From Prejudice to Pride
(Amy Lamé, Wayland, £13.99)
Subtitle ‘a history of the LGBTQ+ movement’, this is an inspiring and celebratory overview of the experiences of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people – and especially, their struggle for civil rights – from the time of ancient civilisations to today, and all around the world. Written by Amy Lamé, who is London’s first Night Czar, and likely to be known to young readers through her media presence across several popular radio, TV and internet channels, it carefully unpicks the many threads of what is a complex, and still evolving, tapestry; presenting key facts and figures alongside stories of heartbreak and courage, pride in the face of rejection and oppression, and above all, the determination to have all voices in society heard. It’s simultaneously informative and empowering – answering questions about gender and identity and encouraging young people to embrace diversity as they strive to establish their own place in the universe. Great stuff.

Questions Pupils Ask
(Colin Foster, The Mathematical Association, £15.95)
Colin Foster has been a regular contributor to Teach Secondary since its first issue; providing original and exciting maths lesson plans that explore, explain and embed key concepts; encourage students to make connections between topics and apply their learning to the world around them; and, crucially, allow everyone in the classroom to go as far along the path of mathematical discovery as their curiosity will take them. Questioning – both of and by young people – always plays an important part in his pedagogy, and in this book, as the title suggests, he uses queries that have been raised by pupils as the starting point for a series of reflections on the teaching and learning of secondary mathematics. Covering a diverse range of topics including number, algebra, geometry and statistics, each essay is thought-provoking, engagingly written, and accessible for KS3 and 4 students, as well as teachers.

The Pearl Thief
(Elizabeth Wein, Bloomsbury, £7.99)
Combining meticulous historical research with personal experience of the rich, Scottish landscape in which it’s set – plus a sparkling strand or two of sheer invention – this is a powerful and strangely haunting novel from bestselling author Elizabeth Wein. At its heart is a mystery involving disappearance and violent death; but although this certainly provides an intriguing puzzle, skilfully pieced together, it’s the personal discoveries made by the protagonist as the plot unfolds – about who she is, and what she really wants from life – that are the real revelations. Fans of Wein’s first WWII novel, Code Name Verity will recognise the distinctively and deceptively cool voice of the narrator, who is in fact a younger incarnation of Julie (or Queenie) from that book; and although either story can be read without knowledge of the other, the two together offer fascinating, layered insight into a genuinely memorable, complex and unique character in Young Adult fiction.