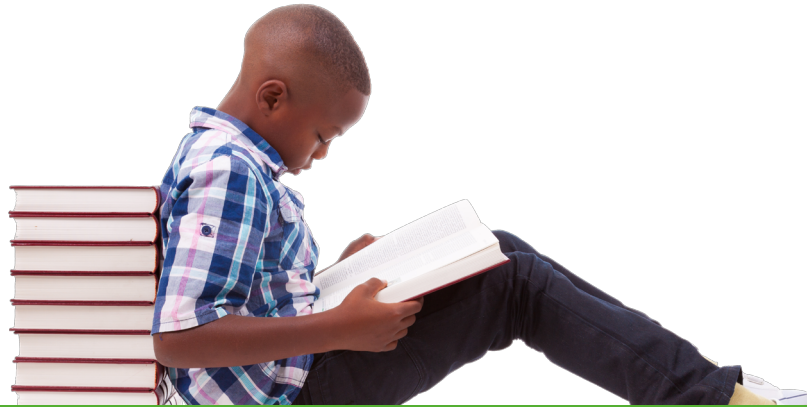


# STEP 2:

## Reading their way to literacy



FICTION

# 20 UNPUTDOWNABLE SERIES

## FOR CAPABLE READERS

Everyone knows the power of getting hooked by a truly gripping series. You just can't wait to get your hands on the next one. It's worse than a packet of Tim Tams! These worked their magic for me and I hope they do the same for the children in your world as well.

1



### **The Lost Sapphire Series** by Belinda Murrell

Published: Random House

*What is the fascinating secret of a long-lost sapphire ring?*

*Marli is staying with her dad in Melbourne, and missing her friends. Then she discovers a mystery – a crumbling, abandoned mansion is to be returned to her family after ninety years. Marli sneaks into the locked garden to explore, and meets Luca, a boy who has his own connection to Riversleigh. A peacock hatbox, a box camera and a key on a velvet ribbon provide clues to what happened long ago . . .*

*In 1922, Violet is fifteen. Her life is one of privilege, with boating parties, picnics and extravagant balls. An army of servants looks after the family – including new chauffeur Nikolai Petrovich, a young Russian émigré. Over one summer, Violet must decide what is important to her. Who will her sister choose to marry? What will Violet learn about Melbourne's slums as she defies her father's orders to help a friend? And what breathtaking secret is Nikolai hiding?*

*Violet is determined to control her future. But what will be the price of her rebellion?*

2



### **Kensy and Max Series** by Jacqueline Harvey

Published: Random House

*Introducing Kensy and Max – an action-packed spy-adventure series for girls and boys from bestselling author Jacqueline Harvey! What would you do if you woke up in a strange place? If your whole life changed in the blink of an eye and you had no idea what was going on?*

*Twins Kensy and Max Grey's lives are turned upside down when they are whisked off to London, and discover their parents are missing. As the situation unfolds, so many things don't add up: their strange new school, the bizarre grannies on the street, the coded messages they keep finding and the feeling that, all around them, adults are keeping secrets. Things can never go back to the way they were, but the twins are determined to uncover the truth!*

3



## Grimsdon Series by Deborah Abela

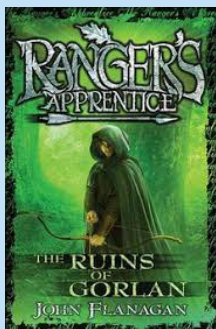
Published: Penguin Books

*Grimsdon is in ruins. Three years ago a massive wave broke its barriers and the sea flooded this grand city. Most were saved, some were lost – and some were left behind.*

*Isabella Charm and her best friend, Griffin, live with three other children in the top of an opulent mansion. They've survived with the help of Griffin's brilliant inventions, Isabella's fighting skills and their vow to look after each other.*

*But what will happen when a newcomer arrives in his flying machine? Grimsdon is full of hidden perils, from bounty hunters to sneaker waves. Could Xavier's daredevil risks put all their lives in danger?*

4

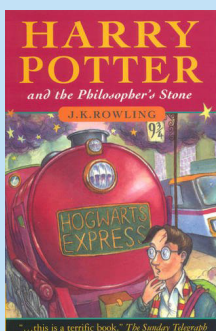


## Ranger's Apprentice Series by John Flanagan

Published: Penguin Books

*Meet fifteen-year-old Will, a foundling who is convinced that his father died a mighty warrior in battle. As Choosing Day commences, when young men and women become forever bound to a vocation, he hopes against hope to honour his father's legacy and be selected for Battleschool training. Instead, he's inducted into the ranks of the mysterious Ranger Corps. At first a reluctant recruit, Will gradually becomes drawn to the skills and secret ways of the Rangers.*

5



## Harry Potter Series by J.K. Rowling

Published: Bloomsbury Publishing

*Harry Potter has never even heard of Hogwarts when the letters start dropping on the doormat at number four, Privet Drive. Addressed in green ink on yellowish parchment with a purple seal, they are swiftly confiscated by his grisly aunt and uncle. Then, on Harry's eleventh birthday, a great beetle-eyed giant of a man called Rubeus Hagrid bursts in with some astonishing news: Harry Potter is a wizard, and he has a place at Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry. An incredible adventure is about to begin!*

6

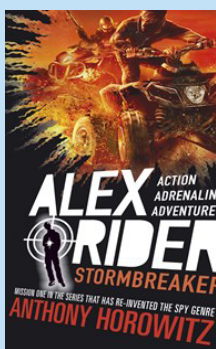


## Grace's Secret Series by Louise Park

Published: Berbay Publishing

*When a bitter betrayal and small town gossip propel Grace and her mother from coastal Australia to a new beginning at a picturesque Victorian-era lifestyle village in the borderlands of England and Scotland, twelve-year-old Grace is convinced she's left her battle wounds behind. But unfinished business has a way of following you, even across the seas, just as though you'd tucked it neatly in your suitcases along with your crystal collection and favourite books.*

7



## Alex Rider Series by Anthony Horowitz

Published: Walker Books

*The first book in the number one bestselling Alex Rider series. In the first book in the number one bestselling Alex Rider series by Anthony Horowitz, fourteen-year-old Alex is forcibly recruited into MI6. Armed with secret gadgets, he is sent to investigate Herod Sayle, a man who is offering state-of-the-art Stormbreaker computers to every school in the country. But the teenage spy soon finds himself in mortal danger.*

8

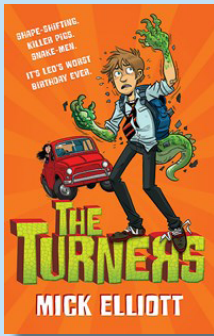


## Ruby Redfort Series by Lauren Child

Published: Harper Collins Publishers

Hey, buster! Normal life is a total yawn. Break out of boredom with Ruby Redfort, the super-awesome teen detective series from multi-million-copy bestseller Lauren Child... Want to know more? Of course you do, bozo. Here's the low-down on Ruby Redfort: she's a genius code-cracker, a daring detective, and a gadget-laden special agent who just happens to be a thirteen-year-old girl. She and her slick sidekick butler, Hitch, foil crimes and get into loads of scrapes with evil villains, but they're always ice-cool in a crisis. In this first book, we go right back to Ruby's beginnings as an agent. When an anonymous caller sets Ruby a challenge, it's not long before she finds her way into the HQ of the most secret of secret agencies – SPECTRUM. They need her help to crack a code but her desk job soon spirals into an all-out action adventure, as Ruby uncovers the dastardly plans of the formidable Fool's Gold Gang...

9



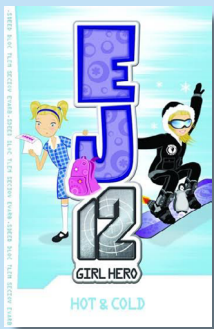
## The Turners Series by Mick Elliott

Published: Hachette Australia

Leo Lennox has an epic problem: it's his thirteenth birthday and he has just grown a tail.

You'd think that growing a tail in the middle of the school library would be the worst thing that could happen to you, but Leo is about to discover that things can always get worse - and a whole lot weirder. Now, as he discovers an unthinkable family secret, Leo must team up with his infuriating older sister to escape snake-skinned henchmen, ancient shape-shifters and a whispering villain determined to feed him to a pack of genetically engineered killer pigs - all while trying to control his new shape-shifting powers.

10

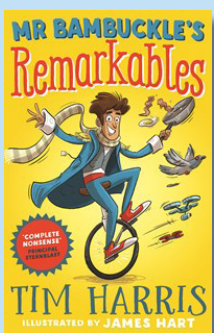


## EJ12 Girl Hero Series by Susannah McFarlane

Published: Scholastic Australia

Special Agent EJ12 cracks codes and foils evil plans all over the world. Emma Jacks worries about mean girls, gym comps and not having perfect hair. EJ12 is Emma Jacks. Saving the world is the easy part! The heat is on as someone seems to be melting the polar ice cap. Special Agent EJ12 needs to crack the codes and keep her cool to put the evil-doer's plan back on ice. That's the easy part. As EJ12, Emma Jacks can do anything. So why can't she handle the school Ice Queen of Mean, Nema? Perhaps she can after all.

11

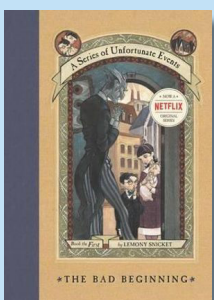


## Mr Bambuckles Remarkables Series by Tim Harris

Published: Random House Australia

When Mr Bambuckle arrives, laughs, thrills, silliness and imagination are guaranteed to follow! He's the first teacher to cook us breakfast. Is his spark-maker beetle really that dangerous? I heard he drank yak's milk in Mongolia. He's the only person who isn't afraid of Canteen Carol. My mum says he used to be in the circus. The class in room 12B has a new teacher, and nothing is ever going to be the same.

12



## A Series of Unfortunate Events Series by Lemony Snicket

Published: Harper Collins Australia

Violet, Klaus, and Sunny Baudelaire are intelligent children. They are charming, and resourceful, and have pleasant facial features. Unfortunately, they are exceptionally unlucky. There is nothing to be found in the pages of these books but misery and despair. You still have time to choose something else to read. But if you must know what unpleasanties befall the charming and clever Baudelaire children read on.

The three youngsters encounter a greedy and repulsive villain, itchy clothing, a disastrous fire, a plot to steal their fortune and cold porridge for breakfast. Then again, why trouble yourself with the unfortunate resolutions?

13



## Scarlet and Ivy- The lost twin Series by Sophie Cleverly

Published: Harper Collins Publishers

When troublesome Scarlet mysteriously disappears from Rookwood School, terrifying Miss Fox invites her quiet twin sister Ivy to 'take her place'. Ivy reluctantly agrees in the hopes of finding out what happened to her missing sister. For only at Rookwood will Ivy be able to unlock the secrets of Scarlet's disappearance, through a scattered trail of diary pages carefully hidden all over the school. Can Ivy solve the mystery before Miss Fox suspects? Or before an even greater danger presents itself? The first in a mesmerising new series – perfect for fans of Holly Webb and Harry Potter and mysteries that demand to be solved!

14



## Friday Barnes Girl Detective Series by R.A Spratt

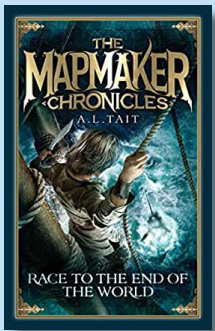
Published: Random House Publishing

When girl detective Friday Barnes solves a bank robbery she uses the reward money to send herself to the most exclusive boarding school in the country, Highcrest Academy. On arrival, Friday is shocked to discover the respectable school is actually a hotbed of crime.

She's soon investigating everything from disappearing homework to the Yeti running around the school swamp. That's when she's not dealing with her own problem - Ian Wainscott, the handsomest boy in school, who inexplicably hates Friday and loves nasty pranks.

Can Friday solve Highcrest Academy's many strange mysteries, including the biggest mystery of all - what's the point of high school?

15



## Mapmaker Chronicles Series by Allison Tait

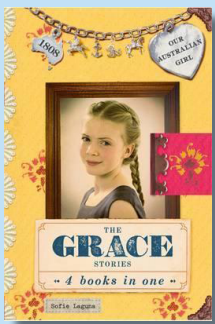
Published: Hachette Australia

Adventure and danger lie just off the edge of the map in this swashbuckling trilogy.

Quinn's older brothers may long for adventure, but he is content with his quiet life on the farm. Destiny, however, has other plans.

The king is determined to create the first map of the world and has scoured the kingdom for boys who could become mapmakers. When Quinn is chosen for the king's training school, he's amazed - but that is nothing compared to his shock when he is selected as one of the three mapmakers and finds himself on board a ship, competing for the big prize.

16



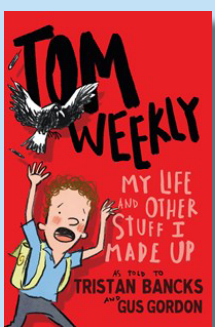
## Our Australian Girl Series by Sofie Laguna, illustrated by Lucia Masciullo

Published: Penguin Books Australia

It's 1808 and Grace is living with her uncle in London. They have no money, and Grace is always lonely and often hungry. The best part of her day is going to Fleet Street to talk to the horses that she loves so much. One afternoon Grace can't resist taking a shiny red apple from a grocer's cart - and then another... Before she knows it, Grace is being chased through the streets! Will she be caught and sent to prison - or worse?

Meet Grace and join her adventure in the first of four exciting stories about a convict girl who is given a second chance.

17



## Tom Weekly My life and other stuff I made up Series

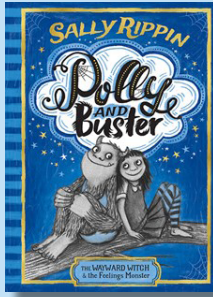
by Tristan Bancks, illustrated by Gus Gordon

Published: Random House Australia

I'm Tom Weekly. This is a nail-biting - make that toe-biting - thrill ride through my life.

This is where I pour out whatever's inside my head. Like the time a bloodthirsty magpie out to get me. Or when I had to eat Vegemite off my sister's big toe. And don't forget the day I ate 67 hot dogs in ten minutes. My life gets a bit weird sometimes but that's how I roll.

18



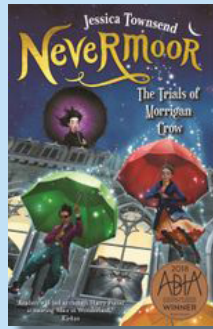
## The Wayward Witch and The Felling Monster Series

by Sally Rippin

Published: Hardie Grand Egmont Local

Everyone knows that witches don't mix with monsters. Witches are educated, clever, sophisticated. But monsters? Monsters are just uncouth. Some are even dangerous. But Polly the witch and Buster the feelings monster have been best friends forever. It's the sort of friendship that makes your heart squeeze with happiness. Somehow, they've managed to keep their friendship a secret. Until one day, when everything changes ...

19



## The Trials of Morrigan Crow Series

by Jessica Townsend

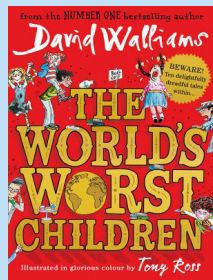
Published: Hachette Australia

Morrigan Crow is cursed. Born on an unlucky day, she is blamed for all local misfortunes, from hailstorms to heart attacks - and, worst of all, the curse means that Morrigan is doomed to die at midnight on Eventide. But as Morrigan awaits her fate, a strange and remarkable man named Jupiter North appears. Chased by black-smoke hounds and shadowy hunters on horseback, he whisks her away into the safety of a secret, magical city called Nevermoor.

It's there that Morrigan discovers Jupiter has chosen her to contend for a place in the city's most prestigious organisation: the Wondrous Society. In order to join, she must compete in four difficult and dangerous trials against hundreds of other children, each boasting an extraordinary talent that sets them apart. Except for Morrigan, who doesn't seem to have any special talent at all.

To stay in the safety of Nevermoor for good, Morrigan will need to find a way to pass the tests - or she'll have to leave the city to confront her deadly fate.

20



## The World's Worst Children

by David Walliams, illustrated by Tony Ross

Published: Harpers Collins Publishers

Are you ready to meet the World's Worst Children? Five beastly boys and five gruesome girls! Like Sofia Sofa - a TV super-fan so stuck to the sofa that she's turning into one! Or Dribbling Drew - a boy whose drool gets him into trouble on a school trip! And not forgetting Blubbering Bertha - a girl who bawls and tells terrible tales!