



Reading with your child in Year 3



The National Curriculum

Year 3

By year 3, pupils should be able to read books written at an age-appropriate interest level. They should be able to read them accurately and at a speed that allows them to focus on understanding what they have read, rather than on decoding individual words. They should be able to decode most new words outside of their spoken vocabulary, making a good attempt at the word's pronunciation.

As their decoding skills become more secure, efforts should be made to introduce children to new words which will increase their vocabulary. This can be done through discussion and by introducing children to a wide range of texts, including stories, poems, plays and non-fiction pieces on a wide range of subjects.

They should be able to read these texts independently, fluently and enthusiastically, and should be learning to read silently to themselves.

What the National Curriculum Means for Parents

- Allow your child to experience lots of books on many different topics. This goes beyond the home reading book your child is given by school.
- Encourage your child to attempt to pronounce new words they see on signs or within their environment and model the correct way.
- Broaden the vocabulary you use when speaking to your child and be prepared to clarify the meaning of a wider range of words.

Questions To Ask Your Child

Year 3 children are expected to:	To support this, you could say:
Apply their growing knowledge of root words, prefixes and suffixes, both to read aloud and to understand the meaning of new words they meet.	Can you find a word which begins with the prefix dis-? What does the prefix anti- mean? So, what might this new word mean?
Develop positive attitudes to reading and an understanding of what they have read.	What happened in your story? What kind of text would you like to read next?
Listen to and discuss a wide range of fiction, poetry, plays, non-fiction and reference books.	What did you think about...? Shall we go and watch a play about...?
Use dictionaries to check the meaning of words they have read.	If you're not sure what a word means, what could you do?
Increase their familiarity with a wide range of books, including fairy stories, myths and legends, and retell some of these orally.	What genre is next? Can you tell me the story of...? Do you know any myths?
Identify themes and conventions within texts.	What message do you think this story is trying to tell us?
Prepare poems and playscripts to read aloud and to perform, showing understanding through intonation, tone, volume and action.	Would you like to read a poem to us after dinner? This part of the script is a troll saying speaking; how might they say it?
Discuss words and phrases that capture the reader's interest and imagination.	What an interesting use of words; why do you think the author chose those?
Recognise some forms of poetry, e.g. free verse, narrative poetry.	Do you know what kind of poem this is?
Check that the text makes sense to them.	Did you understand that?
Discuss their understanding of the text.	What do you think that means?
Explain the meaning of new words in context.	What does... mean? I've never heard of that before.

Ask questions to improve their understanding of the text.	Is there anything you want to ask that you're unsure about?
Draw inferences such as inferring character's feelings, thoughts and motives.	How do you think... is feeling? What makes you think that? Why did he make that choice?
Predict what might happen from the details stated and implied.	If they just..., what might they do next? Who could it be? What makes you think that?
Identify the main ideas drawn from more than one paragraph and summarise these.	So, what has this part of the story been about? Have you spotted a theme in the story?
Identify how language, structure and presentation contribute to meaning?	Why do you think the author has used... in the text?
Retrieve and record information from non-fiction texts.	What did...? Which part tells you about...?
Participate in discussion about both books that are read to them and those they can read themselves, taking turns and listening to what others say.	Would you like me to read this page? What did you think of...? I thought that... Do you think... would like this book? What makes you think that?

Ninja Vocabulary Bookmark

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

Vocabulary Ninja
Made with the 100 word to a million words



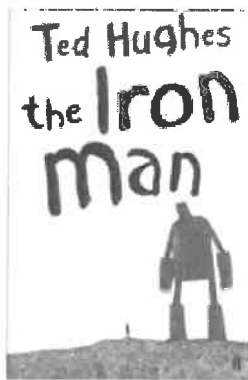
Write any amazing words that wow you from your reading book. You might need to discover their meaning... You might mappie them for your writing!



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

Pie Corbett's Reading Spine

Whilst I have selected just one picture book for Year 3, there are many more which will intrigue and provide a challenge for this age group such as *The Day the Crayons Quit* (HarperCollins) or *John Brown, Rose and the Midnight Cat* (Puffin). Children of this age need a great storyline, but should also be experiencing deep and rich books.



The Iron Man

READ & RESPOND

Ted Hughes (Faber)

Notice and imitate the opening, using rhetorical questions to draw in the reader. With the class role play the family talking about the picnic or Hogarth telling his parents about what he had seen. Invite them to create a diary for Hogarth and news bulletins for both the Iron Man and space-bat-angel-dragon. Discuss which of the two tales is strongest and why? Ask them to draw parallels with other 'taming the monster' stories. (See the *Read & Respond* title for further ideas.)



Cat Tales: Ice Cat

Linda Newberry (Usborne)

With the class look at the use of imagery on the first few pages and make a list of other similes for snow. Ask: *What else is white? Why does Tom feel funny about Gary's dad in Chapter 1? How can a creature be in the snow? Why does Tom feel bad-tempered with his dad in Chapter 2? Talk about the lump of ice inside of him. Ask: In Chapter 3 what is the Ice Cat searching for? In Chapter 4 how can the cat's touch be inside of Tom and why does he destroy the snowman and blame the Ice Cat? In Chapter 5 explain the Ice Green Cat's role in the story and why the icy hardness melts away. Ask: What is it all about?*



The Sheep-pig

READ & RESPOND

Dick King-Smith (Puffin)

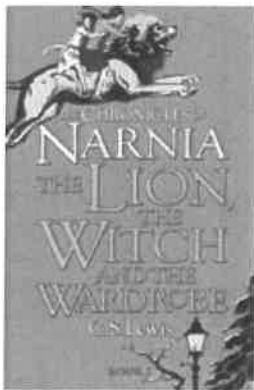
Remind the children that they have previously read a Dick King-Smith novel, *Hodgeheg* (Puffin). Not surprisingly, he used to be a farmer. Ask: *Are pigs stupid? (See Chapter 2.) Why does Fly look after Babe? At the start of Chapter 3 what are the puppies not telling Babe?* Discuss the relationship between Fly and Babe. Ask: *What is it about Babe's character that is so endearing?* Invite the children to write the police report about the sheep rustling incident and the news report about the sheep-dog trials. (See the *Read & Respond* title for further ideas.)



The Abominables

Dick King-Smith (Puffin)

This is a longer read. To set the scene, begin with some introduction to the Abominable Snowman, the Yeti and the mountains of Tibet. Together predict what might happen from the first sentence. After reading Chapter 2 ask them to write stories to read to the yetis. Ask: *How is 'the world outside changing' and why is this an issue?* After reading Chapter 3 can they write a newspaper story about the yetis? After reading Chapter 5 discuss whether the plan is a good one. After reading Chapter 13 encourage the class to write a leaflet to persuade people to help the yetis. As a final task, together rename the story! Also, read *Journey to the River Sea* (Macmillan) and *One Dog and his Boy* (Marion Lloyd Books).

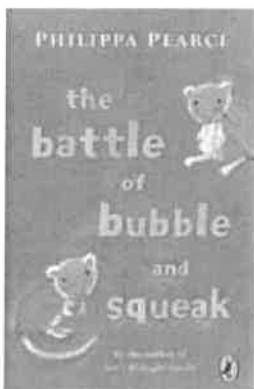


The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe

READ & RESPOND

CS Lewis (HarperCollins)

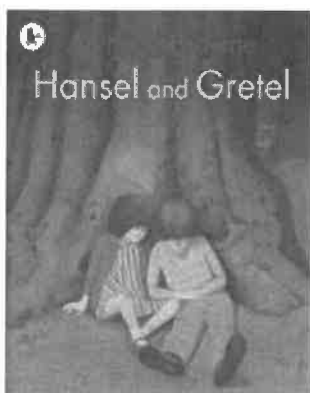
After reading, ask the class to write list poems 'through the magic door/ I saw...'. Re-read and discuss together the reaction of the Professor. Draw the lantern in the snow with the trees and ask them to write a description. In small groups recreate the meal in Mr Tumnus's house and describe it. Discuss together which is the key scene and what it means. Draw a Narnia map and invite children to draw in episodes. Encourage the children to write information reports about some of the magical creatures and design traps for the nasty ones! Together make character charts for each character to compare and contrast. With permission watch the film in lesson. Then use role play to explore conversations between the children about Edmund's behaviour. Explain his actions. Ask: *Why is he forgiven?* (See the Read & Respond title for further ideas.)



The Battle of Bubble and Squeak

Philippa Pearce (Penguin)

With the class create role-on-the-wall for Sid, Bill and Alice Sparrow. Ask: *How does the writer show their characters?* Use diary entries or hot-seating to keep alive the different viewpoints of what is happening in the family. Pause at the end of Chapter 10 asking them to predict how it might end. Discuss the end of the story. Interestingly, the story is based on two gerbils that Philippa Pearce's daughter Sally kept, as she said: "almost all the incidents... happened to us: [the gerbils] gnawed holes in the curtains, the cat caught one and we had to take it to the vet. Our gerbil never fully recovered, but happily the fictional one does."



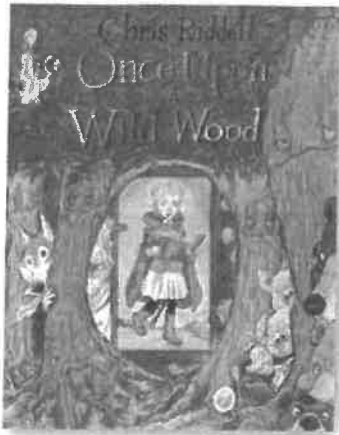
Hansel and Gretel

Picture book

Anthony Browne (Walker Books)

Read a version of the original and compare it together with the class. Read the story without showing the pictures to the children, then read with the pictures. Spend time looking at each picture, so the children can notice the visual play and discuss the changes in mood the artist portrays. Encourage them to imagine being in the wood and ask: *What would you see, hear, feel, think?* Then create list poems from these ideas. Discuss the step-mother/witch and the visual imagery. Ask: *Are they just tricks? What should the father have done?* Discuss the role of poverty in the story.

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.



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.



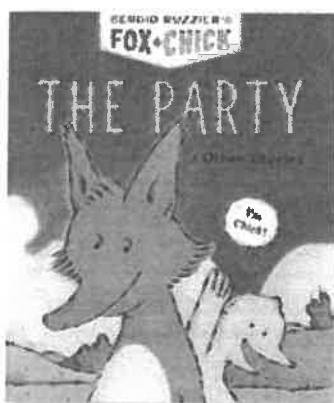
Everything You Need for a Treehouse

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 Woolvin

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 Felicita Sala

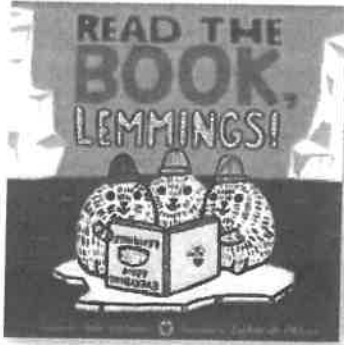
Andersen Press

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:

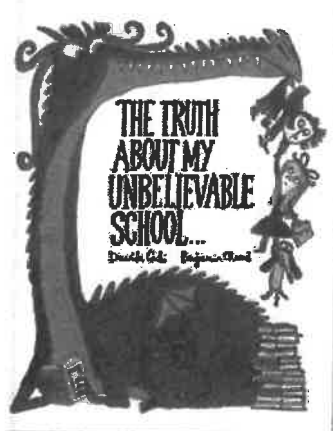
The Sleepy Hummingbirds

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

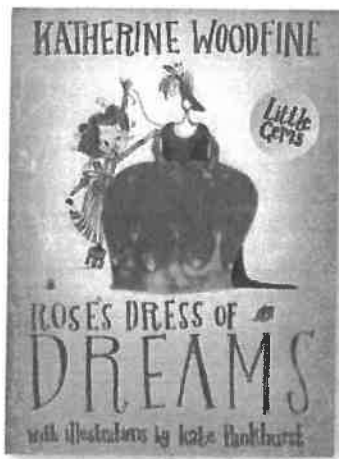
Stella Gurney, Illustrated by Matthew Hodson

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



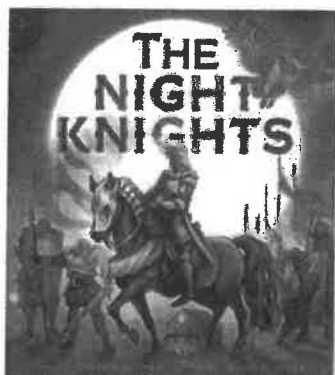
Rose's Dress of Dreams

**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.



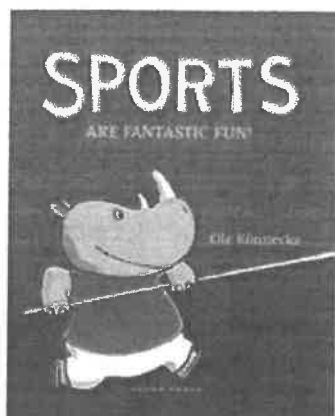
The Night Knights

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.



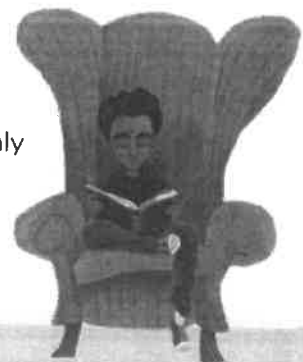
Sports are Fantastic Fun!

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



Age 8-9



**Ade's Amazing
Ade-ventures:
Battle of the Cyborg Cat**
Ade Adepitan, Illustrated
by David M Buisán

Studio Press

Nine-year-old Ade and his family move from Nigeria to London, where they encounter both hostility and kindness. Ade is self-conscious about his leg caliper, but with the support of his new friends, he embraces his individuality.

Written by the well-known Paralympian, this amusing childhood memoir is an uplifting tale of hope, friendship and determination.

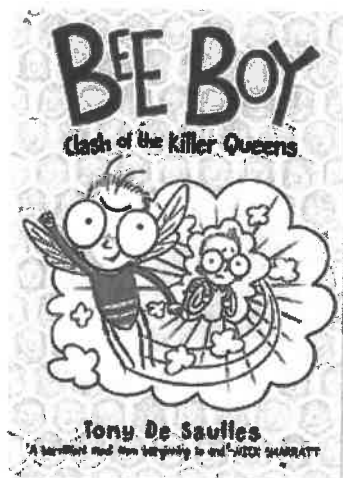


Amelia Fang and the Barbaric Ball
Laura Ellen Anderson

Egmont

Prince Tangine always gets what he wants, so when he takes her pet pumpkin Squashy, vampire Amelia Fang is heartbroken. But when she embarks on a rescue mission, Ameila is shocked to discover some glittery secrets about her nemesis.

A ghoulishly funny chapter book about friendship, with fabulous gothic illustrations.



Bee Boy: Clash of the Killer Queens
Tony De Saulles

Oxford Children's Books

When Mel discovers he can transform into a honeybee, he enjoys an amazing bee's-eye view of life inside a hive. But then he must protect his buzzy friends, not only from predators, but also from bully Norman, who vandalises the hive and nicknames Mel 'Bee Boy'.

This funny illustrated chapter book incorporates fascinating facts about these invaluable insects.

Age
8-9



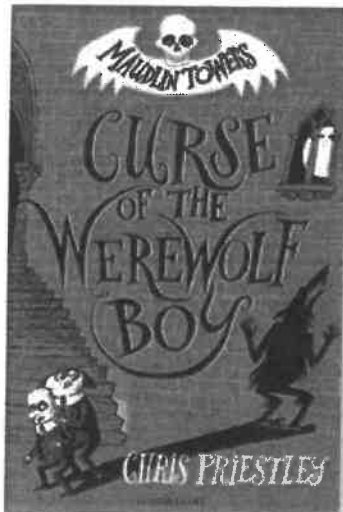
Corpse Talk: Ground-Breaking Women

Adam & Lisa Murphy

David Fickling Books

In this comic book, chat show host Adam Murphy interviews 18 historical women, including Joan of Arc, Pocahontas and Anne Frank, all freshly dug up from the grave.

Unique, accessible and slightly macabre, with a snappy style and colourful comic-strip illustrations, this humorous series is packed full of fascinating facts.



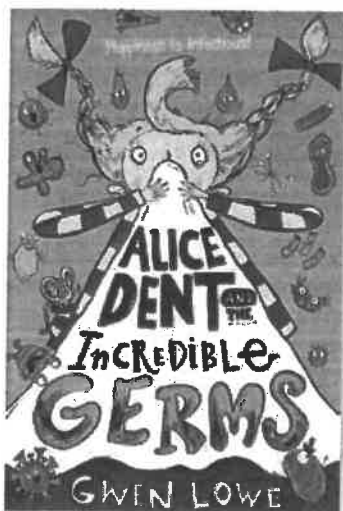
Curse of the Werewolf Boy

Chris Priestley

Bloomsbury

Best friends Mildew and Sponge are not happy to be back at Maudlin Towers for a new term, until strange things begin to happen – from the theft of the prestigious School Spoon to the arrival of a potential ghost in the attic.

A tightly-plotted laugh-out-loud school story full of originality.



Alice Dent and the Incredible Germs

Gwen Lowe

Chicken House

Alice is used to her hygiene-obsessed parents thinking all children are health hazards, but it's worse at Tryton Mell School, where the food is frozen to eliminate germs, and having a cold is a crime.

Can Alice outwit the Best Minister for Everything Nicely Perfect's evil plans? Find out in this brilliantly original tale of friendship and adventure.



Illustration from *The Truth About My Unbelievable School...*
© Benjamin Chaud (Chronicle Books)

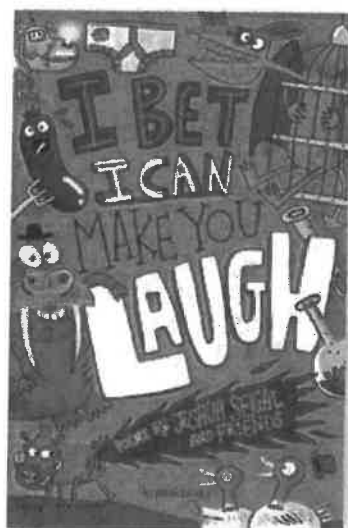


Elise and the Second-hand Dog
Bjarne Reuter, Illustrated by Kirsten Raagaard,
Translated by Siân Mackie

Wacky Bee

While her mother is away building a suspension bridge in the Amazon, Elise is lonely, so her father buys a dog to keep her company. Much to her surprise, the dog talks! Elise and McAddudi become best friends, and Elise's wild imagination takes them on many adventures.

Full of laughs and heart, this quirky book is one that readers won't forget.



I Bet I Can Make You Laugh
Joshua Seigal and Friends, Illustrated by Tim Wesson

Bloomsbury

This collection of very funny poems – from an acrostic poem that doesn't quite work, to a love letter to someone the poet doesn't really like – are, in many cases, hilariously uncomplimentary!

Featuring a range of children's poets and traditional verses from cultures around the world, this is a great collection for older primary kids.



Iguana Boy Saves the World with a Triple Cheese Pizza
James Bishop, Illustrated by Rikin Parekh

Hodder Children's Books

Dylan is desperate to be a superhero, just like his big brother and sister. But when he finally gets his superpower, it turns out to be a really rubbish one. Yet when Platypus Girl takes away all the other superheroes' superpowers, only Iguana Boy can save the world...

Packed full of comic-strip illustrations, this energetic, funny story is full of heart.

Age
8-9



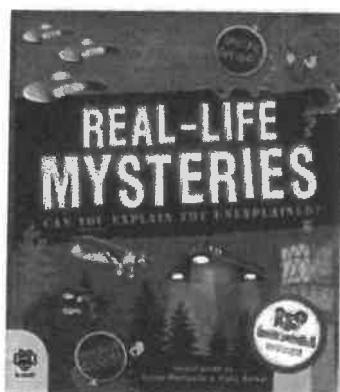
KidGlovz

Julie Hunt & Dale Newman

Allen & Unwin

Nine-year-old KidGlovz is a musical prodigy, but his corrupt manager keeps him shut up in hotel rooms, hungry and alone - except from his music teacher, Madame Lovegrove.

Readers young and old will be rooting for KidGlovz, and this poignant story will be remembered for a long time.



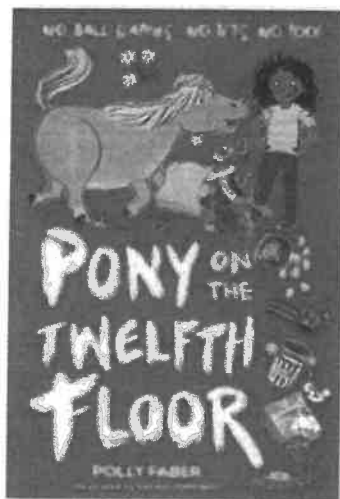
Real-Life Mysteries: Can You Explain the Unexplained?

Susan Martineau, Illustrated by Vicky Barker

b small publishing

Did aliens visit Earth thousands of years ago and leave behind secret messages and amazing feats of engineering, like Stonehenge? Do UFOs exist or are they optical illusions?

This fascinating collection of case files covers everything from crop circles to monsters, with a view to examining and evaluating all the evidence.



Pony on the Twelfth Floor

Polly Faber, Illustrated by Sarah Jennings

Walker Books

Kizzy dreams of becoming a champion showjumper (even though she's never ridden a horse), so she can't believe her luck when she finds a pony in the supermarket. But how can she keep him hidden from mum when they live on the twelfth floor of a tower block?

A delightfully funny chapter book with lovely illustrations.



Shiny Pippin and the Broken Forest

Harry Heape, Illustrated by Rebecca Bagley

Faber & Faber

When Pippin discovers she possesses magical powers, she uses her newfound skills to investigate the mysterious water shortage in Funsprings - which leads her to the sinister Old Laboratory, deep within the forest.

This hilarious fantasy adventure, with wacky characters and a zany plot, will have readers rolling around with laughter.

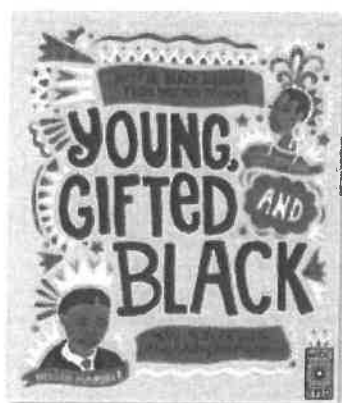


Splat the Fake Fact
Adam Frost, Illustrated by Gemma Correll

Bloomsbury

These days it's very important to be able to identify fake facts. With a series of interactive activities, this book not only allows children to find out what is and isn't true, but also gets them to doodle, lasso and deface the fake facts. Hurrah!

Fabulously original and interactive non-fiction.



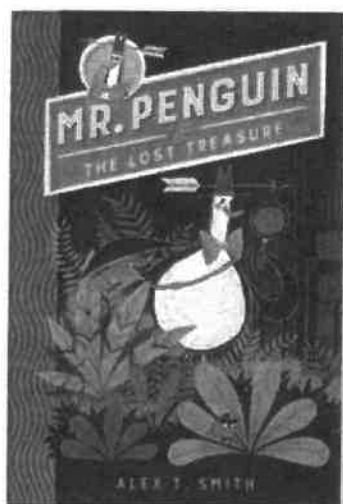
Young, Gifted and Black: Meet 52 Black Heroes from Past and Present

Jamia Wilson, Illustrated by Andrea Pippins

Wide Eyed Editions

This beautiful book celebrates a selection of black icons from history and the present day to inspire all children to discover what they can achieve. In the wake of the #BlackLivesMatter movement, this collection's focus is very timely and necessary.

An ideal book to share with children who have questions about what's happening in the world today.

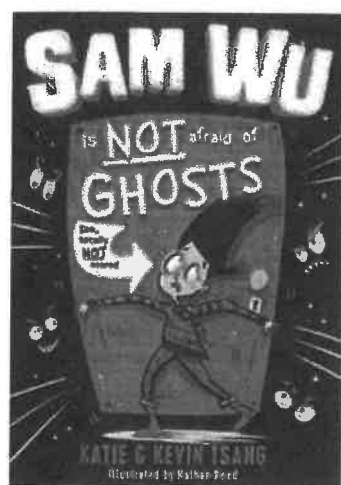


Mr. Penguin and the Lost Treasure
Alex T. Smith

Hodder Children's Books

Mr Penguin, an adventurer somewhere between Indiana Jones and Hercule Poirot, is asked to locate missing treasure located somewhere in the Museum of Extraordinary Objects.

With the help of Colin (a spider), Mr Penguin battles ferocious beasts and makes his way into a hidden jungle underneath the museum with exciting (and often hilarious) results.



Sam Wu is NOT Afraid of Ghosts
Katie & Kevin Tsang, Illustrated by Nathan Reed

Egmont

Sam Wu is scared of many things, though he's determined not to let anyone find out. However, after an unfortunate incident on a school trip, he becomes a target for the class bully, Ralph. Sam decides the best way to stop Ralph's teasing is to acquire a fearsome sidekick: Fang the snake.

A fast-paced chapter book full of humour and heart.

Age
8-9



Looshkin: The Adventures of the Maddest Cat in the World!!

Jamie Smart

David Fickling Books

In an attempt to make her family a bit more normal, Mrs Johnson gets a cat. Little does she know that she's just brought home Looshkin, who is anything but.

An outrageously fun graphic novel in a class of its own for silliness and hilarious absurdity – young readers will just love it.



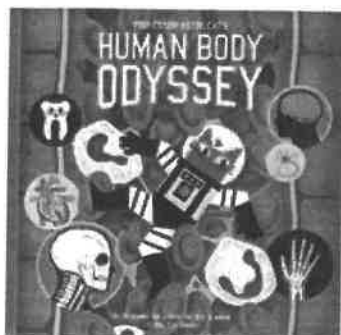
Alastair Humphreys' Great Adventurers

Alastair Humphreys, Illustrated by Kevin Ward

Big Picture Press

An inspiring introduction to 20 adventurers and explorers from the last 700 years, all of whom inspired the author to go adventuring himself, including four years cycling around the world.

This book will encourage readers to live more adventurously, think a little more boldly and go a little further themselves.



Professor Astro Cat's Human Body Odyssey

Dr. Dominic Walliman, Illustrated by Ben Newman

Flying Eye Books

Everyone's favourite cat-astronaut investigates the human body in this beautiful, graphically illustrated look at everything from eyes to muscles, genetics to reproduction and the immune, endocrine and lymphatic systems.

The Professor and his chums conduct a jolly and exciting journey through the human body that's fascinating for all.