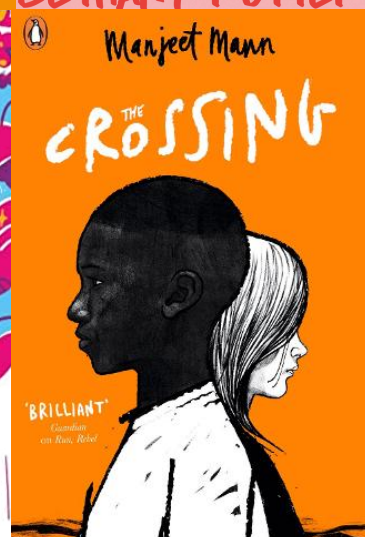
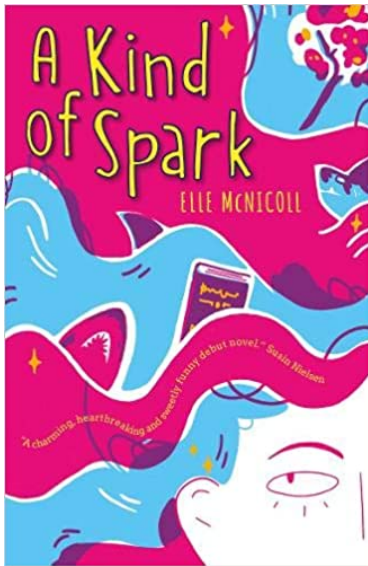


# realist fiction reading list

some of the best realist  
fiction writing, old and  
new, selected by the your  
school librarians.





## A Kind of Spark

Elle McNicoll

A Kind of Spark tells the story of 11-year-old, neurodivergent Addie as she campaigns for a memorial in memory of the witch trials that took place in her Scottish hometown. Addie knows there's more to the story of these 'witches', just like there is more to hers.

### Keywords:

Autism; Campaigns; Neurodiversity; Witches

### Available online via:



### Accelerated Reader:

IL: MY

BL: 4.3

AR Pts: 5.0



## The Black Flamingo

Dean Atta

Michael waits in the stage wings, wearing a pink wig, pink fluffy coat and black heels. One more step will see him illuminated by spotlight. He has been on a journey of bravery to get here, and he is almost ready to show himself to the world in bold colours ...

### Keywords:

Coming of Age; Drag; LGBTQ+; Verse

### Available online via:



### Accelerated Reader:

IL: UY

BL: 4.7

AR Pts: 5.0



## I Am Thunder

Muhammad Khan

Fifteen-year-old Muzna Saleem is used to being invisible. So no one is more surprised than her when Arif Malik, the hottest boy in school, takes a sudden interest. But Arif is hiding a terrible secret and, as they begin to follow a dark path, Muzna faces an impossible choice: keep quiet and betray her beliefs, or speak out and betray her heart.

### Keywords:

Islamaphobia; Online Safety; Radicalisation; Relationships

### Available online via:

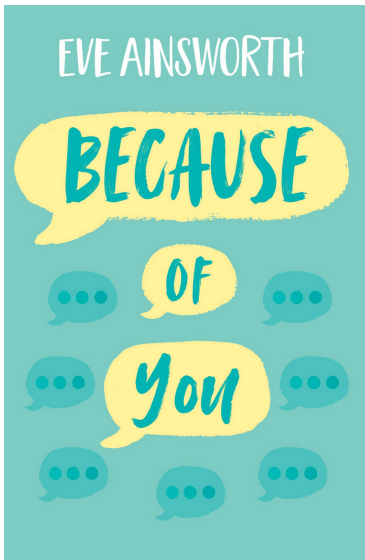


### Accelerated Reader:

IL: MY

BL: 4.9

AR Pts: 12



## Because of You

Eve Ainsworth

Poppy's parents no longer live together, and with her mum's new boyfriend moving in, and her dad becoming more distant, Poppy isn't sure where to turn when she becomes the target of an online bullying campaign.

### Keywords:

Bullying; Divorce; Social Media

### Available online via:

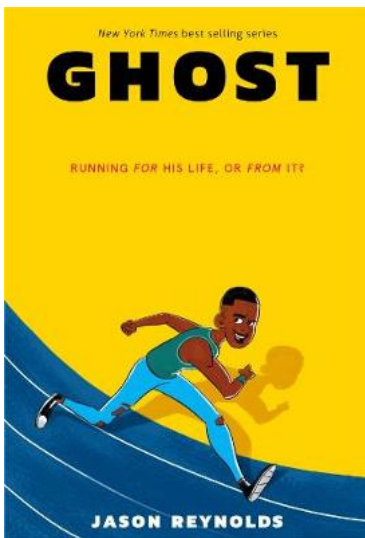


### Accelerated Reader:

IL: MY

BL: 3.6

AR Pts: 2.0



## Ghost

Jason Reynolds

Running. That's all Ghost has ever known. But Ghost has been running for the wrong reasons -until he meets Coach, an ex-Olympic Medallist who sees something in Ghost: crazy natural talent. If Ghost can stay on track, literally and figuratively, he could be the best sprinter in the city.

### Keywords:

Coming of Age; Mental Health; Sport

### Available online via:

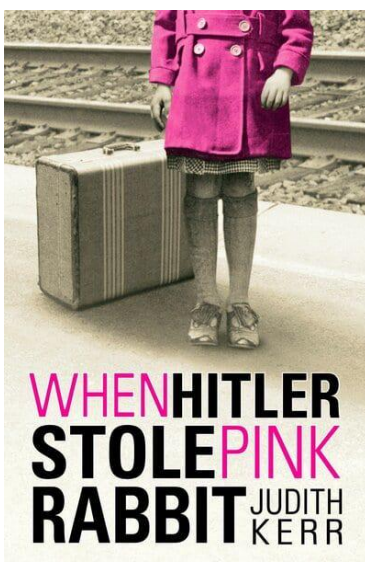


### Accelerated Reader:

IL: MY

BL: 4.6

AR Pts: 6.0



## When Hitler Stole the Pink Rabbit

Judith Kerr

This sem-autobiographical classic, written by Judith Kerr, tells the story of a Jewish family escaping Germany in the days before the Second World War.

### Keywords:

Historical Fiction; Holocaust; Refugees; WWII

### Available online via:



### Accelerated Reader:

IL: MY

BL: 5.7

AR Pts: 9.0





## No Big Deal

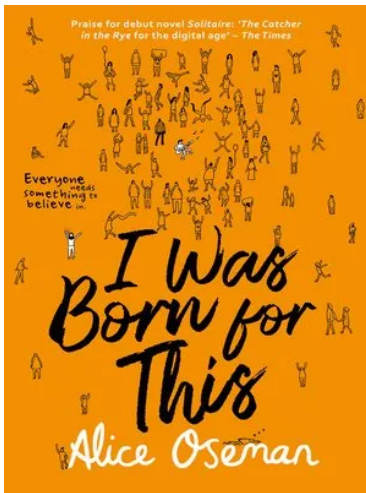
Bethany Rutter

No Big Deal, set in Croydon, is a fierce and body-positive celebration of friendship, first crushes and loving yourself.

### Keywords:

Body Image; Coming of Age; South London

### Available online via:



## I Was Born for This

Alice Oseman

For Angel Rahimi life is about one thing: The Ark - a pop-rock trio of teenage boys who are taking the world by storm. Jimmy Kaga-Ricci owes everything to The Ark. He's their frontman - and playing in a band with his mates is all he ever dreamed of doing. But when Jimmy and Angel are unexpectedly thrust together, they find out how strange and surprising facing up to reality can be.

### Keywords:

Coming of Age; Celebrity & Stardom; Music

### Available online via:

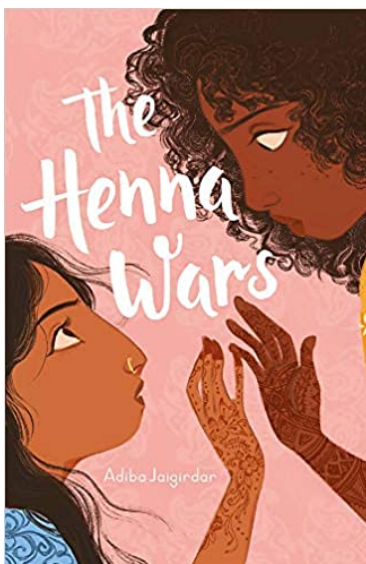


### Accelerated Reader:

IL: UY

BL: 4.5

AR Pts: 12.0



## The Henna Wars

Adiba Jaigirdar

Nishat and Flavia are rivals at school, but Nishat can't help the secret crush burning in her heart - even though her parents disapprove of the fact she likes girls. Can she possibly find her happy ever after?

### Keywords:

LGBTQ+; Romance

### Available online via:



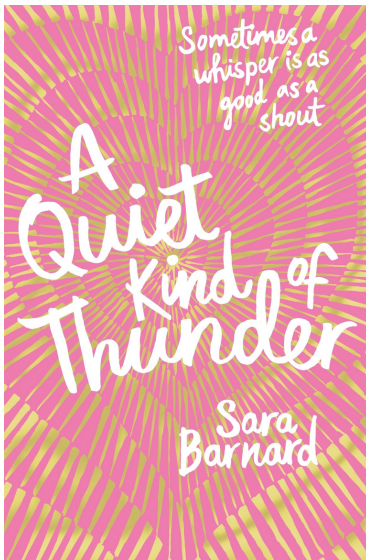
### Accelerated Reader:

IL: UY

BL: 5.0

AR Pts: 12.0





## A Quiet Kind of Thunder

Sara Barnard

Steffi has been a selective mute for most of her life. Rhys, the new boy at school, is deaf. Together they start to communicate through sign language and Steffi finds herself falling in love.

### Keywords:

Coming of Age; Disability; Romance

### Available online via:



### Accelerated Reader:

IL: UY

BL: 4.4

AR Pts: 12.0

## George (republished as Melissa's Story, 2021)

Alex Gino

When people look at George, they think they see a boy. But she knows she's not a boy. She knows she's a girl. Her teacher announces that their class play is going to be Charlotte's Web. George really, really, REALLY wants to play Charlotte. But the teacher says she can't even try out for the part... because she's a boy.

### Keywords:

Coming of Age; LGBTQ+

### Available online via:



### Accelerated Reader:

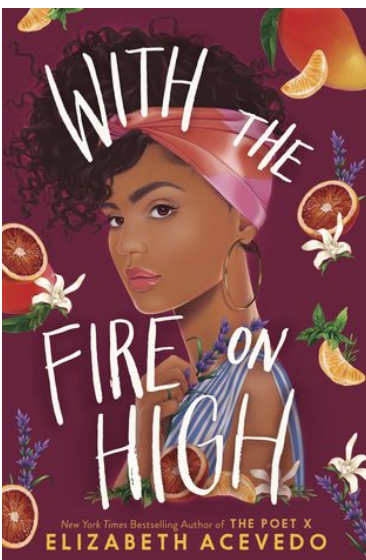
IL: MY

BL: 5.0

AR Pts: 4.0

GEORGE

ALEX GINO



## With the Fire on High

Elizabeth Acevedo

With her daughter to care for and her abuela to help support, high school senior Emoni Santiago has to make the tough decisions, and do what must be done. The one place she can let her responsibilities go is in the kitchen, where she adds a little something magical to everything she cooks, turning her food into straight-up goodness.

### Keywords:

Caring Responsibilities; Family; Food

### Available online via:

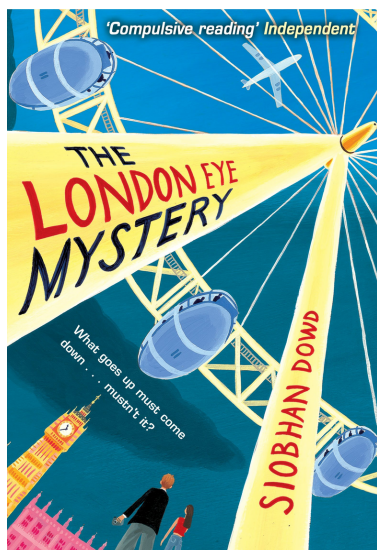


### Accelerated Reader:

IL: UY

BL: 5.2

AR Pts: 11.0



## London Eye Mystery

Siobahn Dowd

Ted and his sister Kat watch their cousin Salim get on board the London Eye. The pod rises from the ground, high above the city. The pod lands and the doors open. Everyone exits - everyone but Salim...

### Keywords:

Adventure; Mystery

### Available online via:

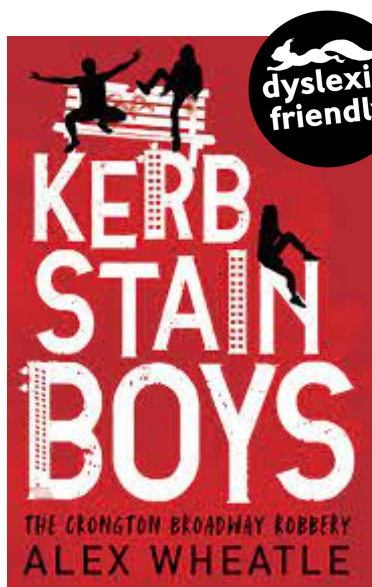


### Accelerated Reader:

IL: MY

BL: 4.1

AR Pts: 7.0



## Kerb Stain Boys

Alex Wheatle

Life on the Crongton estate can be rough for Briggy. So when his best mate Terror and coolest girl in the year, Caldonia, cook up a plan to make a quick buck, Briggy hopes this time it might be his chance to shine. Robbing the Post Office ... what could go wrong?

### Keywords:

Coming of Age; Crime; Crongton Novels

### Available online via:



### Accelerated Reader:

IL: MY

BL: 4.0

AR Pts: 3.0



## Windrush Child

Benjamin Zephaniah

Leonard arrives with his mother in the port of Southampton, after traveling from Maroon Town, Jamaica. Leonard does his best not to complain, to make new friends, to do well at school - even when people hurt him with their words and their fists. But how can a boy so far from home learn to enjoy his new life when so many things count against him?

### Keywords:

Historical Fiction; Migration; Racism & Disrimination

### Available online via:



### Accelerated Reader:

IL: MY

BL: 4.8

AR Pts: 6.0



## Nothing Ever Happens Here

Sarah Hagger-Holt

Izzy's family is under the spotlight when her dad comes out as Danielle, a trans woman. Izzy is terrified her family will be torn apart. Will she lose her dad? Will her parents break up? And what will people at school say? Izzy's always been shy, but now all eyes are on her.

### Keywords:

Coming of Age; Family & Relationships; LGBTQ+

### Available online via:

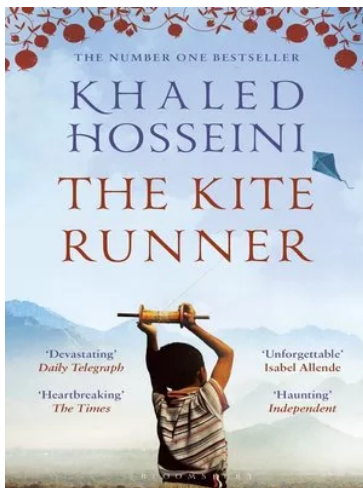


### Accelerated Reader:

IL: MY

BL: 4.7

AR Pts: 7.0



## The Kite Runner

Khaled Hosseini

An unforgettable and heartbreaking story of an unlikely friendship between a wealthy boy and the son of his father's servant. When one seemingly betrays the other, they must live with the guilt and consequences for a life time..

### Keywords:

Afghanistan; Historical Fiction; Friendship; Guilt; Bereavement

### Available online via:

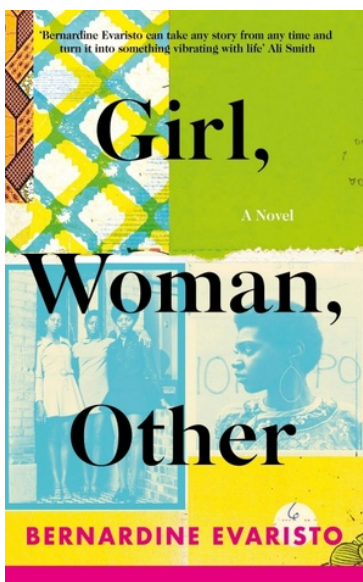


### Accelerated Reader:

IL: UY

BL: 5.2

AR Pts: 16.0



## Girl, Woman, Other

Bernardine Evaristo

Girl, Woman, Other follows the lives and struggles of twelve very different characters. Mostly women, black and British, they tell the stories of their families, friends and lovers, across the country and through the years.

### Keywords:

Multiple POV; Relationships; Romance

### Available online via:







## Jane Eyre

Charlotte Brontë

Jane has felt like an outcast her whole life. But things look up when she takes a job as a governess and falls in love with her new employer, Edward Rochester. But a dark secret looks set to tear them apart and send Jane back into her life as an outcast.

### Keywords:

Classic Modern Literature; Romance; Gothic.

### Available online via:

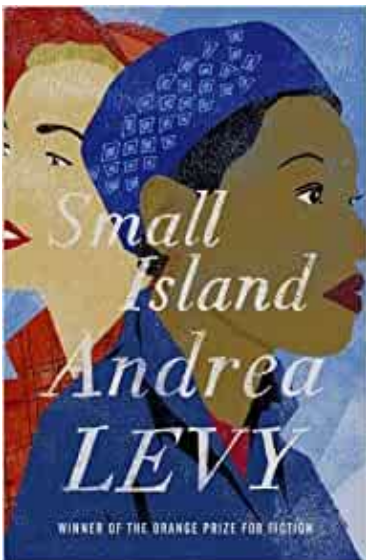


### Accelerated Reader:

IL: UY

BL: 7.9

AR Pts: 33.0



## Small Island

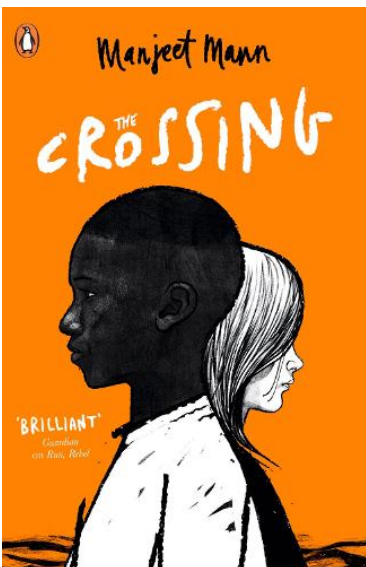
Andrea Levy

It is 1948, and England is recovering from a war. But at 21 Nevern Street, London, the conflict has only just begun. Queenie Bligh's neighbours do not approve when she agrees to take in Jamaican lodgers,

### Keywords:

Historical Fiction; Migration; Racism; Windrush

### Available online via:



## The Crossing

Manjeet Mann

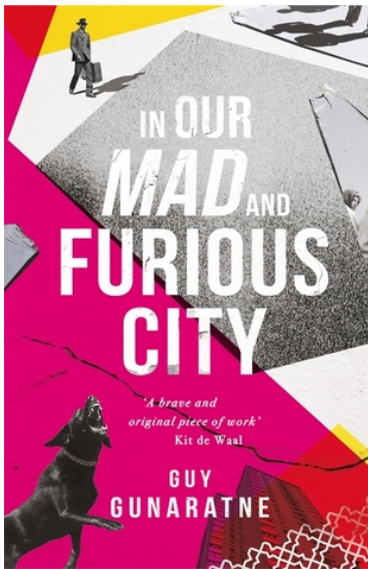
Natalie's world is falling apart. She's just lost her mum and her brother marches the streets of Dover full of hate and anger. Sammy has fled his home and family in Eritrea for the chance of a new life in Europe. A twist of fate brings them together and gives them both hope. But is hope enough to mend a broken world?

### Keywords:

Bereavement; Migration; Refugees;

### Available online via:





## In Our Mad and Furious City

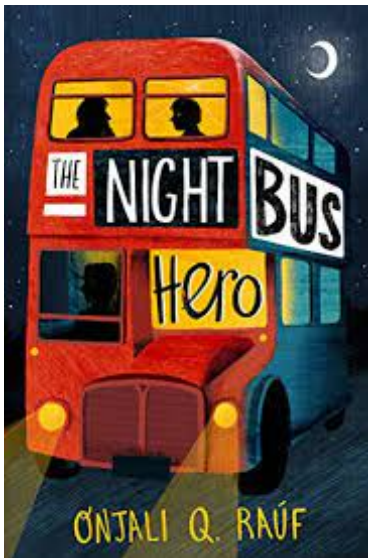
Guy Gunaratne

For Selvon, Ardan, and Yusuf, growing up under the towers of Stones Estate, summer means what it does anywhere: football, music, and freedom, but now, after the killing of a British soldier, riots are spreading across the city, and nowhere is safe.

### Keywords:

Community; London Riots; Social Issues

### Available online via:



## Night Bus Hero

Onjali Q Rauf

Told from the perspective of a bully, this book explores themes of homelessness, while celebrating kindness, friendship and the potential everyone has to change for the good.

### Keywords:

Bullying; Homelessness

### Available online via:

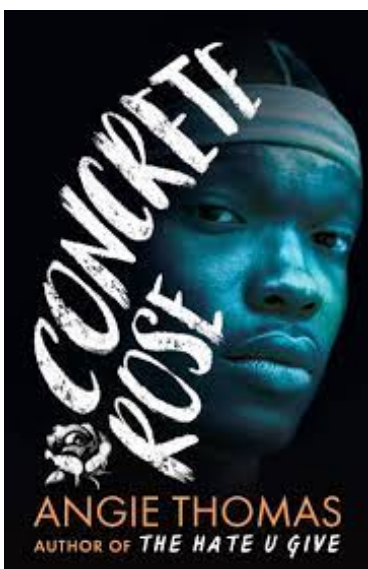


### Accelerated Reader:

IL: MY

BL: 5.3

AR Pts: 8.0



## Concrete Rose

Angie Thomas

With his King Lord dad in prison and his mom working two jobs, seventeen-year-old Maverick Carter helps the only way he knows how: slinging drugs. Life's not perfect, but he's got everything under control. Until he finds out he's a father...

### Keywords:

Coming of Age; Historical Fiction

### Available online via:



### Accelerated Reader:

IL: UY

BL: 3.4

AR Pts: 10.0