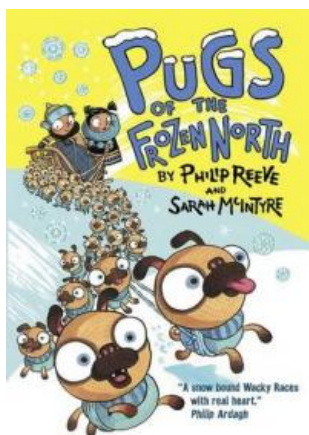


A selection of books especially selected for children in Year 3 (7 - 8 year olds) of average reading ability for the 2025/26 academic year.

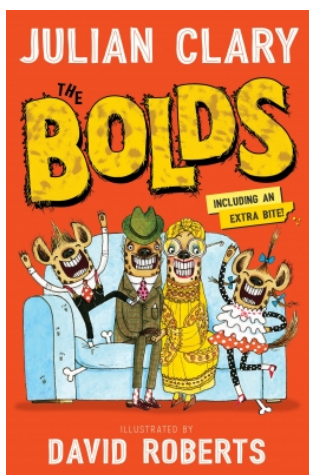
If your child is a competent reader or has read all these titles then try the books from the Year 4 list. Alternatively if these books are a little challenging try books from the Year 2 list. Our overall mission is to promote reading for pleasure with quality texts that are perfectly pitched for the age group and the curriculum. We have particularly avoided blockbusters, classic or set texts, known to everyone, so that we can include poetry, stunning information texts and inspirational books in which all children and young people can find themselves reflected.



Pugs of the Frozen North

Author: Philip Reeve **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 01/09/2016

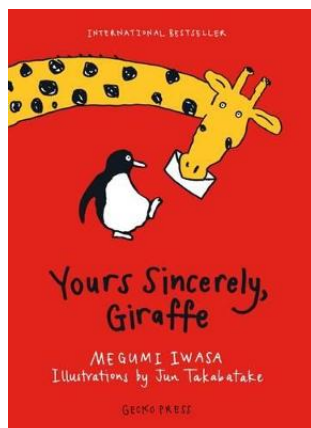
Award winning author partners Philip Reeve and Sarah McIntyre head north for their latest adventure. When the cabin boy is abandoned by his shipmates when their ship is stranded in the ice. He's completely alone, except for 64 little pugs, part of the ship's cargo! He soon teams up with Shika, a girl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



The Bolds

Author: Julian Clary **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 04/07/2024

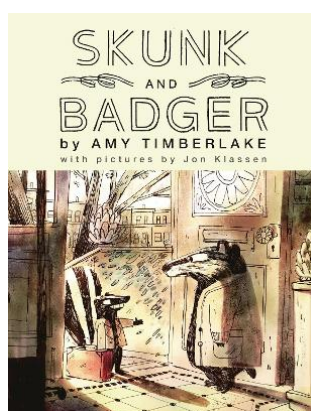
One of our Books of the Year 2015 - A Reader Review Panel Pick of the Year 2015 Comedian, entertainer and 'national trinket' Julian Clary now turns out to be a talented children's writer too. The Bolds, his first book for children, is a real treat – a funny story with a ludicrous but hugely enjoyable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



Yours Sincerely, Giraffe

Author: Megumi Iwasa **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 14/07/2016

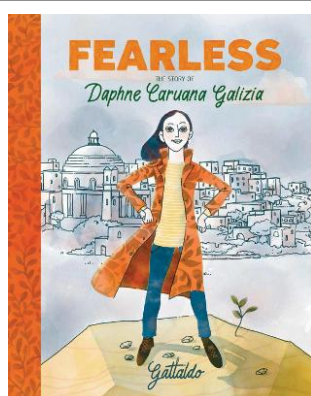
Shortlisted for the UKLA 2018 Book Award Giraffe is bored, as usual. He'd love a friend to share things with. So he writes a letter and sends it as far as possible across the other side of the horizon. There he finds a pen pal—Penguin. Giraffe knows nothing about penguins and his letters are full of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



Skunk and Badger

Author: Amy Timberlake **Format:** Hardback **Release Date:** 03/09/2020

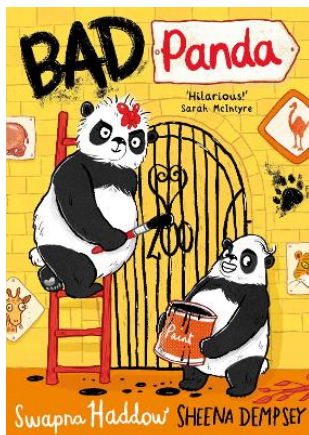
Meet Skunk and Badger. The first time Badger saw Skunk, he thought, 'puny' and shut the front door. There was simply too much slick in this Skunk's stripe. Too much puff in his tail. Also, there'd been that grin, and the way he'd stuck out his paw as if he had been looking forward to meeting Badger.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



Fearless The Story of Daphne Caruana Galizia

Author: Gattaldo **Format:** Hardback **Release Date:** 08/10/2020

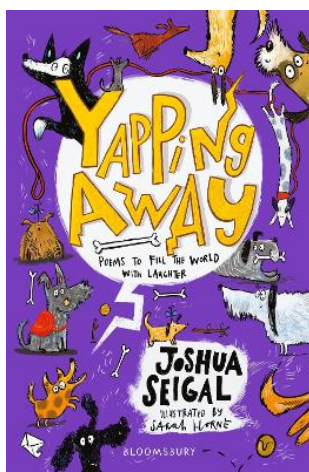
What does it take to be an investigative journalist and discover the truth against all the odds? Daphne Caruana Galizia had a happy childhood with her family on the small island of Malta, loving books, stories and writing. When she succeeded in her ambition to become a journalist, she discovered that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



Bad Panda

Author: Swapna Haddow **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 01/07/2021

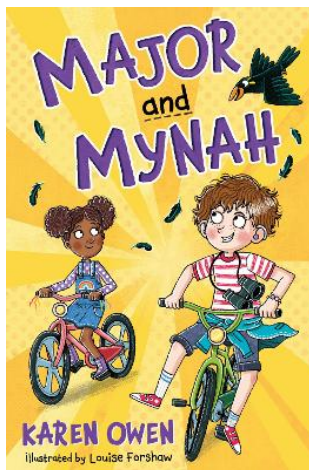
Lin is seriously cute, even for a panda. In fact, she's the sort of cute that reduces everyone to inarticulate cooing and desperate requests for cuddles. It's part of the genius of Haddow's book that lots of small children will identify with that, and with Lin's utter disgust at this response! When she's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



Yapping Away: Poems by Joshua Seigal

Author: Joshua Seigal **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 19/08/2021

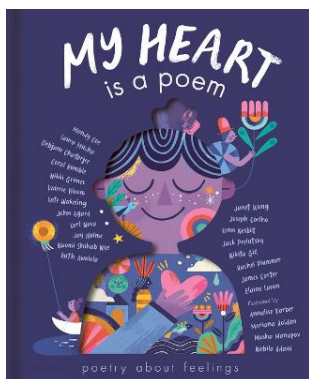
September 2021 Book of the Month The opening poem in Joshua Seigal's sparkling new collection invites readers to 'fill the world with words', and he does a very good job of doing just that in poems that represent his audience's world perfectly. Here are poems about classrooms, playtime, grandparents,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



Major and Mynah

Author: Karen Owen **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 05/05/2022

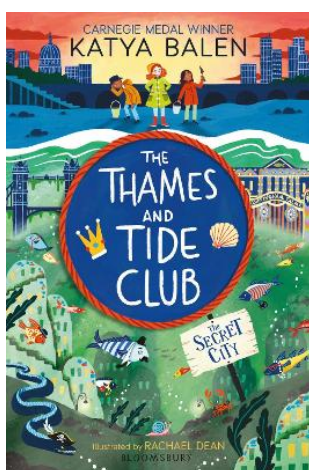
Longlisted for the UKLA Book Award 2023 ages 7-10 | Shortlisted for the Week Junior Book Awards 2023 Join SPUD, the Super Perceptive Undercover Detectives, on their first fast-paced detective adventure. A new mystery series, illustrated by Louise Forshaw and perfect for reluctant readers.



My Heart is a Poem

Author: Various Authors **Format:** Hardback **Release Date:** 02/02/2023

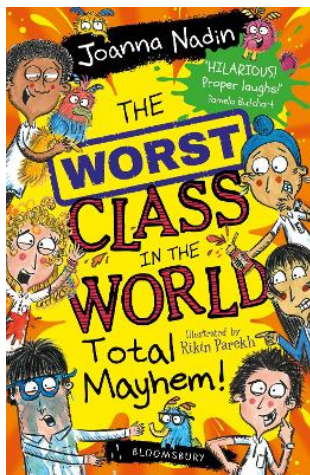
A beautifully illustrated anthology of poems from a dazzling and diverse array of modern poets with an accessible and contemporary look at emotions, feelings and walking in other people's shoes.



The Thames and Tide Club and the Secret City

Author: Katya Balen **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 11/05/2023

A Julia Eccleshare Pick of the Month May 2023 Award winning Katya Balen spins a delightfully funny and fanciful adventure story as mudlark Clem and her friends Ash and Zara find something really special hidden in the Thames riverside. Unearthing it sets them off on a madcap and very, very wet adventure in a London that it is at once familiar and totally unrecognisable. Katya Balen's vividly imagined and brilliantly controlled underwater world is perfectly captured in Rachel Dean's delightful illustrations.



The Worst Class in the World Total Mayhem!

Author: Joanna Nadin **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 08/06/2023

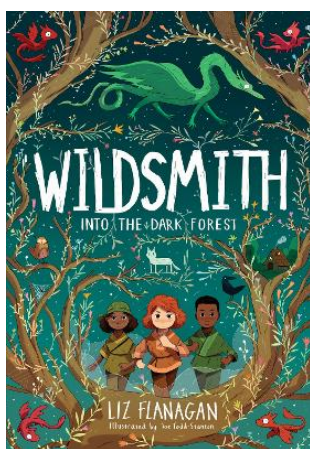
A laugh-out-loud young fiction series from bestselling author Joanna Nadin, perfect for fans of Horrid Henry. Head teacher Mrs Bottomley-Blunt thinks 4B is the WORST CLASS IN THE WORLD. She says school is not about footling or fiddle-faddling or FUN. It is about LEARNING and it is high time 4B tried harder to EXCEL at it. But best friends Stanley and Manjit didn't LITERALLY mean to get covered in newt pond water just before the Class Photo. And they really didn't LITERALLY mean to cause TOTAL MAYHEM by trying to get fake teeth to the very best tooth fairy. These things just happened, even though they had FOOLPROOF plans to get away with it all. Highly illustrated and featuring two hilarious madcap adventures in one book, these stories are just right for children ready for their first chapter books.



Budgie

Author: Joseph Coelho **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 06/04/2023

A Julia Eccleshare Pick of the Month April 2023 | Interest Age 5-8 Children's Laureate tells a beautifully rounded story full of his hallmark humanity and love of nature, and written in the best style of his poetry. Grumpy Mr Buxton seems to be keen to stop Miles and his friend enjoying the beautiful woods near where he lives. But, when Miles takes care of a lost little budgie, it leads him to finding a completely different side to Mr Buxton. Mr Buxton had been the previous owner of the budgie and it turns out he and Miles share a deep love of nature. Easy to read by readers of a wide range of ages, Budgie shows that stories that carry big emotions can be simply written.

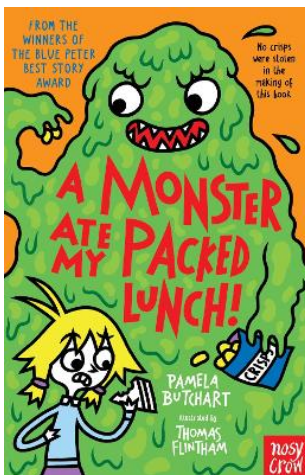


Into the Dark Forest The Wildsmith #1

Author: Liz Flanagan **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 02/02/2023

Shortlisted for the Week Junior Book Awards 2023 This fantasy story is a clever and satisfying blend of fairy tale and ecology. A short read with fast paced chapters and brilliantly illustrated throughout, it is a perfect choice for children who are emerging as independent readers. The first in a series of Wildsmith books, Into the Dark Forest introduces us to Rowan, a lively and adventurous girl, who has her world turned upside down by the threat of an imminent war. It means that she must leave her father behind whilst she, and her mother, will travel into the forest to stay with a grandpa she had never even met. Living in the countryside is daunting and Rowan discovers that there is much to learn in the forest. A patch of smouldering grass, a broken eggshell, which seems much larger and thicker than any she has seen before, lead her

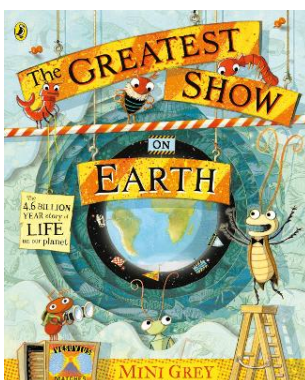
to a small, frightened, injured dragon, left behind after poachers have dragged away its mother. From this point in the story the unconditional love and care of animals, both real and mythical, drives the actions of Rowan and her two new friends, Will and Cam. Packed with excitement, mystery and enchantment, this engaging story does have real world parallels with the treatment of endangered animals and will have great appeal to young animal lovers and campaigners.



A Monster Ate My Packed Lunch

Author: Pamela Butchart **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 01/07/2021

Number 11 in the Baby Aliens series, *A Monster Ate My Packed Lunch* sees Izzy and her class plus their long-suffering teachers heading off on a school activities trip. On the official agenda is raft-building, a nature walk and a ropes course, but, as we've come to expect, things turn out to be a lot more surprising, risky and dramatic. Together the gang has seen off Yetis, Demon Dinner Ladies and Vampire Rats, but can they cope with Camp Mentors' monster? As always in this hugely popular series, the story is laugh-out-loud funny, the humour driven by Butchart's exuberant imagination and perfectly captured child's-eye-view of life. Packed with illustrations by Thomas Flintham, this is just right for newly confident readers. The LoveReading LitFest invited Pamela to the festival to talk about *A Monster Ate My Packed Lunch*. The digitally native, all year round, online literature and books festival, with new content released every week is a free-for-all-users festival. What are you waiting for? Check out a preview of the event and sign up to become a member.



The Greatest Show on Earth

Author: Mini Grey **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 06/04/2023

Prize winning illustrator Mini Grey has used her many talents to create this wonderful tour of the development of our planet and all its inhabitants. Our guide in this amazing show is Rod the Roach and he and his insect pals all put on the most amazing stage show illustrating each of the developmental stages of the world. Where the stages' wings would be there are side panels packed with information, small illustrations, and useful guides to how life might have been. The orchestra pit is where we can see the tape measure which gives us a timeline with lots of annotations, tiny illustrations and notice of when all the ice ages or warm ages happened. This is a visual delight that will have children poring over it as they look at the amazing planet that we live on. Each double page spread has so much to read and marvel at on it, that children will find it engrossing and informative in equal measures. I can see this being a classroom favourite for many years to come. This reader certainly gained a lot more knowledge about microbes than she had ever thought possible - and in such an

entertaining way. The last double page spread is a full glossary of all the unusual and difficult terms that readers may not have come across before. This makes it into so much more than just an illustrated book but into a vital information resource for young readers.



Change Sings

Author: Amanda Gorman **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 10/08/2023

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



Gobbolino the Witch's Cat

Author: Ursula Moray Williams **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 03/07/2014

A charming collection of stories featuring a witch's kitten who is spurned because Gobbolino would rather be a kitchen cat than a witch's one. But for Gobbolino that's not easy to do because the people in the neighbourhood are not convinced she can be trusted. Will Gobbolino eventually find that loving home she so craves? The story is perfect for sharing at bedtime with youngsters or for slightly older children who are just beginning to enjoy independent reading as each relatively short chapter is a standalone story featuring the kittens escapades. Truly a fantastic read for all the family. _____ Puffin Fact! The iconic character Annie first appeared as the eleven-year-old heroine of a comic strip called 'Little Orphan Annie'. Download more Puffin Facts here!

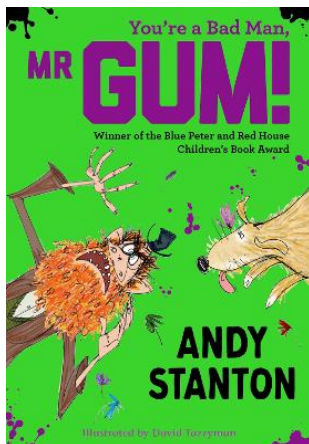
_____ Dear readers, dreamers and adventurers, Ever wanted a friend who could take you to magical realms, talk to animals or help you survive a shipwreck? Well, you'll find them all in the PUFFIN BOOK collection. A PUFFIN BOOK will stay with you forever. Maybe you'll read it again and again, or perhaps years from now you'll suddenly remember the moment it made you laugh or cry or simply see things differently. Adventurers big and small, rebels out to change their world, even a mouse with a dream and a spider who can spell - these are the characters who make stories that last a lifetime. Whether you love animal tales, war stories or want to know what it was like growing up in a different time and place, the A PUFFIN BOOK collection has a story for you - you just need to decide where you want to go next... We want to know which is your favourite. Tell us or tweet a photo of your old beloved copy - and we might just send you a new A PUFFIN BOOK so you can pass the story on. Love - PUFFIN @puffinbooks #shareapuffinbook



Kaspar, Prince of Cats

Author: Michael Morpurgo **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 04/07/2024

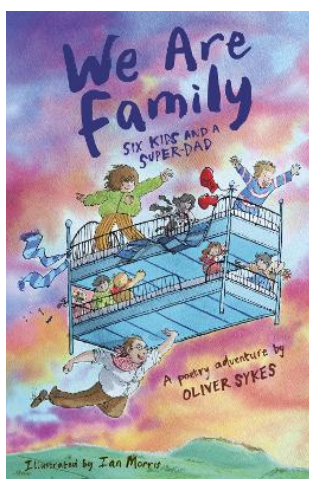
A wonderfully emotional but heart-warming tale from the pen of one of the foremost writers for children. Brilliantly interwoven in historical fact at the time of the sinking of the Titanic is the story of Kaspar the Savoy cat, who we also discover is a survivor of the sinking of the Titanic. The story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



You're a Bad Man, Mr Gum!

Author: Andy Stanton **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 02/05/2019

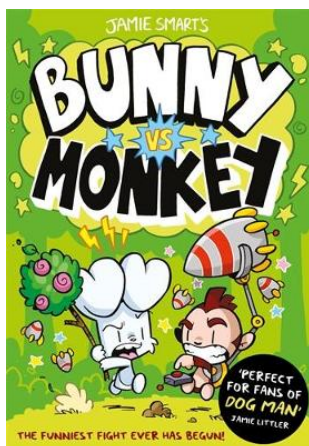
Mr Gum may well be a 'bad man' but rest assured the author Mr Stanton is a 'funny man'. There's a wonderful sense of humour throughout. Eccentric illustrative and graphical style to match the totally eccentric stories but a winning character to hook readers into this hilarious series. Fans of Roald Dahl will love it.



We Are Family - Six Kids and a Super-Dad

Author: Oliver Sykes **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 09/05/2024

June 2024 Debut of the Month Home is 'the place where, when you have to go there/They have to take you in' in Robert Frost's famous poem; Oliver Sykes uses poems to create a very different sense of home in this debut collection, a vibrant, warts and all description of his own childhood experiences. After his mum left the family when Oliver was 8, his dad had sole responsibility for looking after their six kids. It was tough, and they didn't have much money – the first poem explains how Dad went poaching rabbits and trout to get them through the weeks until the first benefit cheque arrived, the kids all helping in whatever way they could. In sections titled Meet the Family, Dad's Most Dangerous Dishes, Savage Siblings and Priceless Pranks, we live the life that Oliver lived, the scrapping and arguing, the days out, the games, and the precious moments when it was just him and his dad, one particularly powerful poem describing going boxing, just the two of them. There's a wonderful sense of the helter-skelter of life with so many brothers and sisters but just as clear is the sense of family love and togetherness. Ian Morris's black and white illustrations catch the moments of quiet as well as the noise.



Bunny vs Monkey

Author: Jamie Smart **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 02/07/2020

Chosen as a recommended read by our Guest Editor, Neill

Cameron You might know Bunny vs Monkey from the totally brilliant Phoenix Comic. This new book brings together a collection of their comic adventures in one chunky but portable, full colour (obviously) paperback – how great is that! If you are new to the duo, Bunny lives in a peaceful forest with his nice (but dim) friends, Weenie the Squirrel and Pig. Other than the occasional run in with a bear, all is calm until the arrival of Monkey, hell-bent on world domination. (In Monkey's defence, he was launched into space by scientists with that aim, but the mission failed and he fell back to earth just over the hill from their laboratory). He's helped in his scheming by a skunk with its own underground laboratory and the two cause no end of trouble for Bunny. With titles like Wrestlepocalypse, Fish Off and The Whuppabaloo, these mini adventures are hugely inventive, wonderfully daft and always very, very funny. Bunny vs Monkey would tempt the most reluctant reader - you can find more books we think are suitable for Reluctant Readers here.



Ottoline and the Purple Fox

Author: Chris Riddell **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 24/07/2025

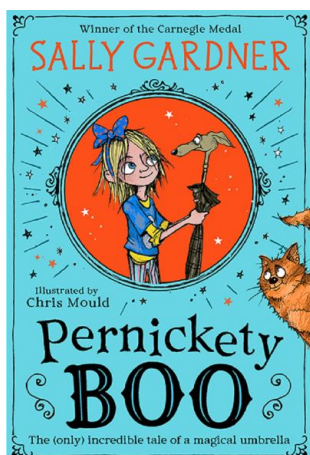
This is the fourth adventure for Ottoline and her best friend Mr Munroe, and it is every bit as enchanting, witty and surprising as the first. The emphasis is on friendship in this story: with her parents still roving the world for interesting items to add to their ever-growing collection of objects,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



Our Tower

Author: Joseph Coelho **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 07/09/2023

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



Pernickety Boo

Author: Sally Gardner **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 05/06/2025

June 2025 Book of the Month Only Sally Gardner could have conjured up Pernickety Boo, a wonderfully innocent, more than slightly magical talking umbrella with the ability to time travel, and a penchant for eating gloves; and aren't we lucky she has! Left behind on an underground train by his absent-minded owner, a sorcerer who has equally absent-mindedly brought him to life, Pernickety is sent from the Lost Property Office to a jumble sale where he is found by exactly the right person, a little girl named Sylvie Moonshine, someone who holds onto him, even when he's soggy. His adventures with Sylvie, and separately with her cat Jimjam, are full of charm, whether they are time-travelling or taking on nasty scoop-chasing journalist Ada Moore and Pernickety's idiosyncratic understanding of the world brings a special degree of humour and unpredictability to every situation. Chris Mould's illustrations are equal to the sparkling originality of the story, and this is a delight.