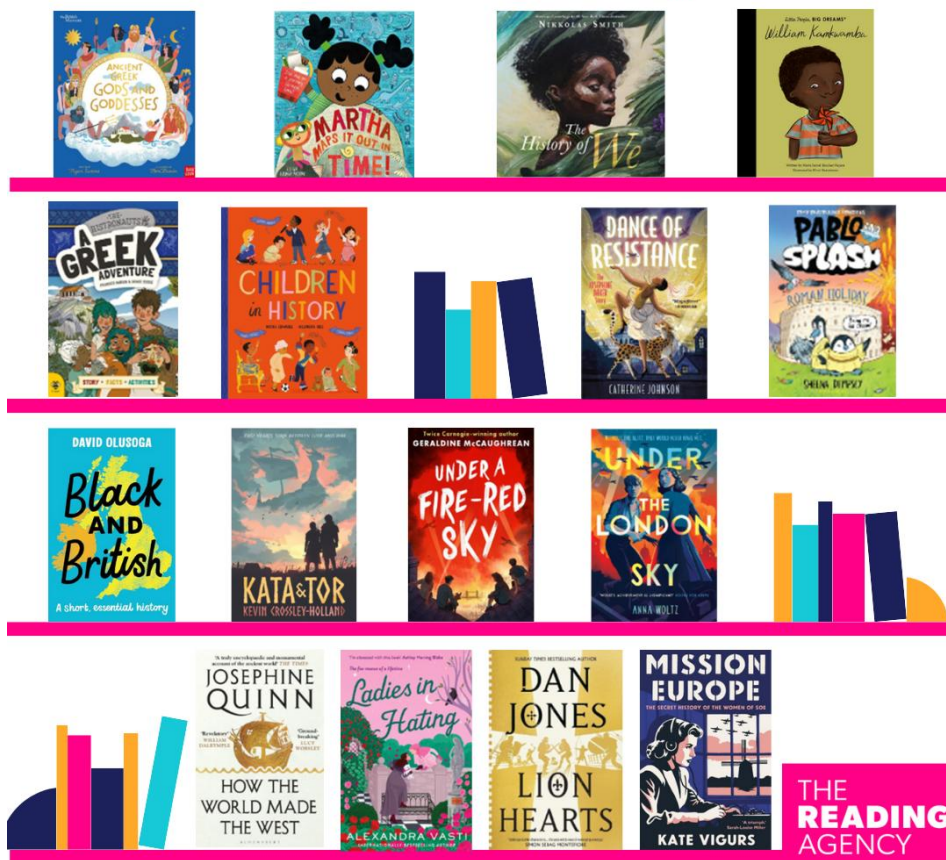


## Publisher Picks 2025: History Rewritten



To help book clubs, librarians and teachers to celebrate [Book Club Day UK](#), our publisher partners have picked some of their latest titles for a brand new booklist with the theme History Rewritten.

We picked History Rewritten as our theme as history is never just one story — it is full of extraordinary moments that continue to shape how we see the world which leaves lots for us to discuss.

The publisher picks are a brilliant mix of fiction and non-fiction and ranges in picks for children, young people, and adults. The picks include bold retellings from the gods and legends of Ancient Greece to the Viking era and through to the struggles and resilience of people in the modern age. Spanning invention, activism, love, war and resistance, these picks remind us that history is alive and always being rewritten.

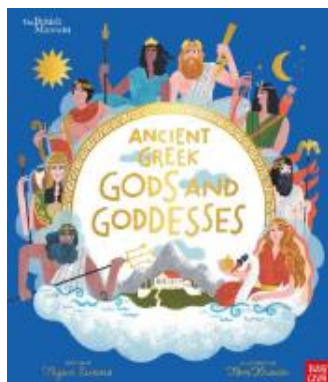
This booklist has been collated from publisher picks and has not been created by The Reading Agency as it has not followed our Book Selection Framework applied to programme content. You can see our previous themed booklists [here](#).

### What is Book Club Day UK?

Book Club Day UK is a time to share the joy of being part of a book club, to encourage new clubs to form and to help support existing book clubs with their next meeting so that even more people will discover how book clubs build stronger, more connected communities so these books a perfect way to engage readers who love history.

### Younger Children

*Ancient Greek Gods and Goddesses* by Tegen Evans (Author) and Tom Froese (Illustrator), Nosy Crow, ISBN: 9781805131069 – Non-Fiction

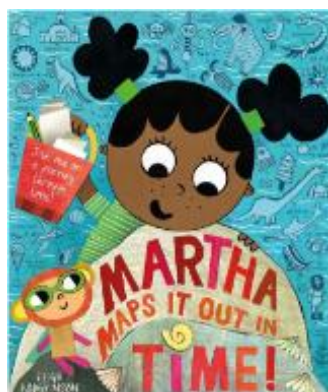


**Publisher three-word description:** Stunning, Fascinating, Bold

Which goddess drew the Moon across the sky each night? Who had the strength to start earthquakes and whirlpools? And was there really a god of parties and theatre?

Find out the answers to these questions, and many more, in this brilliant guide to the gods and goddesses of ancient Greece. Filled with exciting stories and surprising facts, you will discover how Zeus became king of the gods, who gave Athens its name, and even why Hera turned a princess into a cow!

*Martha Maps It Out In Time* by Leigh Hodgkinson, Oxford University Press, ISBN: 9780192787088 – Fiction

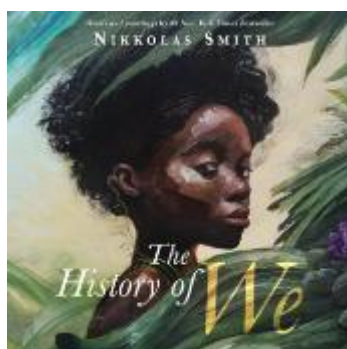


**Publisher three-word description:** Maps, Universe, Insightful

Martha LOVES making maps!

Step back in time with Martha's amazing maps, packed with cool facts and fun details. She meets dinosaurs, woolly mammoths, and ancient sea creatures as she travels all the way back to the beginning of time... and forwards to some of the fantastical things the future might bring! Martha learns on her time-travelling adventure that time never stops - and so she resolves to enjoy each tiny little bit of it.

*The History of We* by Nikkolos Smith, Rock the Boat, ISBN: 9780593619681 – Fiction

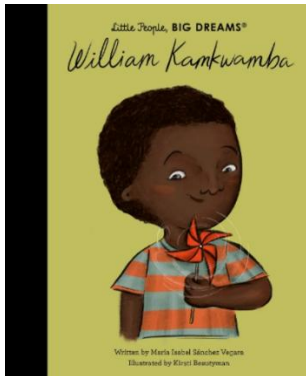


**Publisher three-word description:** Historical, Thought-provoking, Beautiful

Fossil records show that the first humans were born in Africa. Meaning, every person on Earth can trace their ancestry back to that continent. *The History of We* celebrates our shared ancestors' ingenuity and achievements and imagines what these firsts would have looked and felt like.

What was it like for the first person to paint, to make music, to dance, to discover medicine, to travel to unknown lands? It required courage, curiosity, and skill. *The History of We* takes what we know about modern human civilisation and, through magnificent paintings, creates a tale about our shared beginnings in a way that centres Black people in humankind's origin story.

**William Kamkwamba: *Little People, Big Dreams*** by Maria Isabel Sanchez Vegara (Author) and Kirsti Beautyman (Illustrator), The Quarto Group, ISBN: 9781836005186 – Non-Fiction



**Publisher three-word description:** Inspiring, Uplifting, Resourceful

Discover the life of William Kamkwamba, the Malawian inventor and engineer, who overcame poverty and famine to build windmills from recycled materials that brought electricity to his village.

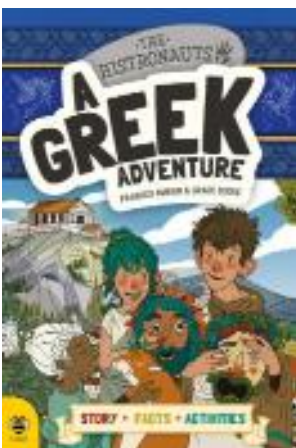
Little William grew up in a small village in Malawi. His parents were farmers, so every day after school William and his six sisters helped them tend the corn. One year, it rained so little that the fields dried up and William's family could hardly pick any corn. With not much to eat and unable to afford school, William had to quit studying. But William refused to stop learning. So, whenever he had the chance, he went to the library.

One day, he found a book that gave him a great idea: using the wind to make electricity and pump water for the corn! Of course, building a windmill from scratch was no easy task, but William was determined to make it happen. And he did. As soon as the wind started blowing, the blades began to turn and the tiny light bulb that William held in his hands lit up. It was an invention that would eventually bring water to the corn in his village and transform life for people across Malawi.



## Older Children

***A Greek Adventure*** by Frances Durkin, b small, ISBN: 9781913918071 – Fiction



**Publisher three-word description:** Time-travel, Graphic Novel, Fact-filled

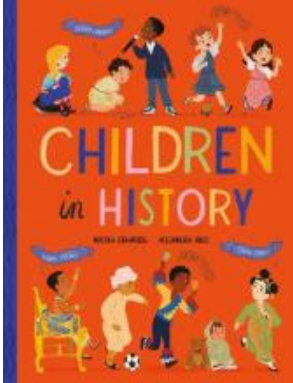
When the Histrionauts travel back in time to the ancient Greek era they'll need your help to uncover the secrets of the past. Visit the Acropolis, watch the activities that inspired the Olympic Games and paint masks for a thrilling Greek tragedy at the amphitheatre.

An exciting mix of story, facts and activity!



## **Publisher Picks 2025: History Rewritten**

*Children in History* by Nicola Edwards (Author) and Alejandra Ruiz (Illustrator), Little Tiger, ISBN: 9781838916367 – Non-Fiction



**Publisher three-word description:** Absorbing, Entertaining, Inclusive

Have you ever wondered what daily life was like for Viking or ancient Egyptian children?

This book travels the globe to examine everything from breakfast to bedtime. Discover a Nicaraguan sign language invented by kids and meet toddler kings and queens from China to Uganda as well as child activists and adventurers who shaped our world!

*Dance of Resistance* by Catherine Johnson, Barrington Stoke, ISBN: 9780008726218 – Non-Fiction



**Publisher three-word description:** True, Dance, Prejudice

Dancer, singer, actress, movie star, civil-rights activist – Josephine Baker was a phenomenon!

Overcoming the poverty and abuse of her childhood in a segregated America, Josephine grew up to become one of the biggest stars of the early twentieth century, particularly adored in her adopted country of France. She used her connections to help the Resistance in their fight against the Nazis during the Second World War and later became involved with Martin Luther King Jr and the civil rights movement in the US.

**Content warnings outlined by the publisher:** Brief reference to sexual assault (handled sensitively and age-appropriately)

*Pablo and Splash: Roman Holiday* by Sheena Dempsey, Bloomsbury Children's Books, ISBN: 9781526662859 – Fiction



**Publisher three-word description:** Time-travel, Ancient Rome, Hilarious

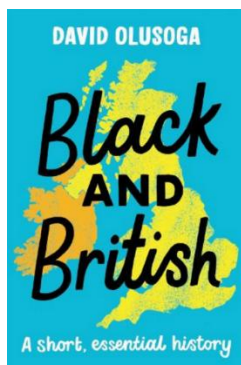
When their penguin pal Benji won't believe they've travelled through time, Pablo and Splash have a point to prove. The two travel to Ancient Rome, hoping to bring back a centurion helmet as proof of their adventures.

But when Pablo and Splash meet an emperor with a passion for collecting exotic birds, only some quick thinking - and emergency time travel - can save them from the fate that awaits them in the Colosseum!

## Publisher Picks 2025: History Rewritten

Young people (14+) – please note these may have mature themes and you can find more specific age ratings on publisher websites

*Black and British* by David Olusoga, Pan Macmillan, ISBN: 9781529063394 – Non-Fiction



**Publisher three-word description:** Insightful, Invaluable, Essential

When did Africans first come to Britain?

Who are the well-dressed black children in Georgian paintings?

Why did the American Civil War disrupt the Industrial Revolution?

These and many other questions are answered in this essential introduction to 1800 years of the Black British history: from the Roman Africans who guarded Hadrian's Wall right up to the present day.

*Kata and Tor* by Kevin Crossley-Holland, Walker Books, ISBN: 9781406399059 – Fiction



**Publisher three-word description:** Star-crossed, Young love, Passionate

Tor is the youngest son of Harald Hardrada, King of Norway and leader of the Viking fleet, whose countless victories have been woven into song, his prowess the stuff of legend. Kata knows little of her parents, but her heart yearns for something beyond the small world of her Anglo-Saxon village south of the great city of York.

When Tor is sent to scout ahead of the Viking fleet after their invasion of Scarborough, he relies on his charm and his guile to learn the lie of the land and the location of the regional earls' forces, ready to report back to his father. Soon, however, he meets Kata, a caring and capable young woman whose fierce nature sets Tor's heart alight.

But these are troubled times. Mistrust and rumours ripple through the land: the mighty Hardrada is coming and help is far from hand. As the eve of battle draws closer, Kata and Tor must question to whom their loyalty lies: heart or home?

*Continued on the next page.*

## **Publisher Picks 2025: History Rewritten**

*Under a Fire-Red Sky* by Geraldine McCaughrean, Usborne, ISBN: 9781836040774 – Fiction



**Publisher three-word description:** Thrilling, Beautiful, Coming of age

With the Second World War looming, four young people sit on a train waiting to be evacuated to a safer place...but they don't want to go. They climb out of the carriage and head back home to Greenwich, forming an unlikely friendship.

They spend their days trying to be useful. Laurence is building a secret machine. Gemmy searches bombed-out homes for things of value - only to find an adorable mutt she can't even give away. Franklin wants to join the Fire Service, although it means lying about his age. Olive looks after her father, who is broken by the deaths

of his fellow firefighters. And together, the four roam the streets of London, discovering their resilience amongst the secrets of the city.

But as the Blitz unleashes a barrage of bombs on London, turning the sky ragged with flame, can the friends keep each other safe and survive?

**Content warnings outlined by the publisher:** Wartime scenes, References to death

*Under the London Sky* by Anna Woltz (Author) and Michele Hutchison (Translator), Rock the Boat, ISBN: 9781836430612 – Fiction



**Publisher three-word description:** Blitz, Coming of Age, Friendship

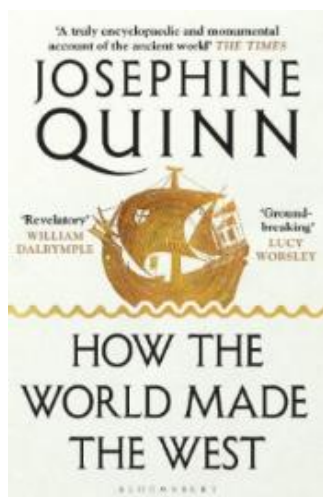
London, September 1940. Deep in the Underground, taking shelter from the bombs, four teenagers meet.

Fourteen-year-old Ella walks with a limp. Some days, she feels like a laughingstock. Other days, like no one sees her at all. Quinn is fifteen, fancy and fearless. She's run away from home with a bag of family jewels and big ideas about changing the world. Jack is sixteen and doesn't care about anything anymore – he's already lost it all. And then there's Sebastian, Quinn's older brother. He used to be her hero. Until he became a traitor.

*Continued on the next page.*

### Adults

*How the World Made the West* by Josephine Quinn, Bloomsbury Publishing, ISBN: 9781526605221  
– Non-fiction



**Publisher three-word description:** Fascinating, Refreshing, Epic

Ancient Greece and Rome have long been considered the parents of Western civilisation. But the ancient world was a very wide one, of conversation, commerce and theft, sex, war and enslavement. It was this restless global contact that built the West.

Why did Macedonian generals steal elephants from India to rule new realms? How did the lewd graffiti left by foreign workers in Egypt form the basis of the alphabet? In a voyage through space and time, from the Levant of 2000 BC to the dawn of the Age of Exploration, Josephine Quinn rewrites the story of the West – and in doing so, offers us a new history of our shared past.

*Ladies in Hating* by Alexandra Vasti, Atlantic Books, ISBN: 9781805464020 – Fiction



**Publisher three-word description:** Swoony, Steamy, Regency romance

The foe-mance of a lifetime...

Celebrated authoress Lady Georgiana Cleeve has achieved fame and fortune. Unfortunately, she's also acquired an enemy: the enigmatic Lady Darling, whose spine-tingling plots appear to be pulled straight from Georgiana's own manuscripts. What's a stubborn, steely writer to do? Unmask her rival, of course. But the unmasking doesn't go according to plan - because Lady Darling is actually Cat Lacey, the butler's daughter and object of Georgiana's very secret, very embarrassing teenage infatuation.

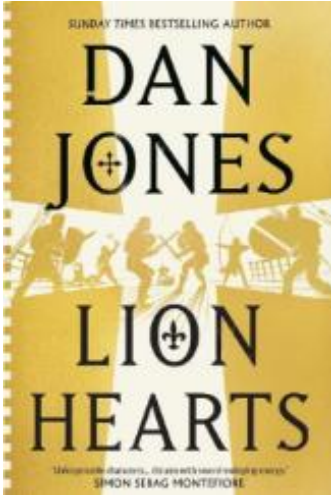
Cat Lacey has spent a decade clawing her family out of poverty. The last thing she needs is to be distracted by the stunning (ly pretentious) Lady Georgiana Cleeve. But Cat can't seem to escape her infuriatingly beautiful rival-including at the eerie manor where they both plan to set their next books.

The plot unexpectedly thickens, however, when the novelists find themselves trapped in the manor together. In between ghostly moans and spectral staff, Cat and Georgiana come face-to-face with real danger: the scorching passion that's been haunting their rivalry all along.



## **Publisher Picks 2025: History Rewritten**

*Lion Hearts* by Dan Jones, Head of Zeus, ISBN: 9781838937973 – Fiction



**Publisher three-word description:** Action-packed, Brutal, Epic

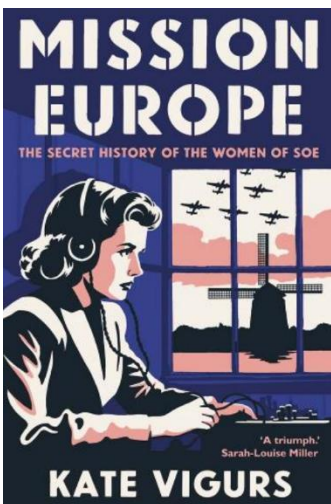
Three years after the Essex Dogs battled through the Siege of Calais, the Black Death has torn through Europe.

Romford, basking in his new riches, now finds himself living as a squire in the glamorous court of King Edward III. Loveday, whose businesses have been destroyed by the plague, is desperate to avoid returning to the life he vowed to abandon: fighting. And Millstone and Thorp enlist themselves on a deadly mission to escort a princess to Castille.

Each Dog has scattered in a radically different direction. Something explosive is about to pull them back together.

**Content warnings outlined by the publisher:** Wartime scenes, Violence, Gore

*Mission Europe: The Secret History of the Women of SOE* by Kate Vigurs, Yale University Press, ISBN: 9780300272697 – Non-Fiction



**Publisher three-word description:** Gripping, Women, Remarkable

The remarkable history of the women who worked for Special Operations Executive across occupied Europe

In the wake of the Nazi invasion of Europe, the tentative sparks of resistance in occupied countries were fanned by Britain's Special Operations Executive. Across the continent, SOE recruited women to "set Europe ablaze." Working as secret agents and saboteurs, these individuals bolstered resistance from within and provided much needed support and weapons. F Section's actions in France are renowned, and today some operatives have become household names. But what happened to the women who worked outside France and those who were locally recruited?

**Content warnings outlined by the publisher:** Wartime scenes, References to death