

Escape. Connect. Relate.

Relationships - Love & Sex

Love is to like another person very much and be romantically and sexually attracted to them.

Cambridge Dictionary





ECR Suggested Reads

Many of our suggested reads are available from your school library and from [Edinburgh Libraries](#). Some books may contain triggering or upsetting content. Please use the age ratings as guidance and ask your school librarian for help. Books are listed in alphabetical order by author's surname.



The Poet X by Elizabeth Acevedo

Xiomara Batista feels unheard. Ever since her body grew into curves, she has learned to let her fists and her fierceness do the talking. But she has plenty she wants to say, and she pours it all onto the pages of a notebook. When she is invited to join her school's slam poetry club, she can't stop thinking about performing her poems. Because in the face of a world that may not want to hear her, Xiomara refuses to be silent.

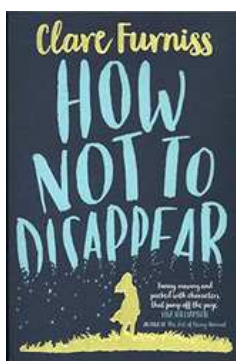
S3+, Verse novel



Blood Moon by Lucy Cutheo

After school one day, Frankie has her first sexual experience – and gets her period. It's only blood, they agree. But soon a gruesome meme goes viral, turning an intimate, affectionate afternoon into something sordid, mortifying, and damaging. In the time it takes to swipe a screen, Frankie's universe implodes. As the online shaming takes on a horrifying life of its own, Frankie begins to wonder: is her real life over?

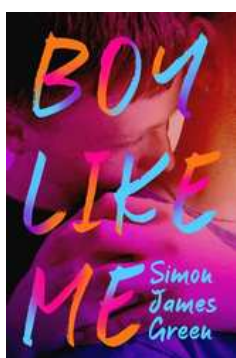
S3+, Verse novel



How Not to Disappear by Clare Furniss

Hattie's summer isn't going as planned. Her best friends have abandoned her and she's stuck babysitting. And she's discovered that she's pregnant. Then great aunt Gloria comes crashing in, fiercely independent and in the early stages of dementia. They set out on a road trip – Gloria to confront her past before it's erased from her memory, and Hattie to face the hard choices that will determine her future.

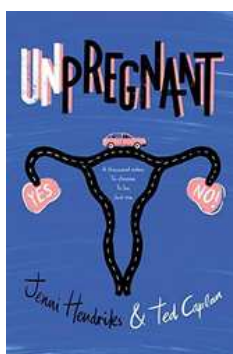
S3+, Teen pregnancy



Boy Like Me, by Simon James Green

It's 1994 and thanks to Section 28, there can be no mention of gay relationships in UK schools. When a kind librarian leads Jamie to a disguised novel in the library that reflects his own confused feelings towards boys, Jamie sees that he's not the only one who has checked the book out. Will Jamie and this mystery boy have the courage to meet – and if they do, what will it take to hold on to each other?

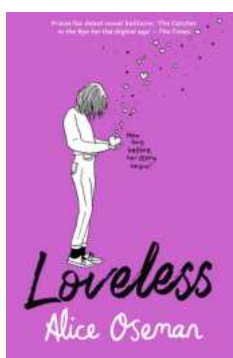
S3+



Unpregnant by Jenni Hendriks and Ted Caplan

Veronica needs an abortion, but the closest place she can get one is over 900 miles away and she doesn't have a car. Too ashamed to ask friends or family for help, she turns to the one person she believes won't judge her: Bailey, her ex-best friend. Once on the road, Veronica realises that the pain and betrayal of their broken friendship can't be outrun and now she must risk everything in order to repair the hurt she's caused.

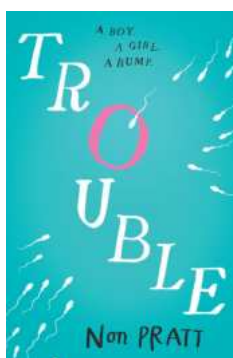
S3+, Teen pregnancy



Loveless by Alice Oseman

Georgia has never been in love, never kissed anyone, never even had a crush. She starts university with a romance plan, but it wreaks havoc amongst her friends and she starts to question why love seems so easy for others but not for her. With new terms thrown at her – asexual, aromantic – she's more uncertain than ever. Is she destined to remain loveless? Or has she been looking for the wrong thing all along?

S3+

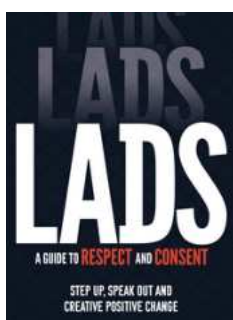


Trouble by Non Pratt

When the entire high school finds out that Hannah is pregnant, she has a full-on meltdown. The one witness: Aaron, a transfer student and the only boy who doesn't want to get into her pants. Confused and scared, Hannah needs someone on her side. Wishing to make up for his own mistakes, Aaron offers to pretend to be the father of Hannah's unborn baby. Even more unbelievable, Hannah hears herself saying "yes."

S3+, Teen pregnancy

Information Books



Lads: A Guide to Consent and Respect by Alan Bissett

A toolkit for teenage boys on respect and consent, helping them call out bad behaviour and giving them the confidence to be their best selves. From flirting disasters and what staying in the friend zone really means, to the perils of porn, 'locker room talk' and the importance of consent, this is a vital handbook for lads who are fed up of That Guy, and who want to help create positive change.

S1+



What is Consent? Why is it Important? And Other Big Questions by Louise Spilsbury and Yas Necati

Consent plays a part in almost every interaction we have and affects almost every area of life, from healthcare to the law. The book starts readers thinking about what consent means to them, the importance of respecting boundaries and what to do if your consent has been violated.

S1+



Resources

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Consent

Consent definition, information and advice for young people from The Mix

<https://www.themix.org.uk/sex-and-relationships/single-life-and-dating/sexual-consent-15356.html>

Sex and relationships

Information, advice and support for young people from Childline

<https://www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/friends-relationships-sex/sex-relationships/>

Information and advice for young people from The Mix

<https://www.themix.org.uk/sex-and-relationships/safer-sex>