



I'm
FREE ...
(and worth every penny!)

The Puffin

Handbook

The perfect little guide to the
70 best books for children ...



There's a Puffin book for everyone. Discover yours inside!

PLUS

EXPERT advice,
exclusive articles,
brilliant books
for children
of all ages and **MUCH** more ...



The Puffin Handbook



The perfect little guide to the
70 best books for children . . .



PUFFIN

Acknowledgements



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in this handbook.

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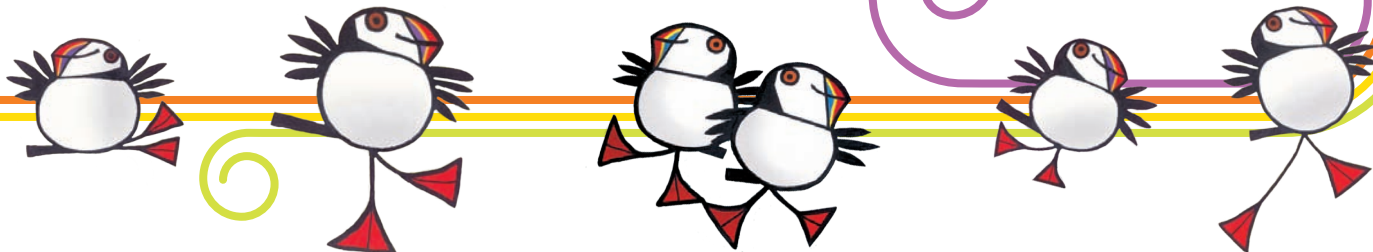
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Introduction

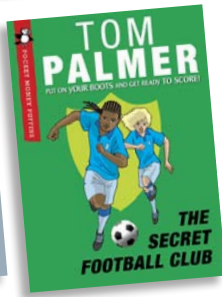
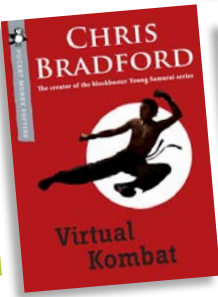
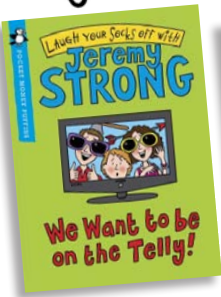
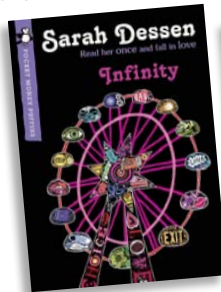
by Francesca Dow
Managing Director, Puffin

TO CELEBRATE 70 years of Puffin and its spectacular books we proudly bring you this handy little guide, packed full of fantastic Puffin books for children of every age and taste. It includes expert advice and top tips to help children embark on a reading journey, which begins with baby books and takes them all the way through to their teenage years and beyond.

In our anniversary year we are also publishing a range of brand-new books to delight every reader, including our fabulous set of Pocket Money Puffins, available at pocket-money prices.

So we hope you'll join us in celebrating the very best books for children. There really IS a Puffin book for everyone – enjoy discovering yours today.

Francesca Dow



Buggy Books

Attach them to your baby's buggy and enjoy them on the move. They're bright, colourful, durable and chewable and perfect for introducing tiny ones to books . . .



It's never too soon to start sharing books with babies . . .



Photo © Paul Shout

Baby Books

Introduction by Eric Carle

I DIDN'T have many books as a child, but I have very fond memories of sitting on my father's lap while he read the Sunday funny pages to me. It is the closeness with my father, the connection we shared that made the most lasting impact. I feel strongly that by taking your child on to your lap, holding them close while you read to them, you are letting them know by this simple act that you care for them, have time for

them and love them. Then sharing a book becomes more than pages with words and pictures.

It has been said about my books that they are for the 'not-yet or about-to-be reader'. I love this idea that children at all levels and ages can enjoy the pictures, the colours and the rhythm of the words. There is something for every child – the baby who enjoys the sound of their parent's voice or the shapes on the

page – and something for the first grader who might be starting to read, beginning to recognize letters and words.

I learned from Bill Martin Jr [author of *Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?* – see page 17] about the importance of rhythm and repetition in books for children, the heartbeat rhythm of the text. Children before they are born are close to the heartbeat of their mother, which must have an

influence on them.

There is so much we can offer our children at an early age. The warmth of our touch, the soothing sound of our voices, colourful pictures and all that is around to see and touch. There are so many wonderful books for babies by many talented artists and writers. I hope you will find much comfort and closeness in sharing a book with your child.

Eric Carle

How to read to your baby

It's never too soon ...



IT REALLY IS never too soon to share books with your baby. There's a growing belief that reading to the baby in the womb helps the development of a calm personality and a sense of rhythm.

Why do it?

- Most brain development happens in the first three years of life.
- Babies need stimulation as much as they need food, so sing, talk, tell stories, chant rhymes – and READ!
- Babies need language, and authors are so good at using it – vocabulary grows through reading.
- It's about communication too – one of the earliest things a baby responds to is the sound of the voice of someone who loves them and is a big part of their world.
- Sharing books regularly helps adult and baby to bond.
- Listening and concentration are big skills; babies grow through book-sharing.
- Children who know how books work, who are used to listening to stories and rhymes and who

see books as a normal part of life are likely to have a good start at school. (Check out the Bookstart research at www.bookstart.org.uk)

- Most important of all – it's a pleasure for child and adult alike.

Reading together ... Getting into the habit

- Settle down in a comfortable place every day.
- Go for two books – you choose one and your child chooses one.
- Be happy to read favourite books endlessly! This gives security as well as pleasure.
- Encourage joining in – rhyming words at the end of lines, turning the pages, lifting the flaps, etc.
- Point to and talk about the pictures; children soon learn that the words and pictures work together to tell the story.
- Remember, reading together is not quiet time – be ready to use funny voices, make animal sounds as the book requires, and to laugh and talk a lot.

Wendy Cooling,
Children's Books Expert



Books to make grown-ups and young children say, 'Oooh.' With gorgeous illustrations, wondrous words and formats perfect for small hands, picture books are a perfect treat to read aloud and read together.



Picture Books

Introduction by Jeanne Willis

READING to your children is one of the cuddliest, most memorable things you can do for them. Armed with a favourite picture book, I reminded my son of this, seconds before he threw me out of his room and reminded me that he was nineteen.

The truth is I yearn for the days when I could curl up with my kids and a book, laughing until we cried,

crying until we laughed. 'Again!' they would beg. 'Read it again!'

So I'd read it again and again, and did I get bored? No, because the trick is to hide the dreary books in the dustbin and share the ones you both love together – it has to be good for all parties.

What makes a great picture book? Beware, small children aren't always the best judges. Mine didn't

give a monkey's about literary merit, it was me and my soul that they wanted; the book – any book – was just a bonus. But while any book is better than no book, if you want a good one, my rule of thumb is this: if it makes you grin, sob or gasp, it's probably a corker. On the other hand, if it makes you groan, yawn or scream, it's either badly written or it's way past your bedtime.

Talking of which, there was many a night when I felt much too busy

and knackered to read to the little darlings, but, actually, that was the best time to do it. Once I'd settled with a kid in one arm, a book in the other, and we'd both stopped throwing our toys out of the pram, I realized that this was the best part of the day. The best thing about being a parent.

And, according to my great big burly son, it was the best thing about being a child.

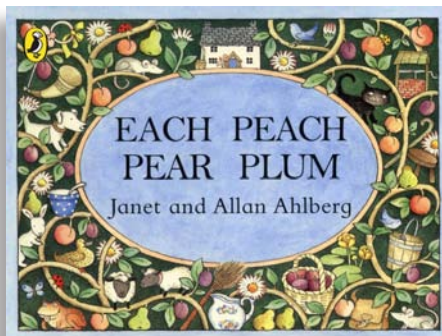
Jeanne Willis

Each Peach Pear Plum Peepo!

by Janet and Allan
Ahlberg



'Janet and Allan Ahlberg are to children's books what Ginger and Fred were to dancing' – Guardian



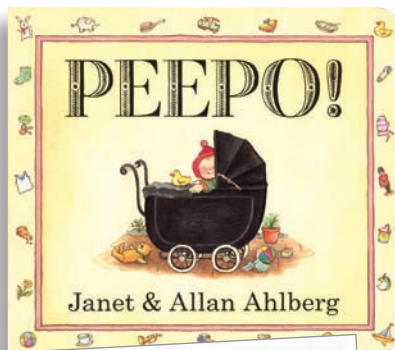
For twenty years, Janet and Allan Ahlberg made books to delight babies just learning to enjoy words and simple rhymes, and books to tickle the funny bones of older children too. Their books have won all kinds of awards, but what's more important is that they are adored by both adults and children.

Each Peach Pear Plum and *Peepo!* are among the best-loved books for babies there have ever been – every new family should own them.

Peep through the holes in *Peepo!* and see what baby sees, then turn the page for the whole scene.

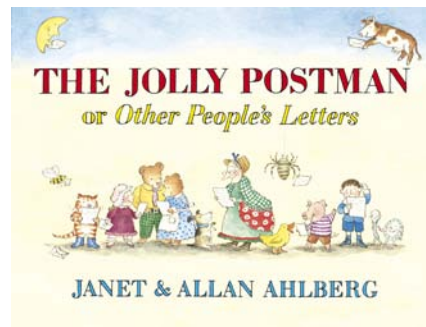
Each Peach Pear Plum and *Peepo!* are also available as board books.

'The Ahlbergs belong, with A. A. Milne and Lewis Carroll, to the greatest tradition of children's books, having the kind of genius that can dominate an era' – Sunday Times



And for ages 3 and up:

The Jolly Postman

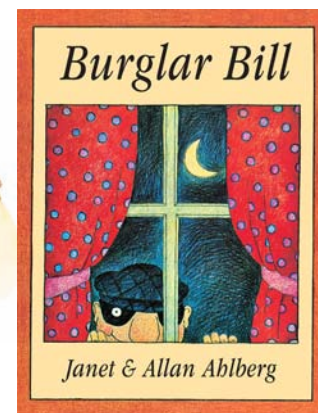


The Jolly Postman is not just a book – it's a whole postbag! Lots of the pages are envelopes with real letters tucked inside (there's even an apology note from Goldilocks to the three bears and a witchy catalogue on its way to a gingerbread cottage). It's endless fun for children to explore and play with, peeking in the envelopes to see what surprises are inside.

Burglar Bill

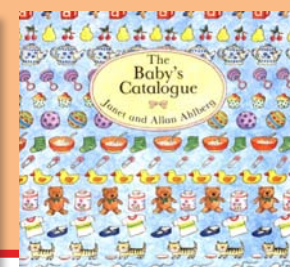
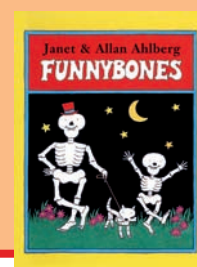
'I'll have that . . .'

Burglar Bill loves stealing . . . until he accidentally steals a baby! Will Burglar Bill make it through the night with his little guest? Maybe – and maybe he'll even turn his back on a life of crime . . . with a little help from Burglar Betty.



More jolly books to look out for by Janet and Allan Ahlberg:

- *The Jolly Pocket Postman*
- *The Jolly Christmas Postman*
- *Funnybones*
- *The Baby's Catalogue*
- ... and many more!



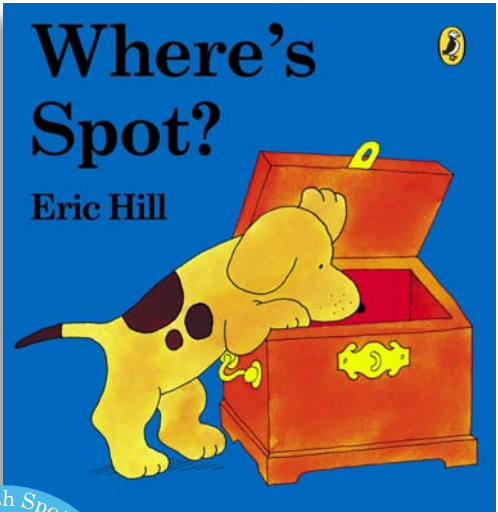


Where's Spot?

by Eric Hill

Play hide-and-seek with Spot! Very young kids love lifting the flaps to see which one the playful pup is hiding behind.

Eric Hill created Spot in 1980 and he quickly became one of the best-loved pre-school characters of all time. No family is complete without Spot on their shelves!



Where's Spot?

Eric Hill

Carry on playing and learning with Spot:

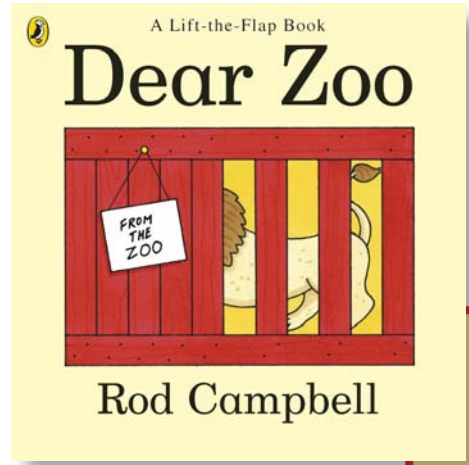
- Spot Stays Overnight
- Spot Can Count
- Spot's Birthday Party
- Spot's Baby Sister
- Spot Visits His Grandparents
- Spot Bakes a Cake



Is he under the stairs?

no

Find Spot at his online home! www.funwithspot.com



A Lift-the-Flap Book

Dear Zoo

Rod Campbell

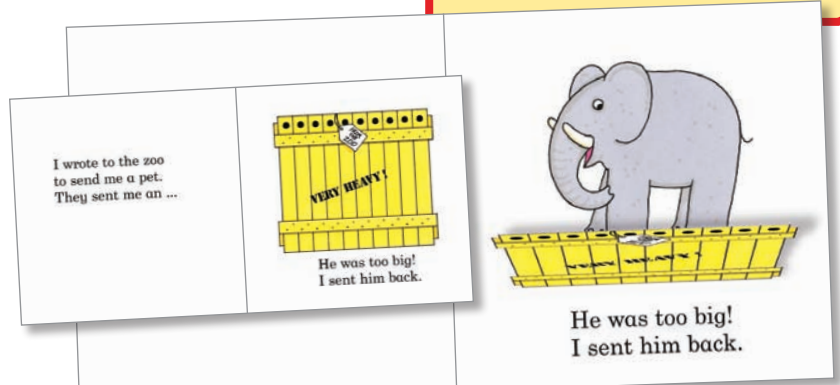
Dear Zoo

by Rod Campbell

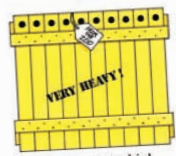
Dear Zoo is a delightful classic for under-5s. Lift the flaps to find the animals! Which one will make the perfect pet?

Other brilliant novelty books by Rod Campbell for babies and toddlers:

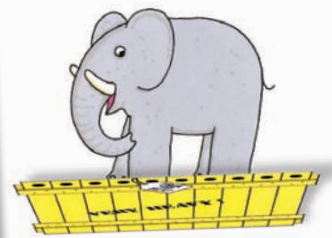
- *Abc Zoo*
- *Farm 123*
- *Farm Babies*
- *Farm Chase*



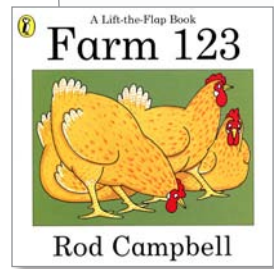
I wrote to the zoo to send me a pet. They sent me an ...



He was too big! I sent him back.



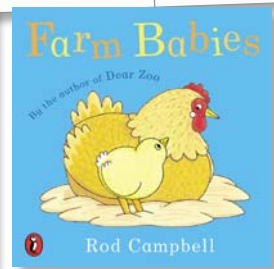
He was too big! I sent him back.



A Lift-the-Flap Book

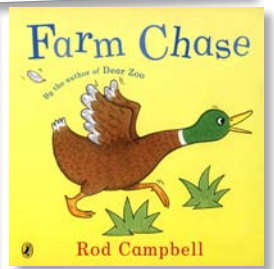
Farm 123

Rod Campbell



Farm Babies

Rod Campbell



Farm Chase

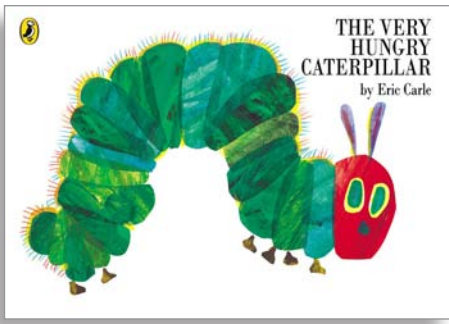
Rod Campbell



The Very Hungry Caterpillar

by Eric Carle

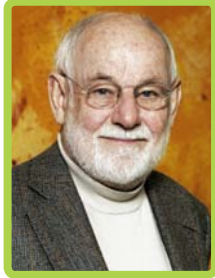
'Forty years ago, as I punched holes with a hole puncher into a stack of paper, the image of a bookworm came to my mind and the idea for The Very Hungry Caterpillar was born' – Eric Carle



Very Hungry Caterpillar. The Very Hungry Caterpillar has eaten its way into the homes and hearts of millions of children in dozens of different languages and has sold one copy every 30 seconds somewhere in the world, day and night, since it was first published in 1969. When it was celebrating its 40th birthday in 2009, it even crawled onto the Google logo.

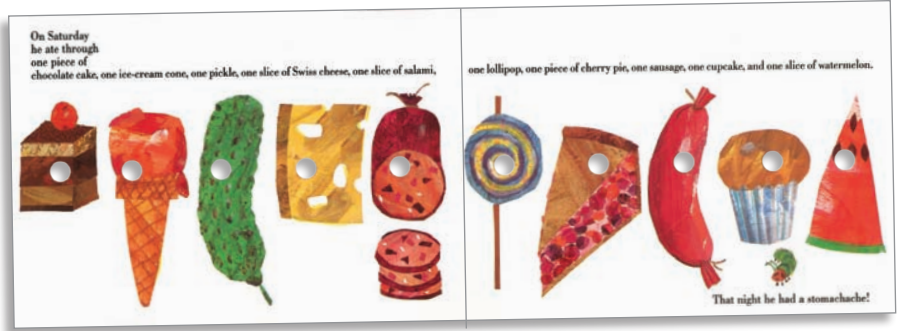
There's also an Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art, which was founded by Eric and his wife in 2002. Find out more at www.picturebookart.org

Photo © Paul Shout



Eric Carle has for the longest time used brilliant, vibrant colours and collage to create wonderful children's books. After working as a graphic designer at *The New York Times* and at an advertising agency, he was asked if he would illustrate *Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?* by Bill Martin Jr.

Brown Bear is still a classic, but Eric's most famous creation is *The*

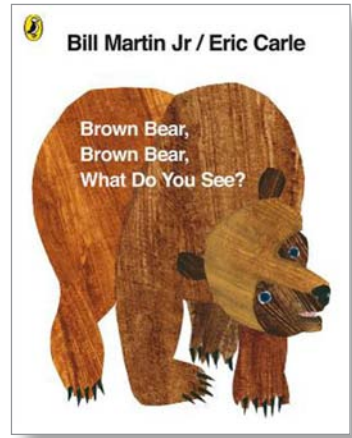
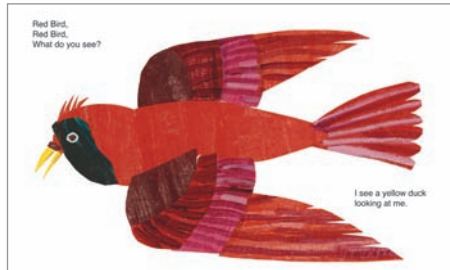


Follow the caterpillar as he eats his way through all kinds of food – there are actual holes cut in the pages to explore. *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* grows and grows, and then turns into . . . Well, we don't want to spoil the ending, do we?

I'm a very hungry puffin! Will someone make a book about me?



There is a version of *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* for every young child to enjoy, from buggy books to a lively pop-up and a little learning library.

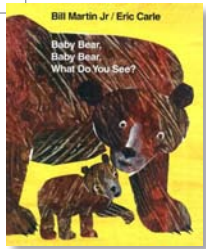
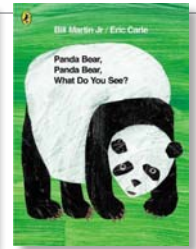
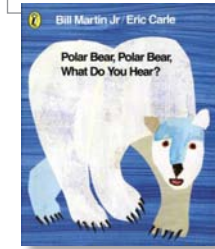


Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?

With favourite animals and gentle rhythms, this is a perfect introduction for very young children to colours.

With a new animal on each page, *Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?*

irresistibly pulls young readers onwards right to the end – and then they'll want to go right back to the start and begin again!



Look out for the brand-new Meg and Mog adventure in October 2010!

Meg and Mog

by Helen Nicoll and Jan Pieńkowski

Meg is a witch whose spells don't always go quite as she's planned, and Mog is her faithful striped cat. The bright colours and simple, engaging language of their adventures are a delight for children up to the age of 3 (and older too!).

Meg and Mog have been having adventures for a long time! All of their books are perfect for sharing together or for reading alone.

Helen and Jan first created *Meg and Mog* in 1977 – sometimes they would put the stories together sitting in a motorway cafe! The series still remains extremely popular today.



Jan Pieńkowski's 5 Favourite Books for Children

- *Alice in Wonderland* by Lewis Carroll, illustrated by John Tenniel
- *Just William* by Richmal Crompton, illustrated by Thomas Henry
- *Just So Stories* by Rudyard Kipling, illustrated by the author
- *A Book of Nonsense* by Edward Lear, illustrated by the author
- *Gulliver's Travels* by Jonathan Swift, illustrated by Rex Whistler



Discover the wonderful world of Jan Pieńkowski at www.janpienkowski.com

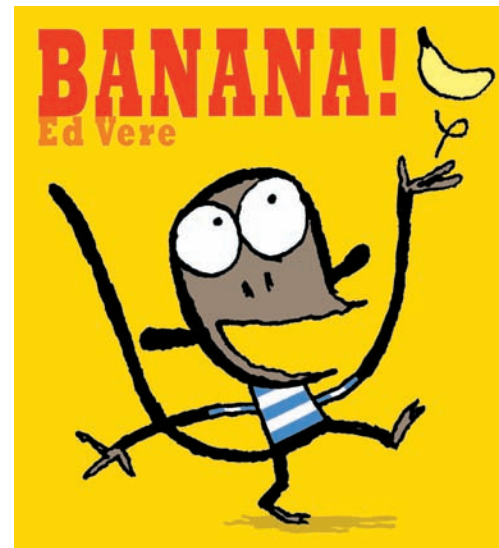
Banana!

by Ed Vere

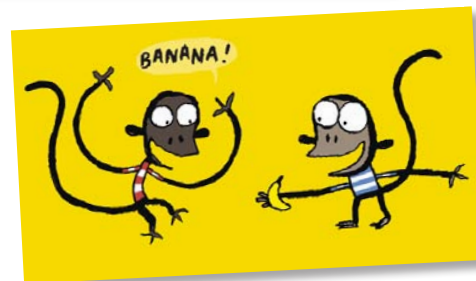
Ed Vere's books are hilarious, exuberant fun for boys and girls aged 2 and up. We don't know any other children's illustrator who creates such riotously expressive drawings.

With a whole range of emotions in a simple word, *Banana!* is a joy for kids to read aloud (or for grown-ups to read to them)! And maybe there's a lesson to be learned about the magic word 'PLEASE'.

Also available as a board book.

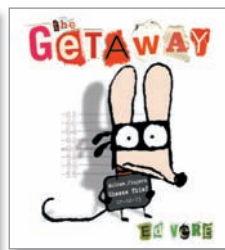
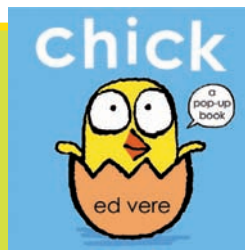


Mr Big
Mr Big has a small problem with being so big – he's ever so lonely. Until, that is, he finds a way to show everyone that a true friend can come in any shape and size.



Ed Vere's Top 5 Children's Books

- *The Enormous Crocodile* by Roald Dahl and Quentin Blake
- *Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus* by Mo Willems
- *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* by Eric Carle
- *Haunted House* by Jan Pieńkowski
- *Where The Wild Things Are* by Maurice Sendak



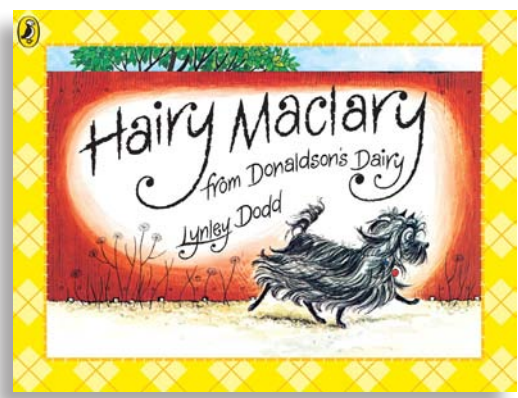


Hairy Maclary

by Lynley Dodd

Hairy Maclary goes for a walk with a few of his friends. But they're in for a nasty surprise: Scarface Claw, the toughest tom in town!

Also in board book.



Slinky Malinki

Slinky Malinki, a cheeky and friendly cat by day and master pilferer by night, finally gets his comeuppance when he's caught red-handed with his collection of stolen goodies.

'A child's best introduction to books' – The Times

Lynley Dodd worked as a teacher before she began to make children's books. Now she's New Zealand's bestselling children's author/illustrator, with a global following! Her rhyming books about colourful characters like the legendary terrier Hairy Maclary and the mischievous cat Slinky Malinki have sold millions of copies worldwide. Children adore Lynley's fabulous rhyming text and want to hear it again and again!

These books are a joy to read aloud and have pictures full of life and movement. Just perfect for young children beginning to learn to love books.



Hairy Maclary gets into more scrapes and has more fun in these books:

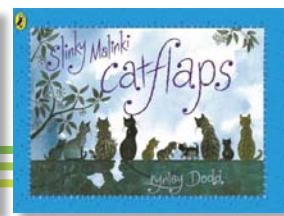
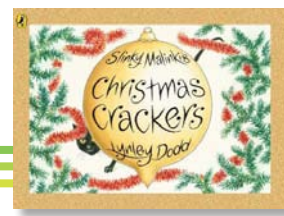
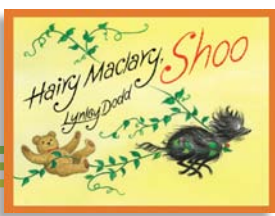
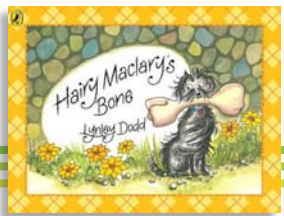
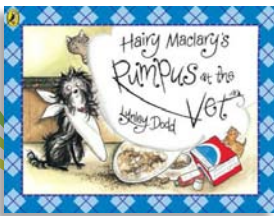
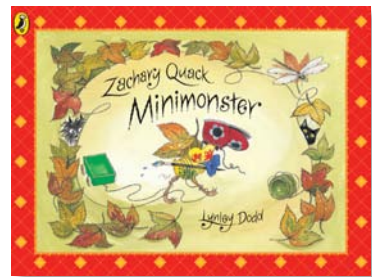
- *Hairy Maclary's Rumpus at the Vet*
- *Hairy Maclary and Zachary Quack*
- *Hairy Maclary, Shoo*
- *Hairy Maclary's Bone . . . and others!*



He's almost as good-looking as I am.

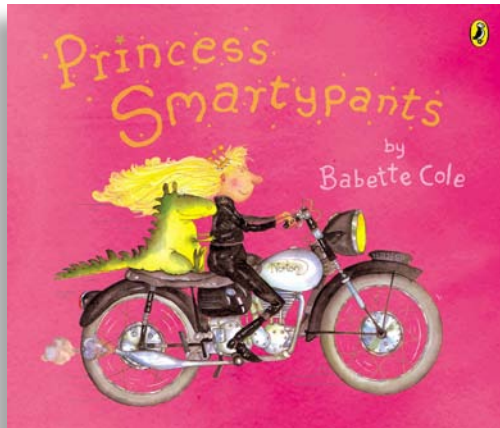
Zachary Quack Minimonster

A playful tale of a little duckling with all the rhythm and rhymes that make Lynley Dodd's books so enjoyable.



Coming in summer 2010.

Princess Smartypants



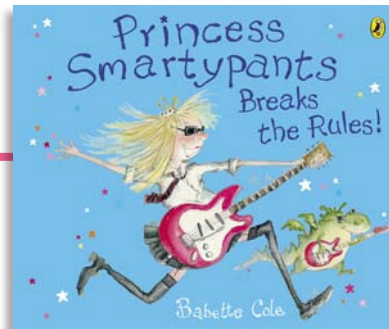
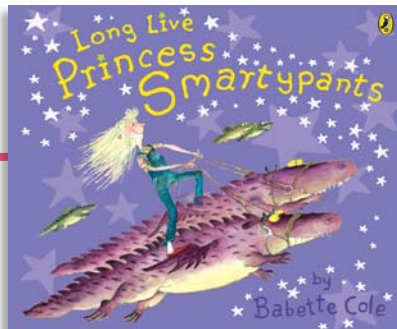
by **Babette Cole**

Brightly illustrated, brilliantly funny stories for anarchic 4-year-olds and up.

Princess Smartypants isn't your traditional fairy-tale princess. No waiting for Prince Charming for her: in fact she'd rather stay a Ms than marry any of the princes she has queuing for her hand. But she has to be clever if she's going to keep them occupied.

A thoroughly modern kind of princess and a different kind of role model, Princess Smartypants is too cool to follow any of the princess rules in these hilarious royal romps from master storyteller HRH Babette Cole!

'Funny, unrestrained and totally unforgettable' – Independent on Sunday



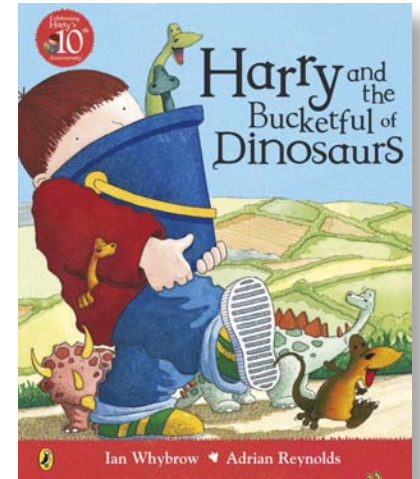
Harry and the Bucketful of Dinosaurs

by **Ian Whybrow and Adrian Reynolds**

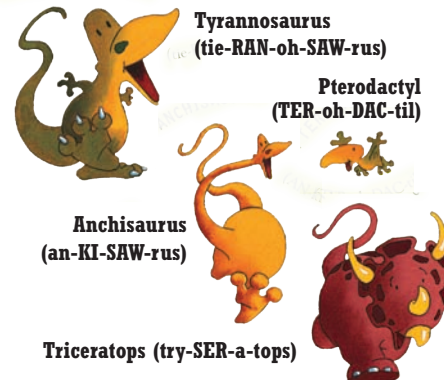
From the Beginodactyl to the Endosaurus, these are fun, imaginative adventures for children aged 3 and up that help them through their first experiences.

He might have found them all covered in dust in his nan's attic, but for Harry his dinosaurs are very real. And they are RAAHH-ring to have adventures with him.

Perfect for those who love dinosaurs! (And who doesn't?)



Meet some of the dinosaurs!



Tyrannosaurus
(tie-RAN-oh-SAW-rus)

Pterodactyl
(TER-oh-DAC-til)

Anchisaurus
(an-KI-SAW-rus)

Triceratops (try-SER-a-tops)

There's bucketsful of fun to be had:

- Harry and the Dinosaurs at the Museum
- Harry and the Dinosaurs Have a Birthday Party
- Harry and the Dinosaurs Romp in the Swamp
- Harry and the Dinosaurs Say 'Raahh!'
- Harry and the Dinosaurs United
- Harry and the Dinosaurs Go to School
- Harry and the Dinosaurs Go Wild
- Harry and the Dinosaurs Make a Splash
- Harry and the Dinosaurs Make a Christmas Wish

MOOMIN

Look out for this brand-new range of Moomin picture books for toddlers in summer 2010.

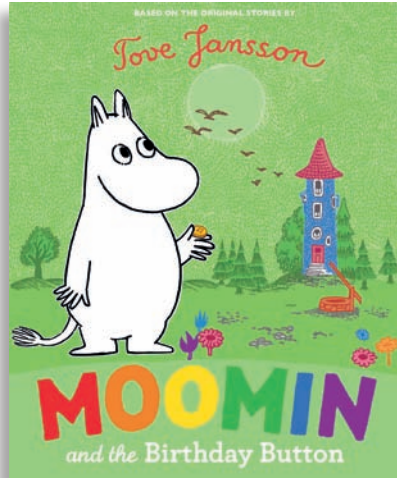
based on the original stories by Tove Jansson

If you haven't met a Moomin yet, you're missing the most magical fun!

The Moomin family and their friends have been delighting adults and children for 65 years.

And now children too young for Tove Jansson's whimsical tales can enjoy the fun and magic of life in Moominvalley with this beautiful range of picture books. Ideal for 1+.

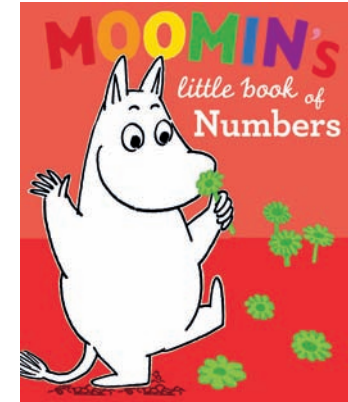
Older children should proceed to page 96 immediately!



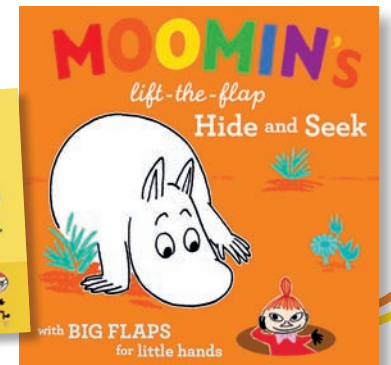
In *Moomin and the Birthday Button*, Moomintroll wakes up full of excitement for his birthday! What will happen next?



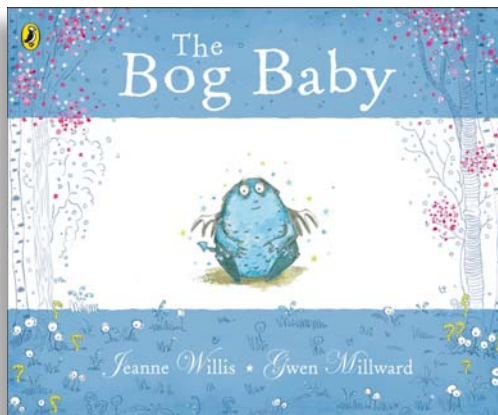
Moomin's Little Book of Words and *Moomin's Little Book of Numbers* are two chunky books that are just perfect for little hands and early learning. Count with Moomintroll all the way from one to ten, and have fun discovering new words.



Help Moomintroll find Little My by lifting the flaps – and find out just what Moominpappa is keeping under his hat.



The Bog Baby



by **Jeanne Willis**
and **Gwen Millward**

Perfect for young children aged 3 and up, it's hard to imagine anyone resisting this beautifully illustrated and charming tale.

When two small sisters go fishing in the magic pond, they find something much better than a frog or a newt. They find a Bog Baby, and

decide to make him their secret. But the Bog Baby is a wild thing, and when he becomes poorly, the girls realize they must tell their mum. And she gives them the greatest lesson – if you really love something, you have to let it go.

The King of Tiny Things

An enchanting story of moonlight and magic to chase away fears of the dark. Also perfect for children aged **3 and up**.



Bottoms Up!

by **Jeanne Willis**
and **Adam Stower**

A book bursting with bottoms – a perennial favourite that will have children aged 3 and up squealing with delight.

*Do bats wear bikinis?
Do badgers wear briefs?
Do bullocks wear breeches to
hide their beneaths?*

Bottoms Up! lays bare these important questions that have long troubled toddlers. It's a cheeky call to arms (or should that be bums?) with riotous rhymes and hilarious animals.

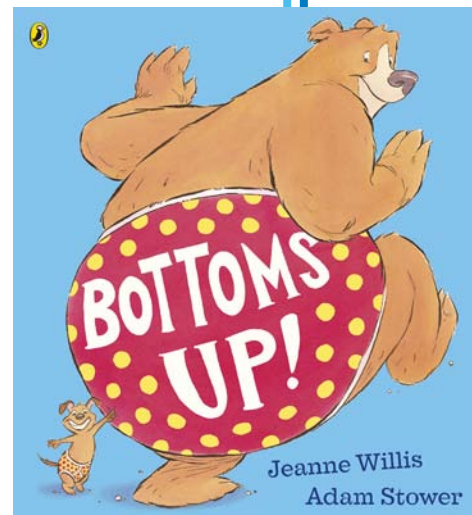
**No they do not
because nobody minds.
So why can't the rest of us
bare our behinds?**

Jeanne wrote her first book when she was 5 years old and hasn't stopped writing since. She has now written over a hundred titles, including picture books, novels and television scripts, and has won numerous awards, including the Children's Book Award and the Booktrust Award.

Adam Stower was washed ashore in Brighton where he studied illustration and still lives with his daughter, Mary, a host of seagulls and a slight limp.

Jeanne Willis's Top 5 Funniest Books:

- *Cuddly Dudley* by Jez Alborough
- *A Bear called Paddington* by Michael Bond
- *The Land of Green Ginger* by Noel Langley
- *Dear Teddy Robinson* by Joan G. Robinson
- *Boris The Brainiest Baby* by Laurence Anholt



*Bottoms are beautiful!
Bottoms aren't rude!*



**New in 2010 –
Sing a Song of Bottoms!**



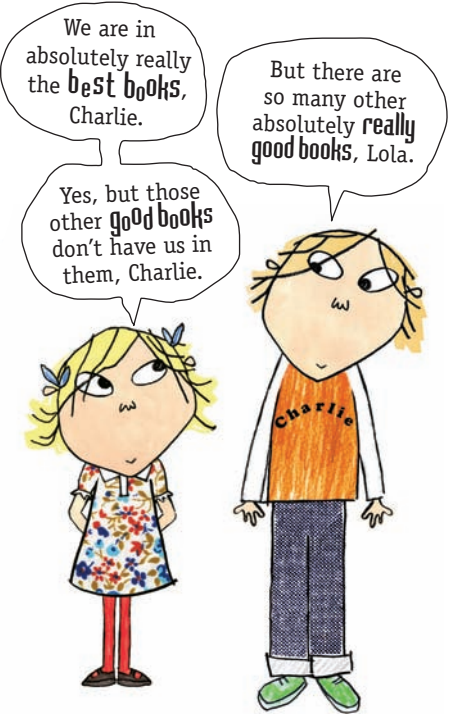
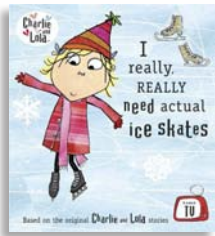
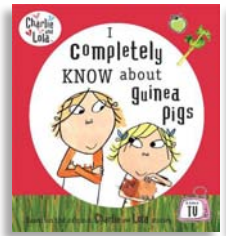
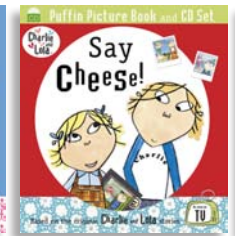
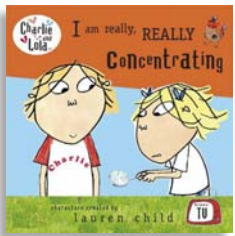
Charlie and Lola™



Based on the original Charlie and Lola stories

We really absolutely don't think there are any books funnier for kids aged 3 to 7 than the Charlie and Lola series.

Charlie has this little sister Lola, and they always find ESPECIALLY good things to do. You may have seen them on television, but they are just as much fun in their books. Charming and hilarious, they're the most famous brother and sister duo in children's books. They tackle ever so many of a child's 'first' experiences – including going to the dentist, being ill, learning about recycling, getting lost, and sharing.



To find out more about Charlie and Lola visit www.charlieandlola.com

The Princess and the Pea

by Lauren Child
Photographed by Polly Borland

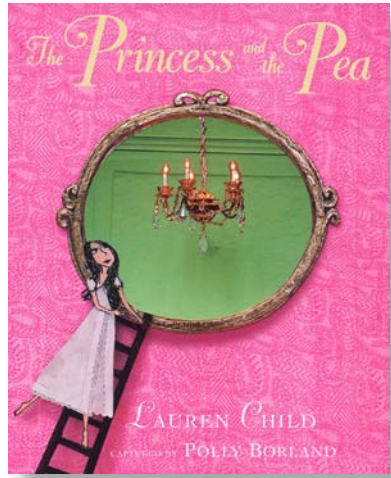
Award-winning and endlessly innovative, Lauren Child is one of the most influential children's writers and illustrators today. These are gorgeous treats for children aged 4 and up.

With beautiful hand-built sets and photographs, this fairy tale has been recreated in a miniature doll's house world that's a huge delight to enter.



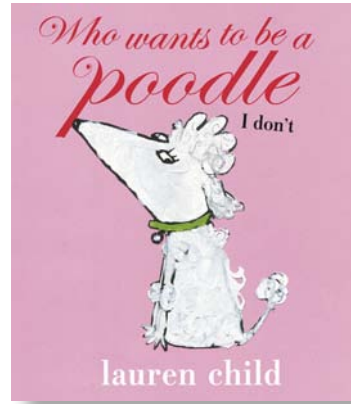
Photo © Polly Borland

'A thing of beauty, quirky and clever' – *Sunday Telegraph*



'Our princess of picture books' – *Observer*
'Lauren Child is so good it's exhilarating' – *Independent*

Who wants to be a poodle I don't



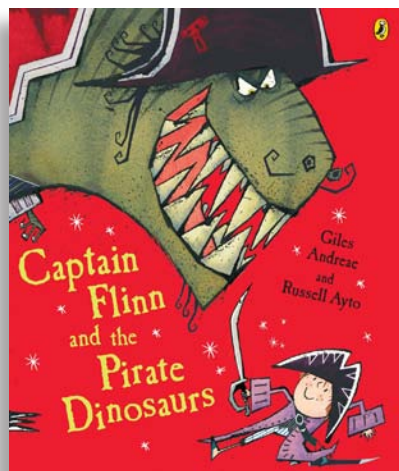
There once was a poodle called Trixie Twinkle Toes Trot-a-lot Delight. But she didn't like her name, or puffing, or preening, or posing, or perfuming, or being dressed in little pink ponchos . . . This is the chic, sweet and adorable story of a poodle who doesn't want to be chic, sweet or adorable *any more*.

'Some of the only books that withstand endless re-reading. With Child's books, we never say never' – *Guardian*

Pay a visit to Lauren's glorious website at www.milkmonitor.com

Captain Flinn and the Pirate Dinosaurs

by **Giles Andreae and Russell Ayto**



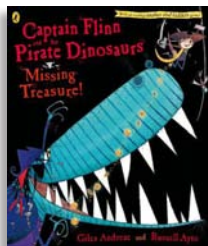
This rollicking adventure has the only thing more exciting to young boys than either pirates or dinosaurs. **PIRATE DINOSAURS!**

When Flinn discovers a real pirate crying in the school cupboard, it's ALL ABOARD, ME HEARTIES, for a pirate adventure! Will fearless Flinn be able to captain the ship and defeat the pirate dinosaurs?

'A dream come true for readers . . . action so vivid you can almost hear it'
– Sunday Times



Coming in September 2010 – more rip-roaring adventure about friendship, bravery, shivering those timbers . . . and dinosaurs!
Captain Flinn and the Pirate Dinosaurs: Smugglers' Bay!



Angelina Ballerina

by **Katharine Holabird and Helen Craig**

Angelina Ballerina is the most perfectly pirouetting mouse in Mouseland, and a dream come true for 4+ girls everywhere.

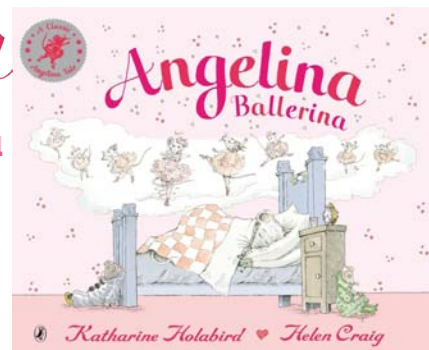
'Angelina is a magical character who fulfils every little girl's dreams'
– Darcy Bussell, OBE

Angelina is always dancing, even when she is meant to be getting ready for school or doing her chores.

Loved by her fans from her pink ribbon to her ballet slippers, Angelina's had her own hit television show, plus a whole lot of ballerina adventures in her books. Available in a wide range of formats from picture books to pop-up and audio.

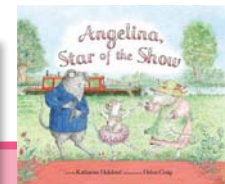
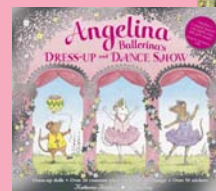


Much more than a 'pink' book – Angelina is a feisty, independent heroine for young girls.



More Angelina

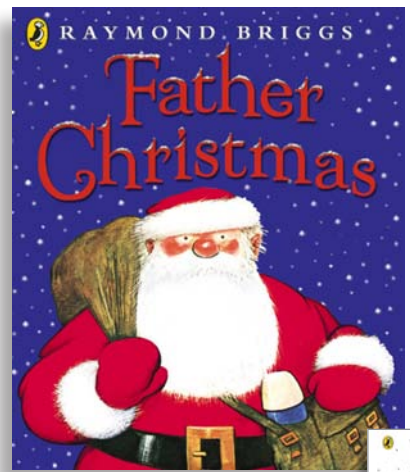
- Angelina's Christmas
- Angelina at the Fair
- Angelina on Stage
- Angelina and Alice
- Angelina's Birthday
- Angelina Ice Skates
- Angelina's Halloween
- Angelina's Ballet Class
- Angelina and Henry
- Angelina and the Princess
- Angelina's Invitation to the Ballet
- Angelina at the Palace
- Angelina and the Royal Wedding (spring 2010)





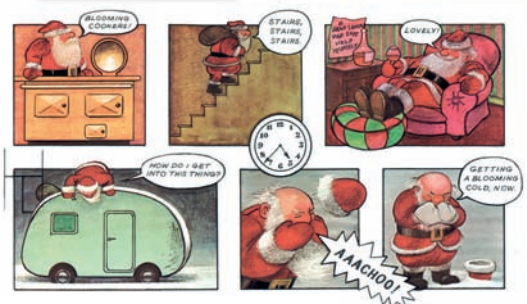
Father Christmas The Snowman

by **Raymond Briggs**



Raymond Briggs is an illustrator and writer who has created unforgettable work for adults (*Ethel and Ernest*, *When the Wind Blows*), for young children and for fans of slime and squelching (*Fungus the Bogeyman* – have a peek on page 42 if you dare).

Two of his best-loved books are an essential part of Christmas! *The Snowman* is his wondrous, wordless tale of James, who builds a snowman that comes to life for a magical adventure. *Father Christmas* is the story of 'blooming Christmas', 'blooming snow' and 'blooming chimneys'. Warm, funny and touching, both have been made into animated films that have become timeless classics too (though we still prefer the books).

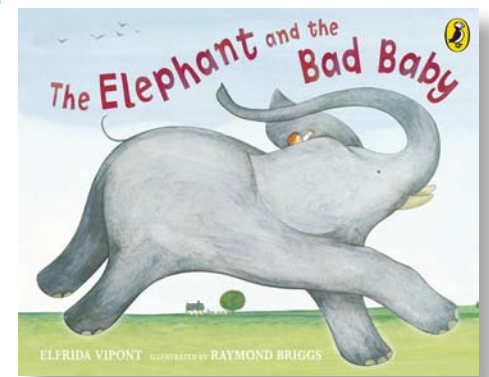


The Elephant and the Bad Baby

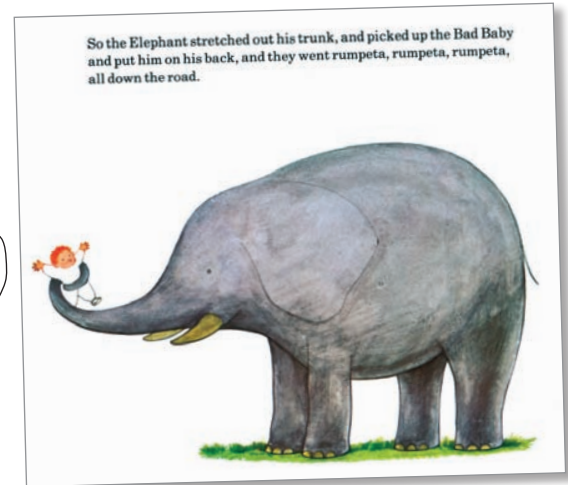
by **Elfrida Vipont and Raymond Briggs**

All babies, toddlers and their parents will want to rumpeta, rumpeta again and again through this classic that shows that even bad babies need good manners! A wonderful story that's full of repetition, with warm and witty illustrations by Raymond Briggs.

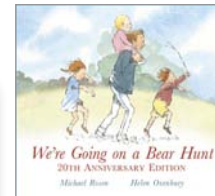
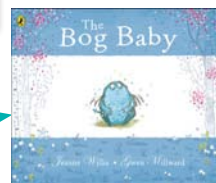
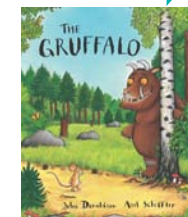
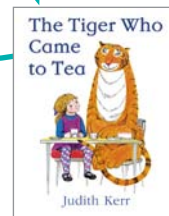
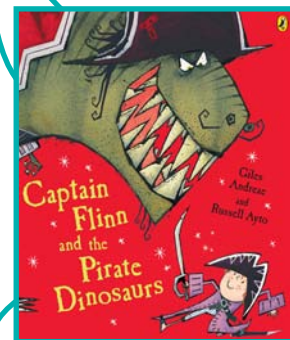
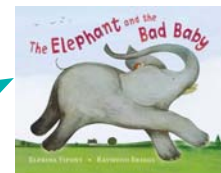
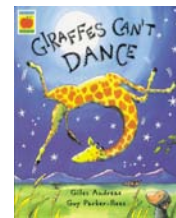
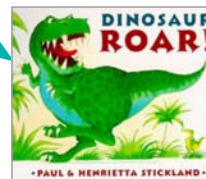
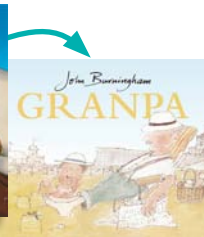
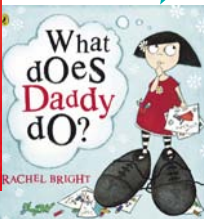
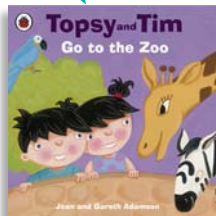
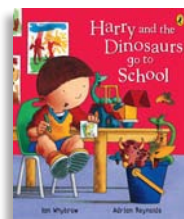
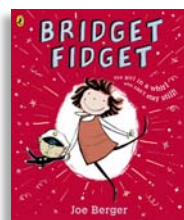
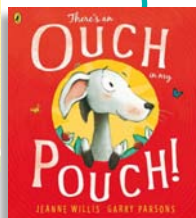
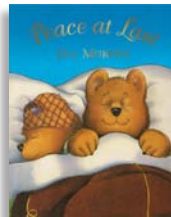
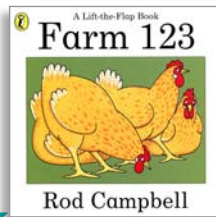
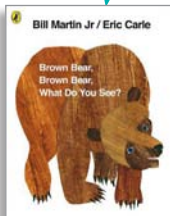
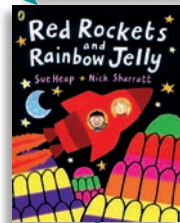
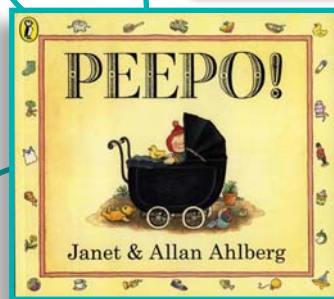
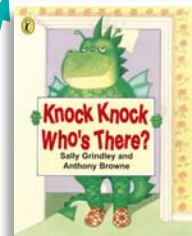
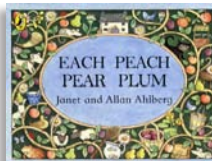
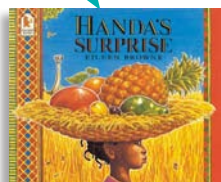
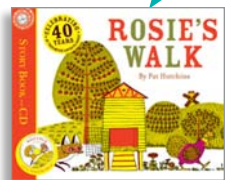
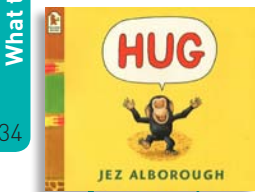
One day the Elephant offers the Bad Baby a ride. And as they go rumpeta, rumpeta, rumpeta all through town, their journey gets them into mischief, with all kinds of people chasing after them. But when the Elephant realizes that the Bad Baby has forgotten his manners, the chase ends with a BUMP . . . and tea for everyone!



Also available as a board book for toddlers.



Picture Books: What to read next





Young Fiction

Introduction by Jeremy Strong

I TAUGHT 7–9-year-olds for many years. This is when most children master the basics of reading. They become independent readers, able to read increasingly sophisticated books on their own. What a fabulous feeling that is – like passing your driving test! Now you can explore the world of your books **ON YOUR OWN!**

But what should they be reading?

First, let me say this: children, like adults, like to read at different levels. PLEASE don't tell your child that something they want to read is too young or too old, has too many pictures, or no pictures. After all, nobody takes away your copy of

HELLO! magazine! (Or *GQ*, *Vogue*, *Homes & Gardens*, etc.) About the only good reason for not reading something is because the subject matter may be unsuitable – for example, it contains teenage/adult matter that your child may not be ready for. But children (and many adults) of all ages love, for example, picture stories. Don't deny your child the pleasure of these. Equally, comic-strip stories like Raymond Brigg's *The Snowman*, Hergé's *Adventures of Tintin*, the *Asterix* series – these and many like them are devoured by eager children.

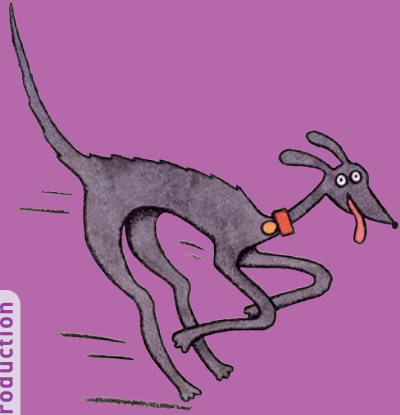
If you want to encourage your child, you need to feed them books.

Find a few that look interesting – fact and fiction, poetry too. Leave them around and see what happens. If they show an interest in one type, get more. Your local library has regular copies of helpful magazines about children's books. Librarians are pretty good at recommending stuff too.

Above all, talk to your child about books to see what they like most. It might be pony stories, funny books, horror, jokes, facts – whatever. Feed the interest first – a more sophisticated taste will develop in time. However you choose to help your child, remember that children take their cues from us. If we appear bored, they will learn to be bored by the same things.

Your child is also just the right age for *Puffin Post*. This brilliant little

Encourage and develop a child's imagination and enthusiasm for reading with illustration, clear page layout and these exciting, fun and magical stories. *Mildred Hubble*, *Fungus the Bogeyman* and a surfing *Spy Dog* are just some of the unforgettable characters you'll discover.



fifty-page mag comes packed with info, articles, games and more about books, writers and so on. It comes out six times a year and with each copy you get to choose a free book.

Reading ANYTHING is the most important and common way in which we easily increase our learning and awareness. It's effortless. Even if we try to read something we don't enjoy, we are learning something, and probably won't repeat that particular experience. Personally speaking I have never got into *The Lord of the Rings!* (But that didn't put my son off reading it – it's his favourite.)

By showing your own interest in the world of books, you are helping your child unlock the door to the most amazing world.

Jeremy Strong

HAPPY FAMILIES

by Allan Ahlberg

'If ever a series was designed to lighten the darkness of parents and children worrying about developing reading this is it' - Books for Your Children

This simple, charming series of illustrated tales from Allan Ahlberg in collaboration with a wide variety of top children's illustrators is a long-time favourite of both parents and children. These books are a perfect way to make the transition from picture books to chapter books and encourage children to feel comfortable reading.



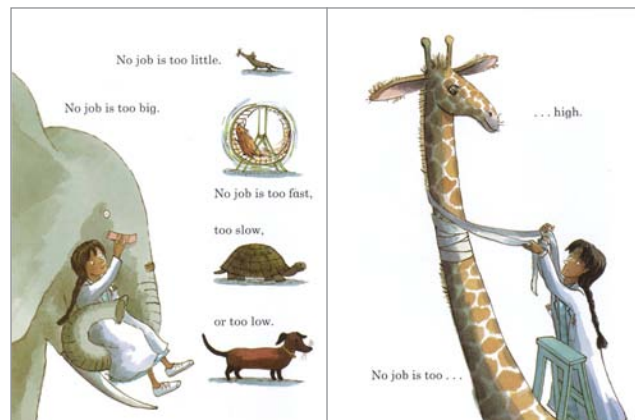
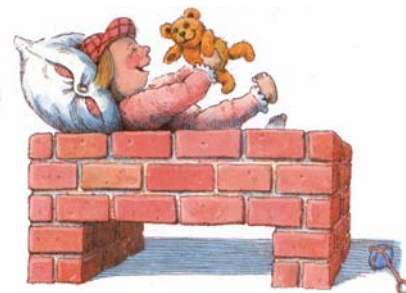
Mrs Wobble was a waitress. She liked her work. The customers liked her. The only trouble was - she wobbled.



Mr Salt the sailor sailed the seven seas. Mrs Salt sailed the seven seas as well. So did Miss Salt. Master Salt did not sail the seas. He was too little. He stayed on shore with his grandpa.



This is the house that Mr and Mrs Brick built. This is the baby that lived in the house that Mr and Mrs Brick built. This is the story of that baby.



LAUGH YOUR SOCKS OFF WITH Jeremy STRONG

From karate princesses to Frankenstein and hot cross buns, there's a Jeremy Strong story to suit every child's (and adult's!) sense of humour... Perfect for fans of Roald Dahl and Andy Stanton.

A small Q&A with Jeremy Strong

Why do you like writing stories?

I have always loved using my imagination – you can make anything you want happen when you write a story.

Does anyone help you with your writing?

My cat, Jeeves, likes to help and every so often he writes his own stories.

Where do you live?

In a small town near Bath in Somerset. There is even a herd of alpacas nearby, in case I want to knit a jumper.

What are your 5 favourite books?

This is so mean! I can think of at least twenty, no, thirty, forty! Well, here they are.

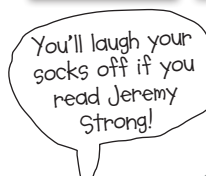
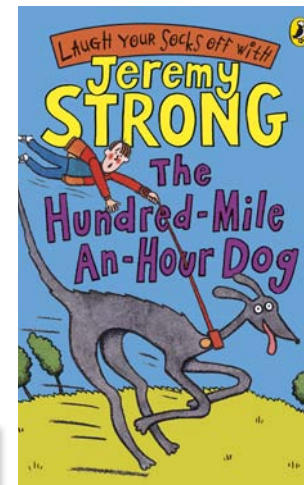
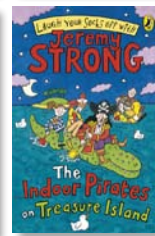
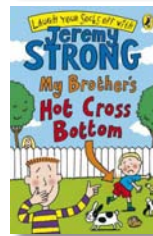
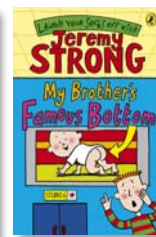
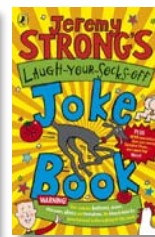
- *The Iron Man* by Ted Hughes
- *Fungus the Bogeyman* by Raymond Briggs
- *You're A Bad Man, Mr Gum* by Andy Stanton
- *The House At Pooh Corner* by A. A. Milne
- *Quick! Let's Get Out Of Here!* by Michael Rosen

'King of Comedy'
– Observer

'Comic energy and general fizz are Jeremy Strong's trademark' – *Independent*

Jeremy Strong has been writing children's books since 1978 and his laugh-out-loud humour makes him an extremely popular choice for children. Jeremy's readers range from **7 to teen**, with his books for older readers touching on subjects like divorce and growing up, all with Jeremy's trademark humour.

'I really like you because your books are very funny' – Amy Beth



(WARNING! SIDE EFFECTS INCLUDE SORE RIBS, SPLIT SIDES, ACHING CHEEKS AND TEARS OF LAUGHTER)



Fungus the Bogeyman

by Raymond Briggs

A sophisticated book for children of 8+, rich in detail . . . and slime! With lots to discover on every page, Fungus is a delightful yet disgusting treat every child will love.

In the disgusting land of Bogeydom, among snot, slime, scum and many smells, lives Fungus the Bogeyman. A picture book too full of filth to be ignored, this is a disgusting, distasteful treat like no other.

'You need a strong stomach and a quick eye' - *Sunday Times*

'A vivid and truly vile creation' - *The Times*

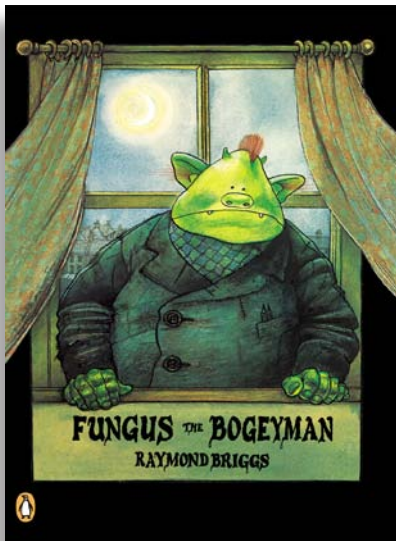
'Horrible enough to be a roaring success' - *Sun*

The multi-award-winning Raymond Briggs is one of the foremost creators of illustrated books for adults and children, including the unforgettable *The Snowman* and *Father Christmas* (see page 32).



Popular Puffins from the 1970s:

- *Watership Down*
- *Carrie's War*
- *The Worst Witch*
- *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry*
- *Mrs Frisby and the Rats of Nimh*
- *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*
- *The Battle of Bubble and Squeak*



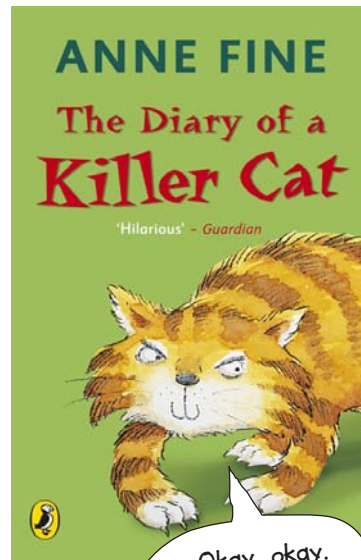
The Diary of a Killer Cat

by Anne Fine

Anne Fine has written numerous highly acclaimed and prize-winning books for children of all ages to enjoy as they grow up. Anne was the Children's Laureate from 2001-2003 and won an OBE in 2003.

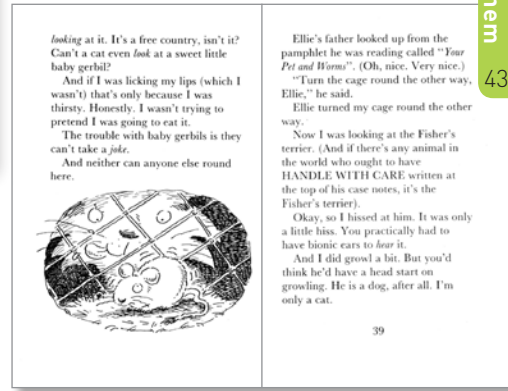
Young readers who love **Jeremy Strong**, or just think their cat is misunderstood, will laugh till they drop!

Tuffy the cat may have a sweet name, but this isn't some old saggy cat - this is a bad puss . . .



Okay, okay. So hang me. I killed the bird.

'This author can make you laugh and cry and is too much of a treasure to be reserved for children alone' - *Independent*





The Legend of Spud Murphy

by Eoin Colfer

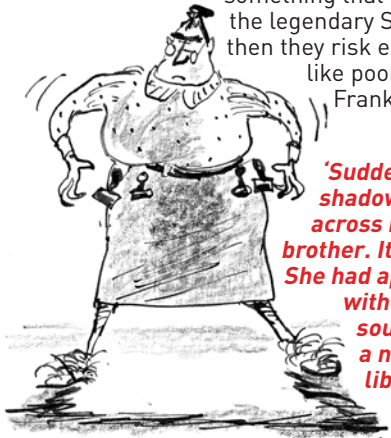
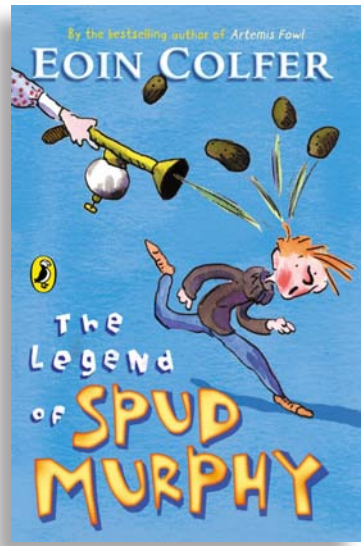
Eoin Colfer is the award-winning, multi-million-selling author of the Artemis Fowl books and creator of Half Moon Investigations, also a hit BBC TV series.

'Deliciously Dahlesque . . . this is a book guaranteed to convert the most book-resistant boy'
– Sunday Telegraph

'We couldn't fight, we couldn't shout, we couldn't make loud bodily noises. All the things young boys live for. Oh the boredom!'

Fans of Roald Dahl's *George's Marvellous Medicine* will love this hilarious story of two brothers sentenced to spend their summer afternoons in the library.

The library is ruled by the terrifying Spud Murphy, who keeps a deadly gas-powered spud gun below her desk, waiting for any child to just try to have some fun. The boys will only manage to pretend to read for so long before they do something that angers the legendary Spud. And then they risk ending up like poor Ugly Frank . . .



'Suddenly a shadow fell across my brother. It was Spud. She had appeared without a sound, like a ninja librarian.'



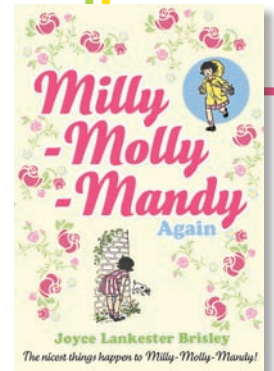
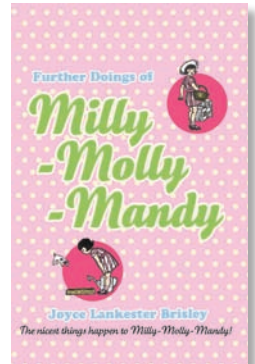
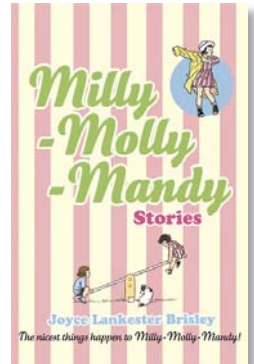
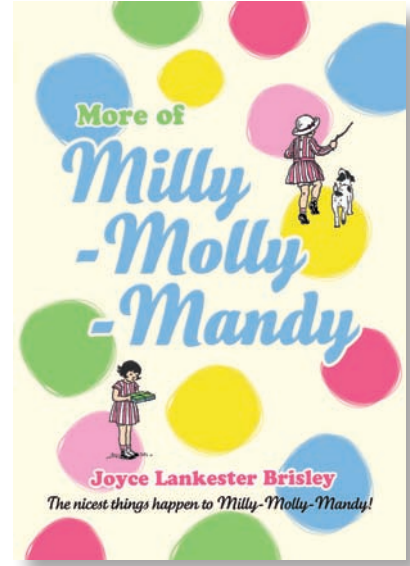
The Colfer experience doesn't end here – turn to page 82 and discover more brilliant books for older children to enjoy . . .

The nicest things happen to Milly-Molly-Mandy

by Joyce Lankester Brisley

The classic and enchanting tales of a little girl's countryside adventures.

Timeless and fun, Joyce Lankester Brisley's stories are ideal for reading aloud – her books have been loved and shared for over 75 years and are perfect for the next generation of **5+ girls**.



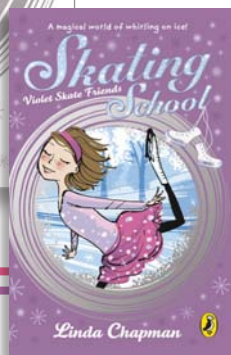


Skating School

by **Linda Chapman**

A magical world of whirling on ice!

Forget *Rainbow Magic*, the new series by the phenomenally successful Linda Chapman (*My Secret Unicorn, Not Quite A Mermaid*) is THE series to share with your **5+ girl**. Get ready for magical adventures about friendship, trying your best and making dreams come true.



Get YOUR skates on, join the Sparkle Club today!
www.lindachapman.co.uk

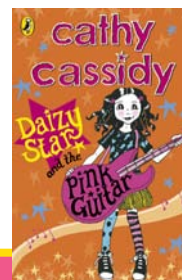


Daizy Star

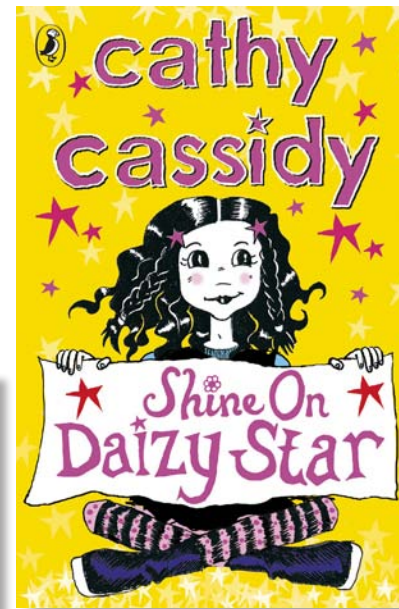
by **Cathy Cassidy**

Cathy Cassidy is one of today's most popular writers for children. **Girls (and boys)** love her can't-wait-to-read-more stories about friendship, growing up and following your dreams.

Daizy Star is perfect for introducing **7+ girls** to the world of Cathy Cassidy – they'll be hooked. Also perfect for Cathy's fans to share with their little sisters.



Meet Daizy and all her friends at
www.cathycassidy.com/daizystar



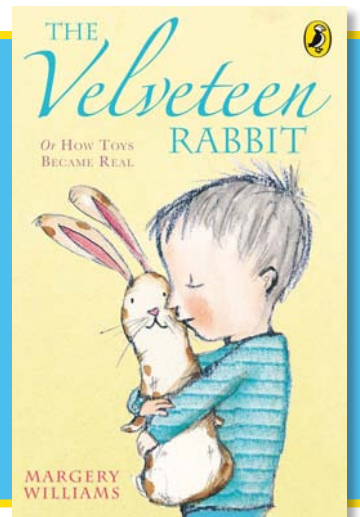
You can discover more Cathy Cassidy books to enjoy on pages 92 and 93.

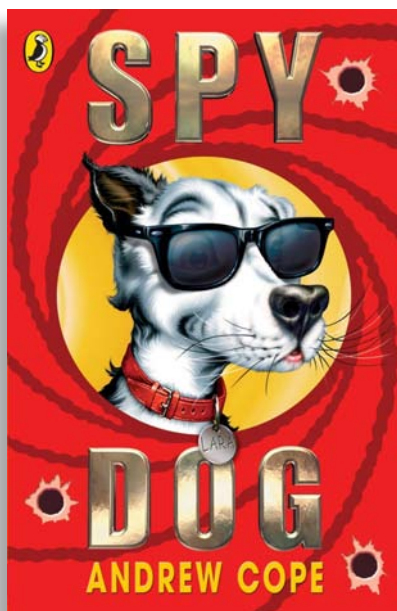
The Velveteen Rabbit

by **Margery Williams**

'He isn't a toy. He's REAL!'

A beautifully written and unforgettable story about the magical power of love. This classic book is a wonderful gift for parents and grandparents to read aloud with **boys and girls** from the age of **5+**.





SPY DOG

by **Andrew Cope**

A Richard and Judy pick – the award-winning canine adventure starring LARA . . .

That's Licensed Assault and Rescue Animal to you, AKA Agent GM451 – she waterskis, she plays cricket, she catches robbers on the run . . .

Andrew Cope really does have a dog called Lara who has one sticky-up ear and came from the RSPCA, but he's not sure if she is actually a highly trained secret agent.

Find out more about the Spy Dog and Spy Pups series at www.spydog451.co.uk



SPY PUPS

SPUD – he's scatty and accident-prone – but good with the gadgets

STAR – she's super-smart and ready to pounce . . .



by **Paul Cooper**

Pigs CAN fly

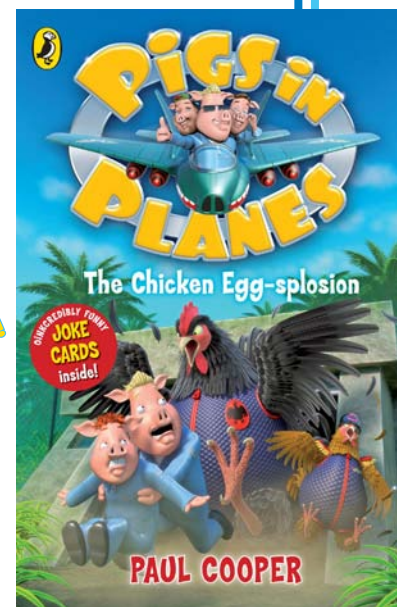
UNBELIEVABLY FUNNY JOKE CARDS INSIDE!

An oinkredibly funny new series for 7+ boys and girls, perfect for fans of Jeremy Strong, Andy Stanton and the Astrosaurs books.

When the alarm squeal sounds it must be a job for Captain Peter Porker and the PIGS IN PLANES! There's an emergency somewhere in Animal Paradise and the hogs are flying high to save the bacon . . .

GO, PIPS, GO!

Together they're SPY PUPS, following hot in the paw prints of mum LARA. Join them on the trail of buried treasure and dastardly villains . . .



Libraries and bookshops

How to delve into those shelves



WE'RE SO LUCKY in the UK to have a wide range of bookshops and a public library in every community. If we don't all use them, they might just go away!

Booksellers, especially those in specialist children's bookshops, **KNOW** about books.

- Talk to them and encourage your children to ask questions. Tell the bookseller what's been read and enjoyed in the past and ask for suggestions if you're not sure what to choose.
- Books are usually arranged under quite loose headings 0-5, 6-8, information books and so on and where you look will depend on your child's reading skills and taste.
- Don't rush it; go in with plenty of time as the browsing can be fun. Bookshops can't stock everything but can always order and get any book you want very quickly.

It is of course very important for every child to have a personal book collection at home but you can't buy everything!

- Library membership is free and several books can be borrowed at a time.

- Make sure you and your children are library members so that you can take advantage of the great choice and service they offer.
- Libraries often run events for children – storytelling, meet-the-author sessions, etc – children love meeting authors and illustrators so look out for opportunities.
- If your child is looking for a special book, do a computer search to see if it's there – ask the librarian for help the first time if you need to.
- Children will know from school how books are arranged in the library – and probably how to use the computer – and regular visits will soon get them used to the layout – but always ask if you need help.
- Libraries also run a Reading Challenge during the summer holidays – take your children along and encourage them to complete the challenge. There's a different theme each year with lots of reading suggestions and incentives too!

Wendy Cooling,
Children's Books Expert

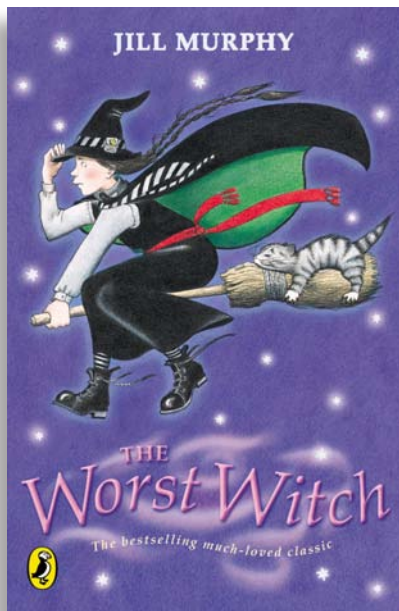
The Worst Witch

by Jill Murphy

The original story of life at a magical boarding school.

Meet Mildred: she has trouble staying on her broomstick and perfecting her potions. In fact, the only thing she spells is D-I-S-A-S-T-E-R. She tries her best, but when she turns the teacher's

pet into her worst enemy (and that's not all she turns her into) chaos ensues.



Jill Murphy began drawing and writing stories at a very early age, and was already putting books together (with her stapler) by the time she was six. She was

only 18 when she wrote and illustrated *The Worst Witch*.

Since then, her adorable books about the lovable but mishap-prone Mildred Hubble, pupil at Miss Cackle's Academy for Witches, have sold over 4 million copies.

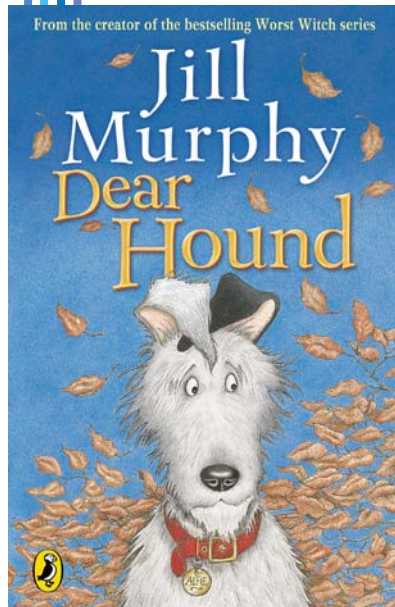


Dear Hound

Sweet and touching, young readers aged 7 and up will love Alfie . . .

'What on earth are we going to do with him?' asked Sunset.

Alfie knows some things: he knows that he's scared of thunderstorms; he knows his boy's name is Charlie, and he knows that he can't chase any animals because he made a deal with Florence the cat. But when he gets lost he doesn't know the one thing he needs to know: how to get back home to Charlie again.



DEERHOUND EARSTYLES

Normal	Early morning crumple	Cornish wind-blown tree	Listen both ways
Total freakout	Granny's bonnet	Full rabbit	Half rabbit

If you already love Alfie, we think you'd like *The Sheep-Pig* by Dick King-Smith. Have a look at page 94!

The Witch's Dog

by Frank Rodgers

Simple, fun sentences, large type and lots of colourful pictures make these stories of the first ever witch's dog perfect for developing readers of 5+!

No one takes Wilf seriously when he says he wants to be a witch's dog. His friends all laugh at him. Witches have cats, or rats, or bats, or toads, or spiders. But never dogs.

But Wilf is determined! He's not just going to be the first witch's dog but the best witch's pet there could ever be!

Wilf's further adventures:

- The Witch's Dog and the Treasure Map
- The Witch's Dog and the Talking Picture
- The Witch's Dog and the Box of Tricks
- The Witch's Dog and the Ice Cream Wizard
- The Witch's Dog and the Flying Carpet
- The Witch's Dog and the Magic Cake
- The Witch's Dog and the Crystal Ball
- The Witch's Dog and the Book of Spells



Gobbolino: The Witch's Cat

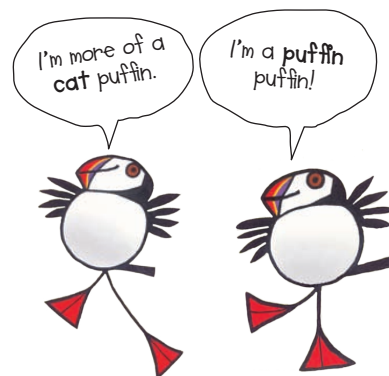
by Ursula Moray Williams

A charming, classic tale that's perfect for confident young readers, especially those who love the Moomins or Mr Majeika.

'Oh, I'll be a witch's cat like my ma,' said Sootica. 'I'll know all the Book of Magic off by heart and learn to ride a broomstick and turn mice into frogs and frogs into guinea-pigs. And what will you be, brother? Don't you want to be bad?'

'No,' said Gobbolino, 'I want to be good and have people love me. People don't love witches' cats. They are too disagreeable.'

With a white paw and beautiful blue eyes, Gobbolino isn't the sleek black, wicked cat his mother would have wanted.



But wherever he goes in search of a house with a nice warm fire and a family to care for, no one will trust him, and his magical adventures always seem to end in disaster. Will Gobbolino ever get to be an agreeable kitchen cat?

Magic

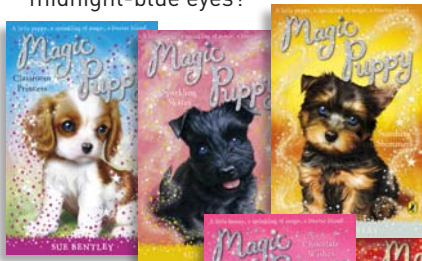
by Sue Bentley

Fantasy adventure for girls aged 5 and up. Magic animals appear to help lonely or unhappy children find friends, beat bullies and solve their problems.

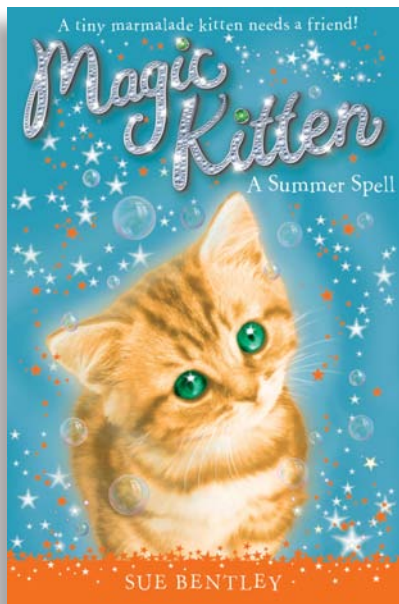
Which magical animal will YOU make special friends with? A purrrfect little kitten twinkling with magic?



A magic puppy with glittering midnight-blue eyes?



And the magic doesn't stop there!



Or a little pony sparkling with exciting magic?



All puffins are magic!

Yes - I can make cake just disappear!



Mr Majeika

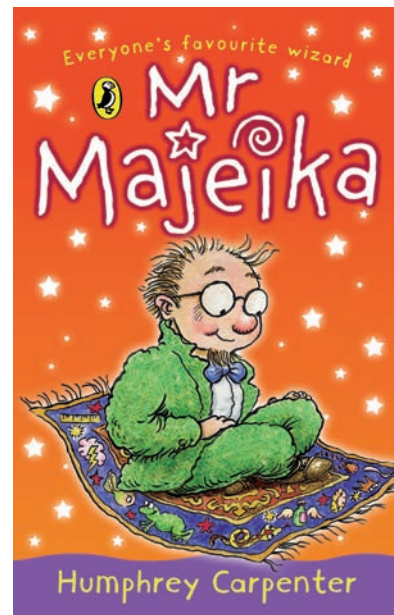
by Humphrey Carpenter

Mr Majeika's magical mishaps are perfect for fans of *The Worst Witch*.

Magic carpets don't turn up in schools. Class Three knew that.

Mr Majeika tries to be a normal schoolteacher, but it's hard when you're a wizard. From the moment he flies through the window, things are about to get a lot more interesting for one class, a lot more unbelievable for one unhappy head teacher and a lot more FROGGY for one deserving pupil!

'Delightful' - *Daily Telegraph*



More Mr Majeika!

- Mr Majeika and the Haunted Hotel
- Mr Majeika and the Dinner Lady
- Mr Majeika and the School Play
- Mr Majeika and the School Book Week
- Mr Majeika and the Ghost Train
- Mr Majeika and the School Caretaker
- Mr Majeika and the School Trip
- Mr Majeika on the Internet
- Mr Majeika and the Lost Spell Book

Mixing picture books and fiction

Now your child can read

BEING ABLE to turn the squiggles on the pages into words, sentences and stories gives children an amazing sense of achievement. Celebrate this with them. The pattern of shared reading time changes as your child's skills develop. Soon you will be reading a paragraph or a poem each. Carry on reading together even when your child is an independent reader:

- Share in the school reading. Listen to your child and discuss what's been read as you sign off the record book.
- Carry on home reading too, reading whatever your child chooses.
- Introduce books about the things your child is interested in.
- Never give up on picture books; share them alongside the new chapter books your child is proud to read.
- Reading broadens out and you'll soon be enjoying poetry, non-fiction, stories and picture books together.

Keeping them reading

If you've always been a part of your child's reading life, this will be easy. Reading with you will be as everyday as eating and going to school – enjoy it as long as your child will let you!

- Give a book token as part of any celebration – and trust children to choose well. Don't be the adult in the bookshop who tells a young person what to read.
- Grin and bear it when they choose horror books or something you don't like; the development of individual taste is important.
- Point them in the direction of all sorts of books – if children read widely they'll soon know what they like and don't like.
- Don't be embarrassed to be seen reading a children's book – and not only Harry Potter!
- Be a good role model, be seen reading too – books, newspapers, magazines, catalogues, computer manuals, whatever . . .
- Remember, you don't always read challenging books so why should children – encourage them to read a range too.
- Pick up on anything from school that interests your child – if it's a book about dinosaurs you could look for another dinosaur story or a book of dinosaur poems.
- Continue with any character books you've enjoyed together – *Charlie and Lola* or *Harry and the Dinosaurs* perhaps – and soon your child will be doing the reading. Try reading a paragraph or a page in turn to start with.
- As well as picture books, look for storybooks with illustration on every page, or speech bubbles. Early readers find it easier to cope if the text is broken up – too many words can put off the very new reader.
- Collections of short stories and poetry are good. It can be so liberating to be allowed to browse instead of reading the whole book.
- Encourage the reading of familiar, quite easy books – every success in reading gives children more confidence to move on.
- Carry on reading to your child regularly and encourage them to choose a longer, more challenging book for this purpose – a novel of which you can read a chapter at a time perhaps. Try something like Anne Fine's *The Diary of a Killer Cat*.
- Celebrate your child's choices and keep the reading time a pleasure.

The more young people enjoy reading in a relaxed atmosphere the more they'll want to read – encourage reading with a light touch.

Choosing the best books

- As your child starts school and sets off on the reading journey, he/she will bring books home from school but do carry on reading and choosing books together at home.

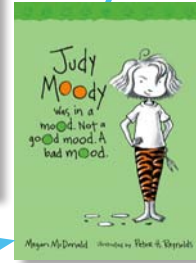
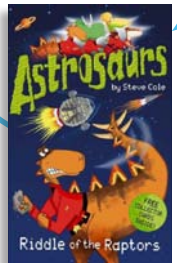
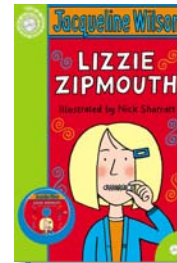
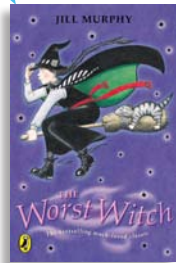
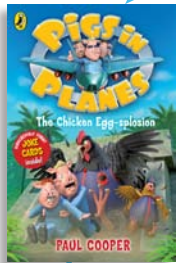
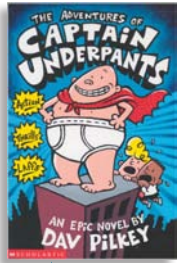
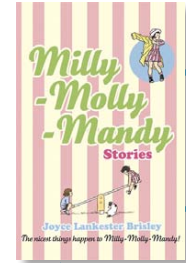
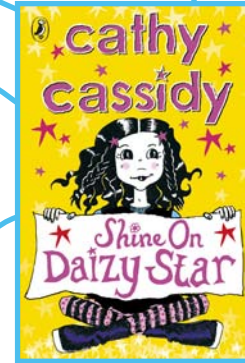
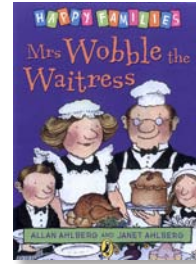
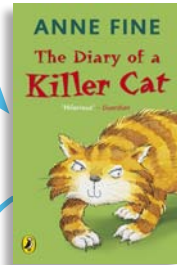
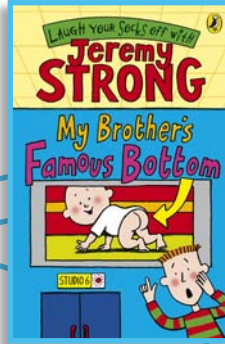
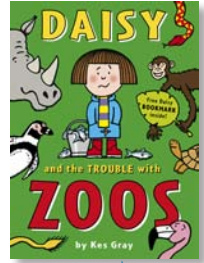
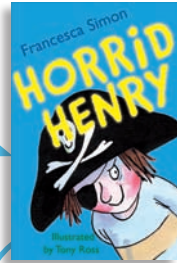
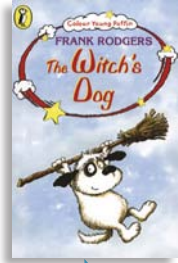
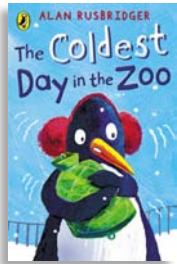
Wendy Cooling,
Children's Books Expert



Young Fiction: What to read next

What to read next

60



What to read next

61

Michael Rosen



The Children's Laureate from 2007–2009, Mr Michael Rosen, is here to talk to us about writing, poetry and . . . football.



When did you start writing?

I think that the first time I started writing outside of school was when I was about 16. I wanted to write poems like D. H. Lawrence's poems.

Where do you get your ideas and inspiration from?

I think most writers write out of a mixture of remembering, observing and imagining. What happens with me is quite often I start with a memory, mix it with observations of people I know and then mix in a bit of 'What if ...?'

Can you give your top 3 tips to becoming a successful author?

1. Write! Don't say to yourself 'I might' or 'I could'. Instead – just do it.
2. Copy up whatever you write into something that can easily be read to anyone. Type or hand-write very clearly.
3. Show what you write to people you respect. Listen to what they say.

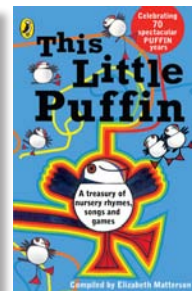
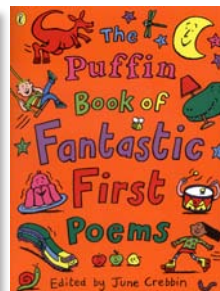
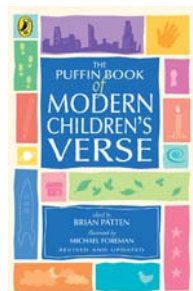
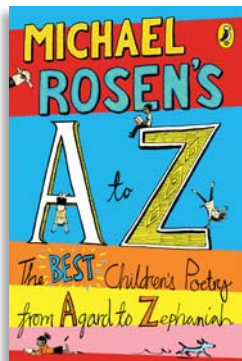
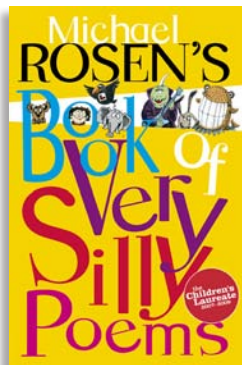
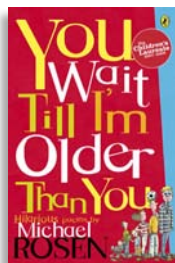
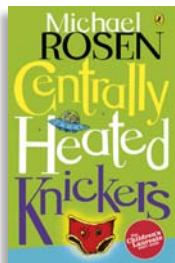
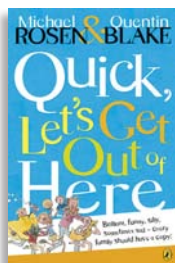
What are your hobbies?

Watching football – especially Arsenal. I like the way football is full of surprises, scares, drama. Collecting books – I like the way a book is like a storehouse of ideas.

If you hadn't been a writer, what do you think you would have been?

Probably a teacher. My parents were teachers and for a time it looked like it was the only thing I could do.

And speaking of Michael's writing – ta-daa! Here are just a few of his books you can enjoy . . .



Poetry, please!

Children love the emotion, immediacy and wordplay of poetry. There are funny poems, moving poems, silly poems, playful poems, gruesome poems (turn to page 65 for Roald Dahl's *Revoltin' Rhymes and Dirty Beasts*) – poems to suit every taste and age. Above are just a few of our favourite poetry books – with a couple of verses from Allan Ahlberg's playground classic *Please Mrs Butler* for your reading pleasure . . .

Swops

*I'll give you
A penny chew
A plastic whistle
A pot of glue
A suck of sherbet
A small canoe
A piece of string
A cockatoo
A bag of crisps
And a kangaroo!*

*For your Milky Way.
What do you say?*

No.



Back to School

*In the last week of the holidays
I was feeling glum.
I could hardly wait for school to start;
Neither could mum.*

*Now we've been back a week,
I could do with a breather.
I can hardly wait for the holidays;
Teacher can't either.*

Roald Dahl

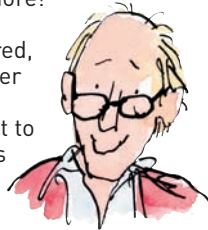
THE WORLD'S
No.1
STORYTELLER

'For many children Roald Dahl is synonymous with reading'
- Independent

ROALD DAHL was born in Norway in 1916 and at the age of 23 he joined the RAF. He began writing after a crash in which he suffered serious injuries. His first children's story, *James and the Giant Peach*, was published in 1961 and every one of his subsequent books became a bestseller . . .

Sitting in a hut at the bottom of his garden – surrounded by odd bits and pieces like a suitcase full of logs (which he used as a footrest), his own hip bone (which he'd had replaced) and a heavy ball of aluminium foil (made from years' worth of chocolate wrappers) – Roald Dahl wrote many of our very favourite books. Classics like *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, *The BFG*, *The Witches* and lots more!

Roald Dahl once declared, 'If you want to remember what it's like to live in a child's world, you've got to get down on your knees and live like that for a week.' And that's what makes his stories so incredibly special; he saw the world through a child's eyes.



So welcome to the marvellous world of Roald Dahl!

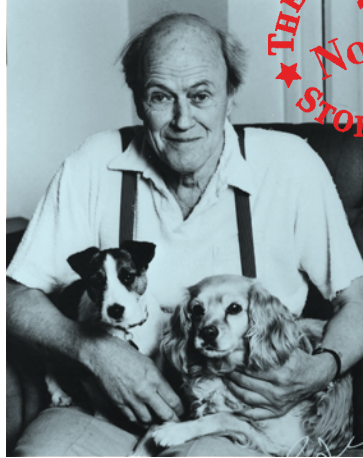
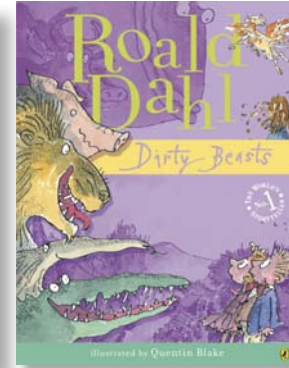
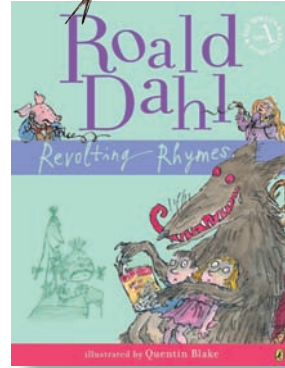


Photo © Rosie Tollemache



It is impossible to imagine any of Roald Dahl's stories without the wonderful drawings by *Quentin Blake* (or 'Quent' as Roald called him). He is one of the most recognized and loved illustrators of our time and he was Roald Dahl's favourite illustrator.



Revolting Rhymes is full of fairy tales made (even more) grisly, like the truth about that nasty little criminal Goldilocks, and the bloodthirsty habits of Cinderella's prince.

And *Dirty Beasts* is full of things like (gulp) this:

The Lion

The lion just adores to eat
A lot of red and tender meat,
And if you asked the lion what
Is much the tenderest of the lot,
He will not say a roast of lamb
Or curried beef or devilled ham
Or crispy pork of corned beef hash
Or sausages of mutton mash.
Then could it be a big plump hen?
He answers no. What is it, then?
Oh, lion dear, could I not make
You happy with a lovely steak?
Could I entice you from your lair
With rabbit-pie or roasted hare?
The lion smiled and shook his head.
He came up very close and said,
'The meat I am about to chew
Is neither steak nor chops. IT'S YOU.'



'Roald Dahl is without question the most successful children's writer in the world'
- Independent



Vile verse

Roald Dahl wrote wonderful stories, but he also wrote wicked poetry – all of it gruesome and disgusting. (And very, very funny!)

The Grand Roald Dahl Age-matic Chart

Roald Dahl wrote books for children of every age (and some for grown-ups too). From picture books like *The Enormous Crocodile* to gripping tales of the unexpected in *The Great Automatic Grammatizator*, there's never a day without the ideal Roald Dahl book to go with it.

From the page to the big screen

Many of Roald Dahl's books have become hit films!

- *Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory* (1971)
- *The Witches* (1990)
- *James and the Giant Peach* (1996)
- *Matilda* (1996)
- *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* (2005)
- *Fantastic Mr Fox* (2009)

3+

Great for reading along together

The Enormous Crocodile He loves to eat juicy, delicious children, but the other animals keep ruining his tricks!

The Giraffe and the Pelly and Me

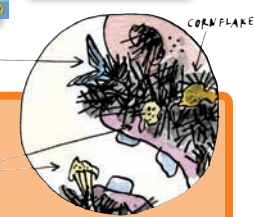
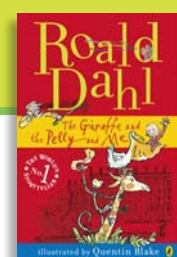
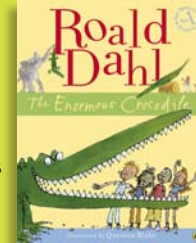
Esio Trot

5+

The Magic Finger

The Twits A mean old pair – they're even more disgusting than Mr Twit's beard (above).

Fantastic Mr Fox This fantastic story is now a fantastic film starring the voices of George Clooney, Meryl Streep and Bill Murray – don't miss it!



7+

George's Marvellous Medicine A unique concoction leads to a house-sized Grandma . . .

The BFG

James and the Giant Peach

Matilda

Charlie and the Chocolate Factory

Charlie and the Great Glass Elevator

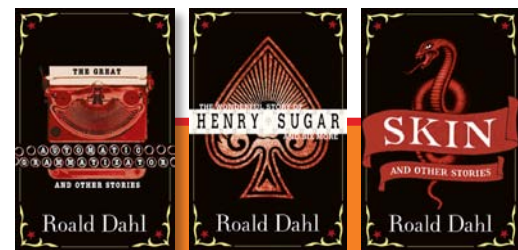
The Witches Bald, with claws and no toes – find out how horrid witches really are.



10+

Danny the Champion of the World

Boy and Going Solo In these two non-fiction books, Roald Dahl wrote about his own childhood and about going to Africa and joining the RAF!



12+

The Great Automatic Grammatizator

The Wonderful Story of Henry Sugar

Skin

If you asked us to pick just three Roald Dahl books we loved above all the others – well, we would refuse. Absolutely not, you monster! We love them all and you can't force us to choose! WHY ARE YOU SO MEAN?

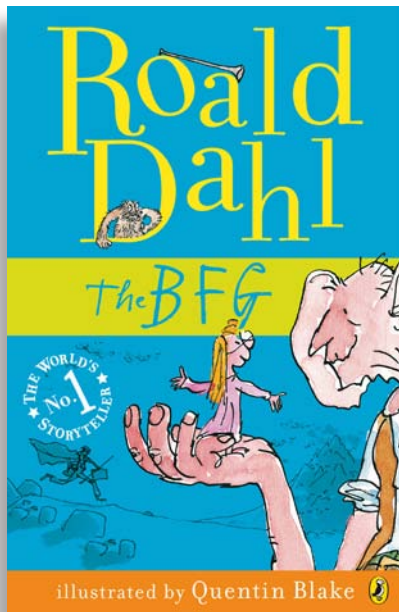
But if you just wanted to know about three that we really love, and they don't have to definitely be the ones we love best of all, well, then, we suppose we could do that. Why didn't you say so in the first place?

Here are just three of all our favourites:

The BFG

Every night when the world is sleeping, big gruesome giants guzzle up innocent human beans.

But the BFG isn't a mean, bone-crunching, chiddler-chomping *bad* giant – he's the kindest giant there is! And with his friend Sophie in his top pocket, maybe he can rid the world of the Fleshlumpeater, the Bloodbottler and all their rotsome friends forever . . .



'Whizzpopping is a sign of happiness. It is music in our ears!'

COBBLEFUNK is the scumdiddlyumptious collection of words invented by Roald Dahl while writing *The BFG!*

*Whizzpopping
Strawbunkles
Hippodumplings
Whoppsy-whiffing
Gloriumptious*

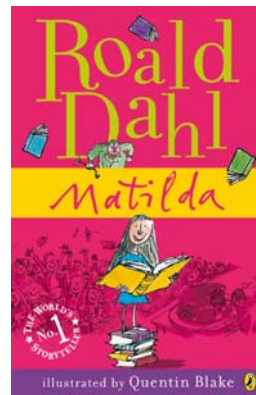
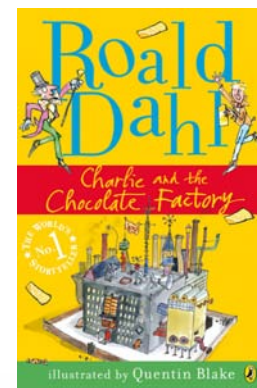
The list is endless – nothing is um-possible when it comes to making up words.

Charlie and the Chocolate Factory

Mr Willy Wonka, the most wondrous inventor in the world, is opening the gates of his amazing chocolate factory to five lucky children. It's the prize of a lifetime!

All Charlie Bucket needs is one Golden Ticket and then . . . Snozzberries! Luminous lollies! A river of molten chocolate! And all the rest of Wonka's magical creations are his to experience. Even if some of the more spoilt or selfish children might come to (really) sticky ends . . .

'There!' cried Mr Wonka, dancing up and down and pointing his gold-topped cane at the great brown river. 'It's all chocolate! . . .'



Matilda

Matilda's parents are mean and stupid, and her dad's a crooked crook.

They think Matilda should spend less time reading books and more time watching TV. But her lovely teacher Miss Honey thinks Matilda is a genius. And Matilda has a few extraordinary tricks of her own up her sleeves. So her horrible parents and the fearsome Miss Trunchbull, her even more horrible headmistress, had better watch out.

'What do you want a flaming book for? We've got a lovely telly with a twelve-inch screen and now you come asking for a book!'





Is it adventure you're seeking – or do you want to laugh out loud? Do you like graphic novels or war stories, something fantastic or moving or mind-blowing? Well, look no further. Confident readers of all ages will love what's coming next.



Photo © Michael Paynter



Fiction

Introduction by Eoin Colfer

NOW has come the time when you can pick your own books. It feels good, doesn't it, to sneer at your parents when they recommend a novel for you to read. It doesn't matter whether or not their choice is a good one; what matters is you get to sneer at your parents, and legally too. Everyone knows that it is perfectly OK to exercise a little sarcasm in the name of literature. It's also perfectly OK to sneakily read the recommended book when they're not around, but never admit you enjoyed it. Never!

And watch out for the old reverse psychology. It is quite possible that one of your parents will loudly and repeatedly forbid you to read one of the classics in the hope that you will throw a rebellious strop and go and read it anyway. This tactic is easy to spot as your dad will possibly

be winking at your mum or doing a little self-satisfied jig as he gives his performance. As before it is quite OK for you to read this book, but never be caught doing it. It is always a good idea to have a fake cover lying around somewhere in case your dad is one of those who bursts into your room unannounced.

But for the most part you will be left to choose your own books, though these choices will rarely be totally free from the influence of peers, marketeers or bookshop attendants. You have to be selective in your choices and take advice from people who might know what they're talking about. For example, never join a book circle where you have to wear a costume or do a secret handshake. Too much hard work. Reading shouldn't be hard work; it should be fun.

So, who do you listen to? Librarians are good. Booksellers too. But I usually went on the recommendations of trusted friends or, failing that, girls that I really liked and wanted to like me.

Also don't get stuck in a book rut. For a while there in my teens I only read fantasy books, which was very enjoyable, but after a while I began to refer to my friends as elves.

But do continue to read, that above all else. So often young, smart, good-looking readers get to their late teens and jack the whole lot in, in favour of lounging around in a cool fashion and staying stuff like:

'Wot you doin'?'

'Nuffink, wot you doin'?'

'Nuffink, wot you doin'?'

This can go on for several weeks and lead to repetitive jaw disorder.

When you hit that read-or-don't-read crossroads, which is more of a Y junction really, choose the read branch and stay on it for life, because if you don't there is a real possibility that you could get more

stupid with every passing day of doing nuffink.

Whereas if you continue to leaf the trees (which is a cool way to say reading I thought of, because you leaf through pages that are made of trees – funny, eh? Sometimes I crack myself up, which is embarrassing when you're in a room of people who don't get the joke and don't laugh even when you explain it and occasionally send you to your room, even when it's your house) then your brain will expand with knowledge and wit and people will gravitate towards you at parties.

The problem with this whole introduction is that I am a parent and therefore you will ignore everything I say no matter how charmingly it is presented. And so my final act is to forbid you to read. I FORBID it. Do you hear me, young scamps? No reading for you. Off to bed now and stay thick for the rest of your lives.

Wink wink, jiggedy jig.

Eoin Colfer

Toad Rage

by **Morris Gleitzman**

'If you ever get flattened, you know, more than you have already,' said Dad, 'we'd be really, really sad.'

Limpy can't understand why humans hate cane toads so much. Echidnas are adored, koalas are cherished and possums are prized: so why do so many of Limpy's family get squished by trucks? He's got so many flat relatives he's running out of places to stack them in his room.

Somehow Limpy must make humans see how nice cane toads really are. He sets off on a journey that is mucus-chillingly dangerous and wart-tinglingly daring. It's also very, very funny.

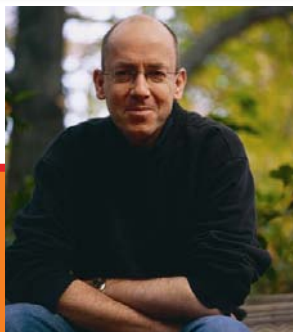
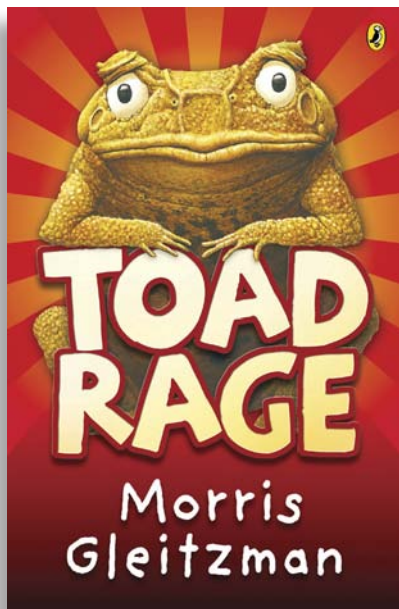


Photo © Tim Keele

Morris Gleitzman

Morris Gleitzman was born in England in 1953. He emigrated to Australia in 1969 so he could escape from school and become a Very Famous Writer. Before he achieved that goal, he worked as a paperboy, bottle-shop shelf-stacker, department store Santa, frozen-chicken defroster and fashion-design assistant. But he did it in the end! Now he's one of Australia's most successful authors, winning numerous prizes and sneaking irrepressible, irresistible comedy into children's hands across the world, cleverly hidden in the respectable form of books.

We think Morris Gleitzman is brilliant, unique and hilarious—and children of taste aged **9 and up** agree!

Morris Gleitzman's Top 5 Children's Books:

- *Tashi* by Anna Fienberg and Kim Gamble
- *Just William* by Richmal Crompton
- *I, Nigel Dorking* by Mary-Anne Fahey
- *Angel Blood* by John Singleton
- *A Lucky Child* by Thomas Buergenthal

www.morrisgleitzman.com

Two Weeks with the Queen

Dear Your Majesty the Queen, I need to speak to you urgently about my brother Luke.

Colin's brother Luke gets a bit ill and suddenly he's getting all the attention. It seems very unfair to Colin. But when it turns out that Australian doctors aren't up to the job of fixing him just because he has cancer, Colin knows that the only thing to do is go straight to the top.

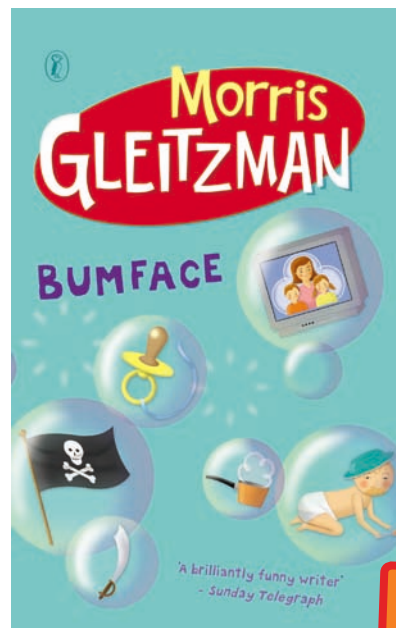
Two Weeks with the Queen is laugh-out-loud funny and heart-breakingly tender (we just have something in our eye, honestly).



Angus is sick of being Mr Dependable. He's only eleven! He shouldn't be left looking after his younger brother and sister.

Bumface

That's who he wants to be. The bold, wild and free pirate Bumface. But if he wants his freedom he's going to have to do something about his mother. Like make a plan for stopping her getting pregnant again.



'I began it with delight and finished it laughing aloud. It's a joy' - Philip Pullman

Unreal!

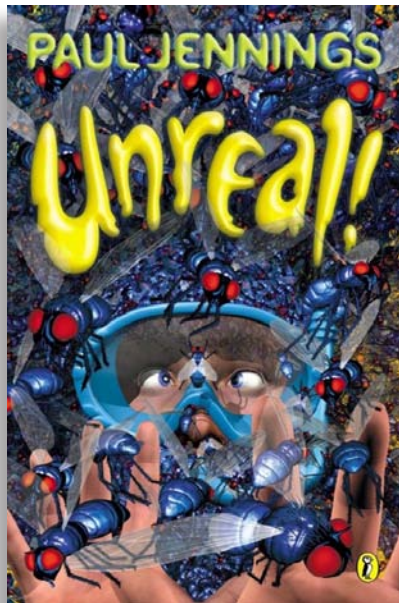
by Paul Jennings

If you like your stories weird, wild and outrageous (and with a wicked sense of humour), Paul Jennings' books are for you!

From Wonder Underpants (that's Wunderpants) to a manure mixture that's just too irresistible to flies, a conman who falls foul of his own dirty trick, and even a haunted toilet, these stories are sometimes spooky, sometimes gross and always surprising.

Paul Jennings has been voted 'Favourite Author' by children in Australia more than 40 times and has sold more than 6.5 million books worldwide. He worked as a special-education teacher before becoming a writer. Paul also writes for older children.

Beware: even the most reluctant readers will find these crazy collections of short stories addictive! Luckily there's more where *Unreal* came from . . .



Explore the wacky world of Paul Jennings at www.pauljennings.com.au

Punbelievably pfunny!



Wait – there's more!

- Unseen!
- Totally Wicked! co-written with Morris Gleitzman
- Quirky Tails



Slapstick Poems

by Roger McGough



Pssst – it's time for some more poetry! (And as we're in the comedy section, we hope it makes you smile.)

JUST DESSERTS by Roger McGough

*Jelly and custard, lemon meringue pie
Sherry trifle with cream piled high*

*Mincemeat tart and blackberry sponge
Roly-poly with syrupy gunge*

*Chocolate-coated profiterole
Sugary doughnut (without the hole)*

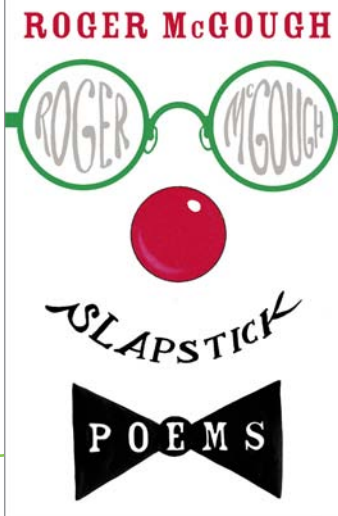
*Pineapple fritters and crème brûlée
Treacle toffee straight from the tray*

*Ice cream with banana split in two
Butterscotch fudge, sticky like glue*

*Rhubarb crumble and strawberry cheesecake
Brandy snaps that'll make your teeth ache*

*Christmas pudding, just one more slice
For goodness' sake, take my advice:*

*If all you eat is just desserts
One day you'll get your just desserts.*



For over 40 years Roger McGough has been one of the leading lights of British poetry for children and adults alike. In 2001 he was given the Freedom of the City of Liverpool, and in 2004 he was awarded the CBE for services to literature.



Photo © Leila Romaya

'A true original' – *The Times*

My Family and Other Animals

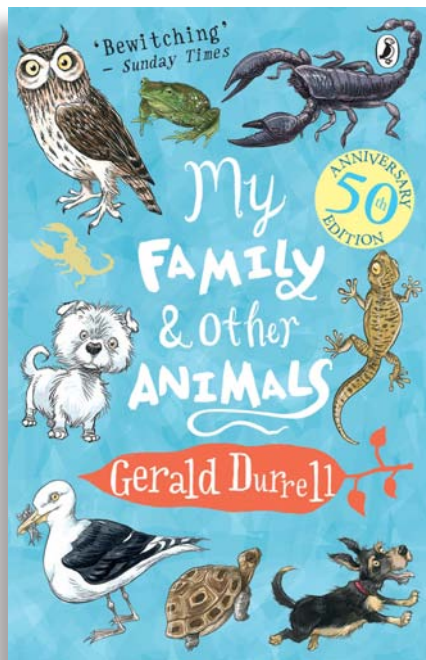
by **Gerald Durrell**

Sometimes it's pretty hard to tell them apart . . . My family and the other animals that is.

This is the true (and often unbelievable) story of the childhood years Gerald Durrell spent with his family in Corfu, discovering the beautiful landscape of the Greek island and the local wildlife . . .

I don't know why my brothers and sister complain so much. With snakes in the bath and scorpions on the lunch table, our house is a bit like a circus. So they should feel right at home.

Beautifully written, endlessly funny and brilliantly chaotic, this is a unique classic for confident readers. Full of energy and the exuberant love for animals that animated Gerald's life, it's been transporting happy readers to the Durrell family's own Corfu for more than 50 years.



'Bewitching' - Sunday Times

Would benefit from more puffins, I think!



'The warm feeling of . . . a lovely spot where worry is unknown and anything is possible' - New York Times

Madame Doubtfire

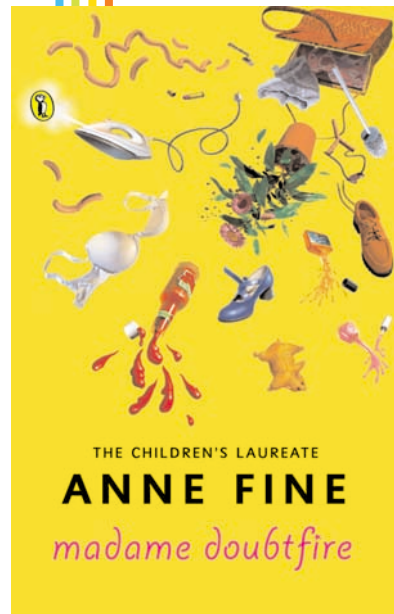
by **Anne Fine**

Anne Fine has written numerous highly acclaimed and prize-winning books for children of all ages to enjoy as they grow up. Anne was the Children's Laureate from 2001–2003 and won an OBE in 2003.

For older readers, Anne Fine's very funny story of one man's extraordinary attempt to see more of his children . . .

*A vast apparition towered over her on the doorstep.
'I'm Madame Doubtfire, dear.'*

It's been war in the Hillard home for a long time, and Lydia, Christopher and Natalie are caught in the middle. But things change when their mum takes on a most unusual cleaning lady. But there's more to Madame Doubtfire than just domestic talents. The inspiration for the film *Mrs Doubtfire*, starring Robin Williams, *Madame Doubtfire* is a touching, heartfelt and humorous book about growing up in between two parents.



More for older readers to enjoy:

- *Flour Babies*
- *Goggle Eyes*
- *A Pack of Liars*
- *The Tulip Touch* (for teenagers)

Have you discovered Anne Fine's fantastic bookplate scheme? Visit www.myhomelibrary.org to find out more.

Younger readers should try Anne Fine's tale of a ferocious feline *The Diary of a Killer Cat* (see page 43).

PUFFIN DIGITAL

Worried that your children are spending too much time in front of the computer? Well, worry no longer because at Puffin we're committed to creating the best bookish experiences for children – online.

From our award-winning websites to books and games available on an ever-increasing range of devices, your children will always be able to access great stories, great authors and great books.



Downloadable Audiobooks

A range of audiobooks to download to computers, mobile phones and portable media players is already available and new titles are being added online every month – visit puffin.co.uk/audiobooks for all our current titles.

'wemakestories.com is a brilliant and engaging tool that will help many children release their imagination' – Jeremy Strong



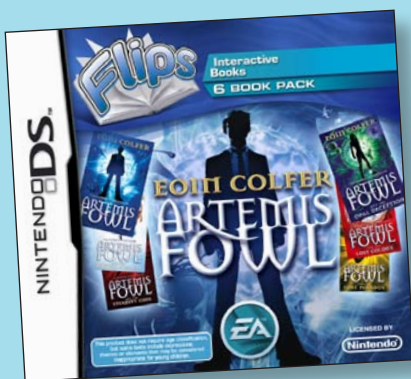
www.wemakestories.com is the brand-new site for young story-makers aged 6–12. Members can create amazing 3D pop-up books, thrilling comics, personalized audio books and exciting treasure maps. Stories can be printed out or shared online.

We Make Stories membership: £5.99 for individuals/£49.99 for schools and libraries (up to 15 users)

Video demo at www.wemakestories.com/video.aspx

For more information or 1 week's trial (schools only), email: membership@wemakestories.com

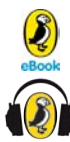
'A beautiful new website designed to turn children into storytellers' – Parentdish.co.uk



Flips! eBooks for young gamers

Now your child doesn't need to put down their Nintendo DS to pick up a book. Choose from Artemis Fowl, Percy Jackson or Cathy Cassidy ebooks – all with great interactive features and extra content.





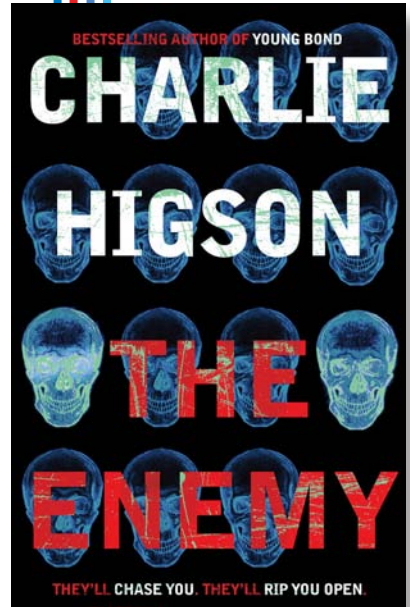
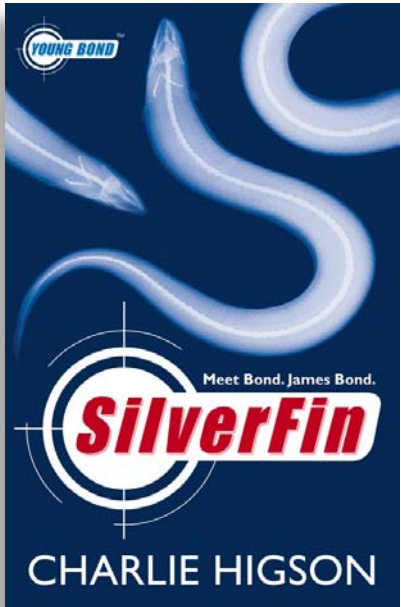
YOUNG BOND

Brave the danger at www.youngbond.com

by Charlie Higson

Before the name became a legend. Before the boy became the man. Meet Bond. James Bond.

Charlie Higson is the creator of the bestselling **Young Bond** series about James Bond as a 13-year-old school boy at Eton. Packed with high-tension adventure, thrilling plots and dangerous villains, his books and graphic novels are a phenomenal success with both boys and girls and are ideal for fans of **Robert Muchamore** and **Anthony Horowitz**.



The Enemy

The first incredibly gripping adventure in a heart-stopping new series – look out for the NEXT thrilling book in autumn 2010 . . .

**They'll chase you.
They'll rip you open.
They'll feed on you.**

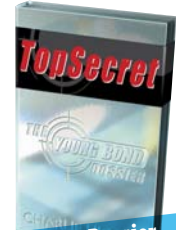
When the sickness came, every parent, policeman, politician – every adult fell ill. The lucky ones died. The others are crazed, confused and hungry.

Only children under fourteen remain, and they're fighting to survive . . .



'Charlie Higson's Young Bond books get an A*' – *GO*

'Very clever, Mr Bond, very clever indeed' – *Daily Mail*



Top-secret Dossier featuring an EXCLUSIVE new Young Bond story!

Charlie Higson's Top 5 Children's Books:

- *You're a Bad Man, Mister Gum* by Andy Stanton
- *Tintin and the Red Sea Sharks* by Hergé
- *Northern Lights* by Philip Pullman
- *Mortal Engines* by Philip Reeve
- *The Incredible Adventures of Professor Branestawm* by Norman Hunter



Photo © Andy Paradise

Young Bond target logo, SilverFin and Eye Logo are registered trademarks of Danjaq, LLC, used under licence by Ian Fleming Publications Ltd.

'There aren't a lot of things that would coax us into a time-machine to travel back to our early teens, but *The Enemy* could be one of them' – *Esquire*

'Brutal, blood-soaked, full of zombies . . . it's ace' – *FHM*

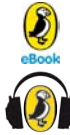
'This book immediately took hold of me, I had to know what happened next. Brilliant!' – Sam, 12



Photo © Press Association



The Enemy is coming for YOU: www.the-enemy.co.uk



ARTEMIS FOWL

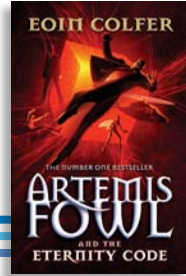
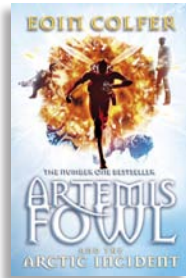
by Eoin Colfer

You've probably heard the name. If not, there's still time . . .

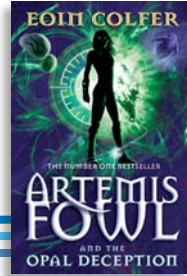
The Artemis Fowl series is an explosive blend of action, comedy and fast-paced adventure. It's *Die Hard* with fairies. Artemis is a young criminal mastermind who discovers an underground world of high-

tech fairies and mind-blowing technology. Funny fantasy for fans of Terry Pratchett and Anthony Horowitz, aged 9 and up.

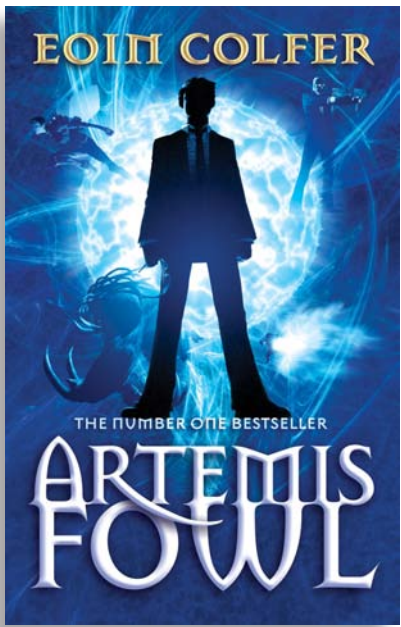
'Fast, funny and very exciting' – Daily Mail



'Grips like an electromagnet until the last word' – Independent

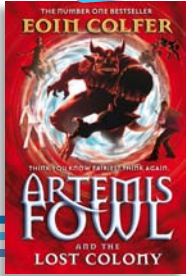


'Artemis is a brilliant creation' – Anthony Horowitz

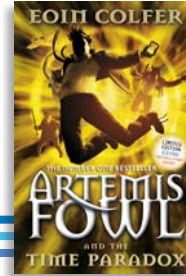


'Reads like the fastest, punchiest comic strip you've ever come across' – Daily Telegraph

Enter Artemis's wicked world at www.artemisfowl.co.uk



'Loved by children and adults alike . . . page-turning stuff' – Sunday Express



'Engagingly vivid, exciting and witty' – Telegraph

PLUS – Artemis Fowl and the Atlantis Complex coming July 2010!



Photo © Michael Paynter

Eoin Colfer (pronounced Owen, by the way) is the international No. 1 bestselling author of the Artemis Fowl series. He has also written the brilliant *Half-Moon Investigations* (a hit BBC TV series), *The Wish List* and *The Supernaturalist*.

Eoin Colfer's Top 5 Children's Books

- *Stig of the Dump* by Clive King
- *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* by Mark Twain
- *The Princess Bride* by William Goldman
- *Prince Caspian* by C. S. Lewis
- *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens



Airman

Airman is Eoin's first historical-fiction novel, in which his hero Conor takes to the skies. **No fairies were involved in the making of this book.**

'Swashbuckling high adventure' – Guardian
★★★★ 'Wonderfully inventive . . . great stuff' – Mail on Sunday

Give Mr Colfer an A* – two of his books star in Puffin's top books from the 2000s!

- *Artemis Fowl*
- *Young Bond: Silverfin*
- *Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief*
- *Scarlett*
- *Airman*



Eoin's also written some hilarious books for younger readers – head to page 45 to find out more . . .



PERCY JACKSON

by Rick Riordan

Half BOY. Half GOD. ALL HERO.

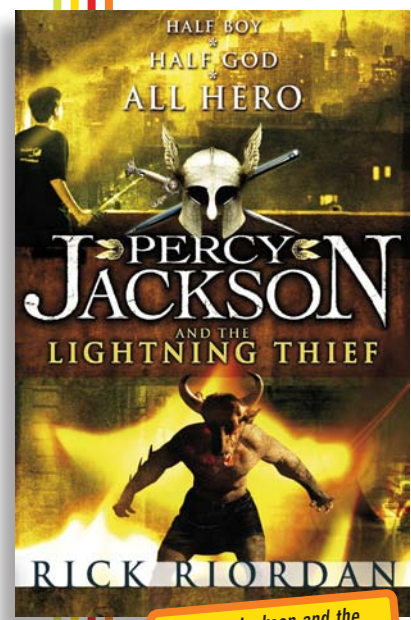
It's not every day you find yourself in hand-to-claw combat with a half lion, half human.

But when you're the son of Poseidon, God of the Sea, these things happen.

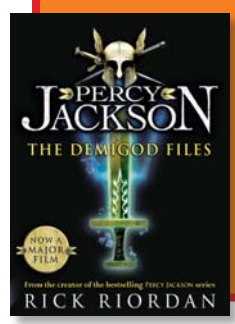
Get hooked on Percy Jackson – unputdownable modern-day adventures with a mythological twist – ideal for **9+ boys and girls** who are looking for hair-raising action with the mighty Greek gods thrown in.

'It's Buffy meets Artemis Fowl' – Sunday Times

'Excellent full-throttle adventure' – Daily Mail



Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief is a major motion film starring Pierce Brosnan and Uma Thurman, directed by Chris Columbus.



The mind-blowing adventure continues . . .

In these top-secret files, Rick Riordan, Camp Half-Blood's senior scribe, gives you an inside look at the world of demigods that NO regular human child is allowed to see.

Enter Percy's world and go deeper than ever before in this full-colour must-have guide. NO Percy Jackson fan should be without this book!



PLUS! Look out for **The Kane Chronicles** RICK'S EXPLOSIVE NEW SERIES COMING IN 2010

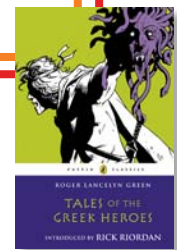
'I guess it started the night our dad blew up the British Museum . . .'

Carter and Sadie Kane have nothing in common but their dad, Dr Julius Kane, a brilliant Egyptologist whose latest experiment unleashes an ancient evil – Set, the Egyptian god of chaos and desert storms . . .

But it's not only Set they have to watch out for. Because ancient Egypt is still very much alive. And so, unfortunately, are their gods . . .



Rick Riordan is the USA's equivalent of J. K. Rowling and an award-winning mystery writer as well as the creator of our young demigod hero, Percy. To find out more about Rick and his books go to www.rickriordan.com



Discover more with Puffin Classics

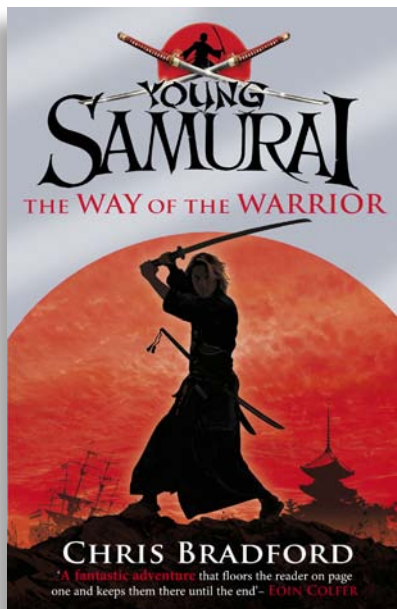
**BLOCKBUSTER ACTION,
BLACK-BELT NINJA
AND A SWORD-
WIELDING HERO –
JACK FLETCHER IS ...**

YOUNG SAMURAI

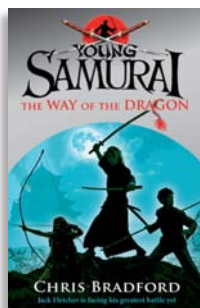
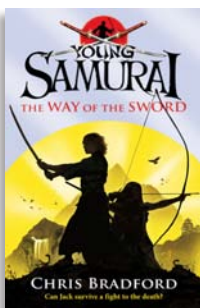
by **Chris Bradford**

The breathtaking Young Samurai series combines epic adventure, friendship and martial arts. For Jack Fletcher, life at samurai school is a constant battle for survival as he prepares to face his deadly rival, the ninja Dragon Eye. **Boys and girls of 11+** love these thrilling stories and discovering life in seventeenth-century Japan and Japanese culture.

'A fantastic adventure that floors the reader on page one and keeps them there until the end' – Eoin Colfer



Look out for the next adrenalin-fuelled Young Samurai adventure in autumn 2010.



Published exclusively for World Book Day 2010.

Photo © Charles Shearn

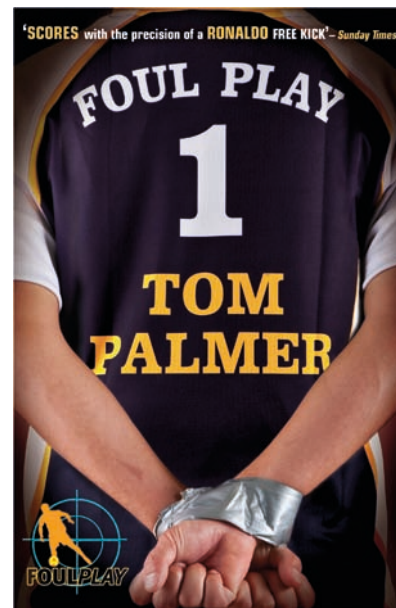


Chris Bradford has trained in karate, kickboxing and samurai swordsmanship. Let your training commence at www.youngsamurai.com

**HE SHOOTS.
HE SCORES. HE'S
TOM PALMER...**



Author of the acclaimed FOUL PLAY series.

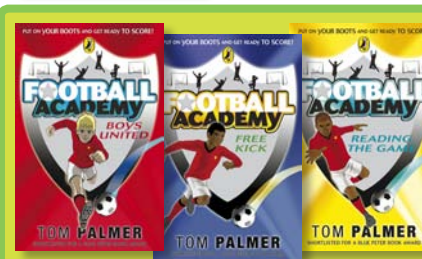


Meet Danny Harte. Football fan and crime detective. **9+** fans of football, mystery and adventure won't be able to put these books down.

'An excellent, fast-paced detective novel' – The Times

'Scores with the precision of a Ronaldo free kick' – Sunday Times

**For younger readers:
Put on your boots and get ready to score with FOOTBALL ACADEMY ...**



Follow each player in the series as they overcome problems and compete to be the very best in United's under-12s. For **boys and girls of 7+**.

Stay on the ball – don't miss ANY of the Academy action: www.tompalmer.co.uk

Diary of a Wimpy Kid

by Jeff Kinney

THE INTERNATIONAL MEGA-SELLING PLAYGROUND PHENOMENON – more than **25 MILLION** copies sold ... and counting!



Meet Greg.

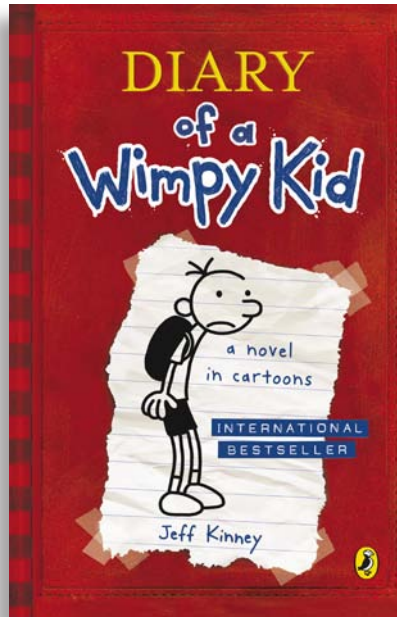
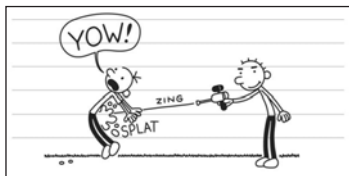
This is his mom.



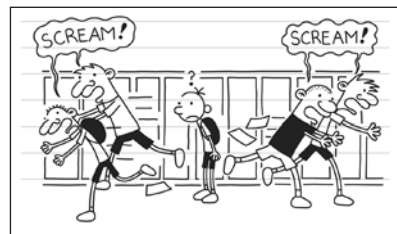
This is his dad.



This is his brother.

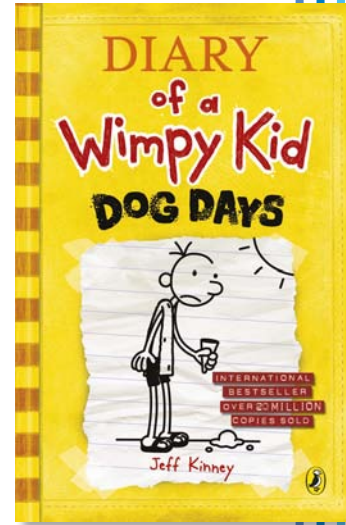


This is his friend.



This is his school.

This is his life.



Jeff Kinney is the author of the bestselling *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* series. *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* was his debut novel and the comic adventures of his protagonist, Greg Heffley, began online in 2004 on www.funbrain.com where 70,000 children read about him every day. To date the series has sold over 25 million copies in the US alone, and in 30 different countries. Jeff is an online developer and designer. He lives with his family in southern Massachusetts, USA.

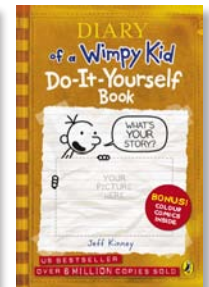
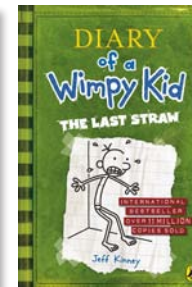
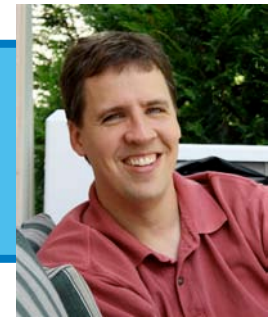


Everybody's talking about the Wimpy Kid ...

This is THE perfect series to get even the most reluctant reader reading! Ideal for **boys and girls of 8 and up**, it's hilarious and highly original with comic-style illustrations that make it very easy to dip in and out of.

Diary of a Wimpy Kid has been a *New York Times* No. 1 bestseller for over 80 consecutive weeks – and each title in the series has become an instant bestseller.

The *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* film is scheduled by Fox for 2010. Produced by Nina Jacobson, who worked on *Pirates of the Caribbean*, the film attracted queues round the block for children desperate to play the lead character, Greg Heffley.

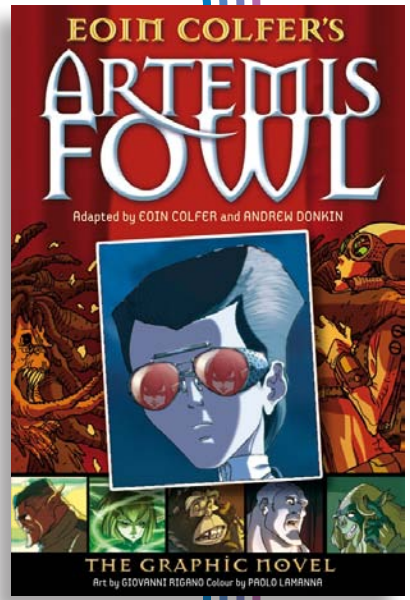


Get wimpy at www.wimpykidclub.com

Artemis Fowl:

The Graphic Novel

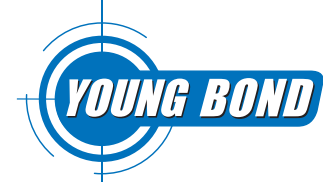
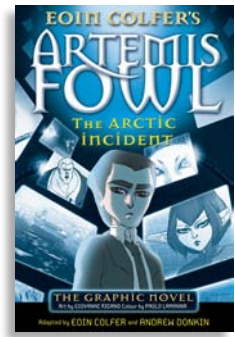
by **Eoin Colfer, Andrew Donkin, Giovanni Rigano and Paolo Lamanna**



An incredible full-colour action-packed adaptation to bring Artemis Fowl to a brand-new readership. Graphic novels are also popular with **reluctant readers and comic-book fans**.

Young Artemis Fowl is 12 years old and a criminal genius. And he means to restore the financial fortune and criminal reputation of the Fowl family. With the latest technology at his fingertips and incredible cunning, he's going to steal some very unusual gold: fairy gold. And these aren't like any fairies you've ever heard of. These fairies are *armed and dangerous*.

Look out for Artemis's next graphic adventure!



SilverFin:

The Graphic Novel

by **Charlie Higson and Kev Walker**

Based on *SilverFin*, the first bestseller in the explosive Young Bond series. See Bond in action in full colour for the first time, as he contends with an enemy at school and with the dark secret of the wicked slithering beast in the water at Loch Silverfin.

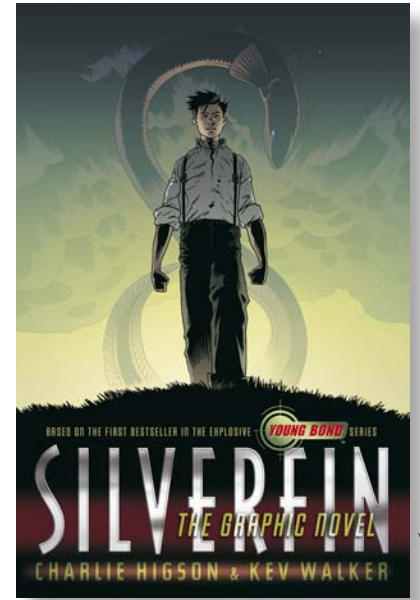
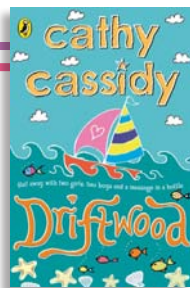
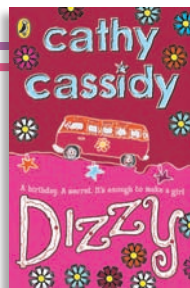




Photo © Chris Watt

cathy cassidy

Cathy Cassidy's hugely popular books explore friendship, families and growing up and are perfect for 9+ fans of Jacqueline Wilson and Louise Rennison.

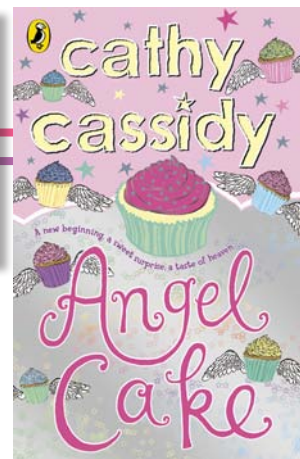
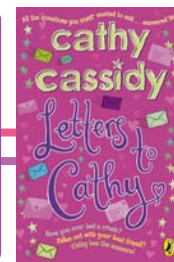


Through her writing, Cathy connects with her readers on a personal and emotional level, understanding their feelings and problems. Cathy's fans think of her as their 'best author friend', as revealed by the many letters and emails she receives every day.

'I have loved your books since I was 9 when I was given Indigo Blue for my birthday - that story really spoke to me. You are the best writer EVER, Cathy' - Sophie

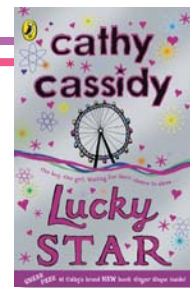
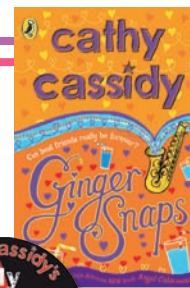
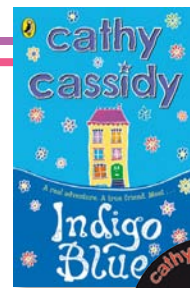
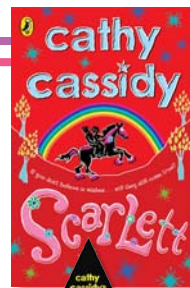
Cathy Cassidy's Top 5 Best Friends and Family Books:

- *Stargirl* by Jerry Spinelli
- *Walk Two Moons* by Sharon Creech
- *Love, Aubrey* by Suzanne LaFleur
- *The Ant Colony* by Jenny Valentine
- *Seriously Sassy* by Maggi Gibson



Want to know more about Cathy?

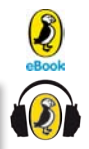
Girls (and boys too!) from Scotland to Australia LOVE Cathy and her addictive, touching books. Before becoming a children's writer, Cathy was an art teacher, an editor on the legendary *Jackie* magazine and an agony aunt for teen magazine *Shout* - not all at the same time!



Cathy has her very own Friendship Festival, a national friendship award 'My Best Friend Rocks', a Friendship Charter in conjunction with ChildLine, and has established a National Best Friends Day for children everywhere to celebrate friendship, which is a constant theme throughout her books.

To find out even more about Cathy, her books, tours and events go to www.cathycassidy.com

Cathy has also written for younger readers - turn to page 46 to read all about **Daisy Star** . . .



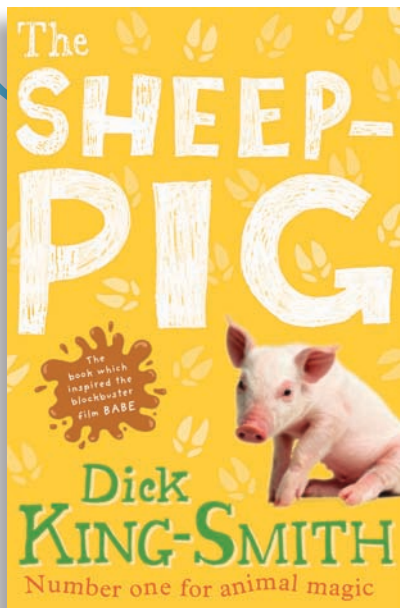
The Sheep-Pig

by **Dick King-Smith**

The classic story that inspired the film *Babe* – in the 25 years since Dick King-Smith wrote *The Sheep-Pig*, it has become an unforgettable part of many childhoods.

When Farmer Hogget wins Babe at a fair, the little pig seems destined for the family freezer. But then Fly, the kindly sheep-dog, starts to look after him. And Babe finds he has a way with the sheep, who let him know, 'We bain't all that stupid, we do just get confused.'

How far will Babe's good heart and unusual talent get him?



Dick King-Smith was a farmer before he started writing for a living! His writing is full of a deep and affectionate understanding of his characters, an unwavering belief in the

underdog and a delightful sense of humour.

Dick King-Smith is No.1 for animal magic, and his books include *The Hodgeheg*, *The Spotty Pig*, *The Mouse Family Robinson*, *Clever Duck* and *The Fox Busters*.



Like this? You might like *Charlotte's Web*. It's on page 98, don't you know.



The Family from One End Street

by **Eve Garnett**

A gentle classic of life in a simpler time.

There is never a dull moment in the lively Ruggles family. Seven children – three girls and four boys – keep Mr and Mrs Ruggles busy with all their adventures and strife. From red-haired Lily Rose to prize-winning baby William, the seven Ruggles children are experts at seeking out fun and mischief and always enjoying the simple pleasures in life.

Top 10 fabulous Puffin film and TV adaptations to look out for:

- 1 *The Borrowers*
- 2 *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*
- 3 *Madame Doubtfire*
- 4 *Charlotte's Web*
- 5 *Fantastic Mr Fox*
- 6 *The Railway Children*
- 7 *The Diary of a Young Girl*
- 8 *Percy Jackson and The Lightning Thief*
- 9 *Diary of a Wimpy Kid*
- 10 *Alice in Wonderland*



Fabulous books from the 1940s:

- *Finn Family Moomintroll*
- *Ballet Shoes*
- *The Family from One End Street*
- *The Diary of a Young Girl*



'Two parents, seven children – all rendered equally lively and interesting but all utterly different from each other, and all utterly real' – *Guardian*

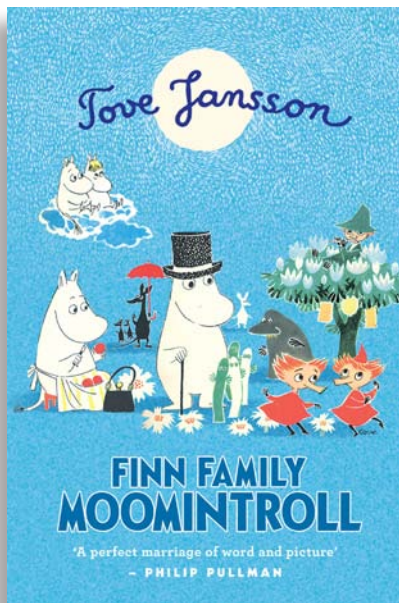
Moomins

by **Tove Jansson**

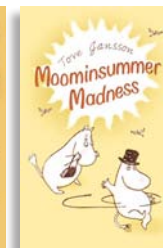
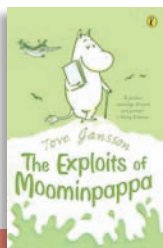
If you haven't met a Moomin yet, you're missing the most magical fun ...

The sweet, funny, wise Moomin books by Tove Jansson have been favourites for decades. Find out why, with these adventures of the good-hearted and oddly shaped Moomins, as they deal with unwanted comets, magical hats and tiny dragons.

'They seem to grow in wisdom and delight every time I read them ... a perfect marriage of word and picture' - Philip Pullman



'I have long been a passionate Moomin appreciator - it's not just Tove Jansson's wonderfully strange fairy-tale world that so appeals, but also her beautiful line work and exquisite sense of design' - Lauren Child



Meet the magical Moomins at www.moomin.fi

The Borrowers

by **Mary Norton**

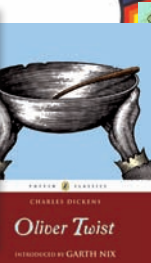
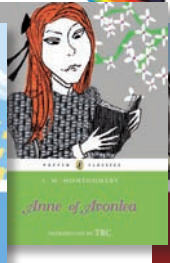
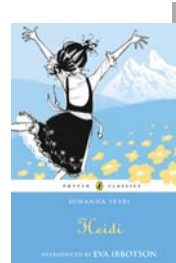
Carnegie-medal-winning classic adventure about the world of tiny people. Also adapted for film and television, this charming story has enchanted adults and children alike and is as popular now as when it was first published.

The tiny Borrowers own nothing at all; they live in the secret places of quiet old houses - behind the mantelpiece, inside the harpsichord, under the kitchen clock. Everything they have is borrowed from the 'human beans', who don't even know they exist ...



'Beautifully written, poetic and almost always alarming, the Borrowers books have something very mysterious, sad and exciting about them' - Sunday Times

Love The Borrowers? Why not try these wonderful Puffin Classics adventures?



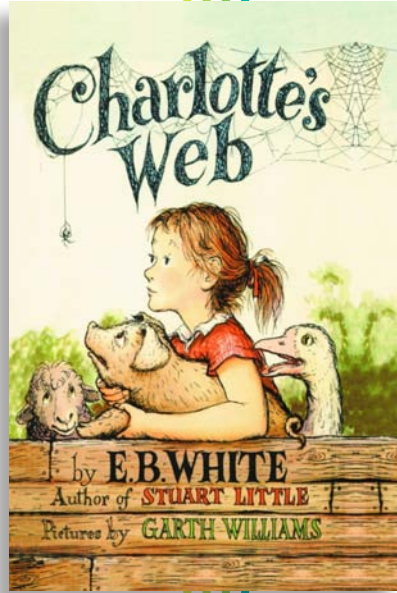
Turn to pages 104 and 105 to discover even more Puffin Classics.

Charlotte's Web

by **E. B. White**

Charlotte's Web is one of the sweetest and best-loved stories our picky Puffins have ever read. It's a true classic that's been spinning its spell on children for more than 50 years. Also available on DVD for all the family to enjoy.

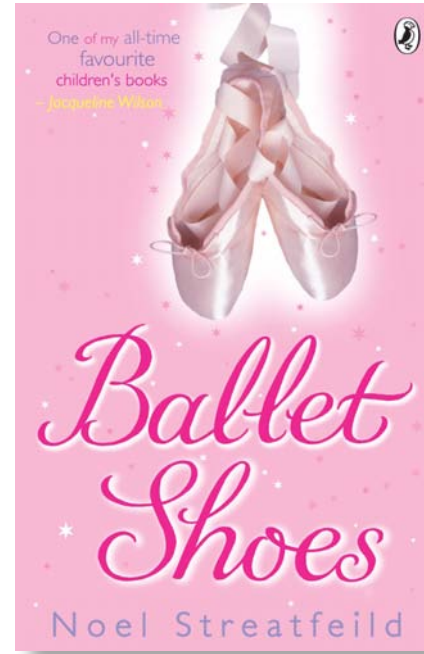
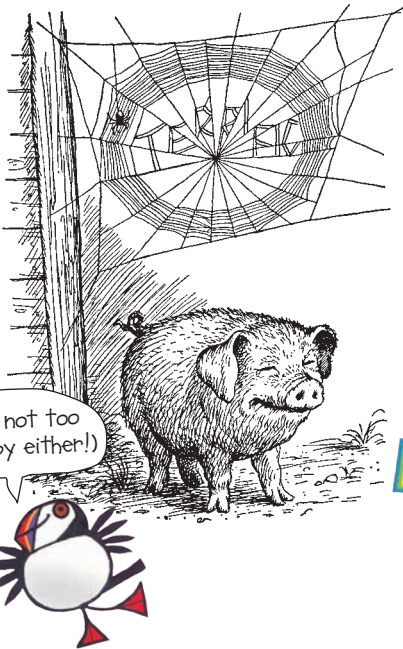
When 8-year-old Fern saves Wilbur the pig, Wilbur's just the runt of his litter. But as Fern cares for him, and he grows big and befriends a very special spider, he turns into a very special pig.



'No child should be without a copy' - Daily Mail

More great books of the 1950s

- *The Borrowers*
- *Tom's Midnight Garden*
- *A Child's Christmas in Wales*
- *Carbone!*



Ballet Shoes

by **Noel Streatfeild**

Pauline, Petrova and Posy are the Fossil sisters – they've each been adopted by their eccentric Great Uncle Matthew (or Gum for short). But money starts to run low while Gum is away on an expedition...

Pauline wants to act, Petrova too (though she's mainly interested in engines and aeroplanes), while Posy wants to dance. *Ballet Shoes* is the story of the Fossils, as they begin to find out things about themselves and reach towards their dreams.

'I am 13 and I find reading hard but I loved this book' - Alice



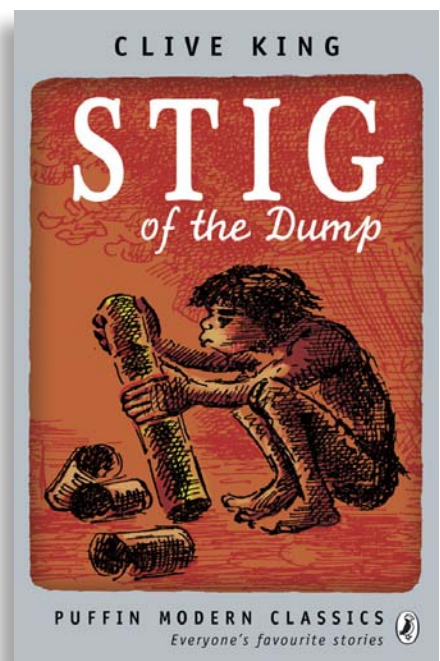
Stig of the Dump

by **Clive King**

An unforgettable story that still fires children's imaginations, *Stig of the Dump* is a true classic.

No one believes Barney, but when he fell down the side of the chalk pit near his grandmother's house he did more than bang his head. He also made a strange friend. Dressed in rabbit skins and speaking only in grunts, with shaggy black hair and two bright black eyes, Stig lives in the dump. And as the pair's unusual friendship grows, so do their adventures.

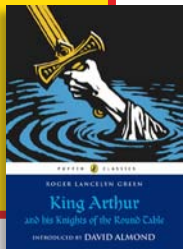
Stig of the Dump has delighted children and adults for decades and Stig has starred in more than one TV series!



'This story has wonderful appeal'
- Guardian

**Seeking more fantasy?
Discover these classics:**

- A Wizard of Earthsea
- A Wrinkle in Time
- Alice's Adventures in Wonderland
- King Arthur and His Knights of the Round Table
- Dracula



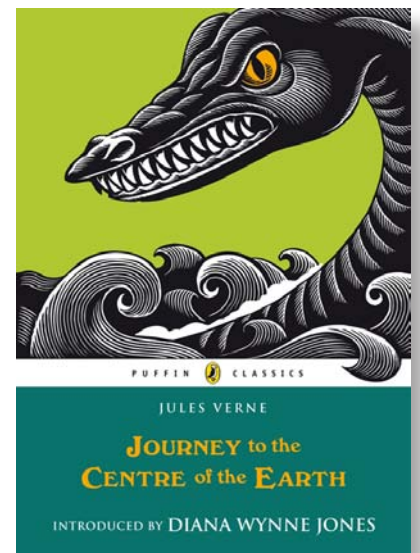
Journey to the Centre of the Earth

by **Jules Verne**

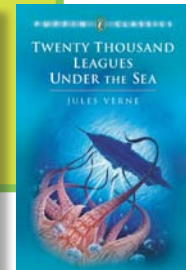
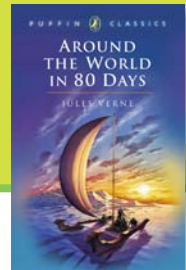
High adventure! Ancient beasts! The inspiration for countless imitators and film versions ...

Descend into the crater in Jules Verne's classic tale of wonder and excitement, perfect for **fantasy fans aged 9 and up.**

When the eccentric Professor Lidenbrock deciphers a mysterious note, he discovers the secret of a whole new world. Amazing discoveries and terrible dangers await Lidenbrock and his nephew Axel as they enter this world that lies beneath our own. More than a hundred years after it was first published, *Journey to the Centre of the Earth* is still one of the most gripping books ever written.

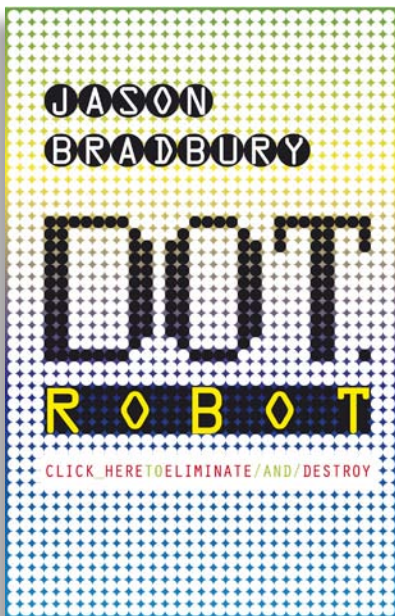


Jules Verne was born in France in 1828 and pioneered a whole new type of popular fiction. Still as accessible and exciting as ever, his most famous books are *Journey to the Centre of the Earth*, *Around the World in Eighty Days* and *Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea*.



I could take on ancient beasts any day! But not today. I'm busy.





Dot Robot

by Jason Bradbury

For fans of *Artemis Fowl* and thrill-seeking boys and girls of 10+, *Dot Robot* is a new non-stop high-tech adventure series to get your pulse racing.

Jackson Farley is a computer game expert and a child genius. But one thing he doesn't know is just how exciting his life is about to get. Along with three other top gamers, he's recruited to MeX, a top-secret defence force founded by a dot-com billionaire. Their mission is to stop the criminal heist of the century. With some of the most highly advanced, state-of-the-art robots ever invented . . .

Don't miss any of the action in this spy-fi thriller series:

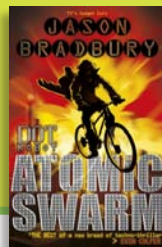
www.doyouknowanysecrets.com
www.jasonbradbury.com



Jason Bradbury is the UK's best-known face of technology. Currently hosting *The Gadget Show* on Five and Royal Television Society award-winning children's science show *Gross!*, he's spent years writing and presenting technology shows for children and adults. There's a lot of real (and really awesome) technology behind all the action of *Dot Robot*.

Jason Bradbury's Top 5 Reads to Get Your Heart Pumping!

- *Airman* by Eoin Colfer
- Cherub series by Robert Muchamore
- Young Bond series by Charlie Higson
- Alex Rider series by Anthony Horowitz
- *Dangerzone: Ice Claw* by David Gilman

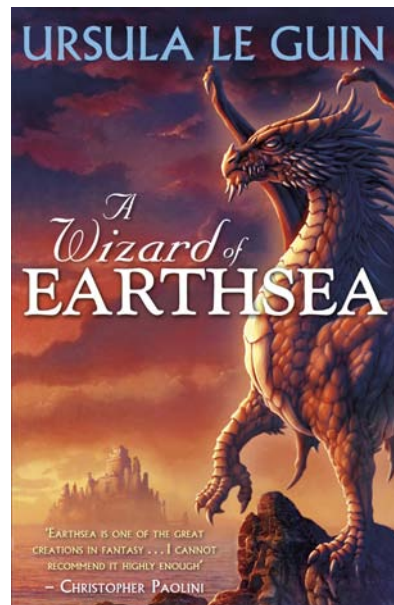


Look out for Jackson's next adventure!

'The best of a new breed of techno-thriller. It belts along at breakneck speed' – Eoin Colfer

A Wizard of Earthsea

by Ursula Le Guin



Discover an island world of magic, dragons and terrifying shadows, where a wizard's education will take him beyond the shores of death itself . . .

Few fantasy creations become uncontested classics: with *Earthsea*, Ursula Le Guin created a place as magical and real to fans as J. R. R. Tolkien's Middle Earth or C. S. Lewis' Narnia.

A headstrong young boy on the island of Gont discovers he has a great gift for magic. He will become the great sorcerer Sparrowhawk, his life told in grand tales and songs. But while still young, undisciplined and arrogant, he loses a terrible threat to the land, a threat only he can destroy . . . and only by going on a perilous quest to the ends of *Earthsea*.

Ursula Le Guin was born in Berkley, California in 1929. A now-legendary writer of science fiction and fantasy, she has won five Hugo awards and six Nebula awards. Her most famous titles are the *Earthsea* books – global bestsellers that have been translated into many languages.



More great books of the 1960s:

- *The Dark is Rising* series
- *Gobolino: The Witch's Cat*
- *A Wrinkle in Time*
- *Cue for Treason*

'One of the major works of fantasy this century' – *Observer*

'Earthsea is one of the great creations in fantasy . . . I cannot recommend it highly enough' – Christopher Paolini

They're PUFFIN CLASSICS for a reason.



It's because they're the best.

Puffin has been publishing the most innovative and imaginative children's literature for generations.

From Mowgli to Merlin, Peter Pan to Pollyanna, no matter what your age or what you're into, wherever you see that little bird you'll be introduced to a whole host of new faces and amazing places . . .



PUFFIN CLASSICS

RUDYARD KIPLING

Just So Stories

INTRODUCED BY JONATHAN STROUD

The Best Animals and Beasts Ever Written



The Best Family and Friends Ever Written



The Best Heroes and Danger Ever Written

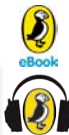


With new introductions by some of today's most popular authors, including Eoin Colfer, Darren Shan, Meg Rosoff, Anthony Horowitz and Louise Rennison.

The Best Make-Believe Ever Written



Discover a new friend for life today with Puffin Classics.



The Diary of a Young Girl

by Anne Frank

The poignant and deeply moving true-life story no child's bookshelf should be without.

'I hope I will be able to confide everything to you, as I have never been able to confide in anyone, and I hope you will be a great source of comfort and support.'

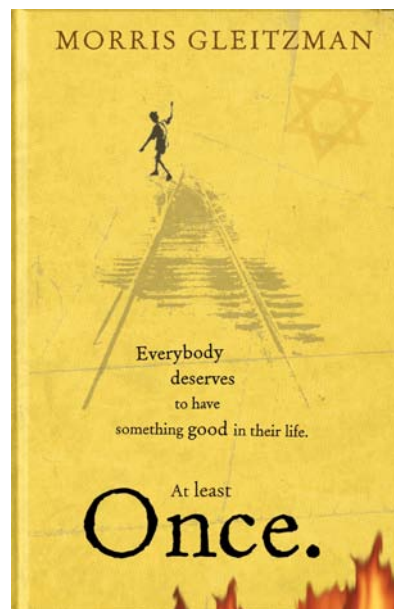
Thought-provoking, funny, touching and tragic, Anne Frank's diary was never intended for publication. But following her death aged 15 in 1945, it was published by her father, so that Anne and the millions of other men, women and children killed in the Holocaust would be remembered. It has since been read by millions of people all over the world.



'A monument to the human spirit'
– Mail on Sunday

'Astonishing and excruciating. It gnaws at us still' – New York Times Book Review

'Anne Frank brings herself and her circumstances into such buzzing, engaged life on the page, she triumphs over history. We return to her again and again' – Guardian



'Haunting . . . dangerous and desperate, but also full of courage and hope' – Guardian

'Painfully truthful' – Sunday Times

'Funny and shocking at the same time' – Jewish Chronicle

Morris Gleitzman is one of Australia's bestselling children's authors. His many books include *Two Weeks with the Queen*, *Bumface*, *Toad Surprise* and *Give Peas a Chance*. You can visit Morris at his website www.morrisgleitzman.com

See pages 72 and 73 for some of Morris's other books.

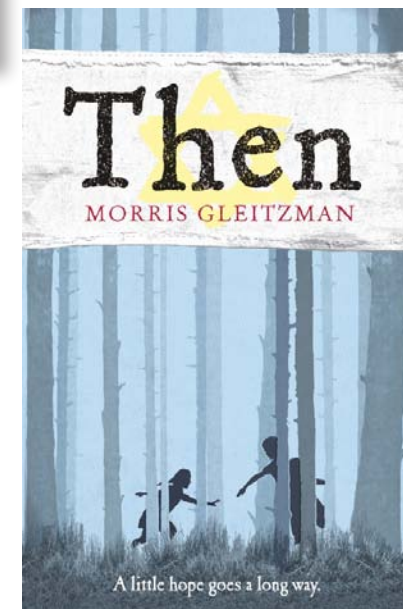
Once. Then

by Morris Gleitzman

A little hope goes a long way.

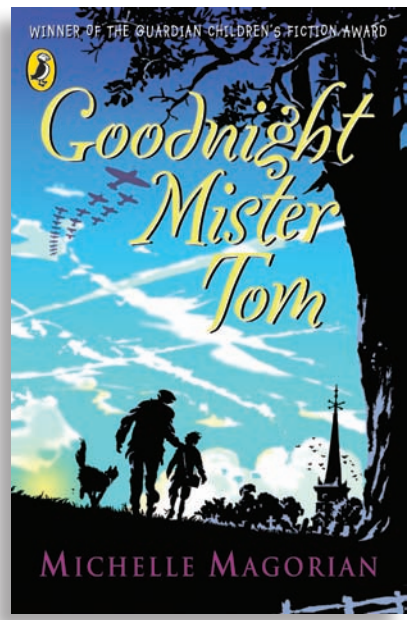
Shocking, funny and heartbreaking, *Once* and *Then* tell the story of a young boy named Felix and his friend Zelda during the Second World War.

Now, the final thrilling instalment in the trilogy, will be published in summer 2010.



12 June is Anne Frank Day, an annual event to commemorate Anne and raise awareness all over the world. For more information about Anne and the work of The Anne Frank Trust go to www.annefrank.org.uk

Goodnight Mister Tom



by Michelle Magorian

The unforgettable story of young Second World War evacuee Willie Beech and grumpy but kind Mister Tom – a timeless classic for **boys and girls of 9 and up**.

'Open it and you are with a born writer, of the storytelling kind. An optimistic, even a joyful book' – *Observer*

Michelle Magorian won the Guardian Award and the International Reading Association Award for *Goodnight Mister Tom*, which has been adapted into a musical and a hugely successful BBC drama. To find out more about Michelle and her writing go to www.michellemagorian.com

'Everyone's idea of a smash-hit first novel: full-blown characters to love and hate, moments of grief and joy, and a marvellous story that knows just how to grab the emotions' – *Guardian*

Carrie's War

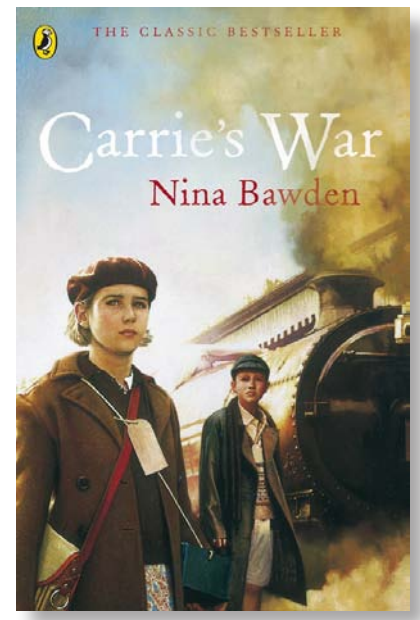

by Nina Bawden

One of the most evocative war-time dramas ever written for children – a true classic.

Unhappy at their new home, child evacuees Carrie and her brother, Nick, love visiting Albert at the farm of Druid's Bottom. But then things go wrong and Carrie does something terrible, the worst thing she ever did in her life . . .

Nina Bawden's novels include *Carrie's War* and *The Peppermint Pig*, which won the Guardian Children's Fiction Prize.

'Nina Bawden is without question one of the very best writers for children' – *Daily Telegraph*





More smash-hit reads from the 1980s:

- *The BFG*
- *The Sheep-Pig*
- *Two Weeks with the Queen*
- *Mr Majeika*
- *Bridge to Terabithia*

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Halo

by **Zizou Corder**

Perfect for adventure-loving girls and boys of 10 and up, *Halo* is rich with historical detail mixed with Greek myth . . .

Washed ashore as a baby in ancient Greece, Halo is discovered by a family of centaurs. Although her true identity remains a mystery, she is loved as one of their own. But when Halo is dragged away by fishermen, her wild adventure begins . . .

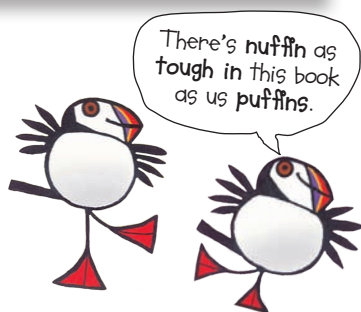


Zizou Corder is the not-so-secret identity of Louisa Young and her daughter Isabel Adomakoh Young, who have been writing together since Isabel was 7. They have 17 pet ducks and 8 miniature grand pianos, as well as the lizard and the dead tortoise.

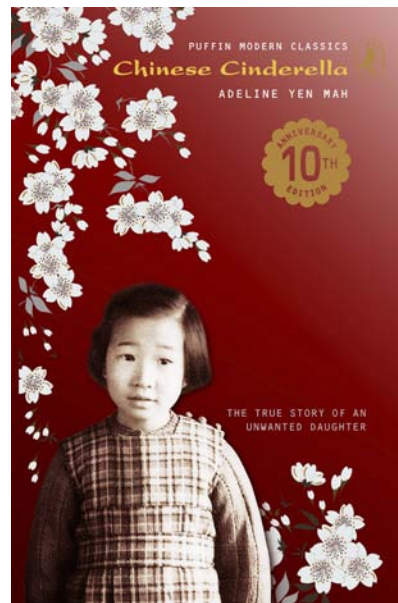
Acclaim for *Lionboy*:

'One of the best books of the year'
– *Mail on Sunday*

'An evocative, suspenseful tale of betrayal and courage – *Sunday Times*



There's nuffin as tough in this book as us puffins.



Chinese Cinderella

By **Adeline Yen Mah**

One of the most moving true-life stories of our time.

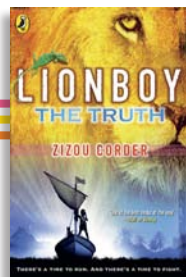
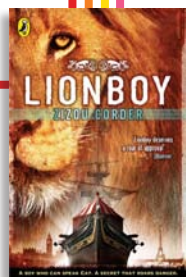
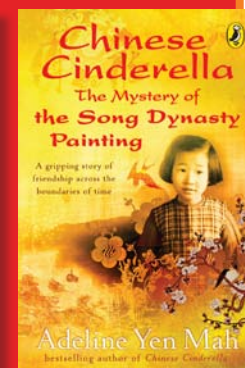
One of Puffin's Modern Classics, this is the bestselling children's story of Adeline's struggle to find acceptance in her family and how she overcame the odds to prove her worth. Inspirational and powerful, for readers of 9 and up.

After the death of her stepmother, Adeline Yen Mah felt compelled to write her story, and the result, *Falling Leaves*, became an international bestseller for adults. Adeline has written several other books for adults and children including *Chinese Cinderella* and *the Secret Dragon Society*, an adventure based on stories she made up when she was a lonely child.

'This is one book I will never forget in my life' – Kavin, India

'I have learnt so much about how life in China is so different to life in England' – Kasie, England

'This is the best book I have ever read' – Bronti, Australia



Fiction: What to read next



What to read next

What to read next

Express yourself @

Spinebreakers

spinebreakers.co.uk

The only online teen books community run by teens

Hi, we're the Spinebreakers, here to give you advice on the best teenage books around.

If you're looking for a book with issues, a classic to get you thinking, something for a girl, a boy, a series to keep you going, humour to keep you giggling, page turners and novels that are just plain brilliant, read this section for books not to be missed by any teenage book lover.

We are teen editors of www.spinebreakers.co.uk, an online book community for teenagers who love to read and think creatively about books. If after reading the following

pages you think we sound like we know what we're talking about, visit the website where all of the reviews are written by teenagers like us.

There are also author interviews, book trailers, alternative endings, illustrations, book-jacket designs, short stories and poems, and the best part is that you can join in too.

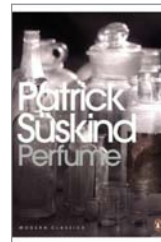
If you are a story-surfing, web-exploring, word-loving, day-dreaming reader, writer, artist or thinker, aged 13–18, then you too are a Spinebreaker! Join us!

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spinebreakers.co.uk

Controversial Classics

by Alex Mullarky, aged 17

If just the mention of the word 'classics' sends you yawning, why not try these – the ones that broke the mould and shocked their contemporaries. Who knows, maybe they'll even change your attitude towards the stereotype . . .



Perfume by Patrick Süskind

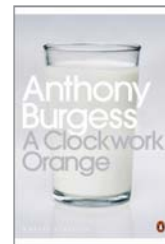
So richly detailed you can almost smell it, *Perfume* is both revolting and enthralling: the story of one young man's quest for the perfect perfume, no matter how many girls he has to kill to attain it . . .

If you like this, try *All Quiet on the Western Front* by Erich Maria Remarque.

A Clockwork Orange by Anthony Burgess

Written in futuristic teen slang, 'Nadsat', this is a challenging but worthwhile read – if you can stomach the 'ultra-violence', that is, because rape and abuse are first on the list of protagonist Alex's evening entertainment.

If you like this, try *1984* by George Orwell.



Wuthering Heights by Emily Brontë

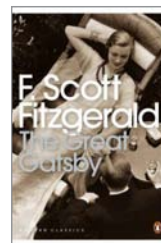
A love so passionate it drove one to madness and death and the other to merciless revenge – this book was way ahead of its time in the nineteenth century.

If you like this, try *Jane Eyre* by Charlotte Brontë.

The Picture of Dorian Gray by Oscar Wilde

Dorian Gray is both beautiful and heartless, forever young and forever soulless. Having placed his soul into a portrait years ago, Dorian is free to lead a life of infamy and debauchery.

If you like this, try *The Phantom of the Opera* by Gaston Leroux.



The Great Gatsby by F. Scott Fitzgerald

The Great War is over, the American Dream is dead, and Jay Gatsby is a self-made man at the height of the Jazz Age. But there is far more to this man than meets the eye, and the façade is cracking.

If you like this, try *Death of a Salesman* by Arthur Miller.



Books for Teenage Puffins

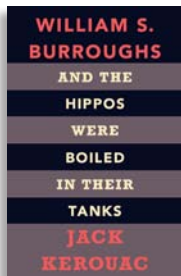
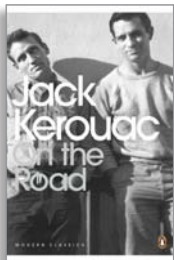


by Imogen Ashfield, aged 19

And the Hippos Were Boiled in their Tanks

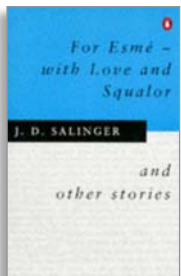
The cool spontaneity and exciting prose of the Beat Generation of 1950s America has continuously appealed to succeeding generations of teenagers. **On the Road** is a key work from this movement.

'... the only people for me are the mad ones, the ones who are mad to live, mad to talk, mad to be saved, desirous of everything at the same time ...'



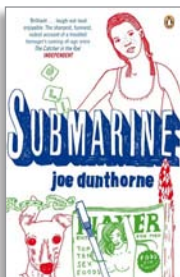
For Esme – with Love and Squalor

Finished with Holden Caulfield? Look to this set of short stories to explore the equally troubled Glass family. The story 'A Perfect Day for Bananafish' should not be missed.



Submarine

Hilarious, touching and a realistic reflection of the general awkwardness of being 15 years old.



The Happy Prince

A collection of magical short stories written by Oscar Wilde for his children is a book not just for pre-teens but teenagers and those from 20 to 120 years old.



Want to read a diary entry in the style of Submarine? To see this and much more visit www.spinebreakers.co.uk

THE ISSUES

**GIVE IT TO US STRAIGHT:
TOP 6 BOOKS EVERY TEEN SHOULD READ**

by Olivia Scott-Berry, aged 16



THE SHOCK DOCTRINE

by Naomi Klein

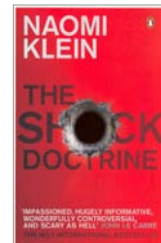
Exposing the thinking behind four decades of wars, *The Shock Doctrine* is an eye-opener that teaches that nothing in global politics can be taken at face value.



GUANTANAMO BOY

by Anna Perera

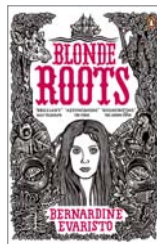
The fictional tale of Khalid, a 15-year-old boy abducted and held for two years without charge in the world's most notorious prison, is one of the most memorable books you will read this year.



BLONDE ROOTS

by Bernadine Evaristo

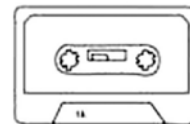
Turning slavery on its head to examine the age-old injustices, this clever twist makes this book one of the most memorable I've read.



THIRTEEN REASONS WHY

by Jay Asher

If Clay listens to Hannah Baker as she explains on tape the thirteen reasons why she decided to end her life, he'll find out how he made the list.



KILLING GOD

by Kevin Brooks

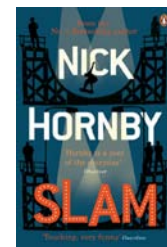
When Dawn's dad found God it was the worst time ever, but it makes for one of the best revolutionary reading experiences.



SLAM

by Nick Hornby

The story of 15-year-old Sam and how he deals with his girlfriend's pregnancy is completely refreshing for its positive look at teenage attitudes.



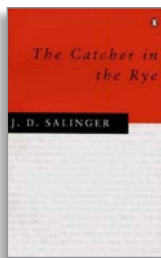


A Spinebreaking Guide to Reading

by Lily Dessau, aged 17

The Bildungsroman (or 'Coming of Age') one: *The Catcher in the Rye*

The typical teenage protagonist seeking enlightenment in life, told in a brilliant, and almost colloquial, style by the lonely and confused protagonist Holden Caulfield.



The one I was nagged to read, but now really appreciate: *Metamorphosis*



Although not written to identify with teenagers, I drew parallels between Gregor's morphing into a 'gigantic insect' and evolving from child to teenager. The way Gregor feels, is seen and treated are all traits that many teenagers can be heard wailing about.

The alternative to Harry Potter: His Dark Materials trilogy

Entrancing me in a way Rowling never could, Pullman's imagination stretches beyond the predictable realms of witches and wizards and tackles parallel worlds and talking demons. I love the religious aspect of these novels, as it adds maturity to an initially quite childish concept.

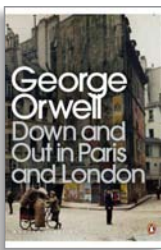
The one you read to rebel: *A Clockwork Orange*

Although the content would entice many teenage boys and girls, it does take dedication to thoroughly understand Burgess's sometimes frustrating Nadsat, the fictional language he injects throughout the novel. The drag of flicking to the index does soon wear off, and completing this novel does feel like an accomplishment.

The most inspiring one:

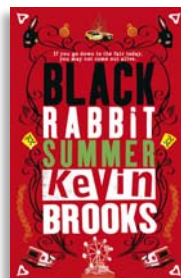
Down and Out in Paris and London

The way Orwell depicts his lifestyle so jovially really made me question the need for material possessions and wealth. With such a contrasting society to today, this story really made me jealous of older generations and the exciting times they lived in.



Top Twos for Teens

by Rebecca Clee, aged 16



Teen Authors:

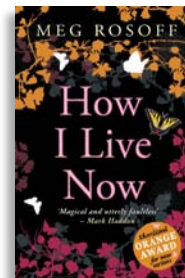
Meg Rosoff
Kevin Brooks

Exceptional and truthful writers whose books are sophisticated and original.

Adult Books:

A Fraction of the Whole by Steve Toltz
The Kite Runner by Khaled Hosseini

The first had me laughing and crying at the same time and the second will stay with me forever.



Series:

Chaos Walking by Patrick Ness

The Looking Glass Wars by Frank Beddor

These two series are less well known than *Harry Potter* or *His Dark Materials* – books that I don't need to tell you are brilliant – however these are original and absorbing; every bit as interesting and worth recognition as *Twilight*.

I'm not a strong believer in a gender divide when it comes to reading, but if you're looking for something specific:



Girls:

The Georgia Nicolson series by Louise Rennison

The Luxe series by Anna Godbersen

Louise Rennison is a comic genius and Anna Godbersen really knows how to write a love story. Both are thoroughly engaging reads.

Boys:

The Alex Rider series by Anthony Horowitz

Mortal Engines by Philip Reeve

Action-packed and imaginative.

Just Plain Brilliant:

The Vanishing of Katharina Linden by Helen Grant

What I Saw and How I Lied by Judy Blundell

The heading says it all. I couldn't put these books down.



5 'Girls' Books It's OK for Boys to Like

by Sam Spencer, aged 16

Publishers are very clear on which genders their books are aimed at. For example, a boy buying a copy of *The Princess Diaries* is committing social suicide (it was for my sister – at least, that's what I told the checkout girl!). However, this means that the male population are missing out on some great reads . . .

1 *Pride and Prejudice . . . and Zombies* by Seth Grahame-Smith & Jane Austen

In the publisher's words: 'The Classic Regency Romance – Now With Ultraviolet Zombie Mayhem!' Basically, the ideal combination of romance, social juxtaposition, horrible gore . . . and ninjas!

2 *Bridget Jones: The Edge Of Reason* by Helen Fielding

Sure, it features every cliché in the rom-com book, but what other novel features the protagonist eating a magic mushroom omelette in what is the funniest scene ever printed; remove the image of Hugh Grant from your mind and it's actually highly readable.

3 *Regeneration* by Pat Barker

Proof that you should never judge a book by its cover; the soft colours say 'wartime romance' when really this is a gripping and harrowing story of how war affects men – even if it features more male bonding than *Top Gun*.

4 *Tess of the d'Urbervilles* by Thomas Hardy

I have it on good (male) authority that this book is 'beyond epic'. With a story that's like nineteenth-century *Eastenders* and the kudos gained for reading 'one of the classics', what's not to love?!

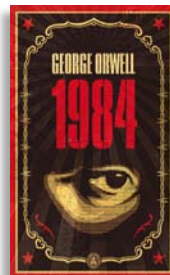
5 *About a Boy* by Nick Hornby

Ignore the subsequent film starring Hugh Grant (yet again). This is 'man's writer' Hornby at his cynical and sentimental best.



What to Read Now, Again and Forever . . .

by Stacy Reeve, aged 18



'Big Brother Is Watching You'

A phrase often heard blaring from our TV sets . . . yet what does it mean to you? To me (and many teenagers) before I read the novel *1984* by George Orwell, it simply meant a phrase heard constantly over the summer, in relation to a house full of weird and wacky contestants. Set in the future, this book is not just for those who love a bit of sci-fi; it really provides an intriguing look into society and even gets you pondering over what life would truly be like to live in a totalitarian existence. For those history buffs among us, it's pretty fun to draw parallels between our own modern dictators, while at the same time delving into a book that has had so much impact on our own culture.

'I could easily forgive his pride, if he had not mortified mine'

Often cited as the best love story ever written, *Pride and Prejudice* looks, on the surface, like a story of romance and passion. But scratch the surface and it becomes clear that what this book's really about is a whole array of feisty women who know what they want and know how to get it! Elizabeth Bennet is the kind of woman that every girl wants to be and why wouldn't they when she's being pursued by the charming, yet mysterious Mr Darcy? The book has more thrills than a glossy magazine, yet is laced with some beautiful language that can never tire of being quoted. Her novels deal with moral issues combined with pizzazz and wit . . . it really is the most realist escapism that any twenty-first-century girl could ever read.



'Never had I felt so guilty, nor so intoxicatingly alive'

I'm so excited about Catherine Sanderson's book *Petite Anglaise*! You see, it's a true story, following the life of a British woman living in France, so a real page turner and stuffed full of humour and those 'OMG did that just happen' moments. It's perfect for anyone who loves a slice of modern reading that's down to earth, emotional AND with encounters of love thrown in too. Sanderson really knows how to grip the reader's attention, oh and her daughter, Tadpole, seems adorable! Trust me, you'd better get reading!



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