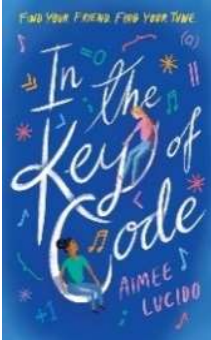


Recommended Summer Reads – July 2024



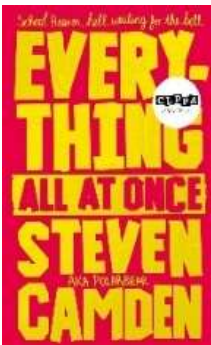
[Finally Seen, by Kelly Yang](#)

This is a gripping novel about Lina, who leaves China to live with her parents and sister in the US, after five years apart. She's been waiting for this moment but it's not exactly like the postcards. As Lina tries to cope with the big changes and feeling left out, she learns about family, friendship, and the power of belonging. When her teacher starts facing challenges due to her latest selection of books, books that deeply resonates with Lina, it will take all of Lina's courage and resilience to get over her fear in order to choose a future where she's finally seen.



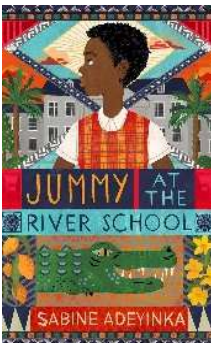
[In the Key of Code, by Aimee Lucido](#)

This book is about friendship and fitting in. When Emmy's musical family moves to California, she feels out of place. However, after joining a computer and coding club at her new school, Emmy finally feels like she has had found her rhythm. This is a unique story and is ideal for anyone searching for a sense of belonging.



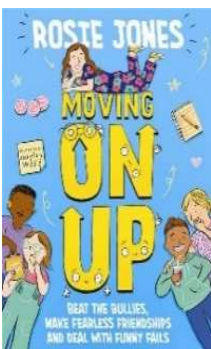
[Everything All at Once, by Steven Camden](#)

These poems cover all kinds of aspects of life at a new secondary school. Zooming in across a wide cast of characters, we share moments that span everything from facing things, fitting in, finding friends and falling out with them, to loving lessons and worrying.



[Jummy at the River School, by Sabine Adebayinka](#)

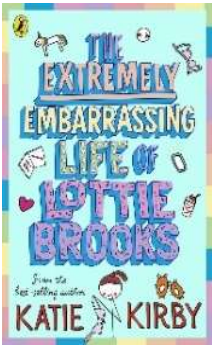
Set in 1900's Nigeria, this is an ideal read for anyone worried about making friends and fitting in at their new school. Jummy starts secondary school at a prestigious boarding school, the River School. The school is everything Jummy hoped, except her friend Caro isn't able to join her. However, Caro arrives at the school as a maid to matron, and Jummy knows things will change. She believes everyone is entitled to an education and sometimes you have to fight for what you believe in.



[Moving On Up, by Rosie Jones](#)

This is a hilarious and confidence-building guide to friendship, beating the bullies and overcoming cringe-worthy moments, by comedian and bestselling children's writer, Rosie Jones. No one knows quite as much about friendship fails, dealing with bullies and being totally embarrassed, then Rosie. Think of a completely awkward situation and she's probably been there and got through it. Rosie knows just how hard growing up can be but she also knows that you can overcome the difficult and embarrassing moments with the help of close friends and a good sense of humour.

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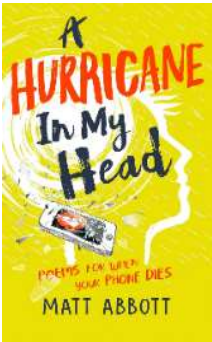
[The Extremely Embarrassing Life of Lottie Brooks, by Katie Kirby](#)

This is the first in a hilarious, illustrated series which explores the daily ups and downs of growing up, including facing puberty, navigating friendships, dealing with first crushes and all of the embarrassing moments that come with handling school and family life. Many readers of the Lottie Brooks series enjoy the laugh out loud humour, the funny doodle-style illustrations and the true-to-life themes covered in the story.



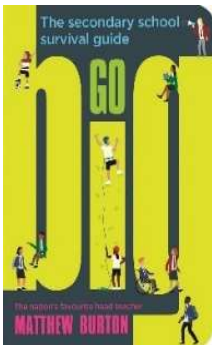
[Ella on the Outside, by Cath Howe](#)

Ella is the new girl at school, she doesn't know anyone and she doesn't have any friends. She also has a terrible secret. Ella can't believe her luck when Lydia, the most popular girl in school, decides to be her new best friend, but what does Lydia really want? What does it all have to do with Molly, the quiet, shy girl who won't talk to anyone?



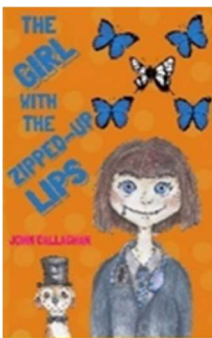
[A Hurricane in my Head, by Matt Abbott](#)

This poetry book tackles themes of friendship, bullying, technology and the everyday life of a modern teenager. These poems say the things we can't always put into words; they may make you laugh or cry, but they will most definitely make you reminisce, escape and discover...



[Go Big: The Secondary School Survival Guide, by Matthew Burton](#)

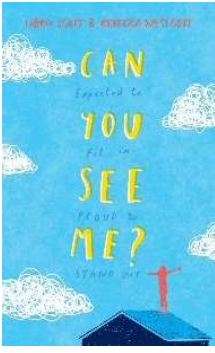
Secondary school can seem scary. Corridors are wide, older students look terrifying and there's homework, messy friendships and stressful exams to deal with. But, whether you're about to land at secondary school or you're still settling in, Mr Burton is here to guide you through your journey, worry free. From your first day to your final exams, this handbook will have you achieving, succeeding and being the best you can be. Find great friends, boost your confidence and start building towards your brilliant future.



[The Girl with the Zipped-Up Lips, by John Callaghan](#)

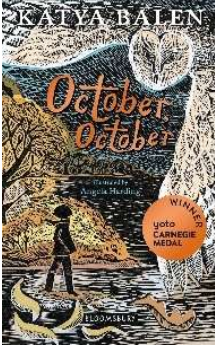
This is written by St Benedict's deputy head, Mr Callaghan! For almost four years, Willow Hushley's lips have been firmly zipped and when she and her father set off in search of yet another fresh start, things quickly turn stale. The principal of her new school insists endless tests are "the only way to learn", the school's number one bully loves to make her blood boil while her only friend is a girl that nobody else will talk to. But after the principal is unexpectedly suspended, a mysterious replacement arrives to deliver an eye-popping, jaw-dropping assembly which kick starts a crazy week that just might help Willow find her voice.

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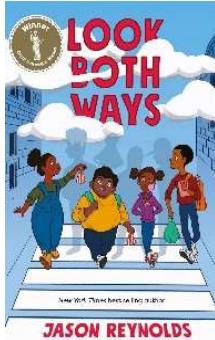
[Can You See Me? by Libby Scott](#)

Tally is eleven years old and she's just like her friends. Well, sometimes she is. If she tries really hard to be. Because there's something that makes Tally not the same as her friends. Something she can't cover up, no matter how hard she tries: Tally is autistic. Tally's autism means there are things that bother her even though she wishes they didn't. It means that some people misunderstand her and feel frustrated by her. People think that because Tally's autistic, she doesn't realise what they're thinking, but Tally sees, hears and notices, all of it.



[October, October, by Katya Balen](#)

This is an emotive read which is all about dealing with change. October grew up in the woods with her dad. She loved her life and being wild. Then, after an accident, she has to move to the city and start school. She feels like an outsider who doesn't fit in but this is also a story of resilience and learning to deal with new challenges.



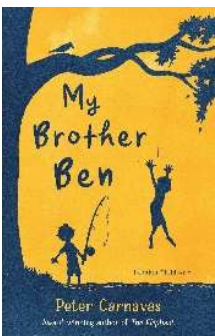
[Look Both Ways, by Jason Reynolds](#)

When the bell rings and school is finished for the day, the walkers are finally set free. For ten blocks they have no-one telling them what to do; they can talk about bogies, skateboarding, plan dramatic escapes, make jokes, face bullies, and hear about the school bus that fell from the sky... In ten stories (one per block), find out what really happens on the walk home from school, when there are no parents or teachers to supervise (or stop the fun!). From hilarious escapades to brave challenges, join the walkers for one journey and many, many detours...



[Vote For Effie, by Laura Wood](#)

Sometimes you meet a character in a book who you not only like a lot, but also think that if you met them in real life you would want to be friends with them. So, it is with Effie in 'Vote for Effie', which is about a twelve-year-old girl who is starting at a new school part of the way through year 8. This is a lively and fast paced story which is about injustice and women's rights as well as learning to cope at a new school.



[My Brother Ben, by Peter Carnavas](#)

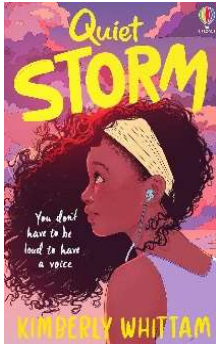
Luke and his big brother Ben spend the summer on the banks of Cabbage Tree Creek. Quiet Luke sketches birds, while Ben leaps off the Jumping Tree. The boys couldn't be more different, but they share a special bond. When a local competition to win a boat is announced, the boys spring into action, dreaming of exploring the creek together. But with changes coming and high school looming for Luke, will their friendship be able to survive?

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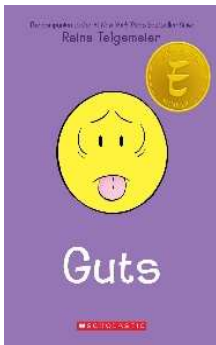
[When I See Blue, by Lily Bailey](#)

This is a moving and honest portrayal of a young person living with OCD (obsessive compulsive disorder). We follow Ben as he moves to a new town and new school. When Ben starts a new friendship with April, his life begins to change. With the support of a professional counsellor, Ben begins to settle into his new school and understand his behaviour.



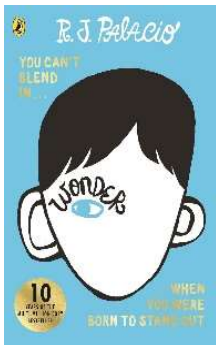
[Quiet Storm, by Kimberly Whittam](#)

Storm has never liked to stand out from the crowd but ever since she started year 7, her life has been full of people telling her she needs to speak up, make friends and be more like her popular big brother. Then Storm breaks a school record and finds herself the new star of the athletics team. However, as she's thrust into the spotlight, her home life and friendships start spiralling out of control, and it's time for Quiet Storm to show that she has something to say.



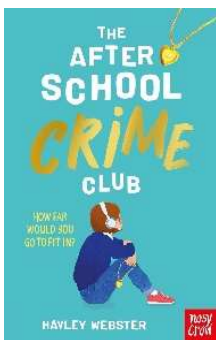
[Guts, by Raina Telgemeier](#)

Raina wakes up one night with a terrible upset stomach. Her mum has one, too, so it's probably just a bug. Raina eventually returns to school, where she's dealing with the usual highs and lows: friends and not friends. It soon becomes clear that Raina's tummy trouble isn't going away and it coincides with her worries about food, school, and changing friendships. What's going on? This is a thoughtful, charming, and funny true story about growing up and gathering the courage to face and conquer fears.



[Wonder, by R J Palacio](#)

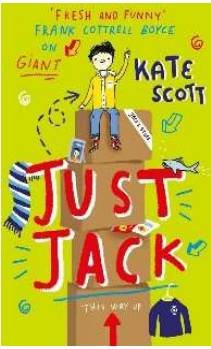
Auggie wants to be an ordinary ten-year-old. He does ordinary things such as eating ice cream and playing on his Xbox. He *feels* ordinary inside but ordinary kids don't make other ordinary kids run away screaming in playgrounds. Ordinary kids aren't stared at wherever they go. Born with an unusual facial abnormality, Auggie has been home-schooled by his parents his whole life. Now, for the first time, he's being sent to a real school and he's dreading it. All he wants is to be accepted, but can he convince his new classmates that he's just like them, underneath it all?



[The After School Crime Club, by Hayley Webster](#)

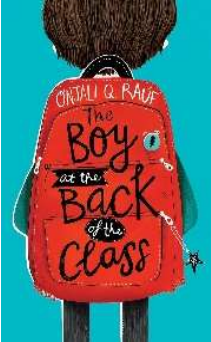
Willow has always felt like an outsider at school, but she and her Nanna were so alike that she never felt alone. Now Nanna is gone and Willow is adrift. So, when a group of girls offer her friendship in exchange for fun stealing dares, Willow can't say no. But as the dares escalate, she has to ask herself: How far will she go to fit in? This wise, warm and uplifting story from the acclaimed author of *Luna Rae is Not Alone* explores what it feels like to lose yourself and the joy of discovering you're perfect just as you are.

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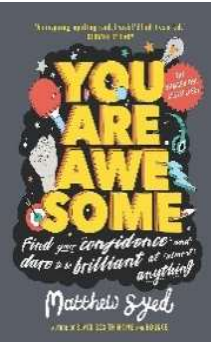
[Just Jack, by Kate Scott](#)

It's not easy fitting in at a new school and it's even harder to be yourself. Jack knows LOTS about starting a new school. Since Dad left, he and his mum have moved house five times. He also knows all about fitting in; the trick is to act exactly like everyone else and make sure no one ever notices him. But it's hard work trying to be something he isn't and Jack doesn't have any good friends. That is, until Tyler comes along. Tyler is funny and different and might be the key to getting Jack to realise that although he is brilliant at pretending to be other people, the very best thing he can be is just Jack.



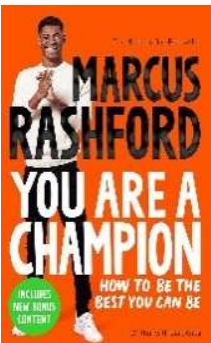
[The Boy At the Back of the Class, by Onjali Rauf](#)

The arrival of a new boy in class sparks a funny, moving and quietly powerful story. Our narrator is immediately intrigued by her new classmate, who doesn't speak, or smile, and disappears at break times. She's determined to become his friend and as she gets to know him, she learns that Ahmet is a refugee from Syria. Finding out that his family are lost somewhere in Europe, she decides to help; something that exposes both the prejudice and generosity of those around her.



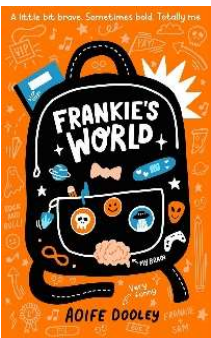
[You Are Awesome, by Matthew Syed](#)

I'm no good at sport ... I can't do maths ... I really struggle with exams ... Sound familiar? If you believe you can't do something, the chances are you won't try. But what if you really could get better at maths, or sport or exams? In fact, what if you could excel at anything you put your mind to? You Are Awesome can help you do just that, inspiring and empowering young readers to find the confidence to realise their potential. Practical, insightful and positive, this is the book to help children build resilience, embrace their mistakes and grow into successful, happy adults.



[You Are a Champion, by Marcus Rashford](#)

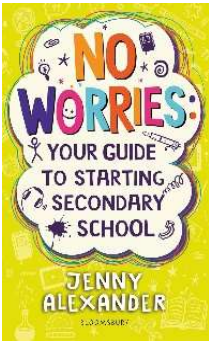
Marcus Rashford MBE is famous worldwide for his skills both on and off the pitch but before he was a Manchester United and England footballer, and long before he started his inspiring campaign to end child food poverty, he was just an ordinary child from Wythenshawe, South Manchester. Now the nation's favourite footballer wants to show YOU how to achieve your dreams, in this positive and inspiring guide to life.



[Frankie's World, by Aoife Dooley](#)

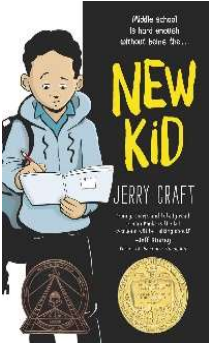
Frankie knows she's not like anyone else in her class: she's different, but she can't quite figure out why. Is it the new freckle on her nose, or the fact she's small for her age? Or that she has to go to the hospital sometimes? Everyone else seems to think she's weird too, and they make fun of her at school. Frankie's dad left when she was a baby, maybe he was different too? It would explain why she always feels like an alien. So, she and her best friend Sam, embark on a mission to track him down. This book represents neurodiversity in a realistic and humorous way and is also about self-acceptance, friendship and family.

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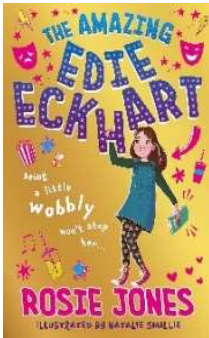
[No Worries: Your Guide to Starting Secondary School, by Jenny Alexander](#)

You might have a lot of questions about starting secondary school. What if I've got the wrong stuff? What if I don't fit in? What if the older kids are horrible to me? Starting secondary school is a bit like going on a safari; it's a great adventure but sometimes, before you go, you can get a touch of the 'what ifs'. You may be feeling anxious or stressed about leaving primary school. This book is full of information about going up from primary to secondary school and covers all of the big worries and anxieties.



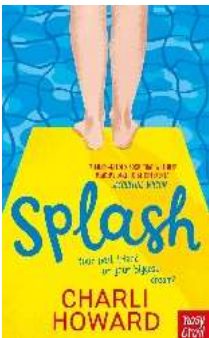
[New Kid, by Jerry Craft](#)

Jordan Banks loves nothing more than drawing cartoons about his life. But instead of sending him to the art school of his dreams, his parents enrol him in a prestigious private school known for its academic nature, where Jordan is one of the few kids of colour in his entire year. As he makes the daily trip from his Washington Heights apartment to the upscale Riverdale Academy Day School, Jordan soon finds himself torn between two worlds and not really fitting into either one. Can Jordan learn to navigate his new school culture while keeping his neighbourhood friends and staying true to himself?



[The Amazing Edie Eckhart, by Rosie Jones](#)

This has been written by the comedian and author Rosie Jones. It's a humorous story about the trials and tribulations of starting secondary school. Edie has cerebral palsy and throws herself straight into school life, auditioning for the lead role in a play and learning to adapt to old and new friendships. This is a story about challenging ourselves, understanding and accepting ourselves and others and navigating changing relationships.



[Splash, by Charli Howard](#)

Molly is in her final year of primary school, with secret dreams of becoming an Olympic swimmer. Having always lived in the shadow of her manipulative friend, Chloe, Molly finally has the chance to compete in a regional swimming contest and define herself on her own terms. However, with the pressures to fit in, and the sudden arrival of her mysterious mum, will she give up on her dreams for a shot at popularity?