

BookTrust's Great Books Guide 2018

100
BOOKS
INSIDE



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 **BookTrust**
Inspire a love of reading

Message from BookTrust's CEO Diana Gerald

Welcome to BookTrust's **Great Books Guide 2018**. 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!





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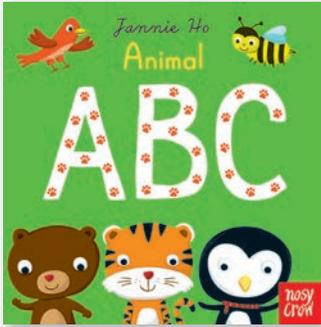
Psssssst..!

Watch out for our
new campaign
coming soon.



Lots of free activities and resources to get your
classrooms buzzing about bedtime stories.

Age 0–3

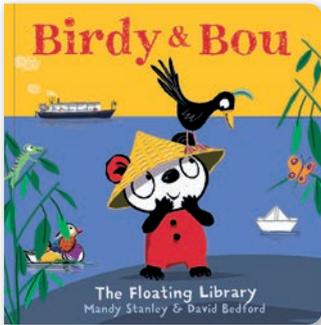


Animal ABC Jannie Ho

Nosy Crow

A is for Alligator, B is for Bear – but I is also for Iguana, and N is for Narwhal!

Some unusual animal choices complete the alphabet in this funky, modern animal-themed ABC board book: a cute and fun must-read for pre-schoolers starting to learn their letters.

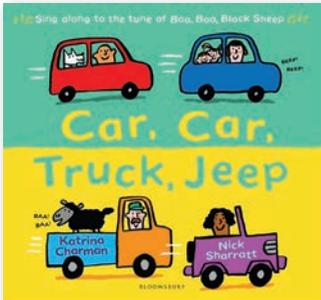


Birdy & Bou: The Floating Library David Bedford, Illustrated by Mandy Stanley

Simon & Schuster

Bou can't wait to borrow his favourite book from the floating library – and a new friend, Birdy, helps him to read it.

There's a lovely message of sharing here, and that having fun with books is one of the best things you can do with a friend.



Car, Car, Truck, Jeep Katrina Charman, Illustrated by Nick Sharratt

Bloomsbury

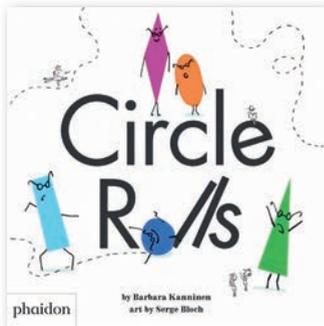
This colourful rhyming journey to the seaside is sung to the tune of 'Baa, Baa, Black Sheep' and showcases vehicles and transport of all kinds. Who'd have thought going out in the car for the day could be so much fun!

Joyful, noisy, exciting and enriched by Nick Sharratt's trademark illustrations.

Illustration from *Read the Book, Lemmings!*
© Zachariah OHora (Andersen Press)



Age
0–3

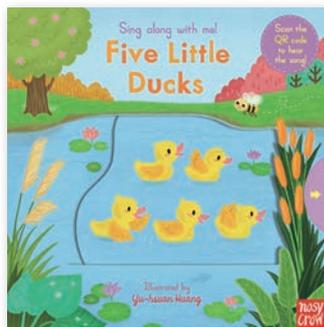


Circle Rolls
Barbara Kanninen,
Illustrated by Serge Bloch

Phaidon

The force of a tiny man's sneeze sends Circle rolling off on an eventful adventure, where he encounters a variety of other shapes.

With rhyming text and simple collage and ink illustrations, which are remarkably expressive, this humorous picture book is an ideal way to introduce shape and colour to young children.

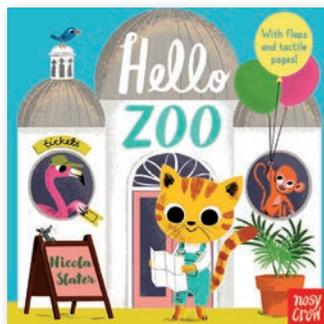


Five Little Ducks
Yu-hsuan Huang

Nosy Crow

Five little ducks go swimming one day, but when Mother Duck calls them back, only four little ducks return. What's going on?

This chunky board book has fabulous pull tabs to explore, revealing the next part of the song – plus a little wheel that makes the ducks swim round a pond.

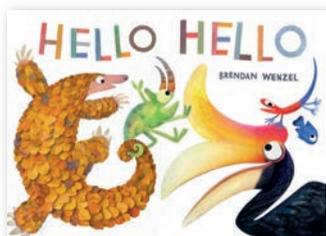


Hello Zoo
Nicola Slater

Nosy Crow

Ludo the cat is visiting the zoo. He peeks behind the giant fold-out flap and finds Max the little elephant, who's doing laundry with his mummy, a trio of lion cubs having an art lesson, and a musical zebra family.

Lovely illustrations, and flaps with holes create lots of interactive fun.

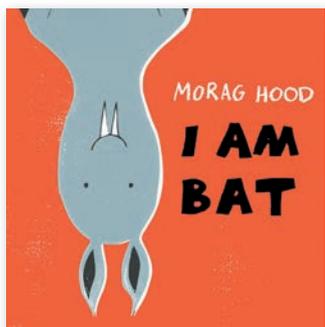


Hello Hello
Brendan Wenzel

Abrams & Chronicle

Say 'Hello!' to a whole host of familiar and unusual animals, birds, reptiles and sea-creatures: hairy, scaly, spotty, spiky, gigantic and tiny.

Minimal text and an underlying ecological message characterise this stunning picture book. Illustrated in a colourful collage style, it celebrates the diversity and beauty of the natural world with great humour.



I Am Bat
Morag Hood

Two Hoots

Bat has some cherries. But when Bat's back is turned for a moment, the cherries start to disappear...

This brilliantly funny, fruit-filled book captures the fickleness and changing whims of childhood in a few short sentences and brightly coloured images. A brilliant read-aloud book to share with little ones.



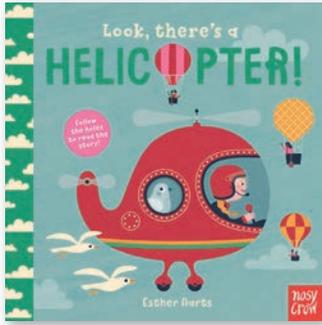
Little Truck
Taro Gomi

Abrams & Chronicle

Little Truck is speeding off on an adventure, but he needs a bit of help from Big Truck, especially when he gets tired...

A cute, concise story about little ones taking their first steps of independence. The simple illustrations are really effective, and the text is lovely to read aloud.

Age
0-3



Look, There's a Helicopter!
Esther Aarts

Nosy Crow

Fans of helicopters will love this rhyming board book with holes integrated in each image that lead to a discovery on the next page.

The illustrations are bursting with colour and life, and are filled with details for young readers to explore. An entertaining addition to any bookshelf.

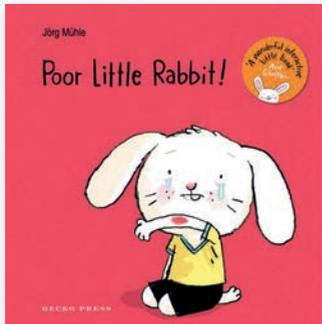


Who's Wearing a Hat?
Sam Taplin, Illustrated by Stephen Barker

Usborne

Whose scarf is blue? Who's smiling at you? Cats, monkeys, birds, frogs and tortoises parade through the pages of this book, which is full of clear, well-sized odd ones out and things to spot.

Full of fun questions for little ones to answer, this cute board book is perfect for 2 to 3s.

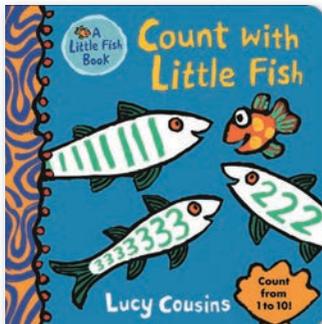


Poor Little Rabbit!
Jörg Mühle

Gecko Press

Oh, no – Little Rabbit has fallen over! He's hurt his elbow and it's bleeding. A plaster will definitely help – and maybe you could say the magic rhyme?

Mühle's *Little Rabbit* books make reading a really interactive experience, and demonstrate how books for little ones can be original and accessible at the same time.

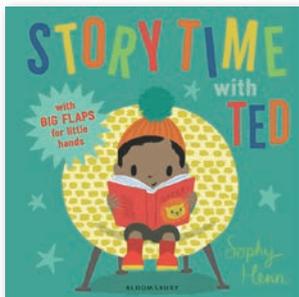


Count with Little Fish
Lucy Cousins

Walker Books

This sturdy fish-themed counting board book has bold and bright illustrations, and basic rhyming text to read aloud: from 'One little fish, swimming in the sea' to 'Two twin fin-fin fish, as pretty as can be'.

At the end, young readers can spot all the types of fish that have swum through the book.



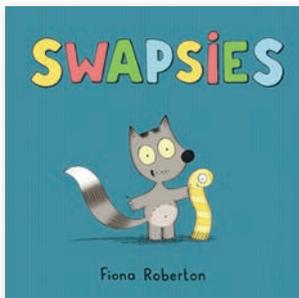
Story Time with Ted

Sophy Henn

Bloomsbury

Ted's getting geared up for story time. Could it be an adventure story with dinosaurs? A wizarding tale of magic? A fairy tale or even a spooky yarn?

Chunky, bright illustrations are perfectly suited to a young audience, and robust card pages and giant flaps mean even the youngest readers can take part.



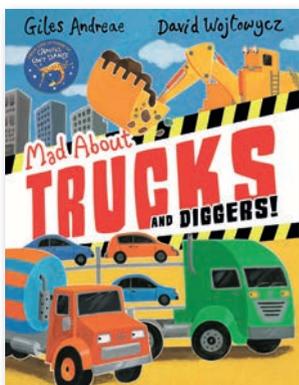
Swapsies

Fiona Robertson

Hodder Children's Books

Fang loves Sock. Sock is yellow, stripy, squeezey and smells like bananas. Philip loves Train. Train is red, shiny, honky and smells like tomatoes. And there's always Stick, after all...

Aspirational reading for toddlers and pre-schoolers, which reminds us that friendship makes us want to share.



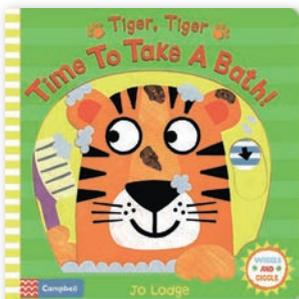
Mad About Trucks and Diggers!

Giles Andreae, Illustrated by David Wojtowycz

Orchard Books

From a steam roller to a fire engine, this fun-filled picture book features a myriad of exciting vehicles for children to explore.

The rhyming text is accompanied by bright, bold illustrations, creating a lively book which will be treasured by any toddler who's 'mad about trucks and diggers'.



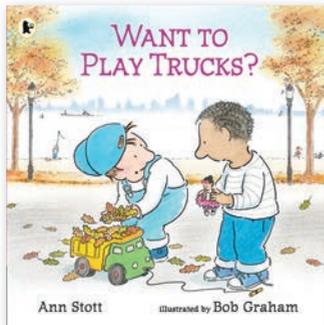
Tiger, Tiger, Time to Take a Bath!

Jo Lodge

Campbell Books

Have you got dirt behind each ear? Then take a bath like Tiger here! Or, for a shiny, bright-white smile, brush your teeth like Crocodile!

With brilliant moving parts made from sturdy, thick card, toddlers will love to help these animal characters with their personal grooming.



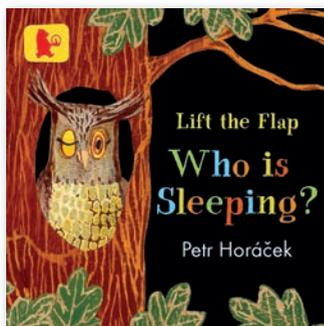
Want to Play Trucks?

Ann Stott, Illustrated by Bob Graham

Walker Books

In the sandpit at the park, Jack wants to play trucks – but Alex wants to play with dolls. Can the pair reconcile their contrasting interests and play happily together?

Beautifully observed illustrations complement a thoughtful tale of divergence, disagreement and compromise that challenges some gender stereotypes.



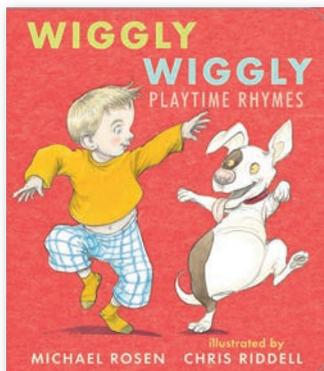
Who is Sleeping?

Petr Horáček

Walker Books

Who is sleeping in the tree? It's Owl! And who is sleeping under the leaf? It's Frog!

Petr Horáček's friendly and colourful nature illustrations are showcased in this simple and effective lift-the-flap book, with sturdy pages that are perfect for curious little hands.



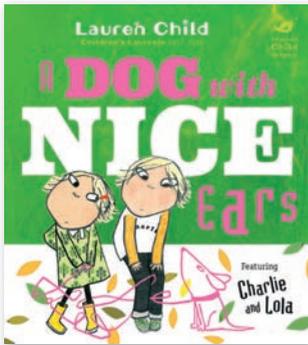
Wiggly Wiggly Playtime Rhymes

Michael Rosen, Illustrated by Chris Riddell

Walker Books

Six simple, delightful poems burst from this charming little board book, from wiggly pigs to a crunchy, munchy lunchtime with a crocodile.

The partnership of two previous Children's Laureates make this a very special book to read, sing, cuddle with and giggle at – and learn by heart.



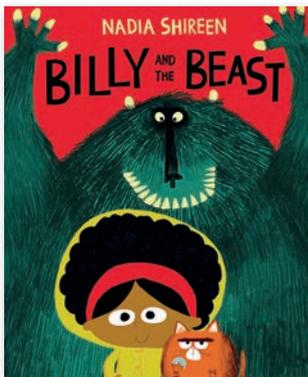
A Dog With Nice Ears

Lauren Child

Orchard Books

Lola and Charlie spend a lot of time talking about the sort of dog they'd have, if only Mum and Dad would let them. Sometimes Lola imagines she has a dog, or even pretends Charlie is one!

A delightful story about how brilliant pets are – and why it's also OK not to have one.



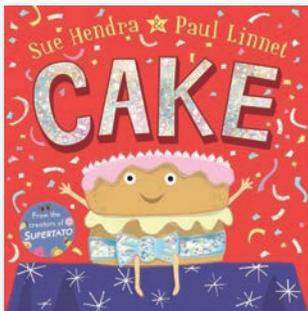
Billy and the Beast

Nadia Shireen

Jonathan Cape

When Billy and her friend Fatcat are kidnapped while walking in the woods, it transpires that a hungry Beast is collecting ingredients for a terrible soup. Can Billy save her friends from the Beast's cruel culinary agenda?

Funny and empowering, this is a fantastic friendship story about being smart and kind.



Cake

Sue Hendra and Paul Linnet

Macmillan Children's Books

Keen to look his best for a party, Cake buys a new hat for the occasion, which makes him look irresistible. However, he begins to feel uneasy when the other guests advance on him, singing 'Happy Birthday'...

Silly humour and vibrant illustrations will have children giggling as they wait to discover Cake's fate.

Age
4-5



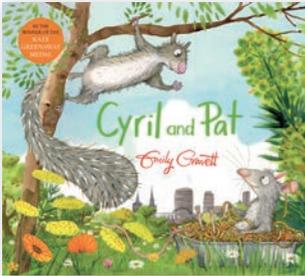
Creature Features

Natasha Durley

Big Picture Press

Animals come in all shapes and sizes. Some have nice noses, and some have excellent ears.

This large format book about nature features tough card pages full of brightly illustrated animals, organised by their special features. Excellent for young readers building their vocabulary and learning about the natural world.



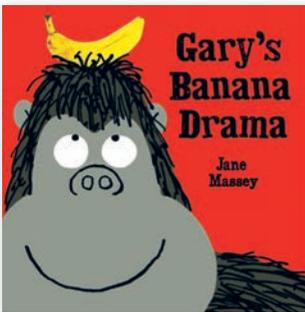
Cyril and Pat

Emily Gravett

Two Hoots

Cyril is Lake Park's only squirrel, and he's lonely. When he meets Pat the big, grey other squirrel (a rat!), his life is transformed. But no-one else seems to approve of their friendship...

A colourful, rhyming story about friendship against the odds. Funny and endearing, Cyril's experience celebrates independent thought and the joy of difference.



Gary's Banana Drama

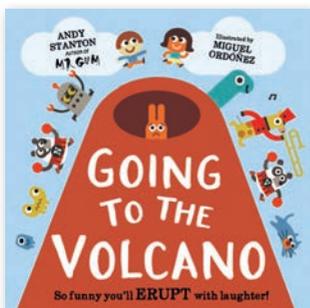
Jane Massey

Simon & Schuster

When Gary the gorilla runs out of bananas, his favourite food, he's forced to go out and find more. Although he sees bananas everywhere he goes, Gary can't eat a single one of them!

An engaging central character and bold illustrations packed with visual puns will make this comical story an instant favourite.





Going to the Volcano

Andy Stanton, Illustrated by Miguel Ordóñez

Hodder Children's Books

Wayne is heading off with Jane to look at the volcano. Yet when they reach the volcano, they get a bit of a shock!

This hilarious and anarchic picture book features a brilliant rhyming call-and-response format, which makes it ideal for reading aloud and will have children in fits of laughter.



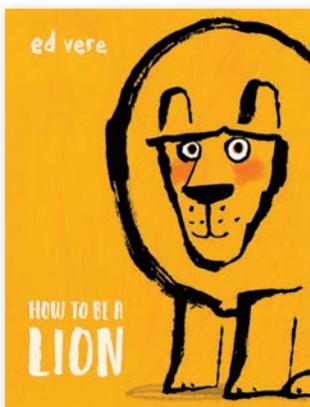
Hello, Hot Dog!

Lily Murray, Illustrated by Jarvis

Lincoln Children's Books

Hot Dog is having a lovely snooze on a comfy bread roll when he suddenly realises he's about to become...LUNCH!

A quirky tale told in a delightful conversational style, with deceptively simple illustrations that convey a sense of jeopardy as well as humour. Likely to induce fits of giggling in young readers.



How to Be a Lion

Ed Vere

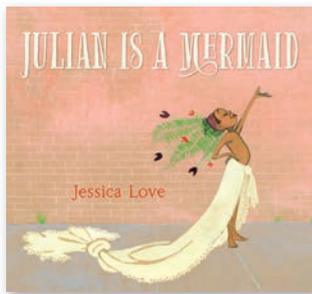
Puffin

Leonard is a gentle lion, and even though the other lions don't like him being friends with Marianne the duck, Leonard is determined that there has to be a better way to be a lion than roaring and chomping.

A wonderful book about friendship and gentleness.



Age
4–5



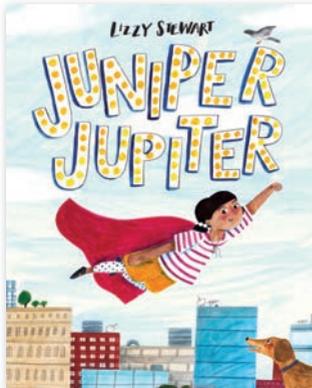
Julian is a Mermaid

Jessica Love

Walker Books

When Julian spots three women in lavish mermaid costumes it fires his imagination, and all he can think about is becoming a mermaid himself – with a little help from his Nana's soft furnishings!

Sparse text and imaginative, vibrant illustrations celebrate Julian's individuality in a story of acceptance, joy and living your dreams.



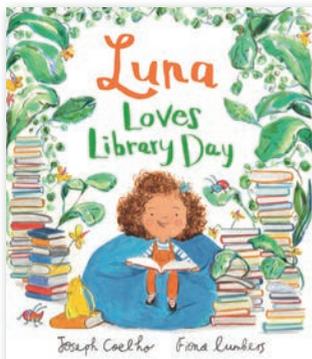
Juniper Jupiter

Lizzy Stewart

Lincoln Children's Books

Juniper Jupiter is a real-life superhero. But something's missing – what's a hero without an amazing sidekick?

Lizzy Stewart's bold and delightful illustrations bring a real warmth to this special picture book that children will keep revisiting. A witty and earnest story about the quest for friendship.



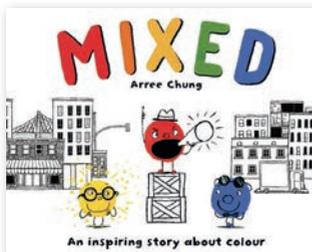
Luna Loves Library Day

Joseph Coelho, Illustrated by Fiona Lumbers

Andersen Press

Every week, Luna looks forward to library day, when she discovers magic among the library shelves with her dad. They discover all sorts of things here – dinosaurs, mummies and unexplained mysteries.

From the talented poet Joseph Coelho, this charming picture book highlights the wonders of libraries for families and communities.



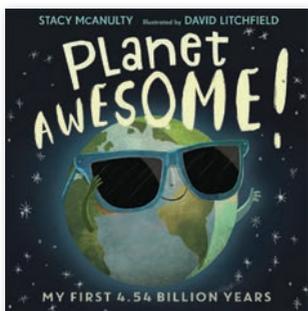
Mixed

Arree Chung

Macmillan Children's Books

Reds, Yellows and Blues have always lived happily together, but when a renegade Red causes conflict, the colours divide. Is the love of a cool Blue and a bright Yellow be enough to restore harmony?

A funny, vibrantly illustrated, allegorical tale that celebrates individual talents and has an inspiring message about understanding and acceptance.



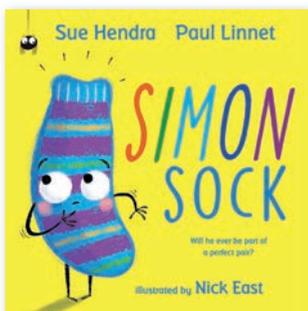
Planet Awesome!

Stacy McAnulty, Illustrated by David Litchfield

Faber & Faber

Planet Awesome (sometimes known as Earth) presents the story of her first 4.54 billion years, from her birth as a hot, gassy baby planet to the lush, life-giving world we now inhabit.

A humorous and entertaining introduction to astronomy, geology, natural history and ecology from the point of view of planet Earth herself.



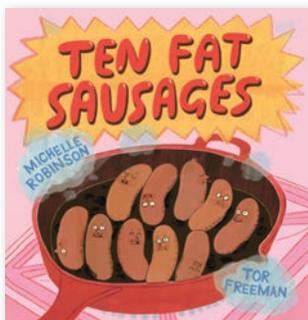
Simon Sock

Sue Hendra & Paul Linnet, Illustrated by Nick East

Hodder Children's Books

Simon Sock lives in the drawer with all the other socks, who often go on adventures. Problem is, you have to be in a pair of socks to be chosen, and Simon is on his own. Yet when he finds his pair, it's not as straightforward as he expected...

A lovely, bright and sweet book about relationships and belonging.



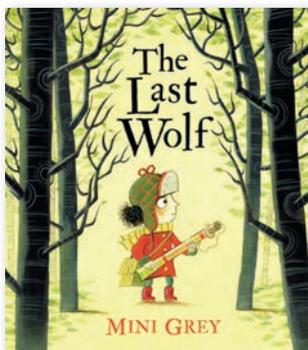
Ten Fat Sausages

Michelle Robinson, Illustrated by Tor Freeman

Andersen Press

Ten sausages jump out of a frying pan only to encounter a series of unfortunate kitchen-related mishaps – will they manage to struggle free, or is their sausage well and truly cooked?

The bold illustrations and rhyming works well for a range of ages, all of whom will love the silly humour.



The Last Wolf

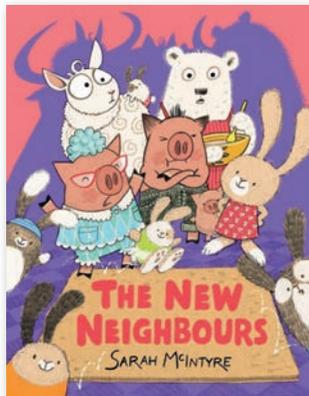
Mini Grey

Jonathan Cape

One day, Little Red heads into the woods to catch a wolf. Yet when Red meets the Last Wolf, the Last Lynx and the Last Bear, she starts to understand why hunting is not the answer.

Rich, characterful illustrations, quirky humour and perfect pacing present a touching but non-preachy environmental message.

Age
4–5



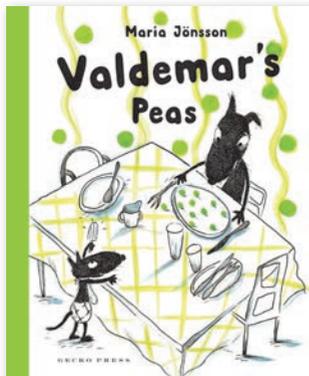
The New Neighbours

Sarah McIntyre

David Fickling Books

In Pickle Rye, rats have moved into the ground-floor flat, and the other residents have convinced themselves that they're going to bury everyone in rat poo. Yet Bertram and Natasha aren't quite what anyone expected – and they have cake!

A clever, detail-rich and funny book about tolerance and not believing gossip.



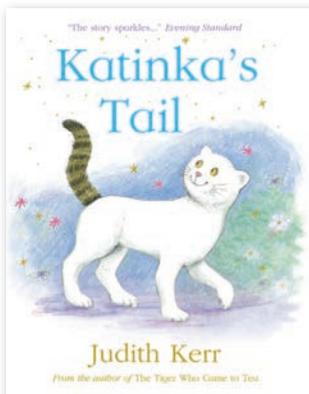
Valdemar's Peas

Maria Jönsson

Gecko Press

Valdemar knows that all his peas must be eaten before he can have ice cream. How unfair! Yet a brilliant idea makes sure he gets his ice cream without eating a single pea...

Simple, expressive illustrations bring to life a little wolf character who is as ingenious as he is cheeky. Funny, familiar and satisfying.



Katinka's Tail

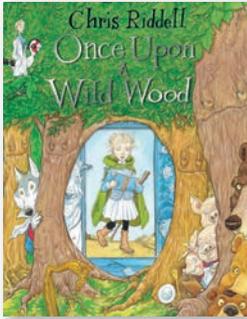
Judith Kerr

HarperCollins

Katinka is an ordinary white cat – apart from her tail, which is stripy. Her owner always denies that there's anything odd about her cat with its stripy tail – but is she right?

A beautiful, funny, warm and tender picture book, with a magical twist in the tale.

Age 6-7

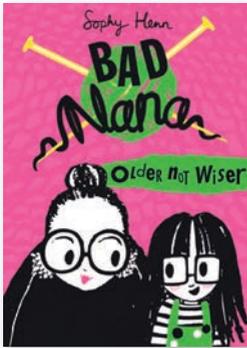


**Once Upon a
Wild Wood**
Chris Riddell

Macmillan Children's Books

Meet Little Green Rain Cape as she sets off through the wild woods on her way to Rapunzel's birthday party. On the way, she meets a host of beloved fairy tale characters, from the Beast to Thumbelina.

A truly delightful book, with illustrations that will set children's imaginations alight.

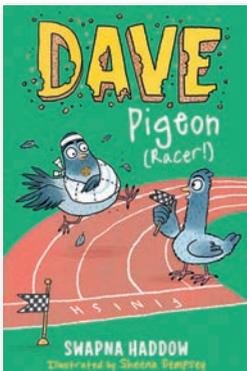


Bad Nana: Older Not Wiser
Sophy Henn

HarperCollins

Bad Nana is quite unlike Jeanie's other two grandmas: she dresses entirely in black, with an occasional sparkly pink turban that makes her look like an alien overlord. She's also been banned from the line-dancing club...

A delightful and laugh-out-loud book about an unusual grandma's adventures with her granddaughter.



Dave Pigeon (Racer!)
Swapna Haddow, Illustrated by Sheena Dempsey

Faber & Faber

Dave Pigeon needs his wing fixed, so it's off to Pawsville Pets for him and Skipper. However, when a rather unpleasant pigeon challenges Dave to a flying contest, he can't say no.

Packed with puns and jokes, and the final message about believing in yourself is perfect for younger children.





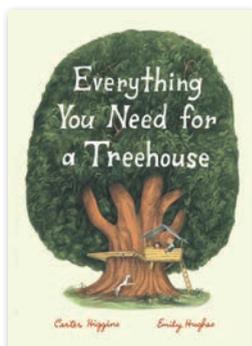
Dogs in Space: The Amazing True Story of Belka and Strelka

Vix Southgate, Illustrated by Iris Deppe

Wren & Rook

Belka and Strelka were stray dogs that were chosen by a scientist at the Moscow Space Centre to become part of the Soviet space exploration programme in the 1950s and 60s.

This informative and appealing picture book details the space dogs' journey through training to orbiting the earth and returning home safely.



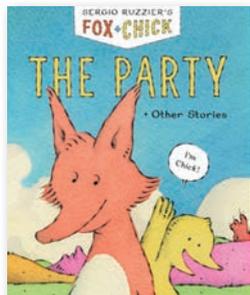
Everything You Need for a Treehouse

Carter Higgins, Illustrated by Emily Hughes

Chronicle Books

Everything you need for a treehouse starts with looking up and imagining...

Glass houses, ghost-like tents hung above rivers and a treehouse library are just a few of the treasures within – surely there can be no better imaginary treehouses than the incredible ones in this lyrical and beautiful book.



Fox & Chick: The Party

Sergio Ruzzier

Abrams & Chronicle

Explore the unique friendship and everyday adventures of mild-mannered Fox and excitable Chick. Chick has a party in Fox's bathroom, the friends gather ingredients for soup and Fox attempts to paint Chick's portrait.

The charming watercolour illustrations in this delightful three-story collection are full of personality and humour.



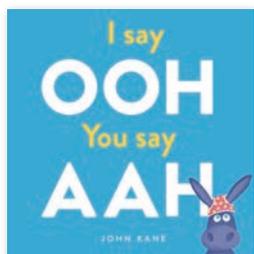
Hansel & Gretel

Bethan Woollvin

Two Hoots

Willow is a good witch, and it's the horrendously naughty Hansel and Gretel who wreck her house and her magic spells. As well as gobbling all Willow's yummy food, they also smash her potion bottles – and even change her cat so it's the size of a house!

A delightful twist on the classic fairy tale.



I Say OOH You Say AAH

John Kane

Templar Books

It's really very simple: when I say OOH, you have to say AAH. When you see an ANT, you say UNDERPANTS, and if you see the colour RED, pat your HEAD.

This brilliant call-and-response book is perfect for fun with kids who can remember and relish all its chaotic rules.



Joan Procter, Dragon Doctor

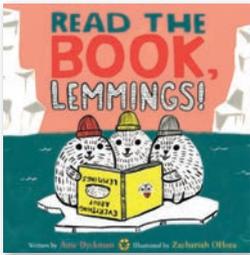
Patricia Valdez, Illustrated by Felicity Sala

Andersen Press

From a young age, Joan Procter loved reptiles. In the early 20th century, she became the first female Curator of Reptiles at the Natural History Museum, and designed London Zoo's Reptile House.

Atmospheric illustrations accompany informative text in this inspirational picture book biography of a pioneering female scientist.





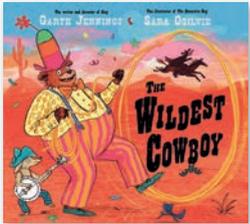
Read the Book, Lemmings!

Ame Dyckman, Illustrated by Zachariah OHora

Andersen Press

According to First Mate Foxy's book *Everything About Lemmings*, lemmings don't actually jump off cliffs. There's just one problem: the lemmings haven't read it...

A laugh-out-loud story of Foxy's many failed attempts to get lemmings to read the book rather than jump ship, it's a sweet and simple tale about communication.

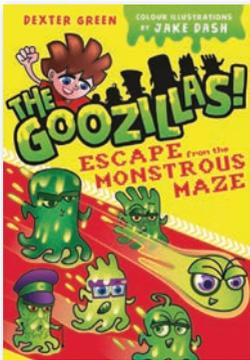


The Wildest Cowboy

Garth Jennings, Illustrated by Sara Ogilvie

Macmillan Children's Books

Only the toughest folks live in the dour Wild West town of Fear, but that's not going to discourage Bingo B Brown, purveyor of fancy dress! Yet when he comes face to face with a scary cowboy, it's going to take all Bingo's zany goodies to vanquish the source of Fear's negativity.



The Goozillas! Escape from the Monstrous Maze

Dexter Green, Illustrated by Jake Dash

Oxford Children's Books

When Max sneezes himself into his favourite app, World of Slime, he meets the Goozillas. Unfortunately, Max's sneeze shatters the goo-producing Golden Glob, and without it, the Goozillas' volcano home will dry out.

This fast-paced, accessible series will appeal to fans of computer games, comics and all things slimy.



Magical Kingdom of Birds:

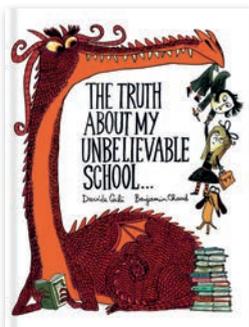
The Sleepy Hummingbirds

Anne Booth, Illustrated by Rosie Butcher

Oxford Children's Books

When Maya receives a colouring book called *The Magical Kingdom of Birds*, she is transported to a beautiful realm filled with magnificent birds. But the hummingbirds are in trouble – can Maya help?

Great for those advancing to chapter books, this magical adventure story with added facts about birds will delight fans of animal stories.



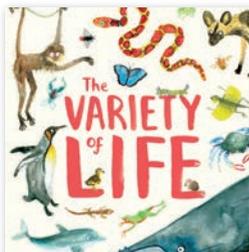
The Truth About My Unbelievable School...

Davide Cali, Illustrated by Benjamin Chaud

Chronicle Books

When Henry is asked to show a new pupil around the school, he takes her to see the class pet (a giant jellyfish), the science room (featuring what appears to be a space rocket being built) and a rather reptilian swimming instructor...

A fantastically quirky book which is a quick read but still feels super cool.

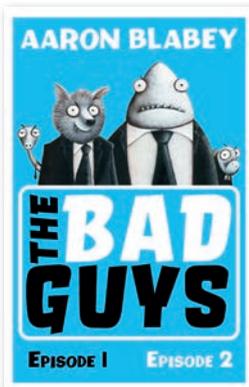


The Variety of Life

Nicola Davies, Illustrated by Lorna Scobie

Hodder Children's Books

Did you know there are 400,000 species of beetle – but only eight species of bear? Jam-packed with fun facts and figures – and stunning illustrations – this book not only encourages children to treasure the world's biodiversity, but also indicates which species are threatened by extinction, to help children understand the importance of looking after our planet.



The Bad Guys: Episodes 1 and 2

Aaron Blabey

Scholastic

Everyone is wrong about Mr Wolf. Just because he's got big pointy teeth and razor-sharp claws doesn't make him a bad guy. No, he's a good guy – and so are his friends. They are definitely NOT criminals.

In comic book format, this is a very funny story full of action and crazy characters.



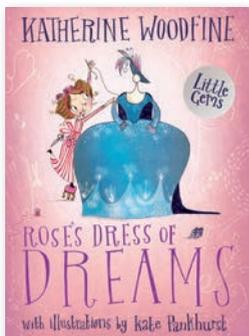
The Zoological Times: The Animal Kingdom's Wildest Newspaper

Stella Gurney, Illustrated by Matthew Hodson

Lincoln Children's Books

Read all about it! Published in association with the Natural History Museum, this funny newspaper-style non-fiction book features tons of facts, puzzles, jokes and activities about all manner of animals, from giraffes to lions.

With its fun format, young readers can dip in and out when they like.



Rose's Dress of Dreams

Katherine Woodfine, Illustrated by
Kate Pankhurst

Little Gems (Barrington Stoke)

It's France in the mid-1700s, and Rose loves beautiful dresses. After seeing a fortune teller, Rose decides that she must move to Paris if she's to realise her dream of being a dressmaker.

Perfect for young fashion fans moving away from picture books, and resplendent with historical and dressmaking detail.



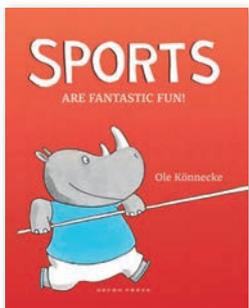
The Night Knights

Gideon Sterer, Illustrated by Cory Godbey

Abrams Books for Young Readers

Night time might be considered a time for monsters, but why haven't they ever actually been seen? Heroic Night Knights are the ones guarding children's houses when darkness falls, and fighting monsters at sea and in the air.

Beautifully redolent of classic fantasy imagery, this is a magically reassuring book for bedtime.



Sports are Fantastic Fun!

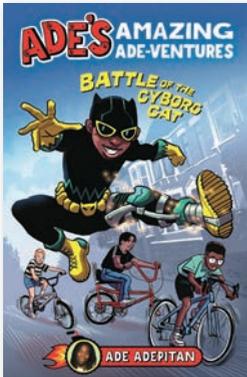
Ole Könnecke

Gecko Press

Football, rugby and windsurfing are so much fun! Full of brilliant detail about a vast range of sports – from horse riding to ice hockey, fishing to climbing – this humorously illustrated picture book gives children a good introduction to the rules and ethos of all manner of sports, in a highly entertaining way.



Age 8–9



Ade's Amazing Ade-ventures: Battle of the Cyborg Cat
Ade Adepitan, Illustrated by David M Buisán

Studio Press

Nine-year-old Ade and his family move from Nigeria to London, where they encounter both hostility and kindness. Ade is self-conscious about his leg caliper, but with the support of his new friends, he embraces his individuality.

Written by the well-known Paralympian, this amusing childhood memoir is an uplifting tale of hope, friendship and determination.

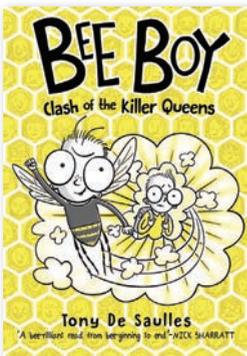


Amelia Fang and the Barbaric Ball
Laura Ellen Anderson

Egmont

Prince Tangine always gets what he wants, so when he takes her pet pumpkin Squashy, vampire Amelia Fang is heartbroken. But when she embarks on a rescue mission, Amelia is shocked to discover some glittery secrets about her nemesis.

A ghoulishly funny chapter book about friendship, with fabulous gothic illustrations.

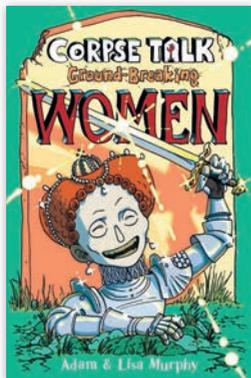


Bee Boy: Clash of the Killer Queens
Tony De Saulles

Oxford Children's Books

When Mel discovers he can transform into a honeybee, he enjoys an amazing bee's-eye view of life inside a hive. But then he must protect his buzzy friends, not only from predators, but also from bully Norman, who vandalises the hive and nicknames Mel 'Bee Boy'.

This funny illustrated chapter book incorporates fascinating facts about these invaluable insects.



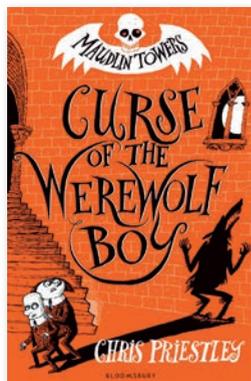
Corpse Talk: Ground-Breaking Women

Adam & Lisa Murphy

David Fickling Books

In this comic book, chat show host Adam Murphy interviews 18 historical women, including Joan of Arc, Pocahontas and Anne Frank, all freshly dug up from the grave.

Unique, accessible and slightly macabre, with a snappy style and colourful comic-strip illustrations, this humorous series is packed full of fascinating facts.



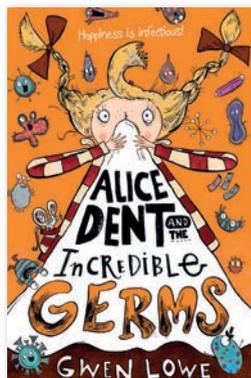
Curse of the Werewolf Boy

Chris Priestley

Bloomsbury

Best friends Mildew and Sponge are not happy to be back at Maudlin Towers for a new term, until strange things begin to happen – from the theft of the prestigious School Spoon to the arrival of a potential ghost in the attic.

A tightly-plotted laugh-out-loud school story full of originality.



Alice Dent and the Incredible Germs

Gwen Lowe

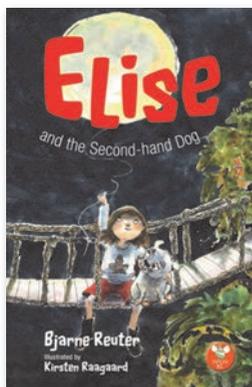
Chicken House

Alice is used to her hygiene-obsessed parents thinking all children are health hazards, but it's worse at Tryton Mell School, where the food is frozen to eliminate germs, and having a cold is a crime.

Can Alice outwit the Best Minister for Everything Nicely Perfect's evil plans? Find out in this brilliantly original tale of friendship and adventure.



Illustration from *The Truth About My Unbelievable School...*
© Benjamin Chaud (Chronicle Books)



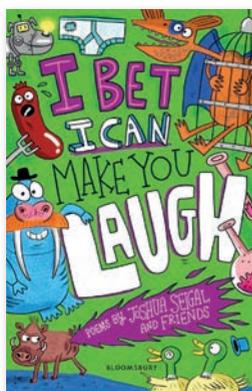
Elise and the Second-hand Dog

Bjarne Reuter, Illustrated by Kirsten Raagaard,
Translated by Siân Mackie

Wacky Bee

While her mother is away building a suspension bridge in the Amazon, Elise is lonely, so her father buys a dog to keep her company. Much to her surprise, the dog talks! Elise and McAddudi become best friends, and Elise's wild imagination takes them on many adventures.

Full of laughs and heart, this quirky book is one that readers won't forget.



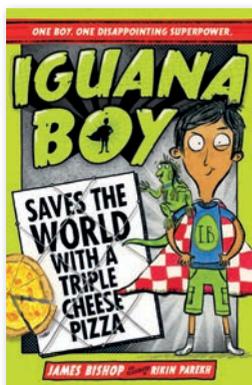
I Bet I Can Make You Laugh

Joshua Seigal and Friends, Illustrated by Tim Wesson

Bloomsbury

This collection of very funny poems – from an acrostic poem that doesn't quite work, to a love letter to someone the poet doesn't really like – are, in many cases, hilariously uncomplimentary!

Featuring a range of children's poets and traditional verses from cultures around the world, this is a great collection for older primary kids.



Iguana Boy Saves the World with a Triple Cheese Pizza

James Bishop, Illustrated by Rikin Parekh

Hodder Children's Books

Dylan is desperate to be a superhero, just like his big brother and sister. But when he finally gets his superpower, it turns out to be a really rubbish one. Yet when Platypus Girl takes away all the other superheroes' superpowers, only Iguana Boy can save the world...

Packed full of comic-strip illustrations, this energetic, funny story is full of heart.

Age
8–9



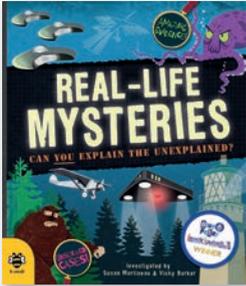
KidGlovz

Julie Hunt & Dale Newman

Allen & Unwin

Nine-year-old KidGlovz is a musical prodigy, but his corrupt manager keeps him shut up in hotel rooms, hungry and alone - except from his music teacher, Madame Lovegrove.

Readers young and old will be rooting for KidGlovz, and this poignant story will be remembered for a long time.



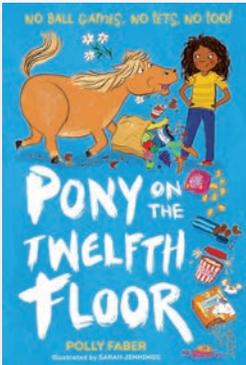
Real-Life Mysteries: Can You Explain the Unexplained?

Susan Martineau, Illustrated by Vicky Barker

b small publishing

Did aliens visit Earth thousands of years ago and leave behind secret messages and amazing feats of engineering, like Stonehenge? Do UFOs exist or are they optical illusions?

This fascinating collection of case files covers everything from crop circles to monsters, with a view to examining and evaluating all the evidence.



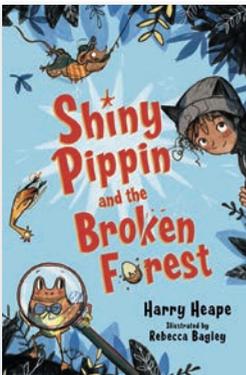
Pony on the Twelfth Floor

Polly Faber, Illustrated by Sarah Jennings

Walker Books

Kizzy dreams of becoming a champion showjumper (even though she's never ridden a horse), so she can't believe her luck when she finds a pony in the supermarket. But how can she keep him hidden from mum when they live on the twelfth floor of a tower block?

A delightfully funny chapter book with lovely illustrations.



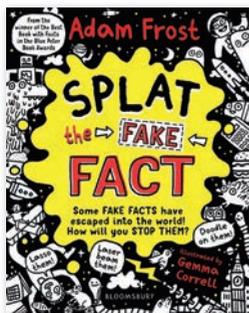
Shiny Pippin and the Broken Forest

Harry Heape, Illustrated by Rebecca Bagley

Faber & Faber

When Pippin discovers she possesses magical powers, she uses her newfound skills to investigate the mysterious water shortage in Funsprings - which leads her to the sinister Old Laboratory, deep within the forest.

This hilarious fantasy adventure, with wacky characters and a zany plot, will have readers rolling around with laughter.



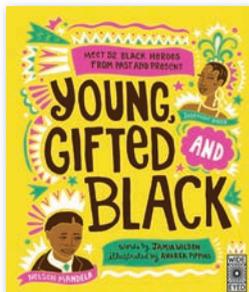
Splat the Fake Fact

Adam Frost, Illustrated by Gemma Correll

Bloomsbury

These days it's very important to be able to identify fake facts. With a series of interactive activities, this book not only allows children to find out what is and isn't true, but also gets them to doodle, lasso and deface the fake facts. Hurrah!

Fabulously original and interactive non-fiction.



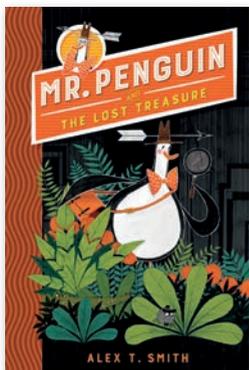
Young, Gifted and Black: Meet 52 Black Heroes from Past and Present

Jamia Wilson, Illustrated by Andrea Pippins

Wide Eyed Editions

This beautiful book celebrates a selection of black icons from history and the present day to inspire all children to discover what they can achieve. In the wake of the #BlackLivesMatter movement, this collection's focus is very timely and necessary.

An ideal book to share with children who have questions about what's happening in the world today.



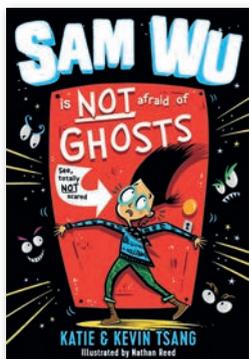
Mr. Penguin and the Lost Treasure

Alex T. Smith

Hodder Children's Books

Mr Penguin, an adventurer somewhere between Indiana Jones and Hercule Poirot, is asked to locate missing treasure located somewhere in the Museum of Extraordinary Objects.

With the help of Colin (a spider), Mr Penguin battles ferocious beasts and makes his way into a hidden jungle underneath the museum with exciting (and often hilarious) results.



Sam Wu is NOT Afraid of Ghosts

Katie & Kevin Tsang, Illustrated by Nathan Reed

Egmont

Sam Wu is scared of many things, though he's determined not to let anyone find out. However, after an unfortunate incident on a school trip, he becomes a target for the class bully, Ralph. Sam decides the best way to stop Ralph's teasing is to acquire a fearsome sidekick: Fang the snake.

A fast-paced chapter book full of humour and heart.

Age
8–9



Looshkin: The Adventures of the Maddest Cat in the World!!
Jamie Smart

David Fickling Books

In an attempt to make her family a bit more normal, Mrs Johnson gets a cat. Little does she know that she's just brought home Looshkin, who is anything but.

An outrageously fun graphic novel in a class of its own for silliness and hilarious absurdity – young readers will just love it.

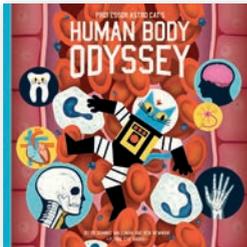


Alastair Humphreys' Great Adventurers
Alastair Humphreys, Illustrated by
Kevin Ward

Big Picture Press

An inspiring introduction to 20 adventurers and explorers from the last 700 years, all of whom inspired the author to go adventuring himself, including four years cycling around the world.

This book will encourage readers to live more adventurously, think a little more boldly and go a little further themselves.



Professor Astro Cat's Human Body Odyssey
Dr. Dominic Walliman, Illustrated by Ben Newman

Flying Eye Books

Everyone's favourite cat-astronaut investigates the human body in this beautiful, graphically illustrated look at everything from eyes to muscles, genetics to reproduction and the immune, endocrine and lymphatic systems.

The Professor and his chums conduct a jolly and exciting journey through the human body that's fascinating for all.

Age 10–11



Embassy of the Dead Will Mabbitt

Orion Children's Books

Staying alive has always come naturally to Jake, until the day he accidentally takes delivery of a severed finger and unleashes the wrath of the Grim Reaper...

Witty and creepy – but not too scary – this wacky adventure is packed with ghosts, grave robbers and gruesome beasts. A hilarious fright-fest!

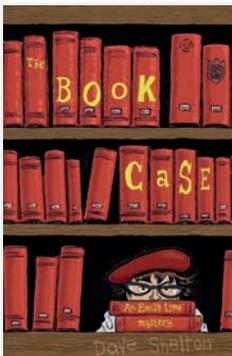


Suee and the Shadow Ginger Ly, Illustrated by Molly Park

Amulet Books

When Suee has to transfer school to lame Outskirtsville, the local kids don't get her quiet ways and black clothes. Yet when a shadow-girl attaches itself to her and refuses to let go, Suee, Haeun and Hyunwoo – the Zero Detective Club – investigate the matter further.

A delightfully dark and spooky graphic novel for younger readers.



The Book Case: An Emily Lime Mystery Dave Shelton

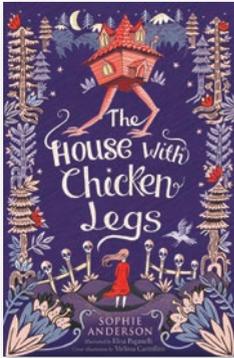
David Fickling Books

At St Rita's School for Spirited Girls, bookworm Daphne meets Emily Lime, the terse yet intriguing pupil Assistant Librarian – and immediately strange things start happening.

Loosely set in the 1930s – a bit like a funnier Famous Five or Secret Seven – this sniggeringly funny, totally deadpan book is a joy to read.



Age
10–11



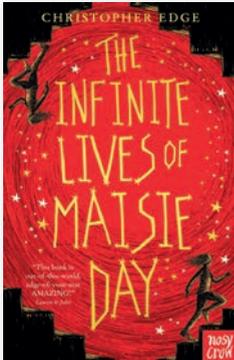
The House with Chicken Legs

Sophie Anderson, Illustrated by Elisa Paganelli

Usborne

Marinka's grandmother is a Yaga, someone who guides the dead through the Gate so they can make their way back to the stars they came from. Although she's expected to follow in her grandmother's footsteps, Marinka herself is desperate for a normal life.

Marinka's story is magical, delightfully macabre and utterly engrossing.



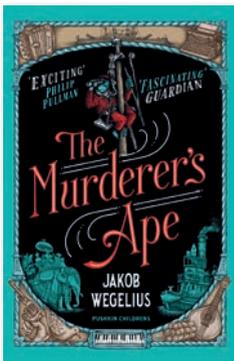
The Infinite Lives of Maisie Day

Christopher Edge

Nosy Crow

Maisie is no ordinary 10-year-old: she passed her maths GCSE at age 6 and is now studying for a degree. Yet on her birthday she finds that her family have disappeared and her house is being consumed by darkness.

A brilliant introduction to physics wrapped inside a great story.



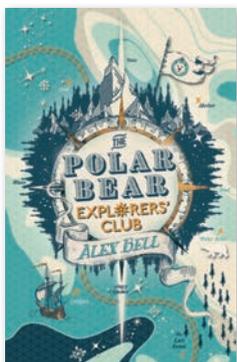
The Murderer's Ape

Jakob Wegelius, Translated by Peter Graves

Pushkin Children's Books

Sally Jones is an engineer and loyal friend to Captain Koskela. She's also an ape. When Koskela is falsely accused of murder, fado-singer Ana and a local music shop owner help Sally follow the clues to unravel the mystery.

A brilliant adventure, rich with multi-dimensional characters and a European setting full of warmth and community.

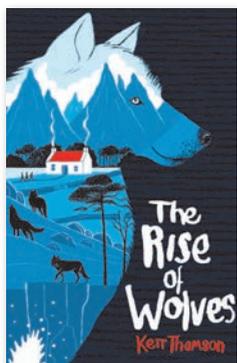


The Polar Bear Explorers' Club
Alex Bell, Illustrated by Tomislav Tomic

Faber & Faber

Stella's adoptive father, Felix, is a member of the Polar Bear Explorers' Club. Technically, girls aren't allowed to join the Club, but when the chance arises, Stella is determined to prove she can be as good an explorer as anyone.

Readers will be sucked into Stella's enchanting world for an unforgettable adventure.

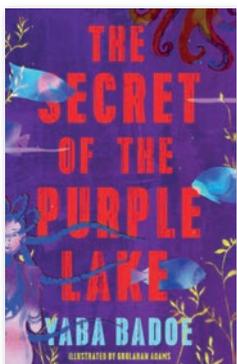


The Rise of Wolves
Kerr Thomson

Chicken House

When Innis spots a large, black wolf on his island home, he thinks he must be hallucinating. Wolves became extinct in Scotland centuries ago – didn't they?

This tale of conflict between ancient traditions and contemporary technology features a gripping plot, stunning setting, great characters, and an underlying theme of loyalty to family and friends.



The Secret of the Purple Lake
Yaba Badoe, Illustrated by Gbolahan Adams

Cassava Republic

Metamorphoses abound in this collection of interlinked folk tales – with strong, bold princesses and kind, loving princes transformed into birds, walruses and spirits of the sea.

With a truly global feel, these stories reach from Africa to the Orkney Islands, by way of Spain and Norway.



Age
10–11

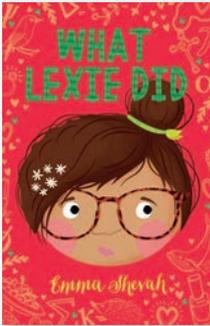


The Wizards of Once Cressida Cowell

Hodder Children's Books

Wish is a girl from a warrior tribe and Xar is a boy from a wizard tribe, living in a world loosely based on Iron Age Britain. Wish has a secret magical object that she'll do anything to hide – and Xar will do anything to get his hands on.

A fabulously imaginative, funny and unpredictable adventure.

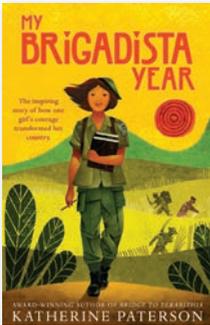


What Lexie Did Emma Shevah

Chicken House

Lexie lives in London with her huge Greek Cypriot family, but things get complicated when she's caught between telling the truth and lying – and what she decides to do ends up splitting her family apart. Can Lexie figure out how to bring them back together again?

Full of distinctive style, charming illustrations and heaps of thought-provoking moments.

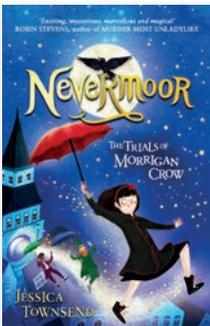


My Brigadista Year Katherine Paterson

Walker Books

In post-revolutionary Cuba, 13-year-old Lora volunteers to spend a year in the mountains teaching an illiterate family how to read and write. But the mountains are also home to vicious *bandidos*...

Based on real events, this is a fascinating look at a period of recent world history seen through the eyes of an idealistic young woman.

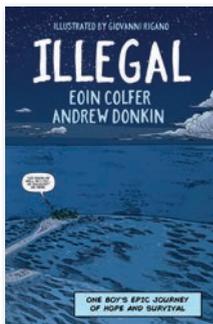


Nevermoor: The Trials of Morrigan Crow Jessica Townsend

Orion Children's Books

Morrigan Crow is blamed for every misfortune and destined to die on her eleventh birthday. But when the mysterious Jupiter North takes Morrigan to the magical world of Nevermoor, she enters the trials for membership of the Wondrous Society, with thrilling results.

A relatable main character with a pacy, fantastical plot keeps the pages turning.



Illegal

Eoin Colfer & Andrew Donkin, Illustrated by Giovanni Rigano

Hodder Children's Books

Ebo flees Africa in the hope of a better life in Europe, determined to find his family that have already left. But the boat he manages to find passage on is a small six-person rubber dinghy, now carrying 14 passengers.

An absolute must-read, this graphic novel is thought-provoking, profound, sensitive and totally gripping.



Kat Wolfe Investigates

Lauren St John

Macmillan Children's Books

Kat Wolfe loves her new home in idyllic Bluebell Bay, especially as it comes with a resident wildcat. But when she starts pet-sitting for pocket money, she finds that beneath the town's perfect surface lie some dark and dangerous secrets.

The first in a new adventure series by a very popular author.



Max and the Millions

Ross Montgomery

Faber & Faber

Ten-year-old Max feels like an outsider at St Goliath's. Then he makes a miraculous discovery – a tiny civilisation in the pile of sand, where three bickering tribes are nonsensically segregated according to hair colour.

A delightfully daft tale complemented by many subtle social comments about inequality, the abuse of power and the futility of war.



Brightstorm: A Sky-Ship Adventure

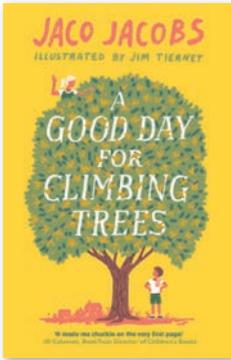
Vashti Hardy

Scholastic

Twelve-year-old twins Maudie and Arthur's world comes crashing down when their explorer dad is reported dead in his mission to get to South Polaris – and word has it that he stole fuel from his competitors before he died. Can they find out the truth, and restore honour to the Brightstorm name?

An unputdownable Victorian adventure with vivid characters that travels at lightning speed.

Age
10–11



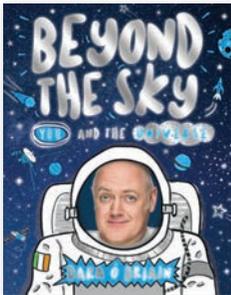
A Good Day for Climbing Trees

Jaco Jacobs, illustrated by Jim Tierney,
translated by Kobus Geldenhuys

Rock the Boat

Thirteen-year-old Marnus is tired of being overshadowed by his successful brothers. But when Leila shows up at their front door with a petition to save a tree, Marnus finds himself at the centre of an unexpected protest.

A perfect feel-good book that deftly handles issues around family life – as well as activism – with a light-hearted touch.



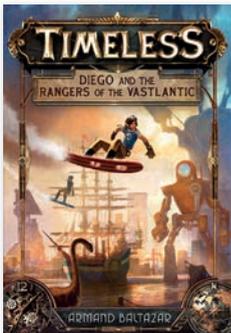
Beyond the Sky: You and the Universe

Dara Ó Briain, illustrated by Dan Bramall

Scholastic

Beginning with the question, 'So you want to go into space?', this book takes readers on a hilarious journey through the solar system and beyond.

Packed with fascinating facts covering fundamental scientific questions, Ó Briain's genuine love for science shines through, and his chatty, accessible style is perfectly complemented by the witty illustrations.



Timeless: Diego and the Rangers of the Vastlantic

Armand Baltazar

HarperCollins

Thirteen-year-old Diego Ribera has never known a world before the Time Collision; to him, it's natural for giant robots and hoverboards to exist alongside dinosaurs and steam-powered ships. His life, however, is about to get a whole lot more bizarre.

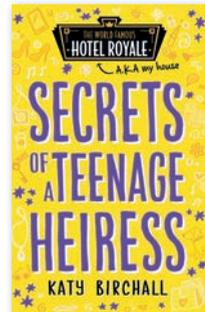
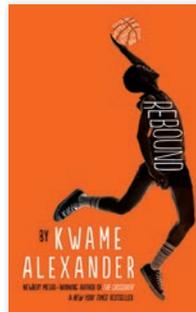
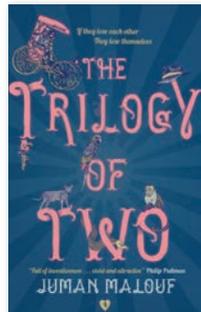
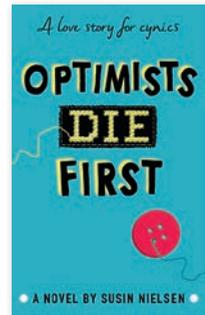
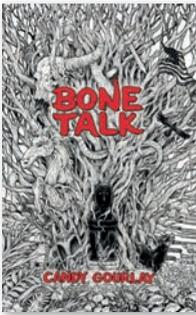
With rich and vibrant illustrations alongside amazingly detailed text, this book is something very special.

Age 12+

What's next?



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



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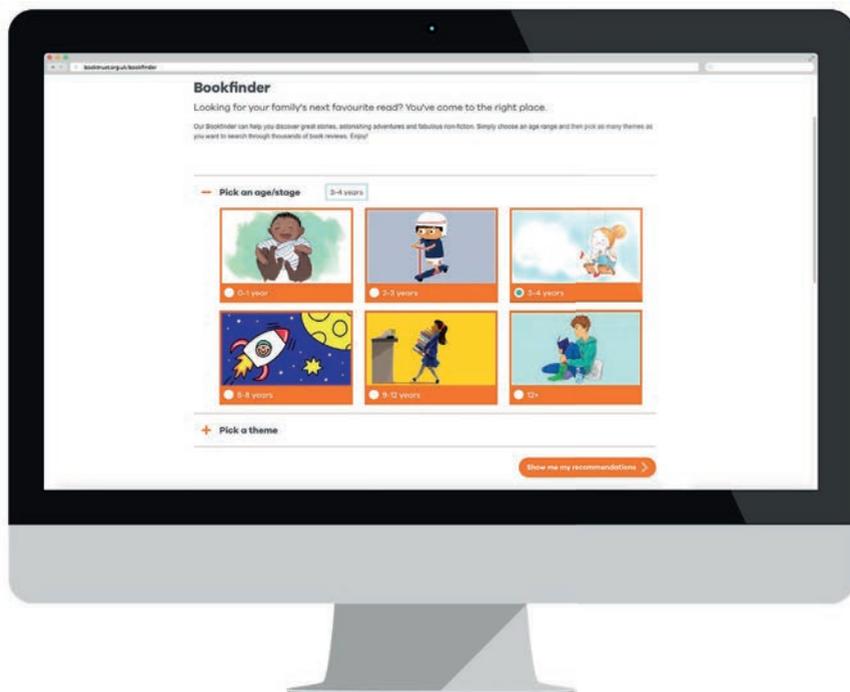
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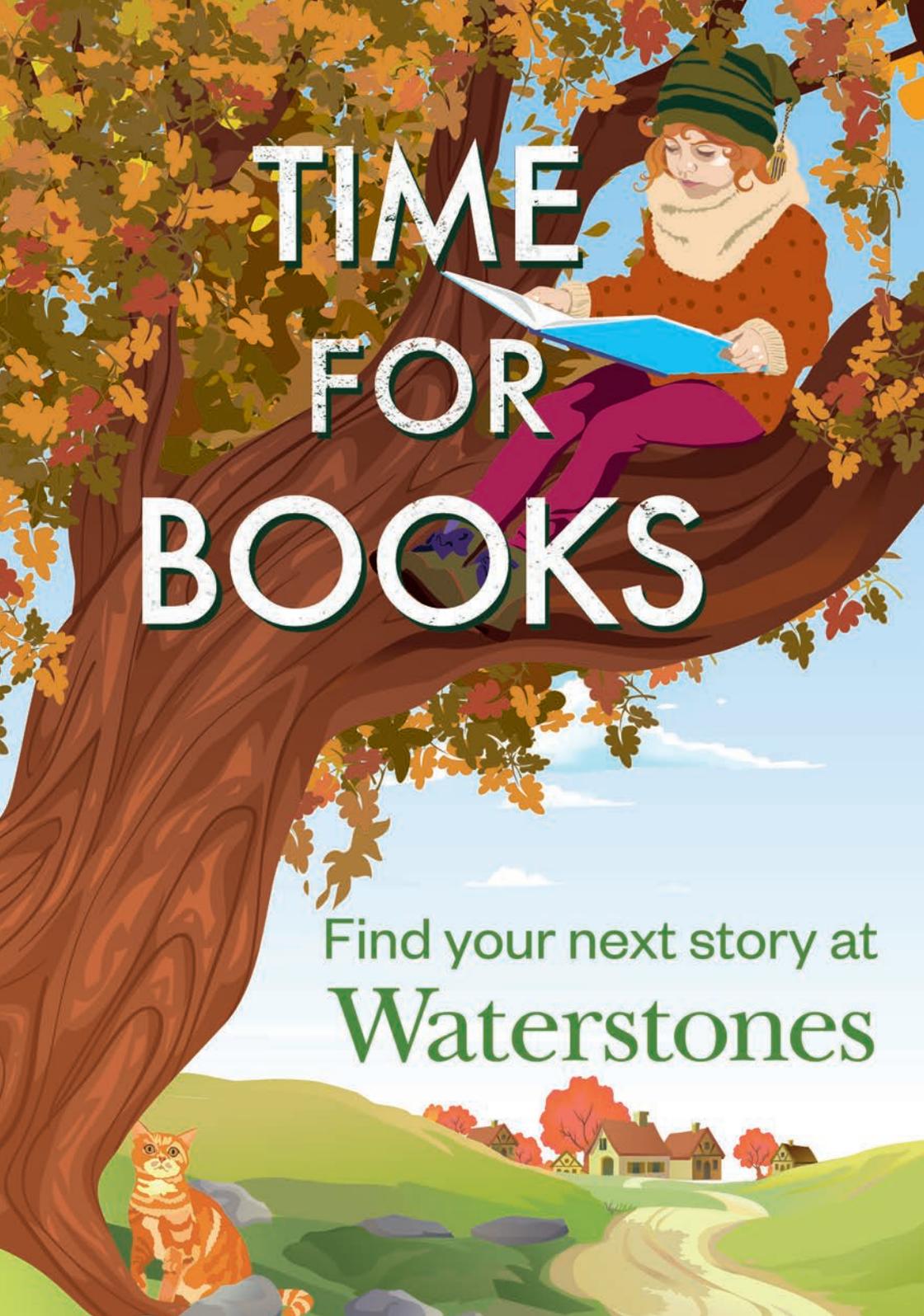
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A woman with red hair, wearing a green and white striped beanie, a white scarf, a brown sweater, and purple pants, is sitting in a large tree branch. She is reading a blue book. The tree has many yellow and orange leaves. In the background, there are rolling green hills, a dirt road, and a small village with houses and trees. An orange and white striped cat is sitting on the ground in the foreground.

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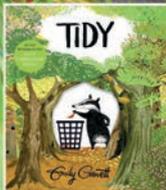
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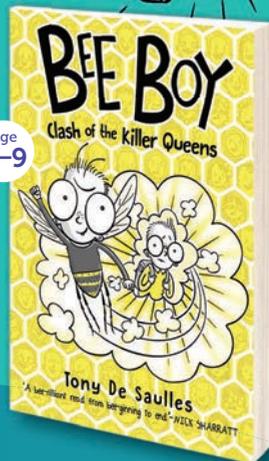
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Age
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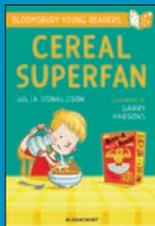


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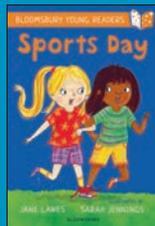
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