

**FEDERATION OF CHILDREN'S BOOK GROUPS CHILDREN'S BOOK AWARD 2023  
BOOKS FOR OLDER READERS**

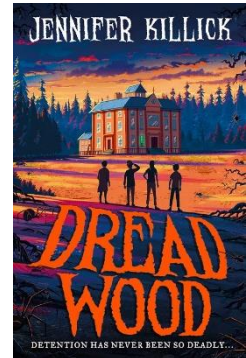
**Dread Wood**

Written by Jennifer Killick

Published by Farshore

ISBN 9780755503711

Forced to attend detention, Angelo, Hallie, Gustav and Naira think that things can't get any worse. However, when their teacher is dragged underground, things start to get really scary, and their only hope of survival is to work as a team. A perfect balance of humour, suspense and creepiness, 'Dread Wood' is gripping from the first page. Although not a natural friendship grouping, the four children find themselves bound together by circumstances. Friendship and 'fitting in' are at the heart of this story.



**The Light In Everything**

Written by Katya Balen

Published by Bloomsbury

ISBN 9781526622983

Tom and Zofia, both from broken families for different reasons, are thrust together when his mum and her dad fall in love. Their dislike of each other spirals out of control after they all move in together. With blended families becoming more common, the author sensitively examines the impact on children who are already trying to deal with losing a parent. Domestic abuse, bereavement, bullying and trust issues are all important parts of the story but, ultimately, this is a heart-warming novel about families, love and friendship.



**While The Storm Rages**

Written by Phil Earle

Published by Andersen Press

ISBN 9781839132056

Set right at the start of WWII, this novel focuses on the government directive that pets should be humanely put down, rather than risk them being injured during bombing raids or invasion. Noah and Clem's determination that this is not going to happen to their dogs results in a rollicking good adventure story. The book is not all sweetness and light so younger readers may find it distressing as the author does not shy away from depicting the harsh reality of war.

