

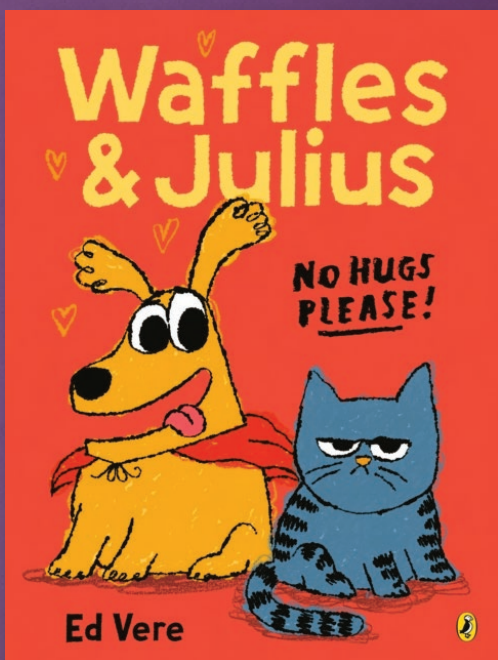


WIN
these
100
books!

Illustration ©Diane Ewen

BookTrust's Great Books Guide 2026–27

For reading for pleasure



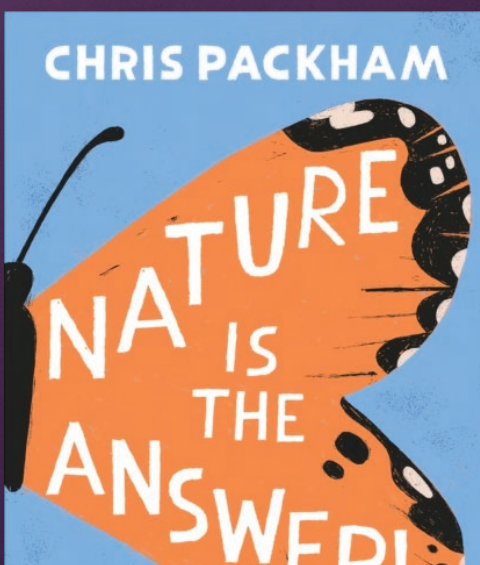
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Scan to
view the
selection!



Dear Colleague,

We are delighted to present BookTrust's Great Books Guide for 2026–27, a collection of 100 recently published children's books for reading for pleasure.

We hope this collection saves you and your staff time in choosing diverse and inclusive books for your school or to recommend to pupils and their families. It includes fiction, non-fiction, poetry, graphic novels and dyslexia-friendly stories across a variety of genres.

We've also included a poster to display to inspire children to try different genres of books to find what they like to read. Different genres offer children different types of reading experiences. This in turn allows them to have a variety of emotional experiences and wellbeing benefits.

To access more research, resources and upcoming webinars, visit our website: **booktrust.org.uk/primary**

Happy reading!

Rachel Boden and George Lewins
BookTrust Books Team

Scan the QR code
and sign up to our
mailing list to enter
the draw **to win all 100**
books in this guide!





Renaissance
Accelerated Reader



Discover more than 46,000
books on Accelerated Reader
at ARBookfind.co.uk

The books our quiz writers couldn't put down

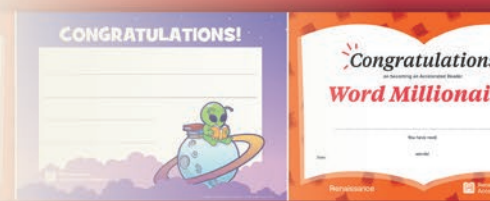
Discover the standout fiction and non-fiction books of the year as chosen by the expert team behind Accelerated Reader, a programme that has supported reading success for over 40 years.

Our quiz writers aren't just book lovers, they're reading experts, bringing decades of experience in children's literature, reading practice and quiz development. Last school year alone, they read and quizzed more than 1,150 titles, giving them a unique insight into the books that captivate children and young people.

Along the way, they make a note of the books that leave a lasting impression, resulting in an annual collection of exceptional titles known as the Quiz Writers' Choice Awards.

Scan the code to explore the winners of the 2026 Quiz Writers' Choice Awards and try the quizzes!

Plus! Classroom activities and certificates available for download!



Renaissance
See Every Student.

**GO
ALL
IN.**

Proud to support the National Year of Reading

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How to make the most of your Great Books Guide

1. Flip through the guide for a selection of books for students aged 4–11+.
2. Read the short synopsis and our expert review of the book. We have included the genre, themes and number of pages for each book.
3. Make your own shortlist by marking up your guide! ☒ Tick the box, circle the image or **highlight** the title – which books do you think your students will love?
4. Source your books from your preferred supplier.
5. Refer back to the guide whenever you need to refresh your book offerings!
6. Scan this QR code to enter to win all 100 of these books for your school.



About BookTrust

As the UK's largest children's reading charity, we want every child to read regularly and by choice. We reach millions of children and families every year, inspiring them with books and resources to get them started on their reading journey, offering focused support to children and families with low incomes and vulnerable family backgrounds.

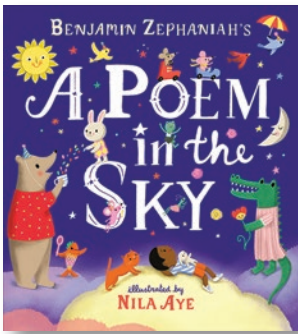
You can support us and our mission by getting involved today – fundraise, donate or share our tools and resources. By purchasing any book featured within this guide from Browns Books, you will be supporting us in our mission to get every child reading.

How genre supports different kinds of reading experiences

Helping children pick out a variety of books to read that they will like (scaffolding and supporting book choice) helps children explore diverse genres. This in turn allows them to have different kinds of emotional experiences and wellbeing benefits from reading.

Type of book	provides...	leading to...
Comedy	laughter, enjoyment	calmness, relaxation, positive mood (happiness, joy)
Fantasy and adventure	escapism, creativity, imagination, excitement	emotional security, problem-solving, resilience, empathy, comfort
Real-life books	self-reflection, deeper understanding	personal growth, empathy, self-awareness, social development
Non-fiction	intellectual stimulation, exploration of interests	curiosity, self-exploration

To read more about why book choice matters for children, visit booktrust.org.uk/choice



Picture book
32 pages

A Poem in the Sky

Benjamin Zephaniah,
illustrated
by Nila Aye
Hachette

Poetry
Creativity
Funny
Rhythm

*I see poems in your teeth / I see poems
in me cat.*

*There are poems underneath going
rata tat tat.*

*There are poems everywhere! In your
dreams, in outer space and even on
your nose!*

This brilliant poem by the late Benjamin Zephaniah and illustrated by Nila Aye is arranged perfectly so that the text fits to the turn of the page, creating a clever rhythm. The joyous positivity of the words will make any budding writer feel inspired too.



Picture book
32 pages

Monkeypig

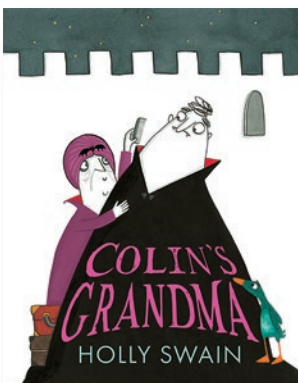
Huw Aaron
Puffin

Comedy
Animals
Inclusive
Jungle

Molly lives with all the other monkeys in the jungle, but Molly has a secret: she's a pig.

When a series of tests is announced to flush out an impostor in the community, Molly is nervous – but, despite not eating a banana the 'right' way and a disastrous attempt at swinging through the trees, it turns out that she's not the monkey impostor.

Huw Aaron's brilliantly funny picture book has a message about difference and acceptance. Smart, funny and thought-provoking.



Picture book
32 pages

Colin's Grandma

Holly Swain
Farshore

Comedy
Grandparents
Vampires

Colin the vampire and his best friend Duck live a peaceful, vegetarian life in their castle. But, when Colin's grandma (and her pet crocodile) come to stay, she has very different ideas about how vampires should live, and things start to get a little awkward.

Bravely, Colin stands up to his grandma and shows her that not all new things are bad. There's a sweet, funny and thought-provoking message here about being true to yourself and not conforming to other's expectations.



Picture book
32 pages

The Mushroom of Doom

Becky Davies,
illustrated by
Thomas Elliott

Little Tiger

Comedy

Food
Wordplay

Meet the Mushroom of Doom: the fiercest, meanest mushroom of all time; a mushroom who plans to take over the world, one kitchen at a time.

Yet, when Mushroom is rejected in favour of pineapple as a pizza topping, he decides to raise a mushroom army and take revenge.

Featuring a truckload of mushroom puns, witty twists and hilarious illustrations that will have you porta-bellowing with laughter, this is sure to be an instant hit with young readers.



Picture book
32 pages

We Are Dragons

John Condon,
illustrated by
Patrick Corrigan

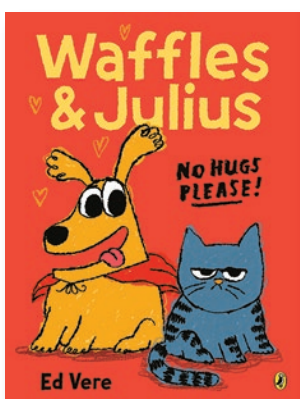
HarperCollins
Children's Books

Comedy

Adventure
Dragons
Fairy tales

Four happy dragons begin their day a little bored, but their day improves massively when they get involved in a race through the village, then end up dancing at the prince's royal ball, climbing up a mighty beanstalk to a giant's lair and onto a witch's house. Perhaps they will be a little sleepy after all their adventures...?

This charming picture book with a fun, bouncy rhyme references a number of well-known fairy tales, with plenty of colour and expression. Delightful!



Picture book
32 pages

Waffles and Julius: No Hugs Please!

Ed Vere

Puffin

Comedy

Consent
Friendship

Waffles the dog loves hugs, but Julius the cat definitely does not.

After a hug chase through the zoo, Waffles realises that not everyone is as pro-hugging as he is. Maybe being patient and giving Julius time and space is the key.

Like all of Ed Vere's work, this seemingly simple story conveys a depth of feeling that is perfectly pitched for young readers. It's a beautiful story that would serve as an excellent prompt for a PSHE lesson on friendship and boundaries.



Picture book
32 pages

We Can Be Mermaids

Lanisha Butterfield,
illustrated by
Raissa Figueroa

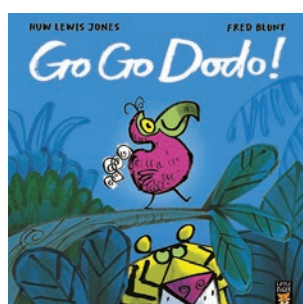
Hachette

Fiction

Fathers
Resilience
Sport

Five-year-old Silver loves swimming and the ocean: her dream is to become a mermaid. But on a trip to the local lido, Silver discovers that her dad can't swim. Silver is heartbroken until Dad comes up with a great solution.

This heartwarming story centres on a charming father-daughter bond. Silver is a delightful little girl who is passionate about the things and people she loves. The book gently encourages children to pursue their dreams, even when there are challenges.



Picture book
32 pages

Go Go Dodo!

Huw Lewis Jones,
illustrated by
Fred Blunt

Little Tiger

Comedy

Animals
Jungle

One evening, Dodo decides to go for a stroll through the gentle jungle. But what Dodo doesn't realise is that there's a tiger following behind...

A hilarious book that allows readers to spot something that the narrator and the main character haven't seen, which always delights young children. An entirely different story from the words read aloud is happening in the pictures.

Visually striking, funny and full of great expressions, fans of *Rosie's Walk* will enjoy sharing this book too.



Picture book
32 pages

Goldilocs

Ella McLeod,
illustrated by
Rochelle Falconer

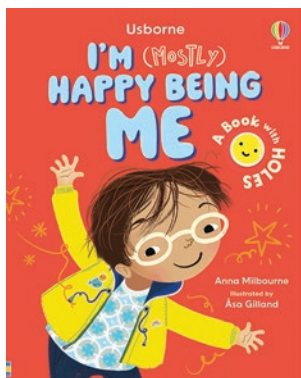
Scholastic

Comedy

Confidence
Fairy tale
Inclusive

Goldilocs is tired of being written as a porridge-stealer or a chair-breaker. In fact, there are only three options for a girl in Fairytale Land: witch, evil queen or princess. But which one is the best for a creative, go-getting girl?

With a message about being true to yourself and a recipe for Grandad's cornmeal porridge, this is a fun and rhyming book to read aloud, and there's even a repeated refrain to join in with.



Picture book
32 pages

I'm (Mostly) Happy Being Me

Anna Milbourne,
illustrated
by Åsa Gilland

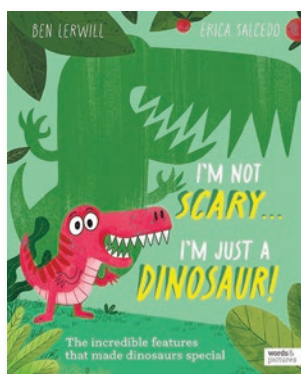
Usborne

Fiction

Feelings
Inclusive
Identity

A little boy notices that everyone else is good at things at school. Kai's great at drawing, Frankie's brilliant at football and Jakub tells the funniest jokes. Fortunately, his parents and classmates show him that everyone is different and wonderful in their own way – like pebbles on the beach.

This gentle, inclusive and diversely illustrated story might echo some young children's worries or concerns when they start nursery or school. Bright, characterful illustrations make for a super reassuring, positive read.



Picture book
32 pages

I'm Not Scary ... I'm Just a Dinosaur!

Ben Lerwill,
illustrated by
Erica Salcedo

Words
& Pictures

Non-fiction

Dinosaurs
Facts
Funny

Are you ready to meet some dinosaurs? This book will tell you why they're actually not that scary – and why they had those powerful legs, long necks and sharp teeth.

This informative picture book covers the most well-known dinosaurs and includes flying reptiles (pterosaurs) and the swimming Ichthyosaurus. There is a spread on each creature, with brief, basic information and fantastic illustrations.

A winning combination of facts, interactive actions and bright, friendly pictures. Perfect to share with young children.



Picture book
32 pages

Kid Rex to the Rescue

Mayo
Agard-Olubo,
illustrated by
Diane Ewen

Hachette

Comedy

Fathers
Imagination
Superheroes

Dino-loving Max knows everything there is to know about dinosaurs. In fact, his super dino knowledge has transformed him into the superhero Kid Rex.

With the help of his sidekick, Dino Dad, the little superhero needs to defeat the evil King Dust Bunny and return the residents of Toy Town safely to their homes – or, put simply, tidy up his room.

Kid Rex to the Rescue is a fun, comic-style story that celebrates imagination, with lots of wordplay.



Picture book
32 pages

Logan's Lantern

Lucy Tandon
Copp, illustrated
by Ya-Ling Huang
Bloomsbury
Children's Books

Fiction

Bravery
Festivals
Lunar New Year

It's Lunar New Year and Logan has made a dragon lantern to take to the festivities. However, when Logan realises that the dragon is scared of the dark, he suggests that they take everything step by step.

The story gently shows readers who might also feel wobbly about the dark that you can be brave just a few steps at a time, especially with a friend by your side. Beautiful and gently reassuring, with luminous illustrations – and a cute dragon.



Picture book
32 pages

Milo and the Mountain

Jamie Carroll
O'Brien Press

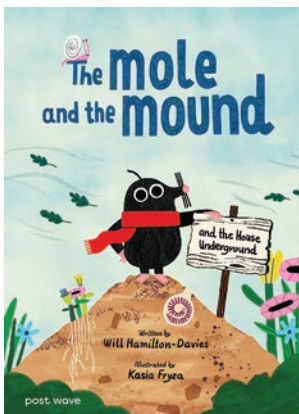
Fiction

Adventure
Community
Resilience

Milo lives beside the mountain and dreams of climbing it, but it's really huge and intimidating.

Then, one day, Milo's dad suggests he ask his friends for help. Can Milo climb the mountain with their support?

This is a joyful debut picture book that shows children it's a great idea to ask for help. The community of friends that support and encourage Milo up the mountain enables him to achieve his dream, even though it's tough. Beautiful and heartwarming.



Picture book
32 pages

The Mole and the Mound and the House Underground

Will
Hamilton-Davies,
illustrated by
Kasia Fryza

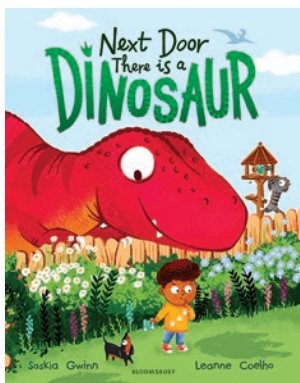
Post Wave
Children's Books

Comedy

Animals
Friendship

Mole is digging hard to make his mound, but Bird, Beaver and Bee aren't impressed. They've built excellent homes – a nest, a lodge and a hive. Yet, when a storm comes along, the other animals wonder whether the mound might be a good place to shelter...

This warm hug of a rhyming story depicts Mole as hardworking, diligent and kind. His gorgeous home – stylishly illustrated by Kasia Fryza – shows young readers that we mustn't judge by appearances. Charming!



Picture book
32 pages

Next Door There is a Dinosaur

Saskia Gwinn,
illustrated by
Leanne Coelho

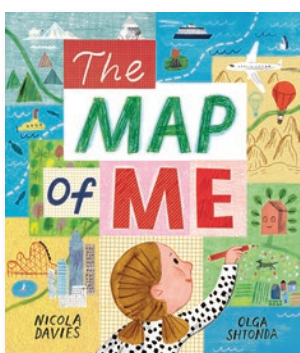
Bloomsbury
Children's Books

Comedy
Community
Dinosaurs
Rhyme

There's something about Mrs Shaw, the kind old neighbour from next door. Even though she's nearly 94, I think she owns a dinosaur!

On a normal street in a normal neighbourhood, none of the grown-ups believe that there could be dinosaurs roaming Mrs Shaw's house. However, children will love spotting the hidden dinosaurs and will feel involved as they point them out to the oblivious characters.

This is a fantastic picture book with a bouncing, rhythmic text and heaps of dinosaur fun.



Picture book
32 pages

The Map of Me

Nicola Davies,
illustrated by
Olga Shtonda

Templar

Fiction
Maps
Moving home
Resilience

A girl moves to a new country, away from everything she knows: being in the new place makes the girl feels lost.

Mum helps her daughter create a map of her new home, but the girl wants to add Grandma and Joe-Dog from back home. Making the map bigger helps her to understand that although there are whole countries between them, she is still connected to the ones she loves.

A sensitive and insightful book tackling the difficulties of separation and new places.



Picture book
32 pages

Super Uma!

Rashmi
Sirdeshpande,
illustrated by
Nakul P

Puffin

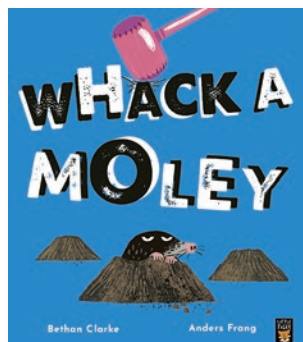
Fiction
Accessibility
Grandmothers
Neurodiversity

Uma the superhero lives in the colourful city of Sparkleopolis with her Nani and Chip, her unicorn sidekick.

However, when the trio discover that Sparkleopolis's fabulous colour and sparkle is fading, Nani, Uma and Chip must stop the fade in time for the annual Festival of Fun.

This energetic tale sensitively addresses the topic of sensory overload and accessibility, and the importance of making environments safe and happy for all.

Joyful South Asian representation and charming characters make this a wonderful read.



Picture book
32 pages

Whack a Mole

Bethan Clarke,
illustrated by
Anders Frang

Little Tiger

Comedy

Friendship
Rhyme

Goat and Mole want to play a game together. Goat suggests Whack a Mole or Stack a Mole, but Mole isn't keen. Equally, Goat doesn't want to have a sore bottom in Pin the Note-y on the Goat-y! Can the friends find a game they'll both enjoy?

This story about the art of compromise is full of puns and silly rhymes, with the important theme of making sure that your friend feels happy to play the game you want to play.



Picture book
32 pages

The Butterfly House

Harry Woodgate

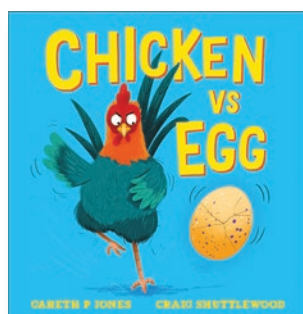
Andersen Press

Fiction

Community
Mental health
Nature

When Holly meets a lonely old lady in the house at the end of the road, she decides to help her create a garden that butterflies will love. But Miss Brown doesn't feel well enough to leave her house, so Holly enlists the neighbours to help. Will a beautiful garden entice Miss Brown out, as well as the butterflies?

Full of compassion and warmth, this lovely story celebrates community and empathy and explores theme of mental health in a compassionate way.



Picture book
32 pages

Chicken vs Egg

Gareth P. Jones,
illustrated
by Craig
Shuttlewood

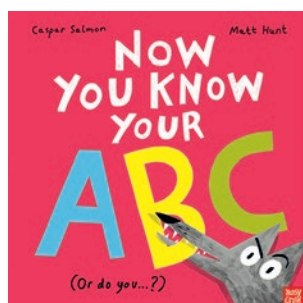
Andersen Press

Comedy

Animals
Farm

A race between a chicken and an egg might seem to have one obvious winner, but, as the race begins, all sorts of unexpected factors come into play, including a rogue fox, a lift from a heron and a helpful duck. Finally, there's everything to play for as the chicken and the egg reach the finish line – but what happens when the egg begins to hatch?

A brilliantly funny and fast-moving picture book featuring a lot of fun racing phraseology.



Picture book
32 pages

Now You Know Your ABC (or do you...?)

Caspar Salmon,
illustrated by
Matt Hunt

Nosy Crow

Comedy

Alphabet
Early learning

Are you ready to learn your ABC? A is for apple. B is for ball. C is for castle. But, oh no – instead of a dog for D, it's a wolf! Now D is for Danger! Can readers escape the wolf in this comic caper as they try to get through the entire alphabet?

Brilliantly illustrated in vibrant colour, this inventive and hilarious picture book invites the reader to take part in an anarchic alphabet adventure. Laughs guaranteed.



Picture book
32 pages

The Big Green

Ken Wilson-Max

Otter-Barry
Books

**Narrative
non-fiction**

Environment
Inspiring
Nature

Maryam and Issa live in Mali, at the edge of the Sahara Desert. It's too hot to run around, but the children are excited when their uncle arrives with a car full of plants.

Everyone gathers to plant seeds, and in a few months' time, life under the trees has started again.

Ken Wilson-Max's inspiring and heartfelt story is based on the planting of the Great Green Wall of Africa, an environmental project that aims to combat desertification and improve livelihoods.



Picture book
32 pages

The Wonder

Tom Percival

Simon & Schuster
Children's Books

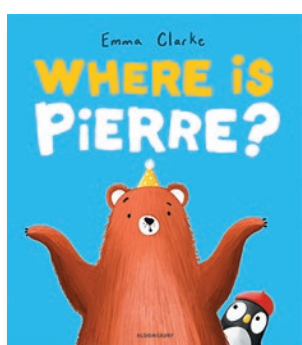
Fiction

Feelings
Mindfulness
Nature

Daniel is in a terrible mood: he knows it's going to be a bad day. No sooner does he think that than a bus goes by and splashes him.

But then, Daniel begins to notice the sweet sound of music, a beam of sunlight and other lovely things.

Readers will notice little things in the drawings, even on the pages where all seems gloomy. This book is about finding the small, quiet joys and noticing fleeting moments of loveliness.



Picture book
32 pages

Where is Pierre?

Emma Clarke

Bloomsbury
Children's Books

Comedy

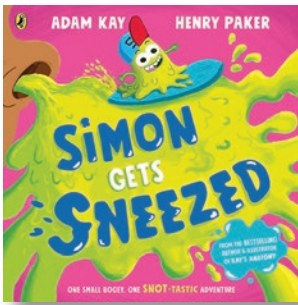
Hide-and-seek
Friendship

It's Bear's birthday: a day he wants to share with Pierre. But where is Pierre?

This very simple, very sweet interactive hide-and-seek book is irresistible.

Young children will enjoy searching for Pierre the penguin, who is on every spread – sometimes easy to spot, sometimes not.

The text is minimal, repetitive and rhyming, making it easy to read aloud and join in with. The cute illustrations are uncluttered, with just enough detail to hide Pierre a little, and with adorable animal characters.



Picture book
32 pages

Simon Gets Sneezed

Adam Kay,
illustrated by
Henry Paker

Puffin

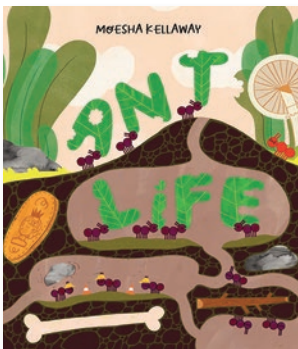
Non-fiction

Science
Funny
Human body

Simon – a piece of snot – lives with his mucus family in Phoebe’s left nostril.

Yet when Phoebe’s nose is threatened by a cloud of pollution, Simon gobbles up the fumes. Cat hair? Dust? Bacteria? All are no match for Simon as he bravely protects Phoebe from harm, all while avoiding her nose-picking habits!

This superbly playful book features plenty of snot-tastic grossness; it’s packed with one-liners, snot puns and quirky details to spot in the fun illustrations. Superb!



Picture book
32 pages

Ant Life

Moesha Kellaway

Rocket Bird
Books

Non-fiction

Animals
Minibeasts
Work

Anita is the only ant in the colony without a job.

She can’t decide what she wants to do: from nursery ants to guard ants, scout ants to farmer ants, there’s so much to choose from!

This book’s brilliant illustrations and combination of fact and fiction is immensely appealing. This would be fun to pore over together at home with an animal lover, and would be a useful book in the classroom to discuss the lives of ants.



Chapter book
114 pages

Fairytale Fiasco: Hansel and Gretel

Evgenia
Golubeva and
Myles McLeod

Mini Guppy

Fairy tale

Funny
Adventure
Magic

Cleo is sure that she’d never be fooled by an evil witch like Hansel and Gretel were, no matter how good a cottage tasted.

Yet when Cleo is magically transported into the fairy tale and has to get Hansel and Gretel to safety, she stumbles across a quaint little house made from gingerbread... Can kindly Aunt Waffle, the witch that owns the cottage, really be trusted?

An enjoyable contemporary twist on a traditional fairy tale.



Picture book
32 pages

Super Mega Tortoise

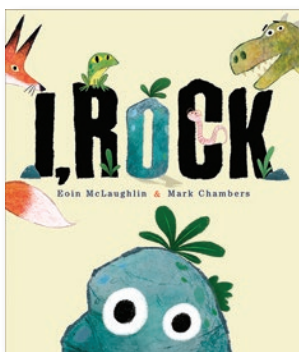
Gareth Hopkins,
illustrated by
Beatrice Blue

Andersen Press

Comedy
Friendship
Manga
Monsters

Super Mega Tortoise loves crushing cities and eating humans. Now it's up to Sakura, super maths whizz, to show him how to behave nicely.

This bright green tortoise has a lot to learn – and readers may recognise parallels in their own lives. No one wants to play with him if he destroys everything. But if he's friendly and kind, he can make friends. This message is delivered with a light touch, using a vibrant palette and a manga-inspired style of artwork.



Picture book
32 pages

I, Rock

Eoin McLaughlin,
illustrated by
Mark Chambers

HarperCollins
Children's Books

Comedy
Friendship
Geology
Science

All Rock wants is to celebrate his three billionth birthday with friends, but he starts to worry that nobody will come. Worm is too busy, and Rock hasn't seen Gary the Dinosaur for a very long time. Will his birthday turn out to be as lonely as he fears?

As well as enjoying Rock's deadpan delivery, readers learn a little about the geological history of the Earth and evolution in a playful, accessible way. A warm, witty and inventive picture book.



Picture book
32 pages

The Kingdom of Tigers

Felicity Yeoh,
illustrated by
Megan Snyders

Kumusha Books

Adventure
Animals
Habitat
Jungle

Hari the tiger lives in the Malaysian jungle, where stories tell of the ancient Kingdom of Tigers, a place of freedom and harmony. But human machines are destroying the forest, and when Hari is separated from his mother, he joins other animals on a journey to find the mythical kingdom.

With beautiful, rhyming text and vibrant illustrations, this sensitive story explores habitat loss, resilience and caring for the natural world, making it ideal for classroom discussion.



Chapter book
128 pages

**Star Kitties:
Detective Kitty
is on the Case!**

Laura Ellen
Anderson

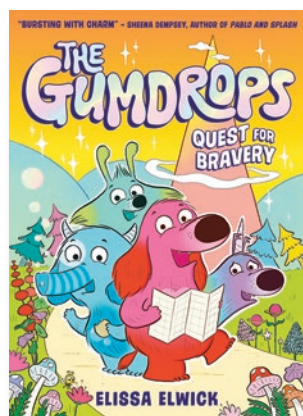
Farshore

Mystery
Animals
Magic

Tabitha Flair discovers that when she steps into the shed at the bottom of her garden, she is transported to the magical planet of Whiskery Paw, home of the Star Kitties.

However, Whiskery Paw is in disarray because Queen Moggaline has disappeared. Thankfully, Detective Kitty Purrlock Holmes is already on the case, although Tabitha begins to question his investigative methods...

An enchanting tale packed full of delightful two-colour illustrations, this is the first in a new series from the creator of *Amelia Fang*.



Graphic novel
96 pages

**The Gumdrops:
Quest for
Bravery**

Elissa Elwick

Little Tiger

Adventure
Magic
Friendship
Interactive

When the Gumdrops receive a letter from seven-year-old Daisy, they decide to make an ideal imaginary friend for her who can help her settle in to her new town. Yet finding all the special ingredients they need turns out to be a bit of a challenge, and readers are asked to help by solving puzzles, shaking the book and much more!

Bursting with colourful illustrations, this quirky comic-book tale is a superb celebration of imagination, creativity, fun and friendship.



Picture book
32 pages

Sorry, Sammy

Scott Rothman,
illustrated by
Tom Tinn-Disbury

Happy Yak

Comedy
Funny
Robots
Letters

Sammy is writing apology letters: he created a robot that went rogue, and now he's been sent to his room.

This picture book tells a very funny story in letter form, as Sammy says sorry to his mum, his teacher – and even the prime minister. Far from a po-faced morality tale, this has humour and a relatable child (who's also an inventor). Children will enjoy piecing together what happened from the cracking illustrations, with lots of detail to spot.



Picture book
40 pages

The Search for Our Cosmic Neighbours

Chloe Savage
Walker Books

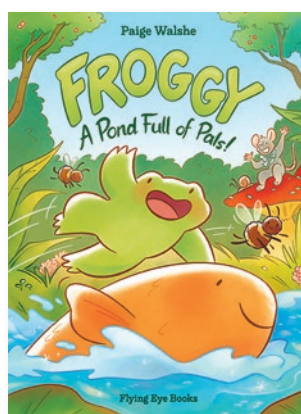
Sci-fi

Aliens
Science
Space

Commander Julia and her team of scientists have been exploring space for ten years in their ship, looking for other life forms and finding nothing. Yet when the ship's dog Khan goes missing, a tremendous discovery is made...

Chloe Savage's stunning picture book about the possibility of life on other planets is both an homage to the brilliant work of scientists that are studying space, and also a story about hope and teamwork.

A beautiful and heartwarming book.



Graphic novel
136 pages

Froggy: A Pond Full of Pals

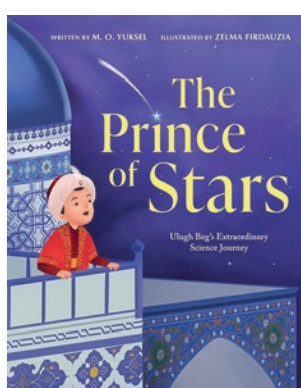
Paige Walshe
Flying Eye Books

Comedy

Friendship
Frogs
Adventure

The time has come for Froggy to make his own way in the world. He narrowly escapes some hungry birds, plays a pivotal role in a bee romance, and even meets a wizard who wants to incorporate Froggy into his potion...

Each short chapter features a mini adventure, making this a great book for reluctant readers and those who are developing their reading stamina. Silly, imaginative and with friendship firmly at its core, this quirky and colourful graphic novel is full of humour.



Picture book
32 pages

The Prince of Stars: Ulugh Beg's Extraordinary Science Journey

M. O. Yuksel,
illustrated by
Zelma Firdauzia

Red Shed

Non-fiction

Astronomy
Facts
Historical

As a young boy in the 15th century, the prince of the Timurid Empire, Ulugh Beg, gazed at the night sky in fascination.

In his later life, Ulugh Beg built an incredible observatory and a new university. He was a mathematical pioneer, and his achievements laid a foundation for future discoveries about our universe.

Ulugh Beg's contributions to maths and science are not as widely known as they should be and this book is an excellent celebration of his life and achievements.



Picture book
32 pages

Super Goat Girl

Tracey Baptiste,
illustrated by
Dapo Adeola

Puffin

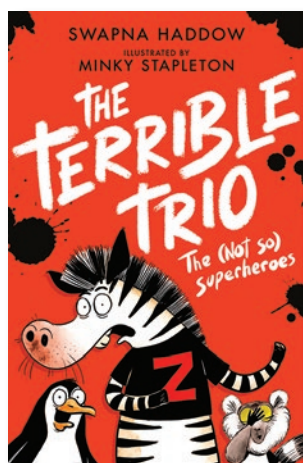
Comedy

School
Superheroes

Surrounded by classmates with impressive superpowers and fancy hero costumes, Super Goat Girl worries that she doesn't measure up to the others.

Yet when chaos strikes, it soon becomes clear that Super Goat Girl's unique skills are exactly what's needed to save the day.

This exciting comic-book-style tale, complete with speech bubbles and other fun features, gently tackles the difficulties of impostor syndrome and encourages young readers to find joy in who they are and what makes them special.



Graphic novel
192 pages

The Terrible Trio: The (Not So) Superheroes

Swapna Haddow,
illustrated by
Minky Stapleton

Scholastic

Comedy

Animals
Superheroes

Zeb the zebra, Barry the lemur and Margarine the penguin meet in the queue to be given superpowers. Unfortunately, Barry gets the power to write neatly, Margarine can make macaroni and cheese, and Zeb can... blend in with a zebra crossing.

If the trio can act like real superheroes, though, they might become rich and famous – therefore, stopping an evil crocodile from breaking out of prison seems like a good plan. But will it work?

A brilliantly funny graphic-novel-style story with black-and-white illustrations.



Chapter book
128 pages

Wands Away! Learning to Fly

Emma Farrarons

Simon & Schuster
Children's Books

Fantasy

Magic
School
Witches

Ramona Spellstar is excited to be joining Wands Away School of Magic. She can't wait to begin her lessons and learn to fly.

But Ramona begins to have doubts. What if she can't do magic? And what if she doesn't make any friends?

This is a perfect tale for children who may be embarking on a new experience, such as starting school or a new club.

The short chapters give natural reading breaks, making it ideal for emerging readers.



Graphic novel
64 pages

The Spectacular Space Loop

Javi De Castro

Flying Eye Books

Sci-fi

Flip book
Interactive
Space

When Cosmo's new jetpack explodes in a test, he's stranded in space, beginning a thrilling, wacky adventure full of aliens, magic and mysterious egg-shaped creatures.

This innovative graphic novel is designed so that the reader reaches the end of the book when only halfway through the story, only to flip it over and read it again, upside down. Told in dialogue, this is a superbly entertaining story, with the pictures cleverly drawn so that the scene is different when upside down.





Large colour
non-fiction
64 pages

The Fact-Finders Ocean

Tracey Turner,
illustrated by
Gillian Reid

DK

Non-fiction

Habitats
Nature
Ocean

Guided by Shelly and her friend Bubbles the shark, readers are taken on a journey through various underwater environments and habitats, meeting incredible creatures and learning mind-blowing facts along the way about biomes, the water cycle and evolutionary adaptations.

This book is instantly appealing with bright, friendly illustrations and a super accessible comic-style format which is perfect for reluctant readers. The content is well pitched and is broken up into bite-sized chunks, captions and infographics that children can enjoy at their own pace.



Poetry
80 pages

A First Book of Bugs

Simon Mole,
illustrated by
Adam Ming

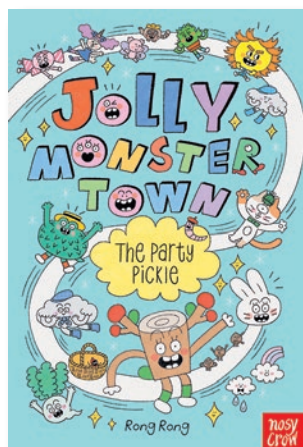
Walker Books

Non-fiction

Bugs
Minibeasts
Rhyme

In this beautifully illustrated book, readers will learn about bugs and minibeasts as diverse as African driver ants, goliath tarantulas, potato bugs and dragonflies.

The focus of this book is to demystify insects and encourage young readers to love them, rather than fear them or find them yucky. Each bug profile is written as a poem on a colourfully illustrated double-page spread, meaning that young readers are given some useful information as well as creative language and, often, a rhyme.



Graphic novel
112 pages

Jolly Monster Town: The Party Pickle

Rong Rong

Nosy Crow

Comedy

Friendship
Kindness
Sleepovers

Twiggy the log monster is hosting a sleepover. She thinks she can organise it all by herself, but has a few mishaps. Can her friends lend a hand?

This highly illustrated chapter book is full of fun. Readers will love poring over each page to spot details – especially the map at the beginning. The monster characters are cute and quirky, and children may recognise themselves in Twiggy, who eventually learns to ask for help when she needs it.



Picture book
32 pages

The Dangerous Pet Lover's Guide to Sea Monsters

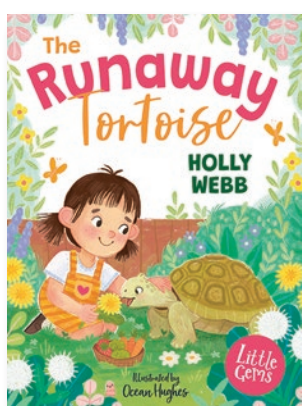
Lindsay Hirst,
illustrated by
Alice McKinley

Bloomsbury
Children's Books

Comedy
Monsters
Pets

This quirky guide to having a pet sea monster speaks directly to the reader and is practical and helpful, encouraging children to think about the responsibilities of owning a pet.

But as the pet in question is a sea monster, the tone is tongue-in-cheek. Warnings about the volatile nature of the sea monster are peppered throughout the text, which add to the humour. The vibrant illustrations are full of action and detail, but the monsters are still cute and appealing.



Dyslexia-friendly
chapter book
104 pages

The Runaway Tortoise

Holly Webb,
illustrated by
Ocean Hughes

Barrington Stoke

Everyday life
Adventure
Family
Pets

Ava finds her 45-year-old tortoise, Albert, really boring. He doesn't do much and he's not even cuddly. But when her aunt's dog scares Albert into running away, Ava realises how much she loves him. Can Ava and her dad find Albert before he gets into real danger?

A perfect chapter book for new readers, which is printed in dyslexia-friendly font and on a dyslexia-friendly paper. The chapters are short, with some facts about Sulcata tortoises on the inner cover.



Chapter book
64 pages

Salty Dog and Pals: The Storm and Other Stories

Helen Stephens,
Illustrated by
Katie Chappell

Walker Books

Adventure
Animals
Friendship
Short stories

Salty Dog, Kitty the cat and Bernard the duck live in an upside-down boat by the sea. Join the adorable friends as they fly a kite – with more flying than anticipated – are scared by a knock on the door during a storm, have an extravagant bathtime, and get involved in knitting.

Having four short stories in one volume gives young readers a chance to read a whole story without being intimidated, and these little adventures are appealing and warm. Lovely!



Picture book
32 pages

Magpie and the Sparkling Words

Lucy Rowland,
illustrated
by Craig
Shuttlewood

Templar

Everyday life

Birds
Language
Sharing

Magpie loves words and takes all the best ones for herself. Into her nest go 'blossoming' and 'playful' and 'rustling' – and many more. But then the wood falls silent and a storm destroys her nest. The stolen words 'hurtle', 'cascade' and 'billow' down to the ground, and Magpie realises that words are for everyone to share.

Written by a children's speech and language therapist, this is intended to spark interest in words and language, all through a gentle story about sharing.



Picture book
40 pages

The Future Book

Mac Barnett,
illustrated by
Shawn Harris

Simon & Schuster
Children's Books

Comedy

Future
Surreal

There are lots of strange things to learn about the future. For example, the sun is called 'the moon', the moon is called 'the sun', and people don't say goodbye – instead, they say, 'You smell like a baby.'

Many other amazing facts are featured within this book, alongside beautiful and surreal illustrations of humans with green fish on their heads.

This would be great to read with a whole class and could stimulate many hilarious discussions about the future.



Chapter book
192 pages

Captain Sunshine

Alex Milway

Piccadilly Press

Adventure

Animals
Holidays
Teamwork

Bella is setting sail as the new captain of the Sunshine! The ship is packed with animal passengers, ready to enjoy their cruise. But Bella and her crew discover that a rival ship wants to sabotage their voyage. Can they outwit the sneaky sailors and prove that their ship is the best on the seas? It will take teamwork, kindness – and a singing capybara!

The multi-talented Alex Milway brings us another sweet adventure packed with animal antics and colourful illustrations.



Large colour
non-fiction
40 pages

Cities Going Wild – To Save the Planet

Catherine Barr,
illustrated by
Christiane Engel

Otter-Barry
Books

Non-fiction
Environment
Nature

By 2050, two-thirds of people on Earth will probably be living in a city, so bringing nature back into cities is increasingly important.

In this informative book, readers will discover real-life examples from across the world, such as pangolin pathways, water snake wetland parks and lizard railway station roofs.

With suggestions for how children can add to the greenery where they live, this is a truly inspiring book. A must for every school book corner or library.



Novel
144 pages

The Elementals: Wanzu Sets Sail

Love Ssega,
illustrated by
Erika Meza

Little Tiger

Adventure
Animals
Friendship
Magic

Adventure-hungry Wanzu lives with his grandma on the island of Sealand, where inhabitants possess elemental magical powers. However, Wanzu has not yet discovered which power he has.

When a storm threatens the island, Wanzu and his friends venture over land and sea to gain the wisdom of animals and to use it to save their home. Can the adventurers save Sealand from the floods?

A perfect choice for newly independent readers who love animals, and a great option for fans of *Moana*.



Novel
128 pages

Animagicals: Mia's Tiger

Paula Harrison,
illustrated by
Erwin Madrid

Nosy Crow

Adventure
Animals
Magic
School

When Mia discovers that she can change into animal form, she is invited to attend Wild Haven boarding school in Animagia. Here, Mia will learn to hone her magical skills so that she can protect animals from harm.

Yet, when Mia uncovers a plot to smuggle someone into Animagia, she and her new friends take matters into their own hands.

This exciting magical adventure centres around kindness, friendship and animal welfare, with just the right level of jeopardy for junior readers.



Graphic novel
256 pages

Unfairies

Huw Aaron
Puffin

Comedy

Fairies
Fantasy
Friendship

Fairies are actually treacherous, backstabbing creatures. And Pip is the most annoying, inquisitive and impatient fairy. When the winter food stores in the fairy fortress turn mouldy, Pip stumbles into a variety of perilous but hilarious situations.

Unfairies is a rollercoaster ride of high-energy hilarity and anarchic chaos. The bold and vibrant illustrative style works perfectly with the humour, and there are tons of details to look out for, maps to pore over, and action scenes to enjoy.



Graphic novel
224 pages

Chicken Hill: Attack of the Zombie Cactus

Becky Blake

Bloomsbury
Children's Books

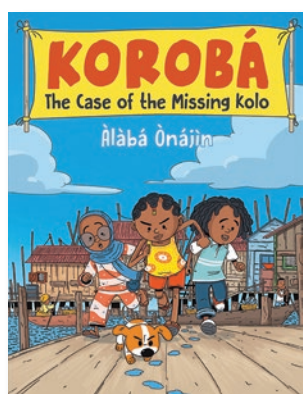
Comedy

Aliens
Short stories
Zombies

Ferdy – inventor extraordinaire and explorer of all things weird – lives in Chicken Hill, home to conspiracy theorist cats and farting pugs.

Readers will enjoy three of Ferdy and his gang's brilliantly bonkers adventures in this lively, bright and zany graphic novel. Expect alien invasions, zombie cactuses and underwater antics with warty frogs!

Blake's lively artwork bursts with personality and *Chicken Hill* is packed with expressive characters, dynamic action, a bright colour palette and heaps of comic details to spot.



Graphic novel
144 pages

Korobá: The Case of the Missing Kolo

Àlábá Ònájì

Scallywag Press

Mystery

Around the World
Crime
Friendship

In the bustling fishing village of Makoko, on the coast of Nigeria, Korobá and her friends are excited for the Harvest Festival. They've been saving up for months, filling up their kolo boxes with coins and notes which they'll break open on the special day to spend on treats.

However, days before the festival, Korobá's friend's kolo box goes missing. The friends leap into action, following clues to track down the thief.

An excellent choice for mystery fans and graphic novel enthusiasts.



Graphic novel
208 pages

Pets Tell Tales: Ancient Egypt

Rik Worth,
illustrated by
Jordan Collver

Wren & Rook

Non-fiction

Ancient
civilisations
Myths and
legends

Manny the ibis takes the reader on a tour of the history, myths and customs of the ancient Egyptians – and shows how important animals were.

From the myth of a goose creating the world to sacred scarab beetles and beloved pet cats, animals played a large role in everyday life thousands of years ago.

Jokes and energetic black-and-white illustrations complement the funny text perfectly: an engaging introduction to ancient Egypt, packed with information. Perfect for children who are visual learners.



Graphic novel
208 pages

Tiny Hercules

Jon Lock,
illustrated by
Nich Angell

Macmillan
Children's Books

Comedy

Ancient
civilisations
Funny
Mythology

Tiny Hercules usually lives on Tiny Mount Olympus. Unfortunately, Tiny Hercules has annoyed Tiny Zeus one too many times, and he's banished to the land of the Titans (the human world).

There, he crashes into Jeff's life, tries to defeat a 'lion' (Jeff's cat) and complete an epic quest. Then Tiny Zeus appears, disguised as a swan. Will Tiny Hercules prevail?

Packed with jokes and puns, and exploding with action, this should grab the attention of any reader.



Large colour
non-fiction
48 pages

Diagnosis Detectives: Tummy Trouble

Ben Elcomb,
illustrated by
Terri Po

Flying Eye Books

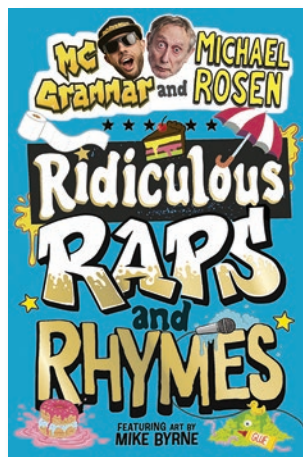
Non-fiction

Funny
Human body
Science

One day Sophia begins to feel a bit unwell. What's causing this illness, and who can help her recover?

Luckily, Philly the Neutrophil, Tia the T-cell, Buddy the B-cell and Mo the Monocyte are on hand to ensure that any nasty viruses or bacteria will be destroyed.

Diagnosis Detectives explains how the immune system works in a fun and informative way. Complemented superbly by brilliant illustrations, the inside of the body is brought to life in an engaging and immersive read.



Poetry
240 pages

Ridiculous Raps and Rhymes

Michael Rosen and MC Grammar, illustrated by Mike Byrne
Gallery Kids

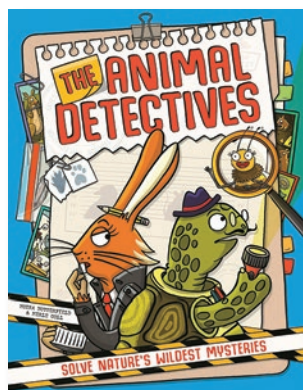
Poems

Funny
Rap
Rhyme

Join Michael “The Mic” Rosen and MC Grammar on an epic rhyming journey, with verses on a range of subjects from the uplifting ‘Better Together Rap’ to the sensationally silly ‘Who Did the Poo in the Loo? (at the zoo)’ poem.

Rosen’s signature humour complements MC Grammar’s more modern style, and they combine to make verses that just beg to be read aloud.

Funny black-and-white illustrations from Mike Byrne add character and humour, making the book feel even more accessible.



Large colour non-fiction
96 pages

The Animal Detectives: Solve Nature's Wildest Mysteries

Moira Butterfield, illustrated by Merle Goll
Boxer Books

Non-fiction

Funny
Nature
Interactive

Join hare and tortoise detectives Harriet Whiskerton and Vince Van Shell as they investigate suspicious animal behaviour. The detectives gather clues, interview suspects and finally reveal the culprits.

This is an innovative, engaging way of presenting animal facts. The main characters use real detective tools, such as crime-scene ‘photos’, suspect line-ups, evidence collections and more, to solve the crime.

The text has a chatty tone, with speech bubbles throughout, conveying a lot of bite-size facts alongside the colourful, cartoon-like illustrations. Immense fun.



Dyslexia-friendly chapter book
80 pages

The Accidental Vikings

Karen McCombie, illustrated by Anneli Bray
Barrington Stoke

Adventure

Historical
Adventure
Friendship

Alfie and Kat are on a school trip to a Viking museum when the models around them suddenly come to life. Kat thinks they’re being pranked for a TV show, but after a few days of weaving and feeding chickens, the children realise they’ve time-travelled back to an actual Viking village.

This time-travelling adventure packs many facts about Viking life into a slim volume. Presented in a dyslexia-friendly format, with space around the text and illustrations throughout, this is a very readable adventure.



Novel
256 pages

The Last Journey

Stacy Gregg,
illustrated by
Suzie Mason

Simon & Schuster
Children's Books

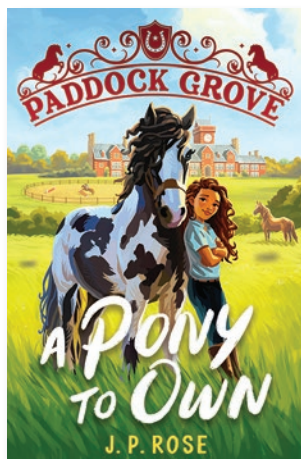
Adventure

Animals
Mystery

Something is killing birds, which means insect numbers are rising, causing plagues that destroy crops and threaten the food supply. The government is blaming cats and plans to euthanise them.

Enter Pusskin – a cat with a destiny. Pusskin knows he must lead his friends to sanctuary, but what if it's not as safe as they hope?

With elements of the supernatural, help from unlikely places and even a police car-chase, this animal-centred story is full of drama, love and loyalty.



Novel
240 pages

Paddock Grove: A Pony to Own

J.P. Rose

Walker Books

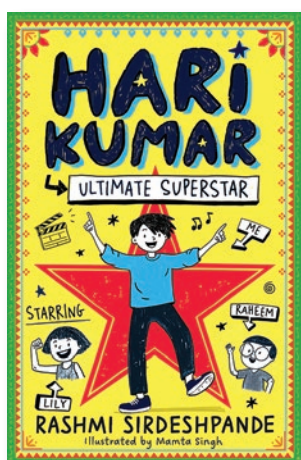
Everyday life

Animals
Friendship
School

George is thrilled to start at Paddock Grove, a specialist boarding school that runs an elite equestrian programme.

However, her horse, Bear, is a pony with a knack for looking scruffy. The minute George arrives at her new school, the mean girls start to make fun of her and Bear: luckily, there are some friendly faces. Can George and Bear survive in the super-competitive atmosphere?

An absorbing story of how the power of kindness and friendship can help to overcome bullying.



Novel
240 pages

Hari Kumar: Ultimate Superstar

Rashmi
Sirdeshpande,
illustrated by
Mamta Singh

HarperCollins
Children's Books

Everyday life

Friendship
Neurodivergence
School

Ten-year-old Hari Kumar is autistic, has ADHD and dreams of becoming a Bollywood superstar.

When Hari learns about a school film competition, he's determined to win. Will Hari be able to put distractions aside and focus on what really matters?

The journal format of this entertaining novel gives readers direct insight into Hari's thoughts and feelings, helping them to see the world through his unique, neurodiverse lens. Full of warmth and humour, the tale is accompanied by lively, doodle-like drawings throughout.



Novel
192 pages

Koalas in Capes: The Zombie Chickens

Terrie Chilvers,
illustrated by
David O'Connell

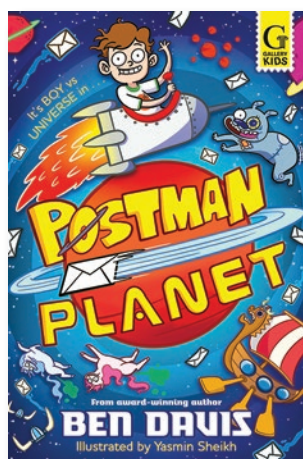
Nosy Crow

Adventure

Animals
Funny
Superheroes

Best friends koalas Bob and Archie have recently learned that they have superpowers and are keen to embark on their first mission to save the world. Will they be able to stop supervillain Dr Colossus taking over Pawtonia?

A witty narrative, silly plot and larger-than-life characters will have junior readers hooked from the start. A map at the beginning of the book will help children to visualise the setting of Pawtonia, while the black-and-white illustrations throughout add extra humour and entertainment.



Novel
160 pages

Postman Planet

Ben Davis,
illustrated by
Yasmin Sheikh

Gallery Kids

Comedy

Action
Aliens
Space

Postman Planet is a hero. He delivers post to the scariest, most dangerous places in the galaxy – and he's a 9-year-old boy. But now Postman Planet been forced to team up with Stamp, a part-robot part-dog, who is a stickler for the rules. Together, can they save the Planet of Fluffy (farting) Unicorns and defeat the Space Vikings?

This is the first in a series of madcap adventures, featuring asides to the reader, lots of jokes and silliness, and many action-tastic illustrations. Brilliant!



Novel
240 pages

Cobweb

Sir Michael
Morpurgo,
illustrated by
Michael Foreman

HarperCollins
Children's Books

Adventure

Animals
Historical
War

Cobweb is a puppy with a gift for herding animals, blissfully unaware of the war raging in Europe.

As the fighting with Napoleon draws to a close, Cobweb is sent to London to be a drover's dog, witnessing the impact of the war and the consequences that come with the final victory.

A dog's-eye view of the world is firmly at the centre of this life-affirming tale, based on a true story and set in Britain in 1815. Powerful, moving and absorbing.



Novel
256 pages

Will Shakespeare Mysteries: The Stinky Stolen Toenails

Kaz Penney,
illustrated by
Sammy Elgie

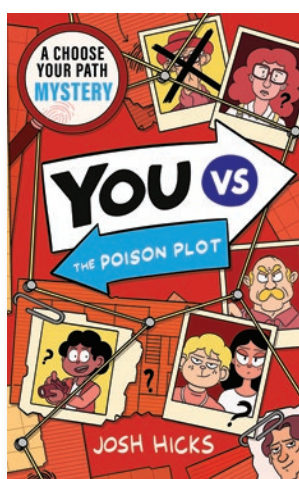
Andersen Press

Mystery

Funny
Historical

Young Will Shakespeare is bored of his dull life with his family in Stratford-upon-Avon, and is determined to become the greatest person-who-solves-crimes in the world. Therefore, when a bag of Henry VIII's old toenails is stolen, Will and his best friend Tybalt embark on a quest to find the thief.

This rip-roaring Elizabethan adventure is bursting with revolting, hilarious escapades. Packed full of energetic drawings, historical facts also give readers a glimpse of what it may have been like to live in this era.



Novel
224 pages

YOU vs The Poison Plot

Josh Hicks
Walker Books

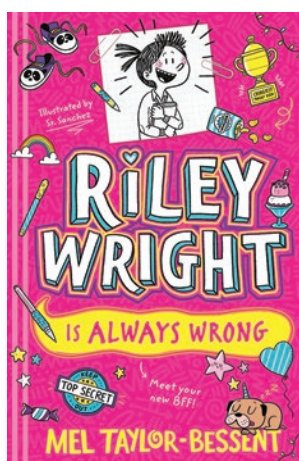
Mystery

Choose your own
adventure
Crime
School

In this gloriously interactive book, readers find themselves embroiled in an intricate mystery involving a poisoned teacher in the build-up to the school talent show.

As the school's leading investigative journalist, the reader must make the right decisions to crack the case. There are heaps of clues to gather and characters to profile as readers explore the mystery, with plenty of divergent paths and avenues of investigation to pursue.

Perfect for reluctant readers and fans of choose-your-own-adventure books.



Novel
160 pages

Riley Wright is Always Wrong

Mel
Taylor-Bessent,
illustrated by
Sr. Sanchez

Farshore

Everyday life

Friends
Funny
School

Riley Wright is determined to blend in when she joins Heverton Junior School in Year 4: most of all, this means ensuring that no one finds out her dad is the new head teacher.

Unfortunately, Riley's plans are derailed on day one, and her embarrassment escalates when Dad announces in assembly that he's running a talent contest.

Important topics are explored with a light touch in this wonderful diary style book, such as starting a new school, making friends and dealing with bullies.



Novel
240 pages

Kid Potato

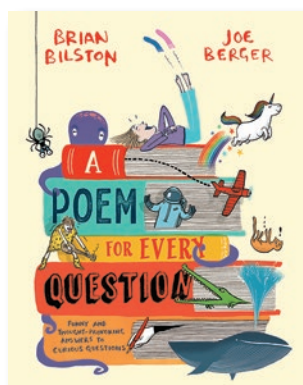
Neil Coslett
Hachette

Comedy
Adventure
5 stories in 1

Meet Kid Potato, who lives with Ollie the dog in stinky Chudland, famous for its doughnut hole factory and clown burial ground.

This hilarious book contains five wacky stories, including a story about Kid Potato's Gran battling an out-of-control robotic toilet.

The large-format text is accompanied throughout by boisterous black-and-white line drawings, which add humour and plenty of visual interest for children to explore. This riotous collection for junior readers is packed full of revolting humour, daft plots and outlandish characters.



Poetry
144 pages

A Poem for Every Question

Brian Bilston,
illustrated by
Joe Berger

Red Shed

Poems
Facts
Funny
Rhyme

Children sometimes need answers to truly important and fundamental questions like: what is inside a tennis ball? Why do we fart? Is zillion a real number?

This book answers 100 curious questions just like these, each with a funny poem from the brilliant brain of Brian Bilston and a full-page illustration by Joe Berger.

The quirky facts and punchy puns on each spread would make this a great book to read aloud in classrooms whenever there is a free moment in the day.



Poetry
128 pages

The Poetry World of John Agard

John Agard,
illustrated by
Shirley Hottier

Otter-Barry
Books

Poems
Funny
Inclusive
Rhyme

This book brings together a collection of 80 of John Agard's poems for younger children, including classics such as 'I Din Do Nuttin' and 'Hurry-Hurry Mek Bad Curry'.

Over the decades John Agard has brought sayings and words from the Caribbean Creole of Guyana, where he was born, into the classroom. He paved the way for a more inclusive world where everyone is welcome.

A masterful collection of wonderful poems that every primary school and home should have on its shelves.



Robots Stole My Mum!

Alex Kirk,
illustrated by
Tim Wesson

Puffin

Comedy

Funny
Adventure
Robots

When shopkeeper Mr Norman's head explodes, Sandy and his friend Arjan suspect that all the grown-ups have been replaced by robots. And Tony Toaster, the toast-obsessed owner of the factory Tony's Toasters, seems very suspicious. The robots plan to take over! Can Sandy and Arjan evade robot whales, lasers, mountains of toast crumbs and puffin poo in order to save the town?

A very funny, action-packed story with plenty of lively illustrations. Ideal for confident readers.

Novel

256 pages





Novel
288 pages

Avalanche

Simon Fox

Nosy Crow

Adventure

Thriller

Crime

Teamwork

Tom hoped that a break at a luxury ski chalet would mean getting some quality time with his mum, but all she has time for is work.

However, things take a dangerous turn when hijackers take over the chalet, kidnapping his mum and her boss Eric, and triggering an avalanche that traps them all at the top of a mountain.

Tom and Eric's daughter, Emily, must work together to save the day.

An original and gripping tale of industrial espionage and deception.



Large colour
non-fiction
48 pages

How To Survive an Apocalypse

Coby Coonradt
and Cameron
Hardy, illustrated
by Victoria
Stebleva

Neon Squid

Non-fiction

Facts

Disasters

Would you know what to do if there was a zombie horde on the streets? Or if an asteroid hit Earth?

From purifying water and administering first aid to step-by-step instructions on battling beasts and defeating demons, this guide has all bases covered.

The text conveys a lot of humour with a modern voice and the illustrations by Victoria Stebleva are cool and cartoony – reminiscent of many popular video games. Perfect for reluctant readers, gamers and anyone who has thought about the apocalypse.



Novel
256 pages

Nate Yu's Blast from the Past

Maisie Chan

Piccadilly Press

Coming-of-age

War

Family

Historical

Nate Yu Riley is adopted. As he's Chinese and his mums aren't, they've tried to connect him with his heritage, but he's not interested – until the day he sees a vision of a Chinese man, Jirou. Jirou worked for the British in the First World War. What will it take for Jirou to rest in peace?

Exploring questions of identity, belonging and how history can be distorted, this is an engrossing, informative and entertaining story of friendship and reconciliation.



Novel
208 pages

Birdlands

Anthony McGowan

Rock the Boat

Adventure

Animals
Disability
Bullying

Herman has a broken wing, Pidge is terrified of flying and Beaky has a twisted beak that makes eating difficult.

Unable to compete with the healthy birds, they're hungry and helpless, slowly starving to death. But then Herman tells the others about Dump: a magical place containing all the food you can eat.

There's gentle humour in this absorbing tale of three imperfect, mismatched companions. A special book that tackles themes of disability, love, hope and determination.



Novel
352 pages

Holomonsters

Lee Newbery,
illustrated by
Alessandro D'Urso

Puffin

Adventure

Gaming
Teamwork

Newt Hawkin is thrilled to be part of the Holomonster Youth Development Squad. But when the holograms of monsters seem a bit too real, Newt and his new friends investigate what's really going on.

This action-packed adventure contains much to enthrall a reader – thrills, fierce competition between teams, and wildly fantastical monsters. There's a familiarity for anyone who's played Digimon or with Pokémon cards, and the themes of bullying, friendship and doing what's right are explored in a sensitive manner.



Novel
272 pages

The Ministry of Manners

David Solomons,
illustrated by
Hazem Asif

Piccadilly Press

Sci-fi

Government

In Margot's world, the trees record every word you say. There are drones watching every move you make. But don't worry, these things are in place to keep you safe.

Unfortunately, Margot wants to make her own decisions. And so she gets taken away by the Custodians and put in a special facility for 'correction'. Will she ever escape?

This sinister, chilling snapshot of life under an authoritarian regime is brilliantly constructed and asks important questions about democracy and freedom of speech.



Graphic novel
224 pages

Legacy: The Shadow Rises

Tom Fickling and Will Fickling, illustrated by Zak Simmonds-Hurn

David Fickling Books

Adventure

Fantasy
Adventure
Action

The Jindari Empire is a peaceful land filled of magic and wonder. But in the Fortress of Shadow, at the edge of The Great Void, a dark force grows in strength.

The Queen of Shadows and her evil forces scheme and plan, intent on destruction and chaos. And when the forces of Shadow assassinate the ruler of Hightown and his sons, it's up to his last remaining heir, Scarlett Thawn, to defeat the darkness and claim her legacy.

A great action-adventure graphic novel, perfect for reluctant readers.



Novel
288 pages

Medusa Gorgon's Bad Hair Day

Bethany Walker, illustrated by Katie Abey

Scholastic

Comedy

School
Myths and legends
Ancient civilisations

In ancient Greece, it's 12-year-old Medusa's job to guard the goddess Athena's precious shield. But when a series of dramatic events mean that Athena's shield is lost to the 21st century, Medusa is tasked with finding it.

Therefore, it's off to secondary school for 'Meddy G'. But how can an 'ordinary' schoolgirl steal a shield while avoiding detention? Written in diary format, with lots of brilliant drawings and doodles, this is a very funny story.

Perfect for fans of the Loki series.



Novel
304 pages

The Street Art Mystery

Sharna Jackson

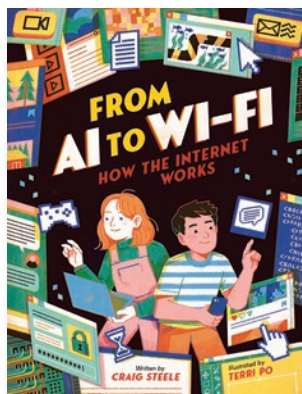
Puffin

Mystery

Contemporary
Crime
London

Margot, Wesley and Josephine have the perfect weekend planned for the end of the summer holidays before they begin secondary school. They're staying in West London with Margot's mum and her new boyfriend Teddy and can't wait to attend Notting Hill Carnival. But, when Teddy is found dead, the group of friends set out to investigate.

As with her other work, Jackson's storytelling shines with authenticity, capturing the sights, sounds and complexities of the urban setting in a way that feels real and exhilarating.



Large colour
non-fiction
64 pages

From AI to Wi-Fi

Craig Steele,
illustrated
by Terry Po

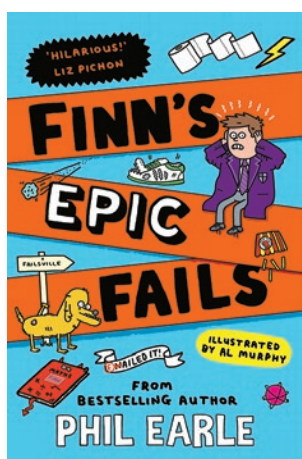
Templar

Non-fiction

Technology
Computing
Future

Have you ever wondered what happens when you send a message, use a search engine or ask AI a question? This non-fiction book makes modern tech easy to understand, breaking big ideas into bite-sized chunks that are genuinely interesting.

With clear explanations, relatable examples, friendly illustrations and plenty of surprising facts, this book brings the digital world to life for readers. It will spark curiosity and encourage children to keep exploring and questioning the technology that has become a part of everyday life.



Novel
272 pages

Finn's Epic Fails

Phil Earle,
illustrated by
Al Murphy

Simon & Schuster
Children's Books

Everyday life

Funny
School
Friendship

Meet Finn N. O. Hope – a boy who just wants to survive the chaos that is Year 7, but who seems to attract embarrassment at every turn.

Add in pranks, mortifying mishaps and a stray dog who might become the ultimate sidekick, and Finn's first year of secondary school will truly be one to remember.

Finn's Epic Fails is fast-paced, hilarious and full of personality, representing the highs and lows of school in a fun and ultimately positive way. Superb!



Novel
304 pages

Bím Blake's Hot Takes: My Pencil Case Doesn't Define Me

Tolá Okogwu,
illustrated by
Ariyana Taylor

Puffin

Everyday life

Funny
Diary
Friendship

Bímbola Blake (Bím) is 11 and just starting secondary school. She writes a blog called Bím Blake's Hot Takes, which forms part of the book along with affirmations and entries from her personal journal, plus text messages to her best friends.

The story includes themes of loss, as Bím's mum died of cancer a couple of years ago. However, the main themes are ones relevant to tweens: love, lies, farcical mix-ups and secrets from all sides. Funny and charming: Bím is a great new character.



Novel
336 pages

The Starlight Rebel

Lisette Auton

Puffin

Fantasy

Sci-fi

Neurodivergence

Disability

In the year 3897, nature has been forgotten, success is prized, and difference is rejected.

Eleven-year-old Astrifer possesses a uniquely wired brain which makes her feel different to everyone else. When the Work Path Allocation Ceremony assigns her to a career in a sock factory, Astrifer is welcomed into a 'different' community of brave and accepting friends – and soon realises there's nowhere else she'd rather be.

This is an enthralling read with a delightful cast of disabled and neurodivergent characters. A unique sci-fi adventure.



Novel
272 pages

The Moonhaven Chronicles: The Last Wolf

Rob Biddulph

Macmillan

Children's Books

Fantasy

Mystery

Adventure

Jax and Jovi live in Moonhaven, where werewolves are real, although they haven't been seen for many years. Their parents are scientists who are working on secret research into the werewolf gene – but they haven't been home for months.

When werewolf attacks begin, Jax and Jovi and their friends battle the monsters and the sinister security force known as the Nighthawks.

A thrilling tale for reluctant readers with an ending that will leave readers desperate for book two in the duology.



Novel
208 pages

How to Steal the Future

Christopher Edge,
illustrated by
Pete Lloyd

Macmillan

Children's Books

Adventure

Fantasy

Interactive

At the heart of an impenetrable, deadly labyrinth lies the Avenir, a treasure that allows people to see the future.

Like many children before him, 12-year-old Drew is taking on the maze to seek the prize, and his missing sister Evie.

This is a fantastic, fast-paced adventure that throws readers into the action from the very first chapter. The high-octane pace is maintained throughout as Drew negotiates physical, logical and psychological challenges. There are also opportunities for readers to solve puzzles alongside the characters.



Novel
304 pages

The Shell Keepers

Truly Johnston
Chicken House

Fantasy

Dual narrative
Environment
Family

At the beach one day, Corrine's amazed to pick up a pretty shell and find a tiny person inside! Kauri belongs to the Democonch people, and she and her family have been separated because something is poisoning the sea.

Can Corrine and her cousin Anthony reunite Kauri with her Democonch family by solving a mysterious series of riddles?

With echoes of *The Borrowers*, and a strong environmental message, this warm, sunny fantasy adventure celebrates diversity, tolerance and respect for the natural world.



Novel
320 pages

Dracula & Daughters

Emma Carroll
Faber & Faber

Ghost story

Adventure
Mystery
Friends

Mina lives in Temstown, where there hasn't been a vampire for 20 years. While digging up a body for medical research, Mina finds the body has seemingly busted out of the grave: it looks like vampires might be back.

Can Mina, Bella and Mina's sister Buffy find a way to heal vampires instead of culling them?

This deliciously gothic adventure is the first in a new series from the queen of historical fiction, Emma Carroll. Spooky, thrilling and immensely readable.



Novel
320 pages

Swanfall

Sophie Kirtley
Bloomsbury
Children's Books

Ghost story

Birds
Folklore

Pip's favourite time of year is Swanfall, when the Arctic swans return to their nesting ground near Pip's house. But he's full of concern when one of his favourite swans, Moonshadow, doesn't return.

Meanwhile, Pip discovers an old leather-bound book in the mobile library, and is intrigued to find an ancient letter and a swan feather hidden between the pages.

Inspired by Irish folklore, this enthralling tale is beautifully written and will send shivers down the spine of even the bravest of readers.



Dyslexia-friendly
chapter book
128 pages

Dance of Resistance: The Josephine Baker Story

Catherine Johnson,
illustrated by
Katie Hickey
Barrington Stoke

Non-fiction

Dance
Historical

This is the true story of dancer, actress and war hero Josephine Baker.

Born into a life of poverty and segregation in 1906, she went on to become one of the biggest Black stars of the time. Josephine aided the French Resistance during the Second World War and became involved in the American Civil Rights movement, before her death in 1975.

Catherine Johnson brings Josephine's incredible story to life, and difficult themes of racism and abuse are approached in an age-appropriate manner.



Novel
272 pages

Murder at Hotel Marvelo

Ruth Lauren,
illustrated by
Federica Fenna
Piccadilly Press

Mystery

Crime
Magical
Neurodivergence

Hotel Marvelo: the ideal getaway for magical beings looking to escape the stresses and strains of everyday life! No magic can operate on its luxury premises so it's the best place to relax and unwind in complete safety.

That is, until the wizard Henry Gravelaxe is discovered dead in the spa.

With guests including a griffin, a banshee and a two-headed dog, the suspect list in this magical 'cosy crime' tale is unusual and very entertaining. A unique and engaging whodunnit.



Poetry
112 pages

I Tell Myself I'm Awesome: Poems For Your Mind

Joshua Seigal,
illustrated by
Chris Piascik
Bloomsbury Education

Poetry

Language
Mental health

This poetry collection is 'for your mind': not only are all sorts of emotions explored, but so is the concept that your mind might not always be an easy place to be. And, importantly, playful poetic forms, pleasing rhymes and 'stretch vocabulary' will entertain and even challenge your mind.

Throughout, Joshua Seigal doesn't shy away from 'difficult words', stretching the reader's knowledge in an interesting way. Plus, there is a lot of wordplay and humour, as well as more moving poems.



Novel
304 pages

The Night I Borrowed Time

Iqbal Hussain

Puffin

Sci-fi
Time travel
Historical
Family

Eleven-year-old Zubair has six older brothers, known as the Six. But ever since his dad crashed his taxi and has been unable to work, Zubair's parents argue a lot.

When Zubair's gran arrives from Pakistan to help out, she gives him a mysterious amulet, and Zubair discovers that being the seventh son means that he has the power to time travel. Can he use his new skill to go back in time and help fix his family?

A funny, exciting, moving story that many readers may relate to.



Novel
336 pages

Jamaal Target: Phantom Agent

Isaac Hamilton-McKenzie

Puffin

Thriller
Action
Spies
Superpowers

When Jamaal suddenly develops super strength and speed – and his friend Myla is kidnapped – he's plunged into a secret organisation called PHANTOM.

The PHANTOM agents reveal to Jamaal that soldiers are chasing him, and tell him about his parents, who he never knew. Can Jamaal help PHANTOM fight a sinister villain – and rescue Myla?

Readers will love the twisty plot in this gripping thriller, while the strong relationship between Jamaal and his foster mother adds warmth to the characterisation.



Dyslexia-friendly
chapter book
104 pages

Demon Hunters: Soul Feeder

Jennifer Killick,
illustrated by
Marina Vidal

Barrington Stoke

Thriller
Horror
Friendship

Caiden and Sam are helping Caiden's dad clear a house after an old lady died there.

Yet when the friends are sorting through everything – old weapons and weird animal heads – they realise they've brought something evil back with them.

Can they solve the mystery – and work out how to stop the evil presence hunting them?

Killick builds the tension masterfully in this short story, creating a creepy atmosphere from the start. A satisfyingly chilling read from the queen of horror!



Novel
320 pages

Spirit Warriors

Ashley Thorpe,
illustrated by
Gashwayne
Hudson

Usborne

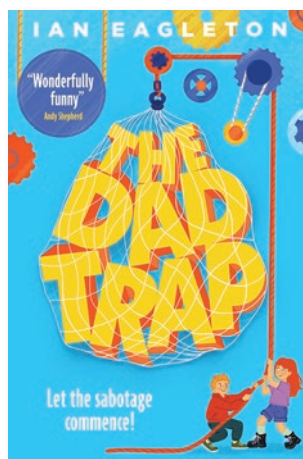
Thriller

Magic
Family

When Evie and her friend Arthur decide that they want to attend the Myal, a magical ceremony held on the beach in Jamaica, they're forbidden to go.

Yet when the ceremony summons evil spirits, Evie and Arthur have to run for their lives. What follows is a thrilling adventure to defeat the Blackheart Man and his evil plan to steal the island's magic.

There's plenty of high-stakes action in this enchanting book, with original, three-dimensional characters and a lot of heart.



Novel
384 pages

The Dad Trap

Ian Eagleton

Scholastic

Everyday life

Families
LGBTQIA+
Neurodivergence

William and his adoptive dad, Ted, have always been close. But when new girl Florence's dad, Ross, starts dating Ted, both children form an uneasy alliance to sabotage the budding romance.

Eagleton captures William's wonderful creative energy and imagination, alongside the sensory pressures and anxiety he experiences because of his ADHD and autism.

With warm support from friends, family and teachers, this story offers heartfelt affirmation around LGBTQIA+ identities, neurodivergence, adoption and blended families. A beautifully sensitive and heartwarming book.



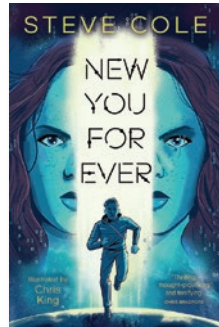
Age 11+

What's next?

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



The Uninvited
Ross MacKenzie



New You For Ever
Steve Cole,
illustrated by
Chris King



Big Words
Luke Palmer



**My Soul
a Shining Tree**
Jamila Gavin



Pearl Beach
Beth Steiner



Domain
Rohan Gavin



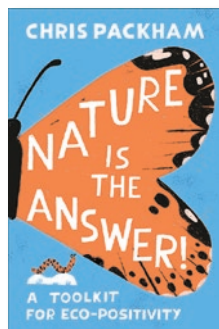
**The Overthinkers'
Club: Happy List**
Nat Luurtsema,
illustrated by
Cécile Dorneau



The Blitz Sisters
Judith Eagle



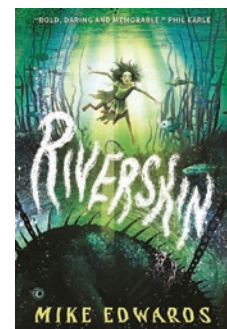
**Running My
Own Race**
Abena Eyeson



**Nature is
the Answer**
Chris Packham,
illustrated by
Conor Nolan



Boy vs Reality
James Fox



Riverskin
Mike Edwards

BookTrust research

Research is at the heart of BookTrust's work. All our learning activities, ranging from in-depth primary research to collaborations with academic institutions, contribute to understanding and measuring what works to get children and families reading.

This research underpins the support that we offer to primary schools, such as Bookbuzz Primary, BookTrust Represents and resources like our guide to starting school and the Great Books Guide.

To find out more, visit [**booktrust.org.uk/research**](https://booktrust.org.uk/research)

Webinar series

BookTrust also run free termly webinars for primary school staff which includes practical tips and the latest research to help get pupils reading.

View our past webinars at [**booktrust.org.uk/primary-school-webinars**](https://booktrust.org.uk/primary-school-webinars)

Sign up to our newsletter to hear more about our webinars and research.



Help families keep sharing stories as children start Reception

BookTrust research shows children's enjoyment of reading can dip sharply when they start school, at the same time as families begin focusing on phonics.

We've teamed up with Wandle English Hub to create Sharing Stories at Home, helping you run inspiring workshops for parents and carers that highlight the joy of reading together alongside the process of learning to read.

Designed to complement phonics teaching, these resources are:

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- Developed with families and tested in schools
- Focused on celebrating reading for pleasure alongside learning to read

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access the
free resources



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- Interactive sessions with authors and illustrators of colour
- Free to participate

Authors for 2026/27 academic year:



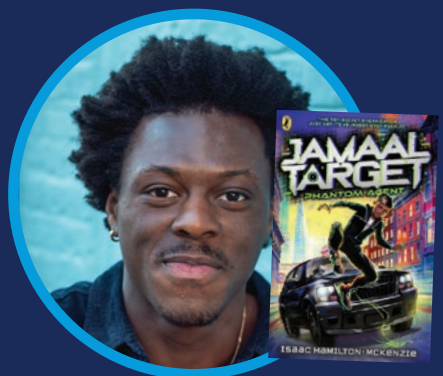
Love Ssega



Kengo Kurimoto



Lui Sit (Scarlett Li)



**Isaac
Hamilton-McKenzie**



Rashmi Sirdeshpande



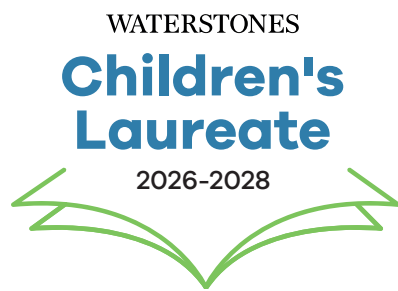
Luan Goldie

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Hello!

I'm Patrice Lawrence MBE,

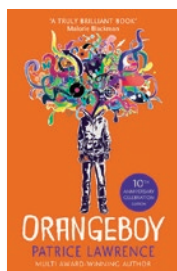
Author of **Orangeboy**, **Needle**, **The Elemental Detectives**, **People Like Stars** and many more, and I am the brand-new **Waterstones Children's Laureate for 2026-2028!**

During my time as laureate, I want to champion the power of books to connect us and make us feel like we belong. I have written for children and young people of all ages and witnessed how my books prompt discussion about tough subjects such as grief, family imprisonment, different types of families, prejudice, poverty and colonial history. I know that stories enable isolated children and young people to feel seen, understood and most importantly, valued.

Stories help readers explore unfamiliar subjects safely with space to pause and reflect on complex emotions. And just as importantly, reading helps us understand each other's stories.

To find out more about the Children's Laureate, visit booktrust.org.uk/childrenslaureate

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