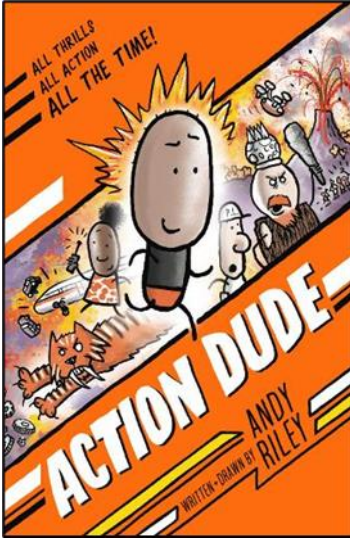


Red Parcel 1

Action Dude

By Andy Riley



What the selection panel said:

- It's in a graphic novel style so is a really accessible and light read
- I think it's good to have a graphic novel

About the book:

Charlie Munderdrew – otherwise known as Action Dude – may be a kid, but he loves danger and excitement and to be a hero. Even just popping around to the corner shop requires a daring leap from a jet plane. So, when disaster strikes at “Prehistoric Land”, the new local theme park, obviously it's Action Dude that the Mayor calls on for help.

All the animals and cave people on display at Prehistoric Land are actually super-advanced robots, but something has gone awry and, the robots have gone on a rampage! It's up to Action Dude and his new

friend Ruby to, firstly, get past sabre-toothed tigers, woolly mammoths and angry robot Neanderthals to rescue the park's visitors, who are hiding at the Volcano of Lava. And, secondly, figure out why the robots have gone wrong and what – or who – is behind it.

A comedic plotline and clever references to the action hero genre makes this graphic novel a highly enjoyable, light-hearted read, with themes of friendship, working together and facing fears.

Things to know about:

- There is a minor part of the storyline where one of the main characters, Ruby, is temporarily separated from her father, which leads her and Action Dude to team up. They are reunited on page 86. The panel said, “It's so different for every person; the fact it's a moment in time and not a focus makes it OK”; and, “It's sitting OK with me, as it's not the main focus”.

You might also like:

Agent 9: Flood-a-Geddon by James Burkes

Puzzle Book: Coolest Animals

By National Geographic Kids



What the selection panel said:

- A bright book with facts and quizzes about animals
- The cover is engaging
- Contains a mix of crosswords, word searches and pictures
- A nice book

About the book:

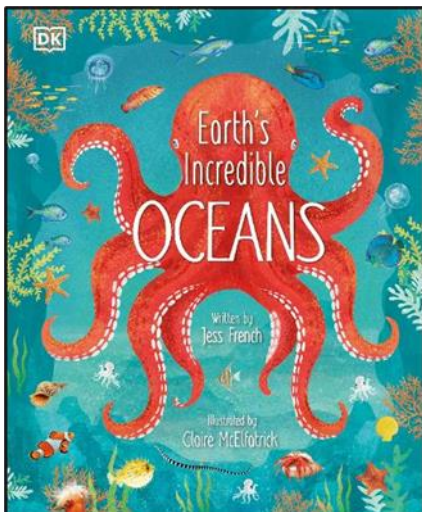
This animal-themed activity book has a wide range of different puzzles to keep readers busy, from word jumbles and spot-the-difference to sudoku, mazes and crosswords. Interesting little facts about different animals, are included throughout, along with photographic images of the creatures themselves.

You might also like:

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

Earth's Incredible Oceans

By Jess French and Claire McElfatrick



What the selection panel said:

- Nice and “gifted”
- It’s got a nice mix of pictures and writing
- It’s a nice book to hold and look through, I liked the quality of the pages

About the book:

This fascinating non-fiction book looks at lots of different aspects of the world’s amazing oceans. Different topics covered include ocean currents, a selection of different animals that live in the ocean, ocean habitats, and how important the oceans are for humans. It is beautifully illustrated throughout and has some photographic images too, while the factual information is in small

bite-sized sections, making it a great book to flip through or dip in and out of. There is lots to look at and discover.

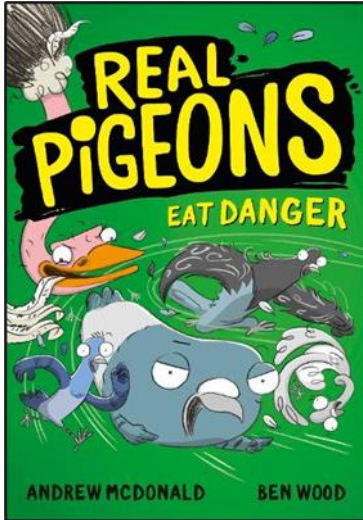
You might also like:

Why Don't Sharks Have Bones?: Questions and Answers About Sea Creatures by Marc Powell, Clare Hibbert, William Potter and Luke Seguin-Magee

Red Parcel 2

Real Pigeons Eat Danger

By Andrew McDonald and Ben Wood



What the selection panel said:

- My reluctant reader enjoyed looking at it and giving it a go
- It's all very light-hearted and silly humour, the characters and the set-up are fun and the way that the individual stories are worked out is quite unexpected so they're not particularly predictable

About the book:

This comic style novel, packed with illustrations to help tell the story, follows the adventures of a group of crime-fighting pigeons: Rock, Tumbler, Homey, Grandpouter and Frillback.

In the first of the three stories in the book, the pigeons discover that someone is putting birds into bottles and selling them to humans. Their investigation leads them to a gold-loving goldfinch (called

Goldpinch) who dreamed up the scheme to collect the humans' gold-coloured coins.

Story two follows the pigeons as they try to track down a dangerous ostrich, Struthio, but things are not quite what they seem: Struthio is actually an old enemy of Grandpouter's, and has teamed up with another bird, an ibis named Straw Neck, who wants the Real Pigeons taken out of the picture. Together, they set a trap for the pigeons and put their plan into action.

Separated from one another and spread around the world by the cunning Straw Neck, story three finds the Real Pigeons in a bit of trouble. It is up to Rock, the only crime-fighting pigeon left in the city, to escape from Straw Neck and make sure that the ibis's ambitions to be the city's new crime-fighting hero don't do more harm than good. When Rock and Straw Neck investigate why baby blackbirds are going missing, Straw Neck must ultimately decide what the right thing to do really is. Although Rock soon finds himself in a very tricky situation, Straw Neck realises that perhaps crime-fighting isn't for her after all and, brings the Real Pigeons back to the city to help prevent Rock from becoming pigeon pie.

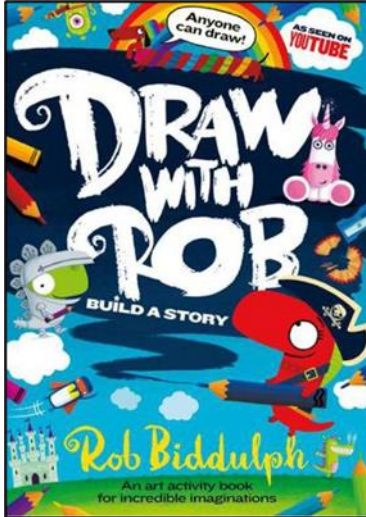
Humour and outlandish plots feature alongside a theme of teamwork.

You might also like:

Agent Weasel and the Fiendish Fox Gang by Nick East

Draw with Rob: Build a Story

By Rob Biddulph



What the selection panel said:

- There are loads of activities to do in the book
- If you don't feel artistic, there is a step-by-step drawing guide
- The cover is very vibrant and appealing
- It also teaches you to build your story
- The pages are able to be ripped out as well if you wanted to hang them on the fridge

About the book:

This brightly coloured activity book combines top tips on story writing with step-by-step learn to draw guides. Readers can test out their drawing skills with superheroes, unicorns, an evil queen, robots, knights and more. There are other activities to do throughout the book

as well, like spot-the-difference and search-and-find. It's lots of fun, and includes a pull-out section at the back, for readers to create their own mini storybook.

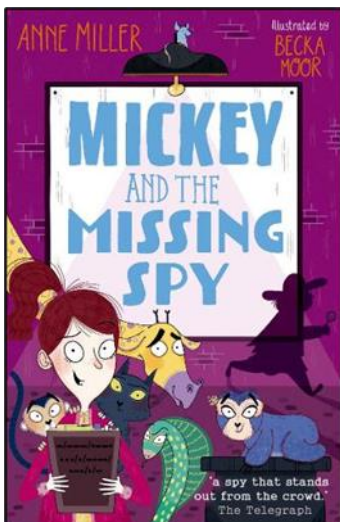
You might also like:

There are several other books in the *Draw with Rob* series if readers enjoy this one

Red Parcel 3

Mickey and the Missing Spy

By Anne Miller and Becka Moor



What the selection panel said:

- There are codebreaking puzzles and activities at the end too
- I really liked it
- It looks at individual qualities and how people are good at different things – I like that message

About the book:

COBRA is a secret group of animal spies whose task is to protect all animals from danger. Mickey is COBRA's human liaison officer – the animals can all talk and, they usually keep this hidden from humans, but they have revealed their secret to Mickey. Each member of COBRA also has a special skill; Mickey's is codebreaking.

When Mickey discovers that famous human codebreakers are going missing, she persuades her animal friends to help her investigate. Their

investigation ultimately leads them to a video from COBRA's former human liaison officer, Harry, who betrayed the animals before Mickey met them. In the ransom video, Harry demands millions in cryptocurrency in exchange for the codebreakers he's kidnapped, who are also all part of another spy group, The Espionage Agency. Mickey observes that during the video, the kidnapped agents were blinking in morse code, providing what she and the animals conclude are clues to where they are being held.

After figuring out where the agents were being held, the COBRA team set out to rescue them. It's not easy, but they manage to rescue the captured codebreakers and, The Espionage Agency take Harry into custody.

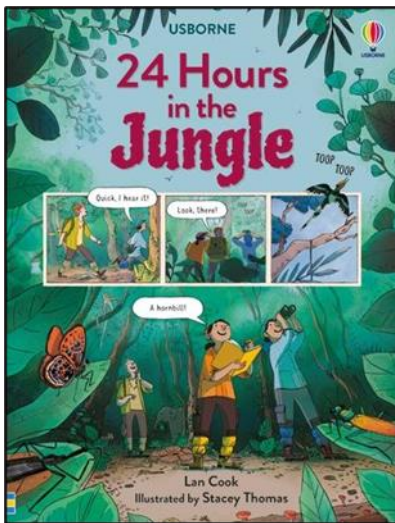
With themes of resilience, friendship, and teamwork, this is a well-paced adventure-spy story with fun characters and nice short chapters.

You might also like:

The Boy Who Dreamed of Dragons by Andy Shepherd

24 Hours in the Jungle

By Lan Cook and Stacey Thomas



What the selection panel said:

- I love the 24 Hours in the Jungle book
- A fiction book that uses the story to give lots of facts about the Borneo rainforest
- Bright and colourful
- It's a day in the life of someone who lives in the jungle

About the book:

A “day in the life” in the rainforest, this graphic novel style book blends fiction and fact as readers follow the main characters through their day exploring the jungle. Ellie and Danny live with their mum, who is a conservationist at a research facility in Borneo. When a new research student arrives, they show him around, introducing him (and the readers) to this amazing place. From the everyday essentials needed for a day in the jungle (E.g. hat, insect repellent, binoculars) to the wildlife they meet (from leeches to orangutans), the book subtly educates on subjects such as biodiversity and conservation in an engaging way through the children's story. A really interesting and different way of experiencing a book, it's jam-packed with information while providing a story to link all the facts together into a wider picture of life in this part of the world.

You might also like:

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

Red Parcel 4

Ghost Scouts: Welcome to Camp Croak

By Taylor Dolan



What the selection panel said:

- A nice little chunky book and it has some illustrations
- It's completely fantastical, ideal for readers to get lost in another world
- A general feel-good book
- The graphics and layout used grab attention

About the book:

This illustrated fiction book is set in the southern United States. After taking a wrong turn, Lexie's grandma accidentally drops her off at the wrong summer camp – a camp for ghost scouts instead of her regular, human one. Although not too sure about her surprising new circumstances at first, soon Lexie is having a great time at Camp Croak, befriending all kinds of spooky creatures, from werewolves to ghosts, and learning some unusual new skills.

But when the strange Euphemia Vile arrives and the Scoutmasters fall into a mysterious deep sleep, everything changes. Euphemia makes the children work for useless badges by undertaking unpleasant tasks, and then Lexie discovers Euphemia has a secret plan to get rid of the Scoutmasters, buy the land, and create a new camp, in an attempt to get rich. Lexie and her fellow campers hatch a plan involving throwing a party for Euphemia and some surprises appropriate to Euphemia's surname, that ultimately lead her to being "accidentally" swallowed by the local creek's inhabitant, Kraken Dave.

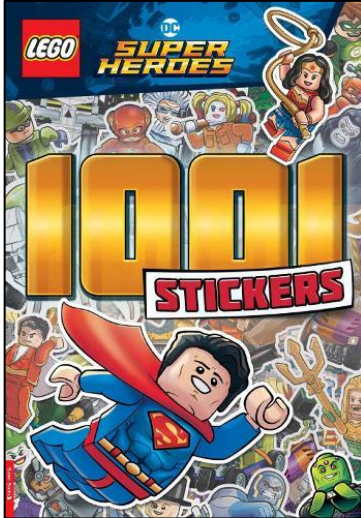
With a distinctive and super-kind heroine who instantly accepts her new friends' differences, this Addams Family style summer camp story has a classic good versus bad plotline.

You might also like:

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

Lego Super Heroes 1001 Stickers

By Lego and Buster Books



What the selection panel said:

- Lego is such a recognisable brand
- It has both male and female superheroes
- Stickers and activities is a good combination

About the book:

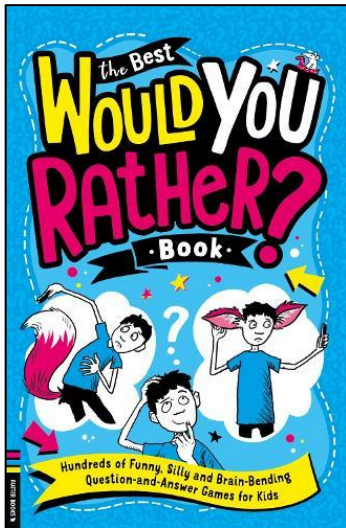
A jam-packed Lego-themed activity book – plus stickers!

You might also like:

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

The Best Would You Rather? Book

By Gary Panton and Andrew Pinder



What the selection panel said:

- A really fun book
- It stood out to me – my children are always playing this
- You can either follow it like a trail or can pick it up and read it from front to back; I liked that
- Some quite gross but fun “would you rathers?”

About the book:

Full of mind-boggling “would you rather?” ideas for readers to debate and challenge their friends with. Would you rather have feathers like a bird or fur like a wombat? Would you rather be the world’s funniest person or the world’s fastest person? Would you rather win the lottery or rule the country? And why?

Things to know about:

- Does include some ideas that are on the more gruesome or smelly side! The panel enjoyed the book, but carers may want to double check the book for any particular sensitivities that readers may have

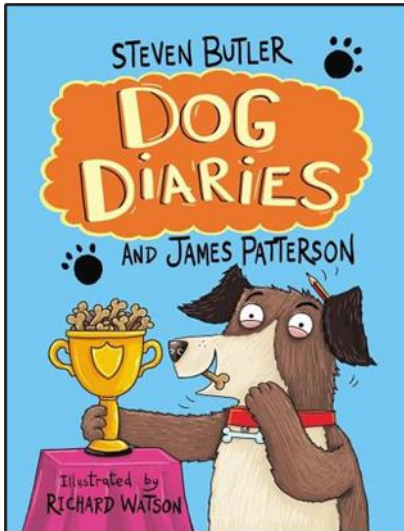
You might also like:

The Funniest Book Ever by Jamie Smart

Red Parcel 5

Dog Diaries

By Steven Butler and James Patterson



What the selection panel said:

- It was a good book to read, it was well written and kept me gripped
- I liked it
- The character is a cheeky dog with a mischievous streak
- It sounds fun

About the book:

This is the story of Junior, a rather mischievous dog. Junior grew up in the dog shelter but has just moved to a new home with his new owner Ruff, Ruff's sister Georgia, Mum and Grandma. Junior introduces the reader to his new surroundings and his everyday life, including meeting up with friends in the local park. Junior can't help following his doggy instincts and doesn't always make the

best choices, so after causing chaos while chasing a raccoon, is taken to obedience classes. To prove that Junior can change, Ruff decides to enter him in a dog show. Training, practises sessions and visits to the vet become the focus of Junior and Ruff's days in the build-up to the show.

Show day arrives and things do not entirely go according to plan when Junior's old instincts kick in after he spots, yes, a raccoon. But he's not the only dog who can't resist chasing the raccoon and all the other dogs taking part in the show follow in his footsteps, leading to lots of fun on the agility course and the award of Worst Behaved Dog for Junior!

Things to know about:

- The panel discussed a quote on page 17 where the characters talk about "pooch prison" (aka the dog shelter) and the dogs meeting lots of people but none of them being theirs to keep. This was raised as a potentially challenging line for some readers, but the panel felt that overall, the book presented a very positive story.

You might also like:

Mr Dog and a Hedge Called Hog by Ben Fogle, Steve Cole and Nikolas Ilic

A Day in the Life of a Caveman, a Queen and Everything in Between

By Mike Barfield and Jess Bradley



What the selection panel said:

- A great way to explain parts of history to young people, with comic book illustrations about historical figures
- Simple to follow and has a comprehensive contents page so you can find what you are looking for
- I like it; I thought it was very accessible
- I can see kids gravitating to it and you can pick it up and put it down

About the book:

A history book with a difference! This fun cartoon graphic-novel style book gives readers a whistle-stop tour of all sorts of people, places and objects through history, from ancient to modern. One page, (or two at most) is given to each person or item or idea, making this a very “dippable” book, and everything is presented with a light-touch and humorous approach, with the subject telling the reader their story as a “day in their life”. Meet a robot maker from 1205, a condor from the Nazca empire, Mount Fuji, a carbon atom, Italian astronomer Galileo Galilei, and many, many, more. There’s loads to learn and think about, and lots of facts for readers to “wow” their friends with.

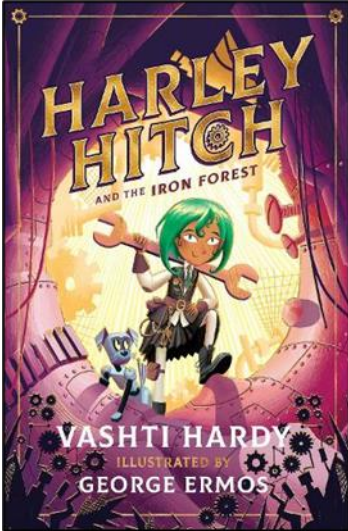
You might also like:

Factopia! by Kate Hale and Andy Smith

Red Parcel 6

Harley Hitch and the Iron Forest

By Vashti Hardy and George Ermos



What the selection panel said:

- I really enjoyed this book
- It's about friendship and how class dynamics work
- Within the story there are beautiful black-and-white drawings which will keep the reader engaged and the creative mind working
- Harley's relationships with her carers are highlighted and it shows how they are different with each one, as Harley went to different carers for different things, as well taking time out on her own to problem solve
- The whole thing about being able to repair relationships and move on is good. Sounds like she has a lot of resilience and, empowerment
- The relationship between Harley and her robot dog is really good, as so many children relate well to animals around them

About the book:

Harley lives with her grandparents and an adopted robot dog called Sprocket. Inventia, where Harley lives, is a world where science rules and technology grows in the forest; where exploding science projects, giant slugs and runaway robots are all part of a normal school day!

Harley wants to do well at school, but things just seem to keep going wrong, and when a new boy, Cosmo, moves to the town, their friendship gets off to a bit of a rocky start. But after a strange fungus starts to take over the forest, it's up to Harley and Cosmo try and save the day – preferably without getting into too much trouble along the way.

With themes of friendship, resilience and empowerment, this story combines a fun adventure with relatable school struggles, and subtly touches on some deeper issues, which are represented through the robot characters. The book also has black-and-white illustrations throughout and chapters of an accessible length.

Things to know about:

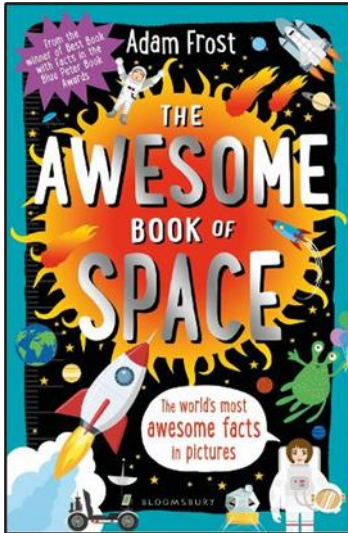
- The panel said the robot characters were a great way of “raising issues of feeling not seen, overlooked, not feeling part of things”, adding an “extra dynamic as they talk about real issues which can be good for young people, as it is not speaking from a human perspective”
- The panel discussed a passage on page 7, in which Harley is reprimanded (by a robot) for being late to school at the start of the new term. However, Harley, then enters the classroom where she has a supportive teacher, and the panel felt things were resolved in a positive way both here and regarding Harley's relationships throughout the story.

You might also like:

Whoa I Spy a Werewolf by Justin Davies and Kim Geyer

The Awesome Book of Space

By Adam Frost



What the selection panel said:

- Very colourful with loads of interesting facts which you could dip in and out of
- It's space specific but also very cross-curricular; it talks about geography, maths, facts, etc.
- It's a fun format

About the book:

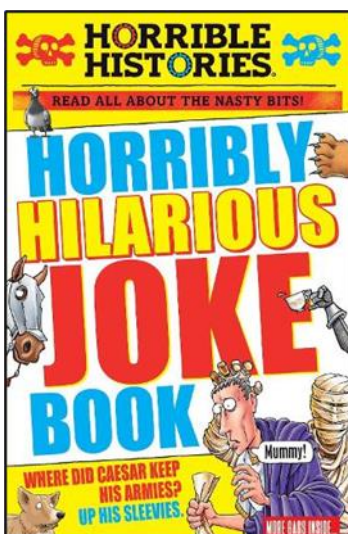
In this fully illustrated book about space and our universe, all the information is presented in fun infographics that help to explain things in a really visual way. The author also uses a variety of analogies to demonstrate big concepts in a relatable way. The subjects vary widely from the different parts of Earth's atmosphere and the power of a super volcano to what ancient cultures thought about the sun to what your intergalactic postal address could be. Something for everyone, and another great book to dip in and out of and discover something new.

You might also like:

The Epic Book of Epicness by Adam Frost

Horribly Hilarious Joke Book

By Terry Deary, Philip Reeve and Martin Brown



What the selection panel said:

- Horrible Histories is a good well-known brand of books. A lot of my young people like these
- It might lead them into learning more about history too

About the book:

A historical themed joke book, with jokes for all the ages from the Ancient Egyptians to the 20th century.

Things to know about:

- The panel commented that some of the jokes are dependent on historical knowledge and therefore may need some adult support to help understand them

You might also like:

The Jumbo Joke Book for Funny Kids by Andrew Pinder