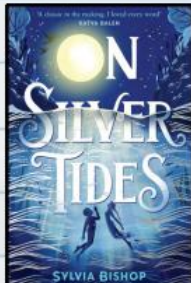




Hampshire
County Council

School Library
Service

HAMPSHIRE BOOK AWARD 2025



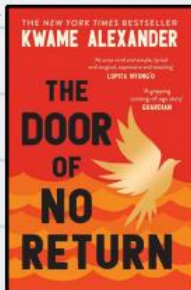
**Exciting fantasy
with unpredictable
twist**



**Two girls, a shared
family, which way
will it go.**



**An unusual novel set in
Australia dealing with
families and magic**



**Verse novel set in
19th century Ghana**



**Macho culture
examined**



**Unputdownable
thriller, with Norse
myths**





King of Nothing

by Nathanael Lessoré

Anton is the King of Year 9 and school bad boy, feared and respected partly because his dad's inside. When he lands in trouble at school, he doesn't really care, but his mum most definitely does and volunteers him for a community project. Anton would rather do anything else, especially when he is paired with Matthew, the biggest loser in school. When Matthew unexpectedly saves his life, Anton has a debt to pay. Can Anton teach Matthew some game or will Matthew end up changing Anton instead?

ENJOYMENT	ENRICHMENT	ENGAGEMENT	TOTAL
/10	/10	/10	/30

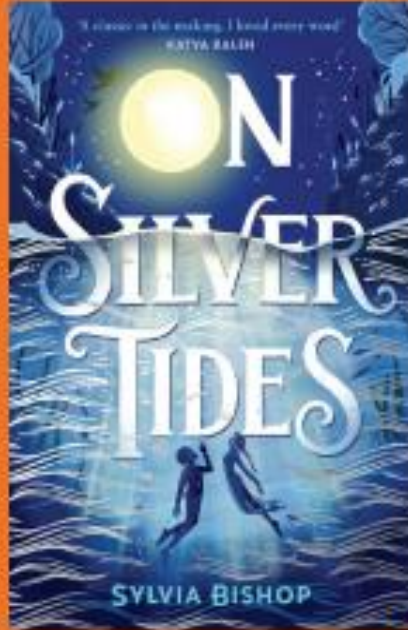


Smoke & Mirrors

by Barry Jonsberg

In this novel, we follow the life of Grace, who finds solace in perfecting her magic tricks and caring for her beloved gran. When a fellow student suggests she could achieve fame through social media, Grace decides to take the plunge, navigating the complexities of online fame while dealing with a past marred by tragedy and the recent terminal illness diagnosis of her gran. As her most daring trick approaches will Grace find the courage and resilience to face the future realising the importance of sleight of hand, both in magic and in life?

ENJOYMENT	ENRICHMENT	ENGAGEMENT	TOTAL
/10	/10	/10	/30

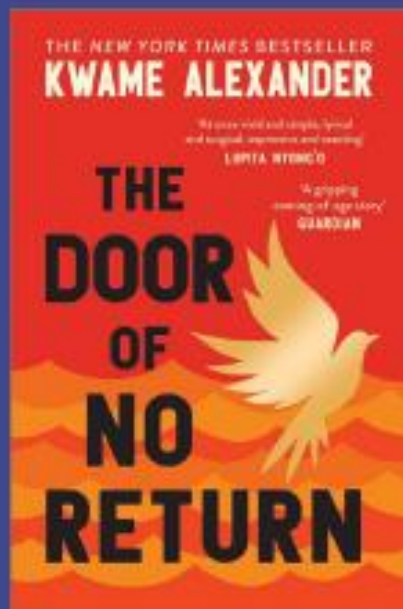


On Silver Tides

by Sylvia Bishop

Kelda protects little sister Isla from danger on the rivers, and from the suspicions of their community. Unlike the rest of the Silvermen, Isla cannot breathe underwater. Now, the rivers are sick and monsters are awakening, with Isla being blamed. Betrayed, the sisters leave on a desperate journey, forced to rely on strange land folk. Joining forces with a mysterious boy, Kelda discovers the darkest depths of her kind's secret history. But to save both her sister and the very life of Britain's waterways Kelda will have to make a sacrifice that will change her life forever.

ENJOYMENT	ENRICHMENT	ENGAGEMENT	TOTAL
/10	/10	/10	/30



The Door of No Return

by Kwame Alexander

Set in 1860 in the Asante Kingdom (in modern day Ghana), Kofi is a boy that dreams of water. He loves swimming as well as living in his village on the Upper Kwanta, and enjoys life with his family and friends. However, during a festival where two rival villages meet, an unexpected tragedy occurs that results in Kofi having to fight for his life and takes him on a journey that he did not expect. Does the key to his survival lie in his dreams?

ENJOYMENT	ENRICHMENT	ENGAGEMENT	TOTAL
/10	/10	/10	/30



Postcards from Valhalla

by Danny Weston

Viggo has no plans beyond watching the new Thor movie. But his world is upended when his brother Magnus goes missing on Shetland, the same place his father vanished five years ago. Forced to join the search, Viggo experiences disturbing visions of warriors, mythical creatures, and Viking longships. The journey becomes even stranger when the mysterious Leon joins them. As Viggo's visions intensify, he struggles to sort reality from fantasy, uncertain of the terrors awaiting him on Shetland.

ENJOYMENT	ENRICHMENT	ENGAGEMENT	TOTAL
/10	/10	/10	/30



The Thread that Connects Us by Ayaan Mohamud

Safiya's father abandoned her and her mother to move to Somalia. Five years later he has returned with his new family, shattering her life all over again. Halima lived contentedly in Somalia until her mother remarried Safiya's dad. Resenting the move to England, Halima is struggling to fit in. Paired together at school, the girls are forced to interact. It may be hate at first sight but what if the answer to their problems lies in their sisterhood?

ENJOYMENT	ENRICHMENT	ENGAGEMENT	TOTAL
/10	/10	/10	/30

EVALUATION GUIDELINES



There are three criteria against which to judge the books, called the three Es:

- **Enjoyment:** the book should be one that you read with pleasure and would gladly recommend to your friends.
- **Enrichment:** the book should offer something in addition to being a good read. This may be one or more of the following:
 - an insight and further understanding of your own circumstances or emotions.
 - a greater understanding of, or empathy with, other people or other cultures.
 - a significant imaginative experience which has stimulated your own creativity.
 - the stimulation to question or challenge your thinking.
 - language which is outstandingly good for the kind of book it represents.
- **Engagement:** the book should hold your attention and you should feel drawn in either by the plot or the characters. In other words, it should be a book you don't want to put down.

Books are available from Wyvern library if you would like to join in with the reading of the six books on the short list.

The final day of voting will take place on Wednesday 25th June at Wyvern College