

BookTrust's Great Books Guide 2019



100
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INSIDE

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Getting children reading

Message from BookTrust's CEO Diana Gerald

Welcome to BookTrust's **Great Books Guide 2019**. At BookTrust, our priority is to get children excited about books, stories and rhymes, because if reading is fun, children will want to do it.

That's why we've put together this guide full of books we think are absolutely brilliant.

Inside you'll find 100 books that are silly, scary, informative and moving (and everything in between). They've been carefully chosen to engage and excite children all the way up to age 11.

At BookTrust, we believe the right book is always the book a child wants to read. We hope this guide inspires you to find that book.

Happy reading!



Cover illustration, this page and opposite page © Anjan Sarkar



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Keep the Best
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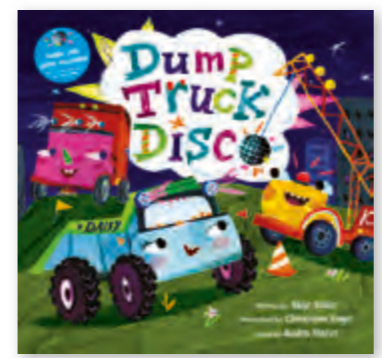
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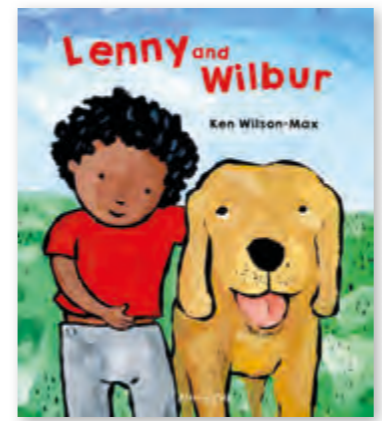
Age 0-3



Dump Truck Disco
Skye Silver, Illustrated by Christiane Engel

Barefoot Books
Excavators, bulldozers, cranes, dumper trucks and tractors are just some of the giant vehicles carrying out a secret, overnight mission in this rhyming picture book with singalong CD.

Repetition, music and stunning, dynamic illustrations will make this picture book a big hit with little fans of large utility vehicles.



Lenny and Wilbur
Ken Wilson-Max

Alanna Max
Lenny and his dog Wilbur are the best of friends. Join them for a fun-packed day of activities that will be familiar to many preschoolers.

This illustration-led picture book about the special bond between one boy and his dog is bright, bold and reflective of a culturally diverse family.



Go, Go, Pirate Boat
Katrina Charman, Illustrated by Nick Sharratt

Bloomsbury
Sing along with a pair of pint-sized pirates as they set out to find buried treasure and still get home in time for tea!

Witty illustrations and inspired rhyming text (to be sung to the tune of 'Row, Row, Row Your Boat') will delight any preschooler who aspires to life as a buccaneer.

Illustration © Nick Sharratt





Hat Tricks
Satoshi Kitamura
Scallywag Press

Hattie the Magician is pulling things out of her hat in her magic show. Cat, squirrel... octopus?

This super simple picture book is ideal for very young readers who are learning animal names. Kitamura's fun illustrations are big and bold, and children will enjoy shouting 'Abracadabra, katakurico! What's in the hat?'

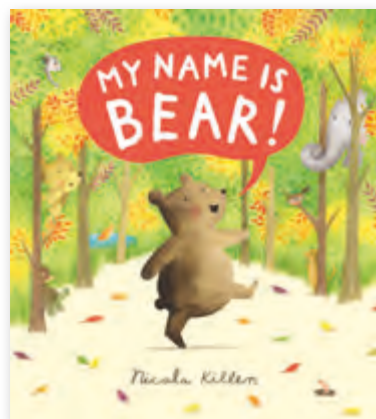


Making Tracks: Farm
Cocoretto

Child's Play

What tracks does Camilla the cow leave in the mud? Or the giant wheels on the tractor? Or Fynn the farmer's boots?

This colourful board book has flaps and cut outs so little fingers can explore who, or what, makes tracks around the farm. A great interactive book to share with the very young.



My Name is Bear!
Nicola Killen

Egmont

Bear is very proud of his name, but that's not a good reason to be rude about everyone else's! Can Bear ever learn to be polite and kind?

Beautifully formatted, wittily illustrated and absolutely hilarious, this book provides a lesson in manners from a self-important bear who learns to be a bit more humble and considerate.

Illustration
© Kate Alizadeh



Amazing
Steve Antony

Hodder Children's Books

'Some children have cats. Some children have dogs. I have a dragon.' So begins the story of a little boy and his amazing pet. The pair play hide-and-seek with friends, dance, go to the library, play basketball, make music and raid the fridge.

A delightful story about friendship and being oneself; relevant to any child.



Happy to Be Me
Emma Dodd

Orchard Books

Our bodies are incredible things. Mouths can smile and giggle, arms can hug, tongues can taste and, above all, hearts can love!

With simple, rhyming text and bright, colourful artwork, this delightful picture book celebrates every part of the human body. It also reminds us that each and every body is different and wonderful.

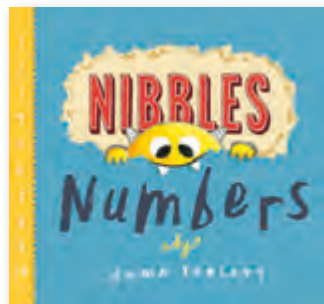


Jump and Shout!
Mike Dumbleton, Illustrated by Peter Carnavas

Catch A Star Books

A group of toddlers and little children go out to play at the park and have a fantastic time swinging from monkey bars, being pushed in the swing, playing football and enjoying a delicious picnic lunch. After all that playing it's no wonder everyone's sleepy, so it's time for cuddles.

A wonderful book for toddlers and preschoolers.

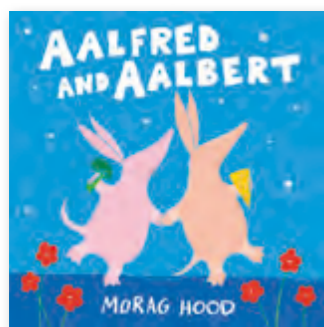


Nibble's Numbers
Emma Yarlett

Little Tiger Press

Oh no! Nibbles the naughty, book-eating monster is out of his cage and munching his way through all the numbers!

Cut out pages and flaps allow small fingers to investigate and count as they chase Nibbles and try to stop his destructive munching. A fun, interactive, first counting book.



Aalfred and Aalbert
Morag Hood

Two Hoots

Aalfred and Aalbert both need a friend but seem destined never to meet. Although a small, blue bird devises ever sillier plans to get them together, it is fate that finally unites them.

A unique voice and wryly humorous illustrations will leave you smiling at this wonderful tale of aardvarks, broccoli, string and friendship.



First Explorers: Beautiful Birds
Chorkung

Campbell Books

Watch eggs hatch, geese take flight, ducklings swim and an emu charge across the grassland in this fabulous, interactive, early learning board book.

Fun facts, birds to spot on every page and five different habitats with chunky push, pull and slide mechanisms bring the colourful pages to life.



Meekoo and the Big Red Potty
Camilla Reid, Illustrated by Nicola Slater

Nosy Crow

Meekoo is a big bear who wears big bear pants. Suddenly, Meekoo notices the big bear pants are all wet and there is a yellow puddle on the floor. Next time, Meekoo is congratulated for running to the bathroom and using the potty.

Interactive noise buttons make this potty training book super fun.



Who is Afraid of Little Wolf?
Yayo Kawamura

Prestel

No one will play with little wolf because they think he's dangerous. Could a tiny bee and a game of hide-and-seek be enough to change their minds?

Illustrations full of character, colour and gentle humour enhance simple, conversational text in an inspiring story of friendship and overcoming prejudice.



Hello, Orange Tiger
Natalie Marshall

Scholastic

Colourful animals, birds and sea creatures leap off the page in this exciting find-and-feel book. With lyrical, rhyming text and cut-outs for little fingers to explore, youngsters will love this sturdy, early learning board book.

Encourages hand-eye coordination, colour recognition and early language development.



Treacle Street: Marcel's Parcels
Kate Hindley

Simon & Schuster

It's a bright, sunny morning on Treacle Street, and Marcel the postman's trolley is full of parcels.

Join him on his rounds to find out who they're all for – and lift the flaps to find out what's inside! A delightful lift-the-flap book that's perfect for inquisitive toddlers.

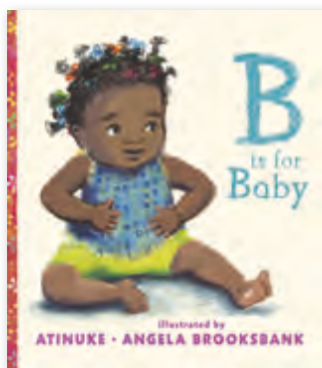


Woodland Sounds
Sam Taplin

Usborne

Each brightly illustrated, textured page of *Woodland Sounds* carries a recording of a different sound from nature alongside a short explanatory text. Children press a pad to hear the recording. Some sounds are familiar while others – such as the barking deer – are fascinating to hear.

A high-quality, sturdy toddler book.



B is for Baby

Atinuke, Illustrated by Angela Brooksbank

Walker Books

Baby gets Beads put in her hair; a Basket is full of Bananas, which are going to be delivered to Baba. The Basket goes past a Bus and Butterflies and Birds. But there's something else in the basket, too – Baby!

A clever, beautiful book of words beginning with B that little children will delight in.



For All the Stars Across the Sky

Karl Newson, Illustrated by Chiaki Okada

Walker Books

It's time for bed, but Luna wishes she could fly like a bird, swim like a fish and be small like a ladybird, so she and Mummy journey in their imaginations until Luna is ready for a good night's sleep.

A beautiful book full of stars and dreams. Perfect for cosy bedtime moments.



Joy

Yasmeeen Ismail,
Illustrated by Jenni Desmond

Walker Books

Kitten loves to chase his favourite ball all over the house until he takes a tumble. But a parent is there to pick him up and calm him down – so he can head off to play again.

This exuberant book has warm, soft illustrations and delightful rhyme, rhythm and onomatopoeia.



Illustration
© Erika Meza



The Perfect Sofa

Fifi Kuo

Boxer Books

Panda and Penguin go shopping for a new sofa. But there are so many to choose from and they are either too big, too small, too hard, too squishy and even too colourful! There's just too much choice – will they ever find the perfect one?

Super fun and perfect for reading aloud.



We Eat Bananas

Katie Abey

Bloomsbury

Animal friends chomp their way through a variety of different meals in this cheerful celebration of food. While Giraffe slurps a bowl of tomato soup, Penguin tucks into a fish finger sandwich and Octopus gets in a twist with gluten-free spaghetti.

Accompanied by bright, bold illustrations that are full of humorous detail.



Ravi's Roar

Tom Percival

Bloomsbury

Ravi is the smallest in his family. Sometimes it's fun, but sometimes it isn't. When being the youngest and smallest gets too annoying, Ravi roars – and turns into a tiger!

But who wants to play with a tiger? Ravi soon learns that it's better to be kind and share.



Hair, it's a Family Affair!
Mylo Freeman

Cassava Republic

It's Macy's turn in show-and-tell, so she tells her friends all about her family members' hairstyles. Grandma had an amazing afro back in the day; Macy's cousin Kiki has purple and blue hair; and Daddy has no hair at all – but everyone still loves him!

A lovely celebration of families.

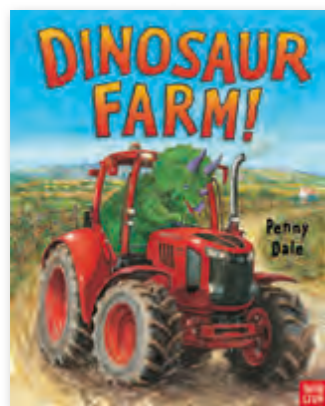


Mini Rabbit Not Lost
John Bond

HarperCollins

Mini Rabbit helps Mother Rabbit bake a cake, but they run out of berries, so he embarks on an enthusiastic search for the missing ingredient. He hurtles through the woods, across the sea and up snowy mountains, but to no avail.

A delightfully funny picture book bursting with distinctive, vibrant illustrations.



Dinosaur Farm!
Penny Dale

Nosy Crow

Who can forget a Carnotaurus in a flat cap?
Or a Baryonyx asleep with a thermos flask?
What about a Tyrannosaurus rex in a combine harvester?

A glorious mash-up of dinosaurs and farm life, this picture book is pitched perfectly at children who obsess over both. Fun, daft and educational.



Have You Seen My Blankie?
Lucy Rowland, Illustrated by Paula Metcalf

Nosy Crow

When Princess Alice's snuggly blankie goes missing, she sets out on a quest to find it and get it back. But the fairy-tale creature who has taken it will need something else to snuggle instead!

This is a lovely book about sharing, and great to read aloud.



Cyril the Lonely Cloud
Tim Hoggood

Oxford University Press

Cyril the cloud drifts alone through the skies, wishing somebody would smile at him. Instead, he is confronted by frowns and angry glares, as everyone blames him for spoiling their day.

This thought-provoking picture book with vibrant illustrations demonstrates the importance of rainwater to enable the planet to thrive.



Look Up!
Nathan Bryon, Illustrated by Dapo Adeola

Puffin

Rocket wants to be the greatest astronaut who ever lived. She's super excited about seeing a meteor shower, but when her brother Jamal gets too into his gaming to take her to the park to watch it, what will she do?

This charming picture book is a lovely representation of sibling relationships and one girl's infectious enthusiasm.

Illustration © Nadia Shireen





Billy and the Dragon
Nadia Shireen

Jonathan Cape

Billy – she of the huge hair in which useful things are often found – is back with her monobrowed sidekick Fatcat in another thrilling adventure. This time, Fatcat is kidnapped by a dragon while they're at a fancy dress party, and ingenious Billy must rescue her friend.

Bright, funny and expressive.



Daisy and Bear
Fabi Santiago

Scholastic

One Sunday afternoon, Daisy decides that she and Bear should go to the cinema. Bear loves it, but his cinema etiquette leaves something to be desired. Fortunately, they save the day by putting on a show that nobody was expecting – Bearlissimo!

A funny, chaotic book about friendship and sunny Sundays.



Rocketmole
Matt Carr

Scholastic

Armstrong the star-nose mole wants to go to the Moon. His friends are not brave enough to follow him, so he builds a rocket and sets off alone.

With lots of facts about the Moon and moles, this book will inspire children to follow their dreams – and learn a lot along the way.



Bear Moves
Ben Bailey Smith, Illustrated by Sav Akyüz

Walker Books

If there's one thing Bear knows, it's how to move. And when the music starts up, Bear just can't help grooving to the beat. This highly infectious book will make readers of all ages want to bust a move of their own.

Energetic illustrations and superb rhythmic text will have readers in stitches from start to finish.



My Grandma and Me
Mina Javaherbin, Illustrated by Lindsey Yankey

Walker Books

Mina does everything with her grandma: from collecting fresh bread to fasting and feasting during Ramadan. A tale of a young girl in Iran who adores her grandma, this is a beautiful ode to family and lifelong memories.

Subtly inclusive, Mina and her grandma's life is observed with simple but affecting detail and jaw-droppingly gorgeous illustrations.



Little Green Donkey
Anuska Allepuz

Walker Books

Little Donkey loves grass. In fact, Little Donkey doesn't want to eat anything other than grass. Mum suggests trying something different, but Little Donkey doesn't want to try even just a little taste. But then Little Donkey eats so much grass, she turns green!

This hilarious story touches on the quirks of fussy eaters in a gentle way.



The Pawed Piper
Michelle Robinson, Illustrated by Chinlun Lee

Walker Books

A small girl wants a cat, so she lays a trail of bait: balls of wool, saucers of milk, cardboard boxes. The next morning, lots of cats arrive! But when 'LOST CAT' posters show up all over town, the little girl realises her plan might have worked a little too well.

A sweet and playful story.



Mummy's Suitcase
Pip Jones, Illustrated by Laura Hughes

Faber & Faber

Mummy is going away for a few days, so Ruby Roo and her little brother Barney Boo pack her suitcase. The well-meaning children scour the house and garden for all the things Mummy really loves, leaving absolute chaos in their wake.

Bursting with lively illustrations, this funny tale will delight young readers.



Rosie is my Best Friend

Ali Pye

Simon & Schuster

Rosie and her best friend spend every day together. They play before everyone gets up in the morning, help the adults with the gardening and get very muddy in the park.

This heartwarming, joyful tale of friendship also has a great twist towards the end of the book that will delight little ones.



Monty and the Poodles

Katie Harnett

Flying Eye Books

Monty, a mongrel, and Ginger, a poodle, live on opposite sides of town but become friends. Yet when Ginger tries to bring Monty home with her to Poodle Mansions, her owner refuses. Should Monty have to primp to be allowed to be friends with Ginger?

An adorable dog story with an underlying message of tolerance.



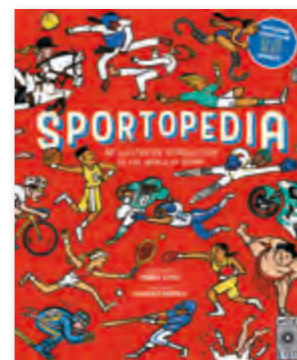
How Big Is Our Baby?

Smriti Prasadam-Halls, Illustrated by Britta Teckentrup

Wren & Rook

This marvellous non-fiction book, aimed at soon-to-be siblings, charts the month-by-month development of an unborn baby in the womb. Warm, cheerful illustrations depict different genders, ethnicities and family set-ups, giving it broad appeal.

An informative and reassuring picture book, perfect for any child preparing to welcome a new baby into the family.



Sportopedia:

An Illustrated Guide to the World of Sport

Adam Skinner, Illustrated by Mark Long

Wide Eyed Editions

From volleyball to UFC, darts to Formula 1, there's something for everyone in this bright and diverse compendium of all things sporty.

Split into nine sections – ball sports, combat sports, water sports, motor sports, etc. – each one is presented in fascinating detail, from kit to rules and pitch diagrams.



Hotel Flamingo

Alex Milway

Piccadilly Press

Anna is determined to bring back grandeur to Hotel Flamingo. She recruits handywoman Stella Giraffe and feisty chef Madame le Pig to help her bring the hotel's shine back, but when a hotel inspector turns up, everything is thrown into doubt.

A gentle hug of a book that's perfect for young boys and girls.



The Clue is in the Poo: And Other Stuff Too

Andy Seed, Illustrated by Claire Almon

QED Publishing

Packed full of fascinating facts and flashes of humour, this non-fiction picture book encourages children to become wildlife detectives. Broadly divided into sections, the book examines animal poo, footprints, habitats and diet, and explains how creatures can be identified and tracked using the clues they leave behind.

Accompanied by informative watercolour illustrations.

Illustration
© Erika Meza





Narwhal: Unicorn of the Sea!

Ben Clanton

Egmont

When Narwhal meets a jellyfish, neither of them has come across such a bizarre-looking animal before. Nevertheless, they become friends and embark on some awesome adventures together.

With a mixture of fun facts, nonsense stories and an eccentric narwhal song, this quirky chapter book is ideal for junior readers who enjoy something a bit different.



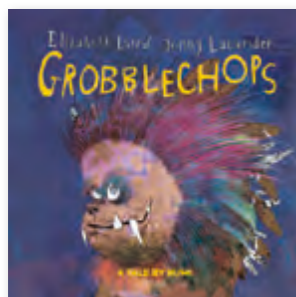
Rosie Revere and the Raucous Riveters

Andrea Beatty, Illustrated by David Roberts

Amulet Books

The Blue River Riveters built airplanes during World War II. Unfortunately, one of them has had an accident – can Rosie engineer a machine to help her?

Challenging stereotypes about careers that might be suitable for girls, this book also has a lovely theme of friendship between generations.



Gobblechops

Elizabeth Laird, Illustrated by Jenny Lucander

Tiny Owl

Amir is afraid that there might be a monster under his bed: a monster called Gobblechops who has huge teeth and growls like a tiger.

Dad reassures Amir that if he growls louder, the monster will go away – but, in the end, it turns out that maybe Gobblechops isn't so bad after all.



Laura Norder: Sheriff of Butts Canyon

Guy Bass, Illustrated by Steve May

Barrington Stoke

It's a shock to bossy Sheriff Laura Norder when Duncan Disorderly, the most wanted bandit in the Wild West, arrives in Butts Canyon. How can someone who loves rules defeat someone who has no regard for them at all?

Full of hilarious cowboy detail, this story is about what happens when we impose too many rules on others.



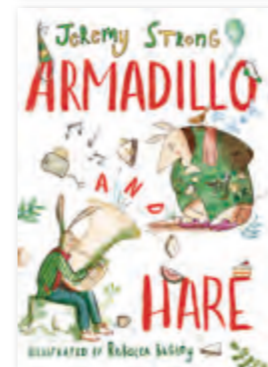
Super Cats

Gwyneth Rees, Illustrated by Becka Moor

Bloomsbury

Tabby kitten, Tagg, is astounded to learn that he is a Super Cat, just like his parents. He must use his newfound superpowers to help rescue several missing cats and is soon embroiled in a plot involving a mad scientist, a hypnotic Siamese cat and a feline spy network.

An amusing, action-packed adventure.



Armadillo and Hare

Jeremy Strong, Illustrated by Rebecca Bagley

David Fickling Books

An absolutely adorable collection of short stories, *Armadillo and Hare* is full of the gentle humour and philosophy of *Winnie-the-Pooh*.

It focuses on the importance of small things (such as cheese sandwiches) that nevertheless are hugely important, as well as chronicling the lovely friendship between taciturn Armadillo and the energetic Hare.

Illustration © Nick Sharratt





A Year of Nature Poems

Joseph Coelho, Illustrated by Kelly Louise Judd

Wide Eyed Editions

This beautifully illustrated book features one poem for every month, accompanied with observations about the rhythms of nature – the daffodils of March, the apples of August, the leaf fall of October.

It's also fuel for children who want to channel their own emotions into writing inspired by the world around them.



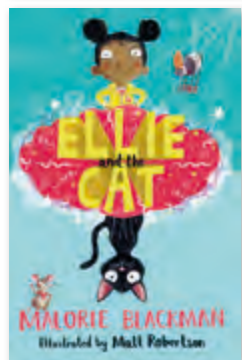
Evil Emperor Penguin (Almost) Takes Over the World

Laura Ellen Anderson

David Fickling Books

Nothing will stand in the way of Evil Emperor Penguin's new plan to take over the world, except for his nemesis, Evil Cat, who is also plotting world domination. Awkward. Who will win the battle of the Evil Geniuses?

Laughs abound in the third book in this wacky comic series.



Ellie and the Cat

Malorie Blackman, Illustrated by Matt Robertson

Barrington Stoke

Ellie is sent off to stay with her grandma, and Ellie is determined to be unhappy about the situation. But Ellie's grandma has a few tricks of her own up her sleeve – and swaps Ellie into the body of her pet cat, Jolly.

A magical and gently comic tale of friendship and empathy.



Hello Lighthouse

Sophie Blackall

Orchard Books

A lighthouse stands on a rock. Icebergs and whales pass by, and storms shipwreck sailors. Within the lighthouse, the new keeper tends the light, paints the rooms, writes in the logbook and waits for his wife.

A truly beautiful book showing the changing seasons that children will pore over, caught up in its magic.



Fanatical About Frogs!

Owen Davey

Flying Eye Books

Did you know that if you picked up a yellow dyer rain frog, your hands would be stained yellow? Or that the Bornean flat-headed frog breathes through its skin?

The fifth in Owen Davey's wonderful animal non-fiction series adds frogs to the ranks of clear, fascinating reads, accompanied by truly amazing graphic illustration.



Two Sides

Polly Ho-Yen, Illustrated by Binny Talib

Stripes

Lula and Lenka are best friends, despite being total opposites. Yet when Lula forgets to return Lenka's pencil case, they fall out with each other. Will they ever manage to make up?

Accompanied by gorgeous illustrations that capture the ups and downs of friendship, this is a wonderful story that highlights the importance of empathy.



How to Make Friends with a Ghost

Rebecca Green

Andersen Press

It might feel scary to imagine being friends with a ghost – but what if ghosts were actually quite sweet? What we also learn from this stylish how-to guide is that ghosts, once you find one, can care for you for all your life.

An original look at friendship with beautiful, retro-inspired illustration.



Little Leaders: Bold Women in Black History

Vashti Harrison

Puffin

A lovely, illustrated compendium of the achievements of 54 visionary women, these biographies of famous and lesser known scientists, philosophers, activists, musicians, filmmakers, inventors and many more are completely fascinating.

It's also pitched at a good level for younger primary children who are curious about the world.



The Legend of Kevin
Sarah McIntyre & Philip Reeve

Oxford University Press

Kevin, a small, plump flying pony, loves custard creams. One stormy night, he is blown out of his nest, crash-landing on new friend Max's balcony. Yet as the storm rages on, Max and Kevin realise they must rescue the flooded inhabitants of Bumbleton.

Magical mayhem, friendship and a brilliant cast of characters combine in this fabulously funny tale.



Level Up!
Tom Nicoll, Illustrated by Anjan Sarkar

Stripes

Flo's mum is a brilliant engineer. So brilliant, she has found a way for Flo to play her favourite video games using an avatar that is exactly like her. But Flo just can't wait to play...

A fun and mildly scary virtual romp through a computer game packed with space paraphernalia and gadgetry.



Shifty McGifty and Slippery Sam: The Aliens Are Coming!
Tracey Corderoy, Illustrated by Steven Lenton

Nosy Crow

Shifty McGifty and his friend Slippery Sam are dogs who bake cakes and solve mysteries in their spare time. In this collection of three short stories, there's an alien invasion, cheating in the sandcastle competition at the beach and something very odd going on in Miss Peachy-Pie's Pamper Café.

Hilarious, bright and full of fun.



Illustration
© Fiona Lumbers



The Lost Diary of Sami Star
Karen McCombie, Illustrated by Katie Kear

Barrington Stoke

Hannah's parents seem to have forgotten her, and school isn't going so well. Then she finds Sami Star's journal in the park. Who is Sami? Can Hannah unpick the clues in the diary to find her?

A perfect read for anyone who likes real-life stories with a touch of mystery.



Cookie and the Most Annoying Boy in the World
Konnie Huq

Piccadilly Press

Funny, ambitious Cookie never seems to get exactly what she wants, until she gets the chance to go on the TV programme *Brainbusters*. Unfortunately, the most annoying boy in the world is going with her.

A funny, inspiring read with a scientific twist.



Mega Robo Bros 3: Mega Robo Revenge
Neill Cameron

David Fickling Books

Alex and Freddy, the most advanced and powerful robots on Earth, live with their adoptive human parents, balancing a regular life with fighting the forces of evil. In this story, the boys find it impossible to resist a challenge from Team Robotix for a very public robot war.

Funny, compelling and a celebration of diversity.



Everest
Sangma Francis, Illustrated by Lisk Feng

Flying Eye Books

Mount Everest is the tallest mountain in the world, but what about its legend as the place of Shambhala, a heavenly place of beauty and peace?

What about the flora and fauna that are native to Everest, and of the problem of litter on its hard-to-reach planes and peaks? This and much more will enthrall young readers.



Boot: Small Robot, Big Adventure
Shane Hegarty, Illustrated by Ben Mantel

Hodder Children's Books

Boot is a toy robot who wakes up in a junkyard. Unlike other robots, Boot has emotions – he's scared and sad at being deserted. Confused, he sets off to find his owner Beth, but immediately finds himself in danger..

An original spin on the lost toy story, this heartwarming tale hooks the reader from the first page.



Mr. Penguin and the Fortress of Secrets
Alex T. Smith

Hodder Children's Books

When professional adventurer Mr Penguin's plane accidentally crash-lands near a mysterious fortress, an adventure ensues.

Alex T. Smith's second book in the charming and hilarious Mr Penguin series is a plunging plane-ride of action and excitement with a very British sensibility that will delight fans of funny, illustrated books.

Illustration © Nadia Shireen



Planet Omar: Accidental Trouble Magnet
Zanib Mian, Illustrated by Nasaya Mafaridik

Hodder Children's Books

Omar's family have just moved into a new house. Going to a new school is OK, apart from the presence of class bully Daniel. Yet when Omar and bully Daniel get stranded on a school trip, Omar realises that Danny isn't so tough after all.

Everyday life, families and silly humour shine in a sweet and heartfelt story.



The Incredible Ecosystems of Planet Earth
Rachel Ignatofsky

Wren & Rook

Earth is an interconnected series of ecosystems, all working together to make the best of our planet's limited resources.

From British moorlands to the Northeast Siberian Taiga, the Atacama Desert to the Great Barrier Reef, fascinating graphics, illustration and information combine to make a timely read, perfect for young environmental activists.



Hubert Horatio: How to Raise Your Grown-Ups
Lauren Child

HarperCollins

Hubert Horatio Bartle Bobton-Trent becomes a tremendously sensible child because of the regrettable actions of his woefully irresponsible parents.

Witty and appealing, this is a beautifully written and highly illustrated chapter book, which is a perfect early reader. Young readers will adore Hubert taking control of his destiny, and laugh along the way.



Young Heroes: Inspirational Children from Around the World
Lula Bridgeport, Isabel Muñoz & Julianna Swaney

Stripes

This collection of remarkable young people's achievements is truly inspirational, whether in the business world, in politics and activism, or the achievements that child sports and entertainment stars have worked tirelessly for.

With a look back at great children of the past, this book gives us all hope for the future.



A Kid in My Class
Rachel Rooney, Illustrated by Chris Riddell

Otter-Barry Books

This brilliant little book is the perfect addition to any classroom library: a book of clever poems picking out some of the many personalities that pupils will find sitting next to them in assemblies, lunch queues and in the playgrounds.

As well as witty words, there is fabulous, imaginative illustration from former Children's Laureate Chris Riddell.



The Girl with the Shark's Teeth
Cerrie Burnell

Oxford University Press

Minnow's life is full of magic and wonder: her ability to swim deeper and for longer than anyone else; the strange, somehow menacing songs that her mother, Mercy, has sung to her since she was a child. But one day, three men board their boat and kidnap her mother.

A magical adventure for primary readers.

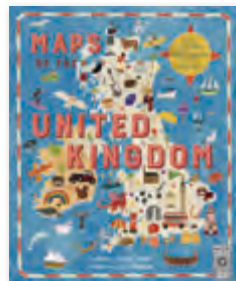


Charlie Changes Into a Chicken
Sam Copeland, Illustrated by Sarah Horne

Puffin

Something strange happens to Charlie McGuffin at random times for no apparent reason: he changes into animals. Fortunately, Charlie's friends want to try everything they can to help him find out why it happens.

Cleverly portraying ways of dealing with stress and anxiety, this is a brilliant and positive book about an often tricky topic.



Maps of the United Kingdom
Rachel Dixon, Illustrated by Livi Gosling

Wide Eyed Editions

This comprehensive guide to the UK is full of illustrated maps, facts and historical tidbits. It's a great way to get children excited about exploring – or perhaps what their interest about any planned holidays or day trips.

A true celebration of what makes all parts of Britain unique, from the Highlands to the South Downs.



The Colours of History
Clive Gifford, Illustrated by Marc-Etienne Peintre

QED Publishing

Using colour samples, this book teaches us about origins and uses for over 20 different colours. It's full of fascinating facts, from how pink was originally considered a masculine colour to how 'mummy brown' was actually made from real mummies.

Perfect for any budding artists or art historians.



Myth Atlas
Thiago de Moraes

Scholastic

The mythological worlds of 12 cultures from Ireland to Japan, Polynesia to the mythos of the Hindu world are explored here in a beautiful hardback.

There are interesting parallels and similar concepts and icons across cultures, and the book will help children to celebrate and respect the wonderful differences in the way different people see the world.



Dog Man: Brawl of the Wild
Dav Pilkey

Scholastic

Dog Man – a policeman with the head of a dog – is the greatest cop ever. In this instalment of the hilarious series, the heroic hound is sent to the pound for a crime he didn't commit.

A zany cartoon story delivered in short, colourful chapters in Dav Pilkey's brilliantly irreverent style.

Illustration
© Emily Rowland





Ninja Kid: From Nerd to Ninja

Anh Do

Scholastic

Nelson Kane wakes up on his tenth birthday to discover that he has developed ninja powers. He puts his newfound skills to the test when a cluster of gigantic spiders attack the town.

Fast-paced and funny, with lively black-and-white illustrations, this light-hearted chapter book contains plenty of ninja action.



Flights of Fancy: Stories, Pictures and Inspiration from Ten Children's Laureates

Quentin Blake, Anne Fine, Michael Morpurgo, Jacqueline Wilson, Michael Rosen, Julia Donaldson, Anthony Browne, Malorie Blackman, Chris Riddell & Lauren Child

Walker Books

Will you take a word for a walk with Malorie Blackman, perform a play with Julia Donaldson or start a poem with Michael Rosen?

This special anthology celebrates the 20th anniversary of the Waterstones Children's Laureate and is a celebration of some of the best creators of children's literature.



Muck and Magic

Michael Morpurgo, Illustrated by Olivia Lomenech Gill

Walker Books

Cycling through the Dales, Bonny sees three magnificent horses. Mesmerised by their beauty, she is delighted when their owner, a skilled sculptor, offers her a Saturday job in the stables.

Illustrated throughout with exquisite drawings and beautifully atmospheric paintings, this touching tale about an intergenerational friendship unfolds at a gentle pace.



Football School Star Players: 50 Inspiring Stories of True Football Heroes

Alex Bellos & Ben Lyttleton, Illustrated by Spike Gerrell

Walker Books

This non-fiction book with humorous black-and-white line drawings celebrates the top fifty footballers of all time.

Packed full of information about players' achievements both on and off the pitch, it is written with passion and enthusiasm, and is an essential read for any football fan.



When Good Geeks Go Bad

Catherine Wilkins

Nosy Crow

Everyone thinks Ella is such a goody two-shoes. But mean girl Olivia really has it in for her. Between that and her mum's recent disappearing act, Ella's had enough. She doesn't set out to become a rebel. It just sort of... happens.

Heartwarming and humorous, Ella's story deals with friendships, frenemies, clueless parents and doing the right thing.



High-Rise Mystery

Sharna Jackson

Knights Of

When their community art teacher is murdered on the council estate block, sisters Nik and Norva are determined to use their super sleuth skills to solve the case. There are suspects aplenty – and budget cuts mean the police need all the help they can get!

A fast-paced, hilarious and exciting mystery.



Call Me Alastair
Cory Leonardo

Scholastic

In Pete's Pet Shack, Alastair, the parrot poet, dreams of freedom, blue skies and palm trees. But his sister Aggie yearns to go home with animal-loving Fritz. Can their divergent aspirations be reconciled?

Dripping with wry humour, this is a teen/young adult novel like no other. Heart-warming, heart-breaking, eccentric, strikingly original and stunningly good.



Doctor Who: The Secret in Vault 13
David Solomons

Puffin

A dark secret locked inside an ancient vault; three long-lost keys; an evil alien intent on destroying the universe... oh, and a talking plant. The team must venture across space and time to get into Vault 13 before the villainous Deadly Nightshade.

This fast-paced sci-fi adventure is perfect for kids who love action with a monstrous twist.



Secrets of a Sun King
Emma Carroll

Faber & Faber

It's 1922 and the world is waiting for news about the discovery of Tutankhamun's tomb. Lil finds a mysterious package on her grandad's doorstep, just as he's struck down with a terrible illness. Is the curse of Tutankhamun the cause? Lil and her friends travel to Egypt to investigate.

A totally thrilling read.



Runaway Robot
Frank Cottrell-Boyce, Illustrated by Steven Lenton

Macmillan

Alfie has a robotic hand. When he loses it at the airport, he finds Eric. Eric is six-foot-six, made of metal and loves to sing. But Eric isn't supposed to be here – how will Alfie help him?

A comical façade drives a crazy plot, but just below the surface is a poignant human story.



To Night Owl from Dogfish
Holly Goldberg Sloan & Meg Wolitzer

Egmont

Bett and Avery's dads are dating, and the girls get sent to the same summer camp while their dads go on holiday to China. Then, when Avery's long-lost mother suddenly reappears, life takes an unexpected turn.

Told in emails and letters, this sensitive, funny book examines what it means to be a family.



Little Badman and the Invasion of the Killer Aunties
Humza Arshad & Henry White, Illustrated by Aleksei Bitskoff

Puffin

Humza Khan is an 11-year-old trying to be a cool rapper. Only Humza seems to notice that something isn't right about the teachers in his school being replaced by Pakistani aunties on a mission to fatten everybody up. But can Humza really save the day?

Prepare for big belly laughs and great advice on how to be yourself.

Illustration
© Emily Rowland



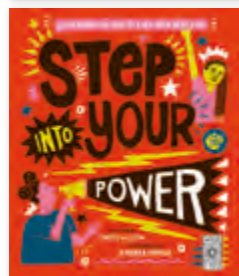


This Book is Not Rubbish: 50 Ways to Ditch Plastic, Reduce Rubbish and Save the World!

Isabel Thomas, Illustrated by Alex Paterson

Wren & Rook

Rubbish is a huge problem in the world, but thankfully, there are things we can do to minimise it. From not flushing the toilet as many times to upcycling furniture and putting out bird feeders, this readable gem is full of ideas for kids to take charge of their home's impact on the environment.



Step Into Your Power: 23 Lessons on How To Live Your Best Life

Jamia Wilson, Illustrated by Andrea Pippins

Wide Eyed Editions

Childhood is full of difficulties. This wonderful book is a practical guide to self-care, making good choices, asking for help, finding a mentor, speaking your truth and asking for what you need.

Experiences from the lives of famous achievers from Nina Simone to Colin Powell show children how to deal with difficulties and remain true to themselves.



The Last Zoo

Sam Gayton

Andersen Press

Pia lives on the last zoo: a floating armada that houses a very strange collection of creatures that everyone hopes will save the world from environmental catastrophe. Yet an invisible creature is stalking the zoo, and Pia and her friends must find a way to stop it.

A fast-paced fantasy adventure.



Managing Your Money

Jane Bingham & Holly Bathie, Illustrated by Nancy Leshnikoff & Freya Harrison

Usborne

This clear, concise non-fiction guide to managing money for young people explores a range of topics, including setting a budget, opening a bank account and managing debt.

Well-designed and easy to navigate, it is an invaluable book, providing young people with the necessary key skills to become financially responsible adults.



Asha & the Spirit Bird

Jasbinder Bilan

Chicken House

Asha lives on a farm in the foothills of the Himalayas. Her father is away working in a far-off city, sending money home. But then one day the money stops.

Inspired by the spirit of her grandmother in the form of a lamagaia bird, Asha decides to set off on a dangerous journey to find her father.



Ghost

Jason Reynolds

Knights Of

Even though he's been running his whole life, Ghost has never thought of athletics as an option – basketball's his thing. But when Ghost challenges a sprinter to a race and wins, Coach Brody persuades Ghost's mum to let him join the elite running team, and his life starts to change.

A perfect middle-grade novel.



The Good Thieves

Katherine Rundell

Bloomsbury

If you try to steal back something that has been taken from your family by trickery, is that a crime – or is it justice? And should you let your physical limitations hold you back?

A thrilling adventure set in 1920s New York, rich in period detail and tensely dramatic moments.



The Clockwork Crow

Catherine Fisher

Firefly Press

Orphan Seren Rhys is sent to live with her eccentric godfather and given a mysterious package to look after by a stranger. When she finds an enigmatic talking clockwork crow within the package, perils and challenges ensue...

Seren is a spunky, brave and determined heroine, and this book is completely gripping from first page to last. Poetic without being difficult to read.

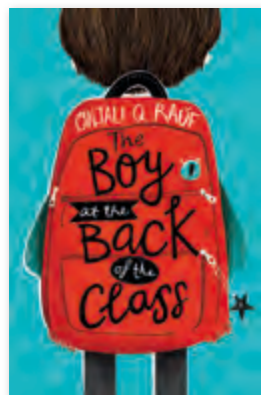


The Midler
Kirsty Applebaum

Nosy Crow

Maggie is a midler – a middle child – and she’s sick of it. But the summer that her eldest brother Jed goes off to camp, everything Maggie thought she understood about the world comes crashing down.

A slickly executed dystopian novel with an undercurrent of secrets to send a shiver down the spine.



The Boy at the Back of the Class
Onjali Q Rauf

Orion Children’s Books

Ahmet, a Syrian refugee, joins a new school and is befriended by three of his classmates. An inspiring and sweet tale that will help children think about what it is to be a good person, whatever your circumstances.

This is a beautiful, open-hearted book that should help children realise the power of kindness.



Diver's Daughter: A Tudor Story
Patrice Lawrence

Scholastic

Eve and her mother lead a hand-to-mouth existence in Tudor England, but the chance to dive for treasure with an African salvage-worker tempts them to undertake a dangerous journey.

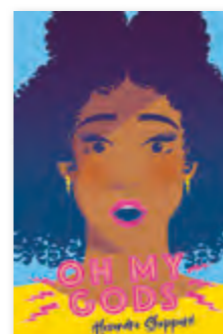
A gripping and surprising story published as part of the ‘Voices’ series resurrecting long-forgotten experiences of BAME figures from British history.



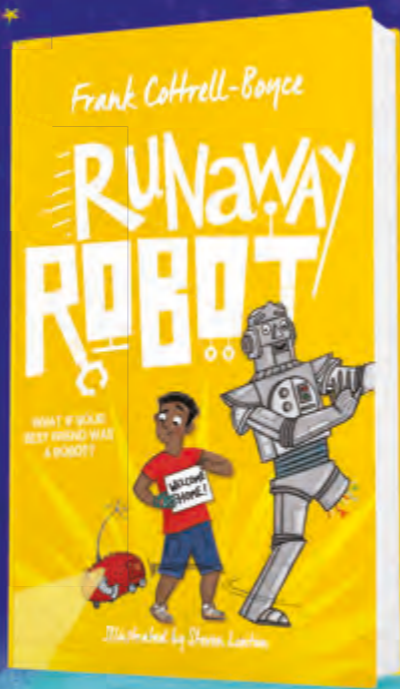
Illustration © Jim Smith

What's next?

Looking for even more books that older siblings or more advanced readers will love? Here are some suggestions!



DESTINATION: ADVENTURE



A world of possibilities
with Frank Cottrell-Boyce

MACMILLAN
Children's Books

BookLife PUBLISHING

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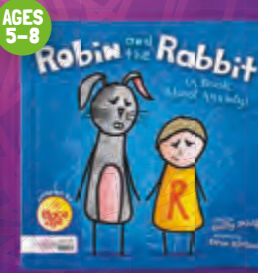
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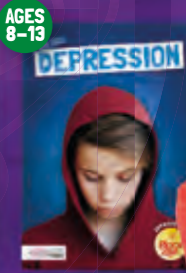
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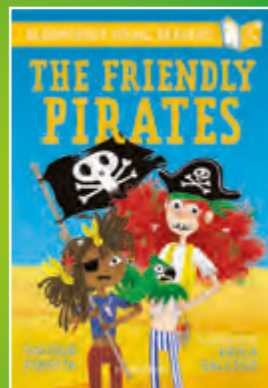
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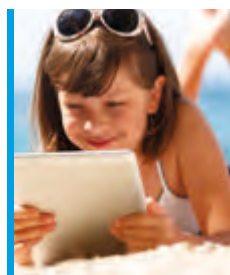
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