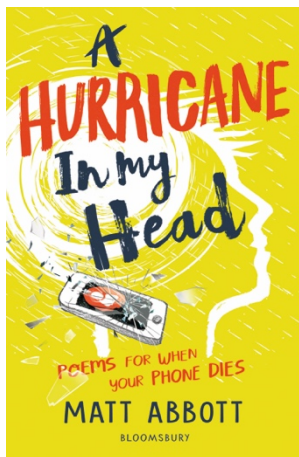




Great New Poetry Books for Young Adults A National Poetry Day selection

[A Hurricane in my Head](#)

Matt Abbott, *Bloomsbury Education*

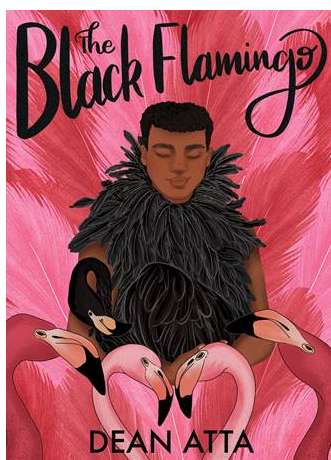


With refreshing, surprising honesty and words and rhythms that will resonate long after reading, *A Hurricane in My Head* tackles the themes of friendship, bullying, technology – everyday life for all young people. These poems say the things we can't always put into words, and will bring your life into surprisingly sharp focus.

A straight-to-the-heart collection from Matt Abbott, nationally acclaimed writer and performer.

[The Black Flamingo](#)

Dean Atta, *Hodder Children's Books*

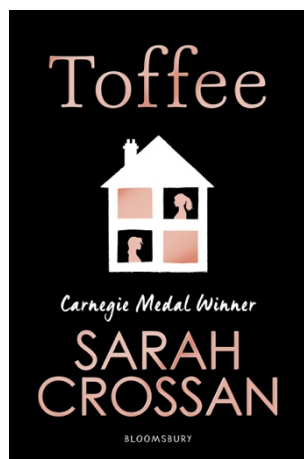


A boy comes to terms with his identity as a mixed-race gay teen - then at university he finds his wings as a drag artist, *The Black Flamingo*. A bold story about the power of embracing your uniqueness. Sometimes, we need to take charge, to stand up wearing pink feathers - to show ourselves to the world in bold colour.

'Dean Atta's tender coming of age novel casts a fresh and enriching perspective on what it means to be seen as different at the level of race, culture, identity, heritage and gender ... an important book for young people.' *Malika Booker*

Toffee

Sarah Crossan, *Bloomsbury YA*

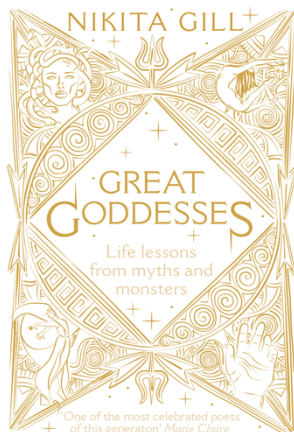


Multi-award winning author Sarah Crossan's latest verse novel explores more aspects of life at the edges of modern society. Allison has fled her abusive father and found a temporary home with Marla, an old woman living with Alzheimer's: 'I am a girl trying to forget. Marla is a woman trying to remember.' There are few writers who have Crossan's forensic ability to expose human cruelty, not so much as active evil or villainy but as indifference to the needs of others or the deflection of our own incapacity and instability onto those who need our care. Both perpetrators and victims are 'people running away or struggling to stay put', as Allison puts it in another context.

'Though *Toffee* is a pain-filled story, it is also hopeful and profoundly moving; laced with old hurts and small kindnesses, it's a book that changes its reader for the better.' *The Guardian*

Great Goddesses

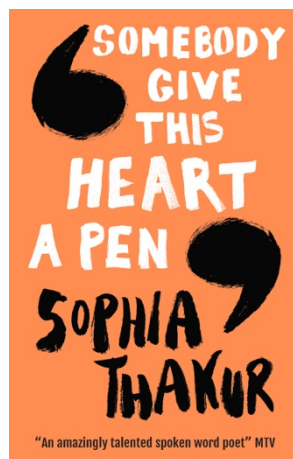
Nikita Gill, *Ebury*



With a huge online following, Nikita Gill's words continue to captivate hearts and minds all over the world. This new collection introduces rebel goddesses, stories of complex love and the mythical might of women taking readers on a magical journey of empowerment.

Somebody Give This Heart a Pen

Sophia Thakur, *Walker Books*



A compelling collection of poems that explores the emotions and experiences of growing up as a mixed-race woman.

Sophia Thakur has been described as one of the most distinct and powerful performers of her generation and this powerful new collection of poems explores issues of identity, difference, perseverance, relationships, fear, loss and joy. The collection is arranged as life is: from youth to school, to home life, falling in love and falling straight back out again. With a strong narrative voice and emotional empathy, this is poetry that will resonate with all young people, whatever their background, and whatever their dreams.