

## When the Sky Falls

Author: [Phil Earle](#)

Published: June 2021

Age: Junior Fiction

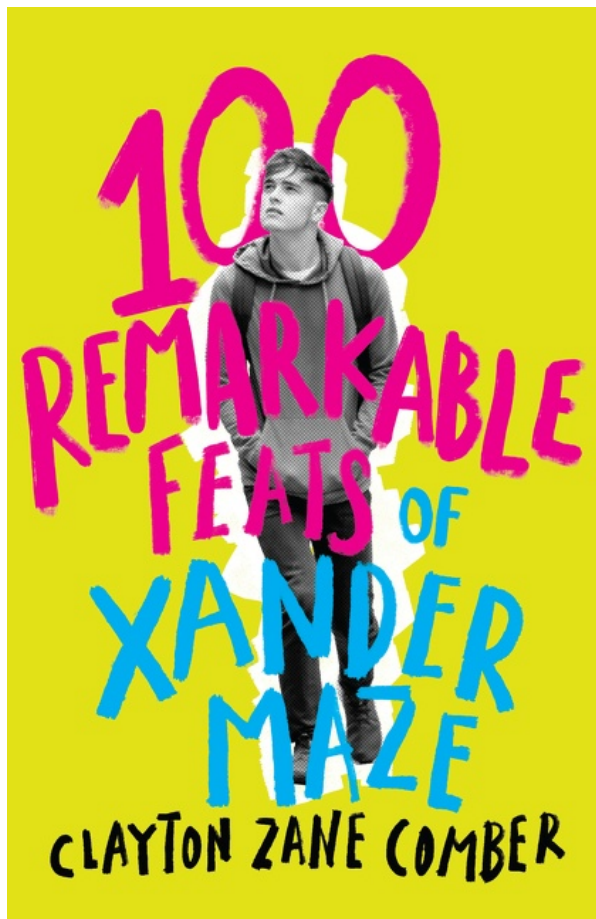
Genre: Animal Stories

RRP: \$14.99

It's 1940, and Joseph has been packed off to stay with Mrs F, a gruff woman with no great fondness for children. To Joseph's amazement, she owns the rundown city zoo where Joseph meets Adonis, a huge silverback gorilla. Adonis is ferociously strong and dangerous, but Joseph finds he has an affinity with the lonely beast. But when the bombs begin to fall, it is up to Joseph to guard Adonis's cage should it be damaged by a blast. Will Joseph be ready to pull the trigger if it comes to it?

### Why you need it?

- Inspired by a true World War II story
- An extraordinary story with historical & family truth
- Deeply felt, movingly written, a remarkable achievement
- Heartfelt story
- Lots of great reviews



## 100 Remarkable Feats of Xander Maze

Author: [Clayton Zane Comber](#)

Published: June 2021

Age: Middle Fiction

Genre: Coming of Age

RRP: \$19.99

Can a list save a life? Xander Maze loves lists, and his grandmother is #1 on his list of *People I Love Most in the World*. But now that Nanna has stage 4 cancer, can a new list of *100 Remarkable Feats* really save her? Particularly when his list contains difficult things like #2 Make a Friend and #3 Make a Best Friend - plus #10 Kiss a Girl (preferably Ally Collins, the girl of Xander's dreams).

100 Remarkable Feats of Xander Maze is a book about:

1. Never accepting the unacceptable
2. The power of lists
3. One boy's unconditional love for his Nanna

### Why you need it?

- Australian author, Comber lives in NSW
- Funny, moving & with a protagonist with whom you cannot help but fall in love
- Coming-of-age, pay-it-forward rom-com is filled with moments of poignancy

## We Were Wolves

Author: [Jason Cockcroft](#)

Published: June 2021

Age: 13+

Genre: Thriller

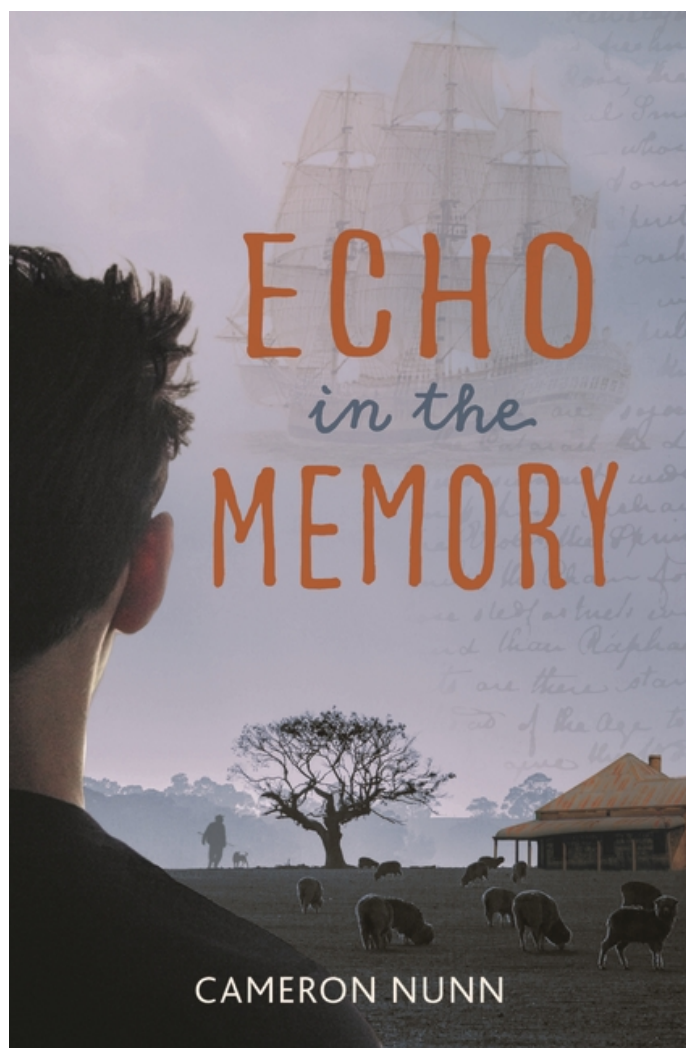
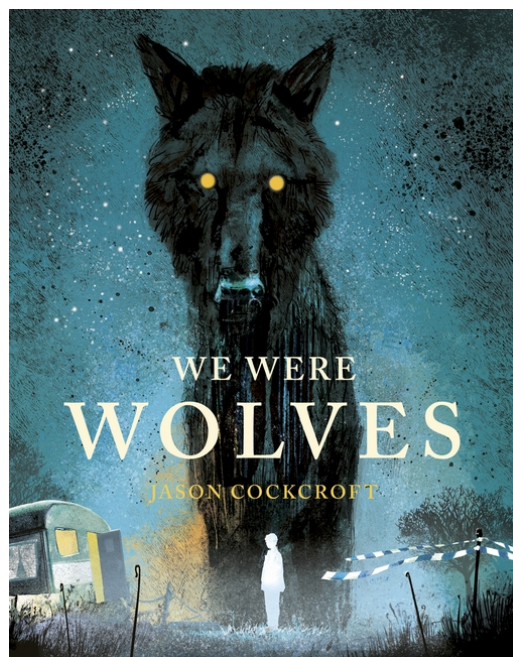
RRP: \$26.99

An intense, darkly spellbinding story of a boy living in a caravan on his own in the woods, awaiting his father's return from prison. All he needs to do is survive alone for a little while longer. But dark forces are circling – like the dangerous man in the Range Rover. And then there are the ancient forces that have lain asleep in the woods for an Age

A truly original and affecting piece of work. Unsettling but beautiful, sparse but packed with heart, it's a real invasion of the senses.

### Why you need it?

- A book about grief & loss, but mainly love
- Themes of PTSD, loyalty, bond between father & son, & strength of character
- Gorgeous illustrations from a *Harry Potter* series illustrator



## Echo in the Memory

Author: [Cameron Nunn](#)

Published: June 2021

Age: Junior Fiction + Middle Fiction

Genre: Historical Fiction

RRP: \$19.99

When 15-year-old Will is sent away to stay with his grandparents in rural NSW, he finds the isolated farm strangely familiar; except the memories he's channelling are not his own. But whose are they? And why does his grandfather share the same haunting link?

As two stories unfold, nearly 200 years apart, two boys exiled to what feels like the end of the earth struggle to find their identities and voices in the face of abandonment and tragedy.

A page-turning YA novel that explores the darker moments of our convict past and how they resonate today.

### Why you need it?

- Meticulously researched sources including court records & transcripts
- Exploration of morality
- A look into the convict experience
- Delves into mental health

## You Are A Champion

Author: [Marcus Rashford](#)

Published: Late May 2021

Age: Reluctant Readers + Junior Fiction + Middle Fiction

Genre: Self-awareness & self-esteem

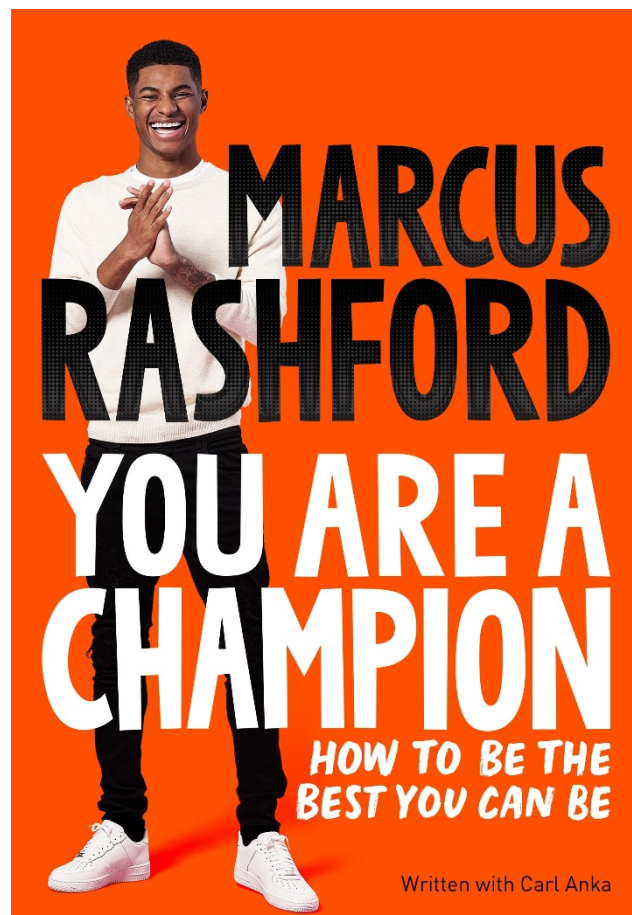
RRP: \$19.99

Marcus Rashford is famous worldwide for his skills both on-and-off the pitch - but before he was a Manchester United and England footballer, he was just an average kid. Now, Marcus wants to show you how to achieve your dreams, in this positive and inspiring guide-for-life. No matter who you are and no matter where you come from, every single person in the world has the potential to be a champion.

This empowering guide is packed full of stories from Marcus's own life, brilliant advice and top-tips from a performance psychologist. Perfect for readers who need to hear that they already are champions - they just might not know it yet.

### Why you need it?

- An inspiring, positive & practical guide
- Encourages self-acceptance & self-esteem
- Written for the young reader



## Version Zero

Author: [David Yoon](#)

Published: June 2021

Age: Senior Fiction

Genre: Suspense & Sci-Fi

RRP: \$29.99

Max is fortunate enough to be employed by Wren, the world's most powerful social media company. He works in a sprawling campus made of glass on a project so secret he can tell no one about it. But one day he discovers something sinister going on beneath the surface of the company. A terrible secret that makes him rethink not only his work but also the true consequences of modern technology. When Max is fired from Wren for asking the wrong questions, he joins up with his two best friends to form Version Zero, a top-secret group with a simple goal: break the Internet and build something better and kinder in its place...

### Why you need it?

- A high-speed adventure
- An analysis of modern capitalist life & Big Tech
- Smart & heartfelt

## Solstice

Author: Lorence Alison

Published: April 2021

Age: Middle Fiction + Senior Fiction

Genre: Teen Horror Comedy

RRP \$18.99

When Adri is offered an all-expenses-paid trip to the exclusive Solstice Festival, it feels like the graduation gift of a lifetime! But when she arrives, she quickly realizes it's not Instagram-ready. There's no water, no food, and no security in sight - which means there's no one to help when a dead body is found on the beach. With connections to the festival planners, Adri gets a front-row seat as everything devolves into chaos and she's in a prime position to put together the clues to who - or what - is killing off the crowd one by one.

This is teen horror at its best: fun, topical, and with regular updates on social media as everything goes horribly wrong. It invites you to check your privilege at the door - before it gets you killed.

### Why you need it?

- Part teen drama, part horror story
- Appealing to reluctant readers
- Inspired by the disaster that was Fyre Festival



## Better Than the Best Plan

Author: [Lauren Morrill](#)

Published: May 2021

Age: Middle Fiction + Senior Fiction

Genre: Romance & Relationships

RRP \$18.99

It's the last day of junior year, and 17-year-old Ritzy is pretty sure she has a great plan – a summer job, hang with friends at the beach and keep looking after herself as she's been doing since her mum bailed. But after someone reports that Ritzy is living alone, a social worker shows up and puts her into foster care. That's surprise enough. Even more surprising? Ritzy has been in foster care before, as an infant, and the woman who cared for her then takes her in again. But maybe the greatest surprise of all for Ritzy is that living with her foster mother, Kristin, in Kristin's gorgeous house, isn't all that bad. And neither is the cute, friendly boy next door. When Ritzy's old life catches up with her new one, she has some decisions to make. Can she plan for the worst, but still hope for the best?

### Why you need it?

- A fresh, funny, YA novel
- A clean teen novel with plenty of romance but no sexual content
- Honest & endearing characters



## Sister of the Bollywood Bride

Author: [Nandini Bajpai](#)

Published: June 2021

Age: Middle Fiction + Senior Fiction

Genre: YA Fiction

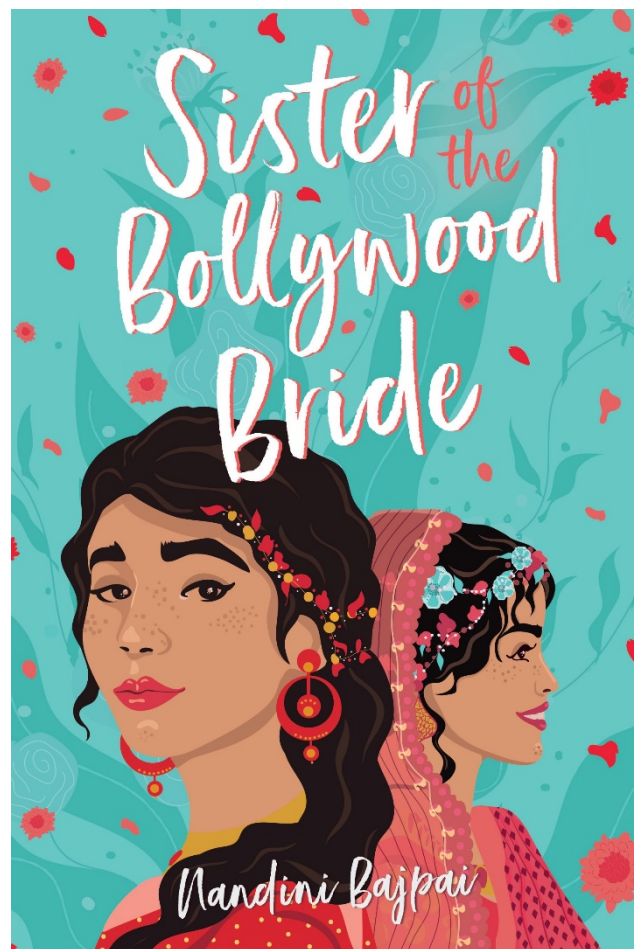
RRP \$19.99

Mini's big sister is getting married. Their mum passed away seven years ago and between Dad's new start-up and Vinnie's medical residency, there's no one but Mini to plan the wedding. Dad raised her to know more about computers, calculus and cars than desi weddings but she wants her sister to have the wedding Mum would've planned. Now Mini has only two months to get it done and she's not going to let anything distract her, not even the persistent, mysterious and hot Vir. Flower garlands, decorations, music, even a white wedding horse - everything is in place. That is, until a monster cyclone heads for Boston that could ruin everything. Will Mini come through as sister of the bride and save the day?

### Why you need it?

- A fun and light-hearted YA novel
- Age-appropriate romance
- Explores family, Tamil & Punjabi cultural traditions and sisterhood

Additional teacher notes are available [here](#)



## Bent Heavens

Author: Daniel Kraus

Published: May 2021

Age: Middle Fiction + Senior Fiction

Genre: Thriller

RRP \$18.99

Liv's father went missing two years ago, not long after he claimed to have been abducted by aliens. Liv has long accepted that he's dead, though she hasn't given up their traditions. Every Sunday, she and her friend Doug trudge through the woods to check the traps Lee left behind to catch the aliens he so desperately believed were after him. But Liv is done pretending she believes her father's absurd theories. However, on the very day she chooses to destroy the traps, she discovers in one of them a creature so inhuman it can only be one thing. In that moment, she's faced with a painful realisation: her dad was telling the truth. Now she and Doug have a choice to make, they can turn the alien over to the authorities...or they can take matters into their own hands.

### Why you need it?

- Expertly blends horror & science fiction
- Difficult to put down
- Explores trauma of losing a parent

## Escape from Manus, The untold true story

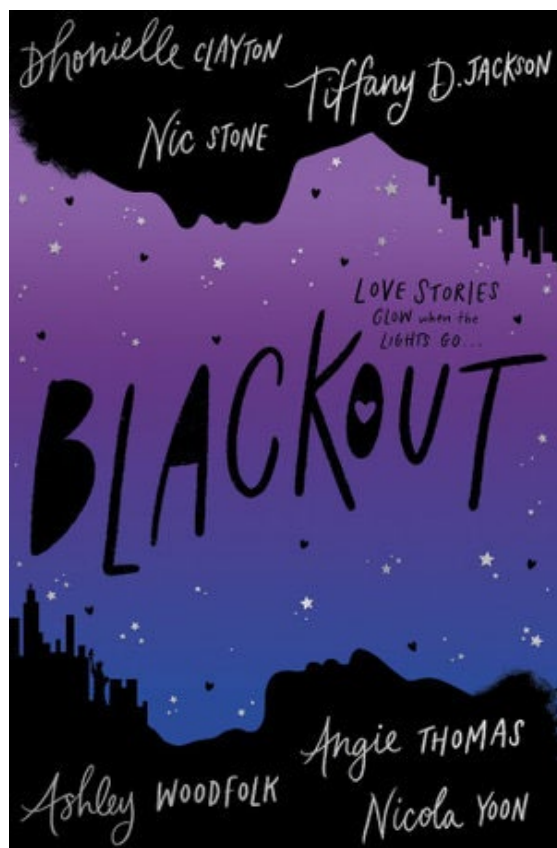
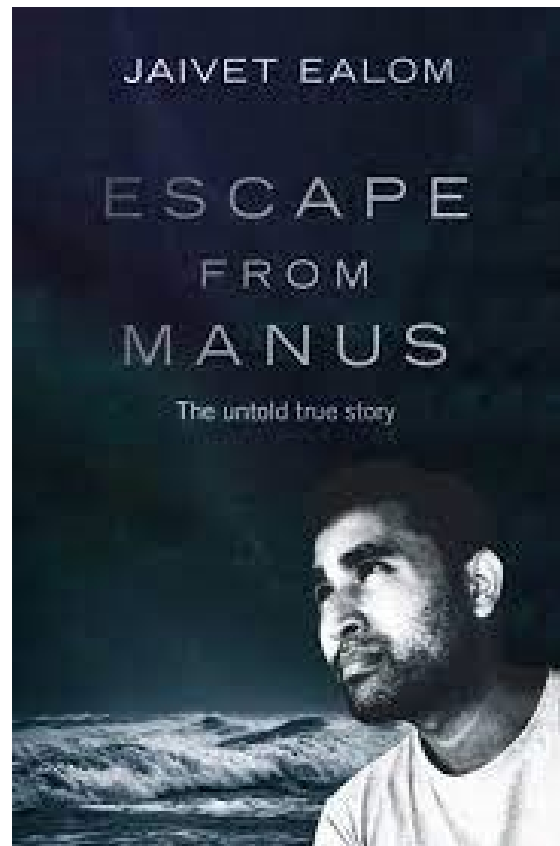
Author: Jaivet Ealom  
Published: July 2021  
Age: Senior Fiction  
Genre: Memoirs, True Story  
RRP: \$34.99

The awe-inspiring story of the only person to successfully escape from Australia's notorious offshore detention centre on Manus Island.

In 2013 Jaivet Ealom fled Myanmar's brutal regime and boarded a boat of asylum seekers bound for Australia. Instead of receiving refuge, he was transported to Australia's infamous Manus Regional Processing Centre. Blistering hot days on the island turned into weeks, then years until, finally, facing either jail in Papua New Guinea or being returned to almost certain death in Myanmar, he took matters into his own hands. Drawing inspiration from the hit show Prison Break, Jaivet meticulously planned his escape. He made it out alive but was stateless, with no ID or passport. While the nightmare of Manus was behind him, his true escape to freedom had only just begun.

### Why you need it?

- A true story of bravery and resilience
- Explores the plight of refugees and political asylum
- A powerful and arresting autobiography



## Blackout

Author: [Dhonielle Clayton](#), [Tiffany D. Jackson](#), [Nic Stone](#) and [Angie Thomas](#)

Published: July 2021  
Age: Junior Fiction + Middle Fiction  
Genre: Short Stories  
RRP: \$19.99

Six critically acclaimed, bestselling, and award-winning authors bring the glowing warmth and electricity of Black teen love to this interlinked novel of charming, hilarious, and heart-warming stories that shine a bright light through the dark. A summer heatwave blankets New York City in darkness and thirteen teenagers caught up in the blackout. But as the city is thrown into confusion, a different kind of electricity sparks...a first meeting, long-time friends, bitter exes, and maybe the beginning of something new.

### Why you need it?

- Six of today's biggest stars of the YA world
- A collection of charming, hilarious & heartbreaking tales that shine the brightest light through the dark.

## Penguin Teen Superproof 2021 Edition

Author: [Teen Penguin Australia](#)

Published: July 2021

Age: Middle Fiction + Senior Fiction

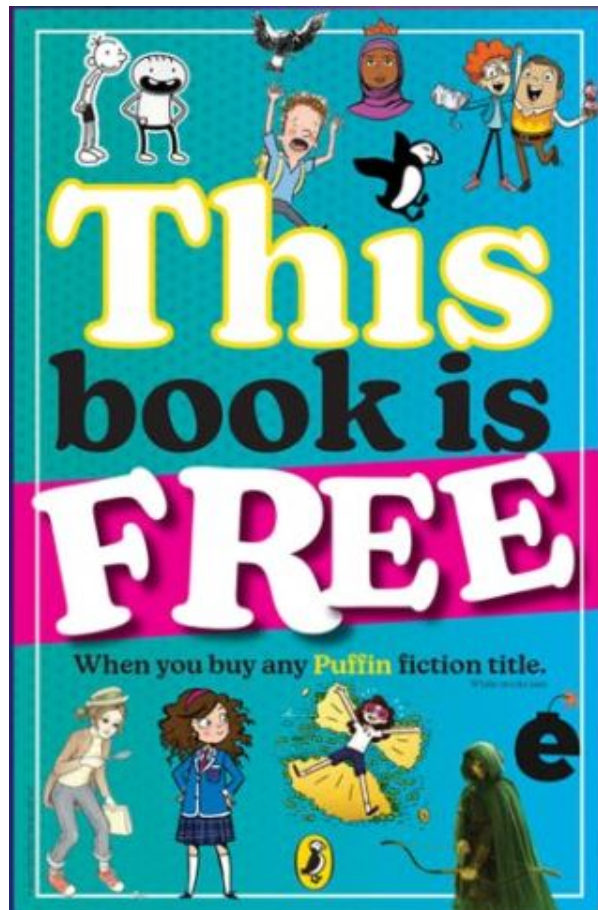
Genre: General Fiction Extracts

RRP: \$ FREE

*Penguin Teen Superproof* is Penguin's YA super-proof, featuring 16 extracts from some of their biggest young adult books coming out in 2021. In here you'll find the first chapter or few from hit YA authors Becky Albertalli, Lynette Noni, Karen McManus and Krystal Sutherland.

### Free copy

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## This Book is FREE

Author: [Puffin Books Australia](#)

Published: July 2021

Age: Reluctant Reader + Junior Fiction

Genre: General Fiction Extracts

RRP: \$ FREE

*This Book is Free* is Puffin's super-proof, filled with 14 extracts from some of their bestselling series like Alice-Miranda, Tom Weekly and Diary of a Wimpy Kid.

It's a great way for kids to discover a new story and decide what they want to read next.

### Free copy

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