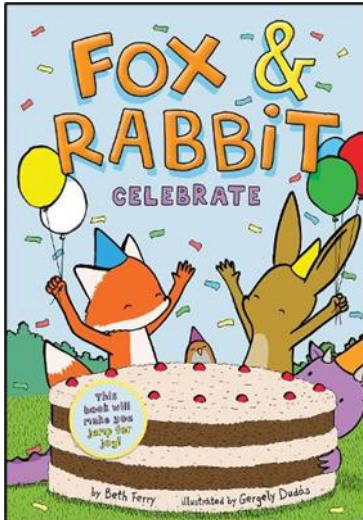


Blue Parcel 1

Fox & Rabbit: Celebrate

By Beth Ferry and Gergely Dudas



What the selection panel said:

- Comic book format and brightly coloured
- Quite amusing and engaging
- The comic style would be a hit

About the book:

This comic style storybook contains five short stories about two best friends, Fox and Rabbit, and their everyday adventures. In this book, Fox and Rabbit learn it's their friend Sparrow's birthday and want to do something really special for them – like making the biggest, yummiest pizza ever. This involves both seeking help from several of their other friends and solving the challenge of exactly how they will cook a pizza that big! And so Fox and Rabbit embark on a trip to find the dragon who they know lives in a cave on the nearby mountain, but

who they have never met. Will Dragon be scary? And will they be willing to cook the pizza for them with their fire-breathing skills? Fox and Rabbit aren't too sure what to expect, but ultimately find a wonderful new friend.

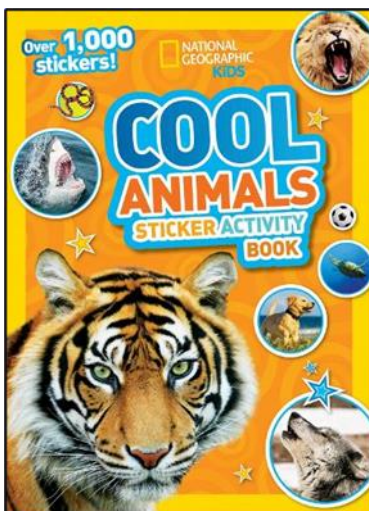
Kindness and friendship are very much at the heart of these stories. Things don't always go according to plan, but the two friends are great at finding the positives, fixing hiccups and making a success of things.

You might also like:

There are several books in this series if readers enjoy this one, e.g. *Fox & Rabbit: Make Believe*

Cool Animals: Sticker Activity Book

By National Geographic Kids and Robin Terry Brown



What the selection panel said:

- It's got lots of activities
- There's loads in there: lots of interesting facts, dot-the-dots, mazes; there's drawing in it as well; a real range of things.
- It's a really good one, really nice
- It's a fun book; I enjoyed it

About the book:

This animal themed activity book has lots of puzzles and things to do to keep readers entertained, plus over a thousand stickers. It includes photographs of real animals (rather than just illustrations), and the stickers are all photographic too. Colouring, mazes, spot-the-

difference, drawing and dot-to-dots are all included as well as stickering.

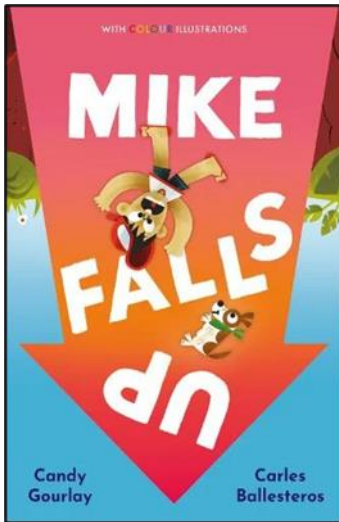
You might also like:

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

Blue Parcel 2

Mike Falls Up

By Candy Gourlay and Carles Ballesteros



What the selection panel said:

- I thought the whole idea sparks some interesting thoughts
- It's a nice little story and book

About the book:

This quirky, imaginative story is full of unexpected twists and turns. When Mike and his dog Bowow are playing outside one day, they're quite surprised when the ground rumbles and a big crack opens up. Mike is even more surprised when, firstly, Bowow jumps into the hole and, secondly, a party invitation flies up out of the hole, inviting him to "Just fall up". Mike takes the plunge and follows Bowow into the chasm, which leads him on a strange adventure, including meeting two new friends and finding himself in a strange, rocky, in-between sort of world. There are no problems getting back to his world though, because when

it's time leave, all he has to do is "fall up" (which proves easier than it sounds!).

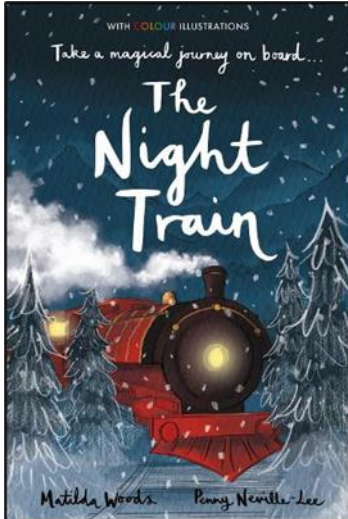
Mike Falls Up has simple text, colour illustrations and themes of friendship and embracing new or surprising things.

You might also like:

Super Dweeb and the Pencil of Destiny by Jess Bradley

The Night Train

By Matilda Woods and Penny Neville-Lee



What the selection panel said:

- A story of different people and animals using their attributes and skills to work together to solve a problem
- A pleasant story with a happy ending
- It's a nice book to handle; the images are bright and entertaining
- It's a really interesting premise; I really liked it

About the book:

In this illustrated short novel, the passengers on the Night Train are the characters from children's dreams – there's Princess May, a Yeti, a boy ballet dancer and a friendly green monster. They're travelling to Sleepy Town so that they can create that night's dreams for the child they belong to, but when the train is forced to stop because of a fallen tree on the line, it looks like they're going to be late. The tree is too big and heavy for the train conductor to move on his own, and so it's up to one of the passengers, Princess May, to find a way to bring everyone together and work out how they can best use their own special skills to remove the tree and get the train moving again.

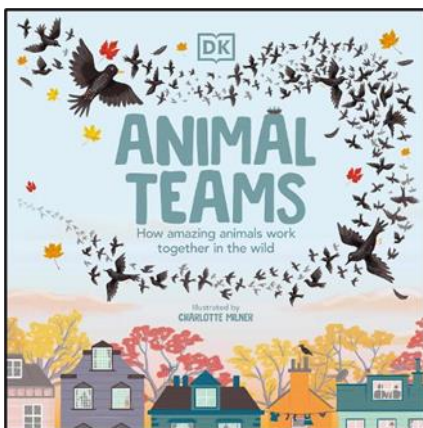
A gentle, winter-set story about working together and understanding others.

You might also like:

Famous Five Colour Short Stories: Well Done, Famous Five by Enid Blyton and Jamie Littler

Animal Teams

By Charlotte Milner



What the selection panel said:

- I loved this book
- There were things I didn't know about in it
- It has an educational element and is fun to read – very simplified knowledge of symbiosis
- I liked the photographic aspect

About the book:

This nonfiction book is all about how animals work together as teams to survive in the wild and be successful. Six different animal groups are introduced: starlings, monkeys, wolves, ants, sardines, and rabbits. Did you know that a group of monkeys is called a "troop"? That ants live together in the millions? By living together in groups, these animals are able to look out for each other, take care of each other and work together to find food and build shelter. Combining illustrations and photographs and with bite-size facts, it's a lovely book that looks at animals from a different perspective.

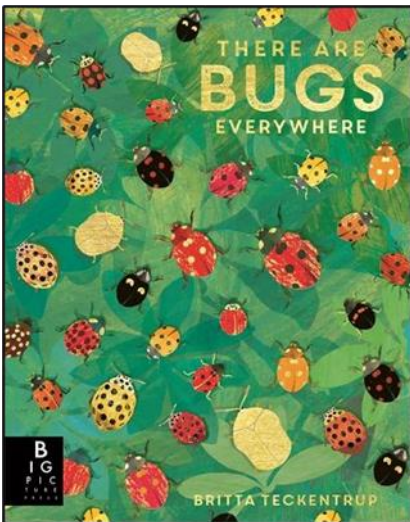
You might also like:

Barefoot Books Incredible Animals by Dunia Rahwan and Paola Formica

Blue Parcel 3

There are Bugs Everywhere

By Britta Teckentrup and Lily Murray



What the selection panel said:

- The illustrations are nice
- It has interesting facts and looks at different environments
- I thought it was really nice
- Most children seem to like bugs; they like bug hunting

About the book:

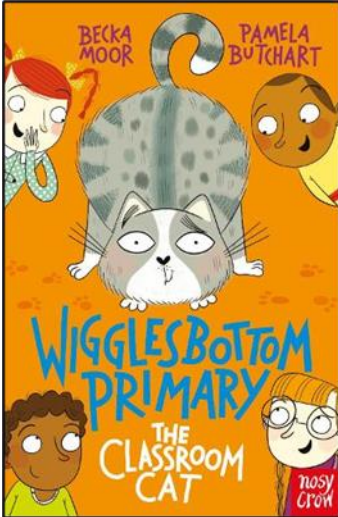
In this beautifully illustrated nonfiction look at the insect world, readers can discover all sort fun facts about bugs. Did you know there are bugs living in the desert and even in Antarctica? That there is a spider that looks like a ladybird? Or that scientists are studying bugs for ideas for new inventions? Find out about ancient bugs, bug habitats and communities, what bugs eat, and how bugs can be useful to humans.

You might also like:

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

Wigglesbottom Primary: The Classroom Cat

By Pamela Butchart and Becca Moor



What the selection panel said:

- Funny and light-hearted
- I think children will really like it
- The school setting works well

About the book:

A collection of three illustrated stories about a primary school class who have amazing imaginations and a great talent for creating wild explanations for the things happening around them.

In the first story, when a cat keeps trying to get into the classroom, the class conclude that it must be trying to give them an important message – to stay away from the rather fishy school dinner! In story two, after Bobby eats a crisp that he dropped in a playground puddle, the Year 6s all say he's sure to get "puddle pox", so when Bobby starts to develop a rash, his friends try to find a cure – but fortunately it's chicken pox, not puddle pox. In the third story in the collection, Joel-Jack has brought his imaginary friend, Margaret, on the school trip. Although sceptical about Margaret's presence at first, when strange things start to happen – like juice boxes exploding and coats moving all by themselves – the class begin to wonder whether Margaret might actually be real...

The perfectly normal explanations are all revealed in the end, but along the way, the children's misconceptions bring a lot of fun and humour to the stories.

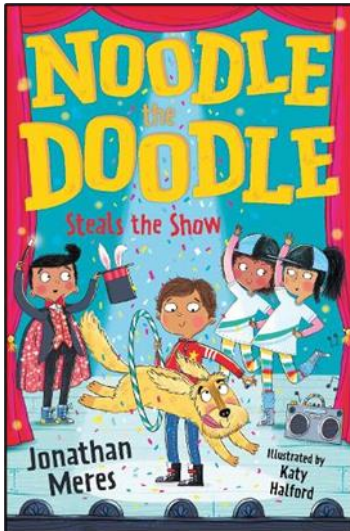
You might also like:

There are more books in this series if readers enjoy this one, e.g. *The Magic Hamster* or *Super Dog*

Blue Parcel 4

Noodle the Doodle Steals the Show

By Jonathan Meres



What the selection panel said:

- It's really fun
- It's dyslexia friendly and on cream paper
- I thought it was really nice

About the book:

Set in Wigley Primary School, this story is all about Mr Reed's class and their class dog, Noodle the Doodle. It's time for the school's annual charity fundraiser and Mr Reed's class are in charge of coming up with an idea and putting it into action. They decide to organise a talent show. The story follows the process of the class planning the show and deciding what their talent will be, leading up to the rehearsal day and the show itself. Not every student feels they want to perform, so instead they help behind the scenes. Noodle gets very exciting on rehearsal day, stealing the microphone and running off with it! But Samir, the new boy in class who's been spending a lot of time with Noodle as he settles in and finds his feet, knows just what to do to calm Noodle down. Things go much smoother on the day of the show and they raise a lot of money for charity, the class then choosing which charity they should gift it to.

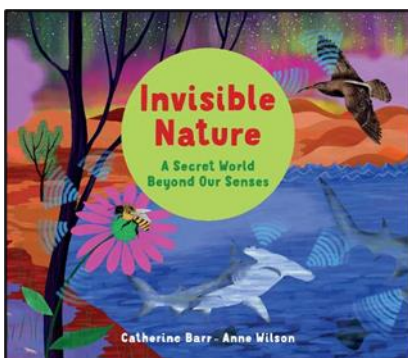
This is a gentle, heart-warming story in an inclusive class setting with light humour and themes of friendship and kindness.

You might also like:

Noodle the Doodle by Jonathan Meres (the first book in the series)

Invisible Nature: A Secret World Beyond our Senses

By Catherine Barr and Anne Wilson



What the selection panel said:

- Genuinely fascinating
- It explains different themes used in the animal world and how they're used in our world
- I thought the graphic illustrations were good
- The text is just in small chunks
- I thought it was brilliant

About the book:

This fascinating, illustrated science-themed book looks at how some living creatures are able to sense and use forces or natural phenomena that humans cannot see, like microwaves, ultrasound, or infrared light. The book looks at these different things, explaining what they are and how they occur in nature, introducing some of the animals that use them in their everyday lives. These things

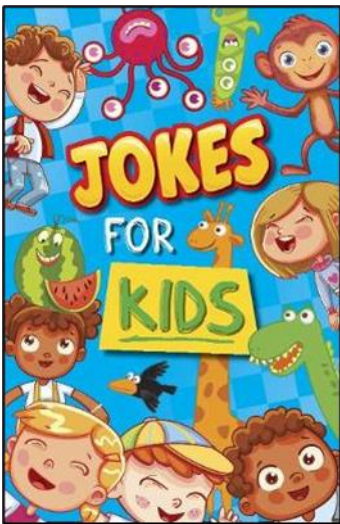
are invisible to humans because our eyes and ears aren't designed to sense them, but we know they're there and even though we can't see them, humans have learnt to use them too, despite their "invisible" nature. Butterflies use ultraviolet markings on their wings to signal to each other, while our bodies use ultraviolet light to make vitamin D; whales use infrasound to communicate with others of their kind through the ocean, while geologists use infrasound to work out when volcanoes might erupt. Bite-size facts make this topic accessible and there's a useful glossary in the back.

You might also like:

The author, Catherine Barr, has written lots of science books that you could look out for

Jokes for Kids

By Sally Lindley and Joe Fullman



What the selection panel said:

- Love this book! Our looked-after children need some fun and laughter in their lives
- We all like jokes; it gives children the power of having the answer and making people laugh
- Good jokes; they made me laugh

About the book:

A colourfully illustrated book packed with over 650 jokes to get readers giggling.

Things to know about:

- The "Funny Folk" section includes some jokes relating to family members

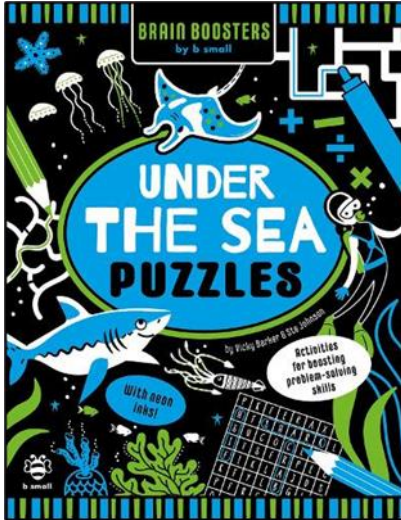
You might also like:

The Jumbo Joke Book for Funny Kids by Andrew Pinter

Blue Parcel 5

Under the Sea Puzzles

By Vicky Barker and Ste Johnson



What the selection panel said:

- I think it's really good
- It's nicely laid out
- There's lots to choose from

About the book:

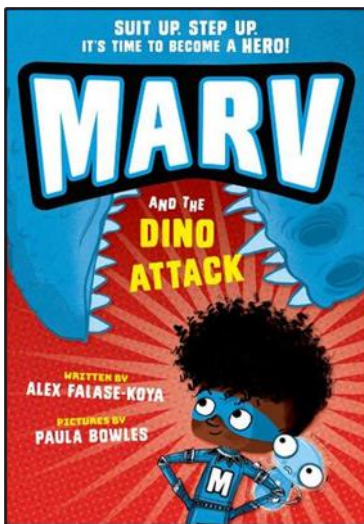
This brightly coloured activity book includes a range of different puzzles to keep readers busy, all with an underwater theme.

You might also like:

Big Sticker Book of the Blue by Yuval Zommer

Marv and the Dino Attack

By Alex Falase-Koya and Paula Bowles



What the selection panel said:

- A fab friendship tale
- A great mix of dinosaurs and a superhero
- I liked it, and it has good diversity

About the book:

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.

Marv is excited to be going on a school trip to the Natural History Museum to see some real dinosaur bones, but when supervillain Rex brings the dinosaur skeletons to life and they start destroying the museum, it's up to Marv to transform into his superhero self. Racing

through the museum, Marv must dodge the dinosaurs and find a way to stop Rex from taking the dinosaurs out into the city to cause mayhem.

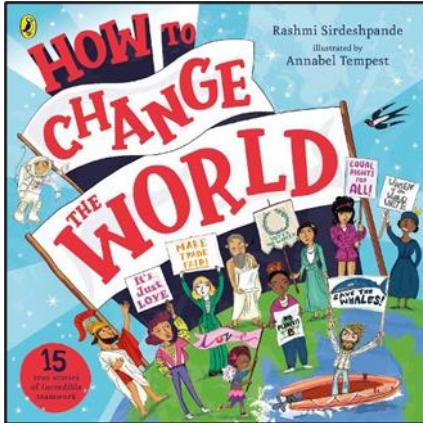
A fast-paced, fun superhero story with dynamic illustrations and themes of friendship and creativity.

You might also like:

Shifty McGifty and Slippery Sam: Up, Up and Away by Tracey Corderoy and Steven Lenton

How to Change the World

By Rashmi Sirdeshpande and Annabel Tempest



What the selection panel said:

- Superbly written and mega informative; I learnt lots
- A great book to share
- I thought it was inspirational to teach children how they can change the world
- Something a bit different – it's about teamwork but is people based

About the book:

This illustrated nonfiction book looks at key events that have created change in the world, and the people who made those things happen, such as the campaign for votes for women, the fight to save the whales, and the ending of slavery in the British Empire. An inspiring read, it shows how people around the world, both in history and in the present day have challenged injustice and worked together to generate positive change. It's quite a visual book, with its busy, colourful illustrations complementing the fact-filled chunks of text. Readers can learn about Rosa Parks and the Montgomery bus boycott, Shyam Sunder Paliwal and the tree planters of Piplantri, and lots more.

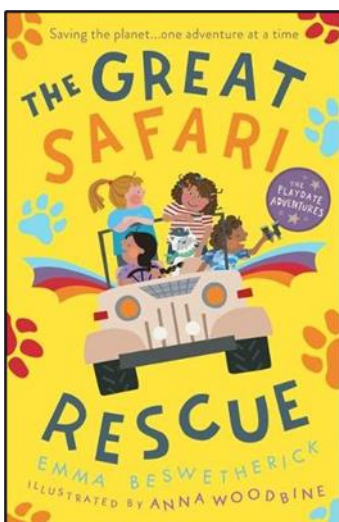
You might also like:

If readers enjoy this book, there are lots of books available about people who have changed the world, including more in this series by Rashmi Sirdeshpande

Blue Parcel 6

The Great Safari Rescue

By Emma Beswetherick and Anna Woodbine



What the selection panel said:

- A story about young people working together and going on a safari
- An empathetic style and friendships are developed
- An environmentally aware text
- I enjoyed it

About the book:

This story is about a group of young friends who together create the Playdate Adventures Club – if they close their eyes, hold hands and together imagine a particular adventure, it really happens. Luca has just moved to the area and is new to the friendship group so today is his first adventure with them, and they decide to go on a safari. The Club's wish takes them to Kruger National Park where they discover there is a

terrible drought and all the animals are arguing over the last drops of water in their lake. The friends meet a young elephant, Izwi, who is trying to find a way to get the animals to stop arguing and instead work together to find more water for them all to share. The children are able to help Izwi find his voice and then, with everyone working together, help find a solution to the animals' water shortage.

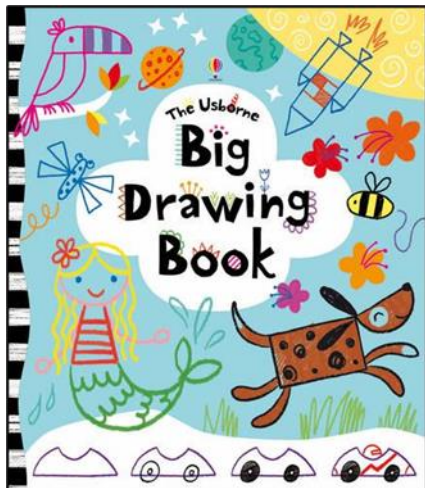
With environmental themes and the idea of finding your voice, this imaginative adventure story also has some black-and-white illustrations throughout.

You might also like:

The Secret Explorers and the Lost Whales by SJ King

The Usborne Big Drawing Book

By Fiona Watt



What the selection panel said:

- Fab for concentration
- Step-by-step guide to drawing a whole range of things
- Great for kids that lack confidence drawing, they always have a try
- This was my favourite drawing book

About the book:

Practise drawing skills with this bright and colourful book that shows readers how to draw lots of different things using step-by-step guides. Rather than just blank pages for drawing practice, the book has simple scenes for readers to complete their drawings on – add cats to walls and rooftops, aliens zooming

around planets in space, dragons guarding the fairy tale castle – and lots, lots more!

You might also like:

Drawing Lab: Superheroes by James Lancett