

NLF READING CHALLENGE '25

STARTS
MAY 18, 2025

**3-MONTH
ONLINE
READING
CHALLENGE**



30 BOOKS

GRADES 4-6



Join our global league
of readers, unlocking
adventures and new
challenges with
every book



Registrations Open From

**MAR 17 to
APR 24, 2025**

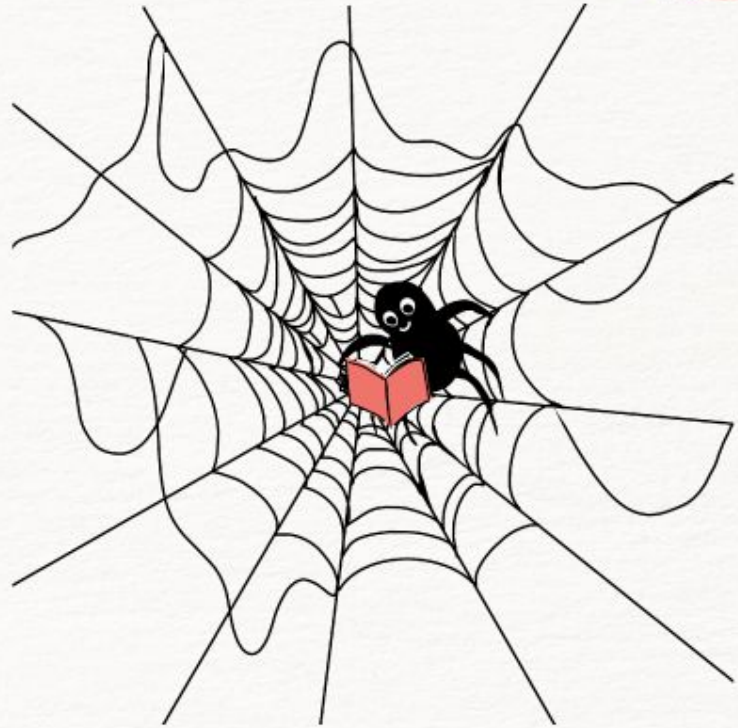
SCAN THE QR CODE
TO REGISTER



For more details, visit us at
neevliteraturefestival.org/nlf-reading-challenge

WHAT IS THE NLF READING CHALLENGE?

This Reading Challenge is designed to get children to read more, reflect on and discuss their reading, interact with authors, and connect with other readers like themselves.



WHO IS IT FOR?

- * Children from Grades 4-6 (in the Academic Year 2025-26) who love to read.
- * Parents, librarians, teachers, siblings or other adults who wish to nominate young readers.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

- * There are two Tracks for the Challenge: the Competitive and the Non-Competitive Track.
- * A Reading Schedule is shared at the start of the Challenge to help the participants navigate their reading.

HOW DOES THE NON-COMPETITIVE TRACK WORK?

Readers who wish to pursue the Non-Competitive Track may read any or all of the books on the reading list, and will get the chance to interact with acclaimed global and Indian authors

during the Author Interaction sessions we host on Zoom.

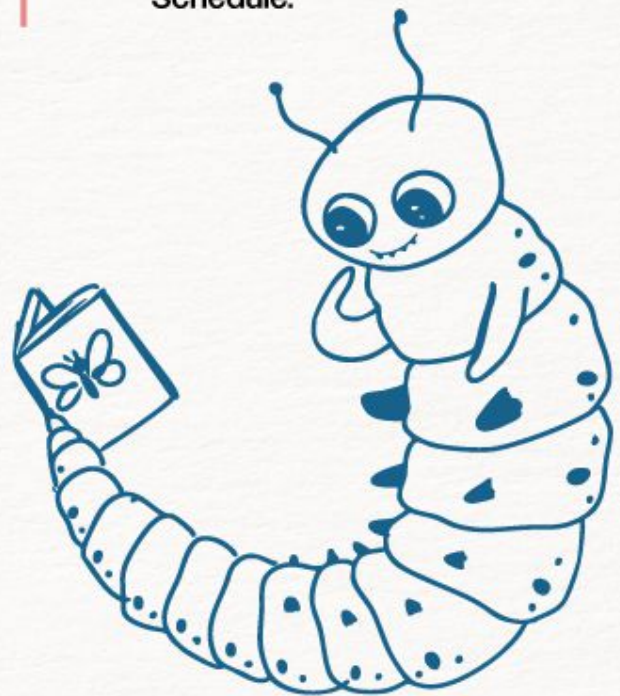
They soak in the reading experience at their own pace.





HOW DOES THE COMPETITIVE TRACK WORK?

- * Readers participate in teams of 3 members, mentored by a Reading Guide.
 - * School librarians, coordinators, or interested adults (parents, Reading Guides) pick students to form teams to enroll in the Competitive Track.
 - * Each team in the Competitive Track is expected to read 2 to 3 books every week. Eg. if there are a total of 3 books to read in a week, each team member can read 1 book that week.
 - * The students also get the chance to attend the Author Interaction sessions we host on Zoom.
- * These students also maintain a Reading Log that is updated regularly. The Reading Guide will be responsible for ensuring that the teams keep up with the Reading Schedule.





HOW ARE THE WINNERS OF THE COMPETITIVE TRACK CHOSEN?

The teams on the Competitive Track will participate in one or more quizzes which will be held virtually in the last two weeks of August. Questions will be based on the 30 books the participants are expected to read, as well as the Author Interaction sessions.

The best teams will qualify for the in-person Grand Finale Quiz which will be held in Bengaluru, India, on September 21, 2025, during the Neev Literature Festival. The three best teams will win Gold/Silver/Bronze engraved trophies, certificates of achievement, and a great set of books!





HOW DO PARTICIPANTS RECEIVE UPDATES REGARDING THE CHALLENGE?

All updates related to the Challenge, regardless of the Track, will be communicated via emailers and our social media pages.

We're on Facebook and Instagram [@neevliteraturefestival](#); as well as Twitter [@neevlitfest](#);

and Youtube as the [Neev Literature Festival](#).

Participants and their Reading Guides will be added to our mailing list upon registration.

In case of any queries, you can reach us at

literaturefestival@neevschools.com.



I AM AN INDIVIDUAL; HOW CAN I PARTICIPATE?

You can participate in the Non-Competitive Track as an individual. However, if you're looking to participate in the Competitive Track, form a team with two friends and get an adult to be your Reading Guide.

WHAT DOES A READING GUIDE DO, AND WHO CAN BE A READING GUIDE?

Reading Guides supervise their students' reading, providing support and clarifying queries when required. They share the links of the author interaction sessions with the students and ensure that the students attend the sessions. Reading Guides also monitor the students on the Competitive Track during the virtual quizzes.

A parent/guardian, teacher/librarian, or even an elder sibling can be a Reading Guide.





I AM A PARENT/TEACHER/ LIBRARIAN/INTERESTED ADULT AND I WANT MY STUDENTS TO PARTICIPATE, HOW DO I GO ABOUT IT?

If you're looking at having your child participate in the Non-Competitive Track, you can fill the registration form on the NLF website, and watch out for the updates we will be sharing through email and social media.

If you're looking at having them participate in the Competitive Track, then you'll have to bring in two more participants from Grades 4-6, and be their Reading Guide or find another adult who can supervise the team's reading.

After forming a team and finding a Reading Guide, the Reading Group can register for the Reading Challenge by filling the registration form.

Any one member of the Group or the Group's Reading Guide can register on behalf of the whole team. Members of the same team need not register for the Reading Challenge separately.

Do note that schools with 5+ teams in the Competitive Track are expected to host their teams on a Saturday in late August for the qualifier round of the Quiz, so that teachers can monitor the students as they attempt the quiz online. Inter-school teams and teams from schools with fewer than five registrations are required to log in to a Zoom call, where they will be monitored by members of the NLF Team as they attempt the quiz.



CAN COMPETITIVE TRACK TEAMS BE COMPOSED OF STUDENTS FROM DIFFERENT SCHOOLS?

Yes, we allow inter-school teams to compete in the Reading Challenge. If you are an inter-school team, please mark yourself as such in the Registration Form.

WHAT IF I CAN'T FIND SOME BOOKS THAT ARE A PART OF THE CHALLENGE?

While we have curated the list keeping in mind the availability and accessibility of books across major bookstores and online platforms, we'll understand if you can't seem to find a particular title.

If convenient, participants could reach out to the following retailers which have signed on to be Bookstore Partners for the Reading Challenge, in case they're having trouble buying a book:

- * Kahani Tree, Mumbai
- * The Storyteller Bookstore, Kolkata
- * KoolSkool, Gurgaon
- * OneUp Library and Bookstore, New Delhi
- * Lightroom Bookstore, Bangalore

Participants may also reach out to the following libraries, which have signed on to be official library partners of the NLF Reading Challenge, to borrow and read the books on the reading list.

- * OneUp Library, New Delhi
- * Kahaani Box, Bangalore
- * Töölo Library, Noida
- * Töölo Library, Bellandur, Bangalore
- * Töölo Library, Jayanagar, Bangalore



WILL I GET A PARTICIPATION CERTIFICATE IF I'M NOT A WINNER IN THE GRAND FINALE QUIZ?

All students who qualify for the Grand Finale Quiz will be given certificates.

They will also attend the Neev Literature Festival, where they will be able to meet celebrated authors and illustrators, purchase books from a curated Marketplace, get their books signed, and attend sessions and workshops conducted by industry experts.

The Neev Literature Festival will bear the travel and accommodation costs for all finalists.



CURATORIAL VISION

The NLF Reading Challenge 2025 Book List brings together the best of children's literature available in the Indian market, striving to push children's reading horizons, encouraging them to look beyond the bestsellers that dominate the market, while taking into account availability, affordability, and student interests.

Participants will read not just highly regarded books published in recent years, but also contemporary classics of children's literature such as *Haroun and the Sea of Stories* by Salman Rushdie. They will read across genres and forms, including T.S. Eliot's whimsical collection of poems *Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats*, and visual narratives like *P.N.K Panicker's Ghost Stories* and *The Other Side of Tomorrow*. There are two books—*Movies Showing Nowhere* and *Kiki's Delivery Service*—in translation from Dutch and Japanese respectively.



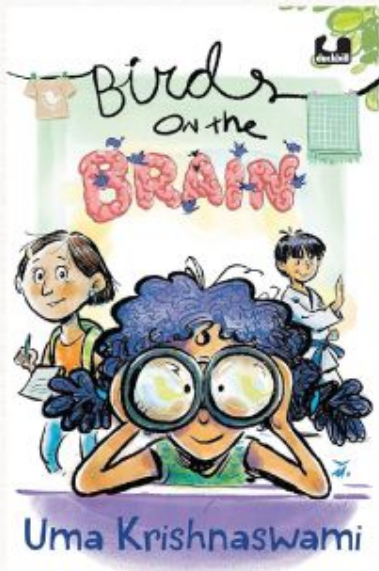
The list features stories that champion environmental awareness, explore disabilities, celebrate found families, critique censorship. There are wild, wacky stories guaranteed to leave readers in splits; there are eerie stories; there are stories that will break hearts and knit them back together with hope.

From rural Tamil Nadu to Costa Rica, from post-Partition India to dystopian futures and magical elseworlds, the titles on our list travel across time and space and the boundaries of reality. We hope they invite young readers to keep their imaginations “big, sharp, and hungry,” to cultivate a sense of wonder “that the world, in all its dangers and clumsiness, in all its beauties and miracles, demands of us,” in the words of beloved author Katherine Rundell.

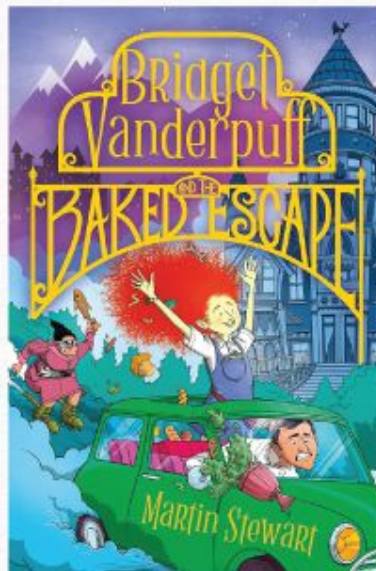
READING LIST



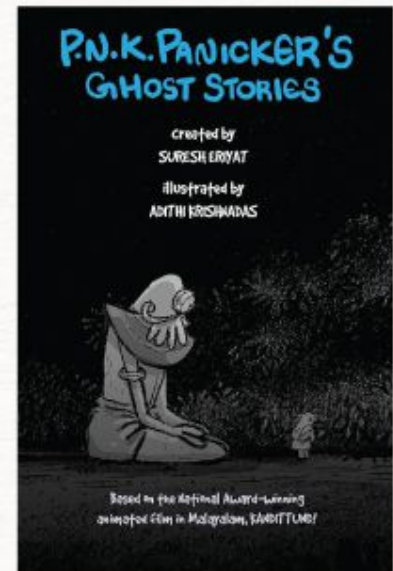
Easy to Read



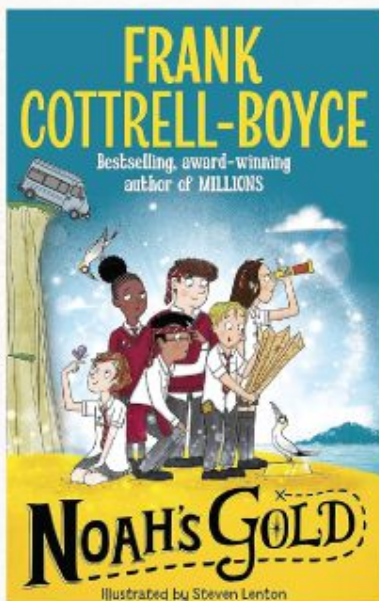
Birds on the Brain
by Uma Krishnaswami



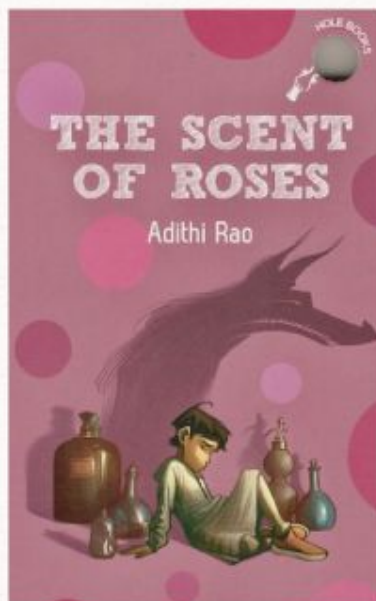
**Bridget Vanderpuff
and the Baked Escape**
by Martin Stewart



**P.N.K Panicker's
Ghost Stories**
by Suresh Eriyat & Adithi Krishnadas



Noah's Gold
by Frank Cottrell-Boyce

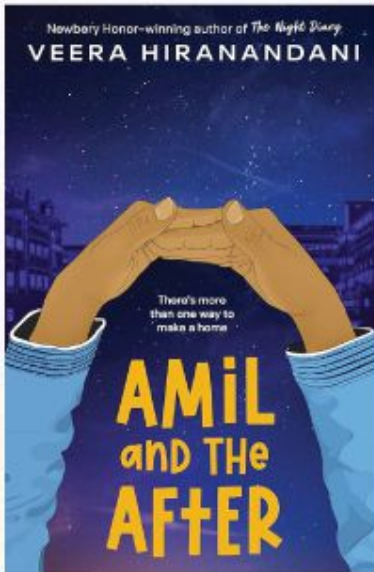


The Scent of Roses
by Adithi Rao





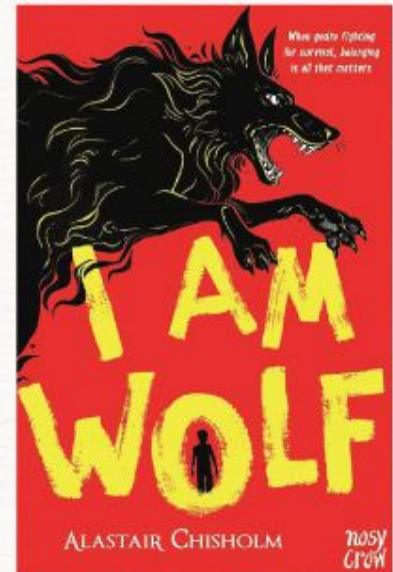
Just the Right Level



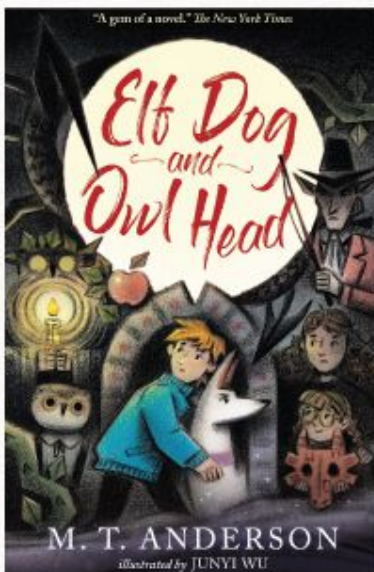
Amil and the After
by **Veera Hiranandani**



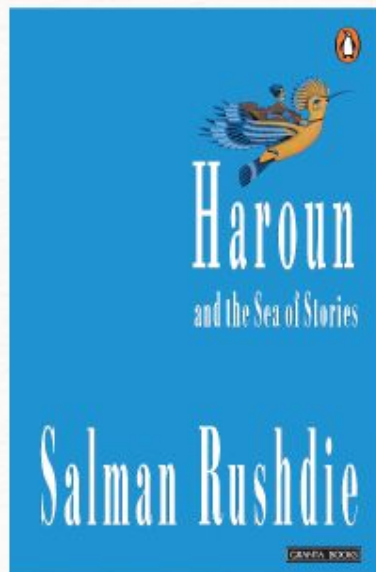
Go Wild: Stories, Essays & Comics That Celebrate The Earth
by **Bijal Vachharajani**



I Am Wolf
by **Alastair Chisholm**



Elf Dog and Owl Head
by **M.T Anderson**

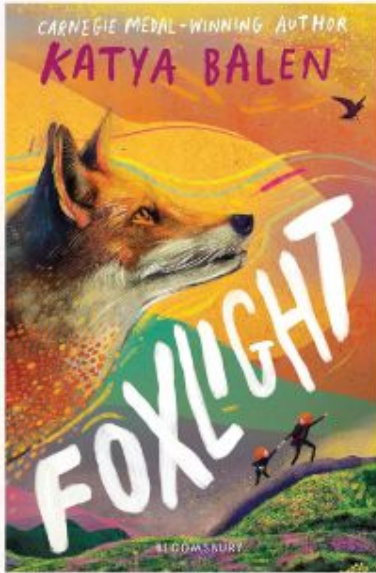


Haroun and the Sea of Stories
by **Salman Rushdie**

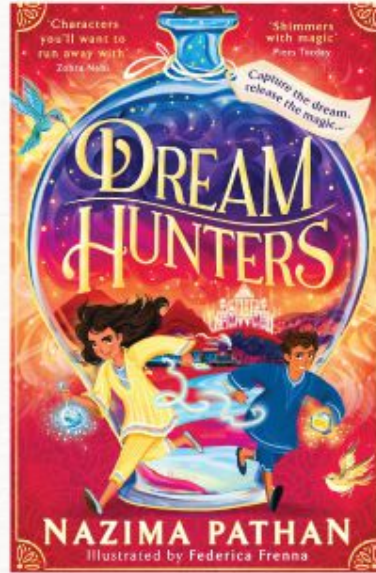


How to Win an Election: A Most Unreliable Guide
by **Menaka Raman**





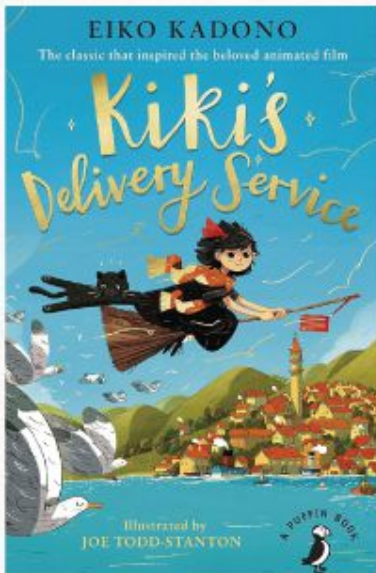
Foxlight
by **Katya Balen**



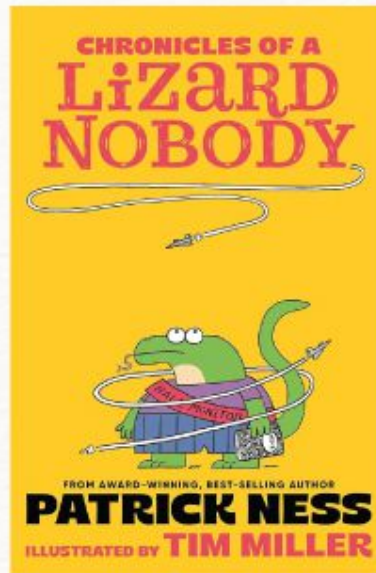
Dream Hunters
by **Nazima Pathan**



The Falling Boy
by **David Almond**



Kiki's Delivery Service
by **Eiko Kadono**



Chronicles of a Lizard Nobody
by **Patrick Ness**

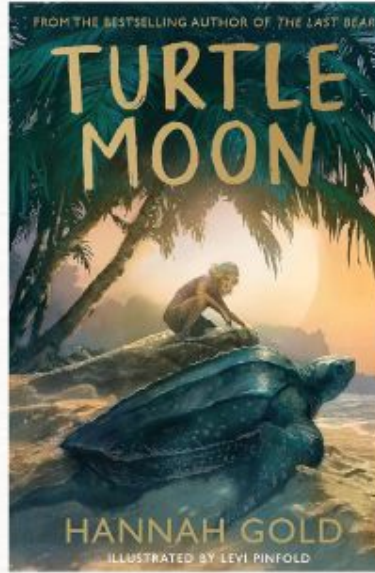


Etta Invincible
by **Reese Eschmann**

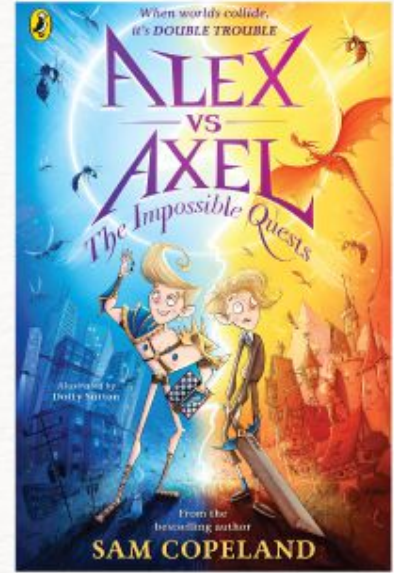




A Strange Thing Happened in Cherry Hall
by **Jasmine Warga**



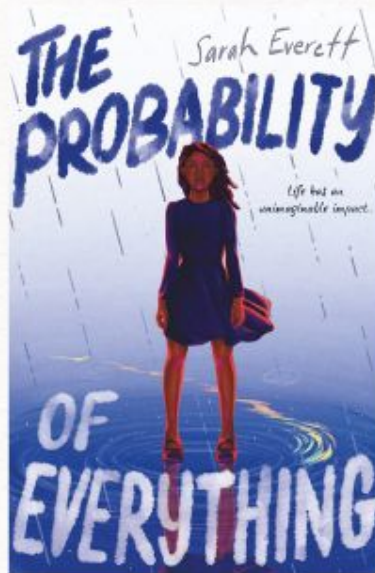
Turtle Moon
by **Hannah Gold**



Alex vs Axel: The Impossible Quests
by **Sam Copeland**



Chai Jinxed
by **Emi Pinto**



The Probability of Everything
by **Sarah Everett**

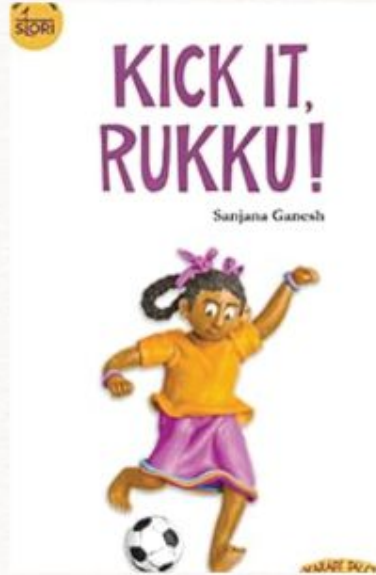


The Other Side of Tomorrow
by **Tina Cho & Deb JJ Lee**

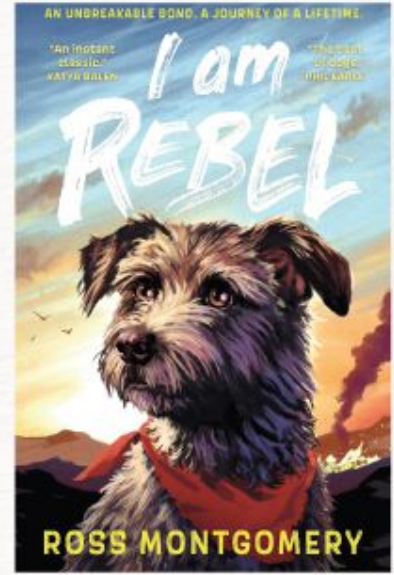




Ferris
by **Kate DiCamillo**



Kick It, Rukku!
by **Sanjana Ganesh**

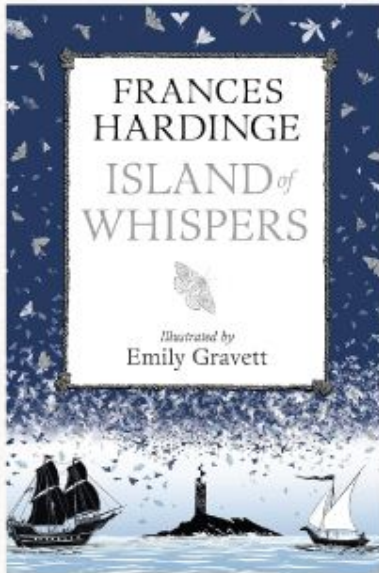


I am Rebel
by **Ross Montgomery**

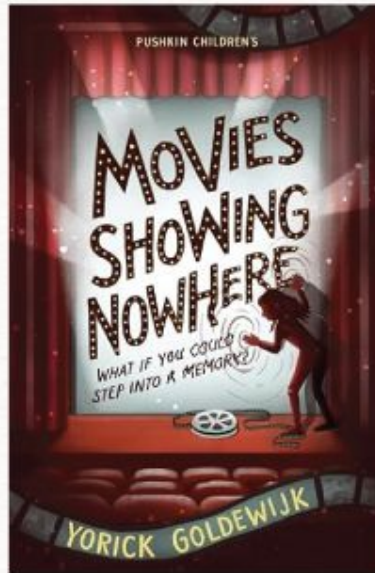




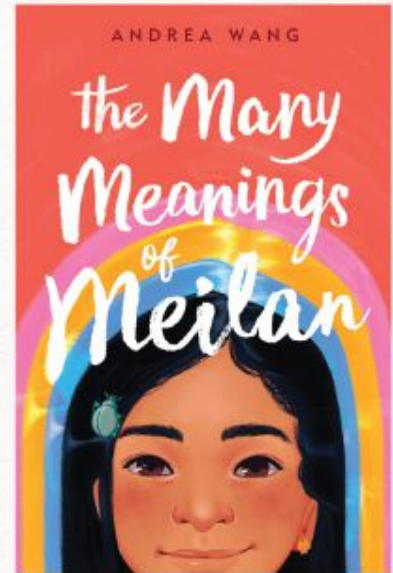
Challenging to Read



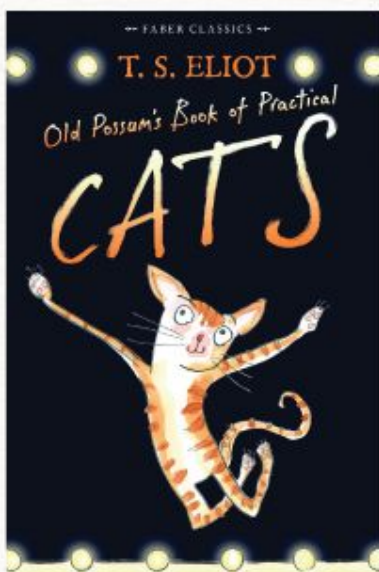
Island of Whispers
by Frances Hardinge
& Emily Gravett



Movies Showing Nowhere
by Yorick Goldewijk



The Many Meanings of Meilan
by Andrea Wang



Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats
by T.S. Eliot & Rebecca Ashdown



AUTHOR Interactions

neev
literature
Festival
2025

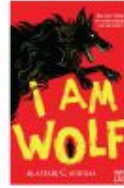
M.T. Anderson
Newbery Honor



01

14th July | Monday
5:30-6:00pm

Alastair Chisholm
Bookbug Prize



02

17th July | Thursday
5:30-6:00pm

Menaka Raman
AG-BLF Book Prize



03

21st July | Monday
5:30-6:00pm

Martin Stewart



05

28th July | Monday
5:30-6:00pm



Andrea Wang
Caldecott Medal, Newbery Honor



04

24th July | Thursday
6:30-7:00pm

Nazima Pathan



08

7th August | Thursday
5:30-6:00pm

Yorick Goldewijk
Golden Griffl Award



06

31st July | Thursday
5:30-6:00pm

Jasmine Warga
Newbery Honor



07

4th August | Monday
6:00-6:30pm

Bijal Vachharajani
Author Award



09

11th August | Monday
5:30-6:00pm

Adithi Rao
AG-BLF Book Prize



10

14th August | Thursday
5:30-6:00pm

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