

# Year 9 Recommended Reading List

Check out this fantastic list of up to the minute new books! The books have been specially selected for Year 9 students and the English department are particularly excited about the diverse range of voices and stories that are collected here.

We think there's something for everyone...

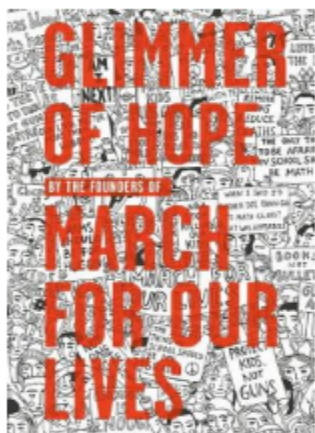
**\*L** = Can be found in Cheshire East library

**\*PG** = Available online for free

<https://ebook.yourcloudlibrary.com/library/cheshire/Featured>

<https://www.gutenberg.org/>

For more suggestions visit: LoveReading4Schools on <https://www.lovereadingschools.co.uk>



## Glimmer of Hope How Tragedy Sparked a Movement

**Author:** Various **Format:** Hardback **Release Date:** 16/10/2018 **Year Groups:** Key Stage 3

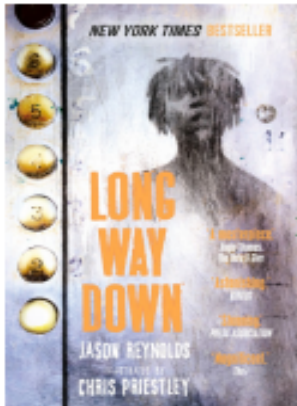
Thought provoking collection of essays from the teens who sparked the anti-gun movement in the US.



## The Lost Witch

**Author:** Melvin Burgess **Format:** Hardback **Release Date:** 02/08/2018  
**Year Groups:** Key Stage 3, Key Stage 4

**One of our 2018 Books of the Year** On the surface, this is a story about a girl who discovers she's a witch, in a world where that is a highly dangerous thing to be. But it's contemporary life that really fascinates Melvin Burgess and this is as much a story of growing up and independence as it is a story of dark magic. It also contains a thoroughly disturbing dissection of coercion and control as central character Bea is manipulated into doing things that cause irrevocable harm to herself and others. The book opens with Bea and her family returning home after a day out. Crossing the moors they run into The Hunt, violent supernatural creatures tracking and attacking other witches. Bea is able to stop them, powerfully summoning help but revealing her



## Long Way Down

**Author:** Jason Reynolds **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 02/08/2018 **Year Groups:** Key Stage 4

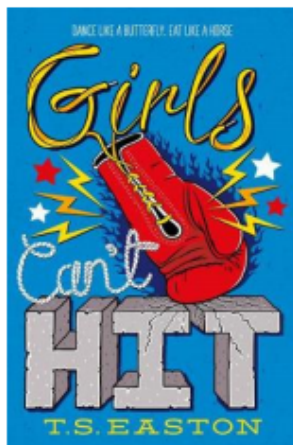
**Winner of UKLA Shortlist Book Awards 2019 | Shortlisted for the CILIP Carnegie Medal 2019** Will is only fifteen but he's experienced more violence and loss than most people might in an entire lifetime. His big brother Shawn was recently shot dead, right in front of him, but as "everybody knows", "gunshots make everybody/deaf and blind especially/when they make somebody/dead". While his mom mourns, "sobbing into her palms", Will knows what he has to do. He must follow the three rules: No crying. No snitching. Revenge. Armed with Shawn's gun, Will heads down six floors in an elevator on his revenge mission, thinking he knows exactly who he's going after. When the "spooky ass" elevator stops at each floor and ghosts from the past step into the "vertical coffin", doubts set in as Will is presented with more facts and finally comes face to face with some big choices (do some rules need to be broken? Does he want out of the cycle?), and more besides. The writing is crisp, clever and dazzlingly compact, with a whole family history and personally-charged societal issues conveyed with powerful precision. The line and page breaks are perfectly constructed, words and phrases frequently have multiple meanings, and Chris Priestley's raw and resonant illustrations are hauntingly powerful.



## Little Liar

**Author:** Julia Gray **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 07/06/2018 **Year Groups:** Key Stage 3, Key Stage 4

This story begins in a spiritual retreat. 17 year old Nora is there to recover from an accident and promises readers she will describe the chain of events that brought her there. It will, she says, be a true story, before immediately admitting that she hasn't always told the truth. This is putting it mildly: Nora's whole life is a series of lies and deceptions. She has a library of stories to explain her father's death for example, and in an early incident in the story orchestrates the sacking of a young art teacher. A skilful and convincing liar, Nora has always got what pretty much what she wants. When she meets the Ingram family, a theatrical dynasty, the part in a new film seems within her reach. But in Bel Ingram, wild, reckless and ruthless, has Nora finally met her match? Nora is a fascinating character who will have readers completely in thrall, while her 'true story' is full of shocks and surprises. Intelligent, gripping, highly original.

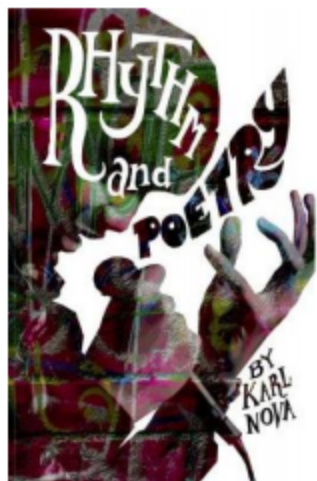


## Girls Can't Hit

**Author:** Tom Easton **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 01/01/2017 **Year Groups:** Key Stage 3

Very funny feminist look at some of life's issues and how to deal with them - believable and engaging.



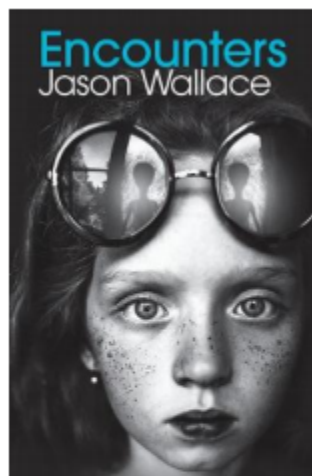


## Rhythm and Poetry

**Author:** Karl Nova **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 27/07/2017  
**Year Groups:** Key Stage 3

### **Winner of the Centre for Literacy in Primary Poetry Award 2018**

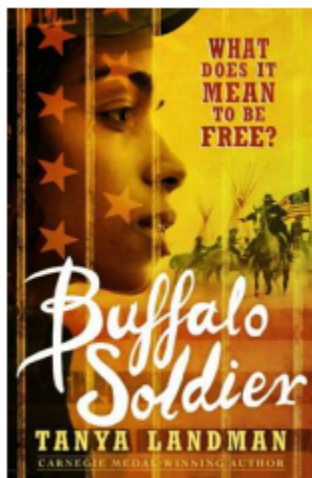
The first published collection from Hip Hop poet Karl Nova has a refreshing directness, honesty and authenticity. Many of the poems are drawn from the workshops he does with children and young people as well as from his performances. Notes accompanying the poems give insights into his process and encourage children to believe that they are poets too. The poems capture the rap beat and tone, demonstrating the currency and significance of rap as a form, especially for young people. A book that opens doors.



## Encounters

**Author:** Jason Wallace **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 05/04/2018  
**Year Groups:** Key Stage 3, Key Stage 4

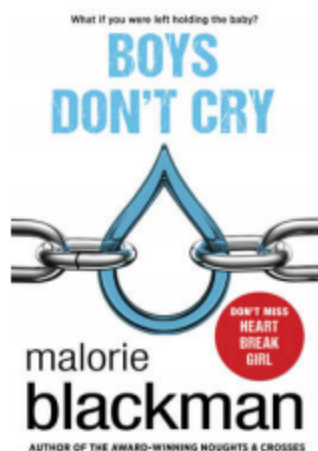
**Shortlisted for the UKLA 2018 Book Award | April 2018 Book of the Month |** An utterly absorbing novel based on the real-life phenomenon of a group of Zimbabwean schoolchildren claiming to have experienced an extra-terrestrial encounter. With over fifty children asserting that they saw the same spaceship, and the same evil-eyed aliens, American psychiatrists have come to investigate. It could be a form of mass hysteria, but why are all the accounts and depictions so completely identical? How could so many kids tell the exact same lie for so long, and why would they lie? Alongside being gripped by the uniquely mysterious event at the heart of the novel, I was bowled over by the author's mastery of multiple narratives. The intertwined lives of six young people affected by the encounter are explored in all their brutal complexities, and the novel's real-life origins will surely draw in more reluctant readers. Magnetic, haunting, and richly rewarding.



## Buffalo Soldier

**Author:** Tanya Landman **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 03/04/2014 **Year Groups:** Key Stage 3

**Winner of the 2015 CILIP Carnegie Medal** What does freedom really mean? Tanya Landman pushes back against all kinds of prejudice in this action-packed, emotionally rich and vividly told story about one girl's struggle to find out. When Charley is freed from slavery at the end of the Civil War between the Yankees and the Confederates she imagines a new world of unlimited opportunities. Instead, she finds a life that is more dangerous than ever before. Her only way to survive is to disguise herself as a boy and join the army. But the army, like everywhere else, is riddled with prejudice and danger. It is only when Charley is sent to fight against the Apache Indians, another much discriminated against group, that she begins to learn what it could mean to be free.

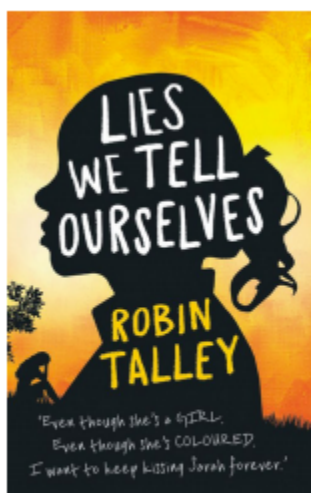


## Boys Don't Cry

**Author:** Malorie Blackman **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 28/04/2011 **Year Groups:** Key Stage 3, Key Stage 4

**Shortlisted for the prestigious Sheffield Children's Book Award 2011** Best-selling author Malorie Blackman has an exceptional ability to see the world from a teenager's angle. With his stellar A-level results in his hand, Dante has a great future mapped out for himself. But then his ex-girl friend turns up and Dante finds that he is... a dad! Blackman uses her trade mark of twin voices as Dante and his brother Adam unravel the stories from their pasts, their intense feelings for each other and their growing love for the baby. A deeply moving and convincing story which never descends into sentimentality.

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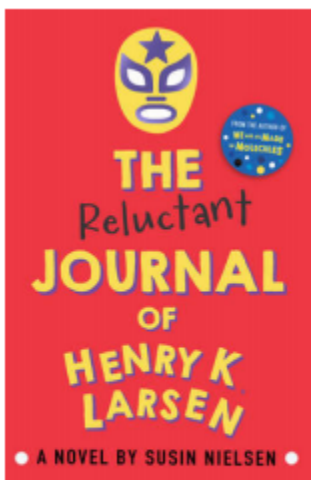


## Lies We Tell Ourselves

**Author:** Robin Talley **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 03/10/2014 **Year Groups:** Key Stage 3, Key Stage 4

**Shortlisted for the CILIP Carnegie Medal 2016.** Fascinating, commanding and stimulating; this work of fiction is steeped in the history of the American school integration struggle in the late 1950's. The author has clearly done her research and written a provocative and yet somehow irresistibly beautiful novel. Talley picks you up and hurls you down in the middle of the brutal pack mentality, she spins you around, then gently slips hope and love inbetween the clamour and hatred. Sarah and Linda feel substantial and real; their dreams and fears, writhe and pulse from the pages. This is so thought-provoking it almost hurts to read it, yet every word is needed, is necessary and consequently this is a novel that lingers long after you've finished it.

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## The Reluctant Journal of Henry K. Larsen

**Author:** Susin Nielsen **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 04/02/2016 **Year Groups:** Key Stage 3, Key Stage 4

**Winner of the UKLA 2017 Book Award** From the author of Lovereading4kids favourite We Are All Made of Molecules, this is another book that grips from the first chapter, a heart-breaking story that will nonetheless make readers laugh and leave them feeling better about the world. Henry's life is changed for ever by 'IT', a terrible event that we learn about through the journal his psychologist encourages him to keep, and which describes, gradually and in surprising ways, how through new friendships and the Global Wrestling Foundation, he finds ways to cope. Nielsen writes about the heaviest subjects with the lightest of touches: here it's suicide, bullying, breakdown but so subtly described, the balance between tragedy and humour so carefully managed, that this is a truly uplifting, even happy read.