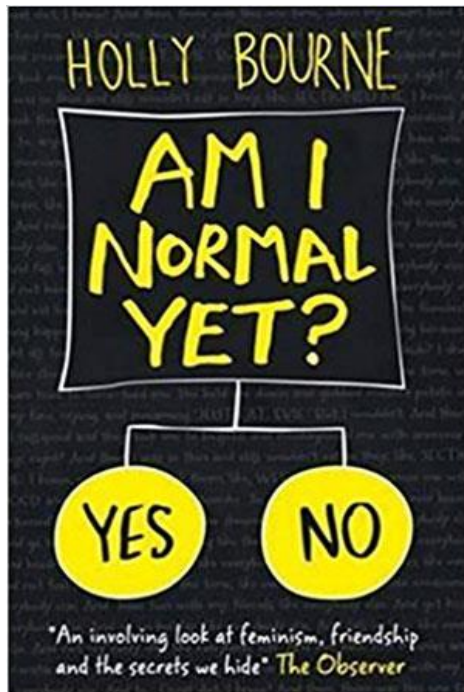
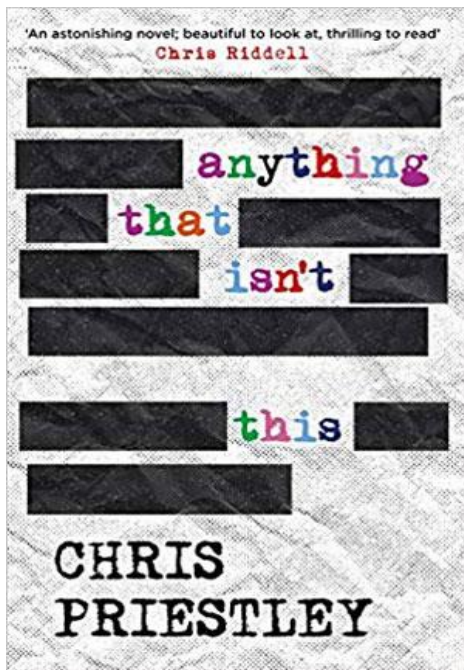


YEAR 9 RECOMMENDED READS



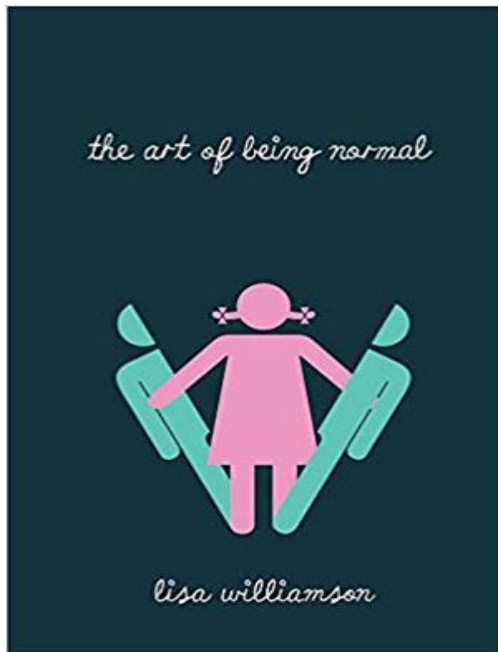
'Am I Normal Yet?' By Holly Bourne

Evie just wants to be 'normal'. She wants to start her new college, find friends she can trust, go to parties, and have fun. However, we meet Evie when she is recovering from a breakdown, and we read about her innermost thoughts and feelings as she tries to cope with her anxiety disorder whilst boys mess with her head and she tries to form her own feminist ideals. But how will she cope with reducing her medication if she can't even tell her best friends what is happening? This really funny but poignant book is both light and hard-hitting and is a refreshingly honest portrayal of dealing with mental illness.



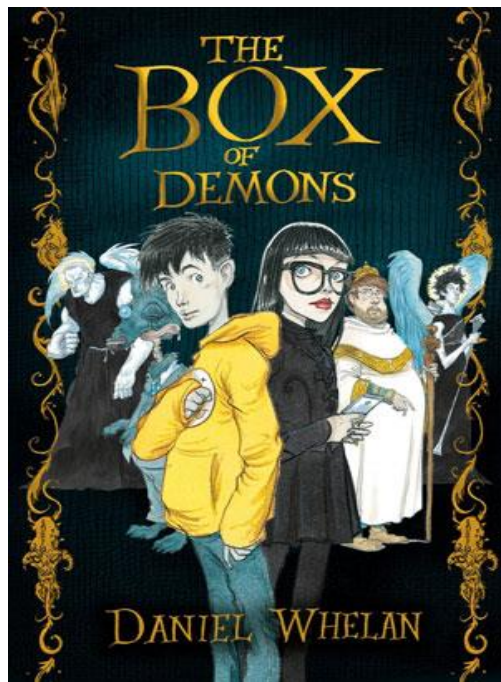
'Anything That Isn't This' By Chris Priestley

Frank Palp is 17-years-old and is about to finish school. He should be eagerly anticipating young adulthood and the new adventures that await him. But he's not. Frank lives in an oppressive city under an ever-present but unnamed threat, and he is desperate to escape even though nobody has ever succeeded in getting out. When he starts working for the Ministry there is a moment when he thinks he may be able to live a happy life of contented drudgery (like everyone else) with the girl he's fancied for years. But Frank is different, and he's not willing to be a silent operative in a cruel regime. Will his choices have dire consequences for his loved ones?



'The Art Of Being Normal' By Lisa Williamson

David is an outsider at school with a close pair of friends (who have just become a couple) and a shocking secret – he wants to be a girl. As David tries to find the courage to tell his parents about this, his life is thrown into upheaval by the arrival of a new boy, Leo, at his school. Leo has an explosive secret of his own which he keeps very close to his chest. The boys forge an uneasy friendship and help each other address the greatest challenges in their lives, but will their families ever be the same again?



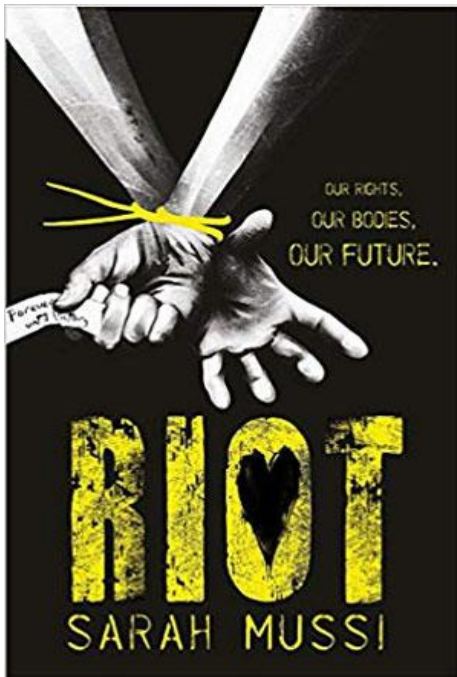
'The Box Of Demons' By Daniel Whelan

For as long as he can remember Ben has been stuck with this magical box, and the worst bit is he's also stuck with the three demons that live inside it. He's the only one who can see them and they make his life miserable – that and having to visit his mum in the local psychiatric hospital. But one night Ben is offered a lifeline by an angel – if Ben helps him they will destroy the box and send the demons back to Hell. However, things turn out to be nowhere near that simple, and Ben is actually being manipulated into ushering in the apocalypse. But who wants to do this, and why?



'LITTLE BIT' By Alex Wheatle

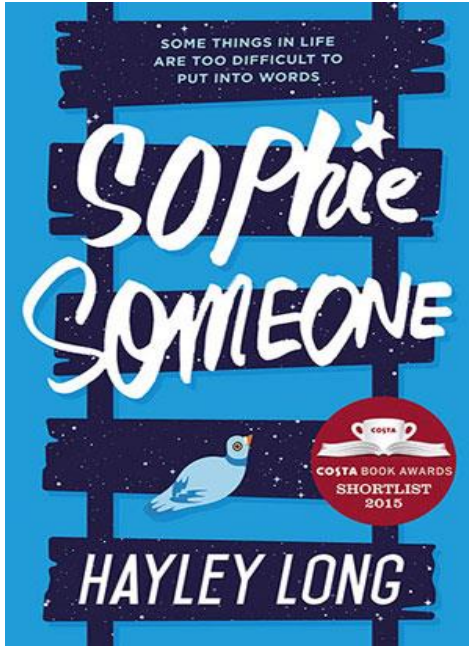
Lemar (aka Little Bit) just wants to have some decent clothes, to draw instead of going to school and to get a date with Venetia King. But these simple dreams are a far cry from Lemar's life at the moment – living with his mum who works three jobs, his sister who has a little baby and his gran who holds them all together. So when Lemar gets the chance to get a bit of money for doing a favour for Manjaro (South Crongton's gang leader and father of Lemar's nephew) he thinks, "What's the worst that could happen?" How about a murder...with a gun...that Lemar may have delivered?



'RIOT' By Sarah Mussi

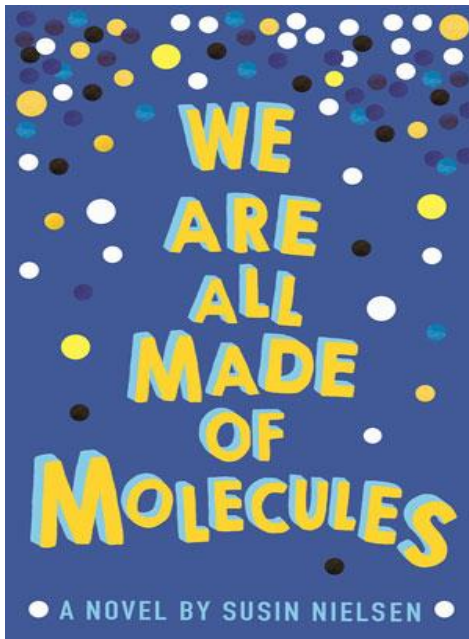
It's 2018 and after years of recession, Britain is facing a population crisis. The Government wants to impose sterilisation on all teenagers who are not in employment or training, and so society goes into meltdown. Tia is at the forefront of the protests against the "Snip Bill", while Cobain is the leader of a notorious movement of thugs and thieves. Forced to go on the run together, they are desperate to stop the Government's plan. Just one problem – the Government Minister responsible for the Snip Bill is Tia's father...

Wake up and pay attention – this isn't a story, this is real life.



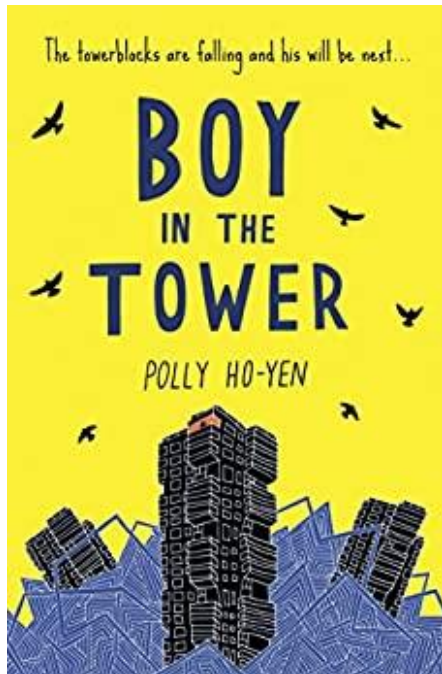
'Sophie Someone' By Hayley Long

Sophie and her parents moved from England to Belgium when she was five years old. Now aged fourteen, Sophie has to come to terms with a slow realisation that her life is not what it seems and she has constant questions about her past that her parents avoid at all times. Although she has a great best friend to turn to for help, she can't get the answers she needs. From the beginning of the book it is clear that Sophie is writing in a code, substituting some words for others, such as pigeons for people and worms for words, the reason for which becomes clear at the very end. This is a beautifully written perceptive story of family secrets, confusion and betrayal, all told through the endearing voice of Sophie.



'We Are All Made Of Molecules' By Susin Nielsen

Stewart and Ashley are polar opposites but their lives are about to collide – they're now reluctant stepsiblings. Geeky, awkward Stewart tries his best to befriend super-cool Queen of Mean Ashley, but she's having none of it. But when a party gets out of control this unlikely brother-sister combo will find out who their true friends really are, and their relationship will change forever. Just how do broken families mend, and in all the drama, will anyone find the cat



'Boy In The Tower' By Polly Ho-Yen

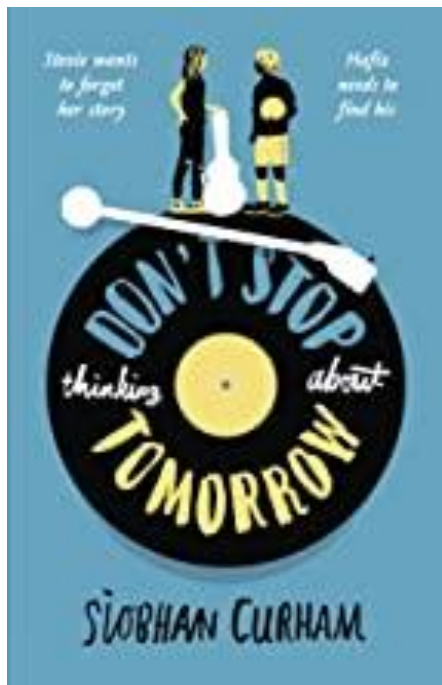
When they first arrived, they came quietly and stealthily as if they tip-toed into the world when we were all looking the other way.

Ade loves living at the top of a tower block. From his window, he feels like he can see the whole world stretching out beneath him.

His mum doesn't really like looking outside – but it's going outside that she hates. She's happier sleeping all day inside their tower, where it's safe.

But one day, other tower blocks on the estate start falling down around them and strange, menacing plants begin to appear.

Now their tower isn't safe anymore. Ade and his mum are trapped and there's no way out . . .



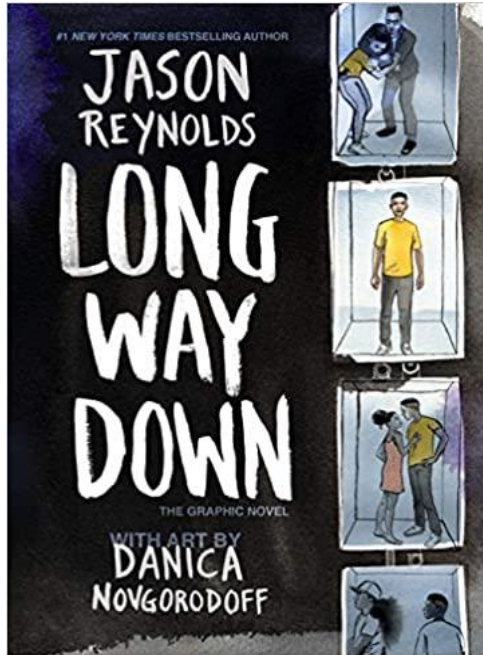
'Don't Stop Thinking About Tomorrow' By Siobhan Curham

An uplifting story of friendship, unity and hope that highlights the important and topical issues surrounding young carers and young refugees.

Fourteen-year-old Stevie lives in Lewes with her beloved vinyl collection, her mum ... and her mum's depression. When Stevie's mum's disability benefits are cut, Stevie and her mother are plunged into a life of poverty. But irrepressible Stevie is determined not to be beaten and she takes inspiration from the lyrics of her father's 1980s record collection and dreams of a life as a musician. Then she meets Hafiz, a talented footballer and a Syrian refugee. Hafiz's parents gave their life savings to buy Hafiz a safe passage to Europe; his journey has been anything but easy. Then

he meets Stevie...

As Stevie and Hafiz's friendship grows, they encourage each other to believe in themselves and follow their dreams.



'Long Way Down' By Jason Reynolds

The award-winning, bestselling verse novel is now a stunning graphic novel with illustrations by Danica Novgorodoff.

SHORTLISTED for the CILIP Carnegie Medal,
WINNER of the UKLA

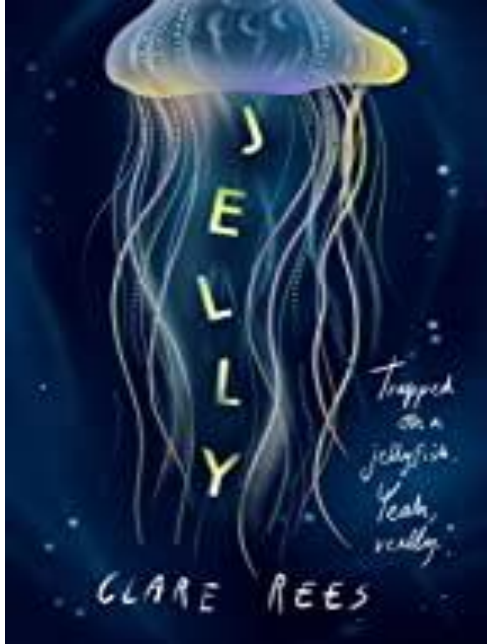
'A masterpiece from beginning to end.' Angie Thomas, author of *The Hate U Give*

AND THEN THERE WERE SHOTS
Everybody
ran,
ducked,
hid, tucked
themselves tight.

*Pressed our lips to the
pavement and prayed
the boom, followed by
the buzz of a bullet,
didn't meet us.*

After Will's brother is shot in a gang crime, he knows the next steps. Don't cry. Don't snitch. Get revenge. So he gets in the lift with Shawn's gun, determined to follow The Rules. Only when the lift door opens, Buck walks in, Will's friend who died years ago. And Dani, who was shot years before that. As more people from his past arrive, Will has to ask himself if he really knows what he's doing.

This haunting, lyrical, powerful verse novel will blow you away.



'Jelly' By Clare Rees

Life has its ups and downs, doesn't it? And Martha and her friends are really sick of going up, and down, and up, and down.

After a traumatic event that no one can talk about or even quite remember, they're stuck on a giant killer jellyfish, tantalisingly close to the shore and safety. They've had enough of it. They've decided that they're either going to escape, or die trying. A YA novel like no other, *Jelly* is touching, funny and truly unique.