



Debenham High School

SUMMER READING LIST 2021



After a year of Lockdowns, social distancing and travel restrictions, it can sometimes be hard to remember what it was like to simply hop on a plane, boat or train and explore another country. For many, the summer holidays used to involve travelling to a foreign country or continent to immerse ourselves in different cultures and climates. Whilst we are still unable to do this to all but a limited number of destinations, there is a way we can at least take our minds on an international vacation this summer. It's called - **ARMCHAIR TRAVELLING**.

Armchair Travelling is defined as 'learning about travel and the world through activities such as reading, watching programs/films or listening to music and podcasts, without actually visiting the places'. An armchair traveller will dream of faraway places, know a lot about geography and 'travel' without having to leave home.

So let's go on adventure around our world! The book suggestions in this year's Summer Reading List are grouped by continent: Africa, Asia, Europe, North America, South America, Oceania (Australia) and Antarctica. There is something for everyone, whether you are looking for a fictional romance or a detailed travel guide, an immersive food experience or a graphic comic adventure. Choose your continent, pick up your book and dive into a world of new sights, sounds and sensations.

The majority of books are suitable for Years 7 - 11, although there are exceptions and these have been clearly noted on the book review. Students and parents/carers should therefore use their discretion as to whether a book is suitable based on individual reading levels, challenging themes and content. Please note all of these books will be available to borrow from the School Learning Resource Centre (Library).

We hope that the varied selection of book recommendations within this reading list will inspire students to pick up a book (or two) this summer. I would love to hear your opinion on those you have read and perhaps make some recommendations of your own.

Happy Summer Reading!

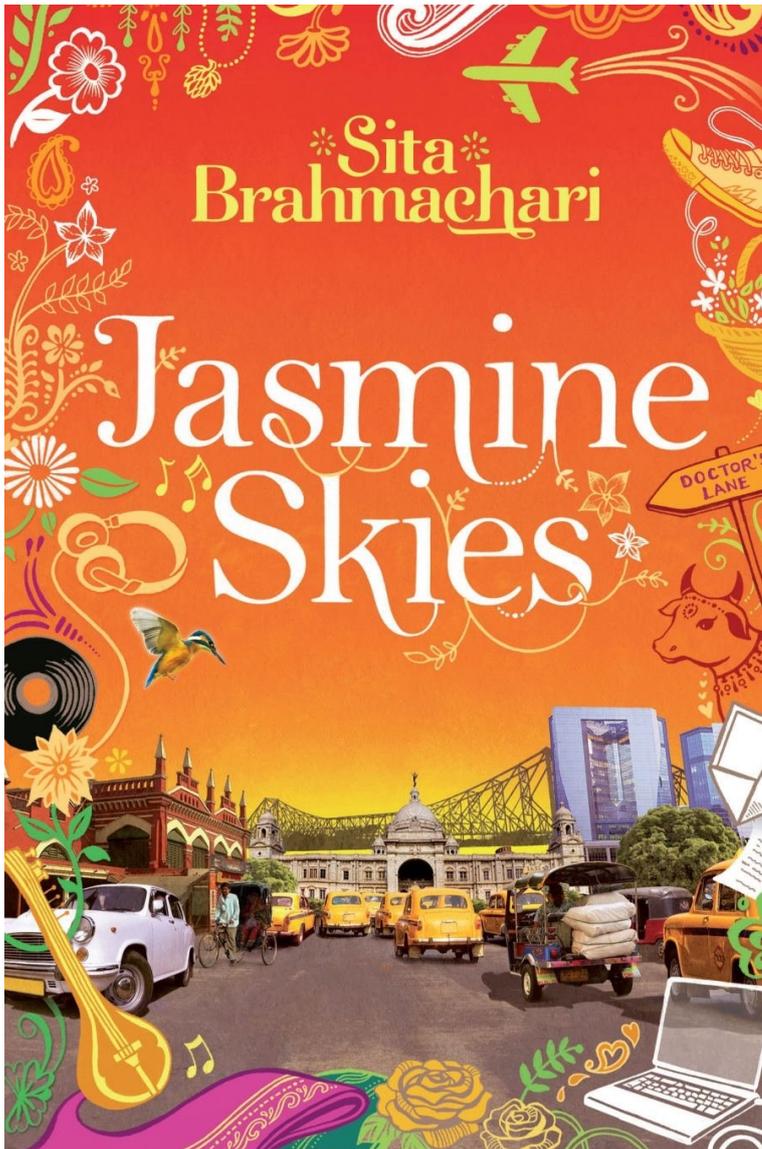
Mrs C Foord-Johnson, Learning Resources Coordinator

ASIA



Jasmine Skies by Sita Brahmachari

Mira Levenson is bursting with excitement as she flies to India to stay with her aunt and cousin for the first time. As soon as she lands Mira is hurled into the sweltering heat and a place full of new sights, sounds, and deeply buried



family secrets.

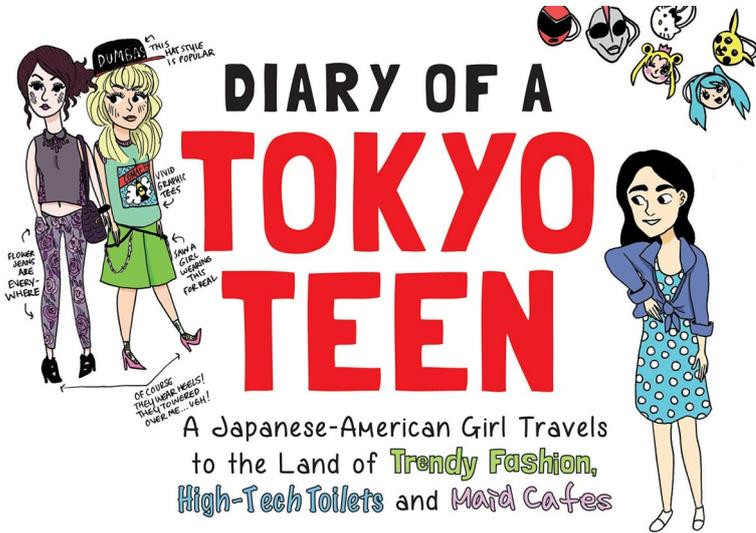
From the moment Mira meets Janu she feels an instant connection. He becomes her guide, showing her both the beauty and the chaos of Kolkata. Nothing is as she imagined it, and suddenly home feels a long way away.

Before Mira leaves India she is determined to

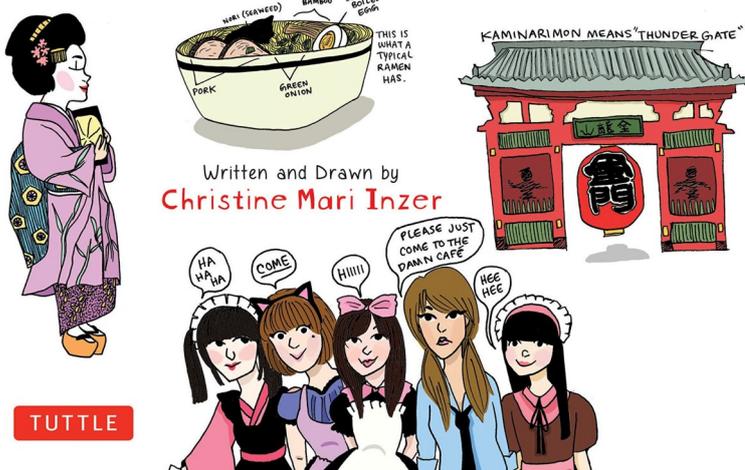
uncover the truth about her family, whatever it takes, and she must also make a decision that will break someone's heart.

Diary of a Tokyo Teen by Christine Mari Inzer

Born in Tokyo to a Japanese mother and an American father in 1997, Christine Mari Inzer spent her early years in Japan and relocated to the United States in 2003.



The summer before she turned sixteen, she returned to Tokyo, making a solo journey to get reacquainted with her birthplace. Through illustrations, photos, and musings, Inzer documents her journey.



In *Diary of a Tokyo Teen*, Inzer explores the cutting-edge fashions of Tokyo's trendy Harajuku district,

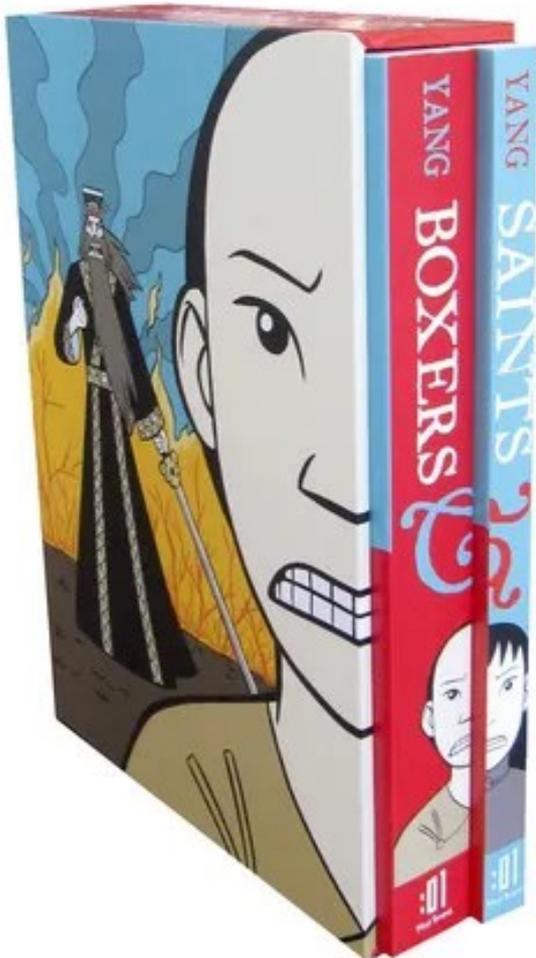
eats the best sushi of her life at the renowned Tsukiji fish market, and hunts down geisha in the ancient city of Kyoto. As she shares the trials and pleasures of travel from one end of a trip to the other, Inzer introduces a host of interesting characters she meets and offers a unique and often hilarious look at a fascinating country and an engaging tale of one girl rediscovering her roots.

TUTTLE

Boxers and Saints by Gene Luen Yang

This graphic novel, spans two volumes, *Boxers and Saints*, and tells two parallel stories.

The first is of Little Bao, a Chinese peasant boy whose village is abused and plundered by Westerners claiming the role of missionaries. Little Bao, inspired by visions of the Chinese gods, joins a violent uprising against the Western interlopers. Against all odds, their grassroots rebellion is successful.

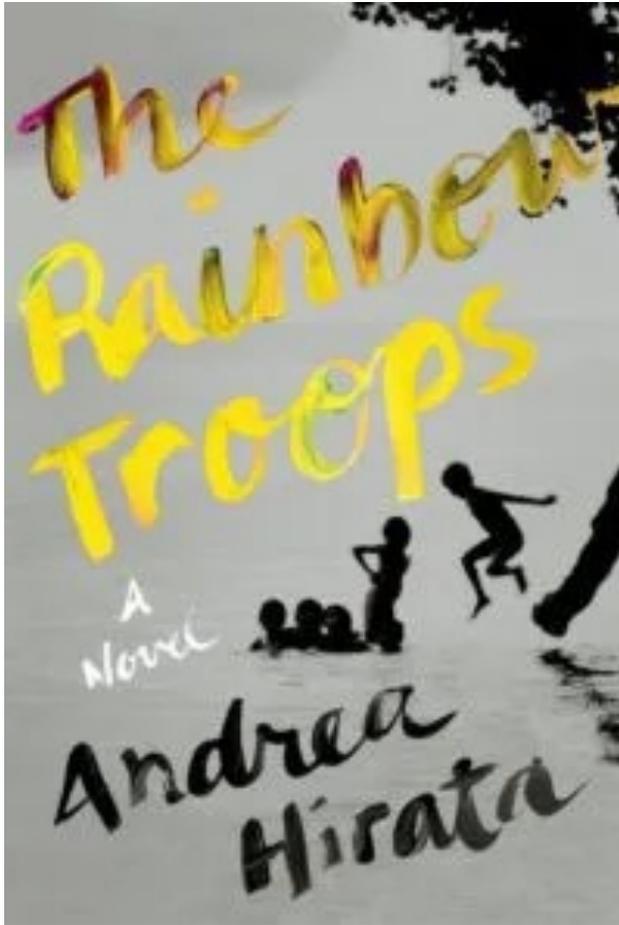


But in the second volume, Yang lays out the opposite side of the conflict. A girl, Vibiana, whose village has no place for her is taken in by Christian missionaries and finds, for the first time, a home with them. As the Boxer Rebellion gains momentum, Vibiana must decide whether to abandon her Christian friends or commit herself fully to Christianity.

Boxers & Saints offers a penetrating insight into not only one of the most controversial episodes of modern Chinese history, but into the very core of our human nature. Gene Luen Yang is rightly called a master of the comics form, and this book will cement that reputation.

The Rainbow Troops by Andrea Hirata

Ikal is a student at the poorest village school on the Indonesian island of Belitong, where graduating from sixth grade is considered



a remarkable achievement. His school is under constant threat of closure. In fact, Ikal and his friends—a group nicknamed the Rainbow Troops—face threats from every angle: sceptical government officials, greedy corporations hardly distinguishable from the colonialism they've replaced, deepening poverty and crumbling infrastructure, and their own low self-confidence.

But the students also have hope, which comes in the form of two extraordinary teachers, and Ikal's education in and

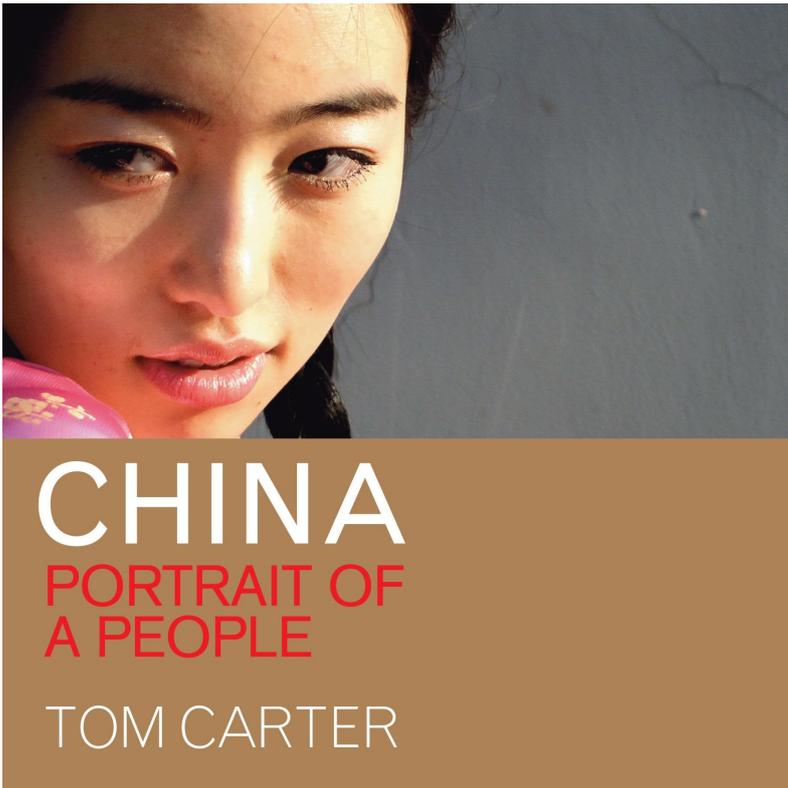
out of the classroom is an uplifting one. We root for him and his friends as they defy the island's powerful tin mine officials. We meet his first love, the unseen girl who sells chalk from behind a shop screen, whose pretty hands capture Ikal's heart. We cheer for Lintang, the class's barefoot math genius, as he beats the students of the mining corporation's school in an academic challenge.

Above all, we gain an intimate acquaintance with the customs and people of the world's largest Muslim society.

Due to some adult content and challenging themes this book is suitable for Upper School Only.

CHINA - Portrait of a People by Tom Carter

Nine years ago, Tom Carter travelled from San Francisco to China, responding to a job posting that turned out to be a scam. Not to be disheartened, Tom managed to find another job as a teacher, and saved enough money to embark on a 56,000 km trip through all of China's 33 provinces that lasted two years.



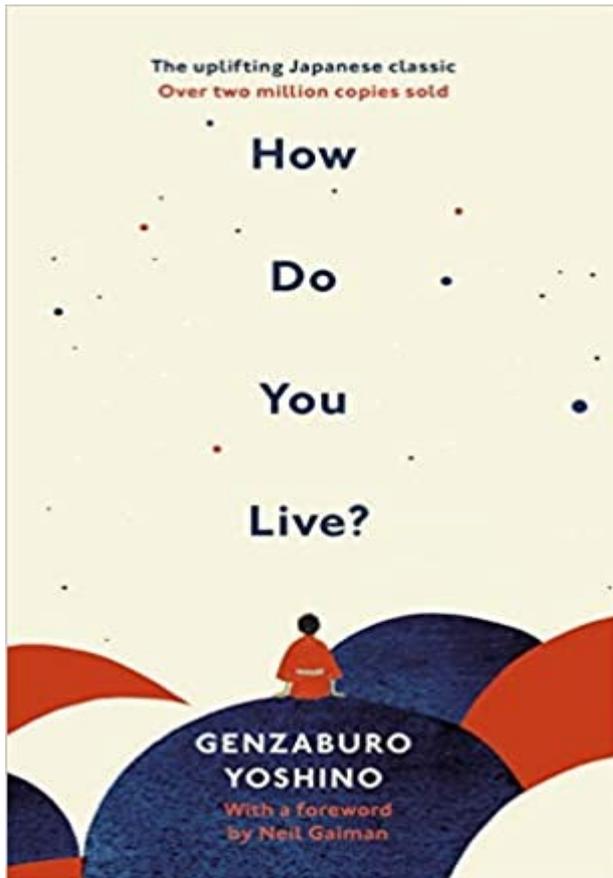
Carrying a camera — just a 4-megapixel point-and-shoot— Carter captured some stunning images of the widely varying landscape, people, and architecture across China. Taking 900 of these images, he compiled them into this

beautiful and thought provoking book.

Carter writes that his photos help to show that "China is not just one place, one people, but 33 distinct regions populated by 56 different ethnicities, each with their own languages, customs and lifestyles." Despite increased tourism and rampant foreign investment, the cultural distance between China and the West remains as vast as the oceans that separate them. This little book is a visual tribute to the People's Republic of China, with an ardent emphasis on the People.

How Do You Live? by Genzaburo Yoshino

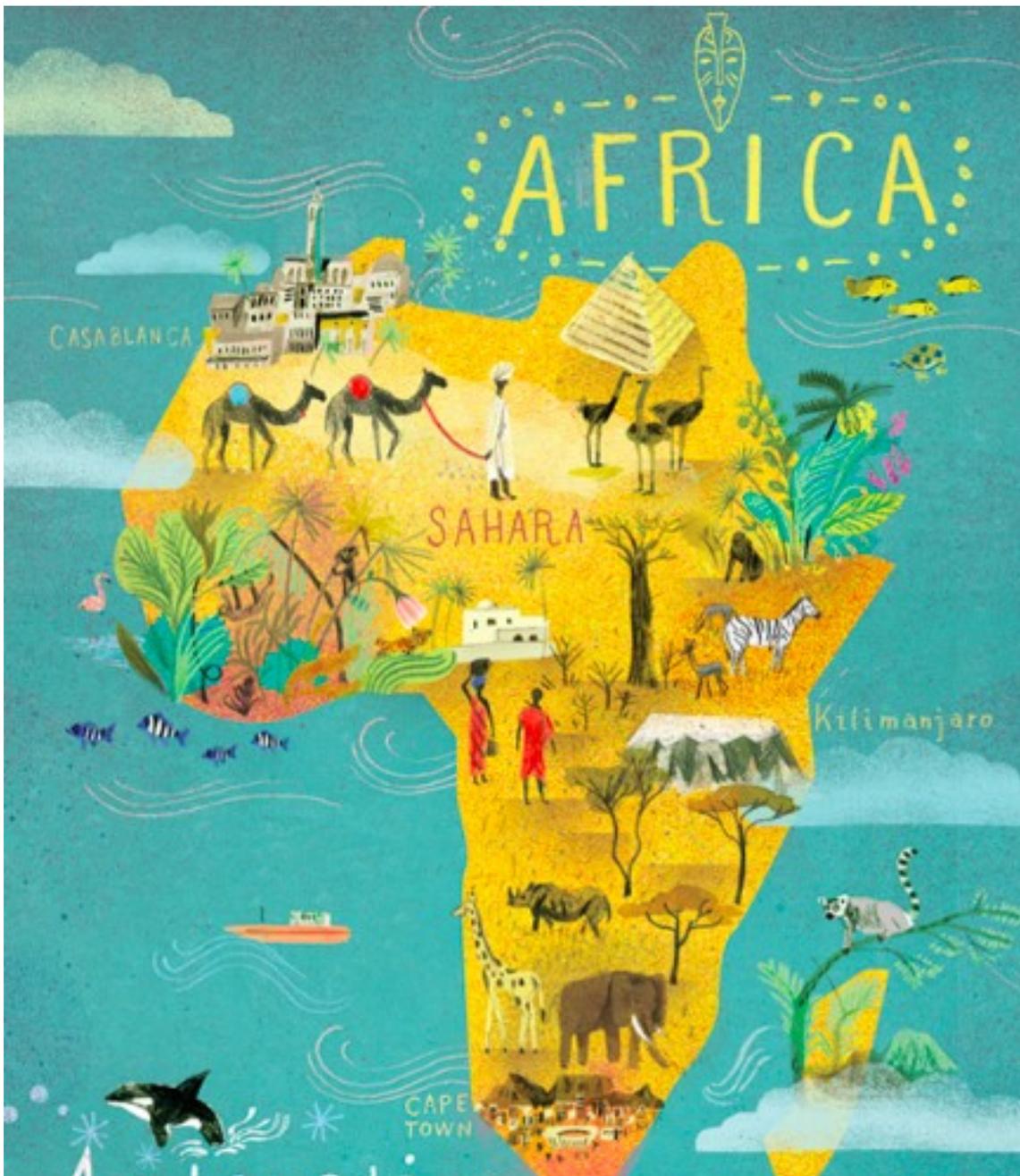
This classic Japanese novel was first published in 1937, but only recently translated into English. *How Do You Live?* is narrated in two voices. The first belongs to Copper, fifteen, who after the death of his father must confront inevitable and



enormous change. In between episodes of Copper's emerging story, his uncle writes to him in a journal, sharing knowledge and offering advice on life's big questions as Copper begins to encounter them. Over the course of the story, Copper, like his namesake Copernicus, looks to the stars, and uses his discoveries about the heavens, earth, and human nature to answer the question of how he

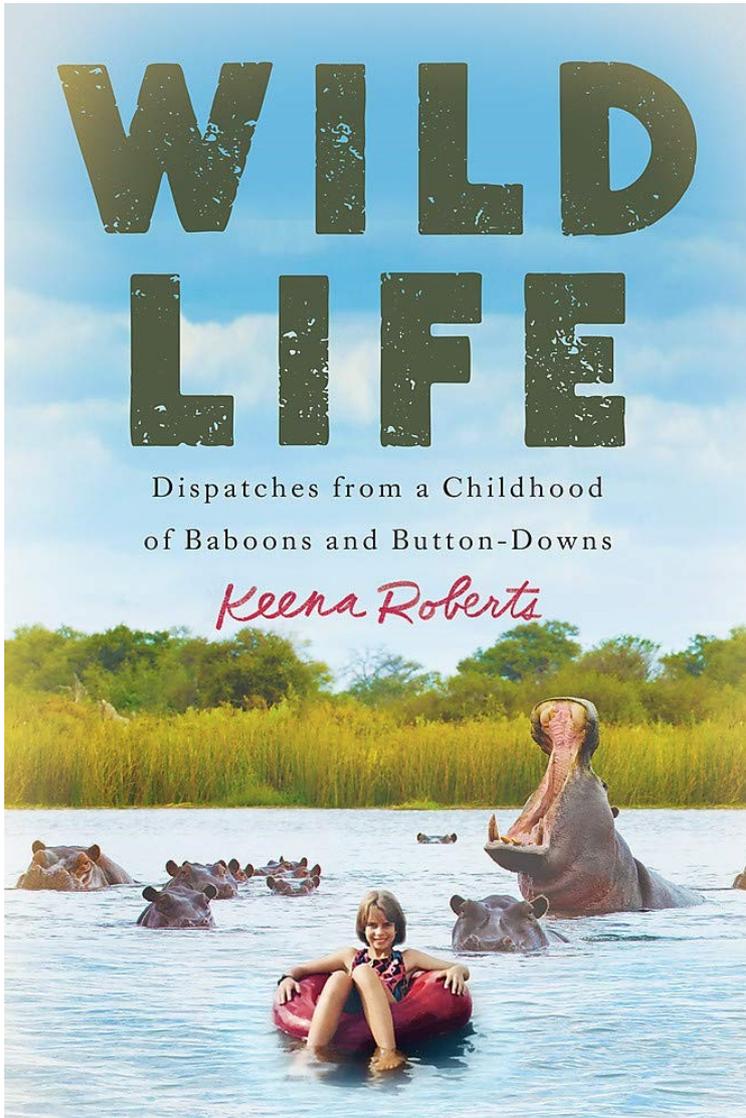
will live. This first-ever English-language translation of a Japanese classic about finding one's place in a world both infinitely large and unimaginably small is perfect for readers of philosophical fiction like *The Alchemist*. Academy Award-winning animator Hayao Miyazaki (*Spirited Away*, *My Neighbor Totoro*, *Howl's Moving Castle*) has called it his favourite childhood book and has announced plans to emerge from retirement to make it the basis of his final film.

AFRICA



Wild Life by Keena Roberts

Keena Roberts split her adolescence between the wilds of an island camp in Botswana and the even more treacherous halls of an elite Philadelphia private school. In



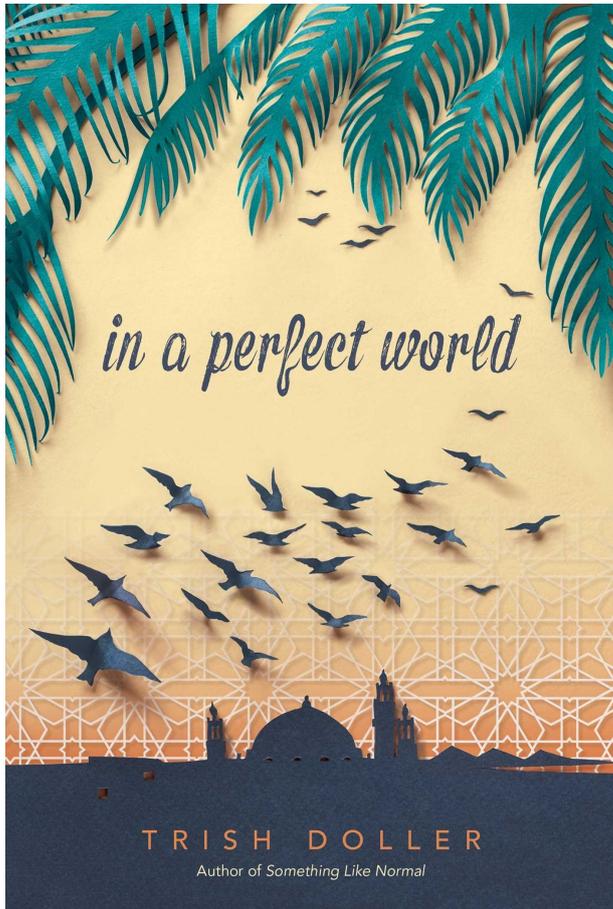
Philadelphia private school. In Africa, she slept in a tent, cooked over a campfire, and lived each day alongside the baboon colony her parents were studying. She could wield a spear as easily as a pencil, and it wasn't unusual to be chased by lions or elephants on any given day. In America, most girls Keena's age didn't spend their days changing truck tires, baking their own bread, or running from elephants as they tried to do their schoolwork. They also didn't carve bird whistles from palm nuts or nearly knock themselves unconscious trying to make

homemade palm wine. But Keena's parents were famous primatologists who shuttled her and her sister between Philadelphia and Botswana every six months. Dreamer, reader, and adventurer, she was always far more comfortable avoiding lions and hippopotamuses than she was dealing with spoiled middle-school field hockey players.

In Keena's funny, tender memoir, *Wild Life*, Africa bleeds into America and vice versa, each culture amplifying the other. By turns heart-breaking and hilarious, *Wild Life* is ultimately the story of a daring but sensitive young girl desperately trying to figure out if there's any place where she truly fits in.

In a Perfect World by Trish Doller

Caroline Kelly is excited to be spending her summer vacation working at the local amusement park with her best friend, exploring Ohio with her boyfriend, and attending soccer camp with the hope she'll be her team's captain in the fall.



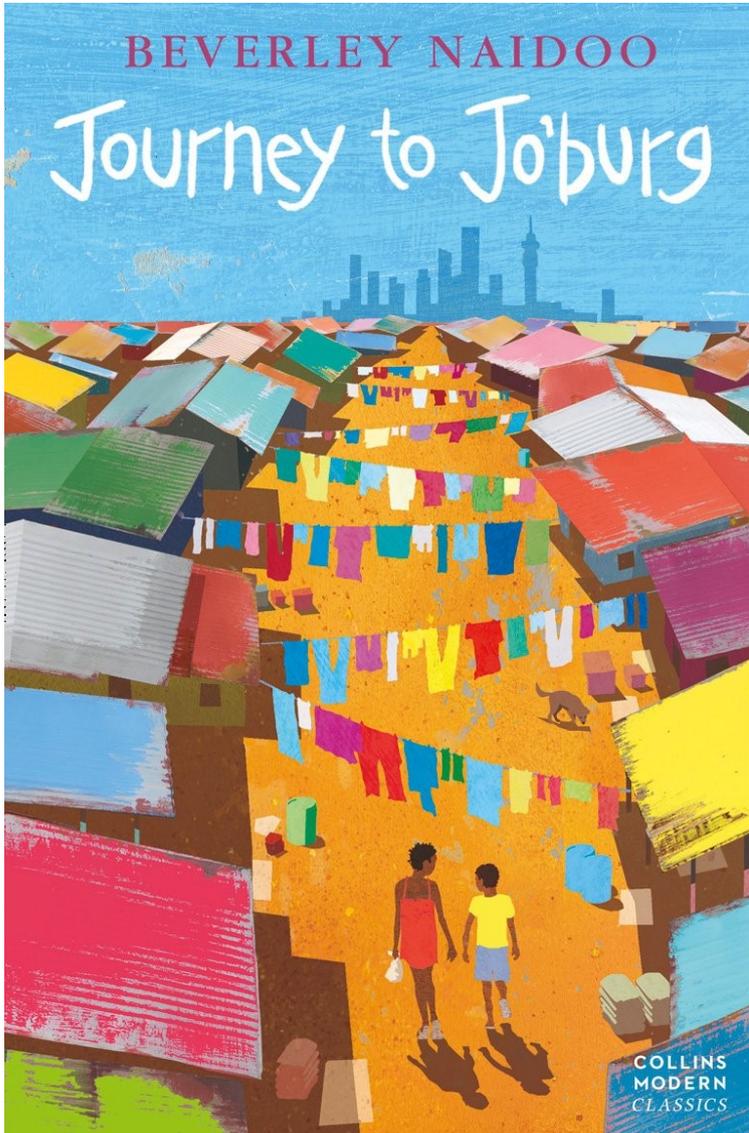
But when Caroline's mother is hired to open an eye clinic in Cairo, Egypt, Caroline's plans are upended. Caroline is now expected to spend her summer *and* her senior year in a foreign country, away from her friends, her home, and everything she's ever known.

With this move, Caroline predicts she'll spend her time navigating crowded streets, eating unfamiliar food, and having terrible bouts of homesickness. But what she finds instead is a culture that surprises her, a city that astounds her, and a charming, unpredictable boy who challenges everything she thought she knew about life, love, and privilege.

Suitable for Years 9 - 11

Journey to Jo'burg by Beverley Naidoo

Set in apartheid South Africa, *Journey to Jo'burg* tells the story of 13-year-old Naledi and her younger brother Tiro's 300 km journey to try to save their baby sister. Their father



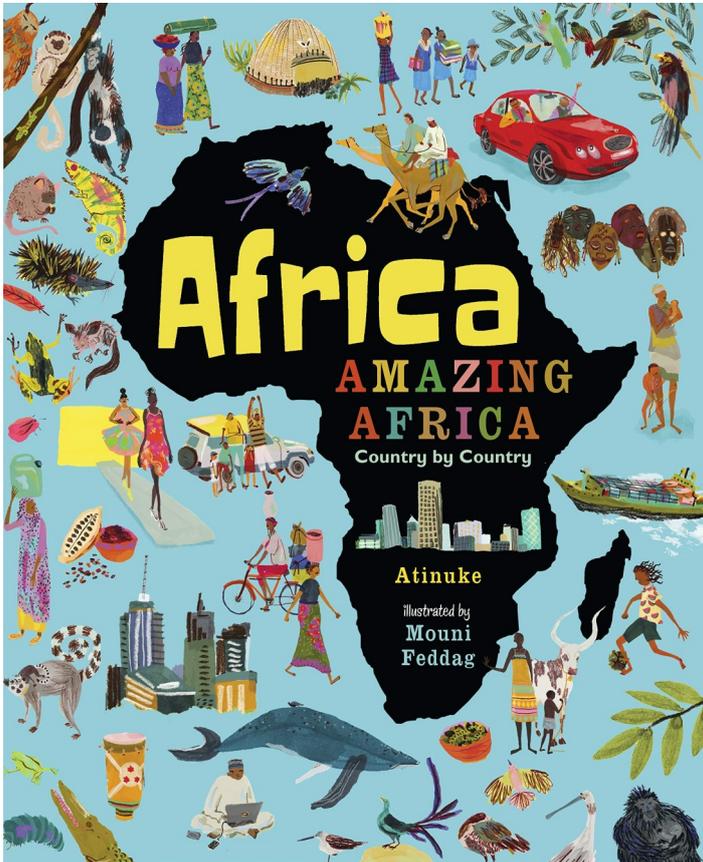
has died in the mines and they know their mother, Mma, who works far away in Johannesburg as a housekeeper and nanny, is the only person who can save baby Dineo. They resolve to find and bring their mother home.

As the two children travel alone from their village their eyes are opened to the injustice and prejudice of the apartheid system and the suffering of black South Africans at the hands of the rich, white South Africans.

When it was first published in 1985, *Journey to Jo'burg* was the first children's book about the lives of black South Africans during apartheid. At the time it was considered a dangerous book by the South African government and was banned. It was only after the release of Nelson Mandela from jail in 1991 that the ban on *Journey to Jo'burg* was lifted.

Africa AMAZING AFRICA by Atinuke

This book is British-Nigerian storyteller Atinuke's personal love letter to the African continent, and its 55 countries in all their variety. It divides Africa into five sections: South,

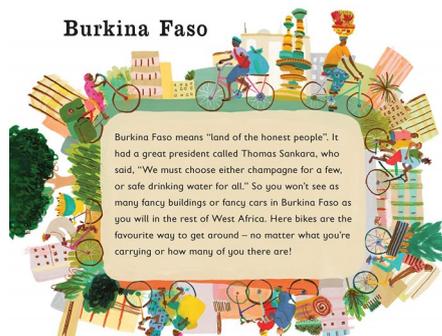


East, West, Central and North, each with its own introduction. This is followed by a page per country, containing a delightful mix of friendly, informative text and colourful illustrations. This book is perfectly geared toward Year 7 students and reluctant readers.

So, welcome to Africa,

Amazing Africa: the richest king, the tallest sand dunes and the biggest waterfall on the planet are all here, alongside drummers, cocoa growers, inventors, balancing stones, salt lakes, high-tech cities and nomads who use GPS!

Burkina Faso



Burkina Faso means "land of the honest people". It had a great president called Thomas Sankara, who said, "We must choose either champagne for a few, or safe drinking water for all." So you won't see as many fancy buildings or fancy cars in Burkina Faso as you will in the rest of West Africa. Here bikes are the favourite way to get around – no matter what you're carrying or how many of you there are!

★ Burkina Faso has lots of big shady shea trees and sells shea butter all over the world to make creams and lotions to soften skin and hair.

● Caterpillars are a popular food in Burkina

Faso. The yummiest are the shea caterpillars that eat only the leaves of shea trees.



Cabo Verde

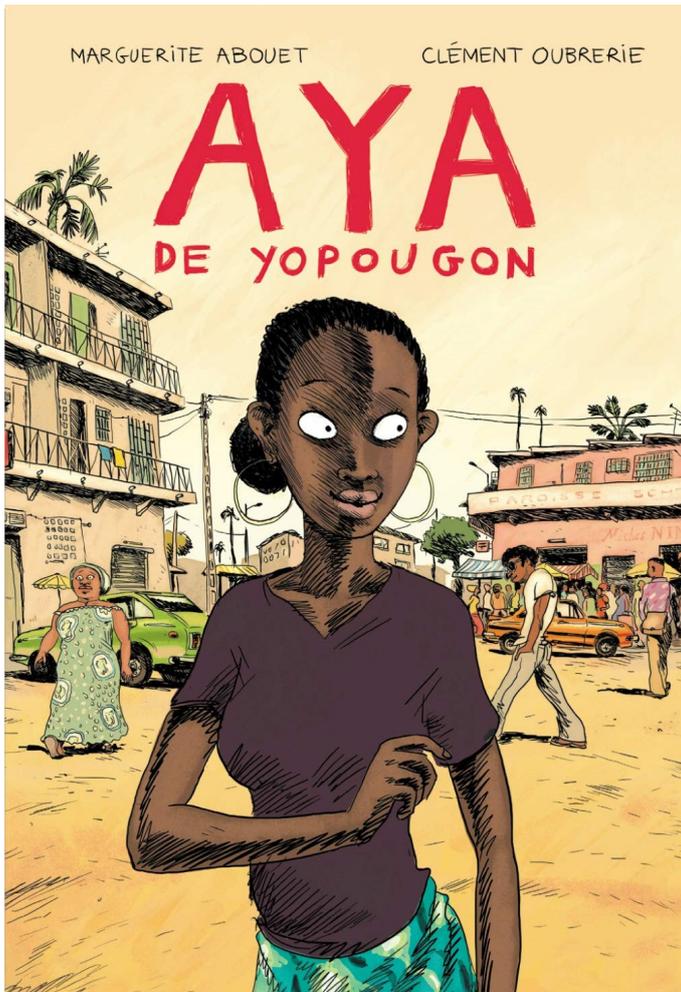
Around 50 million years ago volcanoes started erupting in the Atlantic Ocean, and for 15 million years they kept erupting. The molten lava cooled into an archipelago of islands off the coast of West Africa, now called Cabo Verde. Sea levels all around the world are rising because of climate change, and one day the beautiful islands of Cabo Verde will disappear back under the sea.



★ More people from Cabo Verde live abroad in foreign countries than actually live in Cabo Verde! This is because life can be hard and scary there. Volcanoes still erupt from time to time, jobs are hard to find and sometimes all the fresh water runs out.

Aya by Marguerite Aboutet and Clement Oubrierie

For the residents of Yopougon, everyday life is good. It is the early 1970s, a golden time - work is plentiful, hospitals are clean and well equipped, and school is obligatory. The Ivory Coast is as an island of relative wealth and stability in West



Africa. For the teenagers of the town though, worries are plentiful, and life in Yop City is far from simple.

Aya tells the story of its nineteen-year-old heroine, the clear-sighted and bookish Aya, and her carefree and fun-loving friends Adjoua and Bintou.

Navigating meddling relatives and neighbours, the girls spend a last summer of their childhood on the sun-warmed

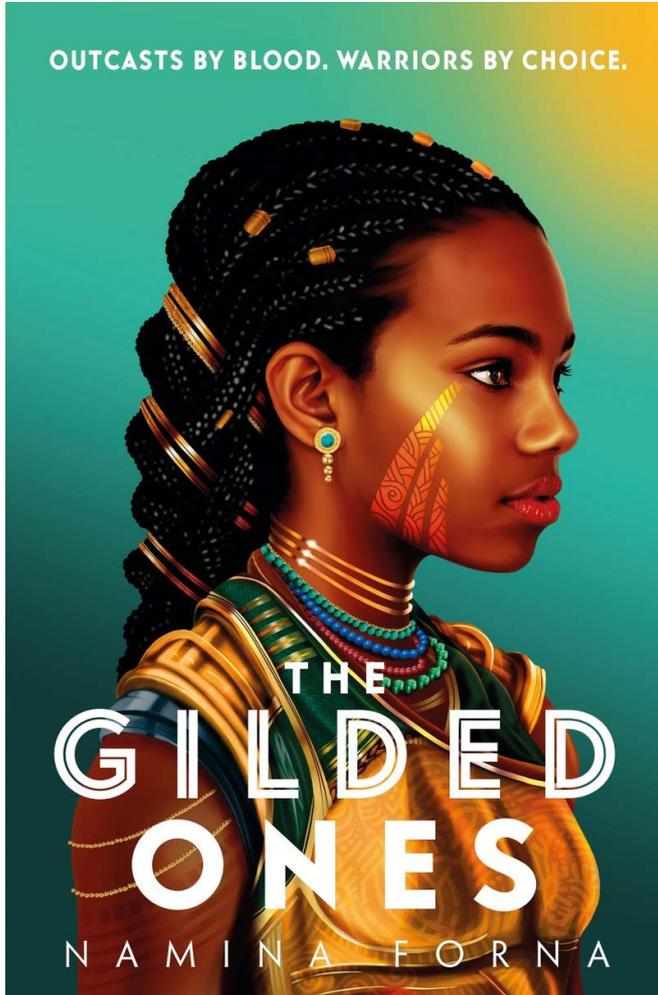
streets of Yop City - sneaking out for dancing at open-air bars, strong solibra beer, chicken in peanut sauce and avoiding at all costs the scandal pages of the Calamity Morning....

This graphic novel is a captivating, colourful and entertaining portrayal of an Africa we rarely see, spirited and resilient, and full of the sounds, sights and smells of a prosperous town and its varied inhabitants.

Suitable for Years 9 - 11

The Gilded Ones by Namina Forna

The Gilded Ones follows the story of a young female named Deka, who lives in the West-African-inspired society of Otera, in which women live to be of service to men, and their roles in everyday life



are grounded in misogyny. For Deka, reaching a certain age within this society forces them to undertake a ritual in which women must spill their own blood in order to prove their worthiness to their people.

However, when Deka is discovered to possess golden blood rather than red blood, she is instantly cast out of her home and sentenced to death.

Torn from her family, friends and life she had always planned on living, Deka is reduced to a life of poverty and worthlessness. But when a

mysterious female, referred to as 'White Hands' rescues Deka from her fate, Deka is indoctrinated into a society of female warriors, all who possess the unusual shade of blood, and are trained to protect the land of Otera from fearsome monsters with dangerous intentions. But as Deka trains among her comrades to protect the society that has shunned her, she will discover dangerous truths about her estranged and deceased mother, the adults she serves, and the true intentions of her role as a warrior.

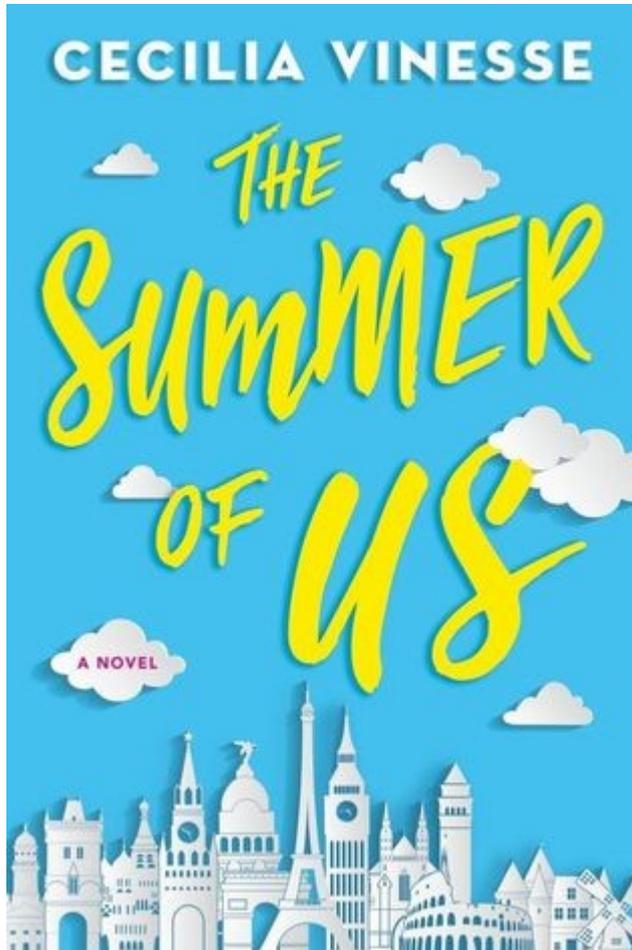
Suitable for Years 9 - 11

EUROPE



The Summer of Us by Cecilia Vinesse

American expat Aubrey has only two weeks left in Europe before she leaves for college, and she's nowhere near ready. Good thing she and her best friend, Rae, have planned one



last group trip across the continent. From Paris to Prague, they're going to explore famous museums, sip champagne in fancy restaurants, and eat as many croissants as possible with their friends Clara, Jonah, and Gabe.

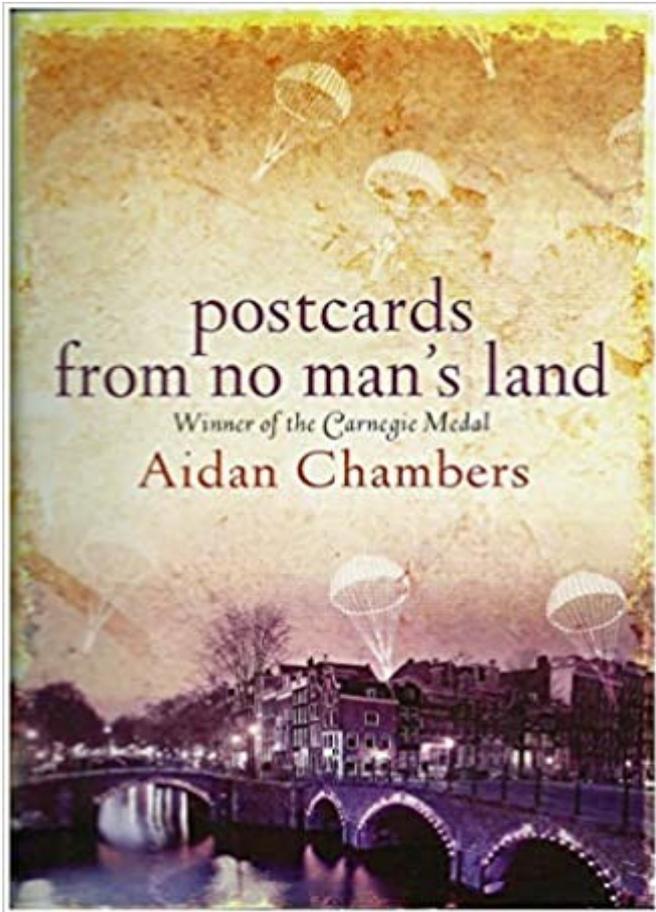
But when old secrets come to light, Aubrey and Rae's trip goes from a carefree adventure to a complete disaster. For starters, there's Aubrey and Gabe's unresolved

history, complicated by the fact that Aubrey is dating Jonah, Gabe's best friend. And then there's Rae's hopeless crush on the effortlessly cool Clara. How is Rae supposed to admit her feelings to someone so perfect when they're moving to different sides of the world in just a few weeks?

Author Cecilia Vinesse delivers a romantic European adventure that embraces the magic of warm summer nights, the thrill of first kisses, and the bittersweet ache of learning to say goodbye to the past while embracing the future.

Postcards from No Man's Land by Aidan Chambers

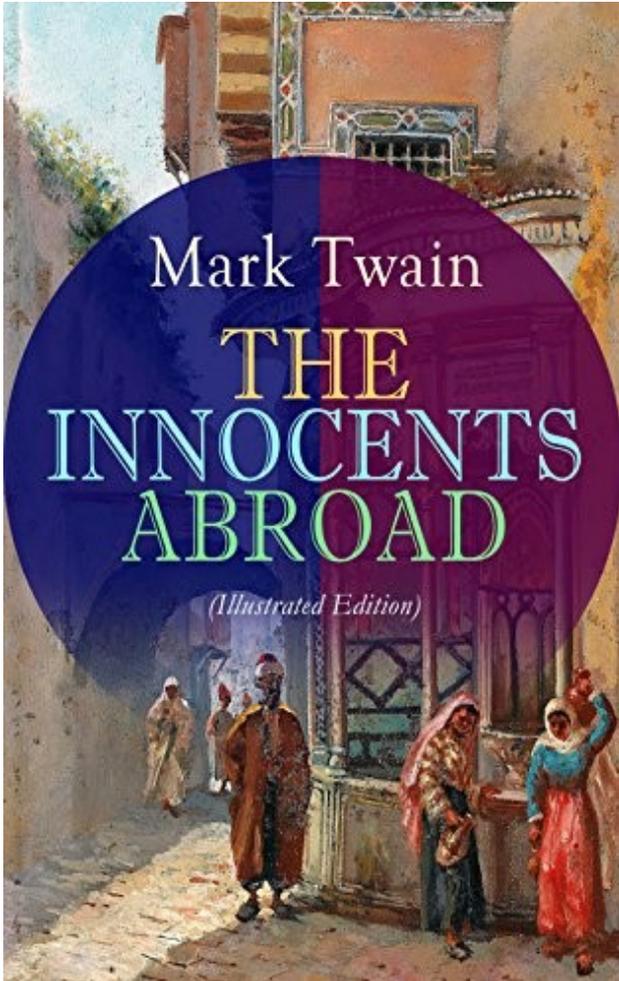
Seventeen-year-old Jacob Todd is about to discover himself. Jacob's plan is to go to Amsterdam to honour his grandfather who died during World War II. He expects to go, set flowers



on his grandfather's tombstone, and explore the city. But nothing goes as planned. Jacob isn't prepared for love, or to face questions about his sexuality. Most of all, he isn't prepared to hear what Geertrui, the woman who nursed his grandfather during the war, has to say about their relationship. Geertrui was always known as Jacob's grandfather's kind and generous nurse. But it seems that in the midst of terrible danger, Geertrui and Jacob's grandfather's time together blossomed into something more than a girl caring for a wounded soldier. And like Jacob, Geertrui was not prepared. Geertrui and Jacob live worlds apart, but their voices blend together to tell one story - a story that transcends time and place and war. By turns moving, vulnerable, and thrilling, this extraordinary novel takes the reader on a memorable voyage of discovery.

The Innocents Abroad by Mark Twain

Innocents Abroad is a non-fiction book which humorously chronicles the trip Mark Twain called his "Great Pleasure Excursion," on board the chartered vessel Quaker City

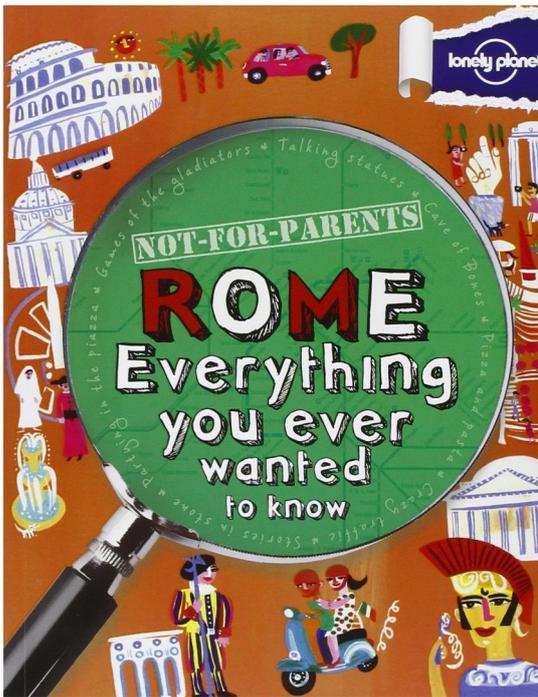


through Europe and the Holy Land in 1867. The excursion was billed as a Holy Land expedition, with numerous stops and side trips along the coast of the Mediterranean Sea. Read about the train excursion from Marseille to Paris for the 1867 Paris Exhibition, a journey through the Papal States to Rome, a side trip through the Black Sea to Odessa, and finally

culminating in an excursion through the Holy Land. Mark Twain recorded his observations and critiques of the various aspects of 1860's culture and society which he encountered on the journey, some more serious than others. This became Twain's best selling book during his life and one of the best-selling travel books of all time. The humorous account covers his visits to Paris, Italy, Greece, Egypt and the Holy Land.

'Not for Parents' Travel Guides by Lonely Planet

Started in 1973, Lonely Planet has become the world's leading travel guide publisher with guidebooks to every destination on the planet, as well as an award-winning website, a suite of mobile and digital travel products, children's books, and a dedicated traveller community. Lonely Planet's mission is to enable curious travellers to experience the world and to truly get to the heart of the places where they travel.

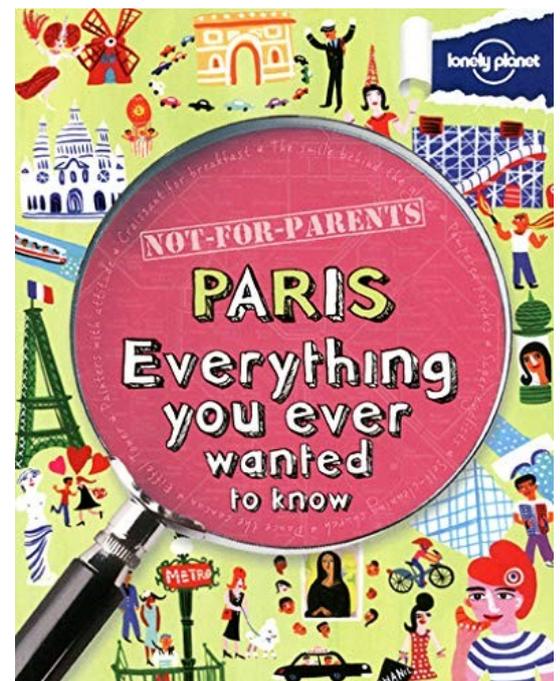


This is not a guidebook. And it is definitely 'not-for-parents'. It is the real, inside story about one of the world's most famous cities - **Rome.**

- If you were a cat why would you want to live in Rome?
- Would you want to go to the bathroom with dozens of other people?
- Can you imagine eating a flamingo's tongue for lunch?
- Why do they fire a cannon every day in Rome?

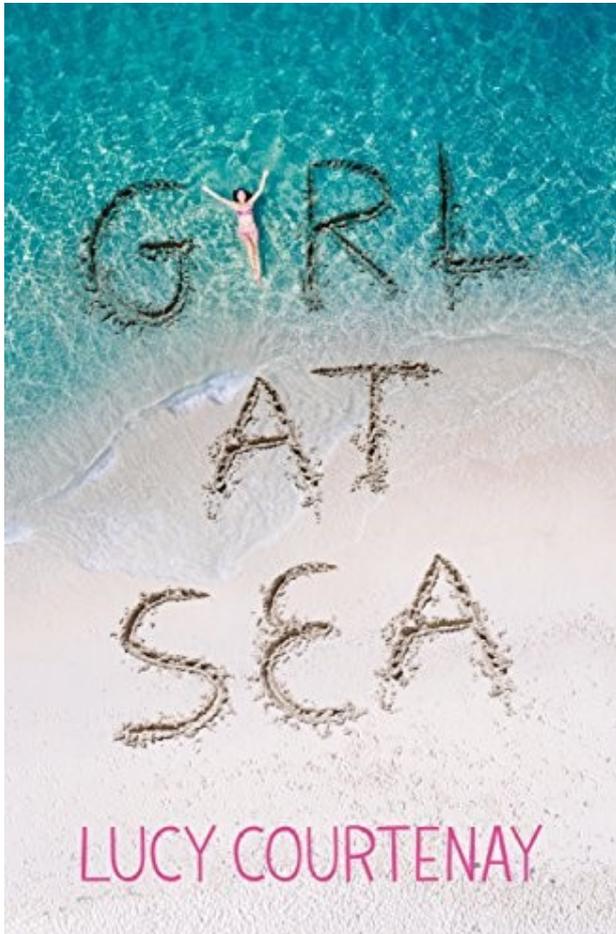
And in this book about **Paris** you will hear fascinating tales about creepy stone gargoyles, ghostly railway stations, huge castles and the deadly guillotine.

- Where can you pretend you are at the beach in the middle of the city?
- Who smiles at 6 million people a year?
- Who had her own life-size village built just to play in?
- Which famous building was built inside out?



Girl at Sea by Lucy Courtenay

Prepare to fall in love this summer and join Precious and Harry on their road trip to the end of the world and back... Your summer crush starts here! For fans of Zoella, Geek Girl and Holly Bourne.



Precious is spending an awkward August in an Algarve villa while her parents fight dirty over an expensive divorce. When she misses her plane home, Precious finds herself on the run along the coast of Portugal. Along the way she meets Harry, travelling Europe before he starts uni.

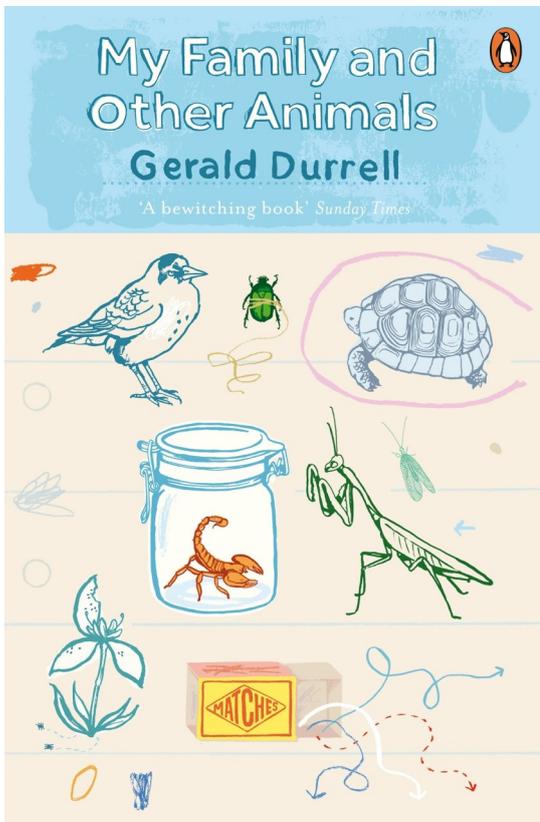
But Precious and her problems are the last thing Harry needs as he struggles to shake off the ghost of his drowned father and get back to something resembling a life.

As it turns out, Precious is EXACTLY what Harry needs. Until the complicated but dreamy Nathan shows up, and matters take a darker turn ...

Join Precious, Harry and Nathan on a European summer road trip with a twist!

My Family and Other Animals by Gerald Durrell

When the unconventional Durrell family can no longer endure the damp, grey English climate, they do what



any sensible family would do: sell their house and relocate to the sunny Greek isle of Corfu.

My Family and Other Animals was initially intended to embrace the natural history of the island (which it certainly does) but it also ended up as a delightful account of Durrell's family's experiences, from the

many eccentric hangers-on to the ceaseless procession of puppies, toads, scorpions, geckoes, ladybugs, glow-worms, octopuses, bats, and butterflies into their home. Total escapism at its very best, the following passage captures the spirit of the book..

“Gradually the magic of the island settled over us as gently and clingingly as pollen. Each day had a tranquillity, a timelessness, about it, so that you wished it would never end. But then the dark skin of night would peel off and there would be a fresh day waiting for us, glossy and colourful as a child's transfer and with the same tinge of unreality”.

The Europhile's Cookbook

Satisfy your hunger for adventure and celebrate Europe through its amazing variety of delicious dishes. After 25 years

of service, facilitating holiday-goers to reach their dreams, distant families and best memories, Eurotunnel is celebrating by connecting you to Europe's best destinations directly from your kitchen.

With more than 60 recipes collected by Eurotunnel passengers, this cookbook invites you to travel through European

explorers' memories, from holiday adventures to family traditions and unforgettable experiences.

Enriched with beautiful photography and design, this special cookbook is inspired by travellers' personal experiences and is the perfect cooking companion for adventurers, families and Europhiles alike.



Hungary

goulash traditional Hungarian stew

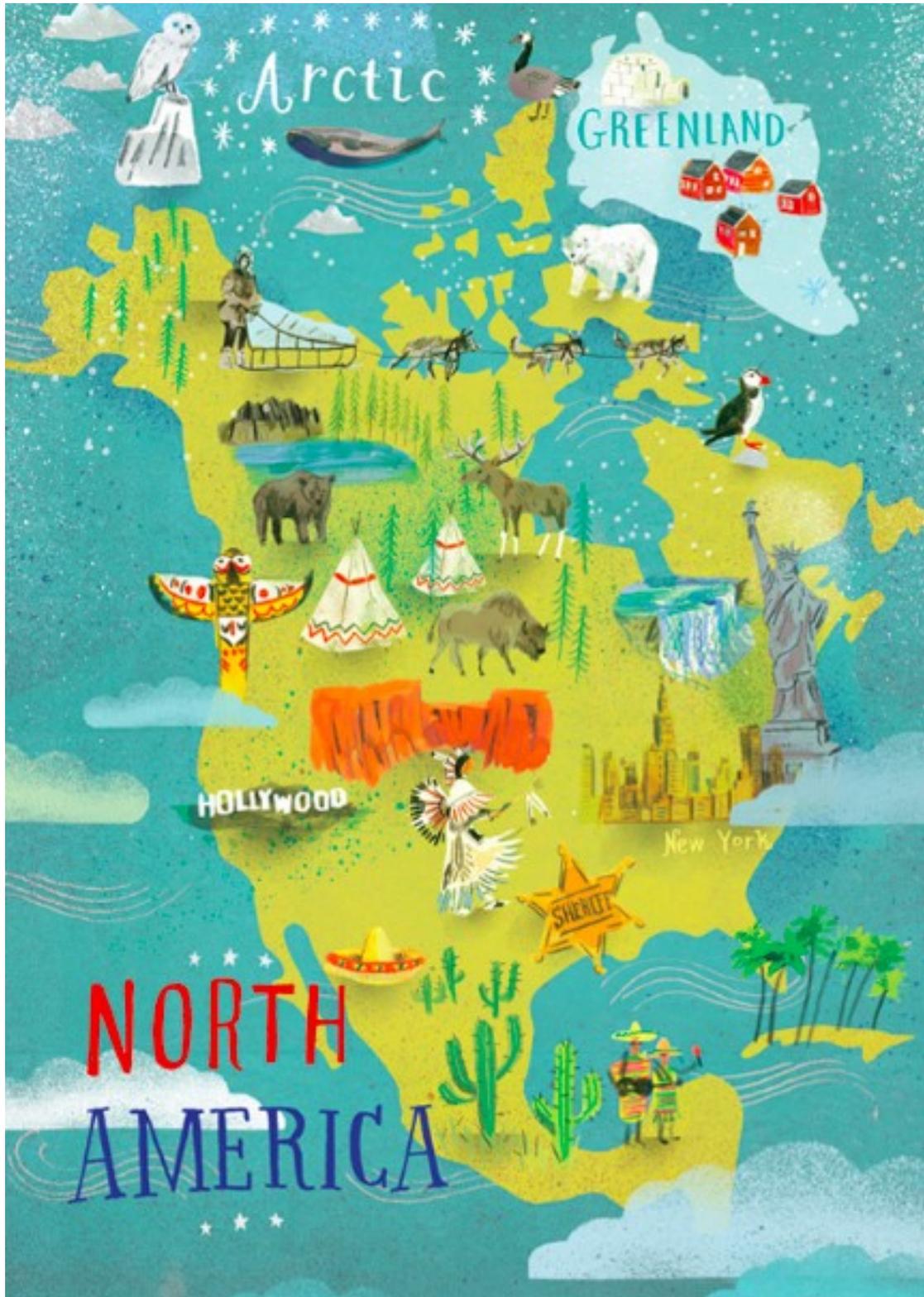
Isabelle Dubruille, Eurotunnel's Project Manager, learnt how to prepare this traditional Hungarian stew from her grandmother. "I've now taught my two 25-year-old daughters how to make it and I'm delighted to report that their boyfriends love it too!" says Isabelle proudly. "My grandmother didn't add red peppers to her goulash but I've added them here as they are so colourful and, of course, she only ever used genuine Hungarian paprika."

Preparation: 25 minutes • Cooking: 1½-2½ hours • Serves 6

Ingredients	Method
3 tbsp oil	Preheat the oven to 170°C (325°F) Gas mark 3. Heat the oil in a large flameproof casserole. Toss the cubes of meat in the flour and brown in batches in the hot oil, removing them from the pan as they brown.
700g chuck or brisket steak, cut into 2cm cubes	When all the steak has been browned, add the onions to the casserole and fry over a low heat until the onions are soft but not browned.
2 tbsp plain flour	Add the paprika and cayenne, fry for 1 minute and then add the peppers, tomatoes, carrots, pork and stock. Bring to the boil and season lightly with salt and pepper.
3 large onions, peeled and chopped	Cover the casserole with foil and a lid and cook in the oven for 1½-2 hours or until the meat is very tender. Serve sprinkled with chopped parsley and accompany with rice.
3 tbsp Hungarian paprika	
1 tsp cayenne	
2 red peppers, deseeded and chopped	
400g can chopped tomatoes	
2 tbsp tomato puree	
500ml beef stock	
chopped fresh parsley, to serve	
salt and pepper	

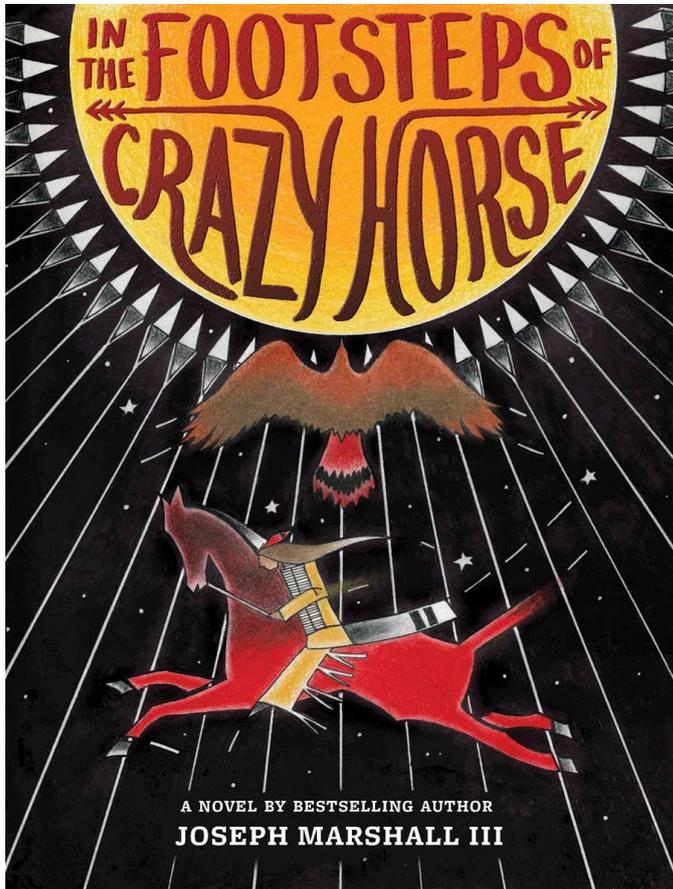


NORTH AMERICA



In the Footsteps of Crazy Horse by Joseph Marshall

Jimmy McClean is a young Lakota boy - though you would not guess it by his name; his father is a white man and his mother is Lakota Indian. When he embarks on a journey with



his grandfather, Nyles High Eagle, he learns more and more about his Lakota heritage -in particular, the story of Crazy Horse, one of the most important figures in Lakota history.

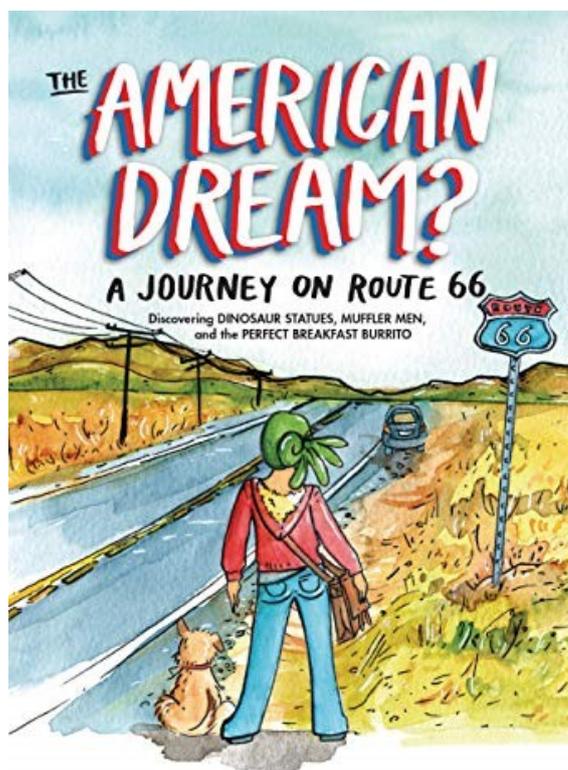
Drawing inspiration from the oral stories of the Lakota tradition and the Lakota cultural mechanism of the "hero story," Joseph Marshall provides readers an insider's

perspective on the life of Tasunke Witko, better known as Crazy Horse. Unlike many books written about Crazy Horse, Joseph Marshall traces Crazy Horse's life from birth to his emergence as a warrior in the early 1860s, describing his childhood exploits, training, the overall circumstances of his upbringing, and accomplishments as a warrior and military and civilian leader.

Through his grandfather's tales about the famous warrior, Jimmy learns more about his Lakota heritage and, ultimately, himself.

The American Dream by Shing Yin Khor

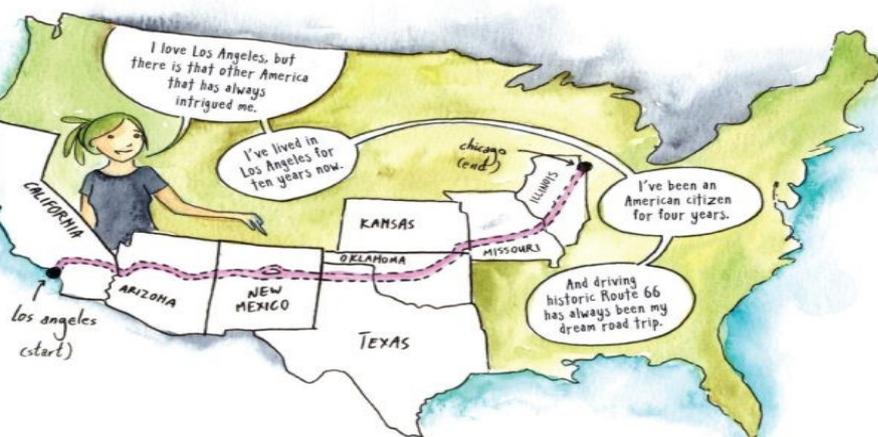
As a child growing up in Malaysia, Shing Yin Khor had two very different ideas of what "America" meant. The first looked a lot like Hollywood, full of beautiful people, sunlight, and freeways. The second looked more like *The*



A Graphic Memoir by SHING YIN KHOR

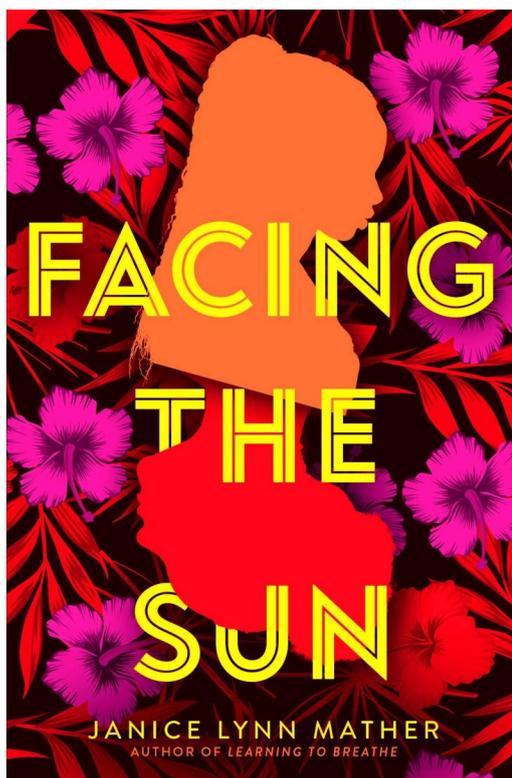
Grapes of Wrath—a nightmare landscape filled with impoverished people, broken-down cars, barren landscapes, and broken dreams. This book chronicles Shing's solo journey, in graphic illustrations (small adventure-dog included) along the iconic Route 66, beginning in Santa Monica and ending up in

Chicago. What begins as a road trip ends up as something more like a pilgrimage in search of an American landscape that seems forever shifting and forever out of place.



Facing the Sun by Janice Lynn Mather

Transport yourself to the Caribbean in this story about four friends who experience unexpected changes in their lives during the summer when a hotel developer purchases their community's beloved beach.



Change is coming to Pinder Street...

Eve is the rock in her family of seven, the one they always depend on. But when her dad is diagnosed with cancer, she wants nothing more than to trade her worries for some red lipstick and a carefree night.

Faith is the dancer all the boys want, but she only has eyes for the one she can't have. Only thing is, all the flirting in the world can't distract her from

her broken home life... or the secrets that she hides.

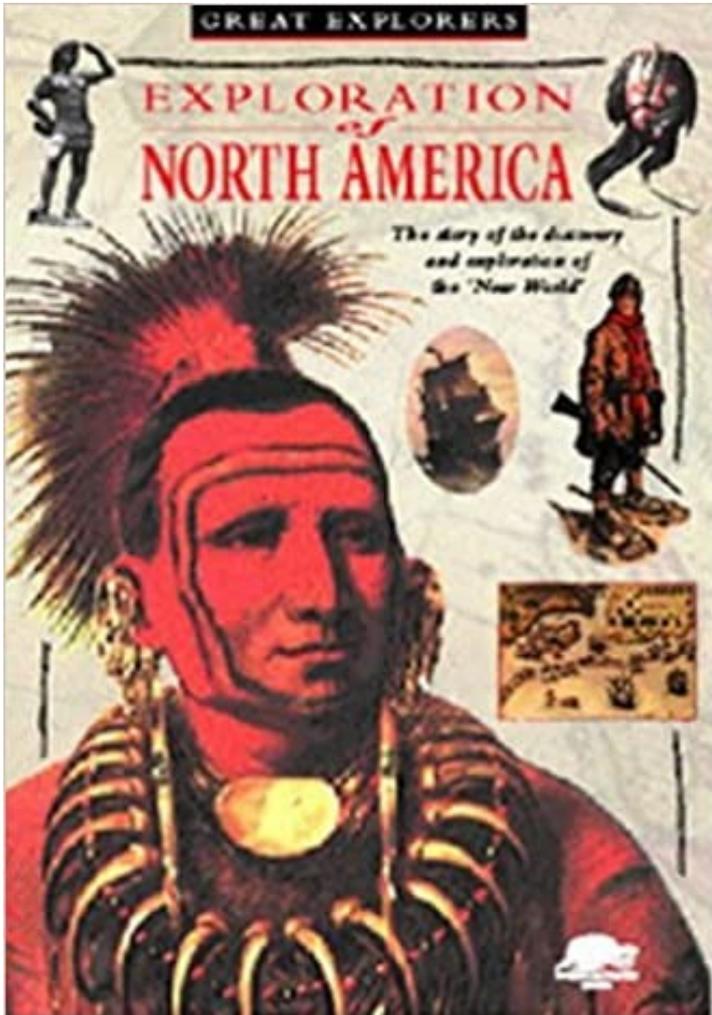
KeeKee is the poet who won't follow the rules, not even to please her estranged father. But after a horrible betrayal, she'll have to choose between being right and losing everyone she loves.

Nia is the prisoner longing to escape her overprotective mother. A summer art program might be her ticket to freedom, yet it comes with a terrible price--and the risk may not be worth the reward.

Suitable for Years 8 - 11

Exploration of North America

Part of the Great Explorers series, Exploration of North America profiles the story of the discovery and exploration of the New World and the intrepid adventurers who made



exciting and sometimes fatal discoveries.

Exploration of North America combines a timeline to show significant events, maps tracing the routes taken by explorers and pioneers and a Did You Know? page offering amazing facts to assist the reader in gaining a comprehensive knowledge

of 'the new world'.

The book contains over 80 full colour pictures of artefacts, photographs and paintings of the men and women who charted their way through unknown territories.

Great book for Young Historians

Some Places More than Other by Renee Watson

“Some of the places I am still getting to know, some of these places I have known all my life. All of these places made me, are making me.”



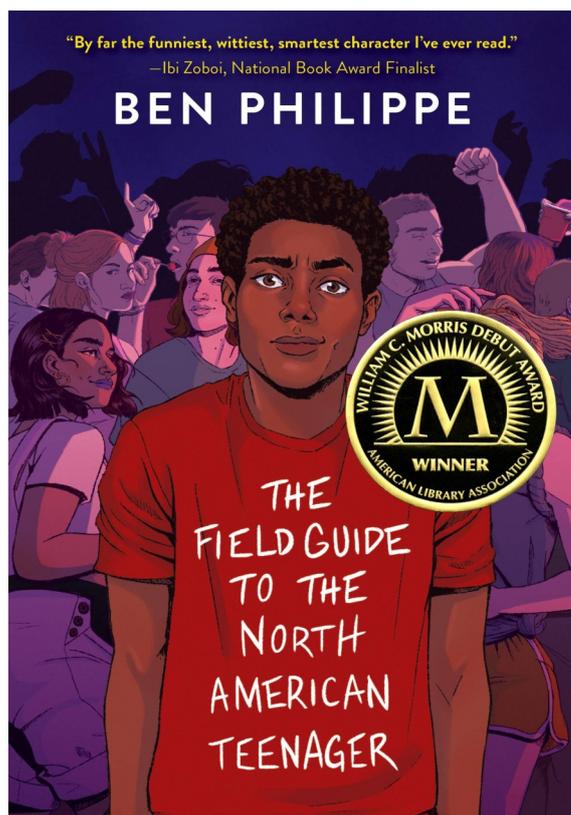
All Amara wants for her birthday is to visit her father's family in Harlem, New York City. She can't wait to finally meet her Grandpa Earl and cousins in person, and to stay in the brownstone where her father grew up. Maybe this will help her understand her family, and herself, in a new way.

But New York City is not

exactly what Amara thought it would be. It's noisy, crowded, confusing, and her cousins can be mean. Plus her father is too busy working to spend time with her and too angry to fix his relationship with Grandpa Earl. Amara can't help wondering, even if she does discover more about where she came from, will it help her know where she belongs?

The Field Guide to the North American Teenager

Norris Kaplan is clever, cynical, and quite possibly too smart for his own good. A Black French Canadian, he knows from watching American sitcoms that those three things don't bode well when you are moving to Austin, Texas.



Plunked into a new high school and sweating a ridiculous amount from the oppressive Texas heat, Norris finds himself cataloguing everyone he meets: the Cheerleaders, the Jocks, the Loners, and even the Manic Pixie Dream Girl. Making a ton of friends has never been a priority for him, and this way he can at least amuse himself until it's time to go back to Canada, where he belongs.

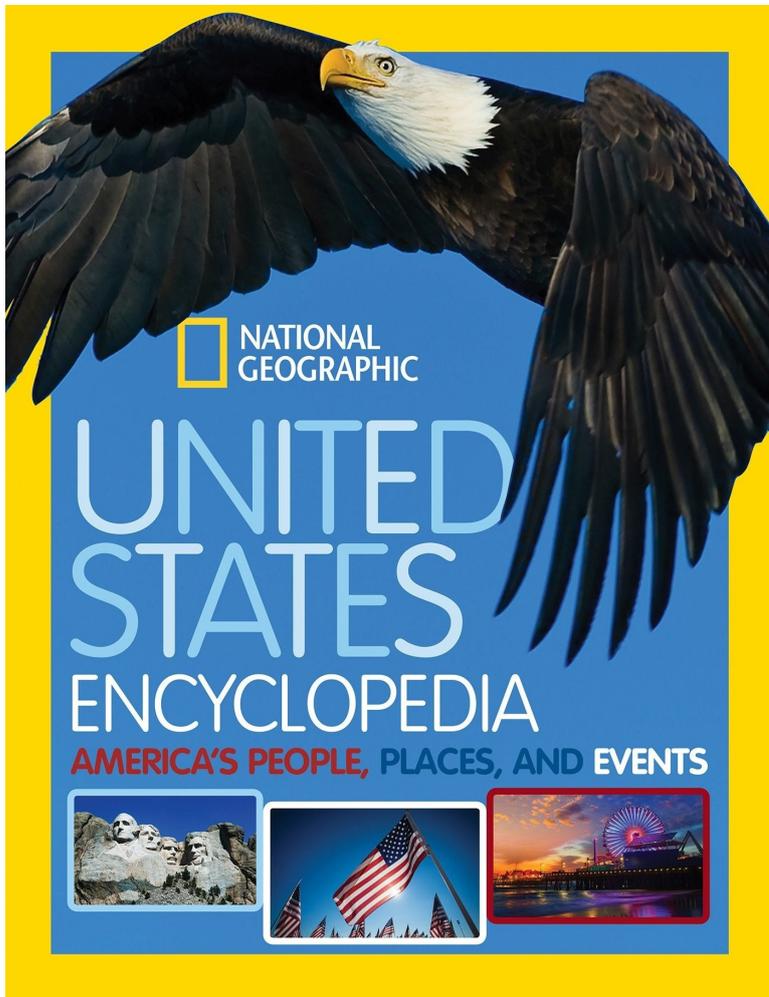
Yet against all odds, those labels soon become actual people to Norris... like loner Liam, who makes it his mission to befriend Norris, or Madison the beta cheerleader, who is so nice that it has to be a trap. Not to mention Aarti the Manic Pixie Dream Girl, who might, in fact, be a real love interest in the making.

But the night of the prom, Norris messes everything up royally. As he tries to pick up the pieces, he realizes it might be time to stop hiding behind his snarky opinions and start living his life, along with the people who have found their way into his heart.

Suitable for Years 9 - 11

United States Encyclopaedia by National Geographic

The richness of North America in all its grandeur and diversity is captured in this comprehensive, authoritative, and lively United States Encyclopaedia. This book is the



definitive United States reference resource for kids.

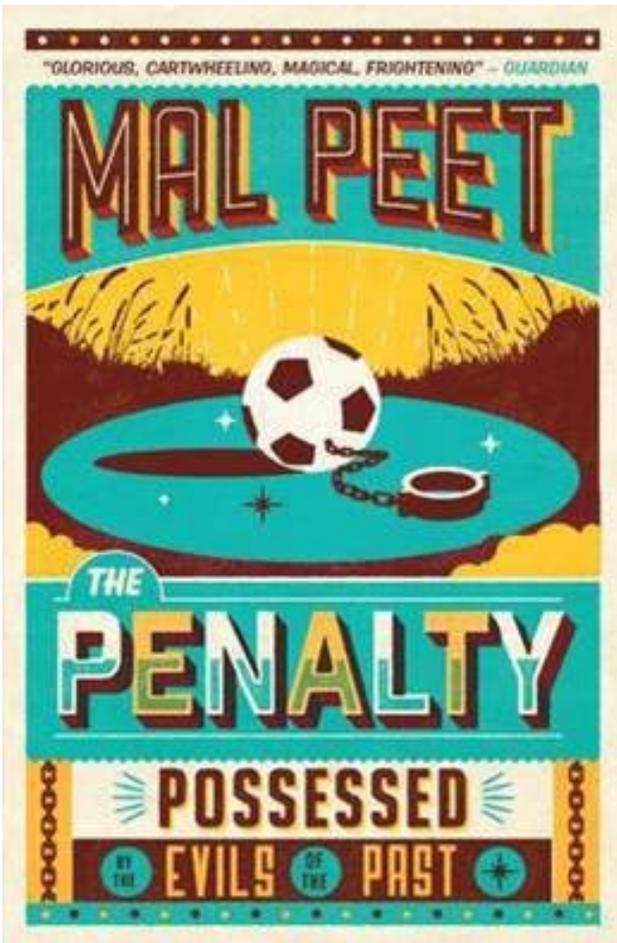
Every state in the union is showcased in a spectacular way in this book of the U.S.

Beautiful to look at, fun to read, and easy to use, it includes an unparalleled amount of information that is both intriguing and useful.

Beginning with a lush thematic section covering topics from early America to civil rights, population, and the new millennium, the United States Encyclopaedia then delves into vibrant essays on each state and the U.S. territories. Fun facts about people, places, and events are sprinkled throughout. Also included: U.S. facts and figures, a listing of the presidents, and overviews of important historical American documents.

The Penalty by Mal Peet

A mesmerising, hypnotic story steeped in mystery, which uses football as an entry point into a many-layered tale of lost origins and the power of belief. The disappearance of a



young football star leads journalist Paul Faustino deep into the jungle wilds, retracing the steps of African slaves brought there centuries before. At the mercy of others, far from civilization, this sceptical and cynical man will be shaken to the core, forced to question what he really believes.

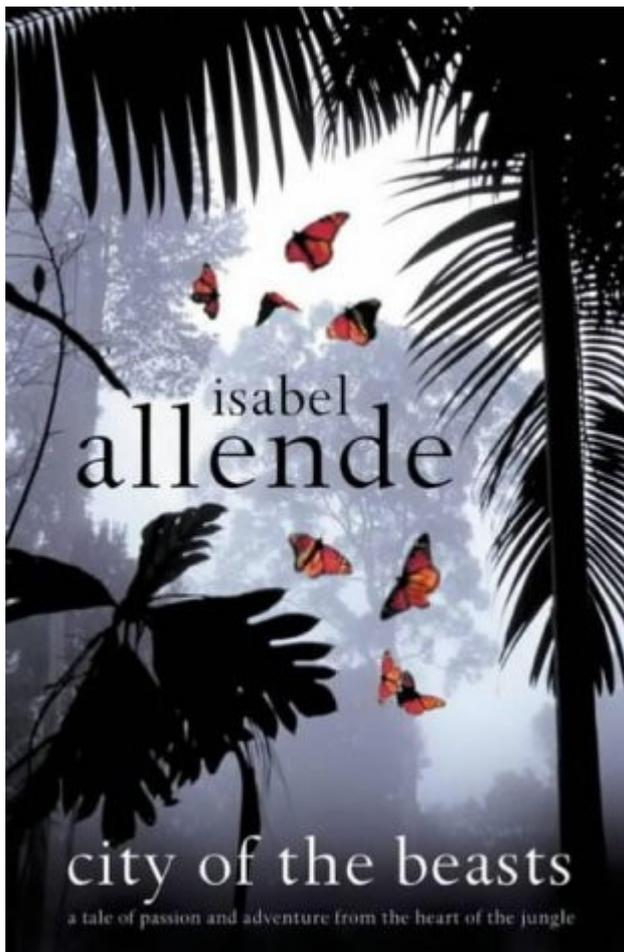
Sensually evoking the steamy heat and bubbling tensions of its setting, Mal Peet has crafted

a rich and sometimes disturbing look at the occult lore that still exists at the roots of Brazilian culture. Though the book starts in a fictional city, it has close parallels with the Brazilian city of Salvador, with its history of slavery and rich Africanised culture. 'The Penalty' refers to the price of forgetting the origins of slavery and the influence of the spiritual world. One reader described the book as, *"like being in a trance from which you can't quite wake up - I've never read anything else even remotely like it."*

City of the Beasts by Isabel Allende

Fifteen-year-old Alexander Cold has the chance to take the trip of a lifetime.

With his mother in hospital, too ill to look after him, Alex is sent out to his grandmother Kate – a fearless reporter with



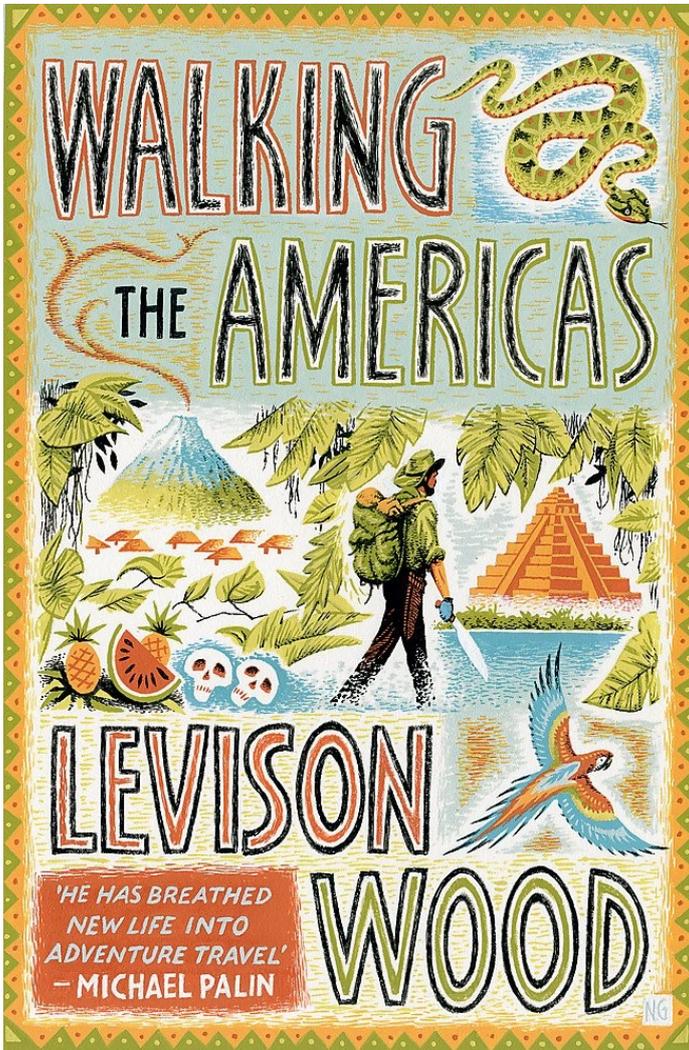
blue eyes “as sharp as daggers’ points”. Kate is about to embark on an expedition to the dangerous, remote world of the Amazon rainforest, but rather than change her plans, she simply takes Alex along with her. They set off with their team – including a local guide and his daughter Nadia, with her wild, curly hair and skin the colour of honey – in search of a fabled headhunting tribe and a legendary, marauding

creature known to locals as the ‘Beast’, only to find out much, much more about the mysteries of the jungle and its inhabitants.

In a novel rich in adventure, magic and spirit, internationally celebrated novelist Isabel Allende takes readers of all ages on a voyage of discovery and wonder, deep into the heart of the Amazon.

Walking the Americas by Levison Wood

Walking the Americas chronicles Levison Wood's 1,800 mile trek along the spine of the Americas, through eight countries, from Mexico to Colombia, experiencing some of



the world's most diverse, beautiful and unpredictable places.

His journey took him from violent and dangerous cities to ancient Mayan ruins lying still unexplored in the jungles of Mexico and Guatemala.

He encountered members of indigenous tribes, migrants heading towards the US border and proud

Nicaraguan revolutionaries

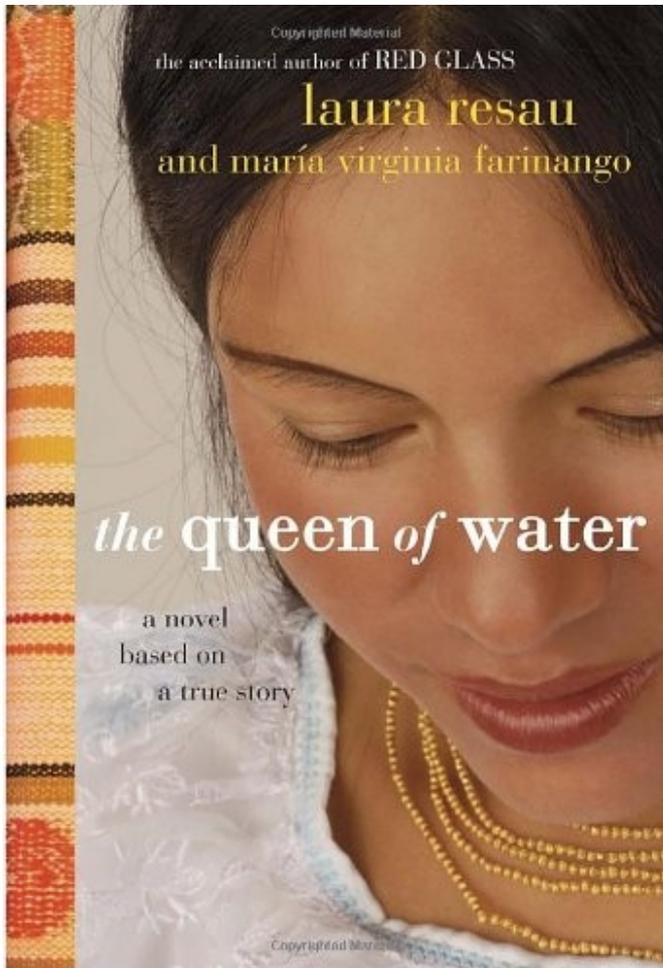
on his travels, where at the end of it all, he attempted to cross one of the most impenetrable borders on earth: the Darien Gap route from Panama into South America.

This trek required every ounce of Levison Wood's guile, tact, strength and resilience in one of the most raw, real and exciting journeys of his life.

Suitable for Years 9 - 11

The Queen of Water by Laura Resau

Born in an Andean village in Ecuador, Virginia lives with her large family in a small, earthen-walled dwelling. In her village of Indígenas, it is not uncommon to work in the



fields all day, even as a child, or to be called a *longa tonta* - stupid Indian - by members of the ruling class of mestizos, or Spanish descendants.

When seven-year-old Virginia is taken from her village to be a servant to a mestizo couple, she has no idea what the future holds.

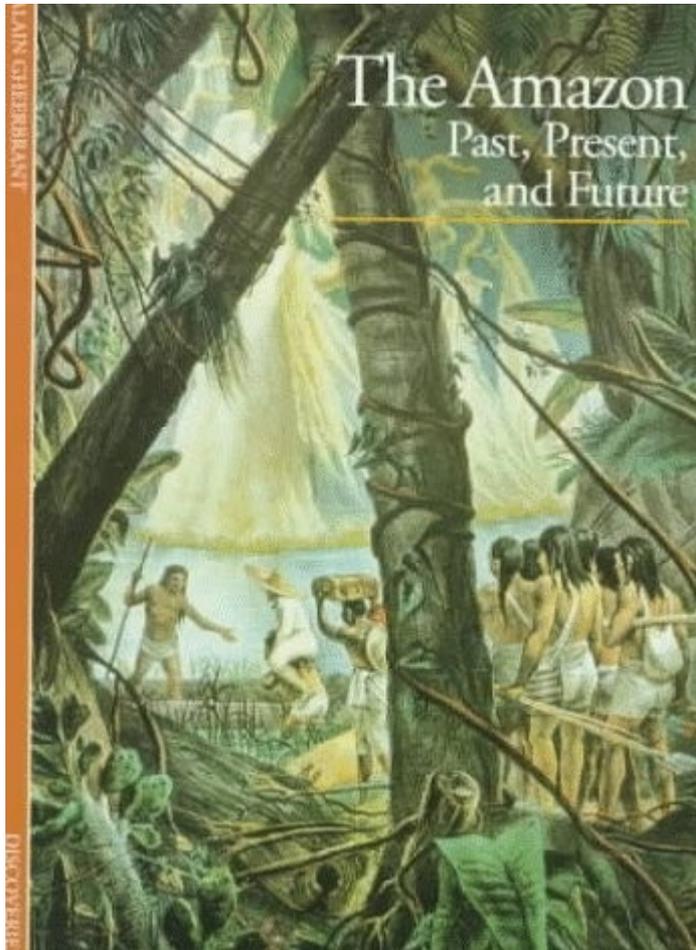
In this poignant novel based on a true story, acclaimed author Laura Resau has collaborated with María Virginia Farinango to recount one girl's unforgettable journey to self-discovery. Virginia's story will speak to anyone who has ever struggled to find his or her place in the world. It will make you laugh and cry, and ultimately, it will fill you with hope.

Suitable for Years 8 - 11

The Amazon: Past, Present and Future

by Alain Gheerbrant

Alain Gheerbrant was a French writer, editor, poet and explorer, noted for his expedition inside the basins of



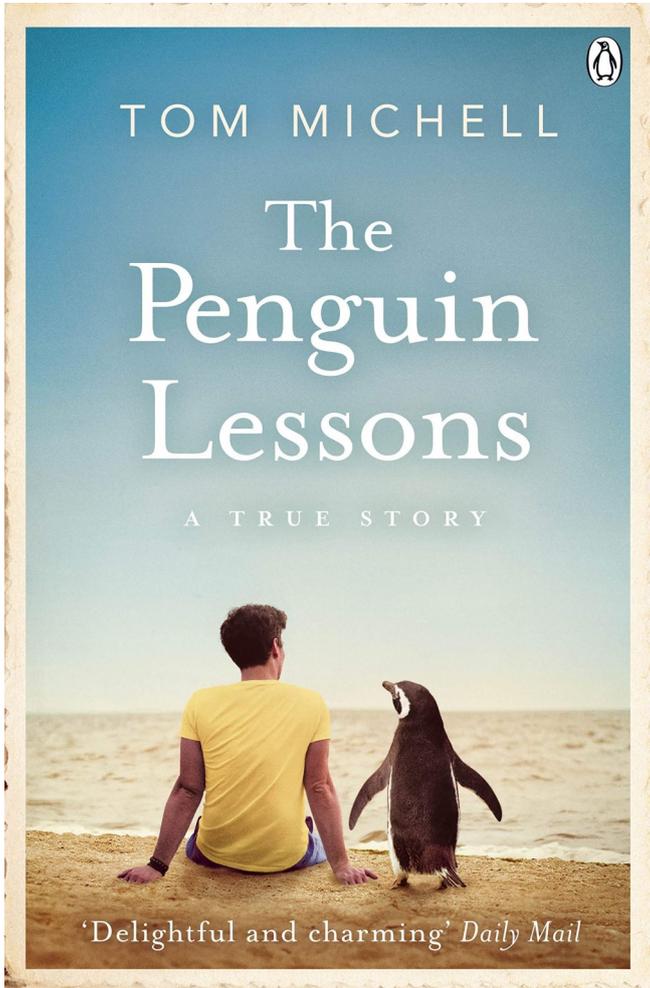
Amazonian rivers. From 1948 to 1950, Alain Gheerbrant led the Orinoco-Amazon expedition. He travelled through the basin of both rivers for two years and wrote of his travels in *L'Expédition Orénoque-Amazone* (1952). He is considered the first Westerner who had peaceful contact with the

Yanomami Indians and also the first to cross the Parima Mountains between 1948 and 1950.

In this book *The Amazon: Past, Present and Future*, Gheerbrant provides a chronicle of the discovery, exploration, and exploitation of the Amazon jungle. He captures the dramatic history of Amazonia from the first conquistadors in 1542 to the present through words, photographs and a rich assortment of illustrations.

The Penguin Lessons by Tom Michell

Tom Michell is in his roaring twenties: single, free-spirited and seeking adventure. He has a plane ticket to South America, a teaching position in a prestigious Argentine



boarding school, and endless summer holidays. What he doesn't need is a pet. What he *really* doesn't need is a pet penguin.

But while on holiday in Uruguay he spots a penguin struggling in an oil slick and knows he has to help. And then the penguin refuses to leave his side...

Clearly Tom has no choice but to smuggle it across the border,

through customs, and back to school. He names him Juan Salvador.

Whether it's as the rugby team's mascot, the housekeeper's confidant, the host at Tom's parties or the most flamboyant swimming coach in world history, Juan Salvador transforms the lives of all he meets - including Tom, who discovers a compadre like no other...

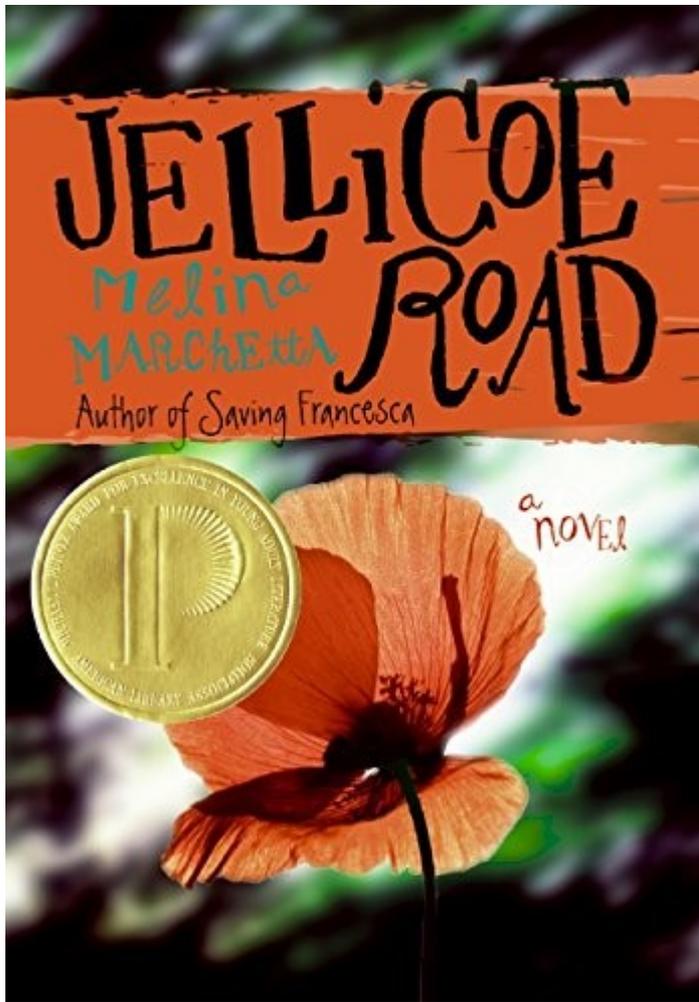
Suitable for Years 9 - 11

OCEANIA (AUSTRALIA)



Jellicoe road by Melina Marchetta

Abandoned by her mother on Jellicoe Road when she was eleven, Taylor Markham, now seventeen, is finally being confronted with her past. But as the reluctant leader of her



boarding school dorm, there isn't a lot of time for introspection. And while Hannah, the closest adult Taylor has to family, has disappeared, Jonah Griggs is back in town, moody stares and all.

In this absorbing story by Melina Marchetta, nothing is as it seems and every clue leads to more questions as Taylor tries to work out the connection between her

mother dumping her, Hannah finding her then and her sudden departure now. Can Taylor put together the pieces of her past, and change her future?

As one reader wrote, *“The writing is amazing, I can’t describe it in a way that does it justice other than to say that by the time I closed this book I felt like I was closing a door on a place I’d like to call home and people I’d like to call friends”*.

Beautiful World: Australia by Lonely Planet

Immerse yourself in Australia with this stunning collection of photographs and discover the nation's extraordinary range of landscapes and environments, cultures, creatures and people - from white-sand beaches to buzzing cities and ancient rainforests.



Beautiful World: Australia is the perfect way to lose yourself in the country. On your journey across Australia you'll explore the tropical paradise of the Whitsunday Islands and their impossibly white beaches, the Great Ocean Road and its star attraction,

the 12 Apostles, snow-covered mountains, hip and happening Melbourne with its street art-filled laneways, migrating humpback whales and east coast surfing communities.

As you continue further, you'll discover the Great Barrier Reef and the incredible variety of life in its harbours, as well as indigenous animals like the Tasmanian devil. Not forgetting the cowboys of Queensland cattle country, Aboriginal culture and craftwork, vineyards adorning the southern hills, the vast emptiness of the Outback and much more.

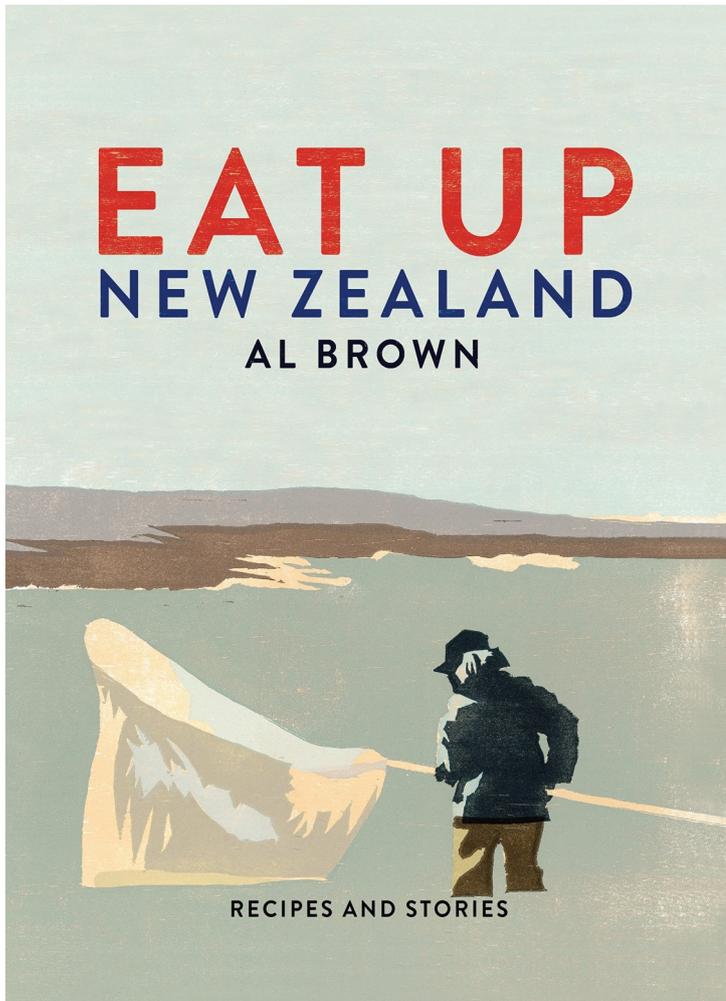
Eat Up New Zealand by Al Brown

With great stories about New Zealand food as well as more than 150 recipes, this is a nostalgic treasure trove that gets to the heart of what New Zealand culture is and the food

that reflects that.

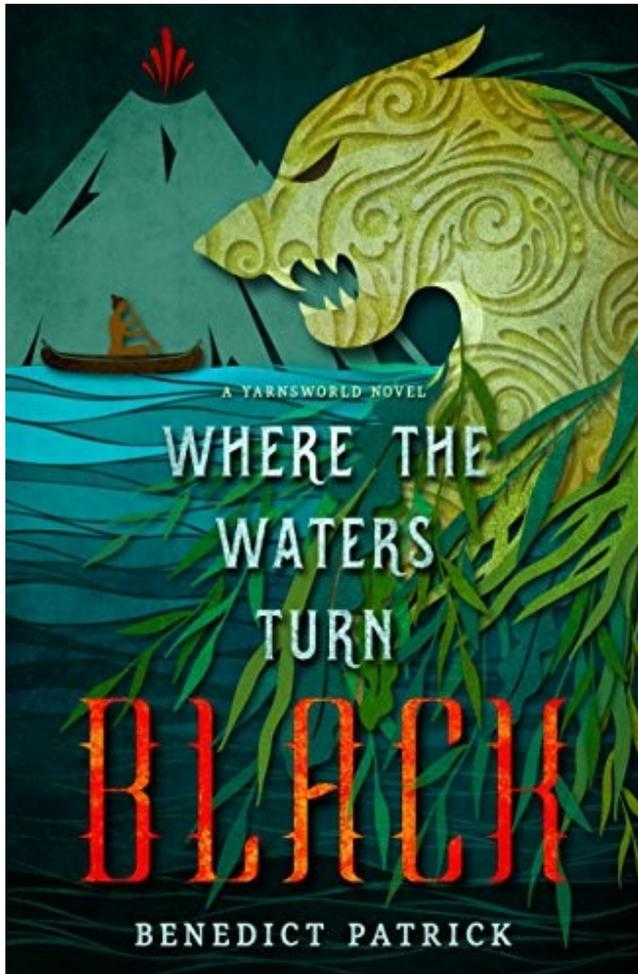
Combined with stunning food photography and beautiful on-location shots from around the country, this is the perfect book for everyone curious about New Zealand. *Eat Up New Zealand* honours the past with updated Kiwi classics like roast lamb, pies, flounder, corned beef, pikelets,

cheese scones, feijoa and tamarillo desserts, preserves, and much more.



Where the Waters Turn Black by Benedict Patrick

The Crescent Atoll is a remote string of tropical islands, connected by long canoe journeys and a love of stories. Islanders live in constant contact with gods and monsters,



following the rules handed down by their storytellers to survive in harmony with these primal forces.

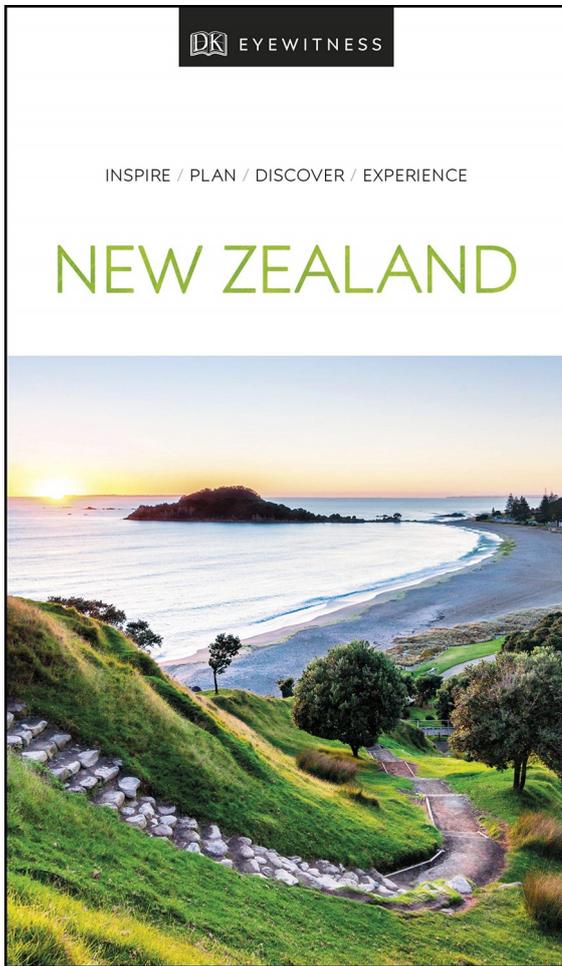
However, when a young ocarina player called Kaimana discovers the lair of a Taniwha -a legendary monster- she attracts the ruining gaze of the god of war. In a land of sea witches, pig-faced gods, and

Magpie Kings, Kaimana must trust her growing friendship with her Taniwha if they are both to survive.

Where the Waters Turn Black is a standalone novel from Benedict Patrick's Yarnsworld series. Inspired by the myths and legends of South Pacific island cultures, this book is perfect for those seeking a fantasy adventure in an unfamiliar world.

New Zealand by DK Eyewitness

Bring New Zealand to life by delving into this DK Eyewitness guide, transporting you there like no other travel guide



does with expert-led insights and advice, detailed breakdowns of all the must-see sights, photographs on practically every page, and hand-drawn illustrations which place you inside the country's iconic buildings and neighbourhoods.

In an explosion of dramatic scenery, this far-flung Pacific island has it all: mammoth mountains, icy-blue glacial lakes,

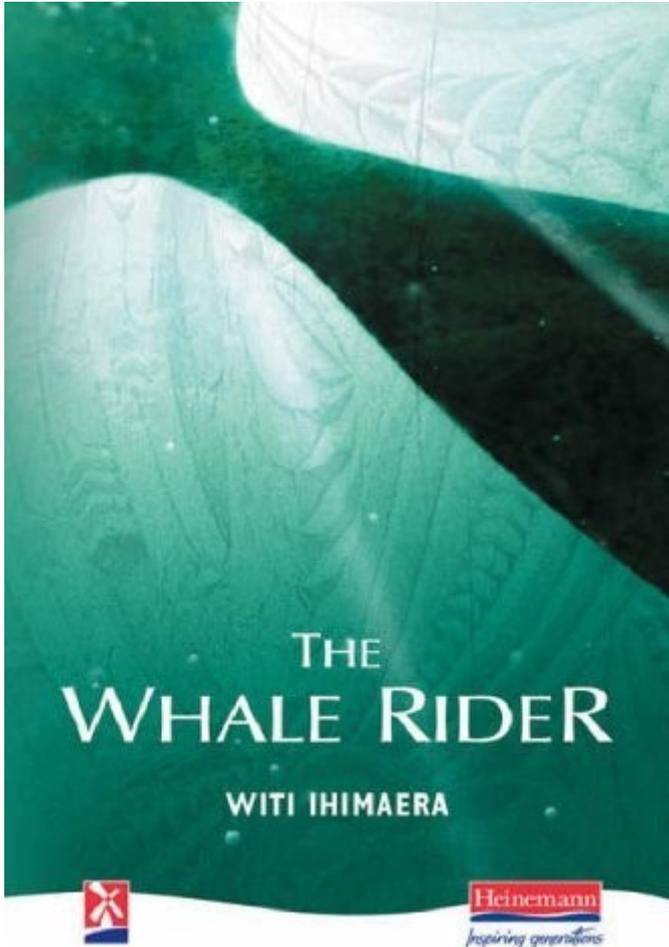
unspoiled coastlines, idyllic vineyards and cool, cultural

cities. From the subtropical Kauri forests of the North Island to the remote fjords of the South Island, New Zealand offers countless opportunities for adventure. And you don't even have to leave your chair!



The Whale Rider by Witi Ihimaera

Koro Apirana, the chief of the Māori tribe of Whangara, New Zealand, anxiously awaits the birth of his great-grandchild, hoping it will be a son to inherit his leader-



ship role. When the baby is born, Koro is disgusted to find that it is a girl. Named Kahu after their legendary whale-riding ancestor, this small girl grows up in the shadow of her great-grandfather, desperately seeking his love and approval. When whales begin to strand themselves on the beach near Kahu's

home, she uncovers her ability to communicate with sea creatures. This beautiful story, with its poetic use of language, weaves English and Maori together artfully. The book was made in to a movie in 2002, winning awards at the Cannes Film Festival.

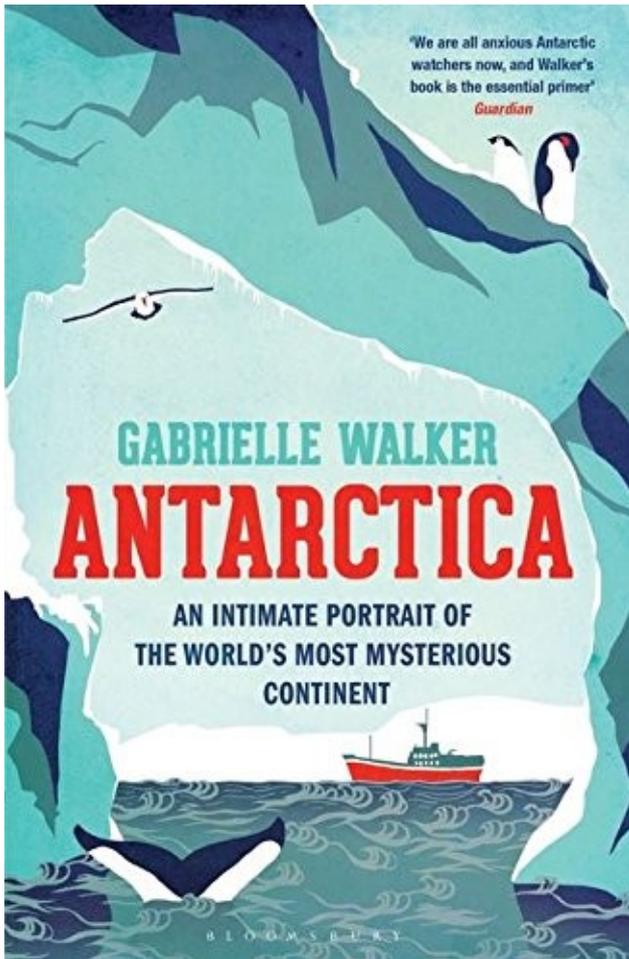
ANTARCTICA



Antarctica by Gabrielle Walker

Gabrielle Walker writes a fascinating account of life in Antarctica. Visiting several different bases which are owned by various nations she talks to the scientists, technicians and engineers who have made Antarctica their home either

in the summer period or, the braver ones, throughout the winter period. Written in a way that even those with no scientific background will find easy to understand Walker's narrative is engaging, entertaining and really makes you think about what life is like for humans on one of the last truly unexplored continents of our generation.

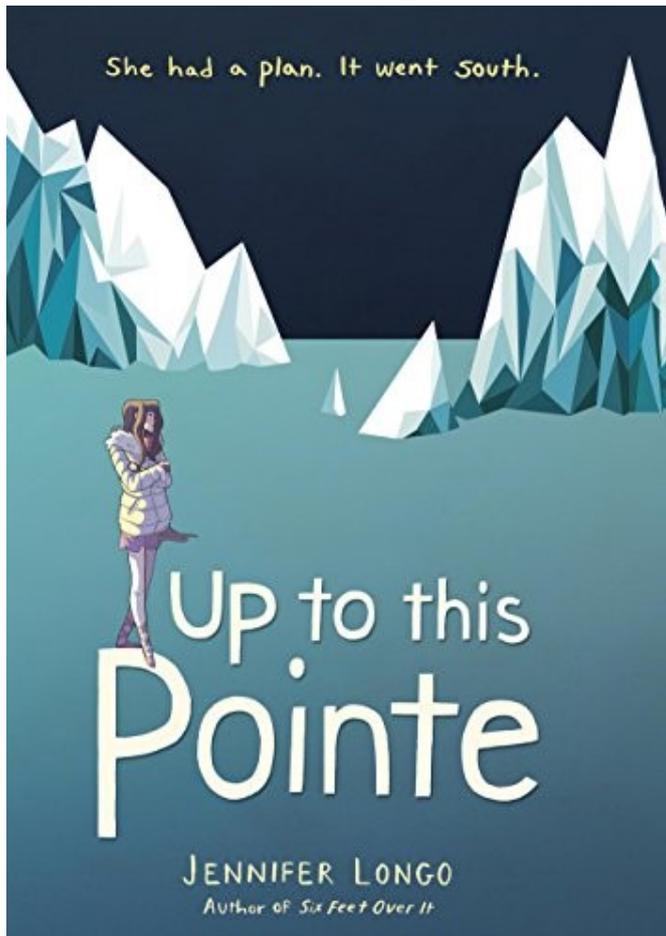


Walker gets insights, anecdotes and humorous stories from those people who choose to spend months in darkness and isolation and she recounts the stories of tragedy, triumphs and companionship from those visiting an icy world, which despite and because of its beauty, really does need to be respected.

Suitable for Years 8 - 11

Up to this Pointe by Jennifer Longo

Harper Scott is a dancer. She and her best friend, Kate, have one goal: becoming professional ballerinas. And Harper won't let anything, or anyone, get in the way of The Plan, not even the boy she and Kate are both drawn to. Harper is



a Scott. She is related to Robert Falcon Scott, the explorer who died racing Amundsen and Shackleton to the South Pole. Amundsen won because he had a plan, and Harper has always followed his model. So when Harper's life takes an unexpected turn, she 'finagles' -lies- her way to the icy dark of McMurdo Station

in Antarctica. Extreme, but somehow fitting; apparently she has always been in the dark, dancing on ice this whole time. It will take a visit from Shackleton's ghost -the explorer who didn't make it to the South Pole, but who got all of his men out alive- to teach Harper that success isn't always what's important, sometimes it's more important to learn how to fail successfully.

The White Darkness by Geraldine McCaughrean

Captain Titus Oates, hero of the Antarctic, has been dead for nearly a century. But not in Sym's head. In there, he is her constant companion, her soul mate, her adviser. It is as

GERALDINE MCCAUGHREAN

if he walked out of the Polar blizzard and into her mind. In fact, if it were not for Titus, life might be as bleak a place as the Antarctic wilderness.

When she is taken on a mystery expedition by her eccentric uncle Victor, Sym can't believe her luck. Destination Antarctica -the very place she's always wanted to visit. But Victor has other plans, more sinister than Sym

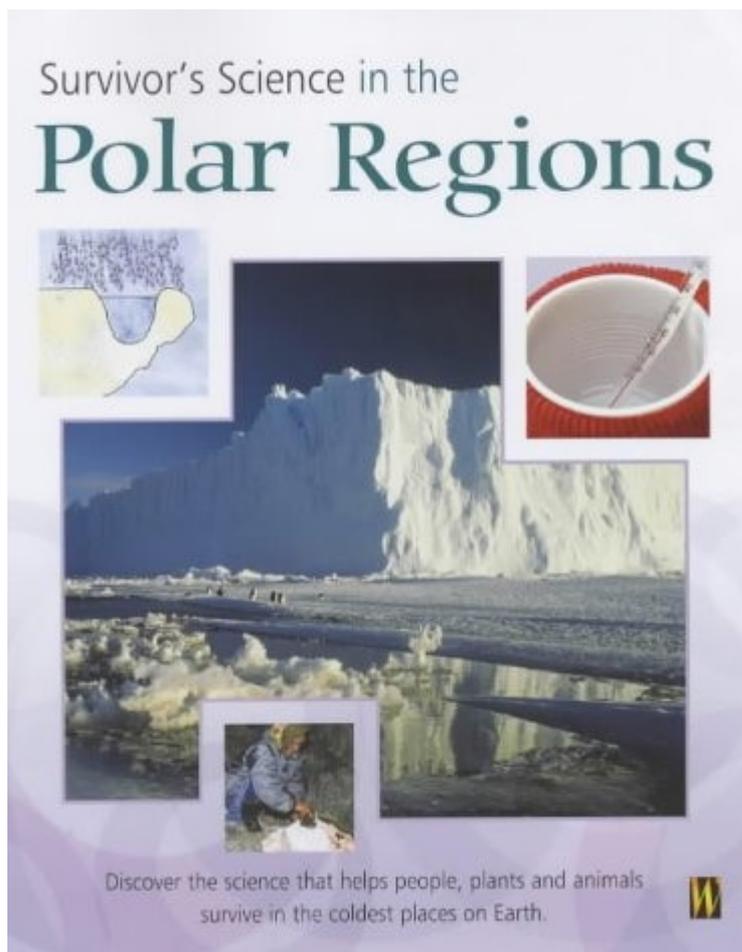
could possibly imagine. Stranded in the most isolated part of the world with her trust in someone she comes to realize is a madman, she must find a way to avoid a gruesome fate. But what should a teenage girl do? Could it be that Titus, the one who perished in that very place, will be the means of her survival?



The White Darkness

Survivor's Science in the Polar Regions

This book examines the science skills you would need to survive in polar regions. It begins with a map showing where these regions are located in the world. The text then looks at this habitat's unique features and how these features might help you to survive if



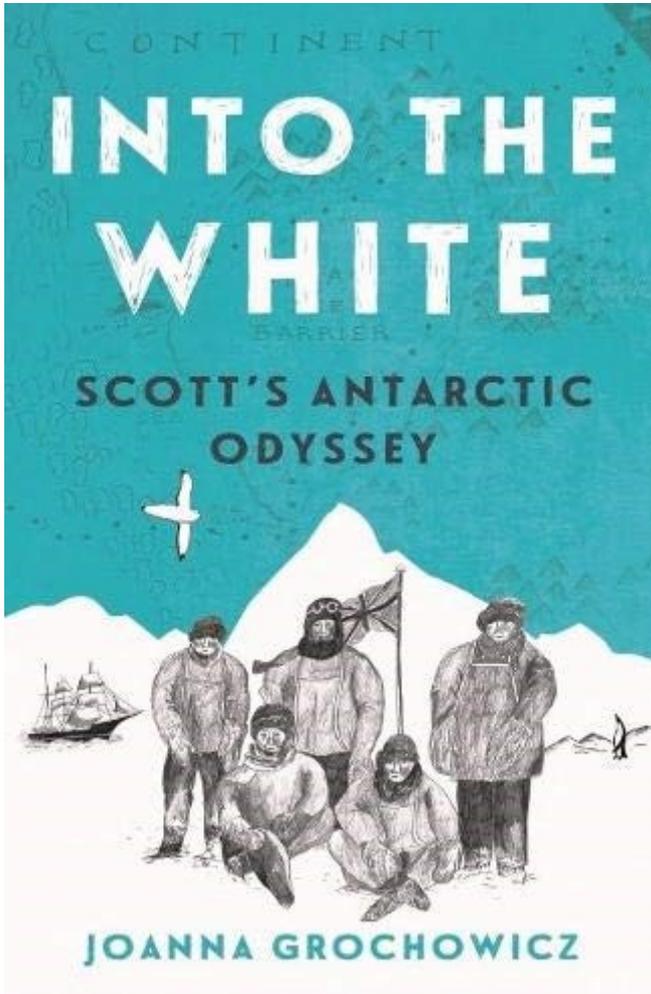
you were on an expedition there.

Aspects of survival are considered and each one is supported by a science activity which the readers can perform using everyday materials and equipment. For example, it shows you

what to wear, how to find your way, stay safe and, if necessary, be rescued. Always good to know should you find really yourself in Antarctica!

Into the White by Joanna Grochowicz

If you're into happy endings, best look someplace else. This story does not end well. This is a story where men die and



their dreams of greatness with them. But it is a fine story and one that is worth telling, from heroic beginning to tragic end. This is the story of Robert Falcon Scott's Terra Nova expedition and the memorable characters, who with a band of shaggy ponies and savage dogs, followed a man they trusted into the unknown. Battling storms at sea, impenetrable

pack ice, man-eating whales, crevasses, blizzards, bad food, extreme temperatures, and equal measures of hunger, agony and snow blindness, the team pushes on against all odds. But will the weather hold? Will their rations be adequate? How will they know when they get there? And who invited the Norwegians? *Into the White* will leave you on the edge of your seat, hoping against hope that Scott and his men just might survive their Antarctic ordeal and live to tell the tale.