

# SEPTEMBER 2025

## THE BOOK OF THE MONTH IS...

### What the book is about:

Nate is eleven and has just finished Primary School. After a challenging final year, life is looking up. His brother has recovered from a life-threatening heart condition, he's got the his mum, brothers and Auntie San, and he's off to Secondary School with his two best friends.

But while he's meeting new people and avoiding Turner, his old nemesis, and struggling to come to terms with a strict new teacher and a sense of isolation from his brothers, a sudden surprise appearance in Nate's life threatens to throw him completely off course. And *'The Beast'* - the anger he tries so hard to control - reappears. Will Nate find a way to keep himself and his family together?

This compassionate and relatable verse novel is the sequel to the acclaimed *'The Final Year'* (Yoto-Carnegies 'Writing' shortlist nomination - 2025) and is all about the exciting journey of starting secondary school - with all the challenges, new friendships and dramas that this entails.

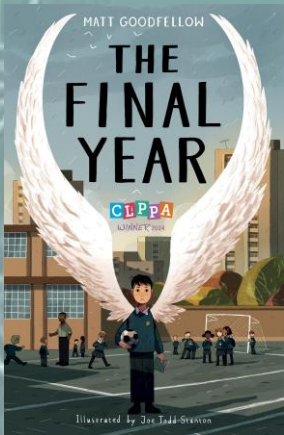


# About the Author: Matt Goodfellow



- Matt Goodfellow was born in Withington, Manchester, and grew up in Cheadle, Stockport. As a child, he wanted to follow a career in Music and performed in bands – even writing his own songs and lyrics.
- Before becoming an author, Matt Goodfellow spent ten years working as a Year 6 primary school teacher.
- From writing song lyric, he began writing and sharing poetry with his school students – leading to him becoming an award-winning poet (three times CLIPPA nominated) and publishing eight poetry books so far.

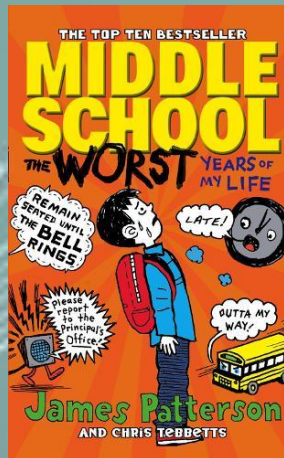
If you like ‘THE FIRST YEAR’, you also may enjoy:



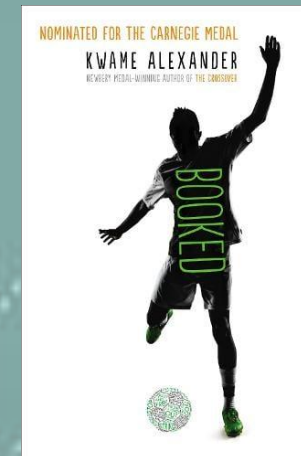
*‘The Final Year’*  
by Matt Goodfellow



*‘Matilda’*  
by  
Roald Dahl



*‘Middle School’*  
by James Patterson



*‘Booked’*  
by Kwame Alexander

# OCTOBER 2025 THE BOOK OF THE MONTH IS...

## What the book is about:

Will and his dad don't have much. Will's shoes are leaking and they're definitely not the cool shoes to wear. Chris Tucker and his gang frequently bully Will on the way to school.

When Will has an argument with his best friend, he finds himself on a downward spiral. Too proud to ask for help from his mum, and with his dad out of work, due to injury, and in debt, Will has a choice. Make a bit of ready cash by working with Chris, but feel guilty forever, or do the right thing?

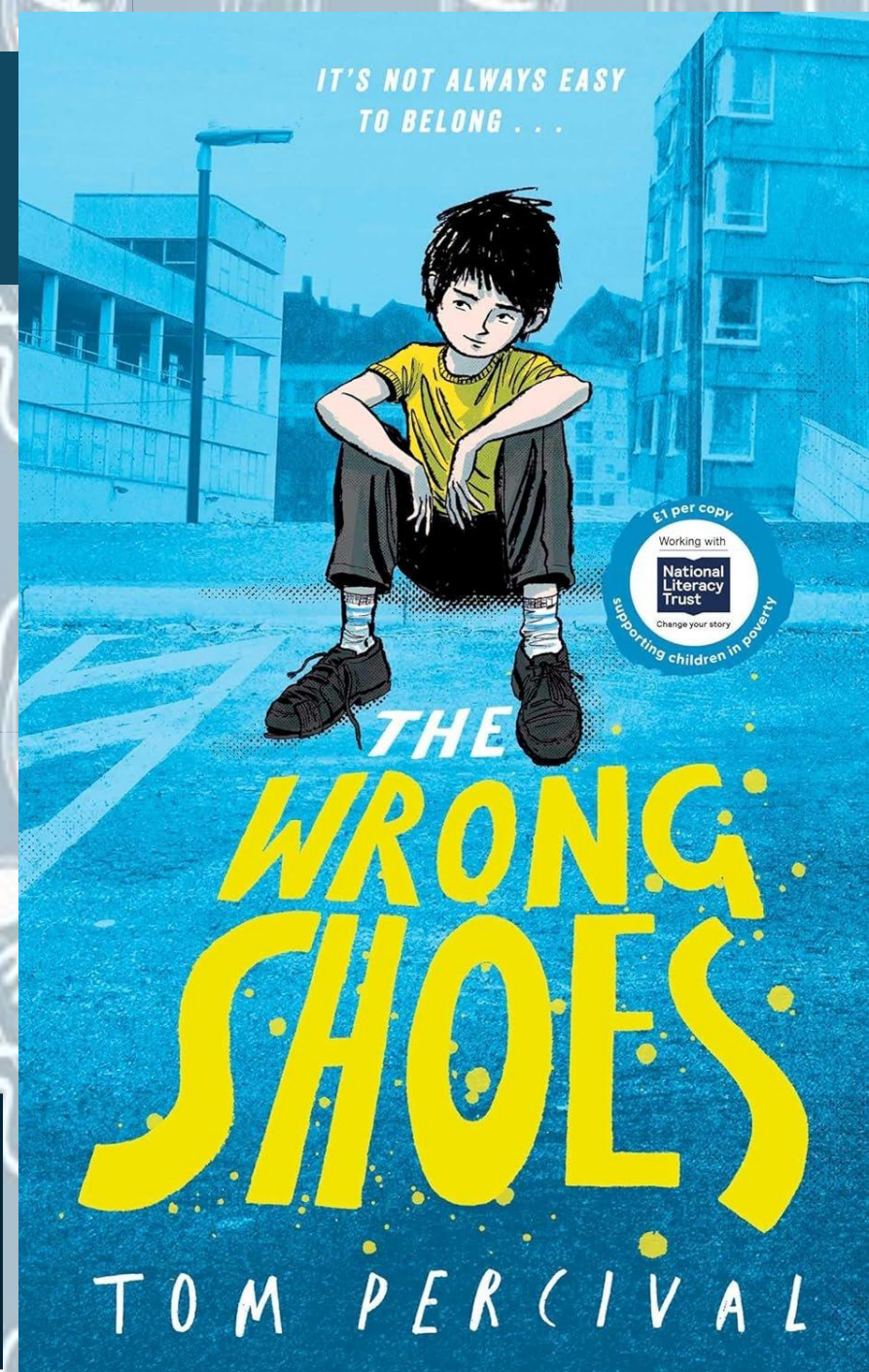
Reflecting the current reality for a lot of children today, this book has hard-hitting issues at its heart – but despite the storyline, there is hope too. Will is an artist, finding refuge in Art classes, with an upcoming art competition that might make a difference.

Moving and gritty, it is a fantastic read, with artwork created by the author – the black and white illustrations are gritty and atmospheric.

### What is 'child poverty'?

(*'Eradicate Poverty Day' – October 17<sup>th</sup>*)

Poverty is a state where individuals lack what is necessary (food / clothes) for a basic standard of living. The UK government has estimated that 4.3 million children, or 30% of all children in the UK, were living in poverty last year. Groups such as 'Save the Children' and the 'Child Poverty Action Group' are available if you need help. (Further details are available on their web sites).

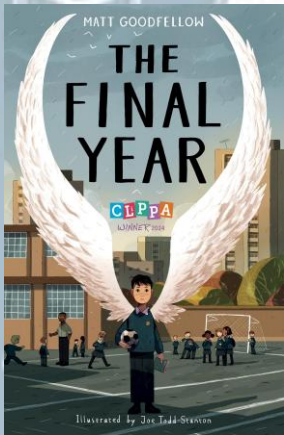


# About the Author: Tom Percival

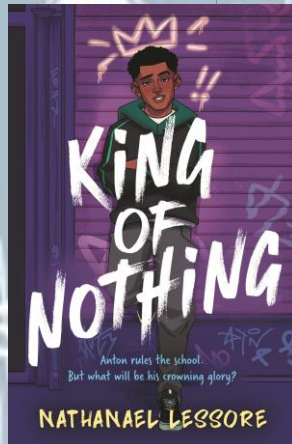


- Tom Percival is an author, artist and illustrator who studied Graphic Design in South Wales.
- His illustration career has seen him design Halloween merchandise for a major supermarket, as well as designing for Aardman Animation (creators of 'Wallace & Gromit') and producing cover art for a number of successful children's fiction series, including *Skulduggery Pleasant*.
- His book, 'The Wrong Shoes' was nominated for the Yoto-Carnegies 2025 award for writing and, when first published in 2024, £1 from each copy sold was donated to the 'National Literacy Trust' to help support child literacy in poverty areas across the United Kingdom.

If you like 'THE WRONG SHOES', you also may enjoy:



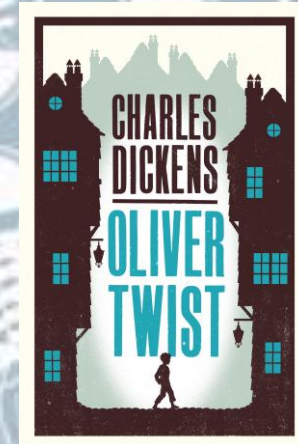
'The Final Year' by Matt Goodfellow



'King of Nothing' by Nathanael Lessore



'Blood Brothers' by Willy Russell



'Oliver Twist' by Charles Dickens.

# November 2025

## THE BOOK OF THE MONTH IS...

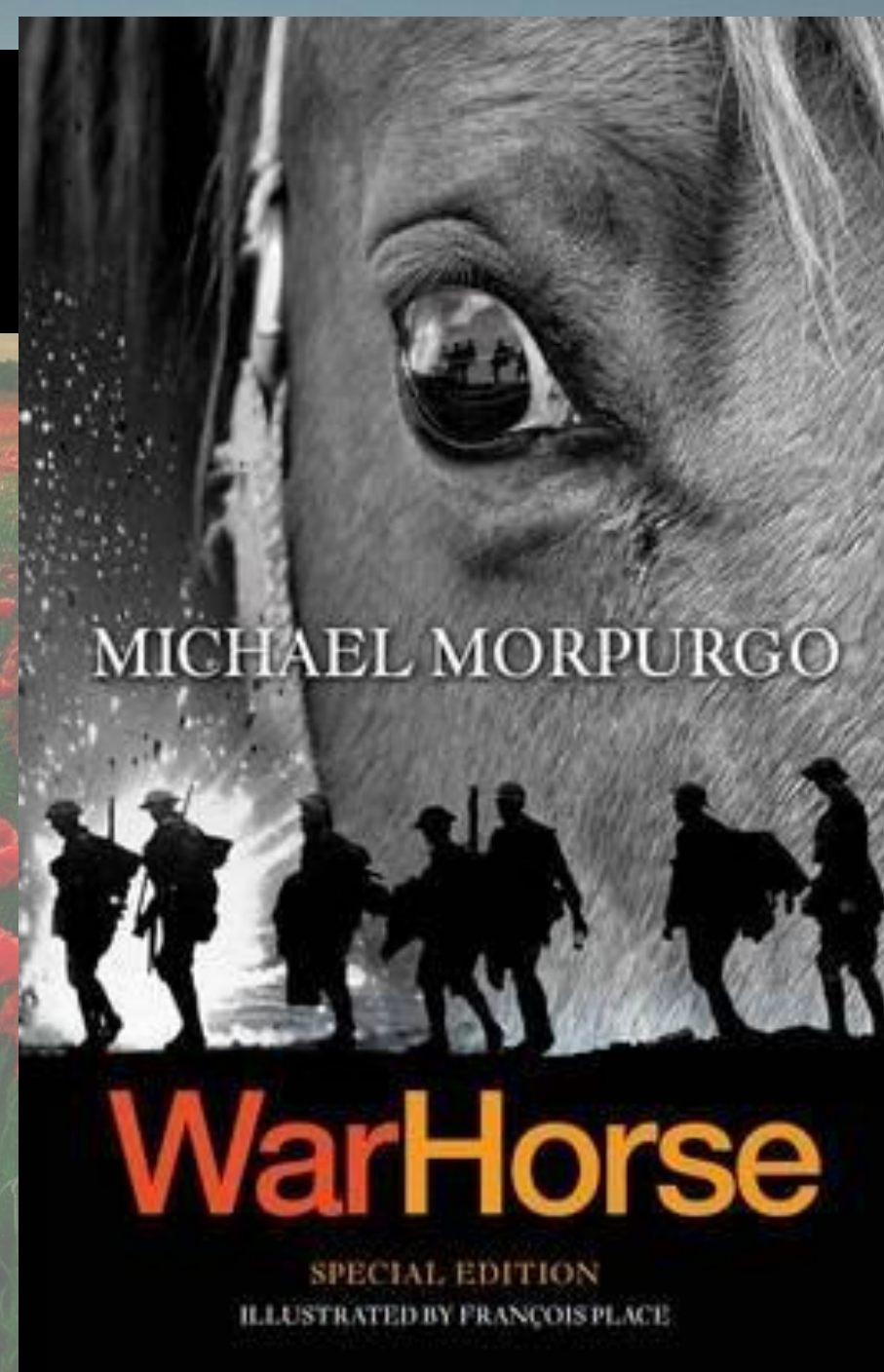


### What the book is about:

'WarHorse' is the story of a bond between a boy and his horse set during World War I. It follows the journey of a young farm boy, Albert Narracott and his horse, Joey. Albert's father sells Joey to the British Army as war breaks out. Heartbroken, Albert sets out to reunite with Joey, so he enlists in the army. Throughout the war, Joey experiences conflict between soldiers from Britain and Germany, whilst Albert searches for him. It explores the themes of friendship, loyalty and the horrors of war. 'War Horse' was later adapted into a movie in 2011.

### What is Remembrance Day?

Remembrance Day honours those who have served and sacrificed during war. People pay their tribute to the families and of the emergency services and the innocent civilians who have lost their lives. A poppy is worn as a symbol of resilience and peace after WWI. Every November we hold a two-minute silence to reflect upon those who lost their lives and fought for freedom.

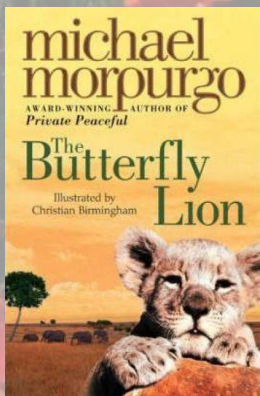


# ABOUT THE AUTHOR... Michael Morpurgo

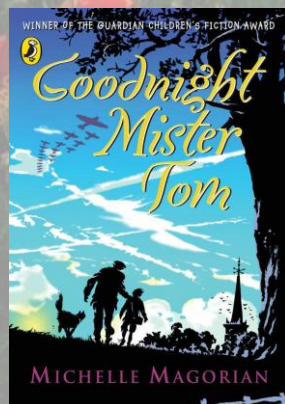
- Sir Michael Morpurgo was born in 1943 in St Albans, Hertfordshire is an English author, poet, playwright.
- Michael attended the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst and quickly realized the soldier life was not for him and left after nine months. He wanted to become a teacher after reading poems by WWI poets when he was a soldier.
- His writing career was inspired by Ted Hughes' Poetry in the Making and Ernest Hemingway's 'The Old Man and the Sea'.
- In 2018 he was made a Knight Bachelor at the New Year Honours for services to literature and charity.
- Michael is President of BookTrust, the UK's largest children's reading charity.
- His notable works include; '*Little Foxes (1984)*', '*The Butterfly Lion (1996)*', '*Farm Boy (1997)*'.



If you liked '**War Horse**', you may also like.....



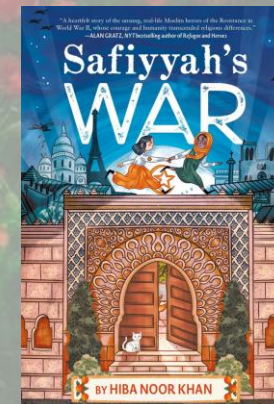
'*The Butterfly Lion*' by Michael Morpurgo



'*Goodnight Mister Tom*' by Michelle Magorian



'*Black Beauty*' by Anna Sewell



'*Safiyyah's War*' by Hiba Noor Khan

December 2025:

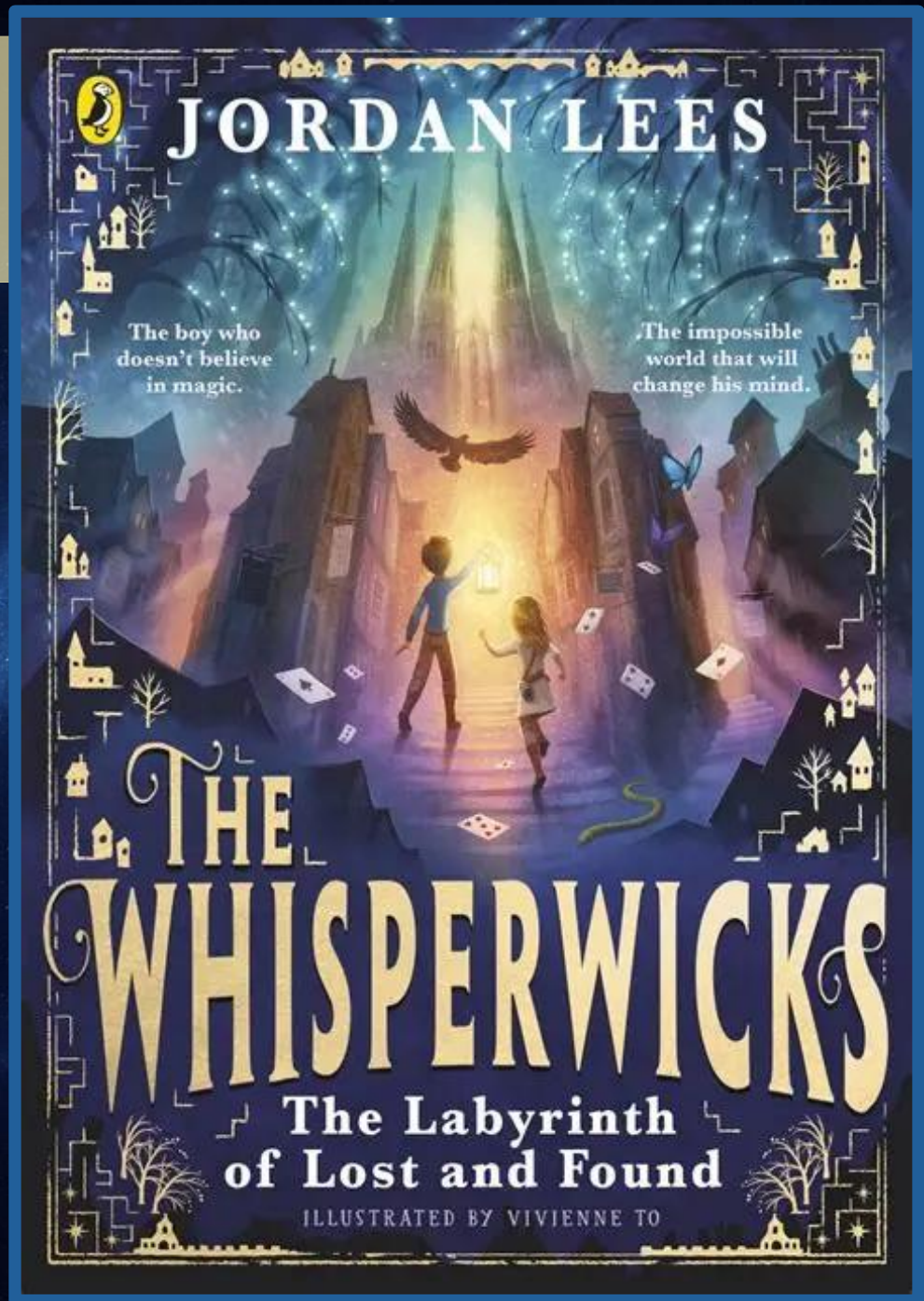
The Book of the Month is ...

Discover a world of magic and secrets in this spectacular new fantasy series.

Eleven-year-old Benjamiah Creek believes in science, logic and the power of reason. He definitely does *not* believe in magic. But when he receives a mysterious gift in the post – a doll that can transform into a bird – he is led into the impossible (and most *definitely* magical) world of Wreathenwold, where dark secrets are lost amongst a vast labyrinth of streets.

Benjamiah soon finds himself swept along in a dangerous quest, led by the fierce and brilliant Elizabella who is determined to solve the disappearance of her missing brother.

**Will Benjamiah ever find his way home and discover his puzzling connection with this strange, enchanted world?**

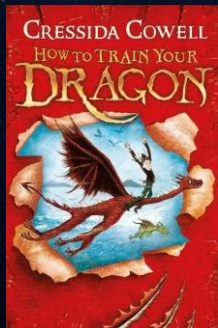


# About the author: Jordan Lees

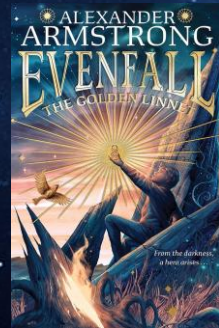


- Jordan Lees was born in Scotland but grew up in Essex, England.
- He loved reading so much as a child that he studied Literature at university and then worked in publishing. Jordan is always surrounded by books!
- When he is not working, Jordan usually either enjoys reading or playing chess.
- The Whisperwicks is his first book!

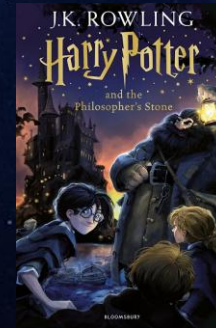
If you liked 'The Whisperwicks', you may also enjoy:



**How to  
Train Your  
Dragon by  
Cressida  
Cowell**



**Evenfall  
The Golden  
Linnet by  
Alexander  
Armstrong**



**Harry  
Potter  
series by  
J.K.  
Rowling**



**Percy  
Jackson  
series by  
Rick  
Riordan**

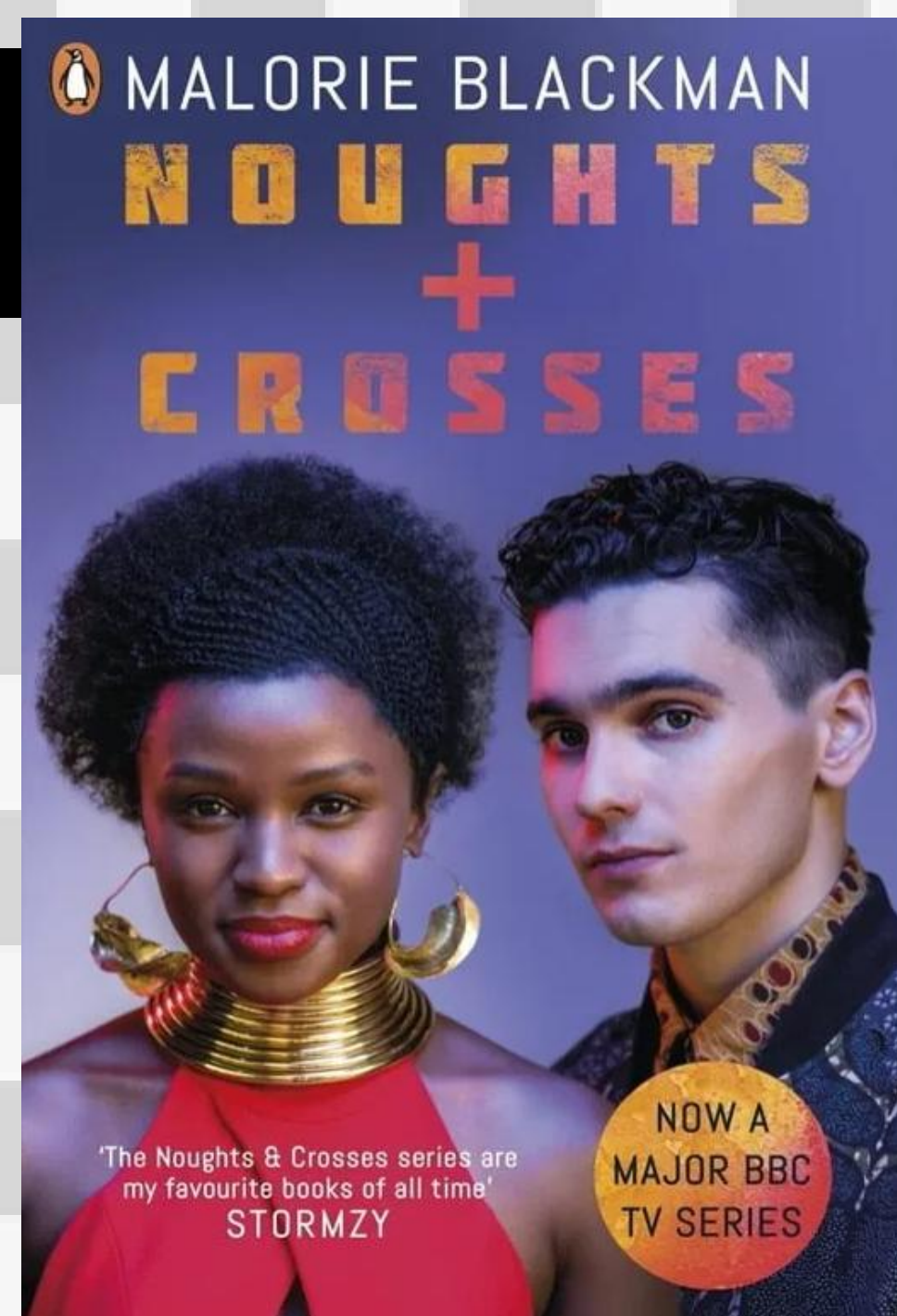
# JANUARY 2026

## THE BOOK OF THE MONTH IS...

Sephy is a Cross: dark-skinned and beautiful, she lives a life of privilege and power. But she's lonely and burns with injustice at the world she sees around her. Callum is a nought: pale-skinned and poor, he's considered to be less than nothing – a blanker, there to serve Crosses – but he dreams of a better life. They've been friends since they were children, and they both know that's as far as it can ever go.

Noughts and Crosses are fated to be bitter enemies – love is out of the question. Then – despite a world that is fiercely against them – these star-crossed lovers choose each other. But this is a love story that will lead both of them into terrible danger – and which will have shocking repercussions for generations to come.

Malorie Blackman's *Noughts & Crosses* explores themes and issues of racism, inequality, and forbidden love, with critics calling it "*unforgettable*" and Benjamin Zephaniah deeming it "*the most original book I've ever read*".



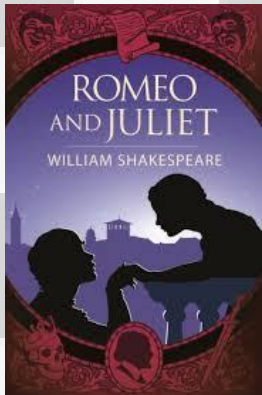
# ABOUT THE AUTHOR... Malorie Blackman



- Malorie Blackman OBE is a celebrated British author, known for tackling social issues like racism through her diverse children's and young adult books.
- Born in London in 1962 to Barbadian parents, she studied computer science but became a prolific writer after her first book was published in 1990, later serving as Children's Laureate (2013-2015), promoting diversity in literature.
- She's written over 60 books, often featuring Black characters experiencing relatable struggles, exploring themes of family, identity, and social division.

*"Reading is an exercise in empathy; an exercise in walking in someone else's shoes for a while."* - Malorie Blackman

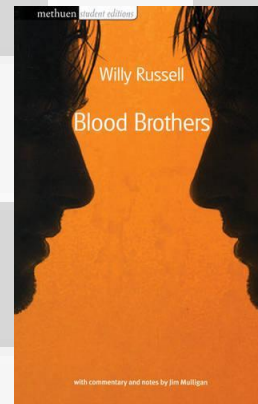
If you liked **'NOUGHTS + CROSSES'** you may also enjoy...



**'Romeo & Juliet' by William Shakespeare.**



**'The Hate U Give' by Angie Thomas.**



**'Blood Brothers' by Willy Russell.**



**'Windrush Child' by Benjamin Zephaniah.**

# February 2026:

## The Book of the Month is ...

*“Irresistible. An excellent spin on a timeless classic.”*

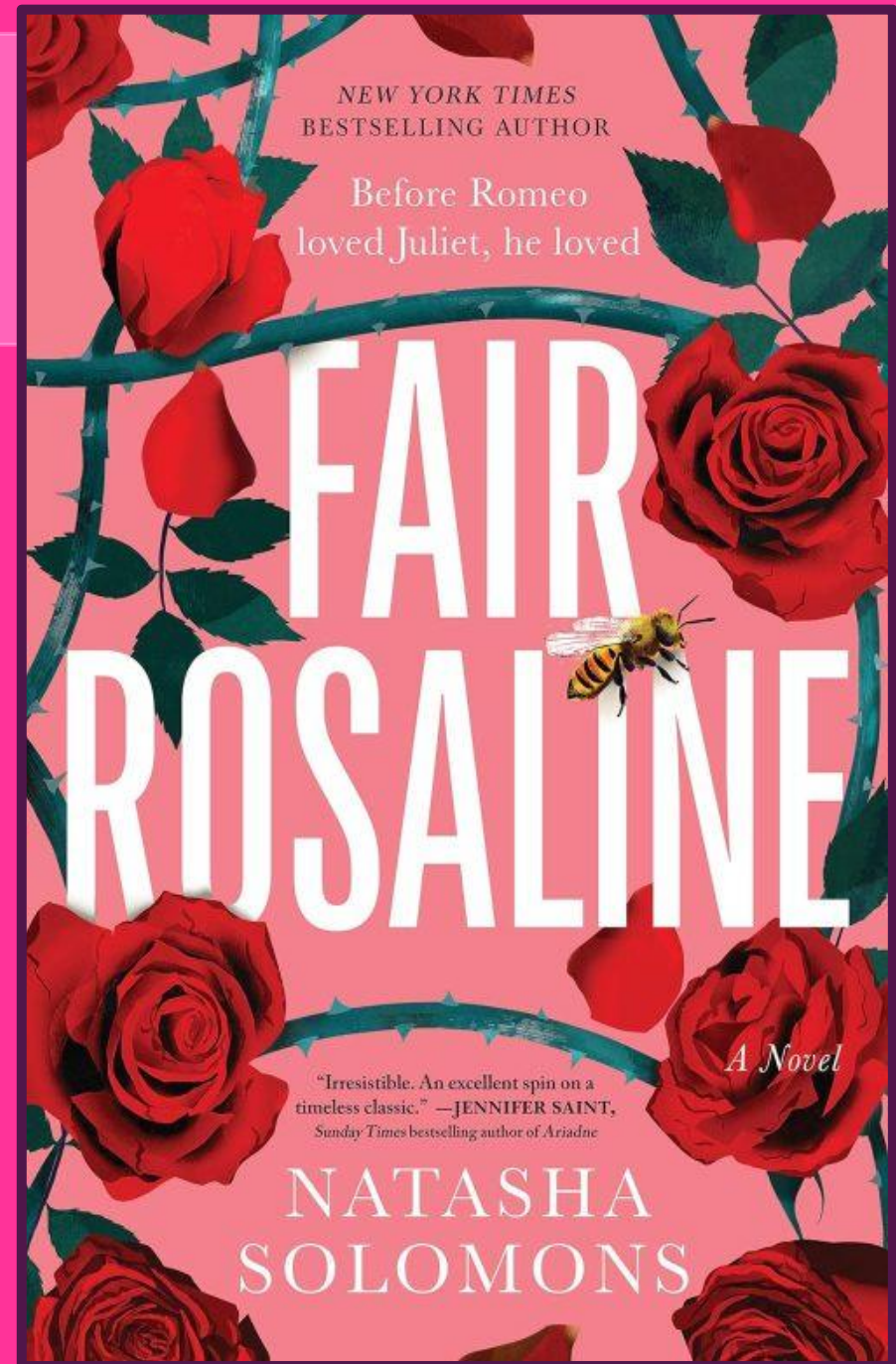
– Jennifer Saint, Sunday Times bestselling author of *Ariadne*

**This is not a love story.**

The first time Romeo Monague sees young Rosaline Capulet he falls instantly in love. Rosaline, headstrong and independent, is unsure of Romeo’s attentions, but this handsome and charming stranger offers her the chance of a different life.

Soon, though, Rosaline begins to doubt all that Romeo has told her. She breaks off the match, only for Romeo’s gaze to turn towards her cousin, thirteen-year-old Juliet. Gradually, Rosaline realises that it is not only Juliet’s reputation at stake, but her life...

**Parental consent is needed to read this book due to Mature themes.**

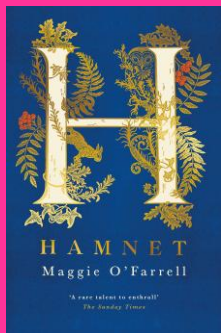


# About the author: Natasha Solomons



- Natasha lives in Dorset, England and enjoys writing, walking and gardening.
- Early in school, she was diagnosed with dyslexia. Going on to get a PhD at university.
- Her first novel was inspired by a story from her grandparents.
- In 2012, she was a New York Times bestseller and was also shortlisted for the Galaxy National Book Award for Best New Writer.
- Nastasha is most known for her compelling story plots and well-developed characters. She mainly writes about historical fiction, often with elements of romance and music.

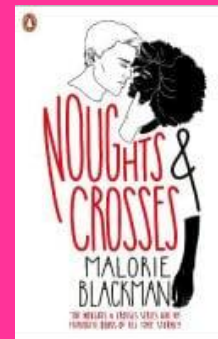
If you liked *Fair Rosaline* you may also enjoy:



'Hamnet'  
by Maggie  
O'Farrell



'Shakespeare's  
Romeo and  
Juliet: A  
Graphic Novel'  
(Classics in  
Graphics)



'Noughts &  
Crosses' by  
Malorie  
Blackman



'The Fault  
In Our  
Stars' by  
John Green

# MARCH 2026

## THE BOOK OF THE MONTH IS...

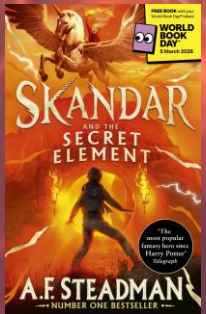
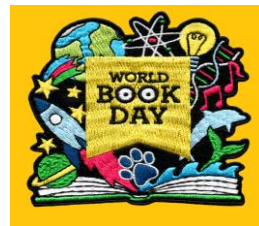
Thirteen-year-old Skandar Smith has only ever wanted to be a unicorn rider. To be one of the lucky few selected to hatch a unicorn. To bond with it for life; to train together and race for glory; to be a hero.

But just as Skandar's dream is about to come true, things start to take a more dangerous turn than he could ever have imagined. A dark and twisted enemy has stolen the Island's most powerful unicorn - and as the threat grows ever closer, Skandar discovers a secret that could blow apart his world forever...

Get ready for unlikely heroes, elemental magic, sky battles, ancient secrets, nail-biting races and ferocious unicorns, in the first book in this epic adventure series.

*World Book Day* is on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2026.

Your WBD vouchers will be available from form tutors and can be used to choose from a collection of books from local stores, such as 'The Secret Element' – a new Skandar book by A.F. Steadman.

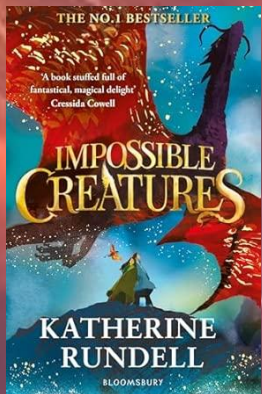


# ABOUT THE AUTHOR... A.F. STEADMAN

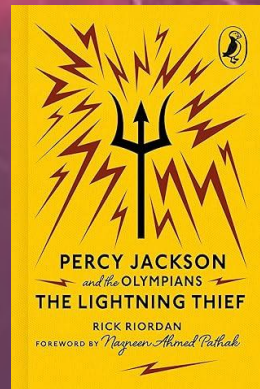


- Annabel Steadman (born 1992), who writes as A. F. Steadman, is a British author.
- Steadman was educated at King's School, Canterbury, Kent, from 2005, attending on music and academic scholarships. She then studied law at Selwyn College, Cambridge, followed by a Master of Studies (MSt) degree in creative writing at Cambridge.
- In 2020, Steadman received a "seven-figure" three-book contract for a fantasy series about "bloodthirsty unicorns". This is believed to be the largest ever advance deal for a debut children's writer.
- In the same week film rights were purchased by Sony Pictures.
- In 2025, the final Skandar book ("Spirit War") was published, along with a prequel novel – 'The First Unicorn Rider', with a special Skandar book released in 2026 for World Book Day.

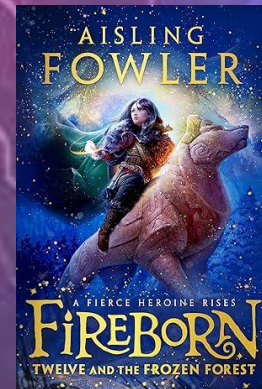
If you liked **'SKANDAR'**, you may also like.....



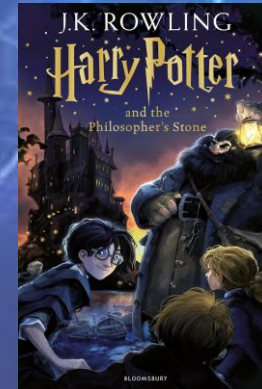
*'Impossible  
Creatures'* by  
Katherine  
Rundell.



*'Percy  
Jackson'* by  
Rick Riordan.



*'Fireborn'* by  
Aisling  
Fowler.



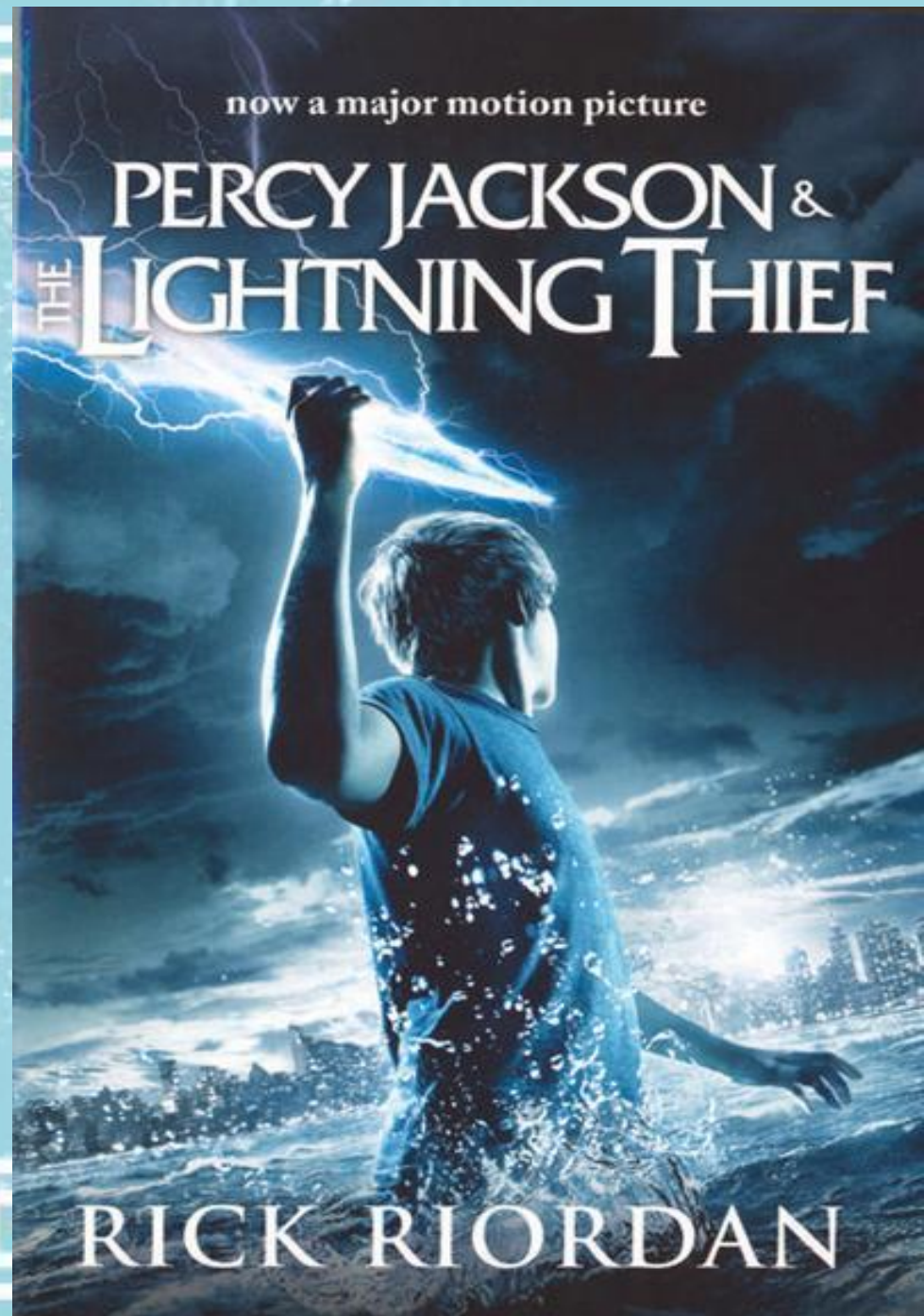
*'Harry Potter'*  
by J.K.  
Rowling

APRIL 2026:

The Book of the Month is ...

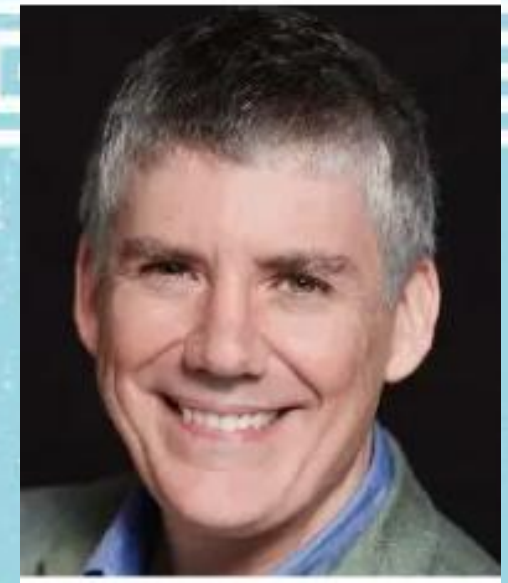
**This book is about a 12-year-old boy named Percy Jackson who discovers that he is the son of Greek God Poseidon. After being accused of stealing Zeus's Master Bolt, Percy goes on a dangerous quest across the United States of America with his friends Annabeth Chaser and Grover Underwood to find the lightning bolt and prevent a war from the Gods. Along the way Percy faces monsters, learns about the world of Greek mythology and discovers his true strengths.**

***The Lightning Thief* is widely praised as an action-packed, witty, and modern reimagining of Greek mythology, often described as a "playground for our imagination". Reviewers love its relatable, fast-paced nature, calling it a "special" and "fun" start to a beloved series. It is frequently compared to *Harry Potter* for its charming, adventurous, and humorous tone.**

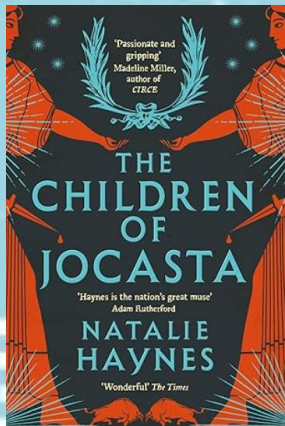


# About the author: RICK RIORDAN

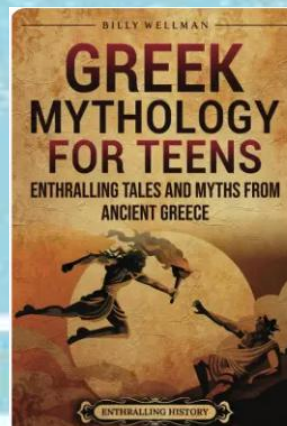
- Rick Riordan is a bestselling American author famous for writing fantasy books based on mythology\* (the study of legends, beliefs and culture).
- He was born in San Antonio Texas in 1964.
- He created the popular Percy Jackson Olympian Series which mixes Greek mythology with modern adventure.
- His books have sold millions of copies worldwide and have inspired movies, graphics novels and TV series.



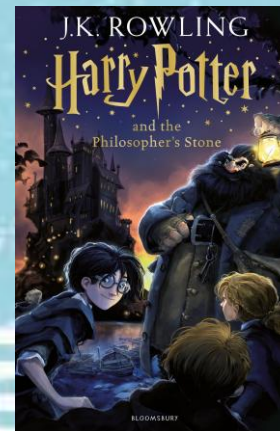
If you enjoyed **‘PERCY JACKSON’** ‘you may also enjoy:



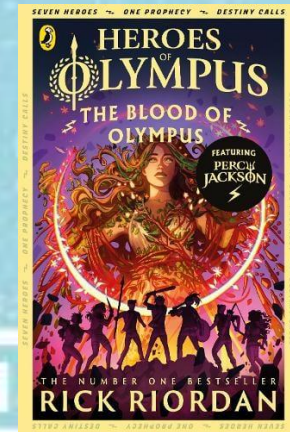
‘Children of Jocasta’  
by Natalie Haynes



‘Greek Mythology for Teens’  
by Billy Wellman



‘Harry Potter’ by  
J.K. Rowling



‘Heroes of Olympus’  
by Rick Riordan

# MAY 2026

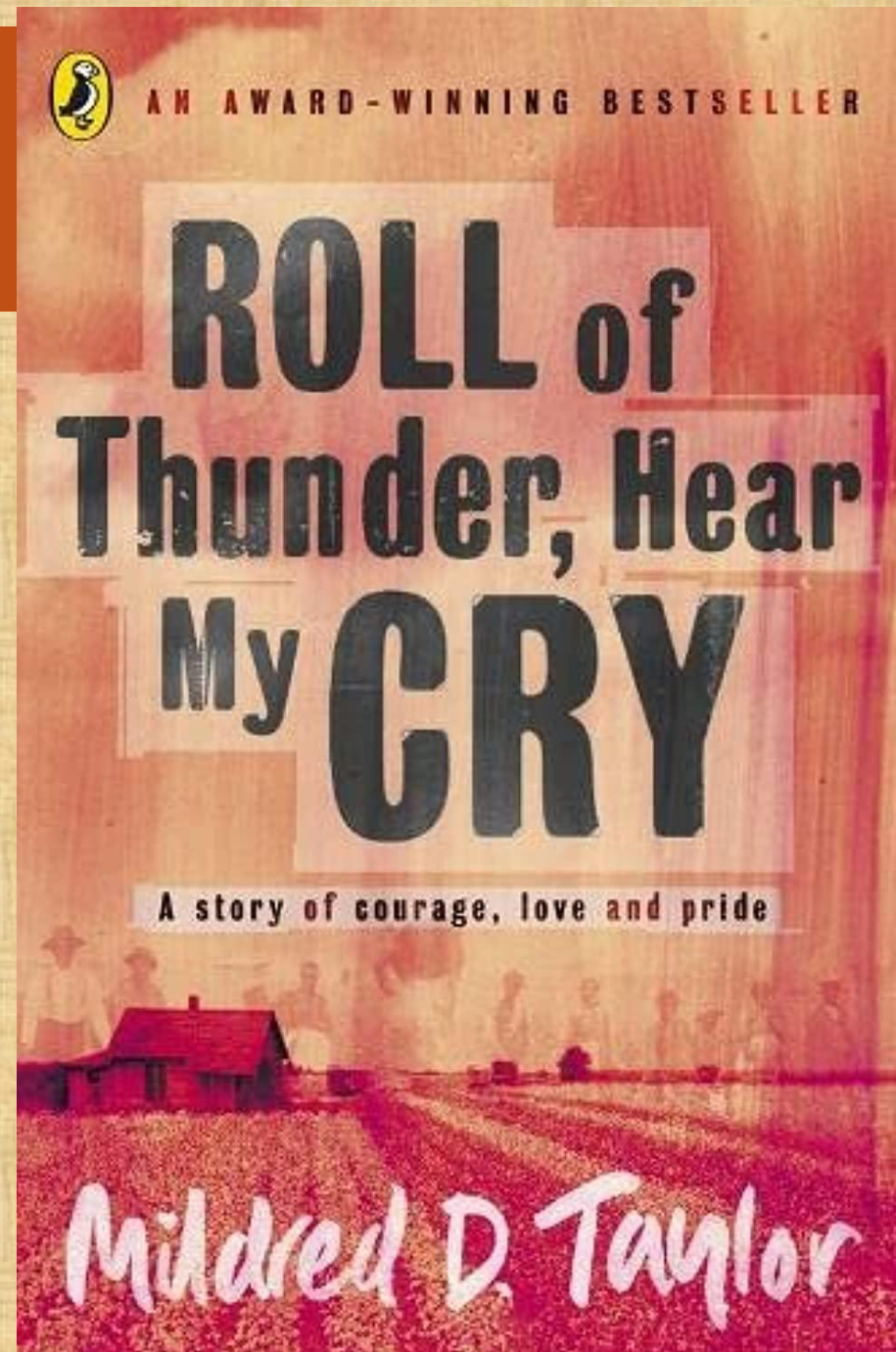
## THE BOOK OF THE MONTH IS...

**"Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry" by Mildred D. Taylor is a moving historical novel set in the American South during the 1930s, centering on the Logan family's struggle to look after their land amidst racial tensions and injustices.**

**In 1933, 9-year-old Cassie Logan lives in farmland Mississippi with her three brothers, Stacey (12 years old), Christopher-John (7 years old), and Clayton Chester, nicknamed "Little Man" (6 years old). Unlike most black families who sharecropped (farmed) during this time, the Logan family owns the land on which they live. It originally belonged to a white plantation owner, Harlan Granger, who sold it to cover his taxes.**

**Rather than a single, overarching storyline, the novel is made up of several interconnecting plots, each involving one or more members of the Logan family and illustrating various aspects of black/white interactions during one of the lowest point of American race relations.**

April's 'Book of the Month' has been chosen by Mr. Reeve – Head Teacher (Rockwood Academy).

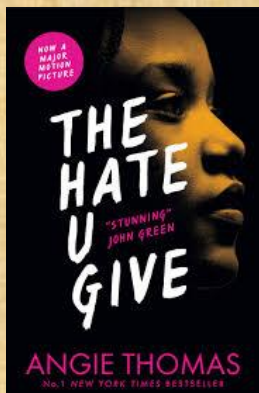


# ABOUT THE AUTHOR... Mildred D. Taylor



- Mildred DeLois Taylor (born September 13, 1943) is an award-winning American young adult novelist. She is best known for her novel *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry*, part of her Logan family series.
- She is the great-granddaughter of a former slave who was the son of an African-Indian woman and a white landowner.
- Taylor's works are based on oral history told to her by her father, uncles, and aunt. Taylor has said that without her family, and especially without her father, her books "would not have been".
- "So many things are possible as long as you don't know they are impossible". – Mildred D. Taylor.

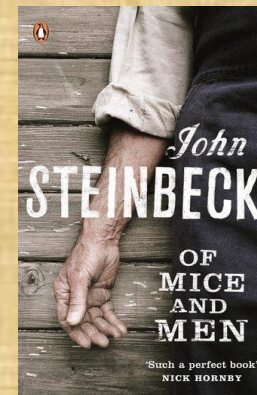
If you liked '**Roll of Thunder**', you may also like.....



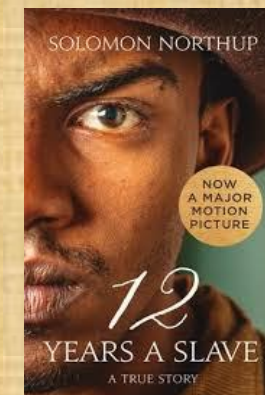
'The Hate U Give' by Angie Thomas.



'The Things We Leave Behind' by Clare Furniss.



'Of Mice and Men' by John Steinbeck.



'12 Years a Slave' by Solomon Northup.

# JUNE 2026

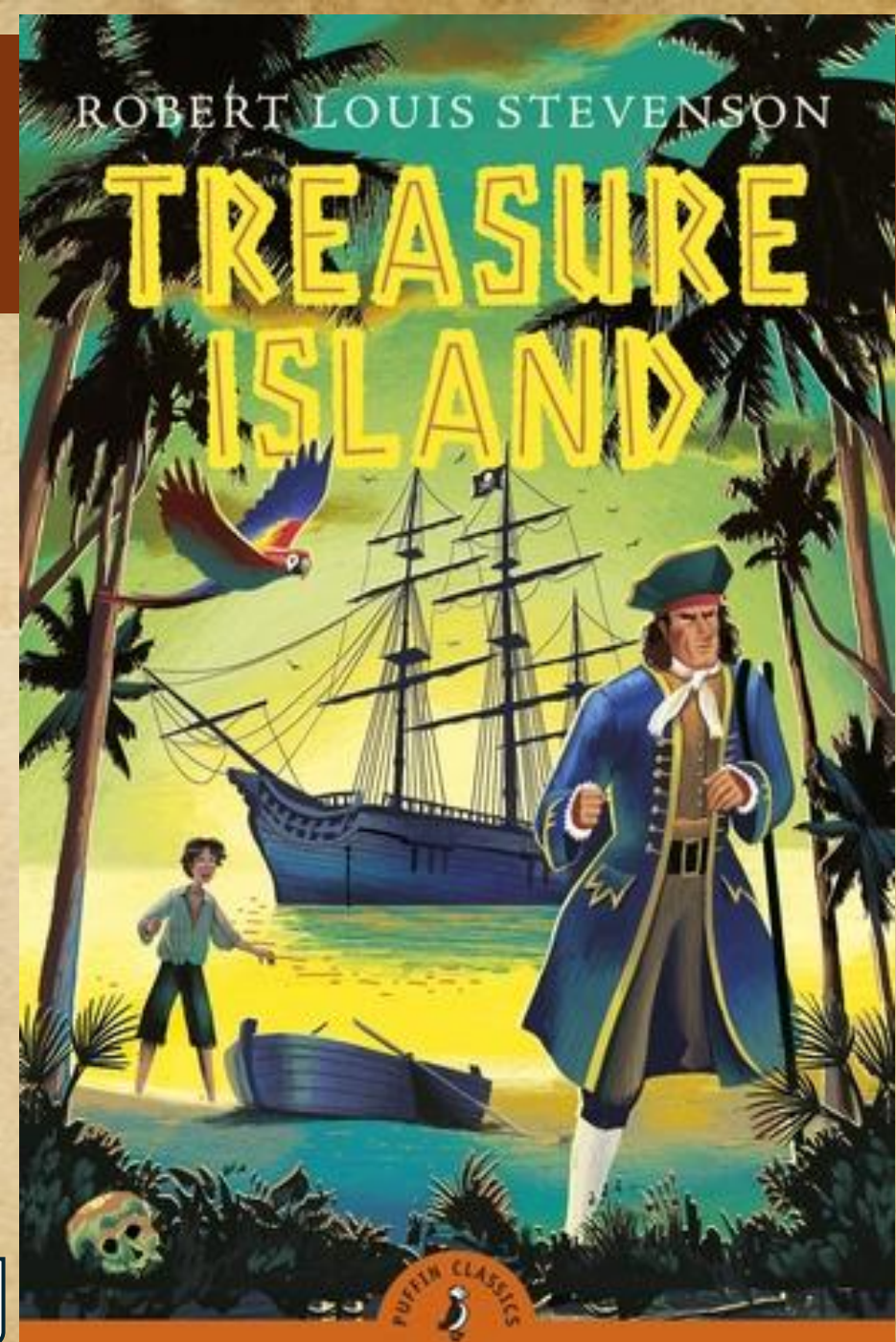
## THE BOOK OF THE MONTH IS...

*"Fifteen men on the dead man's chest— Yo-ho-ho, and a bottle of rum!"*

*Treasure Island* follows young Jim Hawkins as he discovers a pirate map, leading him and respectable adventurers on a voyage to find Captain Flint's buried treasure, only for most of the crew, led by the cunning Long John Silver, to mutiny, forcing Jim and his allies into a dangerous fight for survival and the treasure on the island.

From Jim's discovery at the Admiral Benbow Inn, the adventure takes in the dangerous sea voyage with treacherous pirates, the island confrontation, Jim's heroic actions, and the ultimate discovery and his return with the riches – the story highlights themes of bravery, greed, and betrayal.

The June 'Book of the Month' is chosen by Mr. Henshaw – Head Teacher (Jewellery Quarter Academy).

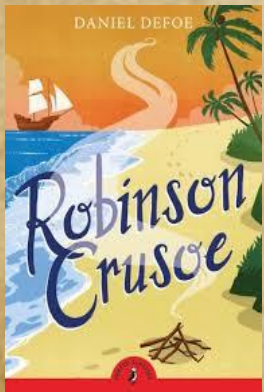


# ABOUT THE AUTHOR... Robert Louis Stevenson



- **Robert Louis Stevenson** (13 November 1850 – 3 December 1894); was a Scottish novelist, essayist, poet and travel writer.
- As well as writing 'Treasure Island', he also wrote the famous pirate story, 'Dr. Jekyll & Mr. Hyde'.
- After graduating in Law, Robert chose to become a writer.
- Although the book was published in 1883, it was set in the 1700's - a time of "buccaneers\* and buried gold" (\* a sea-adventurer). Jim's adventure is also considered a coming-of-age story\* (a journey from childhood to adulthood).
- Stevenson liked to travel a lot, but he eventually settled on the island of Samoa (South Pacific Ocean), where he died from a heart attack at the age of 44.

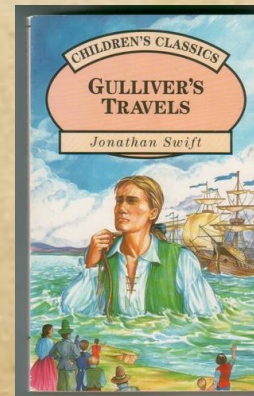
If you liked *'Treasure Island'*, you may also enjoy...



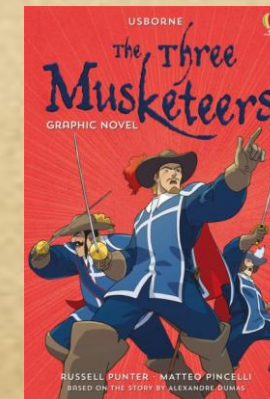
**'Robinson Crusoe'** by Daniel Defoe.



**'20,000 Leagues Under the Sea'** by Jules Verne.



**Gulliver's Travels'** by Jonathan Swift.



**'The Three Musketeers'** by Alexandre Dumas.

# JULY 2026

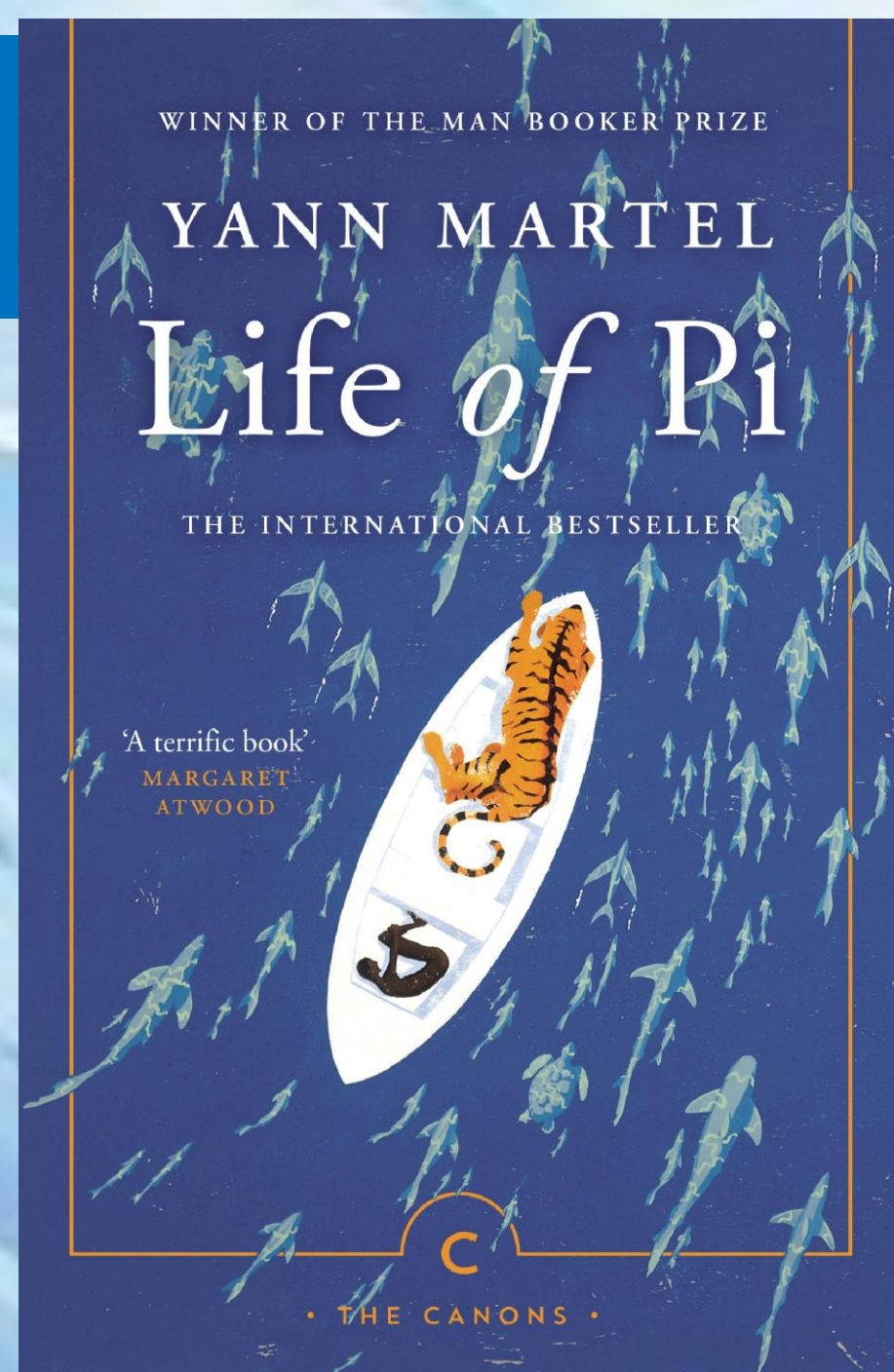
## THE BOOK OF THE MONTH IS...

**One boy, one boat, one tiger . . .**

**After the tragic sinking of a cargo ship, a solitary lifeboat remains bobbing on the wild, blue Pacific. The only survivors from the wreck are a sixteen-year-old boy named Pi, a hyena, a zebra (with a broken leg), a female orang-utan - and a 450-pound Royal Bengal tiger. The scene is set for one of the most extraordinary and best-loved works of fiction in recent years.**

**Yann Martel's *Life of Pi* is a dazzling work of imagination that will delight and amaze readers in equal measure. It is a triumph of storytelling and a tale that will, as one character puts it, “*make you believe in God*”.**

The July ‘*Book of the Month*’ has been chosen by Mr. Mann – Head Teacher (Arena Academy).

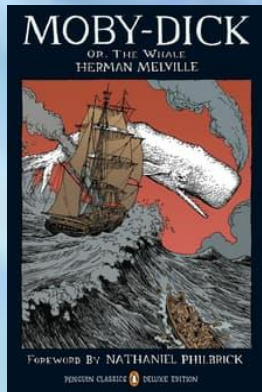


# ABOUT THE AUTHOR... YANN MARTEL



- **Yann Martel**, (born June 25, 1963) is a Canadian author who wrote the award-winning novel *'Life of Pi'*, which has sold more than 12 million copies worldwide.
- Martel was born in Salamanca, Spain, in 1963 to French-Canadian parents. Growing up, he lived around Europe before moving to Canada.
- *Life of Pi* was his second book, which was turned into an Oscar-winning film in 2012.
- *"... If we, citizens, do not support our artists, then we sacrifice our imagination on the altar of crude reality and we end up believing in nothing and having worthless dreams."* – Yann Martel.

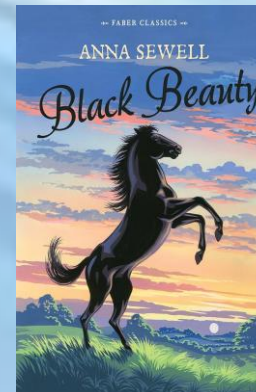
If you liked **'LIFE OF PI'**, you may also like.....



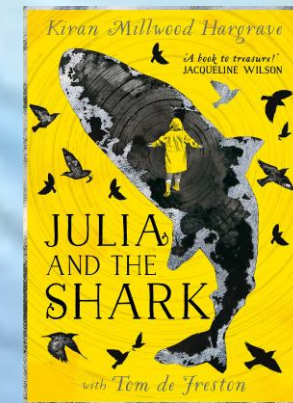
**'Moby-Dick'**  
by Herman  
Melville.



**'The Call of  
the Wild'** by  
Jack London.



**'Black  
Beauty'** by  
Anna Sewell.



**'Julia and the  
Shark'** by  
Kiran  
Millwood  
Hargrave.