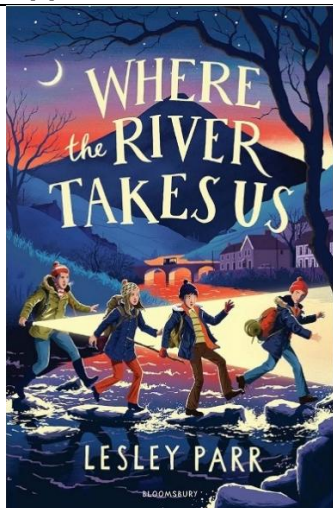


## Faster Read – Primary KS2 Booklist

Upper KS2 – *Where the River Takes Us* and *Journey to Jo'burg* – two 13-year-olds go on intrepid journeys to save their families.



### **Where the River Takes Us**

**Lesley Parr**

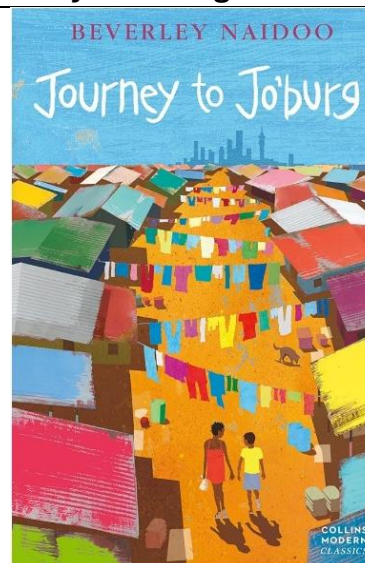
Set in Wales, 1974, under the shadow of the three-day week, times are hard for working class families. Struggling more than most, 13-year-old Jason fears that his older brother has turned to crime to keep them together since their parents' death. When Jason and his friends learn a reward is offered for a photograph of an elusive beast roaming the valleys near their village, they set off into the mountains in search of it.

**Genre:** Historical Fiction / Adventure

**Themes:** Friendship, Sibling Relationships, Adventure, Diversity & Inclusion

**Literacy Links:** Adventure stories / Quests / Myths and Legends / Newspaper Reports

**Cross Curricular Learning:** History, Geography, PSHE Relationships



### **Journey to Jo'burg**

**Beverley Naidoo**

Set in South Africa during apartheid, 13-year-old Naledi and her younger brother Tiro run away from their grandmother to Johannesburg to find their mother when they fear that their baby sister Dineo will die. Setting off on the long hot journey from their village, the two children have no idea of the dangers they face.

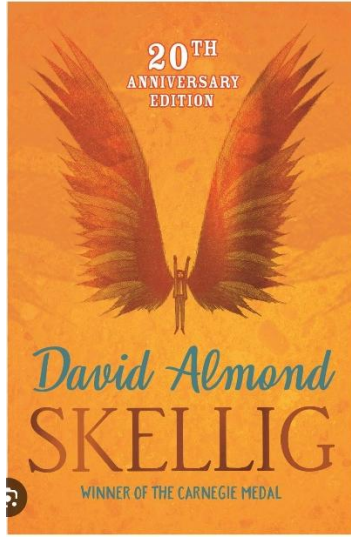
**Genre:** Classic Fiction/ Historical Fiction

**Themes:** Black Lives and History, Sibling Relationships, Diversity & Inclusion

**Literacy Links:** Adventure stories / Quests / Newspaper Reports / Other non-fiction reports

**Cross Curricular Learning:** History, Geography, PSHE Relationships, Anti-Racism

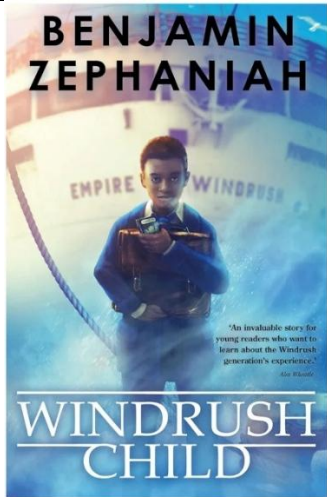
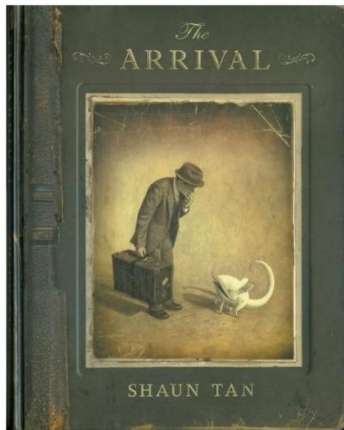
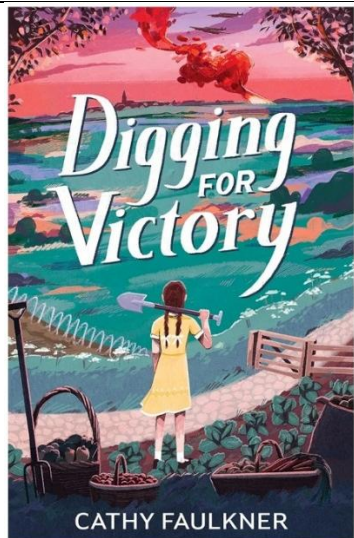
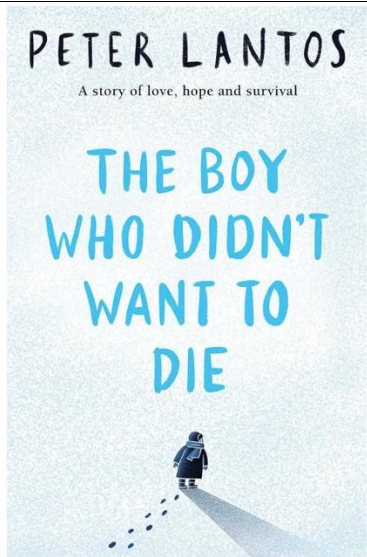
**Upper KS2 – Skellig and The Final Year – interestingly Skellig threads throughout the Final Year, including the front cover, two brave reads about love, friendship and loss**

	<p><b>The Final Year</b>  <b>Matt Goodfellow</b>  A verse novel following 10-year-old Nate during his final year of primary school. Nate faces many challenges at home and school, especially when his youngest brother is hospitalised with a rare heart defect.  <b>Genre: Verse Novel</b>  <b>Themes:</b> Friendship/ Family Relationships/ Love and Loss  <b>Literacy Links:</b> Poetry / Writing in role / Character exploration  <b>Cross Curricular Learning:</b> PSHE Relationships/ Bullying</p>		<p><b>Skellig</b>  <b>David Almond</b>  10-year-old Michael and his family have moved to a new house where he discovers a strange emaciated, winged man buried in boxes in his garage and Michael makes a new mysterious friend Mina. Michael faces more challenges when his unnamed baby sister's life is in the balance as she battles a heart condition.  <b>Genre: Classic Fiction</b>  <b>Themes:</b> Friendship/ Family Relationships/ Love and Loss  <b>Literacy Links:</b> Writing in role / Character exploration  <b>Cross Curricular Learning:</b> PSHE Relationships</p>
---	---	---	--

**Lower / Upper KS2 – How to be more Hedgehog and Call Me Lion – two books about the joys and difficulties of friendships and communication**

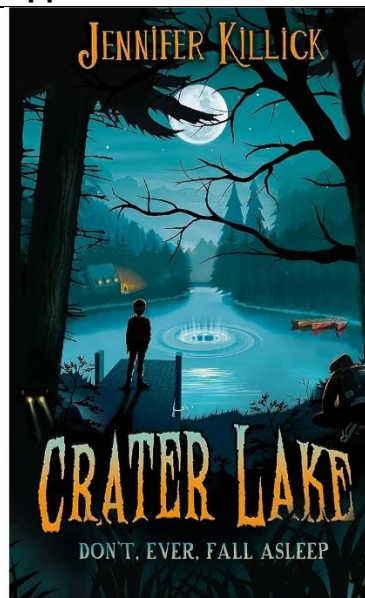
	<p><b>How To Be More Hedgehog</b>  <b>Anne Marie Conway</b>  Lily cares passionately about wildlife and has lots of ideas for her Year 6 project on the environment. But her stammer makes it difficult for her to speak in public – but she is determined to do it, despite her classmates' cruel treatment.  <b>Genre: Fiction</b>  <b>Themes:</b> Friendship, Bullying, Online Safety, Family separation, Diversity &amp; Inclusion, Dyslexia, Stammer, Wildlife &amp; Ecology, On-line safety &amp; cyber bullying  <b>Literacy Links:</b> Non-fiction reports / Speech writing</p>		<p><b>Call Me Lion</b>  <b>Camilla Chester</b>  10-year-old Leo loves to dance, dance, dance but his dreams of getting the spot in the end-of-summer dance show are on the line. His selective mutism places challenges for his dancing career and friendships, until Richa moves in next door. Leo finds it easier bond with her and they help each other when she confides in him about her difficulties learning to read.  <b>Genre: Fiction</b>  <b>Themes:</b> Friendship, Diversity &amp; Inclusion, Selective Mutism, Literacy (reading and oracy),  <b>Literacy Links:</b> Exploring characters, Letter writing  <b>Cross Curricular Learning:</b> PE: Dance</p>
--	---	--	--



		<b>Cross Curricular Learning:</b> Science Animals & Living Creatures / E-Safety	
<b>Upper KS2 – Windrush Child and The Arrival – two stories of migrant journeys across oceans to find new lives</b>			
	<p><b>Windrush Child</b> <b>Benjamin Zephaniah</b></p> <p>Set in 1958, 10-year-old Leonard travels with his mother from Jamaica to England to join his father. A fictional story drawing on the author's own experiences of growing up in Britain in the 1960s. <i>This book contains scenes of racist abuse and language.</i></p> <p><b>Genre:</b> Historical Fiction</p> <p><b>Themes:</b> Black lives and history, Migration, Family</p> <p><b>Literacy Links:</b> Non-fiction reports</p> <p><b>Cross Curricular Learning:</b> History, Anti-Racism, PSHE Relationships</p>		<p><b>The Arrival</b> <b>Shaun Tan</b></p> <p>A nameless migrant story told in a series of intricate wordless images. A man leaves his wife and child in an impoverished town, seeking a better life in an unknown country on the other side of a vast ocean. Encountering people, places and peculiar animals he is helped along his journey by sympathetic strangers, each with their own story.</p> <p><b>Genre:</b> Wordless Graphic Novel</p> <p><b>Themes:</b> Migration, Family, Belonging</p> <p><b>Literacy Links:</b> Non-fiction reports / Journeys / Adventure Stories</p> <p><b>Cross Curricular Learning:</b> History, Anti-Racism, PSHE Relationships</p>
<b>Upper KS2 – Digging for Victory and The Boy Who Didn't Want To Die – two very different experiences of children during World War II</b>			
	<p><b>Diggin for Victory</b> <b>Cathy Faulkner</b></p> <p>Devon, 1941, 12-year-old Bonnie is desperate to play a valuable part in the way effort. Her RAF pilot brother is a hero whilst she is left tending the vegetable patch. But when her brother is reported missing and the mysterious Mr Fisher is billeted to her house, Bonnie discovers what true heroism is.</p> <p><b>Genre:</b> Verse Novel /Historical Fiction</p> <p><b>Themes:</b> Friendship, War &amp; Conflict, Women during WWII</p> <p><b>Literacy Links:</b> Non-fiction reports</p>		<p><b>The Boy Who Didn't Want To Die</b> <b>Peter Lantos</b></p> <p>The true story of the extraordinary journey of 5-year-old Peter, from a small Hungarian town through Austria and Germany in 1944 and 1945. Through the eyes of a child, flashes of adventure appear against a background of terror, starvation and death, until miraculously Peter and his mother return home.</p> <p><b>Genre:</b> Non-Fiction</p> <p><b>Themes:</b> War &amp; Conflict, Love and Loss, Family</p> <p><b>Literacy Links:</b> Non-fiction reports</p> <p><b>Cross Curricular Learning:</b> History</p>

	<b>Cross Curricular Learning:</b> History, Science & DT growing vegetables for sustainable lifestyles		
--	---	--	--

**Upper KS2 – Crater Lake and Jodie – exploring the horror genre on two very spooky Year 6 trips**



**Crater Lake**

**Jennifer Killick**

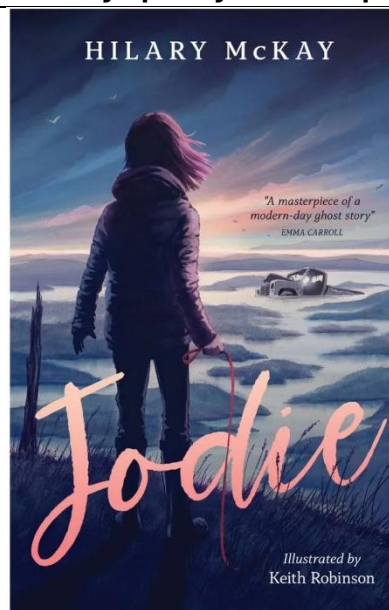
Lance and his Year 6 class arrive at Crater Lake Activity Centre for their school trip and are greeted by a man covered in blood and telling them to run. It's not long before the teachers and pupils start behaving like zombies and it's up to Lance and his friends to save the day.

**Genre:** Horror / Science Fiction

**Themes:** Friendship

**Literacy Links:** Non-fiction reports / Experimenting with genre

**Cross Curricular Learning:** Science  
Animals and Living things - insects



**Jodie**

**Hilary McKay**

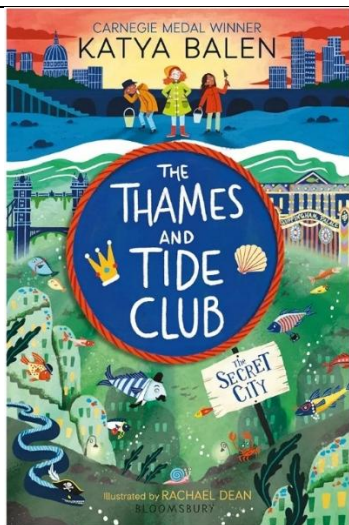
Jodie only agreed to go on the residential trip because Mrs Nolan agreed to look out for her. But when Mrs Nolan can't make it, Jodie begins to feel like everyone is talking about her and she can't wait to get away. So, following a little dog's barking, she sets off over the salt marsh. But salt marshes are dangerous places and if no-one notices you missing how will anyone rescue you? An eerie ghost story.

**Genre:** Horror / Ghost story (dyslexia friendly print)

**Themes:** Friendship, Bullying, Loneliness

**Literacy Links:** Short story writing

**Lower KS2 – The Thames and Tide Club and Stone Girl Bone Girl – two stories about the treasures beneath our feet**



**The Thames and Tide Club**

**Katya Balen**

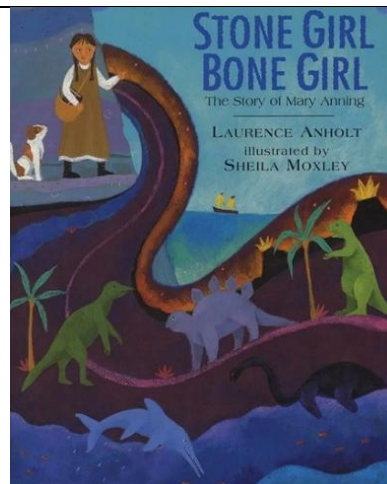
Clem and her friends are members of the Thames and Tide club. Every weekend they go mudlarking by the river, searching for treasures that have washed up on the shore. Old things, new things and a lot of rubbish until one day she finds something really special.

**Genre:** Fiction

**Themes:** Friendship, Archaeology

**Literacy Links:** Non-fiction reports / Adventure stories

**Cross Curricular Links:** Geography



**Stone Girl Bone Girl**

**Laurence Anholt**

12-year-old Mary Anning discovered a giant fossilized skeleton of a 'sea monster' in the cliffs near her home in Lyme Regis. A story of how a girl who dared to be different and, despite unkind words and loneliness, made one of the most important prehistoric discoveries of the time.

**Genre:** Non-Fiction Picture Book

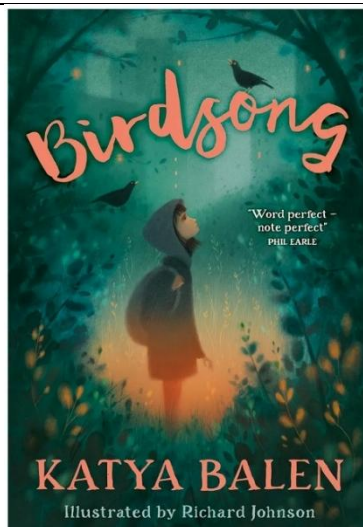
**Themes:** Determination, Fossils and Archaeology, Women in Science, Love and Loss, Bullying, Daring to be different

**Literacy Links:** Biography and autobiography / Non-Fiction report writing

			<b>Cross Curricular Links:</b> Geography, History, Science Evolution
--	--	--	---



**Lower KS2 Birdsong and Our Tower – children living in tower blocks exploring hidden nature in the urban landscape**



**Birdsong**

**Katya Balen**

Following a devastating car accident, Annie is unable to play her flute and retreats into her own world of angry silence. Then she meets Noah who shows her the blackbird's nest hidden in the scrubland near their flats. A glorious friendship grows.

**Genre: Fiction (dyslexia friendly print)**

**Themes:** Friendship, Loss and Recovery, Urban Landscapes, Nature

**Literacy Links:** Portal stories / Hidden worlds

**Cross Curricular Links:** Science animal habitats / Music



**Our Tower**

**Joseph Coelho**

Drawn from the author's own experience of growing up in a tower block and looking for adventure. Three children who live in a very high, grey tower hear the song of a tree calling them. They creep out of their tower to the woods that border their estate and find the tree-grown man, who gives them a magic stone.

**Genre: Fiction Picture Book**

**Themes:** Friendship, Urban Landscapes, Nature

**Literacy Links:** Poetry and rhyme / Adventure stories

**Cross Curricular Links:** Geography