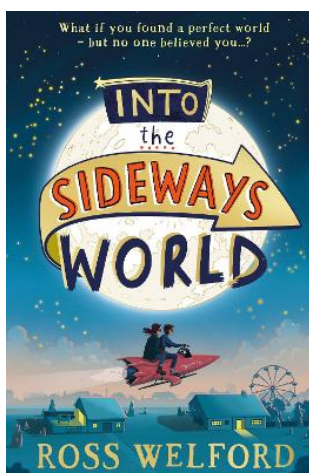


A selection of books especially selected for children in Year 5 (9 - 10 year olds) of average reading ability for the 2021/22 academic year.

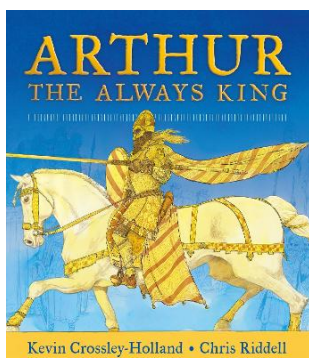
If your child is a competent reader or has read all these titles then try the books from the Year 6 list. Alternatively if these books are a little challenging try books from the Year 4 list. Our overall mission is to promote reading for pleasure with quality texts that are perfectly pitched for the 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.



Into the Sideways World

Author: Ross Welford **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 20/01/2022
Year Groups: Key Stage 2

The moving, funny, thrilling and adventure-filled new novel for readers of 10 and up from bestselling author Ross Welford. When twelve-year-olds Willa and Manny hear of a mysterious animal prowling their town, they are determined to prove it is real. Following the creature into a cave one full moon, they are swept into an alternate, ideal, world - one where pollution and conflict have been conquered decades ago and even their own families seem happier. But when they return, no one believes them. So, with a global war looming in their own world, their quest for proof of the Sideways World becomes ever-more urgent, in a nail-biting race against time. And Willa and Manny will have to make an impossible decision: because once you find a perfect world, can you ever leave it behind . . . ?

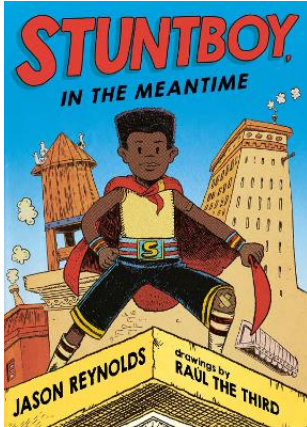


Arthur: The Always King

Author: Kevin Crossley-Holland **Format:** Hardback **Release Date:** 04/11/2021 **Year Groups:** Key Stage 3

Combining the talents of a Carnegie medal winning author and a thrice winning Greenaway medal winning illustrator, this highly anticipated book was always going to be very special indeed and with its lavish production it proves to have exceeded expectations. Every single page is illustrated, most frequently in full colour, from dramatic full-page scenes to delicate vignettes breathing life into the characters of legend. In his introduction the author talks about the hundreds and hundreds of stories and poems spread across the western world that feature King Arthur and makes the point that the longevity of their appeal is down to their very human nature. Although suffused with magic these are stories of human aspiration to be the very best that we can be and the yearning for a Golden Age of truth, justice and chivalry and also the resilience that allows us to bear the very human frailties and limitations that continually thwart these ambitions. Apart from the sheer beauty of the language used, these stories offer the complete cycle of Arthur's life from his magically assisted birth to his passing onwards to Avalon. These are full bloodied retellings too with real medieval gore and lasciviousness making them most suitable for upper primary and secondary readers, but also giving greater depth and understanding of

the life, loves, triumphs and tragedies of the Knights of the Round Table and the rich tapestry of magic and monsters with which they grapple. They make a compelling read ensuring that Arthur will indeed always be the King of our literary landscape. A really worthwhile investment.



Stuntboy, In The Meantime

Author: Jason Reynolds **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 04/11/2021 **Year Groups:** Key Stage 2

A November 2021 Star Book! Jason Reynolds has a golden touch when it comes to creating thought-provoking fiction that will enthrall even the most reluctant of readers. In *Stuntboy In the Meantime* readers will feel well and truly understood by two golden touches, with Raul the Third's energetic illustrations ingeniously interwoven to the entertaining, empathetic tale. Portico Reeves is a one of a kind boy, with a one of a kind best friend in Zola. After a tough day dealing with the local bully, Herbert Singletary the Worst, followed by a bad case of The Frets (his evocative term for anxiety), with Zola's guidance Portico finds his superpower and Stuntboy is born, a superhero whose job it is to keep other superheroes safe, so they can get on with saving the world. But while Stuntboy performs several acts of superhero-dom around his Skylight Gardens apartment block (never blowing his own calamity-averting trumpet), he has to fend off further attacks of The Frets and figure out how to stop his parent's constant arguments (aka "the mean time"). Driven by first-rate, funny dialogue and fast-paced action, and suffused in understanding, *Stuntboy* will speak to young readers dealing with anxiety, bullies and separating parents while keeping them upbeat and engaged.

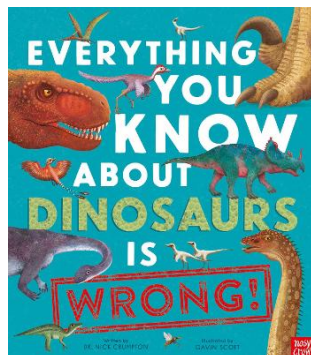


The Lion Above the Door

Author: Onjali Q. Rauf **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 14/10/2021 **Year Groups:** Key Stage 2

On a school trip to Rochester Cathedral, Leo is astonished to see a World War II memorial to a man with exactly the same name as him, Leo Kai Lim. Who was the Leo commemorated with a golden lion in the cathedral, and could there be a family connection? Determined to find out more, Leo suggests forgotten heroes as the theme for the class project on WWII, and it's chosen alongside family histories. The project takes on even more significance when the class learn it will be put forward for a national Remembrance Day competition. In his endeavour to find out more about his namesake, Leo is helped by his best friend Sangeeta, who is tracking down information on the part played by Indian soldiers in the war, and thrilled to discover more about the role played by women too. He's also helped, to his surprise, by Olivia Morris, universally regarded as the coolest kid in school. Leo's efforts get him into trouble with his parents (a midnight phone call to his Auntie Su in Singapore) and his school (a disastrous, but very funny secret trip to the

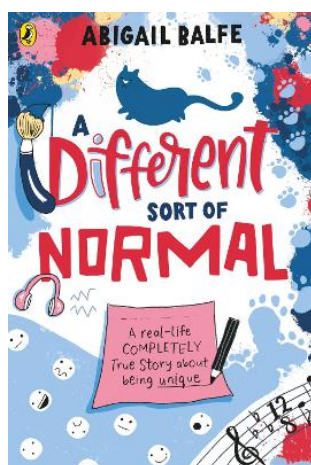
RAF Museum), but Leo's determination is overwhelming. When a nasty racist bit of sabotage threatens the project, Leo suddenly finds everyone is on his side, and there are more surprises to come. Onjali Raúf writes superb adventure stories for children, full of excitement and incident, and has a great ear for the way they speak. This story will intrigue and entertain young readers while also helping them understand racism, past and present. It's not just a really good read, it's a really important read.



Everything You Know About Dinosaurs is Wrong!

Author: Dr Nick Crumpton **Format:** Hardback **Release Date:** 16/09/2021 **Year Groups:** Key Stage 2

Fascinating, easy-to-understand text by zoologist, researcher and writer, Dr Nick Crumpton is complemented by amazingly detailed dinosaur artwork on every spread from talented illustrator, Gavin Scott. It features jaw-dropping research that will debunk many myths about all kinds of prehistoric creatures - If you want to be able to do more than tell a Tyrannosaurus from a Triceratops, then this is the book for you! The LoveReading LitFest invited Nick Crumpton to the festival to talk about his informative, inventive and brilliantly entertaining dinosaur book! The digitally native, all year round, online literature and books festival, with new content released every week is a free-for-all-users festival. What are you waiting for? Check out a preview of the event [here](#) and sign up to become a member.



A Different Sort of Normal

Author: Abigail Balfe **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 22/07/2021 **Year Groups:** Key Stage 2

Abigail Balfe is autistic and has written this honest, amusing and very useful book about some of the things she was aware of as she was growing up. Balfe knew she was different all the way through her childhood and youth - and this book is full of observations on how she navigated her younger years. It was not until she was an adult that her diagnosis of autism was delivered - which suddenly explained a great deal of confusing issues from her youth. The book is full of all the milestones of a young life from changing schools to puberty to friendships to children's birthday parties - and how someone who feels different coped with all those stages. Written with an honesty and openness that is refreshing - and full of quirky illustrations by the author - this is an information book one can sit and read like a novel, as well as using it to dip into for information on all sorts of topics to do with neurodiversity. It is packed full of useful descriptions and definitions, has a thorough glossary which doubles as an index in a very practical way whilst also signposting websites and information sources for further

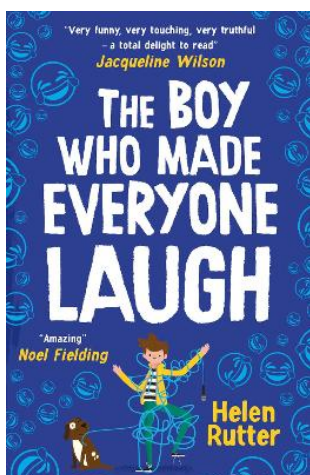
investigation. A book for everyone to read (adults too), not just for people with neurodiversity issues – this book is a great explainer, full of empathy for different situations, which explodes many misconceptions about autistic people along the way! I wish I had had this available many years ago when teaching an autistic child on a one-to-one basis.



Twitch

Author: M.G. Leonard **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 03/06/2021
Year Groups: Key Stage 2

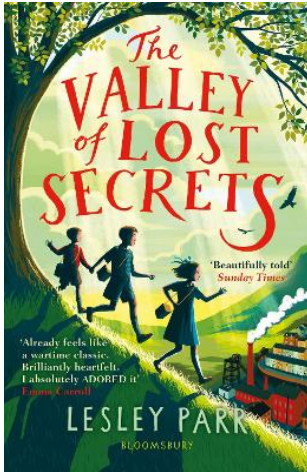
Can a birdwatcher outwit an escaped convict? Twitch has three pet chickens, four pigeons, swallows nesting in his bedroom and a passion for birdwatching. On the first day of the summer holidays, he arrives at his secret hide to find police everywhere: a convicted robber has broken out of prison and is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



The Boy Who Made Everyone Laugh

Author: Helen Rutter **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 04/02/2021
Year Groups: Key Stage 2

Shortlisted for The Branford Boase Award 2022 | Shortlisted for the Costa Children's Book Award 2021 | Shortlisted for the Blue Peter Awards 2022 Best Story | A Julia Eccleshare Pick of the Month February 2021 | February 2021 Debut of the Month Both touching and funny this is a brilliant story about being brave, being different and learning that being you is what really matters. Billy likes nothing more than making and performing jokes and dreams that one day he will be a famous stand-up comedian. But Billy has a stammer and it can be hard for him even to get a joke out quickly enough. Just now, Billy has a problem which will strike a chord with many: he is about to start secondary school and knows that it will be all too easy for him to become a target for bullies. Especially because of his stammer. Billy thinks of all kinds of schemes to avoiding speaking while also knowing that staying silent goes right against who he really is. How can Billy show his tremendous inner strength and especially his great sense of humour if he never dares to speak? Luckily Billy makes some good friends, meets a great teacher and, drawing on the support of his family and the work of his speech and language therapist, manages not only to survive but also to succeed! Find more books with Positive Images of Disability.



The Valley of Lost Secrets

Author: Lesley Parr **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 07/01/2021
Year Groups: Key Stage 2

Shortlisted for The Branford Boase Award 2022 | Shortlisted for the UKLA Book Award 2022 ages 7-10 | January 2021 Debut of the Month Lesley Parr's story of evacuees is rich in atmosphere and a sense of place, and uses its wartime setting to explore themes of community, understanding and self-forgiveness. Along with other children at their school, Jimmy and his little brother Ronnie have been sent hundreds of miles away from London to the safety of a small mining town in South Wales, and it couldn't be further from what they know. Jimmy is determined they won't stay long, and that the place won't change him, even as it's transforming his classmates: Florence Campbell for example, who is free to become someone else, far away from her abusive family. The village has its secrets though, and the discovery of a set of bones in a tree leads Jimmy to solve a decades old mystery and, in the process, to help those living with loss and guilt. The place and its people are carefully and skilfully evoked, with the adults, particularly Jimmy and Ronnie's new 'family' of Auntie Gwen and Uncle Alun the miner, likely to be as fascinating to readers as the younger protagonists. The mystery will certainly keep readers gripped but it's the characters and the place that will stay with them. Evacuees are a rich source for children's adventure stories, examples include Michelle Magorian's classic Goodnight Mister Tom, and Jacqueline Wilson's more recent Wave Me Goodbye.



Front Desk

Author: Kelly Yang **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 07/01/2021
Year Groups: Key Stage 2

Shortlisted for the UKLA Book Award 2022 ages 7-10 Without question, Kelly Yang's Front Desk has leapt to the upper echelons of my all-time favourite novels for pre-teen readers. Narrated in lively, compelling, authentic style by the one and only Mia (who stole my heart from the very first page), this tells the soul-stirring story of a Chinese family's struggles when they take on running a US motel. As her family move into the Calivista Motel, Mia's hopes and dreams run riot: "Our lives were about to change. We were going to become Disneyland-going people. As if things couldn't get any better, the Calivista had a pool! It was right out in front. The water sparkled under the golden sun. I closed my eyes and pictured myself doing cannonballs in the water all summer long. This was going to be amazing!" Then, little by little - and big by big - the sparkle dulls as reality's storm clouds muster. But not one to give up, Mia takes on managing the motel's front desk. Though often harrowingly dampened by anti-immigration feeling and outright racism, and by the day-to-day grind of running the motel, Mia's hope is a thing of magic. There's pressure at school too - to be accepted, to make friends, to learn to write well, which is her big dream - but still she stays

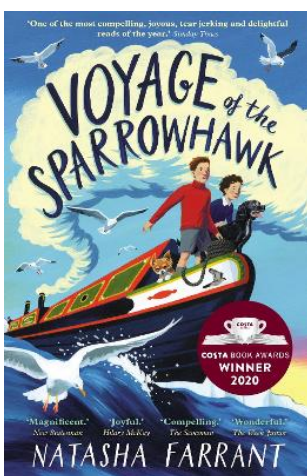
strong as her parents (understandably) worry whether it's worth staying. The motel's community of long-term guests provides a lively, characterful cast of extras, one of whom in particular plays a leading, shining role in Mia's life, and in her ingenious scheme to fix her family's fortunes through writing. What a story - I couldn't love it more - thank goodness there's a second book.



The Midnight Guardians

Author: Ross Montgomery **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 05/11/2020 **Year Groups:** Key Stage 2

Shortlisted for the Books for Older Readers category, Children's Book Awards 2022 | Shortlisted for the Costa Children's Book Award 2021 Take a sprinkle of magic from The Midnight Folk, a touch of the human warmth from Goodnight Mr Tom and perhaps the cold of the Fimbulwinter from The Weirdstone of Brisingamen – these are some of the elements that contribute to Ross Montgomery's latest novel which is a real page-turner. It is rooted in the best traditions of children's books – there's a journey, jeopardy, betrayal and redemption, and is fantasy set firmly in the real world – the background being the darkest moments of World War II. It can be tricky to marry the world of the imagination to that of the everyday but Ross Montgomery achieves this with ease. The text is interspersed with excerpts from newspapers and official announcements; the war is always there – but so are the Guardians, imaginary creatures from Col's childhood, each with distinct characteristics. His protagonists Col and Ruth are very recognisable young people and young readers will want to accompany them as they face both human obstacles and giants from British mythology. The prose includes plenty of dialogue, is stylish and contemporary – accessible, carrying the reader through the adventures and bringing them to life. This is an author whose skills have been steadily developing and here we see him at his best. This review first appeared in Books for Keeps



Voyage of the Sparrowhawk

Author: Natasha Farrant **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 03/09/2020 **Year Groups:** Key Stage 2, Key Stage 3

Longlisted for the UKLA Book Award 2022 ages 7-10 | Winner of the Costa Children's Book Award 2020 | September 2020 Book of the Month I challenge any reader, young or old, not to want to devour this book in one delicious sitting. Once started upon the story of Lotti and Ben, two orphans living in the aftermath of World War 1 and who could not be more different in temperament or background, it is impossible to put down. Initially and understandably wary, they gradually become each other's best friend and staunch allies in their respective quests for family and a safe haven for an increasing number of dogs. Their odyssey takes them, in the faithful old narrowboat which has been Ben's home, across the stormy channel to France, with a

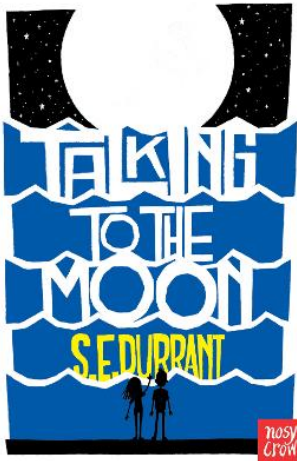
vengeful, deceitful uncle and a steadfast policeman hot on their heels. But there is nothing far fetched in their survival, they do need and even eventually welcome the support of friendly adults on both sides of the channel and they learn to work together and to counteract each other's failings. They never lose hope in even the darkest moments and neither does the reader, despite some heart-stopping tension. These are characters who will dwell long in your memory and indeed leave you wanting to know more, including about some of the fascinating minor characters. The authentic period detail and dialogue captures the spirit of an age where children may seem, to a modern audience, to have a thrilling level of agency and independence, but only because they are largely ignored or neglected rather than protected by society. A standalone, middle grade adventure that is as well written as this, is pure gold dust with which to captivate young readers and a perfect class read. But be warned, they may not want to go home!



When Secrets Set Sail

Author: Sita Brahmachari **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 20/08/2020 **Year Groups:** Key Stage 3

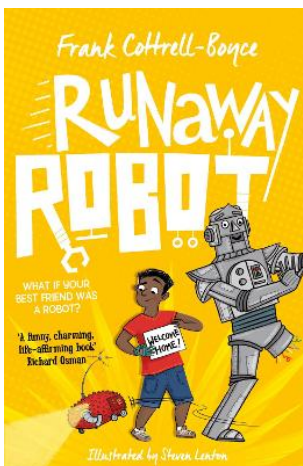
Set in a perfectly realised East London, the story begins as newly adopted Imtiaz arrives in Usha's home. Initially misunderstandings abound between the two girls. Sadly, Usha's beloved gran, Kali Ma has recently passed away. But when first Kali Ma and then other ghosts appear and task the girls to right a past wrong and reveal the hidden secrets of their house, which is also a refugee community centre and under imminent threat of closure, they and their new Roma friend Cosmo must work together. There is rich historical detail in this complex but very rewarding and thought-provoking story crafted in delicate and thoughtful prose. We learn about the fate of Indian Ayahs travelling to care for children of the British Raj on the long voyages back to the UK and then being abandoned here and also about the first female Asian GP's and the struggles of the Windrush generation. In an interview the author reveals that there has been a recent campaign for a Blue Plaque to commemorate the real-life House of the Ayahs. This is a skilfully woven narrative with a shameful look at just some of the racist colonial attitudes of Britain both past and present and real tension and adventure as the children race to unravel the mystery and save the refuge and a beloved family home.



Talking to the Moon

Author: S. E. Durrant **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 05/03/2020
Year Groups: Key Stage 2

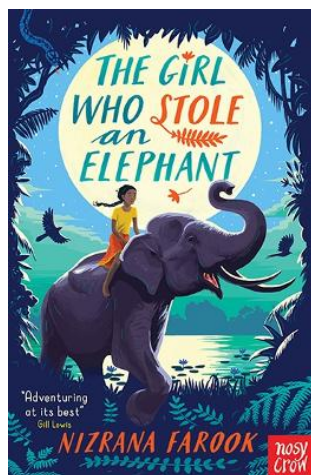
Longlisted for the UKLA Book Awards 2021 | March 2020 Book of the Month Iris takes refuge with her grandma, Mimi, to escape the chaos at home, caused by her two-year old twin siblings and her dad's DIY repairs. There's a different kind of disorder in Mimi's house which is chock full of items collected over the years, chiefly boxes of photos she's taken and developed. Among the photographs of other people's weddings are family portraits and its one of these that sets Iris on a hunt to unravel an old mystery, even as Mimi's memories are fading. The story is beautifully told, as much about Iris and her search for order and happiness as it is about Mimi and her struggle with dementia. A poignant, thoughtful examination of family relationships, memory and loss, that ends on a note of hope and renewal.



Runaway Robot

Author: Frank Cottrell Boyce **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 06/02/2020 **Year Groups:** Key Stage 2

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

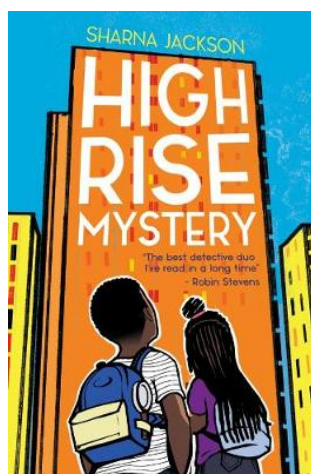


The Girl Who Stole an Elephant

Author: Nizrana Farook **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 09/01/2020 **Year Groups:** Key Stage 2

Shortlisted for the UKLA Book Awards 2021 | January 2020

Debut of the Month Nizrana Farook sets her story on the island of Serendib, now known as Sri Lanka, and transports readers to a vivid, larger-than-life world where young people can be bold, true and have some extraordinary adventures. Twelve-year old Chaya is a thief with a heart of gold, stealing from the king's palace to help those in her village. She makes a mistake when she takes jewels from the queen's bedroom though, triggering a series of events that leads to Chaya and two friends, villager Neel and merchant's daughter Nour, fleeing into the rainforest on the king's elephant. There are brushes with death, but great camaraderie too and it all ends with a much-needed righting of wrongs. Great stuff! Readers swept up in Chaya's story – and who couldn't be? – will also enjoy Costa Book Award winner Asha and the Spirit Bird by Jasbinder Bilan.

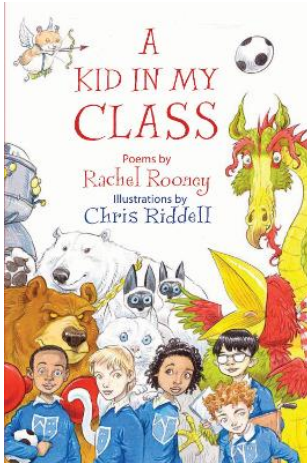


High-Rise Mystery

Author: Sharna Jackson **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 04/04/2019 **Year Groups:** Key Stage 2

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

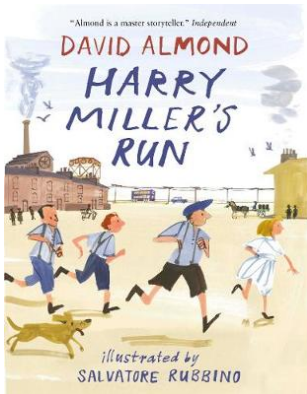
Sisters Nik and Norva would agree that they are slightly obsessed with murder mystery series on the television so, when a body is discovered in their block of flats, they are sure they are the right people to discover the truth. Balancing jokey dialogue and insights into the reality of city life, Sharna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



A Kid in My Class

Author: Rachel Rooney **Format:** Hardback **Release Date:** 02/08/2018
Year Groups: Key Stage 2

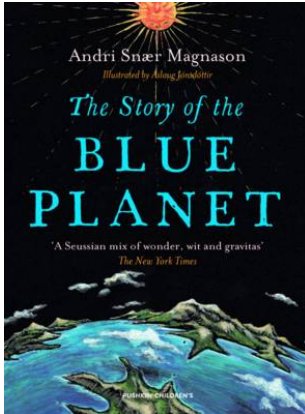
Longlisted for the UKLA Book Awards 2020 Rachel Rooney brings a class to life with poems for all the different characters. There is a rich vein of understanding of children here: never sentimental, always intriguing. Children will delight in the ways in which the styles and patterns of the poems enhance the exploration of each child. The wonderful illustrations draw readers into this magical anthology.



Harry Miller's Run

Author: David Almond **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 01/09/2016
Year Groups: Key Stage 2

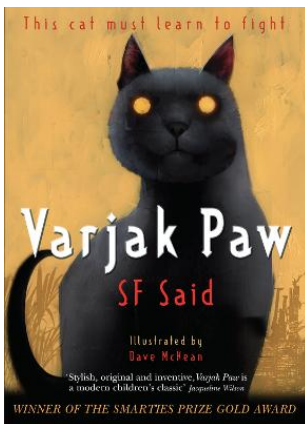
Longlisted for the UKLA 2017 Book Award Award-winning David Almond tells a lively story which captures the exuberance of a trio of lads and one girl who set off one hot summer morning to run from their homes in Newcastle to South Shields. There's no training, no special kit, no crowds – just the gang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



The Story of the Blue Planet

Author: Andri Snaer Magnason **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 07/05/2015 **Year Groups:** Key Stage 2

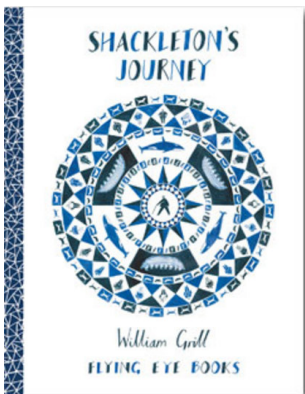
Winner of the UKLA Book Awards 7-11 category 2014 A whimsical fairy tale that will appeal to fans of Maurice Sendak, Dr Seuss and Hans Christian Andersen, The Story of the Blue Planet is a critically acclaimed global hit being published in the UK for the first time. It's the story of two children who live on a planet inhabited only by children who never grow old but in other ways it's a world not unlike our own. There's a powerful underlying message about caring for our environment whilst at the same time telling a wonderfully entertaining story that is combined with bright, magical illustrations.



Varjak Paw

Author: S. F. Said **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 13/03/2014 **Year Groups:** Key Stage 2

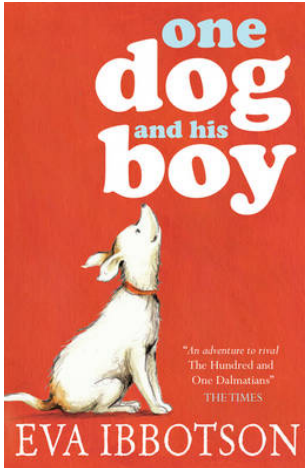
Beguiling and mysterious, thought provoking and as wise as the feline hero, this is becoming a modern classic.



Shackleton's Journey

Author: William Grill **Format:** Hardback **Release Date:** 02/01/2014 **Year Groups:** Key Stage 2

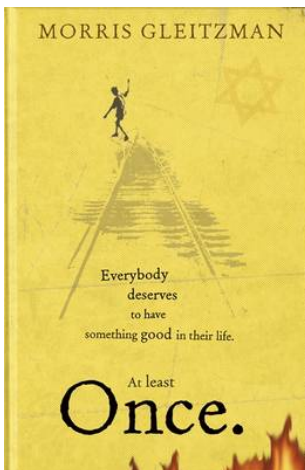
Winner of the Kate Greenaway Medal 2015 Greenaway Medal winning debut from William Grill whose images range from tiny vignettes to sweeping frozen vistas which, together with an absorbing narrative, tells the powerful story of the ill fated voyage.



One Dog and His Boy

Author: Eva Ibbotson **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 01/03/2012
Year Groups: Key Stage 2

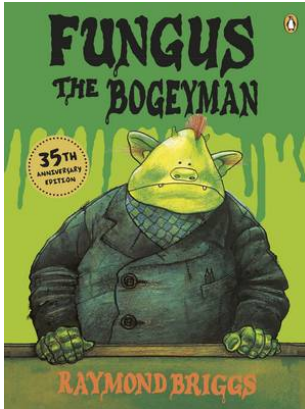
Shortlisted for the Galaxy Children's Book of the Year Award 2011. Award winning Eva Ibbotson's poignant and beautiful last book celebrates a boy's passion for a dog. All Hal has ever wanted is a dog but his parents refuse to contemplate the idea. A dog would mess up their beautiful house and disturb their busy routine. When they discover East Pets, they hire Hal a dog for a weekend thinking that will do the trick. But they don't know Hal! Hal takes matters into his own hands. Soon Hal and all the dogs he has released from Easy Pets are out on the road – with a price on their head. How Hal makes his escape is both thrilling and moving as it marks his growth from sadness to great happiness. ***Eva's son, Toby Ibbotson, is now continuing the tradition of storytelling with his debut novel Mountwood School for Ghosts which is based on an original idea by Eva Ibbotson.



Once.

Author: Morris Gleitzman **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 23/02/2006 **Year Groups:** Key Stage 2

A moving and convincing child-eye view of what happened to the children of Poland after the Germans invaded. Felix has been placed by his parents in an orphanage for safe-keeping but, when the Germans come and burn the books in the orphanage library, Felix knows he must set out to return to his parents who are booksellers and make sure they are safe. Felix's journey is dangerous and desperate but also full of courage and hope in a world where friendships and loyalty are the glue that hold things together.



Fungus The Bogeyman

Author: Raymond Briggs **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 29/03/1990 **Year Groups:** Key Stage 2

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