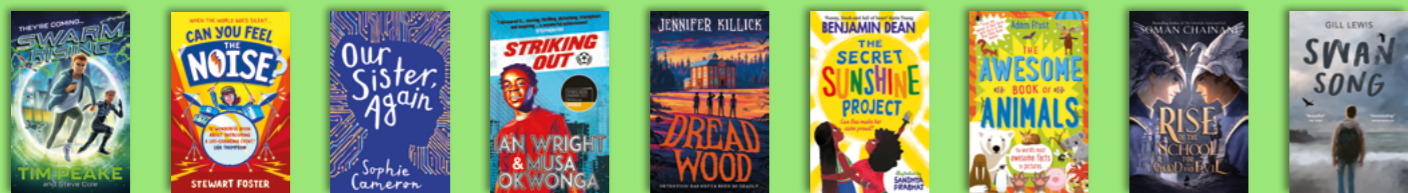


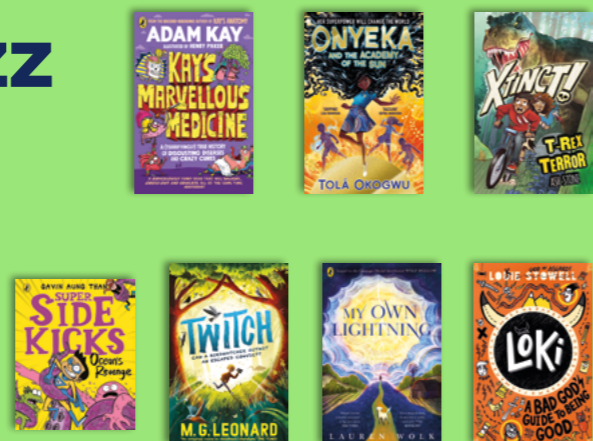
Your guide to Bookbuzz 2023





Launching Bookbuzz in your school

Reading is just part of the fun! Bookbuzz is all about giving students a choice to find a book they'll enjoy. Here's how you can support them in the process:



Prepare the school for Bookbuzz

- **Read this guide** and **watch the Bookbuzz film** in the coordinator area of our website so you get to know the Bookbuzz titles and can help students choose the book that's right for them.
- Share the Bookbuzz books with your colleagues to **spread the word** about Bookbuzz. You can even encourage staff to put up a 'My Bookbuzz book is...' sign in their classrooms and talk about why they chose that title.
- **Tell parents and carers** that your school is taking part in Bookbuzz. You can even use Bookbuzz to inspire a love of reading at home. A template parent and carer letter can be downloaded from the coordinator area.

Launch Bookbuzz with the students

- Get your students talking about the books by **creating a display in your library or classroom** using the poster and books in your launch pack.
- **Show your students the Bookbuzz film**, which includes a short introduction to each book. You may want to pause between each book and ask the students to discuss what they've seen.
- Let students **flick through the Bookbuzz books** so they can get an impression of the look and length of each title.
- Encourage students to **focus on what they like**, helping them to match their interests and reading habits to one of the 16 books.

Your guide to the Bookbuzz books

With help from a panel of school librarians, teachers and children's reading advocates, we've selected 16 books for this year's Bookbuzz programme that we think students aged 11 to 13 will love.

To support you in helping students make their choice, the next few pages contain some information on each of the Bookbuzz titles. This includes a short description of the book, key themes and who it might appeal to. There are also some recommended reads to help your students find their next book.



Swarm Rising

By Tim Peake and Steve Cole

Genre: action, adventure, quest, science fiction

Key themes: science, space, alien life, human rights, superpowers, gaming

Perfect for: anyone who loves a fast-paced action/adventure with life-threatening danger

Pages: 304



Synopsis

Years ago, humans sent a message into space to try to communicate with extra-terrestrial lifeforms. Now, an alien swarm has intercepted it – and they have terrifying plans for Earth. Teenager Danny just wants to play video games with his best friend Jasmine, but then he meets Adi. A strange energy-based being who travels through the internet and bends the laws of physics, Adi delivers the dire warning of the Swarm's arrival. Can Adi, Danny and Jasmine find a way to stop the all-powerful Swarm from destroying human civilisation?

If your students like this, also try:

- *Game Over: Rise of the Raid Mob* by M. J. Sullivan
- *SkyWake Invasion* by Jamie Russell
- *Deadlock* by Simon Fox

Our Sister, Again

By Sophie Cameron

Genre: drama, mystery, real life

Key themes: bereavement (death of a sibling), artificial intelligence, family, crime, secrets, ethics, LGBTQ+

Perfect for: those who like emotionally intelligent stories with a mystery, surprising twists and things to make you think

Pages: 304



Synopsis

Isla's sister Flora died three years ago. They miss her terribly, so when Isla's family are offered the chance to participate in a top-secret project which recreates loved ones as lifelike AI robots, they take it. Now Flora is home again and it's wonderful. But is this Flora really the same as the Flora they lost? And some people in their small island community are unhappy about her return: someone is sending threatening messages. It's up to Isla to find out who – and why.

If your students like this, also try:

- *Show Us Who You Are* by Elle McNicoll
- *The Last Whale* by Chris Vick
- *The Consequence Girl* by Alastair Chisholm

Can You Feel the Noise?

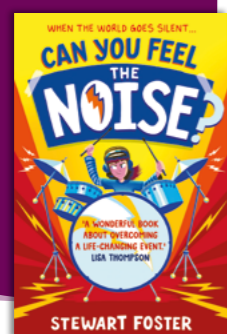
By Stewart Foster

Genre: real life, coming-of-age

Key themes: music, friendship, deafness, disability, identity, school

Perfect for: readers who love stories that reflect everyday life, real-life challenges and the ups and downs of friendship

Pages: 304



Synopsis

Sophie loves playing guitar and is really excited that her band is in the Battle of the Bands final. But Sophie is experiencing hearing loss, and everything is turned upside-down when she becomes completely deaf. Everything feels strange, conversations must be lip-read and her friends don't really understand what's happening. What will this mean for her music and her place in the band? But as Sophie navigates a silent world and changing friendships, she learns to experience music in a whole new way.

If your students like this, also try:

- *Wink* by Rob Harrell
- *War of the Wind* by Victoria Williamson
- *Secrets of a Rebel Rock Star* by Nat Amooore

Striking Out

By Ian Wright and Musa Okwonga

Genre: sport, drama, real life

Key themes: football, self-empowerment, racism and bullying, grief (death of a parent), domestic abuse (main character), courage, school

Perfect for: sports fans and those who want a story about real-life challenges and figuring out where you belong

Pages: 256



Synopsis

Jerome dreams of becoming a professional footballer. But things at home are difficult, especially with his stepdad, and Jerome has lost his confidence. Then a chance meeting with legendary striker Ian Wright changes everything. Jerome's offered an exciting football scholarship at a prestigious school. But finding his place in the new school isn't easy, plus Jerome must also contend with racist bullying and an increasingly stressful home life. With Ian's guidance, can Jerome turn his fortunes around?

If your students like this, also try:

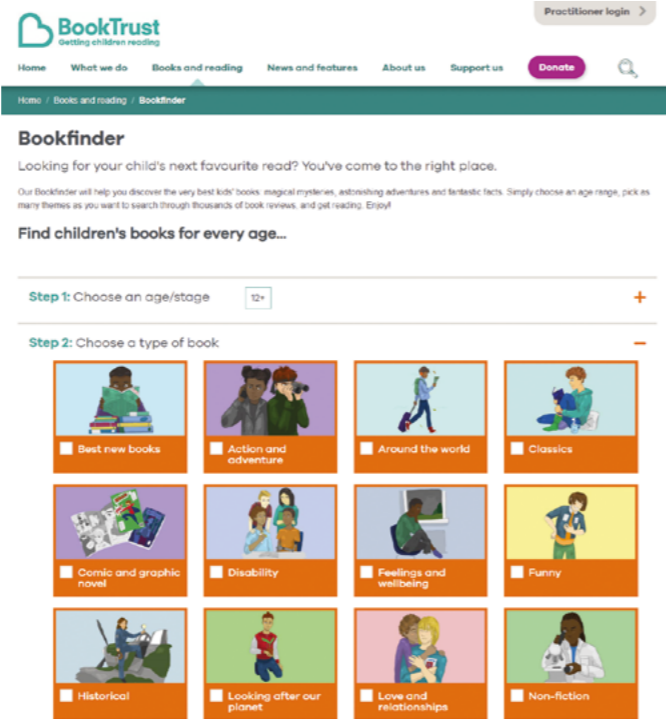
- *Ghost* by Jason Reynolds
- *Booked* by Kwame Alexander
- *Becoming Muhammad Ali* by James Patterson and Kwame Alexander

While you wait...

Waiting for anything can feel like a lifetime, especially when students are keen to get reading. Here are some tips to keep up their enthusiasm while you wait for that exciting delivery:



- Ask students to find out more about their chosen Bookbuzz author by using the **blogs** and **videos** on our website.
- Download the **Bookbuzz challenge** from the coordinator area, which has ideas of activities for students.
- Invite students to choose other books with the help of our **BookTrust Bookfinder**, available at booktrust.org.uk/bookfinder
- **Host a library scavenger hunt** with the Bookbuzz titles to help students learn how to use the library.
- **Create a Bookbuzz scoreboard** to show which titles were most popular across the school.



To stave off the 'Are they nearly here yet?' questions, we promote other books by this year's authors and Bookbuzz selections from previous years as well as highlight the brilliant 'If you liked this, try...' suggestions for each Bookbuzz title.

Eileen Armstrong
Librarian at
Cramlington Learning Village

The videos describing the books [...] were really helpful in the decision-making for the students on what book to pick. The videos also added to the excitement that was building, to finally handing out the books to the students. The students just couldn't wait to get their hands on their books.

Charlie Hield
English teacher at
Sidestrand Hall School

Keep the buzz going

Your books are here! So, what's next?

Keep students engaged in reading with some of the following ideas:

- Encourage students to **make film trailers for their Bookbuzz books** to share with other students.
- **Host a 'battle of the books'** with students who want to read all the Bookbuzz books by pitting one book against another (like a sports bracket competition) until one book is crowned champion.
- **Make a library display** of other books by the Bookbuzz authors or the additional books recommended in this guide.
- **Create a 'swap sheet'** so students can swap their books with another student and then share lunch in the library to discuss their two selected books.
- **Arrange an author visit** (in-person or virtual) from one of the Bookbuzz authors or another favourite author through Authors Aloud: authorsalouduk.co.uk

Some of our students wanted to read all of the books on the list and some of the teachers wanted to get involved and read the books too.

Emma Williams
Literacy and Library Assistant
at Dixons Unity Academy

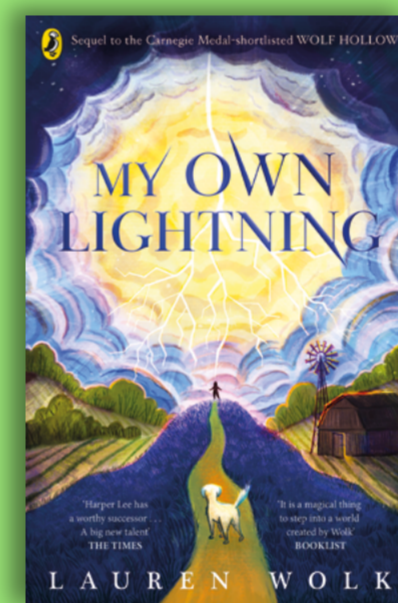
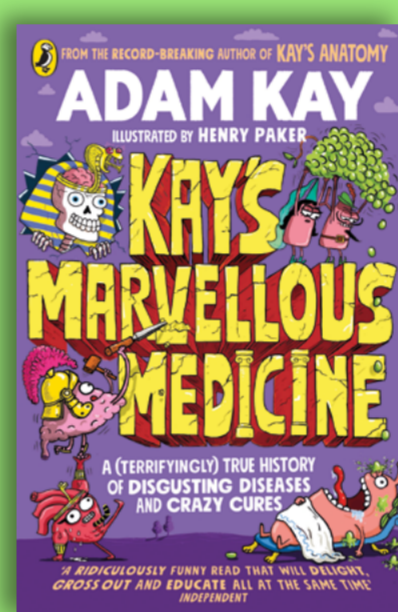
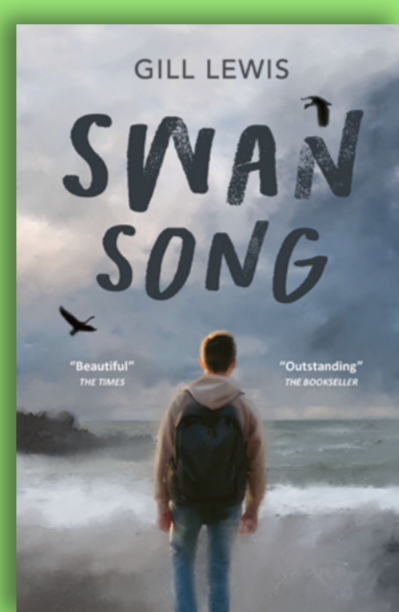
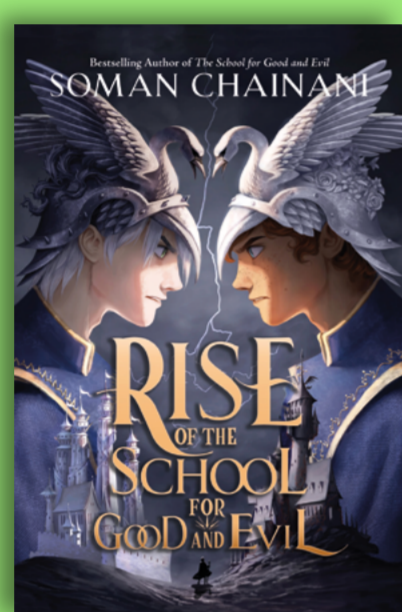
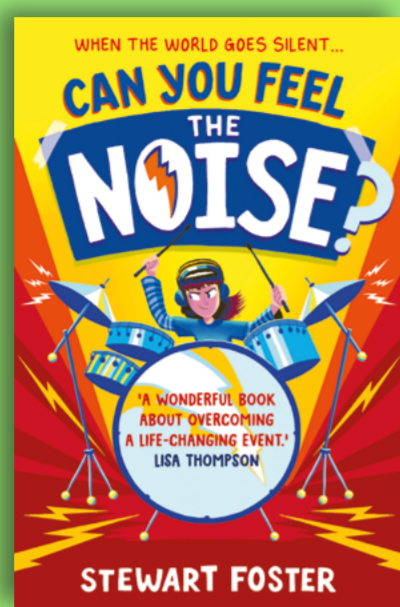
Register for BookTrust Represents

BookTrust Represents is a programme created to promote and improve the representation of people of colour in children's books so that all children read a range of books that reflect them and their wider communities.

Keep the reading buzz going and join us each term for a live virtual author event with some of the leading names in children's literature as they share the inspiration behind their books, set interactive writing exercises and answer your questions in a live Q&A.

Register your school via our website
www.booktrust.org.uk





Which is **your**
favourite?

booktrust.org.uk/bookbuzz

#MyBookbuzz

Full name

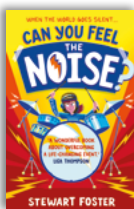
Form/class

The Bookbuzz book I choose is:

(please tick)



Swarm Rising
Tim Peake and
Steve Cole



**Can You Feel
the Noise?**
Stewart Foster



Our Sister, Again
Sophie Cameron



Striking Out
Ian Wright and
Musa Okwonga



Dread Wood
Jennifer Killick



**The Secret
Sunshine Project**
Benjamin Dean,
illustrations by
Sandhya Prabhat

Swarm Rising

By Tim Peake and Steve Cole



Genre: action, adventure, quest, science fiction

Key themes: science, space, alien life, human rights, superpowers, gaming

Perfect for: anyone who loves a fast-paced action/adventure with life-threatening danger

Pages: 304

The Secret Sunshine Project

By Benjamin Dean, illustrations by Sandhya Prabhat



Genre: real life

Key themes: Pride, LGBTQ+, friendship, grief (death of a parent), prejudice, standing up for yourself, identity, empathy

Perfect for: readers who like a joyful and heart-warming story about family, friendship and celebrating who you are

Pages: 336