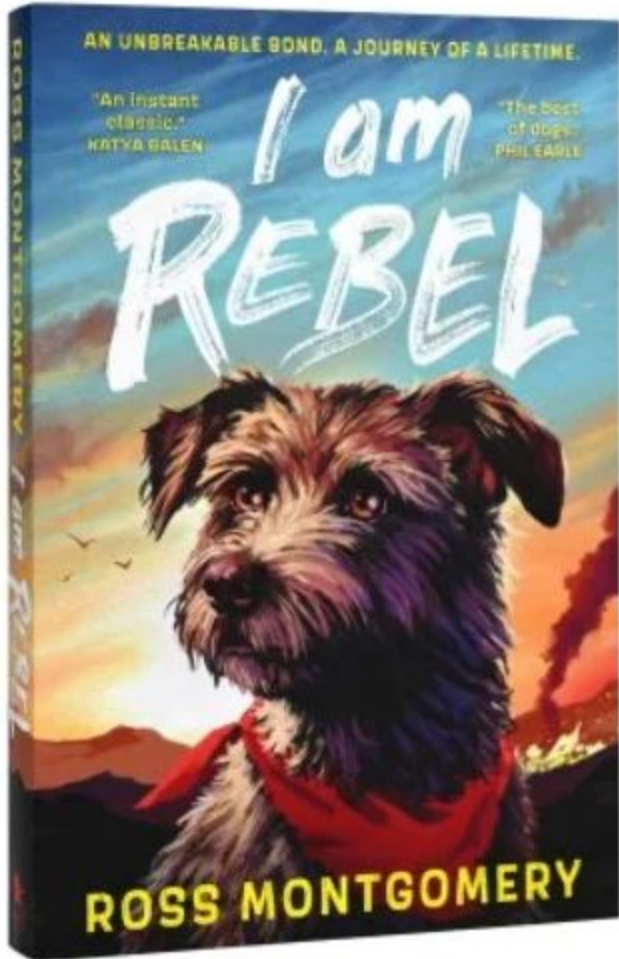


A scenic background image of a beach. The top half shows a bright blue sky with scattered white clouds. Below the sky is a vibrant turquoise ocean with white waves crashing onto a sandy beach. The bottom half of the image is dominated by the light-colored sand of the beach.

BOOKS WORTH NOTICING

June/July 2024 - Blue front cover theme



Waterstones [Children's Book of the Month](#) for July 2024

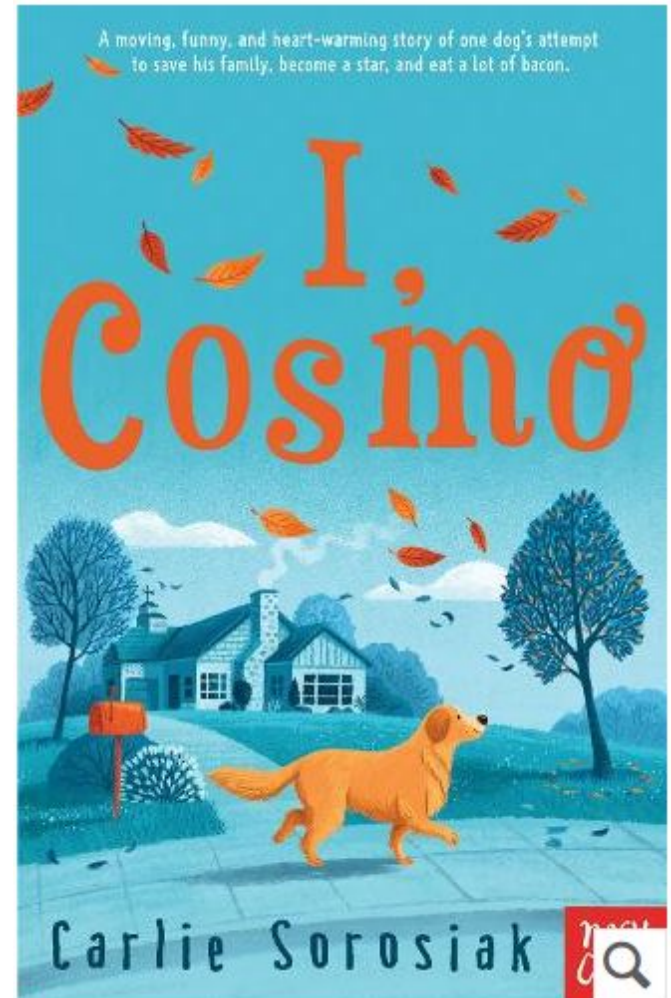
A heart-warming adventure about the unbreakable bond between a dog and his human from a beloved and twice Costa-shortlisted author.

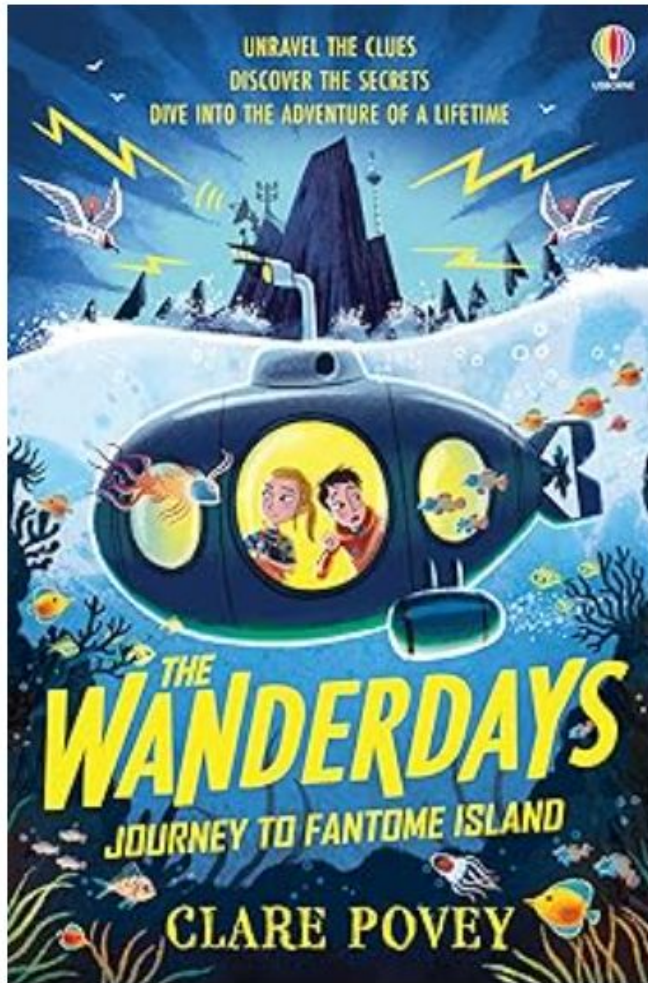
'I'm Tom's dog, and he's my human. We belong to each other.'

Rebel is a good dog, and he loves his simple, perfect life on the farm with his owner Tom – until one day the war comes too close... Now Tom is determined to join the rebellion to defeat the king's men. But Rebel knows war is dangerous, and he will stop at nothing to save the human he loves. Rebel *must* bring Tom home before it's too late.

The story of one dog's attempt to save his family, become a star, and eat a lot of bacon.

Cosmo's family is falling apart. And it's up to Cosmo to keep them together. He knows exactly what to do. There's only one problem. Cosmo is a Golden Retriever.





Meet Flo and Joseph Wanderday.

Their mum is one of the world's greatest explorers, but she's gone missing on her latest expedition. When a mysterious stranger appears, they discover the sinister reason for Mum's trip.

This was no ordinary expedition and Mum was trying to uncover crimes committed by Sir Frederick Titan, a much-loved TV presenter who claims to be a protector of the natural world.

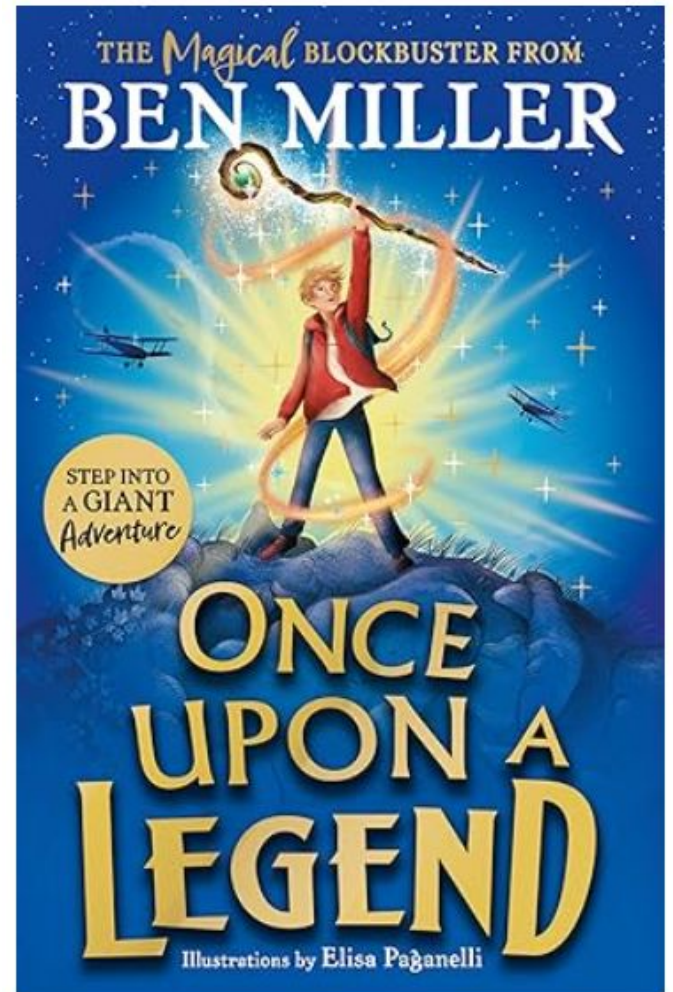
Flo, Joseph and their friends Funmi and Isaac find a map and follow clues taking them to a secret island to save Mum and expose Titan's fishy plans...

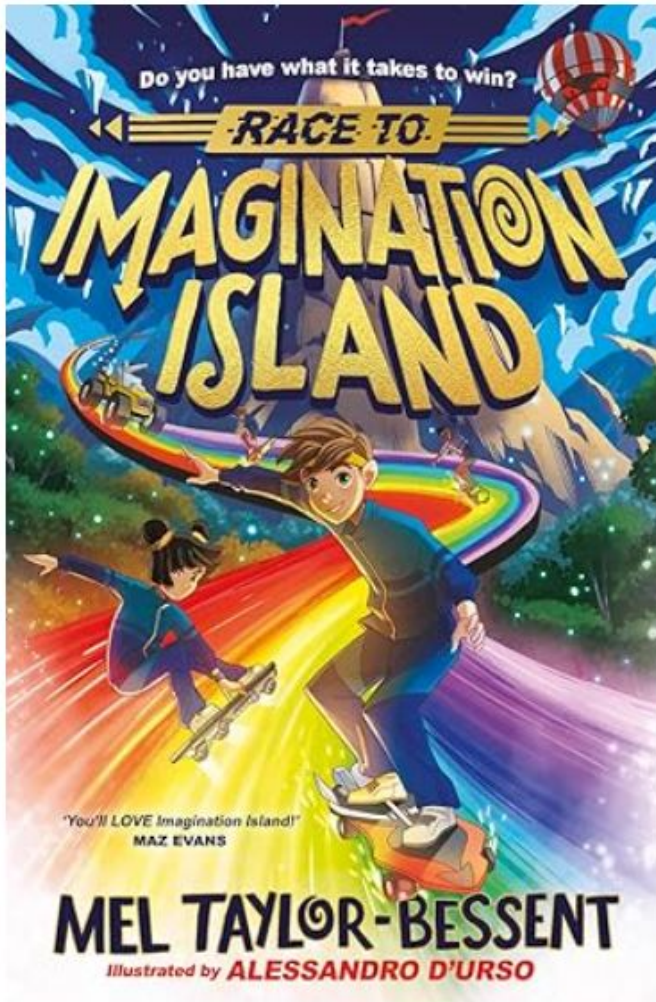
An exciting watery adventure packed with brilliant baddies, bravery, friendship and real passion for protecting the natural world.

Marcus has just started Merlin's, a very unusual school...

He doesn't like it and is doing everything he can to get into big trouble and be sent home. When a **midnight prank** accidentally wakes a **sleeping giant** called Crom, things take a turn for the magical.

But there are **other giants** on the move, bigger and angrier than Crom. Realising that Merlin's and the whole country are in **danger**, it's a race against time for the two new friends to find the magic of their own bravery.

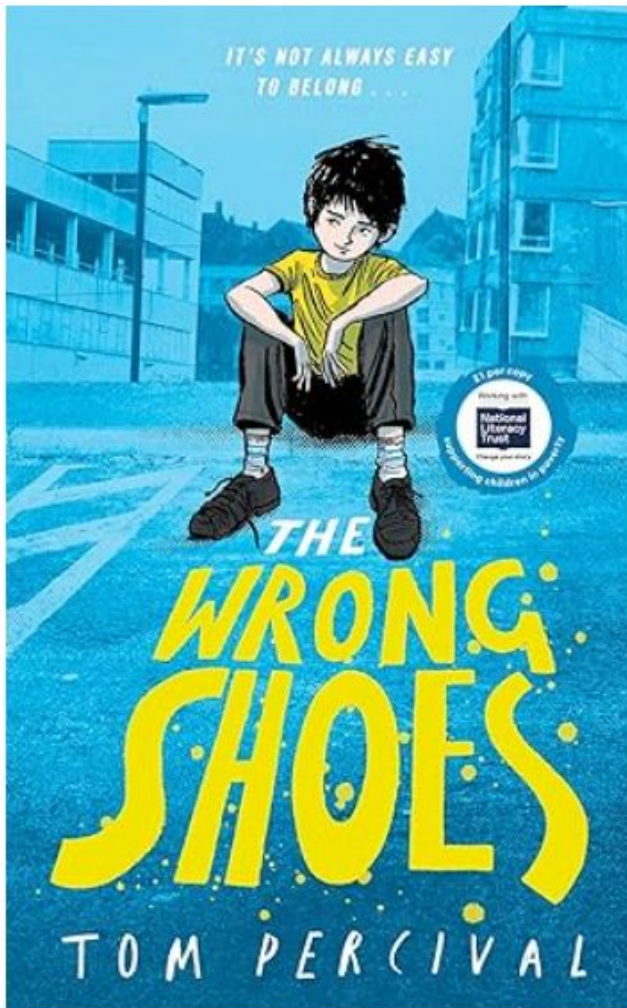




The time has come for four children to be named the new Protectors of Imagination Island. Children all over the world scour the globe in search of lightstreams (portals) to the magical island where *anything they imagine* comes to life. To become a Protector, they must compete in teams and complete a series of challenges to prove they have what it takes.

Dreamy 10-year-old Luca is afraid of everything, not least the lightstream he stumbles into by accident. Imagination Island is everything that he's terrified of. But there's no way out. So he hits on a plan. Work out how to come LAST, and get sent home. That's what he really wants. Isn't it?

The Race is ON!



There's a bunch of kids in there and suddenly they're all looking at me like someone who can actually do something, not just some weirdo with the wrong shoes and a rubbish coat . . .

Will has the wrong shoes – he's always known it but doesn't know how to change it. Navigating the difficulties of home and school when you feel you stick out is tough, but finding confidence with the help and empathy of friends can be all you need to see the way.



Two master criminals are on the run with ancient treasure, using London's web of hidden trails and passages to conceal their loot. The Adventurers must track them down using their wits, Uncle Logan... and a stolen red bus.

Join Lara, Rufus, Tom, Daisy and Barney as they race to uncover the City of Secrets!

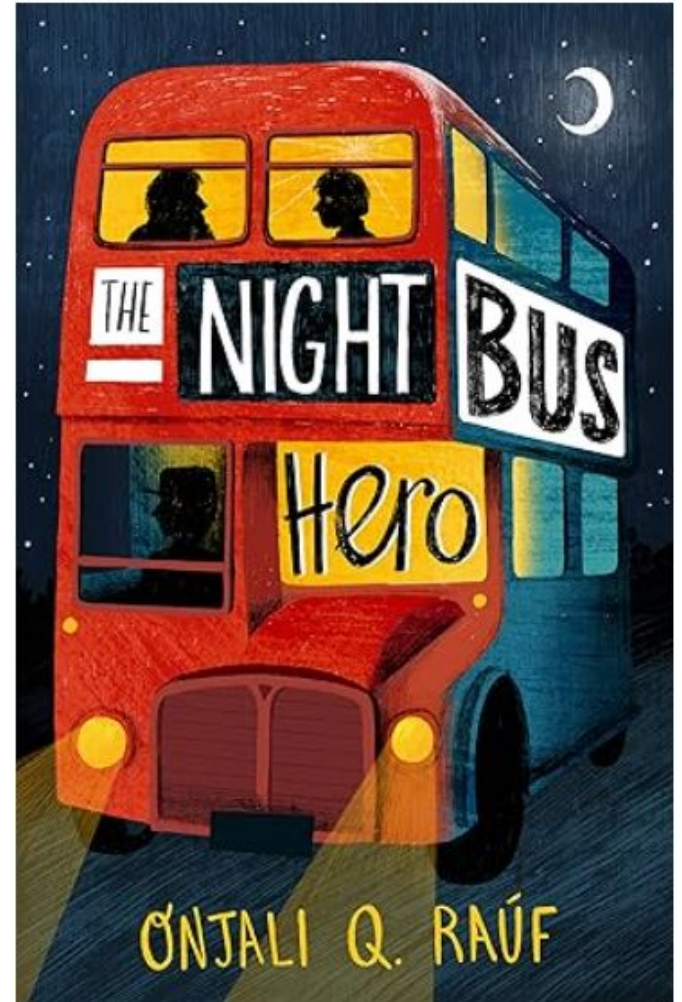
*'The boy's an absolute menace.'
'He's a bully. A lost cause!'
'Why can't he be more like his sister?'*

'I've been getting into trouble for as long I can remember. Usually I don't mind - some of my best, most brilliant ideas have come from sitting in detention. But recently it feels like no one believes me about anything - even when I'm telling the truth! Everyone thinks I'm just a bully. They don't believe I could be a hero. But I'm going to prove them all wrong...'

Meet Hector: a bully whose dastardly antics spiral out of control when, after school one day, he decides to bully a homeless man in the local park.

But as London's most famous statues and emblems go missing and its homeless communities are pointed to as the thieves, has Hector managed to pick on the leader of them all? And if so, what can he do in a world that won't believe a word he says?

*Written in lockdown when - for the first time in history - London's homeless community were gifted shelter, **The Night Bus Hero** explores themes of bullying and homelessness, and the potential **everyone** has to change for the good.*



No Ballet Shoes in Syria



*"A perfect balance
of tragedy and triumph"*

Natasha Farrant,

author of *The Children of Castle Rock*

CATHERINE BRUTON

nosy
crow

Aya is eleven years old and has just arrived in Britain with her mum and baby brother, seeking asylum from war in Syria.

When Aya stumbles across a local ballet class, the formidable dance teacher spots her exceptional talent and believes that Aya has the potential to earn a prestigious ballet scholarship.

But at the same time, Aya and her family must fight to be allowed to remain in the country, to make a home for themselves and to find Aya's father - separated from the rest of the family during the journey from Syria.

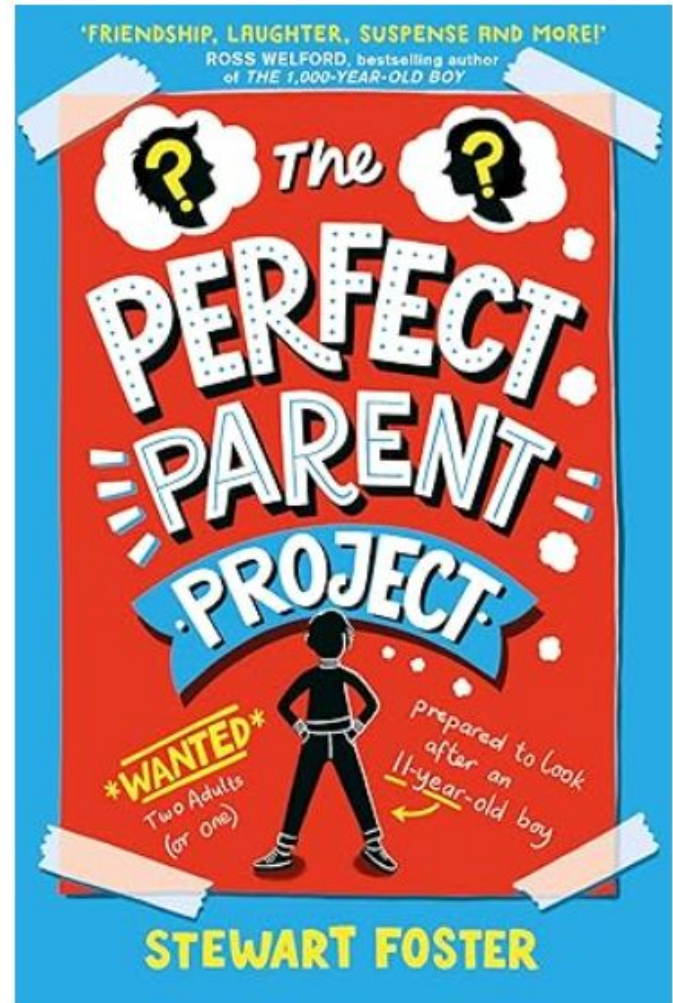
With beautiful, captivating writing, wonderfully authentic ballet detail, and an important message championing the rights of refugees, this is classic storytelling - filled with warmth, hope and humanity.

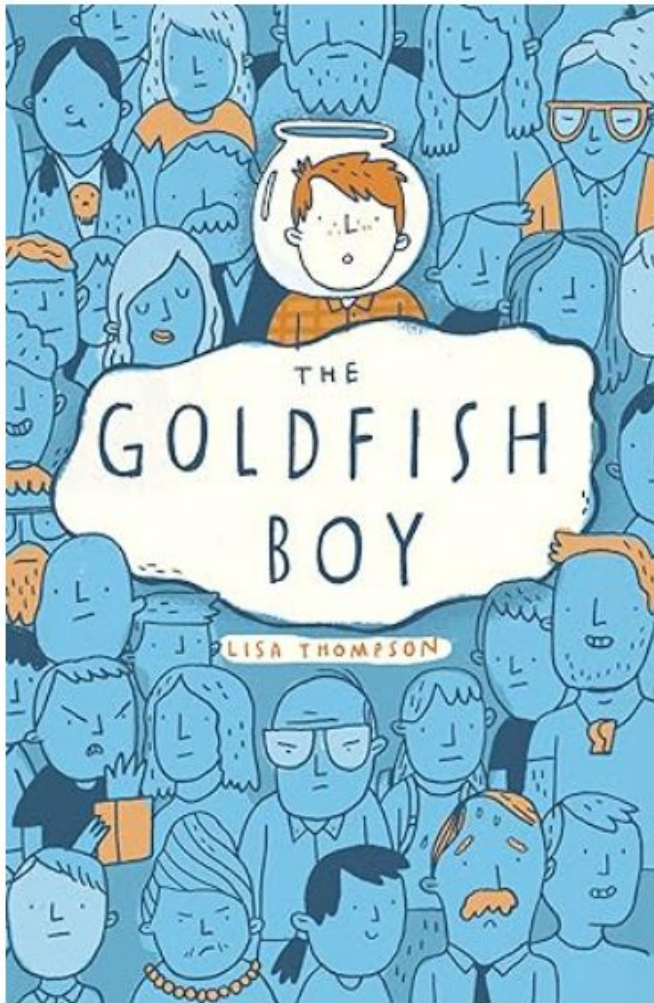
THINGS MY PERFECT PARENTS MUST HAVE:

1. A mega mansion like the ones footballers live in
2. A garage wall with a basketball hoop
3. No gerbils
4. Holidays to Disneyland

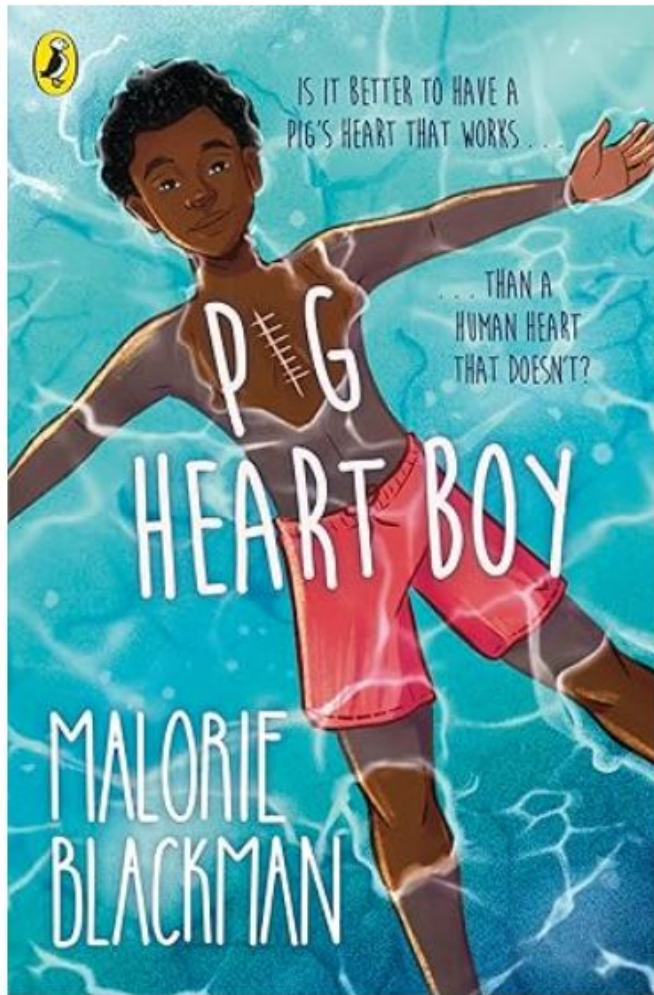
All Sam wants is a family of his own, a home instead of a 'house' and parents he knows will still be there when he wakes up. Because Sam has been in and out of foster care his whole life and he can't imagine ever feeling like he truly belongs.

Then his best friend Leah suggests that rather than wait for a family to come to him, he should go out and find one. So begins **The Perfect Parent Project** ... But Sam may just discover that family has a funny way of finding you.





Twelve-year-old Matthew is trapped in his bedroom by crippling OCD, spending most of his time staring out of his window as the inhabitants of Chestnut Close go about their business. Until the day he is the last person to see his next door neighbour's toddler, Teddy, before he goes missing. Matthew must turn detective and unravel the mystery of Teddy's disappearance - with the help of a brilliant cast of supporting characters. Page-turning, heartbreaking, but ultimately life-affirming, this story is perfect for fans of *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night Time* and *Wonder*. It is a book that will make you laugh and cry.



Cameron is thirteen, and all he wants is a 'normal' life - friends, swimming, school, family.

But his life is far from normal. Not every thirteen-year-old desperately needs a new heart because theirs doesn't work properly.

Finally, one doctor offers hope. Cameron could - if he and his parents agree - take part in a radical and controversial procedure involving the transplant of a pig's heart into his human body.

It's risky. And it's never been done before . . .

While Cameron comes to terms with the idea, he finds the world around him is much less accepting.

But surely everyone will understand that it's better to have a pig's heart that works than a human heart that doesn't - won't they . . .?