

## KS2 fiction hot reads, November 2024

There are around 10,000 new children's books published every year, we read and review as many new titles as possible to bring you a selection of the very best for each Key Stage.

	<p><b>Foxlight</b> by <b>Katya Balen</b></p> <p><b>9781526652102 £7.99</b> <b>BB: Dark Blue/Black</b></p> <p>Twin sisters, Fen and Rey, were found curled up safe and warm with some foxes. Later, living in the Light House with other children who write to their mothers, they are left to imagine theirs instead. When a fox appears one night the sisters see it as a sign. Is it here to lead them to their real family? This journey will be harder and more life changing than ever.</p> <p>Rich, lyrical language with vivid characters and a strong sense of setting. Years 5/6</p>
	<p><b>I Am Wolf</b> by <b>Alastair Chisholm</b></p> <p><b>9781839945311 £7.99</b> <b>BB: Dark Red</b></p> <p>Coll belongs to the Wolf clan that lives on a Construct, a huge technological "creature" driven by the clan's combined willpower. They roam their world fighting other clans and absorbing them into their own.</p> <p>When they are attacked by a new and dangerous Construct, Coll is thrown clear from Wolf and left behind. Now he must survive life on ground and get back to his clan. He is helped by Rieka, a "Tock" who makes the Constructs work. She promises Coll a way to return, but can she be trusted? And what is she really trying to do...?</p> <p>Engaging characters that are strong and inclusive and challenge feelings of worth and belonging. Year 5/6</p>
	<p><b>Nora and the Map of Mayhem</b> by <b>Joseph Elliott</b></p> <p><b>9781800784994 £7.99</b> <b>BB: Grey</b></p> <p>When Atticus and Autumn are left with their eccentric great-grandmother Nora for the weekend, they're hoping for a few days scoffing biscuits and playing video games. But when Nora's around nothing ever goes quite to plan...</p> <p>Instead Atticus and Autumn are swept away on a hair-raising adventure dodging snot-flinging sea monsters, battling thunderous electrosquibs and trying to escape from a very flappy goose!</p> <p>Imaginative, humorous, and great fun. Years 3-5</p>
	<p><b>Ember Spark and the Thunder of Dragons</b> by <b>Abi Elphinstone</b></p> <p><b>9781398500693 £7.99</b> <b>BB: Grey</b></p> <p>Rusty Fizzbang is a vet for magical beasts and needs an apprentice.</p> <p>Ember Spark, looking for adventure, is his newest recruit - and together with an unlikely friend, Arno, she is sent to help a baby dragon whose parents have gone missing. But keeping magical beasts a secret isn't an easy task, especially with arch-villain Jasper Hornswoggle hot on their heels and keen to derail them...</p> <p>Cracking adventure, with underlying humor. Year 4/5</p>
	<p><b>Starspill</b> by <b>Catherine Fisher</b></p> <p><b>9781915444684 £7.99</b> <b>BB: Dark Blue</b></p> <p>The cats of Starspill want Zac to steal one of the three legendary Embers of the Sun from the town museum for them, and they've taken his precious secret map to make sure he'll agree!</p> <p>Together with best friend Alys, mysterious bookseller Aurelian and precocious black kitten Jinx, Zac sets out on an adventure none of them will ever forget.</p> <p>A page-turning fantasy adventure. Year 5/6</p>

	<p><b>Starminster</b> by <b>Megan Hopkins</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>9780008626891</b>    <b>£7.99</b></span> <b>BB: Dark Red</b></p> <p>Astrid longs to see the stars, but is forced to stay inside the confines of the rhubarb shed with her Mama - until one night a stranger with wings takes Astrid to a secret city in the sky. A fabulous read that takes you into a magical world. Year 5/6</p>
	<p><b>Mission Microraptor</b> by <b>Philip Kavadias</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>9781915026941</b>    <b>£7.99</b></span> <b>BB: Dark Blue</b></p> <p>Falling behind their classmates on a school trip to the Alps, Finn and Milo stumble upon an egg buried in ice. Later that night it hatches, and a 65-million-year-old baby is born: Arty is a microraptor brought back from extinction. But keeping her safe proves difficult. Wicked scientists will do anything to get their hands on her, and soon Finn and Milo must run for their lives ... Exciting, funny, action thriller. Year 5/6</p>
	<p><b>Bringing Back Kay-Kay</b> by <b>Dev Kothari</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>9781529516043</b>    <b>£7.99</b></span> <b>BB: Dark Blue</b></p> <p>The police dismiss Kay-Kay's disappearance as just another teenage runaway, but Lena knows they are wrong. Tired of not being listened to, powerless to reach her parents through their grief and unable to imagine a future without her beloved brother in it, Lena sets off to find him. Beautifully poignant story. Year 5/6</p>
	<p><b>Pirates and Sea Monsters</b> by <b>Gill Lewis</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>9781800902763</b>    <b>£7.99</b></span> <b>AR: 3.7 LY</b>    <b>BB: Brown</b></p> <p>Tia's mum has a new job as the vet on Gull Haven Island. When she's called away to help a sickly cow on a nearby island, getting trapped there in a storm, Tia must step up and care for the animals staying in the surgery. Tia must also deal with a mysterious creature that washes up on the shore after the storm. Their new life on the Haven Islands is clearly going to be full of adventures. Relatable character and appealing scenario. Year 2-4</p>
	<p><b>A Drop of Golden Sun</b> by <b>Kate Saunders</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>9780571310982</b>    <b>£7.99</b></span> <b>BB: Dark Red</b></p> <p>It's 1973 and 12-year-old Jenny is in shock as she's just been cast as one of the lead roles in a feature film. Soon she must jet off to France, to the idyllic Château Mouchotte, where she will join her film family: three other children and two renowned actors. The glitz and glamour of being on set is a million miles away from Jenny's normal life, and there's one fierce and famous actor that threatens the whole shoot. It's up to Jenny and her friends to keep the peace and save the film. Heartwarming and sweetly amusing tale. Year 5/6</p>
	<p><b>Betty Steady and the Toad Witch</b> by <b>Nicky Smith-Dale</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>9780008600341</b>    <b>£6.99</b></span> <b>BB: Grey</b></p> <p>Twelve year old Betty Steady tries to prevent disaster before the Toad Witch and her evil army launch a terrible attack on Wobbly Rock. Completely bonkers, lively, humorous and a fun read. Year 3-6</p>
	<p><b>Nowhere Island</b> by <b>Tania Unsworth</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>9781804540091</b>    <b>£8.99</b></span> <b>BB: Dark Red</b></p> <p>Wild, silent Pez, who has escaped from a mysterious cult, criminal mastermind Riley, his gentle brother Grayson, and orphaned Gil are searching for safety, but just when they think they've found it, they witness something that puts them in deadly danger. An original, tense and action-packed survival adventure. Year 5/6</p>