



Reading with your child in Year 5



The National Curriculum

Year 5

By the beginning of year 5, pupils should be able to accurately read aloud a wide range of poetry and books written at an age-appropriate interest level at a reasonable speaking pace. They should be able to read most words effortlessly and work out the pronunciation of unfamiliar written words with increasing automaticity. If the pronunciation sounds unfamiliar, pupils in year 5 should ask for help in determining both the meaning of the word and how to pronounce it correctly.

Year 5 pupils should be able to read texts aloud with appropriate intonation to show their understanding. They should be able to summarise and present a familiar story in their own words. They should be reading widely and frequently for pleasure and to retrieve information, outside of school as well as in school. They should be able to read silently with good understanding. They should be able to infer the meanings of unfamiliar words and then discuss what they have read.

During year 5, pupils should continue to expand their vocabulary through exposure to stories, plays, poetry, non-fiction and textbooks, both read by them and to them by others. They should be given the opportunity to listen to books and other writing that they have not come across before – hearing and learning new vocabulary and grammatical structures, and having a chance to talk about this. Their confidence, enjoyment and mastery of language should be extended through public speaking, performance and debate.

What the National Curriculum Means for Parents

- Give your child access to plenty of texts on many different topics and by a wide range of authors who write in different styles, e.g. Roald Dahl, Michael Morpurgo to Anthony Horowitz.
- Encourage discussion with your child when pronouncing new words if their reasonable attempt does not sound correct.
- Broaden the vocabulary you use when speaking to your child and be prepared to clarify the meaning of a wider range of words, modelling them within sentences.
- Encourage your child to read silently to themselves but check their understanding of what they have read after doing so.
- Read difficult texts to your child and allow them the chance to listen and ask questions.


Questions To Ask Your Child

| Year 5 children are expected to: | To support this, you could say: |
|---|---|
| apply their 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 could this new word mean? |
| maintain positive attitudes to reading and an understanding of what they have read | Did you enjoy that book? Why? What kind of text would you like to read next? |
| continue to read and discuss a wide range of fiction, poetry, plays, non-fiction, reference books and textbooks | What did you think about...? Shall we go and watch a play about...? Have you ever read a... poem? |
| read books which are structured in different ways and written for a range of purposes | Can you see any subheadings in this text? Why are they used? What organisational feature is this? |
| increase their familiarity with a wide range of books, including myths, legends, traditional stories, modern fiction, fiction from our literary heritage and books from other cultures and traditions | What type of story is this? Have you ever read a...? Let's go to the library and see if we can find a book from... What other cultures would you like to read about? |
| recommend books that they have read to their peers, giving reasons for their choices | Would you recommend it? Who do you think would like this book? What makes it so good? |
| identify and discuss themes (such as loss or heroism) and conventions (such as the use of first person in diary entries) in and across a wide range of writing | Can you see a theme running through this story? What is it? How often is it mentioned? How does this text differ to a story? |
| make comparisons within and across books | Is that what... said had happened too? How is... similar to...? Do they differ? |
| learn a wider range of poetry by heart | Can you recite...? |
| prepare and perform poems and plays outloud, showing an understanding through intonation, tone and volume so that meaning is clear to the audience | Would you like to try going to a local drama group? Think about your voice when you read that; how might the witch speak? |

| | |
|--|--|
| check that the book makes sense to them; discussing their understanding and exploring the meaning of new words in context. | Tell me about what you've just read. Were there any words you didn't quite understand? |
| questions to improve their understanding | Is there anything you don't understand that you want to ask me about? |
| draw inferences, such as inferring characters' feelings, thoughts and motives from their actions, and justify inferences with evidence | How do you think... is feeling? What makes you say that? Show me in the text. Why do you think... acted in that way? |
| predict what might happen from details stated and implied | What might...? What makes you think that? Show me in the text. |
| summarise the main ideas drawn from more than 1 paragraph, identifying key details that support the main ideas | What theme can we see across these paragraphs? Is anything mentioned more than once? |
| identify how language, structure and presentation contribute to meaning | Why is this text set out this way? How does that help you as a reader? |
| discuss and evaluate how authors use language, including figurative language, and consider the impact on the reader | Can you find an example of figurative language on this page? Why might the author write in this way? |
| distinguish between statements of fact and opinion | Do you think... is a statement of fact or an opinion? How do you know? |
| retrieve, record and present information from non-fiction texts | Find the part of the text about... What does... mean? |
| participate in discussions about books that are read to them and those they can read themselves, building on their own and others' ideas and challenging views courteously | I think that.... do you agree? Why do you agree / why not? Tell me your opinion about... I don't agree. I think that... In my opinion... |
| explain and discuss their understanding of what they have read, including through formal presentations and debates, maintaining a focus on the topic and using notes where necessary | Over the holidays, I would like you to plan a presentation for me on... Can you explain to me why... is the best snack? I think... is. Let's debate it. Can you think of three reasons why...? |
| provide reasoned justification for their views | Why do you think that? What evidence supports that idea? |

Ninja Vocabulary Bookmark

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

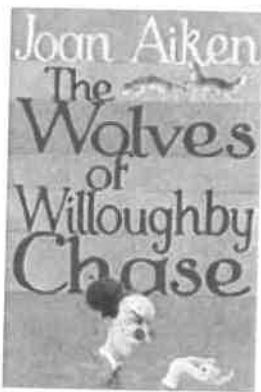
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|---|
| <p>Vocabulary Ninja <small>Write any amazing words that wow you from your reading book. You might need to discover their meaning... You might magpie them for your writing!</small></p>  |
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**Suggested
books to
share with
your child...**

Pie Corbett's Reading Spine

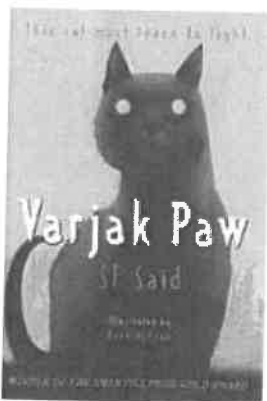
It was only when I had made my list for Year 5 that I realised how animals feature heavily – cats, wolves and foxes! These are romping reads as well as stories that touch deeply. I have listed them in a suggested order that leads towards what I would say is the greatest novel ever written for children.



The Wolves of Willoughby Chase

Joan Aiken (Red Fox)

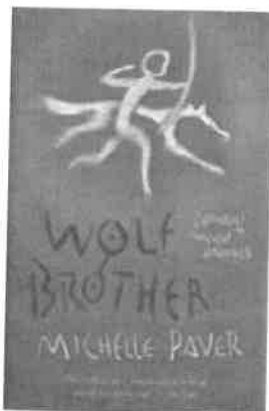
There are 12 novels in this series (the 'Wolves Chronicles') and 'The Wolves' is the first, set in Joan Aiken's own historical world (1832) where wolves have travelled through the Channel Tunnel! Begin by researching some information about wolves. There is a good film that can be used to compare with the book (though it has a PG certificate so get parental permission). Try reading the book chapter-by-chapter and watching the film alongside, section-by-section. With the class list difficult vocabulary for discussion and create a glossary of historical terms. At the end, discuss what should happen to Miss Slighcarp and Mr Grimshaw. Check out Joan Aiken's website where you can download a bookmark for the book. (<http://www.joanaiken.com/pages/books.html>)



Varjak Paw

SF Said (Random House)

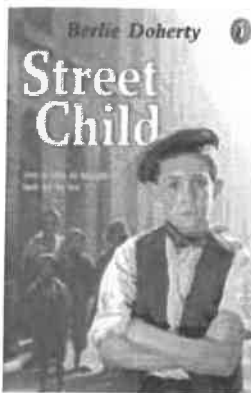
After reading the book, ask children to paint dark city landscapes and skylines. Then together draw role-on-the-wall for Varjak, collecting clues and quotes about his developing character. Ask: *Why is Varjak rejected and yet why does he return?* Explain the difference between Varjak, the Elder Paw and the other cats. Can the children contrast the inside of the house with outside in the city? Together invent a 'Jalal tale' and explain 'the way'. Invite the children to write a night adventure for Varjak – for example, a story in which he nearly gets caught by Sally Bones. Encourage them to write a sequel adventure and then read *The Outlaw Varjak Paw* (Random House).



Wolf Brother

Michelle Paver (Orion)

Before reading draw a map and during the story, mark where events occur. With the class make a list of the words or phrases that Wolf uses instead of human terms and give their definitions, such as *'Tall Tailless, Bright White Eye, thundering Wet'*. Encourage them to try inventing other phrases for everyday things and try writing a scene from the book from Wolf's viewpoint using his language. The story is set 6,000 years ago and imagines what life might have been like. Together describe the main settings – the Raven camp, the ice river, the wide water, the cave and the forest. Draw and discuss as a class the significance of the main events – Torak's father's death, meeting Wolf, fighting Hord, discovering the prophecy and defeating the bear. Compare this book to other 'quests' – typical characters, events and plot patterns.



Street Child **READ & RESPOND**

Berlie Doherty (HarperCollins)

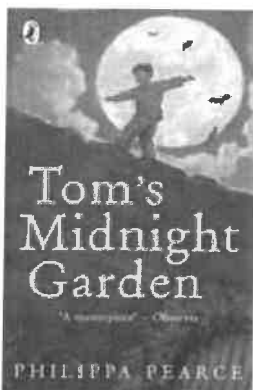
Based on the true story of an orphan, Jim Jarvis, who inspired Dr Barnardo to set up his famous children's home, this book is ideal as a read for any Victorian project. Background work on Barnardo and the life of street children would set the context. Read 'Tell me your story Jim' and in pairs invent a possible tale for Jim. In role as 'agony aunts' ask children to advise Jim after each chapter on his next moves. Map the story as it unfolds and at the end have them retell Jim's story in role as they now know it. At the end, discuss 'what is a home?', children's rights and how Jim survived. (See the *Read & Respond* title for further ideas.)



The Midnight Fox **READ & RESPOND**

Betsy Byars (Faber)

Read the first two paragraphs and discuss as a class what the story might be about. Tom says: 'I like the way I am'. Discuss the tension between his father's and Uncle Fred's expectations and Tom's view. Ask the children to invent newspaper titles for key incidents and use these to label a class map of the story. Provide time to write letters to Petie Burkis about the main events. Ask: *Why did Uncle Fred and Aunt Millie 'never mention what I had done'?* At the end, Tom says 'it was as if it had happened to another boy'. *What did happen? How did he change?* Then discuss who was right: Uncle Fred or Tom?



Tom's Midnight Garden **READ & RESPOND**

Philippa Pearce (Oxford University Press)

This book demands a timeline of events so that the class can see the way in which the plot is constructed and how time shifts. (You can see the house that Philippa Pearce used as a basis for the book online: <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2644779/Country-house-inspired-Philippa-Pearces-Toms-Midnight-Garden-goes-market-3-5million.html>) Mime moving as a ghost through a door into a different world. When reading Chapter 20 discuss 'time no longer'. Before reading Chapter 26, discuss with the class how the tale will end. Invite them to draw the garden and write an extra episode for Tom and Hatty. Can they write their own midnight trip into another world, such as *Pie's Midnight Forest* and identify the link with time travel in *The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe* from Year 3? (See the *Read & Respond* title for further ideas.)



FATHER **Picture book**

Grahame Baker-Smith (Templar)

Begin by reading the cover and ask: *Why is the title 'FATHER'?* *Why the poppies? The birds? The wings? Are dreams important? Explain 'another call claimed him'.* Ask: *What is the story about? What does it mean to each child?* Gather clues as a class about each character and then interview them in turn – mother, father and son. Also, read and explore the wonderful *Leon and the Place Between* (Templar), as well as picture books by David Wiesner, such as *Free Fall*, *Flotsam*, *Hurricane*, *Art and Max*, *June 29, 1999* and *Sector 7* (Houghton Mifflin).

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, Amelia 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



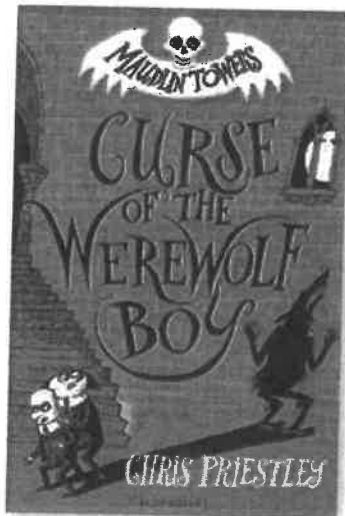
Corpse Talk: Ground-Breaking Women

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.



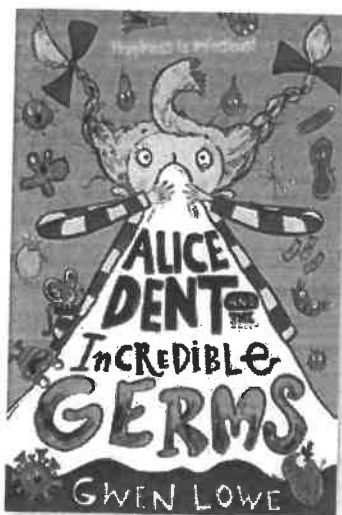
Curse of the Werewolf Boy

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)



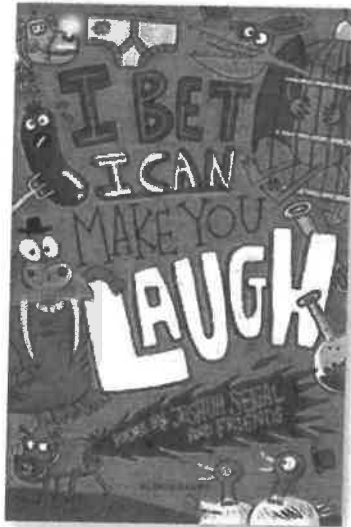
Elise and the Second-hand Dog

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



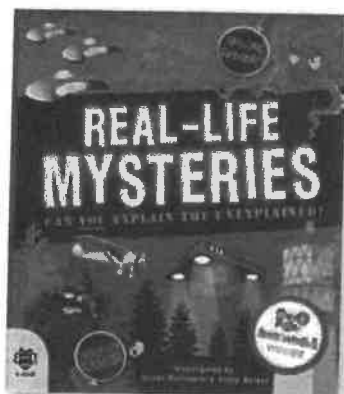
KidGlovz

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.



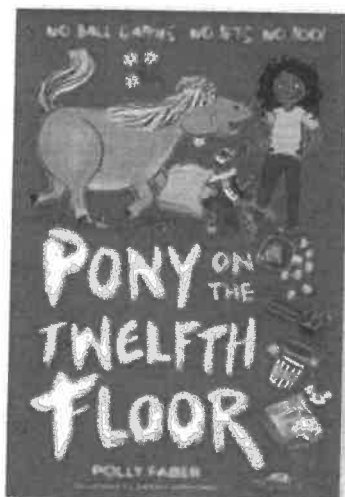
Real-Life Mysteries: Can You Explain the Unexplained?

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.



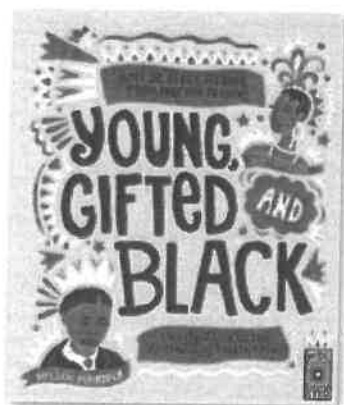
Splat the Fake Fact

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.



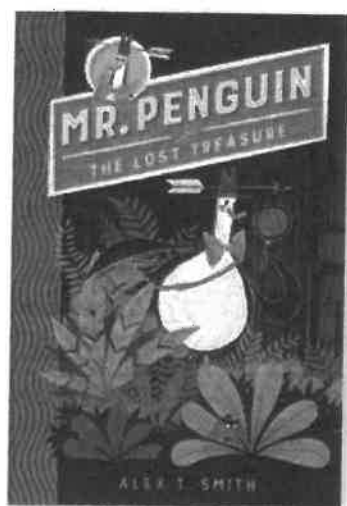
Young, Gifted and Black: Meet 52 Black Heroes from Past and Present

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.



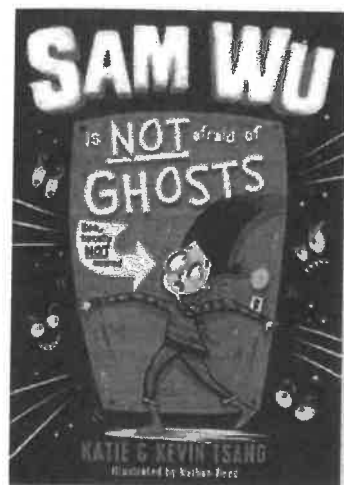
Mr. Penguin and the Lost Treasure

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



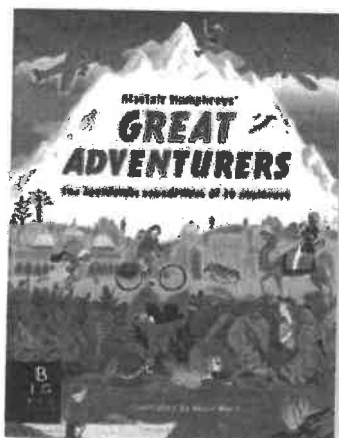
Looshkin: The Adventures of the Maddest Cat in the World!!

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.



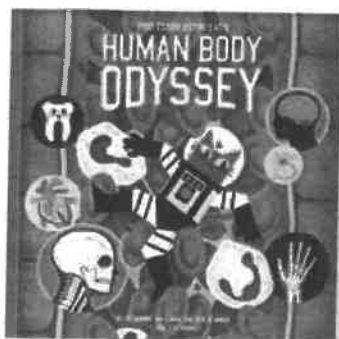
Alastair Humphreys' Great Adventurers

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.

Age 10–11



Embassy of the Dead Will Mabbitt

Orion Children's Books

Staying alive has always come naturally to Jake, until the day he accidentally takes delivery of a severed finger and unleashes the wrath of the Grim Reaper...

Witty and creepy – but not too scary – this wacky adventure is packed with ghosts, grave robbers and gruesome beasts. A hilarious fright-fest!

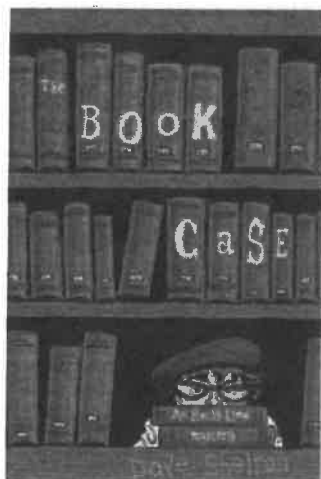


Suee and the Shadow Ginger Ly, illustrated by Molly Park

Amulet Books

When Suee has to transfer school to lame Outskirtsville, the local kids don't get her quiet ways and black clothes. Yet when a shadow-girl attaches itself to her and refuses to let go, Suee, Haeun and Hyunwoo – the Zero Detective Club – investigate the matter further.

A delightfully dark and spooky graphic novel for younger readers.



The Book Case: An Emily Lime Mystery Dave Shelton

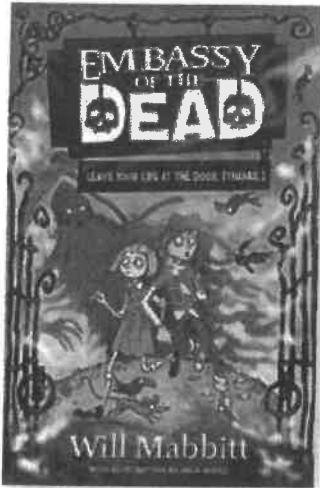
David Fickling Books

At St Rita's School for Spirited Girls, bookworm Daphne meets Emily Lime, the terse yet intriguing pupil Assistant Librarian – and immediately strange things start happening.

Loosely set in the 1930s – a bit like a funnier Famous Five or Secret Seven – this sniggeringly funny, totally deadpan book is a joy to read.



Age 10–11



Embassy of the Dead
Will Mabbitt

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Ginger Ly, Illustrated by Molly Park

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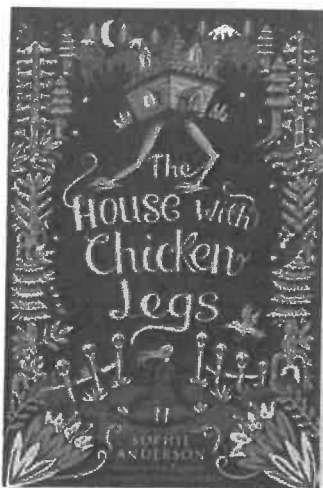
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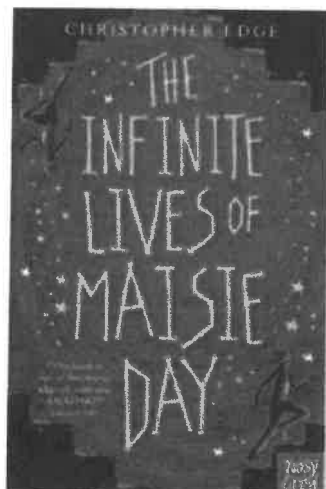
The House with Chicken Legs

Sophie Anderson, Illustrated by Elisa Paganelli

Usborne

Marinka's grandmother is a Yaga, someone who guides the dead through the Gate so they can make their way back to the stars they came from. Although she's expected to follow in her grandmother's footsteps, Marinka herself is desperate for a normal life.

Marinka's story is magical, delightfully macabre and utterly engrossing.



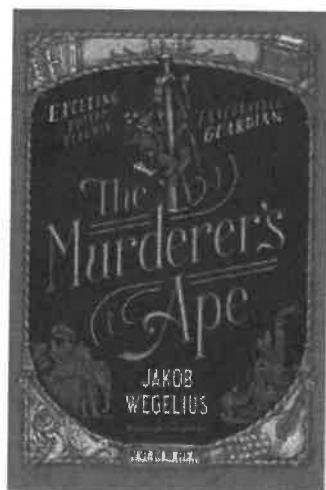
The Infinite Lives of Maisie Day

Christopher Edge

Nosy Crow

Maisie is no ordinary 10-year-old: she passed her maths GCSE at age 6 and is now studying for a degree. Yet on her birthday she finds that her family have disappeared and her house is being consumed by darkness.

A brilliant introduction to physics wrapped inside a great story.



The Murderer's Ape

Jakob Wegelius, Translated by Peter Graves

Pushkin Children's Books

Sally Jones is an engineer and loyal friend to Captain Koskela. She's also an ape. When Koskela is falsely accused of murder, fado-singer Ana and a local music shop owner help Sally follow the clues to unravel the mystery.

A brilliant adventure, rich with multi-dimensional characters and a European setting full of warmth and community.

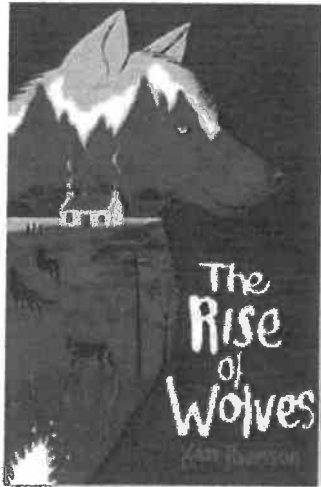


The Polar Bear Explorers' Club
Alex Bell, Illustrated by Tomislav Tomic

Faber & Faber

Stella's adoptive father, Felix, is a member of the Polar Bear Explorers' Club. Technically, girls aren't allowed to join the Club, but when the chance arises, Stella is determined to prove she can be as good an explorer as anyone.

Readers will be sucked into Stella's enchanting world for an unforgettable adventure.



The Rise of Wolves
Kerr Thomson

Chicken House

When Innis spots a large, black wolf on his island home, he thinks he must be hallucinating. Wolves became extinct in Scotland centuries ago – didn't they?

This tale of conflict between ancient traditions and contemporary technology features a gripping plot, stunning setting, great characters, and an underlying theme of loyalty to family and friends.



The Secret of the Purple Lake
Yaba Badoe, Illustrated by Gbolahan Adams

Cassava Republic

Metamorphoses abound in this collection of interlinked folk tales – with strong, bold princesses and kind, loving princes transformed into birds, walruses and spirits of the sea.

With a truly global feel, these stories reach from Africa to the Orkney Islands, by way of Spain and Norway.



Age
10–11



The Wizards of Once

Cressida Cowell

Hodder Children's Books

Wish is a girl from a warrior tribe and Xar is a boy from a wizard tribe, living in a world loosely based on Iron Age Britain. Wish has a secret magical object that she'll do anything to hide – and Xar will do anything to get his hands on.

A fabulously imaginative, funny and unpredictable adventure.



What Lexie Did

Emma Shevah

Chicken House

Lexie lives in London with her huge Greek Cypriot family, but things get complicated when she's caught between telling the truth and lying – and what she decides to do ends up splitting her family apart. Can Lexie figure out how to bring them back together again?

Full of distinctive style, charming illustrations and heaps of thought-provoking moments.



My Brigadista Year

Katherine Paterson

Walker Books

In post-revolutionary Cuba, 13-year-old Lora volunteers to spend a year in the mountains teaching an illiterate family how to read and write. But the mountains are also home to vicious *bandidos*...

Based on real events, this is a fascinating look at a period of recent world history seen through the eyes of an idealistic young woman.



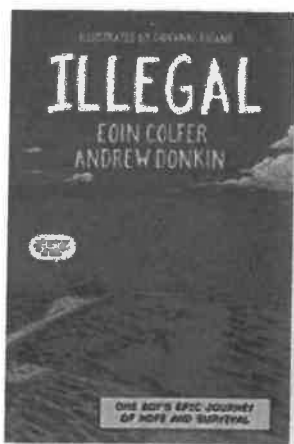
Nevermoor: The Trials of Morrigan Crow

Jessica Townsend

Orion Children's Books

Morrigan Crow is blamed for every misfortune and destined to die on her eleventh birthday. But when the mysterious Jupiter North takes Morrigan to the magical world of Nevermoor, she enters the trials for membership of the Wondrous Society, with thrilling results.

A relatable main character with a pacy, fantastical plot keeps the pages turning.



Illegal

Eoin Colfer & Andrew Donkin, Illustrated by Giovanni Rigano

Hodder Children's Books

Ebo flees Africa in the hope of a better life in Europe, determined to find his family that have already left. But the boat he manages to find passage on is a small six-person rubber dinghy, now carrying 14 passengers.

An absolute must-read, this graphic novel is thought-provoking, profound, sensitive and totally gripping.



Kat Wolfe Investigates

Lauren St John

Macmillan Children's Books

Kat Wolfe loves her new home in idyllic Bluebell Bay, especially as it comes with a resident wildcat. But when she starts pet-sitting for pocket money, she finds that beneath the town's perfect surface lie some dark and dangerous secrets.

The first in a new adventure series by a very popular author.



Max and the Millions

Ross Montgomery

Faber & Faber

Ten-year-old Max feels like an outsider at St Goliath's. Then he makes a miraculous discovery – a tiny civilisation in the pile of sand, where three bickering tribes are nonsensically segregated according to hair colour.

A delightfully daft tale complemented by many subtle social comments about inequality, the abuse of power and the futility of war.



Brightstorm: A Sky-Ship Adventure

Vashti Hardy

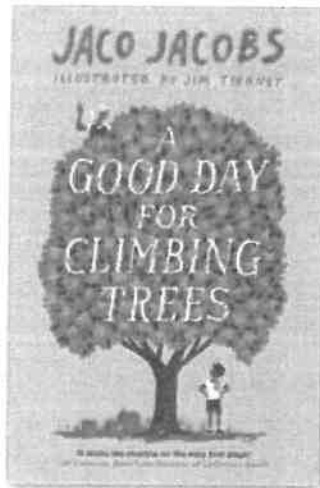
Scholastic

Twelve-year-old twins Maudie and Arthur's world comes crashing down when their explorer dad is reported dead in his mission to get to South Polaris – and word has it that he stole fuel from his competitors before he died. Can they find out the truth, and restore honour to the Brightstorm name?

An unputdownable Victorian adventure with vivid characters that travels at lightning speed.

**Age
10-11**

Age
10–11



A Good Day for Climbing Trees
Jaco Jacobs, Illustrated by Jim Tierney,
translated by Kobus Geldenhuys

Rock the Boat

Thirteen-year-old Marnus is tired of being overshadowed by his successful brothers. But when Leila shows up at their front door with a petition to save a tree, Marnus finds himself at the centre of an unexpected protest.

A perfect feel-good book that deftly handles issues around family life – as well as activism – with a light-hearted touch.



Beyond the Sky: You and the Universe
Dara Ó Briain, Illustrated by Dan Bramall

Scholastic

Beginning with the question, 'So you want to go into space?', this book takes readers on a hilarious journey through the solar system and beyond.

Packed with fascinating facts covering fundamental scientific questions, Ó Briain's genuine love for science shines through, and his chatty, accessible style is perfectly complemented by the witty illustrations.



Timeless: Diego and the Rangers of the Vastlantic
Armand Baltazar

HarperCollins

Thirteen-year-old Diego Ribera has never known a world before the Time Collision; to him, it's natural for giant robots and hoverboards to exist alongside dinosaurs and steam-powered ships. His life, however, is about to get a whole lot more bizarre.

With rich and vibrant illustrations alongside amazingly detailed text, this book is something very special.

Illustration © Mini Grey