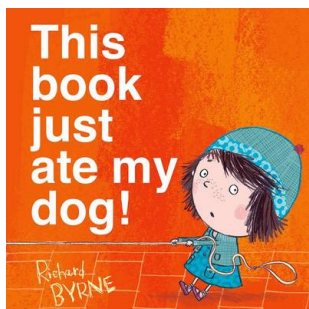


A selection of books especially selected for children in Year 1 (5 - 6 year olds) of average reading ability for the 2026/27 academic year.

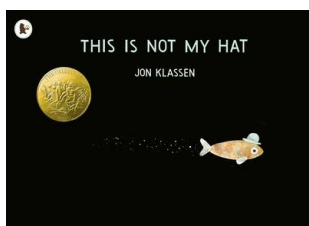
If your child is a competent reader or has read all these titles then try the books from the Year 2 list. Our overall mission is to promote reading for pleasure with quality texts that are perfectly pitched for the age group and the curriculum. We have particularly avoided blockbusters, classic or set 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.



This Book Just Ate My Dog

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

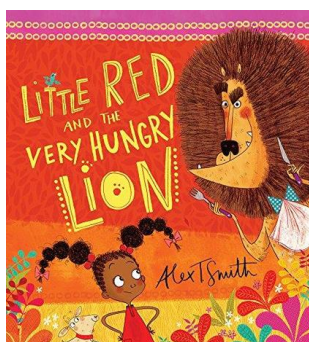
A little girl, a big dog, and a very badly-behaved book! Bella is taking her dog for a stroll across the page when something odd happens. Her dog disappears and it becomes apparent to Bella, her friend Ben, and the rescue services that peril lurks in the pages of this book. But where the police and fire brigade fail, you - the reader - can help!



This is Not My Hat

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

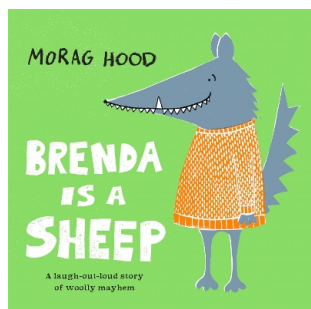
Best-selling illustrator Jon Klassen follows up his successful I Want My Hat Back in this witty, almost wordless picture book about a tiny fish who steals a hat from a very big fish – and hopes to get away with it. The eloquent but simple illustrations show the audacious behaviour of a hapless fish heading for disaster. Young children will love the joke...and the fact that they know what the little fish doesn't.



Little Red and the Very Hungry Lion

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

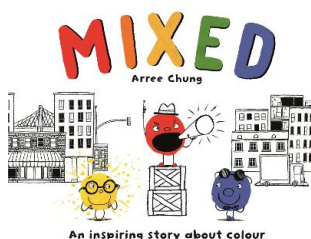
Winner of the UKLA 2016 Book Award in the 3 - 6 year old category. Little Red Riding Hood transposed to an African town setting where a lion is really no match for a clever small girl. The inventive layout of the text and its relationship to the witty, beautifully coloured illustrations really enhance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



Brenda Is a Sheep

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

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

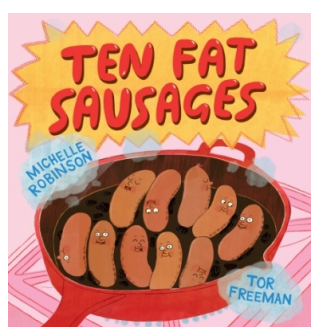


Mixed

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

Winner of the UKLA Book Awards 2020 | Shortlisted for the Children's Book Awards 2019, Books for Younger Children

Category The primary colours have got everything sorted out in the city so they live in separate areas and never mix. But, when a Blue and a Yellow fall in love and marry, baby Green is soon born and everyone realises that mixing together makes everyone much happier. A love story in a paint box with an important message for all young readers.

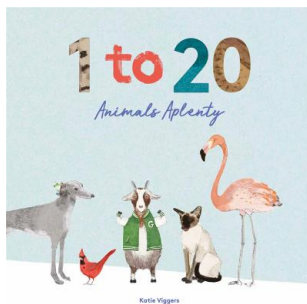


Ten Fat Sausages

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

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

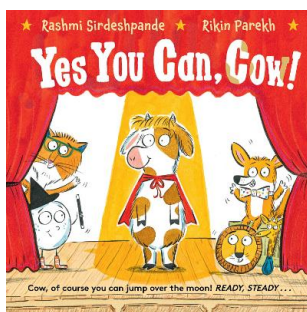
while we're laughing.



1 to 20 Animals Aplenty

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

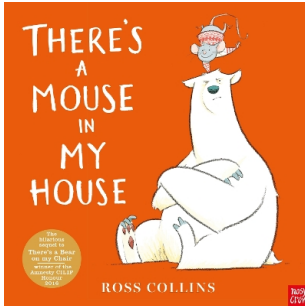
This witty, stylish counting book will catch the attention of adults as well as the imagination of the very young. A rhythmic, rhyming text and eye-catching illustrations present us with one fox in socks, then two gorillas looking in mirrors, followed by three jolly llamas in pyjamas, right up to the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



Yes You Can, Cow

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

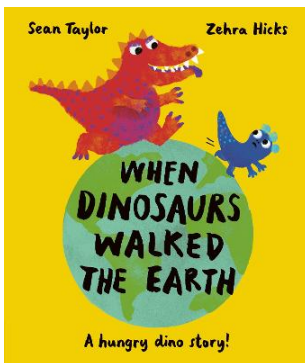
Longlisted for the UKLA Book Award 2023 ages 3-6 Rehearsals are under way for the big production of Hey Diddle Diddle, but poor Cow has the collywobbles and does not believe she could possibly jump over the moon and indeed there are spectacular failures! Rikin Parekh's witty and lively illustrations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



There's a Mouse in My House

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

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



When Dinosaurs Walked the Earth

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

Obviously set in the time when Dinosaurs walked the earth, we first meet Smallasaurus, an endearing little blue dino who enjoys a plant based diet and who spots some tasty ferns by a large rock. However, the rock turns out to be Badasaurus, who very much likes to eat small dinosaurs who enjoy a plant-based diet. Smallasaurus has to think, which can be a problem when you only have a brain the size of a walnut. Luckily, Badasaurus only has a brain the size of a peanut . . . and so the chase begins! Little do they know that Worseasaurus is lurking, and that he likes nothing better than a choice of two meaty dinosaurs for breakfast. Perfectly paired with the vibrant and characterful illustrations, this is a text which could successfully be used to introduce the concept of food chains. With a lovely use of droll repetitive phrases like 'it's going to be a sad and terrible ending' in the familiar fortunately/unfortunately story structure and with inventive use of font size, layout and page turn, this will be an absolute joy to read aloud!



Maybe You Might

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

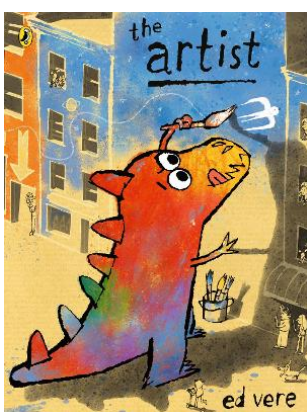
A little girl restores a hot dry plain to leafy, vibrant forest in the course of this beautiful picture book. She does it by planting a seed, watering and caring for it, keeping it sheltered from the hot sun. As she grows, so does the tree, producing fruits and more seeds, which also grow. Meanwhile,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



You're So Amazing

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

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

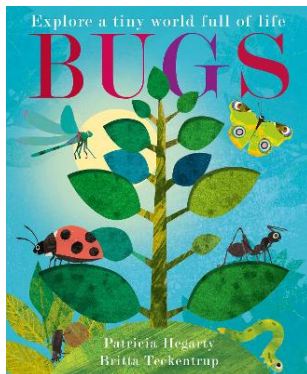


The Artist

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

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

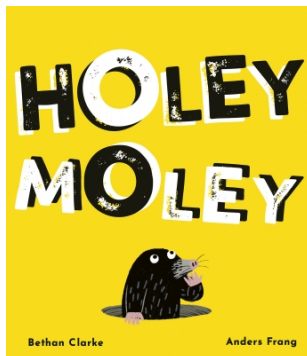
heart are what makes great art.... It is an exhortation to keep drawing and keep creating.



Bugs

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

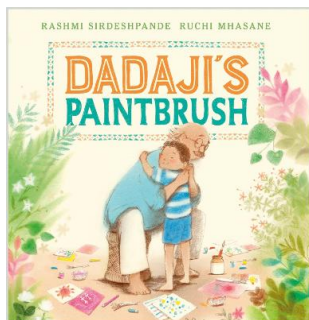
Peek through the holes and explore a bustling world of bugs in this beautifully illustrated book from award-winning artist Britta Teckentrup. Clever die-cuts, gentle rhyming text and colourful artwork bring even the tiniest creatures to life.



Holey Moley

Author: Bethan Clarke **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 09/05/2024

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

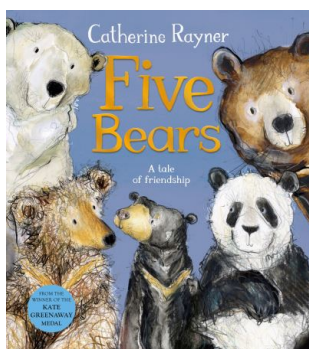


Dadaji's Paintbrush

Author: Rashmi Sirdeshpande **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 01/06/2023

July 2022 Book of the Month | Longlisted for the Jhalak

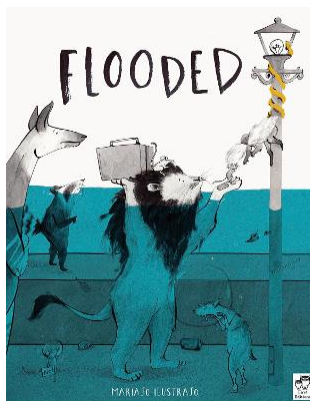
Children's & Young Adult Prize 2023 In a tiny village in India a little boy lives with his grandfather. They do everything together and they especially love to paint together, sometimes joined by the other children in the village. Their love for one another is evident and when Dadaji dies, leaving the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



Five Bears

Author: Catherine Rayner **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 27/07/2023

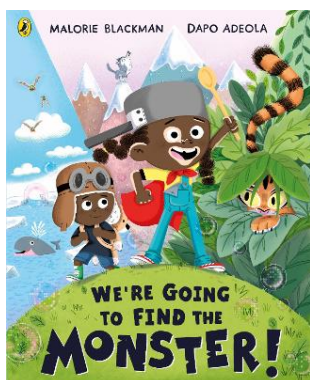
A new book from Greenaway winner Catherine Rayner is always going to be a visual treat and the luminous watercolour and inked images are a delight. As one bear meets another the initial reaction is defensive and even hostile, but Other Bear defuses the situation with calm friendliness and they go on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



Flooded

Author: Mariajo Ilustrajo **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 03/01/2023

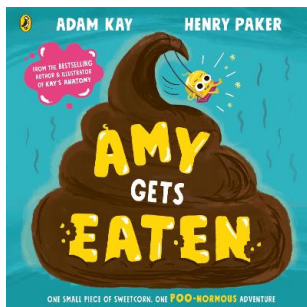
May 2022 Debut of the Month | Winner of the UKLA Book Award 2023 ages 3-6 | Winner of the Klaus Flugge Prize 2023 This is a brilliant debut novel from the winner of the World Illustration Awards Overall New Talent winner for 2020. The unnamed city wakes up to a small amount of water everywhere and everybody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



We're Going to Find the Monster

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

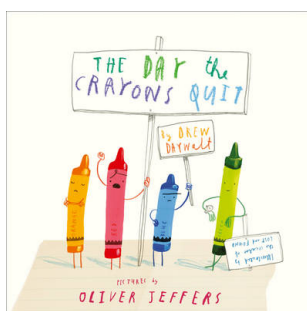
Shortlisted for the UKLA Book Award 2023 ages 3-6 Over the shimmering ocean, up the huge, high mountain, through the deep, dark forest . . . WE'RE GOING TO FIND THE MONSTER! Join two intrepid adventurers as their imaginations transform their house into a wild wonderland - and their big brother becomes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



Amy Gets Eaten

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

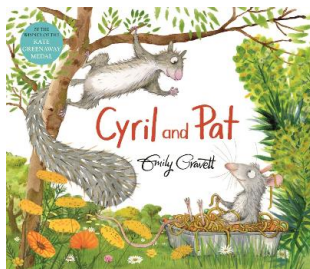
From the duo behind the award winning and best-selling Kay's Anatomy and Kay's Marvellous Medicine we have a debut picturebook that proves they are just as successful at communicating biological facts accurately for three-to five-year-olds, as they are for older readers. Parker's vibrant and zany illustrations,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



The Day the Crayons Quit

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

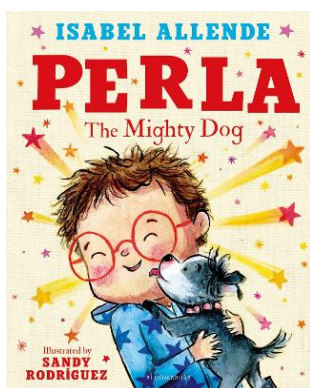
Overall Winner of the Red House Children's Book Awards 2015, and winner in books for younger children category - Shortlisted for the Kate Greenaway Medal 2014 - One of our Books of the Year 2014- One of the LoveReading4kids Readers' Choice Books of the Year 2014 Award-winning Oliver Jeffers and Drew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



Cyril and Pat

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

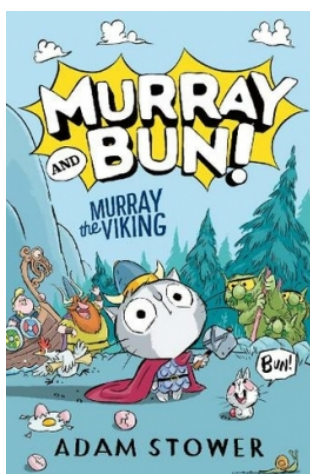
Award-winning author/illustrator Emily Gravett explores the fun of being friends but different in this light-hearted and playful picture book. Sad Cyril the squirrel is all alone in the park until he finds a mouse named Pat. Together Cyril and Pat have a great time playing all kinds of games and making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



Perla The Mighty Dog

Author: Isabel Allende **Format:** Hardback **Release Date:** 04/07/2024

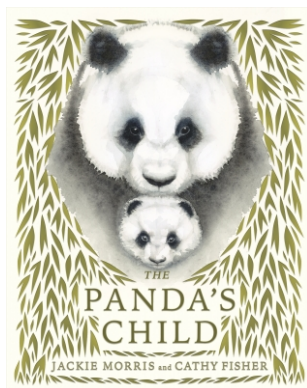
July 2024 Debut of the Month Perla might be small but she has a big bark and a big personality, both of which are used to good effect as she narrates this funny, lively story. The Rico family are looking for a guard dog when they go to the dogs' home but, she tells us, they didn't reckon on Perla's superpower: making everyone love her. She fits right into the family but young Nico is her favourite. She proves a particularly good friend when he copies her other superpower – confidence and bravery expressed through a huge roar – to stand up to the bully making his life miserable. Perla's distinctive voice and outlook make this a particularly appealing picturebook and she is an irrepressible force of nature in Sandy Rodriguez' illustrations too. The debut picturebook from bestselling author Isabel Allende, this shows off all her storytelling talent.



Murray the Viking

Author: Adam Stower **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 01/02/2024

Reminiscent of Calvin and Hobbes, this is a triumph of a book, and we can't wait for more adventures from this delightful duo. Murray, the cat and Bun, the bunny, journey through the magic catflap to a land of Vikings where they are given the task to get rid of the trolls and find Eggrick, by the fearsome Harald the Hairy. hilariously the adorable little rabbit used to be a sticky bun, until Murray's owner the wizard Fumblethumb mistakenly turned him into a bunny. He's always messing things up! A fun filled feast of a read for newly independent readers who love a bit of interaction. We can't shout about this book enough. You'll want to read it and pore over the brilliant illustrations again and again and again.



The Panda's Child

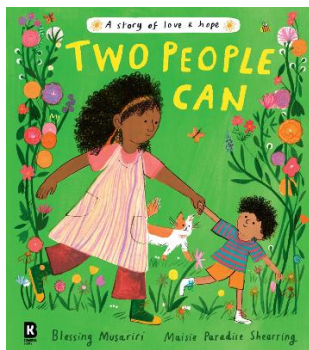
Author: Jackie Morris **Format:** Hardback **Release Date:** 05/10/2023

When a newborn baby boy is lost in a distant forest his mother is distraught. Villagers search for him, but without much hope for a happy ending. Motherly love endures though, and the baby's mother doesn't give up until she finds him safe, well and being protected by a beautiful panda bear. An unbreakable and enduring bond between human and bear has been created. When visitors arrive in the village nine years later, the now-grown boy must decide if he will repay the panda's kindness or seek riches and adventure. Exploring our connection with nature through lyrical prose and achingly beautiful illustrations, *The Panda's Child* is a book that will enchant readers of all ages. The story has a haunting fable-like quality to it, whilst the accomplished paintings capture a bereft mother's anguish, and seem to peer straight into the souls of the wild animals depicted. As can be expected from any collaboration from Morris and Fisher, this is an ode to the natural world with an important message about species conservation.

Silent Night, My Astronaut

Author: Oksana Lushchevska **Format:** Hardback **Release Date:** 01/08/2024

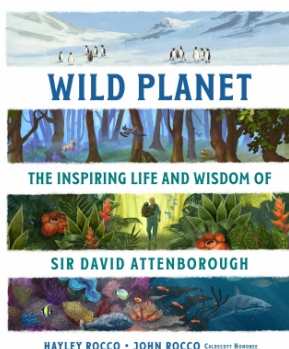
August 2024 Book of the Month This powerful, deeply moving picture book details the first ten days of the war in Ukraine through the voice and experiences of a seven-year-old girl. Frightened by bombs and taking refuge in a shelter with her mum and their little dog, while her father is away fighting, she imagines her toy astronaut as 'super powerful ... in the sky', watching over everything from above. Messages from her friends and from people across the world give her strength and when they are forced to leave their home in Kyiv, she and her mum look forward to the time when the war will be over and silent nights are normal again. Carefully chosen words and distinctive, stylised illustrations, flooded with the yellow and blue of the Ukrainian flag, create a real sense of the child's experience of the war, as well as the Ukrainian people's resilience, and of hope for the future. The book is dedicated to 'children and those who were children' and the impact on young and old will be lasting.



Two People Can

Author: Blessing Musariri **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 06/06/2024

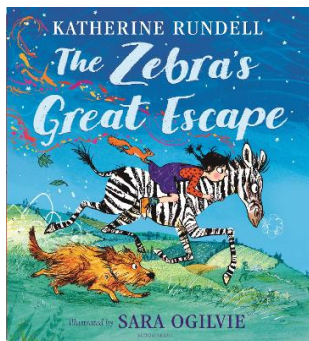
Too many days have gone by since Shingai last saw his dad. Whilst we never know why his dad is suddenly absent, we do see how difficult it is for this little boy, whose emotions range from sadness to anger and bewilderment. Shingai misses his dad. He waits by the door willing him to come home and remembers the fun times they have shared. These feelings build and he's suddenly unable to keep them in, and his sorrow and frustration erupt in a flurry of emotion as he trashes the house. But he's not the only one who is feeling sad and mum, who is normally so steady and in control, starts to cry. Mum and son share their feelings together, and through that, start to see a new future for themselves. A story of hope and love, illustrated beautifully throughout by Maisie Paradise Shearring.



Wild Planet

Author: Hayley Rocco **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 05/06/2024

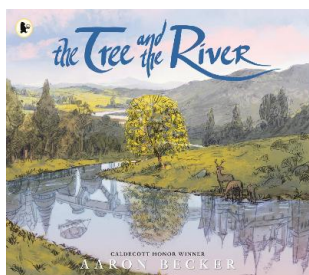
June 2024 Non-Fiction Book of the Month David Attenborough is universally recognized as a genuine hero of our times and this informative picturebook tells an engaging story of his life and work. The underlying thread to the story is his passion for the natural world and his concern about the human impact upon it: the loss of habitat and biodiversity, which is as dangerous to humans as to our fellow species. In the end matter there is an author's note which gives a little more detail about Sir David's life and work, a glossary and two very useful pages about rewilding the planet, the problems and the solutions. This additional text is useful for both the adults sharing the story and to older, independent readers. The author and illustrator are ambassadors for the rewilding charity Wild Tomorrow and it is clear that their passion aligns with their subject. The illustrations, from a Caldecott medal honouree, are stunning evocations of the natural world. The way he has chosen to juxtapose settings gives a strong visual expression of the rewilding message. High rise cities, felled forests and dead reefs are contrasted to lush rain forests, alternative energy sources, and seas teeming with marine life. At times he also manages to portray an almost uncanny likeness of Sir David, especially in the body language and expression. The final image of Sir David is of him symbolically leading a diverse procession of people from a re-wilded eco-friendly city into an even greener future. This hopeful message is bound to inspire and enthuse young eco-warriors and fledgling conservationists.



The Zebra's Great Escape

Author: Katherine Rundell **Format:** Hardback **Release Date:** 01/09/2022

Mink likes doing things fast and wild, and, like the creatures she's named herself for, is also fiercely loyal and not afraid to bite. When a lost little zebra comes looking for help, of course Mink volunteers and with the help of grouchy dog Rainbow and her new-found ability to understand what animals are saying, tracks down the missing zebra parents. They've been taken captive by the wicked Mr Spit, neatly completing his alphabetically organised wild animal collection. Nasty as Spit is, he's no match for Mink, especially when she's backed up by furious animals with newly found fire inside them. (Mink's dad thinks being asked for help gives us the chance to change the world, lighting up a fire inside us). With her plaits, her resourcefulness and courage, there's definitely something of Pippi Longstocking about Mink, and the story moves as fast as she could wish for, driven by a sense of justice and of all the possibilities open to children. Sara Ogilvie's illustrations are gorgeous, full of energy one minute, tenderness the next.



The Tree and the River

Author: Aaron Becker **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 04/04/2024

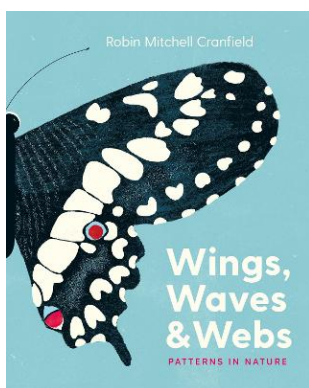
Winner of the 2024 Yoto Carnegie Medal for Illustration and the Shadowers' Choice Medal Prize winning author Becker is known as a master of the wordless picture book – and this latest volume is no exception. It is a series of time lapse images of the life in a valley on the banks of a long and winding river. It is not set in any particular country – and takes architectural styles from an amalgamation of different times and countries – thus it is relevant to everyone. Mankind's advances are reflected in the amount of building, growing industries, and enmities between neighbouring towns. The development of urban sprawl in other words, but depicted in such detailed, and to start with, entirely beautiful spreads that we are beguiled. As the book progresses, we see the damage and the destruction that man and nature can inflict as they are abused and ignored in search of 'progress'. The illustrations are so detailed the reader can spend a long time looking at each spread, noting the good and the bad changes, seeing the effect these changes have on the tree that grows in the crook of a river bend. Until finally the tree seems wrecked with the civilisation that stood around it. That is, until we see one tiny acorn from our dying tree fall into the river, travel downstream a short way and find fertile ground in which to bury itself and the cycle of growth and recovery can start again. The river and trees are the witness to the folly of man – but also the witness to the new birth and growth. An ultimately uplifting look at what we are doing to our world – to make us pause and think. A spectacular read that will thrill readers of 5 to 95 equally.



Our Story Starts in Africa

Author: Patrice Lawrence **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 23/05/2024

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



Wings, Waves, and Webs

Author: Robin Mitchell Cranfield **Format:** Hardback **Release Date:** 30/03/2023

June 2023 Non-Fiction Book of the Month A beautiful addition to the home bookshelves of little nature lovers, and to school libraries, Robin Mitchell Cranfield's *Wings, Waves and Webs* combines the magic of mathematical patterns with the magic of nature to illuminating, engaging effect. Through their stylish simplicity, the book's artwork and design are simply stunning as the clear, engaging text encourages kids to see the world from a fresh perspective: "Let's find patterns!" Different types of patterns are explored in turn — the spots on a ladybird that aid identification. The stripes on a skunk that send warnings to predators. The spirals of snail shells and spiders' webs. From this, the book shifts to more complex patterns while retaining its pitch-perfect simplicity as it introduces young readers to the likes of mirror symmetry, as found on butterfly wings, and the collective motion of starling flocks and schools of fish. Part of the *Patterns in Nature* series, *Wings, Waves and Webs* is a wonderful way to introduce the wonders of nature.



Hannah and the Violin

Author: Satoshi Kitamura **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 05/02/2026

February 2025 Book of the Month Satoshi Kitamura's picture books are immediately recognisable with their uniquely expressive line and quirky angular perspectives. A fondness for celebrating children's imagination is a hallmark of many of his books too and it's given full rein in this glorious new story. Hannah is alone in the garden and wishing she had someone to play with when she spots a leaf. Deciding it looks like a violin she finds a stick bow and starts to play it. Before long, birds have joined in, then the insects in the flower beds, even the clouds in the sky until everything on earth and beyond is singing and dancing to her music. Striking centre pages show Hannah playing her violin in an azure-blue sky surrounded by instruments. All stops for dinner, or does it? Told in deadpan style, this celebration of play and invention takes us all soaring with Hannah into a limitless sky. The opportunities it opens for talking, wondering and creating are huge.



The Awesomely Adventurous Librarians

Author: Donna David **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 05/02/2026

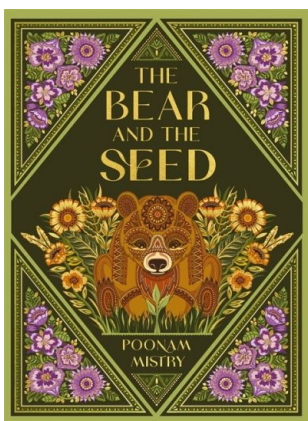
March 2026 Book of the Month This delightful book might just be the perfect read aloud to start the National Year of Reading. Researchers have often said that while we can teach the mechanics of reading, it is difficult to teach about the 'why' we should read. This book absolutely captures the joy that comes from finding your perfect book and as Rida and her librarian grandfather so often say, 'there is a perfectly perfect book for everyone' and with intrepid librarians like these on your side, you are never going to be disappointed. Rida helps by paying attention and noting down people's requests. Little do they know that when the library closes, Grandad takes the notes, opens up the secret door to the Land of Books and goes book hunting. For a book on fish, for example, he would dive to the deepest depths. But one day he had to admit defeat. Arun had requested Awesome Adventures at Lava Falls and this book lived at the outermost edge of the Land of Books and nobody had ever captured it. That night Rida, armed with Grandad's map, sets out determined to find it, and after truly awesome adventures, she rescues the book from the lava and Arun is such a happy and satisfied customer. There is a delightful little joke at the end which subtly conveys that you should never judge a book (or person) by its cover! With brilliantly lively illustrations and full to the brim with excitement, this is exactly the sort of book to make reading seem coveted and precious and could spark endless conversations about likes and interests.



Adventuremice: Of Mice and Mummies

Author: Philip Reeve, Sarah McIntyre **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 26/02/2026

Another fantastic installment in the Adventuremice series by Reeve and McIntyre! These two authors make an amazing duo when it comes to creating warm-hearted, fun and hilarious adventures starring some very intrepid mice. As always, the illustrations in this series are really outstanding, they are warm and colourful and invite the reader to really investigate the page to find hidden gems. This makes it a perfect read-along for parents and their younger readers. It is not a surprise that this series has won so many outstanding awards for illustration and storytelling. In this particular story, the Adventuremice discover an ancient stone tablet covered in hieroglyphs. The tablet tells a fantastical story of ancient Queen Neferteacake and her wondrous golden tomb of treasures. It's not just the Adventuremice that are interested in the tomb, though, a more sinister mouse would like to get there before the Adventuremice and reap all of the rewards. Thus the Adventuremice find themselves in a race against time on a mysterious island brimming with beautiful and mysterious palaces, sphinxes, pyramids and other Egyptian-based treasures and locations. Kids will love reading about these places and poring over the illustrations. Comics like these are perfect for young readers because they introduce reading for pleasure in a way that is extremely fun and engaging. Parents will love them because there are always some hidden gems and nods to pop culture and films that will make them enjoyable. The book is filled with wit and charm and they don't talk down to their readership. They are fast, fun and absolutely lovely to read through. The fact that there are several books in this series will keep kids reading and asking for more, it's a great series that deserves the recognition it has achieved.

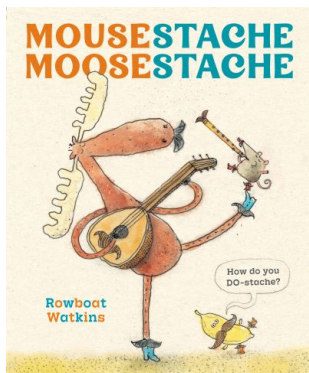


The Bear and the Seed

Author: Poonam Mistry **Format:** Hardback **Release Date:** 19/03/2026

April 2026 Book of the Month As the weather improves just a little bit, we have the perfect book to celebrate nature and the coming of Spring. With its intense and colourful cover and lavish internal spreads in Poonam's distinctive, inimitable and intricately detailed style, which evokes the traditional Indian fabrics, furniture and paintings that she grew up with, this is an extraordinarily beautiful book. We meet Bear living in his lush forest surrounded by wildlife, but one day the trees and flowers disappear and gradually so do all the animals. Bear is almost overcome with sadness, but then he spots a tiny seed and asking for advice from passing creatures, he plants and nurtures it lovingly until a fragile shoot appears. The steps he takes reflect all the real stages needed for plants to grow, offering readers a gentle lesson in plant growth. He continues to guard and tend to his precious plant until he is overwhelmed by the need to hibernate. Waking in the Spring, his heart is filled with joy when he sees his seed has grown into a small sapling

and from this small start life can start to gradually return to the forest. Children will be absolutely entranced by the images, and the gentle lyrical text is a pleasure to read aloud. It will open up discussion about our responsibility to look after the earth and to talk about the environmental impact of destroying forests. But more importantly for young readers it will show them how important even small individual steps in conservation can be. This would be ideal to launch an environment topic.



Mousestache Moosestache

Author: Rowboat Watkins **Format:** Hardback **Release Date:** 16/04/2026

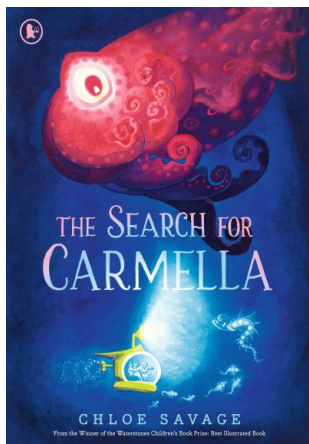
April 2026 Picture Book of the Month Absolutely everything in this quirky, endlessly pore-over-able picture book is sprouting a moustache, starting with our heroes, a mouse and a moose, aka Mousestache and Moosestache. As they travel through the pages they encounter duckstaches, cluckstaches, stuck-inside truckstaches, grandfather clockstaches, migrating flockstaches, even (my favourite) tropical fruitstaches, some strumming lutestaches. Every turn of the page brings another surprising and cleverly composed scene, Rowboat Watkins' soft-toned pen and pencil illustrations somehow giving the whole business a sense of normality no matter how absurd (very!) the actual action, while the text is a surreal delight to read aloud: 'passenger trainstaches, wee drops of rainstaches' - yes please! One of the quirkiest, most original and fascinating picture books of the year.



The Bear who had Nothing to Wear

Author: Jeanne Willis **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 01/02/2024

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



The Search for Carmella

Author: Chloe Savage **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 28/08/2025

A stunning book about wonder, bravery, and the freedom to pursue your curiosity from Chloe Savage, winner of the Waterstones Children's Book Prize for Illustration for The Search for the Giant Arctic Jellyfish. Ever since Dr Rose was a little girl paddling in rock pools, she has always loved the sea and exploring the weird and wonderful creatures living there. Now, as a marine biologist, Dr Rose is in search of a sea creature rumoured to reside within its hidden depths; one that many speak of, but no one has ever seen - Carmella. With her team of scientists and explorers, she will descend to the unfathomable dark of the deep ocean in a slick submersible, to discover the incredible, and almost unbelievable, creatures that inhabit a nearly pitch-black world.



Don't Trust Fish!

Author: Neil Sharpson **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 03/04/2025

May 2025 Debut of the Month It is hard to believe that this hilarious parody of an information text, is actually the author's debut picturebook. An author who had the good luck to be paired with the best selling and Caldecott medal winning illustrator Dan Santat, who has taken a very funny text to even greater heights with his gloriously funny illustrations. These range from the hyper realistic images accompanying the definitions of mammals, reptiles and birds, to the imaginative absurdity of the giant fish robots invading the beach as fish attempt world domination. This is a delightfully absurd mix of fact and fiction - there are genuine scientific facts about animals and about the weird rule breaking fish. Some live in fresh water and some in salt water. Some have gills, while others have lungs etc. But then we are challenged to think about such 'facts' as that you can never see what fish are up to underwater and we know they hang about in schools, but we don't know they learn there, and they're always eating those poor, innocent crabs. When the opinionated 'unreliable' narrator is revealed at the end of the book, the story arc and the fish focused paranoia makes complete sense. The perfect laconic deadpan comic timing of the text just cries out to be read aloud - multiple times! An absolute must have picture book that achieves the rare task of entertaining both children and adult readers alike.