

A selection of books especially selected for children in Year 2 (6 - 7 year olds) of average reading ability for the 2026/27 academic year.

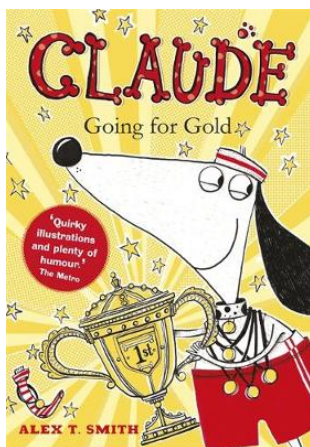
If your child is a competent reader or has read all these titles then try the books from the Year 3 list. Alternatively if these books are a little challenging try books from the Year 1 list. Our overall mission is to promote reading for pleasure with quality texts that are perfectly pitched for the 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.



After the Fall

Author: Dan Santat **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 23/11/2018

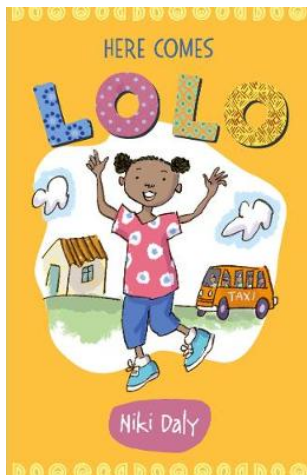
Highly Commended in the UKLA Book Awards 2019 Anyone familiar with the story of poor old Humpty Dumpty will be intrigued by Dan Santat's story of what happens after that fall. In his version the king's men do manage to put Humpty together again but the cracks are still there, and not just on the outside: a shadow of his former self, Humpty is too afraid to climb back up onto the wall where he used to love to sit and watch the birds. At last though he finds a way to enjoy the skies again and in a surprise ending flies away himself. A powerful story of recovery and overcoming fear this will resonate with all readers. The illustrations are full of clever jokes but portray Humpty's emotional state perfectly while the sequence that sees him soar away on golden wings is glorious.



Claude Going for Gold!

Author: Alex T. Smith **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 23/02/2017

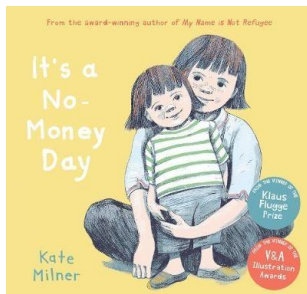
From the World Book Day Illustrator 2014 comes a brand-new tale about Claude, the bestselling beret-clad canine hero.



Here Comes Lolo

Author: Niki Daly **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 08/08/2019

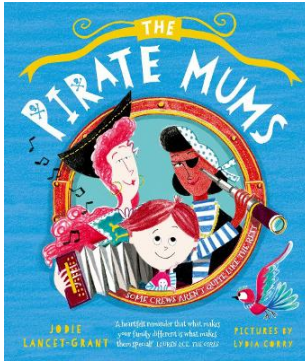
Lolo skips through life, leaving a trail of laughter and a few frowns! She's sure to become your new best friend! In these four easy-to-read stories Lolo, follow Lolo as she gets a gold star at school, longs for a cute floppy hat, finds a missing ring and helps to rescue a dog...



It's a No-Money Day

Author: Kate Milner **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 15/10/2019

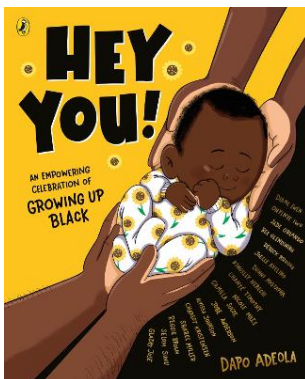
Shortlisted for CILIP Kate Greenaway Medal 2021 | Shortlisted for the UKLA Book Awards 2021 | October 2019 Book of the Month Kate Milner, winner of the 2018 Klaus Flugge Award for most promising newcomer to children's book illustration has certainly lived up to her laurels with this delicate and subtle picturebook, which packs a real emotional and political punch. It is a cause of great shame to many, in this country and in the 21st century, that more children than ever are living in poverty and that there has been a huge expansion in the use of foodbanks. Mum works really hard and watches every penny, but today is a no money day. Her little girl, who tells the story, takes great pleasure in life from the simple, free activities they share- visits to the library and dressing up in the charity shops. Unlike her humiliated Mum, she loves the visits to the food bank for the drink and biscuits and the kind ladies to talk to. On the way home they play the maybe one day game- dreaming of pets and washing machines and new warm clothes. They go to bed and "because of kind people our tummies are full". Nothing is laboured in text or image- the colours are subdued but still there. The despair and tiredness of the mother is evident in every expression and nuance of body language, but so is the warmth and love between them and so is the irrepressible spirit of a child who knows they are loved even if as the pictures subtly show us, she is clearly malnourished. This is a book which can be used with a very wide range of children and will encourage empathy and discussion of a very current and appalling crisis in our society.



The Pirate Mums

Author: Jodie Lancet-Grant **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 03/06/2021

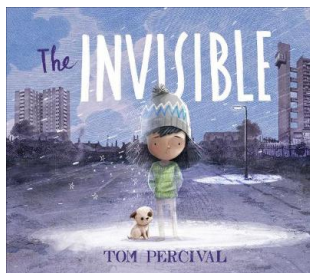
The Pirate Mums is a swashbuckling, high-seas adventure starring Billy and his two extraordinary mums, complete with a bad-tempered parrot called Bird-Brain, a sudden storm, a sea-sick teacher and a captain who gets stuck in the toilet. Billy wishes his family could be a bit more like everyone else's, and just a bit more ordinary. But his mums aren't like other mums. They are pirates. They wear outlandish pirate clothes, insist on dancing jigs and singing sea shanties when Billy's friends come round to play, and they have decidedly fishy taste in home decor. When his mums volunteer to accompany Billy's class on a school trip to the seaside, with a boat trip included (Billy's mums love boats), he makes them promise to be normal. But when the boat gets into trouble, their nautical knowledge and salty sea-legs save the day. Billy discovers that it's what makes his mums different that also makes them – and himself – special.



Hey You!

Author: Dapo Adeola **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 10/06/2021

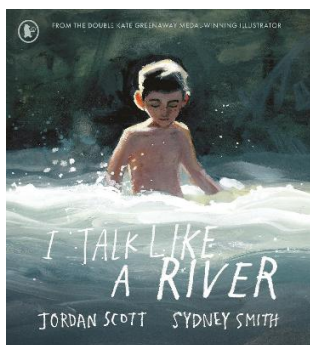
Winner of the British Book Awards 2023 Illustrated Book of the Year This book is outstanding in its gathering of talent to provide the illustrations to Adeola's messages. It is a powerful, personal response to the murder of George Floyd and the awakening around the world to the Black Lives Matter movement. It is an honest and very personal letter to Adeola's younger self, messages he wishes he had seen and heard at a young age, created now for the children of the future. The messages apply to any child – and the illustrations show a diverse range of children and adults; the writing is simple, straightforward and obviously deeply felt, urging children to be themselves, be curious and love the skin you are in. Each double page spread, and the end papers, are all created by one of the eighteen talented black illustrators assembled from all over the world for this book. It is a joy to see so many different yet complementary styles of illustration creating the whole. A book for every classroom and nursery in the country!



The Invisible

Author: Tom Percival **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 04/02/2021

Shortlisted for the UKLA Book Award 2022 ages 3-6 This is a vital picture book for society today – with an emphasis on family and belonging. Isabel is a small girl who lives with her family, and though they have little they have each other, so life is happy. Then disaster strikes and they have to leave their home to move to the other side of town – where everything is grey and cold and sad and lonely. As she walks about Isabel realises she is ignored by people, and feels she is literally fading away. It is not until she has faded and become truly invisible that she notices all the other invisible people sitting or working away at different things – like planting flowers in old paint pots or mending a bike – but they are all alone too. So, Isabel decides to help, she helps to fix things up and gradually others join in too. As more people join in they become less invisible, until they have created a vibrant area where they can all be seen. By doing as she did Isabel has learned that one of the hardest things is to make a difference. This full colour picture book uses muted shades for much of the story – showing us just how cold and dark it is and how awful it is to be ‘invisible’. The beginning of the story has colour – but it is all edged with cold, and icy windows. It is not until the end of the book – when winter has passed, when the sun and spring add to the wonderful colour the new community has created by all working together. This is a very gentle story with a potent and persuasive message, that small acts can add up to a huge change. Whilst being selfless it also shows that Isabel and her family have all benefitted by the actions she has instigated. This is a very personal message from the author, who had a very happy childhood even when his family had very little – underlining the message we can all contribute somehow, and that we all belong! A book that should be in all classrooms and school libraries for its message and its powerful pictures.



I Talk Like a River

Author: Jordan Scott **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 16/12/2021

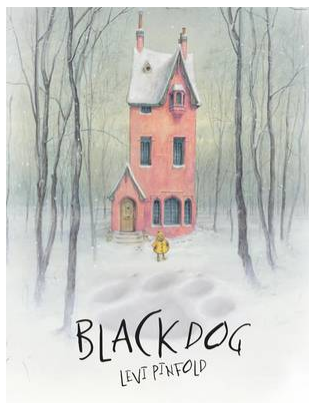
Shortlisted for the Yoto Kate Greenaway Medal 2022 What if words got stuck in the back of your mouth whenever you tried to speak? After a day of being unable to speak when asked, and of being stared at, a boy and his father go to the river for some quiet time. It's just a bad speech day, says Dad. But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



Small in the City

Author: Sydney Smith **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 03/09/2020

Shortlisted for CILIP Kate Greenaway Medal 2021 This is the first time that Sydney Smith has written his own text for a picturebook and he demonstrates as much skill with words as with the art which has won so many accolades and reaches even greater heights of excellence in this stunning book. From the unusual thin skyscraper shape of the book to wordless passages of comic panel-style vignettes and full spreads of gridded streets and buildings, traffic lights and crowds, everything sets the tone of a chaotic city in winter. The moody art, mostly inky line and subdued watercolor with some gouache for thicker textures in the snow is intensely atmospheric. Masterful use of scale and perspective shows how terrifyingly small the gender unspecified, all-wrapped-up-for-winter, little protagonist is. "I know what it's like to be small in the city" the story starts and only gradually do we realise that it is Small who is speaking and only slowly do we realise who is being addressed as advice is given on finding warmth and shelter and dark alleys and dangerous dogs to avoid. There is a wonderful narrative twist which is best left to a first reading so you can fully appreciate the powerful emotional journey, but I can guarantee an immediate re-reading will be demanded so that you can spot all the clues. A truly exceptional picturebook.

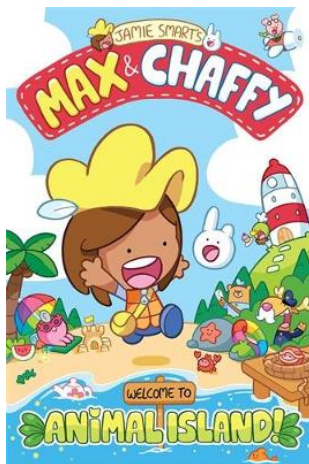


Black Dog

Author: Levi Pinfold **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 01/08/2012

Winner of the CILIP Kate Greenaway Medal 2013 The judges described the book as a "visual treat, full of mood and atmosphere, the beautiful illustrations are full of detail and perfectly in keeping with the story. The use of scale, with the big dog pushing the text off the page, is clever. A timeless, thought-provoking book about facing up to anxiety, fears, and the black dog that visits some of us from time-to-time."

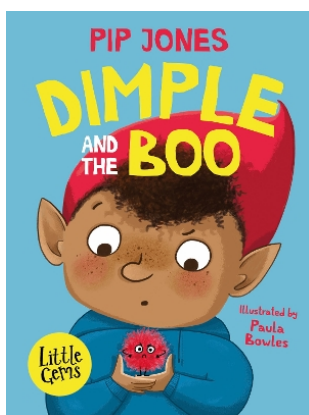
..... The CILIP Kate Greenaway Medal 2013 shortlist: • Lunchtime by Rebecca Cobb • Again! by Emily Gravett • Oh No, George! by Chris Haughton • I Want My Hat Back by Jon Klassen • Pirates 'n' Pistols by Chris Mould • King Jack And The Dragon by Helen Oxenbury (illustrator) and Peter Bently (author) • Black Dog by Levi Pinfold • Just Ducks! by Salvatore Rubbino (illustrator) and Nicola Davies (author) The CILIP Carnegie and Kate Greenaway Medals are the UK's oldest and most prestigious children's book awards. Often described by authors and illustrators as 'the one they want to win' - they are the gold standard in children's literature. The CILIP Kate Greenaway Medal is awarded by children's librarians for an outstanding book in terms of illustration for children and young people.



Max & Chaffy: Welcome to Animal Island!

Author: Jamie Smart **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 04/05/2023

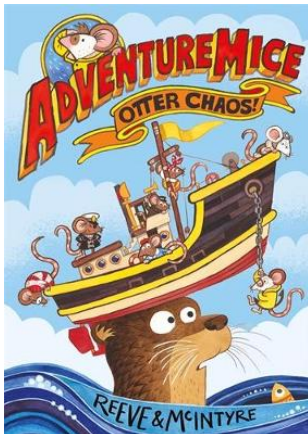
May 2023 Book of the Month Comic artist and author of the hugely popular Bunny vs Monkey and Looshkin comic strips in The Phoenix comic that have also been turned into bestselling graphic novels, Jamie Smart has always been passionate about the positive impact that comics have on growing readers. This is an idea which is really taking off in schools everywhere and they will certainly welcome this new series which is aimed at the young emerging reader. The Chaffy character has been around in various guises including a worldwide Find the Chaffy campaign, but here he meets the delightful Max Boggle and his family, who have just moved to Animal Island. Max is brilliant at finding things and helping people and as he sets off exploring the island, one good deed leads to another. It also leads, with the help of the reader on an interactive page to finding Chaffy. Max vows to help Chaffy find his home but each person they help is not the right one. Each chapter features a new location and another interactive page and finding Chaffy equals finding the object. Each successive chapter builds on the story of where Chaffy belongs – and the conclusion is- with his soulmate Max of course! At the end of the book there are even more find it challenges for readers to enjoy. This is a brilliant introduction to comic layout and readers will feel a great sense of achievement at completing a chapter. The illustrations are the epitome of cute, as are the mix of characters and the text is appropriately sized and clearly laid out. This is a series which will be absolutely snapped up by parents and teachers everywhere and will most definitely get kids hooked on reading!



Dimple and the Boo

Author: Pip Jones **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 04/08/2022

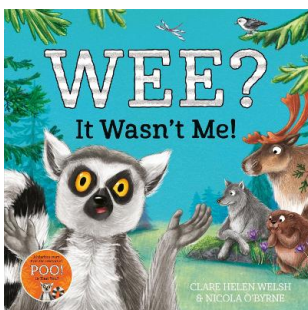
Interest Age 5-8 Dimple the little gnome is upset because his dad is going away with work. It's the start of a couple of bad days: mum serves up yucky cabbage pie for tea, Mrs Miskin next door won't throw his balls back, and the last straw is all his classmates laughing at him when he can't spell 'gnome'. Throughout all of this, Dimple has a Boo in his pocket, a fuzzy, fizzing little thing that yells, shouts and stamps with rage and frustration on Dimple's behalf. It gets him into trouble, but a chat with Mrs Miskin and then Mum shows him a much better way to react when he's frustrated or angry. Dimple is a very sympathetic character and youngsters will completely understand why the Boo takes up residence in his pocket. The gentle, illuminating conclusion will strike a chord too. With colour illustrations by Paula Bowles throughout, this is perfect for children moving from picture books to longer stories, while, in Barrington Stoke style, specialist features make it suitable for dyslexic and reluctant readers too.



Adventuremice: Otter Chaos

Author: Philip Reeve, Sarah McIntyre **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 02/03/2023

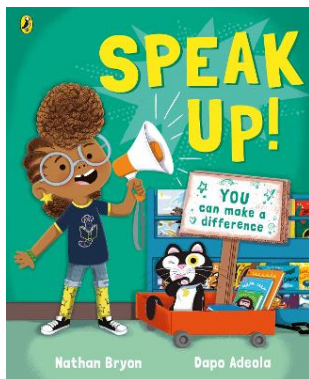
March 2023 Book of the Month Any new title from the dream team of Reeves and McIntyre will bring joy to the hearts of primary teachers and parents, but for this to be aimed at the sadly neglected younger age group of readers just gaining confidence, is even better news. Beautifully produced in full colour, which showcases the brilliantly characterful illustrations and all the detail of the maps and plans and with a small format just suited to smaller hands, it is the perfect package. The story of the tiny but redoubtable Pedro will engage from the start. With a thirst for adventure, he sets off on a quest to find the mysterious Mouse Islands. Swept out to sea with his suitcase he tells himself he must be brave. Fortunately, Fledermaus arrives to rescue him in the nick of time and to Pedro's delight takes him to the very islands he seeks and to the Adventuremice base. He learns that their job is protect the Mouse Islands. They've performed daring rescues and brave feats. They have a boat, a submarine, a seaplane and even a helicopter! Pedro is overawed. How could he ever expect to join them, especially after a disastrous first voyage. It will take a large otter and a big helping of bravery and kindness to show him that everyone can be a useful part of a team. A brilliant read aloud laced with humour, peril and action; young readers will be desperate for the next instalment.



Wee? It Wasn't Me!

Author: Clare Helen Welsh **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 01/04/2021

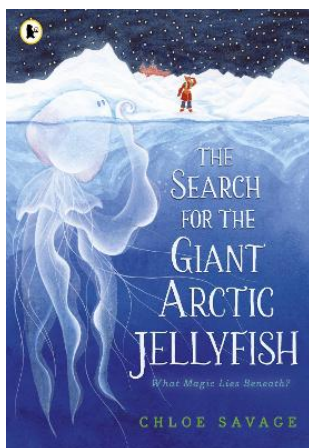
A funny story, all about wee, packed full of animal facts! The follow-up to the hilarious Poo! Is That You? Lenny the lemur is on holiday in Alaska. He's skipping across the snow, when he slips in a puddle. It's wet, yellow and smelly... WEE! But whose wee could it be? Lenny is on a quest to find out. Along the way, he meets various animals and learns all about their weeing habits! But the real question is: will he find that pesky puddle-piddler? Learn about caribou, turtles, wolves and more in the piddle-tastic Wee? It Wasn't Me! written by Clare Helen Welsh and illustrated by Nicola O'Byrne. Cleverly interweaving facts throughout, it also contains an information page at the back of the book, with a photo of each animal.



Speak Up!

Author: Nathan Bryon **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 25/05/2023

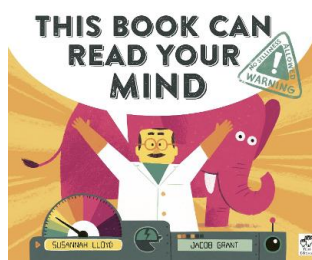
May 2023 Book of the Month After teaching us all about space in her award-winning debut and tackling ocean pollution in her second outing, this time the irrepressible Rocket is horrified to learn that her local library is about to close for lack of funding. A sad scenario that is being repeated in all too many parts of the UK and beyond. New book day is her favourite day of the week when Rocket, Mum and brother Jamal chose their new books from their library which is “a bit old and dusty” but it has Layla the librarian who “always has the best recommendations” Rocket tells us she used to struggle with reading, “but the more I do it, the better I get” She starts speaking up about libraries and how brilliant they are. Her enthusiasm is infectious, as she bombards her audience (and readers) with fascinating facts. Pretty soon she has the whole community behind her plan for a peaceful protest inspired, of course, by a book she has just read about Rosa Parks. While artistic licence can account for the speed of the money raising and refurbishment of the precious community resource, the underlying message which shows the power we can have when we find our voice and speak up about the things that matter, comes through loud and clear. Full of diverse representation and positive affirmations about books and reading as well as libraries, this, like the previous two books, is an absolute must have.



The Search for the Giant Arctic Jellyfish

Author: Chloe Savage **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 05/10/2023

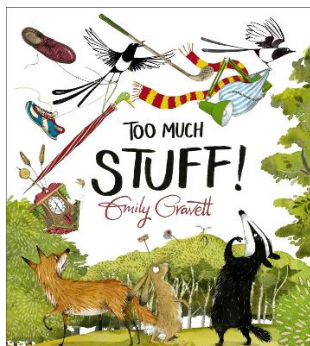
This is an inspiring story of a scientist pursuing their research with determination, resilience, confidence and self-belief and what is most refreshing is that Dr Morley is a woman and a great STEM role model. This debut picture book is also a visual feast, from the striking cover and underwater endpapers to its detailed cross sections of the ship and the crew in action. The majority of the pages show the boat in the top third with the greater proportion showing the hidden depths of the Arctic Ocean below them. This will really appeal to young readers who love to be in the position where they know more than the storyteller and they will delight in pointing out what Dr Morley and her crew are missing. It is the classic “look behind you” pantomime moment. The icy region and the creatures found there are stunningly depicted, and the proportions used very cleverly indicate the puny nature of humans in an extreme landscape. Children will enjoy the delightful ending which shows that you should never give up on your dreams and this exciting arctic adventure is one they will delight in returning to.



This Book Can Read Your Mind!

Author: Susannah Lloyd **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 07/06/2022

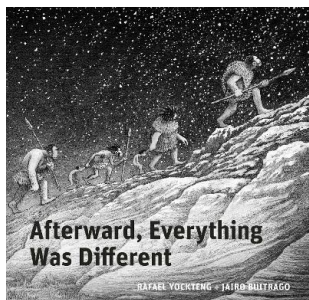
January 2020 Book of the Month With a concept based entirely upon the universal truth that as soon as somebody tells you not to think of something, you immediately do so and the quite philosophic concept of visualisation of language heard or read, this book will have young(and old) readers in stitches. Stamped with a No Silliness Allowed warning on the front cover, we can anticipate plenty of silliness ahead despite the firm instructions from the very serious scientist introducing the amazing book that has the power to show a picture of the reader's thoughts. Sadly, it all goes wrong for him as soon as he uses pink elephants as an example of what not to think about and quickly escalates as he thinks of more terrible scenarios involving elephants, mice, panties and their bottoms. The explosive finale causes him to order the reader to put the book down and "Don't even think about" picking it up again..... This is bound to be instantly disobeyed in every home and classroom! The zany illustrative style is perfectly suited to this story and the clever use of the only white space being within the speech bubbles immediately emphasises the instructional and increasingly shouty nature of the scientist's words. Both great fun and a creative inspiration, this is a must have purchase!



Too Much Stuff

Author: Emily Gravett **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 15/04/2021

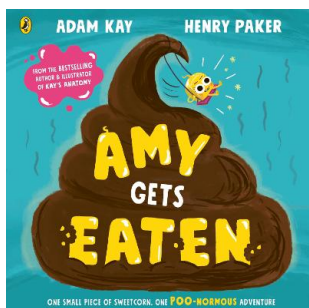
Longlisted for the UKLA Book Award 2022 ages 3-6 | Shortlisted for the Yoto Kate Greenaway Medal 2022 Meg and Ash, two magpies, build a cosy nest in the tallest tree for their four bright blue eggs. But they then start to get worried 'their nest/ Needed more stuff to make it the best.' Written in rhyming verse, we stare in amazement at all the things the magpies collect to add to their nest - until there is no hope of seeing the nest, and we can only see the teetering heap of things that have been added on top! Disaster strikes as the tree gives way! Happily, all the animals around help to clear the mess - and create useful homes and shelters out of all the rubbish! A gentle, funny and very beautifully illustrated poem, with a little frisson of anxiety when the tree collapses, about waste and recycling - a good way to introduce children to the idea of recycling useful things. As ever with Emily Gravett - there is a great deal going on in all the illustrations - lots to see and talk about, all beautifully laid out across the double-page spreads. The end papers are particularly fun, containing adverts for some of the items in the book - and also an advert for libraries! I particularly liked the 4 'R's of Recycling right at the back of the book! This will become a class and personal favourite for many people - children and adults alike - and could provide the basis for class projects on recycling, too.



Afterward, Everything was Different

Author: Jairo Buitrago **Format:** Hardback **Release Date:** 15/06/2023

June 2023 Book of the Month In the case of *Afterward, Everything Was Different* the old saying that “a picture paints a thousand words” rings true with resounding beauty. Put simply, this almost-wordless picture book about the Pleistocene epoch is divine — an impeccable marriage of idea and illustration, with a clutch of perfectly succinct words by Jairo Buitrago providing thought-provoking context at the end. Rafael Yockteng’s sublimely atmospheric black-and-white illustrations take us back in time to the Pleistocene, sometime between two-and-a-half million and ten thousand years ago. They also lead us on a journey alongside a girl who acts as our eyes on the era. Through her, we witness day-to-day activities like hunting. We see the dangers of wild river beasts, and watch as a community finds refuge in trees. Then, when a group of humans take shelter in a cave during a brutal winter, with mammoths gathered at its mouth, we also witness the dawn of cave painting, and with it the beginnings of storytelling, courtesy of the girl who embellishes the cave with images. What’s more, “the marks she made were never erased”. Being a book you participate in, and ideal to share and ponder at home or in the classroom, *Afterward, Everything Was Different* is sure to spark conversations around human history and the importance of art. After all, after the invention of art, everything was different.



Amy Gets Eaten

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

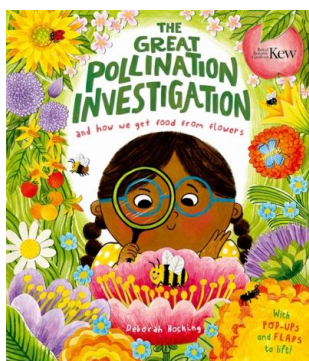
From the duo behind the award winning and best-selling *Kay’s Anatomy* and *Kay’s Marvellous Medicine* we have a debut picturebook that proves they are just as successful at communicating biological facts accurately for three-to five-year-olds, as they are for older readers. Parker’s vibrant and zany 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!



Agent Harrier: This Book Will Self-Destruct

Author: Ben Sanders **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 11/04/2024

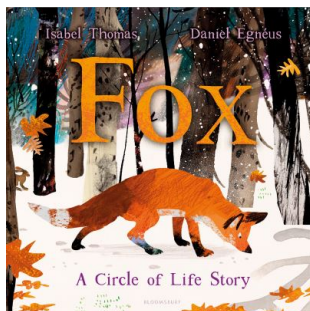
April 2024 Graphic Novel of the Month Agent Harrier has just been sent a new mission on his bone phone! Can he follow the instructions quickly enough to defuse the bomb, catch the culprit and save everyone from being blown to smithereens? All he has to do is follow the string...Agent Harrier is just the dog for the job! Following his daring deeds and narrow escapes is thrilling!



The Great Pollination Investigation

Author: Deborah Hocking **Format:** Hardback **Release Date:** 22/05/2025

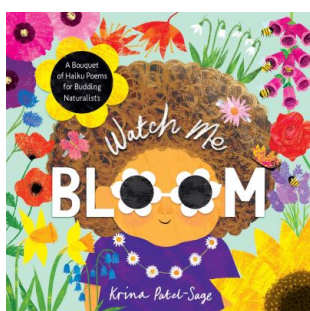
Through interactive elements like lift-the-flap pages, children can explore the inner workings of flowers, meet various pollinating animals, and understand how these processes contribute to the food we eat. Brimming with facts, and bursting with science, the incredible illustrations guide you through pollination with vibrant detail and a sense of wonder that makes complex concepts feel both accessible and exciting for young readers. Designed for curious minds, the book not only explains the science behind pollination but also includes hands-on activities. At the end of the book, readers are encouraged to conduct their own pollination investigation, complete with instructions on creating a "pollination wand" to explore how pollen is transferred between flowers. This beautifully illustrated book serves as a valuable resource for parents and carers, educators, and young readers interested in nature, science, and the environment. It's the bee's knees!



Fox

Author: Isabel Thomas **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 02/01/2025

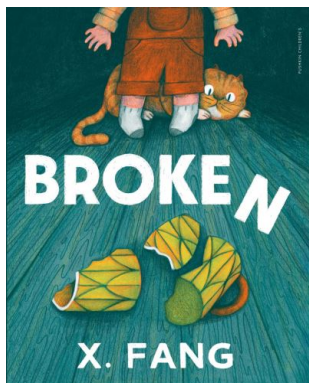
Longlisted for the UKLA Book Awards 2022 Information Books 3-14 Life is everywhere, we read at the close of this exceptional picture information book, and every page prior is brimming with it, so vividly depicted in Daniel Egnéus' illustrations that you can almost hear the yapping and gekkering of the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



Watch Me Bloom

Author: Krina Patel-Sage **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 01/04/2025

This wonderful collection can be appreciated on so many levels and really repays careful study of every page so that all the subtle details of the diverse and inclusive illustrations can be appreciated. On one level it is a bright and colourful study of 24 familiar floral species, that we can all find in our environment and in many homes and the carefully chosen words in the strict haiku form makes us appreciate these flowers afresh. Starting with the snowdrop in late winter we follow the seasons through to the arrival of the poinsettia at Christmas. The book concludes with a double page spread of fascinating floral facts and cultural elements. But look closer and wonder, for example if the "Pushing up through snow / these delicate flowers are / stronger than they look" refers to the child in the wheelchair as much as the flower. Or if "Grandpa's pride and joy" refers to the baby swung into the air as much as the magnificent fuschia. The words describe the flowers, but also human characteristics and relationships and it all comes together in a rich and thoughtful way to celebrate the beauty and wonder of life and nature. The author tells us in conclusion that each entry in this book highlights one or more of the "Five Ways to Well Being": Connect, Be Active, Take Notice, Keep Learning and Give. Identifying these adds a rewarding further layer to discuss with young readers. A collection that cannot help but inspire readers own creativity and mindfulness.



Broken

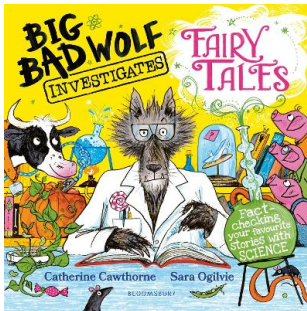
Author: X Fang **Format:** Hardback **Release Date:** 07/05/2026

July 2026 Book of the Month It is no surprise to me that this book won a coveted New York Times Best Illustrated Book Award, it relates such a recognisable childhood situation and is told with humour and a huge amount of heart and has such distinctive and powerful illustrations, with simply brilliant use of expression and perspective, using dramatic close ups, split pages and dramatic layout. The simple and sparse text is authentically child like, as Mei Mei tells us what happened when she visited her Ama (grandmother). Feeling bored, she decided to tease Mimi the cat, but in doing so she bumped a table and Ama's mug fell and broke! She was so appalled she ran away and panels show us what she imagines Ama's angry response might be. Instead, Ama calls her back into the house, the cup has gone and tea and cake are served. Mimi has been blamed for the breakage. Mimi's judgemental stares are a joy to behold, and they get bigger and bigger, along with Mei Mei's sense of guilt, until she cannot take any more, and runs to hide in the closet. Once again Ama comes to find her and in a brilliantly visualised scene, we see the Truth literally forcing its way out of Mei Mei's body. She confesses and bursts into tears. So many tears that she imagines the closet flooding. But Ama gently hugs her and reassures her that she is good at fixing things: 'every repair tells a story.' They mend the cup together and Mei Mei gets to eat the cake that her guilt would not allow her to swallow before. Every child will recognise Mei Mei's dilemma and be reassured that adults might not yell or kick you out if you do something wrong; rather, they might understand and care. Tim Hopgood's *The Truth According to Arthur* tells a similar story about the importance (and the rewards) of telling the truth, but *Broken* is particularly brilliant for preschoolers to whom the vivid illustrations will speak louder than words. A perfect book with a valuable empowering message to read aloud at home or at school.

Time Travel Twins: The Stone Age Clash

Author: Josh Lacey **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 02/05/2024

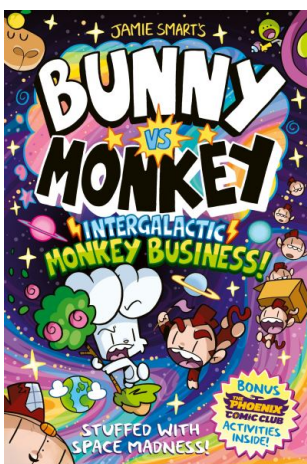
A Julia Eccleshare Pick of the Month May 2024 At school they are learning about the Stone Age but, when Grandad lets them use his time machine, they are whizzed right back into the past for real. And the Stone Age is full of scary adventures! Searching for Stonehenge and a sabre-toothed tiger, Scarlett and Thomas encounter woolly mammoths and Neanderthals, their long-ago ancestors. Josh Lacey takes readers right into the past and gives them a great perspective on both sides of history.



Big Bad Wolf Investigates Fairy Tales

Author: Catherine Cawthorne **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 25/04/2024

May 2024 Book of the Month The Big Bad Wolf has been unfairly misrepresented, and he is here to set the record straight. Using logic and scientific fact in this clever, highly-illustrated book he will clear his name and prove he is not (quite) as bad as the stories say. Wolfy (as he's known to his friends) leads us through six entertainingly scathing retellings of popular fairy tales, followed by his scientific breakdown of why they are riddled with plot holes and falsehoods. This is such a fabulously inventive concept; the world of fairy tales provides the perfect starting point for comedy and a first look at STEM topics. The fairy tales dissected are Three Little Pigs, Cinderella, Hansel and Gretel, Jack and the Beanstalk, The Princess and the Pea, Little Red Riding Hood. The familiarity of these tales makes the book wonderfully accessible, whilst the science is introduced at the perfect level to spark interest without being confusing. I could quite happily quote this book to my heart's content – it's so full of entertaining jokes and interesting facts. Some highlights include 'why African elephants have bigger ears than Asian elephants' and 'why glass is a rubbish material to make shoes with'. My absolute favourite though is the observation that pigs don't even have chins. After years of reading about their chinny, chin chins – this blew my mind! Sara Ogilvie expertly brings the retellings and scientific analysis to life with her lively cartoon-style illustrations. Rich in detail they make every page a joy to pore over and return to. Peppered throughout are fun science experiments for readers to try themselves, making this the perfect rainy day book for budding scientists. An absolutely wonderful book for inquisitive children who struggle to suspend their disbelief and are forever asking "but what about...?". I can't recommend it highly enough.



Bunny Vs Monkey Intergalactic Monkey Business!

Author: Jamie Smart **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 02/07/2026

July 2026 Graphic Novel of the Month Winner of Graphic Novel of the Year Award at the British Book Awards 2026 Shortlisted for The Week Junior Book Award 2026 In Intergalactic Monkey Business we are introduced to Little Monkey who is somehow more chaotic and bizarre than our friend, the titular Monkey of Bunny vs. Monkey fame. To work out who or what Little Monkey is, Bunny and co. launch an investigation only to end up in outer space! Bunny vs. Monkey is a phenomenon that has earned its place amongst the top selling comics because it's like Smart has been suffering a fever dream for the past decade and everything is just spilling out onto the page. With chapters entitled, "Guts N' Butts," I'm unsure how you can possibly go wrong. As someone who works in a secondary school, I know that if I were to stop typing this right now and walk over to the shelf, there'd

probably be no Bunny vs. Monkey there because they are so popular. That said, it's perfectly suitable for primary school children ages seven and up in my opinion. The jokes are extremely fast, sharp, funny and unrelenting. The images really leap off the page and the entire story has a video game feel to it in that it moves at a very high rate of speed. Bunny vs. Monkey is a perfect read for anyone who enjoys Dog Man, Bird & Squirrel or The Unfairies series or simply want non-stop laughs in the material that they read.



Monsieur Mustard: The Disappearance of Fabio Fangtooth

Author: Charley Rabbit **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 04/06/2026

July 2026 Book of the Month A charismatic detective, lovable accident-prone sidekick, scheming dastardly criminal mastermind, and fast-moving, funny plot: Monsieur Mustard The Disappearance of Fabio Fangtooth has them all and the story unfolds through a combination of illustrated text and graphic novel scenes that will make it even more irresistible to junior crime aficionados. Monsieur Mustard has a reputation as a brilliant – and stylishly dressed – detective. His fame precedes him and when he moves from Paris to Bath, there is great excitement. As upstanding members of the community, restaurateur and snake Fabio Fangtooth, chef Carlos the Crocodile and bookshop owner Mr B the baboon, are kidnapped naturally the police turn to Mustard. It's a tricky case and even the legendary detective is bamboozled. Just as well he has ultra-loyal self-appointed sidekick Mobbsy Slewfoot and well-meaning Police Inspector Podge to encourage him. Action-packed, full of comedy, with illustrations that match the plot for verve and humour, Charley rabbit's debut is the perfect package for fans of Mr Penguin and even Hercule Poirot. As Monsieur Mustard might say, "C'est magnifique!"



Squid Bits That's a Nice Hat!

Author: Jess Bradley **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 04/06/2026

June 2026 Graphic Novel of the Month A brand new installment in a soon to be series, Squid Bits: That's a Nice Hat! by Jess Bradley is sure-fire hit. I say this because as a high school librarian, I'm seeing the meteoric rise in popularity in comics that are off the rails and completely fun to read. Books like Donut Squad, Megalomaniacs and Bunny vs Monkey simply do not stay on our library shelves and this will be a welcome addition to that area of our comic book section in the library and home bookshelves. What readers will find in Squid Bits are short, bizarre comic-stories involving animals of all kind. For example, we see a very short comic strip about a narwhal who just wants to find someone to play tennis with but keeps impaling other possible players with its horn. As someone of a certain generation, these comics instantly reminded me of reading Mad Magazine where you'd find these quick-fire stories that seem to drop out of nowhere and leave you questioning your own reality but also laughing out loud. It's no secret that we are in a situation where kids aren't reading as much as they used to, I have certainly noticed this as someone whose career it is to get books into students' hands, I know how valuable it is to find a book that sticks and this is the kind of book that will stick. We have amazing sections, like "The Red Panda: Nature's Jerk" which is seeing the titular animal shouting at themselves in the mirror. And then that's it, we move on to the next one. I love it, I think it's a great idea and extremely well executed. I know that I'll need to buy multiple copies of this for the library because it will be one our students will adore.

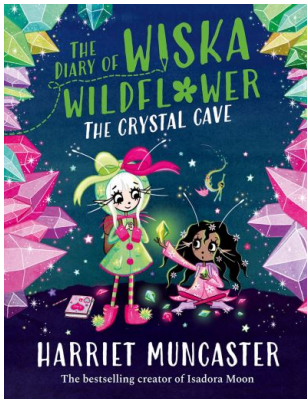


A River Running Through You

Author: Amy-Jane Beer **Format:** Hardback **Release Date:** 14/05/2026

May 2026 Book of the Month This extraordinary book has its roots in the author's Wainwright prize-winning book for adults: The Flow. Here, with a lyrical, flowing text, she has demonstrated a similar passion for the topic, with a clarity of explanation that is perfectly suited to a young audience. Of course, she is helped in this endeavour by the beautifully detailed and evocative illustrations from the talented Elin Manon. Together they have created a book which will be a treasured addition to any home or school collection. It could not be more timely or important, when the state of our national rivers is an absolute disgrace. Reading this aloud or independently cannot help but impress upon you the importance of water. The availability of water resources will be one of the most serious challenges that the human race is going to face and this book makes clear the connections between water and all the life that it supports and between water and its transformational effect on the planet. Water literally runs through us in the same way the river runs through the landscape, in an endless cycle of renewal and change. She also draws on the way rivers are a liminal space where stories and myths develop and highlights their strategic importance to the

development of settlements and how often they form borders between countries and peoples. This book would complement topic work on rivers for a wide age group and is an excellent example of an informational picturebook. A truly potent learning resource and a beautiful and enjoyable book.



The Diary of Wiska Wildflower: The Crystal Cave

Author: Harriet Muncaster **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 04/06/2026

Showcasing exactly why Harriet Muncaster's illustrated series are among the best-loved children's books of our time, *The Crystal Cave*, part of the *Wiska Wildflower* series, sees Wiska face peril and tricky friendship issues when she embarks on a secret mission to find a rare starflower. While Wiska finds it weird that her new friend Citrine keeps cutting her off whenever she talks about her best friend Luna, she loves that Citrine is "a sparky and fun kind of wiskling", and is thrilled when they're made partners for a school trip to Wiskling Mountain, not least because Citrine says she knows "all the tricks to stay safe on Rocky Ledge", and "where to find rare gems embedded in the rocks". From this, matters take a treacherous turn when Citrine persuades Wiska to sneak off to find a rare starflower. A thunderstorm breaks through the "strange, scary night", and then comes a rockslide that tests their survival skills, and their friendship, with a cave of rainbow-like crystals providing safety and light after the storm. Beyond being a brilliant magical adventure story with just the right amount of peril, themes of friendship, jealousy, courage and empathy are handled with a tender lightness of touch. If that wasn't enough, the diary-format narrative, enhanced by Muncaster's maps, trip itineraries, nature spotting sheets, cake assessment forms, magical recipes, and Wiska's lists and doodles, gives *The Crystal Cave* a bounty of beyond-the-page impact. Thoroughly involving, it's likely to inspire creative 7-9-year-old readers to keep their own Wiska-style diaries.