

St Andrew's Prep
EASTBOURNE

TALKING BOOKS WITH MRS GARRETT

“Never trust anyone who has not
brought a book with them.”
Lemony Snicket



Issue 28
October 2023

WELCOME TO THE MONTHLY LIBRARY NEWSLETTER

One thing we should never compromise on is spending time reading to our children, even if it is only for 10 minutes per day. 'Books allow children to hear new vocabulary and new ways of putting words together, which expands their ability to make sense of and use language.' (Laura Philips PsyD, the Child Mind Institute).

Children are never too young or too old to be read to and there are so many benefits:

- it expands their vocabulary
- it helps them understand texts - an essential tool for education and life
- it helps children to develop empathy
- it helps children to learn how to deal with their own feelings through reading about characters who experience emotions like anger and sadness
- it gives you and your child a time of peace and calm and time to connect to each other
- it helps to benefit a child's cognitive development - especially when they are very young. Even holding a book in their hands helps a child's brain development
- research is showing that reading actual books appears to be more beneficial than reading e-books because the younger generation in particular, is used to scrolling and swiping, whereas reading an actual book encourages slower, deeper reading and a greater understanding of the text.

Also, if children see their parents and members of their home community reading, they will be encouraged to read themselves.
(*'Why it is important to read to your child'* by Hannah Sheldon-Dean)

We are incredibly lucky to have a huge number of books in the school for all age groups so please do read to your child when they bring a book home and talk to them about the story or pictures.

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.

Information Books

10+

Jonny: My Autobiography by Jonny Wilkinson

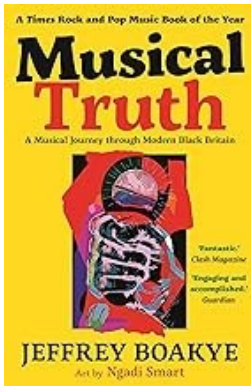
Jonny Wilkinson's career has crossed three decades and four World Cups. He has accumulated phenomenal achievements, world points records, an impressive list of broken body parts, and a drop goal that will be remembered for ever. But the peculiar calmness with which he played the game masked a very different 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.



Information Books continued

9+

Musical Truth: A Musical Journey through Modern Black Britain by Jeffrey Boakye
Lord Kitchener, Neneh Cherry, Smiley Culture, Stormzy . . . Groundbreaking musicians whose songs have changed the world. But how? This exhilarating playlist tracks some of the key shifts in modern British history, and explores the emotional impact of 28 songs and the artists who performed them. This book redefines British history, the Empire and postcolonialism, and will invite you to think again about the narratives and key moments in history that you have been taught up to now.

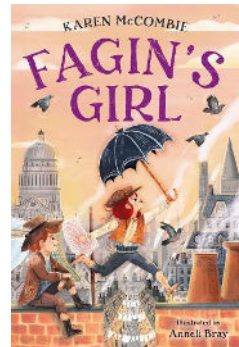


Barrington Stoke Books and Books for Reluctant Readers

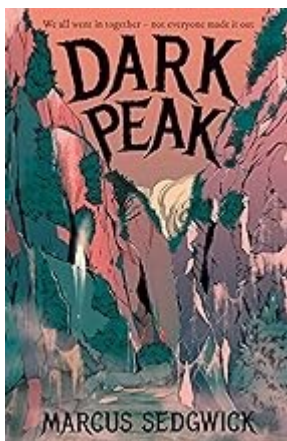
8 - 12 Years

Fagin's Girl by Karen McCombie

Orphan Ettie Shaw is penniless and homeless on the streets of London when she is spotted by her older brother, Joe. Joe has fallen in with a notorious pickpocket gang run by a man called Fagin, and Ettie has to disguise herself as a boy so she can go back with him to Fagin's lair. At first Ettie is able to help out with mending and other domestic jobs, but when one of the other boys falls ill, Fagin demands that Ettie go out pickpocketing with Joe - and everything goes horribly wrong...



Barrington Stoke Books and Books for Reluctant Readers continued



11+

Dark Peak by Marcus Sedgwick

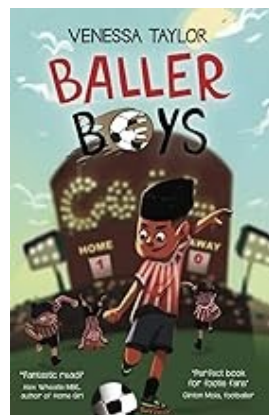
One long, hot summer, two children disappear on a school trip to the mysterious natural rock formation known as Lud's Church, hidden deep in a forest in the Dark Peak. Things really only becomes strange when one of the missing pair is found – Porter Fox is worried that no one is even looking for the other anymore. Why does no one seem to care that Stephen is missing? What happened in Lud's Church? And why does Porter get the feeling that supernatural forces from deep in the past are at play?

Fiction Books

7+

Baller Boys by Vanessa Taylor

Shay and Frankie are best friends and football crazy! They eat, sleep and breathe football (even when they're at school!). They dream about playing football, love a kick-about in the park, watch all the big games on TV... all that's missing in their lives is the chance to play for a real football team. All Cultures United is the best club around for miles and all the footie fans want to be on their team... including Shay and Frankie. Are they good enough to impress Coach Reece at the AC United trials? Can their friendship survive the competitiveness of football? Will they ultimately fulfil their goal to become Baller Boys?



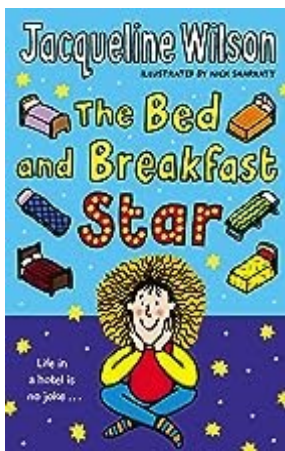
Fiction Books continued

8+

The Bed and Breakfast Star

by Jacqueline Wilson

Elsa loves to tell jokes and clown about, but no-one seems to laugh much any more – not since her family lost their lovely house and ended up stuck in a dingy bed and breakfast hotel. Even in the horrible and very un-royal Royal Hotel, Elsa keeps busy cracking jokes and getting the other guests chuckling. But as things go from bad to worse, even Elsa finds it hard to keep smiling – until disaster strikes and she gets the chance to be a real star at last! Funny and touching, warm and wise, Elsa's story explores the modern face of homelessness.



9+

The Girl Who Speaks Bear

by Sophie Anderson

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.



Fiction Books continued

9+

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

Lizzie Sancho and Dido Belle come from very different walks of life. Lizzie lives with her large family in their tea shop in the heart of busy London. Dido is a lonely heiress living with her aunt and uncle in a mansion near Hampstead Heath. But when they catch each other's eyes at the theatre one night, each is delighted to see another Black girl her own age. And when Lizzie's actor father is nearly killed by a falling chandelier, they both know it wasn't an accident. They team up, making notes and following suspects – until they're plunged into terrible danger themselves. Can Lizzie and Belle navigate their new friendship, and stop the would-be murderer?



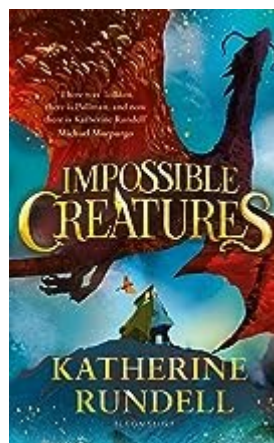
Packed with atmosphere and charged with tension, this is a hugely enjoyable mystery set in the dangerous Georgian era. It was particularly dangerous if you were Black, and this is explored in an age-appropriate way. The support and passion within the Black community (and Lizzie's own family) is brilliantly depicted, shot through as it is with sadness about their brothers and sisters who are still in slavery. Yet there is hope and joy and love too.

Fiction Books continued

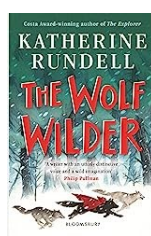
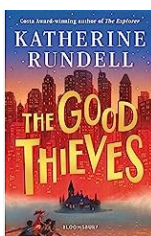
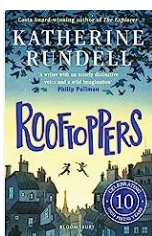
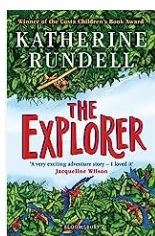
9+

Impossible Creatures by Katherine Rundell

A boy called Christopher is visiting his reclusive grandfather when he witnesses an avalanche of mythical creatures come tearing down the hill. This is how Christopher learns that his grandfather is the guardian of one of the ways between the non-magical world and a place called the Archipelago, a cluster of magical islands where all the creatures we tell of in myth live and breed and thrive alongside humans. They have been protected from being discovered for thousands of years; now, terrifyingly, the protection has worn thin, and creatures are breaking through. Then a girl, Mal, appears in Christopher's world. She is in possession of a flying coat, is being pursued by a killer and is herself in pursuit of a baby griffin. Mal, Christopher and the griffin embark on an urgent quest across the wild splendour of the Archipelago, where sphinxes hold secrets and centaurs do murder, to find the truth - with unimaginable consequences for both their worlds. Together the two must face the problem of power, and of knowledge, and of what love demands of us.



More titles by Katherine Rundell:



Fiction Books continued

10+

Rory's Eagle by Gerard Henry

The white tailed sea eagle is one of the most impressive birds ever to grace the British Isles. In the 19th century it was hunted to extinction and disappeared from our shores. Now, for the first time in 200 years, these magnificent creatures are breeding on the east coast of Scotland. But their foothold is precarious and their future is far from certain. *The Story:* As the young warden of Glencrevie Estate, Rory Baird is fiercely protective of his woods and the wildlife that lives there. Woken one night by the hoot of an owl, he looks out to see a light flickering in a derelict building. Summoning all his courage, he goes to investigate, only to plunge into an unimaginable nightmare. Cornered by a vicious dog and seized by a rich and wildly unbalanced man, Rory finds himself locked up in the highest room of a remote castle. His crime is knowing too much. His captor cannot keep him, but he cannot let him go. Death is a penalty no boy should have to face. *Rory's Eagle* is an exciting adventure for children and young teenagers. It's the story of one boy's passion for nature and the length he will go to protect it. It draws on the beauty of our wildlife and shows how passion for some can become obsession for others.



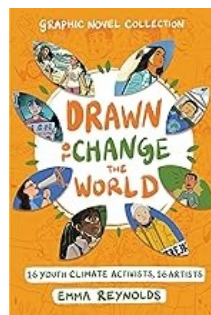
Graphic Novels

8+

Drawn to Change the World by Emma Reynolds

Emma Reynolds shines a spotlight on sixteen incredible youth activists from around the world who are fighting to protect the planet and all life on Earth. From Autumn Peltier campaigning for clean water to Edgar Edmund Tarimo turning plastic waste into building materials—and many more—these inspiring true stories highlight the importance of taking charge and creating change.

Beautifully illustrated by sixteen different artists and accompanied by facts and pictures that explain the science, *Drawn to Change the World* is for anyone who wants to learn more about the climate and nature crisis and what we can do about it, with extensive front matter and back matter materials. You are not too young and you are not too old to begin. We need everyone to help with the biggest challenge the human race has ever faced. We can do this if we work together.

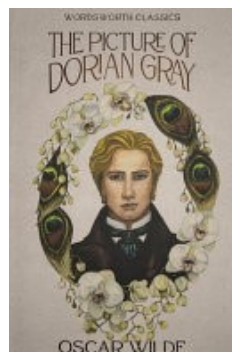


Classic Novels

13+

The Picture of Dorian Gray by Oscar Wilde

Enthralled by his own exquisite portrait, Dorian Gray exchanges his soul for eternal youth and beauty. Influenced by his friend Lord Henry Wotton, he is drawn into a corrupt double life; indulging his desires in secret while remaining a gentleman in the eyes of polite society. Only his portrait bears the traces of his decadence.



Read around the World

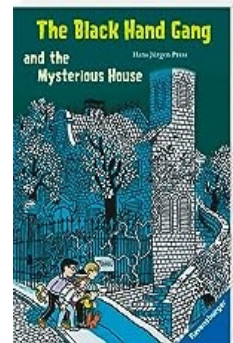
Some of our new books are stories that are from around the world and which have been translated into English. Some of the children from these countries may recognise these titles:

From Germany: 9 - 11 years

The Black Hand Gang and the Mysterious House and other Stories

Hans Jurgen Press

The Black Hand Gang meet regularly at the top of an old house. They meet to solve crime and track down criminals. The gang members are Frank, their leader, who plays the trumpet, Angela who is known to be quick witted, Ralph who usually wears a striped jumper, and Keith W.S and his inseparable companion - a squirrel (by the way, W. S. stands for 'With Squirrel'). *Meet the Black Hand Gang and help them solve their mysteries. Each page has a list with the most important vocabulary so you can test and improve your English.*



From China: 9 - 11 years

An Unusual Princess by Wu Meizhen

A charming modern fairy tale about a girl with a very unusual family - it's A Little Princess meets Cinderella. Sisi is a kind and caring young girl, whose sweet nature has earned her the nickname 'Princess'. When her father and mother are killed in a car crash, Sisi has to go and live with her father's cruel first wife, who treats her like a servant. Sisi's only friend is a talking teddy-bear called Yomi, but a mysterious gardener has a secret that will turn her life upside down. Will Sisi find a home where she can be truly happy again? A classic Chinese children's story.



Read around the World continued

From Laos: 9 - 12 years

Whispers of a Million Elephants - a love letter to Laos by Jane Thomas

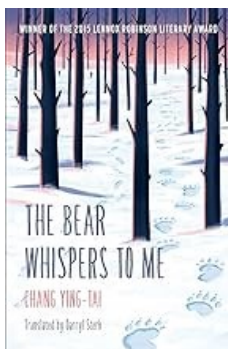
Lizzie and Bobby may be escaping a freezing winter and heading to the tropical heat of Thailand but, as they've been firmly told, it's not a vacation. They've been promised schoolwork and a personal tutor and little chance of seeing much else. But a school friend has asked them to deliver two little silver bars to her great-grandmother in Bangkok - and Lizzie did swear she'd do it. Giving their minder the slip, the pair end up taking a night train to Laos and starting an epic quest to get the bars back to their rightful owners. A simple promise suddenly turns deadly serious. Are the secrets the bars hold really worth dying for?



From Taiwan: 12+

The Bear Whispers to Me by Chang Ying-Tai

A reclusive young boy stumbles upon his father's diary. Filled with drawings, photos and anecdotes, the diary reveals an alpine world that his father once inhabited as a child: where tribes were fashioned by tree spirits; animals could be spoken to; fleas danced; and the moon and stars were guiding lights in darkling forests. His father's world was alive with birdsong and hidden spirits, serene yet fleeting - but it all changed when he befriended two bears. Bewitching and timeless, award-winning Taiwanese author Chang Ying-Tai's *The Bear Whispers to Me* is a poignant forest fable about the vivid beauty of the natural world, childhood, loss and the transient nature of time.



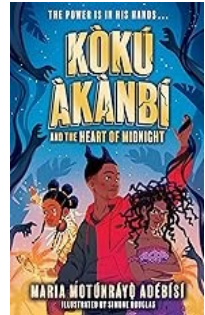
Read around the World continued

From West Africa: 9 - 11 years

Koku Akanbi and the Heart of Midnight

by Maria Motunrayo Adebisi

When 13-year-old Koku Akanbi accidentally unleashes a demon on a school trip, he has no idea what he's set in motion. Suddenly Koku is whisked away from his life in London and transported to his family's homeland of Olori, a mysterious place in which darkness is about to disappear forever - along with the magical creatures living within it. Accompanied by two super-powered sidekicks, Koku embarks on a mission to save Olori - and unlock his own extraordinary power...



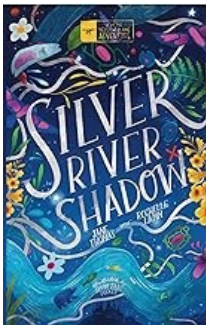
*Set in a unique magical world inspired by West African mythology, **Koku Akanbi and the Heart of Midnight** is the start of an unmissable new fantasy adventure series for fans of Marvel and Percy Jackson.*

From Canada: 9+

Silver River Shadow by Jane Thomas

Nobody ever tells Lizzie anything. Her mother's dead and her father's hiding in his work. So when she slips away into the Canadian wilderness with her friend Bobby to find out about her family, no one really notices. The truths she uncovers about her great-grandparents' past are laced with dangerous secrets. Nobody must be allowed to know what happened. And nobody wants to take the blame.

*Based on a true story and a real, raw quest for truth, **Silver River Shadow** shines a light on a country's darkest secrets and the extraordinary people who worked to bring them to the world. The creation of the book has been overseen by Barney and Marion Lamm's daughter, Rochelle, and reviewed by Ojibway readers living in and connected to Grassy Narrows.*



A Day in the Life of...

Barbra (a Library bear) (by Bella Thompson)



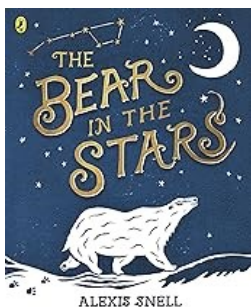
At 4am Barbra wakes up stressed as Mrs Garrett has bought more books (she needs to read EVERYTHING). After, she wakes up Bob (her brother) who always over sleeps.

School Time

After all the pupils arrive, she usually talks to Bob about her new favourite book *The Bear in the Stars* by Alexis Snell. At break, all the kids run into The Library to play games, but sometimes they use Barbra as a sun shield!

****After School****

Barbra usually listens to the birds and the wind with a book in her lap, enjoying the peace, although Bob plays UNO with himself, making a racket!



'There was once a bear, a great, white bear - Queen of Beasts. But over the years the ice disappeared, slipping away like sand through an hourglass. Slowly, slowly, one by one, the other animals moved on.' The great bear has no choice but to leave her snowy realm to search for food, friends and a new home. She soon discovers a world that is growing hotter whilst hearts grow colder - until one small act of kindness changes everything.

A Day in the Life of...

Bob (a Library bear) (by Maya Singh)

Morning

*In the morning **Bob** wakes up to some lovely, delicious and sweet honey. Next he always sees **Barbra** already reading a book and realises he must have slept in - OH NO!*

During School

*During school hours **Bob** always has a little nap - shhh!! Next, Bob goes to Mrs Garrett and asks her to read with him. Then he plays UNO with Mrs Garrett and **Barbra** and tea.*

After School

*A few hours later, it's end of school where most of the students go home. Next, he has dinner with the boarders and **Barbra** reads him a bedtime story. Goodnight, **Bob**.*



BOOK REVIEW



Read a book, read a book, read a book...

Katherine Rundell's new book *Impossible Creatures* had barely made it out of the packaging before it was snapped up for reading by Maddie Styles. This is what Maddie has to say: "*Impossible Creatures is a book by Katherine Rundell about a magical world where mythical creatures run free. Christopher, one of the main characters, has come from the world we know but Mal, another, has lived in the magical one for her whole life. They, together, have to outwit a murderer, go on an adventure and stop the Otherworlds from being completely destroyed.*"

"I would say this is an adventurous book with lots going on and lots to understand. I would rate this a



story as it even has a very interesting, detailed guide to animals, creepy and cool, with creatures such as centaurs, chimaeras and manticores! I think this fictional tale is an amazing one as there is a little of everything in it. I would recommend it to people who love twists, enjoy books with two worlds and have a big imagination!"

Thank you, Maddie.

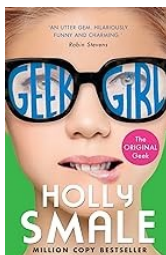


Recommended reads for this month

Maya Singh would like to recommend three books and a series that she read, which are for different age groups. The first, *The Danger Gang* by Tom Fletcher, is for the younger age group of 7 - 9 year olds and is about a boy called Franky who has to move to a new town. Following a storm, when green lightning and thunder crash on the town, all the children who live on Franky's street start to change and have strange powers. One of the boys can turn into a shark! Another, who was always being teased for the way she looks, can turn invisible, enabling her to play pranks on those who have been unkind. But soon Franky realises that there is danger in store for himself and his new friends.

If you like stories where the main character has to overcome challenges, then *Geek Girl* by Holly Smale is a great story. Maya really enjoyed following the progress of Harriet (a rather geeky girl) who is spotted by a model agent and becomes absorbed into the fashion world. But as things start to go wrong, can she transform herself before her old life falls apart? Maya liked that Harriet is just a normal girl whose determination will help her follow her dreams.

Finally, Maya loved *The Daring Escape of Beatrice and Peabody* by Kimberly Newton Fusco, the story of Beatrice, an orphan who is taunted and teased and who has to work on a hot dog stand everyday. Then one day a scruffy little dog shows up and Bee needs to find a home for them both. Bee finds a home, but also a kind and loving ghost and she gradually finds out about her family and makes lots of friends.



Recommended reads continued

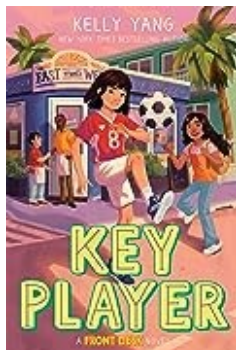
Front Desk is the first book in the five part series of books by Kelly Yang for 9 - 11 year old readers and it follows the life of ten-year-old Mia Tang who has a lot of secrets:

1. She lives in a motel, not a big house.
2. Her parents hide immigrants.
3. She wants to be a writer.

It will take all of Mia's courage, kindness and hard work to get through this year. Will she be able to hold on to her job, help the immigrants and guests, and go for her dreams?

The book is based on Kelly Yang's own childhood experiences.

Maya liked the story and the way Mia and the other immigrants come together to buy the motel when the nasty owner Mr Yao decides to sell it. Mia is very adventurous and not afraid to chase her dreams whilst making friends where she least expects to. The series is humorous and adventurous and Maya recommends reading all the books.



WORTH A LOOK!

0 - 2 years

Baby Touch: I Love My World by Ladybird

Lift the flaps to find the animals in this eco-friendly board book.

Who is hiding behind each flap? This gentle board book, with flaps to lift, invites you to celebrate our amazing planet and the animals that live on it with your baby. Say hello to a new endangered animal behind each flap, and end by saying 'I love you' to planet Earth.

This chunky book is made from responsibly sourced 100% recycled board and printed with plant-based inks.

Moomin Baby: Words by Tove Jansson

A gorgeous and gifty fold-out concertina board book that is perfect for tummy time. (Tummy time helps to strengthen a baby's back, neck and shoulders.) The bold patterns and high-contrast colours throughout are designed to help stimulate a baby's developing eyesight.

In this beautiful new range of baby books, Tove Jansson's much-loved world of the Moomins is brought to life for the very tiniest of bookworms.

Where's Spot? By Eric Hill

Join the hunt to find lovable Spot in Eric Hill's first ever lift-the-flap tale!

Lift each flap to find all sorts of funny animal surprises, before discovering where cheeky Spot has been hiding.

This is the perfect first book for little ones - the playful text is a wonderful spur to read and respond together, and the hide-and-seek flaps encourage curiosity and interactivity.

2 - 4 years

A Busy Day for Birds by Lucy Cousins

This is a bright, lively book, full of cheerful rhyme about the many different kinds of birds in the world. Children are sure to join in with the commands: whether it's standing on one leg, stretching their neck just like a swan, or shouting 'cock-a-doodle do!' Some of these actions are also guaranteed to entice a giggle (laying an egg, anyone?).

However, the story ends on a more relaxing note, making it a possible contender for the bedtime routine. Turns out that even a busy little bird still has time for a cuddle with Mum before bed...

WORTH A LOOK! *continued*

2 - 4 years

Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See? by Bill Martin

An all-time favourite that introduces different colours through simple text, presented in a satisfyingly repetitive pattern. The book offers rhythmic, rhyming text and an ideal starting point for craft activities.

Have You Seen Elephant? by David Barrow

Elephant wants to play hide and seek. You can play too, but you'll have to try your best - he's VERY good! Well - as good as an elephant hiding in a lamp can be. This hilarious book will delight children and adults with its offbeat humour and beautiful illustration - and will no doubt be requested time and time again.

5+

I Want My Hat Back by Jon Klassen

A bear sets out in search of his missing hat. Along the way, he asks all the animals he meets if any of them have seen his hat. They all say no... but one of them is lying. Told in a refreshingly deadpan manner, this quirky and distinctive picture book from US author and illustrator Jon Klassen will delight young readers.

Life is Magic by Meg McLaren

Flamboyant magician Monsieur Lapin captivates audiences with his spectacular tricks. His brilliant assistant, Houdini the rabbit, loves magic and has a flair for motivating the team and taking care of everything. When he accidentally transforms Monsieur Lapin into a rabbit, Houdini is determined that the show must go on. Stepping into the role of Magician Extraordinaire, he devises bigger, better and more daring illusions, which have the crowds enthralled. But when the initial excitement of being centre of attention fades, Houdini realises that he has neglected his friends and, noticing that Monsieur Lapin is missing the limelight, he plans his greatest trick yet: to turn everything back to normal.

This delightful tale about working together and helping your friends is full of warmth and humour.

WORTH A LOOK! *continued*

9 - 12 years

The Vanquishers by Kalynn Bayron

Malika "Boog" Wilson and her best friends have grown up idolizing The Vanquishers, a group of heroic vampire hunters who wiped out the last horde of the undead decades ago. Nowadays, most people don't take even the most basic vampire precautions - the days of garlic wreaths and early curfews long gone - but Boog's parents still follow the old rules, much to her embarrassment. When a friend goes missing, Boog isn't sure what to think. Could it be the school counselor, Mr. Rupert, who definitely seems to be hiding something? Or could it be something more dangerous? Boog is determined to save her friend, but is she ready to admit vampires might not be vanquished after all? No one ever expected The Vanquishers to return, but if their town needs protection from the undead, Boog knows who to call.

9 - 12 years

Adia Kelbara and the Circle of Shamans by Isi Hendrix

Life in the Swamplands is tough for twelve-year-old orphan Adia. Her aunt and uncle believe she is an ogbanje, a demon-possessed child thought to bring misfortune. And when Adia manifests mysterious powers, accidentally destroying her village, she starts to think they might be right. Adia flees to the faraway Academy of Shamans, hoping someone at the school can figure out what is wrong with her and fix it. But she doesn't expect to stumble across a bunch of squabbling deities with a secret... Joining forces with a snarky Goddess, a 500 year old warrior girl and a status-obsessed soldier boy, Adia goes on a mission through hidden realms to save her kingdom. But if she is to succeed, she must learn to wield her mysterious powers and figure out who she really is.

10+

Track series by Jason Reynolds

Comprising *Ghost*, *Patina*, *Sunny* and *Lu* – each title in this gripping chapter book series follows an athlete from a different background as they fight for a spot on a highly competitive sports team. A challenging and rewarding read for 10-year-olds.

WORTH A LOOK! *continued*

||+

High Rise Mystery by Sharna Jackson

The detective duo everyone is dying to meet!

Summer in London is hot, the hottest on record, and there's been a murder in THE TRI: the high-rise home to resident know-it-alls, Nik and Norva. Who better to solve the case?

Armed with curiosity, home-turf knowledge and unlimited time - until the end of the summer holidays anyway - the two girls sift through red herrings and reveal a series of tower block secrets.

||+

The Girl Who Drank the Moon by Kelly Barnhill

Every year, the people of the Protectorate leave a baby as an offering to the witch who lives in the forest. They hope this sacrifice will keep her from terrorizing their town. But the witch in the forest, Xan, is kind and gentle. She shares her home with a wise Swamp Monster named Glerk and a Perfectly Tiny Dragon, Fyrian. Xan rescues the abandoned children and delivers them to welcoming families on the other side of the forest, nourishing the babies with starlight on the journey. One year, Xan accidentally feeds a baby moonlight instead of starlight, filling the ordinary child with extraordinary magic. Xan decides she must raise this enmagicked girl, whom she calls Luna, as her own. To keep young Luna safe from her own unwieldy power, Xan locks her magic deep inside her. When Luna approaches her thirteenth birthday, her magic begins to emerge on schedule--but Xan is far away. Meanwhile, a young man from the Protectorate is determined to free his people by killing the witch. Soon, it is up to Luna to protect those who have protected her - even if it means the end of the loving, safe world she's always known.

WORTH A LOOK! *continued*

13+

The Carbon Diaries by Lloyd-Saci

It's the year 2015, a time when global warming has begun to ravage the environment. In response, the United Kingdom becomes the first country to mandate carbon rationing—a well-intentioned plan that goes tragically awry. When her carbon debit card arrives in the mail, sixteen-year-old Laura is just trying to pass her exams, manage her ecopunk band, and catch the attention of her gorgeous classmate Ravi. But as multiple natural disasters strike and Laura's parents head toward divorce, her world spirals out of control. A severe drought sparks fires and deadly riots; then the highest-category hurricane in recent history strikes London. With the death toll in the thousands and climbing, Laura and her family face the unimaginable as her older sister clings to life.

With the current global conflicts in Ukraine, Israel and Palestine in the news, it may be of use for some children to read books that may help with any conversations regarding the topic of conflict within the world. The following titles are war-related stories:

2 - 6 Years

Green Lizards vs Red Rectangles by Steve Antony

The Green Lizards wanted to defeat the Red Rectangles. The Red Rectangles wanted to defeat the Green Lizards. They were at war! Eventually they realized - enough is enough! They stopped fighting, and by working together the Green Lizards and the Red Rectangles found a way to live peacefully. Who will win, the green lizards or the red rectangles? Young readers will understand the value of living in friendship and peace. In the end, it's not about who wins but rather working together and having fun!



WORTH A LOOK! *continued*

3- 5 Years

The Little Cat by Hiba Noor Khan

Inspired by a true story, *The Little War Cat* is a moving tale of hope amidst conflict. It follows the story of a little grey cat who is caught up in the BANGS and CRASHES of the humans in boots, who have changed the city of Aleppo she knew so well into one that's harder to recognize. She is roaming the streets looking for food and shelter when an unlikely friend appears. He shows her that kindness is still there when you look for it, and soon the little grey cat knows exactly what to do to make a difference herself.

4 - 8 Years

Stubby: A true story of friendship by Michael Foreman

Stubby was a brave soldier, a loyal friend... and a dog. From an army training camp to the trenches in France, this is the incredible true story of Sergeant Stubby, the dog who served bravely in the First World War, sniffing out gas attacks, catching spies and winning the hearts of his fellow soldiers.

7 - 9 Years

Poppy Field by Michael Morpurgo

In Flanders' fields, young Martens knows his family's story, for it is as precious as the faded poem hanging in their home. From a poor girl comforting a grieving soldier, to an unexpected meeting of strangers, to a father's tragic death many decades after treaties were signed, war has shaped Martens's family in profound ways - it is their history as much as any nation's.

They remember.

They grieve.

They honour the past.

WORTH A LOOK! *continued*

9+

Hoping for Peace in the Middle East by Angela Royston

If two children from both sides of a conflict could write to each other, what would they say? This hard-hitting but heart-warming book tells of war and conflict between the Israelis and Palestinians in the Middle East over a period of time through the eyes of two fictional children who are corresponding by letter, as pen pals.

(Peace Pen Pals is a series covering other countries too.)

10+

The Cat at the Wall by Deborah Ellis

On Israel's West Bank, a cat sneaks into a small Palestinian house that has just been commandeered by two Israeli soldiers. The house seems empty, until the cat realizes that a little boy is hiding beneath the floorboards. Should she help him? After all, she's just a cat. Or is she? It turns out that this particular cat is not used to thinking about anyone but herself. She was once a regular North American girl who only had to deal with normal middle-school problems: staying under the teachers' radar, bullying her sister and the uncool kids at school, outsmarting her clueless parents. But that was before she died and came back to life as a cat, in a place with a whole different set of rules for survival. When the little boy is discovered, the soldiers don't know what to do with him. Where are the child's parents? Why has he been left alone in the house? It is not long before his teacher and classmates come looking for him, and the house is suddenly surrounded by Palestinian villagers throwing rocks, and the sound of Israeli tanks approaching. Not my business, thinks the cat. And then she sees a photograph, and suddenly she understands what happened to the boy's parents, and why they have not returned. And as the soldiers begin to panic, and disaster seems certain, she knows that it is up to her to diffuse the situation. But what can a cat do? What can any one creature do?