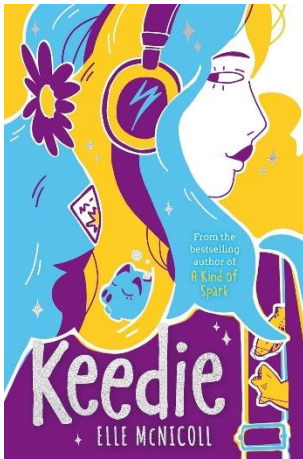


# Recommended reading

Thought provoking reads exploring identity, mental health, courage and finding your place in the world.

## Year 7-8

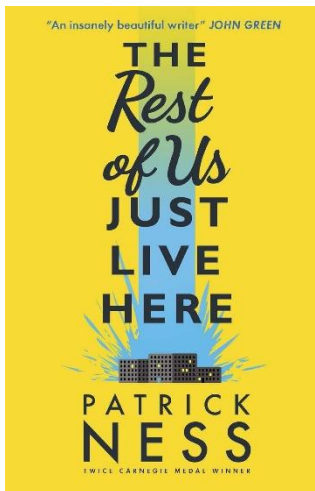
### Keedie, Elle McNicol



This beautifully written story follows 13-year-old Keedie, an autistic girl learning to navigate school, friendships, bullying and the challenges of growing up while staying true to herself. It's a novel full of empathy, courage and emotional honesty — perfect for helping young people understand themselves and others at a time when identity and confidence really matter.

## Year 9-10

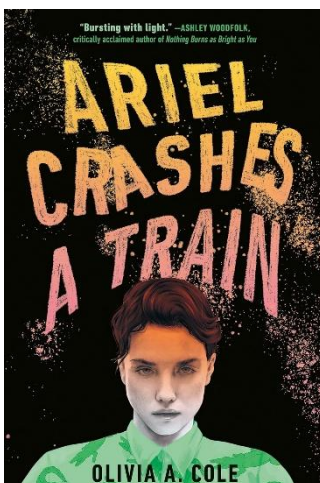
### The Rest of Us Just Live Here, Patrick Ness



This clever and heartfelt novel follows a group of ordinary teenagers just trying to make it through school, friendships and anxiety — all while bizarre supernatural events happen in the background. Instead of focusing on the “chosen ones,” Patrick Ness shines a light on the everyday young people who are dealing with real-life worries and trying to find their place in the world. Funny, warm, and thought-provoking, it's a perfect read for students who enjoy contemporary stories with a unique twist.

## Year 11-13

### Ariel Crashes A Train, Olivia A. Cole



This powerful novel-in-verse follows Ariel, a teenager struggling with intrusive thoughts and overwhelming anxiety. When her mind feels like a train speeding out of control, Ariel must learn to understand her fears and find a way back to herself. Written with intensity and honesty, the book offers a sensitive exploration of mental health, identity, and resilience. It's a compelling read for older students who appreciate emotional, character-driven stories.