



# Reading with your child in Year 2



# The National Curriculum

## **Year 2**

By Year 2, children should have developed pleasure in reading, motivation to read, an increased vocabulary and an improved level of understanding.

Whilst in year 2, they must add to this by learning about cause and effect in both narrative and non-fiction texts, e.g. what has prompted a character's behaviour in a story, or why certain dates are commemorated annually? This skill requires deep thinking and is easier for some children than others.

# What the National Curriculum Means for Parents

- In everyday life, model explaining why you have made the decisions you have made, e.g. 'I'm going to leave that there so that I remember it later.'
- Continue to model clear reading with fluency and expression
- Share your opinions about the book and explain why you think that.
- Discuss reasonable national events and why they are celebrated annually.
- Explain why people react the way they do think social situations.

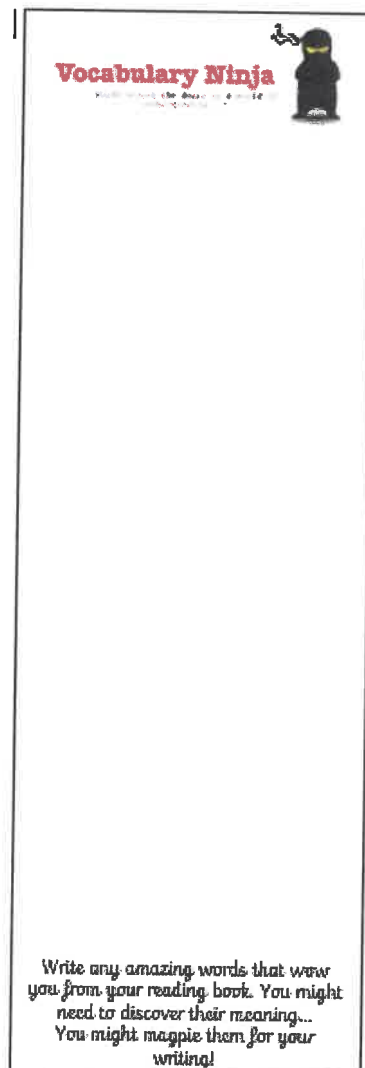
# Questions To Ask Your Child

Year 2 children are expected to:	To support this, you could say:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• continue to apply phonic knowledge and skills as the route to decode words until automatic decoding has become embedded and is fluent</li> </ul>	<p>Can you sound it out?</p> <p>Which sounds do you know?</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• read familiar words quickly without needing to sound them out</li> </ul>	<p>I bet you can find the word..... quicker than me.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• read words containing common suffixes</li> </ul>	<p>Can you put your finger on a word that ends in the suffix -less?</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• self-correct when they have read a sentence incorrectly</li> </ul>	<p>Did that sentence make sense to you? Do you want to try it again?</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• use a range of decoding strategies</li> </ul>	<p>How could we break it down into smaller chunks?</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• retell a story, referring to most of the key events and characters</li> </ul>	<p>I've forgotten - what happens in that story again?</p> <p>What were the characters called?</p> <p>What happened after that?</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• find the answer to questions in non-fiction, stories and poems</li> </ul>	<p>Which part of the text tells me about...?</p> <p>Can you find...?</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• decide how useful a non-fiction text is for a particular purpose</li> </ul>	<p>If I wanted to learn about..., would this be useful? Why?</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• be aware that books are set in different times and places</li> </ul>	<p>Do you think this book was set whilst you were alive? What about whilst I was alive? Why?</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• relate what they have read to their own experiences</li> </ul>	<p>Do you remember when we went to... and saw...? This story reminds me of that.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• continue to build up a repertoire of poems learnt by heart</li> </ul>	<p>Could you teach your little brother the words to Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star?</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• recognise key themes and ideas within a text</li> </ul>	<p>So, it seems like this story says you should always be honest. Do you know any other stories about honesty?</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• make simple inferences about thoughts and feelings of characters and reasons for their actions</li> </ul>	<p>What do you think... is feeling now? What might they do next? What makes you say that?</p>

# Ninja Vocabulary Bookmark

Encourage your child to bank any amazing vocabulary or challenging words they do not know on their ninja bookmark.





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

# Pie Corbett's Reading Spine

In Year 2, it is important to start to move from sharing picture books into sharing chapter books. These will not only provide a meaty read, but also demand that the children use their imagination. Of course, there are also many Reception and Year 1 children who will sit and enjoy a chapter book and this should form part of their reading experience. Many of the chosen books operate on different levels - from the satisfaction of good stories to the exploration of deeper themes.



## Traction Man is Here

Picture books

Mini Grey (Random House)

With the class read the pictures carefully, looking for details. Discuss together any difficult words. Re-read a number of times and talk about how the characters feel. Bring into school other kitchen equipment and encourage children to invent further adventures for Traction Man and Scrubbing Brush. Ask: *Are the adventures real? Who made them up? Design Traction Man adverts or invent a new superhero or heroine.*



## Meerkat Mail

Emily Gravett (Macmillan)

Begin by finding out a bit about meerkats and the other animals, such as jackals. Watch meerkats on film with the class. Invite the children to write a newspaper article about Sunny's visit to one of the places in the book. Encourage them to write postcards from other visits that he made. Together draw a map of the story. Also, read *Wolves* (Macmillan) and *Little Mouse's Big Book of Fears* (Macmillan).

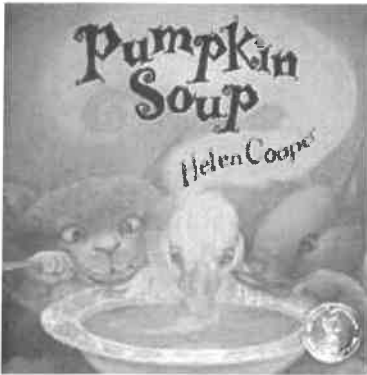


## Amazing Grace

READ & RESPOND

Mary Hoffman (Frances Lincoln)

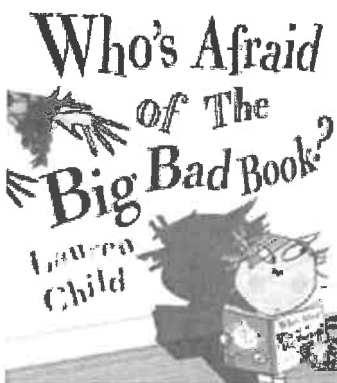
With the class tell or read the stories mentioned: Joan of Arc, Anansi, The Wooden Horse, Hannibal, *Treasure Island*, Hiawatha, Mowgli, Aladdin and Dick Whittington. Ask: *What sort of person is Grace? Where are the clues? In the story, are Raj and Natalie right? Which is the most important line in the story? (Possibly 'you can be anything'.)* (See the *Read & Respond* title for further ideas.)



## Pumpkin Soup

Helen Cooper (Corgi)

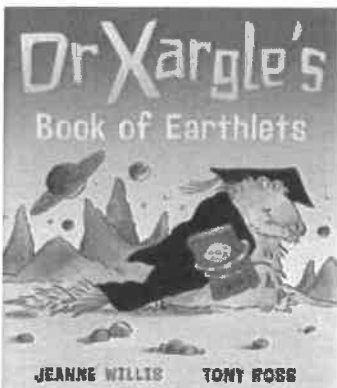
Read and enjoy the images and story. Ask the children: *What causes the argument and who was right?* Discuss how Cat and Squirrel's feelings change. Ask: *When are they happiest and why?* In role as Duck, tell the story of what happened when you left the Pumpkin. Also, with the class set the story to music, perform and dance with costumes and chant or sing with a dramatic chorus.



## Who's Afraid of the Big Bad Book?

Lauren Child (Orchard Books)

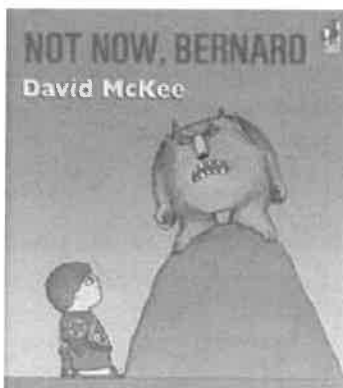
Before reading this book it is essential to know the stories of Goldilocks, Rapunzel, Dick Whittington and Cinderella – so start by retelling these stories or some of the wit will be lost! Having really discussed the book, encourage the children to try falling 'into a book' and becoming a character in a well-known fairy tale, but then alter what happens. Take photos, enlarge and copy these for the children. Then, ask the children to draw characters and objects onto the photos, using Lauren Child's collage technique.



## Dr Xargle's Book of Earthlets

Tony Ross (Andersen Press)

Read and enjoy – then discuss the funny bits. Ask: *What makes them amusing?* As a class collect some of the strange words that Dr Xargle uses and give them definitions, such as 'eggmangle', 'earthlet', 'hairdo of a sheep'. Ask: *What other strange things might aliens not understand if they came to earth?* Together make a little book of such misunderstandings.



## Not Now Bernard

David McKee (Andersen Press)

Re-read a number of times and then discuss the parents, the child and the monster. Ask: *Who in the story is naughty? Are the parents ignoring the child or is he choosing the wrong moment? Are they too busy? Are they kind parents? What does the monster stand for? When do we feel or behave like monsters?* Let the children take it in turn to role play being Mum and Dad and talk about what has happened in the kitchen!



## Tuesday

David Wiesner (Andersen Press)

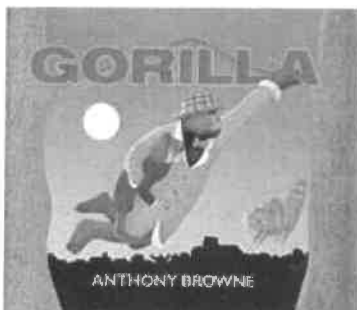
After reading ask the children: *What do the frogs remind you of on the leaves?* (Flying saucers.) Hot-seat the man at 11.21pm. Ask: *Why do the frogs fall off the leaves? Why is the last frog looking grumpy?* Then turn the opening pages into a story. As the detective, encourage the children to interview the man in pyjamas and write up a police report. Together role play the news report and make a film of the interview and news item. Ask: *What happens the next Tuesday at 7.58pm?*



## The Flower

John Light (Child's Play)

Before reading ask the class: *From the cover what might the book be about? How do the city people feel at the start of the book?* Pause on the page in the library and see what the children notice. Ask: *Why might books be dangerous? Why might a book be labelled 'do not read'?* Discuss the two books mentioned in the border: 'Jack and the Beanstalk' and *Alice in Wonderland*. Ask: *What do they have in common and how do they differ? Why were they chosen?* Stop where Brigg is reading the book and discuss what the book is about. Ask: *Why does he read it in secret?* Then read straight through and discuss the theme again at the end of the book.

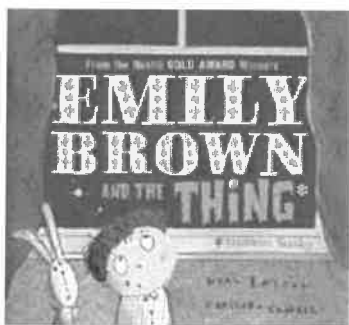


## Gorilla

READ & RESPOND

Anthony Browne (Walker Books)

Read through the story and discuss. Re-read and look more carefully at the pictures. With the class make a list of strange things. Discuss the Dad and the Girl. Ask: *What do they want? Talk about their relationship. Ask: Who is the gorilla? If you had to say what the book was about in one word, what word would you choose? Which is the most important picture and why?* (See *Read & Respond* title for further ideas.)



## Emily Brown and The Thing

Cressida Cowell (Orchard Books)

I would start this by bringing in a 'cuddly' and discussing why they are so important! Also, provide other 'Emily Brown' books for free reading, including *That Rabbit Belongs to Emily Brown* (Orchard Books). On the first reading, stop on the page where Emily asks, *What's really the matter?* and predict. Re-read and discuss the challenging vocabulary – provide pictures and relate words to children's own experiences, listing synonyms. Tell a story that Emily might have told the witches and discuss the use of the font changes. Discuss what the story is about – especially the end. With the class make lists of nice/scary things and write as list poems.



## Frog and Toad Together

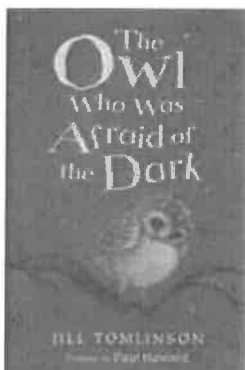
Novels

Arnold Lobel (HarperCollins)

Each of the five stories is a little gem. Here are some simple ideas for each tale:

1. Prepare model making lists with the class of what needs to be done and have children make 'job lists'.
2. Grow seeds: choose stories, poems, songs and play music for the seeds.
3. Bake cookies and discuss the need for 'will power'.
4. List brave characters for stories and discuss what it means to be brave.
5. What does the dream story mean?

Finally, ask: *What do the stories tell us about the different characters of Frog and Toad?* Read through and list clues. Ask: *Why would they make good friends? Which is your favourite story and why?* Also, read *Frog and Toad are Friends* (HarperCollins).

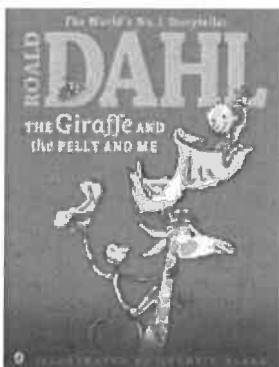


## The Owl Who Was Afraid of the Dark

READ & RESPOND

Jill Tomlinson (Puffin)

List and discuss fears about the dark saying: *you are only afraid of the dark because you don't know about it.* Role play Plop talking with the different characters. Write a letter to Plop to persuade him that the dark is actually friendly. Use an image of an owl (or the real thing if available) and draw in your 'nature sketch book'. Ask: *How has Plop changed by the end?* Write list poems about the dark. Find out about other nocturnal animals and create constellations. Paint and create owl collages and masks. Revisit *Owl Babies* (Walker Books). (See the *Read & Respond* title for further ideas.)



## The Giraffe, the Pelly and Me

Roald Dahl (Puffin)

This is a meaty read. Begin by finding out a bit about giraffes, pelicans and monkeys. Invite the class to write adverts for 'The Ladderless Window Cleaning Company' and invent names for new sweets. Discuss the final song and its meaning. Draw 'The Grubber'. Ask: *What dreams would you have?* Learn, sing (or chant) and perform the various songs with the class. (See the *Read & Respond* title for further ideas.)

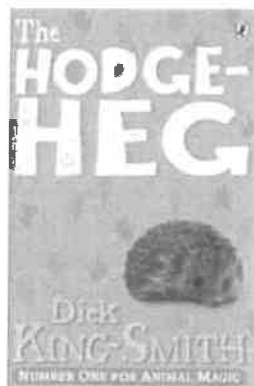


## Fantastic Mr Fox

READ & RESPOND

Roald Dahl (Penguin)

Before reading, it might be worth finding out a little about foxes. Draw the three farmers and collect information/quotes about them from the book. Re-read and savour the great writing in Chapter 3. Invite children to write letters to the farmers from the crowd at the end of chapter 7. Before reading Chapter 9 ask: *What do you think Mr Fox's plan will be?* Pause in Chapter 12 and ask: *Are the other animals right?* Pause in Chapter 14 and ask: *Is stealing right in this case?* Discuss with the children whether farmers should shoot foxes. Then with the class role play the conversation between the farmers at the end. (See the *Read & Respond* title for further ideas.)



## The Hodgeheg

READ & RESPOND

*Dick King-Smith (Puffin)*

Introduce the book by showing film/images of hedgehogs and discussing the problem they have with roads! Make a list of rules about crossing the road for Max. Ask: *What advice would you give Max about crossing the road?* Write sentences that swap over words and letters. Role play a family discussion about Max's condition in Chapter 4. Hot-seat the hedgehog Max meets in Chapter 5. Tell the story of 'the first crossing' and hot-seat the lollipop lady at the end! Next, try reading Dick King-Smith's *Fox Busters* (Puffin). (See the *Read & Respond* title for further ideas.)



## Flat Stanley

READ & RESPOND

*Jeff Brown (HarperCollins)*

With the class use 'role on the wall' to collect insights into the family and ask: *What are they like and how do we know?* Together explore their feelings and list the advantages of being flat. Encourage the children to write the police report for Chapter 2 and the invite from Thomas. As journalists, invite them to interview Stanley and write a news report for Chapter 4. Discuss the teasing in Chapter 5 and how the boys feel. Finally, can they write another adventure for Stanley? Make available the other 'Flat Stanley' books for independent or guided reading. (See the *Read & Respond* title for further ideas.)



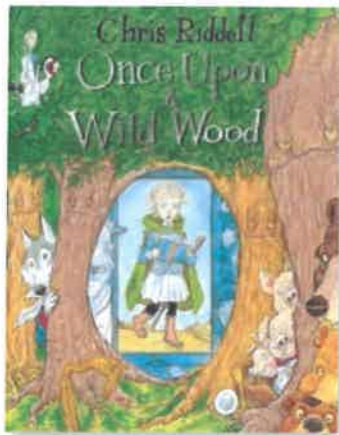
## Willa and old Miss Annie

*Berlie Doherty (Catnip)*

This is a gentle, deep book of three linked stories that should be savoured and thought about.

1. Read pages 1 and 2: discuss what will happen, who is Joshua and how will they all become friends. Read 5 pages and ask: *Who is lost? What is 'Joshua' about in one word?*
2. In 'The Bony' discuss the rights and wrongs. Ask: *What would you say to Silas and Molly?*
3. Discuss pets and friends. Ask: *Can wild animals be pets?*

# Age 6-7



**Once Upon a Wild Wood**  
Chris Riddell

Macmillan Children's Books

Meet Little Green Rain Cape as she sets off through the wild woods on her way to Rapunzel's birthday party. On the way, she meets a host of beloved fairy tale characters, from the Beast to Thumbelina.

A truly delightful book, with illustrations that will set children's imaginations alight.

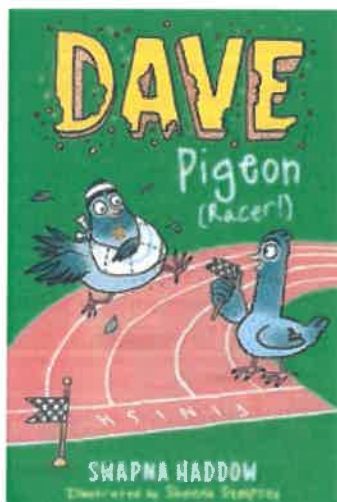


**Bad Nana: Older Not Wiser**  
Sophy Henn

HarperCollins

Bad Nana is quite unlike Jeanie's other two grandmas: she dresses entirely in black, with an occasional sparkly pink turban that makes her look like an alien overlord. She's also been banned from the line-dancing club...

A delightful and laugh-out-loud book about an unusual grandma's adventures with her granddaughter.



**Dave Pigeon (Racer!)**  
Swapna Haddow, Illustrated by Sheena Dempsey

Faber & Faber

Dave Pigeon needs his wing fixed, so it's off to Pawsville Pets for him and Skipper. However, when a rather unpleasant pigeon challenges Dave to a flying contest, he can't say no.

Packed with puns and jokes, and the final message about believing in yourself is perfect for younger children.

Illustration © Mini Grey



Age  
6-7



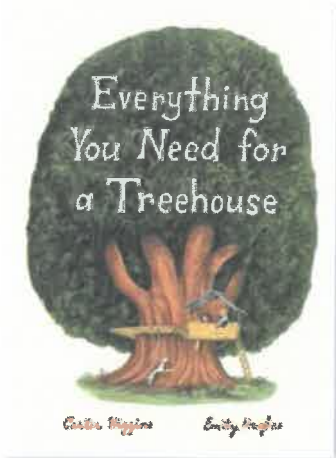
### **Dogs in Space: The Amazing True Story of Belka and Strelka**

Vix Southgate, Illustrated by Iris Deppe

Wren & Rook

Belka and Strelka were stray dogs that were chosen by a scientist at the Moscow Space Centre to become part of the Soviet space exploration programme in the 1950s and 60s.

This informative and appealing picture book details the space dogs' journey through training to orbiting the earth and returning home safely.



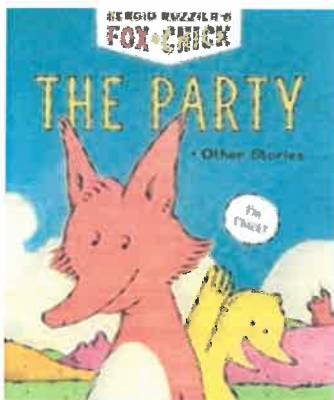
### **Everything You Need for a Treehouse**

Carter Higgins, Illustrated by Emily Hughes

Chronicle Books

Everything you need for a treehouse starts with looking up and imagining...

Glass houses, ghost-like tents hung above rivers and a treehouse library are just a few of the treasures within – surely there can be no better imaginary treehouses than the incredible ones in this lyrical and beautiful book.



### **Fox & Chick: The Party**

Sergio Ruzzier

Abrams & Chronicle

Explore the unique friendship and everyday adventures of mild-mannered Fox and excitable Chick. Chick has a party in Fox's bathroom, the friends gather ingredients for soup and Fox attempts to paint Chick's portrait.

The charming watercolour illustrations in this delightful three-story collection are full of personality and humour.

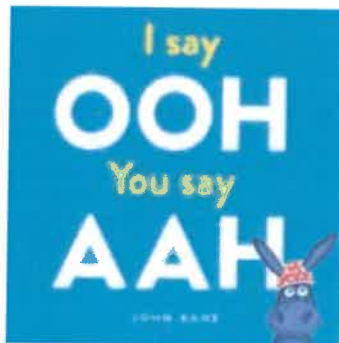


**Hansel & Gretel**  
Bethan Woollvin

**Two Hoots**

Willow is a good witch, and it's the horrendously naughty Hansel and Gretel who wreck her house and her magic spells. As well as gobbling all Willow's yummy food, they also smash her potion bottles – and even change her cat so it's the size of a house!

A delightful twist on the classic fairy tale.



**I Say OOH You Say AAH**  
John Kane

**Templar Books**

It's really very simple: when I say OOH, you have to say AAH. When you see an ANT, you say UNDERPANTS, and if you see the colour RED, pat your HEAD.

This brilliant call-and-response book is perfect for fun with kids who can remember and relish all its chaotic rules.

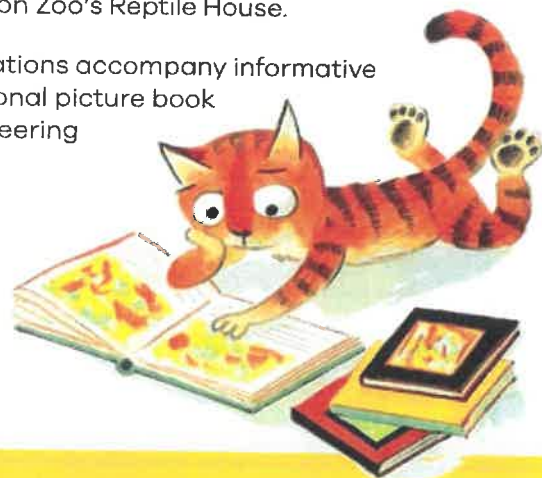


**Joan Procter, Dragon Doctor**  
Patricia Valdez, Illustrated by Felicity Sala

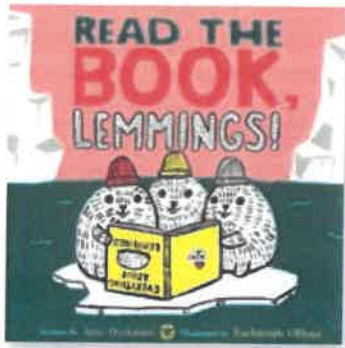
**Andersen Press**

From a young age, Joan Procter loved reptiles. In the early 20th century, she became the first female Curator of Reptiles at the Natural History Museum, and designed London Zoo's Reptile House.

Atmospheric illustrations accompany informative text in this inspirational picture book biography of a pioneering female scientist.



Age  
6-7



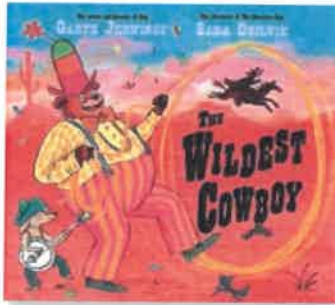
### **Read the Book, Lemmings!**

Ame Dyckman, Illustrated by Zachariah OHora

Andersen Press

According to First Mate Foxy's book *Everything About Lemmings*, lemmings don't actually jump off cliffs. There's just one problem: the lemmings haven't read it...

A laugh-out-loud story of Foxy's many failed attempts to get lemmings to read the book rather than jump ship, it's a sweet and simple tale about communication.

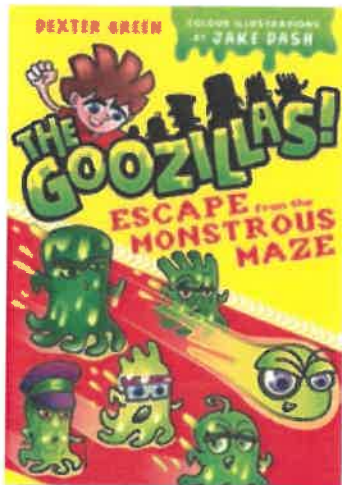


### **The Wildest Cowboy**

Garth Jennings, Illustrated by Sara Ogilvie

Macmillan Children's Books

Only the toughest folks live in the dour Wild West town of Fear, but that's not going to discourage Bingo B Brown, purveyor of fancy dress! Yet when he comes face to face with a scary cowboy, it's going to take all Bingo's zany goodies to vanquish the source of Fear's negativity.



### **The Goozillas! Escape from the Monstrous Maze**

Dexter Green, Illustrated by Jake Dash

Oxford Children's Books

When Max sneezes himself into his favourite app, World of Slime, he meets the Goozillas. Unfortunately, Max's sneeze shatters the goo-producing Golden Glob, and without it, the Goozillas' volcano home will dry out.

This fast-paced, accessible series will appeal to fans of computer games, comics and all things slimy.



### **Magical Kingdom of Birds:**

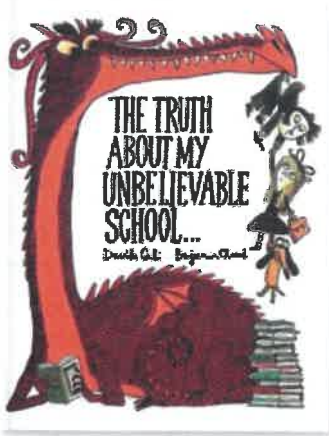
#### **The Sleepy Hummingbirds**

Anne Booth, Illustrated by Rosie Butcher

Oxford Children's Books

When Maya receives a colouring book called *The Magical Kingdom of Birds*, she is transported to a beautiful realm filled with magnificent birds. But the hummingbirds are in trouble – can Maya help?

Great for those advancing to chapter books, this magical adventure story with added facts about birds will delight fans of animal stories.

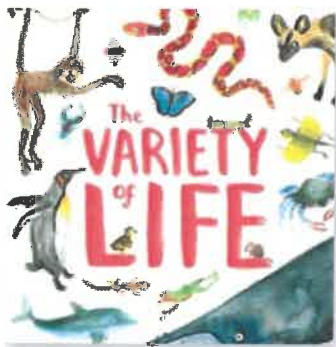


**The Truth About My Unbelievable School...**  
Davide Cali, Illustrated by Benjamin Chaud

Chronicle Books

When Henry is asked to show a new pupil around the school, he takes her to see the class pet (a giant jellyfish), the science room (featuring what appears to be a space rocket being built) and a rather reptilian swimming instructor...

A fantastically quirky book which is a quick read but still feels super cool.



**The Variety of Life**  
Nicola Davies, Illustrated by Lorna Scobie

Hodder Children's Books

Did you know there are 400,000 species of beetle – but only eight species of bear? Jam-packed with fun facts and figures – and stunning illustrations – this book not only encourages children to treasure the world's biodiversity, but also indicates which species are threatened by extinction, to help children understand the importance of looking after our planet.



**The Bad Guys: Episodes 1 and 2**  
Aaron Blabey

Scholastic

Everyone is wrong about Mr Wolf. Just because he's got big pointy teeth and razor-sharp claws doesn't make him a bad guy. No, he's a good guy – and so are his friends. They are definitely NOT criminals.

In comic book format, this is a very funny story full of action and crazy characters.



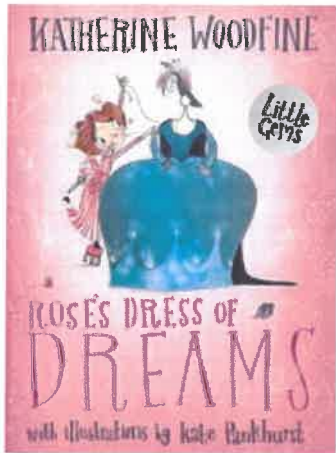
**The Zoological Times: The Animal Kingdom's Wildest Newspaper**  
Stella Gurney, Illustrated by Matthew Hodson

Lincoln Children's Books

*Read all about it!* Published in association with the Natural History Museum, this funny newspaper-style non-fiction book features tons of facts, puzzles, jokes and activities about all manner of animals, from giraffes to lions.

With its fun format, young readers can dip in and out when they like.

Age  
6-7



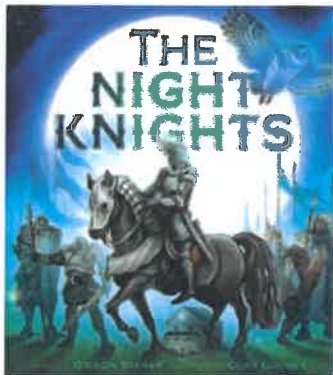
### **Rose's Dress of Dreams**

**Katherine Woodfine, Illustrated by  
Kate Pankhurst**

**Little Gems (Barrington Stoke)**

It's France in the mid-1700s, and Rose loves beautiful dresses. After seeing a fortune teller, Rose decides that she must move to Paris if she's to realise her dream of being a dressmaker.

Perfect for young fashion fans moving away from picture books, and resplendent with historical and dressmaking detail.



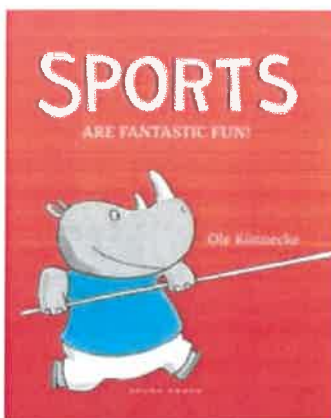
### **The Night Knights**

**Gideon Sterer, Illustrated by Cory Godbey**

**Abrams Books for Young Readers**

Night time might be considered a time for monsters, but why haven't they ever actually been seen? Heroic Night Knights are the ones guarding children's houses when darkness falls, and fighting monsters at sea and in the air.

Beautifully redolent of classic fantasy imagery, this is a magically reassuring book for bedtime.



### **Sports are Fantastic Fun!**

**Ole Könnecke**

**Gecko Press**

Football, rugby and windsurfing are so much fun! Full of brilliant detail about a vast range of sports – from horse riding to ice hockey, fishing to climbing – this humorously illustrated picture book gives children a good introduction to the rules and ethos of all manner of sports, in a highly entertaining way.



Illustration © Erika Meza