



# Reading with your child in Reception



# Simple Tips for Whilst You Read

- Initially, reading with your child is about reading to them. Model clear reading with fluency and expression. Model how to read unknown words.
- Discuss the meaning of words to get your child used to exploring words for themselves.
- Discuss alternative words. For example, 'Which word could the author have used that's a bit more exciting than big?'
- What is happening? Talk about what is happening in the pictures before you read the text. What can you see?
- Make predictions. What do you think will happen next? What makes you think that? If their prediction is way off the mark, model your own and give your reasons.
- Discuss the setting of the story. Have you read another book with the same setting?
- Read a range of different texts - recipe books, nursery rhymes, instruction manuals, leaflets for places you wish to visit, traditional tales.
- Show your child how to find information in a book rather than quickly finding it for them.

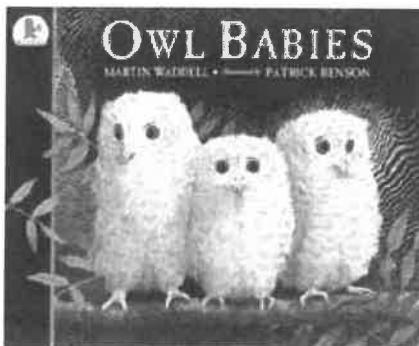
- Encourage your child to use expression when reading, especially for the voices of different characters.
- Discuss the punctuation on the page, for example, exclamation marks. Ask: What are these for? What's should you do when you see an exclamation mark?



**Suggested  
books to  
share with  
your child...**

# Pie Corbett's Reading Spine

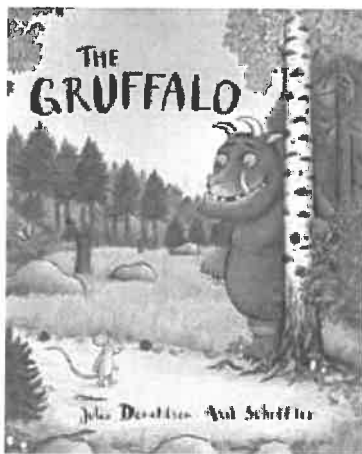
The books for the 4–5 age group build on the Nursery selection. They still mainly use patterned language, but begin to have a stronger emotional connection with the reader. There is also plenty to discuss and to wonder about. Many of them lend themselves to retelling and creating new versions or further adventures featuring the same characters.



## Owl Babies

*Martin Waddell (Walker Books)*

By now children should be familiar with the conventions of books such as cover, author, page-turning, as well as terms such as word, letter, full stops/capital letters, title, story and so on. Draw the distinction between the person who wrote the book and the artist. There is plenty for the children to discuss, especially the graded reactions of the three baby owls. Martin Waddell talks about getting the idea for the book from hearing a lost child in a supermarket crying, 'I want my Mummy'. This is a great book about basic feelings and comfort. Draw, paint or make huge owls. Make owl masks and act the story out as it is being told.



## The Gruffalo

*Julia Donaldson (Macmillan)*

Everyone loves this book! Read and re-read it until the story is in the children's heart forever. Ask: *Why do the animals ask the mouse to come to their houses? Why does the mouse tell the animals about the Gruffalo? How is mouse really clever? Why is the Gruffalo 'bursting with laughter'?* Map the story to see the pattern and retell with plenty of actions. Use puppets/finger puppets to retell the tale. Make a Gruffalo den/corner. Paint an enormous Gruffalo picture.

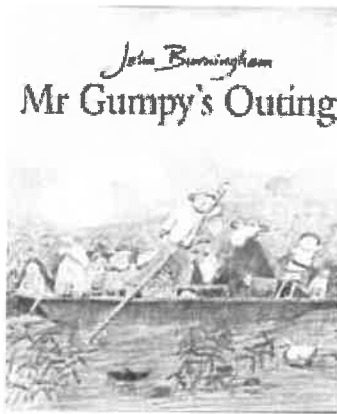


## Handa's Surprise

**READ & RESPOND**

*Eileen Browne (Walker Books)*

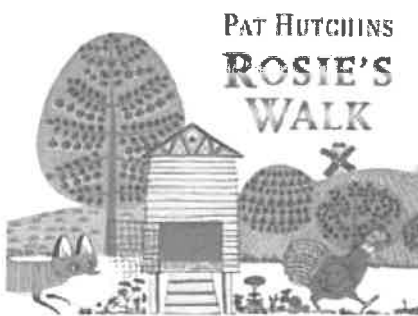
This is another picture book, like *Rosie's Walk*, in which the pictures say more than the words. Make the effort to buy the fruit to show the children. Draw or paint the animals and fruit. Retell the story and act it out, using a wallpaper map. Change the animals and fruit to invent a new version. Discuss what we know about Kenya from the story. (See the *Read & Respond* titles for further ideas.)



### Mr Gumpy's Outing

John Burningham (Bloomsbury)

Another cumulative tale that can easily be used to make your own version. Ask: What happens when everyone comes 'for a ride another day'? Use a roll of sturdy lining paper and draw a long map. Use this to draw the different animals and write what they say inside speech bubbles. Ask: *Who in the story is naughty? Should Mr Gumpy have been more sensible?* This is a lovely story to chat about and play at. Provide the toy animals or puppets and a floor map.



### Rosie's Walk **READ&RESPOND**

Pat Hutchins (Random House)

This is a clever book. Try reading it to the children without looking at the pictures. Then show the book and enjoy the slapstick. Ask: *Is Rosie clever or is the fox silly?* Pick up on any design or pattern that interests the children and imitate with crayons or paints. Draw the map, notice the prepositions and create new journeys with a fierce animal following! (See *Read & Respond* title for further ideas.)



### Six Dinner Sid

Inga Moore (Hodder)

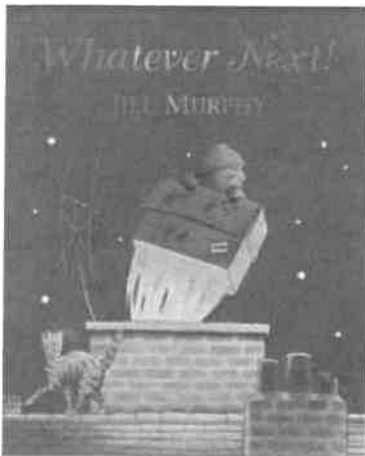
It would be worth talking about pets and the vet before starting the story. Then read and enjoy the beautiful art work. Make the houses out of cardboard boxes and play at the story. Ask: *Why would the cat want six dinners? Why don't the neighbours talk to each other?* Discuss the six different characters and then invent new ones, using alliteration, such as: *As Clive he was curious...* Hold pretend phone calls between the vet and the owners about their cat, and then make up what the owners would say to each other about Sid! Ask: *How are the people in Pythagoras Street different and why was this better?*



### Mrs Armitage

Quentin Blake (Random House)

Oh, the joy of Mrs Armitage! Make sure that you bring a real bike into the classroom! Read and all chant the story together. Discuss the pictures and words. Draw a huge basic bike and add extra ideas like Mrs Armitage. Recreate the bike in the classroom by starting with a chair and then add on all the things that are in the story. Finally, add sound effects and perform the story. Ask: *What might be added to the roller skates?*



## Whatever Next

READ & RESPOND

Jill Murphy (Macmillan)

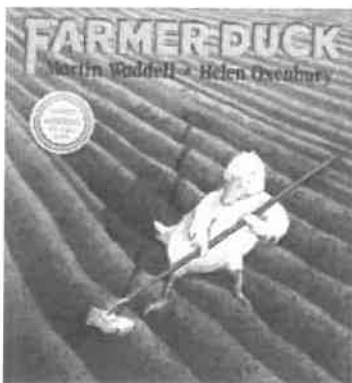
Show the inside title page. Ask: *What sort of character will the bear be?* The story is an obvious invitation to wonder 'how could we make a rocket, where would we travel and who would we meet?' Such play could lead to new versions of the story ('*You and your stories. Whatever next?*'). Ask: *Did Baby Bear really travel to the moon? Where did the story take place?* (See the *Read & Respond* title for further ideas.)



## On the Way Home

Jill Murphy (Macmillan)

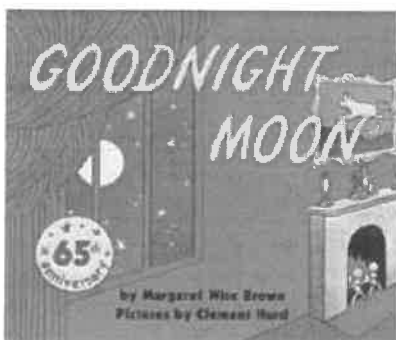
Look carefully at the front cover and ask: *What do we think is going to happen in the story?* Act the story out with children taking the different roles. Ask: *Why doesn't Claire tell the truth? Why does she cry at the end?* Notice how each mini story fits the basic story mountain pattern – main character, dilemma, resolution. With the class create your own versions, map, retell and write.



## Farmer Duck

Martin Waddell (Walker Books)

This is basically *Animal Farm* for five-year-olds. Compare the inside cover spread at the front with the back – and the cover – what do they think is going to happen? Then look at the inner title page for more clues. Act out the animals meeting. Tell the story of what the farmer did next. Ask: *What did the animals say? Did they all set to work?* Set up a farm area for play. Write messages to the farmer!



## Goodnight Moon

Margaret Wise Brown (HarperCollins)

*What other stories have a moon in them?* (*Owl Babies*, *Where the Wild Things Are*, *Can't You Sleep Little Bear?*). Make a list of all the things in your classroom and say: *In the classroom there was a clock, chair, a sand tray, a computer and lots of tables.* Then say good night to all these things and extend each idea – present this as a list poem. For example: *Goodnight clock that ticks. Goodnight chair where we can sit. Goodnight sand tray where we play each day.* This is a gentle and comforting story for the end of the day. Let children take it in turns to read or tell the story in a role-play area to a baby – and NOT just the girls. Let them learn to be comfortable with a book at an early age.

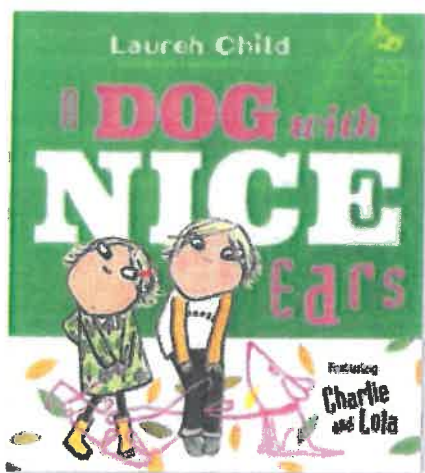


## Shhh!

*Sally Grindley (Bloomsbury)*

This amazing book is very good for sharing with parents, as the way the book is written demonstrates to parents how to read with their child. Read, join in and enjoy the story many times. Look for clues about what is on the next page and look carefully at each page as there is plenty to notice and comment upon. Think about how the characters feel. Tell the story of Jack and his visit to a giant's castle.

# Age 4-5



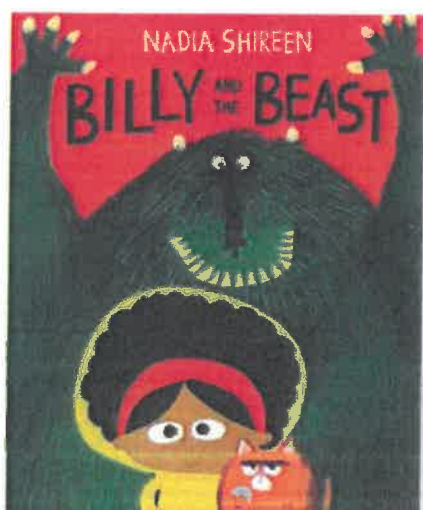
## **A Dog With Nice Ears**

**Lauren Child**

**Orchard Books**

Lola and Charlie spend a lot of time talking about the sort of dog they'd have, if only Mum and Dad would let them. Sometimes Lola imagines she has a dog, or even pretends Charlie is one!

A delightful story about how brilliant pets are – and why it's also OK not to have one.



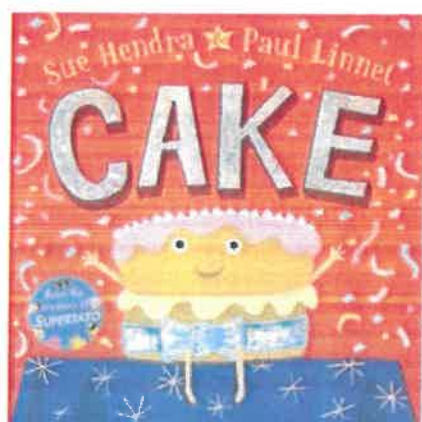
## **Billy and the Beast**

**Nadia Shireen**

**Jonathan Cape**

When Billy and her friend Fatcat are kidnapped while walking in the woods, it transpires that a hungry Beast is collecting ingredients for a terrible soup. Can Billy save her friends from the Beast's cruel culinary agenda?

Funny and empowering, this is a fantastic friendship story about being smart and kind.



## **Cake**

**Sue Hendra and Paul Linnet**

**Macmillan Children's Books**

Keen to look his best for a party, Cake buys a new hat for the occasion, which makes him look irresistible. However, he begins to feel uneasy when the other guests advance on him, singing 'Happy Birthday'...

Silly humour and vibrant illustrations will have children giggling as they wait to discover Cake's fate.

Age  
4-5



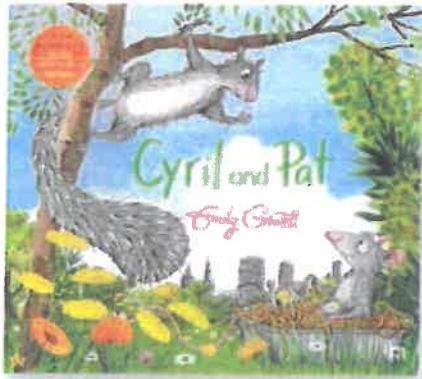
### **Creature Features**

Natasha Durley

Big Picture Press

Animals come in all shapes and sizes. Some have nice noses, and some have excellent ears.

This large format book about nature features tough card pages full of brightly illustrated animals, organised by their special features. Excellent for young readers building their vocabulary and learning about the natural world.



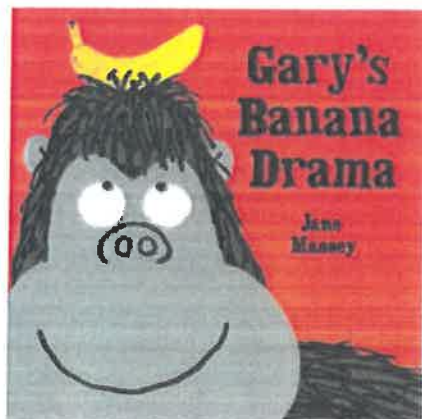
### **Cyril and Pat**

Emily Gravett

Two Hoots

Cyril is Lake Park's only squirrel, and he's lonely. When he meets Pat the big, grey other squirrel (a rat!), his life is transformed. But no-one else seems to approve of their friendship...

A colourful, rhyming story about friendship against the odds. Funny and endearing, Cyril's experience celebrates independent thought and the joy of difference.



### **Gary's Banana Drama**

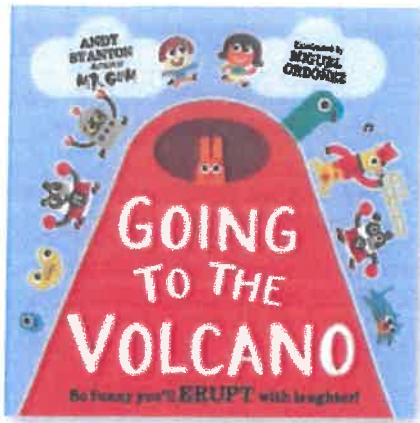
Jane Massey

Simon & Schuster

When Gary the gorilla runs out of bananas, his favourite food, he's forced to go out and find more. Although he sees bananas everywhere he goes, Gary can't eat a single one of them!

An engaging central character and bold illustrations packed with visual puns will make this comical story an instant favourite.



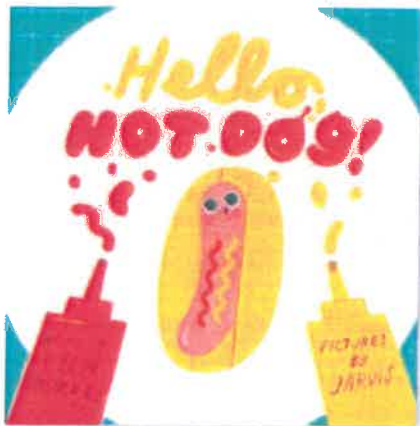


**Going to the Volcano**  
Andy Stanton, Illustrated by Miguel Ordóñez

Hodder Children's Books

Dwayne is heading off with Jane to look at the volcano. Yet when they reach the volcano, they get a bit of a shock!

This hilarious and anarchic picture book features a brilliant rhyming call-and-response format, which makes it ideal for reading aloud and will have children in fits of laughter.

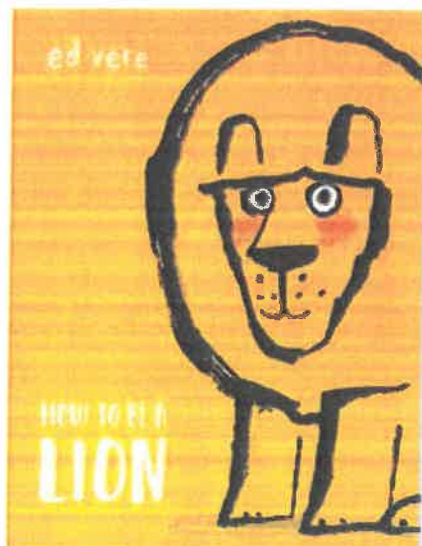


**Hello, Hot Dog!**  
Lily Murray, Illustrated by Jarvis

Lincoln Children's Books

Hot Dog is having a lovely snooze on a comfy bread roll when he suddenly realises he's about to become...LUNCH!

A quirky tale told in a delightful conversational style, with deceptively simple illustrations that convey a sense of jeopardy as well as humour. Likely to induce fits of giggling in young readers.



**How to Be a Lion**  
Ed Vere

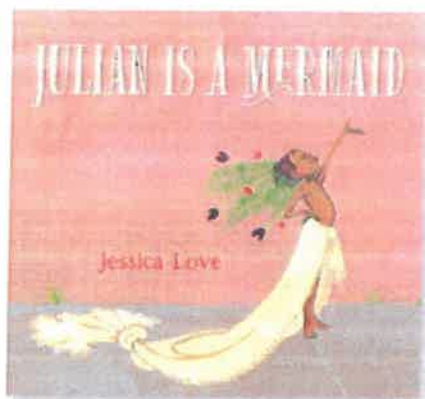
Puffin

Leonard is a gentle lion, and even though the other lions don't like him being friends with Marianne the duck, Leonard is determined that there has to be a better way to be a lion than roaring and chomping.

A wonderful book about friendship and gentleness.



Age  
4-5



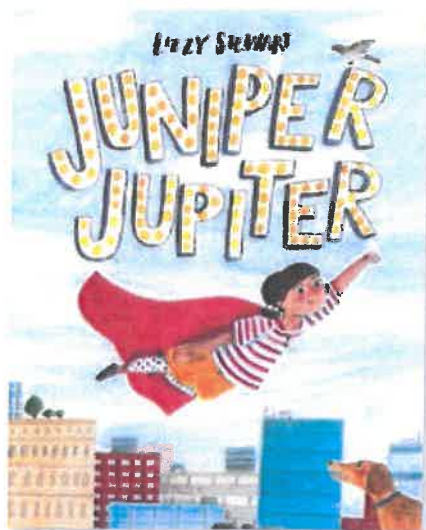
### **Julian is a Mermaid**

Jessica Love

Walker Books

When Julian spots three women in lavish mermaid costumes it fires his imagination, and all he can think about is becoming a mermaid himself – with a little help from his Nana's soft furnishings!

Sparse text and imaginative, vibrant illustrations celebrate Julian's individuality in a story of acceptance, joy and living your dreams.



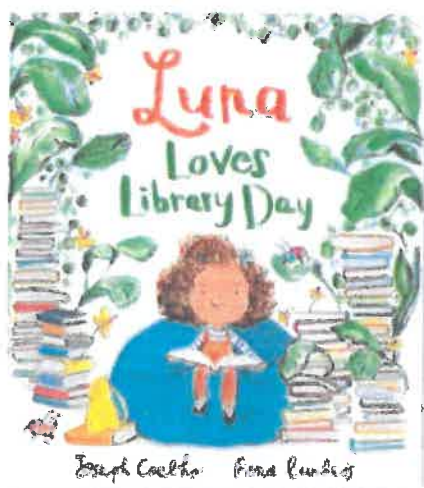
### **Juniper Jupiter**

Lizzy Stewart

Lincoln Children's Books

Juniper Jupiter is a real-life superhero. But something's missing – what's a hero without an amazing sidekick?

Lizzy Stewart's bold and delightful illustrations bring a real warmth to this special picture book that children will keep revisiting. A witty and earnest story about the quest for friendship.



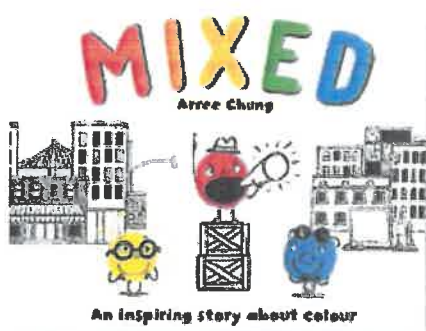
### **Luna Loves Library Day**

Joseph Coelho, Illustrated by Fiona Lumbers

Andersen Press

Every week, Luna looks forward to library day, when she discovers magic among the library shelves with her dad. They discover all sorts of things here – dinosaurs, mummies and unexplained mysteries.

From the talented poet Joseph Coelho, this charming picture book highlights the wonders of libraries for families and communities.



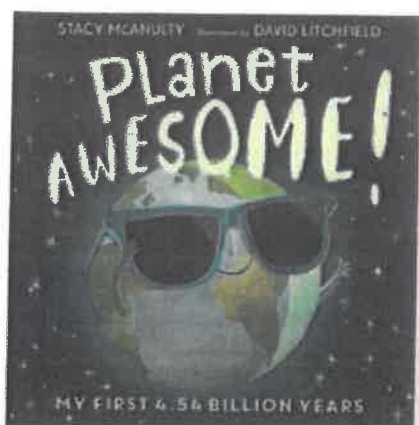
### **Mixed**

Arree Chung

Macmillan Children's Books

Reds, Yellows and Blues have always lived happily together, but when a renegade Red causes conflict, the colours divide. Is the love of a cool Blue and a bright Yellow be enough to restore harmony?

A funny, vibrantly illustrated, allegorical tale that celebrates individual talents and has an inspiring message about understanding and acceptance.

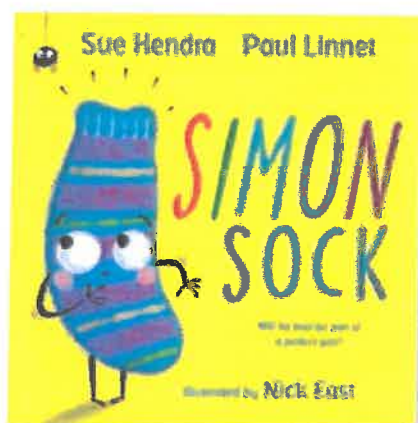


**Planet Awesome!**  
Stacy McAnulty, Illustrated by David Litchfield

Faber & Faber

Planet Awesome (sometimes known as Earth) presents the story of her first 4.54 billion years, from her birth as a hot, gassy baby planet to the lush, life-giving world we now inhabit.

A humorous and entertaining introduction to astronomy, geology, natural history and ecology from the point of view of planet Earth herself.

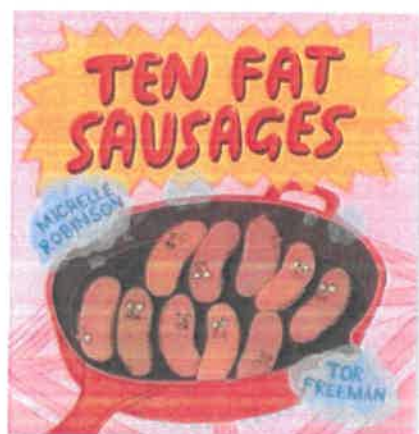


**Simon Sock**  
Sue Hendra & Paul Linnet, Illustrated by Nick East

Hodder Children's Books

Simon Sock lives in the drawer with all the other socks, who often go on adventures. Problem is, you have to be in a pair of socks to be chosen, and Simon is on his own. Yet when he finds his pair, it's not as straightforward as he expected...

A lovely, bright and sweet book about relationships and belonging.

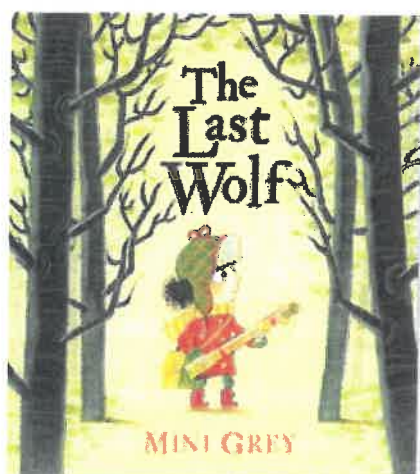


**Ten Fat Sausages**  
Michelle Robinson, Illustrated by Tor Freeman

Andersen Press

Ten sausages jump out of a frying pan only to encounter a series of unfortunate kitchen-related mishaps – will they manage to struggle free, or is their sausage well and truly cooked?

The bold illustrations and rhyming works well for a range of ages, all of whom will love the silly humour.



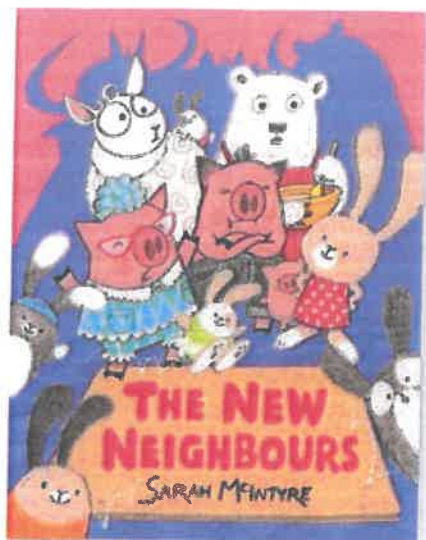
**The Last Wolf**  
Mini Grey

Jonathan Cape

One day, Little Red heads into the woods to catch a wolf. Yet when Red meets the Last Wolf, the Last Lynx and the Last Bear, she starts to understand why hunting is not the answer.

Rich, characterful illustrations, quirky humour and perfect pacing present a touching but non-preachy environmental message.

Age  
4-5



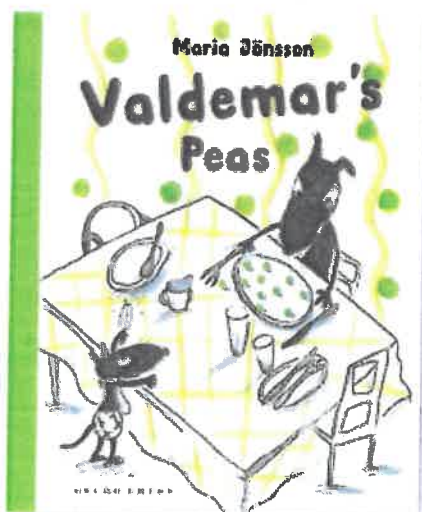
### **The New Neighbours**

**Sarah McIntyre**

**David Fickling Books**

In Pickle Rye, rats have moved into the ground-floor flat, and the other residents have convinced themselves that they're going to bury everyone in rat poo. Yet Bertram and Natasha aren't quite what anyone expected – and they have cake!

A clever, detail-rich and funny book about tolerance and not believing gossip.



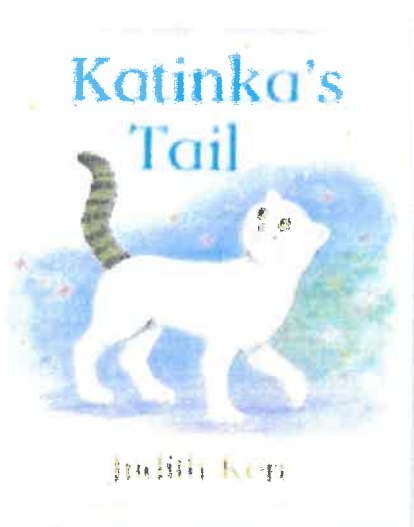
### **Valdemar's Peas**

**Maria Jönsson**

**Gecko Press**

Valdemar knows that all his peas must be eaten before he can have ice cream. How unfair! Yet a brilliant idea makes sure he gets his ice cream without eating a single pea...

Simple, expressive illustrations bring to life a little wolf character who is as ingenious as he is cheeky. Funny, familiar and satisfying.



### **Katinka's Tail**

**Judith Kerr**

**HarperCollins**

Katinka is an ordinary white cat – apart from her tail, which is stripy. Her owner always denies that there's anything odd about her cat with its stripy tail – but is she right?

A beautiful, funny, warm and tender picture book, with a magical twist in the tale.