



# Reading for Pleasure special issue

From **LIBRARY TIMES** 

Written and compiled by Mrs Giles, January 2021

## Why is it important to read during lockdown?

**S**itting at my desk, working from home, feeling just as isolated from our school and my beloved library as many of you, it feels right to talk about why indulging ourselves by reading stories is so important, now more than ever.



As we went into lockdown I brought home a huge pile of books to catalogue and true to form couldn't resist adding them to my TBR (To Be Read) pile!

As with most librarians this pile is generally huge; books are like sweets for us in that they are addictive, but unlike sweets, they have the power to influence our thoughts, fuel our imagination and shape our learning.

Depending on your choice of reading, books have the power to engender feelings of love, grief, fear, anger, horror, friendship or empathy. They open portals to other worlds, times, perspectives and lives, whether real or imagined, and enrich our minds with new concepts and vocabulary. They open up our opinions to those different to ourselves, allowing us to understand, empathise and appreciate those differences.

Childhood photographs always capture me holding two things: my panda (a much-treasured gift from my grandparents) and a book. I was lucky to have parents able to afford books, but more than that, they valued reading for pleasure which also involved weekly trips to the library. The key was access to reading.

When I first joined WHSG, my first impression of our Library was one of wood, books and calmness – powerful sensory connections to time and place; every morning I would take a moment to remind myself of that before I started my day. Good quality works of fiction engage those same senses, drawing us into the inner world of our imagination where words take physical form creating characters and landscapes, firing

our synapses, fuelling our minds with energy and emotion, flooding our system with endorphins.

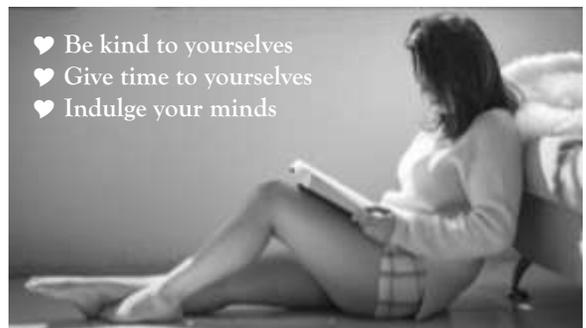
When a love of reading is nurtured in childhood, its legacy is one of comfort, security and wellbeing. Books provide food for the soul.

Such is the power of reading and when coupled with your special place to read, the experience is complete. A pillow, a blanket or a chair; wherever that place is, nurture the relationship between your special place and the pleasure of reading and I promise you your mind and body will reap the reward.

Now, more than ever before, we are in desperate need to escape the four walls we live inside. While we can't make actual extended forays outside of those walls, we can let our minds take flight and soar like eagles above the action on the pages we read, fully immersing ourselves in the richness of language flowing from the writer's pen, in the boldness of the brush stroke from the illustrator's hand, and the sensory pleasure from turning each page.

**This is my call to action for everyone to surrender themselves to the pleasure of reading.**

- ♥ Be kind to yourselves
- ♥ Give time to yourselves
- ♥ Indulge your minds





Reads

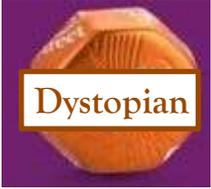
Reading  
by  
Genre



**Adventure fiction** usually always includes an element of danger or adversity which the protagonists have to overcome during their journey or travels, activity, game or quest. These books are quite often fast paced, drawing the reader into the excitement of the plot, often pitching the values of Good against Evil. If you love the **Big Purple**, why not try **Airmen** by Eoin Colfer, **Crow Mountain** by Lucy Inglis or **Angels and Demons** by Dan Brown?



If you love a whodunnit and fancy yourself as an amateur sleuth, **Crime fiction** is for you. Crime is always at the centre of the plot, with murder being the most popular form, from which the author then uses science and investigative techniques to lay the evidence before the reader for them to solve the crime. If a **Sticky Toffee** is your thing, why not try **Blood Money** by Anne Cassidy, **Blackbird** by N.D. Gomes or **Raven Black** by Ann Cleeves?



**Dystopian fiction** might feel very topical; however, it originally described authors' visions of an alternative future society both frightening and dehumanising. This genre usually deals with control, global disaster and survival, often containing a political subtext, and makes for compelling reading. If you are a fan of an **Orange Crunch**, why not try **Breathe** by Sarah Crossan, **Ella Minnow Pea** by Mark Dunn or **The Man In The High Castle** by Philip K. Dick?



**Fantasy fiction** invites your imagination to enter a portal into other worlds created by their authors. Quite often these stories are inspired by folklore, myths or oral traditions and provide a realm for the creation of fantastical beings, gods and goddesses, magic, mystical creatures, new languages and societies. If the **Choc Chunk** appeals to you, why not try **Aru Shah And The End Of Time** by Roshani Chokshi, **The Belles** by Dhonielle Clayton or **The Children Of Blood And Bone** by Tomi Adeyemi?



If you dare to enter the horrifying world of **Gothic fiction** you will often be confronted with dark and mysterious landscapes or buildings, ancient prophecies, supernatural events and characters, as well as women in distress amidst the push and pull of Good versus Evil. For a **Blood Red** experience, why not try **The Piper** by Danny Weston, **Cuckoo Song** by Frances Hardinge or **The Resurrectionist** by James Bradley?



For history buffs **Historical fiction** is a gift of a genre with a huge range of time periods, people, subjects and countries to explore. Fictional characters are woven into the fabric of actual events bringing history to life and giving them context in a mix of danger, excitement, mystery, romance or suspense. To indulge in the **Coconut Blue**, why not try **City Of Ghosts** by Bali Rai, **Crusade** by Elizabeth Laird or **The Fall Of Giants** by Ken Follett?



Reads

Reading  
by  
Genre



**Realism fiction** can offer gritty, hard-to-swallow stories of people and their lives, but with it comes honesty and a window into a multitude of characters, events, lives and situations, creating the perfect opportunity for empathy and understanding, often evoking strong emotions in the reader. For a **Toffee Deluxe** rollercoaster ride, why not try **Twelfth Day Of July** by Joan Lingard, **After The Fire** by Will Hill or **American Street** by Ibi Zoboi?



**Romantic fiction** plays to our vision of romance and relationships. It can intersect with other genres and often include humour (in the case of Romcom); however, the focus is on romance and relationships between two characters culminating with an uplifting 'happy ending'. For a luxurious taste of **Pink Fudge**, why not try **Love Song** by Sophia Bennett, **Green Valentine** by Lili Wilkinson, or **Bridget Jones Diary** by Helen Fielding?



For those who love science, **Sci-Fi** (Science-Fiction) satisfies bookworms on two levels: future scientific and technological advances real and imagined with a good plot! Quite often, sci-fi will involve alien species, alternate universes, space and time travellers. If you would love to encounter the **Green Triangle**, why not try **Across The Universe** by Beth Revis, **Illuminae Files** by Amie Kaufman or **Defy The Stars** by Claudia Gray?



Conspiracy, espionage, intrigue. **Spy fiction** can be fast-paced, full of twists and turns, double crosses, sleights of hand and mind-games, involving international players and secret agents. This genre is full of danger and suspense. To dip into the world of the **Smooth Caramel**, why not try **Secrets and Shadows** by Brian Gallagher, **Orphan, Monster, Spy** by Matt Killeen or **Need To Know** by Karen Cleveland?



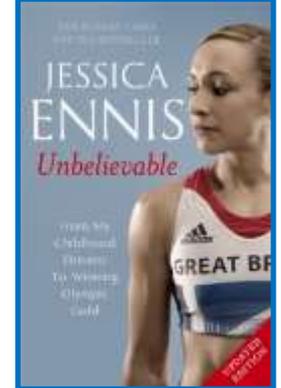
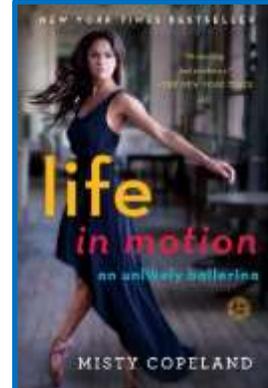
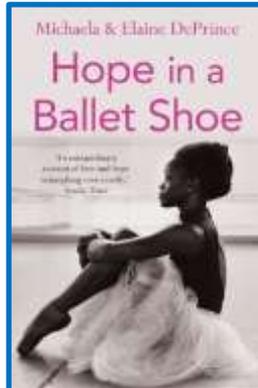
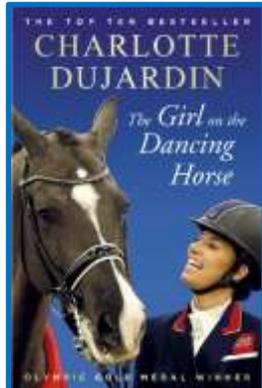
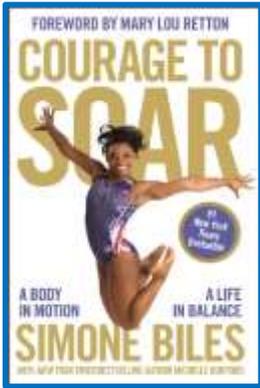
This category is self-explanatory. Needless-to-say, books in **Teen Humour** are designed to be uplifting and raise a smile. At WHSG, we are fortunate to have had two esteemed authors from this category visit us: Holly Smale and our very own Author-in-Residence Laura Dockrill. If you have a zest for the **Orange Crème**, why not try **India Smythe Stands Up** by Sarah Govett, **Chinglish** by Sue Cheung or **My Mad, Fat Teenage Diary** by Rae Earl?



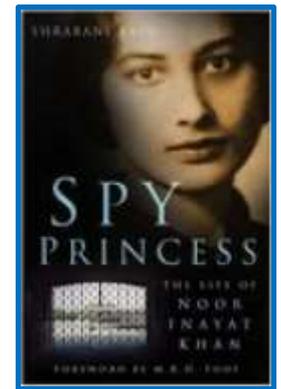
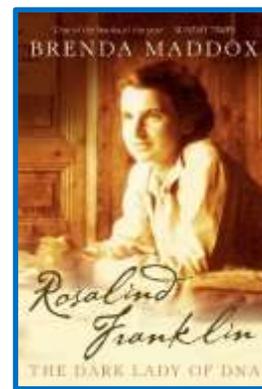
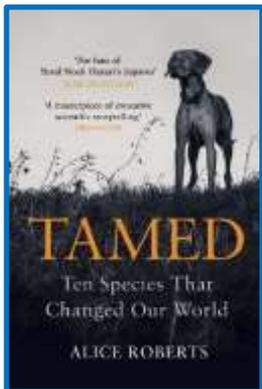
**War Fiction** might not be everyone's cup of tea. It doesn't have to be purely historical, but can intersect with every other genre, with plots real or imagined, set in the past, the future or in alternate worlds; it is the fiction of conflict. If have your eye aimed on the **Toffee Finger**, why not try **Code Name Verity** by Elizabeth Wein, **Internment** by Samira Ahmed or **Half Of A Yellow Sun** by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie?

# Suggested reading for factual reads about inspirational women

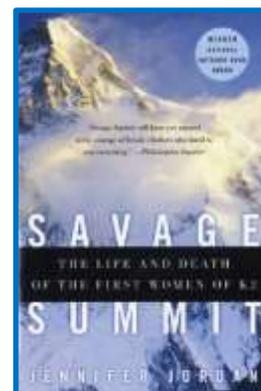
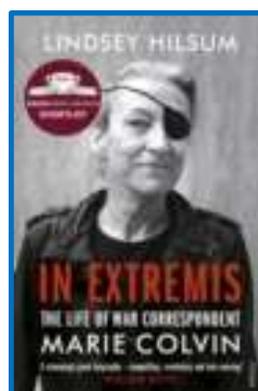
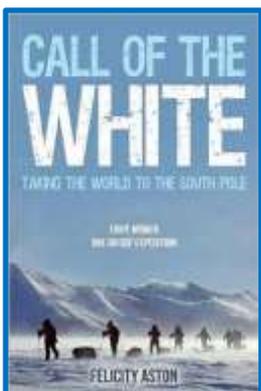
## Dance and Sport



## History and Science



## Extreme Lives





## COMICS, MANGA AND GRAPHIC NOVELS

### Just a 'hook' into reading 'real' books or a valid part of literature?

Growing up in the '70s, comics were seen as something lighthearted for primary school children (divided according to gender), not serious reading, but a way of encouraging us to read something, a 'hook' into reading 'real' books. Even teen magazines were sharply divided by gender, seen as part of popular culture but not to be taken seriously in terms of reading.



experience. Of course this is a distinct advantage when learning a new language as the images can give clues to the story portrayed.

The point of any book, whether fact or fictional is enjoyment. Everyone has their own individual taste and is attracted by different subjects or

genres, which makes our reading choices so unique and personal.

Comics, Manga and graphic novels ALL COUNT AS READING, so if they are your favourite reading choice, indulge yourself by all means.

From a librarian's point of view though, we like to encourage our students to experience a broad range of reading, and expose you to as many different forms of literature as possible, taking in both fact

and fiction. In fact, you might find you are drawn to reading factual books such as biographies as part of your journey into literature. It is by narrowing our reading choices to one form that we limit our experience of the world. Don't be afraid to try something new as you might find you enjoy it and it opens up new possibilities for reading to you. Equally don't be afraid to put a book down if you don't enjoy it. There are no hard and fast rules, but the Library's mantra remains the same: **Today is a good day to read**, so try to allow yourself even just half an hour every day to indulge in a good book.



The rise in popularity of Manga and later graphic novels has provided a more broad-based appeal, overarching gender, culture, race and age, for young and older alike. But are they actually 'real' books and do they deserve a place in school libraries?

Undoubtedly, they do provide a 'hook' into reading, as someone struggling to read

might find these less challenging due to their picture heavy content, whereas a traditional book might prove too daunting. But does that mean they are only valid for use in primary schools, with children migrating up to 'real' books by secondary school?

The answer of course is no. They are not simple texts for elementary level reading, more a smorgasbord of ingredients forcing the reader to multitask in order to decode the narrative. Mixing storyboards with text forces the brain to synchronise both sets of information which enhances the reader's

TODAY  
is a good day  
to read



# Book award winners and shortlists



**COSTA BOOK AWARDS 2020**

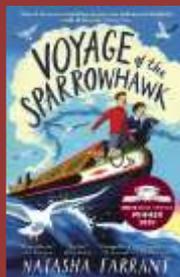
**2020 Winner Book of the Year and Costa Novel Award:  
The Mermaid Of Black Conch,  
Monique Roffey**

March 1976

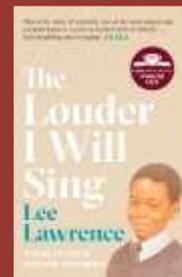
St Constance, a tiny Caribbean village on the island of Black Conch, at the start of the rainy season. A fisherman sings to himself in his pirogue, waiting for a catch but attracts a sea-dweller he doesn't expect. Aycayia, a beautiful young woman cursed by jealous wives to live as a mermaid, has been swimming the Caribbean Sea for centuries. And she is entranced by this man David and his song.



**Winner of the 2020  
Children's Book  
Award:  
Voyage Of The  
Sparrowhawk,  
Natasha Farrant**



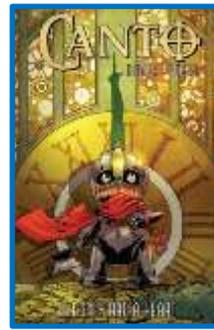
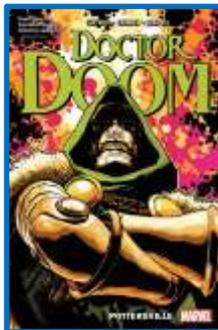
**Winner of the  
2020 Biography  
Award:  
The Louder  
I Will Sing,  
Lee Lawrence**



**2021 Blue Award Shortlist  
(11+ / KS3)**



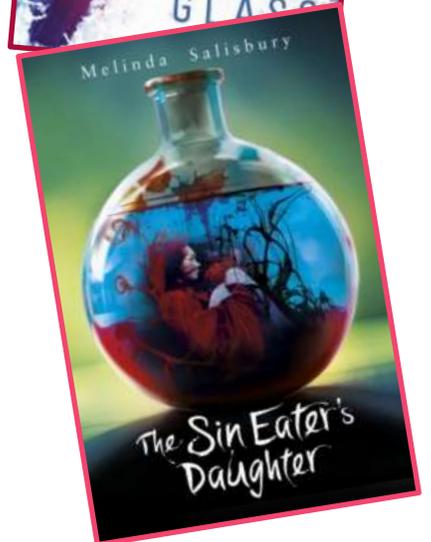
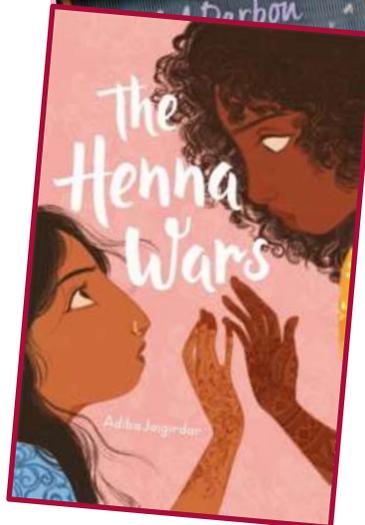
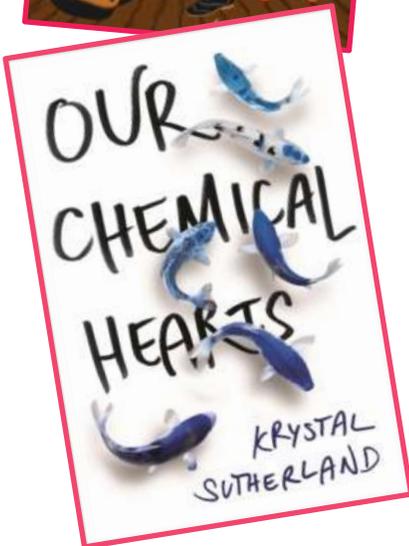
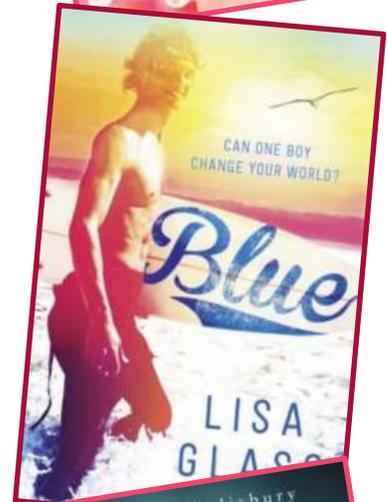
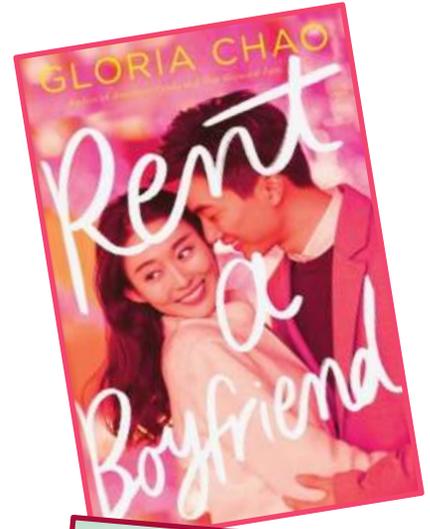
**2021 Red Award Shortlist  
(14+ / KS4)**



**2020 Winner  
Witch Hat  
Atelier,  
Kamome  
Shirahama**



*In Honour of St Valentine's Day*



# The Hill We Climb

## Amanda Gorman, Inaugural Poet of 2021

Read the words of poet-activist Amanda Gorman, at 22 the youngest Inaugural Poet, reciting her poem of unity during the Inauguration Ceremony of US President Joe Biden.



When day comes, we ask ourselves, where can we find light in this never-ending shade?

The loss we carry. A sea we must wade.

We braved the belly of the beast.

We've learned that quiet isn't always peace, and the norms and notions of what 'just' is isn't always justice.

And yet the dawn is ours before we knew it.

Somehow we do it.

Somehow we weathered and witnessed a nation that isn't broken, but simply unfinished.

We, the successors of a country and a time where a skinny Black girl descended from slaves and raised by a single mother can dream of becoming president, only to find herself reciting for one.

And, yes, we are far from polished, far from pristine, but that doesn't mean we are striving to form a union that is perfect.

We are striving to forge our union with purpose.

To compose a country committed to all cultures, colors, characters and conditions of man.

And so we lift our gaze, not to what stands between us, but what stands before us.

We close the divide because we know to put our future first; we must first put our differences aside.

We lay down our arms so we can reach out our arms to one another.

We seek harm to none and harmony for all.

Let the globe, if nothing else, say this is true.

That even as we grieved, we grew.

That even as we hurt, we hoped.

That even as we tired, we tried.

That we'll forever be tied together, victorious.

Not because we will never again know defeat, but because we will never again sow division.

Scripture tells us to envision that everyone shall sit under their own vine and fig tree, and no one shall make them afraid.

If we're to live up to our own time, then victory won't lie in the blade, but in all the bridges we've made.

That is the promise to glade, the hill we climb, if only we dare.

It's because being American is more than a pride we inherit.

It's the past we step into and how we repair it.

We've seen a force that would shatter our nation, rather than share it.

Would destroy our country if it meant delaying democracy.

And this effort very nearly succeeded.

But while democracy can be periodically delayed, it can never be permanently defeated.

In this truth, in this faith we trust, for while we have our eyes on the future, history has its eyes on us.

This is the era of just redemption.

We feared at its inception.

We did not feel prepared to be the heirs of such a terrifying hour.

But within it we found the power to author a new chapter, to offer hope and laughter to ourselves.

So, while once we asked, how could we possibly prevail over catastrophe, now we assert, how could catastrophe possibly prevail over us?

We will not march back to what was, but move to what shall be: a country that is bruised but whole, benevolent but bold, fierce and free.

We will not be turned around or interrupted by intimidation because we know our inaction and inertia will be the inheritance of the next generation, become the future.  
 Our blunders become their burdens.  
 But one thing is certain.  
 If we merge mercy with might, and might with right, then love becomes our legacy and change our children's birthright.  
 So let us leave behind a country better than the one we were left.  
 Every breath from my bronze-pounded chest, we will raise this wounded world into a wondrous one.  
 We will rise from the golden hills of the West.  
 We will rise from the windswept Northeast where our forefathers first realized revolution.  
 We will rise from the lake-rimmed cities of the Midwestern states.  
 We will rise from the sun-baked South.  
 We will rebuild, reconcile, and recover.  
 And every known nook of our nation and every corner called our country, our people diverse and beautiful, will emerge battered and beautiful.  
 When day comes, we step out of the shade of flame and unafraid.  
 The new dawn balloons as we free it.  
 For there is always light, if only we're brave enough to see it.  
 If only we're brave enough to be it.

Listen to Amanda Gorman reciting her poem on YouTube  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wz4YuEvJ3y4>

Burns Night is celebrated in Scotland every year on 25th January to coincide with the birth of renowned Scottish author and poet Robert 'Rabbie' Burns.



### To A Kiss

Humid seal of soft affections,  
 Tend'rest pledge of future bliss,  
 Dearest tie of young connections,  
 Love's first snow-drop, virgin kiss.

Speaking silence, dumb confession,  
 Passion's birth, and infants' play,  
 Dove-like fondness, chaste concession,  
 Glowing dawn of brighter day.

Sorrowing joy, adieu's last action,  
 Ling'ring lips, ~ no more to join!  
 What words can ever speak affection  
 Thrilling and sincere as thine!

### Online Reading

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Project Gutenberg UK provides access to over 60,000 ebooks (can be accessed using the Library catalogue's One Search function).



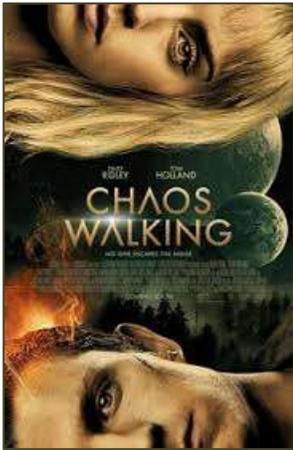
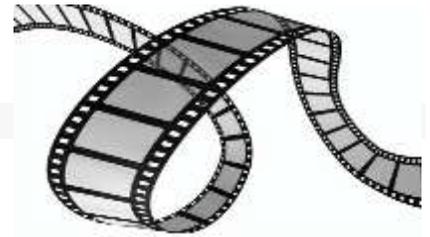
Reading with Amazon Prime (subscription service)



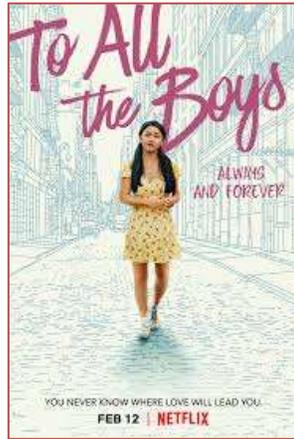


Download the Essex Libraries apps to your phone. When you log in select **Thurrock Library**, then any of the libraries from the dropdown list as your home library (it doesn't need to be your usual library).

# Books into film 2021



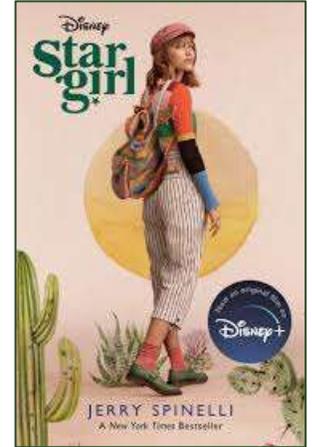
Adapted from **The Knife Of Never Letting Go**, Patrick Ness



Adapted from **To All The Boys I Have Loved Before**, Jenny Han



Adapted from **All The Bright Places**, Jennifer Niven



Adapted from **Stargirl**, Jerry Spinelli



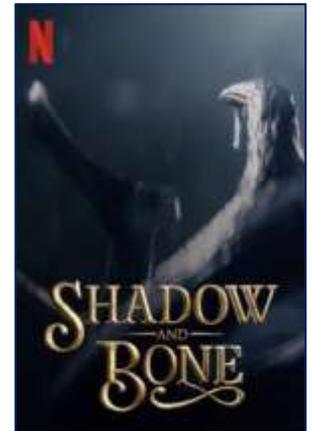
Adapted from **Moxie**, Jennifer Mathieu



Adapted from **Children Of Blood And Bone**, Tomi Adeyemi



Adapted from **Dune**, Frank Herbert



Adapted from **Shadow And Bone**, Leigh Bardugo



Currently showing on Sky

A **Discovery of Witches** (series 1 and 2), adapted from the book of the same name by Deborah Harkness

