

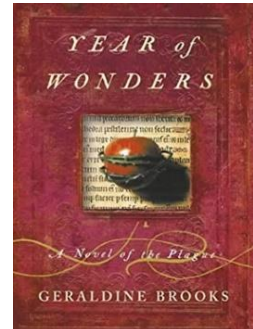


Plagues & Pandemics Fiction

A selection of titles ranging across all age ranges

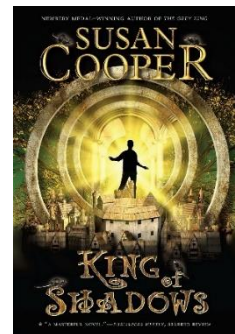
Year of Wonders: A novel of the Plague by Geraldine Brooks, 2015

When an infected bolt of cloth carries plague from London to an isolated mountain village, a housemaid named Anna Frith emerges as an unlikely heroine and healer. Through Anna's eyes we follow the story of the fateful year of **1666**, as she and her fellow villagers confront the spread of disease and superstition. **YA**



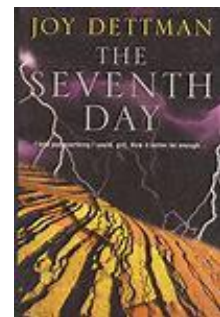
King of Shadows by Susan Cooper, 2000

A young actor, Nat Field, wakes up one morning to find himself in the past, in 1599, acting at the Globe Theatre. His co-star is the King of Shadows himself: William Shakespeare. Nat's new life is blazing with excitement and edged with the danger of the plague, but why is he here?



The Seventh Day by Joy Dettman, 2002

The world as we knew it has been gone for two hundred years. The descendants of those few who survived the Great Ending are now ruled by an all-powerful group known as the Chosen, whose walled city imprisons their diminishing population and is rife with plague and threatened with extinction.



Children of Winter by Berlie Doherty, 1995

Catherine and her siblings are out for a walk when a sudden storm blows up, and they are forced to take shelter in a deserted barn which they have never seen before, but which seems strangely familiar. As the light dims, shadows of the past crowd in, memories of a time hundreds of years ago, when three children took refuge in a barn, not from a storm but from a terrible plague...



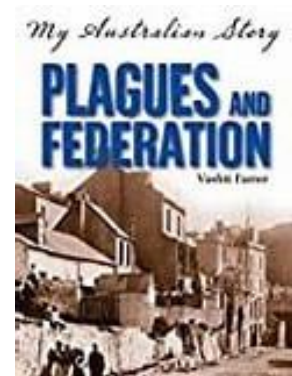
A Company of Fools by Deborah Ellis, 2004

Henri is used to the quiet routines of the Abbey, until Micah sweeps into his life. Micah may not know how to comb his hair, or wait his turn, but he certainly knows how to stir things up. Then comes the plague. With the tail of a scorpion and breath of fire it will pass through every village and town until nothing can ever be the same. Together, Henry and Micah manage to find fun amid the fear. Marching about the countryside with their Company of Fools they revel in the healing power of laughter. Set in fourteenth century France at the time of the Plague; this is a story about friendship, courage and the importance of resisting despair.



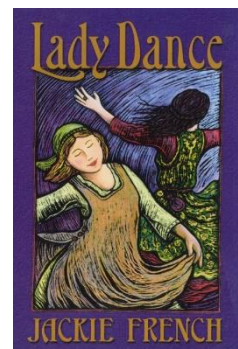
Plagues and Federation: The Diary of Kitty Barnes, the Rocks, 1900 by Vashti Farrer, 2000

The year 1900 was a momentous one for Kitty Barnes. Bubonic plague, the Black Death, was killing large numbers of people; the country was on the verge of becoming a federation; Kitty's brother was in Africa fighting in the Boer War; and Kitty was finding herself somewhat attracted to Reggie, the boy down the road. **(My Australian Story series)**



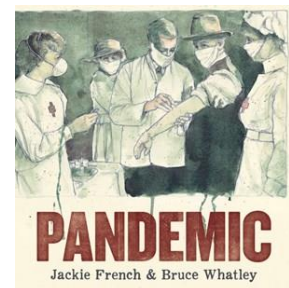
Lady Dance by Jackie French, 2000

The plague is ravaging Europe. A young girl, lost and alone in her village after her family dies finds hope when Lady Dance comes by. Set in the Middle Ages when the bubonic plague was at its height, Lady Dance is an extraordinary story of love and the meeting of hearts and minds in the most unlikely circumstances. Ages 10+



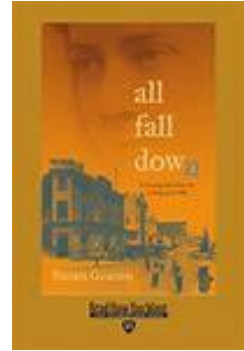
Pandemic by Jackie French and Bruce Whatley (Illustrator), 2020

The Great War carried the Spanish flu across the world. Faces grew masks. Shops and schools wore signs that said, 'Closed'. Families nursing the sick drew their curtains together to say their house was quarantined... From the award-winning creators of Flood, Fire, Cyclone and Drought, comes this powerful story of humanity prevailing during a pandemic.



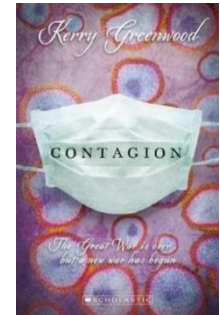
All Fall Down by Susan Geason, 2005

What began as a game to find a kidnapped boy now takes a terrifying turn, as Christabel discovers that the notoriously violent gangs that infest the slums of The Rocks are not the only threat but that an outbreak of the deadly bubonic plague is imminent.



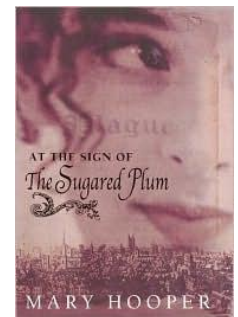
Contagion by Kerry Greenwood, 2020

As the horrors of the First World War are drawing to a close, a danger has arisen that will kill more people around the world than the Great War did - an influenza pandemic. Charlotte McKenzie, assisting the doctor next door, finds herself experiencing at close hand the effects of this devastating disease - and when it finally attacks her own family, how will Charlotte cope? **(My Australian Story series)**



At the Sign of the Sugared Plum by Mary Hooper, 2003

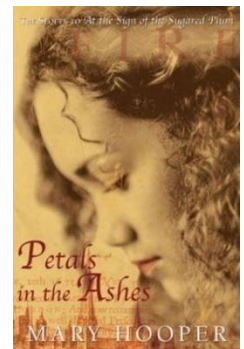
It is 1665 and Hannah is full of excitement at the prospect of her first trip to London. She is going to help her sister, Sarah, in her sweetmeats shop, 'The Sugared Plum'. Hannah does not get the welcoming reception she expected. Sarah is horrified that Hannah did not get her message to stay away: the Plague is threatening to take hold of London.



Petals in the Ashes by Mary Hooper, 2004

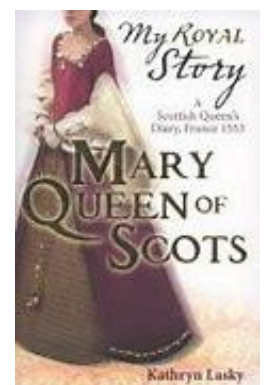
Hannah returns to her beloved London to re-open the sweetmeats shop with younger sister Anne. Some Londoners are still reeling from the plague epidemic of the previous year, but Hannah and Anne are keen to make the most of everything the bustling city has to offer...

Out of the frying pan, literally into the fire, the young London shopkeeper who witnessed the horrors of the Plague in **At the Sign of the Sugared Plum** returns to the City just in time to see most of it go up in the Great Fire of 1666.



Mary, Queen of Scots: Queen Without a Country by Kathryn Lasky, 2002

Mary, the young Scottish queen, is sent a diary from her mother in whom she records her experiences living at the court of France's King Henry II as she awaits her marriage to Henry's son, Francis. This is a time of turmoil and plague. **(My Royal Story series)**



The Black Dog Gang by Robert Newton, 2007

The gang was Mickey's idea. We'd heard the rumours – rats were coming in off the ships and spreading disease. Then the government started offering tuppence a rat, so we decided to get stuck in. But we hadn't counted on someone getting sick. When Maggie is taken to the Quarantine Station with plague, Frankie and his gang come to regret their money-making scheme, catching and selling rats to the health inspector.



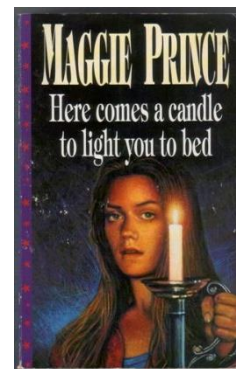
The Great Plague by Pamela Oldfield, 2001

It's 1665 and Alice is looking forward to being back in London. The plague is spreading quickly, and as each day passes more red crosses appear on doors. When her aunt is struck down with the plague, she is forced to make a decision that could change her life forever. The diary of 13-year-old Alice Paynton, a young girl in the time of Charles II. Her diary covers the months from June 1665 to the Great Fire of 1666, while the bubonic plague ravages London. **(My Story series)**



Here Comes a Candle to Light You to Bed by Maggie Prince, 1996

Although she hardly knows him, Emily already feels part of Seth's mysterious world. His world is one of trapped time, full of the terrified and terrifying victims of plague ridden seventeenth century London...



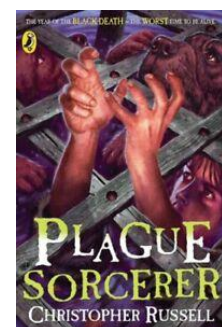
Kiss of Death by Malcolm Rose, 2006

On a school trip to the plague village of Eyam, Seth is moved by the story of how villagers sacrificed their lives to the dreaded Black Death. Kim and Wes are more interested in the money they see at the bottom of the wishing well! But when they snatch the coins, they also pick up something they hadn't bargained for, and as the hideous consequences of their theft catch up with them all, Seth is forced to face a terrifying truth.



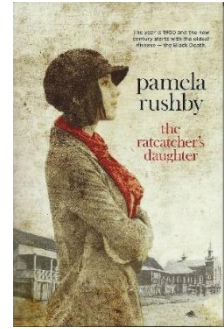
Plague Sorcerer by Christopher Russell, 2009

1348. The Black Death. The most terrible of plagues is sweeping across England. Whole villages are dying, and people are looking for someone to blame. At Dowe Manor, Lady Beatrice is a victim, and a witch-hunter priest, Brother Rohan, persuades a distraught Sir Edmund that Brind, the dog boy, and Aurelie, the French girl, are to blame.

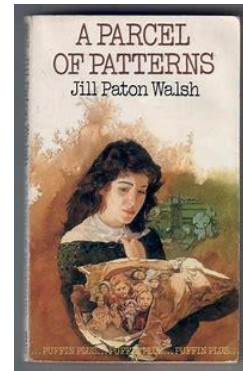


The Ratcatcher's Daughter by Pamela Rushby, 2014

It's 1900. Thirteen-year-old Issy McKelvie leaves school and starts her first job, very reluctantly, as a maid in an undertaking establishment. She thinks this is about as low as you can go. But there's worse to come. Issy becomes an unwilling ratcatcher when the plague, the Black Death, arrives in Brisbane Australia. Issy loathes both rats and her father's four yappy, snappy, hyperactive rat-killing terriers. But when her father becomes ill it's up to Issy to join the battle to rid the city of the plague-carrying rats.

**A Parcel of Patterns** by Jill Paton Walsh, 1983

Set in 1665 rural England, this novel brutally illustrates the effect of the Great Plague of London on the villagers of Eyam, as it spreads from London to consume a large portion of England, becoming the final major epidemic of the Bubonic Plague to devastate the country. Sixteen-year-old Mall Percival describes the course of the plague and the consequences to her community members and loved ones as it reaches her small town of Eyam.

**The Plague: Rachel's story / Robert's story** by Philip Wooderson, 2006

It is 1665 and the dreaded plague has returned to London. Like everybody, Rachel is fearful for her life. She is also anxious about her cousin, Robert, who has disappeared without a word.... a split story between Rachel Hopgood and Robert Duncan. As the two struggle to fight away the plague it only gets harder as the plague spreads.



For more titles see

[YA & Middle Grade Epidemics/Pandemics \(205 books\) \(goodreads.com\)](https://www.goodreads.com/list/show/17717717 YA_and_Middle_Grade_Epidemics_Pandemics_205_books)

[17 Children's Books To Help Kids Navigate Life During A Pandemic | HuffPost Life](https://www.huffpost.com/entry/17-childrens-books-to-help-kids-navigate-life-during-a-pandemic)

Compiled by Dajo Finlayson, 2021