



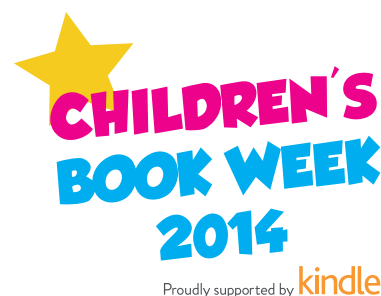
Booktrust Best Book Guide 2014

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Introduction

Published to coincide with Children's Book Week, Booktrust's Best Book Guide brings together reviews of some of our favourite books from the last year.



The reviews are grouped into five different age categories:

- 0–5 years
- 6–8 years
- 9–11 years
- 12–14 years
- 14 years and over

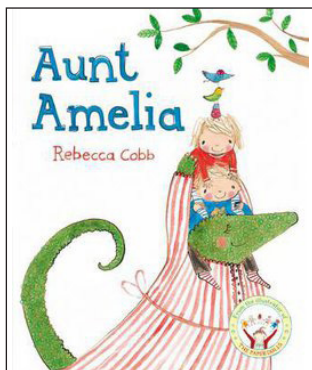
To help guide you, we have recommended a suitable reading age for each title. This refers to the age at which a child is likely to be able to read the text themselves. We have also suggested an interest age – the age at which we think children will start to enjoy the book.

Look out for books shortlisted for the inaugural Booktrust Best Book Awards with Amazon Kindle, as well as a range of other books recognised through our prizes and included in our Booktrust programmes over the last year.

Hundreds of other book recommendations for children of all ages, can be found on our website www.booktrust.org.uk. You can search our extensive database of book reviews by age and by genre. Our website also contains features and interviews with authors and illustrators, themed booklists, free teachers' resources, and regular competitions to win free books.



0-5 years old



Aunt Amelia

Written and illustrated by Rebecca Cobb

'We were in a bad mood. Aunt Amelia was coming to look after us. We didn't know who Aunt Amelia was and we didn't want looking after.'

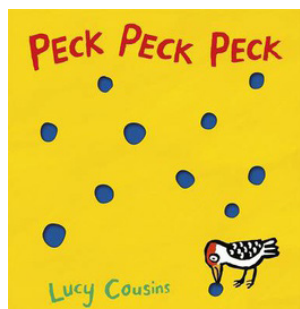
But the two small children in this story soon change their minds about Aunt Amelia when she arrives at their door. Far from your average babysitter, she puts her own alternative spin on the list of sensible instructions Mum and Dad have left behind.

This inventive picture book is another gorgeously-illustrated delight from Rebecca Cobb. The text is simple yet perfectly pitched, and Aunt Amelia herself is a magical, Mary Poppins-esque figure. Young readers will particularly relish the humorous contrast between Mum and Dad's instructions and the anarchic illustrations of swinging from tree branches, painting messy pictures and devouring fabulous feasts of ice-cream and pizza.

Publisher: Macmillan Children's Books

Interest age: 2+

Reading age: 6+



Peck Peck Peck

Written and illustrated by Lucy Cousins

This delightful picture book from Lucy Cousins introduces readers to an enthusiastic and

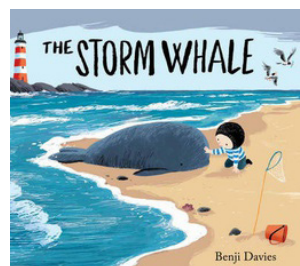
eager young woodpecker who is learning to peck for the first time. Guided by his dad, off he goes on a joyous adventure, pecking a door, a hat, a shirt – and everything else he sees!

As the story progresses, the colourful pages become increasingly peppered with cut out 'holes', making this a wonderfully tactile reading experience. With a brilliantly bouncy rhyming text and beautifully bold illustrations, *Peck Peck Peck* is a perfect feel-good book for children.

Publisher: Walker Books

Interest age: 1+

Reading age: 5+



The Storm Whale

Written and illustrated by Benji Davies

Noi and his father live in a house by the sea. Noi's father works hard as a

fisherman, and Noi often has only their six cats for company. So when, one day, he finds a baby whale washed up on the beach after a storm, he is excited and takes it home. At first, Noi tries to keep his new friend a secret, but there's only so long you can keep a whale in the bath without your dad finding out...

This delightful debut from author and illustrator Benji Davies will appeal to children and parents alike. Davies' glorious seaside scenes are full of charm, and young readers will enjoy the reassuring and heartwarming ending.

Publisher: Simon & Schuster

Interest age: 3+

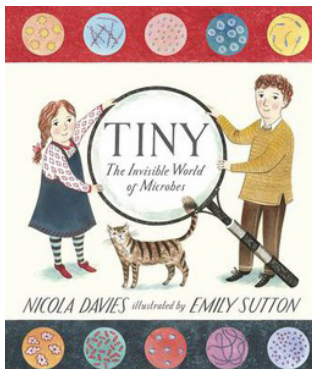
Reading age: 5+



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0-5 years old



Tiny: The Invisible World of Microbes

Written by Nicola Davies and illustrated by Emily Sutton

This gorgeously-presented non-fiction picture book describes itself as 'the first microbiology book for five-year-olds'. Making a complex topic simple and appealing enough for even very young readers to understand, this is a fascinating introduction to the subject of microbes – living things so tiny that millions could fit in a single dot.

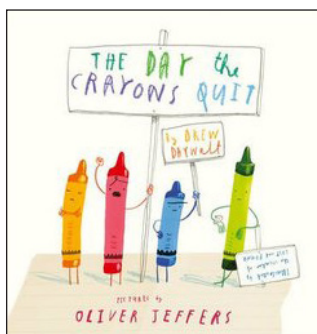
Children will love exploring the beautifully-laid out pages, looking out for the characters who recur on each spread – a boy, a girl and a cat. The text by award-winning author Nicola Davies conveys the information in a clear, friendly

and accessible way, and Emily Sutton's charming illustrations are a delight. This is an original, special and memorable book that sets the bar high for illustrated children's non-fiction.

Publisher: Walker Books

Interest age: 4+

Reading age: 6+



The Day the Crayons Quit

Written by Drew Daywalt and illustrated by Oliver Jeffers

Duncan wants to do some colouring – but when he opens his box of crayons, he finds

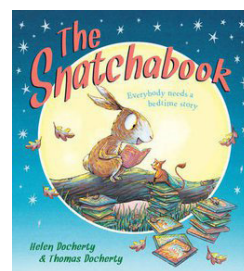
they aren't very happy. Beige is sick and tired of playing second fiddle to Brown; Blue is exhausted after colouring in so many oceans; and Peach has an embarrassing problem. Can Duncan come up with a solution to keep the crayons happy – before they quit colouring for good?

Award-winning illustrator and artist Oliver Jeffers has teamed up with film writer and director Drew Daywalt to create this gorgeously colourful picture book. This is a real work of art: each carefully-designed spread features an entertaining handwritten letter from one of the crayons, accompanied with delightfully scribbly illustrations from Jeffers.

Publisher: HarperCollins Children's Books

Interest age: 3+

Reading age: 6+



The Snatchabook

Written by Helen Docherty and illustrated by Thomas Docherty

All the books in Burrow Down are disappearing! The bookshelves are empty and there are rumours of a thief

lurking under the animals' beds stealing books. Determined young rabbit Eliza Brown decides to confront the burglar and find out the truth about what he's up to – but when she meets the Snatchabook, he isn't quite what she was expecting.

The first picture book from husband-and-wife team Helen and Thomas Docherty is delightful. The rhyming text is perfect for reading aloud, and children will love the beautifully soft, warm illustrations of the woodland creatures settling down in their burrows for a bedtime story. The charismatic little Snatchabook himself, who just wants someone to read to him, is certain to capture young readers' hearts. This is a wonderful book to share.

Publisher: Scholastic

Interest age: 2+

Reading age: 5+



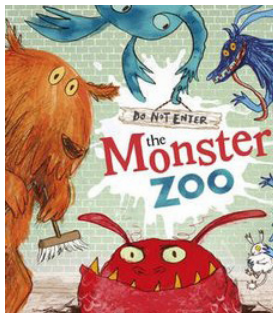
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0-5 years old



Do Not Enter the Monster Zoo

Written by Anna Kemp and illustrated by Sara Ogilvie

A little boy receives a letter through the post – he's won a prize, and gets to run the zoo for a day! But when he arrives, he realises this is no ordinary zoo: in fact, it's a zoo for monsters. The place is a mess, the creatures are misbehaving, and then he discovers the terrible Squirgal, who likes nothing more than gobbling up children. Can our young hero take on a Monster Zoo full of naughty creatures – and survive to tell the tale?

The pages of this picture book are crammed with fearsome and fabulous imaginary beasts. Amy Sparkes' lively rhyming text is lovely to read aloud, whilst Sara Ogilvie's illustrations really make this book stand out, bringing the pages to life with stylish images bursting with colour and energy.

Publisher: Red Fox

Interest age: 3+

Reading age: 6+



This is Not My Hat

Written and illustrated by Jon Klassen

Following from the success of the brilliant *I Want My Hat Back*, author and illustrator Jon Klassen has created another fabulous picture book with a hat theme.

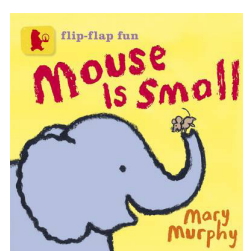
This time, a little fish has stolen an equally small bowler hat from a much bigger fish. But whilst the little fish hides himself where the plants are big and tall and close together, confident that he won't be discovered, the big fish is already on his trail...

Klassen's beautiful illustrations transform this simple picture book text into a work of art. Adults and children alike will enjoy pouring over the gorgeous page layouts, as well as the deadpan humour of this story of pride coming before a fall. The final spreads in which the over-confident little fish gets his comeuppance will particularly appeal to young readers. A deserving winner of the 2014 CILIP Kate Greenaway Medal.

Publisher: Walker Books

Interest age: 3+

Reading age: 5+



Mouse is Small

Written and illustrated by Mary Murphy

Mouse is smaller than all the animals or is he? The animals all line up to find out.

This charming animal-themed flip-flap book is perfect for sharing with baby. Mary Murphy's high contrast illustrations are just right for little ones, and the sturdy shaped pages are ideal for small fingers to grip. The sweet animal characters, and the funny final spread in which they are all frightened by the smallest creature of all – the spider – will be sure to make even the very youngest readers smile.

Publisher: Walker Books

Interest age: 0+

Reading age: 4+



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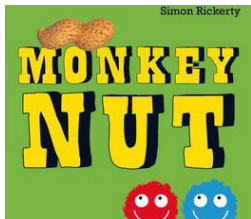
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0-5 years old



Monkey Nut

Written and illustrated by Simon Rickerty

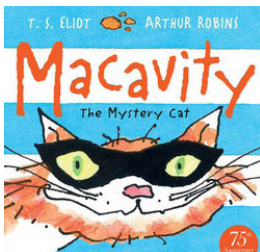
Two little spiders find a monkey nut. Shouting 'it's mine!' each tries to claim it for their own. Before long, a bigger spider comes along and snatches it – but then a nasty experience involving an elephant's foot leads in a satisfying resolution of the problem.

Sharing is one of the hardest things for children to learn, and this funny picture book makes a helpful tool to explain why it's so important. Bold, bright colours, different fonts and a variety of different media from photos to paint splodges are used to great effect in the illustrations, and Simon Rickerty delivers his message with plenty of lively humour.

Publisher: Simon & Schuster

Interest age: 3+

Reading age: 6+



Macavity

Written by T S Eliot and illustrated by Arthur Robins

'Macavity, Macavity, there's no one like Macavity'

Having escaped from *The Old Possum's Book*

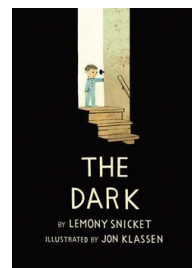
of Practical Cats, Macavity is now the star of his very own picture book. This dastardly criminal has the police chasing their tails, and everyone else wondering how he manages to get away with it every single time!

With new illustrations from Arthur Robins, this timeless rhyme will charm a whole new generation of readers. Children will love shouting out the poem's joyous refrain, as Macavity evades the law time and time again and Robins' scratchy illustration style is perfectly suited to this feline anti-hero.

Publisher: Faber Children's Books

Interest age: 3+

Reading age: 5+



The Dark

Written by Lemony Snicket and illustrated by Jon Klassen

Laszlo is afraid of the dark down in the basement of his house. It doesn't visit Laszlo in his room, but then one night the night-light goes out, and the dark calls Laszlo down into the basement to meet it...

This deceptively simple picture book is full of suspense and atmosphere. Pairing Jon Klassen with Lemony Snicket is a masterstroke: Klassen's stylish, graphic, vintage-inspired illustrations are the perfect companions to Snicket's understated and lyrical text. Emotive, evocative and yet ultimately very reassuring, this is a book that is certain to speak to any child who has ever been afraid of the dark.

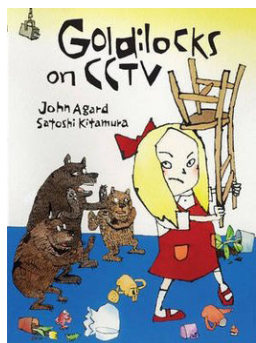
Publisher: Orchard Books

Interest age: 3+

Reading age: 6+



6-8 years old



Goldilocks on CCTV

Written by John Agard and illustrated by Satoshi Kitamura

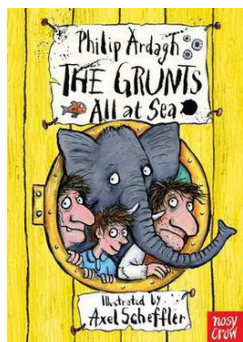
This collection of poetry from much-loved poet John Agard imagines fairy-tale characters attempting to live out their adventures in the modern world. Here, Sleeping Beauty's nightdress fetches a fortune at Sotheby's; Rumpelstiltskin finds his name has been sold to the paparazzi; and a giant realises his views have far less impact in the days of Twitter.

By turns funny, poignant and thought-provoking, Agard's poems are told in a direct and distinctive voice that is perfectly matched with Satoshi Kitamura's monochrome illustration. This is a collection of fresh, modern poetry which will have appeal for both younger and older children.

Publisher: Frances Lincoln Children's Books

Interest age: 7+

Reading age: 7+



The Grunts All at Sea

Written by Philip Ardagh and illustrated by Axel Scheffler

The Grunts are back – and just as disgusting as ever! This time, the disreputable duo are responsible for a POGI (Person of Great Importance)

and with their (stolen) son Sunny, his friend Mimi, Clip and Clop the donkeys and Fingers the elephant, must take their sort-of-caravan across the sea to complete their all-important task. Along the way they fall into adventures that are sillier, smellier and stranger than ever.

With clever use of language, absurd humour, and plenty of his trademark wit, this is another laugh-out-loud episode of Philip Ardagh's *Grunts* series. Wildly inventive and full of bizarre characters and ridiculous twists, it is a wonderfully absurd tale which will delight both existing fans and those who are new to the Grunts.

Publisher: Nosy Crow

Interest age: 6+

Reading age: 7+



The Great Galloon

Written by Tom Banks

Welcome to the Great Galloon, an enormous airship manned by a motley crew of humans and near-humans, captained by the legendary Meredith Anstruther. Strange things are afoot on this great vessel, and it's up to

his crew and our hero Stanley Crumplehorn to find the answers to a number of questions. What is the mysterious creature living in the bowels of the ship? Why are they losing height so fast? What on earth is that terrible booming noise? And why is it getting louder?

This swashbuckling adventure grabs readers by the scruff of the neck from the very first page. Tom Banks has created an imaginative and whimsical world filled with zany characters and adventures that will leave readers eager for more.

Publisher: Hot Key Books

Interest age: 7+

Reading age: 7+



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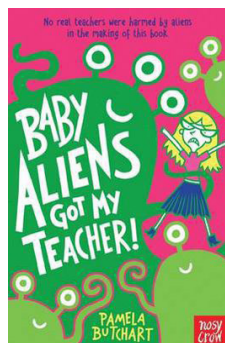
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6-8 years old



Baby Aliens Got My Teacher!

Written by Pamela Butchart and illustrated by Thomas Flintham

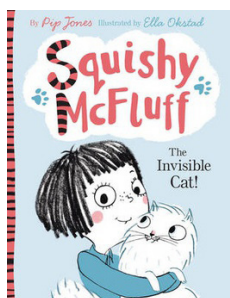
Izzy and her friends are confused when their teacher, Miss Jones, suddenly starts being nice to them. Instead of shouting at them and making them do maths, she gives them sweets, lets them watch films, and seems strangely happy. What is going on? Izzy soon comes to the only possible conclusion: she's been taken over by aliens, and has an evil plan to make them all into aliens too.

This wacky novel from debut author Pamela Butchart, with simple cartoon-style illustrations by Thomas Flintham, is packed full of fun. The bold, bright package is particularly enticing, making this a book that children will want to pick up. With quirky characters, lots of humour and a reassuringly familiar primary school setting, it will particularly appeal to young readers with lively imaginations.

Publisher: Nosy Crow

Interest age: 7+

Reading age: 7+



Squishy McFluff: The Invisible Cat

Written by Pip Jones and illustrated by Ella Okstad

Squishy McFluff is Ava's best friend. He may be an invisible cat, but that doesn't stop them having all kinds of fun

together – and you won't believe just how much mess, trouble and chaos one mischievous invisible kitten can cause!

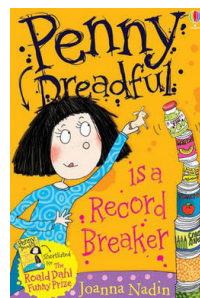
This sweet and funny story from debut author Pip Jones was the winner of the inaugural Greenhouse Funny Prize. The rhyming text is perfectly pitched, and the adorable illustrations from Ella Okstad make a lovely accompaniment. The small format is just right for little hands to hold, and the simple palette of blue, red, black and white makes this an ideal book for emerging readers.

Cleverly bridging the gap between picture books and longer fiction, the lovable Squishy is certain to be a success with under-sevens – especially those who have ever had an imaginary friend of their own.

Publisher: Faber Children's Books

Interest age: 5+

Reading age: 6+



Penny Dreadful is a Record Breaker

Written by Joanna Nadin and illustrated by Jess Mikhail

The likable Penny Dreadful (really called Penelope Jones) is back in this new installment of her madcap adventures.

Join Penny as she has the brilliant idea to hunt down a vampire with the help of best friend Cosmo Moon Webster; tries to cheer up Grandma Overall with a super-sparkly makeover; and attempts to break the world record for standing on one leg!

Bringing together three hilarious stories about unlikely heroine Penny, this fun book is great for newly confident readers to enjoy on their own, as well as for reading together.

Publisher: Usborne Publishing

Interest age: 7+

Reading age: 7+

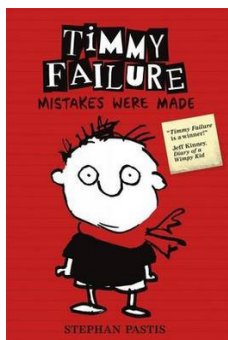


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Timmy Failure: Mistakes Were Made

Written and illustrated by Stephan Pastis

'My name is Failure. Timmy Failure. I am the founder, President and CEO of the best detective agency in town, probably in the world.'

Meet Timmy Failure – a comically over-confident middle school pupil attempting to make millions by solving mysteries. He knows his success would be assured, if only he wasn't constantly thwarted by his mum's moronic new boyfriend and his nemesis, the girl-who-shall-not-be-named. But if he can just recover his mum's stolen Segway (aka the Failuremobile), rescue his business partner from the zoo, and avoid his 'cool' new

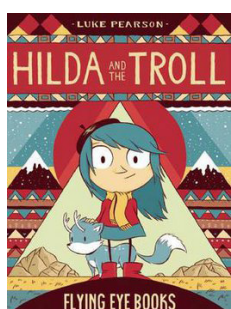
school teacher, everything should turn out fine.

With hilarious comic strip illustrations, Timmy Failure will be an instant hit with young readers. Combining deadpan humour, visual gags and a twist of the surreal, Stephan Pastis is onto a winner with this new series.

Publisher: Walker Books

Interest age: 7+

Reading age: 7+



Hilda and the Troll

Written and illustrated by Luke Pearson

Blue-haired explorer Hilda has an uncanny ability to find weird and wonderful adventures and befriend peculiar creatures. In

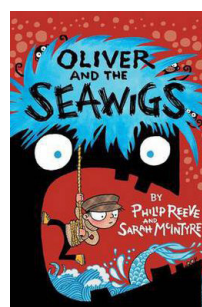
this, the first Hilda story, she spends a night under canvas, embarks on a day's drawing, encounters a rock troll, and then finds herself lost in a snowstorm. Luckily, a friend is on hand to help her find her way back to her mountain home.

With beautifully-designed spreads, a wealth of visual detail, and lots of witty touches, this beautiful graphic novel is sure to attract young comic fans. Luke Pearson's cute characters and folksy style are enormously appealing, and Hilda herself is a marvellous heroine: a plucky young adventurer who is always dauntless in the face of danger.

Publisher: Flying Eye Books

Interest age: 6+

Reading age: 7+



Oliver and the Seawigs

Written by Philip Reeve and illustrated by Sarah McIntyre

For as long as he can remember, Oliver has been travelling the world, having exciting adventures with his explorer

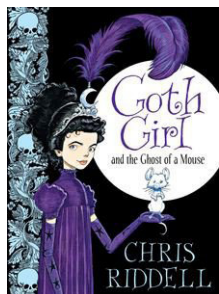
parents. But he's pleased when they settle down in Deepwater Bay, where he can have his own bedroom and go to school. However, Oliver's peaceful new life is soon interrupted when his parents mysteriously disappear. Teaming up with some new friends – a grumpy albatross, a short-sighted mermaid, and a friendly island called Cliff – Oliver sets out to rescue them. But first he must defeat the evil Stacey De Lacey and his pesky army of sea monkeys. Packed with eccentric characters, exciting escapades and plenty of quirky humour, this entertaining adventure will delight both boys and girls.

Publisher: Oxford University Press

Interest age: 7+

Reading age: 7+





Goth Girl and the Ghost of a Mouse

Written and illustrated by Chris Riddell

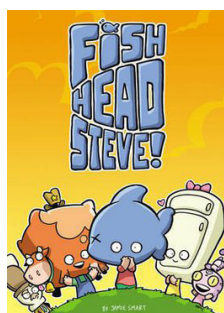
Ada Goth lives at Ghastly-Gorm Hall with her father, the cycling poet Lord Goth. But in spite of servants, eccentric house guests and at least a dozen ghosts, Ada is lonely: she doesn't have any friends of her own age. Then, one night, a ghostly mouse called Ishmael appears in her bedroom and asks for help. Soon, she finds herself unravelling a dastardly plot being hatched by Maltravers, the sinister gamekeeper, which threatens to ruin Lord Goth's famous metaphorical bicycle race and indoor hunt.

Fans of Chris Riddell's *Ottoline* books will love his whimsical new *Goth Girl* series. This beautifully designed book is a real treasure, lavishly illustrated throughout with Riddell's distinctive black and white illustrations. Featuring plenty of tongue-in-cheek jokes that will amuse parents, it is also a delightful adventure for younger children, full of humour and fun.

Publisher: Macmillan Children's Books

Interest age: 7+

Reading age: 7+



Fish-Head Steve

Written and illustrated by Jamie Smart

This collection of comic strips is based on a brilliantly simple concept: a boy called Steve wakes up one day to discover he has a giant fish for a head. Jamie Smart's clever

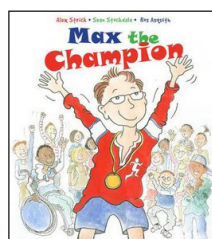
execution of this idea is where the genius lies – both adults and children won't be able to stop themselves chuckling over the gags packed in every frame, and will relish the sheer absurdity of this story.

Working both as a series of individual spreads that readers can dip in and out of in any order, and as a combined whole, this is a fabulously funny, laugh-out-loud tale of an ordinary boy trying to keep his head as everything around him descends into madness.

Publisher: David Fickling Comics

Interest age: 7+

Reading age: 7+



Max the Champion

Written by Sean Stockdale and Alexandra Strick, illustrated by Ros Asquith

From the moment Max wakes up, sport is on his mind. As we follow him through his day,

the illustrations show us his parallel imaginative life: diving into his cereal, he imagines a diving competition; cycling to school, he dreams of a bobsleigh race; and even handwriting turns into throwing the javelin – there's no limit to Max's imagination!

Throughout the book, we are also shown diverse characters, from a guide dog user to a child with Down's syndrome, to Max's best friend, a wheelchair user. We also discover partway through the story that Max wears a hearing aid and uses an asthma inhaler – but this is emphatically not a book about disability. Instead, it's a celebration of fun activity, showing us how a diverse mix of people make Max's life more vibrant – and sends out a clear message that the same is true for us all.

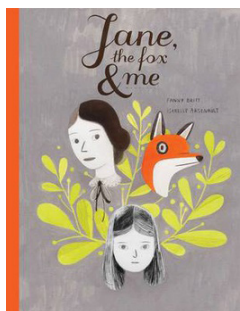
Publisher: Frances Lincoln Children's Books

Interest age: 6+

Reading age: 6+



9-11 years old



Jane, the Fox and Me

Written by Fanny Britt, illustrated by Isabelle Arsenault and translated by Christelle Morelli and Susan Ouriou

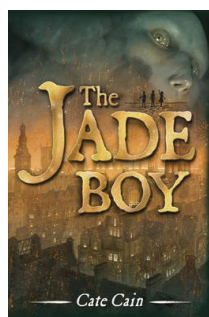
Hélène spends her school days hiding from the girls who were once her friends, who now whisper behind her back, and write insults about her on the bathroom wall. When she has to undertake a class trip with her entire grade and finds herself relegated to the outcasts' tent, there is even more humiliation ahead of her: but reading *Jane Eyre*, an unexpected encounter with a fox, and a new girl, Géraldine, all play their part in helping to point her in a new, more hopeful direction.

This thought-provoking graphic novel by Fanny Britt, exquisitely illustrated by Isabelle Arsenault, is a visual delight. A sensitive and moving testament to the power of reading, as well as a tale of a young girl overcoming loneliness and bullying, this beautiful book will resonate with children and yet is sophisticated enough to appeal to teenagers and adults too.

Publisher: Walker Books

Interest age: 9+

Reading age: 10+



The Jade Boy

Written by Cate Cain

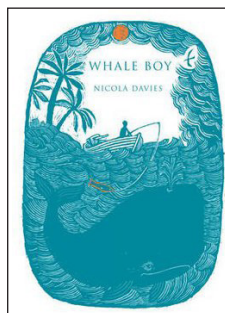
Jem Green is a kitchen boy in the household of a powerful duke – but when the peculiar Count Cazalon arrives on the scene, his humdrum life is dramatically disrupted. Befriending the Count's mistreated young ward, apprentice sorceress Ann and as his servant Ptolemy, who has magical powers of his own, Jem begins to uncover a new world of strange and powerful magic – and terrible danger. The Count has a sinister plan, and the three children soon realise that it's down to them to stop the devastation he plans to wreak upon the city of London.

Set during the reign of Charles II, in the run up to the Great Fire of London, this lively adventure is rich in historical detail and atmosphere. With a brilliantly scary villain in Count Cazalon, and an appealing group of young heroes, it will keep readers gripped up until the final pages.

Publisher: Templar Publishing

Interest age: 9+

Reading age: 10+



Whale Boy

Written by Nicola Davies

Michael Loves his island home and being out on the ocean. But when a mysterious company descends on the island, led by the suspicious Spargo everything changes. They claim to bring trade and tourism to the island, with focus on its marine wildlife, even though whales haven't been spotted in the area for years. When Spargo offers Michael his own boat and paid work watching the water for signs of whales it seems too good to be true – but why does the job come with the condition that he must keep it a secret?

In this short novel, Nicola Davies paints a rich and vibrant picture of island life, but it is during Michael's encounters with the whales themselves that the story becomes truly magical. Helping to make young people aware of the important issues of whaling and conservation, this is a wonderfully engaging and entertaining story for inquisitive readers.

Publisher: Walker Books

Interest age: 8+

Reading age: 8+

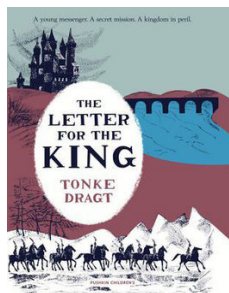


booktrust

www.booktrust.org.uk/cbw

kindle

www.amazon.co.uk/kindle



The Letter for the King

Written and illustrated by Tonke Dragt and translated by Laura Watkinson

In the Kingdom of Dagonaut a young squire named Tiuri has his meditation disturbed by a desperate cry for help. Unable to let the plea go unanswered, he forsakes his duty and his hopes for the future to assist, and in doing so is pulled into an adventure which will take him across the Great Mountains to the Kingdom of Unauwen.

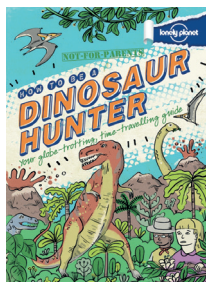
This is a charming story told simply and captivately. Tiuri is a courageous, honourable and just hero, and we follow him on a journey through a landscape of mysterious forests, impenetrable fortresses and mighty rivers, all brought to life by Dragt's beautiful illustrations.

Originally published in Dutch, this is the first English translation of a classic of European children's literature which, despite its slightly old-fashioned gender politics (there aren't very many women in this story and those there are don't do very much) deserves to be richly treasured.

Publisher: Pushkin Children's Books

Interest age: 9+

Reading age: 11+



How to be a Dinosaur Hunter

Written by Scott Forbes and illustrated by James Gulliver Hancock

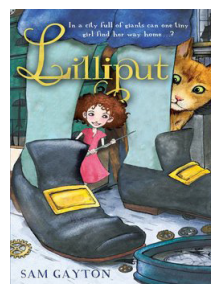
In this colourful fact book, aspiring young dinosaur hunters can learn everything they need to know about how to search out dinosaur remains. From the most useful tools, to the best places to discover fossils, and how to identify finding, this is a well-presented and comprehensive guide to dinosaur fossils, crammed with essential facts and fun trivia about some of the biggest, scariest and oddest creatures that ever roamed the planet.

Dinosaurs are a perennial favourite with children, and this fun and engaging look at these prehistoric giants will be popular with young dinosaur fans, whether in the classroom or at home.

Publisher: Lonely Planet Kids

Interest age: 9+

Reading age: 9+



Lilliput

Written by Sam Gayton

Lily has never felt so afraid – or so tiny. Kidnapped by a giant, she's imprisoned in a birdcage in his grimy attic. The giant is none other than Gulliver: distraught that his traveller's tales about

Lilliput's miniature kingdom haven't been believed, he's acquired proof – Lily.

An unlikely saviour appears in the shape of plucky Finn Safekeeping, apprentice to murderous clockmaker Mr Plinker. But even with Finn's help, how will Lily ever find her way back home? Perhaps Gulliver's book can provide some answers.

This enchanting fantastical adventure balances an ingenious plot with lyrical language, an engaging cast of characters and subtle emotion. Sam Gayton has created a memorable and magical *Gulliver's Travels* spin-off, which is well-suited to readers at upper primary level.

Publisher: Andersen Press

Interest age: 9+

Reading age: 9+

9-11 years old



Space in 30 Seconds

Written by Clive Gifford, illustrated by Melvyn Evans

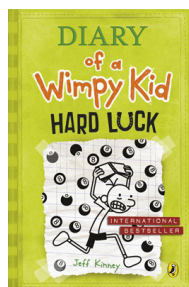
This succinct introduction to space takes a rapid-fire approach: 30 key topics are explained in neat 30 second soundbites, illustrated with cartoon-style artwork. Topics are supported by three-second 'flash' summaries, plus three-minute 'missions' which will give kids the chance to test out facts for themselves.

The topics covered range from the Big Bang theory to what we know about distant planets and galaxies, to mind-boggling ideas about worm holes, dark matter and even aliens. Packed with a wealth of information, this attractive and accessible fact book will grab the attention of young space enthusiasts.

Publisher: Ivy Kids

Interest age: 9+

Reading age: 9+



Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Hard Luck

Written and illustrated by Jeff Kinney

In this, the eighth book in the bestselling *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* series, Greg Heffley finds himself

on a losing streak. His best friend, Rowley Jefferson, has abandoned him, and finding new friends in middle school is proving to be a tough task. To change his fortunes, Greg decides to take a leap of faith and turn his decisions over to chance. Will a roll of the dice turn things around, or is Greg's life destined to be just another hard-luck story?

Jeff Kinney's *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* series is consistently a winner with young readers, and this latest installment is no exception. The illustrated diary format ensures it will have particular appeal for reluctant readers – and Greg's hilarious antics will raise a smile from parents too.

Publisher: Puffin

Interest age: 8+

Reading age: 9+



The Mysterious Misadventures of Clemency Wigglesworth

Written by Julia Lee

When Clemency Wigglesworth arrives from India, orphaned and penniless, she hopes her long-lost relations will be waiting for her. Instead, she is taken in by the Marvel family, and an announcement is placed in *The Times* in the hope that her real family will find her. Before long, a lady arrives to claim her – but Miss Clawe's intentions are not all they seem, and soon Clemency finds herself working as a scullery maid in her own ancestral home. But her new friends have not forgotten her, and orchestrate a daring rescue mission.

This colourful Victorian adventure story takes its inspiration from classic children's books like *A Little Princess* and *The Wolves of Willoughby Chase*, in which brave children triumph over unpleasant adults. With lively characters and an exciting plot, this is a pacy and enjoyable adventure tale with an engaging heroine.

Publisher: Oxford University Press

Interest age: 9+

Reading age: 9+



9-11 years old



Mars Evacuees

Written by Sophia McDougall

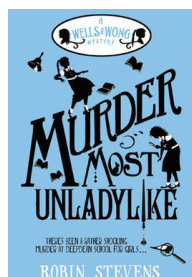
In a future world in which aliens have taken over Earth and the polar ice is covering the planet, 12-year-old Alice Dare is being evacuated to Mars by the Emergency Earth Coalition to join the youth defence force. She's not sure what to expect from her new life – but the challenges of being taught by robots and forced to learn to fly a spaceship pale into insignificance when all the adults on the base mysteriously disappear.

This engaging story is the first in a fun new sci-fi adventure series that is ideal for readers at upper primary level, and will be enjoyed by both boys and girls. Sophia McDougall writes with freshness, imagination and wit and there's a likeable cast of resourceful young characters, as well as enough action to keep young readers eagerly turning the pages.

Publisher: Egmont

Interest age: 9+

Reading age: 9+



Murder Most Unladylike

Written by Robin Stevens

There's been a rather shocking murder at Deepdean School for Girls – but luckily, young detectives Daisy Wells and Hazel

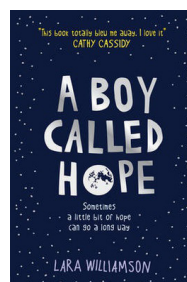
Wong are on the case! When Science Mistress Miss Bell disappears, Hazel and Daisy put their detective skills to the test. Can they uncover the truth before Miss Bell's killer strikes again?

Agatha Christie meets Malory Towers in this 1930s-set mystery, which will delight fans of classic boarding school stories. Debut author Robin Stevens deftly blends plenty of old-fashioned 'jolly hockey sticks' spirit with a contemporary sensibility that will ensure this lively romp has plenty of appeal for young readers today. Neatly plotted with plenty of surprises and an especially endearing narrator in Hazel, this is a gloriously fun first outing for schoolgirl detective duo Wells and Wong.

Publisher: Corgi Children's

Interest age: 10+

Reading age: 10+



A Boy Called Hope

Written by Lara Williamson

After arguing with Dan's mother, Dan's dad walked out of the door and never came back. Now aged 11, Dan is starting to feel his dad's absence more and more. But happily his best friend Jo and his new-found friend Christopher are ready to help him get through his sorrow, and find a way to accept his mum's new boyfriend.

This is a moving story about a young boy's search for his father. Dan is a funny and likeable hero, who tackles the questions he has in his life head on, finding new ways to tackle the challenges he faces – whether it's trying to find his dad, or mend his friendship. His determination to find answers is inspiring, and will make young readers laugh as well as cry.

Publisher: Usborne Publishing

Interest age: 9+

Reading age: 10+





Lockwood & Co: The Screaming Staircase

Written by Jonathan Stroud

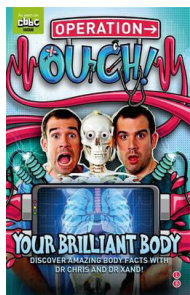
In *Lockwood & Co*, only children can see the ghostly spectres that haunt the modern world. Adults lose their ability to see, but not to feel the violent effects of a haunting, so it's down to children to hunt down the ghosts. Maverick young hero Lockwood is a clever ghost sleuth who chooses to go it alone and run his own agency, ably assisted by the ever-hungry George, who is never far from a sugary doughnut, as well as new employee Lucy.

There's a hint of Sherlock Holmes to this, the first in an exciting new series from *Bartimaeus* creator Jonathan Stroud. As always, Stroud's writing is brimming with sumptuous description and plenty of pulse-racing action. Whilst the ghostly encounters may make this less suited to sensitive young readers, those looking for a spooky supernatural tale will love this compelling adventure.

Publisher: Doubleday

Interest age: 10+

Reading age: 11+



Operation Ouch! Your Brilliant Body

Written by Dr Chris and Dr Xand van Tulleken

Have you ever wondered how long you'll spend on the toilet in your lifetime, or how many skin cells you shed in one day? Based

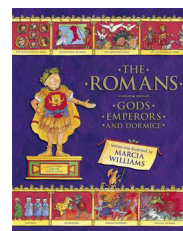
on the popular CBBC series *Operation Ouch*, this book explains everything you've ever wanted to know about your body.

TV doctors Dr Chris and Dr Xand take readers on an entertaining journey of the body – from the brain to the toes and everywhere in between – debunking myths and offering up funny, fascinating and often disgusting facts along the way. An easy-to-read fact book to dip in and out of, *Operation Ouch* is a fun introduction to the human body.

Publisher: Little Brown

Interest age: 9+

Reading age: 9+



The Romans: Gods, Emperors and Dormice

Written and illustrated by Marcia Williams

Meet Dormeo: gladiator, dormouse and guide to Ancient Rome. Taking the reader on a tour of the Roman world, from the gods and goddesses of Mount Olympus, to the death of Julius Caesar, he allows us to peep into the daily life of Roman citizens.

This vibrant, comic-strip style retelling of the most famous stories from Roman history is a perfect example of engaging narrative non-fiction. Full of Marcia Williams' trademark warmth and humour, it brings the world of the Ancient Romans vividly to life, making for an enjoyable as well as an informative read.

Publisher: Walker Books

Interest age: 8+

Reading age: 9+



12-14 years old



You Don't Know Me

Written by Sophia Bennett

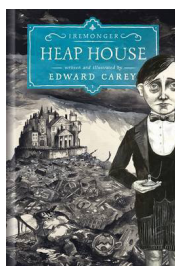
What happens if you betray your best friend on TV, in front of millions? When singers and best friends Sasha and Rose reach the finals of competition Killer Act, and are told that one of them must go, Sasha is forced to make a decision that will change both their lives.

This engaging story from Sophia Bennett deals with lots of contemporary issues that will resonate with teen readers, from reality TV to online bullying. Yet it's also, at its heart, a story about loyalty and friendship, which comes together with an uplifting message about the power of creativity and self-expression.

Publisher: Chicken House

Interest age: 13+

Reading age: 12+



Iremonger: Heap House

Written and illustrated by Edward Carey

At the heart of Heap House, amongst the piles of rubbish that cover the London borough

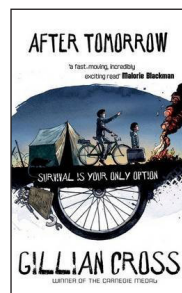
of Filching, Clod Iremonger can hear his bath-plug speaking to him. It says 'James Henry Hayward'. But it's not just his bath-plug: forceps, a mantelpiece and a lady's shoe speak to him too. Something very strange is going on, which portends disaster for the Heaps and the whole house of Iremonger.

This inventive and continually surprising novel evokes a darkly distorted image of Victorian London which is at once frightening, grotesque and very funny. There are parallels here with Mervyn Peake's *Gormenghast* trilogy or China Miéville's novels, but the world of *Iremonger* is distinctively Edward Carey's own. Illustrated throughout with Carey's offbeat illustrations, this is a peculiar but superbly-realised fantasy – the first book in what promises to be an excellent trilogy.

Publisher: Hot Key Books

Interest age: 11+

Reading age: 12+



After Tomorrow

Written by Gillian Cross

Armageddon Monday, the day that five banks crashed simultaneously, changed everything. Now there's no food in the supermarkets, Matt's Mum is growing or bartering

what they need to stay alive, and armed gangs are hunting down hoarders. After their house is raided, Mum decides enough is enough: her friend Bob can smuggle them to France, where life may be better. But the plan goes wrong when Matt, his younger brother and stepdad are forced to leave Mum behind, and leave their home with nothing but their clothes and Matt's bike. In France, they find themselves living in a refugee camp, with no home, no money and no Mum.

Determined and resourceful, Matt uses his bike-fixing skills to earn money and help his brother when he falls ill, making new friends and shedding unreliable ones. There is danger on all sides in this vivid, fast-moving and compellingly believable post-crash novel.

Publisher: Oxford University Press

Interest age: 11+

Reading age: 13+



12-14 years old



Heroic

Written by Phil Earle

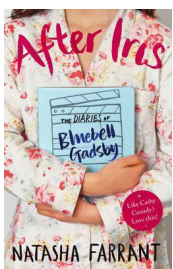
This is the harrowing tale of two brothers, Jammy and Sonny, whose lives are changed forever after Jammy joins the army and is sent to Afghanistan to fight for his country. We follow the boys as Jammy returns home, profoundly affected by the terrifying things he's witnessed. Their old way of life is broken and Sonny has to do all he can to hold things together. But just how far will he go to save the brother who has always put him first?

Acclaimed author Phil Earle packs a punch in this thought-provoking and moving tale of family, friendship and the terrible impact of war.

Publisher: Penguin

Interest age: 13+

Reading age: 13+



The Diaries of Bluebell Gadsby: After Iris

Written by Natasha Farrant

Given a video camera on her thirteenth birthday, Bluebell

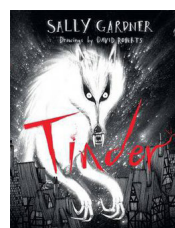
Gadsby sets out to document her life with her bohemian family. Daily life is full of noise, chaos and drama – but underneath it all is Blue's profound sense of loss, following the death of her twin sister Iris a year ago. As the rest of the family try to bury their grief, Blue struggles to come to terms with what has happened.

This gentle, moving but funny family story is beautifully told through a combination of diary entries and video transcripts. Tender, sensitive and astute, this is an emotionally rich novel that is nonetheless told with a lightness of touch. With something of Hilary McKay's Casson family series, *After Iris* is a charming story: young readers will be enchanted by the eccentric Gadsby clan.

Publisher: Faber Children's Books

Interest age: 11+

Reading age: 12+



Tinder

Written by Sally Gardner and illustrated by David Roberts

Award-winning author Sally Gardner teams up with David Roberts for this dark and gripping

retelling of Hans Christian Andersen's classic fairy-tale *The Tinder Box*. Set during the Thirty Years War, this is the story of young soldier Otto Hundebiss who cheats Death on the battlefield. A mysterious creature in the forest presents him with a pair of enchanted shoes and some dice, which soon lead him into a strange web of magic and mystery.

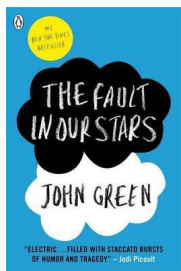
Gardner vividly reveals the darker side of the fairy-tale tradition in her beautifully-written story of love, loss and the powerful impact of war. Exquisitely presented and rich with atmospheric illustrations from Roberts in black, white and occasional flashes of red, it is also visual stunning. Sometimes gory, sometimes grim, this is a book that proves that fairy-tales do not always have happy endings.

Publisher: Orion Children's Books

Interest age: 11+

Reading age: 12+

12-14 years old



The Fault in Our Stars

Written by John Green

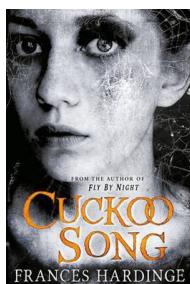
Hazel's parents want her to be an ordinary teenager. Unfortunately, it's hard to live a normal life when you've got terminal cancer, an oxygen tank to lug around with you and worries about the impact your death will have on those around you to deal with. But when Hazel meets Augustus at the Teen Cancer Support Group her life is completely changed.

Teenage cancer isn't a subject that is easy to write about and it's even harder to do it without resorting to clichés. John Green, however, avoids any sentimentality and creates a vibrant, stimulating meditation on life, death and all the big questions with intelligent, well-drawn characters. Witty and life-affirming, this young adult romance is heartbreaking in the very best sense of the word: it's no surprise it's won the admiration of a host of enthusiastic readers around the world.

Publisher: Penguin

Interest age: 13+

Reading age: 13+



Cuckoo Song

Written by Frances Hardinge

When Triss wakes up after her accident, she knows that something is wrong. She is strangely, insatiably hungry; her hair is always full of leaves; her tears turn to cobwebs; and her

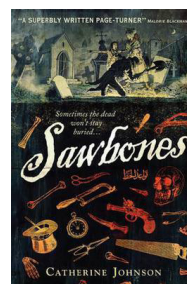
younger sister Pen seems to hate her. Her parents are whispering behind closed doors, and she still can't remember what actually happened to her. Even her diary is no help: when she opens it, she finds that all the pages have been ripped out. Her quest to discover the truth will soon take her on a frightening adventure into the sinister hidden underworld of the city.

This dark fairy-story from Frances Hardinge is an imaginative reworking of old tales of changelings: haunting, atmospheric and full of mystery. Sensitive readers beware: there are some genuinely chilling and disturbing scenes here; however, ambitious readers will relish this clever, complex and rewarding tale.

Publisher: Macmillan Children's Books

Interest age: 12+

Reading age: 12+



Sawbones

Written by Catherine Johnson

In 18th century London, 16-year-old Ezra is working as apprentice to a highly respected surgeon, William McAdam.

Yet whilst he is grateful to his master, who rescued him from a

life of slavery, Ezra is eager for independence.

But everything changes when McAdam is killed, and Ezra is left alone, except for the unconventional Miss Loveday Finch. Soon the pair find themselves tangled in an adventure featuring grave-robbing, body-switching and political intrigue, which takes them from the Operating Theatre at St Bart's, to the vaults of Newgate Prison.

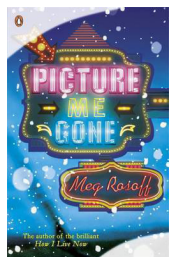
This exciting mystery has plenty of gore from its opening pages. Yet *Sawbones* offers much more than merely blood and guts: this is also a clever historical novel that challenges stereotypes of race and gender, and provides a fascinating insight into an aspect of the 18th century which is likely to be unfamiliar to readers.

Publisher: Walker Books

Interest age: 12+

Reading age: 11+

12-14 years old



Picture Me Gone

Written by Meg Rosoff

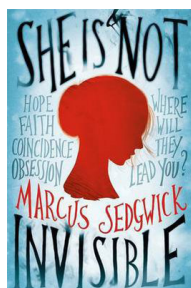
Twelve-year-old Mila has a talent for noticing things that other people don't. Accompanying her absent-minded academic father on a road trip across New York State, in search of an old friend who has disappeared, she puts her razor-sharp powers of deduction to the test, determined to help return Matthew to his family. Yet as they travel through an unfamiliar landscape of snow, pine forests and motels, long-buried secrets come to light – and Mila gradually begins to realise that this mystery is far more complex than she had first imagined.

Award-winning author Meg Rosoff perfectly captures Mila, as she teeters on the brink between childhood and adulthood, in this moving and multi-layered coming-of-age story. Exploring the relationship between father and daughter, and the ways that children make sense of the confusing adult world, *Picture Me Gone* is an understated and compelling novel.

Publisher: Penguin

Interest age: 12+

Reading age: 12+



She is Not Invisible

Written by Marcus Sedgwick

Laureth is worried about her father. He is away on a business trip, but she cannot reach him, and she has a growing suspicion that something has happened. The only clue to his whereabouts is his

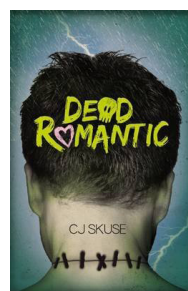
notebook, found in New York while he was supposed to be in Austria. Impulsively, Laureth decides to take action, borrowing a credit card and booking a flight to New York. And since Laureth is blind, she also 'borrows' her younger brother, to help her.

Marcus Sedgwick's engaging and beautifully-written story follows the pair as they travel to the States to unravel the mystery of their father's disappearance. Despite being 'about' a blind girl, this is not a book about being blind – yet along the way, it succeeds, in cleverly and subtly telling the reader a huge amount about being visually impaired.

Publisher: Orion Children's Books

Interest age: 12+

Reading age: 12+



Dead Romantic

Written by C J Skuse

She's only just started college, but already everything seems to be going wrong for Camille. Then she meets Zoe, and life takes a turn for the better – even if it is a bit strange to come

across a new best friend digging things up in the graveyard in the dead of night.

Meanwhile Camille is still longing for the perfect boy who'll take her to the Halloween party and make everyone jealous. Then Zoe steps in with an unusual new idea that takes biology homework to a whole new level...

Readers who enjoy horror and black comedy as well as romance will especially enjoy this funny and sometimes gory tale of the challenges of finding the perfect boy – and discovering that he might well be right in front of you after all.

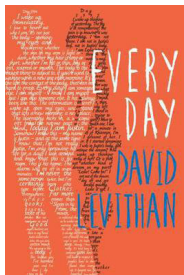
Publisher: Chicken House

Interest age: 13+

Reading age: 13+



14 years and beyond



Every Day

Written by David Levithan

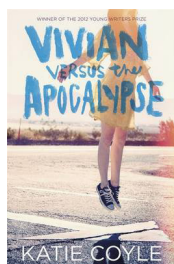
Every day, A wakes up in a different body. They could be male or female, gay or straight, alone or surrounded by family and friends – but they are always 16 years old, A's own age. Over the years A has established a set of boundaries to live by: don't get attached, don't interfere, remember that the next day, you're going to move on. But all that changes the day that A wakes up in the body of Justin, meets Justin's girlfriend Rhiannon, and falls in love.

This extraordinary novel from David Levithan defies easy description. Raising a host of questions about identity, difference, the boundaries of gender and sexuality, and our responsibility to those around us, this is a thought-provoking take on teen romance. Readable and engaging as well as complex and clever, this is a novel that will keep readers engrossed right up until its poignant conclusion.

Publisher: Electric Monkey

Interest level: 14+

Reading age: 14+



Vivian Versus the Apocalypse

Written by Katie Coyle

Sixteen-year-old Vivian is awaiting the predicted 'Rapture' with a healthy degree of scepticism. Her parents might well have become

'Believers', dutifully following the teachings of the Church of America, but Viv isn't buying it. But then she arrives home to find her parents gone – and all that's left are two holes in the ceiling. Is the apocalypse really about to arrive? What has become of Viv's parents, and the other Believers? Viv embarks on an extraordinary road trip across America to find out.

Katie Coyle's writing is a breath of fresh air: sharp, funny and distinctive. She has an especial gift for creating believable characters. Conjuring up a chilling vision of a contemporary USA dominated by evangelical religion, this is an impressive and original debut, which will grip readers right up until its perfectly-judged ending.

Publisher: Hot Key Books

Interest level: 14+

Reading age: 14+



More than This

Written by Patrick Ness

A teenage boy named Seth drowns in the ocean. Then he awakens – naked, bruised, thirsty, but alive – in the suburban English town where he lived as a child, before

the terrible event that led his family to relocate to America, except that now the neighbourhood is completely abandoned. Seth heads out across the apocalyptic landscape in search of answers – but all he finds are more baffling questions.

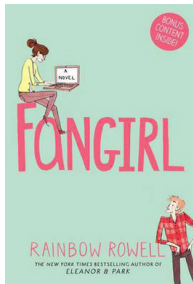
Award-winning author Patrick Ness tackles weighty questions of life and death head on in this provocative and challenging young adult novel. Combining elements of a sci-fi thriller with the abstract and philosophical, this is a bold and unusual story shot through with melancholy. Compelling, powerful and often painful, it may be Ness's darkest novel to date: yet even its most bleak moments are carefully balanced with notes of humour and hopefulness.

Publisher: Walker Books

Interest level: 14+

Reading age: 14+

14 years and beyond



Fangirl

Written by Rainbow Rowell

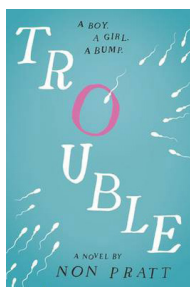
Twins Cath and Wren are heading off to college. Whilst Wren is excited about her new life, introverted Cath isn't so sure, preferring to stay in the safe world of the fan-fiction she writes, rather than venturing out to make new friends. But at college, she must face challenges that take her far outside her comfort zone, from sharing a room with a stranger, to dealing with a professor who thinks that fan-fiction isn't real writing, not to mention worrying about her fragile Dad, left alone at home.

This tribute to the power of being a fan is also a warm-hearted coming-of-age story about a shy girl coming out of her shell – and a young writer discovering her own voice. Full of charm and humour, this novel proves without any doubt why Rainbow Rowell is attracting so many fangirls (and boys) of her own.

Publisher: Macmillan Children's Books

Interest level: 14+

Reading age: 14+



Trouble

Written by Non Pratt

Fifteen-year-old Hannah is in trouble. She's pregnant, and can't bring herself to tell her family or friends the truth. Meanwhile, Aaron is new at school and desperate to keep a low profile.

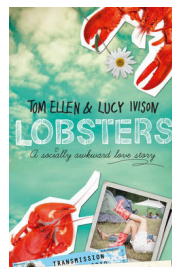
So why on earth does he volunteer to pretend to be the father of Hannah's baby?

This smart, sharp young adult novel is a real breath of fresh air. Honest and non-judgmental about teen sexuality, it feels authentic, contemporary and distinctly British. The characters are always believable, and never rely on simple stereotyping: told from the alternating perspectives of Hannah and Aaron, Non Pratt's narrative sensitively explores the complex issues of relationships and growing up with both compassion and wit. A warm, funny and brave debut from a young adult author to watch.

Publisher: Walker Books

Interest level: 14+

Reading age: 14+



Lobsters

Written by Tom Ellen and Lucy Ivison

Exams are over, university is looming on the horizon, and Sam and Hannah are both looking forward to an epic summer.

They're also both looking for romance – but finding their 'lobster' soon proves difficult. What with social misunderstandings, the plotting of well-meaning friends, and their own anxieties to deal with, will they ever fall in love?

This 'socially-awkward love story' is told from the alternating perspectives of Sam and Hannah, and follows the ups-and-downs of one eventful summer. The first novel from friends and collaborators Tom Ellen and Lucy Ivison, this is a funny young adult romance aimed firmly at older teens: there is sexual content and strong language throughout. With lots of laugh-out-loud moments, *Lobsters* is a hugely entertaining debut and readers will relish its hilarious, no-holds-barred depiction of teenage life, love and sex.

Publisher: Chicken House

Interest level: 14+

Reading age: 14+

14 years and beyond



Grasshopper Jungle

Written by Andrew Smith

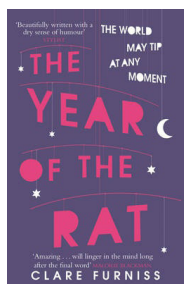
Austin spends his days in dead-end-town Ealing, Iowa with best friend Robby, skateboarding in the back alleys of the local mall, which they call Grasshopper Jungle. But something strange has come to life beside the dumpster and abandoned beer cans. An unlikely series of events has unleashed an army of six-foot-tall praying mantises that only want to do two things... This is the end of the world – and no one can do anything about it.

This is both an exciting young adult dystopia, and a thoughtful novel about history and identity. Andrew Smith writes with refreshing frankness about teen sexuality, exploring Austin's confusion as he tries to make sense of his attraction to both Robby and girlfriend Shann. Fans of Michael Grant and Stephen King will love the punch and panache of this bold coming-of-age tale.

Publisher: Electric Monkey

Interest level: 14+

Reading age: 14+



The Year of the Rat

Written by Clare Furniss

This is the story of a year in the life of 16-year-old Pearl, as she struggles to face up to the reality of her mum's death and the arrival of her new baby sister, who she names 'the Rat'. New babies

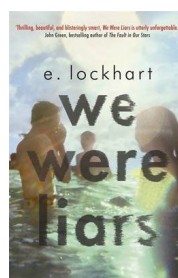
are usually a joy, but for Pearl, the Rat is simply a reminder of why her mum is no longer there. Angry, frustrated and horribly alone, Pearl tries to make sense of her loss – and then an unexpected visitor turns up.

This unflinching portrait of a teenage girl dealing with the death of a parent is an enormously compelling read. Moving, thought provoking and bittersweet, it is an ultimately uplifting novel, which has as much to offer adult readers as it does teens themselves. An impressive debut, this book will leave readers eager to find out what's next from Clare Furniss.

Publisher: Simon & Schuster

Interest level: 14+

Reading age: 14+



We Were Liars

Written by E Lockhart

Seventeen-year-old Cady is one of the privileged, carefree, beautiful Sinclairs. She spends her summers on their luxurious private island on the coast of Massachusetts, where her family

gathers every year. Here she's spent many charmed summer vacations, long idyllic days by the ocean with her cousins Mirren and Johnny, and their friend Gat. But this summer, something is different.

This captivating young adult novel grabs the reader's attention from the very first sentences, and holds it right up until its unexpected and shocking ending. E Lockhart paints a vivid portrait of the Sinclair family, spinning a dreamy, addictive tale of first love, friendship and family that teens will find impossible to put down.

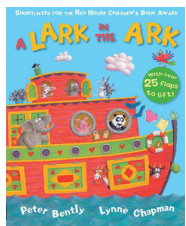
Publisher: Hot Key Books

Interest level: 14+

Reading age: 14+



Digital stories



Signed Stories – The Lark in the Ark

Written by Peter Bently and illustrated by Lynn Chapman

All the animals are in the ark – but they're bored. 'Let's play hide and seek' suggests Noah. But he knows all their usual hiding places, so the animals cheekily pick the one place they're forbidden to go – Noah's bedroom. When he opens the door, there's not a beast in sight – but there's wriggling under bedclothes, whispering in wardrobes and snuffling behind the dressing table.

Via the Signed Stories app, this picture book is re-told with a British Sign Language performance and subtitles, as well as narration, sound effects and specially commissioned music. Children will enjoy experiencing this digital version of a favourite book, which comes with two interactive games and notes for parents and carers.

Developer: ITV Signed Stories

Interest age: 2+

Reading age: 6+



Little Red Riding Hood

Illustrated by Ed Bryan

This interactive storybook app is a completely new take on the classic fairy-tale of Little Red Riding Hood. Children can create their own story by choosing from multiple paths along the way, resulting in a new, fully-animated adventure with different endings every time.

Play games to help Little Red Riding Hood collect three different objects in the course of her journey through the woods, choosing what items to gather at forks in the path. These objects determine how Little Red Riding Hood defeats the Big Bad Wolf and saves Grandma. Full of imagination and fun, this is a hugely appealing example of digital storytelling at its best.

Developer: Nosy Crow

Interest age: 2+

Reading age: 6+





Digital stories



Axel Scheffler's Flip Flap Farm

Written and illustrated by Axel Scheffler

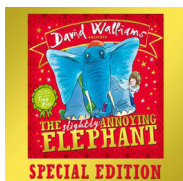
What do you get when you cross a dog and a squirrel? A dirrel! How about a mouse and a rabbit? Why, a mabbit!

This interactive rhyming book app combining reading, audio and illustration content comes from much-loved illustrator Axel Scheffler. Swipe any part of the screen to create 121 different combinations of animals, rhymes and silly names – all read aloud and set to farmyard music. This is a great fun digital twist on the old fashioned flap book that children will love exploring.

Developer: Nosy Crow

Interest age: 2+

Reading age: 6+



The Slightly Annoying Elephant

Written by David Walliams and illustrated by Tony Ross

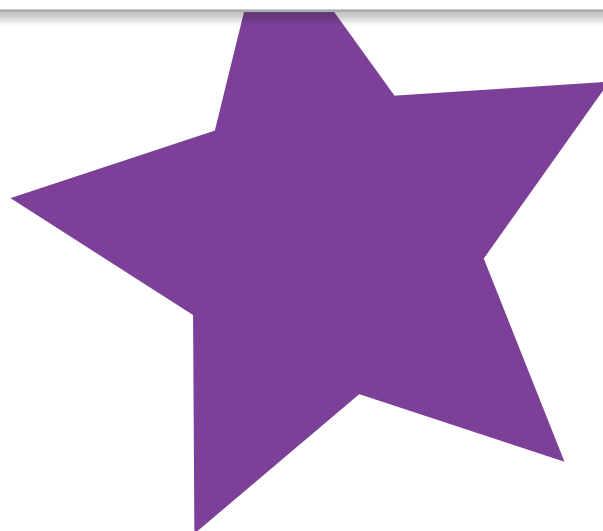
What's big, blue, bossy, and turns up uninvited? A slightly annoying elephant, of course! Bestselling author David Walliams' first picture book, illustrated by Tony Ross has been produced in a special edition iBook format.

Watch an introductory video from David Walliams, listen to an hilarious audio reading with lots of silly voices and noises, touch pictures to hear some hidden surprises and personalise the book with your name and picture. This lively digital version of an entertaining picture book is brilliant for reading together.

Developer: HarperCollins Children's Books/Bookry

Interest age: 2+

Reading age: 6+



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