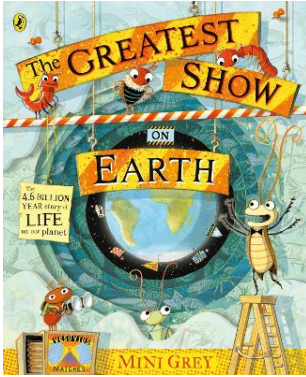


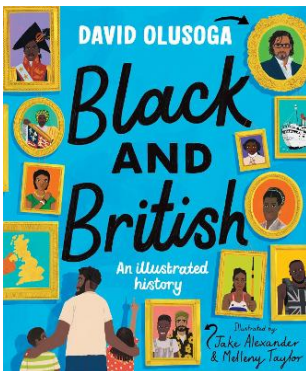
CLPE's Corebooks list helps primary schools choose the very best children's books for their school or classroom libraries. Selected by our dedicated Librarian, this database contains more than 700 quality books to suit readers of all ages and stages of reading development.



The Greatest Show on Earth

Author: Mini Grey **Format:** Hardback **Release Date:** 28/04/2022

Prize winning illustrator Mini Grey has used her many talents to create this wonderful tour of the development of our planet and all its inhabitants. Our guide in this amazing show is Rod the Roach and he and his insect pals all put on the most amazing stage show illustrating each of the developmental stages of the world. Where the stages' wings would be there are side panels packed with information, small illustrations, and useful guides to how life might have been. The orchestra pit is where we can see the tape measure which gives us a timeline with lots of annotations, tiny illustrations and notice of when all the ice ages or warm ages happened. This is a visual delight that will have children poring over it as they look at the amazing planet that we live on. Each double page spread has so much to read and marvel at on it, that children will find it engrossing and informative in equal measures. I can see this being a classroom favourite for many years to come. This reader certainly gained a lot more knowledge about microbes than she had ever thought possible - and in such an entertaining way. The last double page spread is a full glossary of all the unusual and difficult terms that readers may not have come across before. This makes it into so much more than just an illustrated book but into a vital information resource for young readers.

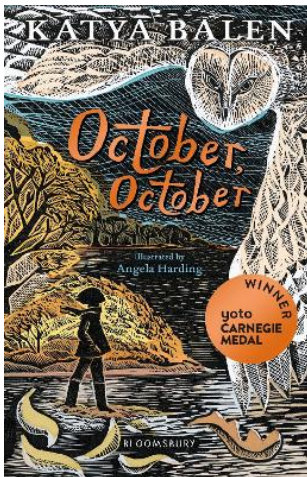


Black and British: An Illustrated History

Author: David Olusoga **Format:** Hardback **Release Date:** 11/11/2021

Professor David Olugosa has created this very accessible Illustrated History based on his previously published, bestselling adult versions of Black and British (adult), as well as the Short Essential History (aimed at teens). It is the book he wished he had when he was at Primary school. This version shows us key events in British history that have involved Black Britons – starting with the Romans and working through all the periods of history since. It explores the fact that Black peoples have been integral to the history of this country, as well as the more shameful impacts of the trades in enslaved peoples and the slow progress of the Abolition movement. Olugosa fascinatingly points out that it wasn't until around 1661 when a Barbados Slave Code was introduced that the distinction between enslaved peoples and the white people became a social issue – to quote "It was around this time that some English people started to think of themselves as part of a group called 'white'." The Stuarts have a lot to answer for! The book follows history through to the modern day with illustrations of famous

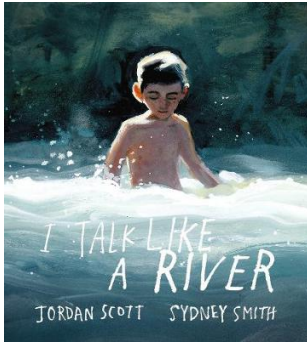
contemporary Black Britons. Each period has several double page spreads as appropriate to the activity of the time. The pages are well illustrated with historical documents, key dates and artefacts as well as depictions of the people discussed. Information highlights and maps are used throughout the book to aid understanding and accessibility to the reader. There is a very useful glossary of some of the less usual terms used to help readers understand what they are reading. This is a wonderful package, well laid out, full of fascinating illustrations and will be a vital book in classrooms and libraries.



October, October

Author: Katya Balen **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 30/09/2021

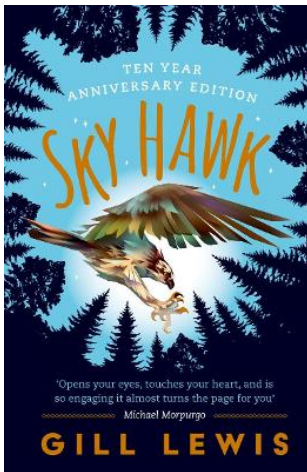
Winner of the Yoto Carnegie Medal 2022 | Shortlisted for the UKLA Book Award 2022 ages 7-10 Raw, lingering and stirring lyrical, *October, October* had me hooked from opening to end. Conjured in language that crackles and smoulders like an autumn bonfire, this is a book of bones and bark, of frost and flame, captivating in the manner of Skellig or Stig of the Dump as it undulates towards a wondrous homecoming of the heart. “We live in the woods and we are wild... Just us. A pocket of people in a pocket of the world that’s small as a marble. We are tiny and we are everything and we are wild.” *October* has everything she wants living in the woods in the house her father built. Her mother left when *October* was four and she’s adamant that, “I don’t want her. She’s not wild like we are.” This year *October*’s euphoria at the onset of autumn is sullied when she discovers a dead owl and a motherless baby owl: “my heart won’t stop bruising my ribs.” So, she rescues the baby, names it Stig and declares it her first ever friend. Calamity strikes when the woman “who calls herself my mother” arrives as a birthday surprise - her beloved dad breaks his spine after falling from a tree and *October* must stay with this woman - her mother - in London while he recuperates. In the chaotic city, *October* is a bird with clipped wings. Torn from her wild world, she implodes, becomes a “firework of fury”, until she strikes up a bond with a boy named Yusef and discovers mudlarking, which makes her once more “a wild animal skulking and prowling for food”, “a pirate hunting for treasure.” An unforgettable story, an unforgettable heroine - it’s no exaggeration to hail this a future classic.



I Talk Like a River

Author: Jordan Scott **Format:** Hardback **Release Date:** 10/09/2021

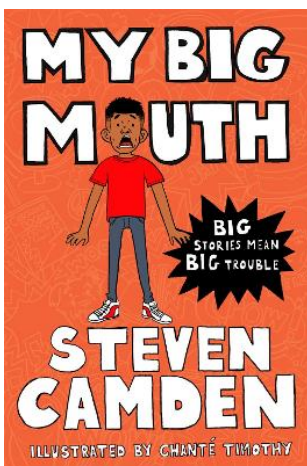
Shortlisted for the Yoto Kate Greenaway Medal 2022 What if words got stuck in the back of your mouth whenever you tried to speak? After a day of being unable to speak when asked, and of being stared at, a boy and his father go to the river for some quiet time. It's just a bad speech day, says Dad. But the boy can't stop thinking about all the eyes watching his lips twisting and twirling. When his father points to the river bubbling, churning, whirling and crashing, the boy finds a way to think about how he speaks. Even the river stutters. Like him. I talk like a river, he says. An incredibly moving picture book that offers understanding rather than a solution, and which will resonate with all readers, young and old. Masterfully illustrated by Sydney Smith, winner of the Kate Greenaway Medal.



Sky Hawk

Author: Gill Lewis **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 02/09/2021

Rich in atmosphere and full of heart, Sky Hawk is an intense and touching story of how protecting a rare bird forges a deep and special friendship between two children. The osprey is Iona's secret but she trusts Callum to keep it and together the two of them do all they can to keep the bird safe. From the glittering lochs of Scotland to the mangrove swamps of the Gambia, Sky Hawk is an enthralling tale about a promise between two friends, Callum and Iona, that will change lives forever, and the power of friendship, loyalty, and hope. A book to treasure.

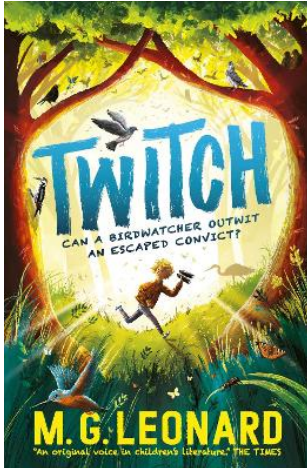


My Big Mouth

Author: Steven Camden **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 08/07/2021

Generously illustrated by Timothy with greyscale images this book is the first novel from poet Camden – a performance poet known as Polar Bear, and prize winner of the CLIPPA poetry award. Beautifully written we are taken into Jay's world – a ten-year-old who is uncool and mostly ignored. But when his dad just ups and leaves no-one will answer Jay's questions. So, he makes up his own answers – and shares them with his classmates! This suddenly makes him one of the coolest kids in class! But little does he realise just how complicated it is to keep track of his stories, and who he might hurt, badly, along the way. For a book about the dangers of lying – with a moral heart at its centre – it is a very amusing, funny book which will keep readers enthralled to see if Jay and his friendships survive – or what he can do to save the day? A powerful

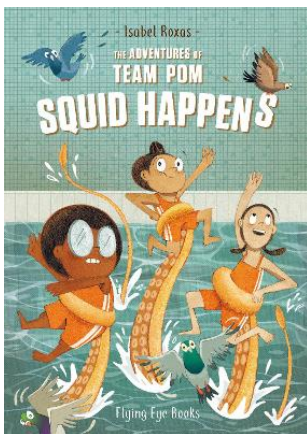
look at the dangers of untruths – and no matter what, the reader roots for Jay as he is such a lovely character, well drawn and full of the chaotic emotions of pre-teens thrown into their often complex school relationships.



Twitch

Author: M.G. Leonard **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 03/06/2021

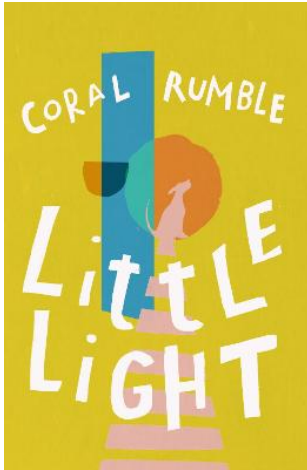
Can a birdwatcher outwit an escaped convict? Twitch has three pet chickens, four pigeons, swallows nesting in his bedroom and a passion for birdwatching. On the first day of the summer holidays, he arrives at his secret hide to find police everywhere: a convicted robber has broken out of prison and is hiding in Aves Wood. Can Twitch use his talents for birdwatching to hunt for the dangerous prisoner and find the missing loot?



The Adventures of Team Pom: Squid Happens

Author: Isabel Roxas **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 01/06/2021

As its excellent title and cover suggests, Isabel Roxas's The Adventures of Team Pom: Squid Happens is a quirky comic-style book for 7+ year-olds. Resplendent with the most gorgeous mid-century colour scheme, it boasts endearing oddball characters readers will root for and adore, and an off-the-wall story underpinned by a luminous message of teamwork. When Ruby ("resident genius, armchair philosopher, and aspiring naturalist"), Agnes ("amateur pigeon keeper, lover of potato chips, animals, and shiny objects"), and Roberta ("little boss, idea generator, pork bun aficionado, and list fanatic") discover a passion for synchronised swimming, they form Team Pom. Fed-up of their team-loser status, and the insults ("what a bunch of nerds"), the trio set-up their own club, but their plans are sent awry when a giant squid appears in their pool. Reckoning that "now that we have a giant squid on our team, the possibilities are endless," the girls sense hope for their synchronised swimming futures. But not if the conniving Diving Divas have anything to do with it. I loved the New York setting, the madcap plot, and the girls' spirit of determination - what a wonderfully engaging, energetic book.



Little Light

Author: Coral Rumble **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 01/06/2021

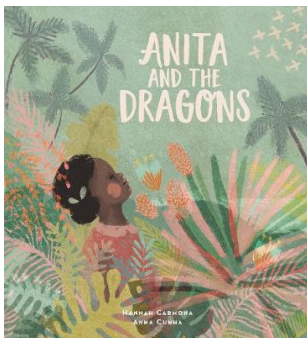
Longlisted for the UKLA Book Award 2023 ages 7-10 Ava is hiding - hiding from the small cramped room where she lives with her two little siblings and her mum, hiding from the taunts and hostility she gets at school, hiding from her sometimes lonely and joyless life. But there is love here too. Her best friend Roxy, her wise Trinidadian Nan and a stray dog she befriends. Can Ava be brave enough to allow some light to shine into the darkest part of her being? Moving, emotive and poignant, Coral Rumble's poetic novel is a compellingly beautiful read.



Coming to England

Author: Floella Benjamin **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 15/04/2021

A picture book story about the triumph of hope, love, and determination, *Coming to England* is the inspiring true story of Baroness Floella Benjamin: from Trinidad, to London as part of the Windrush generation, to the House of Lords.

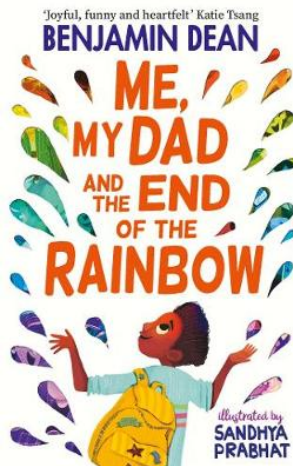


Anita and the Dragons

Author: Hannah Carmona **Format:** Hardback **Release Date:** 18/03/2021

We are more used to seeing migration from the point of view of the struggle for acceptance in a new place, but this gorgeous book refreshingly celebrates the homeland where Anita lives and where she is the brave and bold Princesa, loved by all. The atmospheric illustrations are suffused with the warmth and colour of the Dominican Republic and you get a real sense of customs, community and family (helped by the Spanish terms sprinkled through the text). It becomes apparent that the family is about to embark on a new, more materially comfortable life in another country and the planes that will take them there are the dragons of Anita's imagination. They are definitely seen as a threat and the colour palette becomes a more ominous grey as the fearful day approaches and she must leave her beloved island kingdom and her Abuela, her grandmother. Her nerve collapses entirely on the tarmac before boarding, but comforted by her family she promises herself that she will return to her island "with mango-sweet kisses; black stormy nights; glassy, blue waves; spicy, hot heat; and sandy, snug hugs". This is a valuable insight to share in the first world classroom where the perspective is normally one of immigrants coming to "a better place". This recognises and acknowledges that the reality is very different.

Highly recommended.

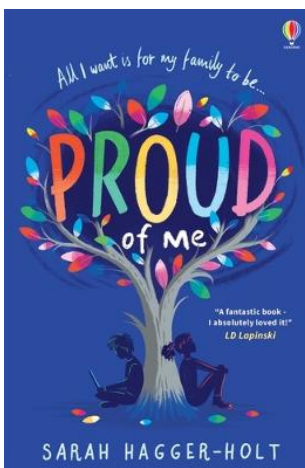


Me, My Dad and the End of the Rainbow

Author: Benjamin Dean **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 04/02/2021

Longlisted for the UKLA Book Award 2022 ages 7-10 | March 2021 Debut of the Month | Selected for The Book Box by LoveReading4Kids

12-year-old Archie Albright is a character who instantly grabs the reader's attention with his natural, chatty narrative voice. His family is splitting up, he doesn't know why, and he knows there is something they are not telling him. After a disastrous parents evening and an overheard conversation, Dad has to finally confess to Archie that he is gay. Archie just wants everyone to be happy again. He desperately wants to understand and to help. His Dad drops a leaflet about the PRIDE march and Archie decides he will find all his answers there and luckily, he has two staunch friends who see all the pitfalls of this expedition but decide to help him anyway. Needless to say everything goes wrong! There are so many things to love about this splendid book. Every character, including the joyous cast of LGBTQ+ characters that they meet and are helped by on their adventure, rings authentically true. The dialogue is witty, but realistic, not played just for cheap laughs. But there is a lot of genuine humour in the situations the children find themselves embroiled in and a fair bit of nail-biting tension too! It is also so refreshing that this is not a story about overcoming homophobia- all the main characters are totally accepting of Archie's Dad's right to determine his sexuality, while not denying the pain that comes from family break up. It deals honestly with difficult emotions and conveys a strong message about empathy and tolerance. This is such a rewarding, positive and inclusive read that it deserves a place in every school and in every home.

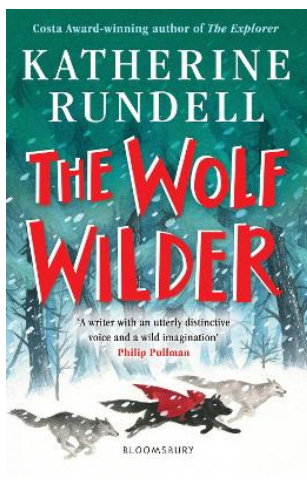


Proud of Me

Author: Sarah Hagger-Holt **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 04/02/2021

From the author of the moving, ground-breaking *Nothing Ever Happens Here*, Sarah Hagger-Holt's *Proud of Me* offers children from LGBT families a vital chance to see their lives represented, while also delivering an empathy-inspiring read with universal messages of respect and supporting your peers. Siblings Becky and Josh are part of a loving family of "two mums, two kids - and nothing can break us apart." They were born eight days apart, but Becky finds it easier to say they're twins because "it saves a whole lot of explaining" (they were fathered by the same anonymous donor, with Josh birthed by Mum and Becky birthed by Ima - Hebrew for 'mum'). While photography-mad Becky spends a lot of time with her adorable best friend Archie, who came out in Year Eight, and Carli, the new American girl at school who's come into her life like a

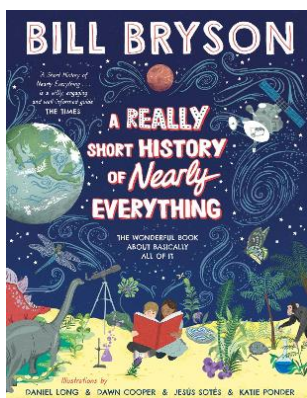
rainbow of light and life, Josh is desperate to know who his dad is. In fact, he becomes so fixed on finding out that he joins an online DC (donor conceived) community and secretly takes an investigative road-trip on the day of Mum's big fiftieth birthday party celebrations. At the same time, Becky is navigating big questions around accepting who she is, and they're both deeply involved in organising a school Pride event, both determined to make their mums proud, both determined to overcome the likes of Carli's mother who thinks the group is "immoral and corrupting and it shouldn't be happening in school." Becky and Josh's dual narratives are an engaging, authentic delight, and this child-centred story is at once uplifting, entertaining and empowering.



The Wolf Wilder

Author: Katherine Rundell **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 12/11/2020

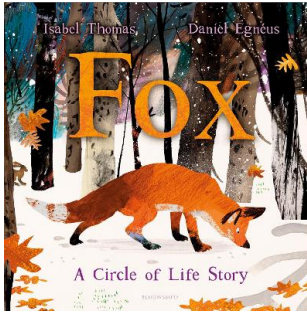
Wolves, wildness and freedom are at the heart of this thrilling story. Wolf wilders are employed to reintroduce wolves unfortunate enough to be brought up as pets in rich households back into the wild, and they're easy to spot: they'll be missing a piece of finger, the lobe of an ear, a toe or two. Feo and her mother are wolf wilders, content deep in the forest, at least until the arrival of General Rakov and the imperial army. Rakov treats their wolves with the same brutal contempt he shows to the peasants, and despite her reclusiveness, Feo finds herself fighting alongside her neighbours for what is right. 'Wolves, like children, are not born to lead calm lives' we are told and this a marvellous adventure, original, beautifully written, and full of scenes and ideas that will excite and inspire young readers.



A Really Short History of Nearly Everything

Author: Bill Bryson **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 29/10/2020

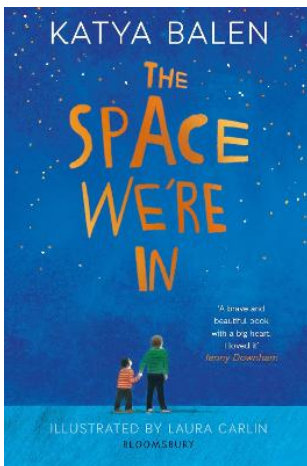
Crammed full of information which will answer a great many questions about what goes on in the universe around us; this is a brilliantly written introduction which has been cleverly simplified for younger readers from the hugely successful original by Bill. Divided into short chapters which make it easier to understand and supported by an excellent index, the story of how the universe came into being, how humans evolved, how we have discovered what we know about space and much, much more are all well described and attractively illustrated.



Fox

Author: Isabel Thomas **Format:** Hardback **Release Date:** 01/10/2020

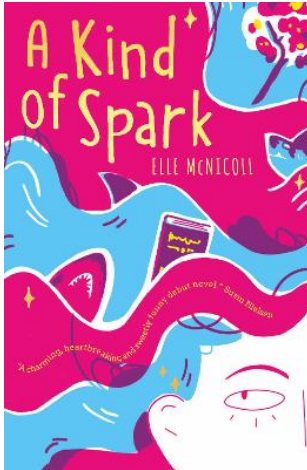
Longlisted for the UKLA Book Awards 2022 Information Books 3-14 Life is everywhere, we read at the close of this exceptional picture information book, and every page prior is brimming with it, so vividly depicted in Daniel Egnéus' illustrations that you can almost hear the yapping and gekkering of the fox cubs, their mother's barks, and all the constant bustle and hum of the natural world. Even in death we see there is life: the mother fox is hit and killed by a car but immediately tiny creatures get to work. As the seasons roll round and winter turns to spring, new life grows again and the particles that made up the fox become something else. Text and illustration together explain the circle of life with an extraordinary clarity while retaining a sense of the sheer wonder of it all. Share this with children who want to know what happens when something dies, or who just want to understand our world better. You can find more wintry & festive stories in our Best Books for Kids this Christmas collection!



The Space We're In

Author: Katya Balen **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 17/09/2020

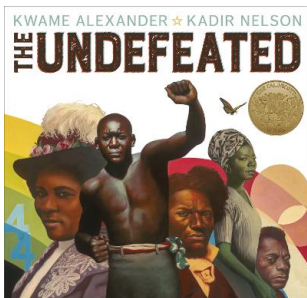
Longlisted for the UKLA Book Awards 2021 | Highly Commended in the Branford Boase Award 2020 Ten-year-old Frank loves code and numbers; they're a way to make sense of the world, as well as providing secret languages to share with his friends and his mum. Frank's five-year-old brother Max is autistic and for him the world is often a scary place, when anything unexpected, too loud or too bright can cause him to have a meltdown. The story is narrated by Frank and every reader will understand his frustration at the unfairness of life. We know that he loves Max, but we know too how hard Max makes life for all the family. Frank is then faced with something even more terrible when tragedy strikes. With the help of those around him we watch Frank find a way to make sense of what has happened and the bravery to cope with the different world. Katya Balen has worked with neuro-divergent children and there's a powerful sense of truth and understanding in her beautifully told story. If they like Wonder by R. J. Palacio they'll love The Space We're In.



A Kind of Spark

Author: Elle McNicoll **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 04/06/2020

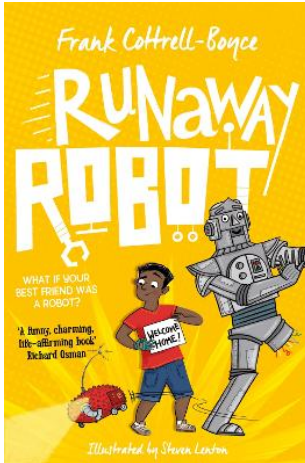
Shortlisted for the UKLA Book Award 2022 ages 7-10 | Winner of the Blue Peter Book Awards 2021, Best Story | Shortlisted for the 2021 Branford Boase | Award Shortlisted for the Little Rebels Award 2021 When 11 year old Addie, who is autistic, learns about the 16th century women who were persecuted for witchcraft, she starts to lobby for a local memorial in her small Scottish village. With the help of a new girl at school, she fights valiantly against injustice and oppression. The Branford Boase Award Judges said: 'Phenomenal'; 'I loved it'; 'brings a brand new voice into children's books'; 'deals with ideas of difference without being heavy handed'. Find out more about the Branford Boase Awards [here](#).



The Undefeated

Author: Kwame Alexander **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 20/02/2020

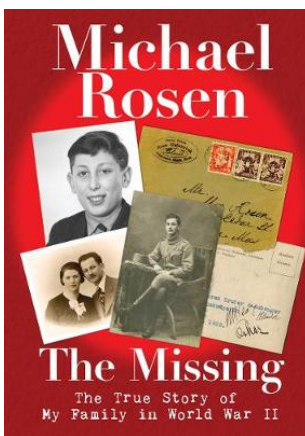
Winner of the UKLA Book Awards 2021 | Shortlisted for the CILIP Kate Greenaway Medal 2020 Written for and about "the swift and sweet ones/who hurdled history and opened a world of possible", for those who "survived America by any means necessary. And the ones who didn't," this is an inspiring ode to the author's forebears and to the world-changing feats of unforgettable Black American figures. Author Kwame Alexander's initial inspiration for this book came in the year his second daughter was born, the same year Barack Obama became the first African American president of the USA. As a result, Alexander wanted his daughters "to know how we got to this historic moment", which is exactly what this stirring book does. The chained slaves who kept faith, the elite Olympians, the innovative musicians, the seminal scientists, the courageous activists - people from all walks of life are celebrated in Alexander's poetically poised words, and gloriously illustrated by Kadir Nelson, with much for young children to ponder and ask questions about. As well as being a wonderful way for parents to explore Black American history with their little ones on a one-to-one basis, this will also work well with older children in a classroom context. Indeed, this is one of those rare and wonderful picture books that defies age boundaries - a radiant, resonant unforgettable tour de force, as befits its theme.



Runaway Robot

Author: Frank Cottrell-Boyce **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 06/02/2020

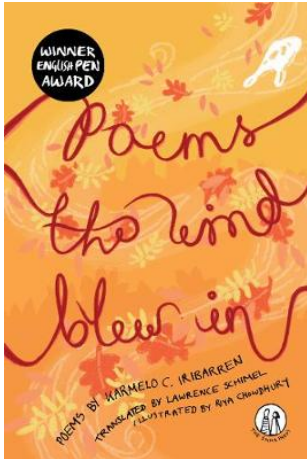
Longlisted for the UKLA Book Awards 2020 No matter how exciting, zany and surprising the action, you can always be sure that Frank Cottrell-Boyce will build his stories on real human emotions, and that's as true of this brilliantly funny, original and touching novel as of any of its predecessors. Alfie 'swerves' both school and the Limb Lab, where he should be going to learn how to control his state-of-the-art new hand, by hanging out at the airport. But everything changes when, through various happy accidents, he finds an enormous robot called Eric in Lost Property. Eric holds the Allen key to the book's mysteries, both a generations-old legend, and the secrets that Archie is keeping from the reader and himself. Beautifully told and full of characters readers will love, this book will have you laughing out loud one minute, in tears the next. Robot Eric, unfailingly polite, kind and helpful and trying to explain himself through misremembered jokes is an iron man for our time. Unmissable. Once readers have finished this, point them in the direction of Frank Cottrell-Boyce's other books including *The Astounding Broccoli Boy* and books by Ross Welford. Peter Brown's story *The Wild Robot* is another great automaton adventure.



The Missing

Author: Michael Rosen **Format:** Hardback **Release Date:** 12/12/2019

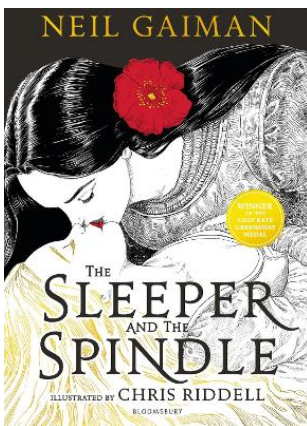
Shortlisted for the UKLA Book Awards 2021 A personal, powerful and resonant account of the Holocaust by one of this country's best-loved children's authors. By turns charming, shocking and heart-breaking, this is the true story of Michael Rosen's search for his relatives who went missing during the Second World War - told through prose, poetry, maps and pictures.



Poems the wind blew in Poems for children

Author: Karmelo C. Iribarren **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 21/11/2019

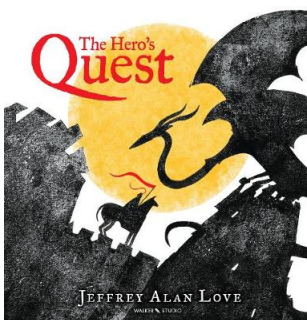
Shortlisted for 2020 CLIPPA These poems reveal the magic in small, everyday things: a plastic bag dreams of becoming a cloud, raindrops go on holiday to the sea, and hats fill up with thoughts. The book builds an immersive, tender world and encourages the reader to look at the world around them with wonder and delight.



The Sleeper and the Spindle

Author: Neil Gaiman **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 14/11/2019

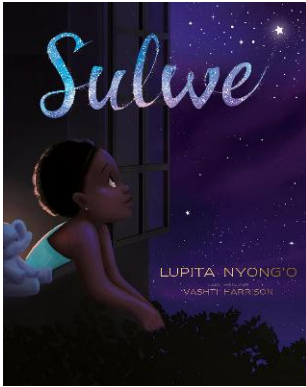
Winner of the CILIP Kate Greenaway Medal 2016 Award-winning Neil Gaiman shows all his story telling skills in this gripping fusion of familiar fairy tales told in a dark-hearted version with some original characters. Especially a bold-hearted queen. Not far from where the queen lives, a princess is under the spell of an enchantress who has put a whole country to sleep. Despite it being the eve of her wedding day, the bold queen decides to take action. Slipping into her mail shirt she arms herself with her sword and sets off out of the palace accompanied by the three dwarves who will lead her through the tunnels...The dark magic, great courage and spell-binding imagination that power this story is perfectly realised in Chris Riddell's awesome illustrations.



The Hero's Quest

Author: Jeffrey Alan Love **Format:** Hardback **Release Date:** 07/11/2019

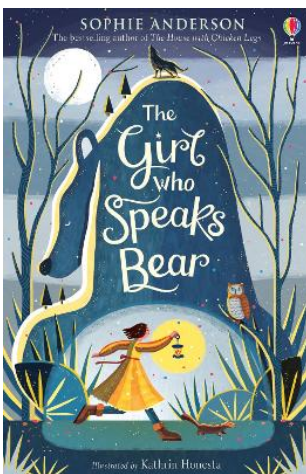
This is a simple circular tale, full of drama and threat, as Rider sets out on a quest tasked him by the Ancient One. Throughout the wonderful bold illustrations, the Rider appears small against impossible, scary, huge foes. The story is told in rhyming couplets, in large easy to read text; some couplets are on one double page spread, others have one line on each spread with the rest of the space filled with large, striking black and red images against plain coloured backgrounds. A limited colour palette is used with consummate skill to convey so much. This book is a gem – an artistic tour de force – one which children will love for the adventure and the change in every page turn. An epic tale through a mythical fantasy land that will engage children and adults alike.



Sulwe

Author: Lupita Nyong'o **Format:** Hardback **Release Date:** 15/10/2019

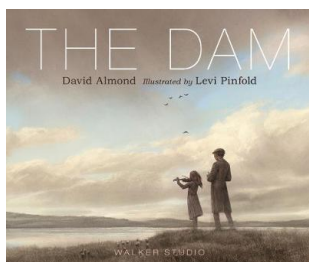
Longlisted for the UKLA Book Awards 2021 The New York Times Number 1 Bestseller From Academy Award-winning actress Lupita Nyong'o comes a powerful, moving picture book about colourism, self-esteem and learning that true beauty comes from within.



The Girl Who Speaks Bear

Author: Sophie Anderson **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 05/09/2019

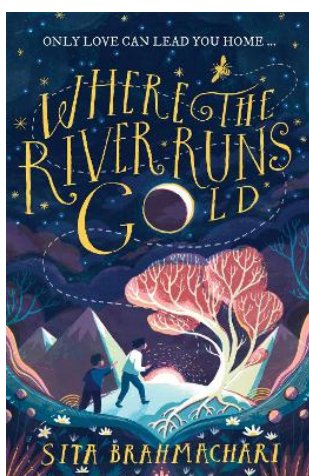
Shortlisted for CILIP Carnegie Medal 2021 | Longlisted for the UKLA Book Awards 2021 Yanka is that much-loved staple of the fairy tale: an orphan. She's grown up with her foster-mother Mamochka who found her in the wild as a baby, and mostly feels at home and happy in their village, though she's conscious that she's much bigger and stronger than the other children. All that changes after an accident when Yanka wakes up to find she has the legs of a bear. She also has, less alarmingly, the ability to understand animals, including her pet weasel the charismatic Mousetrap. Remembering a story about a family turned into bears, she sets off with Mousetrap to find out who she really is. Yanka's adventures are full of danger, enchantment and stories within stories. Perhaps best of all is her meeting with the extraordinary House with Chicken Legs, which becomes a friend and helps in her quest. Like the best fairy stories, her tale takes readers into a fantastical world while at the same time telling them truths about the characters and themselves, in this case the importance of love, loyalty and learning to accept who you are. It's beautifully told, feels both original and traditional, and sparkles with its magic. One to recommend to fans of Catherine Doyle's equally magical and captivating Storm Keeper books.



The Dam

Author: David Almond **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 01/08/2019

Longlisted for the UKLA Book Awards 2020 | Shortlisted for the CILIP Kate Greenaway Medal 2020 On the day before the valley is to be flooded to form a reservoir, a girl and her father play and dance in the deserted houses, remembering the people who have lived there. This is an exquisite book in which words and pictures interweave to evoke wild beauty and a deep mystery. You'll want to keep this one for ever.



Where the River Runs Gold

Author: Sita Brahmachari **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 11/07/2019

Hurricane Chronos has devastated the world and now Freedom Fields is the organisation in charge of feeding people – by running farms where children are working as pollinators – as long as you 'opt in'. Children graduate from basic school to then be separated from everything they know, to go to one of the Freedom Farms – but at least Shifa and brother Themba are together. This striking fiction looks at family, at the will to survive and how people adapt and fight back against cruel, dictatorships. The story is totally engrossing, dealing as it does with so many contemporary themes in a compelling storyline. Re-wilding is a theme running throughout the book – a strong message for all. The power of love and family keep everyone on track – and they need it as they deal with such devastating cruelty but also finding help and love in unexpected places. This book is an amazing adventure story blended with powerful personal voices – a tour de force by Sita Brahmacharia.

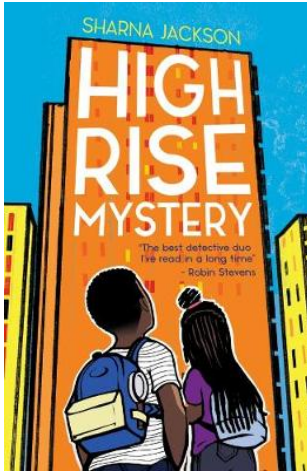


Who are Refugees and Migrants? What Makes People Leave their Homes? And Other Big Questions

Author: Michael Rosen, Ms Annemarie Young **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 13/06/2019

What does it mean for people to have to leave their homes, and what happens when they seek entry to another country? This book explores the history of refugees and migration around the world and the effects on people of never-ending war and conflict. It compares the effects on society of diversity and interculturalism with historical attempts to create a racially 'pure' culture. It takes an international perspective, and offers a range of views from people who have personal experience of migration, including the campaigners Meltem Avcil and Muzoon Almellehan, the comedian and actor Omid Djalili and the poet Benjamin

Zephaniah. Aimed at young people aged 10 and upwards, the book encourages readers to think for themselves about the issues involved. There is also a role-play activity asking readers to imagine themselves in the situation of having to decide whether to leave their homes and seek refuge in a new country.

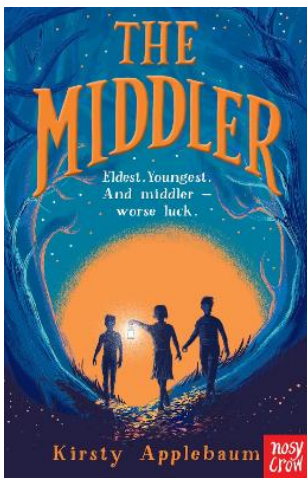


High-Rise Mystery

Author: Sharna Jackson **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 04/04/2019

Winner of the Younger Readers' category of the Waterstones Children's Book Prize 2020 | Longlisted for the UKLA Book Awards 2020 | Longlisted for the Branford Boase Award 2020

Sisters Nik and Norva would agree that they are slightly obsessed with murder mystery series on the television so, when a body is discovered in their block of flats, they are sure they are the right people to discover the truth. Balancing jokey dialogue and insights into the reality of city life, Sharna Jackson has written a very likeable, fast-paced book. Books in the High-Rise Mystery Series: 1. High-Rise Mystery 2. Mic Drop

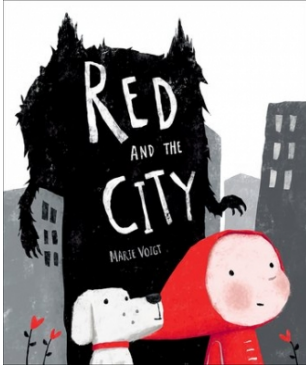


The Middler

Author: Kirsty Applebaum **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 28/03/2019

October 2019 Debut of the Month | Shortlisted for the UKLA Book Awards 2020 | Longlisted for the Branford Boase Award 2020

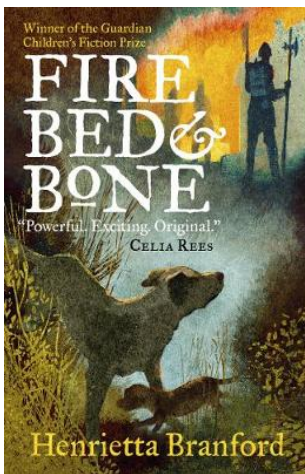
Maggie's village is safe but she knows a war is raging beyond its boundaries. Then she meets a girl from outside and begins to wonder whether the politicians are telling the truth. Set in a completely believable near future, this gripping story has much to say and does it with a delicate touch which offers readers opportunities to think rather than imposing ideas.



Red and the City

Author: Marie Voigt **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 24/01/2019

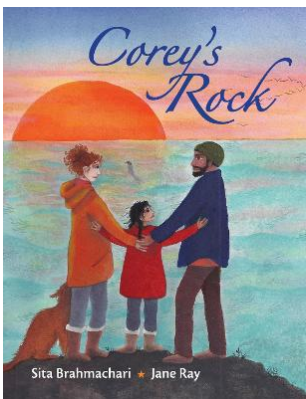
Longlisted for the UKLA Book Awards 2020 | Shortlisted for the Klaus Flugge Prize 2019 Red's mum tells her to follow the heart flowers on the safe path through the city when she sets off to deliver a cake to her grandmother. But the wolfish city soon draws her in and Red is lost. It is only when she remembers what is important to her that she can find her way again. This retelling has a strong contemporary feel.



Fire, Bed and Bone

Author: Henrietta Branford **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 06/09/2018

A most welcome reissue of a superb piece of accessible historical writing told from a most unusual viewpoint. Ultimately uplifting, this is an unflinching look at issues of social justice at the time of the Peasants Revolt. Marcus Sedgwick, who won the Branford Boase Award in 2001, says: "Fire, Bed and Bone is one of those very short books that is nevertheless powerful and moving; one of those books which oozes confidence from the first line to the last. With it, Henrietta won the Guardian Children's Fiction Prize, and twenty-two years later I think it would still win. It's far from being the first novel narrated by an animal, in this case a hunting hound witnessing the events of the Peasant's Revolt of 1381, but remains a masterclass in how to pull off that feat successfully. Its prose is robust and rhythmic; flawless in its execution, showing just what complex themes and stories one can address in a 'book for children'."



Corey's Rock

Author: Sita Brahmachari **Format:** Hardback **Release Date:** 01/09/2018

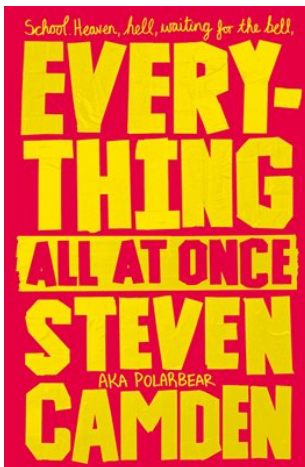
Longlisted for the UKLA Book Awards 2020 Everything is new to Isla and her parents when they make a new start on the Orkney islands. The grief of the death of her brother follows Isla, but the coming together of her own story with Celtic tales helps to create a new beginning. This is a compassionate book much enhanced by sensitive illustration. Deceptively simple-seeming, it has something to say at many levels.



Freedom

Author: Catherine Johnson **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 02/08/2018

Winner of the Little Rebels Children's Book Award 2019 An action-packed and pacy story about a boy's experience of slavery in Britain. Nathaniel doesn't want to move to England with his master's family, leaving behind his mother and sister on the Jamaican plantation. But then he remembers what his mother told him: once a slave sets foot on English soil, they're free. Perhaps he can earn his fortune and buy his family's freedom, too. For more books on this theme head over to our sister site, LoveReading4Schools topic list - The Slave Trade

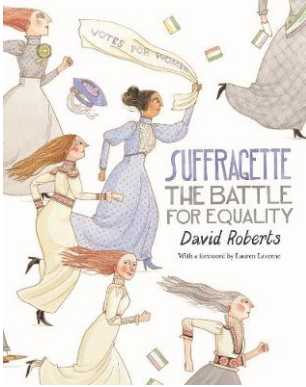


Everything All at Once

Author: Steven Camden **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 12/07/2018

Longlisted for the UKLA Book Awards 2020 | Winner of the CLiPPA 2019 | One of our 2018 Books of the Year These poignant, punch-packing poems explore the varied emotional lives of secondary school pupils facing the giddy transition from being "the biggest to the smallest...in the secondary school jungle" like "gazelles in a field full of lions". Complex tangles of feelings are laid bare with heart-rending authenticity, from the headiness of he-said-she-said gossip, to the bewildering "who the hell do you sit with?" loneliness that strikes when your best friend's off school (Thanks a lot, Belinda).

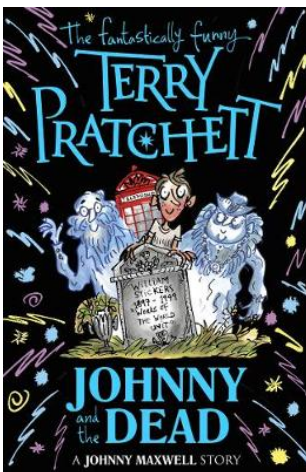
Vending Machine is an incredible piece of writing, encapsulating the anguish and anger of betrayal, of having your heart trampled on, and then the bliss of recovery when your heart feels "a little lighter". Another personal favourite is the sublime Dear Mum, BTEC about a student "drawing different plans" after realising they are ill-suited to exams - plans they hope will make Mum proud. There are jubilant themes too, such as the breathless, time-stopping "WHAM!" of instant attraction, the jangling joy of being at the bottom of a celebratory pile-on after you've scored, and the magic of those inspirational, unforgettable teachers who take time to share a book they think you "should try". A chorus of entertaining, emotionally-charged insights and observations sing and dance through these tender, playful pages, with each short verse alive with empathetic, true-to-life experiences.



Suffragette The Battle for Equality

Author: David Roberts **Format:** Hardback **Release Date:** 29/05/2018

Shortlisted for the CILIP Kate Greenaway Medal 2019 | One of our 2018 Books of the Year Of all the books about the campaign for women's suffrage in this the centenary year of some women being given the vote, David Roberts's is the most beautiful to look at. In full page illustrations, vignettes and individual portraits, he brings the movement alive, portraying vividly the women and men involved, as well as the drama, frustration and endurance, violence and cruelty that were all part of the struggle. And though he's best known for his illustrations, the text is as every bit as powerful as the pictures, meticulously and graphically detailing the words and the deeds that finally brought about change, and the roles of the many different people who played a part. The story he tells is one of the most inspiring of our times, still relevant today, and this book is a brilliant way to discover it.



Johnny and the Dead

Author: Terry Pratchett **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 10/05/2018

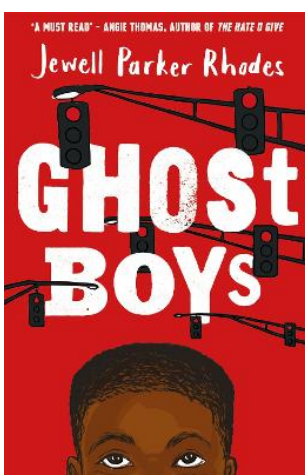
Fantastic, funny and weirdly wonderful, with beautifully apt illustrations by Mark Beech. Johnny can see and talk to the dead, not scary zombie ghostly dead people, just rather ordinary dead people who don't want anyone to build on their cemetery. 'Johnny and the Dead' was first published in 1993, yet is still bang up to date in terms of humour, wit, and observations. Terry Pratchett was wonderfully clever at pointing out just how absurd humans can be sometimes. He takes the dead, from the First World War Blackbury Pals, to former magician Mr Vicenti and brings them to life, well, perhaps to life isn't quite the best way to describe it, but he certainly makes them accessible and approachable. Terry Pratchett makes me laugh, most importantly he makes me think, and I absolutely adore his books. 'Johnny and the Dead' walks into ghostly graveyards and makes them interesting, fascinating places, full of information that we really shouldn't forget, or demolish and build over!



The House with Chicken Legs

Author: Sophie Anderson **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 03/05/2018

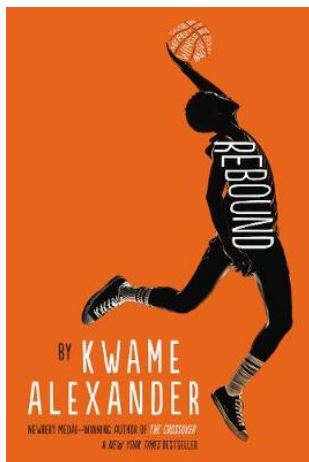
This sparkling debut weaves the captivating folklore of Baba Yaga with the thrills of a classic venturing-out-into-the-world quest, replete with primal conflicts, tantalising twists and an unforgettable protagonist that readers will truly root for. Twelve-year-old Marinka yearns to live in a “normal house” and to have a “normal family”, but instead her house has chicken legs, and her grandmother is a Yaga, a Guardian of The Gate between this world and the next. Worse still, in Marinka’s eyes, is that it’s her destiny to become a Yaga herself, to take on the duty of giving the dead “one last wonderful evening” before they “return to the stars”. Baba Yaga has long warned Marinka of the dangers of venturing too far in the world of the living, but her desire “to have friendships that last more than one night” is so strong that she’s prepared to risk everything. Teetering on the cusp of childhood and adulthood, Marinka’s frustrations and determination to find her own way in the world will truly strike a chord with the intended readership. This age-old conflict is delivered with heart and skillfully interwoven with the glorious trimmings of the original folklore. Add to this the twists, the unveiling of truths and the critical choices Marinka must make and you have a heartily satisfying novel that’s ideal for fans of Neil Gaiman’s *The Graveyard Book*. Older readers might also enjoy *Circus of the Unseen*, which offers an alternate re-working of Baba Yaga’s infinitely enthralling Slavic folklore. Radiant with wonder and wisdom, this is an exceptional debut. Shortlisted for The Branford Boase Award 2019 | UKLA Longlist Book Awards - 2019 | Shortlisted for the Blue Peter Book Awards 2019, Best Story category | Shortlisted for the CILIP Carnegie Medal 2019 | May 2018 Debut of the Month | One of our 2018 Books of the Year



Ghost Boys

Author: Jewell Parker Rhodes **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 19/04/2018

UKLA Longlist Book Awards - 2019 A heartbreaking and powerful story about a black boy killed by a white police officer, drawing connections with real-life history, from award-winning author Jewell Parker Rhodes.



Rebound

Author: Kwame Alexander **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 05/04/2018

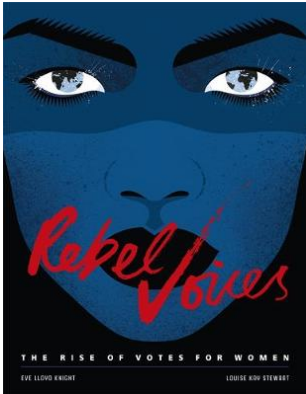
Shortlisted for the CILIP Carnegie Medal 2019 A dynamic slam-dunk of a book in which a boy lost in grief begins to find his feet on the basketball court. Slickly blending stirring verse-form storytelling with ingenious jump-off-the-page comic strip illustrations, this is a poignant, powerful page-turner that will find fans among a broad range of reading levels in the 12+ age group. It's 1988 and Charlie Bell (Chuck to his Granddaddy) feels utterly isolated by grief after losing his dad. And, since he can't seem to stay out of trouble either, his despairing mom leaves him with Grandma and Granddaddy for the whole hot summer. There Chuck discovers an affinity with basketball through his cousin Roxie, but when a friend from back home says he can help Chuck get hold of a pair of genuine Jordan sneakers at a discount, the ensuing chain of events could land him in serious trouble. Though this is a prequel to the author's Newbury Medal winning *The Crossover*, it can be read and relished as a standalone novel (for those who have read *The Crossover*, Chuck is Josh and Jordan's dad). This is a joyous parade of poetry that packs incredible emotional depth. The language soars and sings, and the vibrant interspersed comic strips by Dawud Anyabile enhance the immersive experience with panache.



Running On Empty

Author: S. E. Durrant **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 01/03/2018

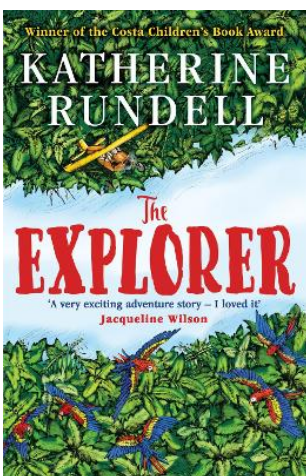
Highly Commended in the UKLA Book Awards 2019 S E Durrant writes convincingly and movingly about ordinary young people in extraordinary situations, and *Running on Empty* finds beauty and certainty in an apparently bleak situation. Eleven-year old AJ's parents both have learning difficulties and he becomes their main carer when his grandfather suddenly dies. It's a struggle, especially at first when no-one at his new secondary school realises just what AJ has to cope with. His love and tenderness towards his parents is beautifully described, as is the warmth of his extended family and things slowly sort themselves out. Somehow too his grandfather – who loved running as much as AJ does – is never really far away. Without a trace of sentimentality, this ends on a note of hope and happiness that is both believable and uplifting. This is one to recommend to fans of Susin Nielsen and even R J Palacio.



Rebel Voices

Author: Louise K Stewart **Format:** Hardback **Release Date:** 11/01/2018

Visually stunning, brief but inspiring vignettes of campaigners for women's rights around the world.



The Explorer

Author: Katherine Rundell **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 02/01/2018

Winner of the UKLA Book Awards 2019 | Winner of The Costa Children's Book Award 2017 After crashing hundreds of miles from civilisation in the Amazon rainforest, Fred, Con, Lila and Max are utterly alone and in grave danger. They have no food, no water and no chance of being rescued. But they are alive and they have hope. As they negotiate the wild jungle they begin to find signs that something - someone - has been there before them. Could there possibly be a way out after all?



Du Iz Tak?

Author: Carson Ellis **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 01/10/2017

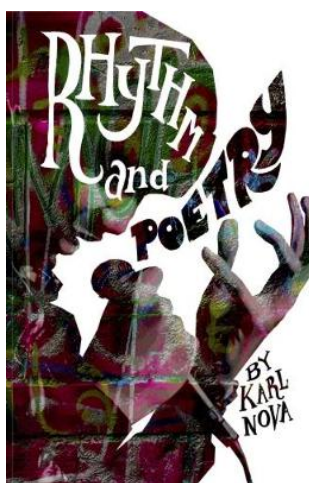
You need a working knowledge of bug to understand this story, but don't worry, it's an easy language to pick up. 'Du iz tak?' asks a dragonfly, studying a green shoot. 'Ma nazoot' replies his elegant companion. They decide it's a plant and watch excitedly as it grows, building a wonderful tree house amongst its leaves, and exclaiming when it produces a scrivadelly gladdenboot. There's drama when a spider moves in, meanwhile a subplot silently unfolds: a caterpillar forms a chrysalis, emerging as a beautiful moth in a stunning, wordless night-time scene. The seasons come and go, almost unnoticed, so absorbed are we in the insects' story. Children will love the world portrayed, and love too the fact that adults need to decode this new language just as they do. Not since *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* has insect life been celebrated with such style and originality. ~ Andrea Reece



Pax

Author: Sara Pennypacker **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 01/09/2017

A Julia Eccleshare Pick of the Month October 2017 Touching and thought-provoking this is a lyrically-told story perfectly presented in a beautiful book. Peter's life falls apart after his mother dies in a car crash. The only thing that makes him happy and keeps him going is Pax, the fox he raises from a kit – and his love of baseball. But when Peter's father goes off to join in the army, Peter must go and live with his grandfather and return Pax to the wild. Neither Peter, nor Pax can bear the separation; both are determined to be reunited. In two strands, one human and one from an animal perspective, each tells the story of their journey. Both meet danger, kindness, accident. Peter's human helpers comfort the deep hurt within him as well as setting him on the route home; Pax learns about the complicated and often cruel relationship between humans and animals, particularly foxes, in the wild. Jon Klassen's illustrations capture the mood of the story perfectly. ~ Julia Eccleshare Sara Pennypacker says, "With PAX, I wanted to say something about the unfairness of the damages done to kids when adults wage war, but also something about the amazing and redemptive connections that are possible between young humans and animals. This novel is tremendously important to me –it feels like the book all my other books have been preparing me to write." A message from the Editor, Harriet Wilson, "PAX is a modern classic in the making, Sara's breathtaking and masterful storytelling will stay in your heart for a lifetime." Julia Eccleshare's Picks of the Month for October 2017 A Skinful of Shadows by Frances Hardinge The Wolf, the Duck and the Mouse by Mac Barnett and Jon Klassen Illegal by Eoin Colfer and Andrew Donkin The Land of Neverendings by Kate Saunders The Wizards of Once by Cressida Cowell Pax by Sara Pennypacker and Jon Klassen Egyptomania by Emma Giuliani and Carole Saturno Father Christmas and Me by Matt Haig The Greatest Magician in the World by Matt Edmondson

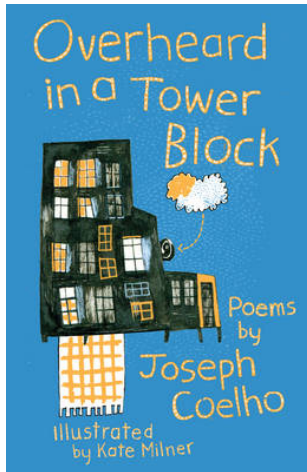


Rhythm and Poetry

Author: Karl Nova **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 27/07/2017

Winner of the Centre for Literacy in Primary Poetry Award 2018

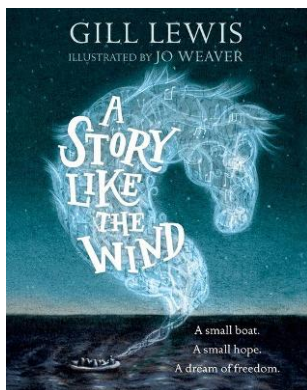
The first published collection from Hip Hop poet Karl Nova has a refreshing directness, honesty and authenticity. Many of the poems are drawn from the workshops he does with children and young people as well as from his performances. Notes accompanying the poems give insights into his process and encourage children to believe that they are poets too. The poems capture the rap beat and tone, demonstrating the currency and significance of rap as a form, especially for young people. A book that opens doors.



Overheard in a Tower Block

Author: Joseph Coelho **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 06/07/2017

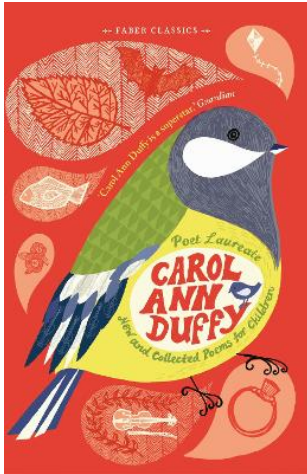
UKLA Longlist Book Awards - 2019 | Shortlisted for the Centre for Literacy in Primary Poetry Award 2018 This second solo collection from Joseph Coelho, *Overheard in a Tower Block*, explores further some of the themes from *Werewolf Club Rules* (which won the CLIPPA in 2015). More suited to an older reader than that first collection, this is an extraordinarily powerful and moving book. Each poem offers us glimpses into the life of the main character as he grows, over the course of the collection, from young boy through adolescence to adulthood. The ingenious threading of fantasy, story, myth and magic throughout the poems only illuminates further the challenges and hardships of this young man's life, but ultimately concludes in moments of optimism, joy and possibility.



A Story Like the Wind

Author: Gill Lewis **Format:** Hardback **Release Date:** 04/05/2017

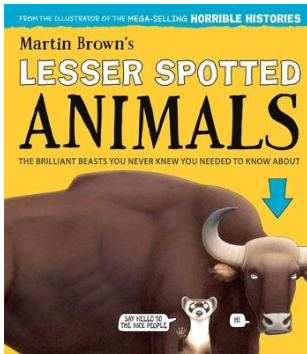
One of Our Books of the Year 2017 | Longlisted for the UKLA 2018 Book Award A Julia Eccleshare Pick of the Month May 2017 Gill Lewis's *A Story Like the Wind*, a powerful and lyrical story about contemporary refugees, is fuelled by an ancient tale which tells how throughout history music has crossed barriers and bound people together encouraging them to stand up to oppression and injustice. Rami has nothing but his violin as he sets off on a terrifying journey to try to find safety. Starving and thirsty he takes nothing from his fellow travellers as he has nothing to share. Why did you not sell your violin, they ask? With his violin as an accompaniment Rami swiftly demonstrates why; his inspiring story of freedom from long, long ago unites his fellow refugees and stirs them all to believe in their journey and their hope of a better life.



New and Collected Poems for Children

Author: Carol Ann Duffy **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 06/04/2017

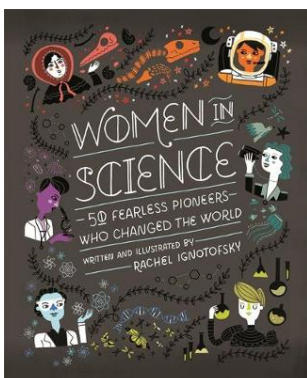
A stunning collection of poems for children by the Poet Laureate. Carol Ann Duffy's collection opens with 'The Words of Poems', which is a perfect introduction to the feast of delights found within this anthology. Duffy's poems encompass everything from 'The Good Child's Guide to Rock'n' Roll', which is at least as much fun for adults as children, and the more obviously child directed, 'The Sock'. This really is an anthology to treasure. ~ Julia Eccleshare



Lesser Spotted Animals

Author: Martin Brown **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 06/04/2017

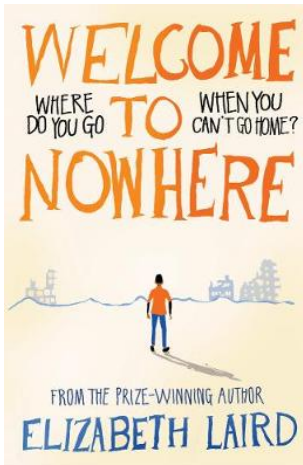
Winner of the UKLA 2018 Book Award 7-11 This is no ordinary animal book, you won't find the usual suspects in its page, no tigers, pandas, bears here. Instead be prepared to be amazed by animals you've never heard of, from the Cuban solenodon (one of the few mammals with a poisonous bite) to the stinky but useful zorilla, aka Africa's pongiest predator. Martin 'Horrible Histories illustrator' Brown celebrates a host of animals that deserve to be better known, in a book that offers a refreshingly different approach to natural history. Each page is packed with fascinating information, cleverly laid out with frequent jokes and cartoon asides adding to the fun. At the same time, there's a serious message about the threat to these creatures from humans, and habitat loss.



Women in Science

Author: Rachel Ignotofsky **Format:** Hardback **Release Date:** 09/03/2017

March 2017 Non Fiction Book of the Month Hopefully everyone has heard of Marie Curie, Rosalind Franklin and Ada Lovelace, pioneers in science. But what about Grace Hopper, credited as the mother of computer programming, or Nobel Prize winners Rita Levi-Montalcini or Maria Goeppert-Mayer? Despite all the obstacles put in their way, women scientists have been getting to the head of their fields for thousands of years and this book celebrates 50 of them. There's a double page on each brilliant woman, full of information about their lives, backgrounds and achievements, and handsomely designed and illustrated too. There are timelines, plus statistics and, a really inspiring touch, quotes from the scientists on nearly every page. A book to excite and energize girls and boys alike.



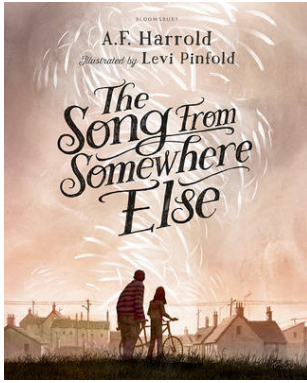
Welcome to Nowhere

Author: Elizabeth Laird **Format:** Hardback **Release Date:** 12/01/2017

In a nutshell: the lives of a Syrian family brought vividly and sympathetically to life for young readers | This is an excellent book for young people who want to know what is happening in Syria and why – serious, thoughtful, sympathetic to the ordinary people caught up in the war; in a highly readable story it gives a real insight into their lives, and how quickly they have changed from something very similar to our own, to something incomprehensible. Readers meet Laird’s fictional Syrian family at the beginning of the civil war when life is good, particularly for her central character Omar, a young boy already dreaming of running his own business. But as protests against the government spiral into war, the family are forced from their house, then their country. Omar stays upbeat, even in their refugee camp where hope is in very short supply, a lively, reassuring narrator. Unlike his older brother, he’s not interested in the protests, just wants things to be back the way they were; though the book ends with Omar, his mother and sisters escaping the refugee camp, we know that their lives have changed forever. ~

Andrea Reece Elizabeth Laird says, “We in the west, in the comfort of our homes, with our NHS, our free schools, our benefits and all our privileges, find it hard to grasp the fear and desperation of people who have lost everything, including their hope for the future. These people are people like us, with professions, lifestyles and families like ours. Unfortunately we are often encouraged by some of our politicians and our media to see them only as potential terrorists, as scroungers, as threats to our way of life. I wanted to show a family behind the statistics, parents and children caught up in a desperate civil war, coping in impossible circumstances in the best way they can. I wove into Welcome to Nowhere the accounts of many different people who told me about their own experiences, and urged me to write their story.”

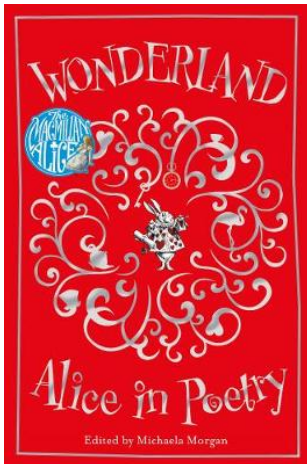
Belinda Rasmussen, Publisher, Macmillan Children’s Books says: “Elizabeth Laird has succeeded again in writing an incredibly powerful novel, this time about one of the biggest humanitarian crises of our age. We are extremely proud to be publishing this book to help foster understanding, empathy and support for those who have lost everything and can’t go home.”



The Song from Somewhere Else

Author: A. F. Harrold **Format:** Hardback **Release Date:** 10/11/2016

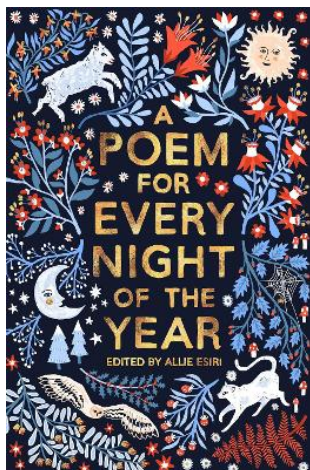
Longlisted for the UKLA 2018 Book Award A Julia Eccleshare Book of the Month November 2016 Award-winning A.F. Harrold blends reality and imagination in a moving and thought-provoking story about friendship, loneliness and being brave when things are difficult. Bullied at school and unsupported at home, Frank makes an unusual friendship with Nick, the weird boy in her class who everyone else shuns. After Nick rescues Frank from the bullies, she goes round to his house where she discovers something very unusual. What should Frank believe about what she sees? And should she keep Nick's secret? Levi Penfold's illustrations add to the illusory feel of this story that tests imagination and belief and leaves the reader wondering. ~ Julia Eccleshare Julia Eccleshare's Picks of the Month for November 2016 The Song from Somewhere Else by A. F. Harrold and Levi Pinfold Murder in Midwinter by Fleur Hitchcock Winnie and Wilbur Meet Santa by Valerie Thomas and Korky Paul Rover and the Big Fat Baby by Roddy Doyle and Chris Judge Penguin Problems by Jory John and Lane Smith The Giant's Necklace by Michael Morpurgo and Briony May Smith



Wonderland: Alice in Poetry

Author: Lewis Carroll **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 22/09/2016

Shortlisted for the CLPE Children's Poetry Award (CLIPPA) 2017 Lewis Carroll's Alice has been enchanting children for 150 years. Curious Alice, the bossy White Rabbit, the formidable Queen of Hearts and the Mad Hatter are among the best-loved, most iconic literary creations of all time.

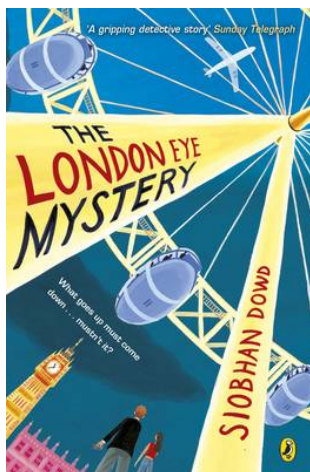


A Poem for Every Night of the Year

Author: Allie Esiri **Format:** Hardback **Release Date:** 08/09/2016

One of our Books of the Year 2016 | A Julia Eccleshare Pick of the Month September 2016 A fabulously rich anthology of 366 poems - one for every night of the year as promised in the title. Or for everyday if you would rather read your poetry and perfect for reading aloud and sharing with all the family. It ranges widely through classic and modern poetry and, where there is a link to a particular date, it appears on that page in the book. Fittingly therefore, J. K. Rowling's The Sorting Hat Song which first appears in Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone, is the poem for 10 September - the start of the school year for many, even those not at Hogwarts. ~ Julia Eccleshare A message from Gaby Morgan, Editorial Director at Pan Macmillan A beautiful collection of 366 poems from familiar favourites to exciting contemporary voices, one to share on every night of the year. All the poems have a link to the date on which they appear, and the collection will take you on a journey through history, the season, and festivals and traditions from many different countries, cultures and religions. A message from the author, Allie Esiri William Wordsworth once wrote of beauty 'felt along the heart', like waves beating along a shore. We feel poems along the heart - they wash over us and, though we might not notice the impact they make, they leave the shores of our hearts a little changed. Great poems make us more human. They introduce us to new ways of seeing the world. They force us to imagine what it might be like to be someone completely different - and they show us that someone completely different is just as human as we are. When I discovered poetry as a child, I remember stumbling over weird and wonderful words whose meaning I felt far from understanding, but I think I knew then that poetry held an extraordinary power. My childhood private passion has become my career: I spend most of my time reading poetry, writing about poetry and banging the metaphorical drum for poetry. Over the past few years I've tried to remind people how remarkable and exhilarating poetry is. Poetry will stay with you for life. We use it to help us come to terms with the big things in life: love, friendship, loss, nature, beauty and the passing of time. People write and read poems for landmark events - weddings, funerals, political uproars or tragic disasters. But I wanted to share in this collection that poetry can also be for the small things in life, for the everyday. This anthology contains a poem for each and every night of the year. More than being just a sequence of beautiful poems to share at Introduction bedtime, however, this is a journey through culture and history and the seasons. Near April Fool's Day are poems that are complete nonsense but huge fun to read aloud, such as Lewis Carroll's bizarre 'Jabberwocky'. And there are poems on certain dates that tell us about the traditions of other cultures and religions. There are poems written about historical events, like the sinking of the Titanic or the seminal moment in the Civil Rights Movement in America when Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat on a bus. I hope that there is a poem here for everyone - something for every night and every mood and every person, whose lines never leave you but remain inside the private library of your brain, and whose beauty you feel as Wordsworth did: along the heart. Julia Eccleshare's Picks of the Month for September 2016 A Poem for Every Night of the

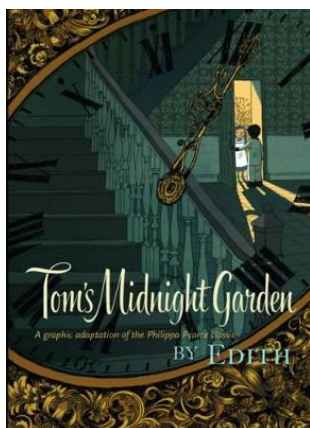
Year compiled by Allie Esiri Gruffalo Crumble and Other Recipes by Julia Donaldson A Child of Books by Oliver Jeffers and Sam Winston Beck by Mal Peet and Meg Rosoff Tom's Midnight Garden Graphic Novel by Philippa Pearce and Edith Jinks and O'Hare Funfair Repair by Philip Reeve and Sarah McIntryre



The London Eye Mystery

Author: Siobhan Dowd **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 01/09/2016

This was only Siobhan Dowd's second novel but it's clear her talent as a superb storyteller is beyond question. Sadly, however she died in late 2007 so whatever you do don't miss her four novels. Her first, A Swift Pure Cry, was shortlisted for nearly all the major awards and although this second novel is very different it has that same page-turner quality about it. It's a beautifully written mystery set in Manchester and London and featuring two young boys, one of whom disappears on the London Eye shortly before he's due to emigrate to the US with his mother. This edition features an Introduction from bestselling author Robin Stevens. Siobhan sadly only wrote 4 books in total before her tragic death from cancer in 2007. They were Solace of the Road, Bog Child, A Swift Pure Cry and The London Eye Mystery but her memory lives on in a Trust that has been set up in her name as well as through her writing. ~ Julia Eccleshare Shortlisted for the Nasen and TES 'Special Educational Needs Children's Book Award' 2007.

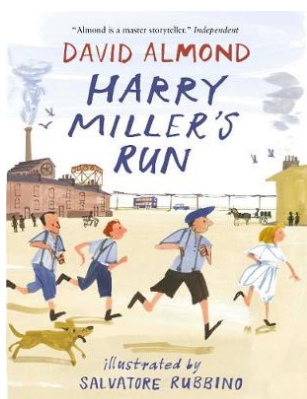


Tom's Midnight Garden Graphic Novel

Author: Philippa Pearce **Format:** Hardback **Release Date:** 01/09/2016

One of our Books of the Year 2016 | Julia Eccleshare's Book of the Month September 2016 Philippa Pearce's classic novel of the 1950s is newly minted for today's readers while retaining its sense of wonder and its ability to make the unbelievable – including travelling through time – 'real'. Edith's graphic novel version captures how Tom moves from frustration and disappointment at being cooped up in a flat with his aunt and uncle to delight when his night time adventures take him into the magical garden that once belonged to the house. Invisible to all but Hatty, a lonely little girl, Tom enjoys the most wonderful adventures with her including skating through the night to Ely. The rich imagination of the original is portrayed in a new and also stimulating way. ~ Julia Eccleshare A message from Liz Cross, Head of Publishing, Oxford Children's Books, about this unique graphic novel edition: Like so many people working in children's books, I am passionate about stories. Stories give us so much delight, so many characters to get to know, so many places to explore – and so much sheer entertainment. Really great stories deserve to be shared with as many different people as possible, in many different ways – as we have seen with Harry Potter in

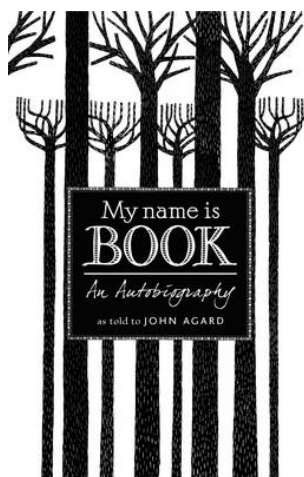
film, Matilda in musical form, Tracy Beaker on TV, and so many others. The power of the story shines through in each case, brought to life in different ways by different forms. Tom's Midnight Garden is one of the greatest children's stories ever written – and because of this it's already been shared in film, TV and stage show, and in many languages around the world. So it is incredibly exciting to have a brand new way of sharing this story – in this beautiful graphic novel, adapted and illustrated by French graphic novelist Edith. Whether or not you've read the novel already, in this graphic adaptation there is a timeless, powerful story waiting for you. It's a visual treat and an object of beauty – and most of all, a story you will never forget. Julia Eccleshare's Picks of the Month for September 2016 A Poem for Every Night of the Year compiled by Allie Esiri Gruffalo Crumble and Other Recipes by Julia Donaldson A Child of Books by Oliver Jeffers and Sam Winston Beck by Mal Peet and Meg Rosoff Tom's Midnight Garden Graphic Novel by Philippa Pearce and Edith Jinks and O'Hare Funfair Repair by Philip Reeve and Sarah McIntyre



Harry Miller's Run

Author: David Almond **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 01/09/2016

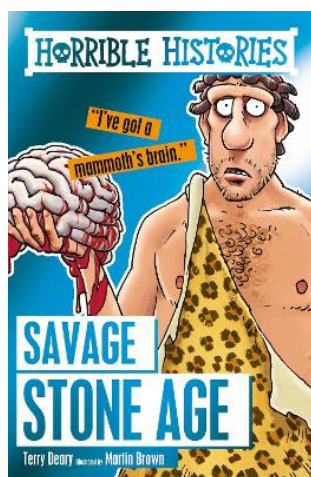
Longlisted for the UKLA 2017 Book Award Award-winning David Almond tells a lively story which captures the exuberance of a trio of lads and one girl who set off one hot summer morning to run from their homes in Newcastle to South Shields. There's no training, no special kit, no crowds – just the gang enjoying the freedom to run and the kindness of many who keep them fed and watered along the way. And it is a distance of thirteen miles so exactly half a marathon. Old Harry, now walking with a frame and on his way to a care home, tells young Liam, a boy in the present who has just got a place in the junior Great North Run, all about the trip and the magic of it. In doing so he shows a slice of a different kind of childhood set in David Almond's home ground of Newcastle and the surrounding area. In this beautifully produced new edition, Salvatore Rubbino's illustrations also capture the period and the sense of place brilliantly. ~ Julia Eccleshare



My Name is Book

Author: John Agard **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 04/08/2016

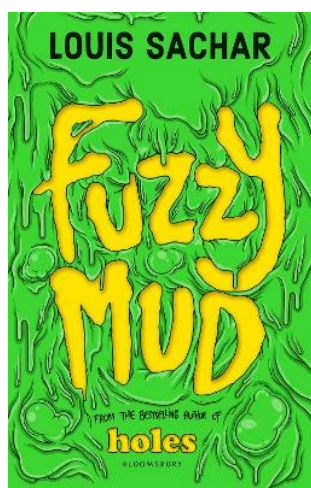
My name is Book and I'll tell you the story of my life. Non fiction like you've never read it before!



Savage Stone Age

Author: Terry Deary **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 04/08/2016

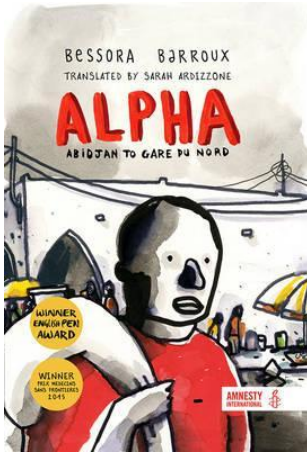
Refreshed, renewed, reloaded! Readers can discover all the facts about the Savage Stone Age including: what they used instead of toilet paper, why a hole in the skull is good for headaches and how to make a Stone Age mummy. Refreshed with a fantastic new design, these bestselling titles are sure to be a huge hit with yet another generation of Terry Deary fans. With shiny foil cover



Fuzzy Mud

Author: Louis Sachar **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 04/08/2016

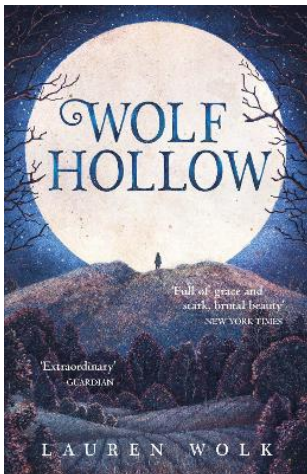
The bestselling author of Holes tells a cracking new story in Fuzzy Mud featuring some truly terrifying genetically modified mud. When Marshall takes a short cut home to avoid being beaten up by Chad, the school bully who has been ruining his life for the past few weeks, he makes the worst decision of his life. Marshall heads into the woods even though he knows it is forbidden. Tamaya has no choice but to follow. After all, they have walked to and from school together every day for the past three years and she is not allowed to walk home alone. But when Chad pursues them the three discover exactly why the woods are out of bounds. Hideously damaged by the peculiar mud that lies deep in the woods what hope do they have of survival? And will they always be enemies? ~ Julia Eccleshare



Alpha Abidjan to Gare du Nord

Author: Bessora **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 01/08/2016

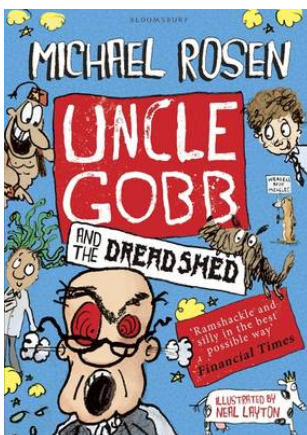
Shortlisted for the UKLA 2018 Book Award One of our Books of the Year 2016 | Alpha hopes that his wife and little son are in Paris and he's desperate to see them. Denied a visa to travel he must make the long, long journey from his home in the Cote D'Ivoire to Europe as an illegal immigrant, or as he says 'adventurer'. The story is told through striking images, mostly black and white, colour is used sparingly; sophisticated yet childlike too they vividly depict the people and places of his journey and each one has the power to bring the reader up short. The text too equally demands and holds our attention. Though this is very much one man's journey it's one undertaken by many thousands of others and, as Michael Morpurgo says in his introduction, it's a story we all need to hear and to understand.



Wolf Hollow

Author: Lauren Wolk **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 30/06/2016

Annabelle has lived in Wolf Hollow all her life: a quiet place, still scarred by two world wars. But when cruel, manipulative Betty arrives in town, Annabelle's calm world is shattered, along with everything she's ever known about right and wrong. When Betty disappears, suspicion falls on strange, gentle loner Toby. As Wolf Hollow turns against him, and tensions quickly mount, Annabelle must do everything in her power to protect Toby - and to find Betty, before it is too late.



Uncle Gobb and the Dread Shed

Author: Michael Rosen **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 05/05/2016

Malcom's Uncle Gobb is really irritating, and not just because he keeps shouting 'the boy needs to do more homework'. When Gobb Education starts taking over their school, and Uncle Gobb sets up the dread 'Dread Shed' in their playground, Malcolm and his best friend Crackersnacker decide they've got to get rid him. Children will love seeing Malcolm bamboozle and confuzzle Uncle Gobb to a standstill with entirely logical but unanswerable questions and Neal Layton's scratchy illustrations brilliantly match the riotous tone. Great fun for children, who will recognise the absurdities Malcolm faces daily, less enjoyable reading perhaps for any secretaries of state for education. ~ Andrea Reece One of our Books of the Year 2015 Click [here](#) to download an activity pack for Uncle Gobb and the Dread Shed.

KWAME ALEXANDER
NEWBURY AWARD-WINNING AUTHOR OF THE CROSSOVER

Booked

Author: Kwame Alexander **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 05/05/2016

Shortlisted for the CLPE Children's Poetry Award (CLiPPA) 2017

Nick is football mad, finding more poetry, more to stimulate him on the soccer field and with a ball at his feet than he ever does in books. This doesn't go down well with his father, a linguistics professor with 'chronic verbomania', but at least his best friend understands. Cody and Nick are on opposing football teams but the same side for everything else, including facing up to the school bullies. When he's hit by the twin blows of an injury and the news that his parents are separating however, Nick is surprised to find real comfort in books. *Booked* is written in free verse, like the author's previous novel *The Crossover*, and the form brilliantly catches the energy and ups and downs of Nick's life, giving his story an immediacy that helps make this irresistible reading. If *Booked* sends readers looking for more verse novels Sarah Crossan's *The Weight of Water* is also excellent while Patrick Neate's *Small Town Hero* is great on football and teen life.



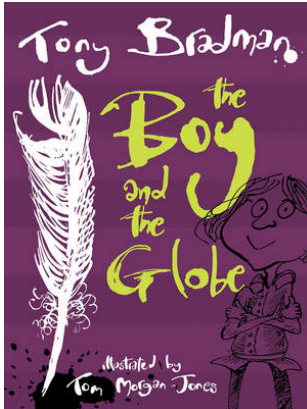
The Journey

Author: Francesca Sanna **Format:** Hardback **Release Date:** 01/04/2016

One of Our Books of the Year 2017 | Winner for the 2017 Klaus Flugge Prize | Winner of the UKLA 2017 Book Award |

Shortlisted for the CILIP Kate Greenaway Medal 2017 and

awarded the Amnesty CILIP Honour A powerful picturebook which teacher judges described as "taking children to new experiences outside their own". What is it like to have to leave everything behind and travel many miles to somewhere unfamiliar and strange? A mother and her two children set out on such a journey; one filled with fear of the unknown, but also great hope.



The Boy and the Globe

Author: Tony Bradman **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 15/03/2016

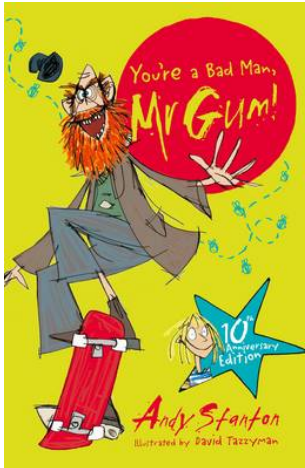
Young readers wondering what's so special about Shakespeare as celebrations to mark the 400th anniversary of his death get underway would do well to read Tony Bradman's cheerful story of life at the Globe circa 1611. The cast of characters includes Toby Cuffe an orphan boy, and William Shakespeare himself. Sent to the Globe to do some pickpocketing, Toby is too intrigued by the action on stage to make a successful getaway. He's caught but the Globe's owners give him a break and a job – he loves it, and even gives Shakespeare the idea for *The Tempest*. Tony Bradman's enthusiasm for Shakespeare and his plays is infectious and makes clear why a visit to the Globe was such a treat. Praise is due too to illustrator Tom Morgan-Jones, whose 'inky daubs' are as lively and vivid as the text.



Beetle Boy

Author: M.G. Leonard **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 03/03/2016

Winner of the Branford Boase Award 2017 | One of our Books of the Year 2016 | Shortlisted for the Children's category of the Books are My Bag Readers Awards 2016 | Longlisted for the UKLA 2017 Book Award and March 2016 Julia Eccleshare's Debut of the Month A rollicking adventure spiced up with fascinating information about beetles, this debut novel fuses science, survival and sleuthing! Darkus's life is turned upside down when his father goes missing. Darkus refuses to accept that his father is dead and he is determined to find out what happened for himself. Sent to stay with his uncle, he discovers the strange neighbours have a yard full of junk – and beetles. Darkus is befriended by a handsome, giant beetle who seems to understand Darkus and is also connected to his dad's disappearance. What is going on? And who is Lucretia Cutter, one of the best villainess since Cruella de Vil? Books in The Battle of the Beetles Series: 1. Beetle Boy 2. Beetle Queen 3. Battle of the Beetles

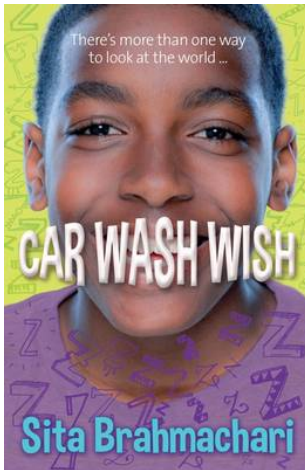


You're a Bad Man, Mr Gum!

Author: Andy Stanton **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 25/02/2016

Winner of the Blue Peter Prize 2007 'Most Fun Story with Pictures.' **Shortlisted for the Branford Boase Award 2007 and Joint winner of the Richard and Judy "Developing" 7+ category**

Mr Gum may well be a 'bad man' but rest assured the author Mr Stanton is a 'funny man'. There's a wonderful sense of humour throughout. Fans of Roald Dahl will love it. This special edition comes with lots of stickers, a brand new bonus story and an exclusive introduction from the author.

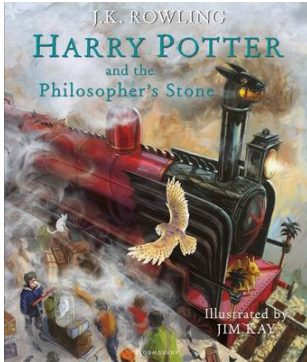


Car Wash Wish

Author: Sita Brahmachari **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 15/01/2016

Interest Age Teen Reading Age 8 Sita Brahmachari writes about family lives and family relationships with real sensitivity and insight. Hudson, the teen narrator of her new novel, is well aware of his own tendency to misunderstand or misread what others are saying, so the moment when he and his dad suddenly connect with one another is particularly powerful. That it takes place in a car wash only makes it more convincing. Hudson's dad explains how much he loved going through the car wash with his own father as a child, and how the cloud of soapy bubbles felt like a kind of heaven. Though there's lots going on in Hudson's life, and indeed head, his story is, as publisher Barrington Stoke says, super readable, with design and writing as clear as can be.

~ Andrea Reece Particularly suitable for struggling, reluctant and dyslexic readers aged 12+ Barrington Stoke is the foremost publisher of dyslexia friendly books and those for reluctant readers. Here on LoveReading4kids we are constantly selecting new titles and refreshing our special dyslexia friendly category. Click [here](#) to view our current selection which is broken down by age range.

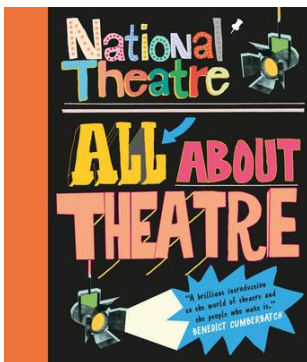


Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone

Author: J. K. Rowling **Format:** Hardback **Release Date:** 06/10/2015

Winner of the Blue Peter Book Award - Favourite book from the Last Two Decades | Shortlisted for the CILIP Kate Greenaway Medal 2017

Exciting news for all Harry Potter fans, Bloomsbury has published the first fully illustrated edition of Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone, with artwork from the awesomely talented Kate Greenaway Medal winner, Jim Kay. Prepare to be spellbound by Jim Kay's dazzling depiction of the wizarding world and much loved characters. This is where the adventure begins, as Harry Potter discovers that he is no ordinary boy but a wizard of great reknown, as well as expected at Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry. Moreover, at Hogwarts, he encounters "He Who Must Not Be Named", a master of magic whose ambition is more dark and terrifying than Harry can possibly imagine. Take a peak at Jim Kay's illustrations of Rubeus Hagrid, Hermione Granger, Draco Malfoy and Ron Weasley [click here!](#)



National Theatre: All About Theatre

Author: National Theatre **Format:** Hardback **Release Date:** 01/10/2015

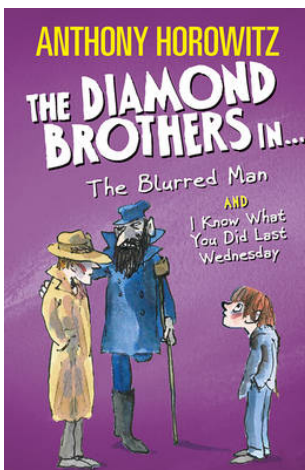
One of our Books of the Year 2015 - Julia Eccleshare's Pick of the Year 2015 - November 2015 Book of the Month Bravo for this brilliant and inspiring book! It takes lots of different people with lots of different skills to put on a play, and in this book the team at the National Theatre explain just how it's done: from script to opening night, taking in rehearsals, set making, make-up, lighting, sound and music, and more, they explain how their different roles and the work they do combine to create a magical theatrical experience. There's a huge amount of information packed in, with quotes and comments from the professionals involved, technical information, stats and facts, and tips for you to try at home. By the end readers will have a really good understanding of theatre and no doubt a burning desire to see more shows and to put on plays themselves. ~ Andrea Reece Also chosen by Andrea Reece as one of her Top Picks of 2015.



The Mystery of the Clockwork Sparrow

Author: Katherine Woodfine **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 04/06/2015

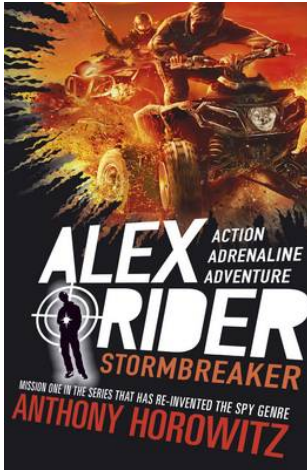
One of our Books of the Year 2015 - June 2015 Debut of the Month An Edwardian department store provides a glamorous setting for this sparkling girls' detective story, and there's something of the Little Princess about its central character Sophie Taylor too. Left penniless when her father dies she's pleased to find a job in the millinery department of Sinclair's. The other girls decide she's stuck-up but she makes friends with Billy a junior porter and beautiful Lil, who models clothes during the day and dances in the chorus at night. A daring burglary plunges them all into an exciting - and dangerous - adventure. Sophie is an appealing heroine, the mystery is cleverly plotted and leads to a thrilling climax, while the period details - clothes, hats, tea and cake - add to the charm. Splendid! ~ Andrea Reece



The Diamond Brothers in the Blurred Man & I Know What You Did Last Wednesday

Author: Anthony Horowitz **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 04/06/2015

Fun doesn't come more hardboiled! Anthony Horowitz's Diamond Brothers adventures, starring gormless private eye Tim Diamond and his much sharper kid brother Nick, have all the excitement of the Alex Rider books plus first-class jokes, lots of them. Adult readers will spot that they are parodies of the detective fiction of Raymond Chandler and Dashiell Hammett, and very sharply done. There are two for the price of one here, and they're certain to set young readers off in search of more. Fortunately, as Tim Diamond says in a new introduction to the book, he's cracked more cases than the entire baggage-handling department at Heathrow Airport, and Horowitz has written them all. ~ Andrea Reece



Stormbreaker

Author: Anthony Horowitz **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 02/04/2015

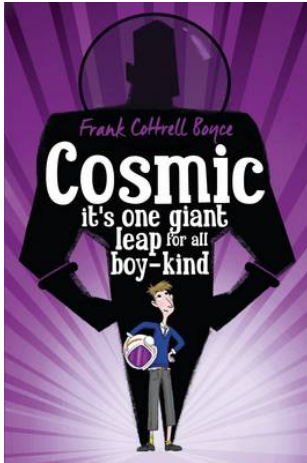
A fabulous story that crackles with suspense and daring and shows that a bit of cheek will take you a very long way. Alex Rider is fourteen when his whole world is turned upside down. Already an orphan, his guardian is killed in suspicious circumstances and Alex finds himself forcibly recruited into the MI6 to train as a super spy. He performs deeds of unimaginable daring, faces terrible danger – and lives to tell the tale. A great, pacy read. Some of our readers, new to the Alex Rider series, put themselves forward to read and review all ten titles. Check out their reviews below and if you click on the link 'Read full review' you will be able to view the reviews for all titles. Books in The Alex Rider Series: 1. Stormbreaker 2. Point Blanc 3. Skeleton Key 4. Eagle Strike 5. Scorpia 6. Ark Angel 7. Snakehead 8. Crocodile Tears 9. Scorpia Rising 10. Russian Roulette 11. Never Say Die 12. Secret Weapon 13. Nightshade



If You Find This

Author: Matthew Baker **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 02/04/2015

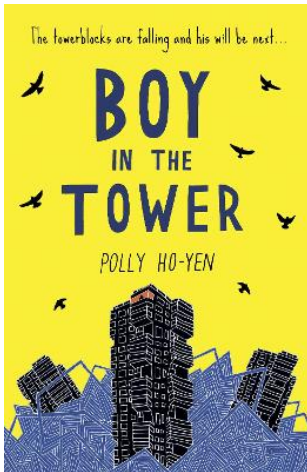
Three boys, two grandpas, a tree, a map and some hidden treasure...Let the adventure begin.



Cosmic

Author: Frank Cottrell-Boyce **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 26/03/2015

Comic and cosmic, this is a roller coaster adventure that takes Liam Digby up into space with a handful of other children and their parents. It's an hilarious journey of discovery as Liam hurtles around the world finding out exactly what makes children and adults different.



Boy In The Tower

Author: Polly Ho-Yen **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 29/01/2015

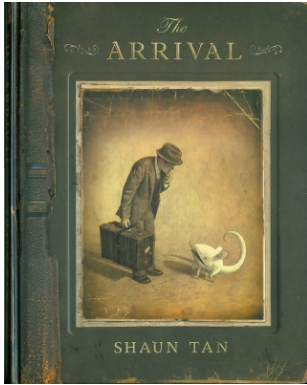
Shortlisted for Children's Book Award 2016, Books for Younger Readers category - Shortlisted for the Waterstone's Best Fiction for 5-12's Award 2015 - Shortlisted for the Blue Peter Book Award 2015 Best Story From the seventeenth floor of the tower block where he lives with his mother, Ade watches as the buildings fall around him. The Bluchers - a strange and terrible kind of plant - are taking over the city, and everyone is being forced to evacuate, but his mother is refusing to leave her room. And so Ade watches alone as the city slowly empties, and the Bluchers creep ever closer...



Faery Tales

Author: Carol Ann Duffy **Format:** Hardback **Release Date:** 06/11/2014

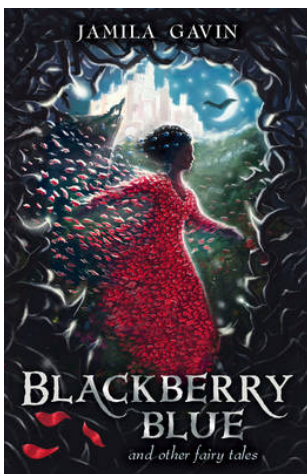
Poet laureate Carol Ann Duffy, brings her gifts as a poet to this enchanting collection of all kinds of fairy stories. Familiar favourites such as The Emperor's New Clothes and Rumpelstiltskin are vigorously and freshly told while also conveying a strong sense of the past. Carol Ann Duffy's own stories have all the traditional qualities of fairy stories which makes them magical too. The edition is finely illustrated by Tomislav Tomic.



The Arrival

Author: Shaun Tan **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 02/10/2014

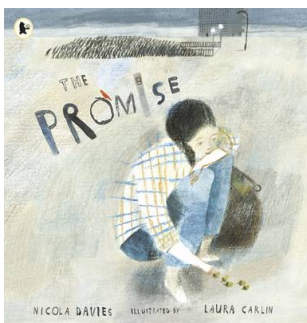
Selected by a distinguished independent panel of experts including our editorial expert, Julia Eccleshare, for Diverse Voices - 50 of the best Children's Books celebrating cultural diversity in the UK. The Arrival has become one of the most critically acclaimed books of recent years, a wordless masterpiece that describes a world beyond any familiar time or place.



Blackberry Blue And Other Fairy Tales

Author: Jamila Gavin **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 11/09/2014

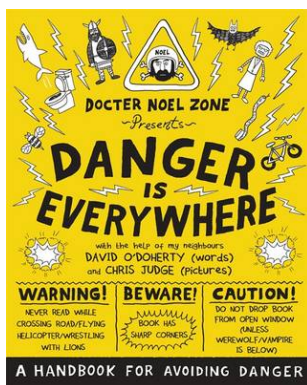
Shortlisted for the 2015 UKLA Book Awards 7-11 years Features six magical stories to thrill and enchant you. This title helps you watch Blackberry Blue rise from the bramble patch; follow Emeka the pathfinder on his mission to save a lost king; join Princess Desire as she gallops across the Milky Way on her jet-black horse.



The Promise

Author: Nicola Davies **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 04/09/2014

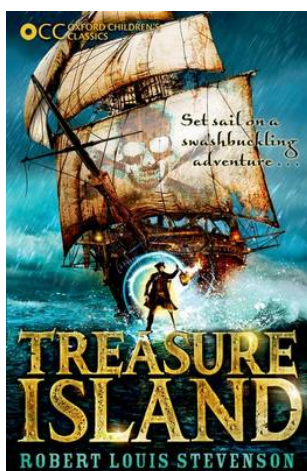
Shortlisted for the 2015 CILIP Kate Greenaway Medal The Promise is a story with a strong green message - about the power we have to transform our world - and features breathtaking design and illustration. A perfect book to share with young children. It is also a story of a magical discovery that will touch the heart and imagination of every reader, young and old. With poignant simplicity, honesty and lyricism, Nicola Davies evokes a powerful vision of a world where people and nature live in harmony. And Laura Carlin's delicate illustrations capture a young girl's journey from a harsh, urban reality to the beauty and vitality of a changed world. It is moving, touching, unforgettable. It received a BolognaRagazzi Award Special Mention in 2014 & was shortlisted for The Little Rebels Children's Book Award 2014.



Danger is Everywhere: A Handbook for Avoiding Danger

Author: David O'Doherty **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 07/08/2014

August 2014 Book of the Month This book lets you know exactly how to avoid all sorts of dangers of the most unlikely kind. It is a brilliantly funny handbook that will have boys and girls with enquiring minds completely hooked. Dangerologist Doctor Noel Zone shares his danger notebooks with all comers! A great believer that risks are everywhere his attitude to dangers of all kinds - even the most extreme ones - is hilarious. Whatever the risk and whatever the danger, Chris Judge illustrates them all brilliantly. A hilarious handbook for all those who love The Diary of A Wimpy Kid! A message from the author, David O'Doherty: There is now 88% more danger in the world than when I was a kid, when there was just the odd bit of lightning and an occasional escaped zoo animal. Chris and I, via the delusions of the world's premier (only) dangerologist Doctor Noel Zone, are delighted to get this opportunity from Puffin to terrify children with tales of awful made-up things that could happen. I mean, are you completely sure that your cat isn't a baby dinosaur?

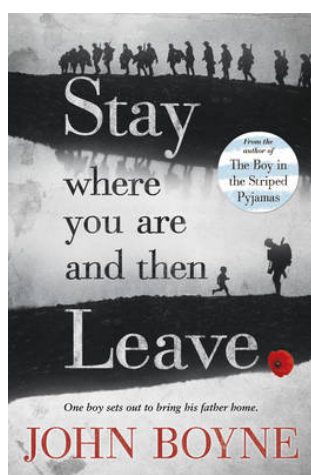


Treasure Island

Author: Robert Louis Stevenson **Format:** Hardback **Release Date:** 07/08/2014

A recommendation from our Guest Editor, September 2020, Michael Morpurgo, MBE This is a much-loved favourite classic. Here are the thoughts of three favourite authors: Michael Morpurgo, September 2020, Guest Editor: 'A terrifically exciting tale of a dead man's map, mutinous pirates, skulduggery and buried treasure that will be thoroughly enjoyed by a child if read aloud to them from the age of 5 upwards. It's such a gripping adventure that children are sure to pick it up again to read alone when they're a little older. It's the story of Jim Hawkins who discovers a map in an old sea chest but little does he know of the danger and excitement which lie ahead when sets sail for Treasure Island in search of treasure. 'This was the first proper book I read for myself. Jim Hawkins was the first character in a book I identified with totally. I was Jim Hawkins. I lived Treasure Island as I read it. And I loved it. Still do. I wish I'd written it.' Tim Bowler, February 2011 Guest Editor: 'All right, another sea story, but it's one of the best ever. I first read it at the age of ten and I've read it countless times since. It's a book I would love to have written myself. It's got everything - pirates, treasure, a sea voyage, a desert island, danger, treachery, courage, comradeship, humour, and a cast that includes some of the most memorable characters in fiction: Jim Hawkins, Squire Trelawney, Ben Gunn and Long John Silver. Every time I read this novel, it gets better. There are very few books you can say that about.' March 2010 Guest Editor Michael Foreman's special memories of this book: "One of

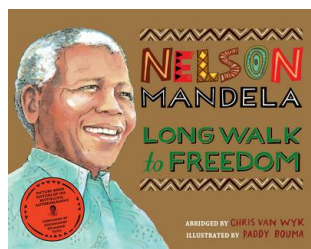
our teachers, Oscar Outlaw, realised that most of the class had no books at home. He started bringing in his own books and reading to us on Friday afternoons if it was too wet for games. First he read *The Wind in the Willows*. And then, *Treasure Island*. What a treat! We looked forward to rain." *Treasure Island* in a nutshell: Black spot moment. Sea dog dies. Jim finds map. Ship sets sail. Pirates on board. Island is found. Madman in cave. Two rival camps. Battle for map. Dig up chest. Treasure is gone. Gunn has gold. Head back home. Silver runs off. Jim writes book. Just click here to view our range of Children's Classics.



Stay Where You are and Then Leave

Author: John Boyne **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 03/07/2014

Shortlisted for The Little Rebels Children's Book Award 2014 Best-selling John Boyne gives a poignant insight into the First World War as seen through the eyes of a young boy whose father goes away to fight and returns shell shocked. Alfie is only five when his father signs up as a soldier. Left to be the man of the house and to take care of his mother, Alfie soon suspects that something terrible has happened to his father. Working as a shoe-shine boy to earn much needed money to keep the family afloat, Alfie uncovers the truth about his father and also learns about the terrible cost of the war on everyone around him. John Boyne's naïve narrator will feel familiar to all those who loved *The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas*. ~ Julia Eccleshare



Long Walk to Freedom

Author: Chris van Wyk, Nelson Mandela **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 03/07/2014

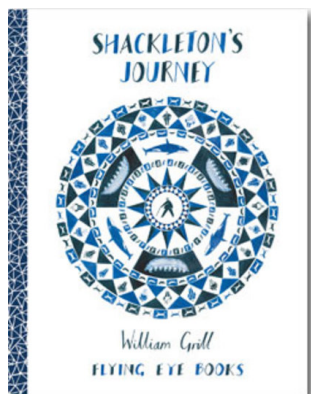
Nelson Mandela's inspirational life story has been adapted into a wonderfully child-friendly version. It tells of his childhood as an ordinary boy in a village and how his belief in democracy was already strongly developed while a student. Mandela's fight against the government and the oppression that was apartheid, how it led to his imprisonment and how he survived the long, long days in his cell is a story all should know. Paddy Bouma's illustrations give a strong sense of the time and place.



A Word in Your Ear

Author: Tony Ross **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 03/04/2014

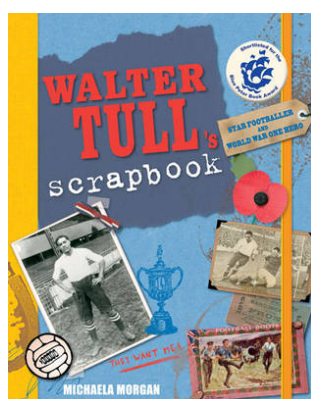
A collection of creative stories from the imagination of Tony Ross. Inspired by memories from his wartime childhood and throughout his eventful life, Tony Ross's short stories are full of curious places and mysterious characters. Each story is brought to life with his vivid pictures. From bullfighters to ghosts, sea captains to wanderers, Tony's stories are brimful of spooky encounters and quirky moments, sure to have readers laughing one moment, and hiding under the covers the next!



Shackleton's Journey

Author: William Grill **Format:** Hardback **Release Date:** 02/01/2014

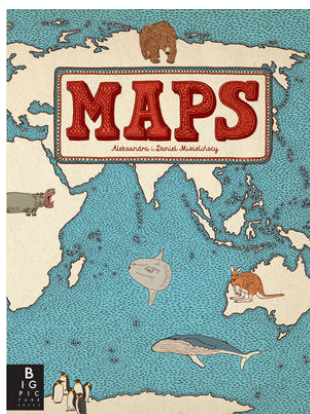
Winner of the Kate Greenaway Medal 2015 Greenaway Medal winning debut from William Grill whose images range from tiny vignettes to sweeping frozen vistas which, together with an absorbing narrative, tells the powerful story of the ill fated voyage.



Walter Tull's Scrapbook

Author: Michaela Morgan **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 07/11/2013

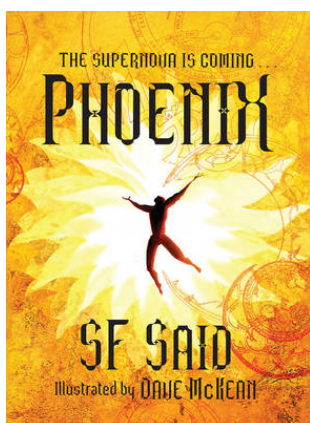
Shortlisted for the Blue Peter Book Awards 2013 - Best Book with Facts In personal jottings, photos and pictures, this scrapbook brings alive a pioneering black footballer and British officer in the First World War who lived outside the limitations of his age - from Walter's childhood in an orphanage through his footballing years at Spurs and Northampton to the Western Front, highlighting the Christmas Day Truce of 1914, Walter's officer training - pipe, moustache and all! - ending with his death on the Somme, his memorials and his legacy.



Maps

Author: Aleksandra Mizielinska, Daniel Mizielinski **Format:** Hardback
Release Date: 01/10/2013

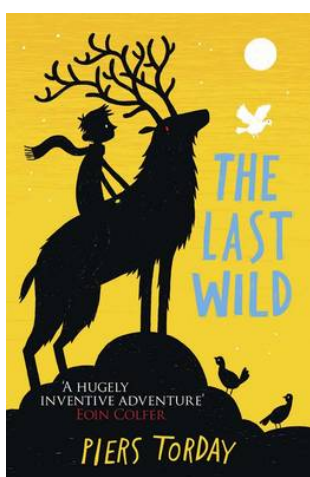
Julia Eccleshare - Across the 25 hand drawn maps in this large format book the world is shown in many different ways. These include familiar maps such as one of the whole of Europe as well as surprising and fascinating ones showing different features of countries. Food and where it comes from features in many, including very vividly in the map of Poland. Alongside food, the wildlife - especially the animals - of different countries is shown. A beautifully produced book to look at again and again.



Phoenix

Author: S F Said **Format:** Hardback **Release Date:** 01/08/2013

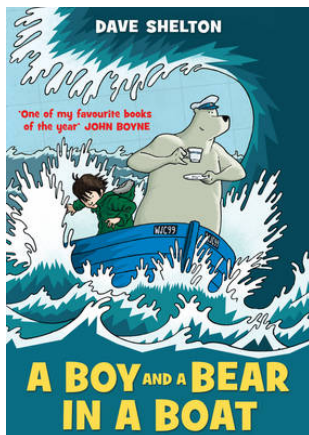
Shortlisted for the Guardian Children's Fiction Book Award 2014 The supernova is coming ...one boy alone can save the galaxy! Lucky thinks he's an ordinary Human boy. But one night, he dreams that the stars are singing - and wakes to find an uncontrollable power rising inside him. Now he's on the run, racing through space, searching for answers. In a galaxy at war, where Humans and Aliens are deadly enemies, the only people who can help him are an Alien starship crew - and an Alien warrior girl, with neon needles in her hair. Together, they must find a way to save the galaxy. For Lucky is not the only one in danger. His destiny and the fate of the universe are connected in the most explosive way...



The Last Wild

Author: Piers Torday **Format:** Hardback **Release Date:** 28/03/2013

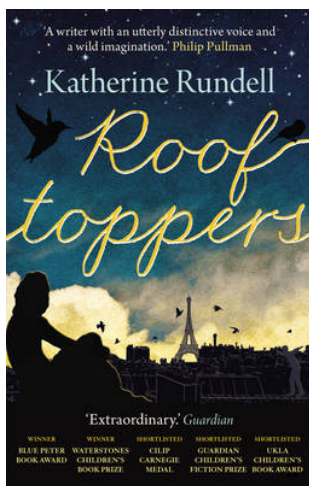
April 2013 Debut of the Month Do not miss this magical and astounding debut: The Last Wild by Piers Torday (yes mums and dads, his Dad Paul wrote Salmon Fishing in the Yemen) - a wonderfully imaginative tale of magical self-realisation and endless possibility. A truly inspirational book for kids that they'll love. It also introduces a bold new voice in children's fiction with a story destined to be loved by readers of all ages. Perfect too, for children who love Michael Morpurgo, Eva Ibbotson and Roald Dahl. In addition to our LoveReading expert opinion for The Last Wild a small number of children were lucky enough to be invited to review this title. Here's a taster....'I found the book very easy to read and very interesting. I am taking it into school where I will let some other kids in my class read it because I think they will enjoy it too.' Scroll down to read more reviews...



A Boy and a Bear in a Boat

Author: Dave Shelton **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 14/03/2013

Winner of the Branford Boase Award 2013, the CILIP Carnegie Medal 2013 & the Costa Children's Book Awards 2012 An amazing adventure follows when a boy takes what he thinks will be a short ride in a boat with a bear. But the ride is not a short one... Soon, the boat is in the middle of an empty sea and the bear is struggling with a map and searching the horizon with a telescope. Luckily the boy has brought some food with him as together, the boy and the bear deal with impenetrable mist, a terrifying sea monster and even the remains of a disgusting sandwich in this humorous and gentle journey of survival and self-discovery.



Rooftoppers

Author: Katherine Rundell **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 07/03/2013

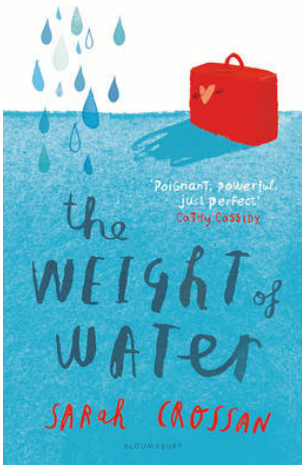
Chosen by Rob Biddulph, Guest Editor September 2022, as one of his top recommendations - "This was published a few years ago, but Katherine's books are such favourites in the Biddulph household that I felt the need to tell you about them just in case, for some strange reason, you've not read one. I could have chosen any of her titles, but I've gone for *Rooftoppers* because my daughter Poppy told me it was her favourite. It tells the story of Sophie, who as a baby was found floating in a cello case in the middle of the English Channel, and her rescuer (and subsequent father figure) Charles Maxim. His parenting methods might be fairly unorthodox – chips and a drop of whiskey for tea, anyone? – but there is no doubting the love he has for his ward. Their relationship only serves as a backdrop to the main storyline, but it is the bedrock to which the book's emotional heart is anchored. Trust me, if you read this book you will love it, and become as big a fan of Katherine's as we are."



Varmints

Author: Helen Ward **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 01/03/2013

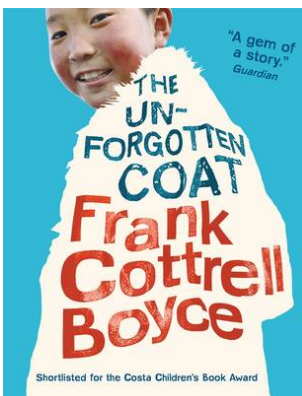
Shortlisted for the Kate Greenaway Award 2009. The most overlooked threat in the world today is the loss of peace and tranquility. Can someone find the time and space to stop, think and plant the seeds of change before it's too late. Sparing, wistful words are brought to life by involving and epic images to make the imagination and the heart soar. The result is a sight to behold. What the Kate Greenaway Award judges said: 'A breathtaking and magical piece of work, that is wholly original and allows your imagination space to work. Craste makes outstanding use of light to haunting and often poignant effect.'



The Weight of Water

Author: Sarah Crossan **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 03/01/2013

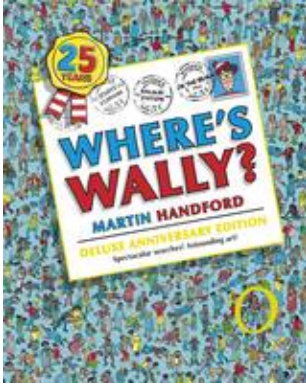
Shortlisted for the CILIP Carnegie Medal 2013 The Weight of Water is a startlingly original piece of fiction written in verse; most simply a brilliant coming of age story. First love, friendship and quiet courage combine in this spare and beautiful story that will leave you sad, happy and wanting more from this fantastic new voice in children's fiction. It tackles the alienation experienced by many young immigrants. Moving, unsentimental and utterly page-turning, we meet and share the experiences of a remarkable 12 year old girl who shows us how quiet courage prevails. A truly special and remarkable read that should not be missed and, Bloomsbury the publisher has done a wonderful job on the book itself - the best things come in small packages - and this is absolutely no exception, so buy the physical book and not the ebook.



The Unforgotten Coat

Author: Frank Cottrell-Boyce **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 04/10/2012

Winner of 2012 Guardian Children's Fiction Prize Based on a true story this is an unforgettable and moving account of one girl's vivid memories of two Mongolian brothers briefly at her school.



Where's Wally?

Author: Martin Handford **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 06/09/2012

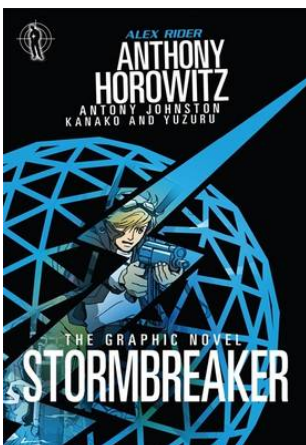
2012 marks the 25th anniversary of Where's Wally? Wally has reached celebrity status! He has appeared in the primetime American TV shows Frasier, The Simpsons and Friends; on the 1000th anniversary cover of Rolling Stone magazine as a cultural icon of the last 40 years; and on Google Earth.



Viking Boy

Author: Tony Bradman, Pierre-Denis Goux **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 06/09/2012

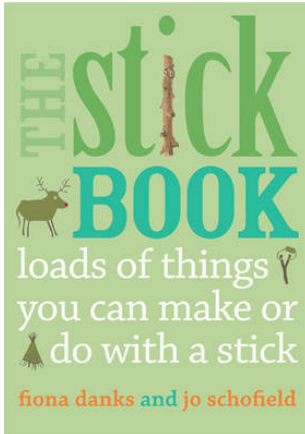
An action-packed blend of historical adventure and fantasy for junior readers; a blast of uncensored Viking adventure. Gunnar is the son of a Viking chieftain, living peacefully on his family steading with his mother, father and their people - until they are raided by Skuli and his Wolf Men, who raze his home to the ground and take his father's life. Gunnar swears an oath to avenge his father's death and save his mother from Skuli - but first he must run to save himself. Murderous raiders, hand to hand battles to the death, mythical flying wolves and a relentless sea journey to the Land of Fire and Ice... Unknown to Gunnar, his life has been foretold, and he finds he has a destiny greater than his own story.



Stormbreaker Graphic novel

Author: Anthony Horowitz, Antony Johnston **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 02/08/2012

Brilliantly visualised, these graphic novel versions of the best-selling stories of boy spy Alex Rider add a fantastic new dimension to the original and terrific for getting even the most reluctant of readers to enjoy the experience of reading. Following the death of his guardian, Alex is forcibly recruited into MI6 and so finds himself off on some seriously hair raising missions in which he faces terrible danger and the real risk of death. In Stormbreaker, the first in the series, he pits his wits against a sinister organisation run by arch crook Darrius Sayle. Alex Rider is a perfect hero. To view other graphic novels [click here](#).



The Stick Book : Loads of Things You Can Make or Do with a Stick

Author: Fiona Danks, Jo Schofield **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 15/03/2012

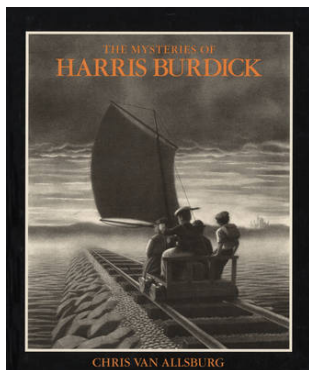
This is a wonderfully inspiring book for the great outdoors or indoors for that matter. The authors offer masses of suggestions for things to do with a stick, in the way of adventures and bushcraft, creative and imaginative play, games, woodcraft and conservation, music and more. As New York's Strong National Museum of Play pointed out when they selected a stick for inclusion in their National Toy Hall of Fame, 'It can be a Wild West horse, a medieval knight's sword, a boat on a stream, or a slingshot with a rubber band ...' Guaranteed to engage every child's imagination. From the team who brought you the hugely successful Nature's Playground, Go Wild, Run Wild and Make It Wild. ...and a message from Julia Donaldson, Children's Laureate, author of Stick Man: 'A beautiful and inspiring book, bursting with practical suggestions which will appeal to every child's imagination.'



Conker

Author: Michael Morpurgo **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 07/03/2011

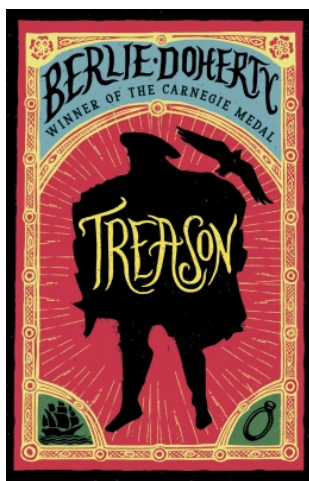
Prize-winning Michael Morpurgo packs in a range of big emotions in this beautifully written short novel for newly fluent readers and reissued for a new generation of children. Helped by his granny, Nick learns to see off the nasty bully with his extra-strength conker and also comes to terms with the loss of a beloved pet and finds a way of filling the gap he has left. The LoveReading Comment: When Stevie Rooster is mean about Nick's old dog dying, Nick throws Stevie's best conker into the pond. But Grandma says there's a better way to get back at Stevie - become Conker King of Jubilee Park. In order to do that, Nick must use some conkers from the tree in the old scrapyards.



The Mysteries of Harris Burdick

Author: Chris Van Allsburg **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 03/03/2011

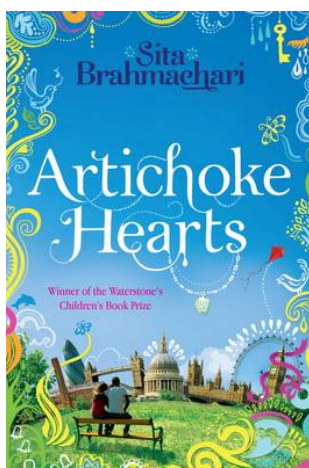
'His disappearance is not the only mystery left behind. What were the stories that went with these drawings? There are some clues...' Who is Harris Burdick? Where did he disappear to? And how was he going to finish his stories?



Treason

Author: Berlie Doherty **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 03/02/2011

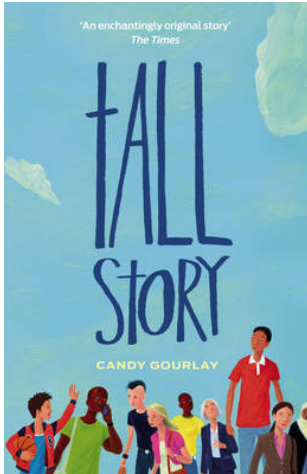
Prize-winning Berlie Doherty brings the excitement and danger of life at the court of King Henry V111 vividly to life. Young William Montague is plucked from a life of obscurity to become a page boy to the King's son and heir, Prince Edward. William soon becomes a favourite of the King's but he also makes dangerous enemies who know enough about his family to bring about his downfall. Soon William is fleeing from charges of treason and the threat of death itself. These are dangerous times and William needs courage, luck and loyalty to balance love for his family and his father with saving his life and supporting the King.



Artichoke Hearts

Author: Sita Brahmachari **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 07/01/2011

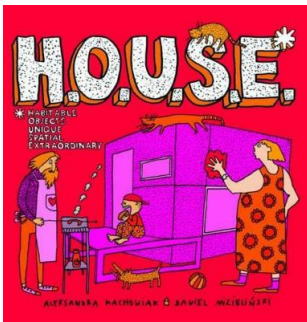
A welter of emotions engulf Mira in this touching pre-teen story about secrets and how to keep them and share them. Strongly set in a busy family, Mira's life is full of the ups and downs of family, friends and school; most particularly there is sadness in knowing that her beloved grandmother is dying and happiness as her interest in a mysterious boy in her class blossoms. Mira tells her story with appealing directness.



Tall Story

Author: Candy Gourlay **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 06/01/2011

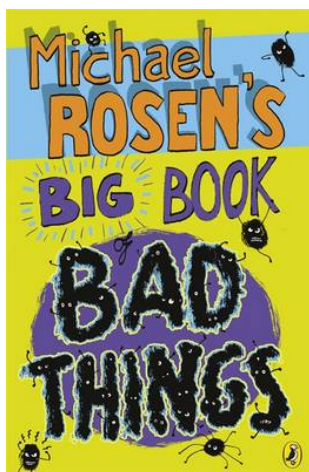
Selected by a distinguished independent panel of experts including our editorial expert, Julia Eccleshare, for Diverse Voices - 50 of the best Children's Books celebrating cultural diversity in the UK. Shortlisted for the Branford Boase Award 2011. Shortlisted for the Blue Peter Book Award 2011: Favourite Story. This is a debut novel packed with warmth, humour and quirkiness that will have you in fits of laughter one minute and in tears the next as the author explores a touching sibling relationship and the clash of two very different cultures. Andi is short. And she has lots of wishes. She wishes she could play on the school basketball team, she wishes for her own bedroom, but most of all she wishes that her long lost half brother, Bernardo, could come and live in London, where he belongs. Then Andi's biggest wish comes true and she's minutes away from becoming someone's little sister. As she waits anxiously for Bernardo to arrive from the Philippines, she hopes he'll turn out to be tall and just as mad as she is about basketball. When he finally arrives, he's tall all right. But he's not just tall ...he's a GIANT. Titles shortlisted for the Branford Boase Award 2011: I am the Blade Out of Shadows Tall Story The Crowfield Curse Unhooking the Moon When I was Joe



H.O.U.S.E.

Author: Aleksandra Machowiak **Format:** Hardback **Release Date:** 01/10/2010

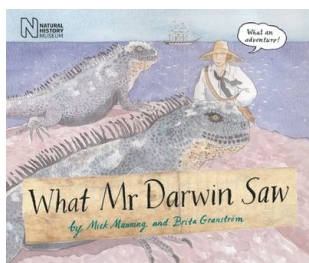
H.O.U.S.E. demonstrates that the space we live in doesn't have to be a dull cube. While it should meet the needs of its inhabitants and surroundings, it can also be distinctive, and sometimes utterly surprising. Witty, richly coloured drawings and concise, accessible descriptions of 35 extraordinary houses designed by the most prominent architects of the world.



Michael Rosen's Big Book of Bad Things

Author: Michael Rosen **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 05/08/2010

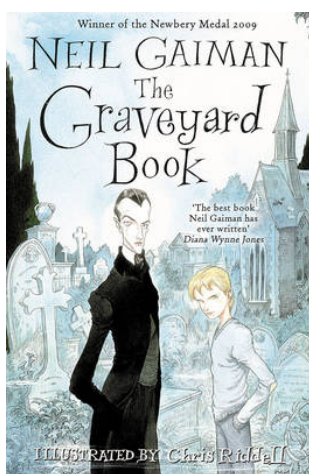
Age 7+. Children's Laureate Michael Rosen brilliantly entertaining poems capture all kinds of moments of childhood – funny, sad, outrageous, tender, serious – many of which happened in his own childhood. Through them he charts some terrible things he did as a child – including breaking a toothbrush! – as well as some not so terrible but still highly entertaining. Great for reading aloud with your children.



What Mr Darwin Saw

Author: Mick Manning, Brita Granstrom **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 01/04/2010

This picture reference book provides an absolutely terrific insight into one of the world's most famous scientists and is a great introduction to youngsters of an important piece of history. Darwin's adventure on the Beagle and his findings on the islands he visits are captured brilliantly through vibrant illustrations, text and fact boxes. It's a book that both parent and child can spend hours sharing. The Hardback was published to coincide with the 200th anniversary of Darwin's birth as well as 150 years since the publication of Darwin's Origin of Species. It concludes with a simple explanation of the theory of evolution. Written by an outstanding team in the field of children's non-fiction, this is a book to enlighten and inspire young readers.

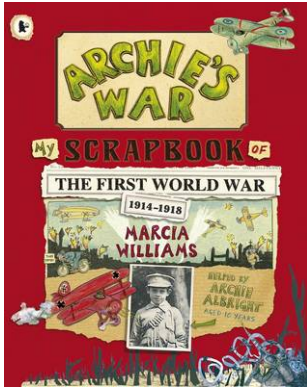


The Graveyard Book

Author: Neil Gaiman **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 05/10/2009

11+. Winner of the Carnegie Medal in 2010, shortlisted for the Kate Greenaway Medal in 2010, winner of Best Novel at the Hugo Awards 2009 and of the prestigious Newbery Medal.

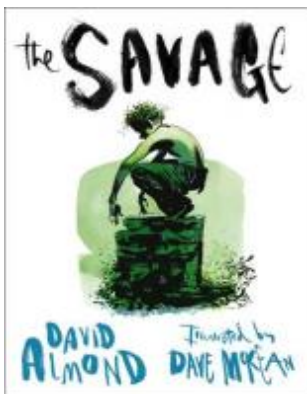
Spooks galore in this brilliant and fantastic story of life in the graveyard. When Baby Bod escapes a murderer intent on killing his whole family, he is taken in by the graveyard ghosts. In eight chapters, each of which depicts every other year of Bod's life, a separate story of Bod's life unfolds and always in the background there is the sinister, haunting presence of a killer. Bod's curious tale is a masterpiece of original, absorbing and unstoppable storytelling.



Archie's War

Author: Marcia Williams **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 05/10/2009

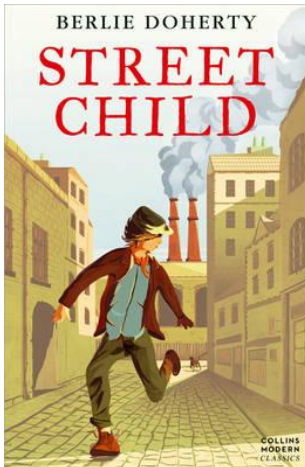
Archie's War provides an astonishing insight into what it was like to be a 10 year old child in one of the most important moments in history - the First World War that began in 1914. With its striking scrapbook style - containing flaps and fold-out letters - Archie's War is fun, informative and instantly accessible to a young audience. In the years that follow, until the war ends in 1918, he writes in the book and we experience life through Archie's eyes and learn about his world and his family in an exhilarating collage of strip comics, doodles, drawings, cartoon characters, mementoes, photos, thoughts and jokes.



The Savage

Author: David Almond **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 07/09/2009

Shortlisted for the Kate Greenaway Award 2009. Visually stunning, this is also a spellbinding read, as the story a young boy writes develops a life of its own and begins to play a powerful role on reality. Encouraged to write about the difficult things in his life, Blue Baker creates The Savage who has the power to step out from the pages and save him from his demons. LoveReading comment: Prize winning novelist David Almond has a rare ability to seamlessly blend magic and reality in stories. Teamed up with illustrator Dave McKean, the two have created a powerful, moving and original story told in words and pictures. Asked to write a story, Blue writes about the harsh realities of his own life including facing up to the Hopper, the town bully and coming to terms with his own grief. Emotionally raw, The Savage will touch a deep emotional chord with all readers. To view other titles by David Almond [click here](#). What the Kate Greenaway Award judges said: 'McKean's illustrations add immensely to David Almond's prose, reflecting its quality via a subdued colour palette and a variety of styles and framing. The cover image is particularly powerful, and the whole an utterly contemporary but timeless book you can't ignore.' The Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award rewards the best in contemporary children's and young adult literature from all over the world. David Almond has been shortlisted for the award, the winner of which will be announced in March 2010.



Street Child

Author: Berlie Doherty **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 03/09/2009

Julia Eccleshare's Pick of the Month June 2016 Twice the winner of the prestigious Carnegie Medal, here Berlie Doherty movingly captures the life of an orphan in Victorian London. Based on the true accounts of children whose lives led the famous philanthropist Dr Barnardo to set up his homes for children without families, *Street Child* is the troubling story of Jim Jarvis who is just a little boy when his mother dies leaving him all alone. Initially rounded up and taken to the workhouse, Jim soon escapes and finds a way of survival – and some friends. But surviving as a child in such a tough environment is tough. How can Jim stay out of trouble and be safe? Berlie Doherty makes the past come vividly alive in this story that will encourage all young readers to fight injustice. ~ Julia Eccleshare Click [here](#) to download a specially produced teachers resource to help children get the most from this Collins Modern Classic title.



Children's Book of Art

Author: **Format:** Hardback **Release Date:** 01/09/2009

Featuring the finest works by the greatest artists, it's like having the world's best gallery in your own home. From Van Gogh's self portraits to Miro's *Carnival of the Harlequin* help your child look beyond the paint and canvas to find out how the art was created and why it was made. Plus, children will be inspired to create their own art with fun projects to try themselves. It's an incredible look at the fascinating world of art for the whole family.

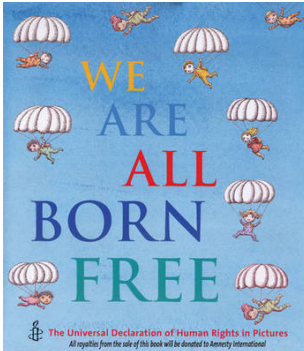


The Silver Donkey

Author: Sonya Hartnett **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 03/11/2008

Award-winning Sonya Hartnett's deeply moving *The Silver Donkey* is full of a soldier's tales which he tells to the two children who find him alive but blind, struggling to get back from the war to his home across the channel. But the tales the soldier tells are not ones about war; they are all stories which one way or another connect to the precious and tiny silver donkey he carries in his pocket. Each beautifully told tale has a quietly made point which reflects the thoughtfulness of the soldier who, while waiting between the children's visits, reflects on the war giving deeply moving insights into the great sadness he feels for the inhumanity of one man to another that he has observed. LoveReading Comment.....Set in France in the the First World War this is a stunning

piece of timeless and inspirational storytelling for younger readers from the 2002 Guardian Children's Fiction Prize-winning author of Thursday's Child. It's the story of an injured young soldier found by two young children one morning. As they help him to recover from some of his injuries the soldier tells the most evocative and at times painful stories all linked to The Silver Donkey, a keepsake in his pocket. As the days pass and they struggle to help the soldier reach home, the sisters learn the truth behind the silver donkey and what the precious object means: honesty, loyalty and courage.



We Are All Born Free

Author: Amnesty International **Format:** Hardback **Release Date:** 09/10/2008

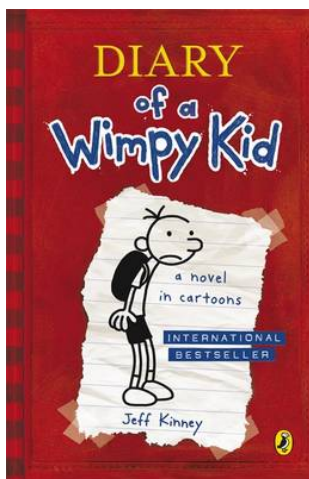
Winner: Special Award, English Association 4-11 Award An arrestingly original way of informing children of their human rights, We Are All Born Free depicts each of the 30 Articles of Universal Declaration of Human Rights in wonderful illustrations by thirty best known illustrators. Each of the important statements is reinforced by the stunning artwork of the contributors who include John Burningham, Chris Riddell, Axel Scheffler, Polly Dunbar and Jane Ray. Both thought provoking and beautiful, this is an essential book. (All royalties go to Amnesty international.)



Tom's Midnight Garden (Anniversary Edition)

Author: Philippa Pearce **Format:** Hardback **Release Date:** 04/09/2008

A welcome return of the first edition of this timeless classic story about an enchanted garden and Tom's midnight adventures in it. Initially horrified at the thought of staying with his aunt and uncle in their poky flat without a garden, Tom hears the clock strike 13 and finds he can enter the house at a different time from his own. How Tom befriends Hatty, a little girl who lived in the house at another time and who also lives in his own time, is a magical story with deep insights into the complex feelings surrounding growing up. Lovereading comment: A beautifully produced, limited edition hardback, to celebrate the 50th anniversary of this timeless classic. Featuring original setting and illustrations inside, together with original cover artwork, this book will delight fans old and new and will herald this book's rightful place as an all time classic children's book.



Diary of a Wimpy Kid

Author: Jeff Kinney **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 03/07/2008

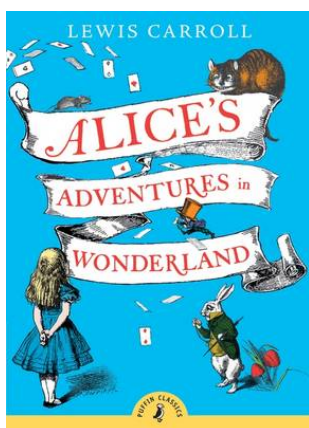
Winner of the Blue Peter Best Book of the Decade. The 1st in the brilliant Wimpy Kid series that has taken the US, and now the UK by storm. The illustrations and story hilariously chart Greg's life at a new school.



Arthur High King Of Britain

Author: Michael Morpurgo **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 06/05/2008

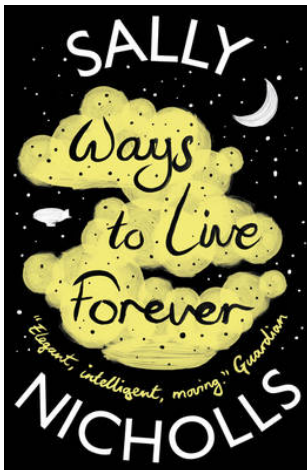
Nothing strikes strength, courage, and valour into the heart like tales of Arthurian legend. Morpurgo does very well again to get that sense of magical mysticism into the story of the Knights of the Round Table. Will be enjoyed particularly by boys and girls with a sense of adventure.



Alice's Adventures In Wonderland (with an Introduction by Chris Riddell)

Author: Lewis Carroll **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 28/02/2008

A book that's chock full of great conversations between Alice and some extraordinary animals, ranging from the pipe-smoking caterpillar and the Mad Hatter, to the March Hare and the sneezing Duchess. For Chris Riddell, who has written the Introduction to this classic his favourite conversation is the one Alice has with a tearful Mock Turtle. But just as good as the conversations, he says, 'are the original illustrations drawn by a famous political cartoonist, which bring the world of Wonderland vividly to life'. This terrific pocket size Puffin Classics edition there's lots of additional material at the end of the book including an author profile, a guide to who's who in Alice's Adventures in Wonderland plus many related activities to do beyond the book. An unabridged audio of this title is also available from Puffin. From Philip Pullman: "Indispensable. The great classic beginning of English children's literature."



Ways To Live Forever

Author: Sally Nicholls **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 07/01/2008

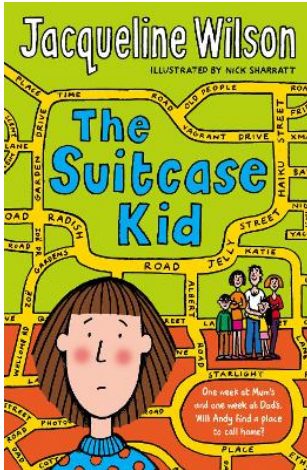
Sympathetic, touching, and surprisingly funny, *Ways To Live Forever* is a fantastic debut from Sally Nicholls. Sam loves facts. He wants to know about UFOs horror movies and airships and ghosts and scientists, and how it feels to kiss a girl. And because he has leukaemia he wants to know the facts about dying. Sam needs answers for the questions nobody will answer. This diary account of a young boy dying of Leukaemia will pull on heartstrings and have you in fits of laughter at the same time. Winner of Glen Dimplex Prize for New Writers 2008 Winner of Waterstone's Children's Book Prize 2008 Winner of Luchs Prize (Germany) for best children's book published in Germany in the last year Longlisted for Branford Boase Award 2009



The Wreck Of The Zanzibar

Author: Michael Morpurgo **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 06/08/2007

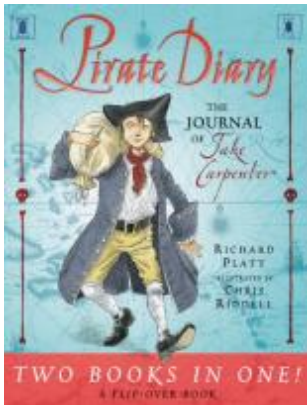
Michael Morpurgo's name is almost synonymous with the little islands off the toe of Cornwall called The Isles of Scilly for a considerable number of his books are set there. *The Wreck of the Zanzibar* is no exception. Here the author, through a 14 year old girl called Laura, takes you back in time to the turn of the 20th century. It's 1907 and through Laura's diary we gather that life for everyone including Laura's family is very tough on the island of Bryher. First Laura's twin brother disappears and hardship is joined by heart ache, the milking cows die, a storm devastates everything, they're starving to death and then a ship called the *Zanzibar* is wrecked. The story of how all the lives of those aboard including Laura's long lost brother are saved on that night by the people of Bryher is tear-jerking stuff but it turns out the wreck is also the saviour of the people of Bryher. No wonder Michael Morpurgo is considered THE master storyteller for children.



The Suitcase Kid

Author: Jacqueline Wilson **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 24/10/2006

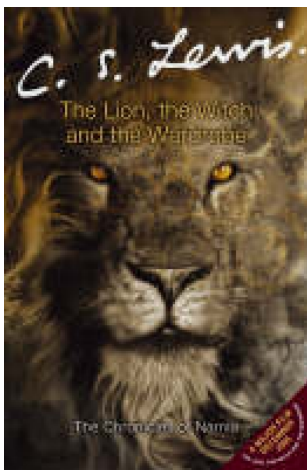
When my parents split up they didn't know what to do with me . . . My family always lived at Mulberry Cottage. Mum, Dad, me - and Radish, my Sylvanian rabbit. But now Mum lives with Bill the Baboon and his three kids. Dad lives with Carrie and her twins. And where do I live? I live out of a suitcase. One week with Mum's new family, one week with Dad's. It's as easy as A B C. That's what everyone says. But all I want is to go home - back to Mulberry Cottage...



Pirate Diary/Castle Diary Flip-Over Book

Author: Richard Platt **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 06/03/2006

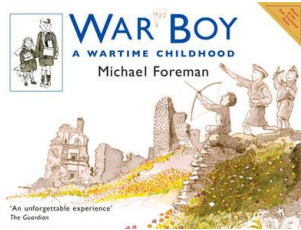
There are two terrific books for the price of one in this hugely attractive volume. In both, the jaunty story written as a diary brings the past to life through the freshly written accounts by Tobias Burgess, a young boy sent off to be a page at Standborough castle in Castle Diary and by Jake Carpenter who describes his first adventures at sea on board the Sally Anne in Pirate Diary. Both are filled with action, danger, difficulties and success – all recorded in the accompanying illustrations.



The Lion The Witch And The Wardrobe

Author: C. S. Lewis **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 20/06/2005

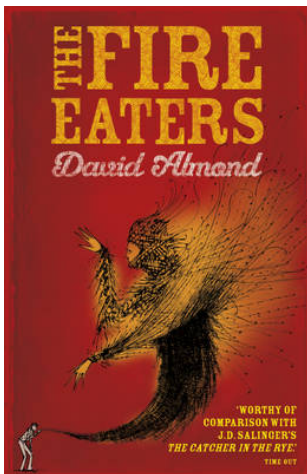
One of our 'Must Reads'. C.S Lewis's classic fantasy book The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe tells the story of the four Pevensie children, Lucy, Peter, Edmund, and Susan, and their adventures in the mystical world of Narnia. Sent to the British countryside for their own safety during the blitz of World War II, they discover an entryway into a mystical world through an old wardrobe. Mythical creatures suffering under the rule of the cruel White Witch inhabit Narnia and the arrival of the children gives them hope for liberation. All are dragged into the inevitable conflict between evil and good. Fantastic stuff filled with beautiful symbolism that still captures young hearts today.



War Boy A Wartime Childhood

Author: Michael Foreman **Format:** Paperback (b Format) **Release Date:** 28/10/2004

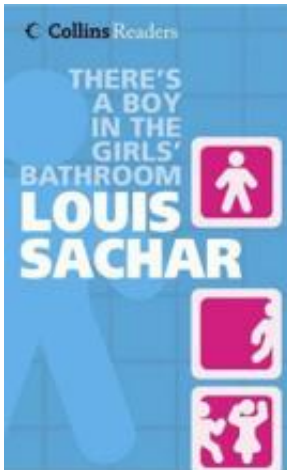
Brilliantly observed in words and pictures, War Boy is a first hand, eye-witness view of growing up in World War Two. Michael Foreman grew up in Lowestoft where bombing raids causing terrible damage were common as planes flew in over the North Sea. But amid the real dangers, Foreman and his friends made the best of their extraordinary circumstances enjoying a childhood with many familiar ingredients such as playing loads of football and belonging to different gangs and many unfamiliar ones including spotting and identifying enemy planes, playing ping pong on Morrison shelters and making rude noises with their gas masks. Perfect for Reluctant Readers as well as keen readers. To view other titles we think are suitable for reluctant readers please click [here](#). Love Reading adds: War Boy is a modern classic that combines a touching personal story with factual information and wonderful illustrations. Wartime is brought vividly to life and interweaved with plenty of Michael Foreman's personal childhood memories including when the bomb came through the roof. Reading this is an unforgettable experience. Winner of the prestigious Kate Greenaway Medal. Other titles in this series of books set in, around and after the two world wars of the 20th century by Michael Foreman include, After the War was Over, War Game, War Boy, Farm Boy and Billy the Kid.



The Fire Eaters

Author: David Almond **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 15/04/2004

Fire-eaters is a compelling and utterly absorbing read that will remind you of elements of Lord of the Flies - human cruelty and its exploitation. As the story unfolds it will really pull at the strings. David Almond novels in order of publication: Skellig, Kit's Wilderness, Heaven Eyes, Counting Stars, Secret Heart, The Fire-Eaters, Clay and most recently Jackdaw Summer.



There's A Boy in the Girls' Bathroom

Author: Louis Sachar **Format:** Hardback **Release Date:** 20/02/2004

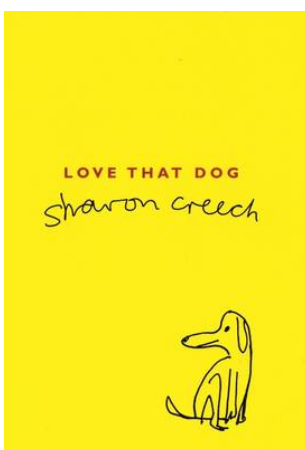
In Holes, best-selling author Louis Sachar showed his understanding and compassion for a group of boys who have got outside the system. In There's a Boy in the Girls' Bathroom, he shows the same sensitivity to Bradley Chalkers, one boy whose behaviour has increasingly alienated him from his teachers and his peers. Bradley seems unable to change but then Carla arrives. Carla believes in Bradley; gradually Bradley begins to believe in himself. Without preaching and with his familiar humour, Sachar tells a heartwarming story. Perfect for Reluctant Readers as well as keen readers. To view other titles we think are suitable for reluctant readers please [click here](#).



The Midnight Fox

Author: Betsy Byars **Format:** Paperback (b Format) **Release Date:** 05/12/2002

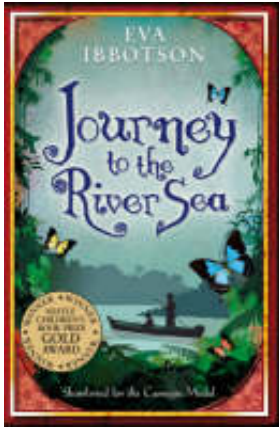
Adjusting to life in the country is hard for city boy Tom. But, when he discovers a fox and her cubs living in the forest, he is captivated and determined to protect them. When his own Uncle decides to go after the fox, Tom needs to think fast to save the animals he has come to love. A touching and exciting story of the power of vulnerable animals to capture the heart of a boy.



Love That Dog

Author: Sharon Creech **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 17/06/2002

Slowly Jack learns the pleasures of writing poetry as Miss Stretchberry encourages him to tell his own story through verse. What emerges is a moving and memorable story about a boy and his dog and his growing passion for poetry.



Journey to the River Sea

Author: Eva Ibbotson **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 10/05/2002

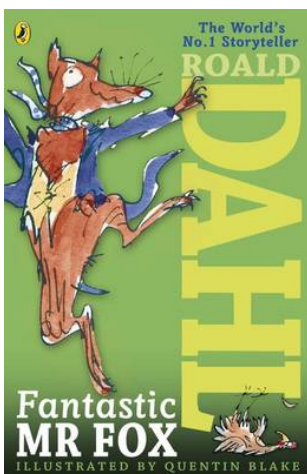
Chosen by Anne Fine. A charming and magical adventure story that is full of wisdom, warmth and understanding. Orphaned Maia is sent off to stay with her relatives far, far away in the heart of the Amazon jungle. She's excited by the prospect of living such an inspiring place but soon finds that life with her twin cousins Gwendolyn and Beatrice is torture. How Maia escapes and thrives with the help of her redoubtable governess is a glorious drama against a magical background. JOURNEY TO THE RIVER SEA won the Smarties Book Prize Gold Award, was runner-up for the Whitbread Children's Book of the Year and the Guardian Fiction Award, and was also shortlisted for the Carnegie Medal. Perfect for Reluctant Readers as well as keen readers. To view other titles we think are suitable for reluctant readers please click [here](#).



The Walker Book of Classic Poetry and Poets

Author: Michael Rosen **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 08/10/2001

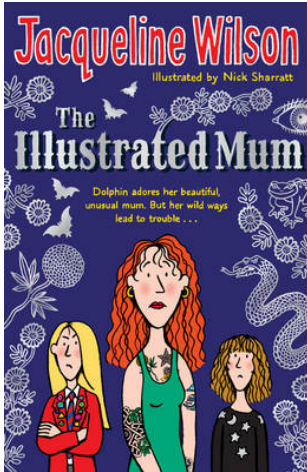
Age 9+ This is an invaluable introduction to poets and poetry, with lively biographical sketches and fascinating notes written by Children's Laureate, Michael Rosen, this is a classic collection to be read from cover to cover and back again or just dipped into from time.



Fantastic Mr Fox

Author: Roald Dahl **Format:** Paperback (b Format) **Release Date:** 05/04/2001

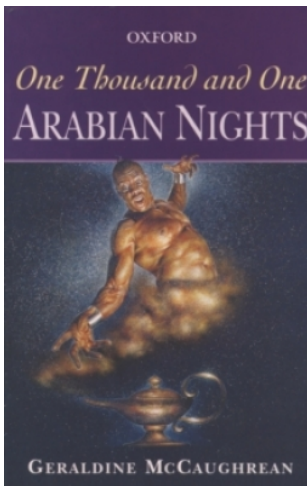
Ideal as an early introduction to Roald Dahl just as a child is starting to read alone because it's a short story by comparison to some of his others. Filled with quirky black and white illustrations by the wonderful Quentin Blake that complement the story so beautifully. As three of the nastiest and most crooked farmers vow to wreak revenge on the foxes eating their chickens, little do they know what the foxes have in store for them.



Illustrated Mum

Author: Jacqueline Wilson **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 02/03/2000

The story of Dolphin, a young girl living in the wake of her mother's depression, and her sister Star, who is on the verge of adulthood. Both cope with living in a very dysfunctional household where their tattoo-crazy mum has real difficulties in coping too.



One Thousand And One Arabian Nights

Author: Geraldine McCaughrean **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 15/07/1999

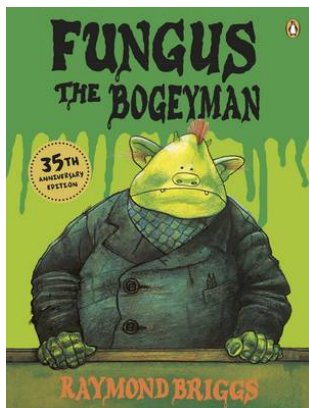
A completely original version of the Arabian Nights Stories by award-winning author Geraldine McCaughrean. In order to delay her inevitable execution, Queen Shaharazad tells her murdering husband, King Shahryar, an exciting story every night. She tells her wonderful stories until the King realizes that he won't be able to live without them...



Talking Turkeys

Author: Benjamin Zephaniah **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 03/08/1995

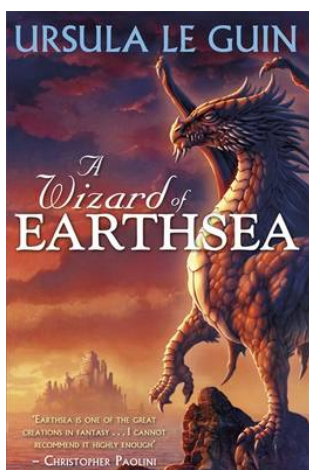
Selected by a distinguished independent panel of experts including our editorial expert, Julia Eccleshare, for Diverse Voices - 50 of the best Children's Books celebrating cultural diversity in the UK. A thought provoking and wide reaching collection of poetry for children that explodes from the page begging to be read aloud.



Fungus The Bogeyman

Author: Raymond Briggs **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 29/03/1990

This is a book that is enduringly funny, wonderfully poignant and at times quite rude. Beautifully described through stunning illustrations and hand written text is the story of the bogey men – and in particular Fungus – who live underground and whose day starts as we all go to bed, is a story that will live long in the memory of all those who read it, or indeed dip into from time to time. Living long in my memory is the food eaten by them – Scab and matter Custard, Snot and Bogey Pie, Dead Dog's Giblets, Green Cat's Eyes – how can one ever forget names like this!!!



The Wizard Of Earthsea

Author: Ursula K Le Guin **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 30/06/1971

This tale of wizards and dragons features the character of Sparrowhawk. Tempted by pride to try spells beyond his powers, Sparrowhawk lets loose an evil shadow-beast. Only he can destroy it and so he begins a quest which leads him to all corners of Earthsea. This is the first book in a quartet. November 2010 Guest Editor Jonathan Stroud: I think this is one of the greatest of fantasies, with a very different flavour to Tolkien or C S Lewis. Ursula Le Guin is a master at world-making: from the moment I opened the book as a boy, and saw the map of Earthsea, with its thousands of little islands, each with its own name and character, I was hooked. We follow Ged, a young and ambitious wizard, who finds his route to power is not at all straightforward. He must journey across the oceans, contending with dragons, witches, sinister shadows, speaking stones and (most dangerously of all) with himself. The magic in this book (and the rules that govern it) seem utterly real. The writing is beautiful, austere and restrained, and everything feels drenched with the salt-spray of the endless sea.