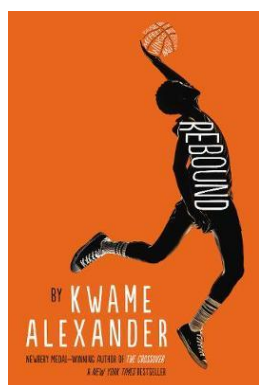




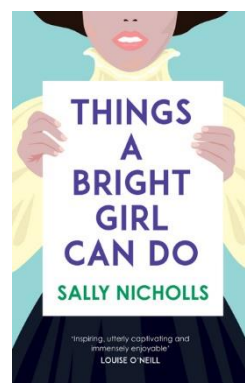
## Rebound by Kwame Alexander (12+)



**Rebound is a stunning coming-of-age novel in verse about basketball, family and staying true to yourself.**

It's 1988 and twelve year old Charlie Bell is mourning the loss of his father and drifting into trouble. He isn't thrilled when he's separated from his best (girl) friend and packed off to spend the summer holidays with his Grandparents in another state. Long days of chores interrupted only by basketball games stretch ahead – a game Charlie doesn't particularly like let alone play. Over the course of a long hot summer and under the tutelage of ornery Granddaddy and cousin Roxie, a gifted player herself, an unexpected talent emerges in 'Chuck' on the court, but can he keep to the rules when he's off it?

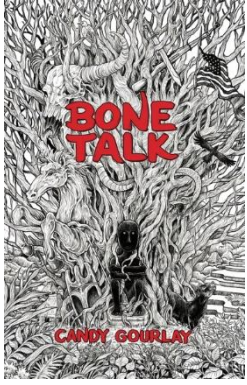
## Things A Bright Girl Can Do by Sally Nicholls (10+)



**An inspiring tale for young women (and men!) using history to explore the mores of society - and highlight how much society has (or hasn't) changed**

In 1914 the world stood on the edge of change, but in Britain women still had no vote. Although Evelyn is rich and clever she doesn't want the life set out for her, she'd prefer freedom and choice and the opportunity to go to university even if it means paying the highest price alongside her fellow Suffragettes. Meanwhile May is campaigning tirelessly for women's votes with other anti-violence suffragists. When May meets Nell, who has grown up in hardship, she finds a kindred spirit and together they dream of a world where all kinds of women can find their place.

## **Bone Talk** by *Candy Gourlay* (11+)



**Evocative, universally resonant adventure set among a remote Filipino tribe**

Samkad lives in a tribe deep in the Philippine jungle at the end of the nineteenth century, and has never encountered anyone from outside his own tribe before. He's about to become a man, and while he's desperate to grow up, he's worried that this will take him away from his best friend, Little Luki. However, Samkad's world is about to change utterly. A strange man with white skin arrives in his village, and Samkad discovers the brother he never knew he had. A brother who tells him of people called 'Americans'. Americans who are bringing war, and burning, to Samuel's home.

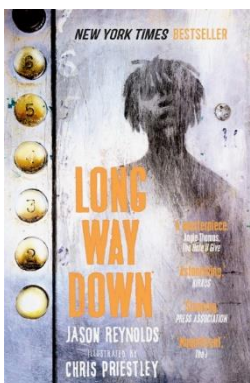
## **The Poet X** by *Elizabeth Acevedo* (12+)



**Powerful, finely crafted verse . . . Readers will yearn to finish this verse novel in a single sitting, but its echoes will remain with them much longer**

Xiomara is proud, strong and creative. She stoop-sits and watches life as it unfolds and unravels in her Harlem neighbourhood, storing up stories and images for her slam poetry. She is an artist in the making, who scopes out the world around her and tries to make sense of where she fits within her family and community. A devout, zealous mother, a secretive twin brother and a father who is largely absent all come under her scrutiny. When Xiomara falls in love for the first time, she not only has to hide her writing but her feelings. The devastating consequences of living a lie resound throughout this compelling debut novel.

## **Long Way Down** by *Jason Reynolds* (12+)



**This haunting, lyrical, powerful verse novel will blow you away**

After Will's brother, Shawn, is shot in a gang crime, he knows the next steps. Don't cry. Don't snitch. Get revenge. So he gets in the lift with Shawn's gun, determined to follow The Rules. Only when the lift doors opens, Buck walks in, Will's friend who died years ago. And Dani, who was shot years before that. As more people from his past arrive, Will has to ask himself if he really knows what he's doing. Will he join these ghosts of gun violence?

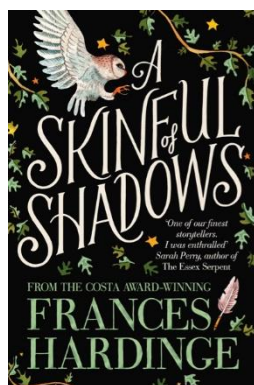
## The Land of Neverendings by Kate Saunders (8+)



A rip-roaring adventure that also gives an honest portrayal of grief for young readers, and shows us that whilst sadness does exist in the world, it doesn't have to cancel out happiness, or silliness, even when you lose someone you love.

What if there exists a world powered by imagination? A world of silliness, where humans and their toys live on long after they've left the Hard World . . . and what if the door between that world and this one was broken? Welcome to the Land of Neverendings. Mourning the death of her much-loved sister, Emily finds herself having the most curious dreams in which soft toys came alive and do the most extraordinary things. When Ruth, a neighbour whose son died as a child, dreams the same things, the pair begin an adventure in which the worlds of reality and storytelling and make-believe seem to flow together effortlessly and the absurd becomes the everyday. For both Emily and Ruth, learning to laugh again at the happenings in the imaginary world of Smokeroom provides them with exactly the comfort and imaginary release they so badly need.

## A Skinful of Shadows by Frances Hardinge (12+)

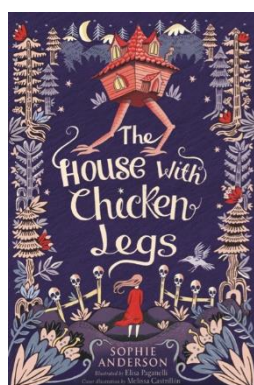


Tense and creepy supernatural story set in an often ignored historical period - full of ideas and amazing writing

It is the reign of Charles I and a time of intrigue and plotting, when the nation's great families are divided between King and Parliament, when rumours of witchcraft abound, and disease carries off wealthy and poor with equal disregard. It is Makepeace Lightfoot's England. When Makepeace's mother is killed during a mob demonstration, Makepeace is sent to her father's family home. Grizehayes hold one terrible secret from which Makepeace's mother tried to protect her. She gradually comes to understand her own gift – the ability to receive and host spirits.

It is a gift shared by members of her father's family and their way of ensuring the family legacy. Learning to control it is Makepeace's only way of saving herself.

## The House with Chicken Legs by Sophie Anderson (8+)



This sparkling debut weaves the captivating folklore of Baba Yaga with the thrills of a classic venturing-out-into-the-world quest, replete with primal conflicts, tantalising twists and an unforgettable protagonist that readers will truly root for.

Twelve-year-old Marinka yearns to live in a normal house and to have a normal family, but instead her house has chicken legs, and her grandmother is a Yaga, a Guardian of The Gate between this world and the next. Worse still, in Marinka's eyes, is that it's her destiny to become a Yaga herself, to take on the duty of giving the dead one last wonderful evening before they return to the stars. Baba Yaga has long warned Marinka of the dangers of venturing too far in the world of the living, but her desire to have friendships that last more than one night is so strong that she's prepared to risk everything.