FEDERATION OF CHILDREN'S BOOK GROUPS CHILDREN'S BOOK AWARD 2024 BOOKS FOR OLDER READERS

Code Name Kingfisher

Written by Liz Kessler Published by Simon & Schuster ISBN 978-1398512498



A beautifully told exploration of change and loss which shuttles between the present day and the rise of Nazi power in wartime Holland. In the present, Liv, struggling with friendships, finds a connection with her grandmother. This is interwoven with the dramatic story of a Jewish family under Nazi occupation and the work of the Dutch resistance. The book doesn't shy away from the realities of war but multiple narrators and short chapters make it an accessible read for ages 11 and up.

Deadlock

Written by Simon Fox Published by Nosy Crow ISBN 978-1839944420



Picking locks and breaking into safes just seems like harmless fun when Archie's policeman dad shows him how, but then a diamond necklace goes missing and his dad is arrested. Archie decides that he can use his talent to prove his dad's innocence. Soon he's embroiled in a criminal underworld and a web of deceit with no idea of who he can trust. This hard-hitting thriller will keep you on the edge of your seat as Archie looks for a way to clear his dad.

The Final Year

Written by Matt Goodfellow and illustrated by Joe Todd-Stanton Published by Otter-Barry Books ISBN 978-1915659040



A moving verse novel about Nate, who is navigating family and friendship issues in a tough final year of primary school. Highly accessible, lyrical and life affirming, the reader shares Nate's innermost thoughts and can really connect with the pain, anger and love that he feels. In a beautiful demonstration of the power of reading, Nate's teacher introduces him to David Almond's Skellig, where the similar themes of grief and families in crisis help him process what he is going through.