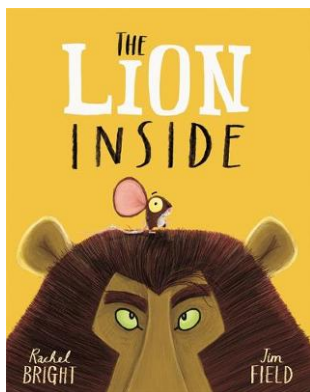


A selection of books especially selected for children in Year 1 (5 - 6 year olds) of average reading ability for the 2023/24 academic year.

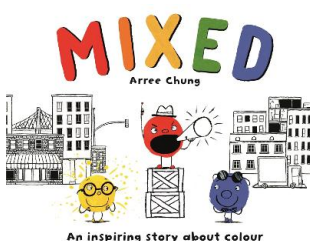
If your child is a competent reader or has read all these titles then try the books from the Year 2 list. Our overall mission is to promote reading for pleasure with quality texts that are perfectly pitched for the age group and the curriculum. We have particularly avoided blockbusters, classic or set texts, known to everyone, so that we can include poetry, stunning information texts and inspirational books in which all children and young people can find themselves reflected.



The Lion Inside

Author: Rachel Bright **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 10/03/2016

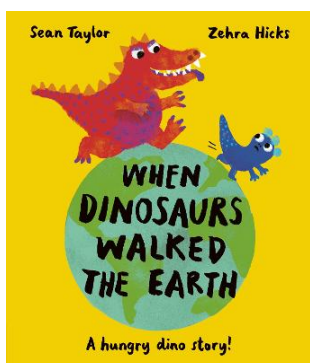
Shortlisted for the UKLA 2017 Book Award Fans of The Gruffalo and Giraffes Can't Dance will love this feelgood rhyming story portraying a positive message about overcoming your fears.



Mixed

Author: Arree Chung **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 14/06/2018

Winner of the UKLA Book Awards 2020 | Shortlisted for the Children's Book Awards 2019, Books for Younger Children Category The primary colours have got everything sorted out in the city so they live in separate areas and never mix. But, when a Blue and a Yellow fall in love and marry, baby Green is soon born and everyone realises that mixing together makes everyone much happier. A love story in a paint box with an important message for all young readers.

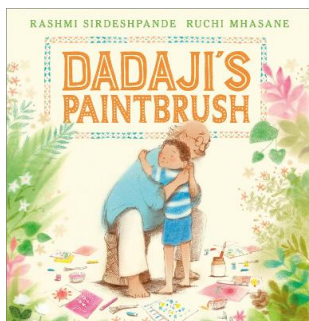


When Dinosaurs Walked the Earth

Author: Sean Taylor **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 06/07/2023

Obviously set in the time when Dinosaurs walked the earth, we first meet Smallasaurus, an endearing little blue dino who enjoys a plant based diet and who spots some tasty ferns by a large rock. However, the rock turns out to be Badasaurus, who very much likes to eat small dinosaurs who enjoy a plant-based diet. Smallasaurus has to think, which can be a problem when you only have a brain the size of a walnut. Luckily, Badasaurus only has a brain the size of a peanut . . . and so the chase begins! Little do they know that Worseasaurus is lurking, and that he likes nothing better than a choice of two meaty dinosaurs for breakfast. Perfectly paired with the vibrant and characterful illustrations, this is a text which could successfully be used to introduce the concept of food chains. With a lovely use of droll

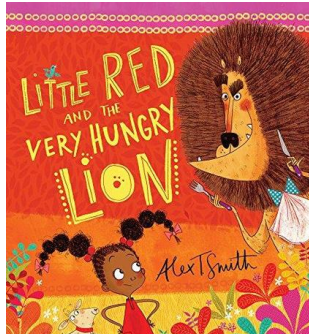
repetitive phrases like 'it's going to be a sad and terrible ending' in the familiar fortunately/unfortunately story structure and with inventive use of font size, layout and page turn, this will be an absolute joy to read aloud!



Dadaji's Paintbrush

Author: Rashmi Sirdeshpande **Format:** Hardback **Release Date:** 07/07/2022

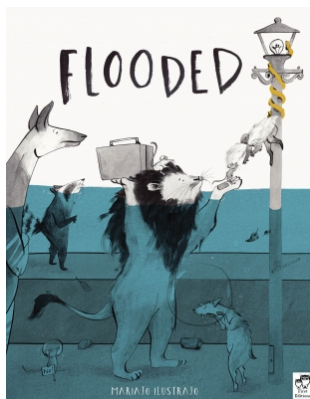
July 2022 Book of the Month | Longlisted for the Jhalak Children's & Young Adult Prize 2023 In a tiny village in India a little boy lives with his grandfather. They do everything together and they especially love to paint together, sometimes joined by the other children in the village. Their love for one another is evident and when Dadaji dies, leaving the boy his favourite paintbrush, it's too painful for the boy to even look at. But the children of the village comfort him and their joy in the paints and paintings brings the realisation that his grandfather will always be with him. The story is told with immense tenderness, the illustration that shows us that Dadaji has gone is particularly sensitive, with a tremendous sense of warmth. This will be a very special book to share with young children with its reassurance that love lives for ever.



Little Red and the Very Hungry Lion

Author: Alex T. Smith **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 07/05/2015

Winner of the UKLA 2016 Book Award in the 3 - 6 year old category. Little Red Riding Hood transposed to an African town setting where a lion is really no match for a clever small girl. The inventive layout of the text and its relationship to the witty, beautifully coloured illustrations really enhance the child friendly storytelling. The empowering portrayal of different cultures and a heroine who is not a naive victim ensure that this will become a classic for the classroom and the nursery. A wonderfully engaging classic fairy tale with a twist by the bestselling Alex T. Smith.



Flooded

Author: Mariajo Ilustrajo **Format:** Hardback **Release Date:** 03/05/2022

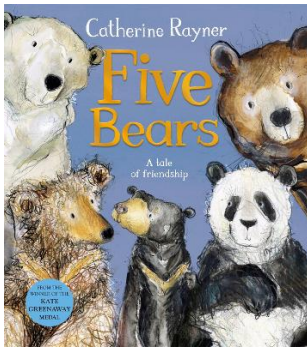
May 2022 Debut of the Month | Winner of the UKLA Book Award 2023 ages 3-6 | Winner of the Klaus Flugge Prize 2023 This is a brilliant debut novel from the winner of the World Illustration Awards Overall New Talent winner for 2020. The unnamed city wakes up to a small amount of water everywhere and everybody ignores it and gets on with their lives, except for one small creature who knows it will become a problem, but nobody listens. As life in the city becomes more and more problematic even the large creatures realise they must help the smaller ones, they all become fed up with having to deal with the issues of working in water all the time. Even the excitement of wearing Wellington boots all the time is not enough! It is at this point that everyone realises they must work together to solve the problem and to not let this sort of thing happen ever again. Illustrated in muted colours with a vibrant pantone blue for the water there is much humour in the illustrations and text, with many laugh out loud images before everyone realises that something must be done. The solution is simple when everyone works together. The text is minimal. I recommend this strong new talent in the making. The book has a strong climate change and community message that is vital for everyone now. This is a book that will appeal to all ages even though it is intended for the young. I look forward to seeing much more from Mariajo.



Maybe You Might

Author: Imogen Foxell **Format:** Hardback **Release Date:** 01/10/2022

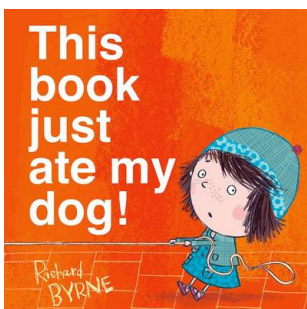
A little girl restores a hot dry plain to leafy, vibrant forest in the course of this beautiful picture book. She does it by planting a seed, watering and caring for it, keeping it sheltered from the hot sun. As she grows, so does the tree, producing fruits and more seeds, which also grow. Meanwhile, beneath the ground, roots are finding water, drinking it up so that it finds its way back into the sky to fall as rain, transforming the land into river once again. Told in lyrical, uplifting verse and with glowing mixed media illustrations, this is a very special picture book indeed. Its message of hope, resilience and our power to make a difference, no matter how small we are, is delivered clearly, elegantly and with real power. Don't miss.



Five Bears

Author: Catherine Rayner **Format:** Hardback **Release Date:** 23/06/2022

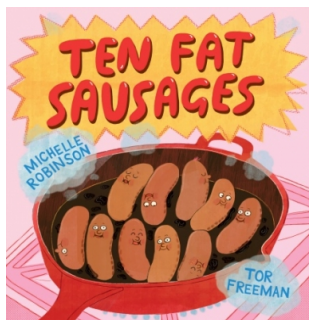
A new book from Greenaway winner Catherine Rayner is always going to be a visual treat and the luminous watercolour and inked images are a delight. As one bear meets another the initial reaction is defensive and even hostile, but Other Bear defuses the situation with calm friendliness and they go on together; each thinking their own thoughts but now moving in the same direction. Grunty Bear is a bit embarrassed by his first negative reaction to them and follows along. Very Big Bear is even more direct: "Go Away" he says and when asked why, says "Because I don't know you" Again he is disarmed by calm friendliness and again he follows along and we are told the four of them are beginning to think alike: that it is pleasant to be with other bears. Then they find Stuck Bear up a tree who insists he is fine: "But a Stuck Bear clearly needs help" and they all cooperate to help. So, in a gentle and non-dogmatic fashion, important points are made. There can be a tendency in humans to be wary of difference, but this is a lovely way to demonstrate empathy and will generate lots of discussion and could perhaps help to make a difference to our future generations' attitude toward helping 'stuck bears' all over the world.



This Book Just Ate My Dog

Author: Richard Byrne **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 01/01/2015

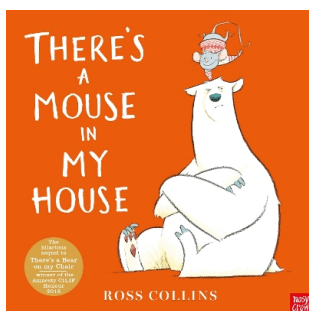
Shortlisted for the UKLA 2016 Book Award in the 3 - 6 year old category. Shortlisted for Children's Book Award 2016, Books for Younger Children category - Shortlisted for Oscar's First Book Prize 2015 A little girl, a big dog, and a very badly-behaved book! Bella is taking her dog for a stroll across the page when something odd happens. Her dog disappears and it becomes apparent to Bella, her friend Ben, and the rescue services that peril lurks in the pages of this book. But where the police and fire brigade fail, you - the reader - can help!



Ten Fat Sausages

Author: Michelle Robinson **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 07/02/2019

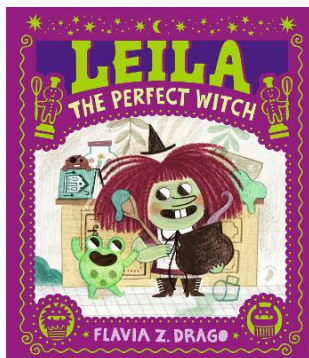
A tale of sausages and their fight for freedom, this rollicking picture book will have everyone laughing. We begin with ten sausages, of course, but as their friends go pop and bang, some of them decide to hop out of the pan, with varying degrees of success. Poor sausage number two ends up down the drain, while there's an even worse fate for sausage number four - the liquidizer. Sausage number eight is eaten by the cat but the silliest sausages of all are numbers nine and ten, who hide themselves in the hot dog roll! Michelle Robinson's energetic storytelling creates something funny or surprising on every page, and it's great fun to read aloud. Tor Freeman gives each sausage its own personality, no mean feat, and makes us sympathise with them even while we're laughing.



There's a Mouse in My House

Author: Ross Collins **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 16/09/2021

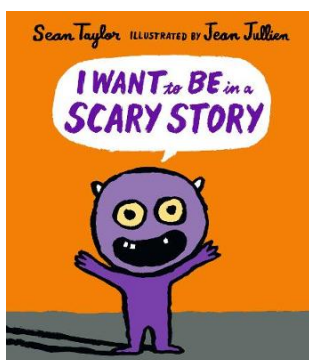
From the inventive author-illustrator of the award-winning *There's a Bear on My Chair* comes this smart sequel, and boy has Ross Collins delivered again. It's a rollicking, rhyming, visually-pleasing treat in which it turns out that Bear isn't terribly keen on getting a taste of his own medicine (to begin with, at least). The cause of Bear's irritation is the presence of Mouse in his house (yes, the very same Mouse on whose chair Bear presumptuously sat in the first book). In Bear's outraged words, "That rodent can't live here, oh no! I'll tell him that he has to go." Of course, Mouse refuses to leave and proceeds to cause chaos in Bear's house, before a mob of partying mice turn up. But then - the twist! - when Bear realises "Hey! These mice are nice!" With wonderful interplay between text, illustration and design, this is excellent for reading aloud - the kind of book that will have toddlers urging for it to be read again, and again (and again) while completing the rhymes before adults have chance to read them.



Leila, the Perfect Witch

Author: Flavia Z. Drago **Format:** Hardback **Release Date:** 15/09/2022

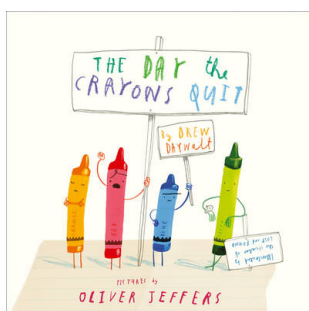
Leila is spellbindingly good at everything ... until she discovers that baking is no piece of cake! New from the author of the New York Times #1 bestseller Gustavo, the Shy Ghost! Leila Wayward is an extraordinary little witch who excels at everything she does. She's the fastest flier, the most cunning conjurer and the sneakiest shape-shifter. She is also the youngest in a long line of master bakers, so Leila's big dream is to win the most infamous culinary competition around: The Magnificent Witchy Cake-Off! But even with the most bewitching of recipes, Leila realizes a terrible truth: she's a disaster in the kitchen! Luckily, Leila has three magical sisters who are always there for her. Can they remind her to have some fun along the way? Set in Mexico, this vibrant story - brimming over with delicious sweet treats - is a celebration of sisterhood, taking part, and the simple joy of making (and eating!) food together.



I Want to Be in a Scary Story

Author: Sean Taylor **Format:** Hardback **Release Date:** 01/09/2017

The stellar duo behind Hoot Owl: Master of Disguise reunites to create a book that will have children (and their parents!) roaring with laughter once again. From the team behind the acclaimed Hoot Owl, Master of Disguise comes a very scary read-aloud story ... or is it?

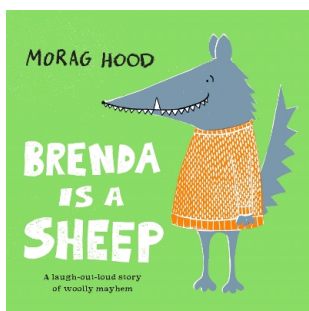


The Day the Crayons Quit

Author: Drew Daywalt **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 31/07/2014

Overall Winner of the Red House Children's Book Awards 2015, and winner in books for younger children category - Shortlisted for the Kate Greenaway Medal 2014 - One of our Books of the Year 2014 - One of the LoveReading4kids Readers' Choice Books of the Year 2014 Award-winning Oliver Jeffers and Drew Daywalt's highly-entertaining new book mean that colouring will never be the same again! When Duncan goes to take out his crayons one day he finds a stack of letters inside. Every crayon has something to say. The red crayon complains he is used too much - too many things such as fire engines and strawberries are red; the purple crayon is a neat minded soul and hates it that so much of Duncan's drawing goes outside the lines; the black crayon hates just to be used for outlines - and so on! Saddest of all, the peach crayon has lost his wrapping - how can he come out of the box naked? In an

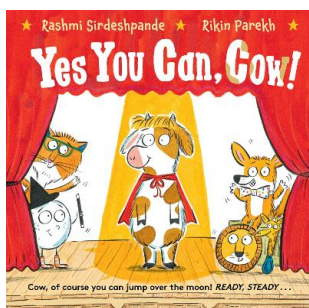
attempt to satisfy them all, Duncan does a final drawing. Overall, a brilliant book for every age to enjoy. ~ Julia Eccleshare



Brenda Is a Sheep

Author: Morag Hood **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 23/07/2020

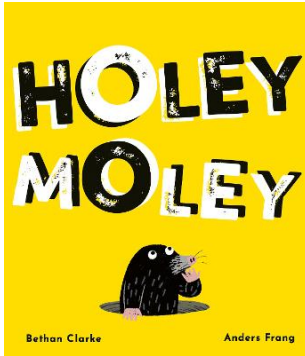
Shortlisted for the UKLA Book Awards 2021 Multi-award winning Morag Hood does it again in this stylish and surprisingly heart-warming tale! Every small child will know all about wolves and their interest in sheep and will delight in being able to predict what happens next. They know exactly what Brenda's game is and will fear for the gullible sheep caught up in it. Yet friendship and kindness can conquer even the most carnivorous of hearts. The sheep love the originality and inventiveness that Brenda brings to the flock and the thoughtful feast that they produce for their sleeping heroine (grass lasagne, grass sausages and so on – all accompanied by Brenda's amazing mint sauce conceived for a completely different purpose) convinces Brenda that actually she loves being a sheep. A really positive message beautifully executed in inimitable style with the characteristic limited colour palette and inventive typography and layout that we have come to expect, this will be a firm classroom favourite especially when exploring alternative traditional tales.



Yes You Can, Cow

Author: Rashmi Sirdeshpande **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 03/02/2022

Longlisted for the UKLA Book Award 2023 ages 3-6 Rehearsals are under way for the big production of Hey Diddle Diddle, but poor Cow has the collywobbles and does not believe she could possibly jump over the moon and indeed there are spectacular failures! Rikin Parekh's witty and lively illustrations will have young readers rolling in the aisles. He captures expressions of frustration, irritation, fear and embarrassment so perfectly. But this is not a story played just for laughs, it has a lovely message. Cow needs the support and encouragement of the troupe to give her the bravery to carry on trying. We will all be rooting for her too and the joy of succeeding at last will be felt by all. It is perhaps one of the most important life lessons for any child to learn. That it is OK to fail because life is a learning curve, but you should not be discouraged from trying again. A model example to use to discuss resilience and how we learn, but a genuinely heart-warming and funny story too.



Holey Moley

Author: Bethan Clarke **Format:** Hardback **Release Date:** 11/05/2023

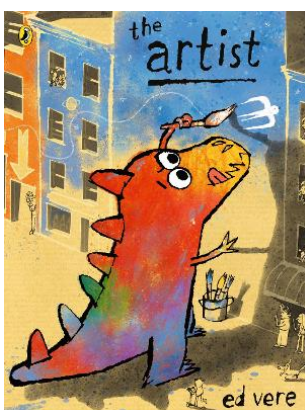
Gus the goat is excited to meet his new neighbour, Mavis Mole, and immediately launches into a guessing rhyming game that quickly irritates his new friend, but which will have little children giggling gleefully. Mavis must live in a hole, he suggests – a mole in a holey! Mavis tries to correct him, but he jumps in – again and again – with more rhymes. Does Mavis live in a bowl? On a pole (poley moley)? Or in a sausage roll? Mavis gets more exasperated as the guesses get more ridiculous, and finally reveals she lives in a – ah, you'll have to read the book to find out! Readers of all ages will laugh at Gus's rhymes but the littlest ones will love it best. They'll also love joining in, trying to guess what the next rhyme will be, and adding their own suggestions. It's a great way to encourage a delight in language, and a book that will stand repeated readings (watch out for all the other little animals in the background and enjoy their reactions to Gus!).



You're So Amazing

Author: James Catchpole **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 04/05/2023

When people meet Joe, they often treat him as Amazing Joe or Poor Joe. But can't he just be . . . Joe? One-legged Joe is 'amazing'. He knows this because wherever he goes people always tell him he's amazing. Amazing for sliding down the slide, for kicking a ball . . . even walking to get an ice cream, or even just eating an ice cream. Of course, being Amazing Joe is better than being Poor Joe . . . A groundbreaking picture book which explores how we respond to disability.

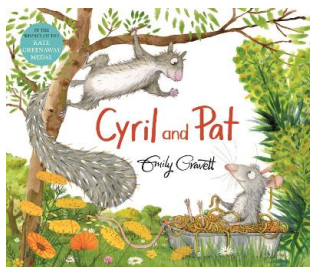


The Artist

Author: Ed Vere **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 06/04/2023

A young dinosaur artist starts to look at the world around them and create the beauty all around them. Vere shows how everything the artist sees and feels is reflected in their art by combining all these elements. As the dinosaur develops her style she sets off to share her art with the world – to show everyone the joy and beauty she sees. To do this she must be exceptionally brave. Once she reaches the city she has so many places to paint, and so many surfaces to cover her art can become bigger and better – until she makes a mistake! She is so ashamed she stops painting until the people of the city beg her to paint again – a little girl explaining that 'mistakes are how you learn' and that what matters is what's in your heart and not one small mistake. Vere has created this book after being asked the question 'What is an artist?'

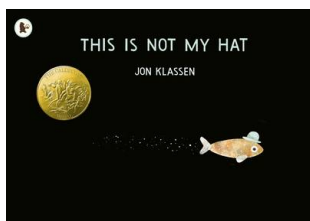
- this is a gentle, thoughtful, wonderfully colourful and enlightening answer to that question. The pages are full of glorious contrasts in colours and shade, giving us all the idea that creativity, enthusiasm and heart are what makes great art.... It is an exhortation to keep drawing and keep creating.



Cyril and Pat

Author: Emily Gravett **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 30/05/2019

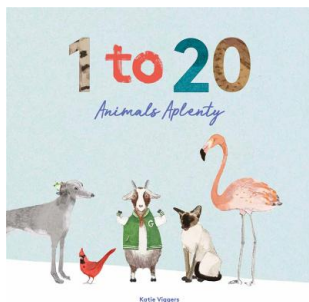
Longlisted for the UKLA Book Awards 2020 | A Julia Eccleshare Pick of the Month June 2019 Award-winning author/illustrator Emily Gravett explores the fun of being friends but different in this light-hearted and playful picture book. Sad Cyril the squirrel is all alone in the park until he finds a mouse named Pat. Together Cyril and Pat have a great time playing all kinds of games and making sure each other is safe - especially from the fierce dog Slim. Does it matter that they are different? Everyone else thinks so but Cyril and Pat know that they can be the best of friends come what may. Readers will love knowing the joke, and the point, before Cyril and Pat get it!



This is Not My Hat

Author: Jon Klassen **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 16/06/2014

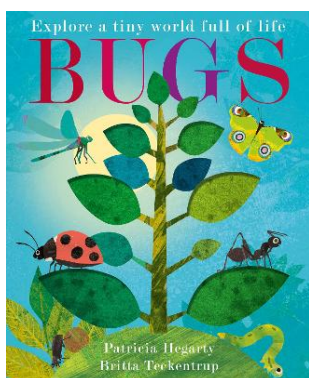
Winner of the Kate Greenaway Medal 2014 - Winner of the UKLA Book Awards 3-6yrs 2014 - Winner of the 2013 Caldecott Medal. One of Julia Eccleshare's Stand-out Children's Book of the Year 2012 Best-selling illustrator Jon Klassen follows up his successful I Want My Hat Back in this witty, almost wordless picture book about a tiny fish who steals a hat from a very big fish - and hopes to get away with it. The eloquent but simple illustrations show the audacious behaviour of a hapless fish heading for disaster. Young children will love the joke...and the fact that they know what the little fish doesn't.



1 to 20 Animals Aplenty

Author: Katie Viggers **Format:** Hardback **Release Date:** 10/02/2020

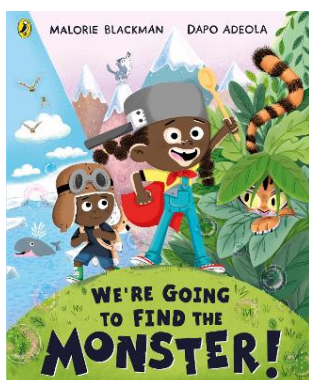
This witty, stylish counting book will catch the attention of adults as well as the imagination of the very young. A rhythmic, rhyming text and eye-catching illustrations present us with one fox in socks, then two gorillas looking in mirrors, followed by three jolly llamas in pyjamas, right up to the twenty birds who have the last words. Along the way we also meet five goats wearing coats, the goats labelled and clearly identifiable under their coats (Nubian, mountain, angora...). Other favourite spreads include the one featuring sixteen chickens reading (and clearly enjoying) Dickens! A wonderfully original counting book that is as handsome as it is effective.



Bugs

Author: Patricia Hegarty **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 11/05/2023

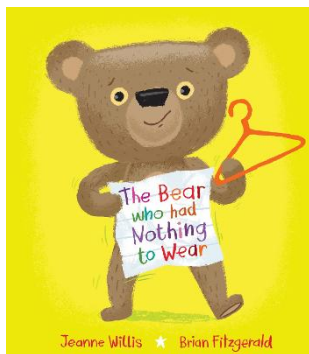
Peek through the holes and explore a bustling world of bugs in this beautifully illustrated book from award-winning artist Britta Teckentrup. Clever die-cuts, gentle rhyming text and colourful artwork bring even the tiniest creatures to life.



We're Going to Find the Monster

Author: Malorie Blackman **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 02/09/2021

Shortlisted for the UKLA Book Award 2023 ages 3-6 Over the shimmering ocean, up the huge, high mountain, through the deep, dark forest . . . WE'RE GOING TO FIND THE MONSTER! Join two intrepid adventurers as their imaginations transform their house into a wild wonderland - and their big brother becomes a mighty monster. A joy to read-aloud with its cumulative refrain, and full of funny, relatable characters, this is a contemporary celebration of creativity, fantasy and family.



The Bear who had Nothing to Wear

Author: Jeanne Willis **Format:** Hardback **Release Date:** 02/06/2023

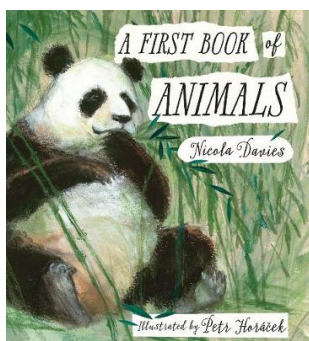
June 2023 Book of the Month Albie is not a bear who likes to be told what to wear. While most teddy bears might be happy to leave outfit choices to their owners, Albie has very definite ideas about his fashion style. But he also changes his mind – A LOT. From fairy king to cowboy, seasick pirate to city gent, Albie has an outfit for every occasion, but none feel quite right. Can he find one that perfectly represents him? This is a lovely book with a great message about finding your own identity and choosing for yourself how you present to the world. Young readers will particularly enjoy Albie's various different outfits and moods. Jeanne Willis' charming rhyme makes this a wonderful book to share and read aloud, whilst Brian Fitzgerald's colourful illustrations perfectly capture Albie's changeable personality.



Bear and Bird: The Picnic and Other Stories

Author: Jarvis **Format:** Hardback **Release Date:** 02/03/2023

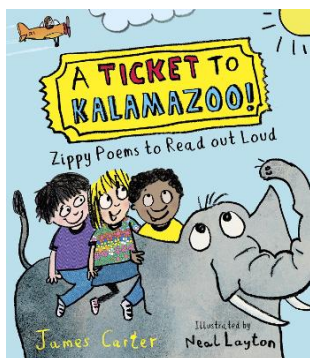
Full of funny mix-ups and comic misunderstandings, as well as genuine warmth and affection, these four stories are the start of an irresistibly charming new chapter book series from award-winning creator Jarvis.



A First Book of Animals

Author: Nicola Davies **Format:** Hardback **Release Date:** 06/10/2016

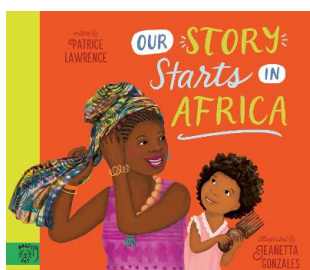
Shortlisted for the CILIP Kate Greenaway Medal 2018 | Longlisted for the UKLA 2018 Book Award What a wonderful book to give to a child. It's one which will inspire a real interest in nature and the creatures that share our planet, as well as an appreciation of art and poetry. Nicola Davies shares her delight in animals in specially written poems, each of which is illustrated by Petr Horacek across dazzling double pages. Grouped by themes such as colours and shapes, or animals in action, creatures big and small are vividly brought to life, from the whale shark, 'like a piece of fallen starry sky' to a barn owl, 'quiet as the floating moon'. The images are breath-taking, full of movement and colour; the poems too are varied and memorable, sometimes precise, sometimes ethereal. It's a book that recipients will treasure into adulthood.



A Ticket to Kalamazoo! Zippy Poems To Read Out Loud

Author: James Carter **Format:** Hardback **Release Date:** 19/01/2023

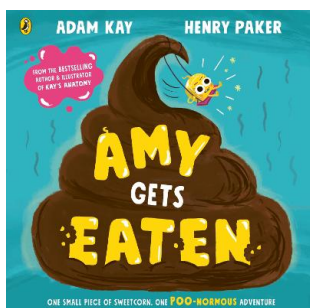
All aboard for Kalamazoo! One ticket will let you... ride on an elephant, stay in a bug hotel, travel by train boat and plane, mingle with bears and minibeasts - and even meet an alien! All this and more, in 19 zippy poems to read aloud. This is a fantastic and eagerly awaited poetry collection for young children, from the author of bestselling Zim Zam Zoom!, which was shortlisted for the CLIPPA Award and longlisted for the UKLA Award



Our Story Starts in Africa

Author: Patrice Lawrence **Format:** Hardback **Release Date:** 18/08/2022

When Paloma goes to visit her family in Trinidad, she doesn't feel that she fits in. But Tante Janet has a story to tell her: An ancient story of warrior queens and talking drums, of treasures and tales that span thousands of years... a story that Paloma shares in, because her story starts in Africa, too... Join Tante and her inquisitive niece as they share the story of how her family came to the Caribbean, through the dark days of colonization and slavery, to the emergence of a thriving, contemporary community of many faces, places and successes.



Amy Gets Eaten

Author: Adam Kay **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 27/04/2023

From the duo behind the award winning and best-selling Kay's Anatomy and Kay's Marvellous Medicine we have a debut picturebook that proves they are just as successful at communicating biological facts accurately for three-to five-year-olds, as they are for older readers. Paker's vibrant and zany illustrations, here in full colour glory, are the perfect foil for Kay's nerdy enthusiasm for explaining how bodies work. Young children are completely fascinated by everything toilet related and immediately recognising the emoji style poo on the cover, will find the book irresistible. The action speeds along just as quickly as sweetcorn through the digestive tract and the use of cartoon strips and speech bubbles help inform the reader about the processes along Amy's anatomically correct journey and hand out healthy eating tips on the way. The non digestion of sweetcorn is legendary and to pick the only vegetable that could tell the full sticky story is a stroke of genius. Even adults may learn something. The only slightly disconcerting but undeniably topical note is the final image of Amy and her poo ship

sailing out to sea! We can't be quite as cheery about this as Amy is! I do hope more human body explanations for this age group are planned - they are just what the doctor ordered!
