

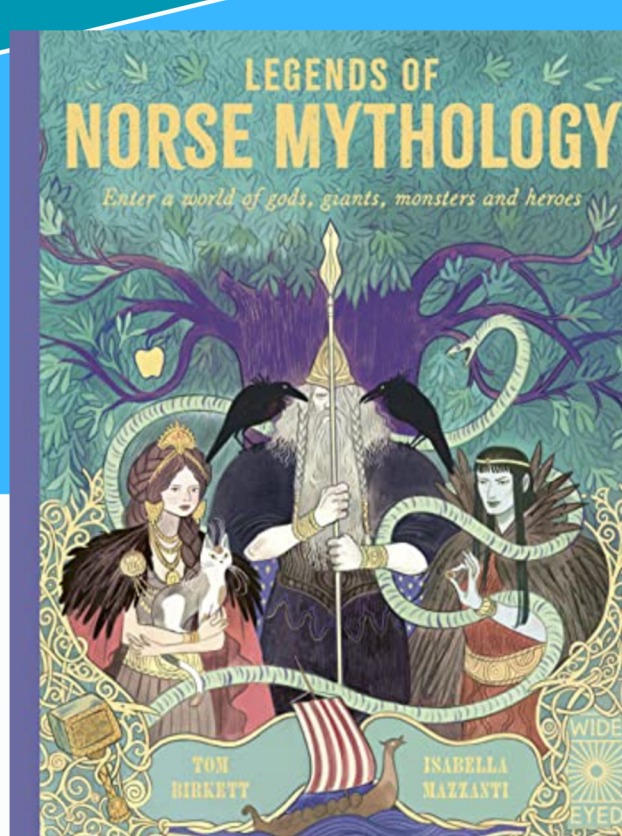
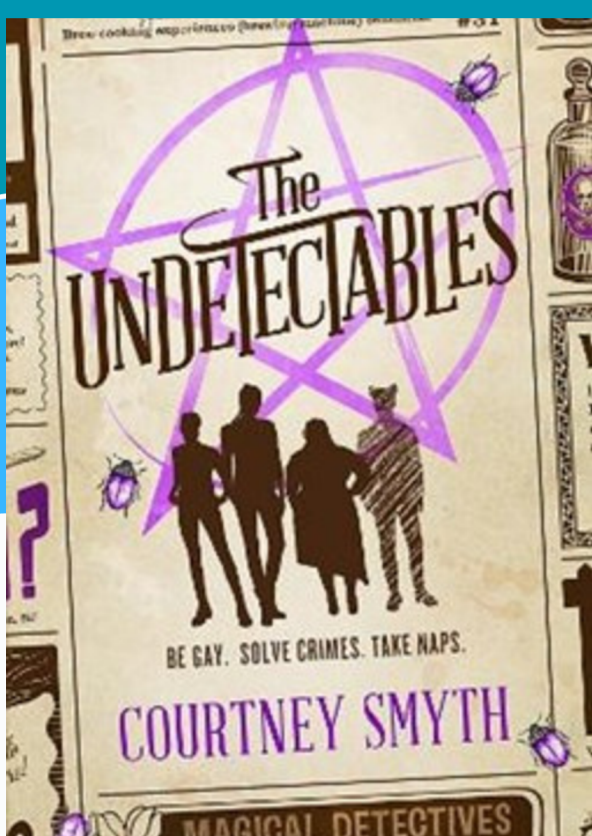
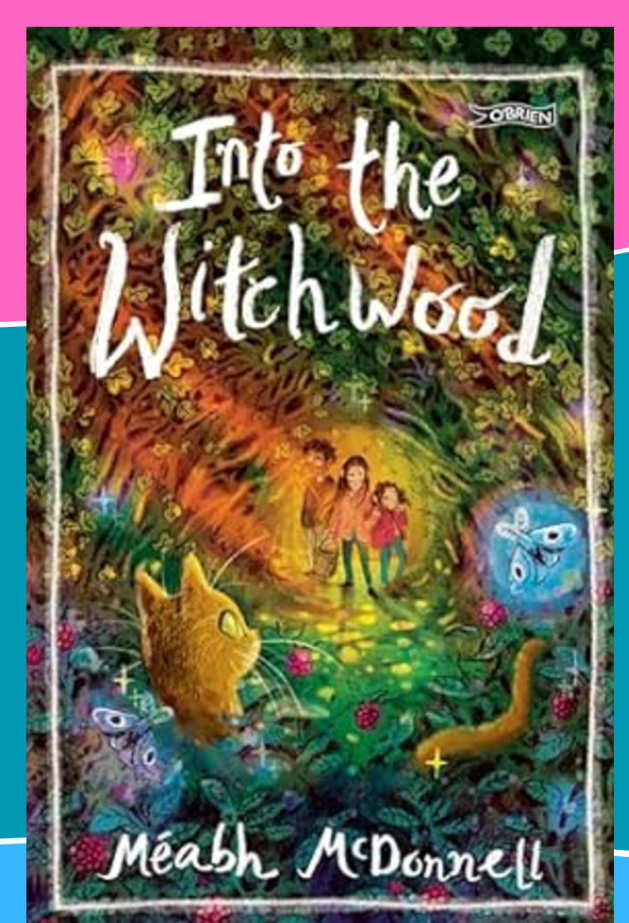
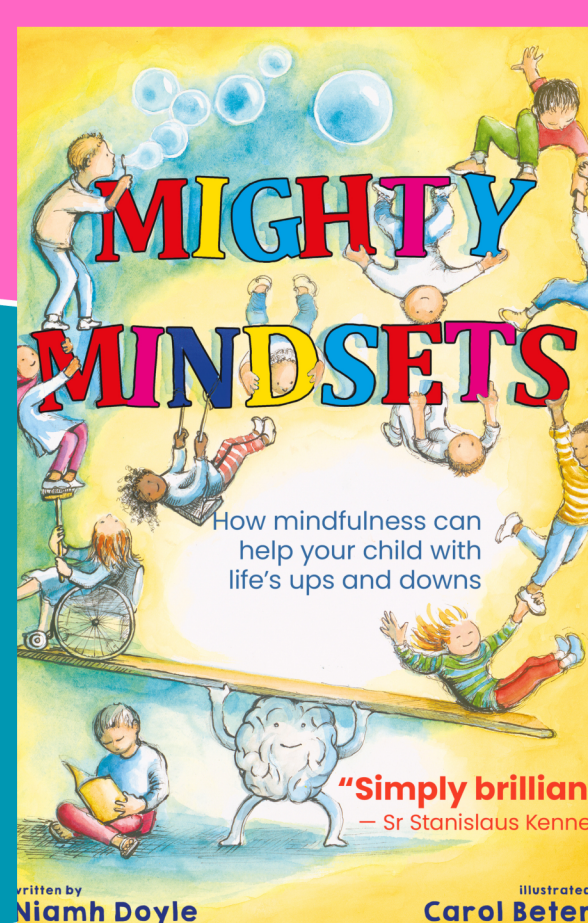
GRA

LAI School Libraries Group

Great Reads Award

A book award for Irish debut Children's/YA authors,
shortlisted by school librarians,
judged by students
in Primary and Secondary Schools.

Shortlisted Books 2024



Schools: Register for a chance to win a
free pack of books at
[https://schoolibrariesireland.com/
great-reads-award/](https://schoolibrariesireland.com/great-reads-award/)

Read as many as you like
and vote online for your favourite.

In association with

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GUIDELINES FOR READERS

Things to keep in mind while reading the books:

- Did you enjoy the illustrations?
- What were the characters like?
- Did you like the story?
- What rating would you give the book out of 5?
- Was it easy to read?
- Who was the book aimed at?
- Who do you think would enjoy it?

Voting is easy

Go to the LAI School Libraries Group website at
<https://schoollibrariesireland.com/great-reads-award>
or

Scan this QR Code to vote for your favourites



Thank you for taking part!
You are supporting debut Irish
authors and illustrators,
and helping to promote reading.

In association with



JCSP
Demonstration
Library
Project





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GUIDELINES FOR TEACHERS

Join the Great Reads Award:

1. Get your books from local booksellers or your public library.*
2. Read the books! Read the books on your own, try out some paired reading, enjoy the books in small groups or as a class! It's up to you :)
3. Judge the books - check out the website for guidelines.
4. Get voting!

Go to the LAI School Libraries Group website at
<https://schoollibrariesireland.com/great-reads-award>
or
Scan this QR Code to vote for your favourites



***Schools: Don't forget to register online for
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MEET THE BOOKS



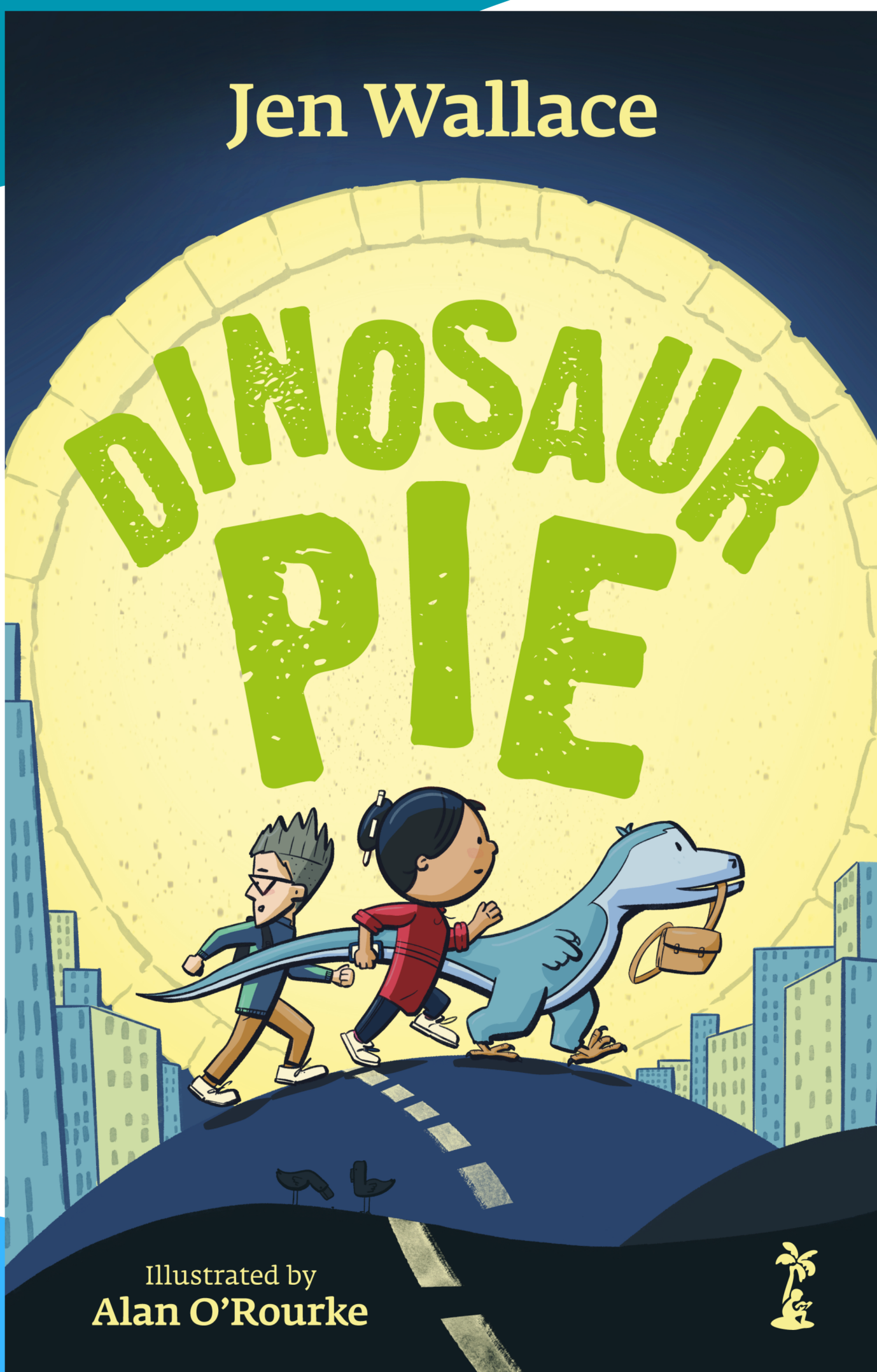
The Secret Elephant by Ellan Rankin

Fiction 6+

Discover the unbreakable bond between a baby elephant and her keeper in this heartfelt narrative set against the backdrop of World War II. As war looms on the horizon, things are changing at the zoo. As bombs begin to fall and huge blasts echo around the zoo, a baby elephant and her keeper sneak to the safety and comfort of the keeper's home. Here, they weather out the worst of the war together in secret. But what will happen when their secret is found out? Based on the incredible true story of Denise Weston Austin at Belfast Zoo.

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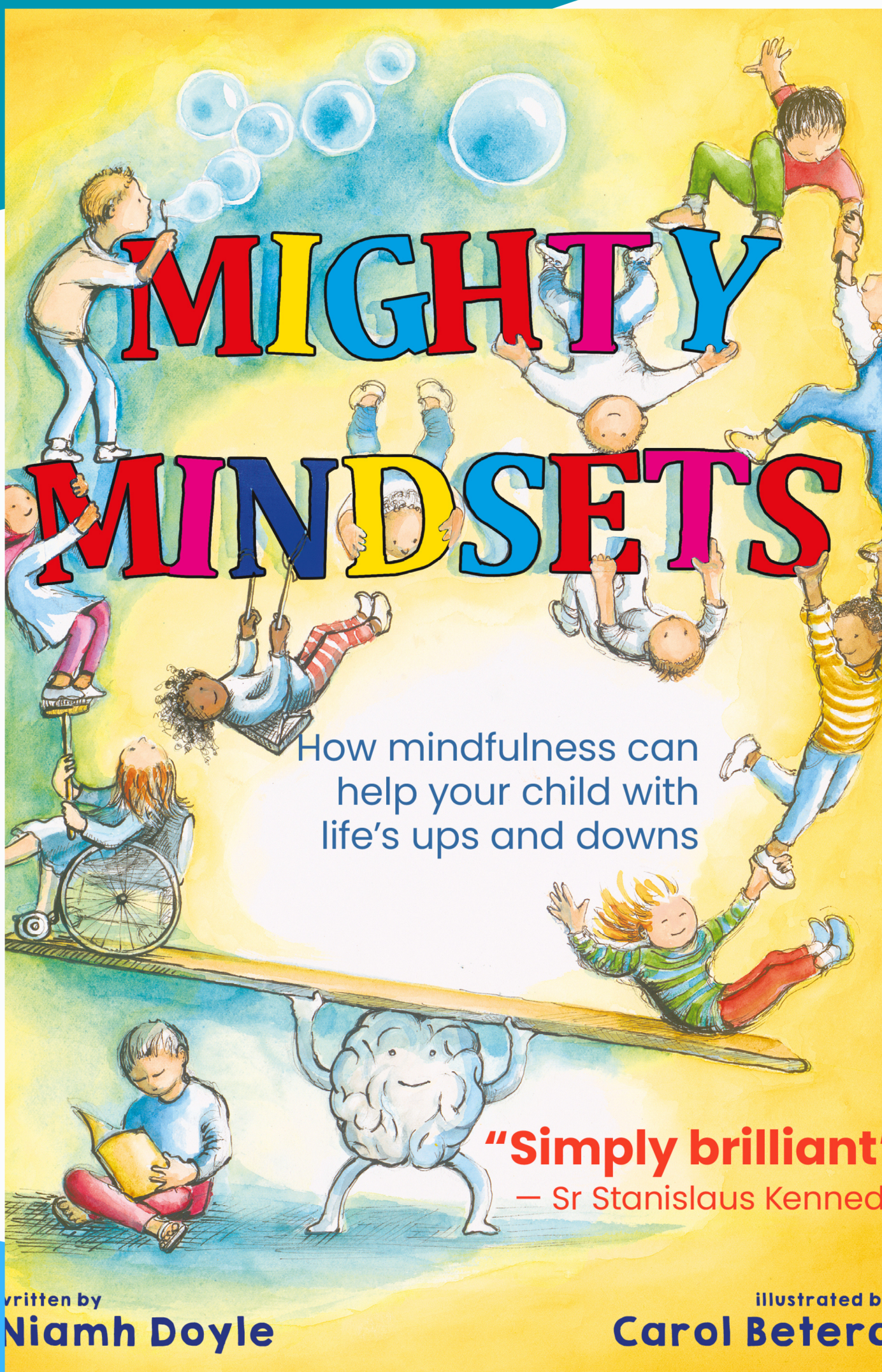
Dinosaur Pie by Jen Wallace

Fiction 6+

A hilarious and heart-warming story about a boy with ADHD who is transformed into a dinosaur. Rory is having a weird week. A really weird week. He has been turned into a ridiculous, small, feathered dinosaur. Pretty awkward. Rory can't use a human toilet. He can't hold a video game controller in his little dino claws. His breath smells really bad. And his new carnivore body can't stop craving sausages. Rory finally gets his friends to take his embarrassing situation seriously, and together they embark on Operation Make Rory Human Again. But it's not easy. Will Rory be stuck as a dinosaur forever?

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MEET THE BOOKS



Mighty Mindsets by Niamh Doyle

Non-Fiction 9+

How does your brain work, and what does it have to do with moods? Why do you sometimes feel anxious, cross or afraid, and what can you do about it? How can breathing, looking at a snowglobe, or changing what the voice inside you says, help you feel better? When we tell ourselves negative stories - like "I'm not good at maths" - it becomes harder to learn. But if we can change our mindset - "I'm not good at maths yet" - we help our brains to learn. Mighty Mindsets puts together mindsets, mindfulness and neuroscience in a gentle self-care manual for young readers. With calming and playful illustrations by Carol Betera, Mighty Mindsets helps children understand their emotions and learn tips to take care of their mental health.

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MEET THE BOOKS



The Great Irish Book of Gaelic Games by Evanne Ní Chuilinn

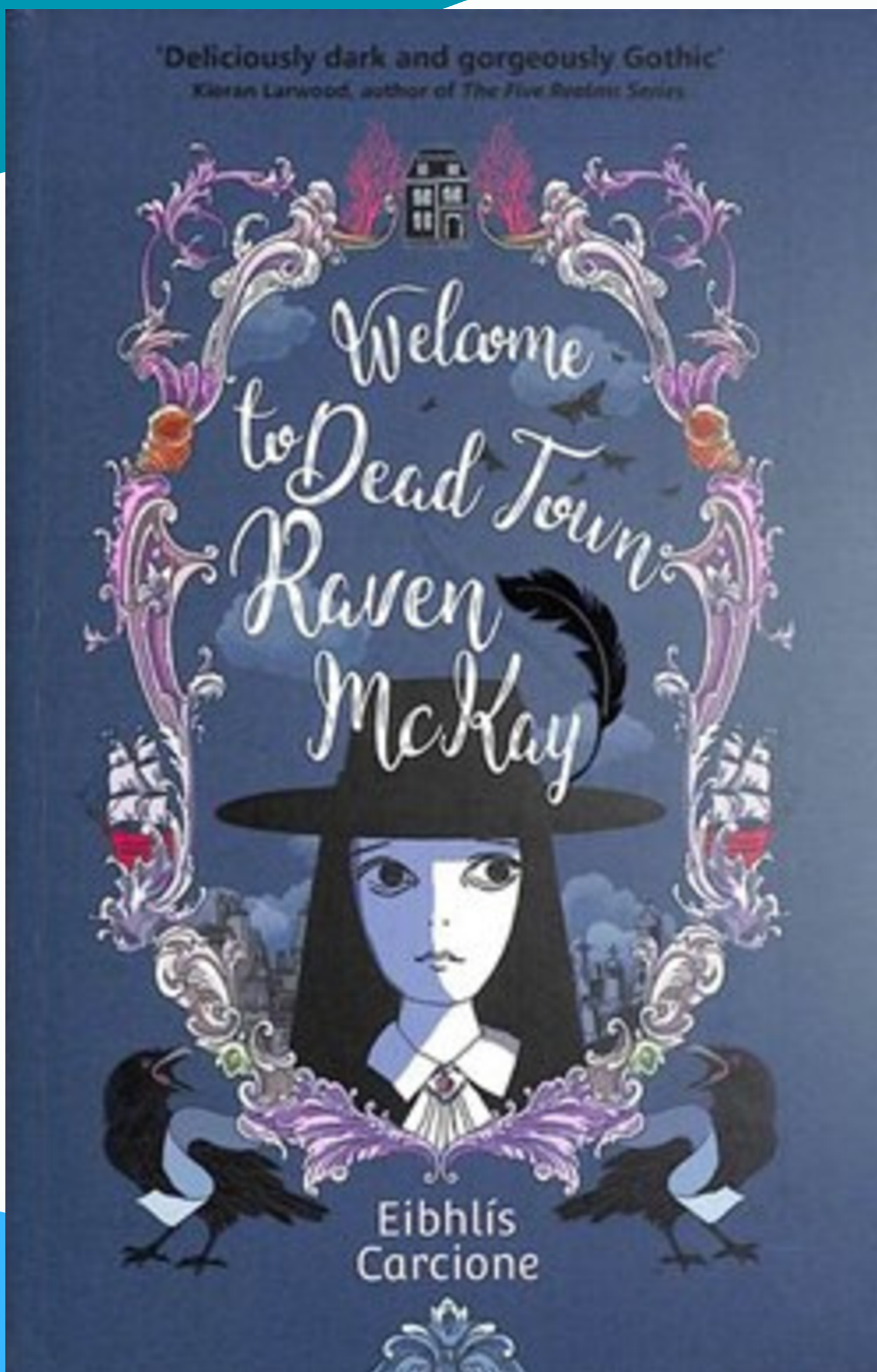
Non-Fiction 7+

Join sports journalist Evanne Ní Chuilinn as she guides us through the wonderful world of Gaelic Games. Discover what goes on behind the scenes on match day and which county has the zaniest fans! Read about the history of Gaelic sports and join in the 'hurl or hurley' debate.

The latest book in the Gill Books series of big topics tackled by experts brought to life with amazing illustrations, this engaging history introduces Gaelic Games' most significant people, history and culture to fans of all ages.

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MEET THE BOOKS



Welcome to Dead Town

Raven McKay

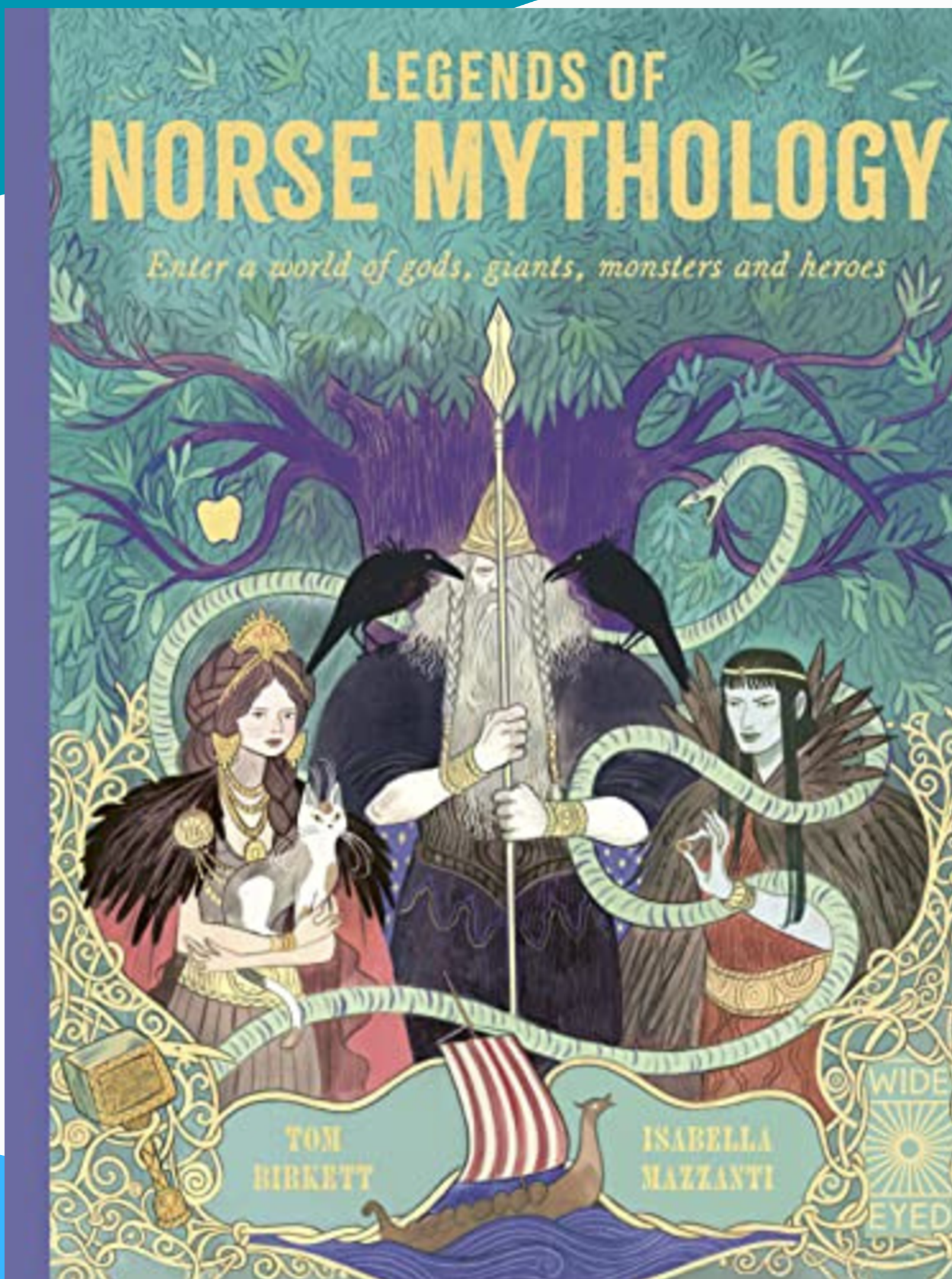
by Eibhlís Carcione

Fiction 9+

When her parents disappear, 12-year-old Raven McKay is put into foster care with Kitty Stromsoe in the town of Grave's Pass. It's not an ordinary town. It's a town where the living and the dead live side by side, but few wear their identity on their sleeves. All her parents have left Raven is a battered beige suitcase with a faded black butterfly sticker and a note saying not to open the suitcase until the right time. But can she resist? And who among the living and the dead are her friends?

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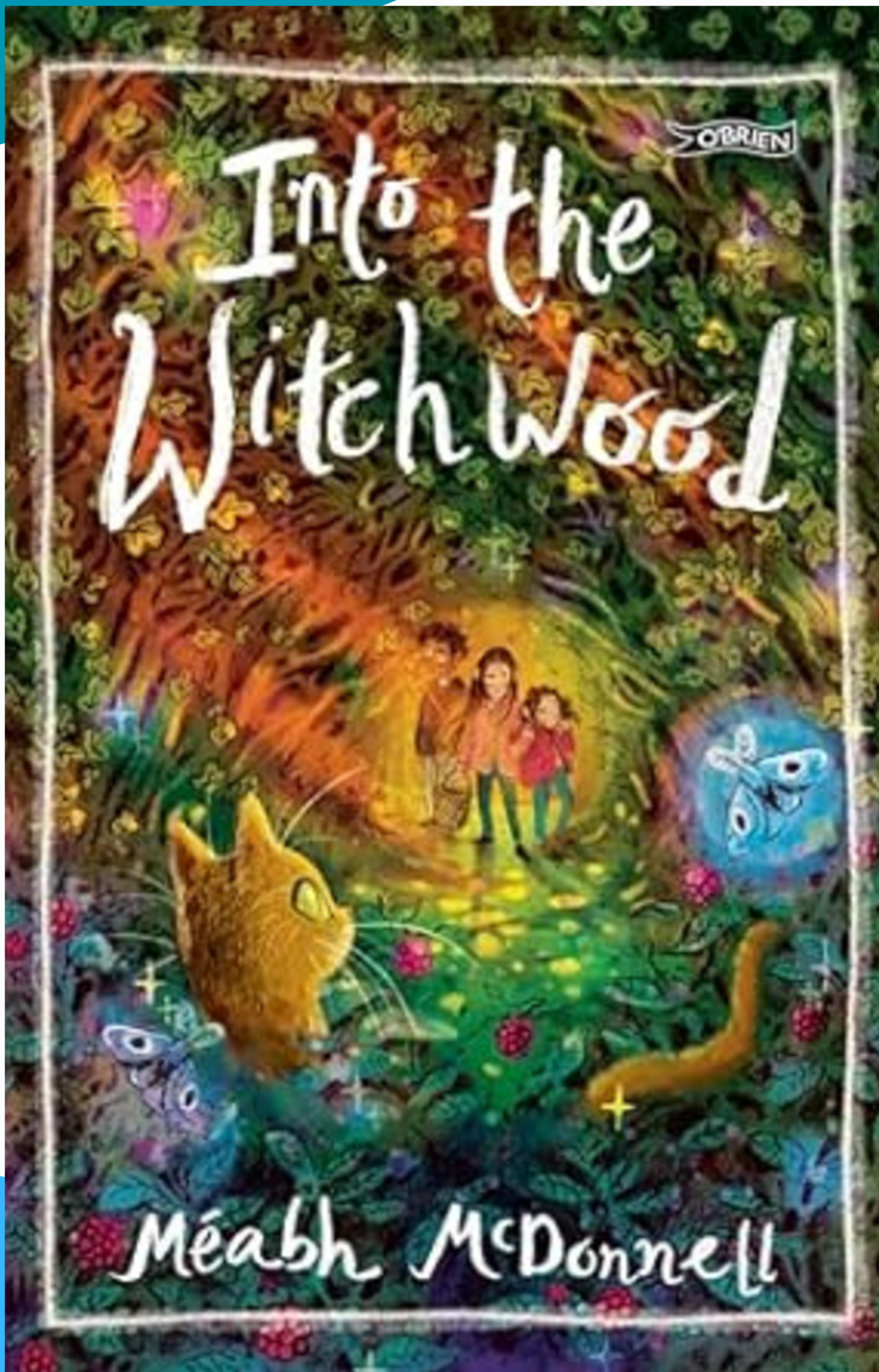
Legends of Norse Mythology by Tom Birkett

Non-Fiction 9+

Legends of Norse Mythology is a fully illustrated anthology of Norse gods, giants, monsters and heroes retold anew. This collection is perfect for readers looking for an introduction to this epic world of mystical power, battles, quests and intrigue. With this book, readers can take an adventure through time to a realm of ice and fire, magic and mischief.

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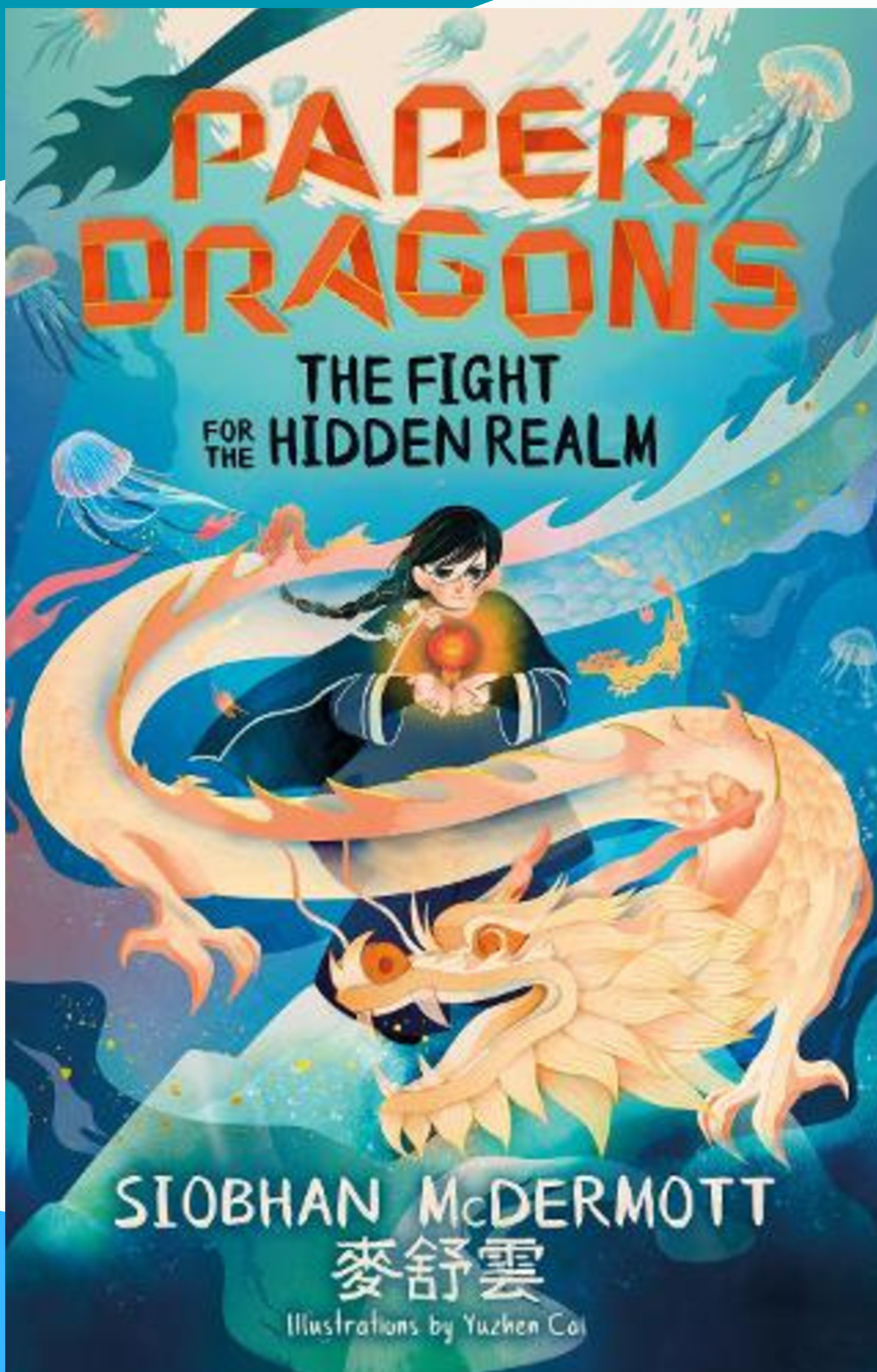
Into the Witchwood by Méabh McDonnell

Fiction 9+

Never, ever, set foot inside the Witchwood. Surrounding Rowan's home is the dark, dangerous Witchwood. At the heart of it, sitting at the bottom of an ancient well, is a powerful Witch. Six months ago, Rowan's mother went into the woods - and never came back out. Nothing has been the same ever since. She fights with her dad and her little sister, and her Nana won't even speak to her. There's only one thing that can fix it; Rowan needs to bring her mum home. There's magic lurking in the shadows. Watching her. Can Rowan enter the Witchwood and save her mum? After all, she's a witch too...

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Paper Dragons by Siobhan McDermott

Fiction 12

In a village above the cloud sea, twelve-year-old orphan Zhi Ging is chosen to become a Silhouette, an apprentice to the immortals. Taken to an underwater realm, she begins her training, competes in thrilling challenges and discovers she can awaken a special sort of dragon. But Silhouettes who fail the challenges seem to be disappearing and rumours are spreading of a growing dark force that threatens her world. Zhi Ging begins to realise that there is so much she has yet to learn about the world of the immortals - and herself.

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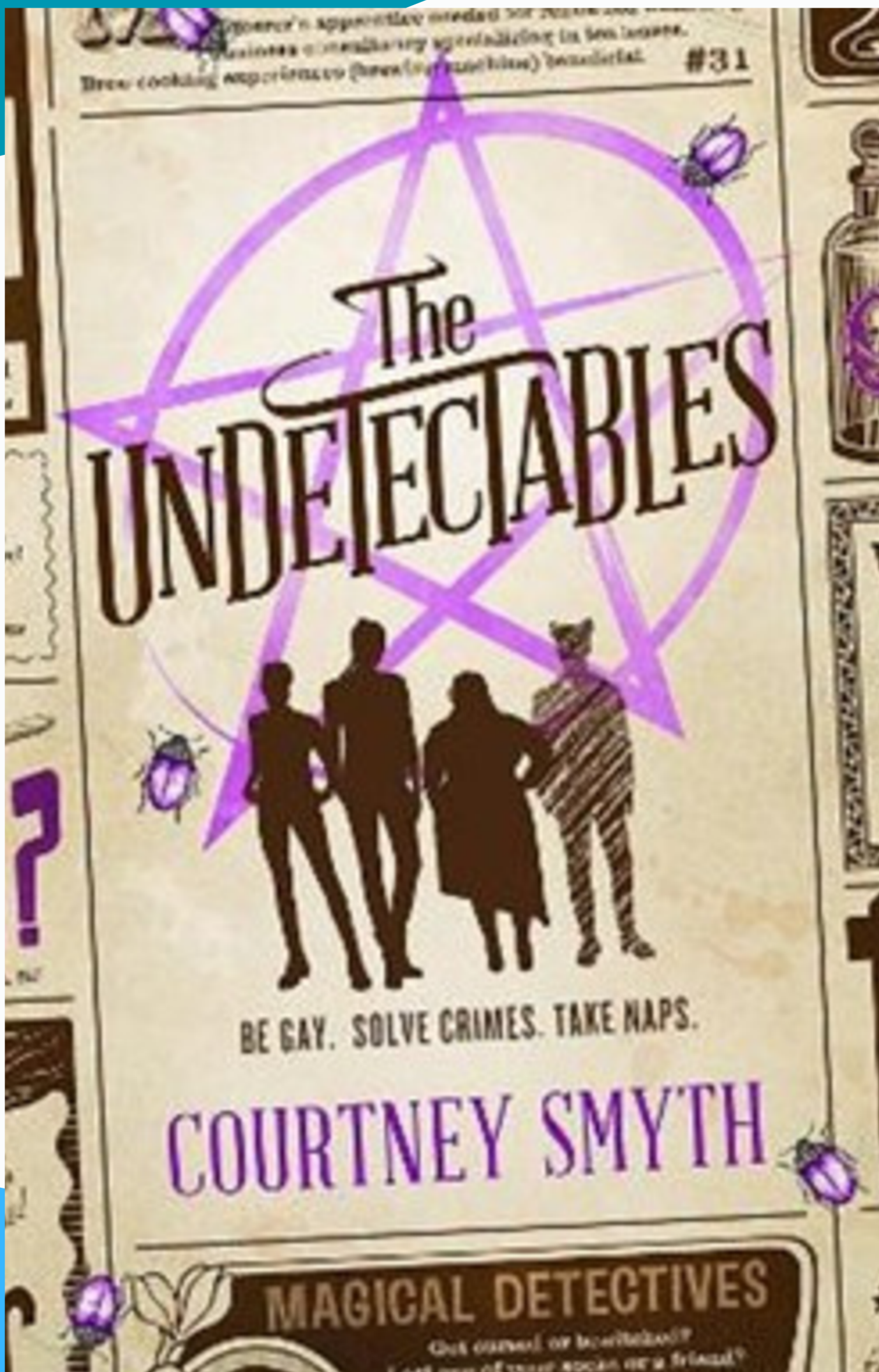
Black & Irish by Leon Diop and Briana Fitzsimons

Non-Fiction 12+

This landmark publication in Irish history is a celebration of Black Irish identity. Featuring profiles of Black Irish public figures from the worlds of pop culture, politics, sport, business and the arts. Includes Ruth Negga, Gavin Bazunu, Phil Lynott, Paul McGrath, Emma Dabiri, Rhasidat Adeleke and Dami Hope. Published in collaboration with Black and Irish.

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The Undetectables by Courtney Smyth

Fiction **Young Adult**

The Whistler, a magical serial killer is stalking the Occult town of Wrackton. Enter the Undetectables, a detective agency run by three witches and a ghost in a cat costume (don't ask). They are hired to investigate the murders, but with their only case so far left unsolved, will they be up to the task? With bodies stacking up and the case leading them to mysteries at the very heart of magical society, can the Undetectables find the Whistler before they become the killer's next victims?