



Books for big change:

transition to secondary school



Going to secondary school is a big change, and it's natural to feel nervous, excited, or just confused! Here are our favourite books that tackle the theme of big change.

10 top picks

Fiction

- *When Secrets Set Sail* by Sita Brahmachari: a magical and moving adventure story about unlocking stories and secrets of the past.
- *The Gifted, The Talented, and Me* by William Sutcliffe: a brilliantly funny book about fitting in, falling out and staying true to your own averageness.
- *Jelly* by Jo Cotterill: a real-world story about body positivity, humour as self-defence, and celebrating who you are.
- *Arctic Star* by Tom Palmer: a gripping story of courage and survival about three young Royal Navy recruits on their first mission.

Graphic novels

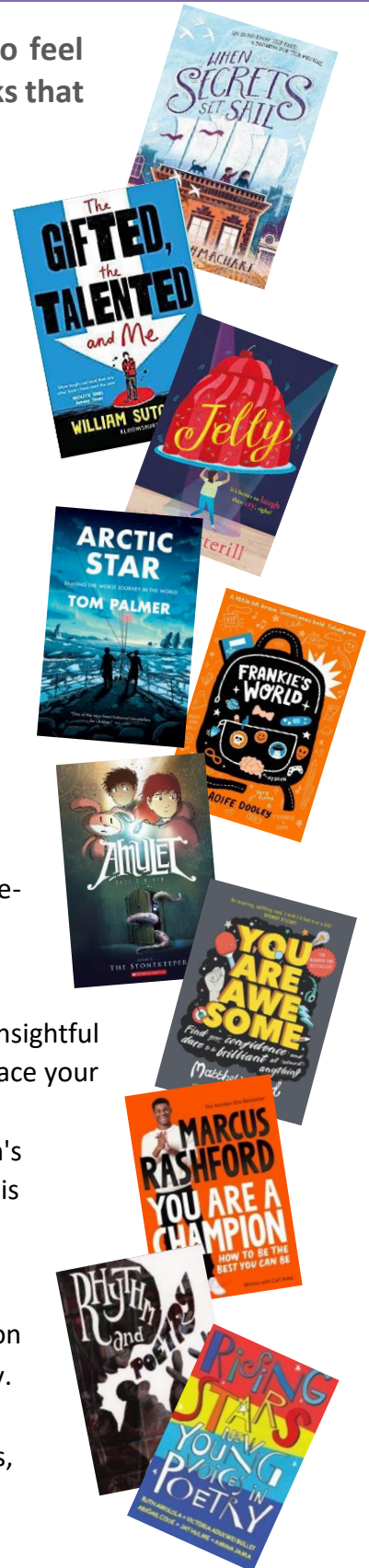
- *Frankie's World* by Aoife Dooley: A two-colour graphic novel offering a unique perspective on Autism, told with humour and heart.
- *Amulet* by Kazu Kibuishi: a world of man-eating demons, a mechanical rabbit, a giant robot, and two ordinary children on a life-or-death mission.

Non-fiction

- *You are Awesome* by Matthew Syed and Toby Triumph: Practical, insightful and positive, this is the book to help you build resilience and embrace your mistakes.
- *You are a Champion* by Marcus Rashford and Carl Anka: The nation's favourite footballer shows how you can achieve your dreams, in this positive and inspiring guide for life.

Poetry

- *Rhythm and Poetry* by Karl Nova: a beautiful and powerful collection of poems inspired by rap and hip hop, that reflect on Karl's journey.
- *Rising stars: new young voices in poetry* by various: An anthology showcasing the work of five debut poets from diverse backgrounds, all aged 25 and under.



More books

There are so many great books that tackle big changes! You can find these in the local library.

Fiction

- *How I Saved the World in a Week* by Polly Ho Yen
- *Asha and the Spirit Bird* by Jasbinder Bilan
- *Goldfish Boy* by Lisa Thompson
- *October, October* by Katya Balen
- *Wonder* by R. J. Palacio
- *Me, My Dad and the End of the Rainbow* by Benjamin Dean
- *All the Things That Could go Wrong* by Stewart Forster
- *The Thirteenth Home of Noah Bradley* by Amber Lee Dodd
- *The Unforgotten Coat* by Frank Cottrell-Boyce
- *Can You See Me?* by Libby Scott and Rebecca Westcott
- *Running on Empty* by S. E. Durrant
- *The Amazing Edie Eckhart* by Rosie Jones
- *When I See Blue* by Lily Bailey
- *My Brother Ben* by Peter Canvas
- *Splash* by Charli Howard

Graphic Novels

- *Guts* by Raina Telgemeier
- *The Arrival* by Shaun Tan
- *Has Anyone Seen Archie Ebbs?* By Simon Packham
- *When Stars Are Scattered* by Victoria Jamieson and Omar Mohamed
- *New Kid* by Jerry Craft
- *City of Dragons: The Awakening Storm* by Jaimal Yogis & Vivian Truong

Non-Fiction

- *Love Your Body* by Jessica Sanders and Carol Rosetti
- *Be Resilient: How to Build a Strong Teenage Mind for Tough Times* by Nicola Morgan
- *Go Big: The Secondary School Survival Guide* by Matthew Burton

Poetry

- *Poetry for a Change* by various
- *She is Fierce* by various
- *Everything All at Once* by Stephen Camden
- *A Hurricane in my Head* by Matt Abbott