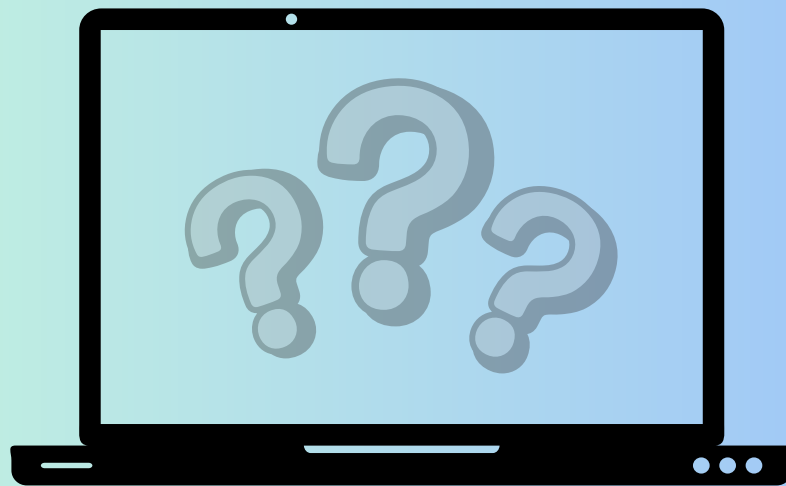




# Fact or Fiction?

Storybooks and Factual Books to help you explore what it means to Be Media Smart and Safe Online.



What does it means to Be Media Smart?

Let's talk about online safety



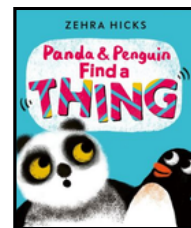
THINK

CHECK

# STORIES TO SHARE

## Panda and Penguin Find A Thing

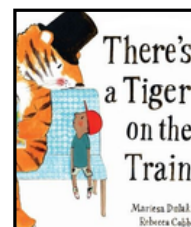
Zehra Hicks



When a mystery device comes between two best friends, will they learn to share, or decide they're better off without it at all? Panda and Penguin are best friends - until they find the Thing. The Thing is exciting - it has a flashing screen and makes funny ringing noises - but only one of them can play with it at a time. The Thing comes between them, but is anything worth losing their friendship? A funny and lighthearted tale that cautions against letting technology cause problems between friends.

## There's a Tiger on the Train

Mariesa Dulak



A boy and his dad board the train. Dad is stuck into his phone and misses the fact that a tiger boards the train too. and so does a family of hippos, and a band of crocs, and a mum with her piglets, and a pug in a boa - or two. On the way to the seaside pandemonium ensues, and then the tiger roars. Has he finally had enough? And what will dad say? Will he even notice?

## Troll

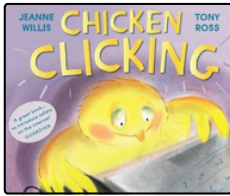
Frances Stickley



In this funny tale, inspired both by internet trolls and 'The Three Billy Goats Gruff', there is a terrifying troll that lives under a bridge. Unseen, he delights in shouting nasty things to passers-by. But when a deaf bunny unwittingly faces up to him, he realises that it's not so fun to say nasty things to someone's face. Can Troll finally learn to love himself and others?

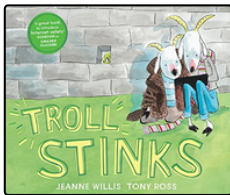


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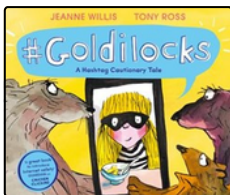
## Chicken Clicking

One night Chick hopped into the farmer's house and had a little browse on his computer. Soon she's brought a funny teapot, a frilly blouse, scooters for the sheep and a car for the cows. She just can't stop clicking! She meets a friend online and off she goes to meet him (without telling Mum or Dad). But the friend she thought she'd met turns out to be a fox



## Troll Stinks!

Billy Goat and his best friend Cyril are messing about with the farmer's mobile phone, taking selfies and playing games... until they discover the number for a troll. Grandpa Gruff says all trolls are bad, so Billy and Cyril decide to get their own back by sending mean messages. After all, trolls really do stink! Don't they?



## Goldilocks ( A Hashtag Cautionary Tale)

Everyone loves Goldilocks' hilarious online videos, but in her quest to get more likes, more laughs and more hits, she tries something a little more daring: stealing porridge #pipinghot, breaking chairs #fun, and using someone else's bed #sleep. What will Daddy Bear do when he sees that online?



## Old Macdonald had a Phone

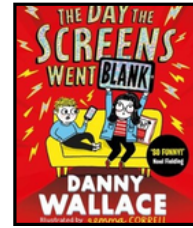
Old Macdonald loves his phone: it helps him organise his farm. But when the animals each get one of their own, they are soon on their phones all day - 'Here a tweet, there a chat, WhatsApping the farm cat' - and before they know it, no work is getting done! What can Old Macdonald do? Sing along to the tune of Old Macdonald had a Farm, in this hilarious cautionary tale for a new generation of phone-users.

**JEANNE WILLIS & TONY ROSS**



## The Day the Screens Went Blank

Danny Wallace



When ten-year-old Stella wakes up to discover a world full of BLANK screens, her family, town, and in fact the whole world seems to have been thrown into chaos. And what about poor Grandma who is stranded at the other end of the country? Cue a rollicking madcap road trip, full of driving disasters and family fallouts, as they set off on a rescue mission

## Adam Wins the Internet

Adam B



Everybody dreams of becoming a superstar YouTube sensation, but for Adam - a penniless, cameraless nobody, with only one friend - it isn't just a dream, it's an absolute impossibility! That is until he stumbles across the mysterious Popularis Incrementum website. Adam is thrown into a world of fame, fortune and hotels with really, really, really fancy TVs! But when Adam accepts a mission to reach one million subscribers in one year, it becomes clear that he has bitten off way more than he can chew, and his life becomes one epic fail after another. Fortunately for Adam, he still has a trick or two up his sleeve.

## The Boy Who Got Accidentally Famous

David Baddiel



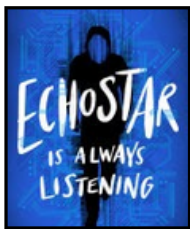
Nothing extraordinary has ever happened to Billy Smith. But when a documentary crew turns up at Billy's school to film the new TV series School Daze, everything changes. When remixes of Billy's boring class presentation go viral, Billy finds himself accidentally an overnight star. With his friends Bo and Rinor by his side, his life turns into a whirlwind of red carpets, TV shows, albums and even the possibility of meeting Sunshine De Marto - the coolest girl on the planet. But as everyone knows, fame comes with a price



## Bad Influence

Tamsin Winter

Amelia Bright wants to be the best at everything. But when it comes to popularity, she is dead last. When she meets cute new boy Evan, Amelia wonders if he can help her lose her loser status. And in a moment of hope, she agrees to something she quickly regrets - something that goes viral at school. Now she's not just called 'maggot', she's a 'bad influence' - and worse. But Amelia's determined not to let one mistake define her - she's so much more than the image everyone sees online.



## ECHOSTAR is always listening...

Melinda Salisbury

Ruby Brookes and her best friend Deva have won free places at the Ash Tree Foundation Performing Arts Camp over the summer, only if their school grades seriously improve. Then when Deva suddenly starts getting high marks in all their subjects, Ruby is confused and jealous. Until she finds out Deva's success is down to EchoStar, a new app that's helping her get ahead. Ruby is desperate to start using it too, but there is much more to BrightStar than she has imagined. Because EchoStar is always watching and listening.



## What Happens Online

Nathanael Lessore

Existor is the most popular guy in school. Fred is the loser with no friends. And nobody knows they're the same person. Existor@stmarks, Fred's alter ego, is the best gamer around - constantly on a winning streak, with tonnes of followers, and the confidence to go with it. Fred sees an opportunity: everyone listens to what Existor has to say, so why not use that? Soon, Fred is coming up with outlandish rumours about his classmates, and everyone's lapping it up. But it's a slippery slope and Fred struggles to keep track of all the stuff he's posted as his lies start to wreak unexpected havoc.

# TEEN FICTION

# YOUNG ADULT FICTION

## Influential

Amara Sage

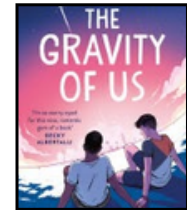


Almond is forced into the spotlight when she was just a perfectly filtered bump: her mum has been documenting their family through social media since before she was born. And her family enjoy all the rewards that come from that level of influence. Only, it's not the life Almond would have chosen for herself, and being on a platform all the time has made her anxious and insecure. If only she could see that she has a real-life, too, full of friends and family who love her, and that it could save her.

## The Gravity of Us

Phil Stamper

available on



Cal wants to be a journalist, and he's already well underway with almost half a million followers but his plans are derailed when his pilot father is selected for a highly-publicized NASA mission to Mars. With the entire nation desperate for any new information about the astronauts, Cal finds himself thrust in the middle of a reality TV show, until Cal meets Leon, whose mother is another astronaut on the mission. As their relationship grows, so does the frenzy surrounding the Mars mission. When secrets are revealed, Cal must find a way to get to the truth without hurting the people who have become most important to him.

## Don't read the comments

Eric Smith

available on



Two teen gamer's deal with their problems alone, but in the game, they have each other to face infinite new worlds...and the growing legion of trolls populating them. Soon the virtual harassment seeps into reality when a group called the Vox Populi begin launching real-world doxing campaigns, threatening Aaron's dreams and Divya's actual life.



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## A Kids Book about Life Online

Dave S Anderson and  
Blake Fleischacker

Juvenile Non-Fiction J004.678

Kids today are growing up with social media and life online, which is a big change from how their grownups grew up! Life online isn't a bad thing, and it isn't necessarily a good thing either. This book shows kids that how you hang out online only tells the whole world who you already are, and that when you show up authentically, creatively, and kindly, you can change the world!

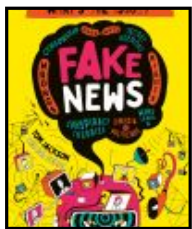


## Staying safe online

Ben Hubbard

Juvenile Non-Fiction J004.678

A guide to explaining what the internet is, how to stay safe online while being mindful of others to become a good digital citizen.



## Fake News

Tom Jackson

Juvenile Non-Fiction J070.43

What is fake news? How can the news be wrong? How do we know if what we're reading is true? What do you think? Do you have an informed opinion?

**NON-FICTION**

## Can You Believe It? How to Spot Fake News and Find Facts

Joyce Grant



[Juvenile Non-Fiction J070.43](#)

A comprehensive guide to how real journalism is made, what 'fake news' is and, most importantly, how to spot the difference. It provides practical advice, thought-provoking examples, and loads of explanations, definitions and useful context. Never judgmental, it encourages young people to approach what they find online with skepticism and helps them hone their critical-thinking skills to make good choices about what to believe and share. A must-read book on a topic that couldn't be more important in today's online world.

## Breaking News: How to Tell Whats Real from What's Rubbish

Nick Sheridan



[Juvenile Non-Fiction J070.43](#)

It's never been easier to access the news; TV, radio, billboards, newspapers and endlessly buzzing on to the screens in our pockets. But with more and more news available, it's hard to know what to trust. Where do stories come from? What's real news and what's fake? And what role does social media play in all of this? Insightful, hands-on, essential and reassuring, 'Breaking News' will help children navigate the peaks and pitfalls of our modern day news cycle, through laugh-out-loud text and amusing illustration.



## Social media and you

Honor Head

[Juvenile Non-Fiction J302.231](#)

Our experiences on social media have a big effect on how we think, feel and behave. Social media can be brilliant, but it can also cause all sorts of problems. This book will help you to get the most out of social media by making sure you stay in control and use it in a fun and safe way, rather than letting it control you and make you feel anxious and unhappy. There are hints and tips on quick ways to improve your mental health that you can try every day or whenever you need to.



## Life online

Sarah Ridley and Anne Rooney

[Juvenile Non-Fiction J302.231](#)

A resource for exploring and discussing online safety and includes topics such as using search engines, playing online games, cyber bullying, trolls and much more.



## Social media

Shalini Vallepur

[Juvenile Non-Fiction J302.231](#)

The Internet connects us with people from all around the world. People use the Internet every day to buy things, play games, talk with their friends, and find things out about the world around them. It is very useful, but it can also be dangerous. From shopping and gaming to information and social media, 'Internet Issues' teaches you all about how to stay safe on the Internet. This volume focuses on social media.

NON-FICTION

# NON-FICTION

## The teenage guide to life online

Nicola Morgan

[Adult Non-Fiction 004.678](#)

Nicola Morgan explores the pros and cons of life in the Digital Age, from the information explosion to the growth of social media. Opening with a brief history of the web she then explores hot topics like fake news and online privacy, and draws on fascinating, cutting-edge research into how the internet and screen-use affect our ability to concentrate, our mood and sleep patterns. This is a book for families to share: a way for teenagers, their parents and carers to inform themselves about the many advantages and risks of life online.



## Growing Up in Public: Coming of Age in a Digital World

Devorah Heitner

[Adult Non-Fiction 004.678](#)

The definitive book on helping kids navigate growing up in a world where nearly every moment of their lives can be shared and compare. 'Growing Up in Public' shows parents how to help tweens and teens navigate boundaries, identity, privacy and reputation in their digital world.



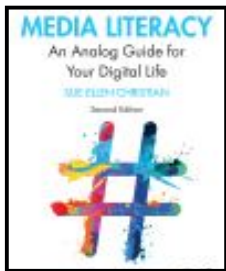


## How to stay safe online : a digital self-care toolkit for developing resilience and allyship

Seyi Akiwowo

Adult Non-Fiction 302.343

Here is a powerful, comprehensive guide for digital self-care and allyship from one of our leading activists for online equality, Seyi Akiwowo. Digital spaces are a positive force for change, connection and community, but left unregulated, they are not always safe. 'How to Stay Safe Online' will teach you how to spot, respond to and proactively defend yourself from online abuse and learn how to be a good ally to those experiencing it.



## Everyday media literacy : an analog guide for your digital life

Sue Ellen Christian

Adult Non-Fiction 302.23

In this graphic guide to media literacy, award-winning educator Sue Ellen Christian offers students an accessible, informed and lively look at how they can consume and create media intentionally and critically. The straight-talking textbook offers timely examples and relevant activities to equip students with the skills and knowledge they need to assess all media, including news and information.

**NON-FICTION**



# BORROWBOX



## You're crushing it : positivity for living your real life

Lex Croucher



A must-read for anyone who wants to embrace their actual, real, unedited life. Just always remember ... YOU'RE CRUSHING IT. Lex Croucher's frank and candid text is THE survival guide to help you make it through the crazy, topsy-turvy, whirlwind ride we call life. Brace yourself! Topics include: family and friends, body confidence, technology and social media, relationships, mental health, success and more.

## Staying safe online

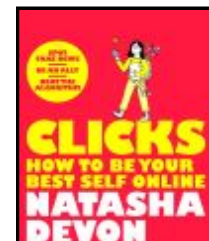
Louie Stowell



As the cyber world continues to grow it is becoming increasingly important for children to stay safe online and learn what sort of things to avoid or report. This book provides clear and helpful guidelines to internet safety, covering a wide range of topics that children may come across.

## Clicks : How to Be Your Best Self Online

Natasha Devon



There are three billion people online. Each of those people has their own biases, agendas and issues. It's little wonder when young people step into the digital world and are bombarded with 'hot takes', calls to cancel 'problematic' individuals, trolls, fake news and celebrity sales pitches they're likely to find it overwhelming and confusing. This book wants to change that. It will teach young people how to:- See and evaluate all sides of an argument- Spot fake news- Explain their 'take' persuasively- Use the internet to campaign for a fairer world- Get the most out of their online role models- Show allyship to marginalised groups.



Cavan County Council's  
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# Fact or Fiction?

Stories and Facts about What it means to Be  
Media Smart and Safe Online

Details of the books and e-books contained in this booklet were obtained through the Library Catalogue, available online at [www.cavanlibrary.ie](http://www.cavanlibrary.ie)

Books can be reserved online through our online [Library Catalogue](#)

Created in July 2025, this initiative supports the introduction of Media Literacy storytimes and displays across Cavan Library Service. It aims to raise awareness of the resources available to support Media Literacy in County Cavan.

This project was developed as part of the Media and Information Literacy Community Connections (MIL-CC): A Media Literacy Training Programme for Public Librarians - a pilot project running in Ireland, Spain and Portugal.



[Top Tips to Be Media Smart - Media Literacy Ireland](#)