

# Neurodiversity – Secondary



This expertly curated list captures the voices and experiences of neurodiverse children. Funny, dramatic, moving and informative, these titles will engage a range of readers.



## **Wider Than the Sea**, Serena Molloy illu. George Ermos

9781444968415, Hodder Children's Books

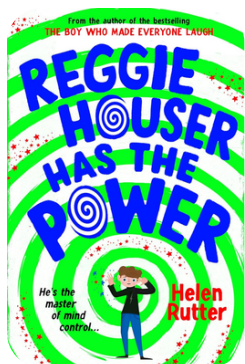
Ró finds school impossible. She knows people think she's shy – and stupid. But when she goes to the bay each afternoon to watch the dolphin leap through the water, she finds the strength to keep going. Then the dolphin disappears, and everything starts falling apart. Can Ró overcome her fears to find him?



## **The Space We're In**, Katya Balen

9781526601971, Bloomsbury Children's Books

*We are her world and her universe and her space and her stars and her sky and her galaxy and her cosmos too.* Frank is ten. He likes cottage pie and football and cracking codes. Max is five. He eats only Quavers and some colours are too bright for him and if he has to wear a new T-shirt he melts down down down. When tragedy hits Frank and Max's lives like a comet, can Frank piece together a universe in which he and Max aren't light years apart?



## **Reggie Houser has the Power**, Helen Rutter

9780702314650, Scholastic

Reggie Houser has ADHD and struggles to make friends at school, plus his mum and teachers seem constantly weary about his erratic, high-energy ways. But when he sees a hypnotist perform on stage at the holiday park he visits, Reggie becomes obsessed with learning the skills of mind control – and he discovers he has an incredible talent for it! But Reggie must decide to use his skills for good only and come to trust his own brain to make decisions.

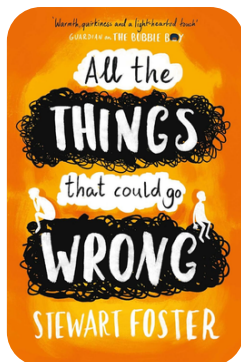


## **Speak Up!**, Rebecca Burgess

9780063081192, Quill Tree Books

This touching coming-of-age middle grade graphic novel debut follows an autistic girl who finds friendship where she least expects it and learns to express her true self in a world where everyone defines her by her differences.

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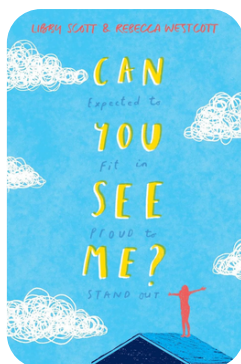
## **All the Things That Could Go Wrong**, Stewart Foster

9781471145421, Simon and Schuster Children's Books

Dan is angry. Nothing has been the same since his big brother left, and he's taking it out on the nearest and weakest target: Alex.

Alex is struggling. His severe OCD makes it hard for him to leave the house, especially when Dan and his gang are waiting for him at school . . .

Then the boys' mums arrange for them to meet up and finish building the raft that Dan started with his brother. Two enemies stuck together for the whole of the school holidays – what could possibly go wrong?



## **Can You See Me?**, Libby Scott and Rebecca Westcott

9781407195674, Scholastic

Tally is eleven years old and she's just like her friends. Well, sometimes she is. If she tries really hard to be. Because there's something that makes Tally not the same as her friends. Something she can't cover up, no matter how hard she tries: Tally is autistic.

Tally's autism means there are things that bother her even though she wishes they didn't. It means that some people misunderstand, her and feel frustrated by her.

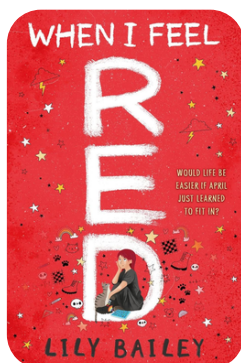


## **Show Us Who You Are**, Elle McNicoll

9781913311131, Knights of Media

When Cora's brother drags her along to his boss's house, she doesn't expect to strike up a friendship with Adrien, son of the intimidating CEO of Pomegranate Technologies. As she becomes part of Adrien's life, she is also drawn into the mysterious projects at Pomegranate.

At first, she's intrigued by them – Pomegranate is using AI to recreate real people in hologram form. As she digs deeper, however, she uncovers darker secrets...



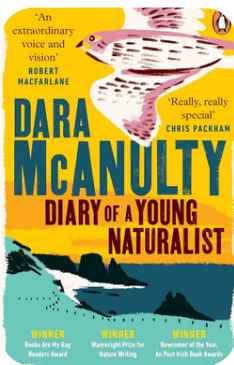
## **When I Feel Red**, Lily Bailey

9781510109933, Orion Children's Books

April has always marched to the beat of her own drum, but would life be easier if she learned to fit in? Now that she's in Year 8, things have got even worse. She's much more likely to be trying to rescue an animal in need than worrying about who's dating who at school, which April just finds BORING.

Plus, her lessons feel like they're in a foreign language, and it suddenly seems impossible to make it through the week without landing in detention.

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## **Diary of a Young Naturalist**, Dara McAnulty

9781529109603, Ebury Press

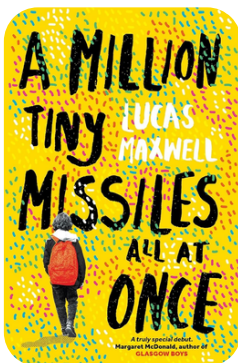
Evocative, raw and lyrical, this startling debut explores the natural world through the eyes of Dara McAnulty, an autistic teenager coping with the uprooting of home, school, and his mental health, while pursuing his life as a conservationist and environmental activist.



## **Stealing Happy**, Brian Conaghan

9781526653987, Bloomsbury YA

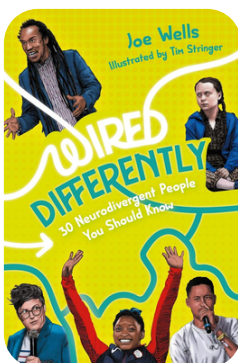
When Sonny discovers his mum has borrowed money from notorious loan shark Chick to pay the rent, he finds himself in need of the quickest of get-rich-quick schemes. With the help of best mate Jonah and quiet genius Carolina Swift, he hatches a plot – to pay back what Mum owes using Chick's own ill-gotten gains. It's not a fool-proof plan, and it's not helped by Sonny's Tourette's making him blurt out 'ROB CHICK LENNON!' at the top of his lungs every time things get dicey.



## **A Million Tiny Missiles All At Once**, Lucas Maxwell

9781917171397, Chicken House

Elias's brain is a swamp of fears and bad things. His once-loving brother Bo has become a stranger, and his parents are at breaking point. When Bo falls in with dangerous people, Elias decides he's the only one who can bring his family back together. But what begins as a simple pizza-night plan quickly spirals into chaos. Can Elias find a way to reach the people he loves the most before it's too late?



## **Wired Differently**, Joe Wells illu. Tim Stringer

9781787758421, Jessica Kingsley Publishers

This collection of illustrated portraits celebrates the lives of influential neurodivergent figures who have achieved amazing things in recent times. Showcasing these 30 incredible people, the extraordinary stories in this book show that the things they've achieved, created and inspired they did not *despite* being different but *because* they are different. From politicians, activists and journalists to YouTubers, DJs and poets, this book highlights a wide range of exciting career paths for neurodivergent readers.