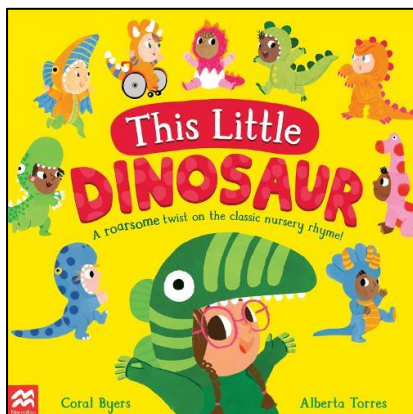


## Purple Parcel 1

### This Little Dinosaur

By Coral Byers and Alberta Torres



#### What the selection panel said:

- Very diverse and well thought out
- It's funny and colourful
- It's nice – it has counting in it
- I liked the children dressed up
- I like the ethnicity, there's a Chinese child, Black children, a child with glasses, and I liked that they were all playing together
- Yes, it's diverse
- I like the author note to the person reading at the end

#### About the book:

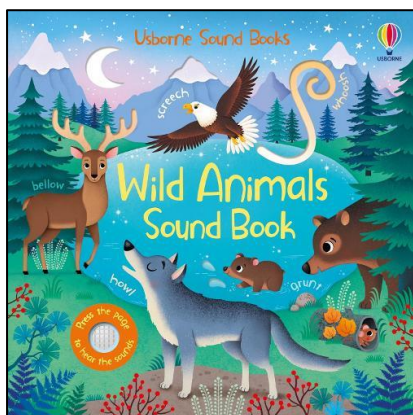
In this alternative version to the popular nursery rhyme 'This Little Piggy', little children in fluffy dinosaur costumes stamp and stomp, swoop and soar, swirl and twirl. Pictured in a nursery or pre-school setting, the little dinosaurs can be seen engaging in everyday learning activities from painting and stacking blocks to snoozing and imaginative play. The simple, rhythmic and rhyming text is fun to read aloud, and there's a counting element through the book as well.

#### You might also like:

1,2,3 Do the Dinosaur by Michelle Robinson and Rosalind Beardshaw

### Wild Animals Sound Book

By Sam Taplin and Claire Ever



#### What the selection panel said:

- Engaging sounds
- Bright, sensory, realistic animal sounds
- I love the sounds and the peep throughs!
- I had fun playing with this one
- Colourful
- Our last foster child liked the cut-outs in the pages and tracing it with her fingers and following the story that way too

#### About the book:

This colourful, interactive board book has shapes to trace with your finger, cut-out shapes to feel and peek through to the next page, and a sound button to press on every page. Every page features different animals and a different habitat, from mountains bears to an African

[Example contents for 2024/5. Please note some of the contents may differ]

hippo and parrots in the jungle. Bite-size text describes each scene and introduces the animal who you will hear when you press the sound button. A fun introduction to some wild animals and what noises they make.

**You might also like:**

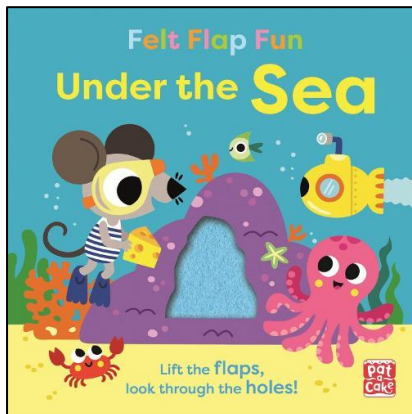
There are more books in this series, e.g. *Zoo Sounds*

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## Purple Parcel 2

### Felt Flap Fun: Under the Sea

By Pat-a-Cake and Tiago Americo



**What the selection panel said:**

- It's interactive and colourful
- Children like textured books
- It has felt flaps which are very tactile, and they don't rip
- I definitely liked it, it's colourful and different
- I thought it was really fun and simple and if you're a 3-year-old in a buggy it's enough to just hold it

**About the book:**

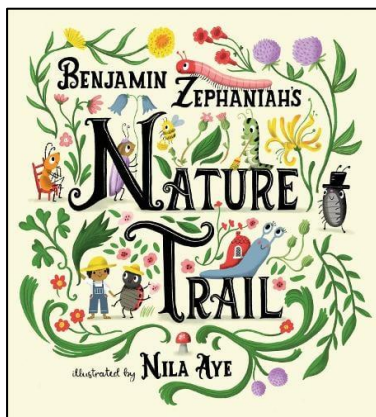
Explorer Mouse is having a lovely day at the seaside but the cheese from her picnic has gone missing! Join in with Explorer Mouse as she goes in search of the missing cheese and lift the felt flaps to see if it is hidden underneath. A bight, interactive board book that is fun to read together or for little ones to explore independently.

**You might also like:**

*Hide and Seek Under the Sea* by Rachel Elliott and Gareth Lucas

## **Nature Trail**

By Benjamin Zephaniah and Nila Aye



### **What the selection panel said:**

- Lovely and colourful, diverse characters
- Great subject matter
- A well-presented, colourful book
- I loved this one; I thought it was very classic-looking
- It's all about what you can find in your garden
- I thought it was lovely

### **About the book:**

Award-winning poet Benjamin Zephaniah takes readers on a miniature nature adventure around the garden. It's a wonderfully fantastical garden – with a hedgehog and frog playing cards, knitting caterpillars and birds having a birthday party – but all the animals we see are those you'd find in the British countryside or urban wild space. With vibrant illustrations, it's a joyful poem in book form that pays tribute to all the treats that nature has to offer and an imaginative rhyming text that is perfect for reading aloud.

**BookTrust book review:** <https://www.booktrust.org.uk/book/b/benjamin-zephaniahs-nature-trail/>

### **Things to know about:**

This book includes the phrase 'squirrels come to nick my nuts'.

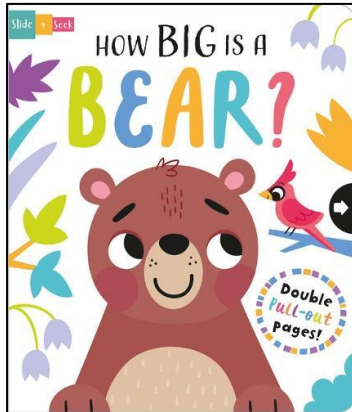
### **You might also like:**

*Octopus Shocktopus* by Peter Bently and Steven Lenton

## Purple Parcel 3

### How Big is a Bear?

By Lisa Regan and Sarah Wade



#### What the selection panel said:

- A really lovely book, great quality and interactive
- I love the pull-out sections – I like things you can pull and fidget with
- Colourful pictures and facts for younger readers
- Good use of repetitive words – if you're with a child who hasn't had the experience of reading, it's really useful to have that consistency
- You could have lovely discussions around it

#### About the book:

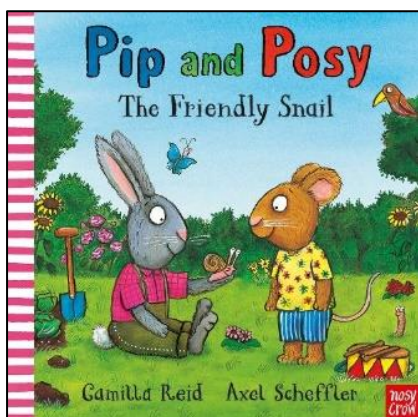
This non-fiction board book introduces a selection of wild animals from other parts of the world and looks at one of their features. As well as 'how big is a bear?' it also considers the questions, 'how stinky is a skunk?', 'how prickly is a porcupine?' and more. Each creature has a fabulous pull-out section that looks at the answer in a fun, interactive way.

#### You might also like:

The 'Very First Questions and Answers' series of books from Usborne, e.g. *Are Dinosaurs Real?* By Katie Daynes and Marta Álvarez Miguéns

### Pip and Posy: The Friendly Snail

By Camilla Reid and Axel Scheffler



#### What the selection panel said:

- A well-presented book
- There's an audio option too
- Pip and Posy books are easy reads – we have them at home
- I like the feelings part of this
- Pip and Posy stories are about easy everyday things
- It's nice that it's about how friendships take time

#### About the book:

Pip and Posy are spending some time in the garden, but while Pip is trying to do some gentle gardening, Posy is in a bouncy, noisy mood. When Posy's energetic activities frighten the snail Pip is making friends with, Pip gets annoyed and shouts at Posy, which makes her feel sad. But it's not long before Posy demonstrates the positive power of her voice, saving the snail from being snatched away by a bird, and Pip apologises to Posy for getting upset earlier. They spend the rest of the day playing together,

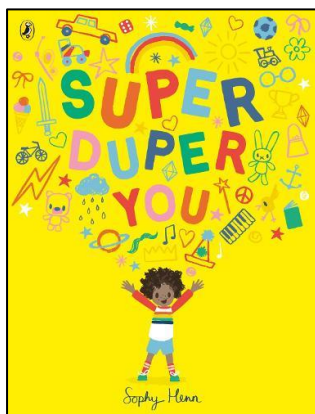
being both noisy and having some quiet time too. A simple but sweet and tender story about friendship and appreciating each other's needs.

**You might also like:**

*Pip and Posy: The New Friend* by Axel Scheffler

**Super Duper You**

By Sophy Henn



**What the selection panel said:**

- A great way to get talking about some of the issues Looked-After Children face
- Great pictures
- It builds self-esteem for young people
- I love the different characters she takes on – it's quite empowering
- A book like this isn't patronising and can help young children work on emotional skills

**About the book:**

This rhyming story shows how one person is made up of lots of different feelings and actions and interests and is never just one thing. Sometimes the little girl in this story is light and twinkly, sometimes she's shouty and bold, sometimes she's cuddly, sometimes she's funny and sometimes she's grumpy. All these different parts are all equally important and make her, her. A lovely story about being yourself, with joyful illustrations.

**You might also like:**

*I Like This, You Like That* by Linda Ashman and Eve Coy

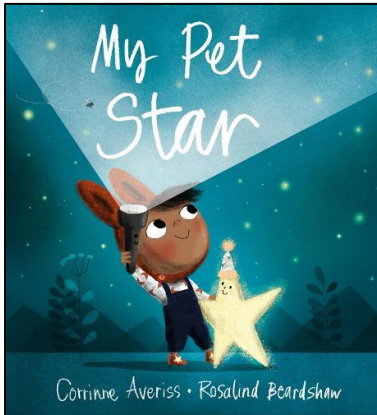
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## Purple Parcel 4

### My Pet Star

By Corinne Averiss and Rosalind Beardshaw



#### What the selection panel said:

- A lovely story about friendship and useful for younger readers to explore
- I loved it
- It's very nurturing – it's about looking after something
- I loved the pictures
- It's about relationships – how everything takes time – and being resilient
- It's a really lovely book

#### About the book:

In this charming story, a little girl finds a little star that has fallen from the sky and lost its shiny glow. Taking him home with her, she cares for him, doing all she can to help him feel better and building a friendship. But as the star begins to regain his sparkle, it gradually becomes clear that he doesn't really belong in her world, and she knows she must give him a chance to choose whether to stay or return to the sky.

This beautifully told story captures the charming relationship between the girl and star, showing not only the value of kindness and caring for others but also of understanding and accepting differences and the star's different needs. The concept of letting go is shown in an entirely positive way as the star flies back home to watch over the girl from his spot in the night sky.

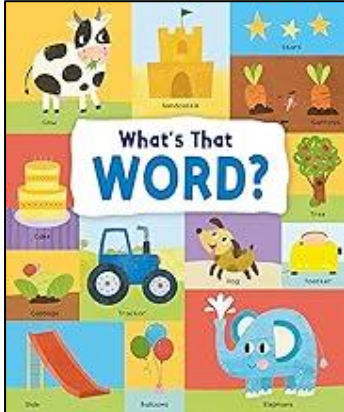
**BookTrust book review:** <https://www.booktrust.org.uk/book/m/my-pet-star/>

#### You might also like:

*Chatterbox Bear* by Pippa Curnick

## What's That Word?

By Hungry Tomato Ltd and Nastya Rizaeva



### What the selection panel said:

- If someone is not used to sharing a book with a child this would be good
- There are lots of good questions you wouldn't have to read out, but it could be helpful to help them interact with a child
- I love it

### About the book:

In this simple 'spotting' book there are lots of different things to look for on each page, each of which shows a different everyday setting, from the kitchen to the supermarket to the park. The things to spot are pictured along the bottom of the page along with the written word for each object, supporting both picture recognition and language development. In this way, young children who aren't reading independently can access the book freely, while the additional questions on the page provide opportunities for a child and reader to share the book together.

### You might also like:

*Elmer Search and Find* by David McKee

## Purple Parcel 5

### On the Farm with a Ladybird

By Dorling Kindersley Ltd



### What the selection panel said:

- A colourful well-presented book great for sharing
- I really liked it
- I liked the tactile nature; it's really nice
- It has real pictures of the animals in there which is good if children haven't seen these things before

### About the book:

The little red ladybird in this delightful board book is going for a walk around the farm. Readers can use their finger to trace the trail the ladybird follows across the page and talk about the different things to see along the way – geese by the pond; a combine harvester in the fields; a cow and her calf munching on hay in the barn; and lots more. There is lots to

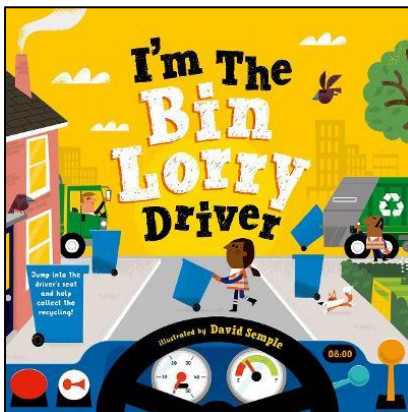
look at on every page, and while the backgrounds are illustrated, all the animals and farm equipment are photographs so readers can see what they really look like.

**You might also like:**

*Counting with a Ladybird* by Dorling Kindersley Ltd

**I'm the Bin Lorry Driver**

David Semple



**What the selection panel said:**

- It's interactive and provides learning about the environment
- It has great pictures and is of interest to young readers
- I'm a big advocate of this one as there are no books about this
- Every kid I've had likes to watch the bin men. It's elevating some of those professions and offers a good education about the environment too

**About the book:**

This entertaining and interactive picture book invites readers to jump into the driver's seat of a recycling collection lorry and take control of the truck's activities for the day. Put on your safety gear, do up your seatbelt, turn on the headlights (it's early morning still) and off you go, visiting a variety of streets and 'pressing' the buttons or 'pulling' the levers to activate the lorry's mechanics using the dashboard pictured on the bottom of the page. With labels for lorry parts and objects, as well as lots of sound words, this is a book which makes early learning both fun and engaging.

**BookTrust book review:** <https://www.booktrust.org.uk/book/i/im-the-bin-lorry-driver/>

**You might also like:**

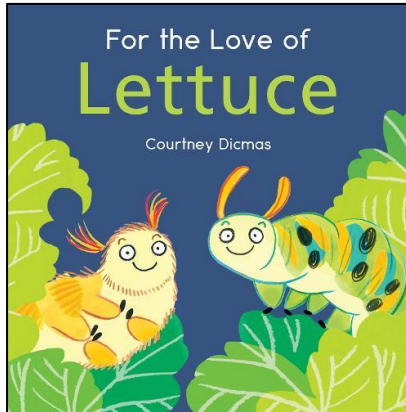
There are several books in this series, e.g. *I'm the Fire Engine Driver* by David Semple



## Purple Parcel 6

### For the Love of Lettuce

By Courtney Dicmas



#### What the selection panel said:

- I liked this one a lot and it might make you try lettuce!
- It's a lovely story
- I used to love The Hungry Caterpillar and it reminded me of that.
- It has sweet characters and is a lovely book to read
- There's also a lesson to be learnt in this fab book

#### About the book:

This sweet picture book tells the story of two caterpillars, Zip and Parsley. Zip likes plans and routines, but Parsley likes to dive in and live in the moment. When Parsley doesn't follow Zip's food planning, they run out of lettuce – but, fortunately, Zip also has a plan to get some more and together they embark on a lettuce-gathering adventure in which Zip must find a way to negotiate unexpected events and changes that he can't plan for. A heart-warming story with touches of humour and themes of friendship and coping with change.

#### You might also like:

*Blue and Bertie* by Kristina Lytten

### Who's Hiding in the Woods? / Who's Hiding at the Seaside?

By Nosy Crow Ltd



#### What the selection panel said:

- A lovely book with slides and flaps
- It's interactive with lots of flaps throughout
- I thought it was brilliant

[Example contents for 2024/5. Please note some of the contents may differ]

- Anything with flaps is a winner!
- It's subtle in its illustrations, has bright colours; it's a bit more realistic and interactive

### **About the book:**

You will receive either 'Who's Hiding in the Woods' or 'Who's Hiding at the Seaside'. These interactive, non-fiction board books introduce lots of different creatures you might see at the seaside or in the woods. There are multiple flaps to lift on every page, under which readers can discover all sorts of different creatures, with a short sentence about each of them. At the seaside you can find scuttling crabs, red-beaked oystercatchers and sleeping seal pups. In the woods you can find rabbits in cosy underground burrows, squirrels looking for nuts and acorns, and blackbirds munching earthworms.

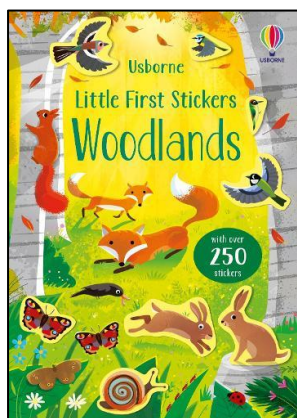
**BookTrust book review:** <https://www.booktrust.org.uk/book/w/whos-hiding-at-the-seaside/>

### **You might also like:**

There are several others in this series, or you could look at the 'Little Lift and Look' series from Usborne

### **Little First Stickers: Woodlands**

By Usborne Publishing Ltd



### **What the selection panel said:**

- Great subject matter
- Lots of facts and a sticker book too
- Children love stickers

### **About the book:**

A fun activity book with a woodland theme. Use the stickers at the back of the book to create different woodland scenes on the glossy pages at the front of the book. There are lots of birds to stick on the 'up in the air' page, night creatures for the 'wood at night' page, etc.

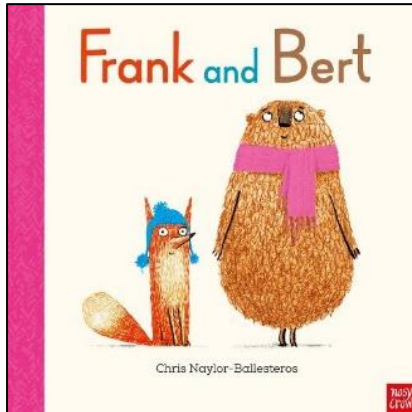
### **You might also like:**

There are several other books in this series, or you could look at the 'Big Stickers for Little Hands' series from Make Believe Ideas

## Orange Parcel 1

### Frank and Bert

By Chris Naylor-Ballesteros



#### What the selection panel said:

- Very sweet story of friendship
- It's really encouraging and really lovely
- There are two characters, one is not good at hiding and the other is trying to make it easy for him and he's not very good, but it turns around at the end
- Lovely story about the importance of winning and losing that will allow good discussions to take place

#### About the book:

Bert (a bear) and Frank (a fox) love to play hide-and-seek. Frank usually wins because there aren't that many places a bear can easily hide. Frank likes winning, but he likes Bert too, so agrees to give him a really good chance to hide, counting to 100 instead of just to ten. But as Bert heads off to find the perfect hiding spot, he doesn't realise he is leaving quite a distinctive trail behind him – a trail that will make it very easy for Frank to follow... However, Frank proves that he values his friendship with Bert over winning the game and doesn't take advantage. Reading the story in the pictures is as important as reading the words in this fun tale with sweet characters. It also provides an opportunity to practise counting all the way to 100 and has a nice message about being kind.

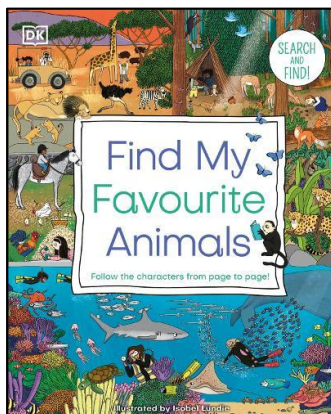
**BookTrust book review:** <https://www.booktrust.org.uk/book/f/frank-and-bert/>

#### You might also like:

*Is it a Mermaid?* By Candy Gourlay and Francesca Chessa or *Pass It On* by Sophy Henn

### Find My Favourite Animals

By Dorling Kindersley Ltd and Isobel Lundie



#### What the selection panel said:

- There's lot's you can do with it
- I like the message at the start for parents/carers
- Good for story discussions and observation skills
- I liked it; it's accessible across a range of abilities because you've got simple 'spot the animal' etc.
- At the top of the page it has a picture and written name of what you're looking for so you don't need to be able to read it in order to look for them
- There are also questions at the bottom to extend the learning and observations

**About the book:**

Mrs Munn and her school class visit five different animal habitats in this look-and-find activity and discussion book. Follow the children across each page to see who you can spot and what they are doing, whether that's riding a horse on the farm observing sharks in the ocean, tree climbing in the rainforest, having a nap on an elephant in the savannah, or map reading in the woods! Each scene also has specific animals to search for and there's lots of different things to look at and talk about in every picture. There are prompts for things to talk about in each scene, or of course just look to see what you can see yourself. Great for both independent and shared reading.

**You might also like:**

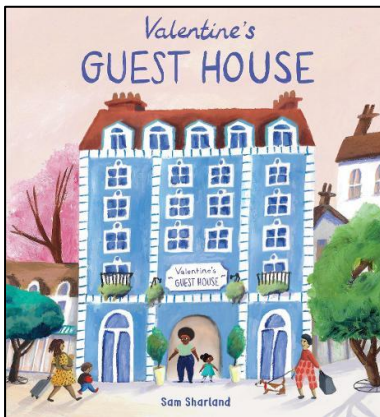
*Look and Say What you See in the Town* by Sebastien Braun

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## Orange Parcel 2

### Valentine's Guest House

By Sam Sharland



**What the selection panel said:**

- Funny, witty and amusing
- Can reflect young people's own experiences and the impact and necessity of being kind and inclusive
- It's a beautiful book
- I like the way it's set out, there are not too many words on the page
- I'm going to use it to talk about accessibility and inclusivity

**About the book:**

In this picture book story, Valentine runs a very popular guest house. One day, Valentine and her daughter Elsie are surprised to meet Emmet the Tiger, who is looking for a room. Happy to welcome him to their home, they create a tiger-friendly space, but the other guests don't want to share a hotel with a tiger and make a swift exit. Worried about getting new guests, Emmet tells all his friends about Valentine's and gradually an eclectic mix of visitors begin to arrive. Although their guest house wasn't designed for guests with all the different needs Emmet's friends have, Valentine and Elsie find ways to make it accessible and comfortable for them, making whatever adaptations are necessary – a bigger door for the elephant, a stairlift for the tortoise, an ice pool for the penguins. Soon, Valentine's guest house is not only full again, but just right for everyone who needs a place to stay for a little while.

A lovely, playful story full of colour. There are lots of details to look at in the pictures, and lots to talk about around the theme of inclusivity and accessibility.

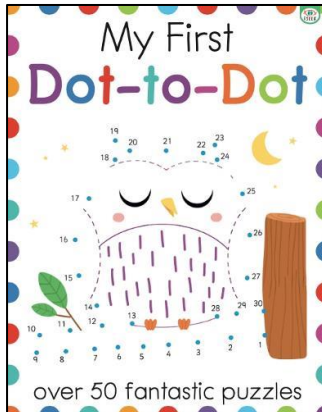


**You might also like:**

*The Bumblebear* by Nadia Shireen or *Rhinocorn Rules* by Matt Carr

**My First Dot-to-Dot**

By iSeek Ltd



**What the selection panel said:**

- Children like dot-to-dot and colourful pictures
- Children love doing dot-to-dot
- I quite like that it gets harder as you progress through the book
- It feels like good quality

**About the book:**

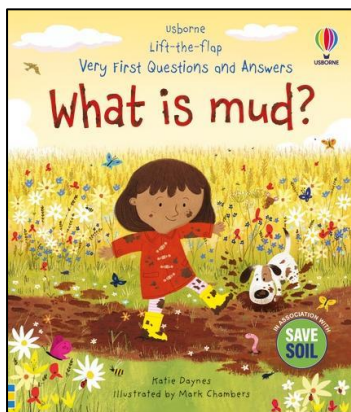
A dot-to-dot activity book – join the dots to complete the pictures. The pictures at the start of the book are very simple, with just a small number of dots to count and join up, then get progressively harder as you go through the book. As an extra guide, there are ‘answers’ at the back of the book so you can see what the completed pictures might look like.

**You might also like:**

The *My First I Can Draw* series by Make Believe Ideas

**What is Mud?**

By Katie Daynes and Mark Chambers



**What the selection panel said:**

- An early book that has it all
- Great to read
- Flaps to investigate and activities to do
- I think the subject is good because children go out and see mud – and where does food come from? Mud!

**About the book:**

Did you know that a quarter of all living creatures live in mud? It might be sticky and messy, but mud also does all sorts of brilliant and important things for nature and for us, as readers of this fact book will discover. This interactive book has flaps on every page to lift up and reveal fun facts about mud and soil. Find out all about exactly what mud is made of, how we use it to grow food, and how it provides a home for all sorts of different living things. Simply presented but interesting and informative, with a ‘STEM’ theme, a great book to dip into.

**You might also like:**

[Example contents for 2024/5. Please note some of the contents may differ]



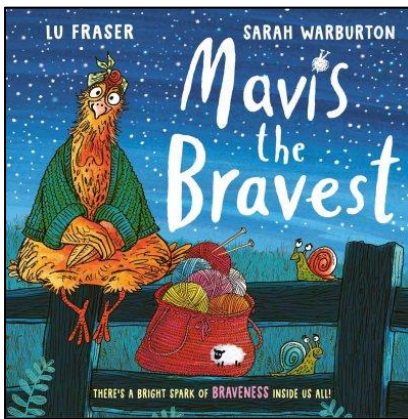
There are lots more books in this series, e.g. *What Is the Moon?* By Katie Daynes and Marta Álvarez Miguéns

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## Orange Parcel 3

### **Mavis the Bravest**

By Lu Fraser and Sarah Warburton



#### **What the selection panel said:**

- A lovely book to read to a child and, later, for them to read alone
- Funny, witty and a great read-aloud book
- It explores themes such as self-esteem and resilience
- It made me laugh out loud
- It might break stereotypes as chickens are normally nervous and 'chicken' is used as an insult, but Mavis is brave

#### **About the book:**

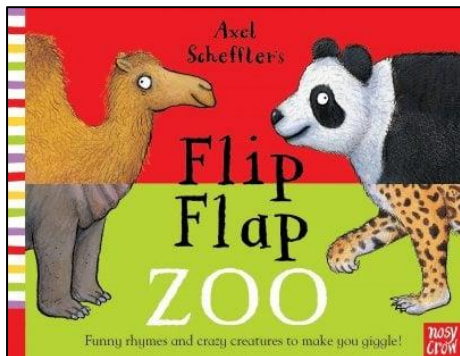
Mavis is a rather anxious chicken who prefers to stay at home with her knitting than be out and about around the farmyard. One night, Marge hears a funny noise and discovers someone stealing all the sheep – including her friend Sandra. She knows she needs to find her braveness and help stop the thief. Taking a deep breath, she finds a flicker of courage inside – enough to believe in herself and believe that she, Mavis, could actually be capable of saving the sheep. Goggles on, she goes charging after the thief, determined to stop them, and finds that even when you're a rather anxious creature, being brave can still be possible. A fun, rhyming picture book with lots of humour and themes of resilience and being courageous.

#### **You might also like:**

*The Koala Who Could* by Rachel Bright and Jim Field

## **Flip Flap Zoo**

By Axel Scheffler



### **What the selection panel said:**

- It has a nice design and I like that it is a ring-bound book – it's different
- It's funny and witty and children will like the flaps
- It works on so many levels as it has the picture and the name and the descriptions
- I think it's brilliant
- Even children that can't read can spend hours with this
- I love the vocabulary in it; even if they just mix it up and put half and half animals together, I just think it's really cute
- It's interesting for language development and is also kind of creative as they're making up words

### **About the book:**

This 'mix and match' book contains pages that are cut in half, allowing you to turn half a page at a time and mix up all the animals to create new ones. There are many, many different possible combinations and readers can have lots of fun through trying to make the oddest or silliest. The pictures are accompanied by short rhyming text with factually accurate details. Maybe children could try drawing their new creations themselves or invent other new animals of their own.

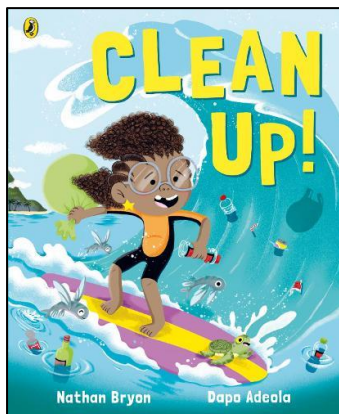
### **You might also like:**

There are lots more in this series if children enjoy this one – e.g. *Flip Flap Ocean*

## Orange Parcel 4

### Clean Up!

By Nathan Bryon and Dapo Adeola



#### What the selection panel said:

- A lovely book about a young person's relationship with their grandparents and their travels to Jamaica – it will support CLA children in the care of relatives
- It also explores sustainability issues
- I thought it was quite powerful as it's about kinship parents and different backgrounds.
- It's a really lovely book
- I love the inclusivity

#### About the book:

Rocket, the main character in this picture book, is very excited to be visiting her grandparents in the Caribbean, who live by the seaside and run an animal sanctuary. Rocket loves being on the beach but is really sad when she finds out about all the plastic that is washing ashore and harming the local wildlife. Determined to help, she organises a big beach clean-up to collect all the rubbish and make the beach a better space for everyone. Along the way, the community is brought together, and Rocket makes some new friends. The environmental theme of this story is clear, but the story very much focusses on Rocket herself – her enjoyment of life, the family and friends around her, and the positive impact that small changes can have.

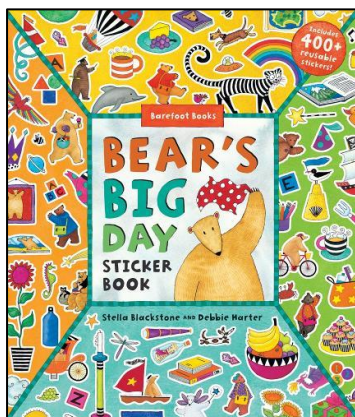
**BookTrust book review:** <https://www.booktrust.org.uk/book/c/clean-up/>

#### You might also like:

*My Beautiful Voice* by Joseph Coelho and Allison Colpoys

### Bear's Big Day Sticker Book

By Stella Blackstone and Debbie Harter



#### What the selection panel said:

- A funny but factual book that will interest young readers
- I love that one
- A nice sticker book for an older child to actually be able to do that themselves
- This is the type of book where you could hold it and say it's mine

#### About the book:

Based around the daily routine, readers can fill the scenes with stickers. Follow Bear through the day from waking up, having

[Example contents for 2024/5. Please note some of the contents may differ]

breakfast, going to school, playing in the park and evening storytime. This big, bright book includes lots and lots of stickers to stick onto the pages and has some learning elements as well – counting, shapes and the alphabet. Lots of fun and lots of things to talk about together.

**You might also like:**

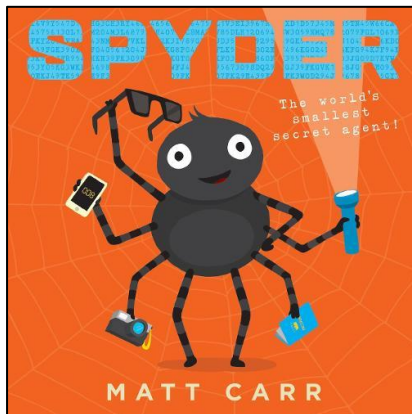
*Supertato Sticker Skills* by Sue Hendra and Paul Linnet

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## Orange Parcel 5

### Spyder

By Matt Carr



**What the selection panel said:**

- Quite comic
- A good story
- A great, fun book with added facts too
- I thought it was lovely, colourful and different

**About the book:**

Spyder is a spider secret agent – with eight legs and her web-making super-skills she's the perfect creature for this sort of job. Today, she's been tasked with preventing a pesky bluebottle fly with a dangerous sweet tooth from

ruining the birthday cake of the boy in the house where Spyder lives. First step of the mission: get from her flat in the loft to the kitchen, navigating her way around treacherous obstacles from Douglas the Dog, slippery-sided bathtubs, human feet and, of course, the enemy bluebottle himself – who definitely doesn't want Spyder to reach the cake before he does... A fun take on the secret agent genre, this humorous picture book has bold illustrations, fun details (e.g. text messages and case files to read) and includes some facts about spiders on the back page.

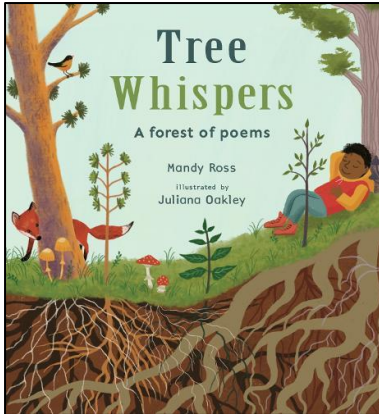
**BookTrust book review:** <https://www.booktrust.org.uk/book/s/spyder/>

**You might also like:**

*Super Sloth* by Robert Starling or *Rhinocorn Rules* by Matt Carr

## **Tree Whispers: A Forest of Poems**

By Mandy Ross and Juliana Oakley



### **What the selection panel said:**

- Great for the environment
- A well-presented book of poems
- A strong environmental message, with lots of interaction too
- I loved this one as it's a poetry one and that's really different
- The pictures are beautiful and there's lots to discuss
- It's nice and short as well as you don't have to read it as a whole book

### **About the book:**

A collection of short poems presented in a picture book format with a 'tree' theme. Each poem is about trees in some way, yet each is very different – from the sounds of a tree being blown about in a storm, to an oak tree talking with the creatures visiting it, and a picnic underneath springtime blossoms. There's a poem about trees in the rainforest and one about trees in the city; one about a baobab and one about a Joshua tree – and much more. The illustrations are wonderfully diverse and inclusive, and the book offers a calming, peaceful reading experience and is great to dip in and out of.

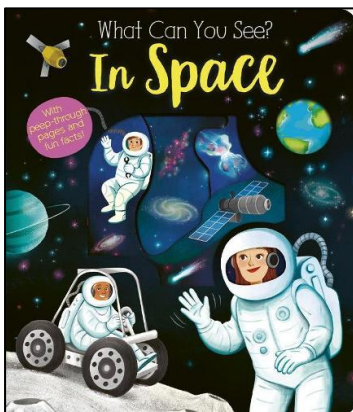
**BookTrust book review:** <https://www.booktrust.org.uk/book/t/tree-whispers-a-forest-of-poems/>

### **You might also like:**

*The River* by Patricia Hegarty and Hanako Clulow

## **What Can You See in Space?**

By Maria Perera



### **What the selection panel said:**

- Great peep-through pages
- Children will love this book
- Good to see detailed age-appropriate information on space
- I liked looking through the holes to see what's coming and turn the page over
- I think it would last a long time; they could get it out again when they learn about space at school

### **About the book:**

An introduction to space and our solar system, this board book has fun 'cut outs' in the pages to peep through onto the next page. Starting at home on Earth in the Mission Control Centre, as you progress through the book you get gradually

[Example contents for 2024/5. Please note some of the contents may differ]



further out into space, boarding a rocket to the moon, then viewing the solar system and beyond that to the sun and the galaxies. Includes facts about astronauts, different planets, and other things you might see in space.

**You might also like:**

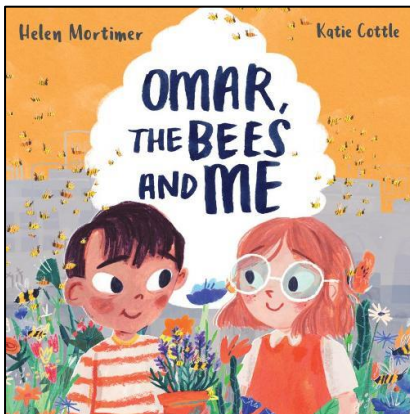
There are more books in this series on different topics, or for another space-themed book try *What's It Like In Space?* by Katie Daynes and Christine Pym

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## Orange Parcel 6

### Omar, the Bees and Me

By Helen Mortimer and Katie Cottle



**What the selection panel said:**

- I like the inclusivity in the names and in the pictures
- I really liked it because there's diversity in the characters, a male primary school teacher, and a sustainability theme
- It's about the routine of school but also the transformation of the community – they've done something with what they've got
- The illustrations were lovely; there's learning in it, too, about the bees
- It has a good ending

**About the book:**

After Omar takes some of his family's special honey cake to class for show-and-tell, their teacher is inspired to start a project about bees. They learn about how important bees are and how things like bee corridors can help them. This inspires Maisie to suggest they create their own bee corridor – a bee-friendly path between the local park, where her grandfather has beehives, and their school. Recruiting the local community to plant bee-friendly flowers on their windowsills, it soon becomes a big, collaborative project. Everyone has to be patient for the flowers to grow, waiting for spring to arrive, and then suddenly their town is transformed into a bright, buzzing space. This thoughtful story about community, friendship and environmental care has a relatable school setting.

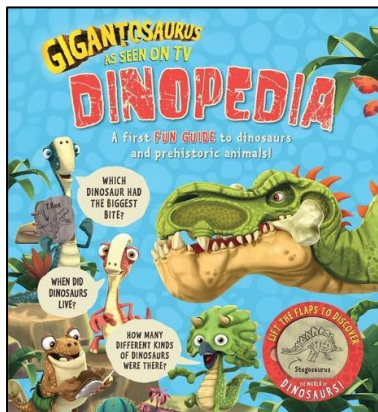
**BookTrust book review:** <https://www.booktrust.org.uk/book/o/omar-the-bees-and-me/>

**You might also like:**

*A New School for Charlie* by Courtney Dicmas

## Gigantosaurus Dinopedia

By Templar Books



### What the selection panel said:

- A lovely lift-the-flap with lots of information
- This book has it all: colourful, full of facts, and the flaps offer a further dimension
- It's a lovely book and is well-presented

### About the book:

This interactive nonfiction book is packed full of facts about dinosaurs, from the biggest dinosaurs to the littlest ones; dinosaurs that flew; dinosaurs that swam; plus some more unusual dinosaurs that you might not have heard of before.

There are flaps to lift on every page and lots of things to discover, and much of the information is presented by the fun-loving, illustrated dinosaur characters from the Gigantosaurus storybooks and TV animation, making the book really bright and full of character.

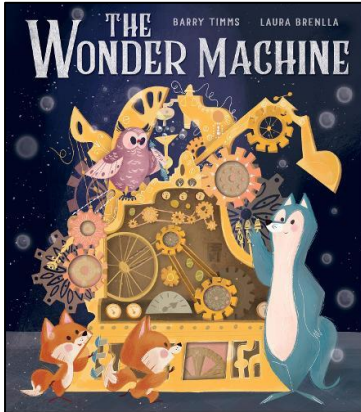
### You might also like:

The storybook *Gigantosaurus* by Jonny Duddle from which the dinosaur characters in the *Gigantopedia* are taken

## Yellow Parcel 1

### The Wonder Machine

By Barry Timms and Laura Brenlla



#### What the selection panel said:

- A beautifully presented book with an important message
- I like the flaps to lift and the peep-through holes
- Beautiful book, with the lift-the-flap sections to make the book interesting and break up the reading naturally
- Themes of friendship being needed and beautiful illustrations
- It's lovely

#### About the book:

This story picture book is about a wolf who loves to invent things, especially machines. She wants to make a machine that will change the world, so she sets out to build the Wonder Machine, which will make the thing that you need the most. But to find the different parts to make the machine, she has to venture out across the river – further than she's ever been before. Along the way, she fixes the broken gate to Squirrel's garden, Owl's damaged boat, and the fox cubs' broken toys. In thanks for her help, the animals give Fox various items to help her complete her machine. When she gets home and finishes building the Wonder Machine, she discovers creating it has given her the best gift of all: new friends.

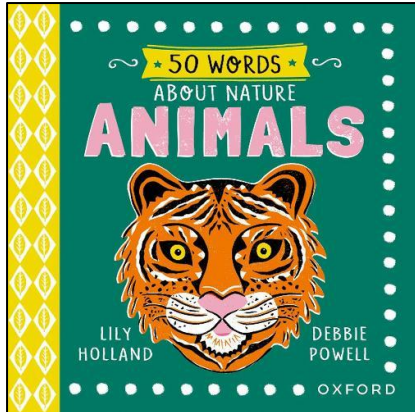
A gentle and heartwarming story in a lightly interactive format – different pages have cut-out shapes, flaps or a pop-out, giving an extra special feel to the book and a slightly different reading experience.

#### You might also like:

*The Incredible Hotel* by Kate Davies and Isabelle Follath

## **50 Words About Nature: Animals**

By Lily Holland and Debbie Powell



### **What the selection panel said:**

- A nice book to dip in and out of
- Colourful illustrations
- Inclusive book showing differences
- I liked that some of the text is more bold
- I like the bit at the back where it showed you how to read it phonetically

### **About the book:**

This lovely nonfiction book about animals has large, clear text, making it more accessible for early readers. Each page features a different animal or animal-related topic, illustrated in bright, bold style and with information in short sentences about the animal or animal group presented. Find out about different types of animals, such as reptiles and mammals, and support vocabulary development.

### **You might also like:**

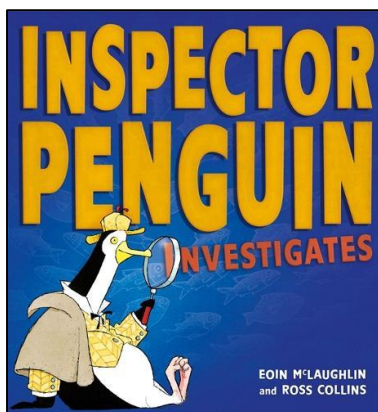
*Little-Known Facts: Animals* by Diarmuid Ó Catháin and Victionary

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## **Yellow Parcel 2**

### **Inspector Penguin Investigates**

By Eoin McLaughlin and Ross Collins



### **What the selection panel said:**

- It is fun following the clues to find the missing diamond
- I liked the different suspects, that some of it was still trying to spot the inspector
- It's accessible to non-readers, the imagery was strong – he was looking at the size of handprints and things like that
- When you get to the end you have to go back and spot things, it's not as simple as it seems

### **About the book:**

Baron Von Buffetworth is the owner of the largest, most glittery diamond in the world. Even though he keeps it in an incredibly secure location, someone has stolen it, and Inspector Penguin has been called in to investigate. Follow the Inspector as he puts together clues and identifies and pursues the chief suspect. But does Inspector Penguin have the right culprit? There are two stories to read here – the one in the words, and the one in the

[Example contents for 2024/5. Please note some of the contents may differ]

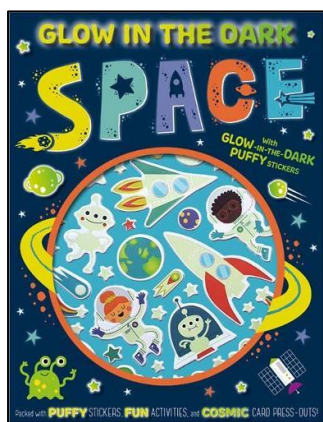
pictures. Can you track the diamond through the story and identify the thief before Inspector Penguin does? This highly visual, unpredictable mystery story is humorous and entertaining, with a main character resembling the famous detective Sherlock Holmes, and there are extra clues on the last page for anyone who remains baffled at the end.

**You might also like:**

*Secret Agent Elephant* by Eoin McLaughlin and Ross Collins

**Glow in the Dark Space**

By Make Believe Ideas and Danielle Mudd



**What the selection panel said:**

- Good fun and loads of different cutting, sticking, matching and finding activities
- Would definitely include
- This has puffy stickers
- I do think they'd really like it

**About the book:**

This space-themed activity book is packed with different things to do, from mazes and search-and-find to colouring and spot-the-difference. It includes a pack of puffy, glow-in-the-dark stickers and some things to pop out and make too. Great to keep you entertained as well as offering practice for pen/writing skills.

**You might also like:**

The *Scratch and Sparkle Activity Book* series by Make believe Ideas

**Let's Tell a Story: Space Adventure**

By Lily Murray and Grace Boruch



**What the selection panel said:**

- I absolutely love this book
- A good way to get a reluctant reader to engage in storytelling
- I love the idea of supporting children to write their own story – choices and guidance are given to develop this
- Great illustrations to engage children with ideas
- A brilliant book – would support children in developing their imagination and storytelling skills
- Great use of humour
- The pictures are beautiful



- This book provides lots of opportunities to inspire storytelling using all their senses
- Fantastic that there is an opportunity for a new adventure each time the child opens the book

**About the book:**

Readers can create their own story and decide which direction they want to take it in with this “pick your own adventure” style book. Each page asks an open question and shows lots of possible options to choose from in answer. Who is going to be the hero of the story? Suggestions include an explorer, a scientist, a robot, or an artist. Readers can then decide lots of things, like which planet they want to visit, what they are carrying with them, who is on the journey with them, how they’re travelling, what route they’ll take, and so on. Great to share and read aloud, or to make it up in your head, or to write down. And there are many, many possible combinations!

**You might also like:**

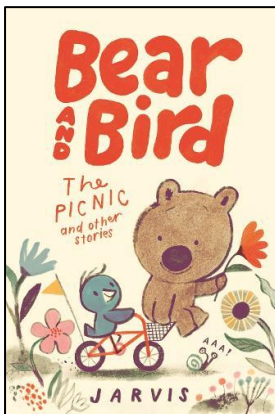
There are more books in the series if you enjoy this one, e.g. *Let’s Tell a Story: Jungle Adventure* by Lily Murray and Grace Boruch

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## Yellow Parcel 3

### Bear and Bird: The Picnic and Other Stories

By Jarvis



**What the selection panel said:**

- The theme is friendships
- I like the thought of it being split into shorter stories for children not yet reading independently, but wanting to feel as though they are
- Illustrations to support
- You can see children engaging with it
- It's a shorter story – that's good

**About the book:**

This early chapter book contains four short stories all about two best friends, Bear and Bird. Illustrated throughout, we get to know Bear and Bird and how they care for each other and each other’s feelings as they do things like painting and going on a picnic.

In story one, in an amusing story of misunderstandings, Bear encounters what he believes is a talking flower, not realising that he is actually talking to Bird, who has somehow gotten stuck inside the flower! In story two, the two friends go on a picnic together; although Bear forgot to bring a lot of the picnic things, they find lots of other ways to enjoy their outing together. In story three, Bird is frustrated that Bear seems to be much better at painting than

she is but is reassured when Bear wants to put her painting on the wall of his home. And in story four, when Bird overhears Bear talking to someone he calls Suzie Woozie, she becomes concerned that Bear has made another best friend, but after sharing her worries with Bear, she learns that Suzie is in fact Bear's favourite cosy blanket, which he offers to share with Bird for them to enjoy together.

These gentle and sweetly amusing stories show that even though sometimes friends can make a mistake or get cross or jealous of the other, true friendship enables one to be open about one's own feelings, or mindful of another's feelings, and thus get past or fix hiccups and mishaps and get on with the important stuff: enjoying each other's company and being a bit silly, now and again.

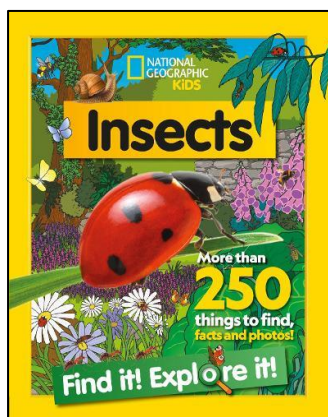
**BookTrust book review:** <https://www.booktrust.org.uk/book/b/bear-and-bird-the-picnic-and-other-stories/>

### You might also like:

The *Fox & Rabbit* book series by Beth Ferry and Gergely Dudas

## **Find It! Explore It! Insects**

By National Geographic Kids



### What the selection panel said:

- I like the mixture of the book being nonfiction but also activity with finding the animals
- Brightly coloured and engaging
- The layout makes the text accessible, and it has small sections of text
- An engaging book
- Lovely illustrations and lots of information; fun activities; solutions to the puzzles are provided
- A nice mix of drawings and photos
- Lots of interesting fun facts
- Lovely presentation and use of photos.
- Very informative without being too heavy on text
- I loved the game of 'find it' – a very good way of interacting with text

### About the book:

This book combines nonfiction with search-and-find activities. The book is divided into sections featuring a different insect habitat, and each section features an illustrated scene of the habitat with lots of different insects to look for and find. There are bite-sized facts to discover about the different insects and photographs to show readers what they really look like. With featured habitats from a British garden to a desert to the Arctic Tundra, readers can travel the world and learn about the incredible variety of insects and the different things that make them special. Answers to the search-and-find are also provided at the back.

**You might also like:**

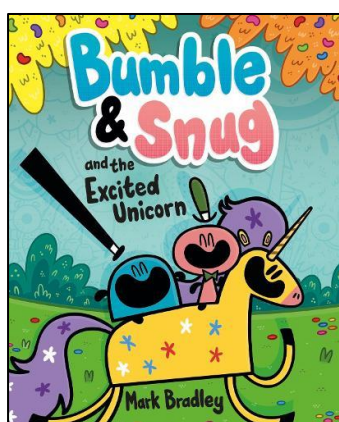
There are more books in this series, on different topics, if you enjoy this one, e.g. *Find It! Explore It! Around the World* by National Geographic Kids

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## Yellow Parcel 4

### **Bumble & Snug and the Excited Unicorn**

By Mark Bradley



**What the selection panel said:**

- I like the how-to-draw pages at the end
- It has a Mr Men quality
- It's a unicorn, but it's not a pink girly sparkles unicorn – I think that's boy or girls
- It's got robots
- It has more engaging text
- It has accessible language

**About the book:**

A brightly coloured comic-book style storybook about best friends Bumble and Snug. Bumble is 50% enthusiasm, 50% energy, and Snug is 33% kindness, 33% caring, 33% brains.

In this story, the two friends decide to go and explore the nearby magical forest, where they meet Sparklehoof the unicorn, who saves them from a swarm of 'jelly bees' by turning the bees into balloons! Sparklehoof has amazing magical powers, and the three of them hit upon the idea of using those powers to do good deeds and help out the citizens of their town, Bugopolis, with whatever they need. It's a really lovely idea and they are all very excited about it – but Sparklehoof has a little trouble managing their excitement and enthusiasm for their mission, and as they get more and more caught up in the spreading of magic, things get out of control. It's up to Bumble and Snug to find a way to help Sparklehoof calm down their excitement and emotions and, together, put Bugopolis back to normal.

At its heart, this is a story about kindness and about friends helping each other. Themes of impulse control and considering other people's feelings are dealt with in a very funny, engaging way, and when Sparklehoof regains perspective and is feeling overwhelmed by what happened, Bumble simply says, 'Don't worry, we all get a bit carried away sometimes.' There is a little bit at the back of the book about managing excitement as well as a how-to-draw for Bumble and Snug.

**BookTrust book review:** <https://www.booktrust.org.uk/book/b/bumble--snug-and-the-excited-unicorn/>

**Things to know about:**

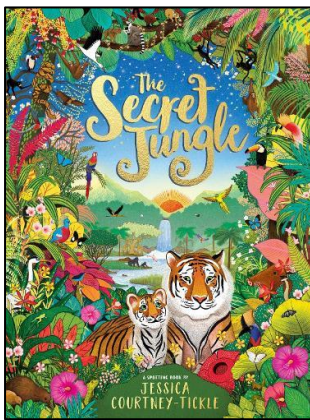
Toward the start of the story, Bumble and Snug visit the magic forest, which is made of sweets and edible things, like 'candy caves' and 'marshmallow fields', and Bumble gets a little caught up with being able to eat all the sugary things around them – a little like Sparklehoof gets carried with doing magical things later in the story.

**You might also like:**

Other books in this series, e.g, *Bumble & Snug and the Angry Pirates* by Mark Bradley

**The Secret Jungle**

By Jessica Courtney-Tickle



**What the selection panel said:**

- A wonderfully colourful and engaging nature book
  - There are vivid drawings and different environments to engage the reader
  - Each page has a spotting section where you have to find animals
  - The illustrations are beautiful and very detailed, lots of interesting things to look at (it did take some time to find some of the animals!)
  - Lots to talk about and engage a child in conversation
  - I like how it looks at nature, jungles and animals who live there in different parts of the world
- Lots of the facts and could promote lots of questions and inspire inquisitive minds
  - A lovely book to share
  - For the child who really struggles to read, having to look for something is really drawing them in, and I liked the fact there was just a little text
  - It's very gifty; it's lovely

**About the book:**

Every page of this book is sumptuously illustrated with a highly detailed jungle setting. A short piece of narrative text introduces each page and a featured animal to look for, but there are lots and lots of other creatures to spot among the plants as well – what can you see amongst the leaves? A book to immerse yourself in, it seems as if there is always something new to see every time you open it, and at the back there is accessible information about the different animals as well.

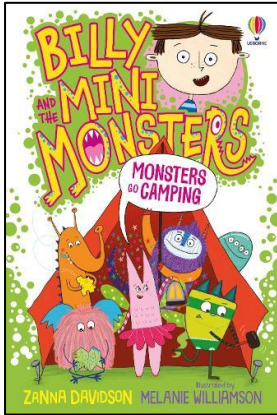
**You might also like:**

Another book from this series by Jessica Courtney-Tickle, or perhaps other search-and-find books

## Yellow Parcel 5

### Billy and the Mini Monsters: Monsters Go Camping

By Zanna Davidson and Melanie Williamson



#### What the selection panel said:

- Engaging layout – the text is broken into smaller amounts of reading
- The illustrations are super
- I liked the comic strip layout, and it's easy for children to follow
- Comic strips appeal to children
- A good way of looking at emotions
- Humorous

#### About the book:

Books in the 'Billy and the Mini Monsters' series are short chapter books about Billy and his collection of teeny tiny, friendly fluffy monsters and their adventures. Here, Billy is going on a school camping trip. He's quite anxious about the trip – what if spiders get in the tent; what if he needs to go to the toilet in the dark at night; what if there are werewolves or bears in the woods? But the mini monsters are there to reassure him, and explain the best thing is to be prepared.

On the day of the trip, Billy and his class arrive at their campsite and get things set up. And when he needs to go to the bathroom later in the evening, one of his big worries becomes a reality. Everything is absolutely fine until his torch goes out and he takes a wrong turn on the way back to his tent – but the mini monsters find Billy, and the moon comes out, and together they soon get back to Billy's tent. Billy feels really proud for facing one of his worries and getting through it. The next day he feels energised and confident at tackling the camping tasks the teachers have set up for the class, volunteering to be a team leader and later being nominated as Camping Champion.

Reminiscent of the idea of the invisible friends, the book is colourfully illustrated and includes small, comic-style sections where the storytelling switches to the mini monsters' perspectives, which is great for breaking up the text and changing the pace of the story.

#### Things to know about:

- The panel noted that Billy raises the number of changes that will be involved in going on the camping trip and having worries about these things, but they felt this was managed positively as the story then discussed the ways in which those worries and changes could be managed.
- Billy is scared when he finds himself in the dark woods, but later feels empowered by having faced his fear and finding a way through the difficult situation.

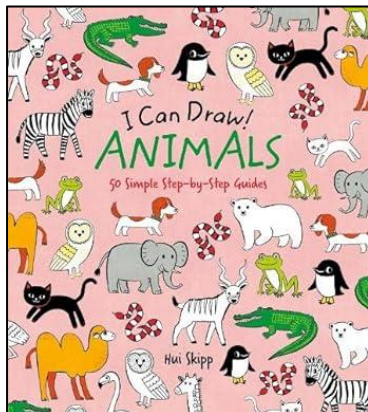
#### You might also like:

There are lots more books in this series, e.g. *Billy and the Mini Monsters: Monsters at the Seaside* by Zanna Davidson and Melanie Williamson



## I Can Draw! Animals

By Hui Skipp



### What the selection panel said:

- An absolutely essential book to include
- Brilliant at helping children and adults to draw animals. Once you can draw the animal step-by-step you can then apply this in a scenario on the other side of the page
- Loved doing it
- Drawing books are something they enjoy and don't need an adult for
- I was never a confident drawer, but I thought it was really good

### About the book:

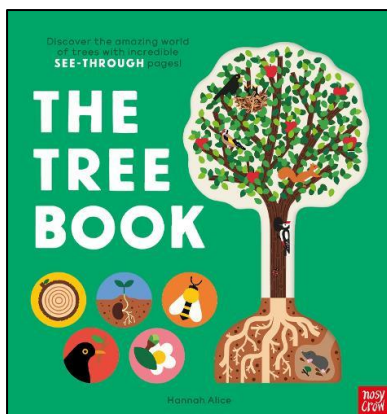
A fun learn-to-draw book, with step-by-step guides to draw all sorts of different animals. Grouped into animal 'types', there are how-to-draws for different pets, farmyard animals, safari animals, ocean creatures, and more. It includes some pages with scenes and blank space to practise drawing on.

### You might also like:

Books from the *Let's Draw* series by Bloomsbury Activity Books, e.g. *Let's Draw Sea Animals*

## The Tree Book

By Hannah Alice



### What the selection panel said:

- A very informative and visually enjoyable book
- It tells the life cycle of a tree and I really enjoyed learning how trees protect themselves
- A lovely book
- There's lots to talk about in it
- I liked it

### About the book:

This unusual book all about trees has see-through 'magic' sections on each page that creates a multi-layered image of a tree. By turning the page, you remove or add a 'layer' to reveal new and different details of the tree. An introduction to all the different aspects of tree life, readers can learn how trees develop from seeds, how they grow new leaves and use photosynthesis, how they change through the seasons, and how they make a home for a different creatures. There is quite a lot of information on each page, but you can dip in and out, and there is lots to look at and

interpret from the pictures for anyone who struggles with the text, plus this offers room to grow as reading skills develop.

**You might also like:**

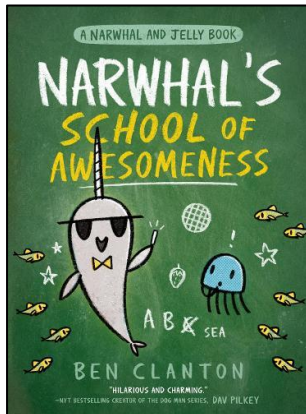
If you like the see-through pages in this book, there are other books in this series on different topics. Or for a different, interactive nonfiction book, you could try the *Curious Kids* series by Jonny Marx and Christiane Engel

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## Yellow Parcel 6

### Narwhal's School of Awesomeness

By Ben Clanton



**What the selection panel said:**

- A zany and whacky read
- A nice format; it would appeal to children
- I like the use of humour, and like that it has facts.
- Lovely illustrations
- Love this book!

**About the book:**

This coloured graphic novel storybook features interconnected short stories centred around two best friends and their attempt to be teachers for a day.

Narwhal is an easy-going sea creature who loves to hang out with his best friend Jelly, the sensible jellyfish. One day they meet a group of little fish who are on their way to school. Narwhal and Jelly decide to join them, but when they reach the school they learn the teacher is poorly and needs to go home. Narwhal suggests that she and Jelly take over for the day and so they embark on giving a series of quirky, wacky lessons such as maths using waffles (Narwhal's favourite food), a fact-finding science scavenger hunt, and a comic-writing art session.

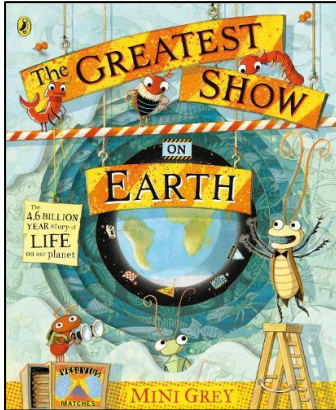
Full of humour and with themes of friendship, fun and imagination, the book also includes a few snippets of factual details and fun ideas such as saying 'tag, you're awesome' instead of 'tag, you're it' when playing games at break-time. The 'school' of fish also use lots of synonyms – everyone essentially saying the same thing but each fish using a different word for it – which is lovely for vocabulary development.

**You might also like:**

There are more books in the *Narwhal and Jelly* series if you enjoy this one, e.g. *Super Narwhal and Jelly Jolt*

## The Greatest Show on Earth

By Mini Grey



### What the selection panel said:

- A really visual and child-friendly way to learn about our planet
- Fun, simple text and illustrations
- An absolutely brilliant telling of the formation of earth and how life evolved
- Great balance of the necessary technical and specific language defining the evolutionary periods alongside comic pieces e.g. what humans have invented
- Great glossary and I loved the way the future is predicted too
- I loved it
- I love the timeline along the bottom as well
- It's a good way into nonfiction as it's like a story book

### About the book:

Little insect Rod and his group of friends are putting on the 'Greatest Show on Earth' from their shoebox theatre. Why is it the 'Greatest Show on Earth'? Because it's all about the history of Earth, of course! It begins 4.6 billion years ago... Detailing what we know about how the earth formed, the development and evolution of life, the age of the dinosaurs and up to the arrival of humans, it's a quirky and fun introduction to the story of life on earth.

This detailed, nonfiction picture book has four sections on each page to look at, each with different levels and types of information, so you can choose which pieces of information to read or how much of it you want to read at any time. There's (1) the main theatre performance in the centre with fun, rhyming text in a story form; (2) supporting factual information to the right and the left (flanking the theatre's stage like curtains); and (3) a timeline running along the bottom ('under' the stage).

This book could be shared with an adult, especially to help understand and discuss some of the more challenging words, but there is also lots to look at and dip into independently on each page.

### Things to know about:

- There are some much more challenging words in this book that developing readers may need help with

**BookTrust book review:** <https://www.booktrust.org.uk/book/t/the-greatest-show-on-earth-the-4.6-billion-year-story-of-life-on-our-planet/>

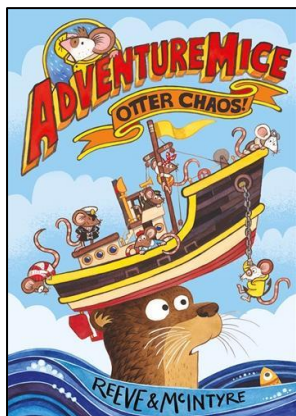
### You might also like:

*Look Inside Our World* by Emily Bone and Marianna Oklejak

## Blue Parcel 1

### Adventuremice: Otter Chaos

By Philip Reeve and Sarah McIntyre



#### What the selection panel said:

- A lovely title and pleasurable read
- Suitable for both independent readers and those who are not.
- It's about overcoming fear, finding new friends and challenging yourself
- Very good environmental storyline
- Has some lovely touches e.g. the plan drawing of the 'mouse base' and the postcard home at the end
- I really like the story and the way it progressed. I want to include it
- I thought the illustrations were really nice

#### About the book:

Young mouse Pedro has set out from home to explore the world and have an adventure. And adventure finds him quite quickly when he's accidentally swept out to sea – but, luckily, he is soon rescued by a mouse in a seaplane, who takes him to the Mouse Islands. A group of rocks that are home to a big mouse community, the Mouse Islands are protected by the brave and daring Adventuremice. Although Pedro would dearly love to join the Adventuremice, they feel he's a little young and inexperienced. However, when a dangerous otter is spotted in the nearby waters, Pedro successfully persuades the team to let him help in their mission to drive the otter away. Pedro was looking for adventure and he's definitely found it with the Adventuremice!

This storybook has short chapters and beautiful colour illustrations. Pedro really wants to help the Adventuremice, but his attempts to do so have a habit of going a little wrong, which leads Pedro to doubt himself. But ultimately Pedro is able to show the other mice that compassion and kindness are as important as being daring and requires a different kind of bravery. This book is fun and heart-warming, with just the right level of perilous adventure for a young reader.

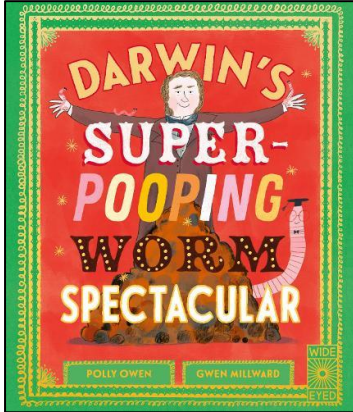
**BookTrust book review:** <https://www.booktrust.org.uk/book/a/adventuremice-otter-chaos/>

#### You might also like:

There are more books in this series if you enjoy this one.

## **Darwin's Super Pooping Worm Spectacular**

By Polly Owen and Gwen Millard



### **What the selection panel said:**

- A brilliant way of explaining a really important concept
- Great book
- It was the first one I picked out of the box, and you want to open it
- It's worms – they're everyday things. And it mentions poo a lot, so it's a winner!
- It's different
- It's lovely, the illustrations are gorgeous.

### **About the book:**

This is the story of Charles Darwin's fascination with worms. None of his contemporaries thought worms were interesting at all, but Darwin was certain they were special and was determined to prove it, so decided to conduct some experiments to work out what worms can do. The things he tried seem quite funny and silly from today's perspective, but led Darwin to some really interesting discoveries that were very new and surprising for the time, and inform our understanding of nature and science today. Despite this, lots of people still thought Darwin's love of worms was very strange, and didn't really care about his discoveries, and Darwin began to question himself. But then he made his most important worm discovery of all: the power of worm poo and its crucial role in making healthy soil to grow our food in – and knew that he'd been right about worms having superpowers all along.

Beautifully illustrated and told as a story, this book is humorous and surprising and includes lots of facts about Darwin, his experiments and, of course, worms.

### **You might also like:**

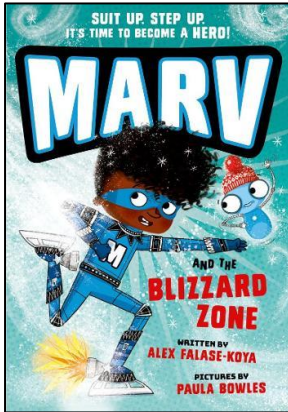
There are lots of other books about Darwin and his different scientific work and discoveries that have been written for young people that you could look for.



## Blue Parcel 2

### Marv and the Blizzard Zone

By Alex Falase-Koya and Paula Bowles



#### What the selection panel said:

- A quirky story set on an ice rink
- The theme is one of friendship as Marv and Pixel defeat Master Blaster. Marv realises the value of friendship over trying to impress others
- It has themes of friendship, a superhero theme, appeal to both genders, and the theme of having something to look forward to
- I do like Marv

#### About the book:

Marvin (aka Marv) is a secret superhero with a robot sidekick called Pixel and a rather special superhero suit that is powered by kindness and imagination and can give Marv any power he desires.

Grandpa, Marvin and his best friend Joe are going ice skating at the local activity centre, Blizzard Zone. When they run into their school friend Eva, who is there with her older sister and her sister's friends, Marvin wants to impress Eva's sister and prove he's more than just the cute little kid her friends think he is. But as Marvin tries to show-off, he forgets about his friends. Only the arrival of super-villain Master Blaster – the ultimate show-off – makes Marvin realise how he has been ignoring Joe and Eva. With Master Blaster freezing everyone on the rink (to ensure he has a 'captive' audience), Marvin must put on his superhero suit and become Marv. With a little help from his robot sidekick Pixel, Marv must capture Master Blaster's power crystal and unfreeze everyone, then be brave enough to apologise to his friends.

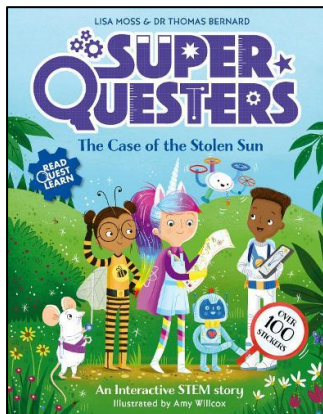
A pacey, fun superhero story with dynamic illustrations and themes of friendship, kindness and imagination.

#### You might also like:

*Marv and the Dino Attack* by Alex Falase-Koya and Paula Bowles

## **SuperQuesters: The Case of the Stolen Sun**

By Lisa Moss, Dr Thomas Bernard and Amy Wilcox



### **What the selection panel said:**

- A great way to learn a science concept
- A fictional story developing STEM skills, coding skills in particular
- I quite liked it – it's a good way of getting science in and it has stickers too
- It's nice
- It's good it's about STEM and coding

### **About the book:**

A puzzle book and storybook combined into one! Lilli, Leo and Bea are trying to find the answer to a science question about why hot air balloons fly. Wishing hard for a clue to understanding this, they find themselves in Questland. The Queen of Questland promises to help them find the knowledge they are looking for, but first she needs their help: Lord Grumble and his Snapettes have stolen the sun, and the queen hopes the three friends can track him down and find a way to return daytime to Questland.

Following the map they've been given, the friends must complete a series of tasks, solving the puzzles to get around the obstacles in the way on the path to Lord Grumble's castle. Using the stickers at the back of the book, readers can try to solve the puzzles and help the friends on their journey. Different 'stem' type skills are needed to solve the puzzles, like working out a pattern, making observations, and creating instructions.

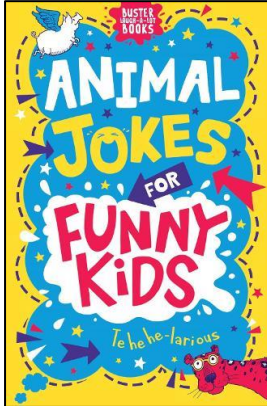
This interactive story offers a different reading experience as you participate in the story by completing the puzzles. Readers may need a little help with the instructions for some of the puzzles, but answers are provided at the end of the book.

### **You might also like:**

There are more books in the SuperQuesters series if you enjoy this one.

## Animal Jokes for Funny Kids

By Buster Books



### What the selection panel said:

- Joke books are always popular with children
- I think joke books are really good
- I like that you can dip in and out; I think a joke book is nice
- It's quite nice for them to be able to take it to school and tell jokes
- It's nice that it says 'funny kids' in the title
- It's really good

### About the book:

With over 300 jokes, all centred on an animal theme, this book will hopefully get readers giggling. Every joke has its own black-and-white illustration alongside it, making it a fun and engaging book to flick through and dip in and out of. It includes sections such as 'Silly Sea Life', 'Polar Pranks', 'Woodland Wisecracks' and lots more.

### You might also like:

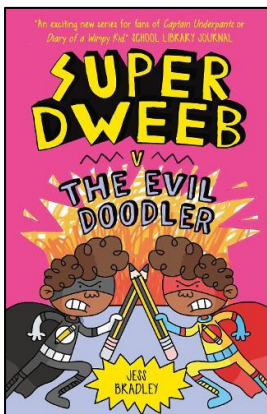
*The Jumbo Joke Book for Funny Kids* by Andrew Pinder

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## Blue Parcel 3

### Super Dweeb V the Evil Doodler

By Jess Bradley



### What the selection panel said:

- The cartoon style often appeals
- A relatable fun book
- Nice illustrations and a format which would appeal to children
- I liked it as well

### About the book:

Andy has an awesome imagination and is great at drawing. He loves to create his own comic book adventure stories and wishes he could be the hero in one of his tales. And this has basically come true since one of his pencils has become magic after a school trip to a radioactive island – now everything he draws with that pencil comes to life, though just for a short time.

Recently, Andy has started using his magic pencil to create duplicates or 'doodle dupes' of himself to do the chores he doesn't want to do and give him time for more 'important' (aka fun) stuff. But when Andy sends a 'dupe' out to face the latest villain that has popped up in

town, they learn that the magic pencil's powers extend even further than they originally thought – and dangerously so. On top of this, the latest 'dupe' is fed up with taking on Andy's chores and has rebelled, drawing himself his own rocket and a doodle army, which has far-reaching and unpredictable consequences. Now Andy must face what is essentially his own out-of-control ego and try to find a way to defeat this evil doodler.

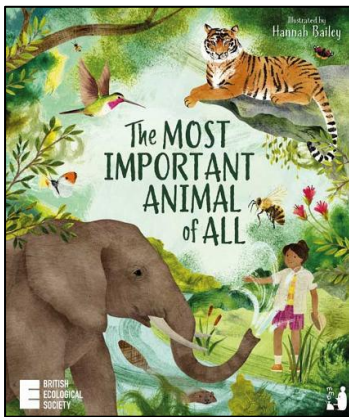
This fully illustrated comedy superhero story is a fast-paced and zany adventure bursting with colourful cartoon-style illustrations. The short chapters and comic strip format make it ideal for reluctant and younger independent readers.

**You might also like:**

*Super Dweeb and the Pencil of Destiny* by Jess Bradley

**The Most Important Animal of All**

By Penny Worms and Hannah Bailey



**What the selection panel said:**

- A lovely book
  - A great book to introduce environmental information and animals from around the world. Use of scientific language to extend vocabulary
  - I like the mix of real-life pictures and illustrations (which are lovely), like arrows signposting information to the picture - linking the fact
  - Interesting facts
  - Has diverse characters that children can identify with
- This is about a teacher asking her class which animal is most important and they all had ideas and I thought that was a nice way of doing things
  - It introduces scientific language
  - I like that the facts link into thing

**About the book:**

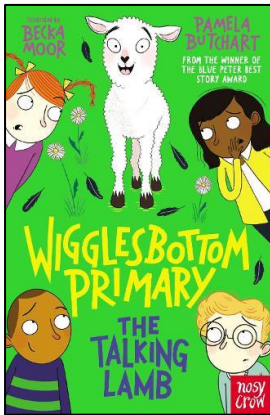
The school class has been learning about lots of different animals and the things that make them special. Now each child has been asked which animal they think is the most important one and why. As the class present the animal they have selected, we learn about what is brilliant, surprising or interesting about the different animal they have picked – from elephants and beavers to bees, sharks, bats and more. Four pages of information, illustrations and real-life photos are given to each animal presented, with lots of fascinating things to learn. Beautifully presented, this is an unusual nonfiction book that also gently touches on the environmental challenges affecting the animals. Includes a glossary, some information on ecosystems and keystone animals, and suggested links for where to learn more.

**You might also like:**

## Blue Parcel 4

### Wigglesbottom Primary: The Talking Lamb

By Pamela Butchart and Becka Moor



#### What the selection panel said:

- Nicely presented; part of a series that has been gifted in previous parcels
- It has bright clear text and a fun story line
- Interesting short stories that will entertain
- The way it has been written and the layout will engage children
- It's nicely set out, and the text is nicely set

#### About the book:

There are always a lot of strange goings-on at Wigglesbottom Primary! This light-hearted book features three highly illustrated, school-set stories that follow the adventures (and misadventures) of Class 2R.

In *The Talking Lamb*, the class are on a school trip to a petting zoo. They are amazed when a lamb appears to start talking to them during their lunch picnic, and even asks them for an ice-cream! And when a lamb asks you for an ice-cream, you get that lamb an ice-cream, of course. As so often happens with Class 2R, minor chaos follows.

In *The Art Class*, the class have a new art teacher who tells them they should paint beyond the boundaries of the paper – something that the class interpret literally. While the teacher meditates, the class get carried away painting the walls and floor and whatever else they can see. Just as everyone is about to get into terrible trouble with the headteacher, the new art teacher turns things around by declaring that they have spontaneously created wonderful 'living art', which garners lots of positive media attention for the school.

In *The Wildcat*, the departing Year 6 class reveal to Class 2R that there is a wildcat living in the storeroom that has to be fed every day to stop it from destroying the school. Class 6 declare that 2R are now responsible for this cat – a task that creates both fascination and concern. What about weekends? Or holidays? But as they investigate further, they discover this terrifying creature is actually perfectly normal, fluffy domestic cat who has been coming and going through a hole in the wall and taking advantage of extra lunch every day.

Each story brilliantly captures the vivid and sometimes misguided imaginations of young children. It is full of light-hearted and comical moments, bright illustrations and the school setting makes it familiar and relatable for many young readers.

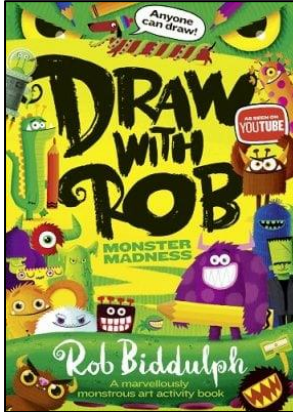
#### You might also like:

*Noodle the Doodle* by Jonathan Meres and Katy Halford



## Draw with Rob: Monster Madness

By Rob Biddulph



### What the selection panel said:

- Children may have used some of Rob's lessons previously at school
- It's not just drawing, there are other activities as well
- 'Monsters' are always popular
- Rob Biddulph often pops up on world book day stuff too so kids might be familiar with him

### About the book:

A fun, colourful activity book with a monster theme – friendly monsters of course! As well as how-to-draw pages, there are lots of other activities such as mazes, wordsearches and spot-the-difference. All the pages are perforated so they are easy to pull out for you to display your drawings if you want to.

### Things to know about:

The book includes a page about managing worries.

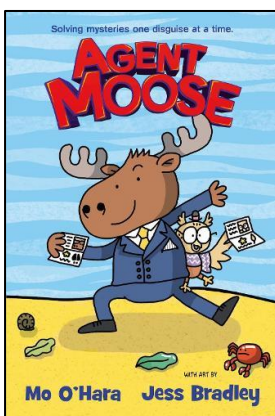
### You might also like:

There are more books in the *Draw with Rob* series if you enjoy this one.

## Blue Parcel 5

### Agent Moose

By Mo O'Hara and Jess Bradley



### What the selection panel said:

- The cartoon strip format would appeal to children
- The illustrations are colourful and engaging with lots of additional clues
- A humorous book children would enjoy reading
- It had colourful, bright illustrations, was humorous and a nice read

### About the book:

Secret Agent Moose (aka 'Anonymoose') is a master of disguise with a fondness for chocolate milk. Along with his wiser, more sensible, sidekick Owlfred, Anonymoose has been tasked by Woodland HQ to find the missing Terrance Turtle, who is a key witness in a rival agent's case. Anonymoose and Owlfred begin investigating by talking to various other animals to find out if anyone has seen

anything that might be a clue to Terrance's disappearance. They quickly become suspicious when everyone just tells them that they should stop looking.

Anonymoose and Owlfred will not give up that easily, though, and are determined to find out what is going on. But when they disguise themselves as turtles and conduct a stakeout, Owlfred is turtle-napped. Obviously concerned for Owlfred, Anonymoose tries a new tactic to get the culprit to reveal their identity: he releases a fake news story detailing that Terrance has been found. His idea works – confused and worried about this apparent turn of events, the turtle-napper blows their cover and both Terrance and Owlfred are rescued.

This colourful graphic novel story has quirky, likable characters and just the right amount of witty spy humour to entertain and engage young readers.

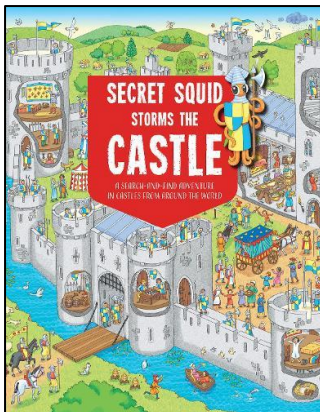
**BookTrust book review:** <https://www.booktrust.org.uk/book/a/agent-moose2/>

**You might also like:**

*The Bad Guys* by Aaron Blabey

## **Secret Squid Storms the Castle**

By Beetle Books



**What the selection panel said:**

- The format is similar to 'Where's Wally' books
- A unique take on history using squids!
- There's lots to find
- It's quite fun
- There's lots to discuss
- It's not just spotting, it's got vocabulary; I think it's fun

**About the book:**

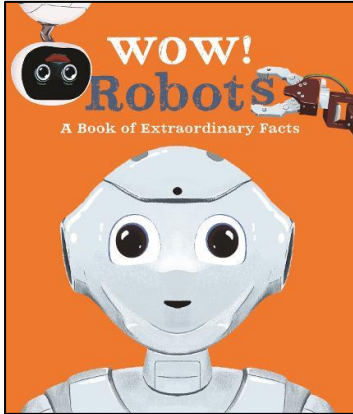
Where's the Squid? This fun book combines a Where's Wally-like search-and-find element with historical settings. Secret Squid is a master of disguise with a talent for hiding – and being in multiple locations at once! In each of these busy scenes, can you find the ten different places find where Squid is hiding? The different scenes to search include a Roman forte, a Medieval castle and a Bastion fort. There are of course lots of other things to spot in each scene, and there are some facts about the different parts of the scenes too. Answers for Squid's hiding places are included at the back, as well as a glossary to help with any words you might not know.

**You might also like:**

*The Picture Puzzle Activity Book* by Buster Books

## **Wow! Robots**

By Andrea Mills and Ste Jonhson



### **What the selection panel said:**

- The illustrations are good and the content is relevant to life today
- I think this is a good one
- It's a completely different subject matter
- The book would be suitable to be read alongside another reader as the layout supports a child being able to read some sections independently whilst also being supported with accessing the text
- Language overall is accessible and some words would be more challenging however this is a text for pupils to be supported with

### **About the book:**

An accessible, fully illustrated book about robots. Covering lots of the different kinds of robots that have been built or imagined, and the different things they are being used for. From drones to building cars to cleaning, robots are already all around us in different forms, some doing everyday tasks, and some helping humans to explore new places and make new discoveries about the world. With bite-sized chunks of text and a clear layout, it's an interesting and informative introduction to robots that includes sections on AI and humanoid robots too.

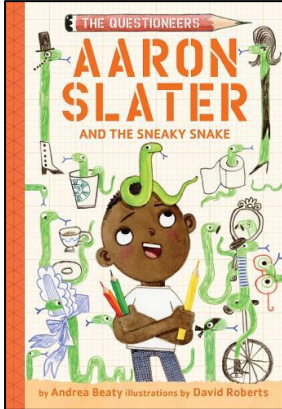
### **You might also like:**

There are more books in the *Wow!* Series, published by Kingfisher, about all sorts of different topics.

## Blue Parcel 6

### Aaron Slater and the Sneaky Snake

By Andrea Beatty and David Roberts



#### What the selection panel said:

- The theme of the book will probably interest a lot of children
- An interesting story developed upon a single plot line of snakes being banned from the zoo; it opens up into other areas of democracy and how to work effectively together
- I enjoyed it and it's a good story for an 'early' independent reader
- I liked the illustrations
- One character has a cochlear implant too and at the back is says about ASL (American Sign Language)

#### About the book:

Aaron and his friends – 'The Questioners' – love volunteering at the local zoo, where they help out Zookeeper Fred. Today, there's a small problem: a very tiny and sneaky but completely harmless snake called Vern has escaped. When Vern accidentally ends up on the head of a small child visiting the zoo, the child's mum is understandably quite alarmed. Although they try to show her that Vern is friendly and harmless, she is very upset and begins a campaign to get snakes banned from the zoo.

The Vern Incident is wildly misrepresented and blown out of proportion and soon the town is divided into those who think snakes should be banned and those who are trying to show the anti-snake people that there's nothing to be afraid of. Aaron and his friends really want to change people's minds about snakes and show them that Vern is really quite innocent, but it's a real struggle to have their views listened to properly. They try several different approaches and, thinking about the ways in which people sometimes respond to things and why, must get really creative to get their voices heard.

This illustrated chapter book stars a diverse selection of characters. The main character, Aaron is shown living with a blended, two-mum family with a musical sister and a hearing-impaired brother, and there are other types of representation throughout the story. It's a lovely story about friendships and community that cleverly introduces themes of tolerance, listening to others and being open-minded.

#### Things to know about:

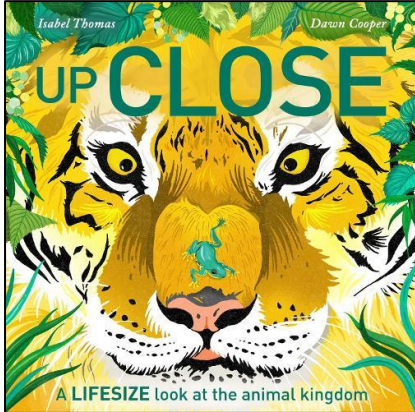
The book contains some American spellings, and the sign language characters use is American Sign Language (ASL) rather than British Sign Language. However, there is some additional information about ASL at the back of the book, providing support and context.

#### You might also like:

*The Tindims of Rubbish Island* by Sally Gardner and Lydia Corry

## Up Close

By Isabel Thomas and Dawn Cooper



### What the selection panel said:

- Absolutely fabulous
- I've never seen a book that has a life size element and it's a really good twist
- It's an informative and engaging read
- I thoroughly recommend it
- It's really good
- I like how it's set out
- It's a lovely cover
- It looks gifty

### About the book:

Lots of creatures have things in common, like eyes, ears and noses but those things can also vary enormously from creature to creature. An anteater's 60cm long tongue is very different to a lions shorter, spiny tongue! From tails and scales to teeth and claws, 'Up Close' looks at the different features that various creatures have in common, but also how different they are and why – for example, it could be because of what they eat or where they live. Alternate pages (labelled as 'Life-Size') take a close-up look at two creatures with very different versions of the focus feature, showing off the variety and diversity of nature. There's a glossary at the back as well as some extra information about different types of animals, such as mammals, reptiles and invertebrates.

### You might also like:

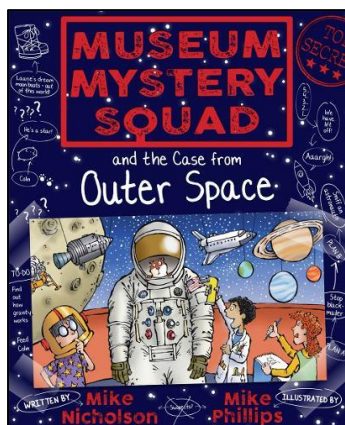
*Colours of the World: Blue Planet* or *Colours of the World: Green Planet*, both by Moira Butterfield and Jonathan Woodward



## Red Parcel 1

### Museum Mystery Squad and the Case from Outer Space

By Mike Nicholson and Mike Phillips



#### What the selection panel said:

- An enjoyable, cosy mystery that keeps the reader guessing
- The story is a nice balance of mystery solving, light humour and human interactions

#### About the book:

Kennedy, Laurie and Nabster are the Museum Mystery Squad. They love hanging out at the museum and solving mysteries, and if anything strange ever happens at the museum, they are the first people the director asks for help. Today, the director has received an anonymous blackmail letter from someone saying they will steal an exhibit from the new Space Zone unless the museum gives them a pay-off. Can the Mystery Squad work out who sent the letter before the special opening ceremony for the Space Zone?

As the Squad get to work investigating the case, they talk to a selection of museum figures to try and identify clues and suspects, visit the exhibition itself, and come up with a plan of action to apprehend the blackmailer.

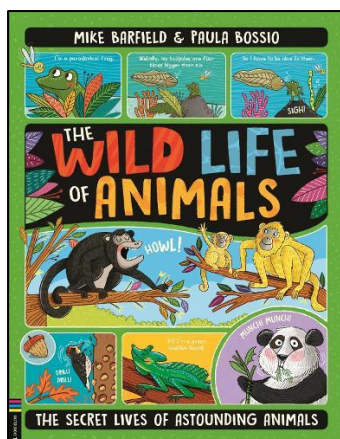
Alongside this gentle mystery story there are space facts and puzzles for the reader to discover as well.

#### You might also like:

There are lots more books in this series if you enjoy this one, e.g. *Museum Mystery Squad and the Case of the Missing Mammoth*

### The Wild Life of Animals

By Mike Barfield and Paula Bossio



#### What the selection panel said:

- Lovely illustrations and colourful
- It was really colourful and had lots of lovely illustrations
- The subject is interesting; quite a variety of animals
- It's animals from all over the world, and most are not animals we have here; it's set out in regions

#### About the book:

A non-fiction book about different animals from around the world that is written from the animals' perspectives – as if they are telling you all about themselves. Presented in a graphic novel

style, it's colourful, fun and engaging. The animals are grouped by their habitat, covering areas such as woods and forests, mountains, deserts, oceans and even urban environments. Find out what a Himalayan Pika likes to spend its summer doing; what makes the toes of a Green Basilisk Lizard special; or why a Great Potoo gets grumpy if you try and talk to it during the daytime.

There is information on family groups, quirky survival techniques, dinner habits and funny behaviours. Also included is a selection of pages called 'When I grow up' which focusses on the babies of animals and how their parents look after them while they are small, and how they will change as they grow into adults. Lots to learn and discover, with lots of funny bits, and great to dip in and out of or share.

**BookTrust book review:** <https://www.booktrust.org.uk/book/t/the-wild-life-of-animals/>

**You might also like:**

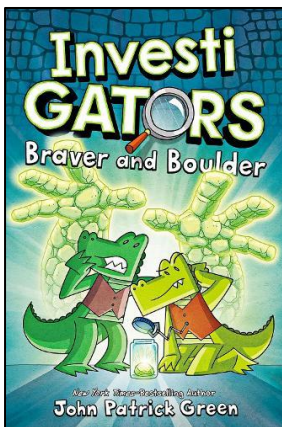
*Wild Facts About Nature* by Andy Seed

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## Red Parcel 2

### InvestiGators: Braver and Boulder

By John Patrick Green



#### What the selection panel said:

- I've given others in the series to children and they've always liked them
- They're very similar to Captain Underpants and Dog Man
- It's really wacky and real – their HQ is a crocodile shaped building!

#### About the book:

Mango and Brash are two alligator detectives who work as part of anti-crime squad in their city. Their latest case involves the mysterious disappearance of everyone's 'boulder buddies'. Boulder buddies are small, glowing green rocks, and seemingly everyone in the city has started collecting them, but they all disappeared overnight – and Anjie, the antiques lady who has been selling them, is missing too.

Mango and Brash begin investigating and after a couple false leads, spot a boulder buddy on the street, which leads them into the path of an old enemy. They are able to rescue Anjie but discover that the boulder buddies are in fact part of one big rock monster – 'Rockodile'. Once upon a time the rock monster was also an InvestiGator, but a series of unfortunate events led to him being turned into radioactive rock, and now he wants to seek revenge on those who he blames for his current predicament – Brash included. Mango and Brash must find a way to stop Rockodile before his radioactivity destroys the city, as well as find a way to help Rockodile come to terms with what happened.

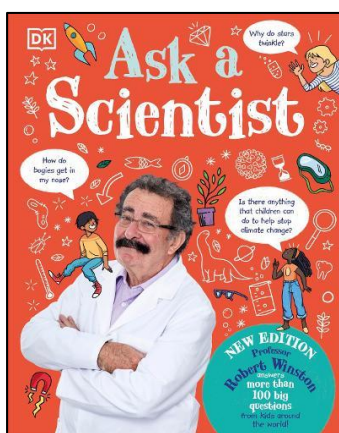
This madcap, full-colour graphic novel is fast-paced and funny, with lots of puns and action. It's part of a series but can be read on its own as all the back story you might need is included.

**You might also like:**

*Action Dude* by Andy Riley

**As a Scientist**

By Professor Robert Winston



**What the selection panel said:**

- Interesting questions posed, like ‘could you jump off the world?’
- There’s an index at back and a glossary
- Full of interest about scientific things – puzzles, physics, earth, space, human body and chemistry
- I really thought it was an excellent book. It was very content appropriate, had interesting questions, interesting puzzles and facts on physics and space
- I loved the layout
- I think the book is lovely and would recommend it
- I really liked it

**About the book:**

A lovely introduction to all sorts of science topics and ideas, this non-fiction book asks and answers 100 questions about the world and how the world works. Just the sort of things that young people (and older people!) might be thinking about or intrigued by, they include questions like ‘Why is there no air in space?’, ‘Why is the sky blue?’, ‘Why do we dream?’ and ‘How do birds fly?’

Science topics that are covered include chemistry, the human body, physics, natural science and space, while concepts such as evolution, photosynthesis and gravity are introduced in a non-intrusive way. It’s quite comprehensive, but explanations are kept concise and given in accessible language. Fully illustrated, it’s colourful, engaging and includes both photographs and diagrams to support the information in the text. A glossary of terms and an index are included at the back.

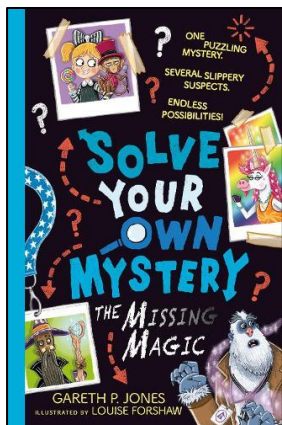
**You might also like:**

The author of this book, Robert Winston, has written a number of other books on science that you could look for

## Red Parcel 3

### Solve Your Own Mystery: The Missing Magic

By Gareth P. Jones and Louise Forshaw



#### What the selection panel said:

- I quite like the kind of books that you can choose your own pathway through. I think the young people seem to like that quite a lot
- This book was a really gripping read and you can re-read the book as many times as you like
- I like the fact that you are the character
- The characters are not meant to be believable as they are mystical creatures, but they have personality traits that you could believe
- A different type of read, with the reader having choice over the direction of the story

#### About the book:

A 'pick your own path' book, where the reader gets to decide what they want to do next at the end of each section. The reader is the main character in the book: you are a private investigator/detective in a town called Haventry, which is home to a wide variety of supernatural creatures, many of whom feature as characters through the book. In this story, the town is preparing for a big magical convention called 'Magicon' but there's a problem: Haventry's magic has gone missing, which is causing some serious hiccups in and around the town. You and your boss, a Yeti called Klaus, must find out who has stolen the magic and why.

Readers choose their own path through the book by deciding which lines of investigation they want to pursue, and which suspects to talk to, and ultimately solving the mystery. Different paths lead to different outcomes, meaning you can re-read the book multiple times and get a different story each time.

#### Things to know about:

- The story does include discussions around the nature of a variety of different supernatural creatures, including mention of zombies and vampires
- There are some minor references to violence as a part of the plotline

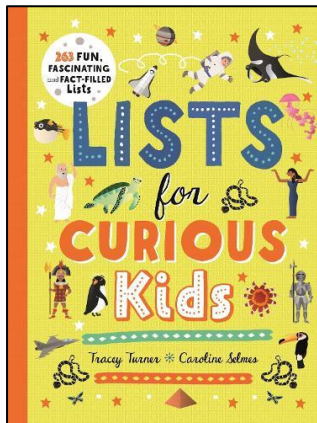
#### You might also like:

There are more books in this series if you enjoy this one



## Curious Lists for Kids

By Tracey Turner and Caroline Selmes



### **What the selection panel said:**

- It has appealing illustrations and lists of interesting topics
- Interestingly set out
- Nice text to dip in and out of
- It was really interesting; it had a little snippet for everyone

### **About the book:**

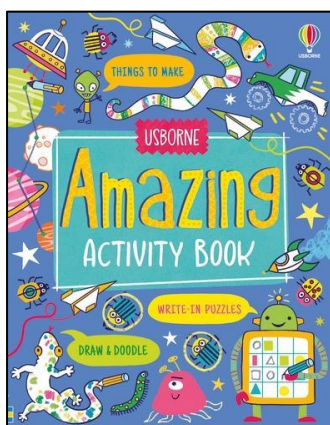
As the title suggests, this nonfiction book contains a multitude of lists of all sorts of different things. Discover eight lost civilisations, the 46 presidents of the United States, five facts about comets, 12 countries with the longest coastlines, 37 plays by William Shakespeare, how to say hello in nine different languages – and lots, lots more. There are 263 lists altogether, which is basically one for each weekday of the year, and colour illustrations on every page. The lists are not grouped together in a particular order, but there's a comprehensive index at the back if you want to look up something in particular.

### **You might also like:**

*The Epic Book of Epicness* by Adam Frost

## Amazing Activity Book

By Usborne



### **What the selection panel said:**

- Activities include 'odd one out', doodling, maths puzzles, 'make new words' and 'did you know' facts
- There's a range of puzzles and answers are at the back
- It has a little bit of everything in it
- You could jump backwards and forwards and do different things

### **About the book:**

This book is packed with activities to keep young readers busy and their minds buzzing. Alongside doodling and colouring, there are mazes, puzzles to solve, story-writing prompts, wordsearches, codes to unravel and guides for making things such as paper planes or shadow puppets. The different activities are based around a whole variety of themes and the book also includes some facts linked to those different themes for readers to discover.

### **Things to know about:**

- A few of the activities included in the book do require additional equipment other than just paper and pens

[Example contents for 2024/5. Please note some of the contents may differ]



- An ancient Egyptian section includes a puzzle titled 'Mummy chase' (page 41)

**You might also like:**

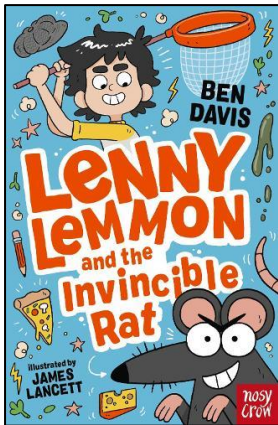
*Where's Wally? Games on the Go* by Martin Handford

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## Red Parcel 4

### Lenny Lemmon and Invincible Rat

By Ben Davis and James Lancett



**What the selection panel said:**

- A funny caper
- Lenny is very likeable; he's a kid being a kid
- There's a good theme of friendship running throughout the book

**About the book:**

It's 'Olden Days' day at Lenny's school and everyone is dressing up and having classes in the style of Victorians. Whichever class puts on the best Victorian day will win a prize and Lenny, fed up with the other class in his year always getting prizes for things, is determined to create a showstopper event and represent the winning class this time around. And what is more 'olden times' than a rat? But when the rat that Lenny brings into school for the day escapes – and not just once, but twice – chaos ensues... Accepting responsibility for his actions, Lenny is determined to put things right and get Ratty back in his cage, but even with the help of his best friend Sam and new classmate Jess, things don't entirely go according to plan – with amusing and surprising consequences!

It's an action-packed, funny story with black-and-white illustrations to support the text. Friendship is a key theme in the story, as Lenny must navigate a challenging day with his best friend Sam, alongside a storyline based around a new girl in class, Jess, who tells a little white lie that she thinks will help her to make new friends. Lenny has a reputation for being naughty, which we learn is a result of the fact that he doesn't always make the best of decisions, but his heart is shown to be in the right place – and ultimately, in this story, his actions lead to an exciting discovery for the school.

**BookTrust book review:** <https://www.booktrust.org.uk/book//lenny-lemmon-and-the-Invincible-rat/>

**Things to know about:**

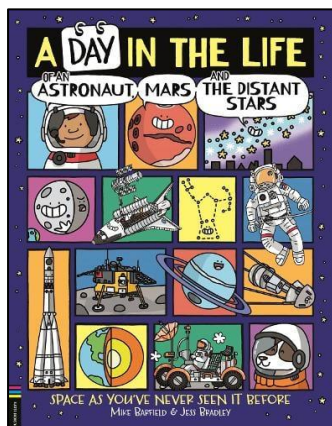
- Lenny and Jess get accidentally locked in a cupboard (page 124), but are soon found and let out by their friend Sam

**You might also like:**

*The Day I Got Zapped with Super Powers* by Tom McLaughlin

## **A Day in the Life of an Astronaut, Mars and the Distant Stars**

By Mike Barfield and Jess Bradley



### **What the selection panel said:**

- The layout is appealing
- It's very factual and laid out in cartoony bits, which I thought was really interesting
- It's about something they can all see – stars and space
- It's quite visual
- I really liked it – I like the graphic novel layout, it's appealing

### **About the book:**

Written by the same author as 'The Wild Life of Animals' in parcel one, this book takes a similar approach, telling facts about different things from each subject's perspective, in a narrative form. For example, gravity, a black hole, and a mega mirror each tell readers all about what it is, how it works and what it gets up to from day to day. Alongside these 'A Day in the Life' comic-book sections, there are 'Secret Diaries' and also sections about 'The Bigger Picture' which introduce other space-related topics such as Discovery's voyage, the evolution of Nasa's rockets, and what qualifications are needed to be an astronaut.

With a focus on all things related to space, space exploration, and the universe, it's a little more complex than the animal book, with more text and covering the different topics in more depth. But as with 'The Wild Life of Animals', there's lots to learn and discover, with lots of funny bits, and it's great to dip in and out of or share. A glossary and an index are included at the back.

**BookTrust book review:** <https://www.booktrust.org.uk/book/a/a-day-in-the-life-of-an-astronaut-mars-and-the-distant-stars/>

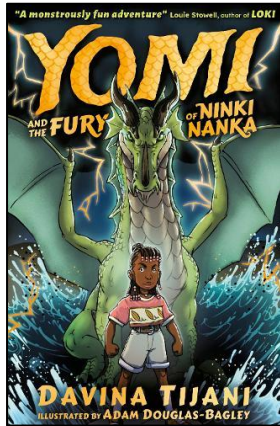
### **You might also like:**

*A Day in the Life of a Caveman, a Queen and Everything in Between* by Mike Barfield and Jess Bradley

## Red Parcel 5

### Yomi and the Fury of the Ninki Nanka

By Davina Tijani and Adam Douglas-Bagley



#### What the selection panel said:

- This review says the story is a great read
- An interesting, exciting adventure
- The story introduces African mythology I wasn't familiar with, which was great
- A really well-rounded world

#### About the book:

Yomi and her brother Kayode are visiting the Gambia with their Uncle Olu for the summer. Uncle Olu is a researcher in African Studies and has been telling Yomi and Kayode stories from the region about the ancient and sacred Nkara – protector nature spirits that take the form of animals or mythical creatures – and especially about the Ninki Nanka, the Dragon King and Protector of the Gambia river. When Yomi witnesses the Ninki Nanka being chased through the night sky, surrounded by a strange white mist, then disappearing, Yomi realises that the Ninki Nanka is in terrible trouble.

Although Yomi tells Olu what she saw, he doesn't seem to believe her, so she determines to find out for herself what has happened to the Ninki Nanka. To do so she and Kayode must seek out and talk to other Nkara, and undertake a dangerous journey to a fortress in the sky where they believe the wicked Nkara-hunting Beast Hunters are holding the dragon captive.

An engaging and pacey adventure story. Yomi is quite a headstrong and determined character; her actions save the Ninki Nanka and lead to the discovery of a secret society created to try and protect the sacred Nkara and, by extension the lands of the Gambia.

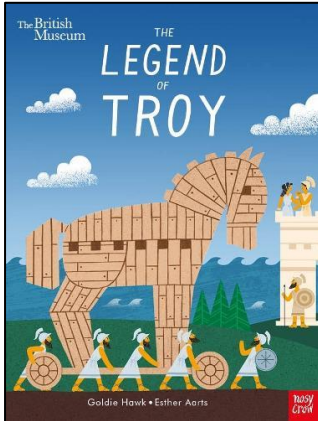
**BookTrust book review:** <https://www.booktrust.org.uk/book/y/yomi-and-the-fury-of-ninki-nanka/>

#### You might also like:

*The Nothing to See Here Hotel* by Steven Butler and Steven Lenton

## The Legend of Troy

By Goldie Hawk and Esther Aarts



### **What the selection panel said:**

- It's got facts about Troy and a 'make your own Trojan horse' – what's not to like?
- I like the fact it also has stickers
- It has photos and illustrations and is nice and glossy
- I liked it

### **About the book:**

An introduction to the famous story of Troy. The Legend of Troy has been told for thousands of years and mostly people think it was just a story, but today archaeologists believe they have found evidence of an ancient city that might actually have been Troy itself. The first section of this book introduces the Ancient Greeks and tells a summary of the legend of the Trojan war. The second section then looks at the evidence we have about which parts of the story might have really happened, as well as why it is a story we have kept telling across hundred of years. Illustrated in full colour, the book also includes photographs of the real archaeological finds. It includes a sheet of stickers at the back, and a push-out paper Trojan horse to build.

### **Things to know about:**

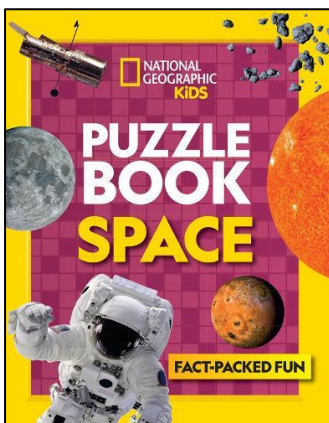
- The panel noted that on page 29 there is a reference to the king leaving his baby son on a hillside because he believed that this was necessary to save the city. It is included in a section that encourages readers to consider whether the characters listed were right or wrong to behave in the way they did.

### **You might also like:**

*Secret Treasures of Ancient Egypt* by Kate Sparrow and Esther Aarts

## Puzzle Book: Space

By National Geographic Kids



### **About the book:**

A little puzzle book with a space theme. It includes crosswords, sudoku, wordsearches, word jumbles, mazes, word wheels and codewords. Not every puzzle has a direct link to a space topic, but there are space related facts throughout, alongside the puzzles themselves.

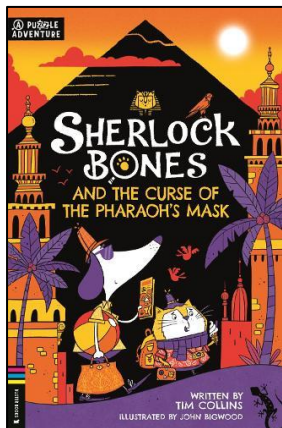
### **You might also like:**

There are more puzzle books in this series, with different themes, if you enjoy this one

## Red Parcel 6

### Sherlock Bones and the Curse of the Pharaoh's Mask

By Tim Collins and John Bigwood



#### What the selection panel said:

- I really liked this one; I liked the quizzes, they made it a bit interactive, which you don't often get for fiction
- I thought the font was nice, and it has buffish type paper so is easy to read
- The front cover is eye-catching
- I think the puzzles throughout the story are good for readers who may need a 'break' from reading, and they were well linked to the story
- It was an enjoyable story

#### About the book:

Investigator dog, Sherlock Bones and his friend Catson are in Egypt for what is supposed to be a relaxing holiday to visit the ancient pyramids and the newly discovered tomb of 'Tutancatmun', but Sherlock isn't very good at relaxing and is missing having a mystery to solve. Sherlock's wish for a mystery is soon granted, however, when they learn that a precious mask has been stolen from the tomb. More worrying is that he and Catson have been falsely accused of stealing it – they must find the real thief, recover the missing mask and also figure out why they have been framed for the theft.

Alongside the story, there are lots of puzzles to solve throughout the book, to help Sherlock and Catson with their investigation, adding an element of interactivity (and answers are shown at the back of the book).

#### You might also like:

*Mickey and the Missing Spy* by Anne Miller and Becka Moor



## 100 Things to Know About the Unknown

By Various



### What the selection panel said:

- Nice text to dip into for interesting facts explored across a page or double page
- The content is lovely
- I liked the layout and brightly coloured inside
- It also has names, and history-related stuff and is not just sciencey, so it might pique the interest of fans of things other than science

### About the book:

A dip-in fact book all about surprising and intriguing things. Did you know crocodiles cry (although we don't know why)? Did you know there is an ancient stone message found in Mexico that no one can read? Or that even today scientists don't know why people yawn? Despite this book covering all sorts of topics about the things we don't know and mysteries yet to be solved, there is a lot to learn and discover. Illustrated throughout, and covering a huge variety of different topics, this is a fascinating book to explore.

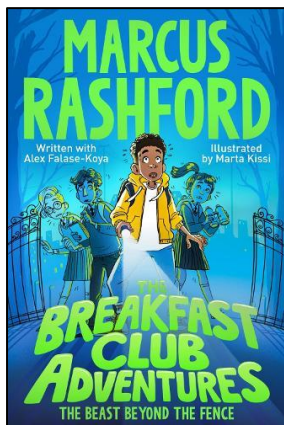
### You might also like:

There are more books in the *100 Things to Know About* series from Usborne, on a range of different topics

## Green Parcel 1

### Breakfast Club Adventures: The Beast Beyond the Fence

By Marcus Rashford, with Alex Falase-Koya and Marta Kissi



#### What the selection panel said:

- It's quite a simple story – he stops playing football because he loses his ball. It's mostly about friendship
- The opening sets the scene quickly, with effective use of the senses
- It is a normal school, a little shabby but comfortable and safe; I love that school subjects are celebrated – music, maths, art
- It is engaging with the illustrations
- The chapters are short and usually end on a little bit of a cliff-hanger

#### About the book:

Marcus loves playing football, but lately it seems that his football skills have disappeared. On top of that, he's lost his favourite football, which his cousin Lola gifted him. Lola's going to be back from school in America in a few days' time and he really wants to find it before she gets home. But the football went over the fence between school and the abandoned supermarket next door, and when he sneaks through the fence to look for it, it's vanished. Fortunately, help is nearby: a small group of his classmates have formed up to investigate mysteries around the school: the Breakfast Club Investigators. They've all lost something, and recruit Marcus to help them investigate, with the promise of finding his football too. But when they venture next door to investigate the old supermarket further, they are chased away by what appears to be a supernatural creature of some sort. Can they figure out what is going, why this "beast" is hiding in the supermarket, and what it wants with their lost things?

A story about friendships, overcoming obstacles and finding your self-confidence, this is a fun and fast-paced adventure mystery.

#### Things to know about:

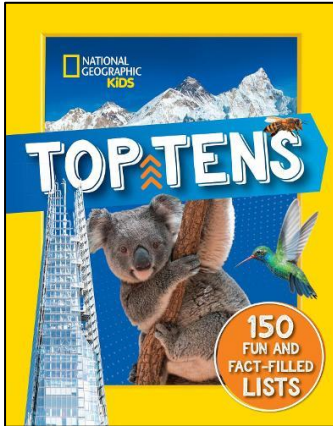
- There are some family elements in the story, but the main story focuses on the adventure and Marcus's relationships with his friends at school
- One panellist commented: "Cousin Lola's mum died so Lola came to live with them, which was handled in a very sensitive and positive way – I felt it's handled in a good way because her mum's death wasn't mentioned. It was more that Lola's coming to live with us, and it was actually quite nice when she did. And most of our young people experience those types of things."
- One panellist commented: "He's got a really strong relationship with mum. Mum travels a lot and works away so he misses her but they have a good relationship and can talk about it so those are all positives."

**You might also like:**

*The Unbelievable Biscuit Factory* by James Harris

**Top Tens**

By National Geographic Kids



**What the selection panel said:**

- National Geographic books are always lovely
- It's full of facts and stats e.g. earthquakes, Darwin, space, castles
- It had nice photos, and just lots of facts about different animals, then goes on to world facts
- It's a nice fact book, you can pick it up, put it down

**About the book:**

This nonfiction book has 1,500 facts to inspire, amaze and fascinate young people. With sections on creatures, our planet, space, the human world and history, each page has ten facts about a related theme – it could be the 'ten largest' or 'ten fastest', etc., or simply ten interesting things about that subject. Covering topics from the weirdest weather recorded to world-changing inventions, readers can find out all sorts of things about the world – what are the ten most expensive paintings in the world? What are the ten tallest buildings? Who were the most adventurous astronauts? Which animals are the fiercest predators?

Great for dipping in and out, all the facts are accompanied by colour photographs so you can see the real-life things the facts are about.

**BookTrust book review:** <https://www.booktrust.org.uk/book/t/top-tens/>

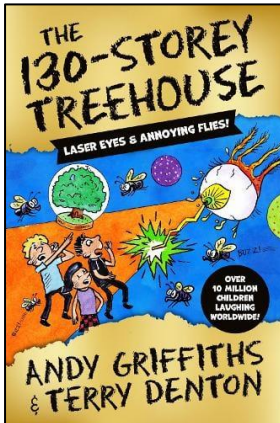
**You might also like:**

*Factopia!* by Kate Hale

## Green Parcel 2

### The 130-Storey Treehouse

By Andy Griffiths and Terry Denton



#### What the selection panel said:

- It's an enormously popular series
- It kind of has a graphic novel feel
- The reader is taken on an outer space journey where good overcomes a farcical evil – the reader experiences an array of ridiculous but funny comic style episodes
- The illustrations add to the humour of the book
- Jill's character is kind and caring
- Filled with jokes and puns

#### About the book:

In this madcap book series, inventors Terry and Andy live in a treehouse which they are continuously adding new storeys to and creating new strange and magical inventions. In this story, the treehouse, along with Andy, Terry and their friend Jill, is captured by a giant flying eyeball, which proceeds to fly them into space and to a planet called Eyeballia. Terry, Andy and Jill must tackle all the strange things that happen there and find a way to get back to Earth.

This funny story is packed with silly humour and absurd situations that the characters must find solutions to. Whilst at first the world of the treehouse can seem somewhat chaotic, the story is cleverly constructed and touches on themes such as what to do in an emergency, forgiveness, and working together.

#### Things to know about:

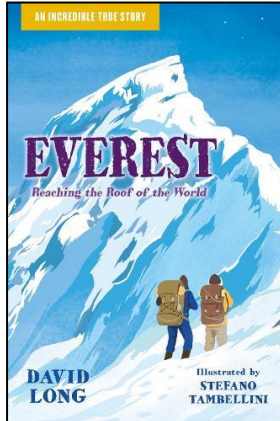
- There are some references as part of the plotline to “intergalactic death battles” where evils aliens must fight each other
- A panellist noted: “Though there is reference to violence (an intergalactic “death battle”), these themes are dealt with in a very witty and far-fetched fashion”

#### You might also like:

*AstroNuts Mission One: The Plant Planet* by Jon Scieszka and Steven Weinberg

## **Everest: Reaching for the Roof of the World**

By David Long and Stephano Tambellini



### **What the selection panel said:**

- I think books about explorers are really fascinating, I really like this type of narrative
- It's quite accessible and dyslexia friendly
- I loved it
- Easy to read short chapters
- Lots of interesting facts about Everest that I don't know

### **About the book:**

This narrative nonfiction book tells the story of the mountaineers who strove to climb to the top of the highest mountain on Earth, Mount Everest. From the early expeditions at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century to the essential role and importance of the local Sherpa communities in supporting western mountaineers on their climbing attempts, to the multiple challenges faced by anyone who attempts to reach Everest's nearly 9,000 metre high summit, the book provides lots of interesting background and context alongside a more detailed telling of the team of climbers who were the first to succeed in climbing to the mountain's top.

As part of the story, readers gain insight into why mountain climbing can be so difficult, the ways that equipment helps mountaineers, how climbing somewhere like Everest works and considers reasons why the human fascination of exploring such remote and challenging places around the world endures.

This book is printed in a dyslexia friendly format with short chapters and includes diagrams and illustrations to support the text, making it more accessible for struggling or challenged readers in particular.

**BookTrust book review:** <https://www.booktrust.org.uk/book/e/everest-reaching-the-roof-of-the-world/>

### **Things to know about:**

- Many people have died whilst trying to climb Mount Everest and some details regarding those tragedies are included within the story, but are handled in a factual way

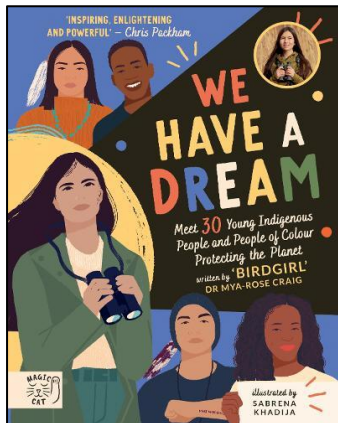
### **You might also like:**

*Tutankhamun's Treasure* by David Long and Stephano Tambellini



## **We Have a Dream**

By Dr Mya-Rose Craig and Sabrena Khadija



### **What the selection panel said:**

- An inspiring anthology of young people who have a voice on protecting the planet
- An interesting book that shows how young people can have a major impact
- It's set in today's society and is about young indigenous people protecting the planet right now

### **About the book:**

This illustrated nonfiction book introduces 30 young people from around the world who are environmental campaigners and climate activists. Every person you can read about here is from an indigenous community – communities which are often under-represented in the environmental movement, despite being disproportionately affected by climate change and other environmental issues. Each double page is dedicated to one person, with an illustrated portrait of them, a summary of what they want to achieve, and a short biography about who they are, what they are doing, and how and why.

Meet Sultan Ahmed, a wildlife conservationist who is passionate about conserving biodiversity; Autumn Peltier who is campaigner for First nation access to clean water; Lesein Mutunkei, who dreams of a world without deforestation; Brianna Fruean, who is determined to stop sea level rise; and many more.

An empowering look at just some of the young people seeking to make a difference and protect the world for future generations.

**BookTrust book review:** <https://www.booktrust.org.uk/book/w/we-have-a-dream/>

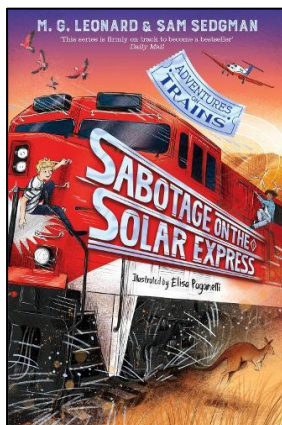
### **You might also like:**

*Not All Heroes Wear Capes* by Ben Brooks

## Green Parcel 3

### Sabotage on the Solar Express

By M. G. Leonard and Sam Sedgman



#### What the selection panel said:

- It was a really enjoyable read
- It was interesting seeing the young inventor using science from basic things
- It gave a sense of adventure and made me look up more about the Australian outback

#### About the book:

Hal and his Uncle Nat are visiting Australia, where they've been invited to join the very first journey on board an exciting new train, the Solar Express. Built by billionaire August Reza, the train's engine has been designed by teenager Boaz to be really environmentally friendly. Hal is looking forward to seeing the train, especially after meeting Boaz, but as everyone prepares to board, it becomes clear to him and Nat that not everyone is as happy or excited about the Solar Express as August Reza is. And once the journey begins, they discover the train has been sabotaged – travelling at over 100km per hour, there is no way to stop and someone else seems to be controlling it.

Along with their friend Marianne, Hal, Boaz and Nat must work together with August to find a way to stop the train before it crashes into an ancient and protected Aboriginal site, as well as figure out who has sabotaged it and why. There are around a dozen passengers on board – was it one of them? Who can they trust?

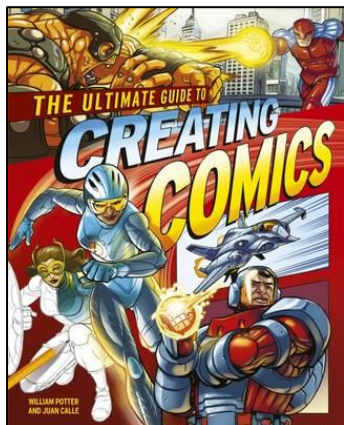
This is a fast-paced, high-stakes adventure story with lots of interesting science worked into the story and themes of technology, environmental conservation and friendships. Hal carries his sketchbook with him everywhere and loves to sketch the world around him – which comes in very useful for solving mysteries, as his drawings act as snapshots of events surrounding the train's sabotage that both he and readers can look back at and identify details to help solve the case. This mix of art/creativity with the scientific aspects of the storyline are a nice combination.

#### You might also like:

There are more books in this series if you enjoy this one

## **The Ultimate Guide to Creating Comics**

By William Potter and Juan Calle



### **What the selection panel said:**

- Might just appeal to a small group who like art and comics
- Nice to see an art book that would appeal to both genders but particularly boys
- I liked this and think it's the first time – it's age appropriate and good for boys
- It's drawing comic heroes

### **About the book:**

This how-to guide to drawing has a focus on drawing comics but is full of tips and tricks for drawing that could be applied to a variety of different types of illustration practices. Alongside storytelling ideas for comic-book creations, the book has a focus on drawing people and figures, and how to create action, movement and emotions in your pictures – e.g. how to draw someone striking a pose or jumping, ways to create different perspectives, creating textures and creating settings.

### **Things to know about:**

- The panel highlighted that the book does show how to draw things such as someone punching but felt this was within context of the superhero genre of comic books – one panellist commented, “It does show how to draw someone punching, but on the whole liked it and thought it was a good book.”

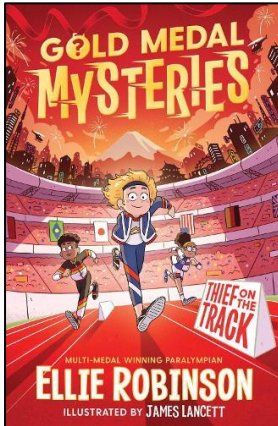
### **You might also like:**

*The Usborne Creative Writing Book* by Louie Stowell

## Green Parcel 4

### Gold Medal Mysteries: Thief on the Track

By Ellie Robinson and James Lancett



#### What the selection panel said:

- It's a lovely story and is easy to read
- It's written by Paralympian swimmer Ellie Robinson, who won Young Sports Personality of the Year in 2016
- I really enjoyed reading this book – it was gripping and I wanted to read on to the next part
- The characters are really believable and I think young people could find qualities in them that they relate to
- The book has characters from all different genders, race, culture and abilities
- It's a story of young people – one has won a trip to go and watch the Olympics. They are all really different characters, and all come from different backgrounds and have different family setups

#### About the book:

Sports fan Hannah is really excited to be visiting Tokyo with her dad to watch the Olympic Games. But after watching American sprinter Jesse win the men's 100 metres final, she's shocked when the next day the news announces that Jesse's medal has been stolen. There's a big reward for finding it - \$30,000 – so Hannah and her new friends Maria and Seb, who she's met whilst at the Games, decide to team up and see if they can find out what has happened to the medal.

Beginning their investigation (which they have decided to keep secret from the adults), they search for clues around the stadium and the athlete's village, and talk to a variety of possible suspects, from press team members, Jesse's teammates, and volunteers working at the Games, with Hannah keeping notes in a notebook. The stakes rise when someone realises what they are doing and sends them an anonymous threatening message to stop investigating, but they are determined to continue. All the clues ultimately point to one person – but are they really the thief or has someone framed them?

This mystery story celebrates sport, with a myriad of behind-the-scenes details of Olympic 'life' and drawing on the author's own experiences. Friendship and inclusivity are also key themes, as Hannah works together with American Maria and British-German Seb, each of whom have their own individual differences.

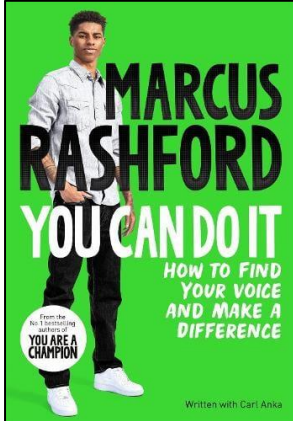
**BookTrust book review:** <https://www.booktrust.org.uk/book/g/gold-medal-mysteries-thief-on-the-track/>

#### You might also like:

*Rock Star Detectives* by Adam Hills

## You Can Do It

By Marcus Rashford and Carl Anka



### **What the selection panel said:**

- He talks about respect, kindness and key positive messages.
- I asked a few youngsters and they would like to read it
- He's very well thought of
- I liked the fact it talked a lot about resilience and breaks it down to bouncing back when things are challenging without it talking down to you

### **About the book:**

Champion footballer Marcus Rashford shares the things he's learnt from his career in sport and his campaigning on issues such as food poverty, about how you can unlock your own talents and find brilliant ways use them. He says, "Everyone in this world has their own unique journey in life, and your passions will help you navigate your future."

Chapters include topics such as 'Be Kind to Yourself', 'No Such Thing as Normal', 'Celebrate and Champion Difference', and 'Bouncing Back'. With stylish black-and-white illustrations and accessible chunks of text, each chapter introduces the topic with relevant stories from Marcus's own life, what he thinks about it and why it works or is important, and some action points for readers to think about.

### **Things to know about:**

- The panel noted that amongst the stories and discussions, sensitive topics such as race and poverty are touched upon

### **You might also like:**

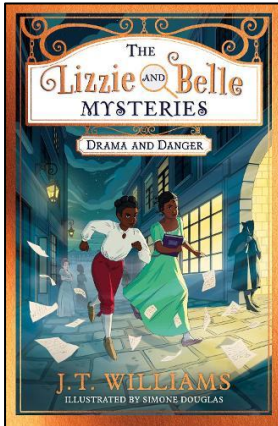
*You Are a Champion* by Marcus Rashford



## Green Parcel 5

### The Lizzie and Belle Mysteries: Drama and Danger

By J. T. Williams



#### What the selection panel said:

- It's got a real historical setting, a lot of the facts are true
- It's truly representative
- I thought it was really refreshing and absolutely loved it

#### About the book:

Set in eighteenth-century London, this is a fictionalised story but based on two real young Black women who lived in London at the time. Lizzie Sancho lives with her family in Covent Garden, above their grocery store and tea shop. She is working class but well educated, and her father Ignatius has a particular passion for acting and for Shakespeare. He is about to make waves in London society by being the first Black actor to play Othello on the stage – but on the first night, disaster strikes, and a chandelier falls from the ceiling. Ignatius is okay, but Lizzie is certain she saw someone sabotage the chandelier and cause it to fall. Who? And why?

Belle is from an aristocratic family, living in the grand Kenwood House in Hampstead with servants and carriages and lots of expensive clothes. She believes she saw someone fiddling with the chandelier in the theatre that night, too. She and Lizzie team up to investigate, certain it wasn't an accident. There are other things happening in the city that are worrying too – Black boys are going missing, Lizzie's friend Mercury included. By clever detective work and pretending to be theatre reporters and interviewing people, Lizzie and Belle gradually piece together their evidence, with some ups-and-downs in their developing friendship, and dramatic chases and close escapes along the way. They uncover a network of individuals capturing people off the street to put into slavery, but with help from another network of slavery abolitionist, they bring the perpetrators to justice.

The story wonderfully presents a snapshot of Black lives in historical England, as well as being a fast-paced and well-written mystery story. Lizzie and Belle are each quite different from one another and have very different lives, which brings challenges and occasional misunderstandings to their new friendship, which felt very realistic and relatable, as well making the historical setting fade into the background as the drama of the story takes hold.

**BookTrust book review:** <https://www.booktrust.org.uk/book/t/the-lizzie-and-belle-mysteries-drama-and-danger/>

#### Things to know about:

- The existence and impact of slavery is discussed as part of the storyline in a historically relevant context
- Lizzie is part of a vibrant, happy family, providing a very positive family set-up, though part of the story revolves around her seeking to protect her father after he appears to have been targeted for his leading role in the play 'Othello'

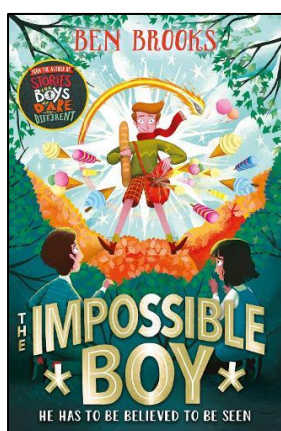
- Belle lives with her father; it is briefly mentioned that her mother died when she was young
- Mercury, a friend of Lizzie's, mother is also mentioned as having died and that he is alone apart from his friends

**You might also like:**

*Darwin's Dragons* by Lindsey Galvin

**The Impossible Boy**

By Ben Brooks



**What the selection panel said:**

- A weird and wonderful story with relatable child characters, heartwarming relationships and comedy provided by the 'impossible boy'
- It's a great story with lots of positives

**About the book:**

Best friends Emma and Oleg are quite surprised when Sebastian, the imaginary friend they've been writing about to make school more interesting becomes – impossibly – real, landing his spaceship in their secret den at the back of the school field. Not being versed in the social rules of western society, he's quite different from other people! But Sebastian is soon being pursued by the Institute of Unreality who, because Sebastian isn't really supposed to exist, want to take him away. With the help of an eclectic bunch of friends and classmates, Emma and Oleg set out to protect Sebastian and find the best way to help keep him safe.

**Things to know about:**

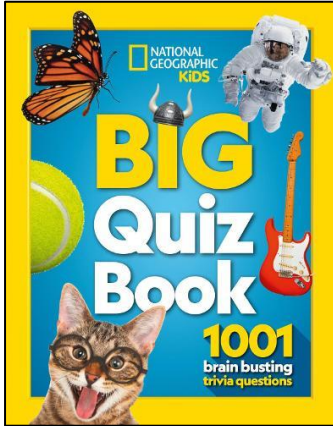
- The children in this story do not have the easiest of lives
- One of the children has a dad who is struggling with his mental health
- Readers may like to consider: the children do not seem to rely on their parents, but do they get support and ask for help? And do things always work out for the best?
- BookTrust's sensitivity reader said: The children's challenges are not made light of; the children consistently make the best of difficult situations, finding positives and helping each other

**You might also like:**

*A Beginner's Guide to Ruling the Galaxy* by David Solomons

## **Big Quiz Book**

By National Geographic Kids



### **What the selection panel said:**

- Very informative and challenging; engages all
- It's good to have answers on the following page
- I quite liked it and thought it was a nice one
- It's nice one for children to share with other children
- It covers a wide range of things and has got a lot of different stuff in it

### **About the book:**

This book does exactly what it says! A chunky book at 300 pages long, with 1001 questions to quiz yourself and others.

With a similar style to the 'Top Tens' book in Parcel 1, every page has a collection of quiz questions based around a particular topic, accompanied by colour photographs. The answers are provided on the next page.

Divided into sections such as world geography, incredible creatures, science and technology, incredible creatures and spectacular sport, each quiz then has a more specific topic, ranging from the world's oceans to inventions, space travel, the Olympics and movies. Readers can test their own knowledge or see if they can baffle their friends.

### **You might also like:**

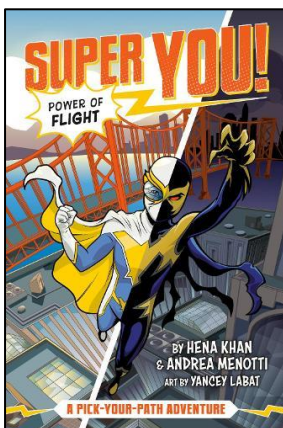
*Splat the Fake Fact* by Adam Frost

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## **Green Parcel 6**

### **Super You: Power of Flight**

By Hena Khan, Andrea Menotti and Yancey Labat



### **What the selection panel said:**

- I liked this one. It's an engaging read, can be reread, and you find yourself wanting to change the ending, it's a real motivator
- It's a 'choose your own adventure', which is a fun format
- I kept reading it in different ways, I thought it was great
- I think it's a nice take on being a superhero and I think the fact the children get so many choices is empowering and motivating
- It's interesting to read several of the endings and compare the possibilities
- It is fast-paced and may engage more reluctant readers due to the many routes

**About the book:**

A 'pick your own path' book, where the reader gets to decide what they want to do next at the end of each chapter, from two options presented to them. The reader is the main character in the book: you are at a Summer Science Academy and while on a field trip to a bird sanctuary have accidentally gone into an off-limits lab, following your rule-breaking buddy. While you're in there, you are scratched by a bird that's being kept there. Reminiscent of Spiderman's Peter Parker getting bitten by a spider, following this encounter, you develop the ability to fly!

How has this happened and how will you use your new ability? As the story progresses you discover the bird that scratched you has been part of an experiment by someone known as Dr Zeus, and you must decide what you should or could do about it. Your choices lead to different outcomes, and you can potentially follow multiple different pathways and storylines through the book to reach a different ending each time.

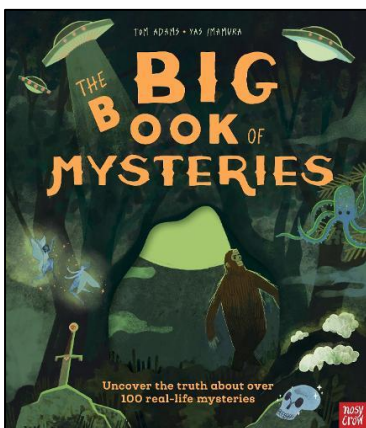
An adventure mystery with a classic heroes and villains theme. Can you become a hero?

**Things to know about:**

- Some of the story endings may feel a little abrupt and lead readers to question the choices they made for the character through the book. The book is, however, designed this way to encourage re-reading and taking different pathways to find the most satisfying conclusion.
- One panellist commented: "There is reference to crime, characters being captured and villains, but similar would be expected in a DC superhero type narrative and this would probably be the appeal"

**The Big Book of Mysteries**

By Tom Adams and Yasmin Imamura



**What the selection panel said:**

- Interesting cover
- Has a contents page and lots of questions to engage the reader on a range of topics: King Arthur, Lost at sea, Visitors from outer space
- Each chapter has a heading followed by a question
- The book deals with unexplained phenomena
- Includes a glossary and index
- Great book – thoroughly recommend
- Once I started reading, I couldn't put it down. It was absolutely brilliant and so interesting
- It's lovely

**About the book:**

Although we are constantly making amazing new discoveries in science and developing our understanding of the world, there are lots of things that still remain a bit of a mystery – many



of which continue to fascinate and intrigue human minds. This book has collected together lots of unexplained things and events, from unusual things seen in the sky to mystery creatures, lost places, and strange objects.

There's a huge variety of mysteries to discover and read about, and of all different kinds – there are real things that have been found and no one knows what the story behind them is (like the Nazca lines in Peru), or stories that people have told about people, places or creatures and no one knows if they are real or not (like the Yeti), or strange things that happen in nature. Some of the mysteries included here do have explanations, but many do not, and the book encourages readers to ask logical questions about the subject and think critically about what might really be going on, rather than letting your imagination run wild.

Fully illustrated and with bite-size chunks of text, a great book that can either be read front to back or dipped in and out of.

**You might also like:**

*Earthshattering Events!* by Sophie Williams and Robin Jacobs