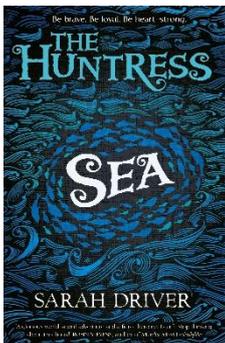


## Fearless Females in Fantasy Fiction

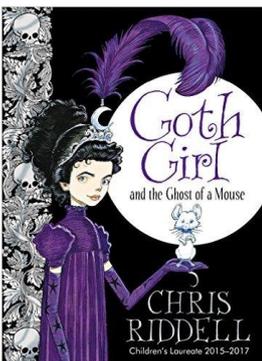
Inspired by the publication of the first book in Sarah Driver's *Huntress* trilogy, CLPE staff have put together a list of strong and significant heroines in fantasy fiction aimed at children of 9+. We invited our Twitter followers to come up with their suggestions, listed at the end.



**Mouse** in *The Huntress: Sea* by Sarah Driver

Egmont 9781405284677

Mouse belongs to a tribe that lives on the ocean waves. Her Grandma captains the ship *The Huntress* and she is destined for this role one day. Bold and impulsive, Mouse has to contend with warding off terrodylys and the arrival of Stag who claims that her father is dead and takes over the ship, despatching her brother Sparrow to an unknown destination. Mouse must use her wits, bravery and skill with beast-chatter to try and rescue him and a Storm-Opal. Mouse's adventures are set to continue in the forthcoming *The Huntress: Sky* and *The Huntress: Land*.



**Ada Goth** in *Goth Girl and the Ghost of a Mouse* by Chris Riddell

Macmillan 9781447201748

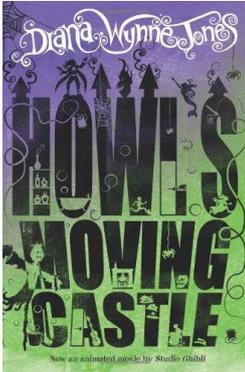
In this ghostly tale which places the emphasis on humour rather than horror, Ada has a strained relationship with her father Lord Goth but she is no swooning, screaming heroine. This plucky girl teams up with two visiting children and a ghost mouse and together they defeat the plans of the dastardly indoor gamekeeper, Maltravers. This book can be thoroughly mined for its wealth of literary references such as governesses rejoicing in names like Hebe Poppins and Becky Blunt, a Secret Garden and an Even-More-Secret-Garden in the hall's grounds, not to mention a lady novelist called Mary Shellfish and a surely self-referential Martin Puzzlewit. Ada's adventures continue in:

*Goth Girl and the Fete Worse Than Death* Macmillan 9780230759824

*Goth Girl and the Wuthering Fright* Macmillan 9781447277897

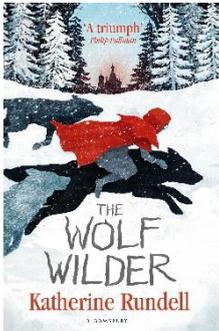
**Sophie Hatter** in *Howl's Moving Castle* by Diana Wynne Jones  
HarperCollins 9780007299263

Sophie Hatter is the eldest of three sisters and, in true fairytale tradition, believes that she will be the least successful in life. After being turned into an old woman by the Witch of the Waste, Sophie encounters Wizard Howl, who has a dangerous reputation. However, in the worlds Diana Wynne Jones creates, nothing is quite what it seems. Following her transformation, Sophie becomes more assertive and her confidence grows throughout the course of the story. Made into a film directed by Japanese master of animation Hayao Miyazaki.



**Feodora** in *The Wolf Wilder* by Katherine Rundell  
Bloomsbury 9781408854853

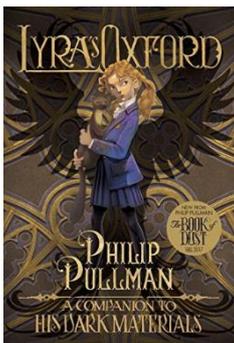
Set in the depths of the wintery Russian woods where Feodora lives with her mother, a wolf wilder, and she is a wilder in training. The women work to make the wolves wild again, following their captivity in aristocratic Russian homes. After they are threatened and Feodora's mother is captured by the Russian army, Feo leads the wolves and a motley army she has gathered to the capital to set her mother free.

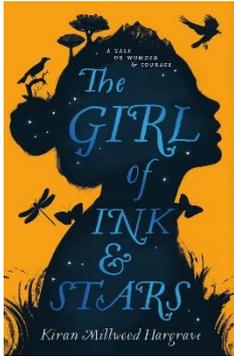


**Lyra Belacqua** (aka Lyra Silvertongue) in Philip Pullman's trilogy *His Dark Materials*  
1: *Northern Lights* Scholastic 9781407130224  
2: *The Subtle Knife* Scholastic 9781407130231  
3: *The Amber Spyglass* Scholastic 9781407130248

*Lyra's Oxford* (Yearling 9780399555459) and *Once Upon a Time in the North* (Yearling 9780399555442), both illustrated by John Lawrence, are companion volumes to *His Dark Materials*.

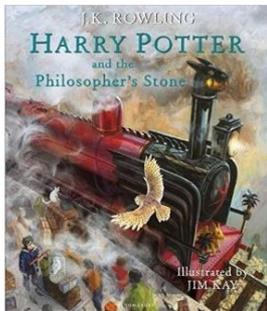
Tough, likeable heroine Lyra, brave, independent and intensely loyal to her friends, is at the centre of this trilogy in which she is drawn into a war between several parallel universes. The significance of her own role gradually becomes apparent and questions of destiny and free will come into play. Readers can look forward to meeting Lyra again when *The Book of Dust* is published in Autumn 2017.





**Isabella Riosse** in *The Girl of Ink and Stars* by Kiran Millwood Hargrave  
Chicken House 978191002742

When her best friend Lupe disappears into the Forbidden Territories in search of the killers of their schoolfriend Cata, Isabella disguises herself as her dead brother and joins the search party lead by Lupe's dictator father. Her understanding and love of mapmaking, handed down to her from her cartographer parents, aids her in her quest, as does her belief in the bravery of the legendary Arinta.



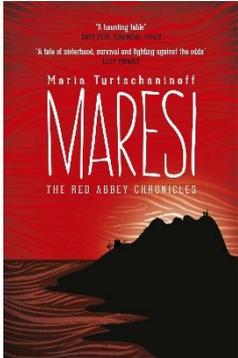
**Hermione Granger** in *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone* and sequels by J K Rowling, illustrated by Jim Kay  
Bloomsbury 9781407130248

Talented witch Hermione Granger forms a friendship with Harry Potter and Ron Weasley in their first term at Hogwarts and is an integral part of the heroic adventures that ensue. She is a typical Gryffindor - intellectual, brave and noble. Her thirst for knowledge and love of book learning are hallmarks of her character and she combines this with a physically active role. In the course of the seven books she smuggles a dragon, confronts a basilisk, goes back in time and faces Death Eaters.



**Tiffany Aching** in the *Discworld* series by Terry Pratchett

Tiffany first appears in *The Wee Free Men* (Corgi 9780552576307) where she becomes an apprentice witch mentored by Granny Weatherwax, a significant Discworld character. Her story continues in *A Hat Full of Sky* (Corgi 9780552551441) *Wintersmith* (Corgi 9780552553698) *I Shall Wear Midnight* (Corgi 9780552166058) and she is at the centre of the final Discworld novel *The Shepherd's Crown* (Corgi 9780552576345) when she becomes Granny Weatherwax's successor, finding her own way to carry out this role.



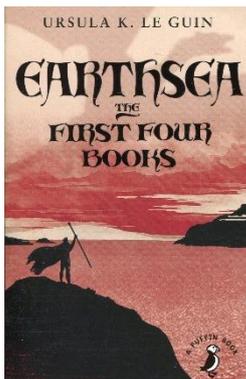
**Maresi Enresdaughter** in *The Red Abbey Chronicles* by Maria Turtchaninoff,

translated from Swedish by A.A. Prime

*Maresi* Pushkin Press 9781782690924

*Naondel* Pushkin Press 9781782690931

Maresi Enresdaughter is a novice at an ancient abbey founded and run entirely by women, on an island where no men are allowed and is narrator of the first of the Red Abbey Chronicles, first published in Finland. Reviewing this novel, S F Said wrote '*Turtchaninoff weaves in fantasy with feminism, creating a spellbinding read that is completely unputdownable.... One of the most impressive points of Turtchaninoff's writing is her ability to depict the effects that both psychological and physical abuse have on women whilst maintaining an almost serene feminist few point throughout, and it is this that makes the novel so unique.*' In the second book, violence against women is more explicit so suitable for more mature readers.



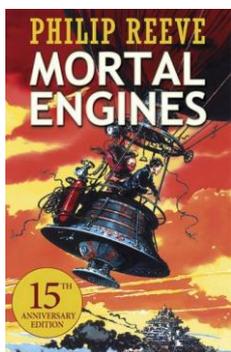
**Tenar/Goha** in Ursula Le Guin's Earthsea books

*Earthsea. The First Four Books* Puffin 9780141370538

*Tales from Earthsea* Gollancz 9781842552148

*The Other Wind* Gollancz 9781842552117

Tenar is High Priestess of the Nameless Ones and first appears in *The Tombs of Atuan*, the second of Ursula Le Guin's highly regarded sequence set in a world of islands. She encounters Ged the wizard, whose story begins in *The Wizard of Earthsea*. Tenar is instrumental in their escape from the Tombs. Many years later, they meet again in the fourth book *Tehanu*, in which Tenar is now known as Goha. They learn from each other, and their story arcs are intertwined and finally brought together in the adult novel *The Other Wind*. Subverting notions about gender is a significant theme in Le Guin's work.



**Hester Shaw** in the *Mortal Engines* quartet by Philip Reeve

*Mortal Engines* Scholastic 9781407152134

*Predator's Gold* Scholastic 9781407152141

*Infernal Devices* Scholastic 9781407152127

*A Darkling Plain* Scholastic 9781407152110

Unlikeable but ultimately unforgettable, Hester Shaw is a complex character in this sequence of novels set in an alternative future when cities chase smaller towns and villages and devour and dismantle them. Who is Hester Shaw, why does she hate Thaddeus Valentine and where will this lead? Her story and her relationship with Tom Natsworthy develop throughout the series, often in unexpected ways.

### More fearless females from our twitter followers:

**Alice Liddell** in *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* by Lewis Carroll  
Puffin 9780141321073 illustrated by John Tenniel  
Walker 9781406370706 illustrated by Anthony Browne  
Walker 9781406360431 illustrated by Helen Oxenbury  
And many other editions!

**Irene** in *The Invisible Library* by Genevieve Cogman  
Pan 9781447256236

**Sophie** in *Rooftoppers* by Katherine Rundell  
Faber & Faber 9780571280599

**Dorothy** in *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz* by L. Frank Baum  
Oxford University Press 9780192738318

**Hilda** in *Hilda and the Troll* by Luke Pearson  
Flying Eye 9781909263789

**Dido Twite** in *Black Hearts in Battersea* by Joan Aiken  
Vintage 9780099573661

**Moll Pecksniff** in *The Dreamsnatcher* by Abi Elphinstone  
Simon & Schuster 9781471122682

**Mabel Jones** in *The Unlikely Adventures of Mabel Jones* by Will Mabbitt  
Puffin 9780141355146 illustrated by Ross Collins

**Mosca Mye** in *Twilight Robbery* by Frances Hardinge  
Macmillan 9781509842346

**Hazel Hooper** in *Fire Girl* by Matt Ralph  
Macmillan 9781447283553

**Lily Quench** in *Lily Quench and the Dragon of Ashby* by Natalie Jane Prior  
Puffin 9780141316833 illustrated by Janine Dawson

**Aluna** in *Above World* by Jenn Reese  
Walker 9781406348293

**Greta** in *Hercufleas* by Sam Gayton  
Andersen Press 9781849396363 illustrated by Peter Cottrill

**Caitlin** in *Perijee and Me* by Ross Montgomery  
Faber & Faber 9780571317950