

## A selection of books especially selected for children in Year 3 (7 - 8 year olds) of average reading ability for the 2021/22 academic year.

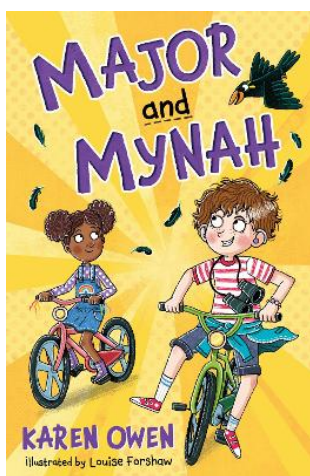
If your child is a competent reader or has read all these titles then try the books from the Year 4 list. Alternatively if these books are a little challenging try books from the Year 2 list. Our overall mission is to promote reading for pleasure with quality texts that are perfectly pitched for the 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.



### Our Tower

**Author:** Joseph Coelho **Format:** Hardback **Release Date:** 02/08/2022  
**Year Groups:** Key Stage 1

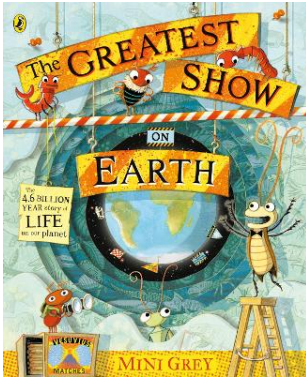
The new Children's Laureate grew up in a tower block in Richmond and that lived experience and the stunning illustrations which unmistakably portray that very location gives this remarkable book a deeply personal authenticity. But the book's message is universal and completely relatable regardless of where you live, although it will seem very special indeed to any child living in their own tower block today. The story follows three children who leave their grey dismal tower in search of the marvellous green tree they can see from their windows. As they move through the wood gradually more colour seeps into the images and when they find their tree and discover an entrance to a magical underground world the palette changes entirely to magical purples and blues and the lovely lyrical text becomes joyously rhyming too. But their real discovery is the gift of the old man of the tree which enables them to see that magic exists in the real world too, when we do not forget our connections to nature and can see and appreciate the beauty of community. A truly beautiful and special text that is a perfect example of words and pictures working together to create a deep and lasting impression on readers young and old.



### Major and Mynah

**Author:** Karen Owen **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 05/05/2022  
**Year Groups:** Key Stage 2

Join SPUD, the Super Perceptive Undercover Detectives, on their first fast-paced detective adventure. Getting your first hearing aids can be nerve-racking; especially when you have to wear them to school. When Callie realises her new hearing aids - 'the Slugs' - give her the unique ability to communicate with Bo the Mynah bird, some of her worries are lifted. In fact, having a pair of eyes in the sky might come in handy. The duo team up with Callie's best friend, Grace, as they set out to catch a local thief who has been causing trouble all over town. Includes high-speed chases, a very peckish bird and purple POO! A new mystery series, illustrated by Louise Forshaw and perfect for reluctant readers.

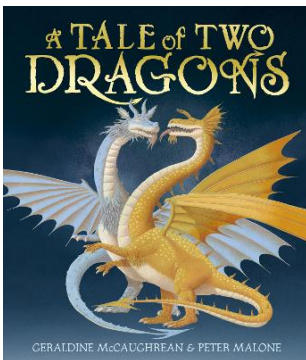


## The Greatest Show on Earth

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

**Year Groups:** Key Stage 2

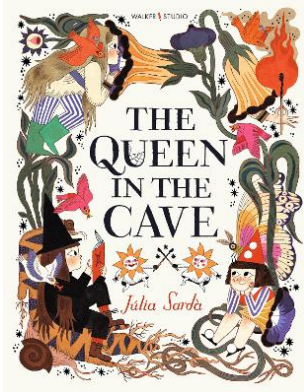
Prize winning illustrator Mini Grey has used her many talents to create this wonderful tour of the development of our planet and all its inhabitants. Our guide in this amazing show is Rod the Roach and he and his insect pals all put on the most amazing stage show illustrating each of the developmental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



## A Tale of Two Dragons

**Author:** Geraldine McCaughrean **Format:** Hardback **Release Date:** 07/10/2021 **Year Groups:** Key Stage 1

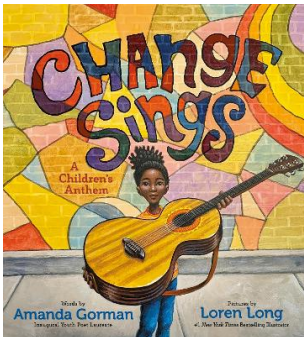
The kingdoms of Arbor and Pomosa are neighbours. Arbor is leafy and green with forests, while Pomosa is fertile, full of wheatfields and grazing cows. A high thorn hedge divides them but fortunately the children sneak through the hedge at night to help themselves to firewood or grain and milk. This keeps the people of both countries warm, fed and happy, but the kings are determined to protect their property and each one hires a dragon to patrol the hedge. Things escalate, as they tend to, and the kings order the dragons to fight, to the distress of their citizens, who've come to love these beautiful creatures much more than they ever loved their rulers. Perfectly told and beautifully illustrated, the story will catch children's imagination and reveals so much about the way the world operates, and who has the power to change it.



## The Queen in the Cave

**Author:** Julia Sarda **Format:** Hardback **Release Date:** 07/10/2021  
**Year Groups:** Key Stage 1, Key Stage 2

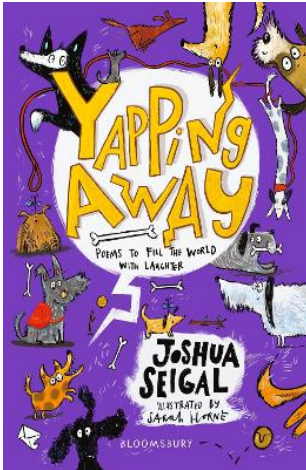
Julia Sarda spins an enthralling and evocative tale rich with layers of meaning to be unearthed. One night, Franca has a dream about a marvellous queen. And now she feels intrigued... Eager to know more about this mystical figure, Franca shares her dream with her two younger sisters. Together, they set out on an enchanting adventure to discover the kingdom of the queen in the cave. This is a riveting and atmospheric picture book that will surprise and enthrall young readers and dreamers.



## Change Sings

**Author:** Amanda Gorman **Format:** Hardback **Release Date:** 21/09/2021  
**Year Groups:** Key Stage 1, Key Stage 2

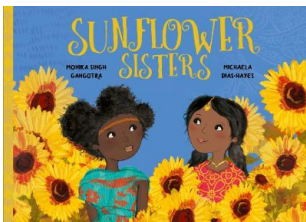
**A Children's Anthem** After the triumph of her performance at the inauguration, this first picture book from poet Amanda Gorman has been hotly anticipated and it certainly does not disappoint! The combination of the lyrical writing with the luminous illustrations from the acclaimed Loren Long, is a marriage made in heaven. From the first page, where we meet the young girl with her guitar, centre stage on a white page and she announces "I can hear change humming/ In its loudest, proudest song./ I don't fear change coming,/ And so I sing along," we are swept along by her gentle, quiet confidence. The second spread is a glorious technicolour image of an inspiring community mural of Martin Luther King and we see her meet a light skinned boy carrying a tuba. She offers him a rubbish bag and together they begin to clear litter from the park. As page follows page they continue to reach out to others, "though it might take some courage" and to model little acts of kindness: feeding the destitute, delivering groceries to an elderly person, constructing a ramp for a disabled child and all the time building the song, gathering instruments and changing their community for the better; building towards a glorious symbolic mural of their own. We end as we began with our narrator on a white page, this time looking directly at us with an invitation to carry the song onwards and leaving the reader with a belief in collective action for positive change. Powerful words and images that repay multiple visits and leave an indelible impression. A must have addition to school collections and children's bookcases.



## Yapping Away: Poems by Joshua Seigal

**Author:** Joshua Seigal **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 19/08/2021  
**Year Groups:** Key Stage 1

**September 2021 Book of the Month** The opening poem in Joshua Seigal's sparkling new collection invites readers to 'fill the world with words', and he does a very good job of doing just that in poems that represent his audience's world perfectly. Here are poems about classrooms, playtime, grandparents, chocolate biscuits – all just right to read aloud and deliciously easy to remember. There are poems that deliver jokes, poems that play with sense and their shape, poems that sneak in deeper meanings too as they describe familiar emotions. One thing is for certain, everyone will find a favourite in this collection, a poem they'll want to read to someone else. It ends with a selection of Seigal's tips for children on writing poetry and I think lots of readers will be inspired to add their own poems to the world as a result.

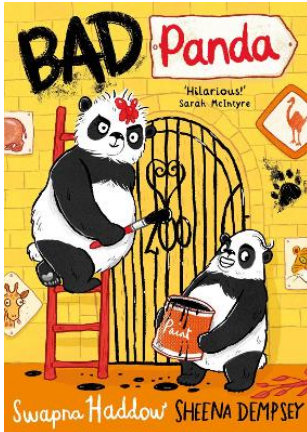


## Sunflower Sisters

**Author:** Monika Singh Gangotra **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 06/07/2021 **Year Groups:** Key Stage 1

**Longlisted for the Klaus Flugge Prize 2022 | August 2021 Debut of the Month** Two friends, one of Indian descent and one of African descent, have weddings to celebrate in their families. As the families gather for the occasion Amrita is exposed to old fashioned attitudes of colourism from older relatives. The idea that eating or drinking certain foods may make your skin darker is treated with a sure touch by Gangotra – but the strong message that people should celebrate their own skin colour and be happy with who they are comes across loud and clear. This is explored by the way Amrita wants to dress in a bright sunflower yellow dress (a colour thought to emphasize darkness of skin) but Mum is there to support Amrita in her choices and feel safe within herself. The title derives from both girls dressing brightly and beautifully for their family weddings. They then go on to promise each other they will live as 'Sunflower Sisters' always – with the joyful outcome that they open a shop selling colourful clothes for everyone. The deftness of touch in this story means no-one is belittled for their ideas, though the message comes through very clearly that colourism is not acceptable. Dias-Hayes background in fashion and textile design shines through the wonderful illustrations of clothes. Beautifully executed with a very sunny palette of colours this book is beautiful to look at, as well as powerful to read. Author, Monika Singh Gangotra shares the inspiration behind her debut picture book.

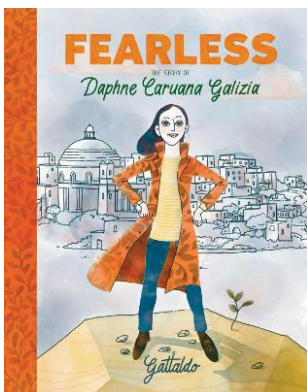




## Bad Panda

**Author:** Swapna Haddow **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 01/07/2021 **Year Groups:** Key Stage 1

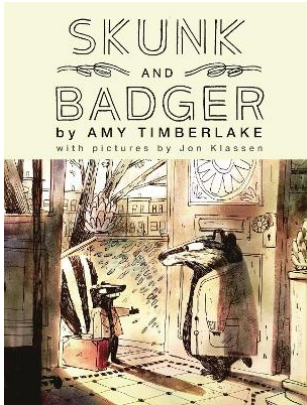
Lin is seriously cute, even for a panda. In fact, she's the sort of cute that reduces everyone to inarticulate cooing and desperate requests for cuddles. It's part of the genius of Haddow's book that lots of small children will identify with that, and with Lin's utter disgust at this response! When she's sent away from her brother and best friend Face-Like-A-Bag-Of-Potatoes to a different zoo, and advertised as The World's Fluffiest Panda, Lin flips: she'll do anything to get back. Her plan, in which she is ably assisted by new friend Fu, involves being so bad the keepers will have to send her home. Readers will love Lin's comic adventures and race through the story. Sheena Dempsey's two-colour illustrations are as lively as Lin, and the story often slips into comic strip, making it super-readable as well as super-fun.



## Fearless The Story of Daphne Caruana Galizia

**Author:** Gattaldo **Format:** Hardback **Release Date:** 08/10/2020 **Year Groups:** Key Stage 1

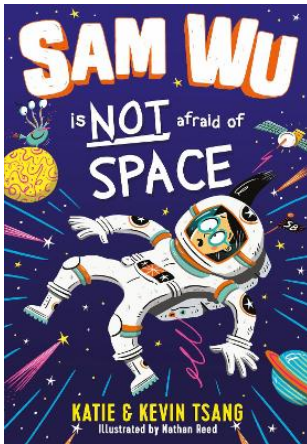
What does it take to be an investigative journalist and discover the truth against all the odds? Daphne Caruana Galizia had a happy childhood with her family on the small island of Malta, loving books, stories and writing. When she succeeded in her ambition to become a journalist, she discovered that there was much to write about in her home country. She found that greedy and corrupt politicians were making themselves rich rather than working for the good of their people. Fearlessly, Daphne exposed criminal and dishonest activities. Her enemies responded with threats and insults to discourage her from revealing more. But nothing could dissuade Daphne from fighting for what she believed in.



## Skunk and Badger

**Author:** Amy Timberlake **Format:** Hardback **Release Date:** 03/09/2020 **Year Groups:** Key Stage 2

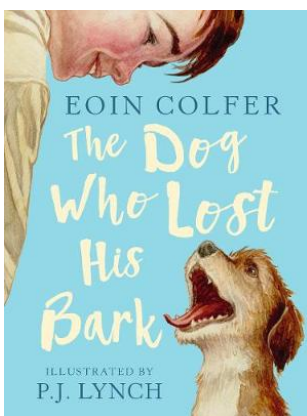
Meet Skunk and Badger. The first time Badger saw Skunk, he thought, 'puny' and shut the front door. There was simply too much slick in this Skunk's stripe. Too much puff in his tail. Also, there'd been that grin, and the way he'd stuck out his paw as if he had been looking forward to meeting Badger. Badger knew what to make of that. He shut the door before the fellow got any ideas . . . But Skunk is Badger's new roommate, and there is nothing Badger can do about it. When Skunk bursts into Badger's life, everything Badger knows is upended. Tails are flipped. The wrong animal is sprayed. And why-oh-why are there so many chickens?



## Sam Wu is Not Afraid of Space

**Author:** Katie Tsang & Kevin Tsang **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 06/08/2020 **Year Groups:** Key Stage 1, Key Stage 2

A wonderfully funny and reassuring read for every child staying away from home for the very first time. Common childhood fears dealt with in a hilarious, sensitive and accessible way.

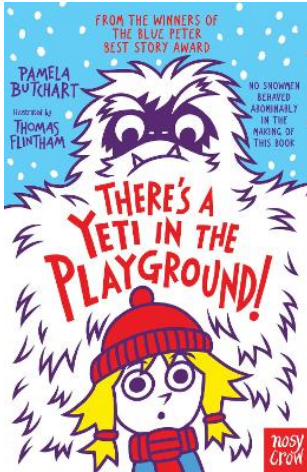


## The Dog Who Lost His Bark

**Author:** Eoin Colfer **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 01/08/2019 **Year Groups:** Key Stage 2

**Longlisted for the UKLA Book Awards 2020 | Shortlisted for the Children's Book Awards 2019, Books for Younger Readers**

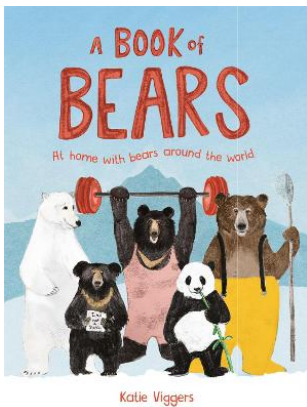
**Category** Patrick is delighted to go to stay at his grandparents' house, especially when he is told he can choose a rescue puppy. Oz, the puppy has had a terrible start but Patrick is determined to help, until his own life falls apart and he doesn't love his dog. Colfer explores his subject with an empathy which makes the characters and dilemmas very real. A great read.



## There's A Yeti In The Playground!

**Author:** Pamela Butchart **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 04/10/2018 **Year Groups:** Key Stage 2

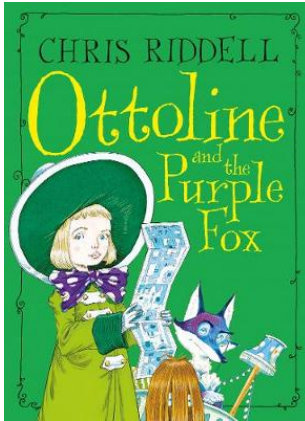
An award winning author with an infallible touch when it comes to humour and familiar settings that all children can relate to and told with a flair for zany and exciting plots like this one!



## A Book of Bears At Home with Bears Around the World

**Author:** Katie Viggers **Format:** Hardback **Release Date:** 01/10/2018 **Year Groups:** Key Stage 1

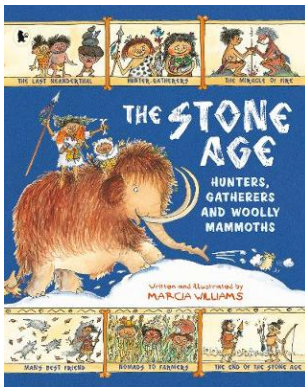
**Shortlisted for the UKLA Book Awards 2020** A fascinating guidebook to bears large and less large, this quirky book is packed with information but full of humour too. It introduces readers to the eight different species of bears living in the world, and there's a section on each one, with a very useful illustrated panel showing 'how they size up'. This is followed by pages on things all or most bears do, from eating and swimming (all) to hibernating (not all). There's a mix of text and Katie Viggers' characterful illustrations and alongside the facts, she has lots of fun – sloth bears for example, whose long, shaggy coats mean they often look untidy, are depicted at the bear hair salon. It's comic but memorable too. Even if you didn't love bears at the beginning of the book, you will by the end and either way you'll have learned a great deal.



## Ottoline and the Purple Fox

**Author:** Chris Riddell **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 17/05/2018  
**Year Groups:** Key Stage 2

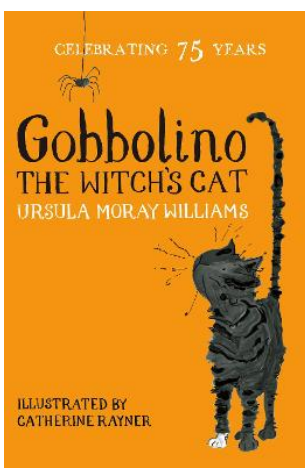
This is the fourth adventure for Ottoline and her best friend Mr Munroe, and it is every bit as enchanting, witty and surprising as the first. The emphasis is on friendship in this story: with her parents still roving the world for interesting items to add to their ever-growing collection of objects, Ottoline holds a dinner party. Guests include the dashing Purple Fox, a new friend, who has introduced Ottoline to some of the city's most exciting inhabitants and hidden secrets. She's able to repay him by drawing his attention to something lovely that he's failed to see. Chris Riddell's illustrations are as dazzling as ever; it's worth lingering over every page to revel in the fluency of his line and to look out for the myriad little details. Ottoline is a delight for readers of all ages.



## The Stone Age Hunters, Gatherers and Woolly Mammoths

**Author:** Marcia Williams **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 01/10/2017  
**Year Groups:** Key Stage 2

A masterclass in how to make history come to life with trademark cartoon style illustrations and lots of fascinating facts and detail - this is a triumph.

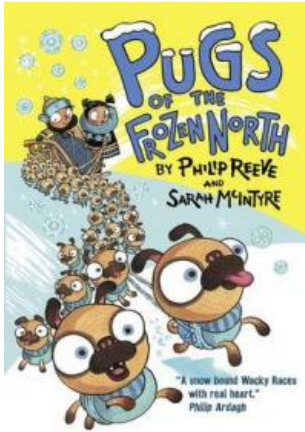


## Gobbolino the Witch's Cat

**Author:** Ursula Moray Williams **Format:** Hardback **Release Date:** 07/09/2017  
**Year Groups:** Key Stage 1

A timeless and always appealing tale getting a well deserved new lease of life with delightful illustrations from award winning Catherine Rayner.

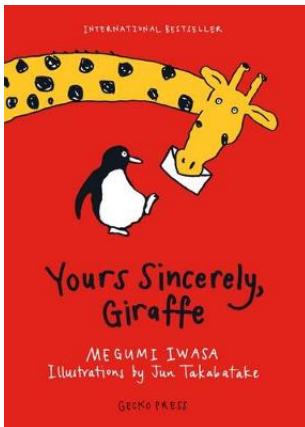




## Pugs of the Frozen North

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

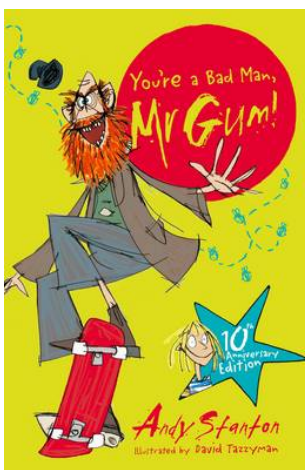
**Shortlisted for the UKLA 2017 Book Award** Award winning author partners Philip Reeve and Sarah McIntyre head north for their latest adventure. When the cabin boy is abandoned by his shipmates when their ship is stranded in the ice. He's completely alone, except for 64 little pugs, part of the ship's cargo! He soon teams up with Shika, a girl desperately seeking dogs to pull her grandpa's sled in the Race to the Top of the World, a once in a lifetime contest to win your heart's desire. The eccentric competitors mean there's something of the Wacky Races about all of this, but amongst the crazy – and very entertaining – scenes there are surprising notes of poignancy, as well as some lovely descriptions of the True Winter, fifty types of snow and all.



## Yours Sincerely, Giraffe

**Author:** Megumi Iwasa **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 14/07/2016  
**Year Groups:** Key Stage 2

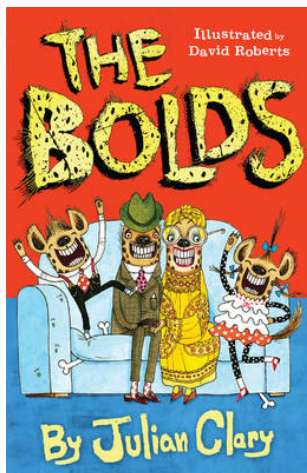
**Shortlisted for the UKLA 2018 Book Award** Giraffe is bored, as usual. He'd love a friend to share things with. So he writes a letter and sends it as far as possible across the other side of the horizon. There he finds a pen pal—Penguin. Giraffe knows nothing about penguins and his letters are full of questions. What does a penguin look like? Where is a penguin's neck? And so the letters begin to fly from horizon to horizon.



## You're a Bad Man, Mr Gum!

**Author:** Andy Stanton **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 25/02/2016  
**Year Groups:** Key Stage 2

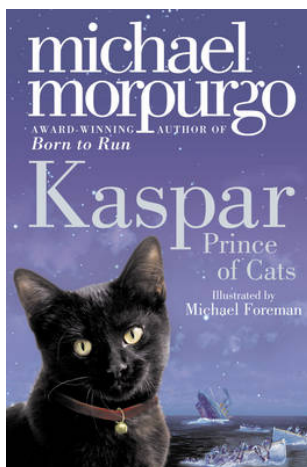
**Winner of the Blue Peter Prize 2007 'Most Fun Story with Pictures.'** **Shortlisted for the Branford Boase Award 2007 and Joint winner of the Richard and Judy "Developing" 7+ category** Mr Gum may well be a 'bad man' but rest assured the author Mr Stanton is a 'funny man'. There's a wonderful sense of humour throughout. Fans of Roald Dahl will love it. This special edition comes with lots of stickers, a brand new bonus story and an exclusive introduction from the author.



## The Bolds

**Author:** Julian Clary **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 30/07/2015  
**Year Groups:** Key Stage 2

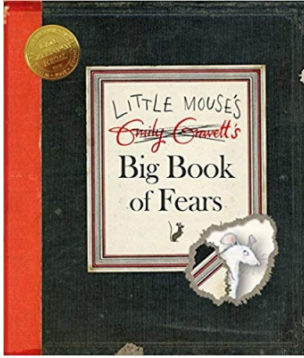
**One of our Books of the Year 2015 - A Reader Review Panel Pick of the Year 2015** Comedian, entertainer and 'national trinket' Julian Clary now turns out to be a talented children's writer too. The Bolds, his first book for children, is a real treat – a funny story with a ludicrous but hugely enjoyable plotline, lots of jokes, some nail-biting moments and wonderful characters. The Bolds live happily in Teddington where Mrs Bold sells hats and Mr Bold writes the jokes for Christmas crackers, jobs for which they are perfectly suited. Hardly anyone knows they are actually hyenas! Their secret nearly comes out when they attract the attention of their grumpy next-door neighbour, but maybe he's got things to hide too. David Roberts' illustrations are a joy to behold and perfectly catch the stylishly dressed Bolds' blithe, carefree happiness. A very special book. Books in The Bolds Series: 1. The Bolds 2. The Bolds in Trouble 3. The Bolds to the Rescue 4. The Bolds on Holiday 5. The Bolds' Christmas Cracker 6. The Bolds Go Wild 7. The Bolds Go Green



## Kaspar Prince of Cats

**Author:** Michael Morpurgo **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 07/01/2010 **Year Groups:** Key Stage 2

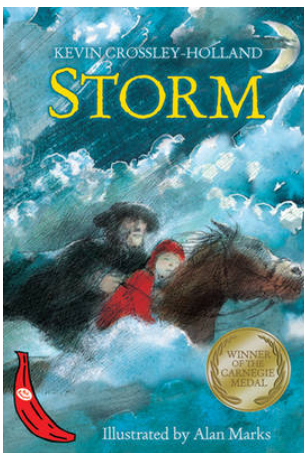
A wonderfully emotional but heart-warming tale from the pen of one of the foremost writers for children. Brilliantly interwoven in historical fact at the time of the sinking of the Titanic is the story of Kaspar the Savoy cat, who we also discover is a survivor of the sinking of the Titanic. The story is utterly compelling and brought to life still further by some really dreamy illustrations by Michael Foreman. A story to read aloud during those cold wintry evenings as much as a story to cuddle up with alone. Wonderful.



## Little Mouse's Big Book Of Fears

**Author:** Emily Gravett **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 01/08/2008  
**Year Groups:** Key Stage 1, Key Stage 2

**Winner of the 2008 CILIP Kate Greenaway Medal** This award winning author-illustrator continues to create some of the most innovative and imaginative illustrated children's books. Through nursery rhyme stories follow Little Mouse as he confronts his many fears including Ablutophobia (Fear of Bathing) and Ligrophobia (Fear of loud noises). You can even make lists of your own fears to overcome! - Winner of the 2007 Nestle Children's Book Prize Bronze Award (6 to 8 category) Click here for a Little Mouse related activity sheet ! Be sure to check out Emily Gravett's other titles by clicking here.



## Storm

**Author:** Kevin Crossley-Holland **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 01/09/2001 **Year Groups:** Key Stage 2

**Winner of the Carnegie Award in 1985.** A wonderful story of drama and adventure that is beautifully unraveled by award-winning author Kevin Crossley-Holland. The characters are superbly drawn and the narrative is simply but lyrically told. And there's a surprise at the end. (7+) To find out more about this book [CLICK HERE](#) to visit the Carnegie Greenaway site