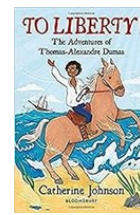


St Andrew's Prep  
EASTBOURNE

# TALKING BOOKS WITH MRS GARRETT

"Reading is the best magic. A book  
can take you anywhere!"  
*(Catherine Johnson)*



Issue 27  
September 2023

## WELCOME TO THE MONTHLY LIBRARY NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the start of a new school year, especially to all our new pupils who have found their way into our lovely library. The Library has become a wonderful hub for children who want to read, work, practise lines or singing and every morning before tutor time it is awash with the younger pupils working with their Maths Buddies and Year 8 supervisors. We are so very lucky to have such a space for our school family to use.

Many of our classes in the Prep department have had a short library familiarisation session with me so that they know where to find books and magazines and how to borrow and return books. We are also continuing with the weekly story reading to pupils in Years 3 and 4. Year 3 will start with shorter stories before we move on to a longer text. Year 4 voted overwhelmingly for me to read *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone* and you could hear a pin drop in our sessions - even on the carpet! Year 2 will also continue with their visits to the Big Library for a story or two in term time, and there is a rumour that children from The Nursery may come along for a visit. Watch this space.

We shall continue to set aside Tuesday and Thursday lunchtimes for quiet reading and work so that those who need a break from the hustle and bustle of school life can be guaranteed a place of peace and quiet.

Just a quick reminder about lost or damaged books or books that are not returned - any books that come back to The Library that have been badly damaged whilst in a child's care or which have not been returned by the end of term will incur a charge in the end of term account. Children get regular reminders about overdue books. If parents are charged for a missing or overdue book at the end of term, the charge will still stand even if the book is found at a later date. If parents prefer, they can buy a brand new copy of the missing or damaged book for The Library instead of incurring the charge.

## The Official Opening of Our Big Friendly Library

We were incredibly lucky to have author Catherine Johnson visit us on 19th September to give a talk to pupils in Years 5 - 8 and then run a fantastic creative writing workshop for some of the older pupils. Catherine was then our guest of honour in the official opening of The Library and cutting of the ribbon. It is said you should never meet your heroes, but I disagree. Catherine was wonderful with the children, fascinating to listen to and brilliant at getting the older pupils to write some really interesting text. She spoke about her family history and being of mixed race, how she was disorganised at school and received a poor history report only to go on to be an amazing writer of historically based novels for children and young adults. Her question and answer session with the pupils in Years 5 - 8 eventually had to be curtailed after 20 minutes, such was the enthusiasm of her audience to find out more about her. We do stock a number of Catherine's books in The Library, but I am delighted to say that most of these are already out on loan.

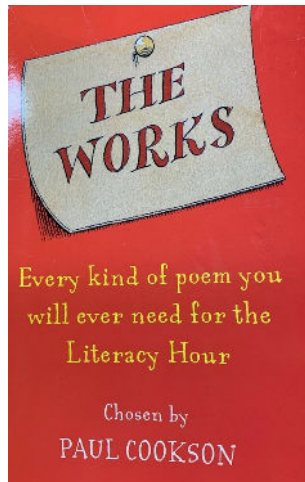


## LET'S KEEP READING!

### New books in The Library

*Book summaries are taken from The Book Trust, Goodreads, Amazon, LoveReading4Kids, The Reading Agency, Waterstones, Classical Comics, Publishers' Weekly, Fantastic Fiction.*

### Poetry

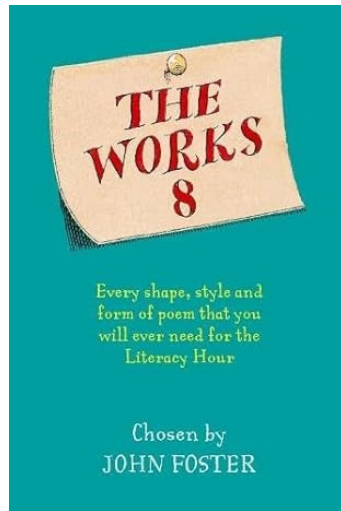


7+

**The Works** chosen by Paul Cookson

*The Works* contains every kind of poem you will ever need and it is packed with brilliant poems that will delight any reader. It's got chants, action verses, riddles, tongue twisters, shape poems, puns, acrostics, haikus, cinquains, kennings, couplets, thin poems, lists, conversations, monologues, epitaphs, songs, limericks, tankas, nonsense poems, raps, narrative verse and performance poetry that's just for starters. It features poems from the very best classic and modern poets, for example: William Blake, Michael Rosen, Robert Louis Stevenson, Allan Ahlberg, W.H. Auden, Brian Patten, Roger McGough, Roald Dahl, Charles Causley, Eleanor Farjeon, Benjamin Zephaniah, Ted Hughes, T.S. Eliot and William Shakespeare to name but a few.

## Poetry continued



7+

**The Works 8** chosen by John Foster  
*The Works 8* really does contain every shape, genre, style and form of poem that you will need and it is also a book packed with fantastic poems that will delight every reader. Compiled by expert anthologist John Foster, this is an incredible alphabet of poetic forms which includes acrostics, ballads, cinquains, diary poems, epitaphs, fables, greetings, haiku, insults, jokes, kennings, limericks, metaphor poems, nonsense poems, odes, parodies, question poems, raps, sonnets, tanka, univolics, villanelles, warnings, x-ray poems, yearnings and zoo plaque poems.

### Night Sky

*By John Kitching*

Bright stars stud black skies;  
Clear-seeing, we gaze amazed;  
Winter-chilled but thrilled.  
No wonder human beings  
Seek to read the face of space.

*A Tanka is a classical Japanese poetic form, which consists of five lines which together add up to 31 syllables. The syllables are arranged in the following way: 5 - 7 - 5 - 7 - 7.*

## Information Books



7 - 12 Years

**Kick It: World Champions Take the Pitch and You Can Too** by Rebel Girls

*Rebel Girls Kick It: World Champions Take the Pitch, and You Can Too* is created by Rebel Girls to celebrate female athletes and features stories, fun facts and original illustrations of Nike athletes as well as Q&As with coaches and activities to increase children's confidence whilst playing sport.

9+

**The Power of Welcome - Real life refugee and migrant journeys** by Marie Bamyani, Ada Jusic, Nadine Kaadan, Ramzee and Sonya Zhurenko

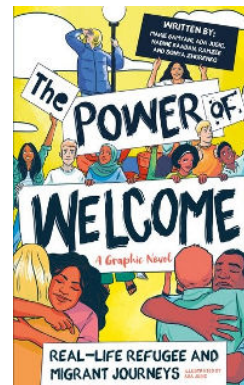
A powerful graphic novel exploring the struggle for survival of displaced people.

With true stories from **Ukraine, Somalia, Bosnia, Syria and Afghanistan**, this moving book collects important tales about the **real journeys of people forced from their homes** by conflict.

**Somalia:** *'It was a normal, boring day. I was playing videogames after homework when the first bomb fell.'*

**Bosnia:** *'One day, Mum took me to the local playground. A sniper shot at us. We couldn't stay in Bosnia any more.'*

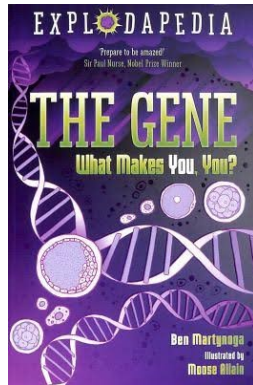
**Ukraine:** *'On 24th of February, Mum woke me up by saying: 'The war has begun.'*



Each story has an informative introduction about the country, written by Bali Rai.

Real stories to help children aged 9+ understand the plight of refugees and displaced people.

## Information Books continued



9+

### **The Gene. What makes You, You?**

by Ben Martynoga and Moose Allain

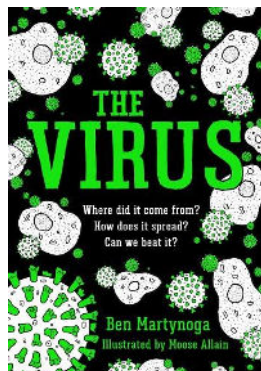
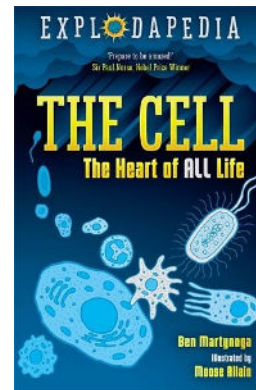
Your definitive guide to what makes you, you! The Gene clearly and accessibly explains the code that all life uses to make more of their species - and how mutations make every single one of us individual and unique!

9+

### **The Cell. The Heart of ALL Life**

by Ben Martynoga and Moose Allain

Your definitive guide to the heart of all life - The Cell. None of the fabulously diverse range of all life on Earth could exist without the astonishing workings of cells, so join Dr Ben Martynoga and Moose Allain as they explain the fascinating story of life's building blocks!



9+

### **The Virus. Where did it come from? How does it spread? Can we beat it?**

by Ben Martynoga and Moose Allain

A fascinating, sometimes funny, and occasionally scary journey through the world of viruses. Explore the science behind viruses and the COVID-19 pandemic in a fascinating story of hijacked human cells and our own internal emergency services. Along the way, you'll learn what viruses are, how they work, and how we can overcome - or at least learn to live alongside - those that do us harm.

## Information Books continued

10+

### **Story of Now. Let's Talk about the British Empire** by Shelina Janmohamed

Instead of endless lists of Kings and Queens, battles and dates, this book introduces you to some of the hottest topics, ideas and experiences of real people. You will discover the forces behind the biggest empire of all time and you'll answer some BIG questions. Like what does it MEAN to be British? What do people BELIEVE in? What makes us the country we are and WHY? Big questions, so how do we find the answers? Let's start by hearing from real children all over the world; children who may have lived at different times, had different experiences, skin colours and religions BUT they have one thing in common (and so do you!) – the BRITISH EMPIRE. Discover how the British Empire impacted countries and communities across the world and, most importantly, discover its impact on children like you!

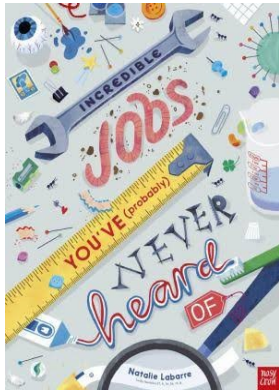


### **Brilliant Black British History** by Atinuke and Illustrated by Kingsley Nebechi

An eye-opening story of Britain, focusing on a part of our past that has mostly been left out of the history books: Black British history. Did you know that the first Britons were Black? Or that some of the Roman soldiers who invaded and ruled Britain were Black, too? Join this fascinating journey through the ages to meet those first Britons, as well as the Black Tudors, Georgians and Victorians who existed in every walk of life here.



## Information Books continued

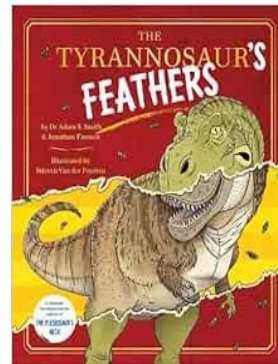


### Incredible Jobs You've (probably) Never Heard of by Natalie Labarre

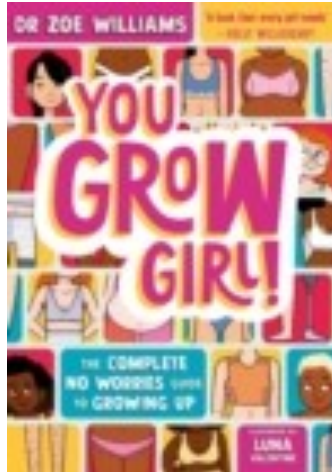
Do you know what you want to do when you grow up? Why not work as a babysitter . . . for sloths? Or become a farmer . . . of corpses? You might even grow up to be someone who gets paid to actually sleep on the job! From taste testers to dinosaur dust-ers, there are all kinds of incredible jobs that you've probably never heard of . . . and one of them might be just right for you!

### The Tyrannosaur's Feathers

by Dr Adam Smith and Jonathan Emmett  
Tyrannosaurus Rex may be the king of the dinosaurs, but that doesn't stop know-it-all Velociraptor from telling him he looks old-fashioned and needs a makeover. So, with an improved posture, some restyled body parts and a coat of shaggy feathers, T. Rex gets a new look to match the latest evidence. From the authors of *The Plesiosaur's Neck*, *The Tyrannosaur's Feathers* takes an amusing and informative look at how new discoveries have transformed our understanding of T. Rex's appearance since this giant prehistoric predator was first unearthed over a century ago.



## Information Books continued



11+

### **Your Grow Girl. The complete no worries guide to growing up**

by Dr Zoe Williams

Dr Zoe Williams, is here to explain everything girls need to know about puberty - plus lots more. Growing up is exciting, but it can also be a strange and confusing time. We'll cover the usual things such as periods and body changes, but also equip you with the knowledge you need to flourish and thrive in today's world, from self-care and recognising healthy relationships to talking about your mental health with confidence. Packed with easy-to-understand information, myth-busting advice and fun illustrations, this is the ultimate growing-up guide for girls who want to feel empowered, informed and positive about becoming the very best version of themselves. Content includes: Looking after your body, from healthy eating and hygiene to body confidence and exercise; Mental health awareness, self-care and hobbies; Managing relationships, from family and friends to crushes; A sensitive, age-appropriate introduction to sex, consent and privacy; Navigating the online world, including social media, bullying and cyber safety.

## Fiction Books

8+

### Lizzie and Lucky: The Mystery of the Stolen Treasure by Megan Rix

Join Lizzie and Lucky on another mystery-solving adventure! Perfect for fans of *Holly Webb* and *Anisha, Accidental Detective*. When Lizzie and her cute puppy Lucky go on a family trip to the seaside, something doesn't seem right. There's talk of missing treasure no one has been able to find for years and years, and artefacts are mysteriously disappearing in the local museum. Anyone else would shrug it off but this dynamic duo just know there is a mystery to be solved here - and they won't leave until they figure it out!



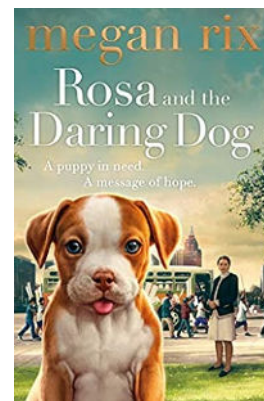
8+

### Rosa and the Daring Dog by Megan Rix

The brilliant new book from Megan Rix, telling the story of Rosa Parks from the perspective of a young girl and her faithful dog. HOWLY is a tiny puppy, left abandoned in a trash can next to a school.

EDDIE is the young girl who finds him . . .

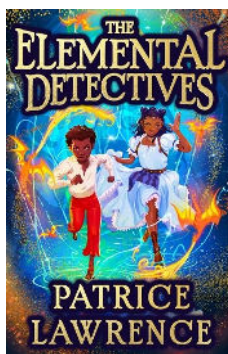
Eddie is immediately drawn to the puppy, whose bravery and determination remind her of a very famous person indeed. Eddie's class are learning about Mrs Rosa Parks, whose act of courage on a bus in 1955 started a whole movement against racism in America. Mrs Parks herself soon visits Eddie's school, and when the great lady points out a stark reminder of racism in the school's own playground it's up to Eddie, her friends, and their new school dog Howly to remind everyone how to stay hopeful and stand up for what is right.



## Fiction Books continued...

9+

**The Elemental Detectives** by Patrice Lawrence  
Step into a London lit up by the Elemental spirits: the fiery Dragons, the airy Fumis, the watery Chads and the earthbound Magogs. But humans have been causing chaos for centuries, trampling through the landscape trailing noise, mess and pollution. What if the Elements could slow down this new world... or stop it all together?

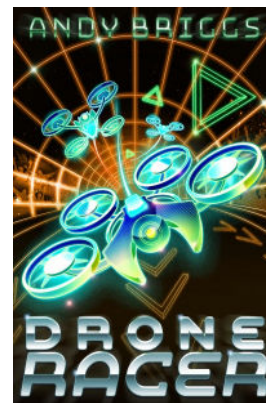


The revenge-fuelled Shepherdess, who moves between the everyday and the supernatural London worlds, is the perfect weapon. She brings a sleeping sickness down on the city with the destruction of society in her sights. Marisee and Robert are the Elemental Detectives chasing the clues to avoid catastrophe: they must face the ghosts of Hyde Park, the monstrous coiled snake of the Serpentine, and a whole host of other fantastical creatures in their mission to stop the Shepherdess and prevent London slumbering for all eternity...

9+

**Drone Racer** by Andy Briggs

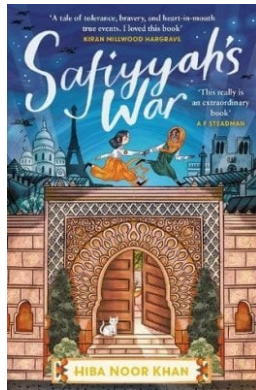
Carson and his friends love racing drones, and they can't believe their luck when they stumble across a discarded one at a junkyard. But this new find is full of surprises. When they power the drone up, it starts talking! And it's fast. Really fast. They could win big prizes in the racing leagues. Trouble is, someone wants their incredible drone back, and they'll stop at nothing to get it. How can three kids protect their new friend?



## Fiction Books continued...

9+

**Safiyyah's War** by Hiba Noor Khan



War comes to the streets of Paris and Safiyyah's life changes for ever.

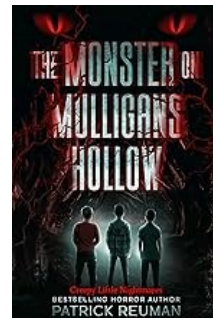
Her best friend's family have fled, and the bombing makes her afraid to leave the mosque where she lives. But when her father is arrested by the Nazis for his secret Resistance work, it falls to Safiyyah to run the dangerous errands around the city. It's not long before hundreds of persecuted Jews seek sanctuary at the mosque. Can Safiyyah find the courage to enter the treacherous catacombs under Paris and lead the Jews to safety?

11+

**The Monster on Mulligan's Hollow**

by Patrick Neuman

There's a road in the town of Witherbrook called Mulligans Hollow. It's long, and dark, and full of shadows. That's where they think Timmy Collins disappeared. Everybody searches, but there is no trace, no clue that he had ever even been there. None. That is, until another child goes missing there on that eerie road, and the kid's friends tell the police that they saw something out there, something among those shadows and trees, and it had red eyes.



## Fiction Books continued...



13+

**Maybe He Just Likes You** by Barbara Dee

For seventh-grader Mila, it starts with some boys giving her an unwanted hug on the school blacktop. A few days later, at recess, one of the boys (and fellow trumpet player) Callum tells Mila it's his birthday, and asks her for a "birthday hug." He's just being friendly, isn't he? And how can she say no? But Callum's hug lasts a few seconds too long, and feels...weird. According to her friend, Zara, Mila is being immature and overreacting. Doesn't she know what flirting looks like? But the boys don't leave Mila alone. On the bus. In the halls. During band practice—the one place Mila could always escape. It doesn't feel like flirting—so what is it? Thanks to a chance meeting, Mila begins to find solace in a new karate class. Slowly, with the help of a fellow classmate, Mila learns how to stand her ground and how to respect others—and herself.

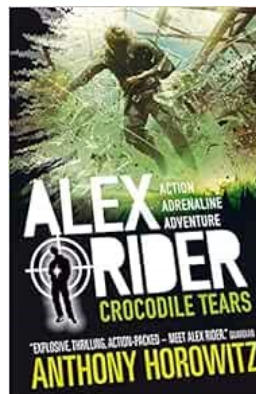
## BOOK REVIEW



### *Read a book, read a book, read a book...*

**Maddie Styles** has been reading the Alex Rider series by Anthony Horowitz and particularly enjoyed *Crocodile Tears*. The plot goes like this: *A charity broker con artist has raised millions of dollars in donations, only to invest them in a form of genetically modified corn that has the power to release an airborne strain of virus so powerful it can knock out an entire country in one windy day. A catastrophe so far-reaching that it would raise millions of dollars more in charitable donations, all of which would be embezzled by one man. The antidote? Alex Rider, of course, who survives gunfire, explosions, and hand-to-hand combat with mercenaries - just another day in the life of an average kid* (The Book Trust). **Maddie** says, "Inside this book there is A LOT of action and adventure. It is a book from a series (Alex Rider), and this is for people who like explosions, fighting and nerve-wracking cliff hangers! In my opinion, Alex Rider is the best character – a misunderstood school boy who wants nothing more than to lead an ordinary life...But, instead, he finds himself fighting enemies, travelling to different countries and still having to do his homework! I would rate this book 5 out of 5 stars because even if you don't like reading long books, the first six books in this series are available to read in graphic novel form as well as in normal books."

Thank you, **Maddie**.



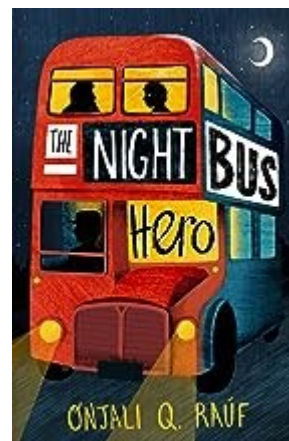
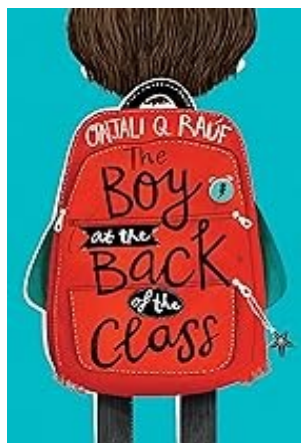
## *Recommended reads for this month*

*The Girl Who Speaks Bear* (what an intriguing title) by Sophie Anderson has been recommended by **Saskia Wells** for 11+ readers. *Found abandoned in a bear cave as a baby, Yanka has always wondered about where she is from. She tries to ignore the strange whispers and looks from the villagers, wishing she was as strong on the inside as she is on the outside. But, when she has to flee her house, looking for answers about who she really is, a journey far beyond one that she ever imagined begins: from icy rivers to smouldering mountains meeting an ever-growing herd of extraordinary friends along the way.* **Saskia** found this really interesting especially how Yanka finds out who she is and why she was left in a cave. It's such a great story. Thank you, **Saskia**.

*Sky Song* by Abi Elphinstone has been recommended by **Izzy Holden**. **Izzy** says this a really good story and a great adventure. She liked the characters and the descriptive language and it was easy to read and enjoy. The story: *In the snowy kingdom of **Erkenwald**, whales glide between icebergs, wolves hunt on the tundra and polar bears roam the glaciers. But the people of this land aren't so easy to find - because Erkenwald is ruled by an evil Ice Queen and the tribes must stay hidden or risk becoming her prisoners at Winterfang Palace. Join **Eska**, a girl who breaks free from a cursed music box, and **Flint**, a boy whose inventions could change the fate of Erkenwald forever, as they journey to the Never Cliffs and beyond in search of an ancient, almost forgotten, song with the power to force the Ice Queen back. This is a story about an eagle huntress, an inventor and an organ made of icicles. But it is also a story about belonging, even at the very edges of our world . . .* Thank you, **Izzy**.

## Recommended reads continued

Two books by Onjali Q. Rauf have really appealed to Alejandra Cilleruelo Rivera: *The Boy at the Back of the Class* and *The Night Bus Hero*. Alejandra liked that one was about being a refugee and the other about a boy who behaves badly, but turns his life around. Both books were really interesting and adventurous. In *The Boy at the Back of the Class* one ordinary nine-year-old child and three classmates are full of empathy for Ahmet, a boy that comes to their school as a refugee from Syria (he is the boy at the back of the class). Through their sensitivity, curiosity, ingenuity, bravery and innocent niceness, they make a massive impact on Ahmet's life, friends, class, school, community and wider world. *The Night Bus Hero* is a story told from the perspective of a bully. 'I've been getting into trouble for as long I can remember. Usually I don't mind 'cos some of my best, most brilliant ideas have come from sitting in detention. But recently it feels like no one believes me about anything - even when I'm telling the truth! And it's only gotten worse since I played a prank on the old man who lives in the park. Everyone thinks I'm just a bully. They don't believe I could be a hero. But I'm going to prove them all wrong...' This book explores themes of bullying and homelessness, while celebrating kindness, friendship and the potential everyone has to change for the good. Thank you, Alejandra.



## WORTH A LOOK!

Some of the children have expressed interest in reading biographies and autobiographies of sportswomen and sportsmen so below are a few suggestions:

**11+** (although some book reviews suggest it is suitable for younger groups)

**Jonny: My Autobiography** by Jonny Wilkinson

Jonny Wilkinson's career has crossed three decades and four World Cups. He has accumulated phenomenal achievements, world points records, an impressive list of broken body parts, and a drop goal that will be remembered for ever. But the peculiar calmness with which he played the game masked a very different reality. In *Jonny*, he reveals the extraordinary psychology that he had to tame in order to be able to dominate his sport. For most of his life, he was driven by a quest for perfection and an obsession to be the best player in the world; here he shows how these two facets of his competitive mind took such a hold of him that they sent him to the top of the world, then swept him up and dragged him down into a spiral of despair. Jonny's career has spanned the far reaches: amazing highs and iconic moments, then a fight against injury that culminated in a battle with depression. Here he tells of the physical toll he knew his body was taking from rugby, even from his youth; he tells of how he never wanted to be a kicking fly-half but learned to adapt his natural game to play the style that Clive Woodward believed necessary to win a World Cup, and how he nearly walked out on Martin Johnson's England team 13 years later.

**9+**

**Changing the Game: Fantastic Female Footballers** by Casey Stoney

Discover the history of the women's game and meet the individuals that have overcome the odds to play the sport they love. From historical figures such as Lily Parr, who defied the government ban on women's football, to contemporary record-breakers such as Marta, and rising stars set to take the game to new heights, this book is packed with fascinating figures. With beautiful illustrations, inspirational stories, player skills and statistics, and Casey Stoney's motivational voice throughout, this is a great book especially for those looking for sporting heroes.

## WORTH A LOOK! *continued*

9+

**Football School Star Players: 50 inspiring stories of true football heroes**  
by Alex Bellos and Ben Lyttledon

Featuring 50 outstanding football players, this is a who's who guide to the footballing world, from Eniola Aluko to Zinédine Zidane. Players included come from all around the world and from across the last century.

Organised alphabetically and written in an approachable, conversational style, each mini biography highlights the footballer's super skills and special achievements, and their important deeds off the pitch as well as on it. Find out how Lily Parr fought against a ban on women's football; who set up a charity to promote education around the world; and which footballer is also an environmental entrepreneur. Spike Gerrell's illustrations add extra humour and contribute to making this a really fun book for football fans. Dip in and look for a favourite player or discover things about players you may not have heard about before.

7 - 11 years

**ROAR: a guide to dreaming big and playing the sport you love**  
by Beth Mead

Football hero Beth Mead grew up playing football on the pitches of North Yorkshire. She went on to become a football champion and Golden Boot winner at the 2022 European Championships. She's here to help you find your sporting passion, work hard and achieve your dreams. From discovering something you love, having fun and staying positive, to working as a team, setting goals and flicking your superstar switch, sport has the magic to help you feel confident in all areas of your life. But it's also about fun, freedom, friendship, focus and flair. So stretch your legs, lace up your boots and discover Beth's insider tips, tricks and activities for dreaming big, reaching your potential and playing the sport you love.

## WORTH A LOOK! *continued*

### 9 - 12 years

**Ultimate Cricket Superstars** by Tanya Aldred and Matt Oldfield

Discover the incredible true stories of 50 game-changing cricket superstars. From Matt Oldfield, the author of *Ultimate Football Heroes*, and sports journalist Tanya Aldred, comes an exciting new book for young cricket stars in the making. In this incredible collection of true stories, discover the secrets of 50 cricket superstars, from sporting legends to modern heroes. Uncover the most exciting and inspiring accounts of success, failure, injury and bravery. Learn the ins and outs of the game, with fascinating facts, player profiles and top tips to improve your own performance. An ideal book for any young sports fan who enjoys reading about their favourite heroes, such as "Freddie" Flintoff, Ellyse Perry, Don Bradman, Stafanie Taylor, Virat Kohli and Harmanpreet Kaur.

### Poetry

### 10 - 13 years

**Marshmallow Clouds** by Ted Kooser and Connie Wanek

A freewheeling romp through the world of imagery and metaphor, this quietly startling collection of thirty poems, framed by the four elements, is about art and reality, fact and fancy. Look around: what do you see? A clown balancing a pie in a tree, or an empty nest perched on a leafless branch? As poet Connie Wanek alludes to in her afterword - a lively dialogue with former US Poet Laureate Ted Kooser - sometimes the simplest sights and sounds "summon our imaginations" and cry out to be clothed in the alchemical language of poetry. This compendium of the fleeting and unexpected turns the everyday - turtles, trees, and tadpoles; cow pies, lazy afternoons, and pillowy white marshmallows - into poetic gold. A brilliant and timeless collaboration that evokes both the mystery and grandeur of the natural world and the cozy, mundane moments of daily life.

## WORTH A LOOK! *continued*

### 0 - 2 years

#### **Can You Tickle a Tiger?** by Bobbie Brooks

Can you tickle a tiger, or a bear, or even a crocodile? And can you tickle them before they tickle you? This is a playful and brightly coloured board book featuring some of the best jungle animals. With felt trails to follow with your finger and lots of funny rhyming words, this sturdy, robust book is light to hold, perfect to pick up, play with and read.

### 2 - 3 years

#### **I Am Happy** by Michael Rosen

Have you heard? This puppy is happy – so happy, it feels like dancing the waltz, doing somersaults, laughing out loud – and even climbing on a cloud! This terrifically uplifting read-aloud is the third in a series from Michael Rosen for children to explore certain emotions and find ways to express themselves. A note from Michael Rosen at the beginning encourages readers to explore their own imagination to find what makes them happy and celebrate these feelings. It has a simple rhyming text in large font to make it accessible and is accompanied by bold and expressive illustrations that capture the most joyful ways that you can show happiness.

### 4 - 5 years

#### **Are You a Monster?** by Guiherme Karsten

Warning! This book contains a monster. A really angry, really scary, really bad monster... or so the monster says. And Monster has a very important question: are you a monster too? See, there is a very long checklist to determine if you are indeed a big, scary monster. Do you have a long pointy tail? Big yellow eyes? No? Wait, can you make a big, loud noise? You can! Oh no... you might just be a monster! Eek! This is a wonderful and fun read-aloud story with plenty of movements, noises, and questions that will have children of all ages roaring and stomping along, as Monster encourages them to be the scariest monster possible. The illustrations are simple and eye-catching and will keep even the little ones enthralled.

## WORTH A LOOK! *continued*

### 5 - 8 years

**Dadaji's Paintbrush** by Rashmi Sirdeshpande

Discover that bereavement can be a beginning, not an ending, in this beautiful story of one boy's grief when he loses his beloved grandfather. Dadaji loves to teach others to paint, especially his grandson. But after Dadaji passes away, the boy can't bear to use the favourite paintbrush his grandfather left for him. When a little girl knocks on the door, the boy discovers how many lives Dadaji touched with his art, and finds a way to continue his legacy.

### 6 - 10 years

**Our Tower** by Joseph Coelho

This magical story follows three children living in a tower block, as they embark on a fantastical adventure which helps them see their home in a new light. This story is a celebration of, and a reclaiming of tower blocks as a place where magic and adventure can happen. It's a modern-day fable that shows the children of a tower block travelling to a strange, magical world inside a tree and meeting an old man with supernatural powers, only to realise that the magic they'd been looking for had been in their tower all along.

### 8 - 12 years

**The Lizzie and Belle Mysteries: Drama and Danger** by J. T. Williams

Perfect for fans of Robin Steven's *Murder Most Unladylike*. Set in eighteenth-century London, it has all the fun and zest of Hamilton and is inspired by real Black British historical figures. Twelve-year-olds Lizzie Sancho and Dido Belle are from different worlds – Lizzie lives in Westminster in her dad's tea shop, while Belle is an heiress being brought up by her aunt and uncle at grand Kenwood House – but they both share a love of solving mysteries. And when their eyes meet in the audience of the Drury Lane theatre one night, both girls are sure they've seen something suspicious on stage. Lizzie and Belle soon find themselves on the trail of a mystery – and becoming best friends. But can they work out what's going on in time to prevent a murder?

## WORTH A LOOK! *continued*

12+

**The Mighty Odds** by Amy Ignatow

What do you get when you mix a sci-fi nerd, a cartoonist, a social outcast, and the most popular girl in school with a mysterious bus crash? Some very specific superpowers: Martina can change her eye colour; Nick can teleport four inches to the left; Farshad can develop super strength, but only in his thumbs; and Cookie can read minds, when those minds are thinking about directions. They are, in short, the just okayish heroes. Starring a diverse group of kids with (very limited) superpowers, this series' multiple narrators make for a quirky, pitch-perfect read that tackles identity and stereotypes.

12+

**The Four Fists** by F. Scott Fitzgerald

From boarding school to the business world, a man gets into confrontations (often stemming from his desire to fit into high society) that lead to him being punched in the face. But each time he learns something, and that—in turn—leads to great success.

13+

**Musical Truth: A musical history of modern Black Britain in 28 Songs**  
by Jeffrey Boakye

This thorough and inspiring selection of 28 songs carefully chosen by Jeffrey Boakye to represent Modern Black Britain isn't just a must-listen playlist – it's a history book in a league of its own, offering a unique new perspective on postcolonialism and exploring Black identity in the UK. Boakye's knowledge and passion shines through as he explains the background, emotional impact, and historical significance of songs that changed British culture forever – from *London is the Place for Me* by Lord Kitchener to *Vossi Bop* by Stormzy. Topics such as racism, structural oppression, and sexism are addressed through the lens of work by artists such as Musical Youth, Sade, Dave, and even Ed Sheeran, and each musician is stylishly characterised in a pop-art monochrome print by visual artist and designer Ngadi Smart.