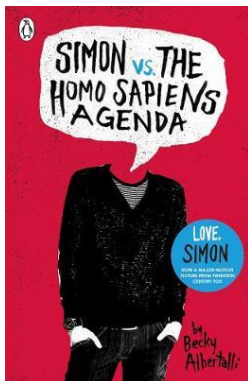


Equality & Diversity

A selection of fiction, non-fiction and poetry focusing on
Equality & Diversity

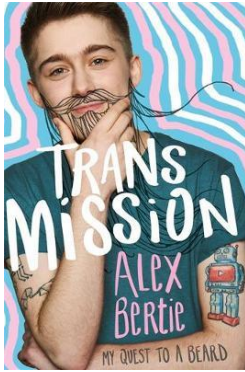


Fiction



Becky Albertalli: *Simon vs The Homo Sapiens Agenda* [Y8 and above]

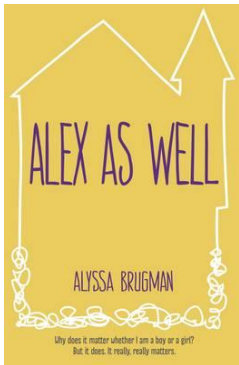
Meet Simon: cynical, funny, insecure, full of obsessions, hopes and dreams like every other 17 year old. But Simon also has a big, glowing secret, and that secret is going to get out if class clown Martin doesn't get what he wants. *Simon vs. the Homo Sapiens Agenda* is the YA phenomenon that swept North America and is now making waves here. Big-hearted and brimming with authenticity, [Becky Albertalli's](#) debut takes on one boy's hesitant path toward coming out as gay and creates a story filled with humour and very real drama. From the wild eccentricities of his family to the growing feelings between Simon and the mysterious, online figure of Blue, you'll find yourself



Alex Bertie: Transmission [Y9 & above]

When I was 15, I realised I was a transgender man. That makes it sound like I suddenly had some kind of lightbulb moment. In reality, coming to grips with my identity has taken a long time.

Over the last six years, I've come out to my family and friends, changed my name, battled the healthcare system, started taking male hormones and have had surgery on my chest. My quest to a beard is almost complete. This is my story.



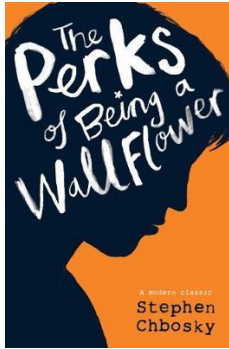
Alyssa Brugman: Alex as Well [Y8 & above]

When Alex was born, the doctors described him as "sexually ambiguous", with both male and female reproductive organs. For the last fourteen years his parents have raised Alex as a boy. They dressed him in boys' clothes, sent him to a boys' school and gave him medication to help regulate his hormones. But last night at dinner, Alex made an announcement, three words that would change everything: "I'm a girl". And when Alex sets about changing her life - her wardrobe, her school, her entire identity - no one knows how to react, least of all her parents.



Darren Charlton: Wranglestone [Y10 & above]

In a post-apocalyptic America, a community survives in a national park, surrounded by water that keeps the Dead at bay. But when winter comes, there's nothing to stop them from crossing the ice. Then homebody Peter puts the camp in danger by naively allowing a stranger to come ashore and he's forced to leave the community of Wranglestone. Now he must help rancher Cooper, the boy he's always watched from afar, herd the Dead from their shores before the lake freezes over. But as love blossoms, a dark discovery reveals the sanctuary's secret past. One that forces the pair to question everything they've ever known.



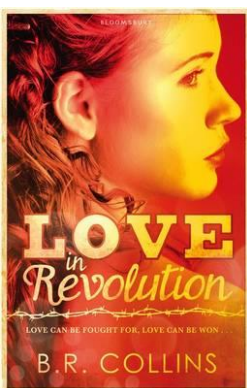
Stephen Chbosky: The Perks of Being a Wallflower [Y10 & above]

Charlie is not the biggest geek in high school, but he's by no means popular. Shy, introspective, intelligent beyond his years, caught between trying to live his life and trying to run from it, Charlie is attempting to navigate through the uncharted territory of high school. The world of first dates and mixed tapes, family dramas and new friends. The world of sex, drugs, and music - when all one requires to feel infinite is that perfect song on that perfect drive. Standing on the fringes of life Charlie has a unique perspective of the world around him, but there comes a time to stop being a wallflower and see what it looks like from the dance floor. This haunting novel about the dilemma of passivity vs. passion has become a modern classic. Charlie's letters are singular and unique, hilarious and devastating and through Charlie, [Stephen Chbosky](#) has created a deeply affecting story that will spirit you back to those wild and poignant roller coaster days known as growing up.



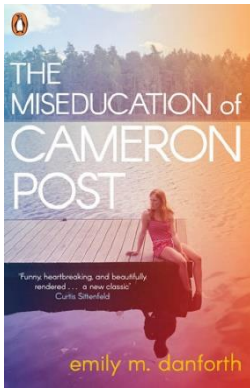
Kristin Elizabeth Clark: Freakboy [Y10 & above]

From the outside, Brendan Chase seems to have it pretty easy. He's a star wrestler, a video game aficionado, and a loving boyfriend to his seemingly perfect match, Vanessa. But on the inside, Brendan struggles to understand why his body feels so wrong-why he sometimes fantasizes about having long hair, soft skin, and gentle curves. Is there even a name for guys like him? Guys who sometimes want to be girls? Or is Brendan just a freak? In razor-sharp verse, Kristin Clark folds three narratives into one powerful story. Brendan trying to understand his sexual identity, Vanessa fighting to keep her and Brendan's relationship alive, and Angel struggling to confront her demons.



B.R. Collins: Love in Revolution [Y9 & above]

Esteya is fifteen. As war rumbles closer, Esteya's brother - an important figure in the Revolutionary Communist Party - is able to protect their family from the worst of the privations of war. Then Esteya meets an extraordinary girl, Skizi, an outcast, shunned by all. But Esteya and Skizi are drawn to each other. Slowly and wonderfully love blossoms ... And then Esteya's family are betrayed and forcibly taken away. Skizi disappears. Esteya is left deserted, heartbroken and in terrible danger. But she must find a way to escape - and to find Skizi.



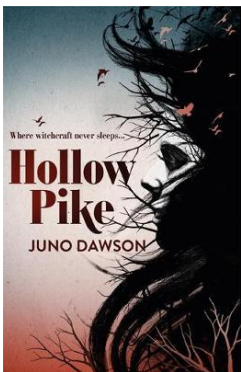
Emily M. Danforth: *The Miseducation of Cameron Post* [Y10 & above]

The night Cameron Post's parents died, her first emotion was relief. Relief they would never know that hours earlier, she'd been kissing a girl. Now living with her conservative Aunt in small-town Montana, hiding her sexuality and blending in becomes second nature to Cameron until she begins an intense friendship with the beautiful Coley Taylor. Desperate to 'correct' her niece, Cameron's Aunt takes drastic action. Now Cameron must battle with the cost of being her true-self even if she's not completely sure who that is. *The Miseducation of Cameron Post* is a stunning and unforgettable literary debut about discovering who you are and finding the courage to live life according to your own rules.



Ivan E. Coyote: *One in Every Crowd* [Y10 & above]

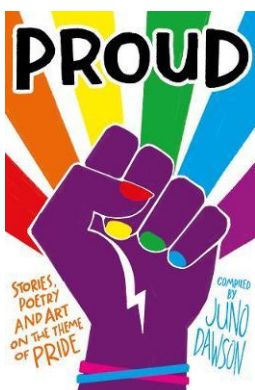
Ivan E. Coyote's wry, honest stories about gender and identity have captivated audiences everywhere. Ivan's eighth book is her first for LGBT youth, written for anyone who has ever felt different or alone in their struggles to be true to themselves. Included are stories about Ivan's tomboy youth and her adult life, where she experiences cruelty and kindness in unexpected places. Funny, inspiring, and full of heart, *One in Every Crowd* is about embracing and celebrating difference and feeling comfortable in one's own skin.



Juno Dawson: *Hollow Pike* [Y9 & above]

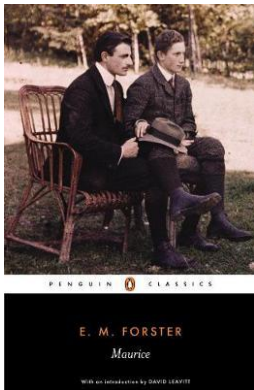
Lis London thought she'd be safe in the country, but even in the country she can't escape her own nightmares. Over and over, she dreams that someone is trying to kill her. Lis thinks she's being paranoid - after all, who would want to murder her? She doesn't believe in the local legends of witchcraft. She doesn't believe that anything bad will really happen to her.

But you never know do, do you? Not until you're alone in the woods, after dark - and a twig snaps...



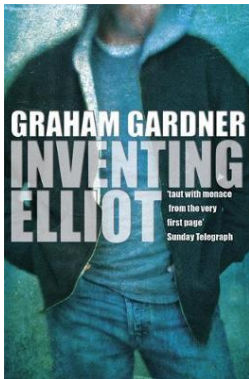
Juno Dawson: *Proud* [Y9 & above]

A stirring, bold and moving anthology of stories and poetry by top LGBTQ+ YA authors and new talent, giving their unique responses to the broad theme of pride. Each story has an illustration by an artist identifying as part of the LGBTQ+ community. Compiled by Juno Dawson, author of *THIS BOOK IS GAY* and *CLEAN*.



E.M.Forster: Maurice [Y12 & Y13]

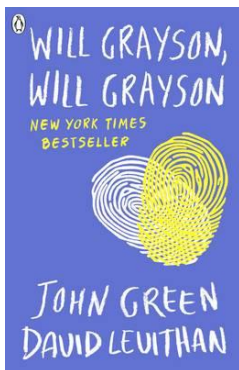
An astonishingly frank and deeply autobiographical account of homosexual relationships in an era when love between men was not only stigmatised, but also illegal. Maurice Hall is a young man who grows up confident in his privileged status and well aware of his role in society. Modest and generally conformist, he nevertheless finds himself increasingly attracted to his own sex. Through Clive, whom he encounters at Cambridge, and through Alec, the gamekeeper on Clive's country estate, Maurice gradually experiences a profound emotional and sexual awakening. A tale of passion, bravery and defiance, this intensely personal novel was completed in 1914 but remained unpublished until after Forster's death in 1970.



Graham Gardner: Inventing Elliot [Y9 & above]

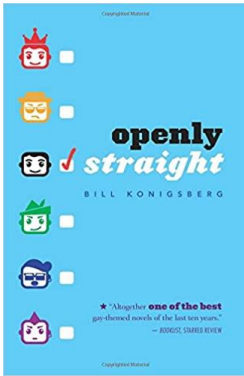
After being bullied mercilessly, Elliot is determined to reinvent himself when he moves house with Mum and Dad and goes to a new school. He is going to be so cool that no one will touch him. He's going to stand out just enough not to get noticed.

But he is too successful, and he does get noticed by the Guardians. They are a mysterious group of three who manipulate others and run the school with a reign of terror. They invite Elliot to become one of them. He faces an agonising decision, whether to use this new found power or risk standing up for himself and facing the consequences.



John Green & David Levithan: Will Grayson, Will Grayson [Y9 & above]

One cold night, in a most unlikely corner of Chicago, Will Grayson crosses paths with . . . Will Grayson. Two guys with the same name, running in two very different circles, suddenly find their lives going in new and unexpected directions, and culminating in epic turns-of-heart



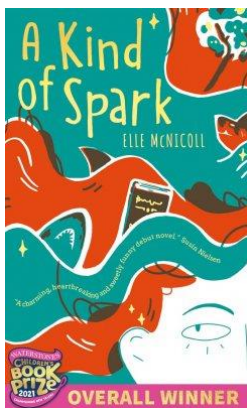
Bill Konigsberg: *Openly Straight* [Y9 & above]

Openly Straight turns the traditional coming out story on its head. Rafe is already out and has been for a while, but he's fed up of always being labelled as 'the gay guy'. So when he transfers to an all-boys boarding school miles away from home he decides to reinvent himself and keep his sexuality a secret. What follows is an interesting, emotional, funny (very funny!) story of personal reflection, special friendships and first love.



David Levithan: *Boy meets boy* [Y10 & above]

To be together with someone for twenty years seems like an eternity. I can't seem to manage twenty days...How do you stay together? Paul has been gay his whole life and he's confident about almost everything. He doesn't have to hide his feelings like best friend Tony or even cope with loving the wrong guy like his other best friend Joni. But heartbreak can happen to anyone. Falling in love changes everything.



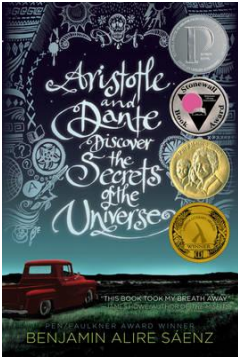
Elle McNicoll: *A Kind of Spark*

A Kind of Spark tells the story of 11-year-old Addie as she campaigns for a memorial in memory of the witch trials that took place in her Scottish hometown. Addie knows there's more to the story of these 'witches', just like there is more to hers. Can Addie challenge how the people in her town see her, and make her voice heard? A story about friendship, courage and self-belief, perfect for fans of [The Goldfish Boy](#), Addie's story was born from Elle's own experiences of neurodiversity and her commitment to seeing greater representation in children's books.



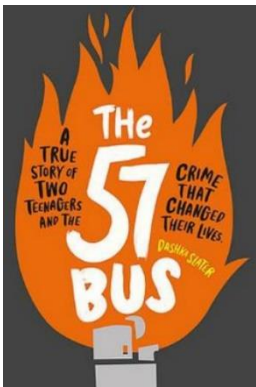
Elle McNicoll: *Show us who you are*

When Cora's brother drags her along to his boss's house, she doesn't expect to strike up a friendship with Adrien, son of the intimidating CEO of Pomegranate Technologies. As she becomes part of Adrien's life, she is also drawn into the mysterious projects at Pomegranate. At first, she's intrigued by them - Pomegranate is using AI to recreate real people in hologram form. As she digs deeper, however, she uncovers darker secrets... Cora knows she must unravel their plans, but can she fight to make her voice heard, whilst never losing sight of herself?



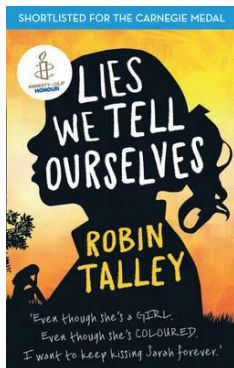
Benjamin Alire Saenz: Aristotle and Dante discover the secrets of the Universe [Y9 & above]

Aristotle is an angry teen with a brother in prison. Dante is a know-it-all who has an unusual way of looking at the world. When they meet at the swimming pool, they seem to have nothing in common. But as the two loners start spending time together, they discover that they share a special kind of friendship - the kind of friendship that changes lives and lasts a lifetime. And it is through their friendship that Ari and Dante will learn the most important truths about themselves - and about the kind of people they want to be.



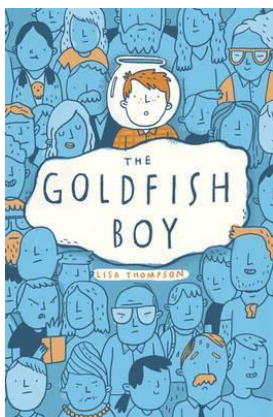
Dashka Slater: The 57 Bus

Two teenagers growing up in Oakland, California. One, Sasha, was born male but identifies as agender, wears skirts and attends a private school. The other, Richard, is an African American from a poor part of Oakland who attends a rough public school. They have no reason to meet, except for eight minutes every day, they catch the same bus home. And one day, messing about, Richard spies Sasha napping. He flicks the flame of his lighter to Sasha's skirt, and Sasha wakes up in a ball of flame. What happens next, as the victim, the perpetrator and the community struggle to come to terms with their sadness and shock, is a story of recovery, reconciliation, forgiveness and, above all, hope. It's about the power of being true to yourself, bravery and the good and bad in all of



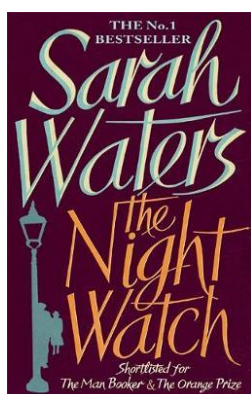
Robin Talley: Lies we tell ourselves [Y8 & above]

It's 1959. The battle for civil rights is raging. And it's Sarah's first day of school as one of the first black students at previously all-white Jefferson High. No one wants Sarah there. Not the Governor. Not the teachers. And certainly not the students - especially Linda, daughter of the town's most ardent segregationist. Sarah and Linda are supposed to despise each other. But the more time they spend together, the less their differences matter. And both girls start to feel something they've never felt before. Something they're determined to ignore.



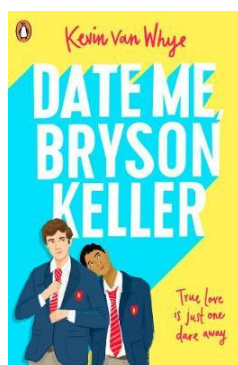
Lisa Thompson: The Goldfish Boy

A story about finding friendship when you're lonely and hope when all you feel is fear. Twelve-year-old Matthew is trapped in his bedroom by crippling OCD, spending most of his time staring out of his window as the inhabitants of Chestnut Close go about their business. That is, until the day he is the last person to see his next door neighbour's toddler, Teddy, before he goes missing. Now Matthew must turn detective and unravel the mystery of Teddy's disappearance - with a little help from a surprising and brilliant cast of supporting characters.



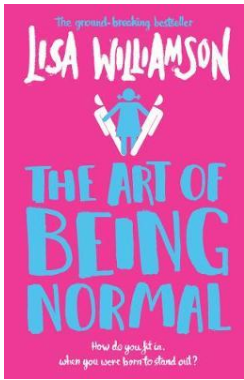
Sarah Waters: The Night Watch [Y12 & Y13]

Moving back through the 1940s, through air raids, blacked out streets, illicit liaisons, sexual adventure, to end with its beginning in 1941, *The Night Watch* is the work of a truly brilliant and compelling storyteller. This is the story of four Londoners - three women and a young man with a past, drawn with absolute truth and intimacy. Kay, who drove an ambulance during the war and lived life at full throttle, now dresses in mannish clothes and wanders the streets with a restless hunger, searching... Helen, clever, sweet, much-loved, harbours a painful secret.. Viv, glamour girl, is stubbornly, even foolishly loyal, to her soldier lover... Duncan, an apparent innocent, has had his own demons to fight during the war. Their lives, and their secrets connect in sometimes startling ways. War leads to strange alliances... Tender, tragic and beautifully poignant, set against the backdrop of feats of heroism both epic and ordinary, here is a novel of relationships that offers up subtle surprises and twists.



Kevin van Whye: Date me, Bryson Keller [Y9 & above]

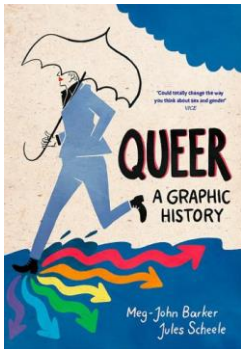
Everyone at Fairvale Academy knows Bryson Keller, the super-hot soccer captain who doesn't believe in high-school relationships. They also know about the dare Bryson accepted - each week he has to date the first person who asks him out. A single school week is all anyone gets. There have been no exceptions to this. None. Until me, that is. Because brilliant Bryson Keller forgot one thing. He never said it could only be girls . . .



Lisa Williamson: The Art of being Normal

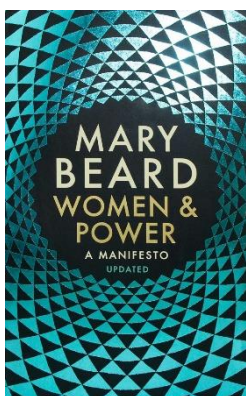
Two outsiders. Two secrets. David longs to be a girl. Leo wants to be invisible. When Leo stands up for David in a fight, an unlikely friendship forms. But things are about to get messy. Because at Eden Park School, secrets have a funny habit of not staying secret for long...

Non-Fiction



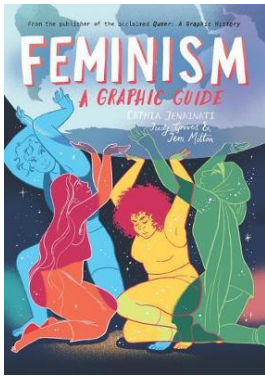
Meg John-Barker: Queer: A Graphic History

Activist-academic Meg-John Barker and cartoonist Jules Scheele illuminate the histories of queer thought and LGBTQ+ action in this groundbreaking non-fiction graphic novel. From identity politics and gender roles to privilege and exclusion, *Queer* explores how we came to view sex, gender and sexuality in the ways that we do; how these ideas get tangled up with our culture and our understanding of biology, psychology and sexology; and how these views have been disputed and challenged. Along the way we look at key landmarks which shift our perspective of what's 'normal' - Alfred Kinsey's view of sexuality as a spectrum, Judith Butler's view of gendered behaviour as a performance, the play *Wicked*, or moments in *Casino Royale* when we're invited to view James Bond with the kind of desiring gaze usually directed at female bodies in mainstream media. Presented in a brilliantly engaging and witty style, this is a unique portrait of the universe of queer thinking.



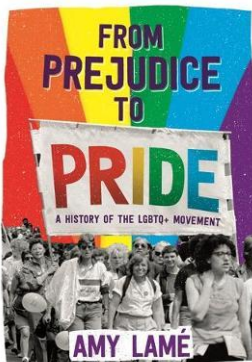
Mary Beard: Women & Power

We have to retell stories of women's power, re-evaluate what power is. Acclaimed classicist [Mary Beard](#) presents a revolutionary manifesto for our time, exploring women in power from Medusa to Merkel and presenting a new feminist roadmap. Hard-hitting, unapologetic and wise. Beard explores the cultural underpinnings of misogyny, considering the public voice of women, our cultural assumptions about women's relationship with power, and how powerful women resist being packaged into a male template. With personal reflections on her own experiences of the sexism and gendered aggression she has endured online, Mary asks: if women aren't perceived to be within the structures of power, isn't it power that we need to redefine?



Cathia Jenainati: Feminism: a graphic guide

What is feminism? Why are we still talking about it, and what can it tell us about ourselves, our societies and prejudices? In this unique, illustrated introduction, we'll explore the early history of conscious struggle against sexist oppression, through the modern "waves" of feminism, up to present-day conversations about MeToo, intersectional feminism, and women's rights in the Middle East. We'll look at critical theory, popular action and the social and cultural forces that affect attitudes toward gender, women's lives and the struggle for equality. And we'll hear about the contributions of pioneers like Mary Wollstonecraft, Simone de Beauvoir and Kimberle Crenshaw. As we'll see, feminism is at once global, local and individual.



Amy Lame: From Prejudice to Pride

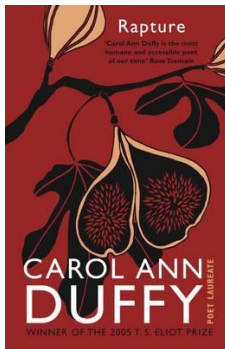
From Prejudice to Pride looks at the rise and achievements of the LGBTQ+ movement and the different communities, pioneers and stories of heartbreak and courage that have marched alongside it. Perfect for readers aged 11 and upwards, this book will inspire courage and pride in young LGBTQ+ people and help answer questions for all readers interested in gender and identity. Follow LGBTQ+ history from ancient civilisations to the present-day, and learn about key events including the trial of Oscar Wilde, the Stonewall riots, the AIDS crisis, same-sex marriage and changing laws that have impacted on LGBTQ+ life. Gain insight into the shifting attitudes that have challenged lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people and the experiences that help us understand what it means to be LGBTQ+ today. Filled with photographs documenting LGBTQ+ life from the past and present, and from around the world.



Jeanette Winterson: Oranges are not the only fruit

This is the story of Jeanette, adopted and brought up by her mother as one of God's elect. Zealous and passionate, she seems destined for life as a missionary, but then she falls for one of her converts. At sixteen, Jeanette decides to leave the church, her home and her family, for the young woman she loves. Innovative, punchy and tender, *Oranges Are Not the Only Fruit* is a few days ride into the bizarre outposts of religious excess and human obsession.

Poetry



Carol Ann Duffy: Rapture

The effortless virtuosity, drama, and humanity of Carol Ann Duffy's verse have made her much admired among contemporary poets. Her seventh collection, winner of the T.S. Eliot Prize, is a book-length love-poem, and a moving act of personal testimony - but what sets these poems apart from other treatments of the subject is Duffy's refusal to simplify the contradictions of love, and read its transformations - infatuation, longing, passion, commitment, rancor, separation, and grief - as either redemptive or destructive. This is a map of real love, in all its churning complexity, simultaneously direct and subtle, showing us that a song can be made of even the most painful episodes in our lives. With poems that will find deep resonance in the experience of most readers, it is a collection that can and does speak for us all.



For further book suggestions go to

<https://www.stonewall.org.uk/resources/secondary-school-book-list>