

Equalities Recommended Reading List

A selection of books available in the Anglo European Library to read around the concepts of prejudice, discrimination, exclusion, human rights and injustice

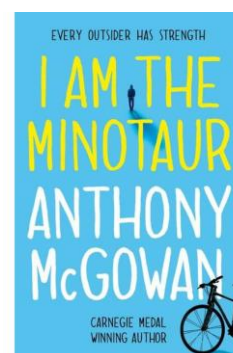
I Am the Minotaur

McGowan, Anthony

Matthew is 14 and is struggling to fit in – something that is extra hard when you're taking care of your mum, being bullied at school, and have earned the nickname Stinky Mog because of your poor personal hygiene. On top of all that he wants to catch the attention of one of the coolest girls in school, Ari.

When Ari's brand-new bike is stolen, Matthew spots his chance to make a good impression by getting it back for her... But will he end up in even more trouble or is Matthew about to learn that friendship and heroes can be found in unlikely places?

Young Carer, Bullying, Friendship. Dyslexia Friendly

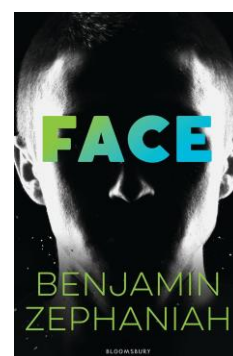


Face

Zephaniah, Benjamin

Martin seems to have it all, he's cool, funny and he's the undisputed leader of the Gang of Three, who room their East London estate during the holidays looking for fun. But one night, Martin accepts a ride from Pete, a Raider's Posse Gang member, too late he realises that the car is stolen and that the police are after them. What happens next will change Martin's life and looks and show him the true meaning of strength, courage, discrimination and friendship.

Discrimination, physical disabilities, Black/Asian/Ethnic minority author/characters



We Are All Made of Molecules

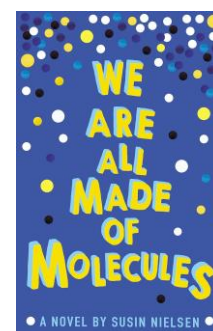
Nielsen, Susin

Meet Stewart. He's geeky, gifted and sees things a bit differently to most people.

His mum has died, and he misses her all the more now he and dad have moved in with Ashley and her mum. Meet Ashley. She's popular, cool and sees things very differently to her a new family. Her dad has come out and moved out, and now she has to live with a freakazoid step-brother.

Things are about to get a whole load more mixed up when these two very different people attract the attention of the school hunk Jared...

Adolescence, LGBTQ+, Family



You Think You Know Me

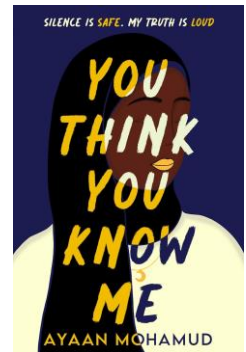
Mohamud, Ayaan

A stunning debut about finding the strength to speak up against hate and fear.

Hanan has always been good and quiet. She accepts her role as her school's perfect Muslim poster girl.

She ignores the racist bullies. A closed mouth is gold – it helps you get home in one piece. Then her friend is murdered, and every Muslim is to blame. The world is angry at us again. How can she stay silent while her family is ripped apart? It's time for Hanan to stop being the quiet, good girl. It's time for her to stand up and shout.

Racism, Refugees, Muslims, Black/Asian/Ethnic minority author/character

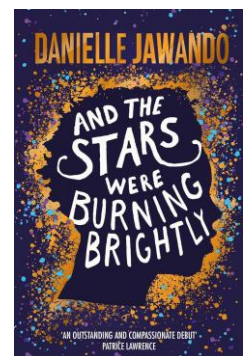


And the Stars Were Burning Brightly

Jawando, Danielle

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, Al was talented, Al was full of passion and light...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. Together they start seeking answers, but will either of them be able to handle the truth when they eventually discover what happened?

LGBTQ+, Bullying, Death, Family, Black/Asian/Ethnic minority author/character



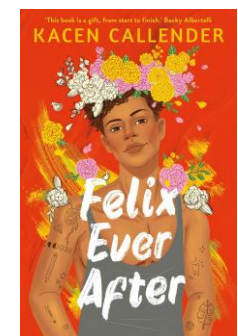
Felix, Ever After

Callender, Kacen

Felix Love has never been in love. He desperately wants to know what it's like and why it seems so easy for everyone else. What's worse is that, even though he is proud of his identity, Felix fears that he's one marginalisation too many – Black, queer and transgender – to ever get his happily ever after.

Felix ever after is an honest and layered story about identity, falling in love and recognising the love you deserve.

Romance, LGBTQ+



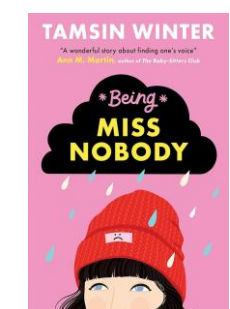
Being Miss Nobody

Winter, Tasmin

Rosalind hates her new secondary school. She's the weird girl who doesn't talk. The Mute-Ant. And it's easy to pick on someone who can't fight back. So Rosalind starts a blog – Miss Nobody; a place to speak up, a place where she has a voice.

But there is a problem...Is Miss Nobody becoming a bully herself?

Mental Health, Bullying, Disability



Smile

Telgemeier, Raina

Raina just wants to be a normal girl, but one night at Girl Scouts she trips and severely injures her two front teeth. What follows is a long and frustrating journey with braces, surgery, embarrassing headgear and even a retainer with false teeth. On top of that, there's more to deal with, a major earthquake, boy confusion and not so friendly friends. Raina's story takes us from middle school to high school, where she finds her artistic voice, true friendship and where she can finally smile.

School life, friendships, bullying

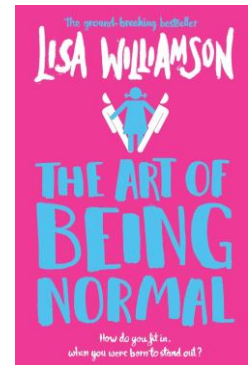


The Art of Being Normal

Williamson, Lisa

David Piper has always been an outsider. His parents think he's gay. The school bully thinks he's a freak. Only his two best friends know the real truth – David wants to be a girl. On the first day at his new school Leo Denton has one goal – to be invisible. Attracting the attention of the most beautiful girl in year 11 is not part of that plan. When Leo stands up for David in a fight, an unlikely friendship forms. But things are about to get messy. Because at Eden Park School, secrets have a funny habit of not staying secret for long...

LGBTQ+, friendship, school life



You Are Awesome

Syed, Matthew

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 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. Matthew Syed uses examples of successful people from Mozart to Serena Williams to demonstrate that success really is earned rather than given and that talent can be acquired.

Practical, insightful and positive, this is the book to help young people build resilience, embrace their mistakes and grow into happy, successful adults.

Self-esteem, Adolescence, Mental health

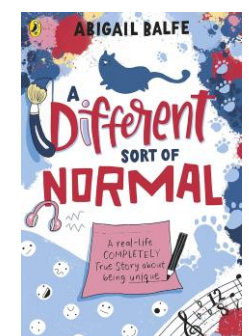


A Different Sort of Normal

Balfe, Abigail

I'm not like the other children in my class...and that's an actual scientific fact. My name is Abigail and I'm autistic, but I didn't know I was autistic until I was an adult-sort-of-person. This is my true story of growing up in the confusing 'normal' world, all the while missing some very important information about myself. There'll be scary moments involving toilets and crowded trains, heart-warming tales of cats and pianos and funny memories including my dad and a mysterious tub of ice-cream. Along the way you'll also find some very crucial information about autism. If you've ever felt different, out of place, like you don't fit in...this book is for you.

Autism

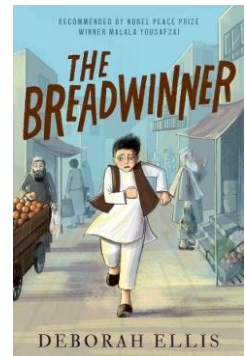


The Breadwinner

Ellis, Deborah

Afghanistan: Parvana's father is arrested and taken away by the Taliban soldiers. Under Taliban law, women and girls are not allowed to leave the house on their own. With no man to go out and buy food the family face starvation, so Parvana must pretend to be a boy. It is a dangerous plan, but their only chance. In fear, she goes out and witnesses the horror of avoiding landmines and the brutality of the Taliban. She suffers beatings and the desperation of trying to survive, but even in despair lies hope... (Also available as a graphic novel)

Human rights, Conflict



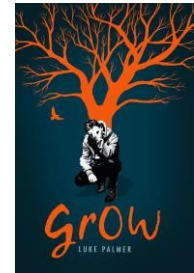
Grow

Palmer, Luke

A white supremacist group and its violent leader targets teenage Josh, who is struggling to cope with his father's recent death at the hand of terrorists. Will he find the strength to resist, or will his unlikely relationship with Dana give them both the escape that they so badly need?

An unflinching and muscular exploration of grief, and what we plant in the spaces that loss leaves inside us. *Grow* is a tense and compelling novel of our current social landscape.

Terrorism, Masculinity, Relationships



Please be aware that some of the books are classed as 14+, please speak to the Librarian for alternative choices if you are underage or do not have permission to read this age group.

For further suggestions please see below or pop into the Library and speak to the Librarian, alternatively search for your favourite author or genre on Oliver.

Further Reading

Black/Asian/Ethnic Minorities Authors and Characters

Fiction

The Black Flamingo
Zara Hossain is Here
The Hate That You Give
Noughts and Crosses
Ghost Boys

Non-Fiction

Black and British
Black Tudors
The Black History Book
Why I'm No Longer Talking to White People About Race

Mental Health/Disabilities

Fiction

The Midnight Library
When I See Blue
Are We All Lemings and Snowflakes?
Solitaire

Non-Fiction

Looking After Your Mental Health
Being You: The Body Image Book for Boys
The Girls' Guide to Growing Up Great
Stuff That Sucks

Refugees/War

Fiction

Boy Everywhere
No Ballet Shoes in Syria
When Stars are Scattered
Illegal
The Bone Sparrow

Non-Fiction

Who Are Refugees and Migrants?
You Don't Know What War Is
The Diary of Anne Frank

LGBTQ+

Fiction

Gwen and Art Are Not In Love
Heartstopper Vol 1-5
The Girl From the Sea
Love Simon
Kemosha of the Caribbean
Boy Like Me

Non-Fiction

The LGBTQ+ History Book
What is Gender?
This Book is Gay (Sixth Form)

Neurodiversity

Fiction

Can You See Me
The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time
Wish You Were Her
The London Eye Mystery

Non-Fiction

The ADHD Teen Survival Guide

Family Life/School/Relationships/Bullying

Fiction

King of Nothing
The Wrong Shoes
Crossing the Line
Eleanor and Park

Non-Fiction

Lads
We Need to Talk About Divorce
Anti-Bullying (Issues Magazine)

