

BROOKE WESTON BOOK BUSTERS SHADOWING GROUP











"I've just finished the book and as sad as the ending made me, the book was amazing. I have to say that this book is now my favourite book I've ever read. I'm probably going to buy it so I can read it all the time."



"This was a beautifully written book and I loved that it was unlike most books I have read."

- PHOEBE

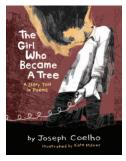






"I found this book to be stimulating, it immediately engrossed us in the lives of two separate people, using great contrast to portray the differences in lifestyle between them. It explores ideas, of love, loss, grief and family in a realistic manner. It was easy to get in to as the words flowed beautifully. Overall, an excellent read."

- MELISSA



"'The Girl Who Became a Tree' was incredible, littered with double meanings and two sided arguments. Although the poems at first glance seem separate, they overall helped build up the story of what goes through one persons head. The writing style along with the illustrations conveyed a series of complicated emotions. It was both easy to read, and understand. Amazing book, I would highly recommend."

- MELISSA



"I really enjoyed this book and it had an unexpected ending. It was also informative and I would read this again."

- PHOEBE

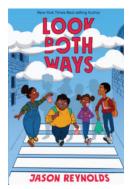






"I really enjoyed this book, it highlights the emotions of almost losing someone."

- ALVIN



"Look Both Ways was an interesting book to read. A story about multiple kids and their journey home after being dismissing by the school bell at the end of the day. A fun and wacky story with a good meaning behind it."

— RYAN



"A free verse novel about grief, family secrets and how poverty can limit people's opportunities. Told from two different perspectives; Camino living in Dominican Republic and Yahaira in New York City, two girls both living two very different lives, united in grief and with more than they think in common with each other."







"A powerful free verse novel dealing with complex issues of domestic violence, coercion and bullying. Amber is trapped by the expectations that have been placed on her and although appearing to be compliant she rebels against the rules and finds empowerment in her love for running. An inspiring read about resilience and rebellion and a story that will stay with you long after finishing."

- MS MCCABE



"An exquisitely written story set in the wake of the Great Depression in 1930's America. Family life for Ellie changes dramatically when her parents lose their jobs and they have to move and set up home in the Mountains. When her father is seriously injured the dynamics of the family change and Ellie is determined to 'heal' her father in any way she can. The story explores the relationship between humans and the natural world and teaches important messages about the power of kindness, tolerance and the dangers of being judgemental."

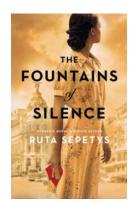
- MS MCCABE



"A heartwarming, magical story about growing up, discovering who you are and the importance of family and friendship. I enjoyed the 'Once Upon a Time..' fairy tales interspersed throughout the story and I was delighted to see the House With Chicken Legs make an appearance. A great cast of characters which includes talking animals!"

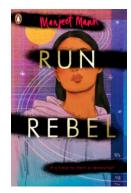






"I loved 'The Fountains Of Silence' due to the main focus of a historical era of dictatorship during the Spanish Civil War. The main plot line stayed the same throughout the entire book but included multiple different stories of different characters. This showed me the pain and struggle some characters such as Ana had to hide and the perseverance and curiosity the character Daniel had. I give this book a 5/5 and definitely recommend this book to those who love the historical genre."

- DANIELLE



"This book is really different from the other ones i have read and is quite inspirational. A great book and i am glad i have read it."

- PHOEBE



"This book was a really good book and has a great story line and an excellent writing style."

- PHOEBE







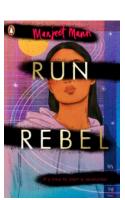
"An interesting coming-of-age novel set in Ireland during the long hot summer of 1976. The story is loosely based on one of Irelands most famous legends Táin Bó Cuailnge. The arrival of a dolphin in Carrig Bay sparks old rivalries with locals from Ross town. The romance between Emer and 'Dog' blossoms nicely and I enjoyed the alternative perspective on the long-standing rivalry from Gus but I was disappointed with the ending and felt it was rushed. Definitely an older read with mature content."

— MS. MCCABE

FOUNTAINS
SILENCE
RUTA SEPETYS

"This book was a really good piece of historical fiction, it is really informative and i would definitely read it again."

— PHOESE



"'Run, Rebel' explored domestic abuse in a way that showed how it feels to be in a situation. It portrayed emotion beautifully and it's poet format made it a faster read than expected. It deals with strong topics of growing up in a disadvantaged home, domestic abuse, bullying and gaining confidence as one grows into adulthood. I would recommend this book to anyone who loves reading as a whole."

- ISABELLA-ANNE







"This book explored the way that some people handle grief in a way that is interesting to interpret. The use of poetry and metaphors demonstrated different emotions, and I would recommend this book to anyone who loves poetry-format books, and for anyone who finds comfort in reading about similar difficult experiences. Overall, I loved this book."

- ISABELLA-ANNE



"'Clap When You Land' is a riveting novel that I would recommend to anyone who loves slow reveals or books that handle topics like grief. It's poem form makes it easier to read and less-word heavy, and shows the story in a different way. I struggled to put it down, and am glad this is on 2021's shortlist."

- ISABELLA-ANNE



"This book took an interesting turn of events in many ways. It explores the themes of abandonment, being different and discovering your true, unique identity. From human to bear, this story is truly magical and very heartwarming."

- DANIELLE







"This book is great if you are good at reading in between the lines. The legend of Daphne manipulated into a girl who feels the unbearable loss of her father is a great concept. I would recommend this book to practically anyone!"

- RYAN



"This book was an incredibly good book with deep themes that made me think deeply about the natural world and healing, both mentally and physically."

- PHOEBE



"A collection of ten stories about different groups of children on their walks home from Latimer Middle School. Themes of friendship and compassion weave the stories together with the events and characters from one story often cropping up more than once. Unique stories about ordinary children all facing different challenges in their lives."

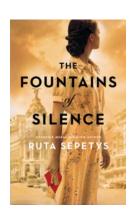






"A wonderful collection of poems that come together to tell an emotional and multi-layered story about a young girl coping with the loss of her father. Based on the Greek myth of Daphne and Apollo, interweaved into a modern story of grief and loss. The story follows Daphne as she isolates herself from family and friends and seeks solitude in the Library and her phone. She enters a forest through a bookcase where only her memories of her father exist. Daphne starts to take 'root' and soon realises there is more she can take hope from in the real world with family and friends who want to love her. A clever and outstanding piece of story telling."

- MS MCCABE



"A captivating and eye-opening piece of historical fiction about fear, cruelty, secrets and silence. Set in Madrid in the 1950's during the aftermath of the Spanish Civil War the story reveals the difficulties faced by Spaniards living under the oppressive regime of the dictatorship of General Franco. The central part of the story is about the true hidden history of babies being abducted and sold by the Church to the highest bidder. It feels as if it should be part of a dystopian novel but it really did happen! The story is entwined with a beautiful love story between Daniel the American graduate and budding photo journalist and Ana the Spanish hotel maid who is living in crushing poverty. The connections between the characters were convincing and consistent throughout. Sepety's work is always excellently researched and I enjoyed the snippets of oral testimony from American officials describing the relationship the US established with Spain during that time. The writing style is easy to follow with short chapters and multiple narrators. An important story to tell and a great read."