend this book to both boys and girls 13 years and up.



S.T.A.G.S. – M.A. Bennett

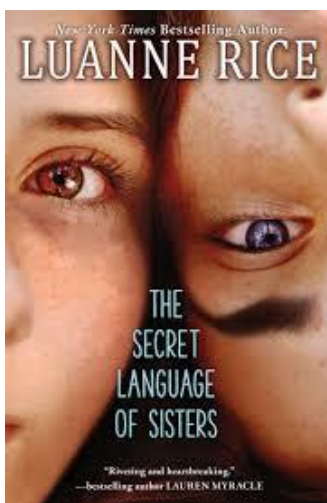
Series: S.T.A.G.S.

- S.T.A.G.S.
- D.O.G.S.
- F.O.X.E.S.
- T.I.G.E.R.S.

Themes: Thriller/ Mystery/ Conspiracy

Told in the first person by the main character Greer MacDonald, Who wins a scholarship to the prestigious S.T.A.G.S. College. Greer doesn't fit in and finds it very isolating. When its term break Greer is invited to a huntin', shootin', fishin' weekend at one of the most popular students estates. But all is not what it appears, this is a fast paced book with enough twists and turns to keep you guessing.

I would recommend this series to both boys and girls 15 years and up.

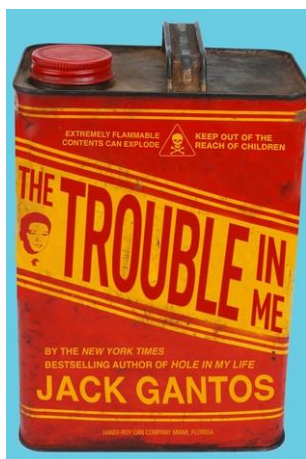


The Secret Language of Sisters – Luanne Rice

Themes: Human interest/ relationships

A story about two sisters who are the same but different. The older sister Roo is perfect in her younger sister Tilly's eyes and Tilly is not so perfect. Then Roo has an accident and is left paralyzed and locked inside her own body, unable to move or really communicate. Tilly is the only person who can help Roo. This book explores the unique relationship it is to be a sister, a strong bond for life.

I would recommend this book to girls 13/14 years and up.



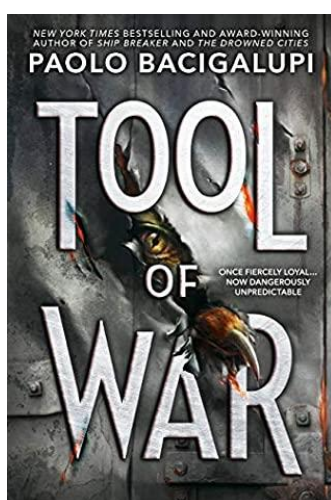
The Trouble in Me – Jack Gantos

Themes: Human interest – Based on real life events

Jack is a boy looking for more adventure and he's found it in his neighbour, bad to the bone Gary Pagoda. Jack latches onto Gary wanting to be just like him. Jack is a good kid trying to be bad.

This book could lead into reading the non-fiction account of the author's life. 'Hole in my life'.

I would recommend this book to boys 15 years and up.



Tool of War – Paolo Bacigalupi

Series: Ship Breaker

- Ship Breaker
- The drowned cities
- Tool of war

Themes: Dystopian/ Fantasy/ Science fiction

This series needs to be read in order. Tool finally feels free but Caroa hasn't forgotten about him, and has had a junior analyst hunting him. She finds him, and sets in motion a destructive trail of events. Which sees Tool come face to face with his makers.

I would recommend this book to boys aged 13/14 years and up some girls might enjoy the dystopian elements.

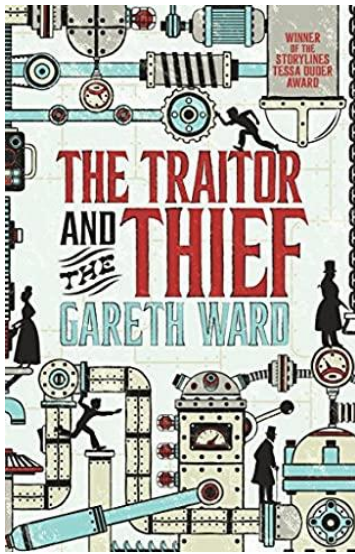


The Librarian of Auschwitz – Antonio Iturbe

Themes: War/ P.O.W. / Family

This book is based on a 14 year old girl Edita, who becomes the librarian of Block 31 in the family camps. This is the most dangerous position to have as books are illegal under the 3rd Reich rules. This book is based on person Dita Kraus, as well as some other first-hand accounts. It is an account of what it was like to live in the 'family camp' at Auschwitz, and the final days before liberation.

I would recommend this book mainly to girls 14 years and up. Some boys might find it interesting as well.



Traitor and the Thief – Gareth Ward **

Series: Traitor and the Thief.

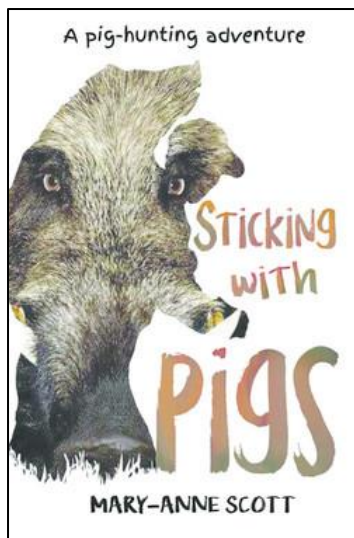
- Traitor and the Thief
- The clockill and the Thief

Themes: Mystery/ Conspiracy

This book has a steampunk setting. Sin is the main character, who is a street urchin needing to pay a debt to his gang leader, the fixer. When he is offered a position which includes a warm bed and food, he takes up the strangers offer. But all is not what it seems at COG. Someone is trying to derail their plans to stop the war that's looming. Sin will need to trust in his enemies, to figure out the truth about who he is and stop the war.

This book was shortlisted for the NZ Children's book award 2018 in the Young Adult section. It was also the winner of the Storylines Tessa Duder Award 2016.

I would recommend this book to boys and girls 12 years and up.



Sticking with Pigs – Mary-Anne Scott **

Themes: Family / Hunting

Wolf is 14 years old, with a sick younger brother. Wolf's uncle Jeremy offers to take him hunting. Wolf is keen but his parents aren't. There is some bad blood between them and uncle Jeremy, but Wolf gets to go, with a few rules. The main one being – no guns.

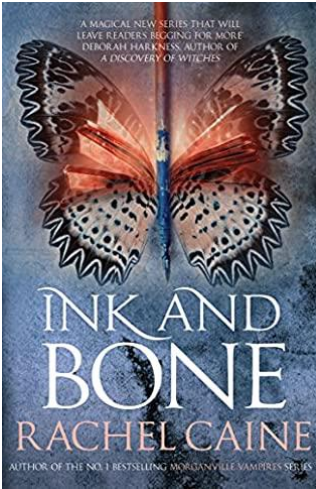
They get their pig but Jeremy gets injured, and so does one of the dogs. Wolf, who has never been in the bush before now needs to get himself out and get help.

I would recommend this book to boys 12 years and up especially good for a reluctant reader as it is easy to read as the language is everyday language.

This book was shortlisted for the NZ Children's book awards 2018, young adult division.

**** - held in both Junior Fiction and Young Adult Fiction.**

Ink and Bone – Rachel Caine



Series: Great Library

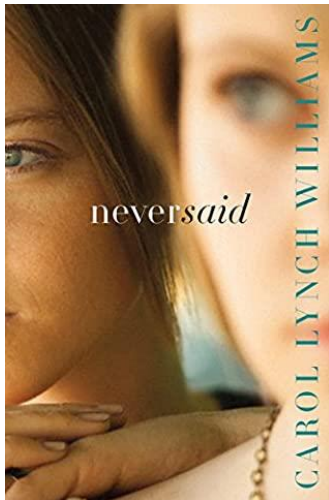
- Ink and Bone
- Paper and Fire
- Ash and Quill
- Smoke and Iron
- Sword and pen

Themes: Dystopian/ steampunk/ Mystery/ Conspiracy

The library controls the knowledge of the world. Original books are Contraband. You can be jailed or put to death. Jess Brightwell is a runner for his family who are in the black-market trade of books. Jess gets a placement as a trainee for the library, he is sent to HQ in Alexandria. But nothing is as it seems, on the way there a man protests the control of the library. He burns a book and himself in protest. There are lots of twists and turns. It does jump around and can be hard to follow at the beginning, but does start to make sense.

I would recommend to both boys and girls 15 years and up.

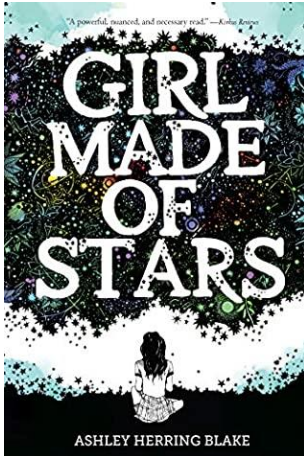
Never Said – Carol Lynch Williams



Themes: Family/ Sisters/ Anxiety/ Consent

Twin sisters, worlds apart in personality. Sarah – is so shy it becomes anxiety driven. Annie- is the life of the party until she gains weight. This starts to create a chain reaction in the family dynamic, and brings the sisters closer together. Annie is holding on to a terrible secret, which is why her behaviour is changing. This all comes out near the end of the book, but you are kept guessing. Told in two parts, from both sisters perspectives.

I would recommend this book to girls 15 years and up.



Girl made of Stars – Ashley Herring Blade

Themes: Family/ Consent/ Anxiety

This story is about twins, a boy and girl. Owen is a loveable lad with a great girlfriend Hannah, until she accuses him of rape. Mara has just got out of a relationship with her best friend Charlie (a girl). Mara doesn't know who to believe, and suffers terrible panic attacks. When she confronts Hannah she makes her choice based on an experience she had, but told no one about. As the story unfolds it shines a light on consent. When is a victim able to come forward? Is there a time limit? Should someone be forced to reveal how they see themselves in a gendered world?

I would recommend this book to girls and boys 15/16 years and up.

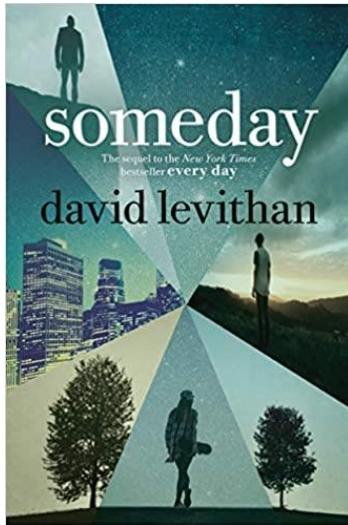
Monday's not coming – Tiffany D. Jackson

Themes: Friendship/ Family/ Domestic violence/ Trauma – Suppressed Memories



Claudia and Monday are best friends, more like sisters. Monday basically lives at Claudia's house. They talk about who they are going to be, what high school they are going to get into. But on the first day of 8th grade Monday doesn't show. Claudia starts to panic but is told not to worry. After two weeks of no Monday, Claudia approaches a teacher who becomes concerned. 10 months go by until the horrible truth comes out. The story is told from Claudia's point of view. Which jumps from the past to the present, but it is fragmented.

This is a hard book to read as the content is hard to believe that this does happen. I would recommend this book to girls and boys 17 years and up.



Someday – David Levithan

Series: Every Day

- Every Day
- Another Day
- Someday

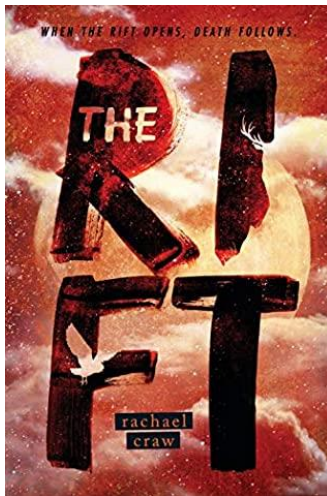
Themes: Contemporary/ LGBT/ Loneliness/ Friendship

Definitely need to read this series in sequence.

The storyline follows on from the previous books. I found the book to be jumpy with lots of narrators. This did start to get annoying as it became too hard to follow. Possibly would be better if the books were read in sequence.

Main character 'A' keeps body hopping and trying to stay away from Rhiannon. Events keep bringing them together. 'A' is trying to find out why they are the way they are. What is a soul? What makes us human?

I would recommend this series to boys and girls 15 years and up.

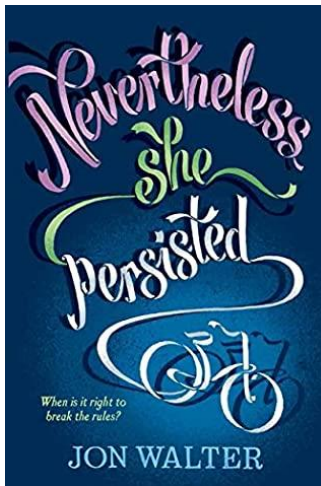


The Rift – Rachael Crow

Themes: Fantasy/ Adventure/ Conspiracy/ Mystery/ Father-Daughter relationship/ Family

Meg has come to Black Water to help her mum tie up loose ends with her dad. But their timing could not be worse. Black water is a place where a strong medicinal component is harvested, from the wild deer on the Island. Meg also has unfinished business with Cal West. He is one of the reasons she had to leave the Island. Now, she is about to prove to everyone that she belongs on Black Water.

This could be the first in a series. I would recommend this books to boys and girls 14/15 years and up.

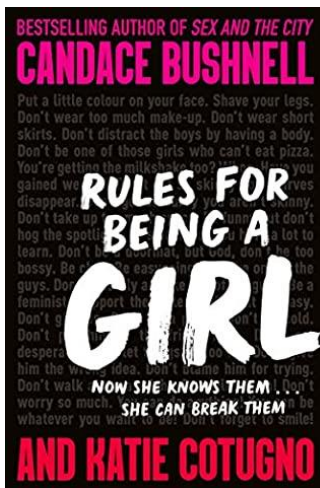


Nevertheless She Persisted – Jon Walter

Themes: Historical/ Sisters/ Suffragettes

This book follows two sisters Clara and Nancy. The main setting is a women's prison in London, in the time women were fighting for the vote. Suffragettes are imprisoned for their riotous acts. Some resort to starvation for the cause. This is where we meet Daisy, whom Nancy becomes infatuated with. Nancy leaves the prison as a warden, away from her sister Clara, who has looked out for her until now, to join the cause. It is a slow moving book and does elude to sexual abuse from the sisters father. There is a twist at the end but it can be seen early on.

I would recommend this book to girls 15 years and up.

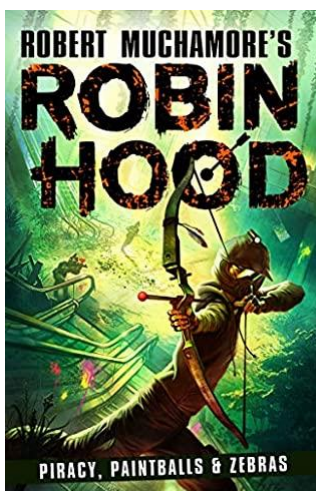


Rules for Being a Girl – Candace Bushnell

Themes: #Metoo/ Consent

Marin has a crush on her teacher Bex. Bex offers her a ride home after school. On the way they drop by Bex's apartment to pick up a book where Bex kisses Marin. The book follows what happens with Marin writing an article in the school newspaper, titled 'Rules for Being a Girl'. It's all about the double standard set at schools. The attitudes of boys towards the girls, and also the boys sport teams Vs the girls teams. It is a good story of friendship, consent and authority.

I would recommend this book to girls 14 years and up.



Piracy, Paintballs & Zebras – Robert Muchamore

Series: Robin Hood

- Hacking, Heists & Flaming Arrows
- Piracy, Paintballs & Zebras
- Jet Skis, Swamps & Smugglers

Themes: Adventure/ Family

Modern take on the legend of Robin Hood. Little John is Robin's older half-brother, whose mother is the sheriff of 'Nottingham' (a corporate company). Lord Gisborne is a gangster, and Sherwood Forest is an overgrown area where there was once a mall. This is where activists and families live. Criminals and biker gangs also live in the forest. This book has short chapters and is told with two narrators Robin and Little John. It is easy to follow and fast paced. I would recommend this series to mainly boys 13 years and up and some girls who enjoy fast paced adventure.