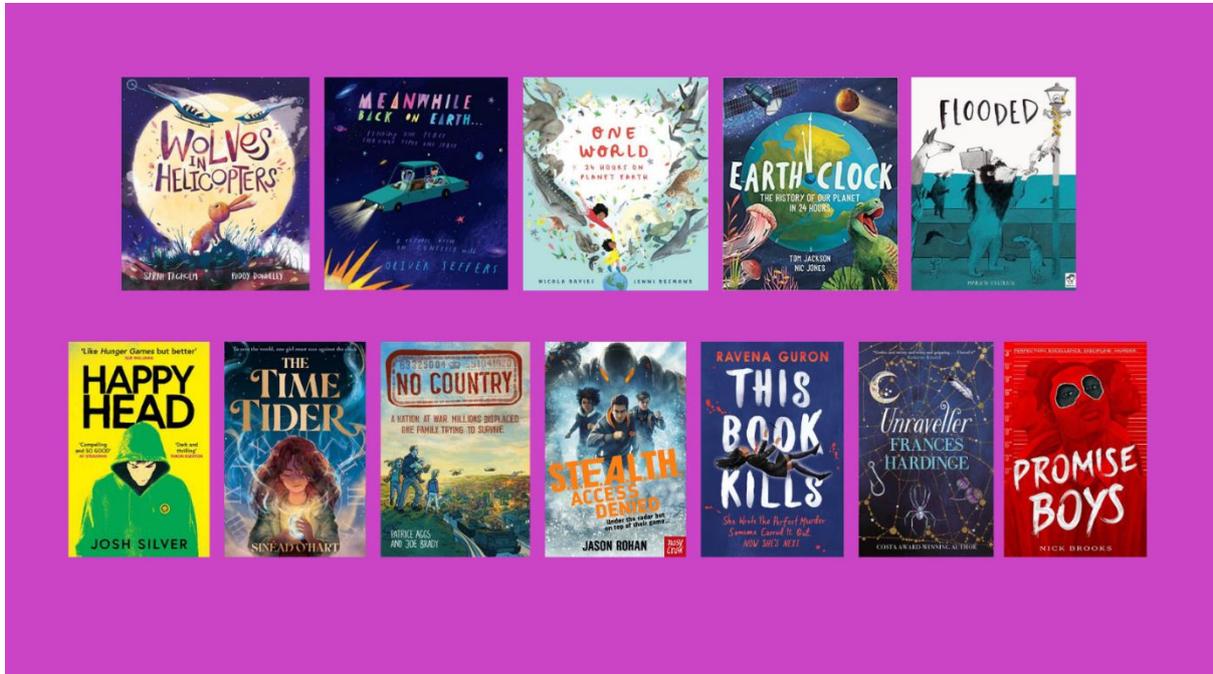


The Reading Agency's April booklist for Children and Young People –
A Race Against Time



Our April booklist – ‘A Race Against Time’ – is chock full of exciting and gripping reads. From books exploring the climate crisis and planet Earth to heart-stopping thrillers and tales of magic and wonder, there’s something for everyone. Dive into the list today and don’t forget to tell us what you thought of any of the books on the list by tagging us on social media using #booklist and tagging @readingagency!

Picture books and younger readers

***Wolves in Helicopters* by Sarah Tagholm and illustrated by Paddy Donnelly (Andersen Press), ISBN: 9781839131479**

Can Hop find a way to escape the wolves in her nightmares, even if they chase her in helicopters? Mummy thinks so... Every night, Hop has nightmares filled with, scary, hungry-eyed wolves. She knows they only exist in her dreams but they still seem very real. Her mummy comforts her and has some good advice, but can Hop find the courage to conquer the wolves? Practical advice for children who suffer night fears and terrors, in a gentle and funny story for the youngest of readers, illustrated by Sainsbury's Children's Book Award-Winning Paddy Donnelly.

***Meanwhile Back on Earth* by Oliver Jeffers (HarperCollins), ISBN: 9780008555450**

A father takes his two children on a thrilling out-of-this-world adventure into space and invites them to look back at Earth and the conflicts that have taken place since the beginning of time. This



becomes a brief history of the world and a whistle-stop guide to the universe, all rolled into one – and told with Oliver Jeffers's inimitable perspective, wit and exquisite artwork.

Meanwhile Back on Earth gives a unique look at like life on Earth with a cosmic perspective – and an enduring message that what binds us together matters more than what sets us apart. A timely story for families everywhere.

Flooded by Mariajo Illustrajo (Frances Lincoln), ISBN: 9780711276796

The flood comes gradually at first.

All the animals ignore the obvious and go about their busy lives, disjointed from one another and preoccupied by their own problems.

Eventually, the flood water reaches a height that they can no longer ignore and they have to work together to save their city.

All the animals join together in a line and pull out the plug that is drowning the city.

One World: 24 Hours on Planet Earth by Nicola Davies and illustrated by Jenni Desmond (Walker Books), ISBN: 9781406394771

Where on Earth are you, right now? It's late where I am and almost everyone's asleep, but I'm awake, looking out into the night. Wondering...

As the clock strikes midnight, a little girl and her sister visit animals of every shape and size, all around the world - discovering that, in some places, creatures have just started their day, where in others they're already busy hunting for food. Turning the popular concept of time-zones on its head and combining it with a powerful climate message and delightful illustrations, this book is narrative non-fiction at its most spellbinding.

Middle Grade

No Country by Joe Brady and Patrice Aggs (David Fickling Books), ISBN: 9781788451833

What would you do if your home wasn't safe anymore?

Bea and her family are trying to live as if everything is normal. She and her sister Hannah look out for one another, at home and in school. But their country is starting to fall apart. A civil war is raging, and it's getting closer.

Bea is desperate not to leave home, but how long will it be before they have to run?

Trigger warnings include separation from family, refugees and war.

Earth Clock by Tom Jackson (illustrated by Nic Jones), (Welbeck), ISBN: 9781783127986



Our planet has been spinning in the blackness of Space for 4.5 billion years. People have only been around for a tiny part of it. But what happened before we arrived on the scene? Before animals, dinosaurs and even trees? Imagine if we could discover Earth's history in one day...

Starting the clock from the formation of the Earth, discover each significant moment in time on the clock, counting down to midnight. Earth Clock covers the most interesting and high-impact moments of our planet's geological history with stunning, detailed illustrations, while charting the evolution of life on Earth, from ancient single-celled organisms to the species we know today, until modern humans appear – at just four seconds to midnight. What will tomorrow bring?

***The Time Tider* by Sinéad O'Hart (Little Tiger), ISBN: 9781788953306**

Mara and her dad have lived in their van for as long as she can remember. Whatever her father does to scrape a living has kept them constantly moving and Mara has never questioned it. That is until she uncovers a collection of notes addressed to 'the Tider', an individual responsible for harvesting lost time from people whose lives were cut short.

But before Mara can question her father he is taken by a dangerous group who want to use his power for evil. With the very fabric of time and space at stake, it's down to Mara and her new friend Jan to find him before it's too late...

***S.T.E.A.L.T.H.: Access Denied* by James Rohan (Nosy Crow), ISBN:**

When his dad disappears, Arun Lal is amazed to discover that he was secretly working on a classified project and has been kidnapped by people intent on stealing it.

Along with his geeky best friend Sam and tough-talking Donna, Arun is plunged into a race to rescue his father and find his creation before the thieves can turn it into a destructive global weapon...

Young Adult

***Promise Boys* by Nick Brooks (Pan Macmillan), ISBN: 9781035003150**

The Urban Promise Prep School vows to turn boys into men. As students, J.B., Ramon, and Trey are forced to follow the prestigious "program's" strict rules. Extreme discipline, they've been told, is what it takes to be college bound, to avoid the fates of many men in their neighborhoods. This, the Principal Moore Method, supposedly saves lives.

But when Moore ends up murdered and the cops come sniffing around, the trio emerges as the case's prime suspects. With all three maintaining their innocence, they must band together to track down the real killer before they are arrested. But is the true culprit hiding among them?

Trigger warnings include racism, prejudice, addiction, toxic masculinity and gun violence.

***HappyHead* by Josh Silver (Oneworld), ISBN: 9780861545537**

We are in an epidemic. An epidemic of unhappiness.

Friends, here is the good news: HappyHead has the answer.

When Seb is offered a place on a radical retreat designed to solve the national crisis of teenage unhappiness, he is determined to change how people see him and make his parents proud. But as he finds himself drawn to the enigmatic Finn, Seb starts to question the true nature of the challenges they must undergo. The deeper into the programme the boys get, the more disturbing the assessments become, until it's clear there may be no escape.

Trigger warnings include mental health and eugenics.

***This Book Kills* by Ravena Guron (Usborne), ISBN: 9781803705415**

'I'll make it clear from the start: I did not kill Hugh Henry Van Boren. I didn't even help. Well, not intentionally.'

When Hugh Henry Van Boren, one of the most popular and richest kids in Jess Choudhary's school, is found dead, the student body is left reeling and wondering who the murderer could be... Jess, a student under strict instructions to keep her record clean or risk losing her scholarship, finds herself at the centre of the investigation when it's revealed that Hugh died in the exact same way as a character in a short story she wrote. And then Jess receives an anonymous text thanking her for the inspiration.

With time running out, Jess knows if she doesn't solve this mystery she'll finally have something in common with Hugh Henry. She'll be dead too.

Trigger warnings include murder and racism.

***Unraveller* by Frances Hardinge (Pan Macmillan), ISBN: 9781509836970**

In a world where anyone can create a life-destroying curse, only one person has the power to unravel them.

Kellen does not fully understand his talent, but helps those transformed maliciously - including Nettle. Recovered from entrapment in bird form, she is now his constant companion, and closest ally.

But Kellen has also been cursed, and unless he and Nettle can remove his curse, Kellen is in danger of unravelling everything - and everyone - around him...