



## New June reading suggestions

Here are some reading suggestions.



**Age 3+**

**Shine** by Sarah Asuquo

Shine is a heartwarming and uplifting picture book that celebrates individuality, self-confidence, and the importance of embracing what makes us unique. The story follows Kai, who is excited to return to school after the holidays.

However, his excitement soon fades when other children make fun of him for being different because of his height and the scar on his face. Feeling hurt and excluded, Kai begins to wish he could be like everyone else. With the support and encouragement of his loving parents, Kai gradually learns that the qualities that make him different are also the qualities that make him special. When another child faces similar challenges, Kai has the opportunity to share this important lesson and help others find their own confidence. Beautifully illustrated and full of warmth, Shine explores themes of self-esteem, kindness, resilience, and acceptance in a way that is accessible for young children. It provides a wonderful starting point for conversations about bullying, celebrating differences, and treating others with empathy and respect.

**Age 9**

**The Lion above the door** by Onjali Q. Rauf

This book is a powerful and inspiring story that encourages young readers to think about whose stories are remembered and whose are left out of history. Leo, a Singaporean boy growing up in England, often feels different from those around him. He witnesses- and feels- the impacts of racism every day. But during a school visit to a cathedral, he discovers a memorial to World War II heroes and is amazed to find his own name engraved among them. Determined to learn more, Leo teams up with his friend Sangeeta, who is also curious about why so few women appear in the history books they study. Together, they embark on a fascinating journey to uncover the stories of forgotten heroes whose courage and achievements have been overlooked. Along the way, they learn about fairness, belonging, and the importance of ensuring that all voices are represented in history. This thought-provoking and engaging novel is an excellent choice for primary-aged readers, offering valuable opportunities to discuss diversity, equality and the power of standing up for what is right.

**Age 7/8**

**Planet Omar: Accidental Trouble Magnet**  
by Zanib Mian

If you're looking for a funny, heartwarming, and engaging book to encourage your child to read independently, this book certainly ticks the box and is perfect for fans of Tom Gates and Diary of a Wimpy Kid. The story follows Omar, a creative and energetic young boy whose imagination often gets him into unexpected situations. When Omar starts at a new school, he faces the challenges of making friends, fitting in, and dealing with misunderstandings. With plenty of humour, illustrations, and relatable school experiences, readers are quickly drawn into Omar's world. What makes this book particularly special is the way it explores themes of family, friendship, identity, and kindness. Omar's Muslim faith is woven naturally throughout the story, helping to celebrate diversity while encouraging empathy and understanding. The book also gently addresses issues such as stereotypes and assumptions in a way that is accessible for younger readers.

**Age 10**

**Onyeka and the Academy of the Sun** by Tola Okogwu  
Black Panther meets Percy Jackson in this action-packed superhero series about a British Nigerian girl who learns that her Afro hair has psychokinetic powers. Onyeka has always stood out because of her thick, curly Afro hair, but she never imagined it was hiding an extraordinary secret. When she discovers that she can control her hair with her mind, Onyeka is whisked away to the Academy of the Sun in Nigeria, a school where children with special powers learn to develop their abilities. There, she makes new friends and begins to understand her unique gifts. However, it isn't long before Onyeka and her classmates find themselves at the centre of a dangerous mission that will test their courage, loyalty, and strength. Filled with adventure, humour, and heart, this story explores important themes of family, friendship, identity, and self-belief. Through Onyeka's experiences, readers are introduced to Nigerian food, traditions, and culture, making this an excellent book for broadening children's understanding of the world around them.