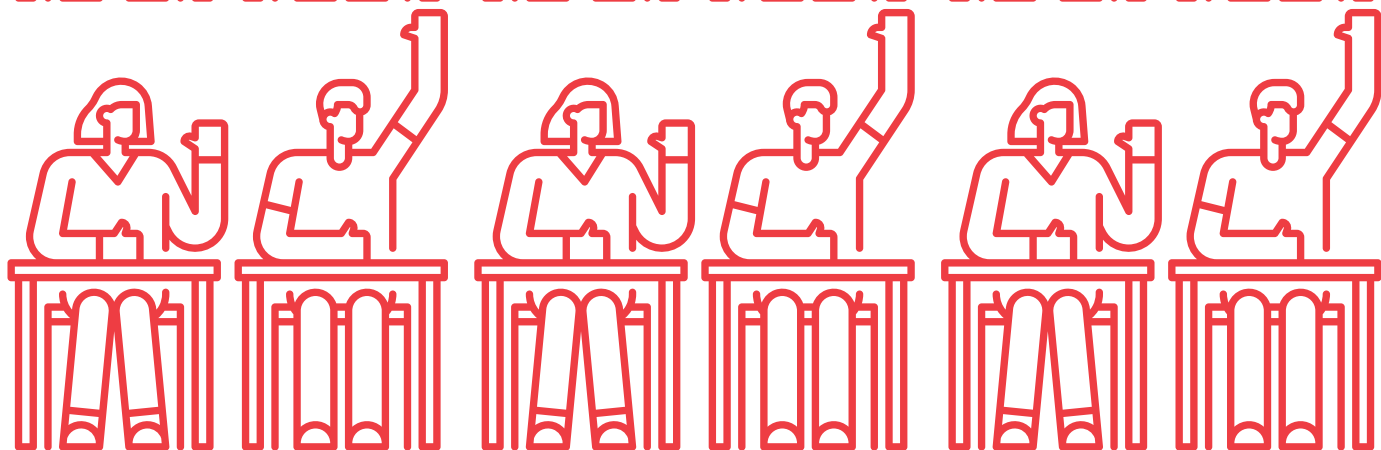
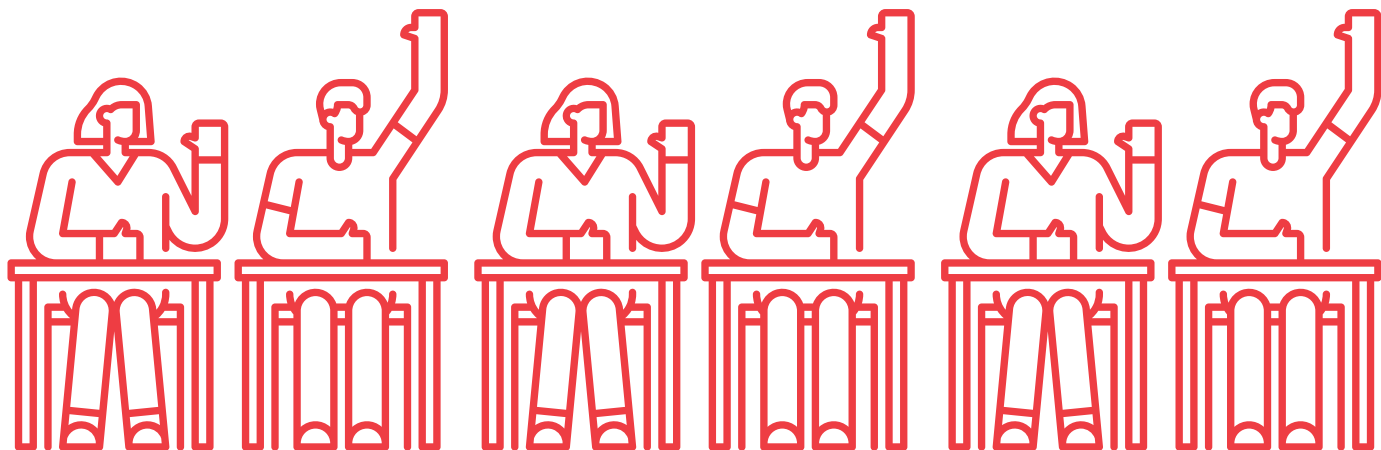
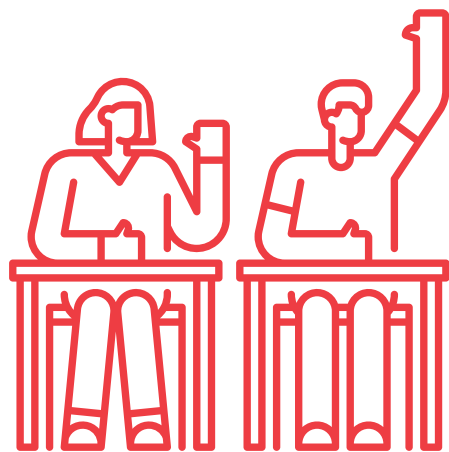


reading list & resource

class reads



secondary school



children's
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every child a reader



**children's
books
ireland**

every child a reader

Children's Books Ireland is the national charity and arts organisation that champions every child's right to develop a love of reading. Our mission at Children's Books Ireland is to inspire a love of reading in children and young people on the island of Ireland, and to champion equitable access for all to excellent books. We share our expertise and enthusiasm with the adults who guide and influence young readers, and encourage schools and early childhood settings to build a positive culture of reading and reading aloud. We support and promote authors and illustrators and connect them with their audiences through our work.

childrensbooksireland.ie

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Design: fintanwall.com |  WallHello

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Is í **Leabhair Pháistí Éireann** an eagraíocht náisiúnta carthanachta agus ealaíne a chosnaíonn agus a chuireann chun cinn an ceart atá ag gach páiste grá don léitheoireacht a fhás agus a fhorbairt. Tá sé mar aidhm againn grá don léitheoireacht a spreagadh i bpáistí agus daoine óga ar oileán na hÉireann agus cás a dhéanamh maidir le leabhair den scoth a sholáthar go cothrom. Roinnimid ár gcuid saineolais agus ár gcuid díograise leis na daoine fásta a threoraíonn na léitheoirí óga agus a théann i bhfeidhm orthu, agus cuirimid ina luí ar scoileanna agus suíomhanna luath-óige gur fiú cultúr dearfach a chothú maidir leis an léitheoireacht agus an léitheoireacht os ard. Tugaimid tacaíocht d'údair agus do mhaisitheoirí, cuirimid chun cinn iad agus nascaimid iad lena lucht léitheoireachta.

Each review in this guide comes with a suggested age range. These are based on the information provided by the publisher as well as our own judgement of the level for which the language and content is most suitable. In some cases you may see two or more age ranges e.g. 12–14, 15+. In these cases, we feel that the book is suitable for a wider age span. These age ranges are a guide only – it is impossible to accurately predict the correct level for every child. If in doubt, parents/carers and teachers are advised to read the book themselves before deciding whether it is suitable for the child or young person.





Introduction

One of the key success criteria in Ireland's new Literacy, Numeracy and Digital Literacy Strategy (2024–2033) is that students at post-primary level will spend more time reading and writing for enjoyment in school. For us at Children's Books Ireland, that means sharing our knowledge of excellent books to inspire and empower teachers with new ideas for thought-provoking class novels and innovative non-fiction texts that will engage, inspire and challenge their students.

Teachers reading aloud, students talking about books together, and everyone sharing recommendations and ideas, builds communities of readers in schools across all age groups. Teachers are some of the best reading role models any young reader can have and when teenagers are encouraged to explore new texts and genres, they are far more likely to choose to read themselves, for fun, for relaxation, and to fuel their imaginations.

If a teenager is supported at all stages of their education to develop and sustain a love of reading, they are more likely to be interested in their school subjects, to experience a greater sense of wellbeing and belonging, and to be empathetic, creative, and imaginative. This *Class Reads - Secondary School* recommended reading list is full of excellent, joyful, and diverse prose, graphic and verse novels that explore themes of identity and community, friendship and resilience, all while offering emotionally resonant and rich language experiences, in Irish and in English. The non-fiction titles engage with relevant and challenging ideas, offering extra insights into a broad range of fields and subjects.

Each book is accompanied by a short review and an age recommendation to guide you to the right book to introduce to your class. Each book is also tagged with the Junior and Senior Cycle subjects it naturally speaks to. A curated list of additional resources, where available, are also included for each book, to expand and deepen the reading experience. Share these books with your students, start conversations about characters, settings and ideas, and bring reading for joy to life in your school!

If you would like more advice on books to use as class novels, non-fiction texts to augment subject learning, or recommendations to encourage reading for joy for your students, contact our Education & Advocacy Manager Dr Becky Long at becky@childrensbooksireland.ie.



PATRICIA FORDE

AN MAC TÍRE DEIREANACH

FUTA FATA 2023 (BOG) 72LCH €8.95 ISBN 9781915684066

Is scéal dóchasach é *An Mac Tíre Deireanach* faoi chrógacht, cailteanas, agus tábhacht an teaghlaigh. Mealann a chlúdach álainn an léitheoir isteach sula n-osclaítear an chéad leathanach fiú. Insíonn an scéal cumhachtach seo aistear Úna agus a hiarracht an mac tíre deireanach in Éirinn a shábháil in 1652.

Agus meafar an mhic tíre á úsáid i rith an scéil, foghlaimimid faoin tábhacht an rud ceart agus cineálta a dhéanamh, fiú nuair a bhíonn an domhan ar fad ag rá go bhfuilimid contráilte. *Úna tries to save the last wolf in Ireland from Cromwell's soldiers in this historical tale of hope.*

(An Chéad Bhliain, An Dara Bliain, Aois 10–12, 12–14)

Further Resources/Acmhainní Breise:

Léirmheas iomlán ó Leabhair Pháistí Éireann –

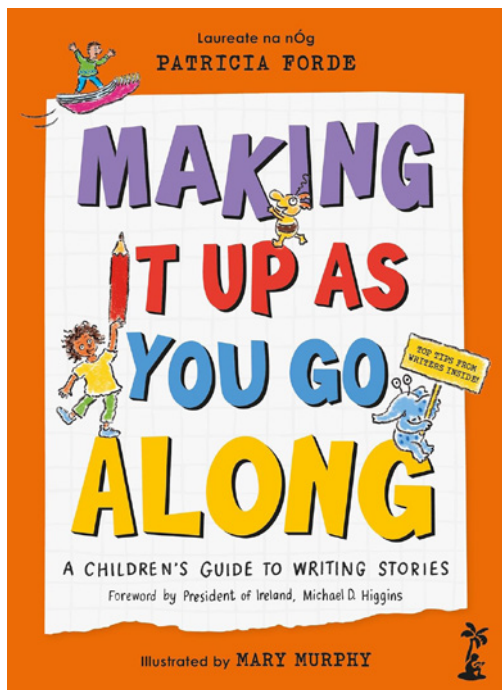
<https://childrensbooksireland.ie/our-recommendations/mac-tire-deireanach>

Léirmheas iomlán ó Love Leabhar Gaeilge –

<https://www.loveleabhargaeilge.ie/en/book/an-mac-tire-deireanach/>

Curriculum Links/Naisc Churaclaim:

Gaeilge, Tíreolaíocht, Stair (Sraith Sóisearach)



PATRICIA FORDE illustrated by MARY MURPHY

MAKING IT UP AS YOU GO ALONG:

A CHILDREN'S GUIDE TO WRITING STORIES

LITTLE ISLAND BOOKS 2025 (HBK) €16.99 296PP ISBN 9781915071903

With a foreword from former President of Ireland Michael D. Higgins, this book shows us from the beginning that it takes creativity seriously. A guide for young people who are interested in creative writing, featuring great advice and practical exercises to ignite the imagination along with tips and tricks from Ireland's most beloved authors. Although the tone is light, fun and age-appropriate, the content makes it a truly valuable resource for any young writer harbouring dreams of publishing a novel someday.

(First Year, Second Year, Non-fiction, Age 10–12, 12–14)

Further Resources/Acmhainní Breise:

Full review from Children's Books Ireland –

<https://childrensbooksireland.ie/our-recommendations/making-it-you-go-along-childrens-guide-writing-stories>

Patricia Forde explains 'show, don't tell' writing technique –

<https://youtu.be/RWj8AXLFiPY>

Create a panda with Mary Murphy –

<https://youtu.be/C8MntYbhM2w>

Curriculum Links/Naisc Churaclaim:

English, SPHE (Junior Cycle)



MEG GREHAN

THE BRIGHTEST STAR

LITTLE ISLAND BOOKS 2025 (PBK) 200PP €10.99 ISBN 9781915071804

Fans of *The Deepest Breath* will delight in an all-new verse novel as a slightly older Stevie, Chloe and Andrew get ready to start secondary school. While there are plenty of opportunities for Stevie and Chloe to explore their identities, Andrew starts to withdraw from their friend group, and Stevie and Chloe have to figure out how to help him find his way back to them. Gorgeous, lyrical, warm and comforting, this novel gently explores the anxieties and excitement that can come with starting secondary school. (First Year, Second Year, Verse novel, Age 10 –12, 12–14)

Further Resources/Acmhainní Breise:

Full review by Children's Books Ireland –

<https://childrensbooksireland.ie/our-recommendations/brightest-star>

Interview with Meg Grehan on writing in verse –

<https://www.rte.ie/culture/2025/0618/1516517-author-meg-grehan-how-writing-in-verse-helped-me-find-my-voice/>

Curriculum Links/Naisc Churaclaim:

English, SPHE (Junior Cycle)



PÁDRAIG KENNY

STITCH

WALKER BOOKS 2024 (PBK) 208PP £7.99 ISBN 9781529517781

In this Frankenstein-inspired tale, Stitch and his friend Henry Oaf have been created by the genius Professor Hardacre, but when circumstances at the castle change, Stitch must leave the castle for the first time, discovering that not everyone in the outside world sees him as he truly is. Kenny is a master at creating fantastical worlds with a creepy atmosphere always lurking in the background. *Stitch* is filled with a host of strange characters with heartwarming personalities that the reader will grow attached to. (First Year, Second Year, Age 10–12, 12–14)

Further Resources/Acmhainní Breise:

Full review from Children's Books Ireland –

<https://childrensbooksireland.ie/our-recommendations/stitch>

Stitch Junior Juries' Resource Pack from Children's Books Ireland –

<https://childrensbooksireland.ie/sites/default/files/2025-02/KPMG%20BOTYA%202025%20JJ%20Resource%20Pack%20web.pdf>

Stitch discussion guide from Walker Books –

www.readingzone.com/media/lhicpi4r/stitch_discussionguide.pdf

Curriculum Links/Naisc Churaclaim:

CSPE, English, SPHE (Junior Cycle)



ÉADAIOIN NÍ DHOMHNAILL

KATIE AGUS AN PACÁISTE RÚNDA

LeabhairCOMHAR 2025 (BOG) 88LCH €12.00 ISBN 9781739512972

Tá Katie go huile is go hiomlán gafa leis an mbleachtaireacht. Níl mórán measa aici ar phríobháideachas na ndaoine móorthimpeall uirthi, ach is léir gurb é an ceartas an cloch is mó ar a paidrín agus mar sin gabhaimid leithscéal léi. Tá mistéir iontach ag baint leis an úrscéal seo agus bhí sé deacair an críoch a thuar. Tá Gaeilge shaibhir ann agus tá aon fhrása nó focal atá deacair le tuiscint mínithe ar chúl an leabhair. *Katie is obsessed with being a detective and decides to investigate the case of her grandad's missing package uncovering a little more than she bargained for along the way.*

(An Chéad Bhliain, An Dara Bliain, Aois 10–12, 12–14)

Further Resources/Acmhainní Breise:

Léirmheas iomlán ó Leabhair Pháistí Éireann –

<https://childrensbooksireland.ie/our-recommendations/katie-agus-pacaiste-runda>

Curriculum Links/Naisc Churaclaim:

Gaeilge, OSPS (Sraith Sóisearach)



GERARD SIGGINS

BLOWING THE WHISTLE

THE O'BRIEN PRESS 2025 (PBK) 208PP €9.99 ISBN 9781788496094

In *Blowing the Whistle*, readers follow a friend group of four pre-teens as they embark on establishing their own rugby club in a friend's field with nothing more than a dream and a can-do attitude. Sport shows us that we can all achieve greatness through cooperation and inclusion. This is the inspiring message of Siggins's latest book, which, apart from a focus on rugby, explores themes of friendship, teamwork and environmentalism. Importantly, this book reminds young readers that with a little grit and organisation anything is possible. (First Year, Second Year, Age 10–12, 12–14)

Further Resources/Acmhainní Breise:

Full review from Children's Books Ireland –

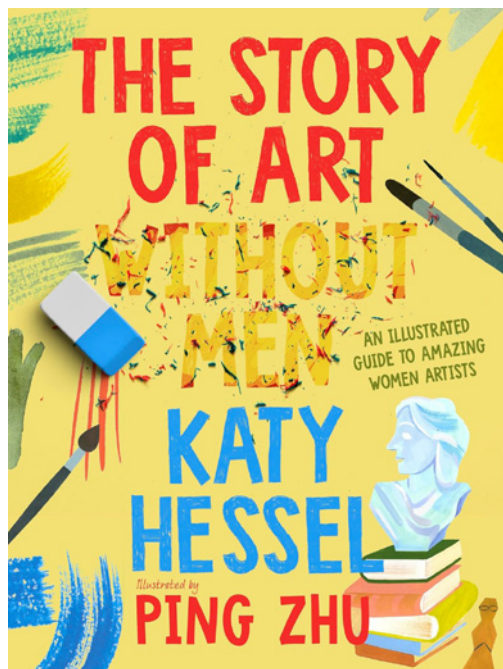
<https://childrensbooksireland.ie/our-recommendations/blowing-whistle>

GAA Book Club interview with author Gerard Siggins –

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z442dANJ-do>

Curriculum Links/Naisc Churaclaim:

English, PE, SPHE (Junior Cycle)



KATY HESSEL illustrated by PING ZHU

THE STORY OF ART WITHOUT MEN

PUFFIN 2026 (HBK) 176PP £20.00 ISBN 9780241738191

Hessel's adaptation of her bestselling book *The Story of Art Without Men* is a joyful introduction to the history of art created by women worldwide over the past 500 years. Hessel's passion for her subject will spark curiosity and enthusiasm among readers as she provides empowering accounts of various female artists and art movements. Zhu's illustrations combined with photographs of the artworks discussed enhance the short biographies and explanations inviting readers to engage with art in new and enjoyable ways. (First Year, Second Year, Third Year, Transition Year, Non-fiction, Age 10–12, 12–14, 15+)

Further Resources/Acmhainní Breise:

Full review from Children's Books Ireland –

<https://childrensbooksireland.ie/our-recommendations/story-art-without-men-illustrated-guide-amazing-women-artists>

Q&A with author Katy Hessel –

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1phS6rzNufI>

The Great Women Artists Podcast –

<https://www.thegreatwomenartists.com/katy-hessel-podcast>

Curriculum Links/Naisc Churaclaim:

CSPE, English, Graphics, History, Visual Art, SPHE (Junior Cycle)

Art, Design and Communication Graphics, English, History, Politics and Society, Religious Education, SPHE (Senior Cycle)



ZAINAB BOLADALE

LOOKING FOR AURORA 🍀

THE O'BRIEN PRESS 2026 (PBK) 240PP €11.99 ISBN 9781788495738

Aurora Kutti is a teenage influencer living a glamorous life of constant attention. Her lifestyle is enviable but tightly controlled by her 'momager', and Aurora is starting to lose her sense of self. The rise of social media has seen an increase in young stars, whose personal and professional lives are increasingly blurred. Boladale approaches this topic gently but firmly, acknowledging the emotional toll and the real danger of living life online. Fans of *Braids Take a Day* will be delighted with the author's second book.

(First Year, Second Year, Third Year, Age 12–14)

Further Resources/Acmhainní Breise:

Full review from Children's Books Ireland –

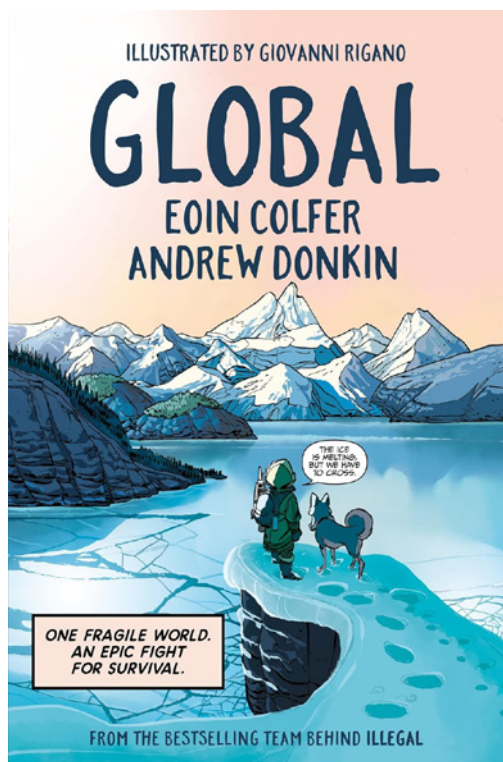
<https://childrensbooksireland.ie/our-recommendations/looking-aurora>

Zainab Boladale on why she wrote *Looking for Aurora* –

https://www.youtube.com/shorts/mu0ux7Qg_1A

Curriculum Links/Naisc Churaclaim:

English, SPHE (Junior Cycle)



EOIN COLFER and ANDREW DONKIN

illustrated by **GIOVANNI RIGANO**

GLOBAL

HODDER CHILDREN'S BOOKS 2024 (PBK) 144PP £14.99 ISBN 9781444951936

This full-colour graphic novel focuses on the impact of climate change on the lives of two young people. Sami and his grandfather live in a fishing village on the Bay of Bengal, where their community is threatened by rising sea levels. Yuki, in contrast, lives in an increasingly deserted Inuit township in Nova Scotia, where rising temperatures are melting the ice and endangering the polar bears. The chapters alternate between their dramatic stories, emphasising that their experiences, whilst very different, are linked. A powerful read. (First Year, Second Year, Third Year, Graphic novel, Age 12–14)

Further Resources/Acmhainní Breise:

Full review from Children's Books Ireland –

<https://childrensbooksireland.ie/our-recommendations/global>

Global Junior Juries' Resource Pack from Children's Books Ireland –

<https://childrensbooksireland.ie/sites/default/files/2025-02/KPMG%20BOTYA%202024%20JJ%20for%20web.pdf>

Curriculum Links/Naisc Churaclaim:

CSPE, English, Geography, History, Science, SPHE (Junior Cycle)



BRIAN CONAGHAN

STEALING HAPPY

BLOOMSBURY YA 2025 (PBK) 304PP £8.99 ISBN 9781526653987

Sonny has a lot to deal with: his dad is suffering from long Covid, and he hates having to see his mum struggle to pay the bills. On top of this, having Tourette's syndrome brings its own challenges. When he discovers his mum is in debt to a loan shark, Sonny's fragile world is on the brink of collapse. But Sonny is smart and brave enough to come up with an audacious plan that just might work ... Gritty, warm and hopeful, *Stealing Happy* is Brian Conaghan at his best. (First Year, Second Year, Third Year, Age 12–14)

Further Resources/Acmhainní Breise:

Full review from Children's Books Ireland –

<https://childrensbooksireland.ie/our-recommendations/stealing-happy>

Stealing Happy Junior Juries' Resource Pack from Children's Books Ireland –

<https://childrensbooksireland.ie/sites/default/files/2026-02/KPMG%20BOTYA%202026%20JJ%20Resource%20Pack%5BFINAL%5D.pdf>

Curriculum Links/Naisc Churaclaim:

English, SPHE (Junior Cycle)



BRÍAN DUNGAN

WINTOUR'S GAME

LITTLE TIGER 2024 (PBK) 320PP £8.99 ISBN 9781788956703

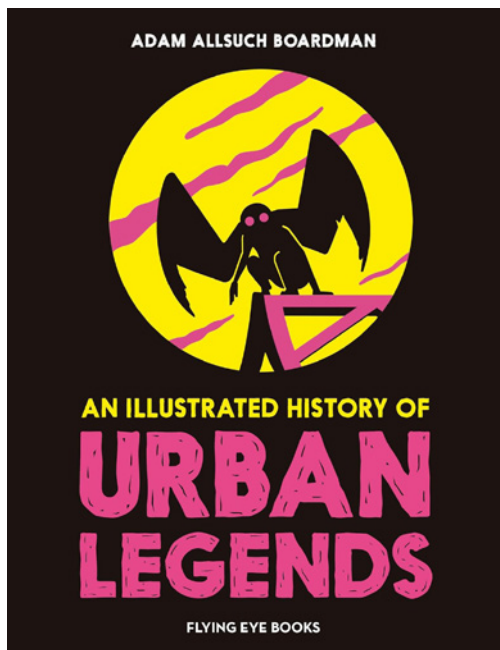
Alex Wintour's life is shaped by her unique ability to see into the future and a relentless determination to survive. When a heist goes off course, the world as she knows it suddenly collides with a world she didn't know existed. First in a new action-packed series, set against a backdrop of hidden worlds and secret societies, this book offers a fast-paced story that promises to keep readers eagerly turning the pages. From pulse-pounding heists to heart-stopping confrontations, the narrative seamlessly blends elements of mystery, fantasy and suspense. (First Year, Second Year, Third Year, Age 12–14)

Further Resources/Acmhainní Breise:

Full review by Children's Books Ireland –

<https://childrensbooksireland.ie/our-recommendations/wintours-game>
Read a chapter sample of *Wintour's Game* from Little Tiger –
<https://littletiger.co.uk/wintours-game-sample-chapter>
Curriculum Links/Naisc Churaclaim:

English, SPHE (Junior Cycle)



ADAM ALLSUCH BOARDMAN

AN ILLUSTRATED HISTORY OF URBAN LEGENDS

FLYING EYE BOOKS 2024 (HBK) 128PP £16.99 ISBN 9781838741686

Beginning with an explanation of what urban legends actually are and how they spread, this intriguing read goes on to cover a wide range of tall tales, beginning in the sixth century with the first report of the Loch Ness monster, and extending all the way to the present day when urban legends are spread via social media and video games. Part of a series, this is a beautifully illustrated book jam-packed with information about legendary creatures, unexplained disappearances, UFOs, phantom places, and much more. A fascinating book for curious-minded readers. (First Year, Second Year, Third Year, Transition Year, Non-fiction, Age 12–14, 15+)

Further Resources/Acmhainní Breise:

Full review by Children's Books Ireland –

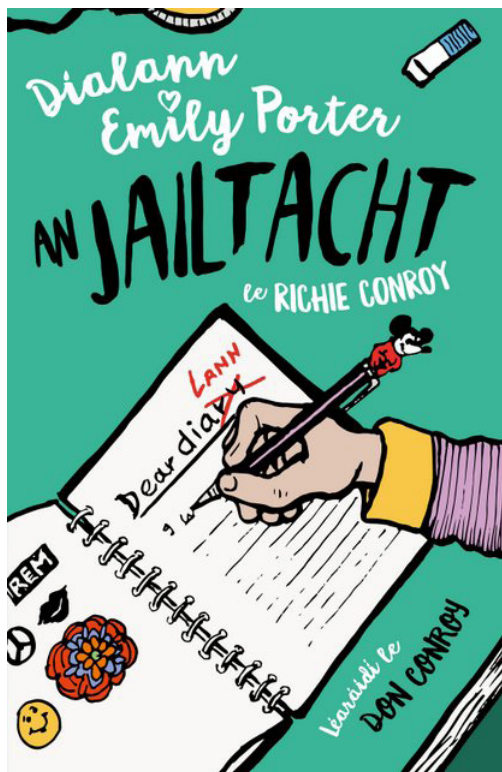
<https://childrensbooksireland.ie/our-recommendations/illustrated-history-urban-legends>

Getting Spooky interview with Adam Allsuch Boardman from Flying Eye Books –

<https://flyingeyebbooks.com/adam-allsuch-boardman-gets-spooky/>
Curriculum Links/Naisc Churaclaim:

English, Geography, History, Science, SPHE (Junior Cycle)

English, Geography, History, SPHE (Senior Cycle)



RICHIE CONROY maisithe ag **DON CONROY**

DIALANN EMILY PORTER: AN JAILTACHT

LeabhairCOMHAR 2018 (BOG) 128LCH €12.00 ISBN 9781999802950

Sníomhtar téamaí uilíocha le chéile sa chuntas dialainne seo ar nós saol an teaghlaigh, daoine óga, cairdeas agus grá. Tugtar léargas ar shaol an déagóra, ag féachaint siar ar bhóithrín na smaointe. Insítear scéal na Gaeltachta dúinn ar bhealach an-taitneamhach. Feictear greann go minic sa chur síos a thugann Emily dúinn. Cruthaíonn na litreacha nasc leis an saol taobh amuigh, faoiseamh sealadach ó na heachtraí Gaeltachta! Tá léaráidí simplí agus éifeachtacha sa leabhar cliste greannmhar seo. *Told in Irish and in English, Emily is sent to the Gaeltacht in the summer of 1994 and comes out the other side a changed person.*

(An Chéad Bhliain, An Dara Bliain, An Tríú Bliain, An Idirbhliain, Aois 12–14, 15+)

Further Resources/Acmhainní Breise:

Léirmheas iomlán ó Leabhair Fáistí Éireann –

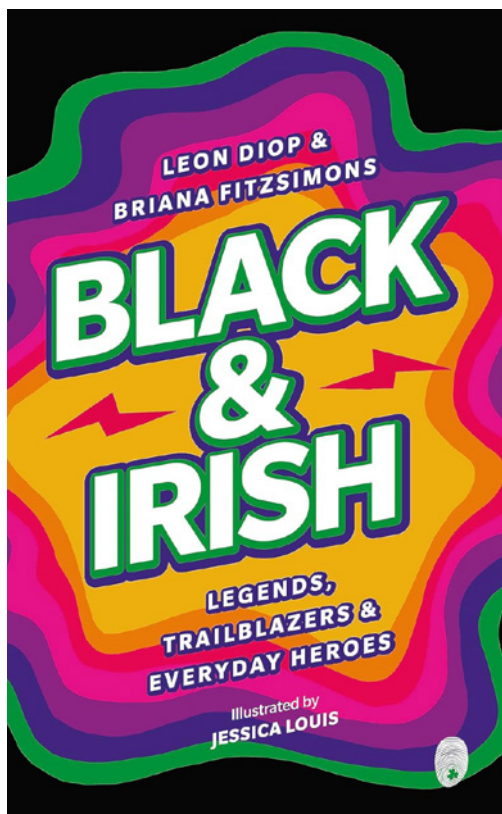
<https://childrensbooksireland.ie/ga/our-recommendations/dialann-emily-porter-jailtacht>

Agallamh le Richie Conroy don iris *Books Ireland* –

<https://booksirelandmagazine.com/richie-conroy-on-writing-the-book-he-wished-had-had-as-a-teenager/>

Curriculum Links/Naisc Churaclaim:

OSSP, Gaeilge, Stair, OSPS (Sraith Sóisearach)



LEON DIOP and BRIANA FITZSIMONS illustrated by **JESSICA LOUIS** **BLACK & IRISH: LEGENDS, TRAILBLAZERS AND EVERYDAY HEROES**

LITTLE ISLAND BOOKS 2023 (PBK) 224PP €14.50 ISBN 9781915071231

This first-of-a-kind biographical collection for Ireland asks a very important question: what does it mean to be Black and Irish? Featuring interviews from prominent and influential Black Irish figures, this stunning book offers an insight into their reality of growing up and living in Ireland. While the book stresses the need to address racism, inclusivity and acceptance, there is also positivity and hope to see Ireland embrace its diverse cultural landscape and the people who call it home.

(First Year, Second Year, Third Year, Transition Year, Non-fiction, Age 12–14, 15+)

Further Resources/Acmhainní Breise:

Full review from Children's Books Ireland –

<https://childrensbooksireland.ie/our-recommendations/black-irish-legends-trailblazers-and-everyday-heroes>

Interview with Leon Diop and Briana Fitzsimons in *Inis* magazine –

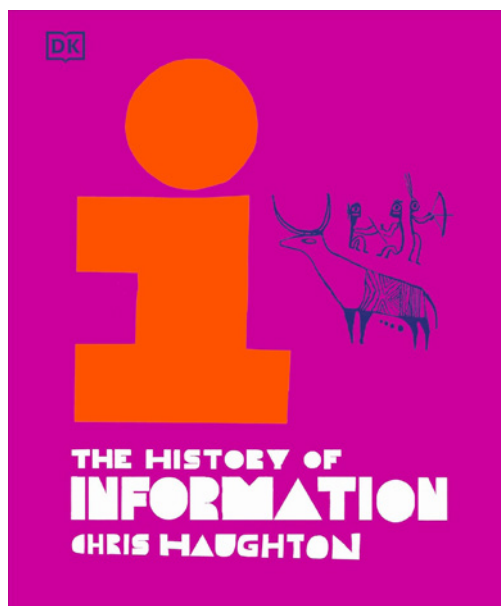
<https://childrensbooksireland.ie/sites/default/files/2025-06/Inis%20Issue%2072%20WEB.pdf>

Black & Irish website – <https://blackandirish.com/non-profit/about-us/>

Curriculum Links/Naisc Churaclaim:

CSPE, English, History, SPHE (Junior Cycle)

English, History, Politics and Society, SPHE (Senior Cycle)



CHRIS HAUGHTON

THE HISTORY OF INFORMATION

DK CHILDREN'S BOOKS 2024 (HBK) 144PP £20.00 ISBN 9780241553916

Sharing, storing and building on information is what made possible the extraordinary achievements of humanity in a relatively short amount of time. Tracking our species' history through the lens of information accumulation, this book examines the history of information from the origins of language all the way to AI. Clever use of colour schemes, layout and arborescence ensures smooth visual communication, with photos of historical artefacts fully integrated into Haughton's trademark style of markmaking. An ambitious book that is as dense and complex as it is captivating and accessible. (First Year, Second Year, Third Year, Transition Year, Non-fiction, Age 12–14, 15+)

Further Resources/Acmhainní Breise:

Full review from Children's Books Ireland –

<https://childrensbooksireland.ie/our-recommendations/history-information>

Information on the Laureate na nÓg project –

<https://childrenslaureate.ie/>
Curriculum Links/Naisc Churaclaim:

CSPE, English, Geography, History, Religious Education, Science, SPHE, Visual Art (Junior Cycle)

Art, Classical Studies, Climate Action and Sustainability, Computer Science, Economics, Engineering, English, Geography, History, Politics and Society, Religious Education, SPHE, Technology (Senior Cycle)



LUKE PALMER

BIG WORDS

BARRINGTON STOKES 2026 (PBK) 120PP £7.99 ISBN 9780008789848

Why do we accept the bully as the boss? And does a bully ever consider other people? In *Big Words*, a layered story of teen friendship among boys, Sam pushes his mates to do a very risky thing that goes badly wrong. Used to being the 'big guy' that nobody challenges, Sam is ostracised by everyone he knows – can he learn what friendship truly means? This skilfully plotted book is ideal for teens, great for class discussion and a timely reminder of how anyone can get stuck in patterns of behaviour that do not serve us.

(First Year, Second Year, Third Year, Transition Year, Age 12–14, 15+)

Further Resources/Acmhainní Breise:

Full review from Children's Books Ireland –

<https://childrensbooksireland.ie/our-recommendations/big-words>
Big Words book club discussion questions from Barrington Stoke –
<https://collins.co.uk/products/9780008789848>
Curriculum Links/Naisc Churaclaim:

CSPE, English, SPHE (Junior Cycle)

English, SPHE (Senior Cycle)



SOPHIE JO RED FLAGS

SCHOLASTIC 2025 (PBK) 320PP £8.99 ISBN 9780702334399

Poppy is sharp-witted and quick to abandon any blossoming relationship at the first flutter of a red flag. So when Poppy's friends challenge her to give someone a real shot, she reluctantly sets her sights on Cam, her bus crush. But unbeknownst to her, Cam can't seem to stick with any girl for long and is grappling with overcoming his habit of ditching relationships at the first sign of an 'ick'. This is an escapist yet deeply relatable romantic comedy that dives into contemporary dating dilemmas faced by many teens.

(Third Year, Transition Year, Fifth Year, Sixth Year, Age 12–14, 15+)

Further Resources/Acmhainní Breise:

Full review from Children's Books Ireland –

<https://childrensbooksireland.ie/our-recommendations/red-flags>

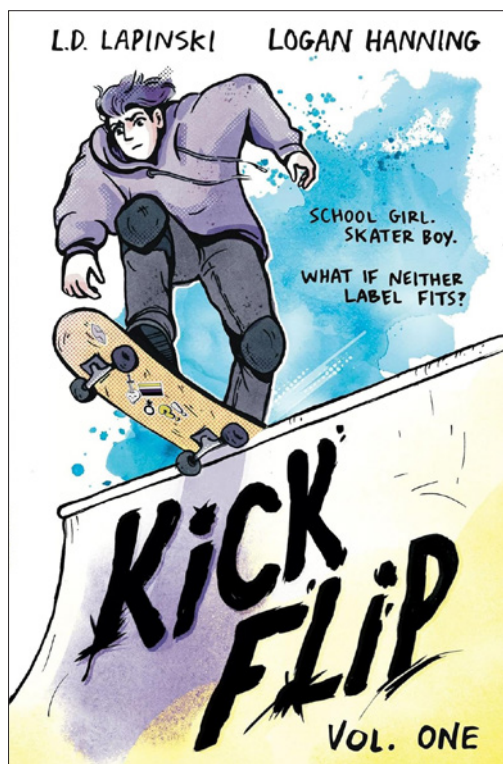
Author's Afterword with the Worm Hole Podcast –

<https://wormholepodcast.libsyn.com/124-sophie-jo-red-flags>

Curriculum Links/Naisc Churaclaim:

English, SPHE (Junior Cycle)

English, SPHE (Senior Cycle)



L.D. LAPINSKI illustrated by LOGAN HANNING KICKFLIP VOL. ONE

ORION CHILDREN'S BOOKS 2025 (PBK) 224PP £12.99 ISBN 9781510112537

Elliot is drawn to the excitement of the skate park but feels like they have to hide their identity. Terrified they won't be accepted for who they are, experiencing romantic feelings and unnerved by nasty bullying, they are plagued with self-doubt. *Kickflip* has a strong own-voice narrative from Lapinski with Hanning's dynamic illustrations deftly capturing Elliot's fears. Fans of graphic novels and teens looking for LGBTQ+ representation will love this.

(Third Year, Transition Year, Fifth Year, Sixth Year, Graphic novel, Age 12–14, 15+)

Further Resources/Acmhainní Breise:

Full review by Children's Books Ireland –

<https://childrensbooksireland.ie/our-recommendations/kickflip-vol-one>

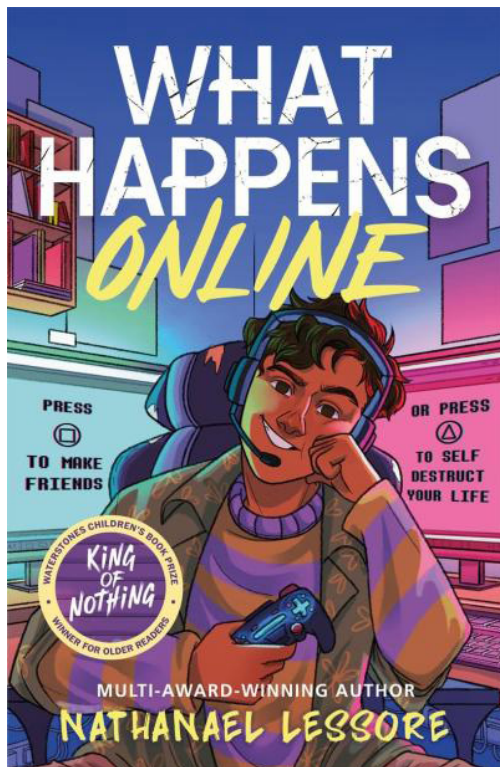
Kickflip Vol. One teaching resources from Hachette –

<https://www.hachetteschools.co.uk/resource/kickflip/>

Curriculum Links/Naisc Churaclaim:

English, PE, SPHE, Visual Art (Junior Cycle)

Art, English, PE, SPHE (Junior Cycle)



NATHANAEL LESSORE

WHAT HAPPENS ONLINE

HOT KEY BOOKS 2025 (PBK) 320PP £7.99 ISBN 9781471418204

Fred feels invisible at school, he's unpopular, friendless and often harassed by bullies. But at home, he gets to become Existor, a highly skilled online gamer with a massive number of followers. But as his two personalities begin to blur, so does the line between right and wrong and Fred must decide which type of person he wants to be. This funny and topical coming-of-age story skilfully interrogates what it means to stay true to yourself in the digital age where online identities can be so carefully curated.

(Third Year, Transition Year, Fifth Year, Sixth Year, Age 12–14, 15+)

Further Resources/Acmhainní Breise:

Full review from Children's Books Ireland –

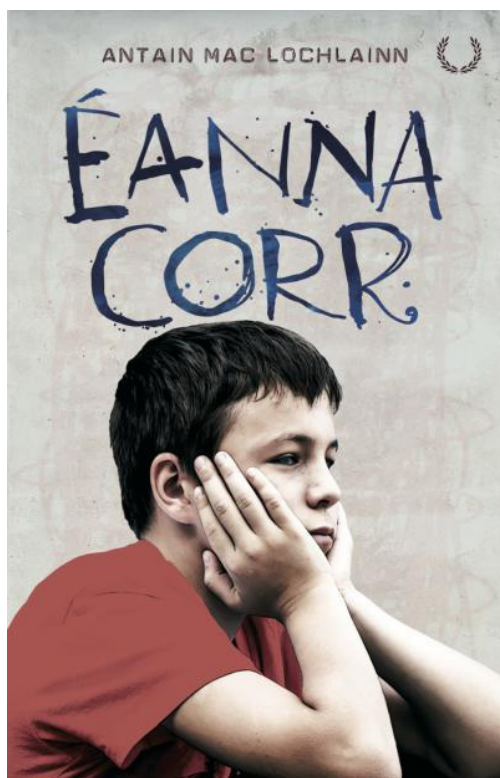
<https://childrensbooksireland.ie/our-recommendations/what-happens-online>Children's Books Ireland interview with Nathanael Lessore for *Inis* magazine –<https://childrensbooksireland.ie/sites/default/files/2026-04/Inis%20Issue%2074%20web.pdf>

Nathanael Lessore on using fiction to discuss boyhood and masculinity with BookTrust UK –

<https://www.booktrust.org.uk/resources/find-resources/using-fiction-to-discuss-boyhood-and-masculinity/>**Curriculum Links/Naisc Churaclaim:**

English, History, CSPE, SPHE (Junior Cycle)

English, History, Politics and Society, SPHE (Senior Cycle)



ANTAIN Mac LOCHLAINN

ÉANNA CORR

LEABHAR BREAC 2024 (BOG) 136LCH €12.00 ISBN 9781913814595

Scéal a bhaineann le cultas creidimh, leochaileacht an duine agus cumhacht an chairdis. Nuair a thosaíonn buachaill nua sa scoil, tagann athrú ar shaol Éanna. Mar sin a thosaíonn dlúthchairdeas eatarthu agus cuireann teaghlach Shíomóin fáilte mhór roimh Éanna, ach tá impleachtaí aige sin ar an mbeirt acu. Bogann an scéal ar aghaidh ar luas an-mhaith ón tús agus casann go sásúil anseo is ansiúd. D'áireoinn é ar cheann de na leabhair is fearr do dhéagóirí atá tagtha ar an margadh le neart blianta anuas. *A new boy in school befriends Éanna, but Éanna soon learns that his new friend's family is involved in a cult.* (An Tríú Bliain, An Idirbhliain, An Cúigiú Bhliain, An Séú Bliain, Aois 12–14, 15+)

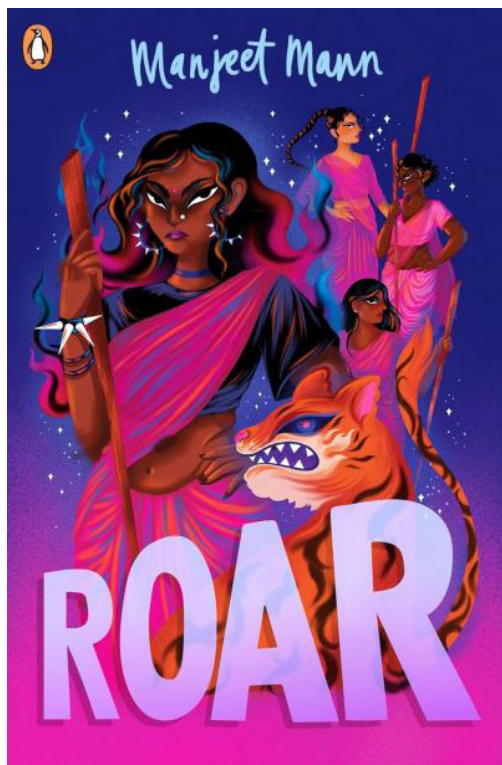
Further Resources/Acmhainní Breise:

Léirmheas iomlán ó Leabhair Pháistí Éireann –

<https://childrensbooksireland.ie/our-recommendations/eanna-corr>**Curriculum Links/Naisc Churaclaim:**

Gaeilge, OSPS (Sraith Sóisearach)

Gaeilge, An Pholaitíocht agus an tSochaí, OSPS (Sraith Sinsearach)



MANJEET MANN

ROAR

PENGUIN BOOKS 2025 (PBK) 416PP £9.99 ISBN 9780241647622

When Rizu, only child of a wealthy family in Delhi, has a falling out with the mean girls in school, she is accused of being a witch. Running away from home, she joins a vigilante group and an ember burns in her, eventually catching light, with dangerous consequences. How will she make what happened right? How can she get justice? Free verse and multiple voices are used to beautiful effect in a story that is concerned with class, caste, colourism, snobbery, and how we find who we are.

(Transition Year, Fifth Year, Sixth Year, Verse novel, Age 12–14, 15+)

Further Resources/Acmhainní Breise:

Full review from Children's Books Ireland –

<https://childrensbooksireland.ie/our-recommendations/roar-0>

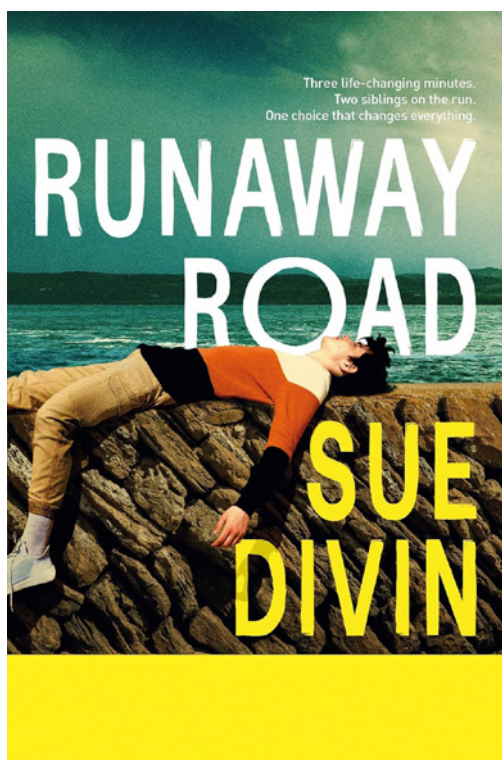
Manjeet Mann interviewed by Joseph Coelho –

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2UfyUjWGnlQ>

Curriculum Links/Naisc Churaclaim:

CSPE, English, Geography, History, SPHE (Junior Cycle)

English, Geography, History, Politics and Society, SPHE (Senior Cycle)



SUE DIVIN

RUNAWAY ROAD

FIRST INK 2026 (PBK) 304PP £9.99 ISBN 9781035087174

At sixteen, Ezra believes he's a lost cause. Frequently moving between foster homes, his little sister Evie remains the only constant and bright spot in his life. But when something goes horribly wrong during a job to settle a debt, Ezra figures there's just one place he can run to. However, crossing the Northern Irish border would mean leaving Evie behind ... Without avoiding darker themes, this is ultimately a moving tale of belonging and compassion that celebrates the bond between siblings and the healing power of second chances. (Transition Year, Fifth Year, Sixth Year, Age 15+)

Further Resources/Acmhainní Breise:

Full review from Children's Books Ireland –

<https://childrensbooksireland.ie/our-recommendations/runaway-road>

Sue Divin reads from *Runaway Road* –

<https://www.readingzone.com/news/sue-divin-reads-from-her-powerful-ya-novel-runaway-road/>

Sue Divin interview with *Books Ireland* magazine –

<https://booksirelandmagazine.com/suedivin/>

Curriculum Links/Naisc Churaclaim:

English, History, Politics and Society, SPHE (Senior Cycle)



CLARA KUMAGAI

CATFISH ROLLING

ZEPHYR 2024 (PBK) 432PP £8.99 ISBN 9781803288055

Japanese Canadian Sora is visiting family in Japan when an earthquake strikes. It destroys Sora's home, takes her mother and grandfather and changes her life forever. The earthquake is so powerful, it cracks time itself, creating zones where time slows down or speeds up and has a way of fracturing memory and influencing behaviour. Blending Japanese culture, myth and folklore with science fiction and magic, this haunting tale explores memory, identity and grief. Winner of the KPMG Children's Books Ireland Book of the Year Award in 2024. (Transition Year, Fifth Year, Sixth Year, Age 15+)

Further Resources/Acmhainní Breise:

Full review from Children's Books Ireland –

<https://childrensbooksireland.ie/our-recommendations/catfish-rolling>

Catfish Rolling Junior Juries' Resource Pack by Children's Books Ireland –

<https://childrensbooksireland.ie/sites/default/files/2025-02/KPMG%20BOTYA%202024%20JJ%20for%20web.pdf>

Curriculum Links/Naisc Churaclaim:

English, Geography, History, SPHE (Senior Cycle)



GRÁINNE O'BRIEN

SOLO

LITTLE ISLAND BOOKS 2025 (PBK) 288PP €10.99 ISBN 9781915071798

Music has always been a part of Daisy's life. However, when a shock break-up leaves her reeling, she must come to terms with what it means to be a solo act once again. O'Brien's use of free verse is a creative exploration of the unpredictable and chaotic essence of what it means to be a teenager navigating the tides of love, loss, friendship and anxiety. A powerful message in this novel is that it is never too late to start again. Winner of the KPMG Children's Books Ireland Junior Juries' Award 2026.

(Transition Year, Fifth Year, Sixth Year, Verse novel, Age 15+)

Further Resources/Acmhainní Breise:

Full review from Children's Books Ireland –

<https://childrensbooksireland.ie/our-recommendations/solo>

Solo Junior Juries' Resource Pack by Children's Books Ireland –

<https://childrensbooksireland.ie/sites/default/files/2026-02/KPMG%20BOTYA%202026%20JJ%20Resource%20Pack%5BFINAL%5D.pdf>

Book guide from Little Island Books –

https://cdn.shopify.com/s/files/1/0593/3114/9962/files/About_The_Book_-_Solo_Teaching_Guide.pdf?v=1744977270

Curriculum Links/Naisc Churaclaim:

English, Music, SPHE (Senior Cycle)



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