

Tower Hamlets Schools Library Services: Perspectives Booklists

Teachers have a crucial role in educating children about the racial injustices of the past, and which continue to manifest in the present, enabling an understanding of the issues at stake and nurturing within all children a pride in their heritage. One of the ways in which we can support this is by recommending high-quality fiction so that children can find themselves in books and stories as well as use story to learn about the experiences and lives of others.

These are a selection of books suitable for children and teens in primary and secondary schools. For more, or to discuss your requirements, please contact the Schools Library Service.

- To borrow books and other resources please visit our website www.towerhamlets-sls.org.uk
- If you have any comments or suggestions regarding these book lists, please email schoolslibraryservices@towerhamlets.gov.uk

How to use this document

This is a collection of several book lists which may be used singly or in combination. The lists are sorted firstly by continent, and within these (where identifiable) by country. Books are listed under the continent and country where they are set and are listed with the heritage of the main character(s) as well as any other relevant keywords.

Some books may feature in more than one chapter depending on setting(s). Books set partly in mythological settings will be in the list(s) appropriate to the main character and the origin of the setting.

"Why isn't [x] on this list?"

This list is intended as a starting point, not as an exhaustive list of every available book. We regularly update the titles here and they are a snapshot of what can be borrowed from our library.

Tower Hamlets Schools Library Services Perspectives Book List. This 4th revision published November 2025. Visit our website for the latest edition, all our other book and resource lists, and to order books and other resources for your classroom.

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Africa

Africa

Books which are set in the African continent (including country where identifiable) – includes fictionalised locations.

Author	Title		Keywords	Summary
Abdel-Magied, Yassmin	Listen Layla	Years 5 & 6	Sudan, Australia, dual-nationality, diaspora	I am Layla Kareem Abdel-Hafiz Hussein, the greatest Sudanese Australian inventor the world has ever seen. And if they don't know my name yet, they soon will. Inshallah! Family, friends, home, inventions – there's a lot to navigate. With big protests looming in Sudan, could Layla save the day with her revolutionary ideas?
Adeyinka, Sabine	Jummy at the river school	Years 5 & 6	Nigeria	Jummy has won a place at the River School, the finest girls' boarding school in Nigeria. Nothing can dampen her spirits, not even when she learns that her best friend Caro won't be joining her. By the Shine-Shine River, school is everything Jummy dreamt of, with friendly new girls, midnight feasts and sporting prizes – but when Caro suddenly arrives at the school to work, not to learn, Jummy must bring all her friends together to help.
Atinuke	The No. 1 Car Spotter Fights the Factory	Years 3 & 4	Nigeria	Oluwalase is excited when a factory is built near his village in Nigeria. There will be jobs for the villagers, including his father. But strange things begin to happen: the goats become sick and the fish in the river are dying. What is going on?
Atinuke	Too Small Tola (series)	Years 3 & 4	Nigeria	Tola might be small, and overshadowed by her bossy, fast, clever family in their flat in the busy city of Lagos in Nigeria, but when there is a crisis, Tola usually manages to save the day!
Atinuke	The Anna Hibiscus series	Year 1 and up	Nigeria and other	Mixed-race Anna Hibiscus lives in Africa, amazing Africa. A wonderful series of picture books and early fiction focussing on Anna and her family.
Bessora; Barroux	Alpha: Abidjan – Gare du Nord	Years 7 and up	Africa	Alpha Coulibaly is just one of millions of refugees on the move and at the mercy of people traffickers, endlessly frustrated, endangered and exploited as he

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				attempts to re-join his family who are already in Europe
Birch, Beverly	Song beneath the tides	Years 7 and up	East Africa (fictional village location)	While on holiday in Africa with her family, Ally begins an intense friendship with Leli, a local teenager. Set against the backdrop of Ally and Leli's tender love story, Song Beneath the Tides is a sophisticated story that both looks back at colonialism, and also explores the modern issues of poverty and cultural devastation caused by big business and mass tourism.
Campbell-Johnston, Rachel	The Child's Elephant	Years 6 and up	Uganda	Can you imagine what it must be like to be snatched from your home and forced to serve in the Lord's Resistance Army in Uganda? That is what happened to Bat and his best friend. But Bat has an ally – a baby elephant, Meya, who he rescued but now in the wild – Can Meya come to his aid?
Colfer, Eoin/Donkin, Andrew	Illegal (Graphic Novel)	Years 5 and up	West Africa, Refugees	Ebo is one of thousands of refugees from West Africa, desperately attempting to make the crossing to the refugee camps in Italy. Following his sister and his brother he crosses the Sahara to Tripoli and finally to the merciless crossing over the sea.
Cowell, Catherine	Ernest Simba	Years 5 & 6	Africa	Liwida the lizard is Ernest's best and only real friend as he grows up, disabled, in the African orphanage where he was abandoned as a baby, and Liwida can do amazing things...
Davies, Nicola	Rubbish Town Hero	Years 5 & 6	Africa	Chipso and his little sister live on Papa Fudu's dumpsite in Rubbish Town, scouring it for valuables to sell. When they find something that Papa Fudu wants for himself they realise that it's time to leave and find a new home for themselves...
Davies, Steven	Blood and Ink	Years 7 and up	Mali, Islam	Set in 2012, militant Islamic group Ansar Dine is preparing to capture Timbuktu. Ali is 16 and a Mujahid, a holy warrior, who finds himself scaling the walls of the city. Inside is fifteen year old Kadija, daughter of a guardian of the sacred manuscripts of the ancient city. Ali must declare forbidden everything Kadija holds precious – music, dancing, her books. Kadija refuses to give in, and Ali finds himself drawn to her. Both have conflicting feelings for each other, how will they choose the course to follow?

Elhillo, Safia	Home is not a country	Years 7 and up	African American/ Sudan	Nima wishes she were someone else. She doesn't feel understood by her mother, who grew up in a different land. She doesn't feel accepted in her suburban town; yet somehow, she isn't different enough to belong elsewhere. Her best friend, Haitham, is the only person with whom she can truly be herself. Until she can't, and suddenly her only refuge is gone. As the ground is pulled out from under her, Nima must grapple with the phantom of a life not chosen—the name her parents meant to give her at birth—Yasmeen. But that other name, that other girl, might be more real than Nima knows. And the life Nima wishes were someone else's.
Forna, Namina	The Gilded Ones	Years 7 and up	West Africa (fictionalised) , Afrofuturism	Sixteen-year-old Deka lives in fear of the blood ceremony that will determine whether she will become a member of her village. But on the day of the ceremony, her blood runs gold, the color of impurity - and Deka knows she will face a consequence worse than death .The Gilded Ones is a empowering fantasy tale that deals racism, misogyny, inequality and much more.
Gibbons, Alan	The Lion roars	Years 5 & 6	Senegal	Jimi knows the names of all the great African footballers, and he wants nothing more than to wear the kit of the Lions of Senegal. Can his daydreams be more than just dreams?
Laird, Elizabeth	The Fastest Boy in the World	Years 5 & 6	Ethiopia	Solomon loves to run and dreams of winning a gold medal, but when his grandfather collapses, Solomon is the only one who can run for help. Can he last the distance?
Laird, Elizabeth	The Prince Who Walked with Lions	Years 6 and up	Ethiopia, historical setting	The British Army is circling the stronghold of the King of Abyssinia. Under orders from Queen Victoria, its mission is to rescue the British Envoy who is held prisoner. Watching with terror and awe is the king's young son, Alamyu. He knows that his father is as brave as a lion, but how on earth can he stand against the foreigners?
Lewis, Gill	Gorilla Dawn	Years 5 & 6	D. R. Congo	The forests of the Democratic Republic of Congo are the home of the gorillas. They are also a land rich in resources that fuel internal conflict. When rebel soldiers capture a baby gorilla with the intention of selling it into captivity, two children, also imprisoned, find the courage to make a break for freedom and

				return the gorilla to the wild.
Naidoo, Beverley	Burn My Heart	Years 5 & 6	Kenya	The Mau Mau – the name of a secret society that once struck terror into the hearts of British settlers in Kenya. An episode in history that ended in a State of Emergency, with violent and brutal acts dividing a nation. This is an intensely personal and vivid story of two boys: one black, one white. Once they were friends even though their circumstances are very different. But in a country riven by fear and prejudice, even the best of friends can betray one another . . .
Orji, Dinah	Children of the Benin Kingdom	Years 5 & 6	Benin	Papa Eze found Ada as a baby in the forest, and brought her up as his own. She's always known this, but now she is 12, it is time for him to tell her the whole truth about where she is from - a truth that sends her on a journey deep into the rainforest to the ancient Edo kingdom of Benin.
Raina, Arushi	When Morning Comes	Years 7 and up	South Africa	It's 1976 in South Africa, and four young people are living in Johannesburg and its black township, Soweto: Zanele, a black female student organizer; Meena, a South Asian girl working at her father's shop; Jack, an Oxford-bound white student; and Thabo, a teen-gang member, or tsotsi. From each of their points of view, this book explores the roots of the Soweto Uprising and the edifice of apartheid in a South Africa about to explode.
Rashid, Leila	Empire's End: A Roman Story	Years 5 & 6	North Africa, Roman Empire, historical Setting	The Roman Empire 207 AD – Camilla's family are called to the Emperor's side from their home in North Africa, but instead of Rome, Camilla's family are sent to the furthest corner of the Empire, Britannica. After a traumatic journey, tragedy strikes and Camilla finds herself alone, navigating life in a cold and dangerous land at the mercy of a capricious Empress. Based on a true story, we see that Roman Britain was a cultural 'melting pot' with a mix of ethnicities and religions at all levels of society.
Riordan, James	Blood Runner	Years 7 and up	South Africa	A story inspired by Josiah Thugwane who, at Atlanta in 1996, became the first black South African to win an Olympic gold medal. Sam sees his parents and

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		up		sister killed by the police in a bloody massacre, but chooses a different way to retaliate.
Robert, Na'ima B	Far From Home	Years 7 and up	Zimbabwe	Tariro and Katie are two very different girls both living in Zimbabwe a generation apart. Tariro lives through the colonial era and the oppression that brought, and Katie, child of a white settler, through independence and experiences oppression of a different sort.
Traore, Efua	Children of the quicksands	Years 5 & 6	Nigeria	City girl Simi is sent to stay with her long-lost grandmother in a remote Nigerian village. There's no TV, internet or phone. Not a single human-made sound can be heard at night, just the noise of birds and animals rustling in the dark forest outside. Her witchlike grandmother dispenses advice and herbal medicine to the village, but she's tight lipped about their family history. Something must have happened, but what?
Wallace, Jason	Out of Shadows	Years 7 and up	Zimbabwe	In 1980s Zimbabwe, independence offers land and hope to Black Africans, but Robert, newly arrived at boarding school, finds there are still battles to be fought with the white boys who want their old country back.

The Americas

Native North American

Books set in North America featuring main characters of Native North American heritage

Author	Title		Keywords	Summary
Boulley, Angeline	Fire Keeper's Daughter	Years 7 and up	Native American	Eighteen-year-old Daunis' mixed heritage has always made her feel like an outsider, both in her hometown and on the nearby Ojibwe reservation. When she witnesses a shocking murder, she reluctantly agrees to be part of a covert FBI operation into a series of drug-related deaths. But the deceptions – and deaths – keep piling up and soon the threat strikes too close to home. Now Daunis must decide what it means to be a strong Anishinaabe kwe (Ojibwe woman) and how far she'll go to protect her community, even if it tears apart the only world she's ever known.

African American

Books which feature Black American lead characters (for books set in the Caribbean, see list below)

Author	Title		Keywords	Summary
Abike-Iyimide, Faridah	Ace of Spades	Years 8 and up	African American, class	Welcome to Niveus Private Academy, where money paves the hallways, and the students are never less than perfect. Until now. Because anonymous texter, Aces, is bringing two students' dark secrets to light. Talented musician Devon buries himself in rehearsals, but he can't escape the spotlight when his private photos go public. Head girl Chiamaka isn't afraid to get what she wants, but soon everyone will know the price she has paid for power.
Adeyemi, Tomi	Children of Blood and Bone (first in a	Years 7 and up	African American,	They killed my mother. They took our magic.

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	series)		Nigeria, Fantasy	They tried to bury us. Now we rise.
Alexander, Kwame	The Crossover	Years 6 and up	African American	"With a bolt of lightning on my kicks . . . The court is SIZZLING. My sweat is DRIZZLING. Stop all that quivering. Cuz tonight I'm delivering," announces dread-locked, 12-year-old Josh Bell. He and his twin brother Jordan are awesome on the court.
Alexander, Kwame	Rebound	Years 7 and up	African American	It's 1988. Charlie Bell is still mourning his father and struggling to figure out how he feels for his best (girl) friend, CJ. When he gets into trouble one too many times, he's packed off to stay with his grandparents for the summer. There his cousin Roxie introduces him to a whole new world – basketball – and a legend on the courts is born.
Alexander, Kwame	The Crossover (graphic novel)	Years 5 & 6+	African American	Dynamic, rhythmic rapping basketball story that just pounds its way through your head like a running, bouncing ball. Josh and his twin brother are having a great winning season; can they keep up the momentum? Graphic artist Dawud Anyabwile fits the illustrations to the drama brilliantly.
Alexander, Kwame	Black Star	Years 7 and up	African American, segregation	When Charley challenges a neighbourhood bully to a game at the church picnic, she knows she can win, even with her ragtag team. But when the picnic spills over onto their ball field, she makes a fateful decision. A child cannot protect herself if she does not know her history, and Charley's choice brings consequences she never could have imagined.
Alston, BB	Amari and the Night Brothers	Years 5 and up	African American, Fantasy	When Amari gets an invitation to the Bureau of Supernatural Affairs she has to get her head around the new world of the Bureau, where mermaids, aliens and magicians are real. Amari must compete against kids who've known about the supernatural world their whole lives, and when each trainee is awarded a special supernatural talent, Amari is given an illegal talent – one that the Bureau views as dangerous.
Anderson, Laurie Halse	Chains	Years 7 and up	African American, historical setting	It's 1776 in New York and Isabel's cruel owners sell off her sister Ruth. Furious and grieving, Isabel agrees to spy on her Loyalist owners, risking her future for the sake of a better life.

Callender, Kacen	Felix ever After	Years 9 and up	African American, LGBTQ+	Felix Love has never been in love—and, yes, he’s painfully aware of the irony. He desperately wants to know what it’s like and why it seems so easy for everyone but him to find someone. What’s worse is that, even though he is proud of his identity, Felix also secretly fears that he’s one marginalization too many—Black, queer, and transgender—to ever get his own happily-ever-after.
Colbert, Brandy	Little & Lion	Years 7 and up	African American, LGBTQ	When Suzette comes home to Los Angeles from her boarding school in New England, she isn't sure if she'll ever want to go back. L.A. is where her friends and family are (along with her crush, Emil). And her stepbrother, Lionel, who has been diagnosed with bipolar disorder, needs her emotional support. But as she settles into her old life, Suzette finds herself falling for someone new...the same girl her brother is in love with.
Craft, Jerry	New Kid/ Class Act	Years 5 and up	African American, class, graphic novels	Drew Ellis is no stranger to the saying “You have to work twice as hard to be just as good.” His grandmother has reminded him his entire life. But what if he works ten times as hard and still isn’t afforded the same opportunities that his classmates at School take for granted? As the pressures mount, will Drew find a way to bridge the divide so he and his friends can truly accept each other? And most important, will he finally be able to accept himself?
DePrince, Michaela	Ballerina Dreams	Years 3 & 4	African American, Sierra Leone	At the orphanage in Sierra Leone, Michaela dreamed of being a ballerina, so imagine her delight when her new American adoptive parents send her to ballet school! A true story of international ballet star.
Elhillo, Safia	Home is not a country	Years 7 and up	African American/ Sudan	Nima wishes she were someone else. She doesn’t feel understood by her mother, who grew up in a different land. She doesn’t feel accepted in her suburban town; yet somehow, she isn’t different enough to belong elsewhere. Her best friend, Haitham, is the only person with whom she can truly be herself. Until she can’t, and suddenly her only refuge is gone. As the ground is pulled out from under her, Nima must grapple with the phantom of a life not chosen—the name her parents meant to give her at birth—Yasmeen. But that other name, that other girl, might be more real than Nima knows. And the life Nima wishes were someone else’s.

Flake, Sharon G	The Life I'm In	Years 8 and up	African American	Char is not a good person, a bully who has made lives a misery. Thrown out of her home, she boards a bus and sets out to find her own path but finds herself trapped in a web of human trafficking. Trapped in an underbelly of society that exploits the vulnerable, Char will need to direct all her strength and determination to help herself and her fellow victims.
Johnson, Catherine	Arctic Hero	Years 5 & 6	African American	This is the incredible tale of Matthew Henson, African-American explorer, and his mission to reach the North Pole. This is a fascinating life, a great adventure and a compelling story of prejudice.
Johnson, Varian	Twins	Years 5 & 6	African American	Maureen and Francine Carter are twins and best friends. They participate in the same clubs, enjoy the same foods and are partners on all their school projects. But just before the girls start sixth grade, Francine becomes Fran – a girl who wants to join the chorus, run for class president and dress in fashionable outfits that set her apart from Maureen. The twins are growing apart and there's nothing Maureen can do to stop it. Are sisters really forever? Or will middle school change things for good?
Love, Jessica	Julian is a Mermaid	Years 2 to 4	African American	Julian is dazzled by the women he sees on the train home dressed as mermaids and all he can think about is making his own fabulous mermaid costume.
Marks, Janae	The Faraway Truth	Years 5 & 6	African American	Do innocent people end up in prison? Really? Zoe's never asked herself this question until a letter arrives from her father on her twelfth birthday. She's never met her father. He was sent to prison before she was born. Her mum always said he was dangerous, but he seems... nice.
Parker Rhodes, Jewell	Black brother, black brother	Years 8 and up	African American	A powerful coming-of-age story about two brothers, one who presents as white, the other as black, and the complex ways in which they are forced to navigate the world, all while training for a fencing competition. Donte wishes he were invisible. As one of the few black boys at Middlefield Prep, he feels as if he is constantly swimming in a sea of whiteness. Most of the students don't look like him. They don't like him either. Dubbed the "Black Brother," Donte's teachers and classmates make it clear they wish he were more like his lighter

				skinned brother, Trey. Quiet, obedient.
Reed, Christina Hammonds	The Black Kids	Years 7 and up	African American, Racism, Protests	Los Angeles, 1992, and everything changes one afternoon in April, when four police officers are acquitted after beating a black man named Rodney King half to death. Suddenly, Ashley's not just one of the girls. She's one of the black kids. As violent protests engulf LA and the city burns, Ashley tries to continue on as if life were normal. Even as her self-destructive sister gets dangerously involved in the riots. Even as the model black family façade her wealthy and prominent parents have built starts to crumble.
Reynolds, Jason	Long Way Down	Years 7 and up	African American	Sixty-seven seconds – that's the time it takes for the elevator to reach the ground floor, and it's also the time it takes Will to decide whether or not he's going to murder the guy who killed his brother.
Rhodes, Jewell Parker	Ghost Boys	Years 7 and up	African American	Twelve-year-old Jerome doesn't get into trouble. He goes to school. He does his homework. He takes care of his little sister. Then Jerome is shot by a police officer who mistakes his toy gun for a real threat. As a ghost, watching his family trying to cope with his death, Jerome begins to notice other ghost boys. Each boy has a story and they all have something in common.
Thomas, Angie	The Hate U Give	Years 7 and up	African American	16-year-old Starr manages to juggle her two worlds – the poor neighbourhood where she was born and raised and her posh high school in the suburbs. But this uneasy balance is shattered when Starr is the only witness to the fatal shooting of her unarmed best friend, Khalil, by a police officer. Now what Starr says could destroy her community. It could also get her killed.
Thomas, Angie	On the Come Up	Years 7 and up	African American	Bri wants to be one of the greatest rappers of all time. As the daughter of an underground hip hop legend who died just before he hit big, Bri's got massive shoes to fill. But when her first song goes viral for all the wrong reasons, Bri finds herself at the centre of controversy.
Thomas, Angie	Concrete Rose	Years 7 and up	African American	For seventeen-year-old Maverick 'Mav' Carter, the son of a former gang legend, it is not easy to sell dope, finish school, and raise a child. In this prequel to Angie Thomas's <i>The Hate U Give</i> , loyalty, revenge, and responsibility threaten to tear Mav apart in this searing and poignant exploration of Black boyhood and manhood.

Watson, Renée	Some Places More Than Others	Years 5 & 6	Black American	Amara visits Harlem, New York, for the first time to see where her Dad grew up, and discover not just her roots but also the importance of place and family. Thoughtful and emotionally engaging.
Watson, Renée	Watch Us Rise	Years 6 and up	African American	Jasmine and Chelsea's "Write Like a Girl" club has gone viral, with its messages of women's rights and gender and racial equality – but as well as acclaim, there are trolls and people who want to silence them – are they prepared for trial by social media?
Williams, Ailcia D	Genesis Begins Again	Years 7 and up	African American	There are ninety-six reasons why thirteen-year-old Genesis dislikes herself. She knows the exact number because she keeps a list. She is determined to fix her family, and she's willing to try anything to do so... even if it means harming herself in the process. But when Genesis starts to find a thing or two she actually likes about herself, she discovers that changing her own attitude is the first step in helping change others.
Williams-Garcia, Rita	One Crazy Summer	Years 7 and up	African American	A poignant and thought-provoking story of three close sisters who fly across America in the turbulent 1960s to stay over the summer with the mother who abandoned them years ago. They soon find their summer is going to be somewhat different to the Disney theme park adventure they had in mind.

North America (various)

Books set in North America which feature lead characters from a variety of cultures

Author	Title		Keywords	Summary
Napoli, Donna Jo	Alligator Bayou	Years 7 and up	Other European Heritage, Italian Americans	A memorable, haunting and thought-provoking story about a group of Sicilian immigrants living in the small, sleepy Louisiana town of Taallulah in 1899, and caught between the white and black populations in a torrid melting pot of racial prejudice and tensions. Building towards its violent conclusion, the story relates the emotional tempests that sweep the small town with fascinating

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				detail and chilling atmosphere.
Sedgwick, Marcus	Saint Death	Years 7 and up	North America, Mexico	Anapra is one of the poorest neighbourhoods in the Mexican city of Juarez. Twenty metres beyond is America – the dangerous goal of many a migrant. Faustino is one of them, trying desperately to escape from the gang he's been working for. He's dipped into a pile of dollars he was supposed to be hiding, and now he's on the run. Watching over them all the while is Saint Death. Santissima Muerte.
Takoudes, Greg	When We Wuz Famous	Years 7 and up	North America, Latin American	Francisco Ortiz is excited to be leaving Spanish Harlem in New York on a scholarship to an elite boarding school. His future seems promising. But his new classmates assume the worst and pepper him with questions about drugs and gangs. It's made even more complicated when Francisco realizes that back home in the hood, he no longer fits in. In a desperate attempt to keep friendships, Francisco makes a terrible decision.
Warga, Jasmine	Other words for home	Years 7 and up	North America, Refugees, Syria	Jude never thought she'd be leaving her beloved older brother and father behind, all the way across the ocean in Syria. But when things in her hometown start becoming volatile, Jude and her mother are sent to live in Cincinnati with relatives. American movies haven't quite prepared her for starting school in the US - and her new label of "Middle Eastern," an identity she's never known before. But this life also brings unexpected surprises. New friends, a whole new family, and a school musical that Jude might just try out for. Maybe America is a place where Jude can be seen as she really is.

Asian American

Books which feature North American lead characters of Asian heritage

Author	Title		Keywords	Summary
Ahmed, Samira	Internment	Years 7 and up	Asian American, American	One thing 17-year-old Layla Amin never thought she'd face in life was INTERNMENT by the American government simply because she and her family are Muslim. They join thousands of other Muslims at Camp Mobius in the

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			Muslims	Californian desert, but Layla is determined to fight back.
Chokshi, Roshani	Aru Shah and the City of Gold (part of the Pandava Quintet)	Years 5 & 6	Asian American, Hinduism/ Indian mythology	Aru and her sisters—including one who also claims to be the Sleeper's daughter—must find their mentors Hanuman and Urvashi in Lanka, the city of gold, before war breaks out between the devas and asuras. Aru has just made a wish on the tree of wishes, but she can't remember what it was. She's pretty sure she didn't wish for a new sister, one who looks strangely familiar and claims to be the Sleeper's daughter, like her.
Khan, Hena	Amina's Voice	Years 5 & 6	Asian American	Amina has never been comfortable in the spotlight. She is happy just hanging out with her best friend, Soojin. Except now that she's in middle school everything feels different. Soojin is suddenly hanging out with Emily, one of the "cool" girls in the class, and even talking about changing her name to something more "American." While Amina grapples with this she is devastated when her local mosque is vandalized...
Khan, Hena	More to the Story	Years 5 and up	Asian American, Muslims	When Jameela Mirza is picked to be feature editor of her middle school newspaper, she's one step closer to being an award-winning journalist like her late grandfather. The problem is her editor-in-chief keeps shooting down her ideas. Inspired by Louisa May Alcott's 'Little Women', featuring four sisters from a modern American Muslim family living in Georgia.
Sharif, Medeia	Bestest. Ramadan. Ever.	Years 6 and up	Asian American, Muslims	Almira wants to be a good Muslim and wants her strict grandfather's approval - but she also wants the gorgeous Peter's attention...How can Almira ever figure out how to be both Muslim and American?
Siddiqui, Maleeha	Barakah Beats	Years 6 and up	Asian American, Muslims	Twelve-year-old Nimra Sharif has spent her whole life in Islamic school, but now it's time to go to real school. Nimra's nervous, but as long as she has Jenna, her best friend who already goes to the public school, she figures she can take on just about anything. Unfortunately, middle school is hard and Jenna starts giving hijab-wearing Nimra the cold shoulder around the other kids. Desperate to fit in and get back in Jenna's good graces, Nimra accepts an unlikely invitation to join the school's popular 8th grade boy band, Barakah Beats. The only problem is, Nimra was taught that music isn't allowed in Islam, and she knows her parents would be disappointed

Caribbean

Books set in the Caribbean featuring lead characters of Caribbean heritage

Author	Title		Keywords	Summary
Acevedo, Elizabeth	Clap when you land	Years 7 and up	Dominican Republic, (also New York)	Two 16-year old half-sisters, one living in New York and the other in the Dominican Republic, discover each other and hidden family secrets when their beloved Papa dies in a plane crash. With both girls' families crushed – but in different ways – by the tragedy, and amidst bitter feelings of anger, betrayal, grief and guilt, Camino and Yahaira meet each other in Dominica to bury Papa, and search for a way forward.
Bob Cattell and John Agard	Butter-finger	Years 5 & 6	Caribbean	Riccardo Small lives on the Island. He's the smallest boy in his class at school, and he loves cricket. In fact, he's a walking cricket encyclopaedia and can tell you the averages of every West Indian test match player in history, the names of all the cricket grounds in the world and more besides. But Riccardo also loves poetry and songs - especially calypso. When he is dropped from the cricket team after missing a vital catch, Riccardo wanders the island, taking refuge in his poems.
Getten, Kereen	Two sisters : a story of freedom	Years 5 & 6	Caribbean, London, historical	Ruth has always known her half-sister isn't like her – her almost-white skin means she is allowed certain things that Ruth can only dream of. Anna wishes she could be braver, like her sister, Ruth. But she has had to live with the fact that the smallest mistake would land not only her in danger, but Ruth and their mother, too. When Ruth and Anna are shipped off to Master John's home in London for their safety, it isn't the haven they imagined. Their differences force them apart. With whispers of freedom on the city's streets, will Anna find the courage to stand up for Ruth before it's too late?
Getten, Kereen	When life gives you mangoes	Years 5 & 6	Caribbean, Jamaica	Life in rural Jamaica seems idyllic but Clara is trouble by an unmentionable event last summer. Old friend Gaynah is acting mean towards her, quirky new friend Rudy friend is causing ripples all round, but it takes a big storm to reveal secrets and clear the air. A multi-layered story about community with an amazing twist.
Johnson, Katherine	Queen of Freedom	Years 5 & 6	Caribbean, Jamaica,	1720 in Jamaica, a group of ex-slaves - Maroons – build themselves a town but need the wisdom and tactical skills of Nanny to ensure their freedom from the

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			Historical	English Redcoats who are determined to wipe them out. Based on a true story.
Lake, Nick	In Darkness	Years 8 and up	African Caribbean, Haiti	A challenging and stark novel for older teens set in the immediate aftermath of the 2010 Haiti earthquake, with a troubled, gang-member teen trapped under the ruins of a collapsed building.
Rose, J.P.	The Haunting of Tyrese Walker	Year 5 and 6	Black British, Myths, Supernatural	After a shocking event leaves Tyrese struggling with grief, he's taken to visit family in Jamaica. From the first night, strange things start happening: impossible visions, blackouts, swarms of insects, and the discovery of a grave hidden deep in the forest... Tyrese can't explain what's going on and he's scared that he's losing his grip on reality.
Wheatle, Alex	Cane Warriors	Years 7 and up	Caribbean, Jamaica, Historical	Moa is fourteen. The only life he has ever known is toiling on the Frontier sugar cane plantation for endless hot days, fearing the vicious whips of the overseers. Then one night he learns of an uprising, led by the charismatic Tacky. Moa is to be a cane warrior, and fight for the freedom of all the enslaved people in the nearby plantations. But before they can escape, Moa and his friend Keverton must face their first great task: to kill their overseer

South America

Books set in South American featuring main characters of South American and Latin American heritage

Author	Title		Keywords	Summary
Daykin, Chloe	Fire Girl, Forests Boy	Years 5 and up	Peru	An intense and exciting adventure in Peru. Maya from Scotland and Raul from the cloud forest alternately tell the story of environmental destruction, family pain, and rescue from the clutches of a logging company, with more than a splash of magical realism.

Asia and India

Asia (various)

Books set in Asia featuring lead characters of Asian heritage

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Author	Title		Keywords	Summary
Butterworth, Jess	Running on the Roof of the World	Years 5 & 6	Asia, Tibet	Tash has to follow many rules to survive in Tibet, a country occupied by Chinese soldiers. But when a man sets himself on fire in protest and soldiers seize Tash's parents, she and her best friend Sam are determined to escape Tibet – and seek the help of the Dalai Lama himself in India
Chopra, Zuni	The House that spoke	Years 6 and up	Asia, fantasy	Fourteen-year-old Zoon Razdan is witty, intelligent and deeply perceptive. She also has a deep connection with magic. She was born into it. The house that she lives in is fantastical – life thrums through its wooden walls – and she can talk to everything in it.
Farook, Nizrana	The Girl Who Stole an Elephant	Years 5 & 6	Asia, Sri Lanka	Chaya is a rebellious child. Daughter to the headman of her village in Sri Lanka, she feels perfectly justified to take from the rich to help those in need. Except one day she goes too far and steals the Queen's jewels, unwittingly putting her village in danger – leading to an escape into the jungle with her friends. And the King's elephant.
Farook, Nizrana	The Boy Who Met a Whale	Years 5 & 6	Asia, Sri Lanka	Set in Sri Lanka, Razi, a fisherboy, meets Zheng, who's escaped a shipwreck and is full of tales of sea monsters and missing treasure. But the villains who are after Zheng are soon after Razi and his sister, Shifa, too.
Gourlay, Candy	Shine	Years 7 and up	Asia	A girl living on the dark Asian island of Mirasol, which is rife with superstitions and taboos, is shunned by the other islanders, but, not wanting to leave, she manages to strike up a friendship on the internet.
Gourlay, Candy	Bone Talk	Years 7 and up	Asia, Philippines	It's 1899 in the Philippines where Samkad and his people live according to ancient traditions, but their lives are turned upside down with the arrival of an American boy, who brings news that an army is preparing to invade....
Hafiza, Radiya	Rumaysa : a fairytale	Years 5 & 6	South Asia (fantasy/fictionalised)	For as long as she can remember Rumaysa has been locked away in her tower, forced to spin straw into gold for the evil Witch, unable to leave. Until one day, after dropping a hijab out of her small tower-window, Rumaysa realizes how she might be able to escape... Join Rumaysa as she adventures through enchanted forests and into dragon's lairs, discovers her own incredible magical powers and teams up with

				Cinderayla and Sleeping Sara!
Lewis, Gill	Moon Bear	Years 5 & 6	Asia, Laos	Tam's life is turned around when his family is moved from their mountain and he is sent to the city to work on a bear farm. Tam learns the horrors of bear farming but builds a close relationship with one young bear and the story tells of their struggle to get away from the city and back to their families.
Ribay, Randy	Patron Saints of nothing	Years 7 and up	Asia, Philippines	A coming-of-age story about grief, guilt and the risks a Filipino-American teenager takes to uncover the truth about his cousin's murder. Jay Reguero finds out that his Filipino cousin Jun was murdered as part of President Rodrigo Duterte's war on drugs. When no one in the family wants to talk about what happened, Jay travels to the Philippines to find out the real story.

India

Books set in India featuring lead characters of Indian heritage

Author	Title		Keywords	Summary
Bilan, Jasbinder	Asha & the Spirit Bird	Years 5 & 6	India	Asha leaves home in the foothills of the Himalayas to save her family after her father disappears and her mother is threatened by a cruel money lender. With help from her friend Jeevan and Nanijee, the spirit bird of her grandmother, she crosses mountains and faces many dangers including child exploitation. An exciting and uplifting story.
Bilan, Jasbinder	Tamarind & the Star of Ishta	Years 5 & 6	India	Tamarind never knew her Indian mum, Chinty, who died soon after she was born. So when she arrives at her ancestral home, a huge mansion in the Himalayas surrounded by luxuriant gardens, she's full of questions for her extended family. But instead of answers, she finds an ominous silence.
Brierley, Saroo	Lion	Years 6 and up	India	Five year old Saroo went missing from his village in India – and finally found his way back after twenty-five years -an epic story of survival
Chokshi, Roshani	Aru Shah and the City of Gold (part of	Years 5 & 6	Asian American,	Aru and her sisters—including one who also claims to be the Sleeper's daughter—must find their mentors Hanuman and Urvashi in Lanka, the city of

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	the Pandava Quintet)		Hinduism/ Indian mythology	gold, before war breaks out between the devas and asuras. Aru has just made a wish on the tree of wishes, but she can't remember what it was. She's pretty sure she didn't wish for a new sister, one who looks strangely familiar and claims to be the Sleeper's daughter, like her.
Haddow, Swapna	Torn apart: the partition of India, 1947	Years 5 & 6	India, Pakistan, historical	It's October 1947 and two young boys find themselves thrown together during the dramatic changes of Partition. As the new India and Pakistan are born, can the friendship between these two children rise above the tensions between the two countries? When the British announced they would be leaving India, a feeling of hope bubbled up in towns and villages across the country – they would be free to rule themselves at last! But deciding to split the country in two – Partition – would soon mean so much more.
Khan, Hiba Noor	The line they drew through us	Years 5 and up	India, Pakistan, historical	Three best friends are born on the same day under miraculous circumstances. But by their twelfth birthday, Jahan, Ravi and Lakshmi's lives are about to change forever. The British announce Indian independence and draw lines of Partition that tear apart the country, and the friends.
Kothari, Dev	Bringing back Kay-Kay	Years 5 and up	India, journeys	Lena's beloved older brother goes missing at the end of summer camp. The police dismiss Kay-Kay's disappearance as that of just another teenage runaway, but Lena knows they are wrong. Tired of not being listened to, Lena sets off to find him. Lena journeys across India to retrace Kay-Kay's last known steps.
Mandanna, Sangu	Kiki Kallira breaks a kingdom	Years 5 & 6	British Asian, fantasy setting	Kiki Kallira has always been a worrier. Did she lock the front door? Is there a terrible reason her mum is late? Recently her anxiety has been getting out of control, but one thing that has always soothed her is drawing. Kiki's sketchbook is full of fantastical doodles of the Hindu myths and legends her mother has told her since she was tiny. One day, her sketchbook's calming effect is broken when her mythological characters begin springing to life and Kiki is pulled into the mystical world she drew.
Manivannan, Sharanya; Canzi, Nerina	The Ammuchi puchi	Years 3 & 4	India	Aditya and Anjali were always a little afraid of their grandmother, but they love listening to her stories (even the scary ones). When she disappears from their lives they miss her, but then something happens that could have come straight out of one of her stories...

McCall Smith, Alexander	Hari and his electric feet	Years 3 & 4	India	Hari spends most of his time earning money with his sister, making sweets, delivering lunches, but what he really loves to do is dance.. Is there a way to do what he loves and earn money as well?
Mulligan, Andy	Trash	Years 6 and up	India, Behala	Raphael, Gardo and Rat live on the trash heaps of Behala hoping to find anything they can sell or recycle. Then Raphael discovers a small leather bag containing keys and a wallet. It's a bag of clues. It's a bag of hope. It's a bag that will change everything. Soon Raphael, Gardo and Rat are running for their lives.
Murty, Sudha	Serpent's revenge	Years 5 & 6	India	India's greatest epic, the Mahabharata, introduced through a collection of extraordinary tales
Pappu, Shanti	The Shining Stones	Years 5 & 6	India, Prehistory, Archaeology	Most of the time Selvi's little village of peanut farmers lies forgotten. But once a year it springs to life - when the archaeologists come to excavate tools of prehistoric ancestors from the river-bed that Selvi now walks over every day.
Ralleigh, Gita	The Destiny of Minou Moonshine	Years 5 and 6	Fantasy (alternate India)	When fierce orphan girl Minou Moonshine's life is unexpectedly shattered, she joins the ragtag band of rebels, the Green Orchids, who are plotting to overthrow the General. Armed with a secret and a map, Minou sets off with her friends and a mechanical elephant, through the lush jungles of Indica
Rangachari, Devika	Swordswoman	Years 5 & 6	India, Historical	It's 1854, the British are taking over India and they refuse to recognise Queen Lakshmibai's adopted son as rightful heir to the Jhansi kingdom. The queen is determined to save her kingdom for her son and, using her skill and tactical expertise, sets about training an army of both men and women to fight for their rights. But will they be strong enough to defeat the British?
Soundar, Chitra	Sona Sharma, Very Best Big Sister	Years 4 and up	India	Sona's house is full of people who joke often and argue sometimes. Relatives come unannounced and friends drop in all the time. Then one day Amma tells Sona she is going to have a baby. Is that good? Sona isn't sure – she has always enjoyed being an only child. When Sona learns that there will be a baby naming ceremony, she is determined to find the perfect name for her new brother or sister.

Soundar, Chitra	A Jar of Pickles and a Pinch of Justice	Years 3 to 5	India	Prince Veera and his best friend, Suku, are left in charge of King Beema's court when the king goes off on a hunting trip. Each day the king's subjects come before the boys with their problems and petty disagreements.
Shah, Varsha	Ajay and the Jaipur Moon	Years 5 and 6	India, journalism	Ajay and his friends run their own newspaper, but struggling are struggling with sales. When a meteor crashes in India with a large prize for its discovery, they see an opportunity to change their fortunes. Billionaire Mrs. Surya offers not only cash but also access to her secret space program. Determined to win, the friends head to Jaipur, but they soon uncover secrets beyond their imagination.

Bangladesh

Books set in Bangladesh featuring lead characters of various heritage

Author	Title		Keywords	Summary
Guidroz, Rukhsanna	Samira Surfs	Years 7 and up	Bangladesh, Rohingya	Samira is an eleven-year-old Rohingya refugee living in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh, who finds strength and sisterhood in a local surf club for girls. Samira thinks of her life as before and after: before the burning and violence in her village in Burma, when she and her best friend would play in the fields, and after, when her family was forced to flee. Then there's the uncertain journey to Bangladesh by river, when the river swallowed her nana and nani whole. A novel in verse about a young Rohingya girl's journey from isolation and persecution to sisterhood, and from fear to power.

Pakistan

Books set in Pakistan featuring lead characters of various heritage

Author	Title		Keywords	Summary
Arshad, Humza	Little Badman and the Time-travelling Teacher of Doom (and others in series)	Years 4 and up	Pakistan, British Asians	Humza Khan has faced deadly alien slugs, killer aunties and double maths, but now he has to face something even scarier - his dad! He's pretty fed up with Humza and Umer being naughty, so he's sending them away... to school... in Pakistan. But when they get there, something weird is going on - someone has been messing with time!
Haddow, Swapna	Torn apart: the partition of India, 1947	Years 5 & 6	India, Pakistan, historical	It's October 1947 and two young boys find themselves thrown together during the dramatic changes of Partition. As the new India and Pakistan are born, can the friendship between these two children rise above the tensions between the two countries? When the British announced they would be leaving India, a feeling of hope bubbled up in towns and villages across the country - they would be free to rule themselves at last! But deciding to split the country in two - Partition - would soon mean so much more.
Khan, Hiba Noor	The line they drew through us	Years 5 and up	India, Pakistan, historical	Three best friends are born on the same day under miraculous circumstances. But by their twelfth birthday, Jahan, Ravi and Lakshmi's lives are about to change forever. The British announce Indian independence and draw lines of Partition that tear apart the country, and the friends.

China

Books set in China featuring lead characters of Chinese heritage

Author	Title		Keywords	Summary
Tsang, Katie	Dragon Realm series	Years 5 & 6	British Chinese, China, Fantasy	Billy Chan and his friends are not having a very relaxing summer. Their friend, Dylan, has been kidnapped by the evil Dragon of Death and it's up to them to travel through time, back to the dangerous Dragon Realm, in order to save him. So begins an epic quest that will take them to the depths of the

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			setting	Frozen Wasteland and the imperial palaces of Ancient China. But can good triumph evil...?
Wenxuan, Cao	Bronze and sunflower	Years 5 & 6	China	Set against the backdrop of the Chinese Cultural Revolution, Sunflower and her father are moved to the countryside. Lonely she makes friends with a boy, Bronze, who hasn't spoken a word since the terrible fire. When Bronze's family agree to take Sunflower in, it seems that fate has brought him the sister he has always longed for.

Japan

Books set in Japan featuring lead characters of Japanese heritage

Author	Title		Keywords	Summary
Kumagai, Clara	Catfish Rolling	Years 7 and up	Japan	There's a catfish under the islands of Japan and when it rolls the land rises and falls. Sora hates the catfish whose rolling caused an earthquake so powerful it cracked time itself. It destroyed her home and took her mother.

Australia and Oceania

Australia

Books set in Australia featuring lead characters of a variety of heritages

Author	Title		Keywords	Summary
Abdel-Magied, Yassmin	Listen Layla	Years 5 & 6	Sudan, Australia, dual-nationality, diaspora	I am Layla Kareem Abdel-Hafiz Hussein, the greatest Sudanese Australian inventor the world has ever seen. And if they don't know my name yet, they soon will. Inshallah! Family, friends, home, inventions – there's a lot to navigate. With big protests looming in Sudan, could Layla save the day with her revolutionary ideas?
Davies, Nicola	Ariki and the Island of Wonders	Years 3 & 4	Polynesia, pseudo mythic	Sequel to Ariki and the Giant Shark, Ariki and her pet pig, Bad Boy, skip school to go sailing around their island home, but don't notice the storm clouds gathering. Washed up on an unfamiliar island, they discover another castaway, living with the giant Mweep birds –but all is not as it seems.

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Fraillon, Zana	The bone sparrow	Years 7 and up	Australia, Middle East, Refugees	Born in a refugee camp, all Subhi knows of the world is that he's at least 19 fence diamonds high, the nice Jackets (guards) never stay long, and at night he dreams that the sea finds its way to his tent, bringing with it unusual treasures.
McCaughrean, Geraldine	The Middle of Nowhere	Years 6 and up	Australia, Australian Aboriginal	When a deadly snake kills her mother, Comity's life in the Australian outback changes for ever. She turns to the yard boy for friendship. Skinny little Fred is a storyteller by nature and delights Comity with his Aboriginal tales. But a new employee arrives with a crystal-topped cane and a cruel eye for sport, and Comity's home becomes as dangerous as the landscape
Yassmin Abdel-Magied	You must be Layla!	Years 7 and up	Australia, Islam, Sudanese heritage	Layla, Australian girl of Sudanese heritage, is ambitious and impulsive. When she takes up a scholarship in a prestigious new school her hijab singles her out and inevitably she faces more than educational challenges. She has to confront Islamophobia and racism not to mention her own emotional journey in this entertaining and thoughtful story.

Britain and the United Kingdom

Black British

Books which feature black British main characters

Author	Title		Keywords	Summary
Cummings-Quarry, Melissa & Carter, Natalie A.	Grown: The Black girls' guide to glowing up	Years 9 and up	Black British, Gender, Identity	It can be hard for Black female teenagers growing up in the UK. They don't always see themselves represented in the books they read, the films they watch, the adverts they see or the history they are taught. Grown is a rich mixture of self-help manual, political manifesto, lived experience and health guide, with Illustrations and accredited quotes throughout.
Acheampong, Sophia	Look Up!	Years 7 and up	Black British, Africa, Ghana	London girl Makeeda is crushed when she has to spend her summer holidays visiting relatives in Ghana. Then she starts to learn about herself, reconciling her two cultures, and maybe finding true love where

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				she least expects it.
Adepitan, Ade	Ade's Amazing Ade-ventures (series)	Years 3 & 4	Black British, Disabilities	When you are in a wheelchair, it's hard to fit in with the other kids, but Ade finds the Parsons Road Gang are completely different....
Agard, John	Shona, Word Detective (Series)	Years 3 & 4	Black British	Don't be bamboozled or bumbazed – just because lots of words are mysteriously going extinct, doesn't mean that Shona can't track them down and save them...
Jawando, Danielle	When our worlds collided	Year 9 and up	Black British, Knife Crime, Racism	When fourteen-year-old Shaq is stabbed outside of a busy shopping centre in Manchester, three teenagers from very different walks of life are unexpectedly brought together. What follows flips their worlds upside down and makes Chantelle, Jackson, and Marc question the deep-rooted prejudice and racism that exists within the police, the media, and the rest of society.
Agbabi, Patience	The Infinite (and others in the series)	Years 5 & 6	Black British	Elle is a leapling, born on 29th February, so has a birthday every four years. But some leaplings have a special gift - they can leap into the future. When Elle finds she is one of these, she is excited about being able to travel to the future, but there are dark forces at work, and suddenly, she is in a race against time to save the world.
Alexander, Kwame	Booked	Years 6 and up	Black British	Football, family, love and friendship take centre stage as Nick tries to figure out how to navigate his parents' break-up, stand up to bullies and impress the girl of his dreams.
Atta, Dean	The Black Flamingo	Years 7 and up	Black British, mixed race, LGBT	Michael is trying to find out who he is and where he fits in, but he struggles – mainly because he is gay and mixed-raced. Written in verse, Black Flamingo is a story of the bittersweet and exciting years of growing up – of heartbreak, dreams of fame, cute boys and making and losing friends.
Lawrence, Patrice	The Elemental Detectives (Series)	Year 6 and up	Black British, Fantasy	Step into a London lit up by the Elemental spirits: the fiery Dragons, the airy Fumis, the watery Chads and the earthbound Magogs. But humans have been causing chaos for centuries, trampling through the landscape trailing noise, mess and pollution. What if the Elements could slow

				down this new world... or stop it all together?
Benjamin, Floella	Sea of Tears	Years 6 and up	Black British, Caribbean	Jasmine is appalled when her parents announce that the family is moving back home to Barbados. She's a south London girl and proud of it and determined to find a way back to the life and friends she had to leave behind - but is setting out to sea in a stolen boat the answer?
Bennett, Sophia	Threads	Years 6 and up	Black British, refugees	Three best friends with very different interests meet a young African refugee girl who just might help them make all their dreams come true.
Blackwood, Remi	Future Hero (Series)	Years 5 and 6	Black British, Myths, Fantasy	When Jarell discovers that the imaginary world he is obsessed with doodling is actually real, he is launched into an incredible adventure. Ulfrika, the land of his ancestors, is in trouble and he is the hero they need. .
Blackman, Malorie	Girl Wonder (Series)	Years 3 & 4	Black British	Girl Wonder is Maxine, whenever there is a problem she will always find a way of dealing with it. This is a collection of humorous stories about a black family living in London.
Mailey, Cara & Sains, Chrissie	I Got This	Year 4 up	Black British, Show Business	When a mega-famous pop group announces a competition for fans to be part of their next music video, Erin decides to go for it. She wants to show her younger brother that in life, there are no limits – even if you don't look like most other kids.
Sheppard, Alexandra	Alyssa and the Spell Garden	Years 5 and up	Black British	When 11-year-old Alyssa is forced to spend the summer holiday with her mum's family, who she's never met before, her latent magical powers explode into life. Her great aunt runs a secret magic school in her spell garden where local kids can hone their power. The garden grows magical spell ingredients that have protected their family and the wider neighbourhood for decades – ever since they arrived from Jamaica with their mother Effie in the 1960s.
Blackman, Malorie	Crossfire (Noughts and Crosses series)	Years 7 and up	Black British	Set in the alternative world of Zafrica, the White underclass, the Noughts, encounter constant racial prejudice from the Black Crosses. Accused of a murder he insists he did not commit, Tobey, a Nought, asks his teenage sweetheart Callie-Rose, a Cross, to defend him. The

				two have a complicated past, and an even more dangerous present as they take it in turns to tell their side of a highly dramatic story.
Brezenoff, Steven; Weber, Lisa K.	The Case of the Stolen Spacesuit	Years 3 & 4	Black British, Mixed race	When the spacesuit of a famous astronaut is stolen from an exhibition, there's no shortage of suspects. Thankfully, Amal Farah, daughter of the Air and Space Museum's head archivist, and her friends are on the case.
Craigie, Emma	What Was Never Said	Years 7 and up	Black British, Somalia	15-year-old Zahra has lived in England most of her life, but she is haunted by memories of her early childhood in Somalia: the warm sun, the loud gunfire, and happy days playing with her older sister before "the visitors" came. It is hard for Zahra to make sense of everything that happened, and the terrible events are impossible to talk about. When three familiar women arrive unexpectedly for tea, Zahra is filled with fear and just knows that she and her little sister Samsam have to get away, to escape the same fate as her older sister, Rahma. A moving story that deals with the issue of female genital mutilation for an immigrant Somali family living in the UK
Earle, Phil; Ogilvie, Sara	Superhero Street	Years 3 & 4	Black British, Mixed race	Michael J Mouse just wants to stand out against his five brothers and when he accidentally helps foil a bank robbery, it looks as though being part of a team of superheroes might be the answer. But the Z-List of Dan-Druff, Skidmark and Cyclots are hardly the Avengers...
Evans, Maz	Vi Spy (Series)	Years 5 and up	Black British, Mixed race	Vi has an unusual family - her mother is ex-secret service and her father is one of the bad guys - so there's plenty of secrets to be uncovered, and supervillains to defeat.
Farah, Mo	Go Mo! (Series)	Years 3 & 4	Black British	Mo and his friends discover that running backwards takes you back in time as well! But they find themselves in the time of the dinosaurs – who are not all that friendly!
Getten, Kereen	Two sisters : a story of freedom	Years 5 & 6	Caribbean, London, historical	Ruth has always known her half-sister isn't like her – her almost-white skin means she is allowed certain things that Ruth can only dream of. Anna wishes she could be braver, like her sister, Ruth. But she has had to live with the fact that the smallest mistake would land not only her in danger, but Ruth and their mother, too.

				When Ruth and Anna are shipped off to Master John's home in London for their safety, it isn't the haven they imagined. Their differences force them apart. With whispers of freedom on the city's streets, will Anna find the courage to stand up for Ruth before it's too late?
Hepburn, Judy	Ira Aldridge : the Shakespearean actor	Years 3 and 4	Black British, Historical	1883 and Fred is working as a stagehand at the Theatre Royal. When the star actor falls ill, American actor Ira Aldridge steps in. Can they save the show?
Holly, Serena	The Marvellous Granny Jinx (series)	Years 3 and 4	Black British	When Jada Jinks finds a box of magic tricks in her granny's flat, she uncovers her secret dream of becoming a magician. Inspired by the true story of Jenny Mayers, the first Black woman to be accepted into the Magic Circle.
Jackson, Sharna	High Rise Mystery (Series)	Years 6 and up	Black British	When their community art teacher Hugo is murdered, sisters Nik and Norva are determined to use their super sleuth skills (which are mighty) to solve the case. There are suspects aplenty. Horribly, one of them is their lovely dad who had a public row with Hugo the night before he died!
Jawando, Danielle	And the stars were burning brightly	Years 6 and up	Black British, Bullying, suicide	When fifteen-year-old Nathan discovers that his older brother Al, has taken his own life, his whole world is torn apart. Al was special, talented. He had so many dreams, so why did he do it? Convinced that his brother was in trouble, Nathan decides to retrace Al's footsteps. As he does, he meets Megan, Al's former classmate, who is as determined as Nathan to keep Al's memory alive.
Lawrence, Patrice	Needle	Year 9 and up	Black British, Racism, Children in Care,	Charlene is a demon knitter. It's the only thing she enjoys and the only thing she believes she's really good at. When her foster mum's son destroys her latest creation, Charlene stabs him in the hand with her knitting needle and is arrested. . Award-winning author Patrice Lawrence explores the harsh reality of the criminal justice system for young people in this riveting teen drama.
Johnson,	Freedom	Years 5 & 6	Black British,	Nathaniel doesn't want to move to England with his master's family and

Catherine			historical setting	leave behind his mother and sister on the Jamaican plantation. But then he remembers what his mother told him: once a slave sets foot on English soil, they're free...Also by Catherine Johnson, Race to the Frozen North
Fisher, Tia	Crossing the line	Year 9 and up	Black British, County Lines, Youth Crime	Erik's life has been falling apart ever since his dad died. Homework and being good at school stop feeling important when you're the new man of the house. When Erik's bad behaviour attracts the wrong crowd, he's sucked into a terrifying new world of drug dealing, trap houses and violence. Making money feels good but Erik soon learns that a small favour can become a huge debt.
Lessore, Nathanael	Steady for this	Year 5 and up	Black British, Rap, Humour	Shaun (aka MC Growls) is ready to drop his best bars and smash the competition at Raptology. That way, he's convinced Tanisha, his crush, will finally give him a chance. But when a livestream practice goes epically wrong, Growls's dirty laundry is literally exposed. He's finally achieved his dreams of going viral – not in the good way.
Lessore, Nathanael	King of Nothing	Year 7 and up	Black British, Humour	ANTON AND HIS FRIENDS ARE THE KINGS OF YEAR 9. The other kids run away when he's about but that's the way he wants it – he's got a reputation to live up to after all. So when he gets into serious trouble at school, he doesn't really care, but his mum most definitely does. She decides it's time for Anton to make some new friends and join the Happy Campers, a local activity group. Anton would quite literally rather do anything else, especially when he finds out Matthew, the biggest loser in school, is also a member.
Kent, Gabrielle	Knights and Bikes	Years 3 & 4	Black British	Welcome to the sleepy island of Penfurzy, where nothing exciting ever really happens. OR DOES IT? Adventure awaits Demelza and her new best friend in the whole world, Nessa, as they explore the island and uncover the mysteries of the Penfurzy Knights.
Landman, Tanya	Hell and High Water	Years 6 and up	Black British, historical	Devon, 1752, Caleb is left alone when his father is arrested and transported to the Colonies. Then a body washes up on the nearby beach. As Caleb tries to clear his father's name, he is caught up in a

				terrifying net of lies and intrigue.
Parkinson, Cheryl Diane	Last Girl In	Y5 and 6	Black British, Sport, Windrush Generation	Kerry-Ann's passion for cricket runs deep, thanks to her Jamaican grandpa's early teachings. When elite players try to exclude her and her team from the local club, Kerry-Ann devises a bold plan to overcome their challenges. In a magical time-slip adventure, she learns about her grandparents' struggles as part of the Windrush generation, inspiring her to fight for fairness and continue enjoying the game they both cherish.
Rose, J.P.	The Haunting of Tyrese Walker	Year 5 and 6	Black British, Myths, Supernatural	After a shocking event leaves Tyrese struggling with grief, he's taken to visit family in Jamaica. From the first night, strange things start happening: impossible visions, blackouts, swarms of insects, and the discovery of a grave hidden deep in the forest... Tyrese can't explain what's going on and he's scared that he's losing his grip on reality.
Rose, J.P.	Birdie	Years 5 and up	Black British, adoption, post-war	Birdie Bagshaw has never known her parents. Having grown up in a children's home for mixed race children in 1950s Leeds, now she has come to live with her great-aunt Mabel in the Yorkshire Dales. From her arrival, things are strained, and Birdie cannot understand why she is treated like an outsider by the local children. When their bullying drives Birdie to hide in the nearby coal mine, she finds an unexpected rescuer in the form of Mr Duke, the last remaining pit pony in the village.
Parkinson, Cheryl Diane	Last Girl in	Years 5 and 6	Black British, Windrush	Kerry-Ann's passion for cricket runs deep, thanks to her Jamaican grandpa's early teachings. When elite players try to exclude her and her team from the local club, Kerry-Ann devises a bold plan to overcome their challenges. In a magical time-slip adventure, she learns about her grandparents' struggles as part of the Windrush generation, inspiring her to fight for fairness and continue enjoying the game they both cherish.
Okafor, Kelechi	Strong Like Me	Year 1 and up	Black British, Gender, Identity	Kamara enjoys being strong and speedy, but her schoolfriends' criticisms cause her to doubt her physical ability. Okafor has written an engaging and inspirational story that skilfully helps

				children to feel secure in themselves.
Mann, Manjeet	The crossing	Years 7 and up	Africa, Eritrea, Refugees	Natalie's world is falling apart. She's just lost her mum and her brother marches the streets of Dover full of hate and anger. Swimming is her only refuge. Sammy has fled his home and family in Eritrea for the chance of a new life in Europe. Every step he takes on his journey is a step into an unknown and unwelcoming future. A twist of fate brings them together and gives them both hope. a powerful verse novel about two teenagers from opposite worlds dealing with the very real tragedies of the refugee crisis.
Mante, Priscilla	Jaz Santos vs the world	Years 5 & 6	Black British, dual heritage, Angola-Portuguese	Olá! I'm Jasmina Santos-Campbell (but you can call me Jaz). You've probably heard of me and my football team the Bramrock Stars before. No? Well, you will soon because we're almost famous! Forming the Stars was my genius idea – you see I need to prove to Mãe (that's my mum!) that I'm a football star so she'll want to come back home.
Morgan, Michaela	the Walter Tull scrapbook	Years 5 & 6	Black British	The grandson of a slave raised in an orphanage, Walter Tull grew up to be one of Tottenham Hotspurs' star players before serving as the first black officer in the British Army.
Nadin, Joanna	White lies, Black dare	Years 6 and up	Black British	Having to move back to Peckham with her ill mother – ambitions of private school shattered – Asha knows that she has to fit in. But that means playing Angel's dangerous games
Norry, E.L	Fablehouse (Series)	Year 5 and 6	Black British, Historical	Discover the legends of Fablehouse – a children's home like no other, steeped in history, mystery and magic. Join Heather and her friends on an incredible journey like no other...
Merleh, Esi	Magic Faces (Series)	Year 3 and 4	Black British, Fantasy	Two supervillains have swooped in and stolen a priceless gem from the Museum and it's down to Alanna and Austin and their magic superhero facepaints to save the day!
Nova, Karl	The Curious Case of Karl Nova	Years 8 and up	Black British/ Nigerian	Karl Nova's second anthology is a collection of very personal poetry and is based on his own unique story. From the UK to Nigeria, and back again Karl seeks to share his life journey, and explain how it has shaped

				who he has become today.
Robert, Na'ima B.	Black Sheep	Years 7 and up	Black British	Dwayne, 16, meets high-flying, uni-bound Misha, and sparks fly. To Misha it feels like true love, but her mum is adamant that Dwayne is bad news and forbids her to see him. When Misha decides to follow her heart, the web of secrets and lies begins to tighten; for Dwayne is not quite who he says he is....
Hodgkinson, Leigh	Martha Maps It Out (Series)	Year 1 and 2	Black British	Introduces young children to the wonder of maps - with Martha as their guide! A lively book which helps children to explore the many ways we're connected to our communities by showing how we use maps to understand the world
Simmons, Anthea	Burning sunlight	Years 7 and up	Black British, Somaliland	Zaynab is from Somaliland, a country that doesn't exist because of politics and may soon be no more than a desert. Lucas is from rural Devon, which might as well be a world away. When they meet, they discover a common cause: the climate crisis. Together they overcome their differences to build a Fridays For Future group at their school and fight for their right to protest and make a real impact on the local community. But when Zaynab uncovers a plot which could destroy the environment and people's lives back home in Somaliland, she will stop at nothing to expose it.
Coehlo, Joseph	Budgie	Year 3 and 4	Black British, Mixed Race	Mean, cross Mr Buxton is a terrible neighbour, until Miles finds a lost budgie and discovers that actually, he and Mr Buxton have a lot more in common than he thought.
Wein, Elizabeth	The Enigma Game	Years 5 & 6	Black British, Historical	It is 1940 and Louisa just lost her parents to the war. Louisa is part Jamaican and struggles with the racism of the time, and the added difficulty this causes for her in finding work. When she moves to Scotland for a new job, Louisa immediately becomes a member of a secret spy operation, in this exciting war time adventure. I hand Elizabeth Wein my heart on a platter every time I begin one of her stories, and she smashes it to a pulp each time with characters and stories full of love and feeling and the immeasurable sense of loss and

				destruction that WW2 brought with it.
Tijani, Davina	Yomi (Series)	Year 4 and up	Black British, Africa, Fantasy	On a trip to The Gamiba Yomi watches the Dragon King Ninki Nanka get kidnapped right out of the sky. Soon she has to save him and uncover the secrets of the mythical Nkara creatures that roam Africa.
Wheatle, Alex	Crongton (Series)	Years 7 and up	Black British	Since his Mum died, McKay's life on the South Crongton estate has been tougher. He hardly sees his Dad who's been working all hours and his brother's out tempting trouble. Now McKay's strayed off his turf and he's in for one night of danger...
Whittam, Kimberly	Quiet Storm	Y5 and 6	Black British, Sport, Perseverance	Storm has always been in the shadow of her best friend Zarrish. As Zarrish moves on to new interests and friends, Storm feels left behind. When Storm breaks the school's sprinting record, she discovers a passion for sports and the teamwork it entails. Through experiences of rejection and embarrassment, Storm learns the importance of lifting each other up, ultimately finding her voice and courage to pursue her interests.
Birch, Robin	Secret Beast Club (Series)	Year 3 and up	Black British, Fantasy	What do you do when there's a dragon on the loose in Birmingham? Call the Secret Beast Club! Although Beast Club members Alisha and Jayden will have to be quick before the dragon hunter catches him first...
Zephaniah, Benjamin	Windrush child	Years 6 and up	Black British, Windrush	Leonard is torn from his idyllic childhood home and beloved Grandmother to start a new life in Manchester. Then, as we know, the streets are not paved with the promised gold and there are many struggles for a black boy growing up in a racist environment. A very personal story following the life of Leonard from 1947, when he was born in Maroon Town Jamaica, until 2018 at the height of the Windrush scandal in Britain.
Birch, Robin	Secret Beast Club (Series)	Year 3 and up	Black British, Fantasy	What do you do when there's a dragon on the loose in Birmingham? Call the Secret Beast Club! Although Beast Club members Alisha and Jayden will have to be quick before the dragon hunter catches him

				first...
Lawrence, Patrice	Is that Your Mama?	Y1 and up	Black British, Mixed Heritage, Identity	Josie loves her family. Her mum, dad, brothers and sister - they're all the best and they all look different. When Josie shares her worries with her family, they find a way to help her see what truly matters.
Whittam, Kimberly	Quiet Storm	Years 5 and up	Black British	Storm has always been in the shadow of her best friend Zarrish. As Zarrish moves on to new interests and friends, Storm feels left behind. When Storm breaks the school's sprinting record, she discovers a passion for sports and the teamwork it entails. Through experiences of rejection and embarrassment, Storm learns the importance of lifting each other up, ultimately finding her voice and courage to pursue her interests.
Hickson-Lovence, Ashley	Wild East	Years 7 and up	Black British, East London	When fourteen-year-old Ronny's life is struck by tragedy, his mum decides it's finally time they move out of East London. In his new city, as a Black teenager in a mostly white school, Ronny feels like a complete outsider and struggles to balance keeping his head down with his ambition of becoming a rapper. But when a local poet comes into class, Ronny discovers a world he's never considered before.

British Asian

Books set in Britain and the UK which feature main characters of Asian heritage

Author	Title		Keywords	Summary
Ābíké-Íyímídé, Faridah	Four Eids and a Funeral	Years 7 and up	British Muslims	Said Hossain hates Tiwa Olatunji. And Tiwa would happily never see Said again in her life. Growing up, the two were inseparable, but they have barely

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				spoken since the incident many Eids ago and both of them would like to keep it that way. But when Said comes home for a funeral and the town's Islamic Centre burns down on the same day, they have to face each other again and sparks fly.
Ahmed, Sufia	Princess Sophia Duleep Singh	Years 5 and up	British Asians, Suffragettes, historical, biographical	Princess Sophia Duleep Singh – the thrilling story of the princess and suffragette. Born in Britain to Indian and Egyptian parents, Princess Sophia Duleep Singh was a prominent suffragette and campaigned for the women's right to vote.
Ahmed, Sufia	Secrets of the Henna Girl	Years 6 and up	British Asians, Pakistan	Zeba's world is shattered when, on a family holiday to Pakistan, she discovers the real reason for the journey is to arrange her marriage to her cousin. Aghast at her parents' seeming betrayal, she must rely on her own resources to escape this fate.
Ahmed, Sufia	Ruby Ali's Mission Break Up	Years 5 and up	British Asians, foster parents	Ruby Ali's eighteen-year-old sister Alisha has left the care centre where they live, and Ruby is being sent to live with a new foster family. If she can sabotage life at her new home, she'll get to go and live with her sister again, right? But mission break up doesn't go exactly according to plan.
Arshad, Humza	Little Badman and the Time-travelling Teacher of Doom (and others in series)	Years 4 and up	British Asian, Pakistan	Humza Khan has faced deadly alien slugs, killer aunties and double maths, but now he has to face something even scarier - his dad! He's pretty fed up with Humza and Umer being naughty, so he's sending them away... to school... in Pakistan. But when they get there, something weird is going on - someone has been messing with time!
Ashley, Chris	Wasim the Wanderer	Years 3 & 4	British Asian	Wasim is trying out his football skills for Teamwork 10,000, which might just lead to a trial with the Woodley Wanderers! But how can he play his best football with Robert Bailey lurking around every corner at school and then at the practice ground too?
Bilan, Jasbinder	Aarti & the blue gods	Years 5 & 6	Asian, Scotland	Aarti has lived on the island with Aunt for as long as she can remember. Like the weather, Aunt rules her world with rare warmth. Aarti's only comforts are a book of Indian myths full of blue gods, a fox's friendship, and a toy rabbit she finds in a locked room. Then, she learns Aunt has been feeding

				her lies. Fate intervenes when a half-drowned boy washes up on the beach.
Brahmachari, Sita	Red Leaves	Years 6 and up	British Asian	Aisha is devastated to be leaving her foster mother, Zac is struggling to cope with his parents' divorce and Iona's family fell apart and now she finds herself living on the streets. These three lives are about to become entwined.
Brahmachari, Sita	Tender Earth	Years 6 and up	British Asian	Laila Levenson has always been the baby of the family, but now with her older siblings, Mira and Krish, leaving home just as she starts secondary school, everything feels like it's changing... can the reappearance of Nana Josie's Protest Book and the spirit it releases in Laila, her friends and her local community, help her find her own voice and discover what she truly believes in?
Brahmachari, Sita	When Secrets Set Sail	Years 5 and up	British Asians, ghosts, refugees	Usha is devastated when her grandmother Kali Ma passes away. Then straight-talking Imtiaz arrives – her new adoptive sister – and the two girls clash instantly. They both feel lost. That is until Kali Ma's ghost appears...with a task for them.
Chadda, Sarwat	Ash Mistry and the Savage Fortress	Years 5 and up	British Asian, India	Ash Mistry hates India, which is a problem since his uncle has brought him and his annoying younger sister Lucky there to take up a dream job with the mysterious Lord Savage. But Ash immediately suspects something is very wrong with the eccentric millionaire. Soon, Ash finds himself in a desperate battle to stop Savage's plan.
Cottrell Boyce, Frank	The Unforgotten Coat	Years 5 & 6	British Asian, Mongolia, Migrants	Two refugee brothers from Mongolia are determined to fit in with their Liverpool schoolmates, but bring so much of Mongolia to Bootle that their new friend & guide, Julie, is hard-pressed to know truth from fantasy as she recollects a friendship that was abruptly ended when Chingis & his family were forced to return to Mongolia.
Deen, Sophie	Agent Asha: Mission Shark Bytes	Years 4 and up	British Asian	Asha Joshi is a coder, so she's the perfect person for the top-secret Children's Spy Agency to send to hack into the biggest tech company in the world, fight deadly sharks and figure out why the Internet has stopped working.
Dhami,	Sunita's Secret	Years 5 and up	British Asian	Sunita would prefer that her schoolmates didn't know that her dad is an infamous fraudster on the run, but when they find out, Sunita has her work

Narinder				cut out to prove that she's no criminal herself. As she's trying to keep her head down, she starts doing little favours for people secretly. And, oddly, a rash of helpful book-mending, locker-tidying and present-leaving quickly takes over the class and, then, the whole school.
Durrant, S. E.	Running on empty	Years 5 & 6	British Asian	AJ's parents both have learning difficulties. His Grandfather helped out with things like bills, money for the electricity meter and parents evening. But after he dies, AJ has to take on a lot more responsibilities and his ambition to be a runner suffers.
Farook, Niyla	Murder for Two (A Tariq Twins Mystery)	Years 5 and 6	British and American Asian	Separated when they were 6 months old, twins Ani and Riri couldn't be more different. Loud and adventurous Ani wants to be a sleuth when she grows up. Shy and quiet Riri prefers books to people, and just wants a safe, germ free job when she grows up. When they're forced to spend the summer together, Ani is convinced it's going to be another Great Twin War like the last time they tried family bonding. But this summer is different – there's a murder, and their dad is arrested as the prime suspect.
Faruqi, Saadia	Yasmin the Superhero (Part of the 'Yasmin' series)	Years 3 & 4	British Asian	Yasmin is a superhero! She's got the cape. She's got the mask. Now she just needs a villain to defeat! Read more about Yasmin in this series of eight books about a spirited, creative curious Pakistani-American little girl and her family.
Gavin, Jamila	Walking on my hands	Years 5 & 6 BAME	British Asian, Mixed race	Born to an Indian father and an English mother, Jamila Gavin's childhood was divided between two worlds. Having spent her childhood in India, Jamila and her mother move to England. It is the time of the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth and England is experiencing a post-war boom, a time of positive anticipation and enthusiasm for the future.
Gourlay, Candy	Tall Story	Years 6 and up	British Asian, British Filipinos	A warm story of a touching sibling relationship, and the clash of two very different cultures when 13 year old Andi's tall half-brother arrives in London from the Philippines. An engaging novel packed with quirkiness and humour
Grindley, Sally	Broken Glass	Years 5 & 6	British Asian	When Suresh and Sandeep run away from home to escape their abusive and bullying father, they do so with the hope that they are going to find something better. However, soon Sandeep and Suresh find themselves working to collect rubbish (broken glass) in the big city - and their new home

				is a traffic island in the middle of a busy road. Is this their future forever, or can the brothers change their fates to something much more hopeful?
Islam, Burhana	Mayhem Mission	Years 5 & 6	British Bangladeshi	Yusuf's older sister is getting married. He's ready for the delicious food, the fun with his cousins and the many presents but he s NOT ready to take her place as the responsible one. His only option: cause some chaos and ruin the wedding.
Kalhan, Savita	That Asian Kid	Years 7 and up	British Asian	It's hard to shine in class when your teacher hates you – and Jeevan is convinced he is a victim of racial prejudice. But coming upon his teacher in the woods outside school in a compromising situation with another teacher, he films the scene on his phone and gleefully thinks he can get his own back at last – but does he dare upload it to social media – would the consequences be too dreadful after all?
Kalhan, Savita	The Girl in the Broken Mirror	Years 7 and up	British Asian	Jay and her mother are moving in with distant relatives, and they have strict rules for girls. Jay is expected to have only Indian friends, if she has any at all. But this is only the beginning of a nightmare for Jay. When her life implodes, how can she hide the shame and how will she find a way to keep going?
Khan, Muhammad	I am Thunder	Years 7 and up	British Asian	Fifteen-year-old Muzna Saleem is used to being invisible. So no one is more surprised than her when Arif Malik, the hottest boy in school, takes a sudden interest. But Arif is hiding a terrible secret and, as they begin to follow a dark path, Muzna faces an impossible choice: keep quiet and betray her beliefs, or speak out and betray her heart.
Khan, Sabina	The Love and Lies of Rukhsana Ali	Years 7 and up	British Asian, Bangladesh, Muslims	17-year-old Rukhsana Ali tries her hardest to live up to her conservative Muslim parents' expectations, but lately she's finding that impossible to do. If she can just hold out another few months, Rukhsana will be out of her family home and away from her parents' ever-watchful eyes. But when she is caught kissing her girlfriend, her parents take Rukhsana to Bangladesh, where everything she had been planning is out of reach.

Mandanna, Sangu	Kiki Kallira breaks a kingdom	Years 5 & 6	British Asian, fantasy setting	Kiki Kallira has always been a worrier. Did she lock the front door? Is there a terrible reason her mum is late? Recently her anxiety has been getting out of control, but one thing that has always soothed her is drawing. Kiki's sketchbook is full of fantastical doodles of the Hindu myths and legends her mother has told her since she was tiny. One day, her sketchbook's calming effect is broken when her mythological characters begin springing to life and Kiki is pulled into the mystical world she drew.
Mann, Manjeet	Run Rebel	Years 7 and up	British Asian, feminism, women's rights	Amber is trapped - by her father's rules, by his expectations, by her own fears. Now she's ready to fight - for her mother, for her sister, for herself. But freedom always comes at a price.
Mian, Zanib	Planet Omar: Unexpected Super Spy (and others in the series)	Years 5 & 6	British Asian	Omar is a lively and imaginative boy who goes into action to save the local mosque when it is threatened with closure. The story teems with characters, including the world's grumpiest sister, not to mention a money-making scheme, a talent contest, a secret thief...and loads of cookies.
Mitchell, Pratima	Indian Summer	Years 6 and up	British Asian, India	Sarla, a Londoner, spends the summer with her cousin Bina in Daroga, India. When Sarla learns that Bina has a deep, dark secret - concerning her mother, a murder and bandits in the surrounding hills - she is determined to find out exactly what it is.
Nuurali, Siman	Sadiq and the bridge (and others)builders	Years 3 & 4	British Asian	Lately it seems to be raining constantly, making it difficult for Sadiq to play outside. When the librarian at his school starts a building club, Sadiq and his friends decide to join. They're tasked with building a city model to withstand a natural disaster. Inspired by the flooding happening in their own community, can Sadiq and friends come up with a solution?
Palmer, Tom	Wings: flyboy	Years 5 & 6	British Asian	Jatinder, always one to play it safe, finds himself transported into the past - into the life of Sikh fighter pilot Hardit Singh Malik...
Patel, Serena	Anisha, Accidental Detective (first in a series)	Years 3, 4 & 5	British Asian	Anisha is all set to be a (reluctant) bridesmaid at Aunty Bindi's wedding...until a secret ransom note arrives. Bindi's groom has been kidnapped and will only be released if the wedding is called off! With best friend Milo and some super skills of logic and observation, it's up to Anisha

				Mistry to find her uncle and save the day.
Pathak, Nazneen Ahmed	City of Stolen Magic	Years 5 and up	British Empire, East London, magical realism	In 1855 India, under British rule, people born with magic are disappearing. When Chompa's mother, Ammi, is kidnapped, Chompa enlists the help of Ammi's friend Mohsin to find her. Their search takes them from rural India to London's East End, where they uncover a plot by businessman Sir Clive Devaynes to exploit magic for power and wealth.
Rai, Bali	Killing Honour	Years 6 and up	British Asian	Jas disappears soon after her arranged marriage into the Atwal family. Her new husband says she ran off with another man, but Jas's brother doesn't believe him.
Rai, Bali	Now or never: a Dunkirk story	Years 5 & 6	British Asian, historical setting	Private Fazal Khan, from India, is proud to be in the British Army in World War Two, but is that pride misplaced when his comrades turn on him during the frightening evacuation at Dunkirk
Rauf, Onjali Q.	The Lion above the door	Years 5 & 6	British Asian, historical	Leo and his best friend Sangeeta are the odd ones out in their school. But as Leo's dad is always telling him, it's because they're special. Only thing is, if they're so special, how come they never see anyone who looks like them in their school history books? Then, on a class trip to a nearby cathedral, Leo's attention is drawn to a large marble slab high above the doors of the hall. Right there, bang in the middle of a list of war heroes, Leo finds himself staring at something incredible: his own name.
Reddy, Swapna	Ballet Bunnies : The Lost Slipper (and others in series)	Years 3 & 4	Asian	Millie is excited about her theatre outing, where she and her class will be watching a wonderful performance of the ballet Cinderella. On her feet, Millie is wearing a special present from Auntie Karen – a pair of new shoes that twinkle and sparkle just like Cinderella's glass slippers. But when she trips over in the crowded foyer, she is horrified to find one of her gorgeous shoes is missing!
Robert, Na'ima B	Boy Vs Girl	Years 7 and up	British Asian	Farhana, with issues of her own, is increasingly concerned about the way her twin brother's life is going and the people he is starting to mix with - is it her business, when she has her own decisions to make?
Robert, Naima	She Wore Red	Years 7 and up	British Asian,	Ali and Amirah can't stop thinking about each other – but they both want to

B.	Trainers		Muslims	be good Muslims and Amirah wants to abide by her family's choice of husband for her – can Ali and Amirah ever be together?
Sami, Annabelle	Llama on a mission!	Years 3 & 4	Asian	Yasmin Shah is just like any other ten-year-old girl, with a crazy loud family, the BEST best friend ever and a talking toy llama! With the help of her loud guardian llama Levi, Yasmin has finally found her voice, but her mission has only just begun. She is determined to use her new-found confidence to help her friends.
Soundar, Chitra	Nikhil and Jay save the day	Years 3 & 4	British Asian	In Nikhil and Jay's family, there's always fun and mischief! Jay wants to do things by himself on his birthday, but sharing with Nikhil turns out to be more fun. Then they all go to visit Grandad and Nana – but where is the story dragon? On Pancake Day, Amma makes yummy dosa, Indian pancakes. And last but not least, Nikhil and Jay help to save their local library.
Soundar, Chitra	Sindhu and Jeet's Detective Agency	Years 3 & 4	Asian, India (story takes place in England), Detectives	Sindhu and Jeet are the best detectives in town: they solve all their cases with a dollop of observation, a dash of imagination and a whole load of legwork. And when they travel from India to England for a holiday, the detective work doesn't stop!
Welford, Ross	Time travelling with a hamster	Years 5 & 6	British Asian	Al Chaudhury's birthday presents included a hamster called Alan Shearer, and a tin tub and a laptop left to him by his father. Apparently they're a time machine (the tub and laptop, not the hamster). He's also been left a letter, also from his dad, written before he died, instructing him to travel back to 1984 in order to save his life...

British – Middle East/ North Africa

Books set in Britain and the UK which feature main characters of Middle East/ North African heritage

Author	Title		Keywords	Summary
Bushby, Aisha	A Pocketful of Stars	Years 5 & 6	British Asian, Middle East	A magical story which begins with clashes between Safiya and her mum. But when mum falls ill, to save her Safiya is transported to Kuwait, mum's childhood home, and she needs to use all her gaming skills to overcome

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				dangers and rescue their relationship.
Dassu, A M	Boy Everywhere	Years 5 and up	British Asian, Migrants, Refugees, Syria	Sami and his family travel from privilege to poverty, across countries and continents, from a comfortable life in Damascus, via a smuggler's den in Turkey, to a prison in Manchester. A story of survival, of family, and of bravery.
Gibbons, Alan	An Act of Love	Years 6 and up	British Asian	Riots, war, 9/11 - world events have ended Chris and Imran's childhood friendship. Now a bomb is going to go off which will put an end to everything.
Rauf, Onjali Q.	The Boy at the back of the class	Years 5 & 6	British Asian, refugees	There used to be an empty chair at the back of my class, but now a new boy, Ahmet, is sitting in it. He's nine years old and very strange. He never talks, never smiles and doesn't like sweets. But then I learned the truth: He isn't strange at all. He's a refugee who's run away from a War. With bombs and fires and bullets that hurt people. And the more I find out about him, the more I want to help.

Chinese British

Books set in Britain and the UK which feature main characters of Chinese heritage

Author	Title		Keywords	Summary
Chan, Maisie	Danny Chung does not do maths	Years 5 and up	Chinese British	Eleven-year-old Danny Chung loves drawing more than anything – certainly more than maths, which, according to his dad and everyone else, is what he is 'supposed' to be good at. He also loves having his own room where he can draw in peace, so his life is turned upside down when a surprise that he's been promised turns out to be his little, wrinkly, ex-maths-champion grandmother from China. What's worse, Nai Nai has to share his room!
Cheung, Sue	Chinglish	Years 5 and up	Chinese British	English and Chinese merge in this story told by Jo Kwan in diary entries and doodles, a girl growing up in 1980's Midlands above her family's take away. It's not just about language mash ups, there's humour and hard realities here too. It's clear Dad is a hiding a terrible secret – will Jo's

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				optimism see her through?
Cheung, Sue	Maddy Yip's Guide to Life	Years 5 & 6	Chinese British	Maddy Yip is perfectly happy in life, until she realises that everyone she knows has a talent – except for her! Maddy is determined to change that, with the help of her brothers, bewildered grandad and her best friend Dev. There are disastrous attempts at breakdancing and playing the recorder, revolting cakes, and a magic disappearing trick that ends up with an escaped guinea pig. Will Maddy ever find her true calling?
Tsang, Katie	Dragon Realm series	Years 5 & 6	British Chinese, China, Fantasy setting	Billy Chan and his friends are not having a very relaxing summer. Their friend, Dylan, has been kidnapped by the evil Dragon of Death and it's up to them to travel through time, back to the dangerous Dragon Realm, in order to save him. So begins an epic quest that will take them to the depths of the Frozen Wasteland and the imperial palaces of Ancient China. But can good triumph evil...?
Tsang, Katie	Sam Wu is NOT Afraid of Spiders! (and others in the series)	Years 3 & 4	Chinese British	Sam Wu's not going to let anyone know he's afraid of spiders. And so when Tulip, the school tarantula, disappears from her cage, Sam decides it's up to him and his friends to save the school from the eight-legged escapee . . . Sam is not afraid of ghosts, sharks, zombies or the dark – but those are all other stories!

Europe

Books set in European countries (including Ireland) featuring lead characters of a variety of heritages.

Author	Title		Keywords	Summary
Diop, David	At night all blood is black	Years 9 and up	Senegal/ French, historical	Alfa and Mademba are two of the many Senegalese soldiers fighting in the Great War. Together they climb dutifully out of their trenches to attack France's German enemies whenever the whistle blows, until Mademba is wounded, and dies in a shell hole with his belly torn open.

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				Without his more-than-brother, Alfa is alone and lost amidst the savagery of the conflict. He devotes himself to the war, to violence and death, but soon begins to frighten even his own comrades in arms. How far will Alfa go to make amends to his dead friend?
Dowd, Siobhan	The Pavee and the Buffer Girl	Years 5 and up	Travellers	Jim is a teenage traveller, whose family have stopped at the town of Dundray in Ireland. Jim is made to go to school but it proves a hostile place for traveller children except for one girl, Kit, who tries to help him find some peace. A moving story based on many true accounts of travellers' lives. Illustrated with stunning ink-and -wash artwork bringing the story vividly to life.
Jaigirdar, Adiba	Henna Wars	Years 7 and up	Bangladeshi, Islam, Ireland, LGBTQ	When Nishat comes out to her parents, they say she can be anyone she wants - as long as she isn't herself. Because Muslim girls aren't lesbians. Nishat doesn't want to lose her family, but she also doesn't want to hide who she is, which only gets harder once Flávia walks into her life.
Khan, Hiba Noor	Safiyyah's War	Years 5 and 6	Second World War	As war approaches Europe, Safiyyah's life in Paris at the Grand Mosque remains peaceful. However, as the conflict encroaches, the city undergoes drastic changes: refugees arrive, wealthy Parisians leave, and German soldiers impose restrictions. Safiyyah observes the worsening conditions and discovers signs of rebellion within her community. Despite the risks, she resolves to take action.

The Middle East

Middle East

Books set in the geographic region of the Middle East featuring lead characters of a variety of heritages.

Author	Title		Keywords	Summary
Bruton, Catherine	No Ballet Shoes in Syria	Years 5 & 6	Middle East, Syria	Aya's dreams and love of ballet help her through heartrending situations. She, her mother and baby Moosa seek asylum in the UK after leaving her father behind in war torn Syria. A chance friendship enables her to attend a ballet class and her talent is recognised but will she find a new home in this challenging place?
Bsharat, Ahlam	Code Name: Butterfly	Years 6 and up	Middle East, Palestine	Butterfly has lots of questions about the world around her as she grows up in Palestine – why do children seem to grow up so fast? Why does she sometimes get annoyed with her friends? And more searching questions – why does Baba have to work for the Israeli farmers and not able to have a farm of his own? Why do the Israelis shoot at Palestinians? A dramatic portrayal of life in occupied Palestine
D'Adamo, Francesco	Iqbal	Years 5 & 6	Middle East	When young Iqbal is sold into slavery at a carpet factory, his arrival changes everything for the other overworked and abused children there. It is Iqbal who explains to them that despite their master's promises, he plans on keeping them as his slaves indefinitely. But it is also Iqbal who inspires the other children to look to a future free from toil...and is brave enough to show them how to get there.
Dassu, A M	Boy Everywhere	Years 5 and up	Middle East, Migrants, Refugees, Syria	Sami and his family travel from privilege to poverty, across countries and continents, from a comfortable life in Damascus, via a smuggler's den in Turkey, to a prison in Manchester. A story of survival, of family, and of bravery.
Ellis, Deborah	The breadwinner (graphic novel)	Years 5 & 6	Middle East, Afghanistan	Eleven-year-old Parvana lives with her family in one room of a bombed-out apartment building in Kabul,. Parvana's father is arrested for the crime of having a foreign education. Forbidden to earn money as a girl, Parvana must transform herself into a boy, and become the breadwinner.

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Grant, Neil	The Ink Bridge	Years 6 and up	Middle East, Afghanistan, Australia, Refugees	Omed makes the perilous journey from Afghanistan to Australia to seek asylum from the Taliban and the horrors he has witnessed, and meets Hector, silenced by grief, at the candle factory where they both work, but other secrets are lurking.
Halahmy, Miriam	Yasmin's journey	Years 5 & 6	Middle East, Syria	Syria is at war. After losing their father, Yasmin and her brother, Ali, are forced into a perilous journey in search of safety.
Imram, Yousra	Hijab and Red Lipstick	Years 7 and up	Middle East, Islam, Women's rights	Being a teenager isn't easy. And it doesn't help when you have a mega strict Egyptian dad who tells you that everything is "haram" - forbidden. All Sara wants to do is experiment with makeup and fashion, but her dad's conservative interpretation of Islam makes it impossible. Things get even harder when her dad lands himself a job in the Arabian Gulf and moves his family to a country where the patriarchy rules supreme.
Kazerooni, Abbas	On Two Feet and Wings	Years 6 and up	Middle East, Iran	Close to his tenth birthday, Abbas has to leave his parents and friends to escape Tehran. The Iran-Iraq War is at its bloodiest. If Abbas doesn't leave soon, he will have to join the army and go to war. In the strange and often frightening city of Istanbul, Abbas has to grow up fast. An amazing true story.
Laird, Elizabeth	A House Without Walls	Years 5 & 6	Middle East, Syria	The Syrian war brings hardship to 13-year-old Safiya and her family. They flee to Jordan and have to live in a tent near relatives and Safiya is forced to stop school to look after everyone. All her dreams are endangered including the longed-for reunion with her lost twin, but will hope see her through?
Laird, Elizabeth	Lost Riders	Years 5 & 6	Middle East, United Arab Emirates, Pakistan	Taken from their home in Pakistan to work in the Persian Gulf, eight-year-old Rashid and his little brother Shari cling to each other. Then they are separated and forced to become jockeys in the lucrative camel-racing business. Rashid is starved and worked to exhaustion by harsh supervisors - but he has a talent for racing and quickly becomes his stable's star jockey.
Laird, Elizabeth	Welcome to Nowhere	Years 5 & 6	Middle East, Syria, refugees	Twelve year old Omar is from the beautiful and bustling city of Bosra, Syria. Omar wants to become a successful businessman but soon bombs are falling and Omar and his family have to flee their home and homeland. But where do you go when you can't go home?
Mansour,	The Green Bicycle	Years 6 and up	Middle East,	Wadjida lives in Saudi Arabia where it is improper for girls to ride bicycles.

Haifaa Al	Saudi Arabia, Women's rights	But she is a rebel, and when she sees the bicycle of her dreams, she devises different ways to make money to buy the bike for herself. She has to confront the issues of conforming to the rules of her society and the importance of her family to make her dream come true
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Other/ various

Books featuring lead characters of various or unspecified heritages, featuring themes that will be of interest to all.

Author	Title		Keywords	Summary
Ho-Yen, Polly	Fly Me Home	Years 5 & 6	Refugee and migrant background, unspecified	London is cold and grey and the neighbours are noisy and there's concrete everywhere. Feeling lost and alone in a strange new city, Leelu wishes she could fly away back home – her real home where her dad is, thousands of miles away. But Leelu is not alone; someone is leaving her gifts outside her house – wonders which give her curious magical powers. Powers which might help her find her way home . . .
Milner, Kate	My Name is Not Refugee	Years 3 & 4	Refugee and migrant background, unspecified	We have to leave this town, it's not safe, says mother. We have to say goodbye to old friends and travel a long way. We will see new and interesting things and learn new words: a beautiful way to learn about what it means to be a refugee.
Coelho, Joseph	Overheard in a Tower Block	Years 5 & 6	Multicultural	An astonishing new collection of powerful and moving poems about growing up in the city. A disappearing father and a Mermaid Queen mother; bullies that kick you under the table and the things that lurk in the library....
Murphy, Adam	Lost tales	Years 5 & 6	Multicultural	An invisible warrior longing to be seen; a greedy king trying to cheat fate; a lonely princess who became friends with a sea monster. Eight lost stories from around the world.