**Some recommended reading from a family member who works for Waterstones.**

- The Knife of Never Letting Go by Patrick Ness - unlike anything I've read, start of a trilogy - little bit sci-fi, little bit dystopia but not apocalyptic so not too real =P Starts in a world where everyone can hear each other's thoughts out loud, constantly - and just amps up from there! There should be a film coming out soon too. [https://www.waterstones.com/book/the-knife-of-never-letting-go/patrick-ness/9781406379167](https://www.waterstones.com/book/the-knife-of-never-letting-go/patrick-ness/9781406379167%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank)

- Scythe by Neal Shusterman - unusually a utopian book! Darkly funny but also very thoughtful and clever, lots of moral/philosophical ideas, plus teen accessibility. In a future where there is no illness and no one dies, teenagers become apprentice Scythes to keep the population down... Also the start of a trilogy, so fun and fast paced. We accidentally started a Scythe cult at work [https://www.waterstones.com/book/scythe/neal-shusterman/9781406379242](https://www.waterstones.com/book/scythe/neal-shusterman/9781406379242%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank)

- Noughts and Crosses by Mallorie Blackman – you might know it as the series is on TV! As relevant and punchy now as it was when it came out 20 years ago. [https://www.waterstones.com/book/noughts-and-crosses/malorie-blackman/2928377010218](https://www.waterstones.com/book/noughts-and-crosses/malorie-blackman/2928377010218%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank)

- Pet by Akwaeke Emezi - an unusual one, and probably my favourite book that I read last year/best on the longlist. Less than 200 pages and packed so full of diversity and ideas. Magical realism with a Nigerian based backdrop, also utopian. I'm reading the author's first adult book currently! [https://www.waterstones.com/book/pet/akwaeke-emezi/9780571355112](https://www.waterstones.com/book/pet/akwaeke-emezi/9780571355112%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank)

- The Poet X by Elizabeth Acevedo - another unusual one in that it is written as poetry, but it is so accessible and quick to read and might grab the non-readers as it's written in such a unique way. A girl growing up discovers slam poetry and uses it to find and express herself. Really powerful [https://www.waterstones.com/book/the-poet-x/elizabeth-acevedo/9781405291460](https://www.waterstones.com/book/the-poet-x/elizabeth-acevedo/9781405291460%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank)

- One of Us is Lying by Karen McManus - murder mystery, The Breakfast Club meets Agatha Christie! Five kids go into detention, four come out - and are accused of murder. Really readable, fun and clever, it's really popular at the moment and has got a lot of people reading. [https://www.waterstones.com/book/one-of-us-is-lying/karen-mcmanus/9780141375632](https://www.waterstones.com/book/one-of-us-is-lying/karen-mcmanus/9780141375632%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank)

- The Graveyard Book by Neil Gaiman - because he had to be on here somewhere =P This is an amazing, deceptively simple book about a boy adopted by ghosts as a child. Thoughtful, sweet and moving, but very easy to read and with lovely funny moments. You should also read this! Find an edition with Chris Riddell's illustrations. [https://www.waterstones.com/book/the-graveyard-book/neil-gaiman/chris-riddell/9780747594802](https://www.waterstones.com/book/the-graveyard-book/neil-gaiman/chris-riddell/9780747594802%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank)

- Heartstopper by Alice Oseman - a graphic novel! There are 3 of these books so far and they are so popular, think graphic novels are a great reading gateway for any age. The story of two teenage boys who fall for each other, just really cute and wholesome and hopeful! [https://www.waterstones.com/book/heartstopper-volume-one/alice-oseman/9781444951387](https://www.waterstones.com/book/heartstopper-volume-one/alice-oseman/9781444951387%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank)

- I'll Give You The Sun by Jandy Nelson - one of my favourites, I got book club to read it and the grown ups loved it too. Two twins, alternating chapters, jumps between them at 13 (when they are so close) and them at 16 I think (when they are no longer speaking). Beautifully written but not pretentious, something really special. [https://www.waterstones.com/book/ill-give-you-the-sun/jandy-nelson/9781406326499](https://www.waterstones.com/book/ill-give-you-the-sun/jandy-nelson/9781406326499%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank)

- Illuminae by Amie Kaufman and Jay Kristoff - I haven't read this yet but really want to! A sci-fi trilogy told through mixed media, it sounds amazing. Recommended by my colleague Alfie! [https://www.waterstones.com/book/illuminae/jay-kristoff/amie-kaufman/9781780748375](https://www.waterstones.com/book/illuminae/jay-kristoff/amie-kaufman/9781780748375%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank)