

# Novels in Verse



What makes something a verse novel? Simply speaking, a novel in verse is exactly what the name implies: a novel that is told in verse rather than prose. It must have the music and imagery that we find in poetry and at the same time character development and story structure of a novel. Verse novelists must write good poetry *and* a good story, and they must combine the two seamlessly in order for the verse novel to work.

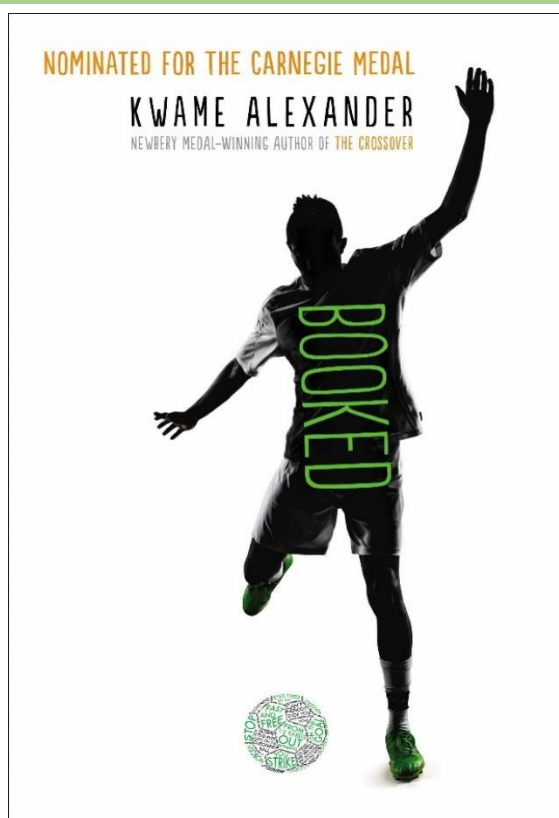
**All Young Adult titles will need parental permission before they can be borrowed by Years 7 and 8.**

WORLE COMMUNITY SCHOOL



## Verse

## Booked



By Kwame Alexander

F/ALE

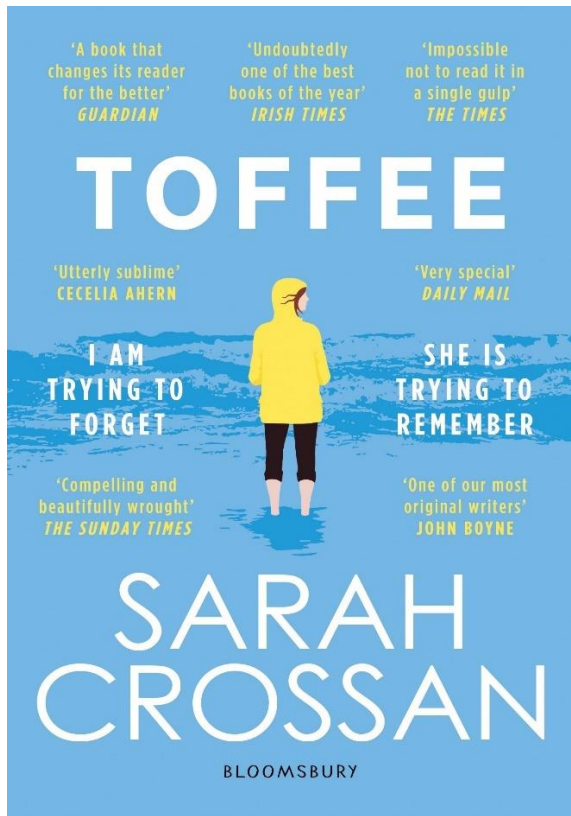
Twelve-year-old Nick is a football-mad boy who absolutely hates books. In this follow-up to the Newbery-winning novel *The Crossover*, football, family, love, and friendship take centre stage as Nick tries to figure out how to navigate his parents' break-up, stand up to bullies, and impress the girl of his dreams. These challenges – which seem even harder than scoring a tie-breaking, game-winning goal – change his life, as well as his best friend's. This energetic novel-in-verse by the poet Kwame Alexander captures all the thrills and setbacks, the action and emotion of a World Cup match.

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# Verse

# Toffee



By Sarah Crossan

F/CRO

When Allison runs away from home she doesn't expect to be taken in by Marla, an elderly woman with dementia, who mistakes her for an old friend called Toffee. Allison is used to hiding who she really is, and trying to be what other people want her to be. And so, Toffee is who she becomes. But as her bond with Marla grows, Allison begins to ask herself -where is home? What is a family? And most importantly, who am I, really?

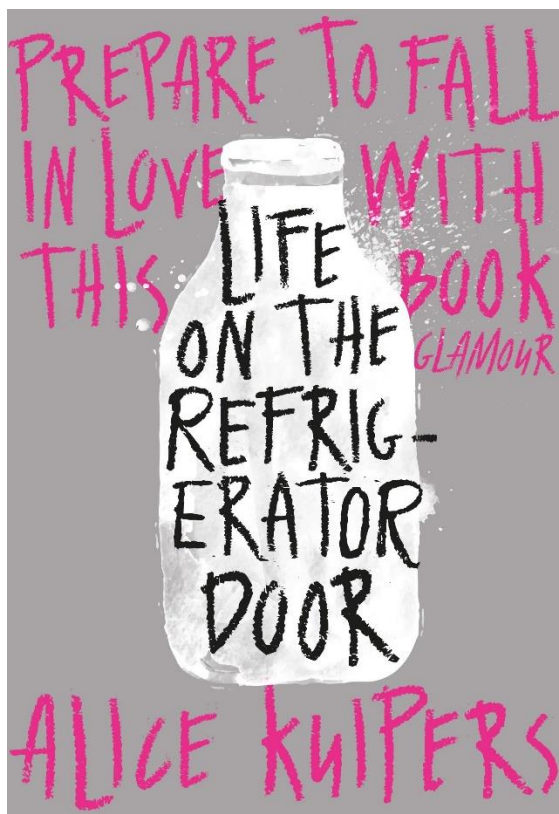
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An Academy

# Verse

# Life on the Refrigerator Door



By Alice Kulpers

F/KUL

*Life on the Refrigerator Door* is told exclusively through notes exchanged by Claire and her mother, Elizabeth, during the course of a life-altering year. Their story builds to an emotional crescendo when Elizabeth is diagnosed with breast cancer.

Stunningly sad but ultimately uplifting, this is a clever, moving, and original portrait of the relationship between a daughter and mother. It is about how we live our lives constantly rushing, and never making time for those we love. It is also an elegy to how much can be said in so few words, if only we made the time to say them.

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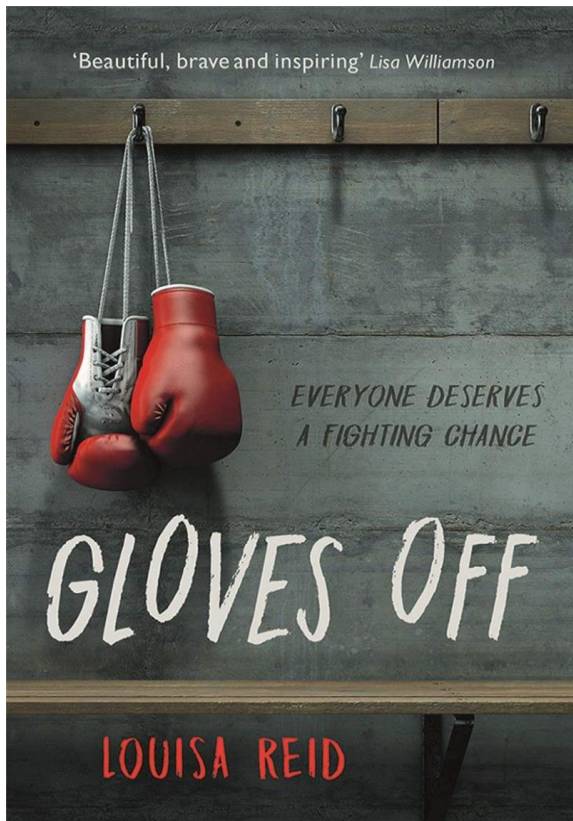
An Academy



# Verse

# Gloves Off

Worle Community School Academy - Library



**By Louisa Reid**

**F/REI**

Lily turns sixteen with two very different sides to her life: school, where she is badly bullied, and home with her mum and dad, warm and comforting but with its own difficulties.

After a particularly terrible bullying incident, Lily's dad determines to give his daughter the tools to fight back.

Introducing her to boxing, he encourages Lily to find her own worth. It is both difficult and challenging but in confronting her own fears she finds a way through that illuminates her life and friendships.

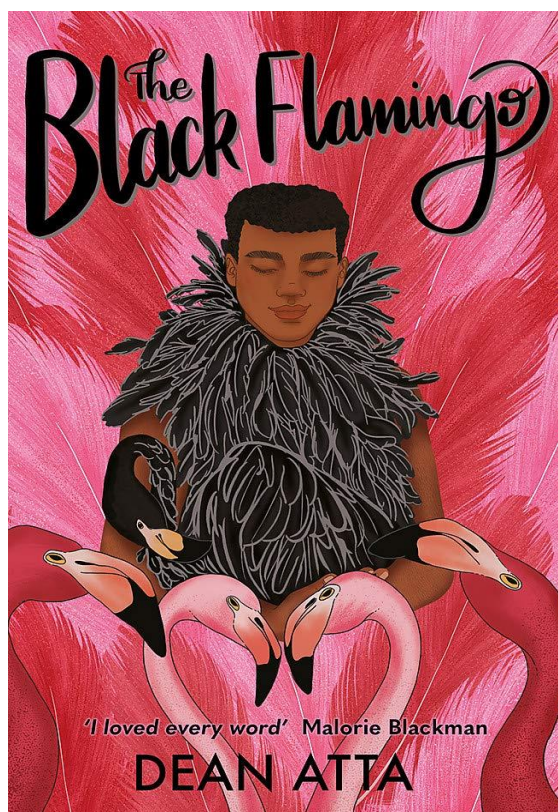
**Young Adult**



# Verse

# The Black Flamingo

Worle Community School Academy - Library



**By Dean Atta**

**F/ATT**

This is not about being ready, it's not even about being fierce, or fearless, IT'S ABOUT BEING FREE.

Michael waits in the stage wings, wearing a pink wig, pink fluffy coat and black heels.

One more step will see him illuminated by spotlight.

He has been on a journey of bravery to get here, and he is almost ready to show himself to the world in bold colours ...

Can he emerge as The Black Flamingo?

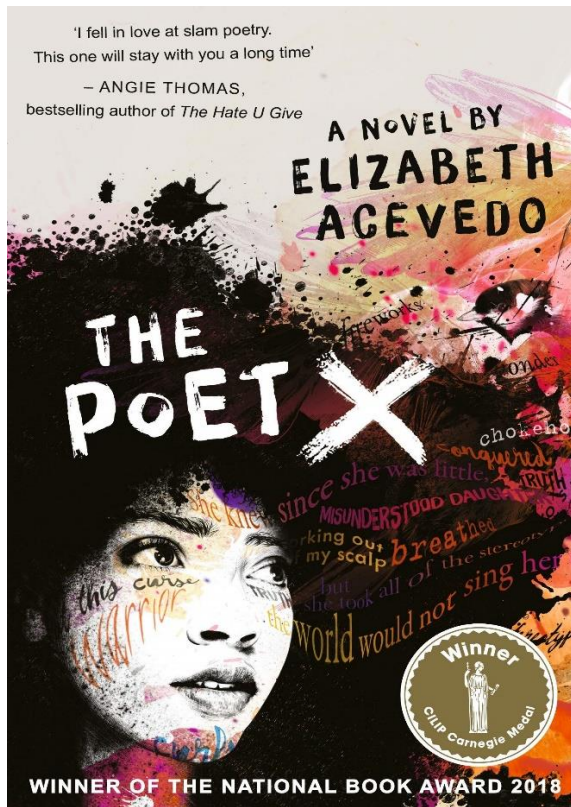
**Young Adult**



# Verse

# The Poet X

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By Elizabeth Acevedo

F/ACE

Xiomara has always kept her words to herself. When it comes to standing her ground in her Harlem neighbourhood, she lets her fists and her fierceness do the talking. But X has secrets – her feelings for a boy in her bio class, and the notebook full of poems that she keeps under her bed. And a slam poetry club that will pull those secrets into the spotlight.

Because in spite of a world that might not want to hear her, Xiomara refuses to stay silent.

A novel about finding your voice and standing up for what you believe in, no matter how hard it is to say.

Beautifully written - dealing with issues of race, feminism and faith.

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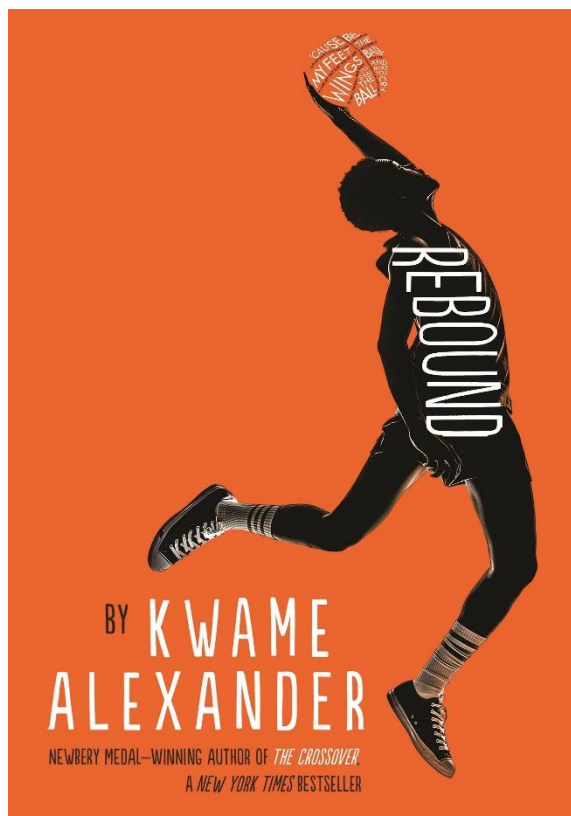
An Academy

Young Adult

# Verse

# Rebound

Worle Community School Academy - Library



By Kwame Alexander

F/ALE

*'Hoop kings SOAR  
in kicks with wings.  
Game so sweet  
it's like bee stings.'*

It's 1988. Charlie Bell is still mourning his father, and struggling to figure out how he feels for his best (girl) friend, CJ. When he gets into trouble one too many times, he's packed off to stay with his grandparents for the summer. There his cousin Roxie introduces him to a whole new world: basketball. A legend on the courts is born. But can Charlie resist when trouble comes knocking once again?

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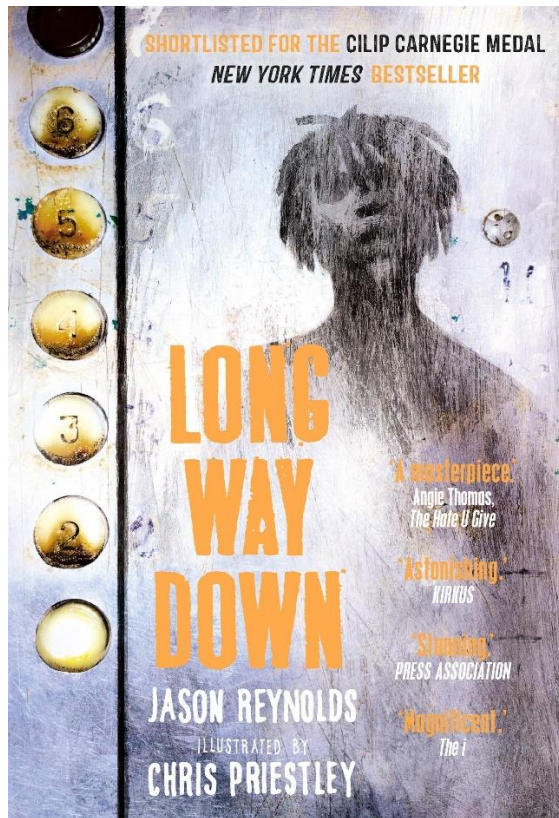
An Academy



# Verse

# Long Way Down

Worle Community School Academy - Library



By Jason Reynolds

F/REY

*AND THEN THERE WERE SHOTS*

*Everybody  
ran,  
ducked,  
hid, tucked  
themselves tight.*

After Will's brother is shot in a gang crime, he knows the next steps. Don't cry. Don't snitch. Get revenge. So, he gets in the lift with Shawn's gun, determined to follow The Rules. Only when the lift door opens, Buck walks in, Will's friend who died years ago. And Dani, who was shot years before that. As more people from his past arrive, Will has to ask himself if he really knows what he's doing.

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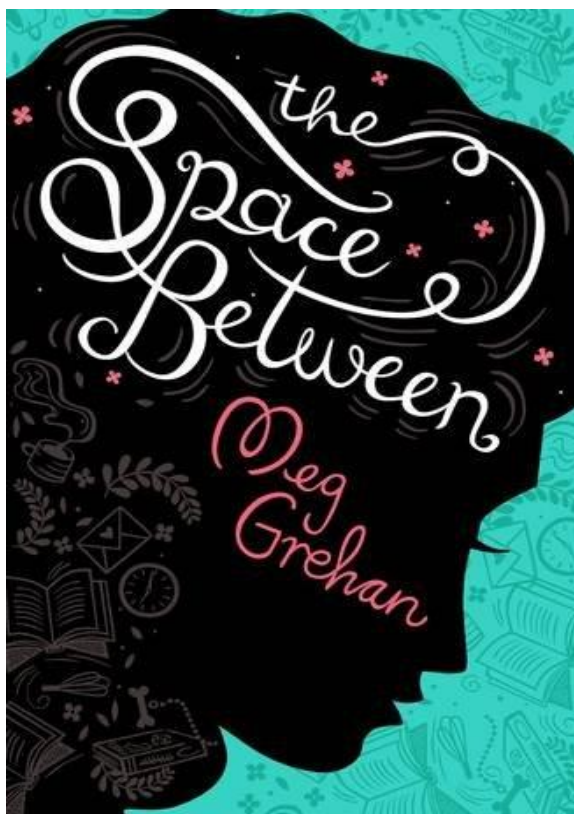
Young Adult

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# Verse

# The Space Between

Worle Community School Academy - Library



By Meg Grehan

F/GRE

It's New Year's Eve, and Beth plans to spend a whole year alone, in her snug, safe house. But she has reckoned without floppy-eared, tail-wagging Mouse, who comes nosing to her window. Followed shortly by his owner, Alice. As Beth's year of solitude rolls out, Alice gently steals her way first into Beth's house and later into her heart. And by the time New Year's Eve comes round again - who knows? A tender and delicate love story in verse, *The Space Between* is a tale of how warmth, support and friendship can overcome mental anguish.

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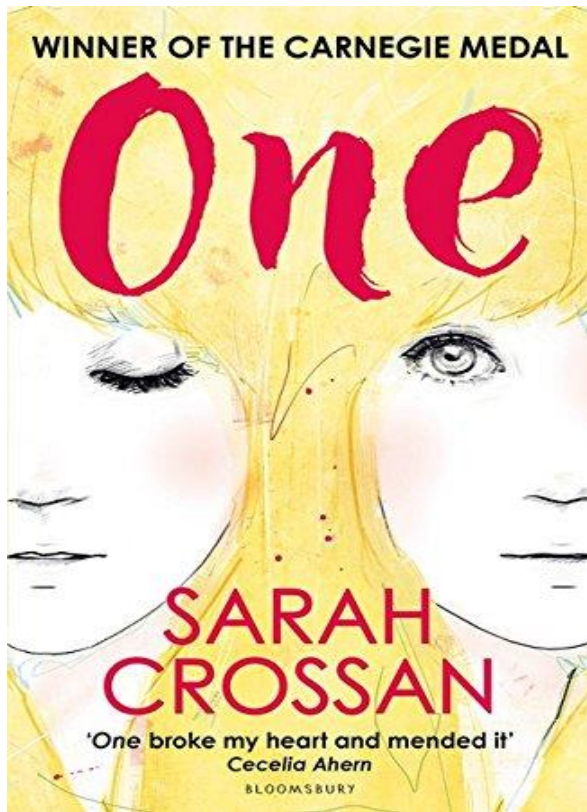


Young Adult

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# Verse

# One



By Sarah Crossan

F/CRO

Grace and Tippi don't like being stared and sneered at, but they're used to it. They're conjoined twins - united in blood and bone.

What they want is to be looked at in turn, like they truly are two people. They want real friends. And what about love?

But a heart-wrenching decision lies ahead for Tippi and Grace. One that could change their lives more than they ever asked for...

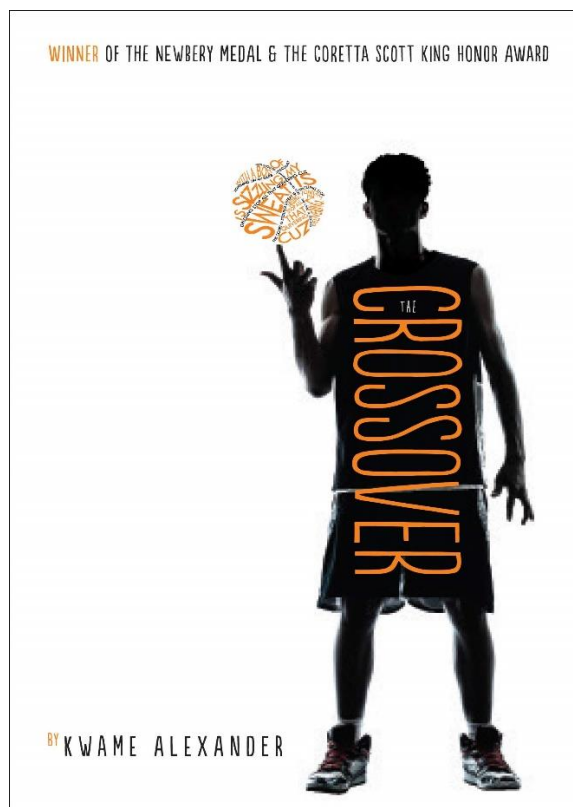
*This moving and beautifully crafted novel about identity, sisterhood and love ultimately asks one question: what does it mean to want and have a soulmate?*

WORLE COMMUNITY SCHOOL



# Verse

# The Crossover



By Kwame Alexander

F/ALE

'With a bolt of lightning on my kicks . . .  
 The court is SIZZLING.  
 My sweat is DRIZZLING.  
 Stop all that quivering.  
 Cuz tonight I'm delivering'

12-year-old Josh and his twin Jordan have basketball in their blood. They're kings of the court, star players for their school team. Their father used to be a champion player and they each want nothing more than to follow in his footsteps.

Both on and off the court, there is conflict and hardship which will test Josh's bond with his brother.

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# Verse

# Clap When You Land

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**By Elizabeth Acevedo F/AVE**

Camino Rios lives for the summers when her father visits her in the Dominican Republic. But this time, on the day when his plane is supposed to land, Camino arrives at the airport to see crowds of crying people...

In New York City, Yahaira Rios is called to the principal's office, where her mother is waiting to tell her that her father, her hero, has died in a plane crash.

Separated by distance - and Papi's secrets - the two girls are forced to face a new reality in which their father is dead and their lives are forever altered.

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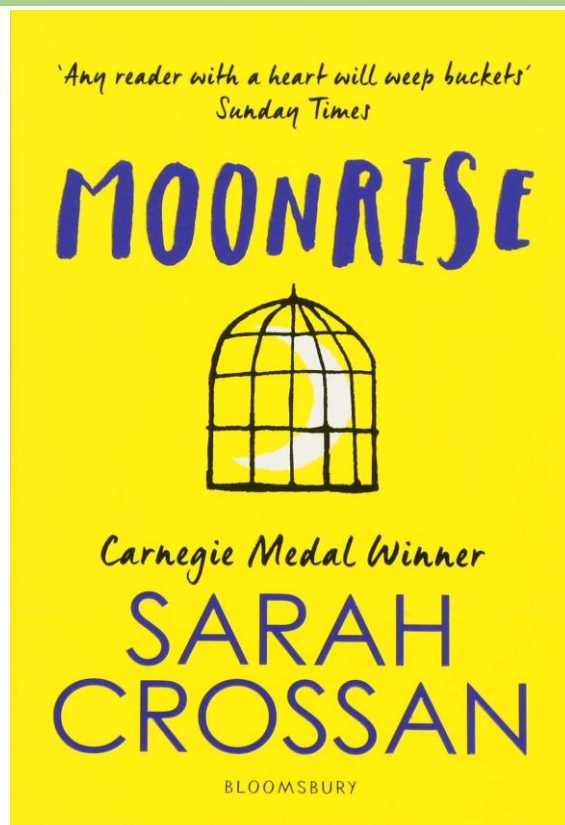
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**Young Adult**

# Verse

# Moonrise

Worle Community School Academy - Library



**By Sarah Crossan F/CRO**

They think I hurt someone.  
But I didn't. You hear?  
Cos people are gonna be telling you  
all kinds of lies.  
I need you to know the truth.

Joe hasn't seen his brother for ten years, and it's for the most brutal of reasons. Ed is on death row.

But now Ed's execution date has been set, and Joe is determined to spend those last weeks with him, no matter what other people think ...

What value do you place on life? What can you forgive? And just how do you say goodbye?

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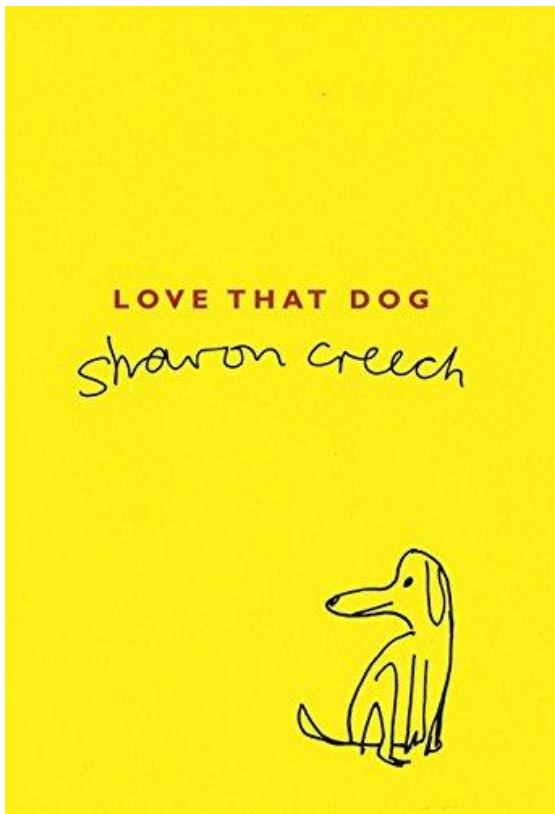


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**Young Adult**

# Verse

# Love That Dog



**By Sharon Creech**

**F/CRE**

Slowly Jack learns the pleasures of writing poetry as Miss Stretchberry encourages him to tell his own story through verse.

I don't want to  
because boys  
Don't write poetry.  
Girls do.

What emerges is a moving and memorable story about a boy and his dog and his growing passion for poetry.

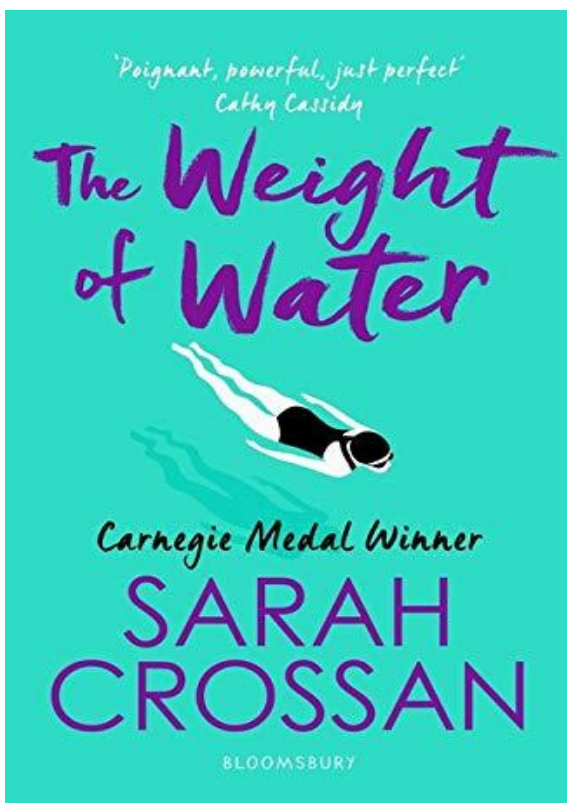
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An Academy

# Verse

# The Weight of Water



**By Sarah Crossan**

**F/CRO**

Life is lonely for Kasienska. She misses her old home in Poland, her mother's heart is breaking, and at her new English school friends are scarce.

But when someone new swims into her life, Kasienska learns that there is more than one way to stay afloat.

This stunning novel from multi-award-winning author Sarah Crossan explores how to pick up the pieces when everything you know is turned on its head and you have to start all over again.

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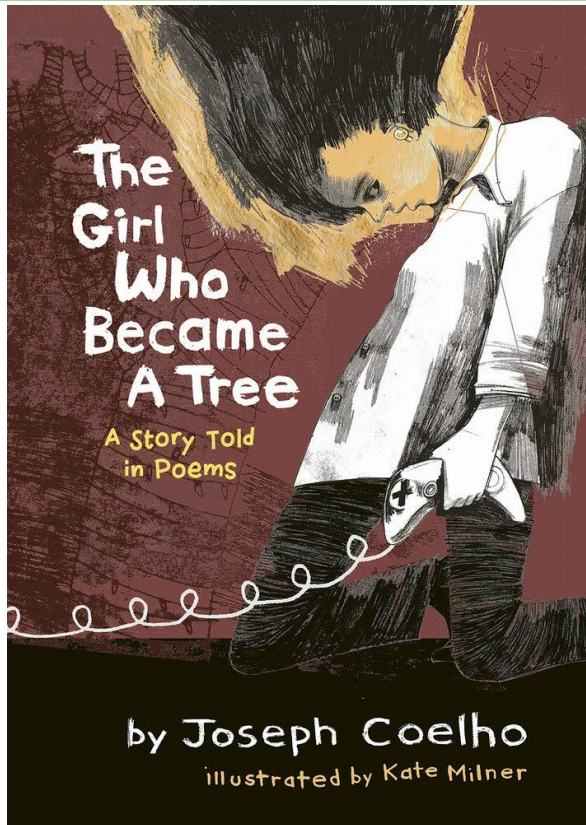
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# Verse

## The Girl who Became a Tree

Worle Community School Academy - Library



By Joseph Coelho F/COE

Daphne is unbearably sad and adrift. She feels the painful loss of her father acutely and seeks solace both in the security of her local library and the escape her phone screen provides by blocking out the world around her. As Daphne tries to make sense of what has happened she recalls memories of shared times and stories past, and in facing the darkness she finds a way back from the tangle of fear and confusion, to feel connected once more with her friends and family.

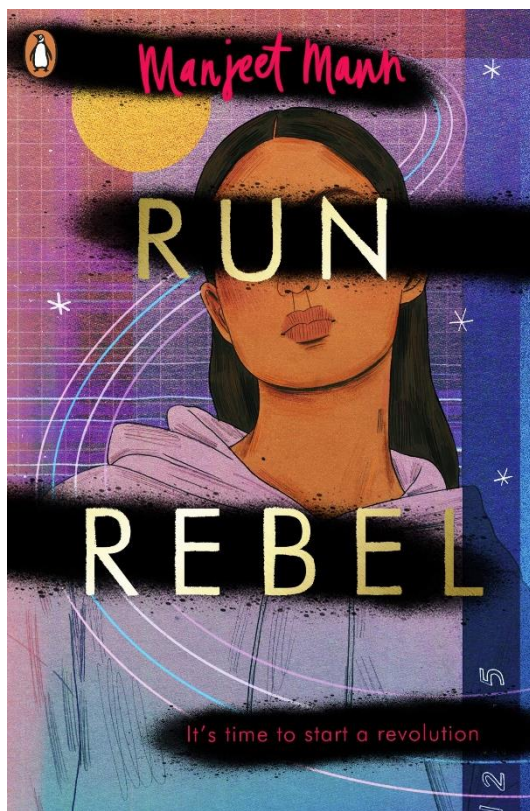
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# Verse

## Run Rebel

Worle Community School Academy - Library



By Manjeet Mann F/MAN

I am restless, my feet need to fly.

Amber is trapped - by her father's rules, by his expectations, by her own fears.

Now she's ready to fight - for her mother, for her sister, for herself.

Freedom always comes at a price.

Run, Rebel is a trailblazing verse novel that thunders with rhythm, heart and soul - perfect for fans of Sarah Crossan, Elizabeth Acevedo and Rupi Kaur.

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Young Adult