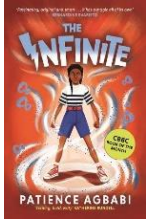


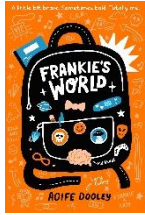


SWGS LRC
Neurodivergence
Book List

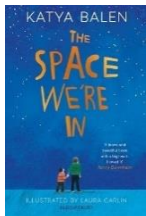
JUNIOR FICTION (suitable for all ages)



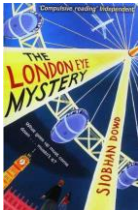
The Infinite by Patrice Agbabi – Elle is a Leapling, one of the special children born on 29 February who possess The Gift of moving through time. Both the main character and several of her friends are autistic.



Frankie's World by Aoife Dooley – Frankie knows she's not like anyone else in her class: she's different, but she can't quite figure out why... This graphic novel offers a unique perspective on autism, told with humour and heart. The author is also autistic.



The Space We're In by Katya Balen – Frank has trouble navigating his relationship with his younger brother Max, who is autistic. When tragedy strikes Frank must find a way to repair their family and love Max for who he is. The author has extensive experience working with autistic children.



The London Eye Mystery by Siobhan Dowd – When Ted's cousin disappears from a pod mid-air on the London Eye he and his sister must follow a trail of clues across the city to find him. The main character is autistic.



How to Fly With Broken Wings by Jane Elson – Willem has two important aims in life: to fly and to make two new friends his own age. But Finn and his gang of bullies are getting in the way, until one day Sasha Barton steps in to help. The main character has Asperger's Syndrome.



Mockingbird by Kathryn Erskine – Since her brother's death in a school shooting, Caitlin, who is autistic, has no one to explain the world to her. A moving and perceptive story of coming to terms with grief and learning to make friends.



The Extraordinary Adventures of Alice Tonks by Emily Kenny – A strange boarding school, missing animals, secret organisations and smugglers all feature in this entertaining mystery. The author and main character are autistic.



Scarlet Ibis by Gill Lewis – When a fire leaves twelve-year-old Scarlet in a different foster home than her autistic little brother, she tracks a bird to find her way back to him. The main character is also a carer to both her mother and brother.



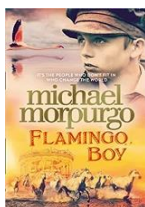
A Kind of Spark by Elle McNicoll – An autistic girl campaigns to establish a memorial to witch trials in her Scottish town. The author is autistic and all of her books feature neurodivergent lead characters. Look out too for her fantasy duology Like a Charm.



Show Us Who You Are by Elle McNicoll – A sinister organisation threatens to use AI to make deeply harmful changes to humanity in this fast-paced adventure. The main character is autistic and her best friend has ADHD.



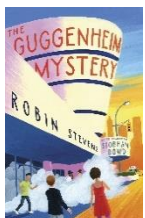
How To Look for a Lost Dog by Ann M Martin – 11-year-old Rose is autistic and struggles to understand her classmates. But when her father gives her a stray dog, which she names Rain, the dog becomes her best friend, her anchor in a confusing world.



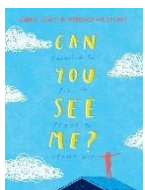
Flamingo Boy by Michael Morpurgo – In World War II an autistic boy lives in a small town in the South of France. When Germans take the town, the boy finds an injured flamingo. Can he and a kind German soldier mend what has been broken?



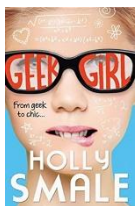
Counting by 7s by Holly Goldberg Sloan – An autistic girl's life is tragically changed following a terrible accident, but Willow discovers the power of being different and finds a place she can truly belong.



The Guggenheim Mystery by Robin Stevens – When Ted's Aunt Gloria is framed for the theft of a painting he must race through the streets of New York to solve the mystery and discover the real culprit. The main character is autistic.



Can You See Me? By Libby Scott & Rebecca Westcott – Tally is starting secondary school and is anxious about many things... Written in collaboration with an autistic girl, a powerful and highly relatable story about fitting in and being yourself. Look out for the three other books in the series.

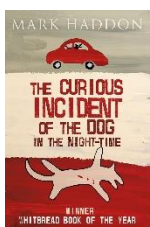


Geek Girl series by Holly Smale – The misadventures of Harriet Manners, who grabs the chance to reinvent herself when she is spotted by a model scout. Author Holly Smale didn't realise that she or her protagonist Harriet were autistic until she was diagnosed as an adult. A feel-good favourite.

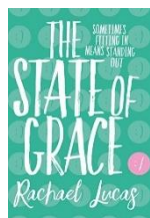


Dandelion Clocks by Rebecca Westcott – An 11 year-old girl's life is turned upside down when she discovers her mum has a terminal illness. The main character's brother is autistic.

YOUNG ADULT BOOKS (Year 8 and above, Year 7 with parental permission)

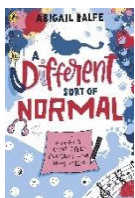


The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime by Mark Haddon – A murder mystery novel like no other. When 15 year-old Christopher finds a neighbour's dog murdered he sets out on a terrifying journey that will turn his world upside down. The main character is autistic.

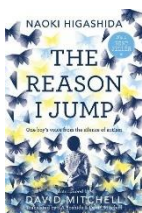


The State of Grace by Rachel Lucas – Whip-smart, hilarious and unapologetically honest, a heart-warming story of one girl trying to work out where she fits in, and whether she even wants to. The author and main character are autistic.

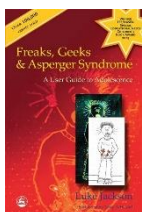
NON-FICTION BOOKS



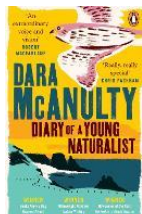
A Different Sort of Normal by Abigail Balfe – Writer and illustrator Abigail Balfe charts her experiences of growing up neurodivergent, offering candid and powerful insights into autism. Warm, funny and uplifting, find this book in the graphic novel section.



The Reason I Jump by Naoki Higashida – A Japanese teenager shares his extensive personal experience of autism, each short chapter aiming to provide insight into a particular aspect of autistic behaviour. A film based on the book was released in 2020.



Freaks, Geeks and Asperger Syndrome by Luke Jackson – A funny and insightful guide to Asperger's Syndrome. Written by the autistic author when he was just 13 years old, we learn about his family life, school, relationships, strategies and aspirations.



Diary of a Young Naturalist by Dara McAnulty– The teenage star of BBC's Countryfile Dara McAnulty opens up about his autism and its interrelation to his love of the natural world.

Use the following search terms on Heritage Online:

Neurodivergent characters
Neurodivergent authors
Autism

FEBRUARY 2023