Grace by Morris Gleitzman, published by Puffin

Told in Grace's own words, this funny and affecting account of life inside (and outside) a religious cult raises questions about intellectual and emotional freedom, and how power should be exercised. *Middle-grade fiction*
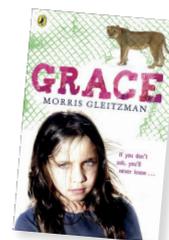
Henry's Freedom Box: A True Story of the Underground Railroad by Ellen Levine and Kadir Nelson, published by Scholastic Press

The astonishing real-life story of the slave Henry 'Box' Brown, who escaped his owners by posting himself in a crate to Philadelphia, where slavery was illegal – a dangerous journey of 350 miles. *Narrative non-fiction middle-grade picturebook*
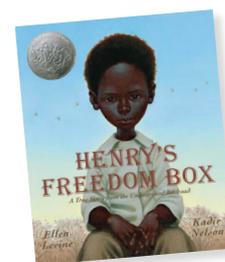
Little Badman and the Invasion of the Killer Aunties by Humza Arshad and Henry White, illustrated by Aleksei Bitskoff, published by Puffin

When Humza and his friends discover that their 'Asian Auntie' supply teachers are evil aliens intent on conquering the world, they must stand and fight for freedom in this madcap (and very funny) adventure. *Fully illustrated middle-grade fiction*
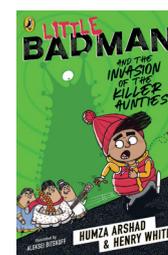
Don't Cross the Line! by Isabel Minhos Martins, illustrated by Bernardo P. Carvalho, published by Gecko Press

In this visual exploration of authoritarian control and 'people power', the central gutter of the book becomes a no-go barrier as guards stop people entering the empty right-hand page. But as the left-hand page fills with increasingly disaffected characters, something is going to have to give! Entertaining, thought-provoking and stylish. *Picturebook for all ages*

Weslandia by Paul Fleischman, illustrated by Kevin Hawkes, published by Walker Books

The bullies pick on Wesley, but can't take his intellectual and creative freedom away from him. And by the time his summer project is complete – the establishment of the hugely appealing country of Weslandia, with its own customs, language and economy – the bullies have become his biggest fans. *Picturebook for middle-grade readers*