

High Quality Picture Books for Cross-Curricular Planning

A range of picture books to be used throughout the curriculum in order to inspire critical thinking, drama and cross-curricular planning.

MATHEW TOBIN MAY 06, 2015 08:01PM

NEW* Head over to our High Quality Novels for Cross-Curricular Planning Padlet *NEW

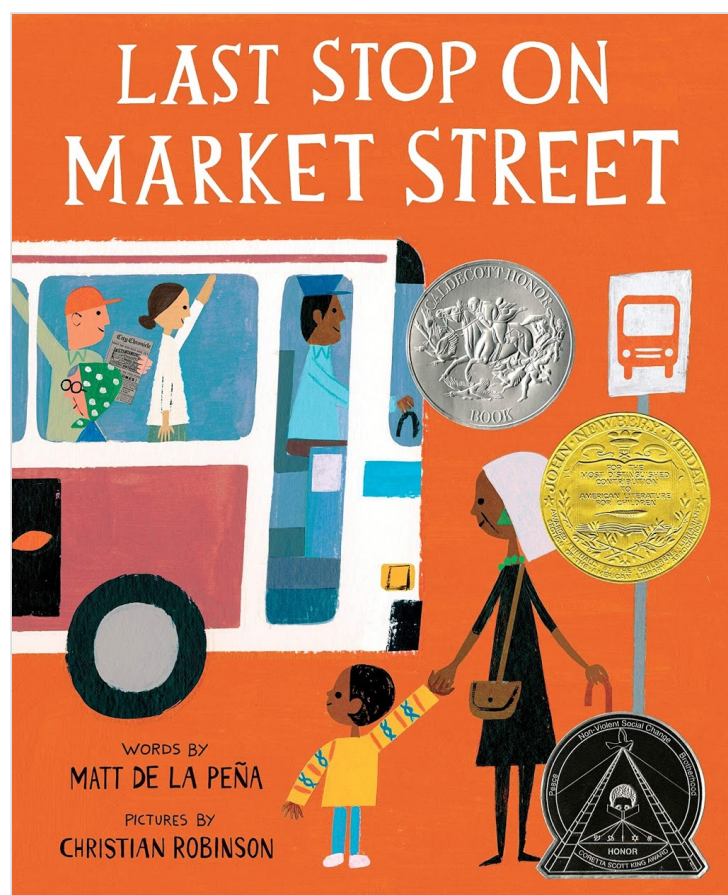
Please click [here](#) for our sister site which has plans around novels too!

Last Stop on Market Street by Matt de la Peña and Christian Robinson

FS/KS1/LKS2

Just like every Sunday, CJ and his nana head to the bus stop after church. Whilst waiting in the rain, CJ sees his friend Colby climbing into his car, and wonders why they do not own a car like him. As the bus journey continues across the busy city, CJ proceeds to question why he does not have an iPod like the boys on the bus, and why they always have to get off in the dirty part of the city. However, nana always encourages CJ to see the beauty and fun in the everyday world, and appreciate what he has got around him. (Words by Hollie Catling)

<https://app.box.com/s/dxtiwqmjejcjnoeifs02zq0s5f61s3e> (Y3)



The Little Island by Smriti Prasadam-Halls & Robert Starling

FS/KS1/KS2

All the creatures down on the farm live together but the geese begin to have ideas about how it should be run 'their' way. Bridges are literally broken and suddenly life becomes difficult for everyone. Perhaps the grass is not always greener on the other side especially when there are foxes to hunt you. This is a beautiful, multi-layered modern fable that is accessible to all readers, whatever their understanding of the world asking big questions around compassion and unity.

<https://app.box.com/s/y94htahq6f5inkqydampowj7bomzt394> (Y5)

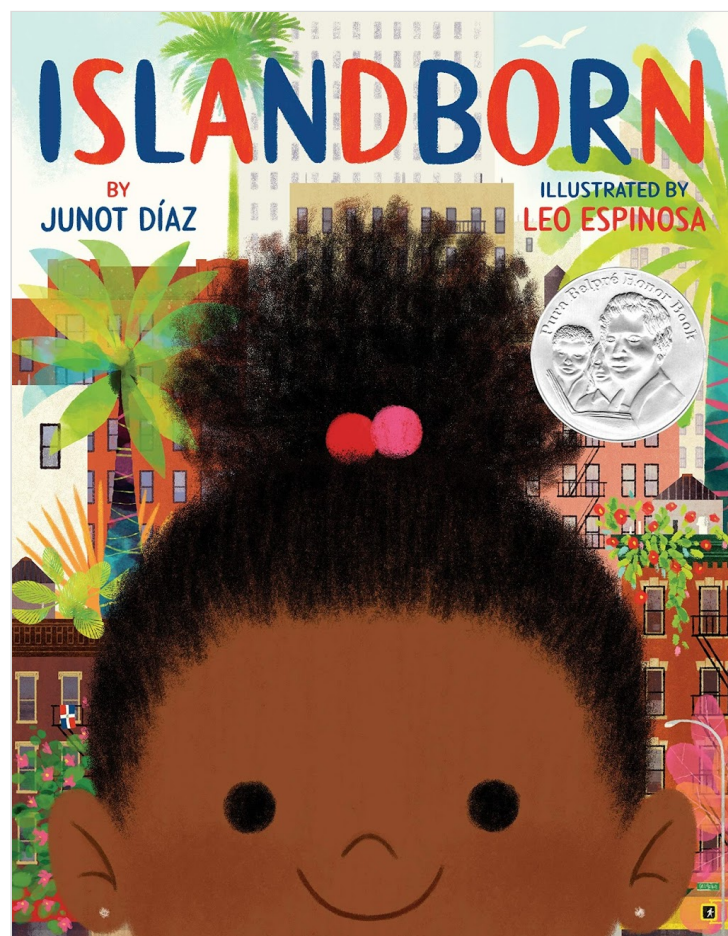


Islandborn by Junot Díaz. and Leo Espinosa

Y2/LKS2

When Lola's teacher asks the students to draw a picture of where their families immigrated from, all the kids are excited. Except Lola. She can't remember The Island—she left when she was just a baby. But with the help of her family and friends, and their memories—joyous, fantastical, heart-breaking, and frightening. Lola's imagination takes her on an extraordinary

journey back to The Island. As she draws closer to the heart of her family's story, Lola comes to understand the truth of her abuela's words: "Just because you don't remember a place doesn't mean it's not in you." (Words by Gabriella Perera)
<https://app.box.com/s/tnbw434nwlqlpv9o27mkhusnug44izlg> (Y2)
<https://app.box.com/s/awn0g6yxawc7fjf43f8kg6dutyxmc5z> (Y4)



The Moonlight Zoo by Maudie Powell-Tuck and Karl Newson

FS/KS1/LKS2

Eva has been searching for her cat Luna, who has been missing for a couple of days. One evening she comes across the Moonlight Zoo which is a magical place which takes care of lost animals during the night. Along her journey she meets many different animals, including, parrots, penguins, lions, even guinea pigs. But what it all comes down to is finding Luna and bringing her home, will Eva be able to do this before dawn? (Words by Zoe Fisher)

<https://app.box.com/s/4rte9wrrqr8ae85j00zivts6ajdkzpu1> (Y2)

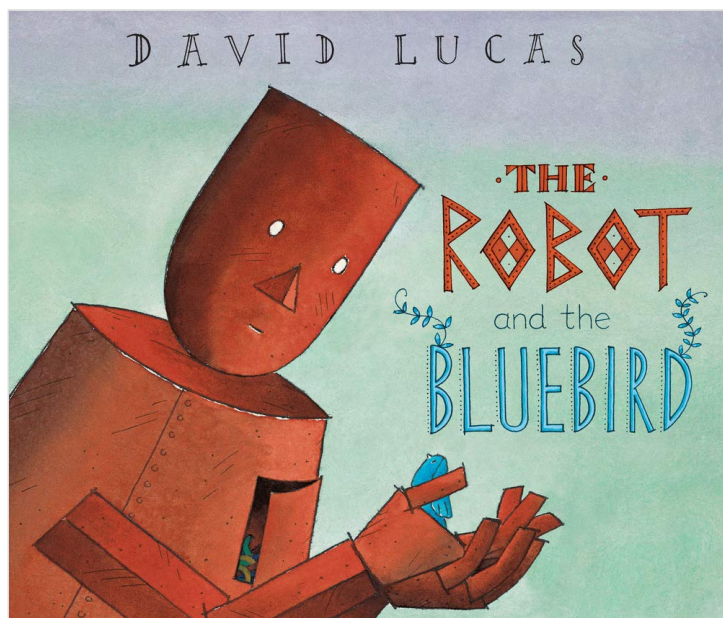


The Robot and the Bluebird by David Lucas

KS1/LKS2

In a crowded, uncaring world lives a Robot with a broken heart. As the world carries on around him, he sits in a scrapheap lonely and forgotten. Rusting away he wonders if anything can ever mend his heart. One day a bluebird, fighting against the freezing wind, lands upon his shoulder. So as to shelter the little creature, the Robot invites her into the space where his heart used to be, and slowly, through love and friendship he can feel his heart again. The Robot continues to protect the Bluebird in his heart space, selflessly trekking back to the warmer South, through blistering winds and over large mountains. Eventually, the Robot's strength fails him, but his legacy of friendship and kindness remains. (Words by Gabby Smith)

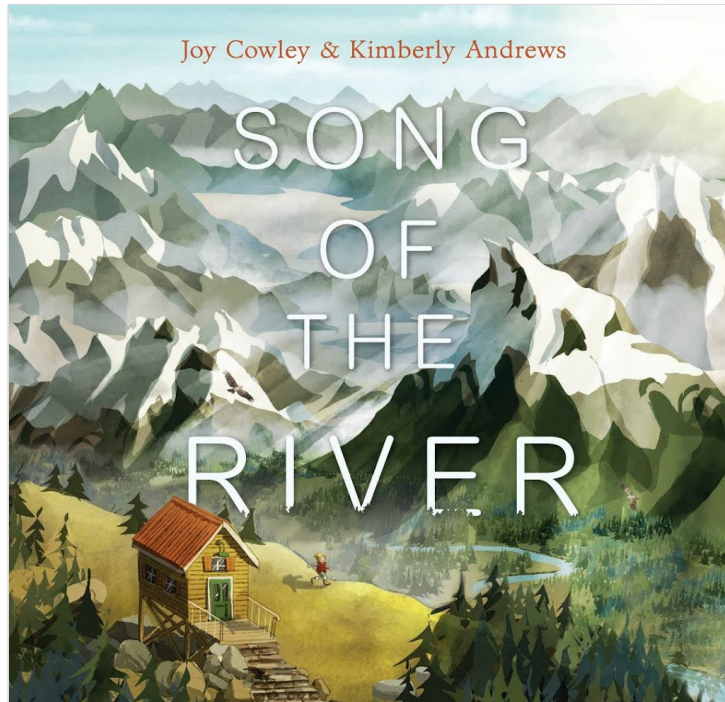
<https://app.box.com/s/s8oa1n72mk5gtqro2to2v1whh0vmqtl> (Y1)



Song of the River by Joy Cowley and Kimberly Andrews

FS/KS1/LKS2

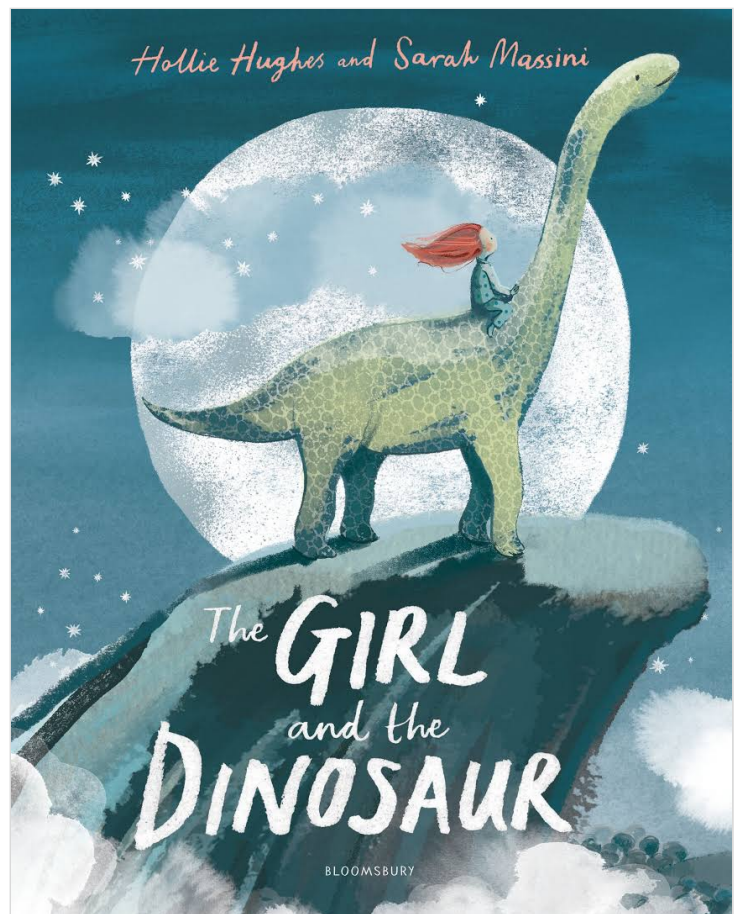
'Cam, the mountain boy, lives with this Grandfather up in the mountains and Cam's greatest desire is to see the sea. His grandfather always tells Cam that one day they will see the sea but never tells him when they are going to go. However, Cam's desperation and desire to see the sea gets the better of him and he begins his journey down to the sea.' - Words from Bec Morris
<https://app.box.com/s/tok2op1mbw4vc7vs3mwqez3peylbbk8f>
(Y2)



The Girl and the Dinosaur by Hollie Hughes and Sarah Massini

KS1/LKS2

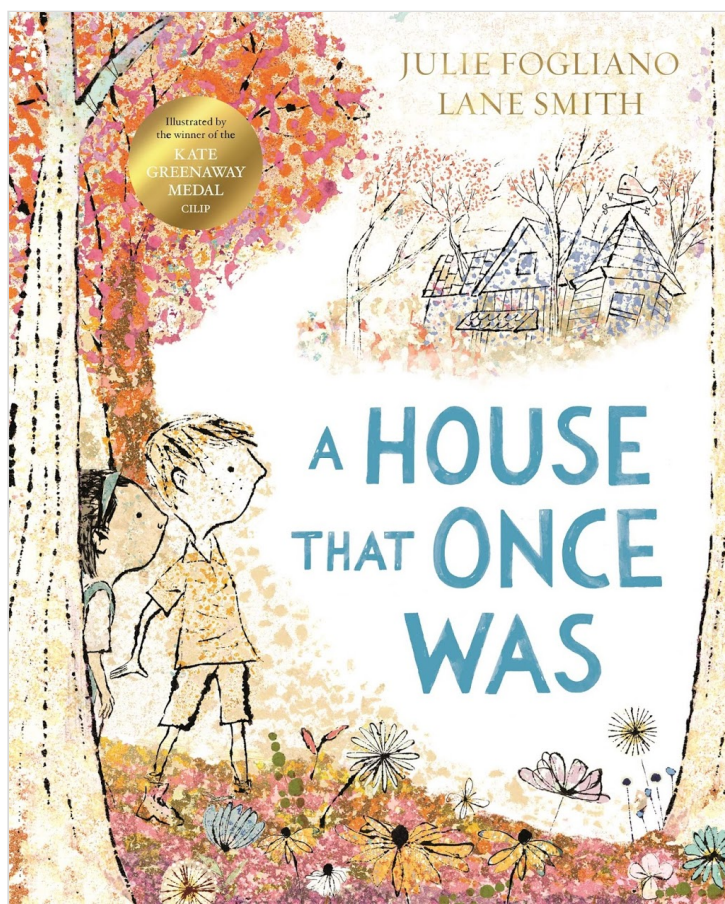
Marianne lives by the sea in a quirky-shaped lighthouse. Her town seems quiet and peaceable and upon the coastline she dreams and searches for dinosaurs. Through her imaginings she digs up the bones of a dinosaur and names it Bony. At night both Bony and Marianne fly into the heavens to rest upon a cloud where other children from around the world play with their dreams and imaginary companions. Upon her return and awakening, she meets other children who also dream and imagine like she does and they dig and explore together. Suddenly Marianne's friends are as real as she is.
<https://app.box.com/s/57lloegiljpc7c41jyluxile6jq7qnj> (Y3/4)



A House that Once Was by Julie Fogliano and Lane Smith

KS1/2

Is a narrative poem that tells the story of two children exploring a mysterious abandoned house that has been untouched for years. When they enter the house, the boy and girl discover forgotten possessions nestled beside winding weeds and animals that have taken residence in the house. Looking around, they try to work out who once lived in the house and why they left, imagining people with hopes and dreams who left and then struggled to find their way back. The children then return home, possibly leaving with more questions about what happened than they did when they entered. (words by Ellie Labbett)
<https://app.box.com/s/lhm890ng0x92k3wjmo0itxrqyh3kh14p>
(Y2)

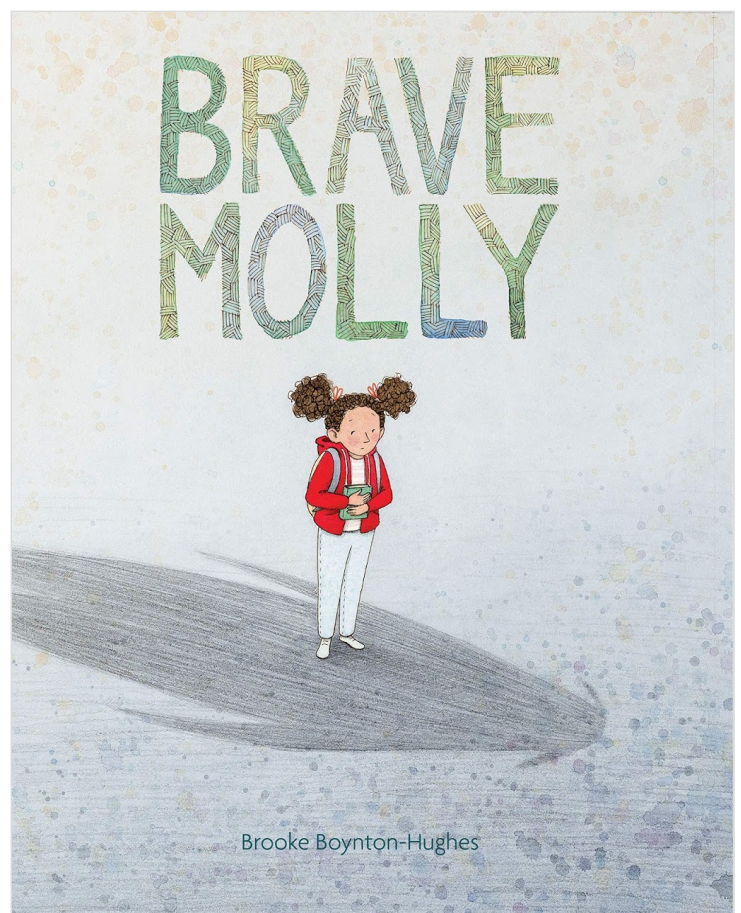


Brave Molly by Brooke Boynton-Hughes

KS2

Molly wishes she had the courage to make friends and defeat her shyness but this personified monster follows her everywhere. As she tries to break free from this dark shadow so it grows and chases her. How can she finally outwit it? Maybe it's time she just faces her fears. A wonderful story for all shy children out there offering guidance, understanding and hope.

<https://app.box.com/s/ye1sk5gujhcv02v1s4htd1ek6qy9p0j3>
(Y3/4)



Cherry Blossom and Paper Planes by Jef Aerts & Sanne te Loo (trans. Polly Lawson)

KS1/KS2

The story follows the two friends as Adin moves out of their cherry tree covered village and into the neighbouring city. Aerts perfectly depicts the challenges of moving away from the peaceful countryside and being torn from a best friend. The theme of cherry trees is drawn throughout the story as Adin flies paper planes with cherry pits off of his tower block flat and aiming back to Dina. The story ends with the cherry pits creating cherry blossom from Adin's flat all the way back to Dina in the countryside.

<https://app.box.com/s/feu09g07gtodam4fljws3qsixygejcy7> (Y3)

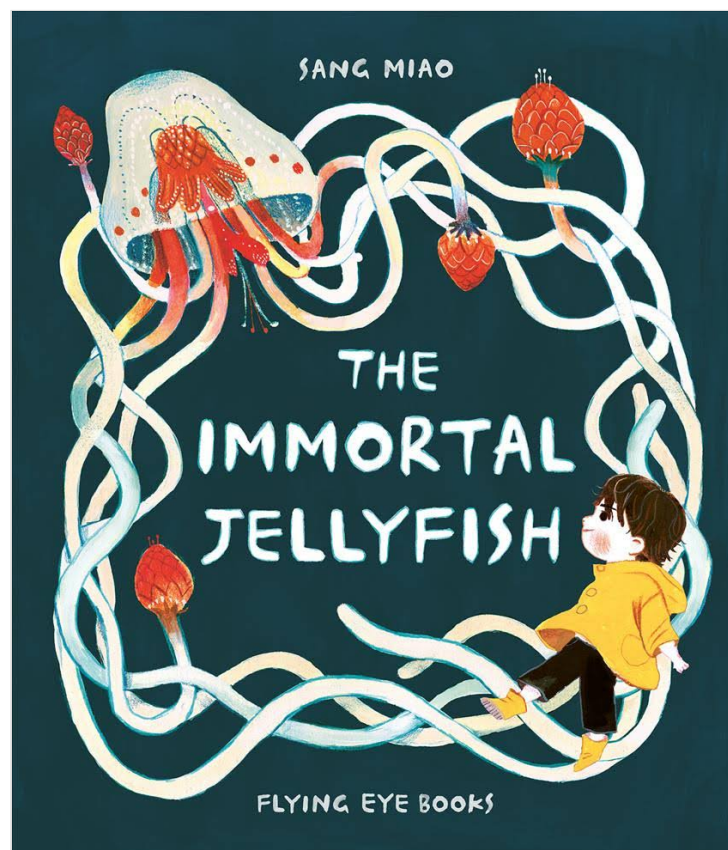


The Immortal Jellyfish by Sang Miao

KS2

'A boy and his grandpa sat drawing together one afternoon.' begins Miao's first picturebook as both writer and illustrator in which the central theme is one of death and rebirth. When the young boy finds out that his grandfather has died he becomes lost until, in dreamtime, his grandfather returns and takes him on his final journey to 'The Life Transfer City' (the book's original name) where those who has passed away choose a spirit creature to pass on into memory.

<https://app.box.com/s/3o2gjfrnceya7trbbz736icx592ugneb> (Y4)

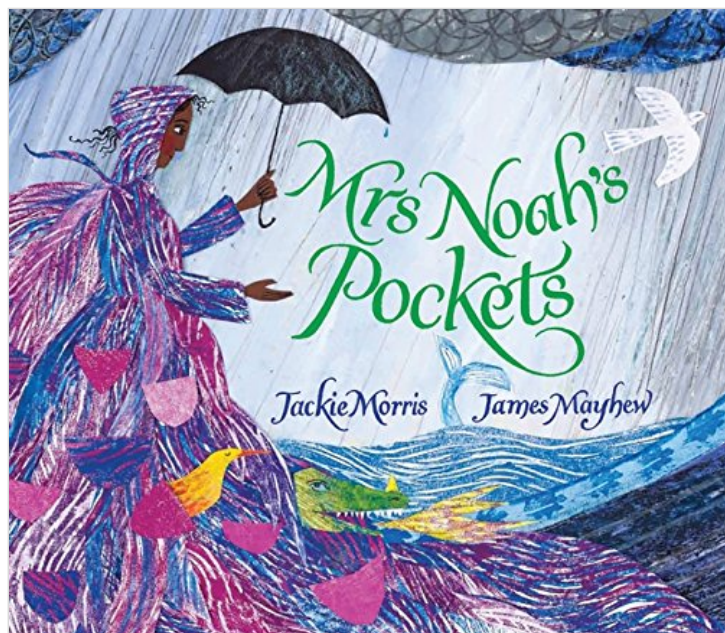


Mrs. Noah's Pockets by Jackie Morris and James Mayhew

KS1/KS2

"At last all were gathered inside the ark. It heaved with animals, large and small. Mrs Noah wore a brand-new coat, with a hood and a cape - and very deep pockets. Lots of pockets."When Mr Noah builds the ark, he makes two lists - one for all the animals who will come on board and one for those troublesome creatures he will leave behind. Meanwhile, Mrs Noah gets out her sewing machine and makes a coat with very deep pockets. Lots of pockets. (From Google)

<https://app.box.com/s/w8wk8dgc4hm0k60bld2smo9had0fbwf>
v (Y2)

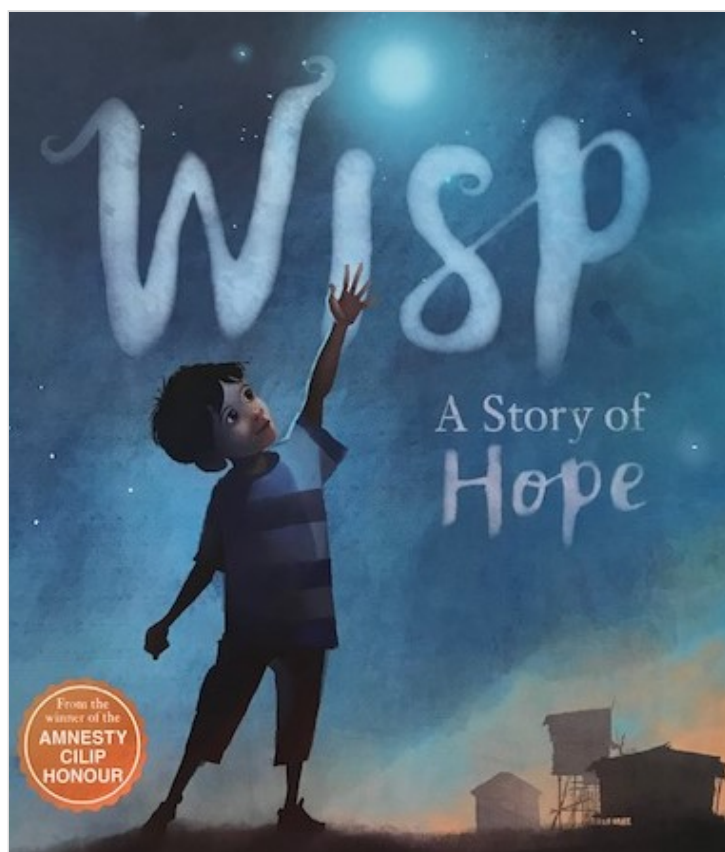


Wisp: A Story of Hope by Zana Fraillon and Grahame Baker-Smith

KS2

'Idris is a child refugee, born into a world of tents and fences. He has known no other life than this. He has no memories of the world outside. Then the Wisp arrives, floating in on the evening breeze. Everyone who holds it finds their memories reawakened, their hopes of freedom reborn. But what about Idris, who has no memories? What will happen when he holds the magical Wisp?' (Hachette Blurb)

<https://app.box.com/s/ctxwmdgj3e036in5o9gyilvodnds5mro>
(Y4)



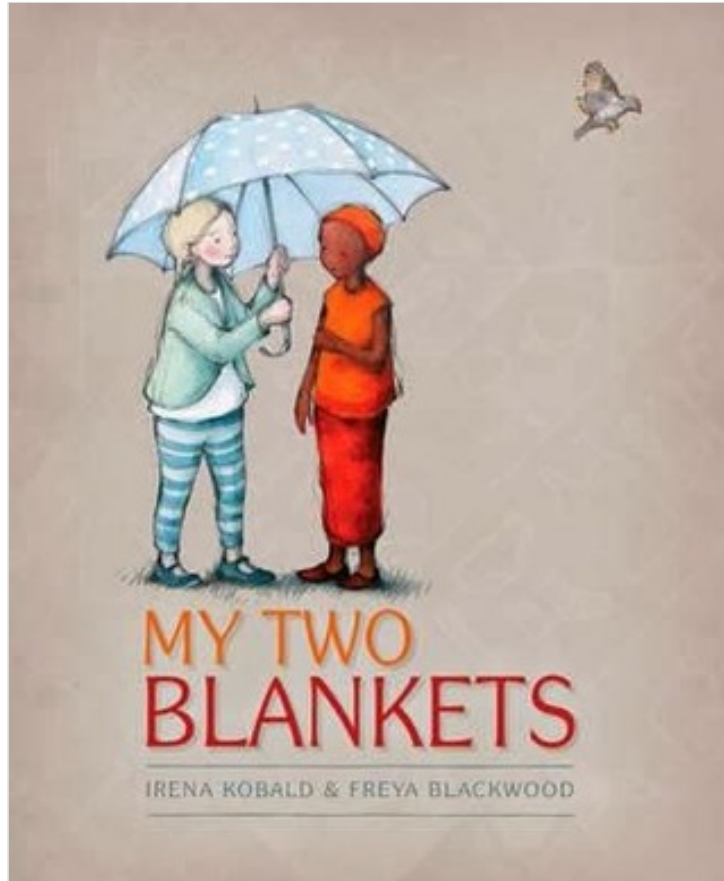
My Two Blankets by Irena Kobald and Freya Blackwood

KS2

Cartwheel is forced to leave her country because of war and moves to a 'strange' country. An old blanket of words and sounds gives Cartwheel comfort when she is sad. With help, she begins learning about her new home and its language and in doing so, weaves a new blanket out of the new words and sounds she has learnt.

<https://app.box.com/s/e342ajaaddyawu6888h3f94wimrjlrmr>

(Y3)

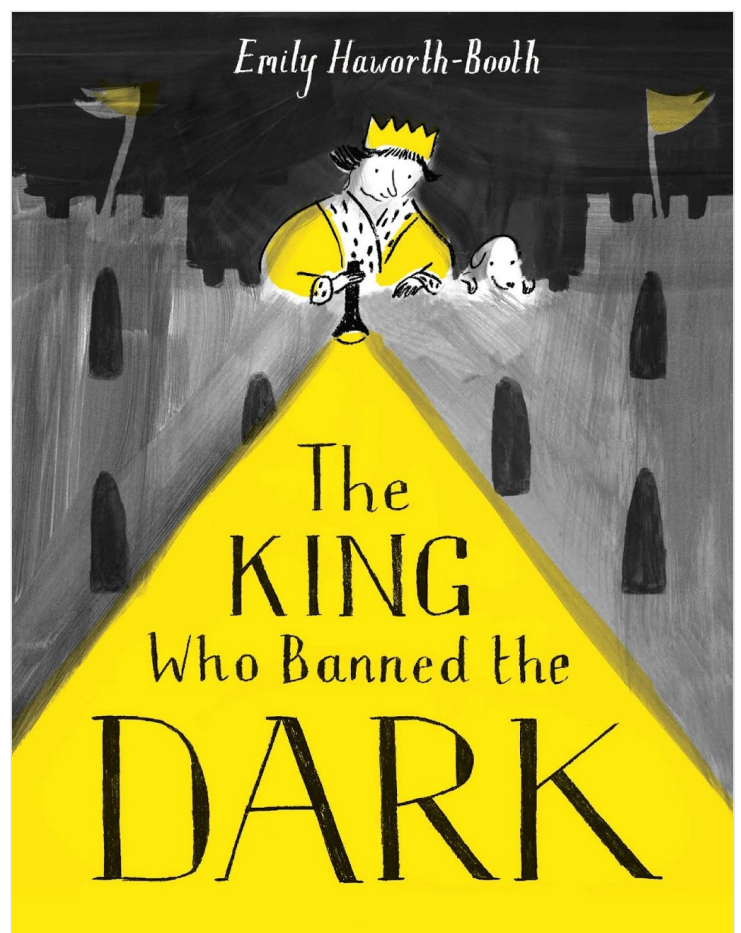


The King Who Banned the Dark by Emily Haworth-Booth

Y2/KS2

When the king who develop his fear of the dark as a child, he vows to have it banned upon ascendancy. Yet when the law is passed and the people subject to having no darkness at all, a rebellion ensues and the king is made to reevaluate his choice. A clever, multi-layered political and social commentary that suits our climate very well.

<https://app.box.com/s/hpanz8iz666lf6fhzzb1zqbos7x1f9f9> (Y6)

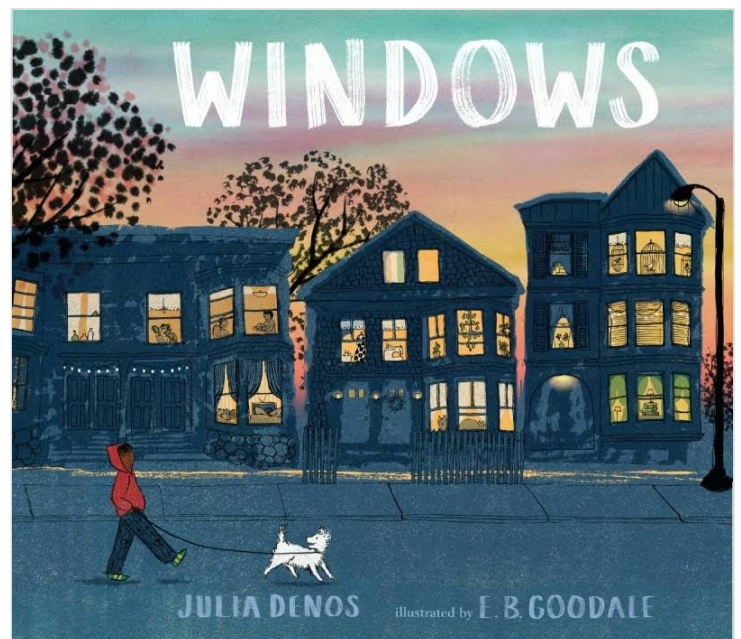


Windows by Julia Denos and E. B. Goodale

FS/KS1/KS2

Dusk is slowly drawing in so it's time for a young boy to walk the streets of his neighbourhood with his dog. As he passes by shops and flats and parks we are invited to see and peer into a vibrant and diverse community. Whilst we may all seem separated by walls and ideals, we are all connected.

<https://app.box.com/s/1pbdcjf5yz6gdj45ewxp635mp1gdzejr> (Y4)



Lights on Cotton Rock by David Litchfield

KS1/KS2

Heather is fascinated with outer space. She dreams of exploring

them one day so imagine her surprise when she is greeted by a special visitor from the stars. A special friendship is made and held over time but are all Heather's dreams really up there in the night sky?

<https://app.box.com/s/1jtqael73s912mzkrk7egp9bpf9f6usc>
(LKS2)



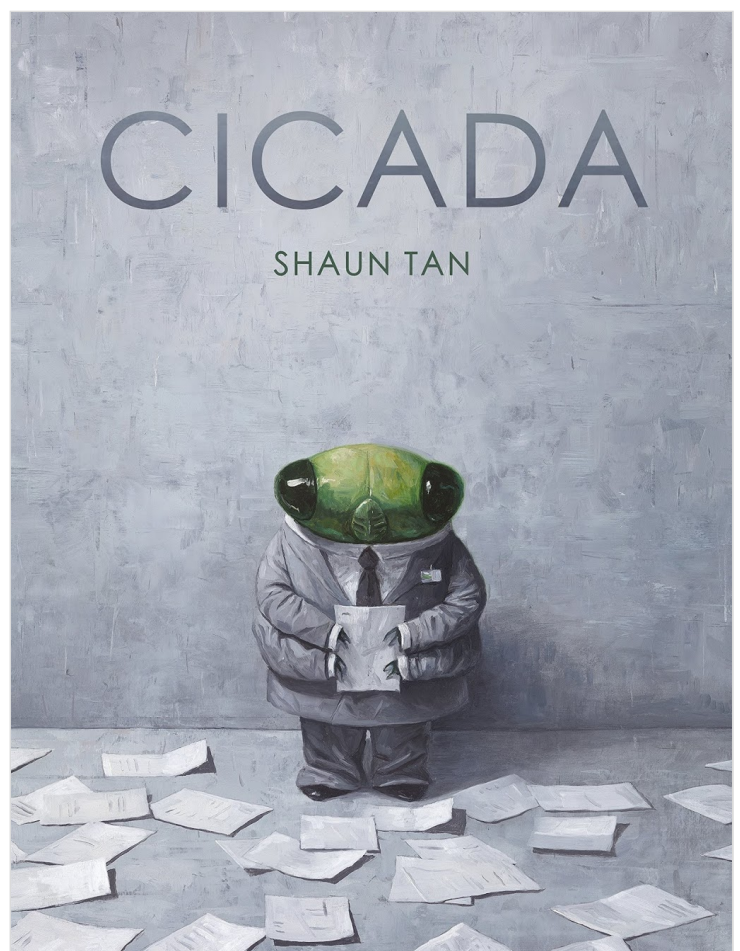
Cicada by Shaun Tan

UKS2

Cicada tells the story of a little bug who spends 17 years working thanklessly and largely ignored in a high-rise office. The world he inhabits flits between shades of grey and his green skill and dark bulbous eyes provide the only contrast in the dull world he inhabits.

Cicada appears to hint towards uniformity, goals and, perhaps, the idea of living to work rather than working to live. It's all ambiguous - you make up your own mind.

<https://app.box.com/s/7fhhb2gfvnq5v8e9860nq8p3zhctcpu8>
(Y6)

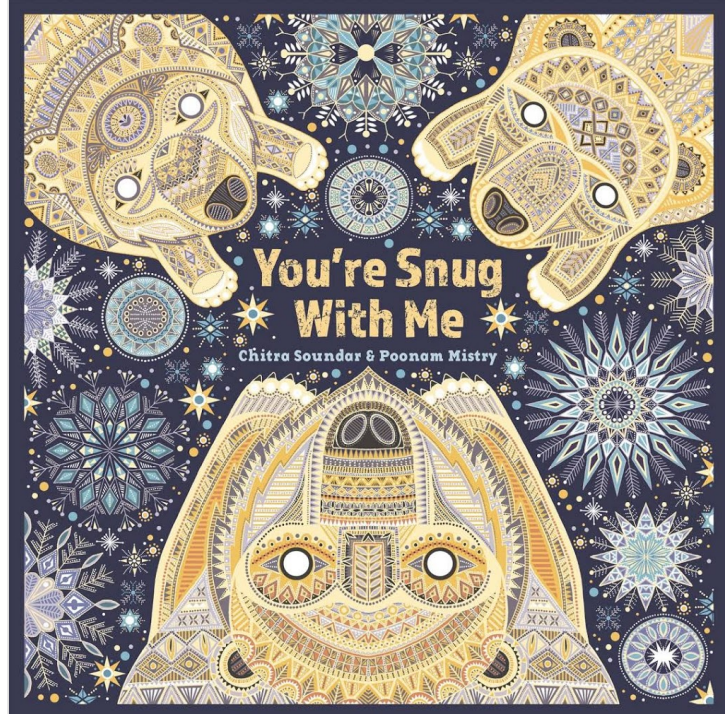


You're Snug With Me by Chitra Soundar and Poonam Mistry

FS/KS1/Y3

You're snug with me follows the birth of two polar bear cubs in a den beneath the snow drifts not far from the sea. The story watches them grow, exploring their frozen den, asking their Mama questions about what life is like beyond the ice and snow. When spring comes around the polar bears are greeted by the sparkling world above the den and stumble around in the snow with their mama, ready to experience a new world. (Words by Eleanor Abbott)

<https://app.box.com/s/4g06jc86psujrz2teyq0ielqqftl476c> (Y2)

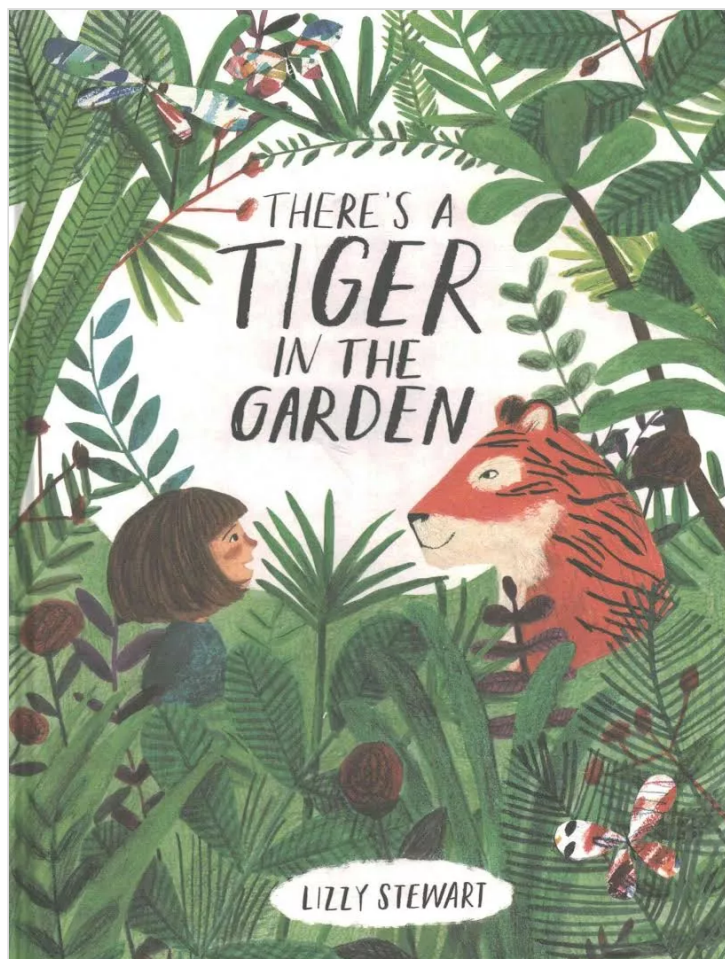


There's a Tiger in the Garden Lizzy Stewart

FS-KS1

When Grandma says she's seen a tiger in the garden, Nora doesn't believe her. She's too old to play Grandma's silly games! Everyone knows that tigers live in jungles, not gardens. A lovely book that celebrates the imagination and the joy of exploring the natural world.

<https://app.box.com/s/wlszl083xia0pnkkyk2vr7q3ca77vaki> (Y2)

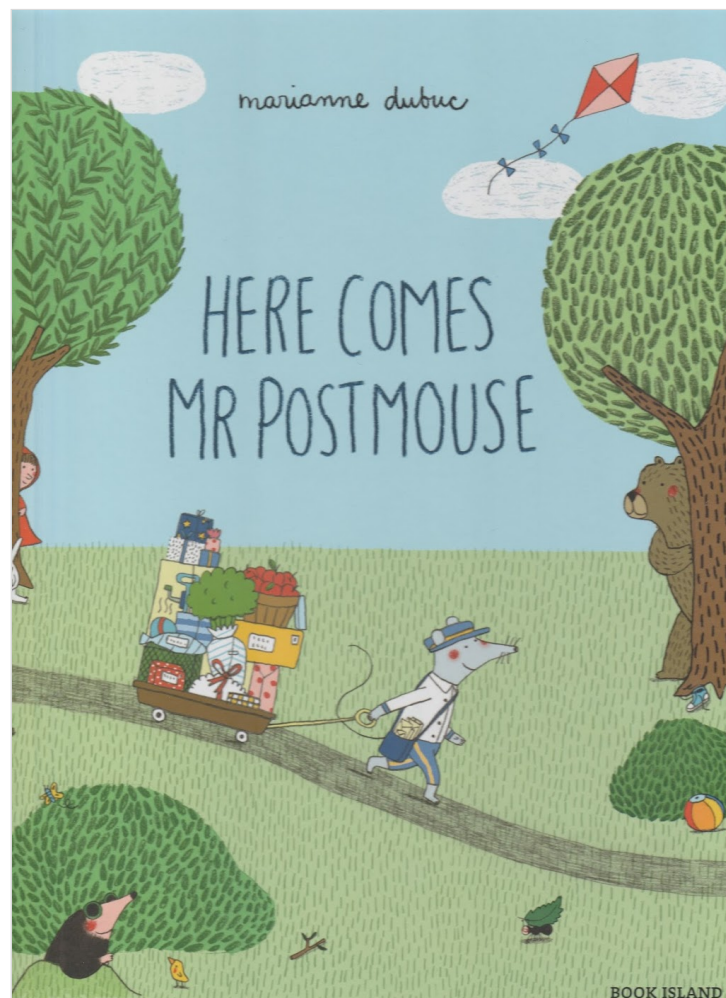


Here Comes Mr. Postmouse by Marianne Dubuc

FS/KS1

Follow Mr. Postmouse on his journey through his neighbourhood. As he does the rounds he invites us to see all the different creatures who lives in his locality. From crocodiles to tortoises and ants, each little member of the community is sure to welcome our little mouse in. He is the thread that ties them all together. A wonderful insight into a creative and warm little story.

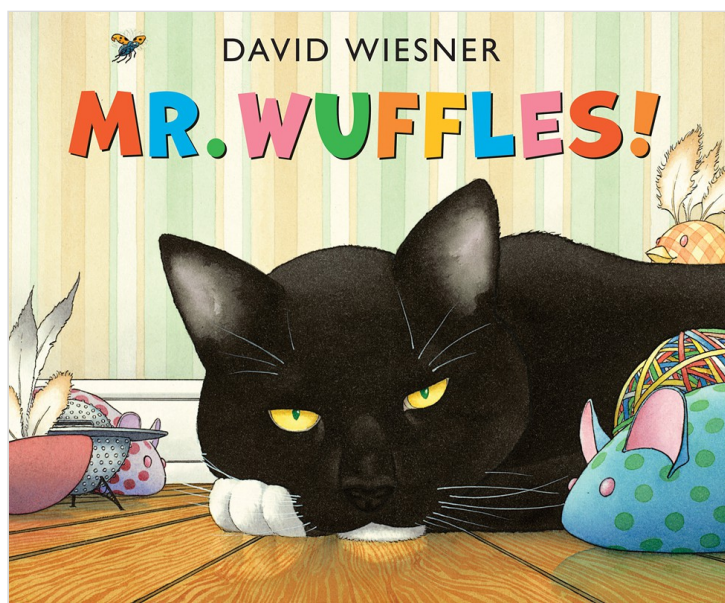
<https://app.box.com/s/erq93vhctp5ixc9g3dma1g3jxg2y5ei3> (Y2)



Mr Wuffles by David Weisner

LKS2

Another wordless picturebook from Weisner. The story follows a group of tiny aliens who enlist the help of some odd earthlings in order to leave the planet and escape the dreaded clutches of the house cat: Mr. Wuffles. As always, Weisner is so clever in using his images to convey mood and feeling and this story leaves as many questions as do his others.



One Plastic Bag by Miranda Paul and Elizabeth Zunon

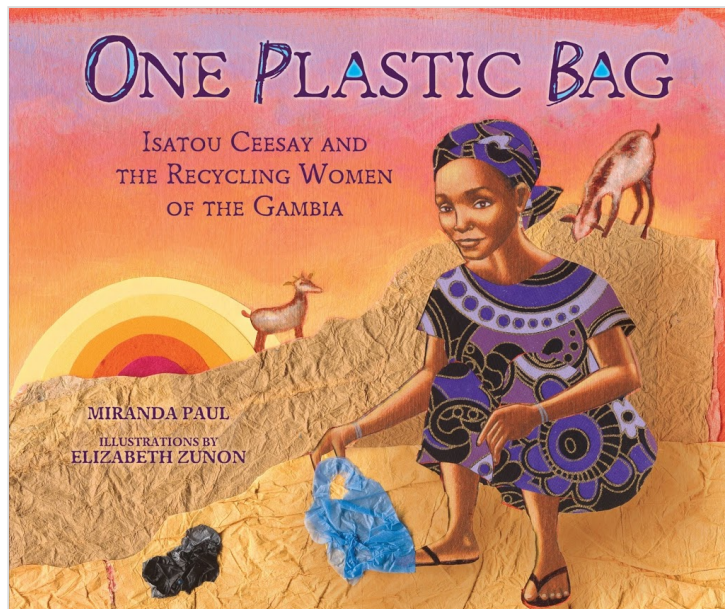
Y2/KS2

One Plastic Bag follows the story of Isatou Ceesay, a real life Gambian woman on a mission to rid her village of the ugliness caused by discarded plastic bags. As Isatou grows up, however, the plastic bags

begin to become a real problem. One

Plastic Bag is a story of determination and standing up for what you believe in, even if you face adversity. (Words by Georgia Knox)

<https://app.box.com/s/6g4doox101j0ik5rcdm0tcx4xdg4breh>
(Y3)



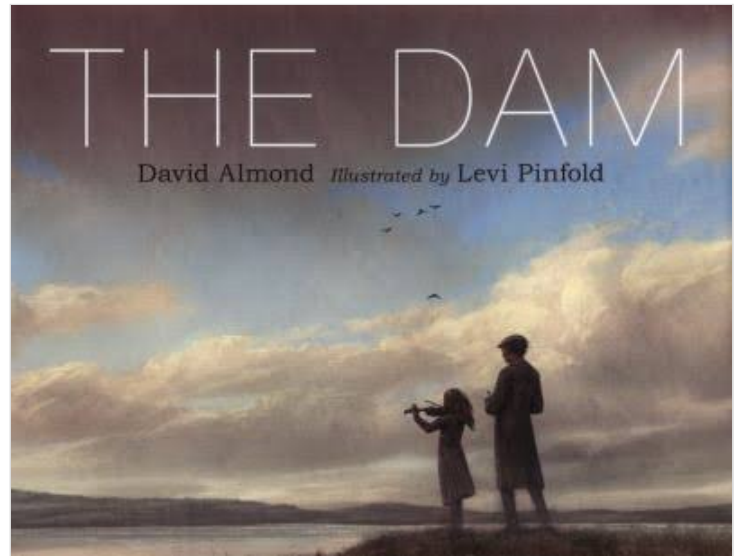
The Dam by David Almond and Levi Pinfold

UKS2

A town in the north of England has been abandoned due to a dam being built which will cause the town to be submerged. A father wakes his daughter and takes her to the abandoned town just before completion. They talk of his and her childhood memories of the musicians who lived there. The child then plays her fiddle in all the houses filling the town with music. Soon the

dam is complete and the town disappeared underwater but the music lives on in the water and around the lake. The book is based on a real story. It is powerful with the illustrations marrying perfectly to the almost poetic like text. (Words by Megan Watterson)

<https://app.box.com/s/wl9rrxrhrprcmz6ynap0i5nayb2d6p6y>
(Y5/6)



Dear Diary by Sara Fanelli

The diary entries of a day in the life of various different characters. They all experience the same day but the diary entries show them from a range of perspectives, demonstrating that even though all of the characters experience the same day they have very different thoughts and feelings about how the day occurred. (Words by Jo Birt)

<https://app.box.com/s/l3tyskjpfw4shocu5w7t6lxbjrmcsan>
(Y1/2)

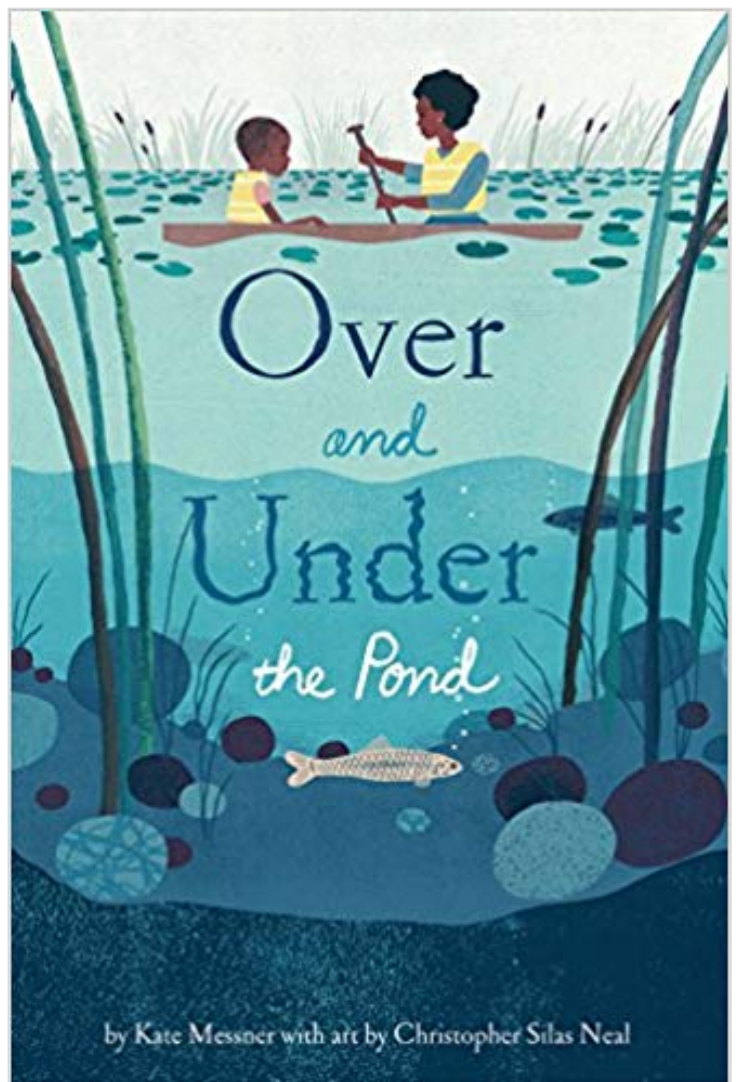


Over and Under the Pond by Kate Messner and Christopher Silas Neal

FS/KS1/KS2

A boy takes a canoe trip over the pond with his mother and becomes curious about what lies below. The book follows their journey as the boy observes what is happening “over the pond” and his mother answers his questions about what is happening “under the pond”. (Words by Ellie Matthews)

<https://app.box.com/s/lmic6wqi31svzqym7esjo7r2ojeffgsp> (Y6)

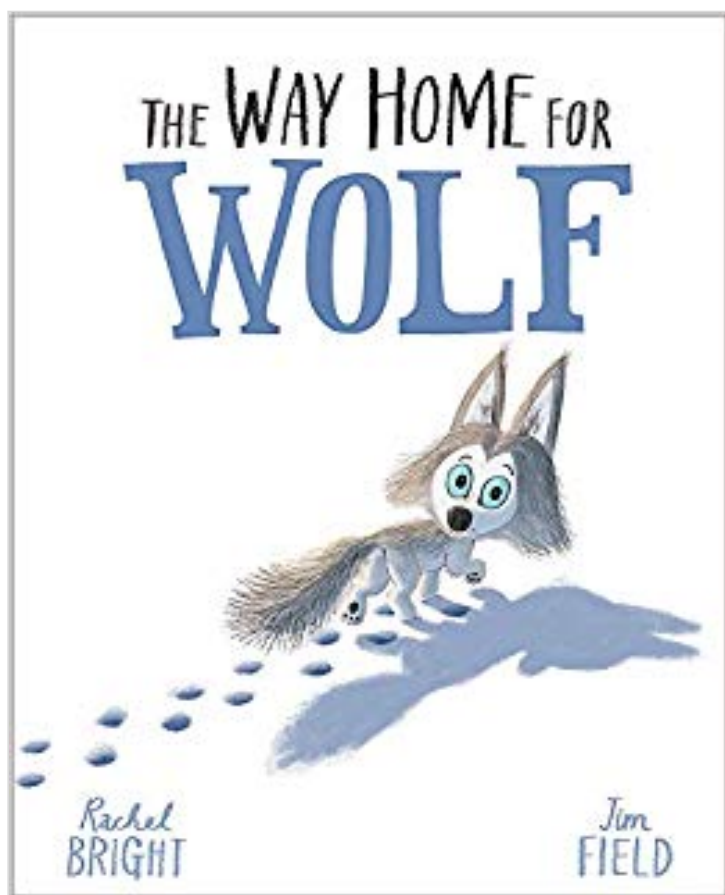


The Way Home for Wolf by Rachel Bright and Jim Field

FS/KS1

A wolf pack, including a young but determined wolf pup, are kicked out of their den. On their way to find a new place to live, the pup gets lost! Can two kind animals can help the wolf pup find his pack again? (Words by Charlie Harris)

<https://app.box.com/s/wn5pgu7x1iud3npj592t7gj0tlgep5u> (Y3)

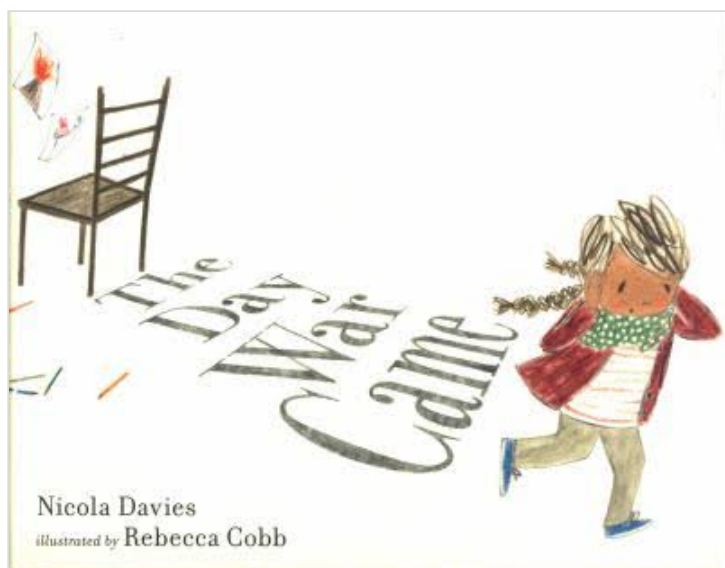


The Day the War Came by Nicola Davies and Rebecca Cobb

KS1/LKS2

What would you do if you lost all that you had? What if you had no home and no one was there to welcome you to somewhere new? When Nicola Davies heard about our government's refusal to allow entry for 3000 child refugees into this country she wrote about it. This picturebook is an ode to why refugees must have our support.

<https://app.box.com/s/6hbjf51uq05j3y0k5kbqbddzk83yomj> (Y5)



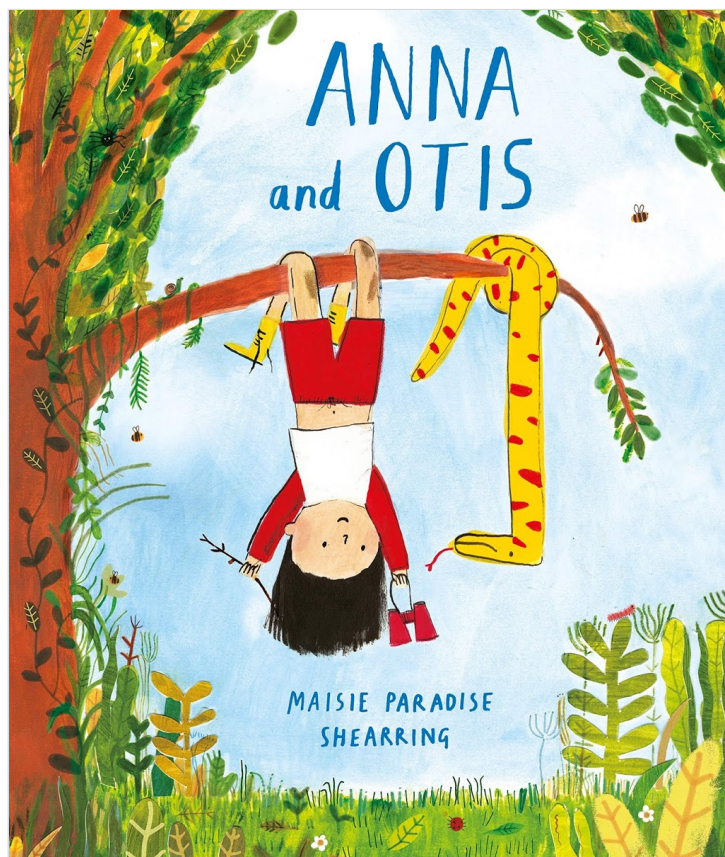
Anna and Otis by Maisie Paradise Shearring

FS/KS1

Anna, a girl, and Otis, a snake, are friends who like to spend their days playing together in the garden. When Anna suggests going

in to town to seek new adventure, Otis is unsure as he knows that people will be scared of him. Having been persuaded, they venture into the town and are greeted as Otis expected; everybody is frightened of the snake standing in front of them. Anna persuades Otis to try again, and her advice works, as Otis tries to show people what he is like on the inside. Slowly, people start to accept Otis for who he is, until he is surrounded by people admiring him and wanting to be his friend. From then on, Anna and Otis spend their days together, either playing in the garden or meeting their new friends in town. (Words by Caroline O'Brien)

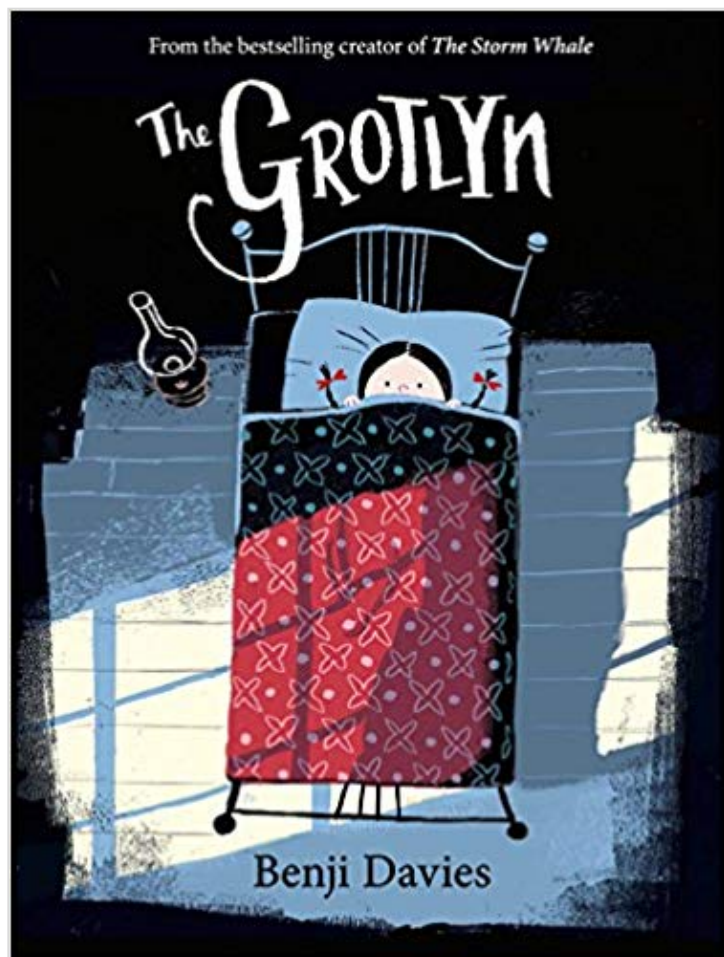
<https://app.box.com/s/8rdxl62lojt1db5nztlamon2jd7k43em> (Y2)



The Grotlyn by Benji Davies

Our story begins on a street where we see a little girl, Rubi, looking down from her window onto an organ grinder and his monkey. Since hearing the organ tune, Rubi has had a strange rhyme in her head about a Grotlyn visiting houses at night and as she is trying to fall asleep, something scuttles through her room...Who are what is the Grotlyn? (Words by Charlotte Sparks)

<https://app.box.com/s/xtntx1o1fqybkkaf95f8gf14cxndes7p> (Y1)

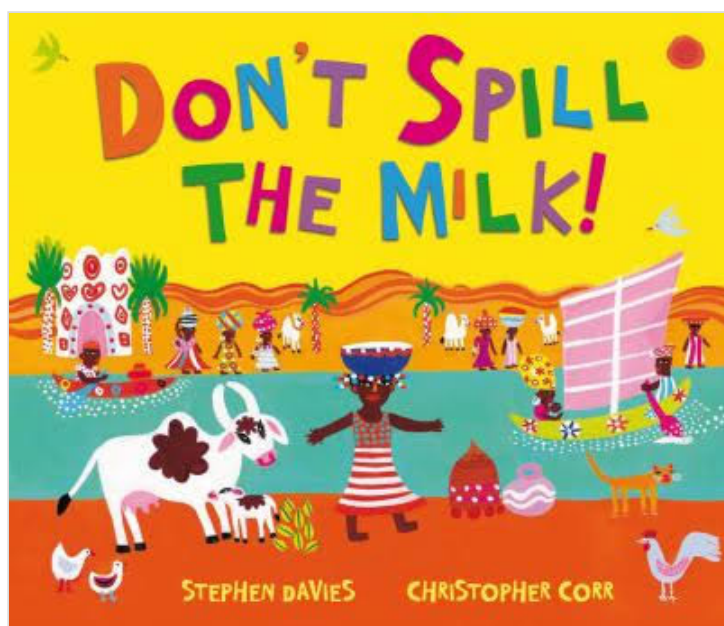


Don't Spill the Milk by Stephen Davies and Christopher Corr

KS1/Y3

Penda lives in a tiny village with her mum and aunts. Her father is up on the grasslands, because it is the rainy season which means he needs to look after the sheep. Can Penda deliver the milk to her father without spilling a drop?

<https://app.box.com/s/ihtwtmblt2y72qwdl4jwg386idnnjl1> (Y3)



A River by Marc Martin

FS/KS1/KS2

Through her bedroom window, a girl watches the river that runs her city and begins to imagine a journey along it in a silver boat. The river carries her through a range of environments, starting by floating under traffic-packed bridges and into an industrial zone full of factories. Her journey then breaks free of the confines of the city, as the river flows through farmland, hills and valleys, and down a waterfall. She drifts through a dense jungle, before heading through the mangroves into a vast ocean. Here, rain begins to fall, and she finally finds herself returned to the reality of her bedroom, gazing at the city and river again under the cover of night. (Words by Tom Garrett)

<https://app.box.com/s/l6jbqhr7fe6r7sg5etlekl73ag6rmbkv> (Y2)

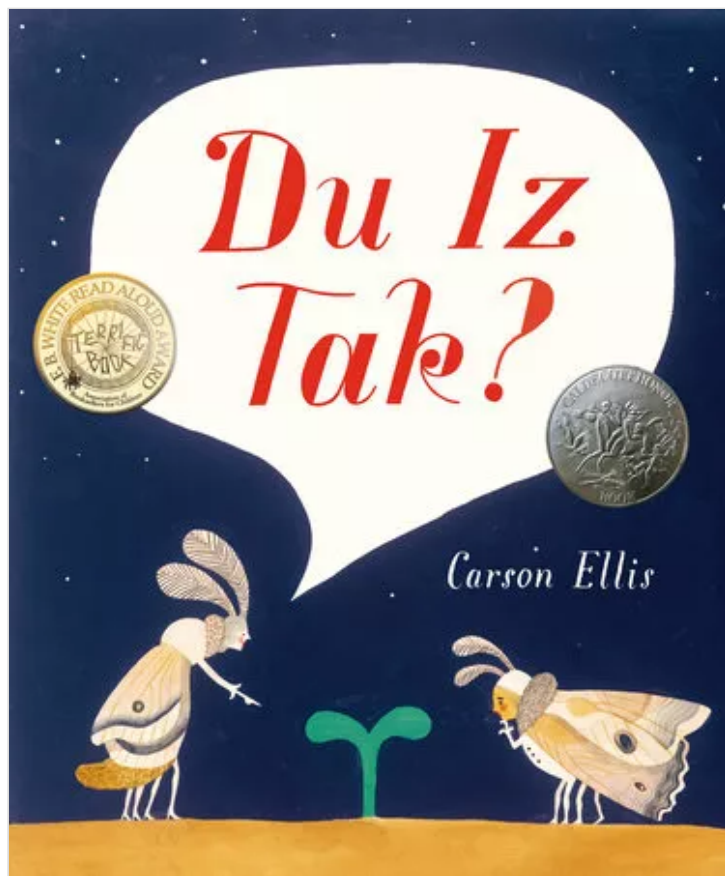


Du Iz Tak by Carson Ellis

FS/KS1/KS2

What is that? A world seen from the height and perspective of an insect. Du Iz Tak is a gorgeous piece of work from Ellis in which the reader must piece together the picture narrative in order to work out what the host of characters are saying. Unmissable.

<https://app.box.com/s/qkuuu0cqsfc6yfiqf8elq6y0ombh4erz> (Y2)

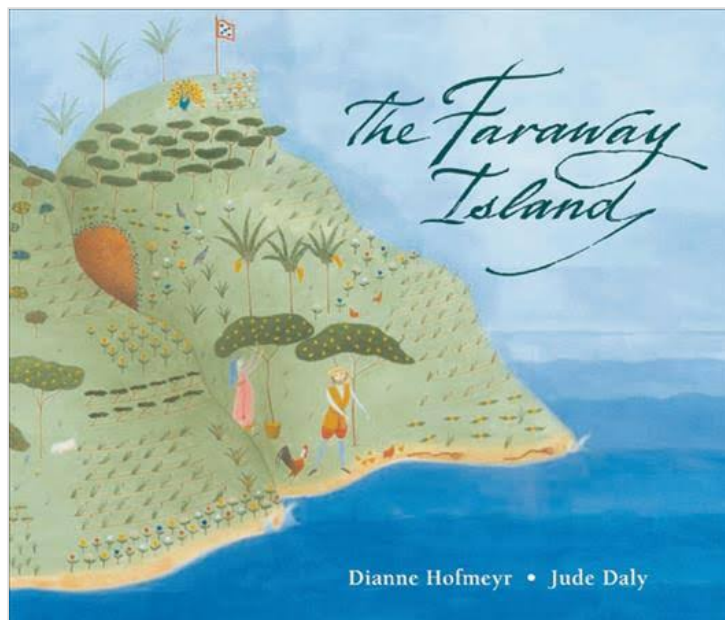


The Faraway Island by Dianne Hofmeyr and Jude Daly

KS1/KS2

An unhappy man leaves his ship to live on an isolated Island with a bag of rice and a cockerel. Sailors stop at the island en-route to Portugal another man hiding his cave, they leave gifts of fruit trees and animals. Soon, the Queen of Portugal hears about the island and insists the man visits. However, he admits to the Queen he is a monster and only able to live on his Island in solitary confinement. Despite this, the Queen's seamstress falls in love and follows him back to his Island. She quietly works alongside him, and one day the man realises he has found happiness (words by Izzy Dawes)

<https://app.box.com/s/i2jycryuosrg5ankmjwc77514nbg6fd> (Y2)

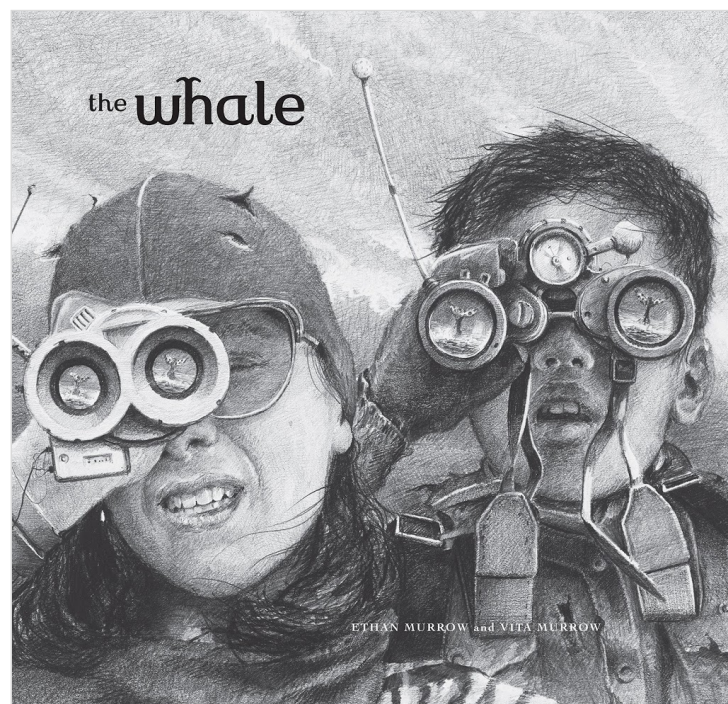


The Whale by Vita and Evan Murrow

Y2/KS2

An adventure which following the expedition of two young explorers. Armed with cameras and sound recorders they embark on a mission to spot the great spotted whale - believed to be a hoax and to no exist by the local neighbourhood. (Words by Sophie Freeman)

<https://app.box.com/s/6afqs9ig0lms1bou6xark3ut4f90kret> (Y3)

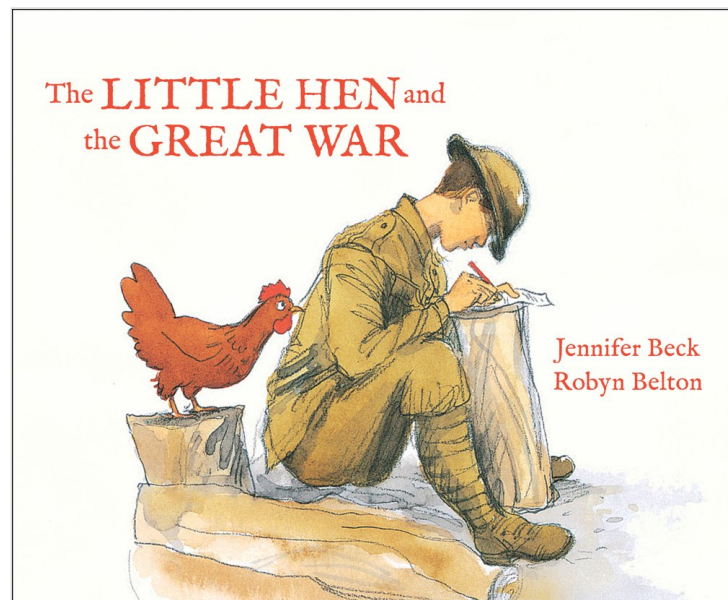


The Little Hen and the Great War by Jennifer Beck and Robyn Belton

KS2

Set during World War I in France, this picturebook tells the story of a hen who is discovered by a young soldier, named Arthur. Every morning Bertha laid an egg for Arthur and he shared it amongst the other soldiers. Bertha gave the soldiers courage and hope.

<https://app.box.com/s/n0lo45voufx80ajirwqmorvjk2d01qw6> (Y3)

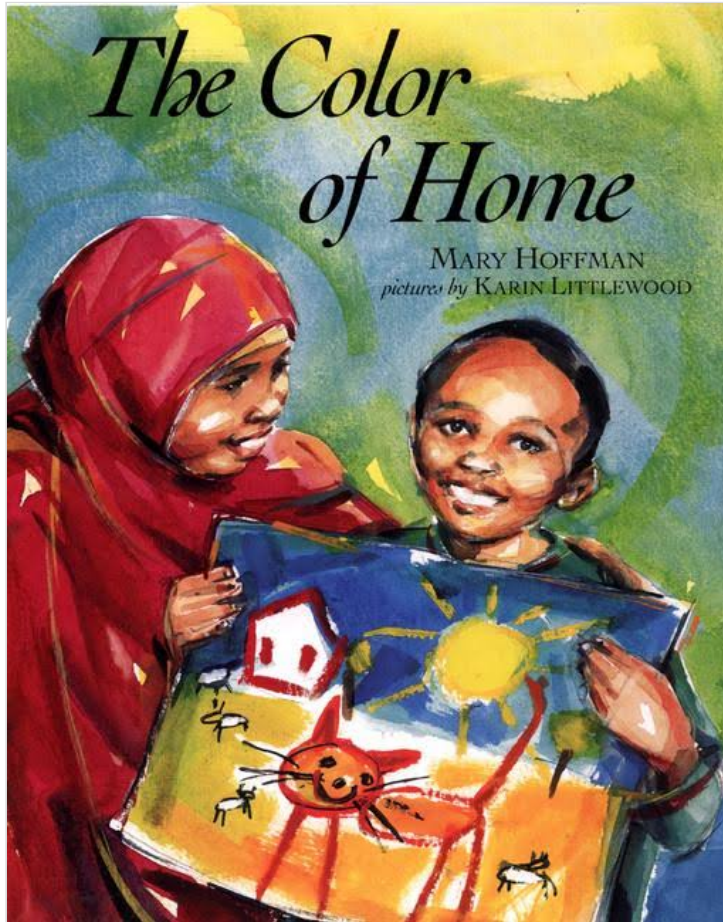


The Colour of Home by Mary Hoffman and Karin Littlewood

KS2

Hassan is a young boy from Somalia who has joined a new school in England. Hassan doesn't know much English and he is unsure of the new environment that he is in. When he is asked to paint his home, Hassan finds a way to express his feelings and celebrate his home.

<https://app.box.com/s/nw608v2hj572tsih1puwgv8iesdwiyt6> (Y6)



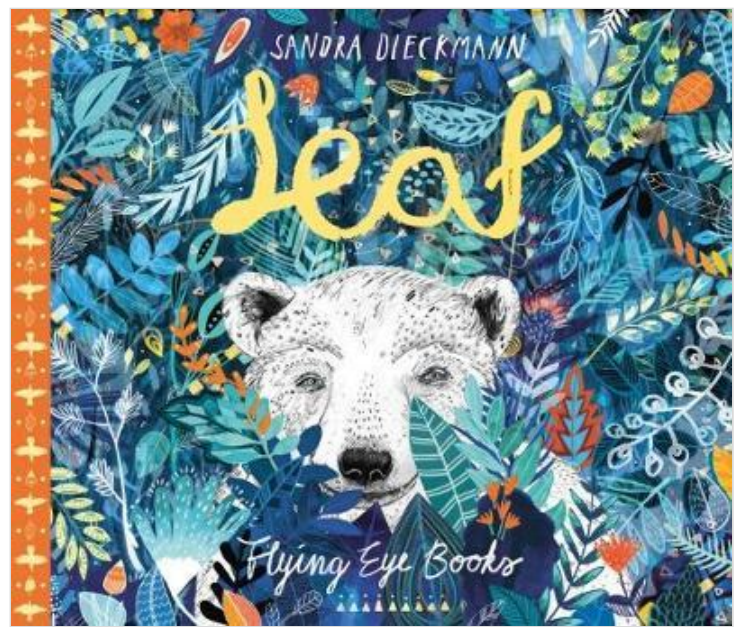
Leaf by Sandra Dieckmann

KS1/KS2

A polar bear, who the forest animals name Leaf, drifts away from his Arctic home and finds himself in a forest...an engaging and immersive story about home and family. (Words by Ruth Ladani)

<https://app.box.com/s/27gmplnjy9oal36lv5j6d9eeawvtquov> (Y4)

<https://padlet.com/p0077346/PictureBookPlan> (Y4)

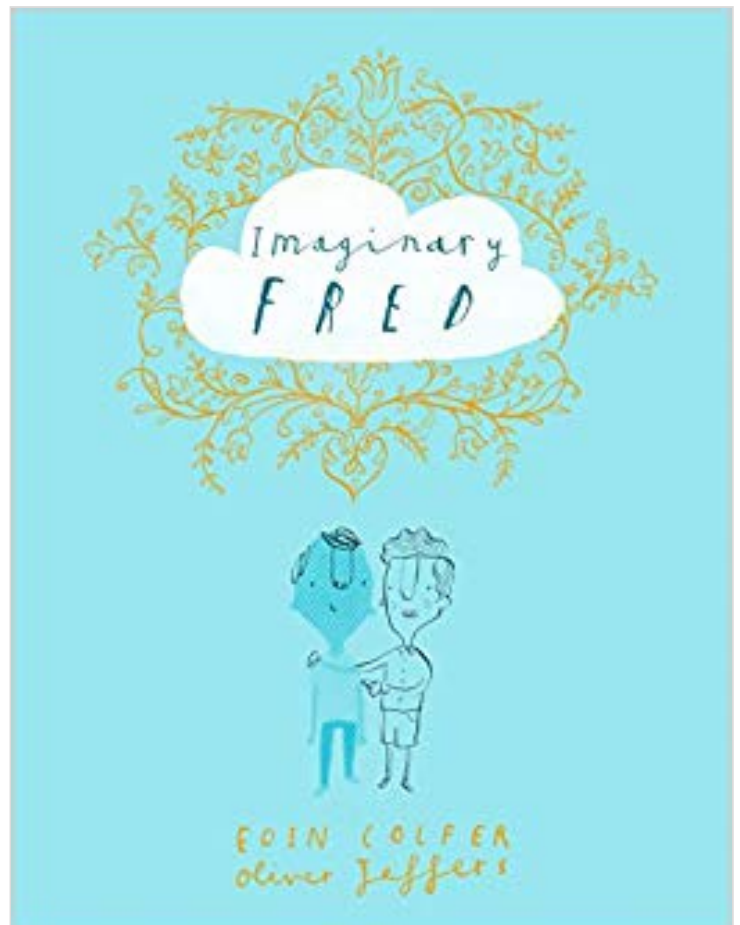


Imaginary Fred by Eoin Colfer and Oliver Jeffers

KS1/LKS2

This story follows Fred, an imaginary friend who stays with lonely children until they no longer need him; when this happens, he starts to fade before being whisked back into the sky to wait for a new friend. One day, Fred meets his dream friend, Sam. (Words by Avital Nathan)

<https://app.box.com/s/17o9wys6h8w7g933krcd1qdtxsme5ok> (Y3)



The Promise by Nicola Davies & Illustrated by Laura Carlin

KS2

From the delicious endplates to the touching final page, this is a story about fighting for conservation and the planet when all those choose to ignore it. It is a revolutionary story about one girl's chance to change the world.

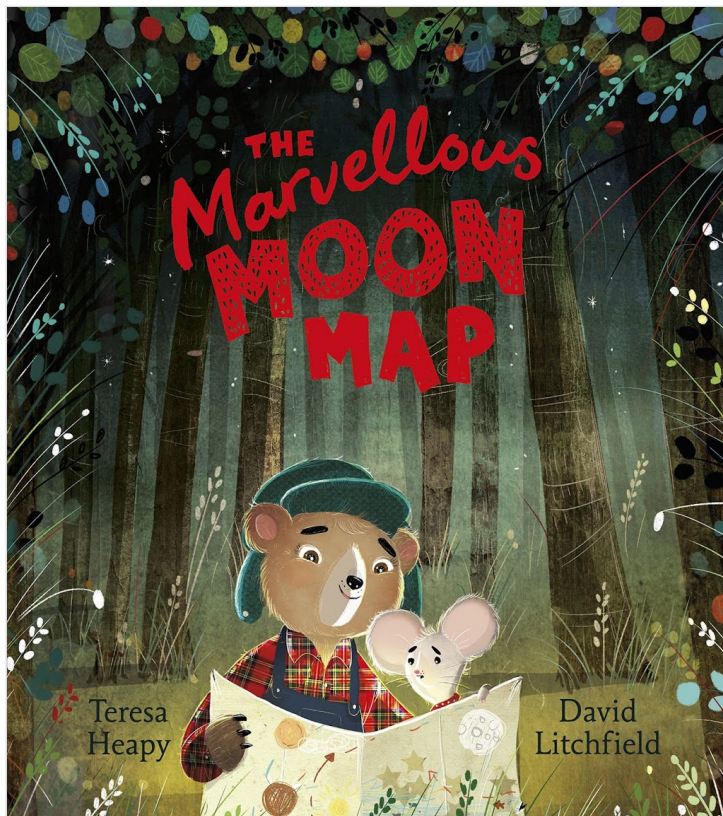
<https://app.box.com/s/y4y2q8393vzmy9jxgjvokpmgl1nzbfbhp>
(Y5/6)



The Marvelous Moon Map by Teresa Heapy and David Litchfield

Mouse and Bear live together in their forest home. Mouse researches how to get to the moon and works really hard to create 'a magnificent, mighty, most marvellous Moon Map'. Mouse sets off following his Moon Map but gets lost in the woods. He realises he is on his own and gets scared, but luckily Bear arrives to help Mouse out of the woods. (Words by Jasmin Cooper)

<https://app.box.com/s/3nj4nckho03rcslpandpdxqjz1gu63nd>
(Y2)



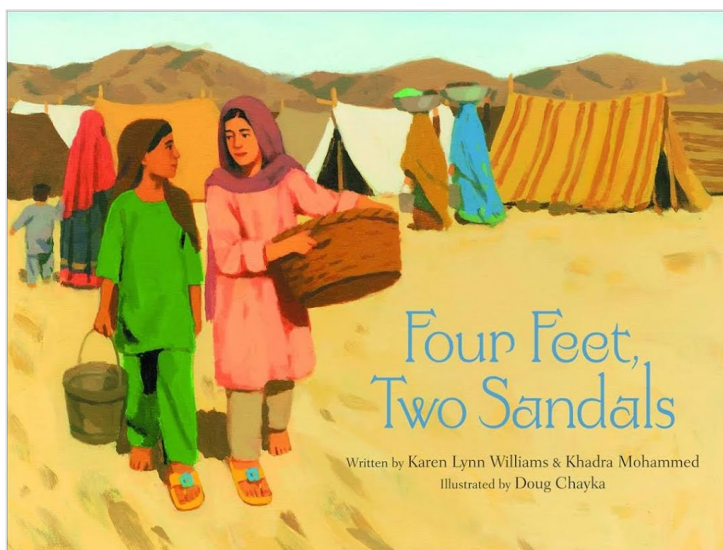
Four Feet, Two Sandals by Karen Lynn Williams, Khadra Mohammed and Doug Chayka

KS2

A refugee, Lina, has fled her home in Afghanistan to the neighbouring country of Pakistan. She finds herself in a refugee camp with people that share the same story as her, as they have also left their lives in Afghanistan behind due to the danger. As the relief workers throw bags of clothes to the crowd of refugees, Lina discovers a sandal. Lina is so memorised by this sandal, as she has not worn shoes in two years. As she looks around for the other matching sandal, she sees a girl standing with it on, this girl then starts to walk away. However, the book ends with both girls becoming friends, which is further emphasised by the two sandals bringing them together. (Words by Werdha Amjad)

<https://app.box.com/s/7s4ctqb2m8llj8tjvwhn07a8b35nzdqd> (Y6)

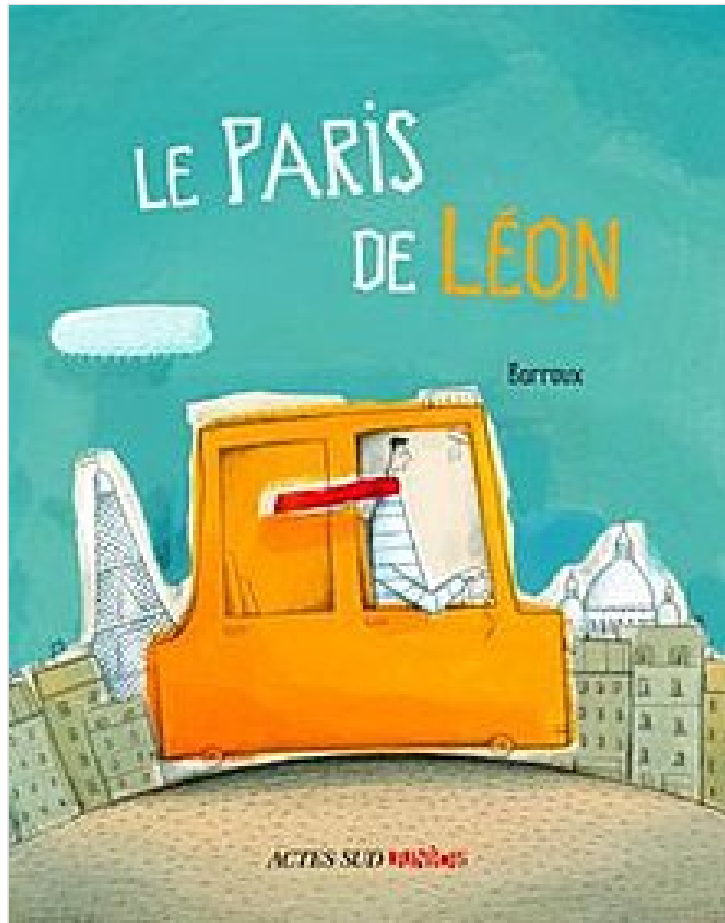
<https://app.box.com/s/czyr8gx00gg6qi5htpmranvg4uhf5bp6>
(Y5)



Mr. Leon's Paris by Stephane Barroux and translated by Sarah Ardizzone

FS/KS1/KS2

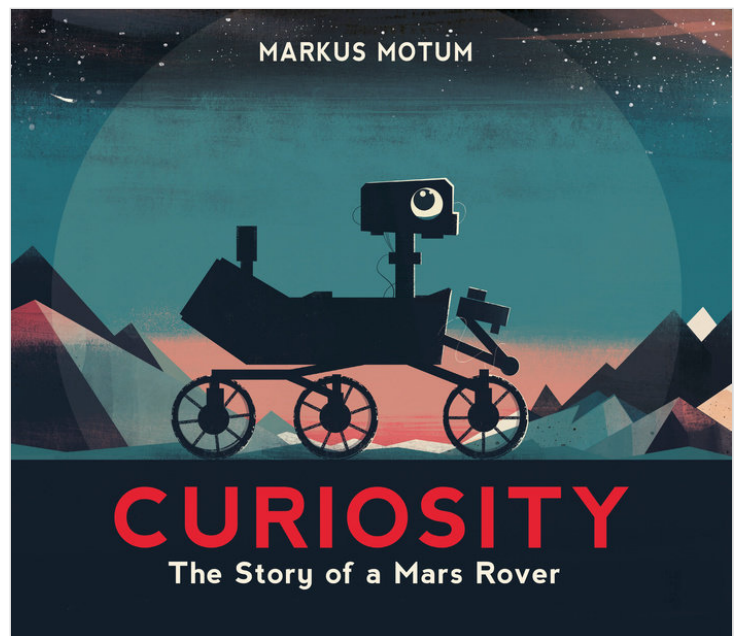
Mr. Leon drives his taxi everyday. He picks up people and takes them to their destinations (linked in some way to the character). After over 30 years of driving he decides to sell his taxi. The ending is up for interpretation. Some children may think he has died if they read the symbols presented in the book, other children may think he is going travelling. (Words by Holly Payne)
<https://app.box.com/s/qzz26sehdt6jha5j41emmkp7ur1ejav5> (Y5)



Curiosity by Markus Motum

KS1/KS2

A non-fiction picture book that tells the story of how the Mars Rover was created, named, and sent on its mission to Mars. It is written in a story-like manner, but is very factual and scientific in its wording, in a way that is child-friendly. (Words by Elizabeth Jamieson)
<https://app.box.com/s/g778p15mg3y3rokls6jt8bfkknjyivex> (Y5)



The Secret Sky Garden by Linda Sarah and Fiona Lumbers

FS/KS1/LKS2

The story follows the journey of a young, determined girl named Funni who works hard to build a place of refuge and beauty in a desolate and abandoned airport car park. Although she enjoys the noises and atmosphere of the car park she is startlingly aware that something is missing. Due to this, she is resolute to clean up the car park and create a garden full of beautiful flowers to find what she has been missing. However, after three months of hard work, Funni still feels a strong ache of loneliness. Although she has created something beautiful, a place of home, it is still not enough. Until, one day, a young boy named Zoo sees Funni's rooftop garden and is mesmerised by its friendly beauty. He introduces himself to Funni and the two of them find what they were looking for. They form a beautiful friendship, sharing adventures in their garden, which is a place of love, companionship and hope. (Words by Phoebe Ledster)
<https://app.box.com/s/mq9fg9xk8253n8q02okkj4taxqntn3ag> (Y2)



Grandma Bird by Benji Davies

FS/KS1/LKS2

The young boy, Noi, leaves his house by the sea, dad and six cats to spend the summer with his Grandma on her small island. Upon arrival, Noi discovers that he finds his Grandma quite odd and difficult to relate to, and as she gets caught up in the business of her life Noi feels quite isolated and alone. Noi then goes on an adventure of his own to explore the island, however he gets caught up in a heavy storm and must take refuge in a nearby cave where he discovers an injured bird who has done the same.

<https://app.box.com/s/zqxuw7qofao799x6uqy4up6i8e2979jn>
(Y2)

<https://app.box.com/s/wd4c1yrkwbvyc7q69zyiol85uanxrma>
(Y2)



Me and My Fear by Francesca Sanna

FS/KS1/KS2

Following on from The Journey and in answer to many questions from children she met, Sanna tells the story of one of the siblings after they had moved to a new country. Tying in her own anxieties and fears when integrating into a new culture, Sanna shares with us the young girl's beginning days at her new school and the acclimatisation of herself and those around her to this new start.

<https://app.box.com/s/q319qzk337kl1vkw0s6zaw5xtnd2sufc>
(Y6)

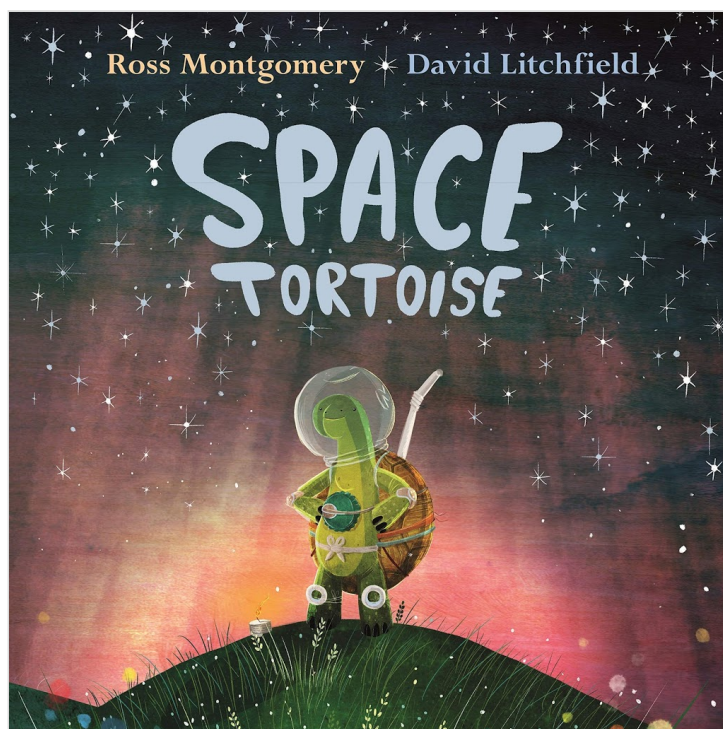


Space Tortoise by Ross Montgomery and David Litchfield

FS/KS1/LKS2

Tells the story of an isolated tortoise that inhabits a local park bin. One night, when tortoise was gazing up at the night sky, he concluded that the 'blinking candles' in the sky must be where all the other animals are. So he hatched a plan on how he could join them. (Words by Lauren Green)

<https://app.box.com/s/4rg71gwd9lb0omb40n4hw646adfc9bx>
(Y2)



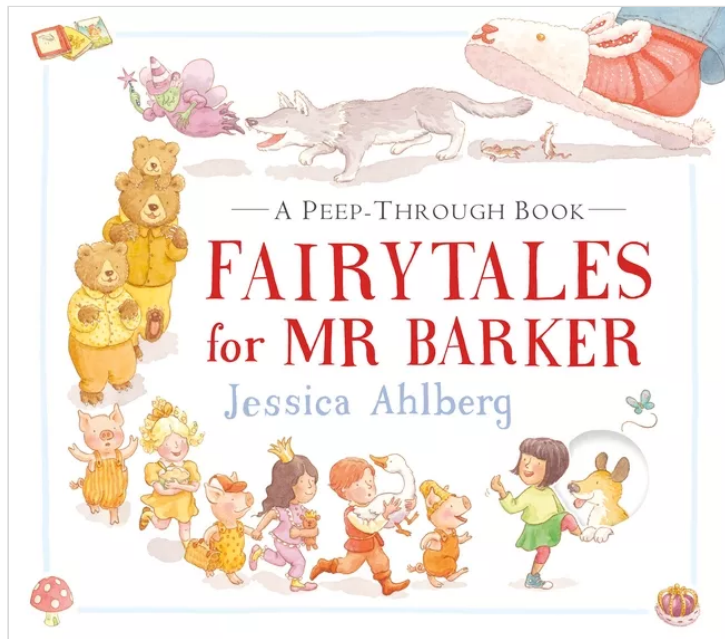
Fairytales for Mr Barker by Jessica Ahlberg

FS/Y1

For me, this is an homage to Jessica's parents. Part Peepo, part

Each Peach Pear Plum, we follow Lucy and her dog, Mr Barker, through a world of fairytales as she helps various victims escape their fate. Each page has a little peep hole which the reader and Lucy can enter.

<https://app.box.com/s/z2oslo7wiwvruh2wzk58piz1cg83t84g>
(Y2)



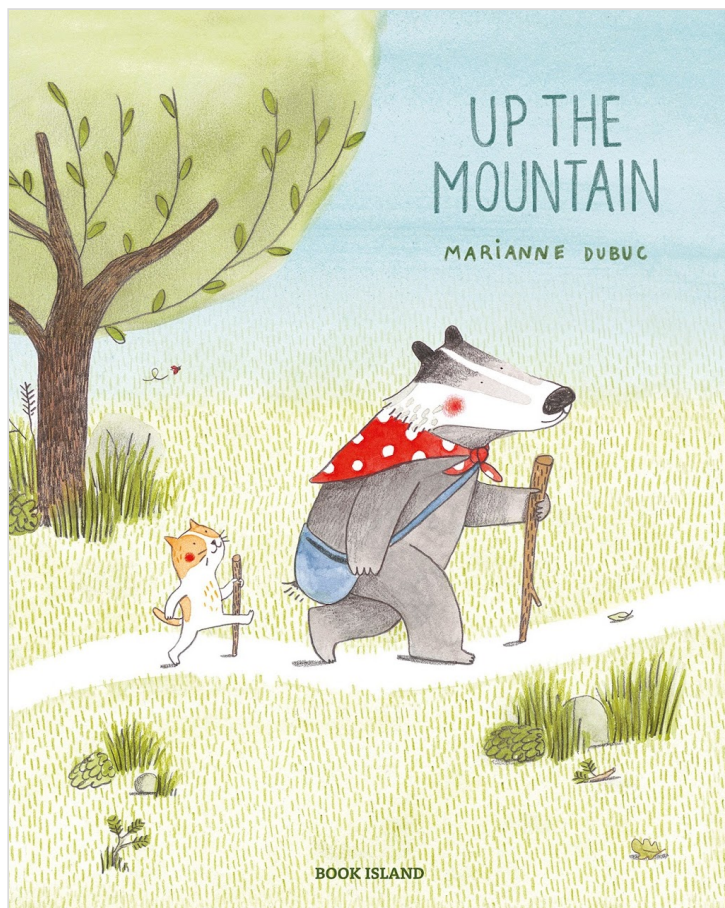
Up the Mountain by Marianne Dubuc

KS1/LKS2

Mrs. Badger enjoys her weekly excursion to the top of a mountain. Then one day she discovers a sprightly cat companion who joins her on her journey and in her reflections. An inter-generational story about passing on the important things in life.

<https://app.box.com/s/phaiodry5fdz0x6021qd7fd43l48n170> (Y2)

<https://app.box.com/s/j050d54wyb8fi8b73r4eiky7a6zhyg6t> (Y2)

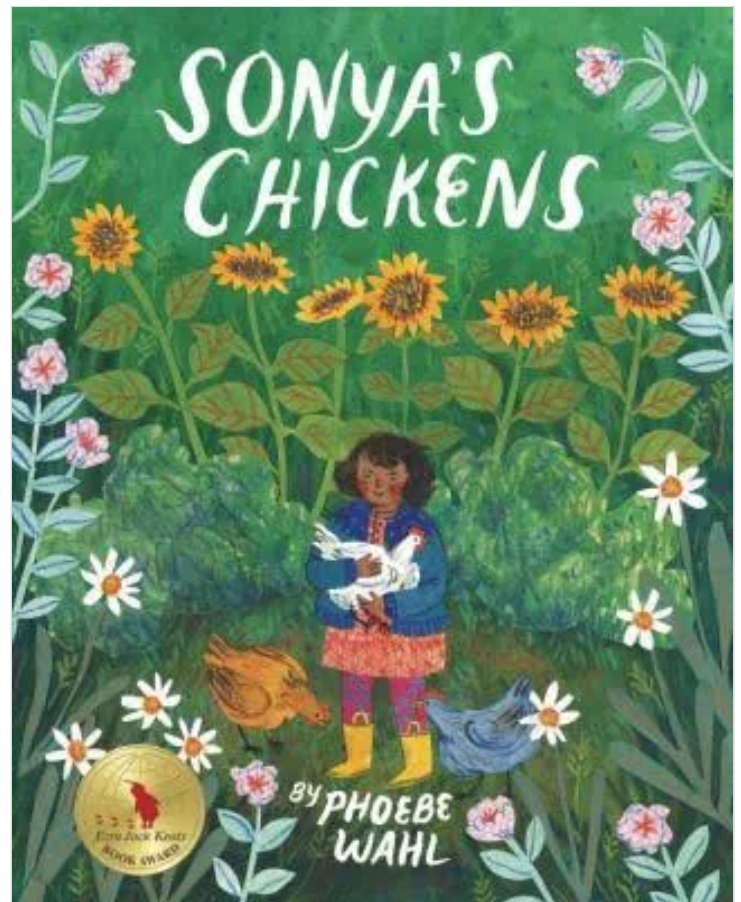


Sonya's Chickens by Phoebe Wahl

FS/KS1/LKS2

Sonya raises her three chickens and loves them. When she discovers something has happened to them one night, she begins to learn about the interconnectedness of life. Beautifully illustrated with a strong message about nature.

<https://app.box.com/s/us1cb6fye4phzrma9ki1oeq1zb0tmthx>
(Y2)

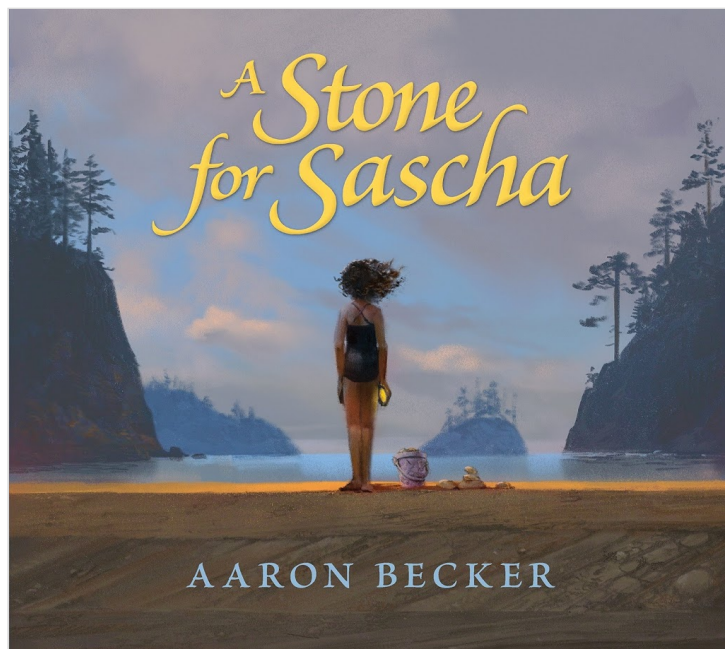


A Stone for Sascha by Aaron Becker

KS2

A seamless connection between past, present and future. A little girl's dog has passed away and whilst on the girl's journey through grief, she takes the reader on a journey through time through the journey of a remarkable stone.

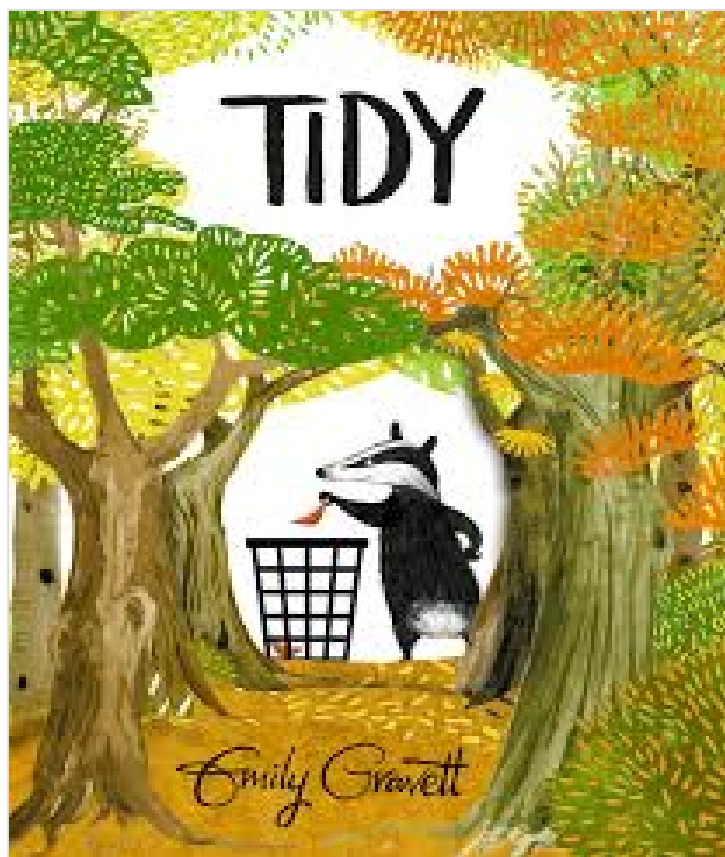
<https://app.box.com/s/spk18htxeukrqarma3i5q8bw75kf7d3s>
(Y5/6)



Tidy by Emily Gravett

KS1/Y3

Pete the badger is an obsessed with cleaning and with autumn coming, he makes it his mission to tidy the whole forest. Yet this obsession begins to destroy the things he holds most dear and he must look inside himself in order to consider the consequences. Full of Gravett's humour and subtle reflections.
<https://app.box.com/s/olrhvnnohhyc9wkon0x3i1euc1a4xhu5>
 (Y3)



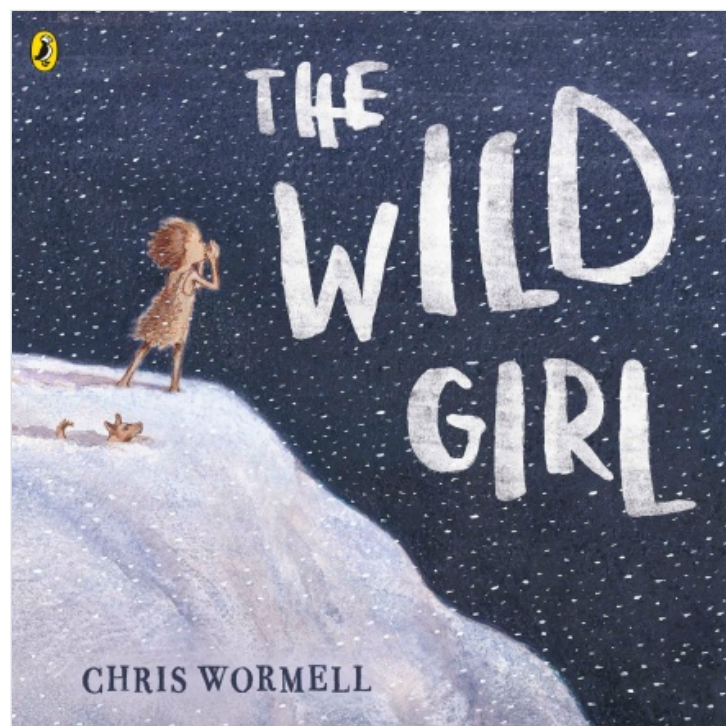
The Wild Girl by Chris Wormell

KS1/LKS2

A young, Stone Age girl and her small dog, who live on their own in the wilderness. When the little girl finds some paw-prints in a

cave, she must make a choice which could cost her her life.

<https://app.box.com/s/q12gn72fk72y1tj7yuzbvtiff96q9uep> (Y3/4)

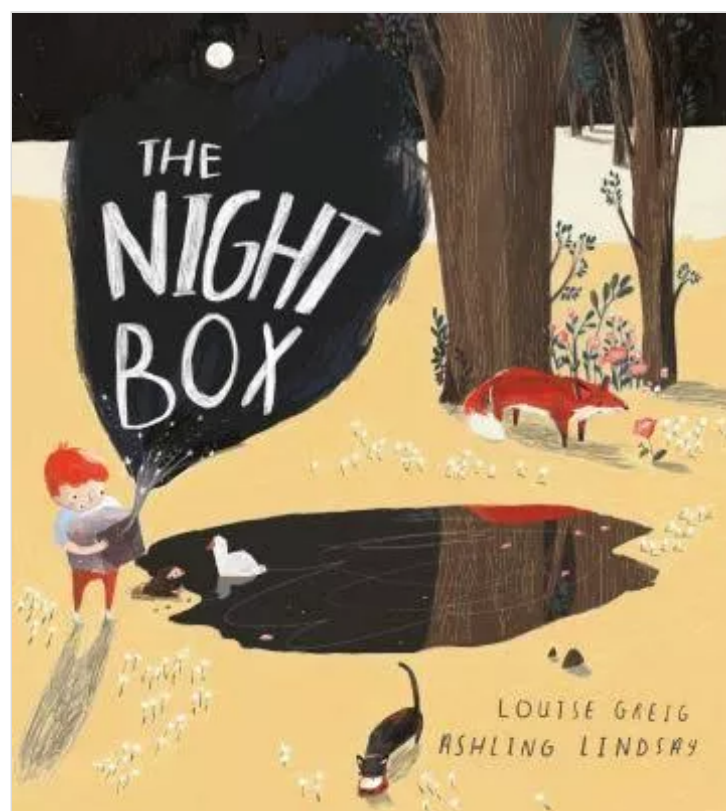


The Night Box by Louise Greig and Ashling Lindsay

FS-Y4

Beautiful, evocative language in which a young boy's relationship with the darkness and the light coincides with the natural world a deep sense of being at peace with the landscape that he inhabits.

<https://app.box.com/s/93k1equox50aavqfqs3ozkn08ozah14>
 (Y2)

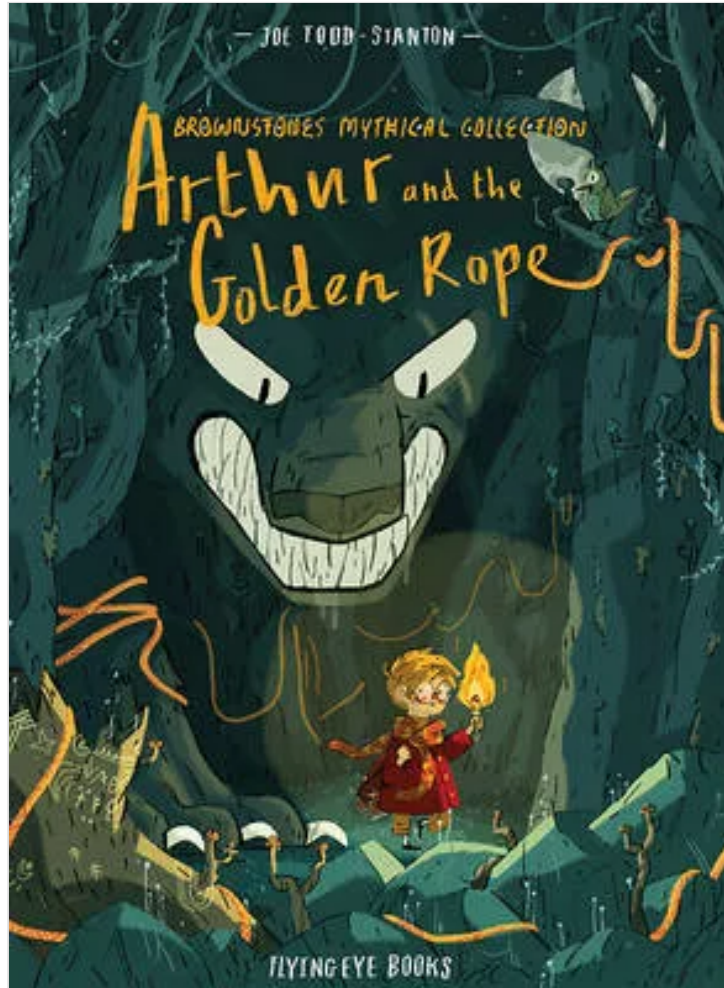


Arthur and the Golden Rope by Joe Todd-Stanton

KS2 GRAPHIC NOVEL

This is a lovely traditional tales (Joe classes it as a Myth) which follows the adventure of Arthur, a dreamer with a sack of wit at his aid sets off on a quest to rid the town of a giant wolf who has taken up residence in his Icelandic town, put out the great fire which keeps them safe from the bitter winds. It is a story which celebrates all the right elements of traditional tales and is, possibly, the first in a series.

<https://app.box.com/s/68xvn6odnk6jebonlq0svt7q8w9ckj3h>
(Y4)



Fox's Garden by Princesse Camcam

KS1/LKS2

A wordless picture book following the night's prowling of a fox. Eventually the fox ends up taking respite in a greenhouse, a boy notices the fox and brings it food. The fox repays the kindness whilst the boy is sleeping by filling his bedroom with flowers.

<https://app.box.com/s/8a9gv7ksndjqd79m7wzcwxtagbvesok4>
(Y4)

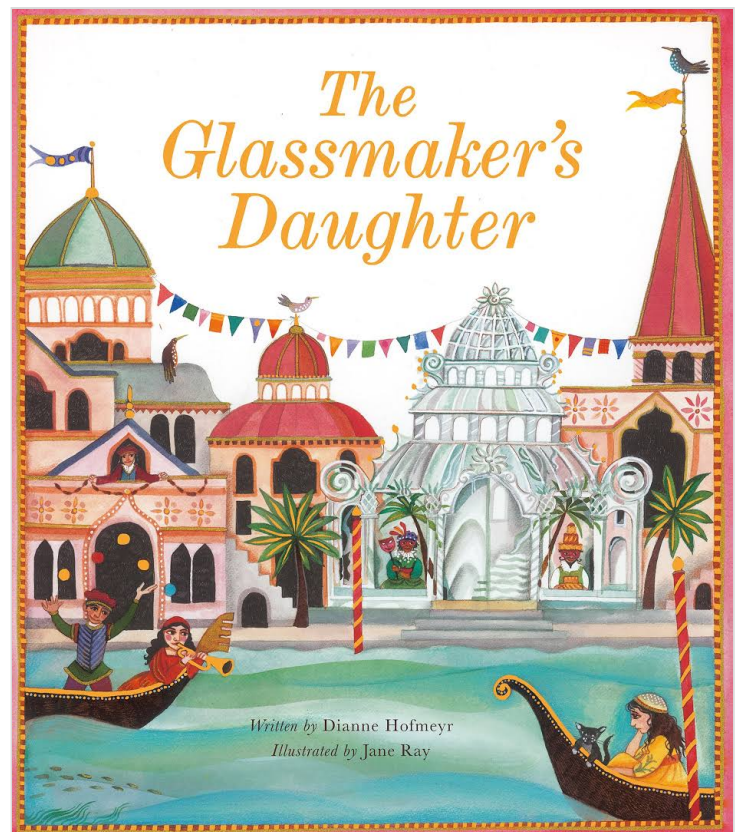


The Glassmaker's Daughter by Dianne Hofmeyr & illustrated by Jane Ray

KS1/KS2

Set in 16th century Venice, when glassmaking, as an art, was revered across the city and beyond, there lived a young woman whose father was a renowned glassblower. Although he tried his best to make her happy, wealth and glass was not what Daniela was looking for. What is the true meaning of happiness? What will make Daniela smile?

<https://app.box.com/s/jf6uwlslvcd6taa1j3tbg088ht2hjn1n> (Y4)



Whatever Happened to my Sister? by Simona Ciraolo

FS/KS1/KS2

A young girl wonders why she and her older sister are growing apart. Her parents don't seem to acknowledge the situation and she remains upset and confused until her older sister sees it. A beautiful and well-handled story of siblings growing up and changing.

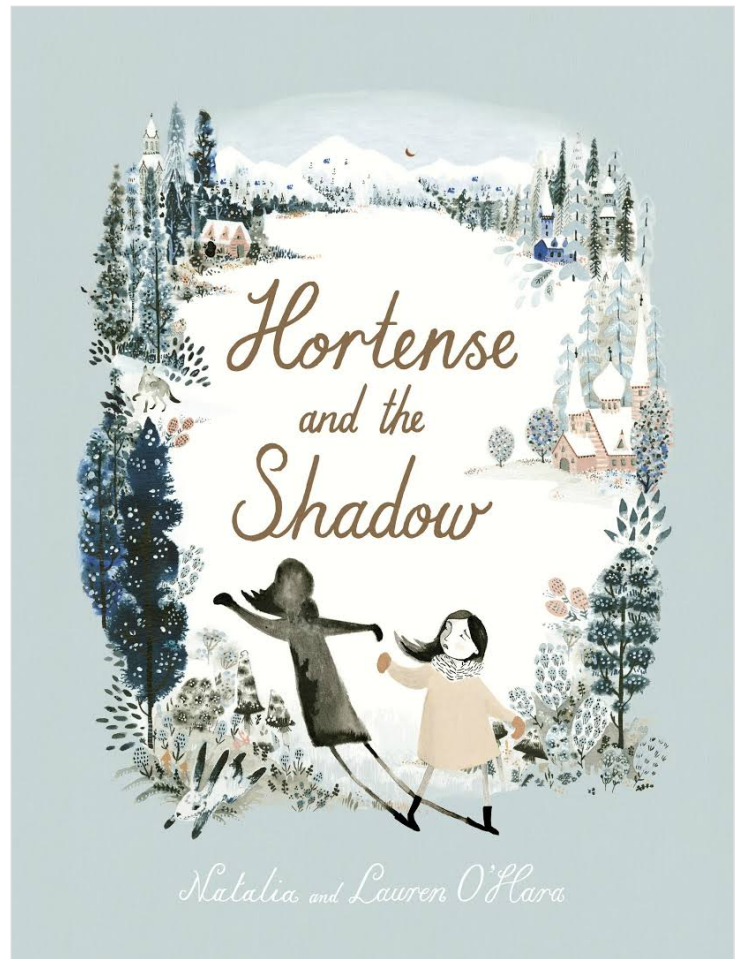


Hortense and the Shadow by Lauren and Natalia O'Hara

KS2

A fairy tale-like story of a girl who tries to outrun her shadow. Yet when bandits surprise her one night, she finds that it is her own shadow that could rescue her.

<https://app.box.com/s/ohr5ck8rn7rbtupmll3b56nbykyw9v8e> (Y3)



Where the Poppies Now Grow by Hilary Robinson and Illustrated by Martin Impey

Y3 or Y6

Although touted as a book on WW1 for younger children, I think that the pattern of the rhythm and rhyme alongside the intertextual references made within Impey's illustrations mean that this is a book for older children too. Told from the point of view of a narrator who watches two boys grow up into old age having survived the war means that we are more emotionally tied to the events that we could be with many non-fiction texts. <https://app.box.com/s/6pifo17wmubvk5zt1krpchllvqiuvqcx> (Y6)



The Something by Rebecca Cobb

FS/KS1

The Something tells the story of an inquisitive young boy, his dog and a hole. In early Spring, the boy is playing with his dog, he throws a shiny red ball which promptly bounces down a mysterious hole under a cherry tree. Over the course of the year the boy, with the help of his family and friends, ponders what type of creature may have chosen to live in the hole in his garden.

<https://app.box.com/s/ex4qb2rbllnoilxu9ggvci4dpfcuvut6> (Y1)

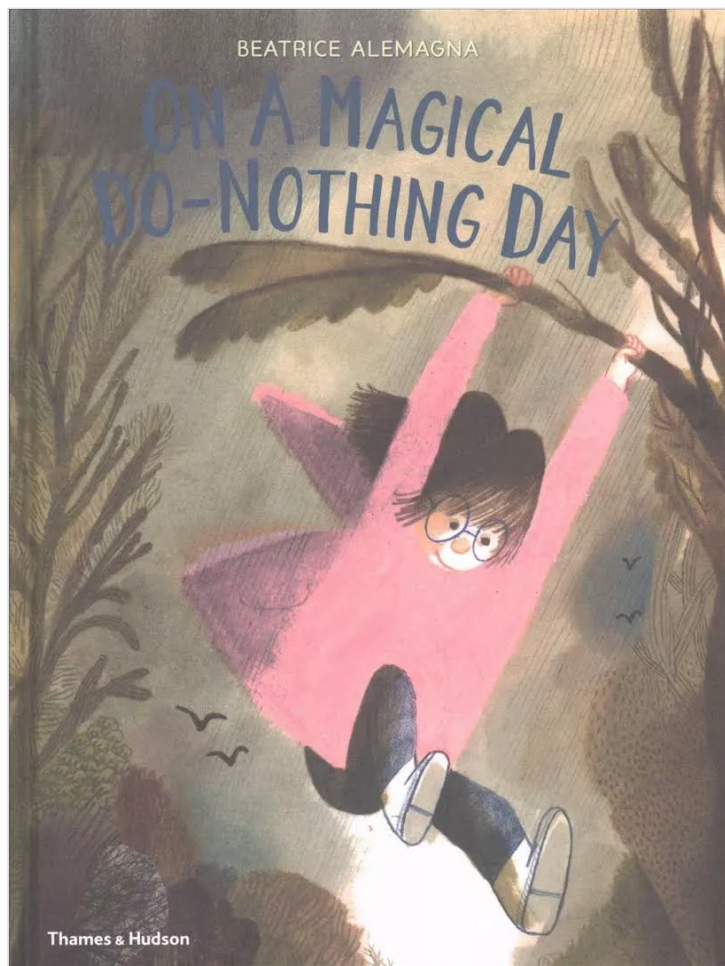


On a Magical Do-Nothing Day by Beatrice Alemagna

FS/KS1/KS2

When a child is taken away from their usual home by their mum for a while they immediately fall into an electronic world, playing on a console. Yet when ushered out by their mother, the child finds a wild world which is far more entertaining than any computer game.

<https://app.box.com/s/ok7eeq1hzwi30mjad2n9s431m1apwjj0> (Y3)



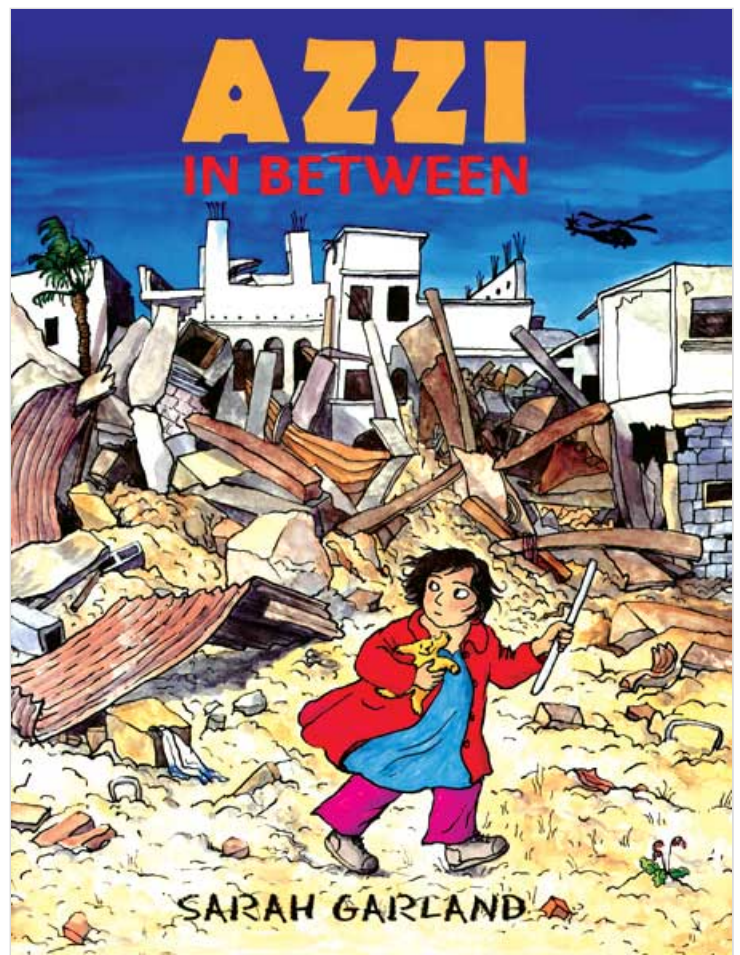
Azzi in Between by Sarah Garland

Could be used from Y2 all the way up to Y6.

A story about a young girl and her family escaping a war-torn country. An emotional yet wholly accessible account of refugee.

<https://app.box.com/s/mc9v8topfln4pjb2main9gtxjfxrlnp0> (Y3)

<https://app.box.com/s/f2h421pz9beku83jlieg2yt6odvuaihv> (Y3)

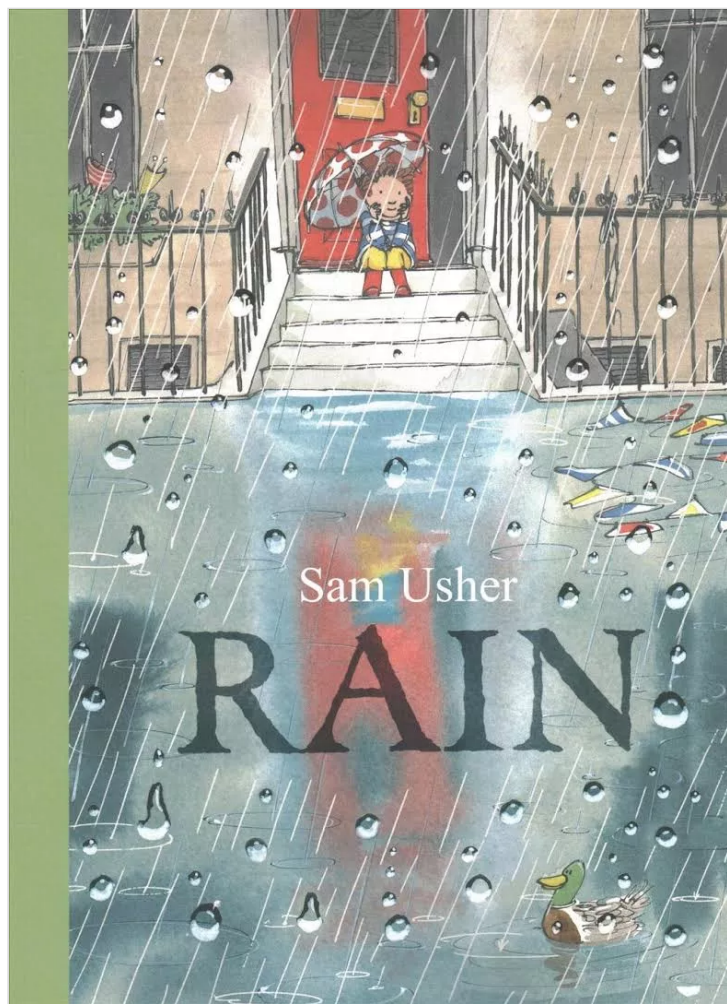


Rain by Sam Usher

FS/KS1/LKS2

What does a young child do on a rainy day? Ask to go outside of course! A wonderfully imaginative book with an interesting grandfather. Lots to discuss here at very different levels whilst all the time enjoying the pelting rain.

<https://app.box.com/s/kd9tkqkvjitvp7l0t1wqhsbyxw1q9gn0> (Y3)

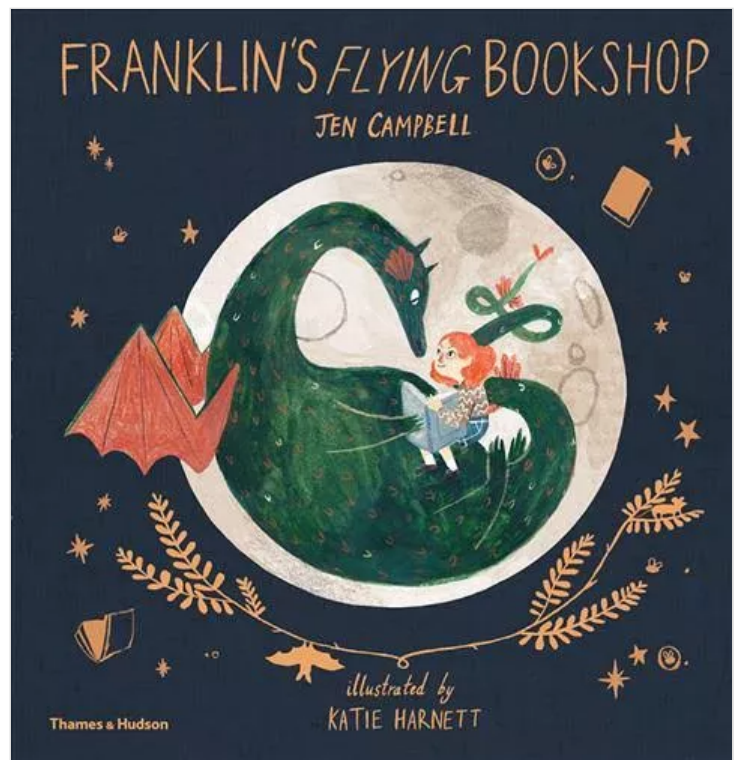


Franklin's Flying Bookshop by Jen Campbell and Katie Harnett

FS/KS1/LKS2

Franklin is not like other readers, he's a dragon and the people of the local town are not comfortable with that except for one young girl, Luna. Who has aspirations and dreams just like them. Together they show the locals that the power of stories can bring us all together.

<https://app.box.com/s/n3j26l57m4862bnza4f0bzola2lj7h9u> (Y3)



Nightlights by Lorena Alvarez

UKS2

A graphic novel more than a picturebook. This is a touching a deeply imaginative story about a young girl's struggle to maintain her creativity in a constrictive world of an education choked by fact.

<https://app.box.com/s/0zv1r6dq50ppkeb5vqxcea3ps6pv7b5j> (Y6)

<https://app.box.com/s/t8w6spr2uy82uwmqre8uacwkdi0xj93w> (Y4)



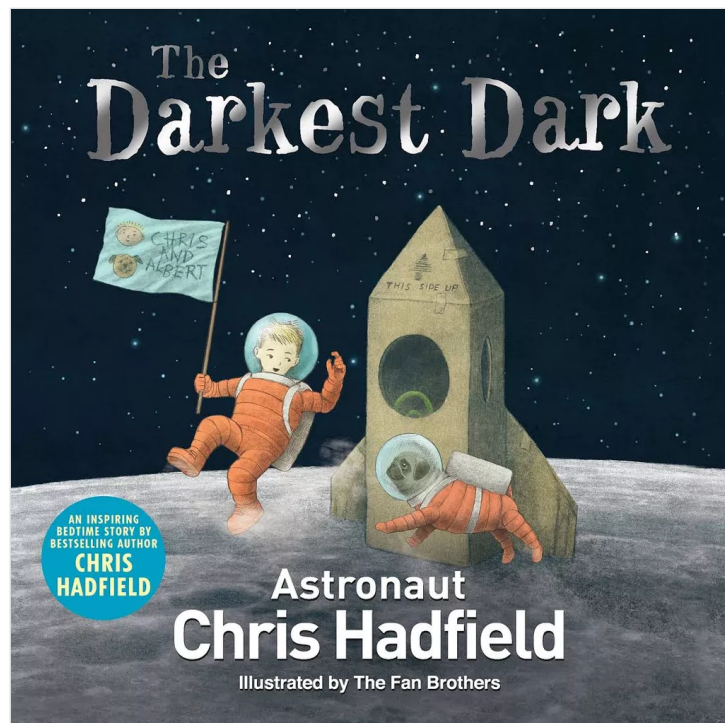
The Darkest Dark by Chris Hadfield and the Fan Brothers

KS1/LKS2

Chris has a passion for space but as a boy, there are things in the dark that scare him. It takes an event that inspired a world of people to change that fear into a desire and dream that would send him into space. A lovely part-biography of the childhood of astronaut, Chris Hadfield.

<https://app.box.com/s/qsyaotgswvil3gndkhxj9qsfmp19mz8e>
(Y3)

<https://app.box.com/s/nyt6bg45zb1vq6wnuv0moqmu26qxl6tu>
(Y1)



Greenling by Levi Pinfold

UKS2

Mr & Mrs Barleycorn live a quiet life in a world which seems set within a distant future in which resources are scarce. When an alien creature is discovered bearing an incredible gift, they must choose to embrace it or cast it out. A wonderfully haunting meditation on ecology, our future and relationship with nature.

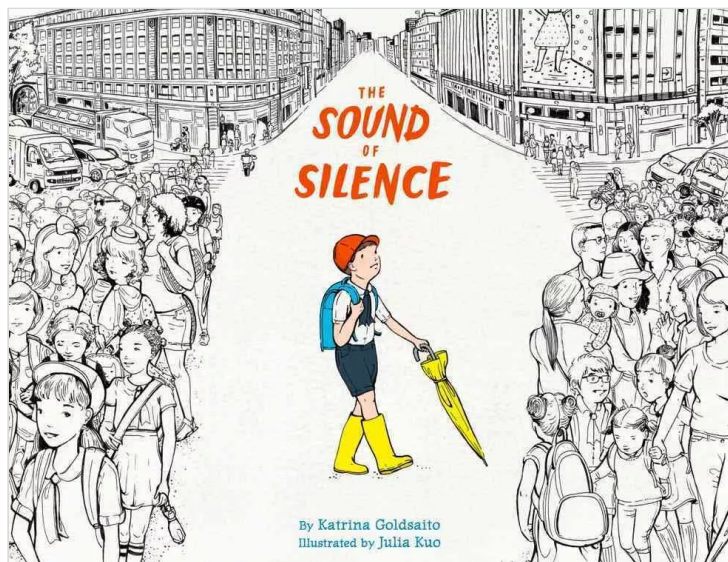


The Sound of Silence by Katrina Goldsaito and Julia Kuo

KS2

Every day Yokisho walks to school, he listens carefully to the sounds that surround him. But within the noisy city of Tokyo how can he find the most beautiful sound of all?

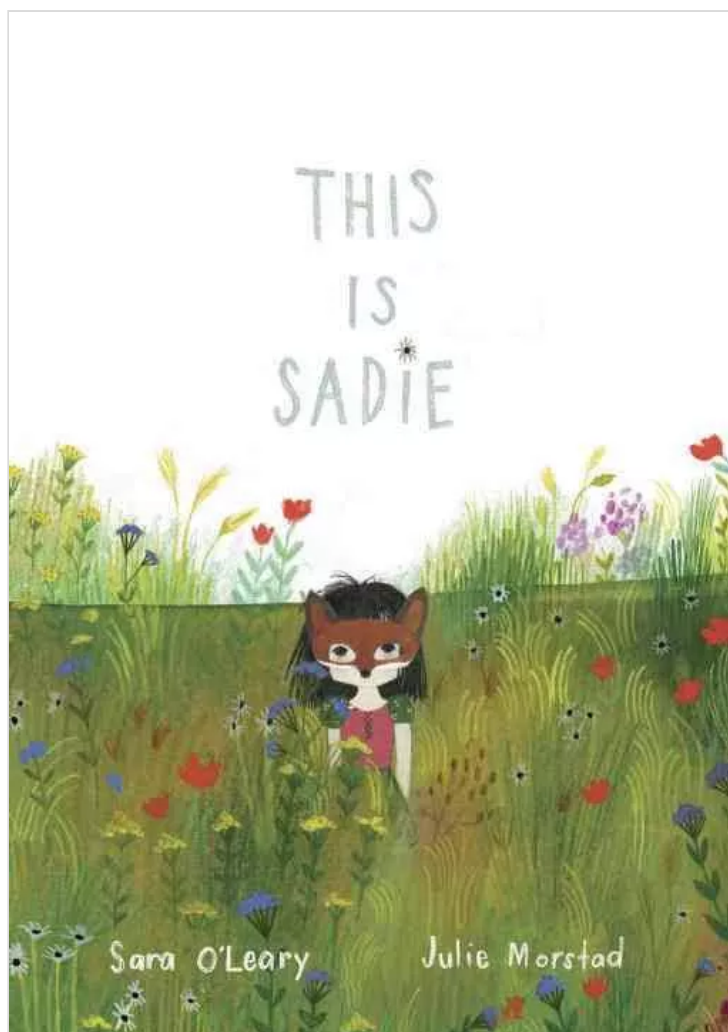
<https://app.box.com/s/riwkttta3xll5cokmjowbf43l043i3f93> (Y4)



This is Sadie by Sara O'Leary and Julie Morstad

FS/Y1

'Sadie is a small girl with a big imagination. She likes to make and do and be lots of different things.' A rather beautiful book where the imaginary is celebrated and richly portrayed through both words and pictures.

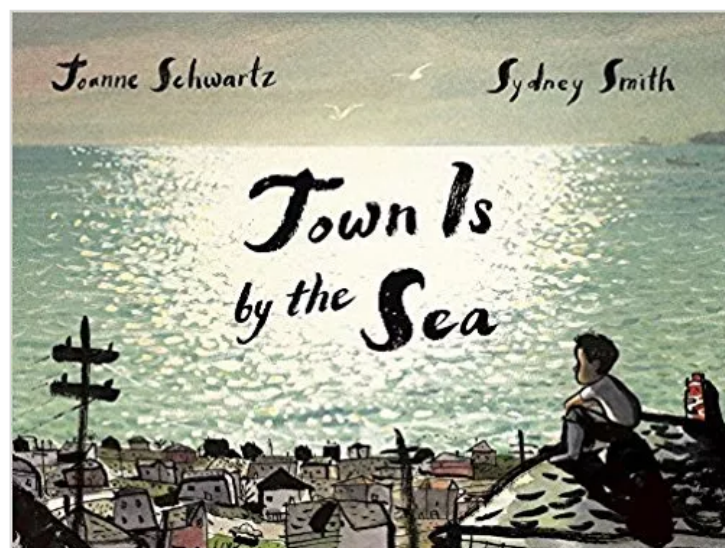


Town is by the Sea

KS2

A rather beautiful and touching story of one family's life within a

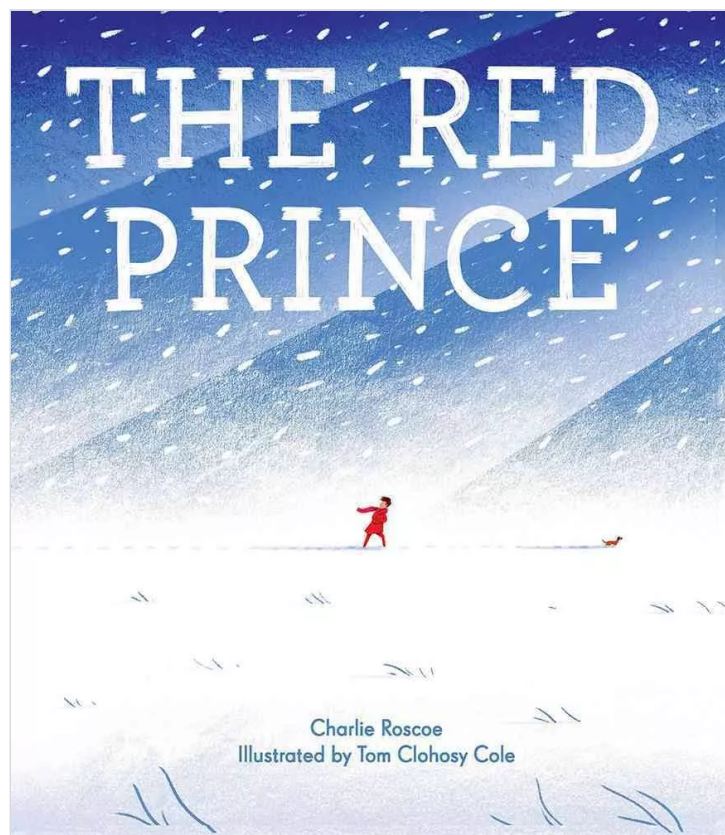
small, seaside mining tide in Nova Scotia. Set in the 50s, it allows us an insight into the life of a young boy who must follow the life of her father into the mines beneath the sea.



The Red Prince by Charlie Roscoe and Tom Clohosy Cole

KS2

The young prince of Avala is kidnapped but manages to escape. With enemies at his heels throughout, the pacy story is gloriously illustrated. Its themes of courage, friendship and unity against tyranny are wholly memorable.

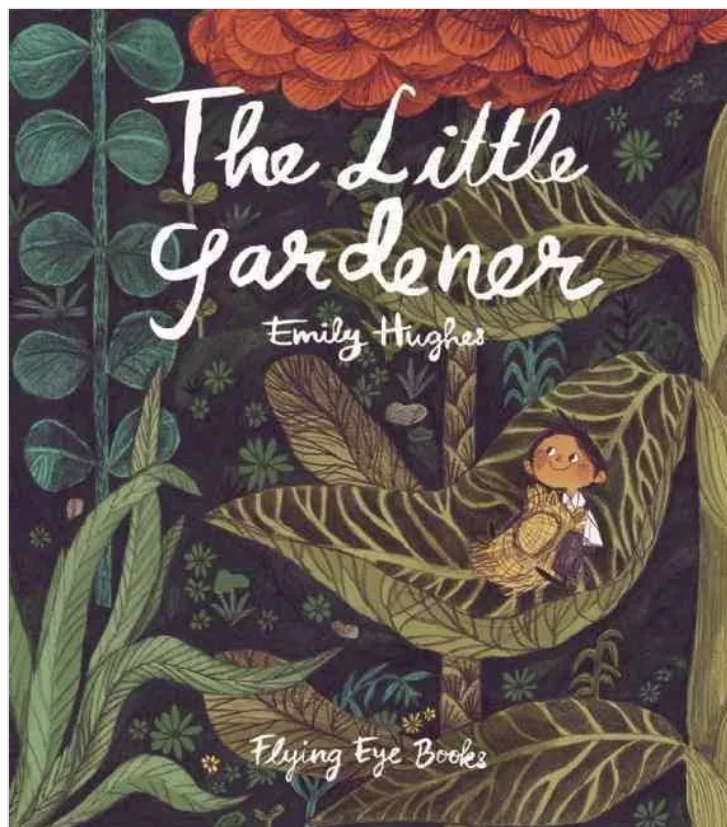


The Little Gardener by Emily Hughes

FS/KS1

I really do love all that Emily Hughes does. In this delightful story, we explore the world outside our door, the hard work it

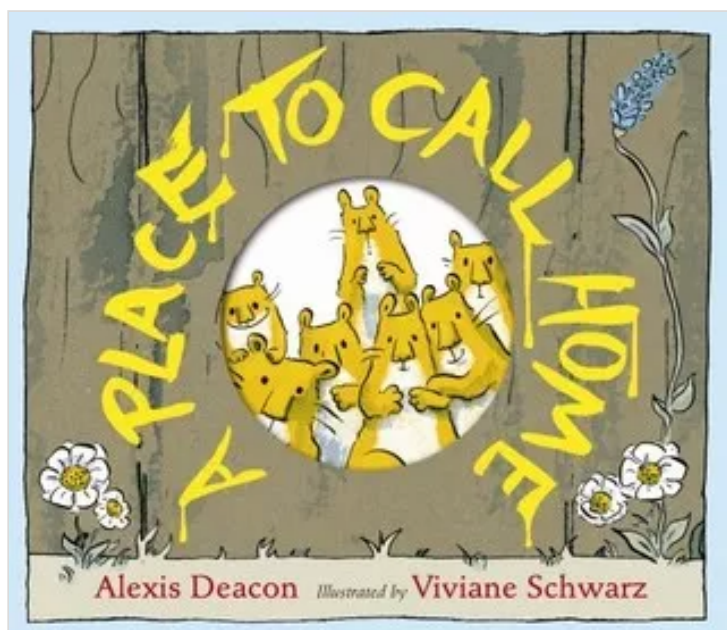
can take to tend to it and ourselves and how, together, we can celebrate it.



A Place Called Home by Alexis Deacon and Viviane Schwarz.

FS/KS1/KS2

A lovely, clever book out a family of hamsters who must brave the outside world in order to find a new home. Deacon's minimal writing and Schwarz's hilarious yet warm illustrations make for a super story.

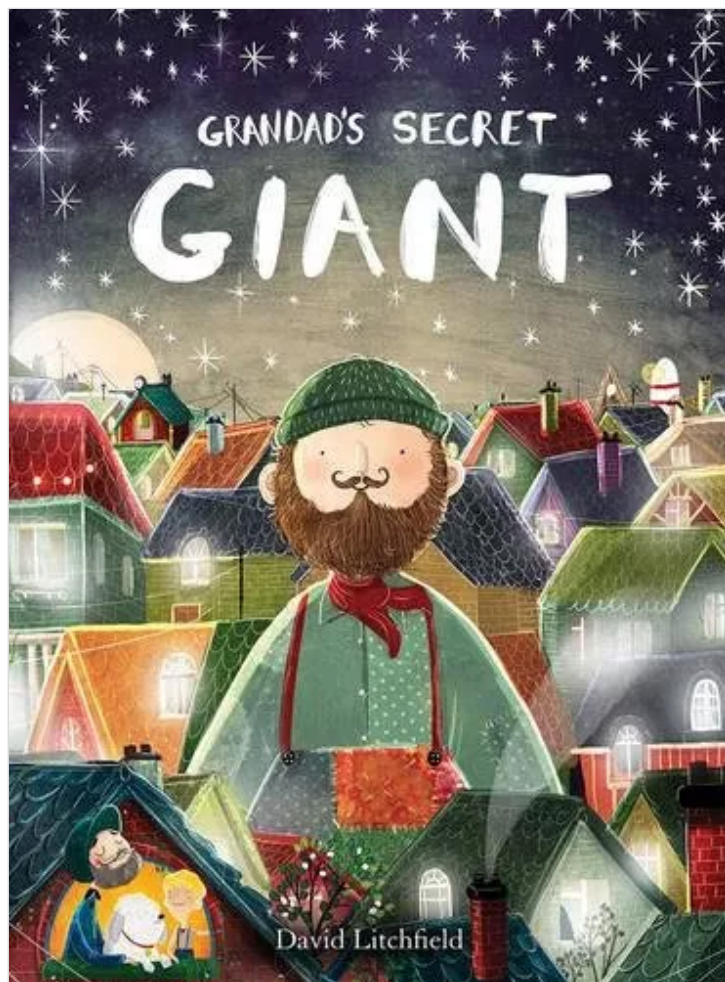


Grandad's Secret Giant by David Litchfield

FS-Y4

Billy doesn't believe his grandfather when he says he's friends with a giant that no one can see. Yet when Billy finally discovers

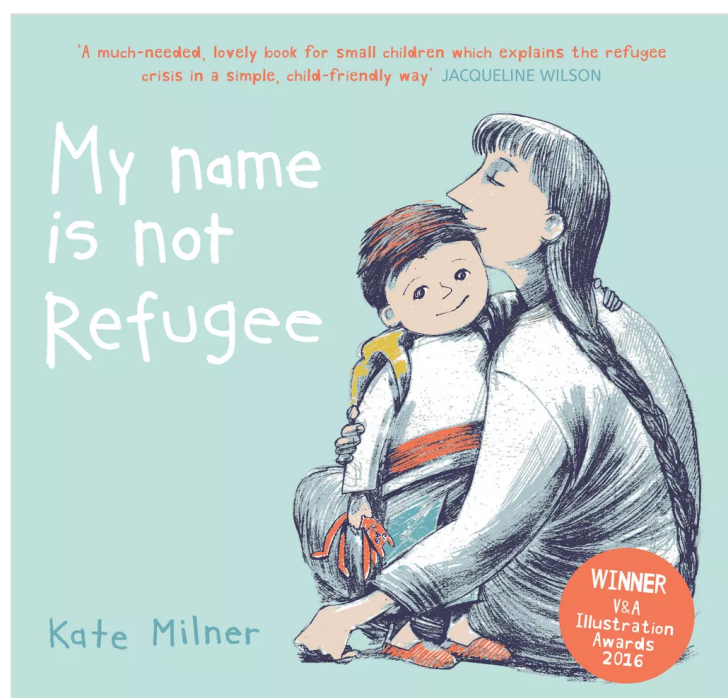
the truth he must question his own prejudices in order to make things right.



My Name is Not Refugee by Kate Milner

KS1-Y6

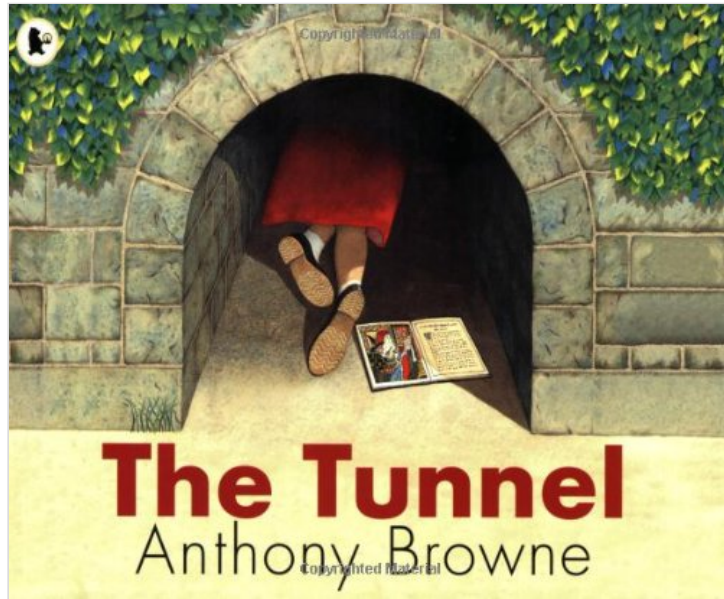
An honest and moving account of what it can mean to be forced from your home. Told from the perspective of a young child, it is to be interpreted at the level of whatever the reader brings to the text.



The Tunnel by Anthony Browne

Y2-Y6

Plenty of intertextual links and references to other fairy tales.
Looks at sibling conflicts. Plenty of images to discuss.

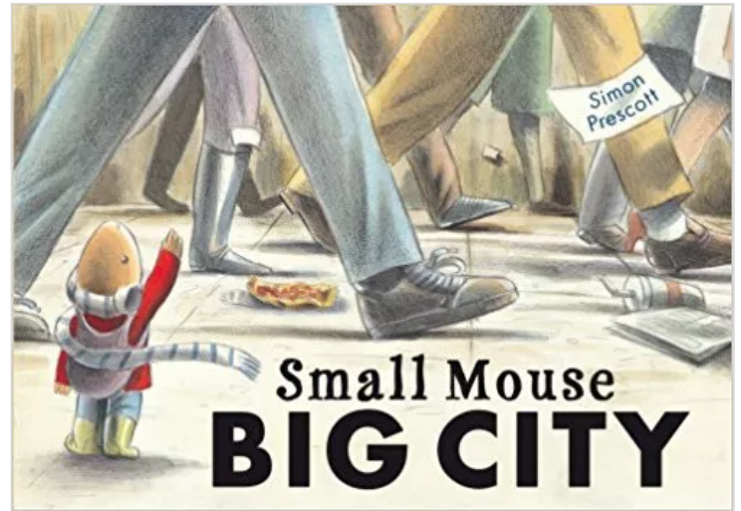


Small Mouse, Big City by Simon Prescott

FS/KS1

A retelling of Aesop's fable, Prescott plays with the reading of the book by asking the reader to turn and tip the pages as we read. A lovely picturebook with warm, gentle colours.

<https://app.box.com/s/zz4kxdol5tgd2jfuv1ka0ed3jb71f09m> (Y1)

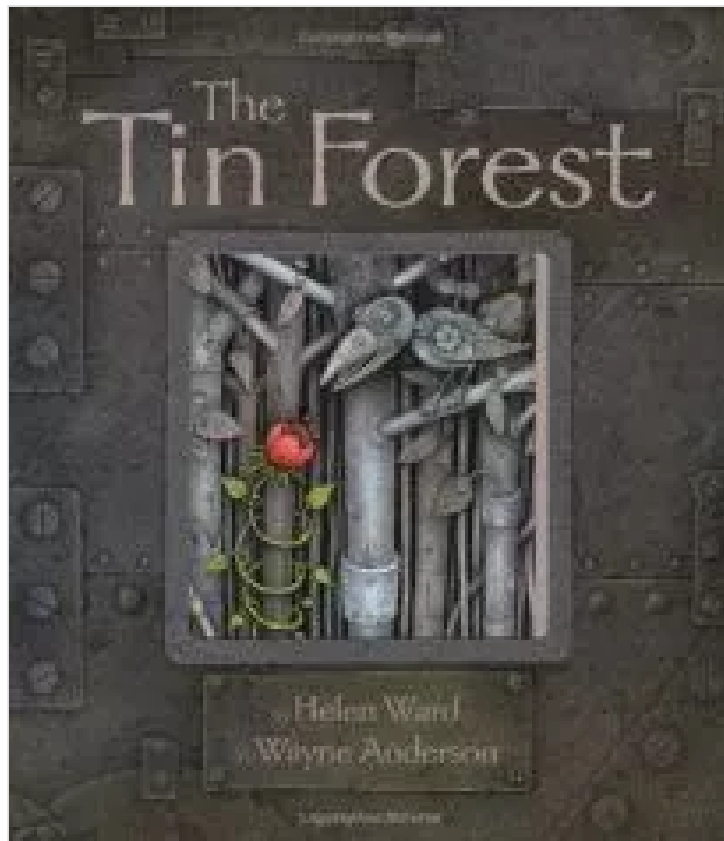


The Tin Forest

KS1/2

When one man defies the culture and society around him to believe in a better world and place, the effects are astonishing. With exquisite illustrations with offer so much discussion and a story which asks the reader to always believe that you can change the world for the better no matter what - this is a fable of our times and of all times.

<https://app.box.com/s/zzfxas4d2z5wuvnqx7sq81817jy789ic> (Y3)

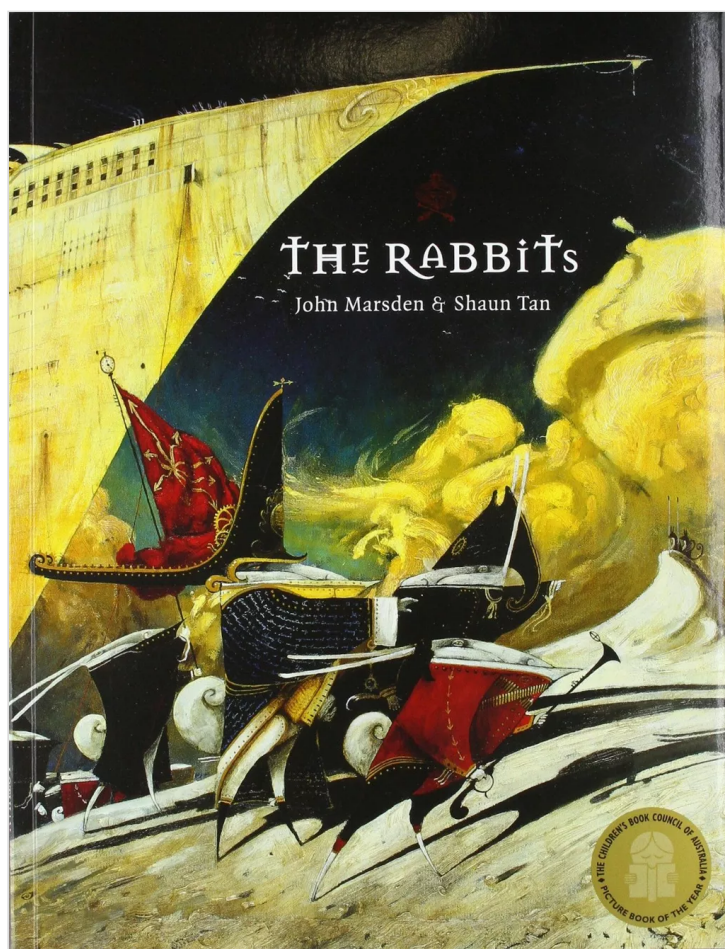


The Rabbits by John Marsden and Illustrated by Shaun Tan

UKS2/KS3

Both Marsden and Tan come together here to write and illustrate a very unsettling allegory of the truth behind colonialism. The parallels between Great Britain and Australia are palpable but it should also be read as a message about all invasions and questions who will be the voice for those who have no power to stop it.

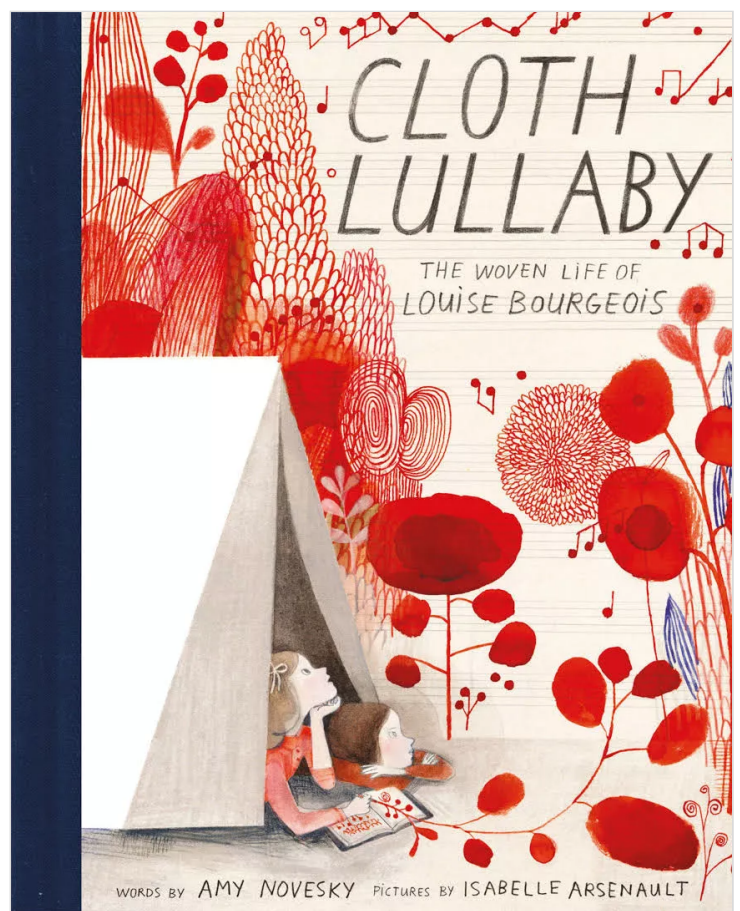
<https://app.box.com/s/0ojzz6ob7wbq9c12r69xartqkt8uvufa> (Y6)



Cloth Lullaby by Amy Novesky & Isabelle Arsenault

KS2

A beautiful, poetic story of the life of Louise Bourgeois, a world-reknowned artists best known for her sculptures. This is a fusion text which borders more on graphic novel than picturebook but the story it tells and Arsenault's illustrations are too good to miss.



On Sudden Hill by Linda Sarah and Illustrated by Benji Davies

FS-LKS2

When two friends have, seemingly, been friends forever and a third person suddenly joins in we find a story that explores jealousy, isolation and confusion. A great book to share with your class and a wonderful focus on the complexities of friendship with Davies wonderfully simplistic yet deeply evocative illustrations

<https://app.box.com/s/sd28ydfp44jk9mkc39x1ptyl25g63p5o>
(Y3)

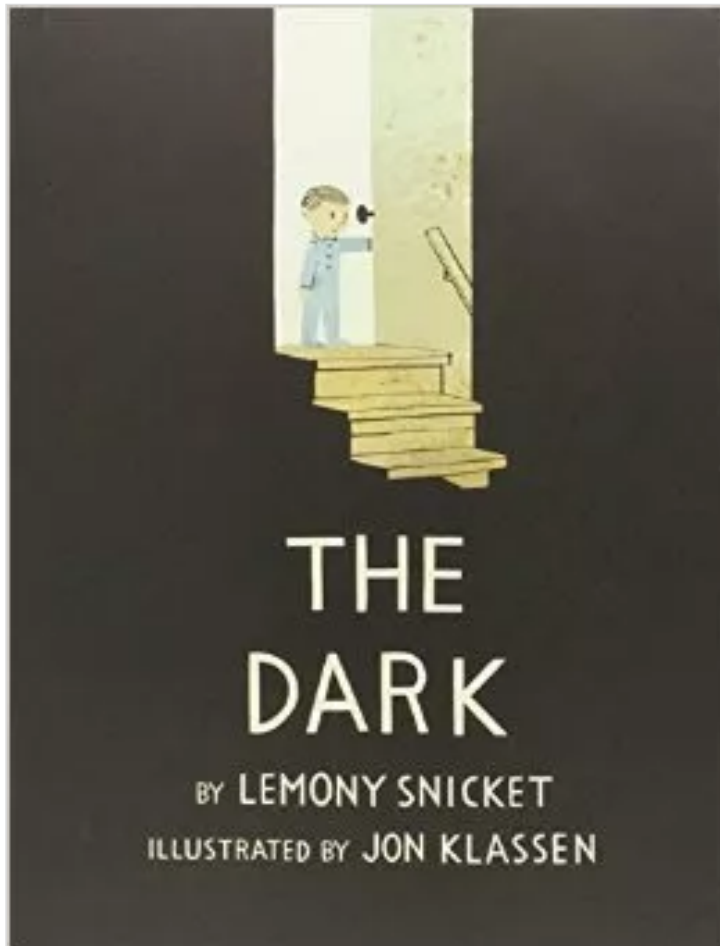


The Dark by Lemony Snicket and Illustrated by Jon Klassen

FS-Y6

A pairing made in heaven! This tells the story of Laszlo as he tries to combat his fear of the dark. In this clever picturebook,

Snicket personifies the dark itself and this adds to the same sense of dark , mischievous humour of which is he is a master.
<https://app.box.com/s/t9teqsd2pnfyoy05neu3cahfjuum5jg4c> (Y4)



The Building Boy by Ross Montgomery and Illustrated by David Litchfield

KS1/KS2

Writing about how children cope with loss will, for now, always be a tricky path to tread in children's stories but both Montgomery and Litchfield handle it beautifully. How do we remember those who have parted this world. We build on their memories and weave them into our own lives.

<https://app.box.com/s/es83fbsptxgb8ml0kjyv2xiy8ewj3446> (Y4)

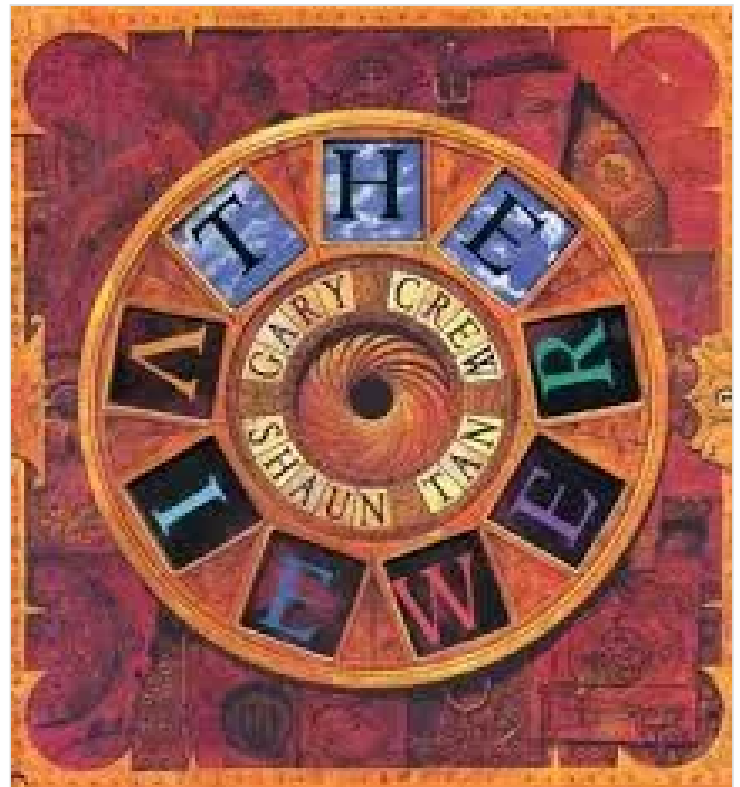


The Viewer by Gary Crew and Illustrated by Shaun Tan

KS2/KS3

With Tan's powerful images and Crew's baleful narrative, The Viewer is a tapestry of haunting images which takes us through man's ascent and descent. When Tristan finds the Viewer, its discs open up a world unknown to him and this knowledge, or lens, is one that will haunt him until the end of his days. So much rich discussion to be had with this text.

<https://app.box.com/s/saplmycrvatl9vt5dxtb84lw8ilnki0> (Y6)

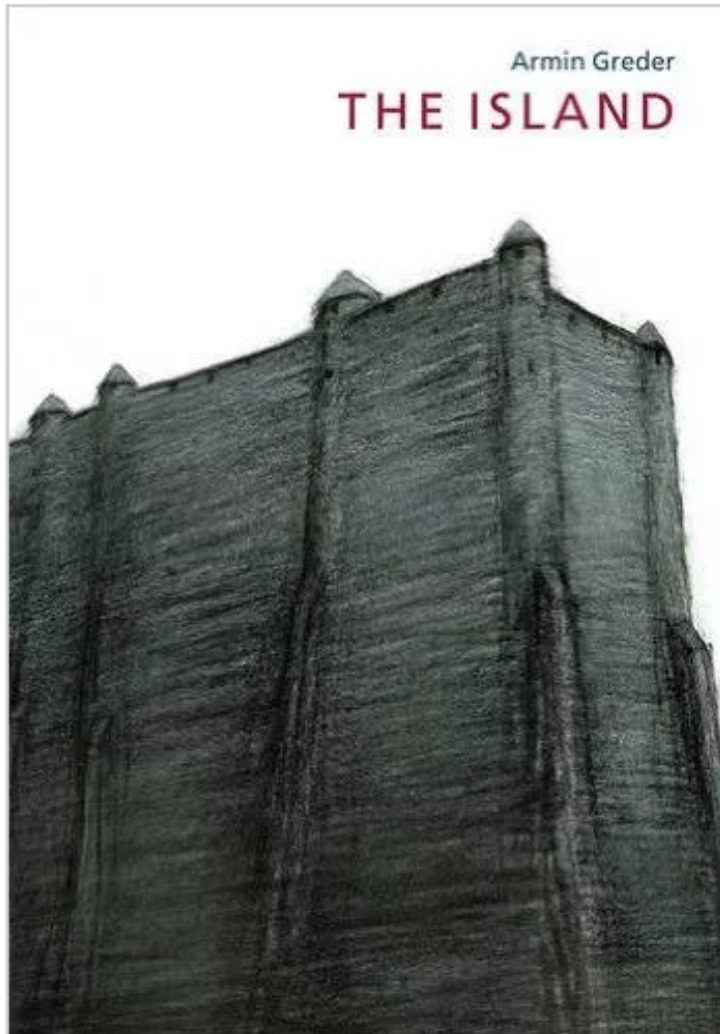


The Island by Armin Greder

UKS2/KS3

An incredibly powerful fable which contextualises the ancient and yet painfully modern story of acceptance of those who may seem different to another society. A study of irrational prejudice, ethnic cleansing and the turbulent nature of the discussion that surrounds the plight of refugees at the moment it should not go unmissed and needs to be shared more than ever.

<https://app.box.com/s/llj6pdk3rjr6q7g5al8rpwzy8d3tgsru> (Y6)

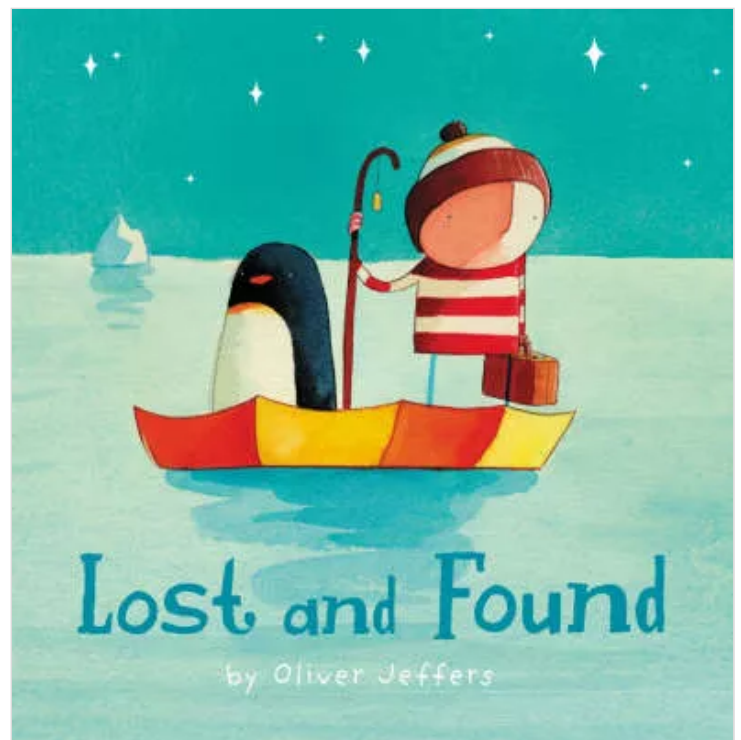


Lost and Found by Oliver Jeffers

FS/KS1

Jeffers' story of voyage and return and a misunderstanding of what a little lost penguin is really looking for is the premise of this story of friendship. Done in Jeffers' unique style, this is a wonderful little story with a most satisfying ending.

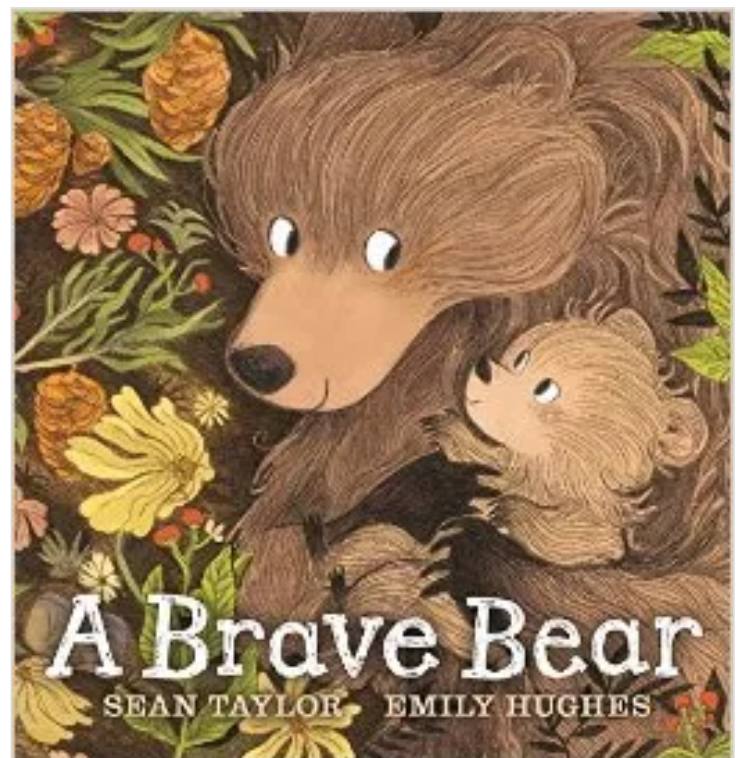
<https://app.box.com/s/tx1zlh7ytx2nr5o3c8cbgxilpeq8qnpj2> (Y1)



A Brave Bear Sean Taylor & Emily Hughes

FS/KS1

With Hughes' gorgeous illustrations, children will not only relate to but enjoy the little adventure that Little Bear and Daddy Bear go on down to the river. So much to look at and see and lovely repetition and rhythm throughout.



Sophie's Masterpiece by Eileen Spinelli and ane Dyer

KS1/KS2

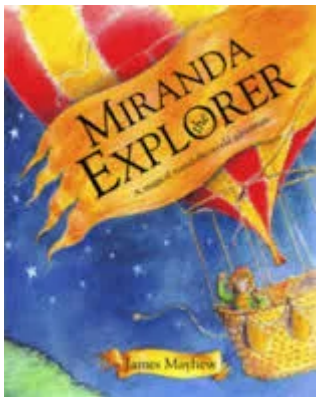
A beautiful story of a spider whose heart is as tender as Charlotte's (Web). Anthropomorphic in her physicality, Sophie fixes the lives of the humans whose lives she shares until old age catches up with her and she lives them one last masterpiece.



Miranda the Explorer by James Mayhew

KS1/2

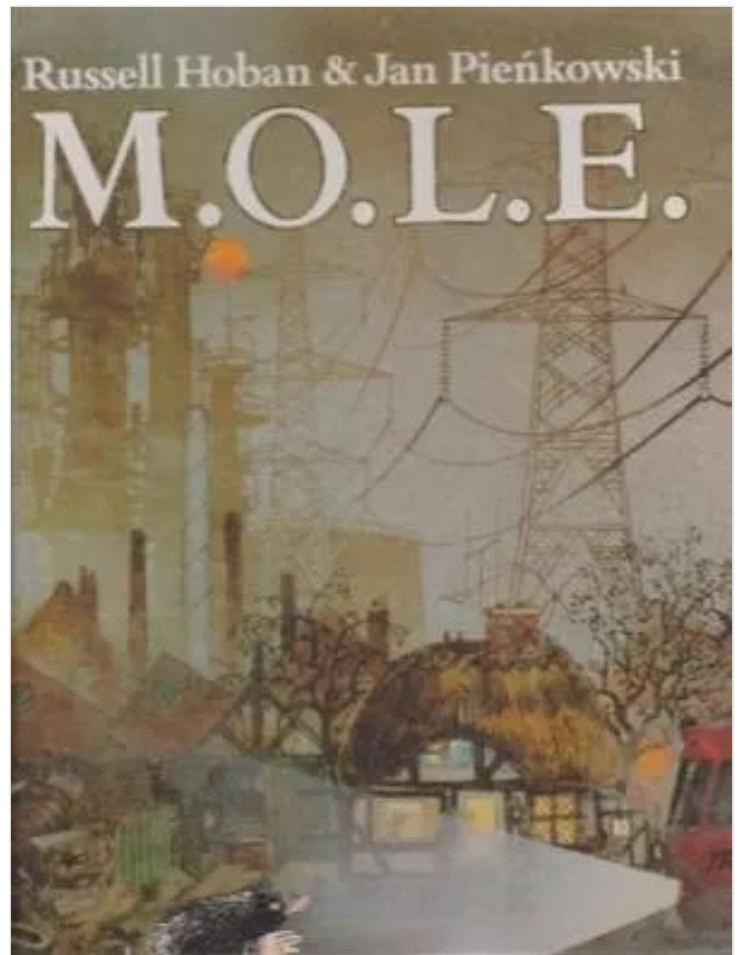
After winning a competition, Miranda is gifted with a hot air balloon. When she gets it, it whisks her off around the world where she sees some key landmarks from different countries.



M.O.L.E. Russell Hoban and Jan Pienkowski

KS1/2

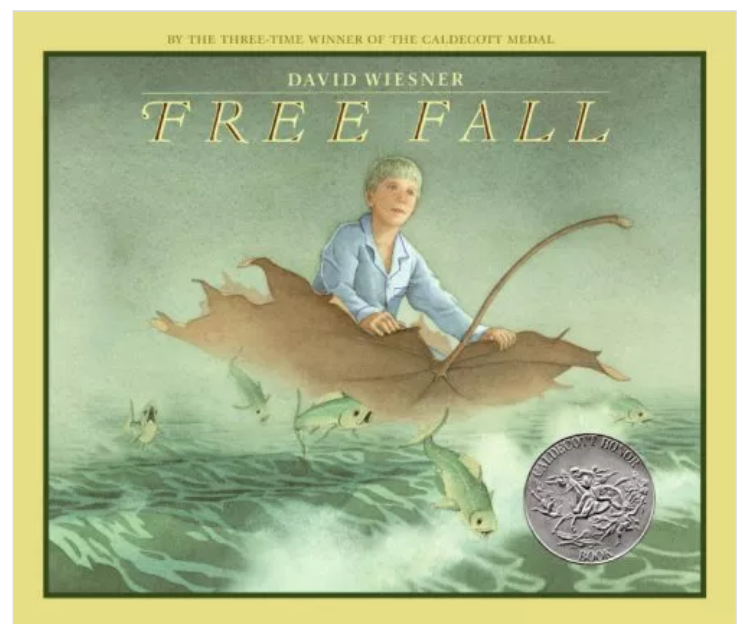
Based on a sequence of pictures by Pienkowski which inspired Hoban to create mole, this is an often comic, tragic and certainly poignant commentary on humanities unbending drive to drain the world of its riches for their own gain.



Freefall by David Wiesner

KS1/2

There is much to discuss in this wordless text since there is a real sense of ambiguity, then there is a limitlessness to interpretation too. I like the idea of children attempting the same approach and designing their own dream book.



The Wind Blew by Pat Hutchins

FS

A wonderful, cumulative tale. Each page is a double-page spread with the characters beginning on the verso (left) and gradually,

as the tension builds towards the recto (right). I love how there is a constant hint at what is to come in each double-page spread. There is a lovely rhyming couplet sequence throughout and the sentences which read far more like a poem than some of her other work.



The Bear and the Piano

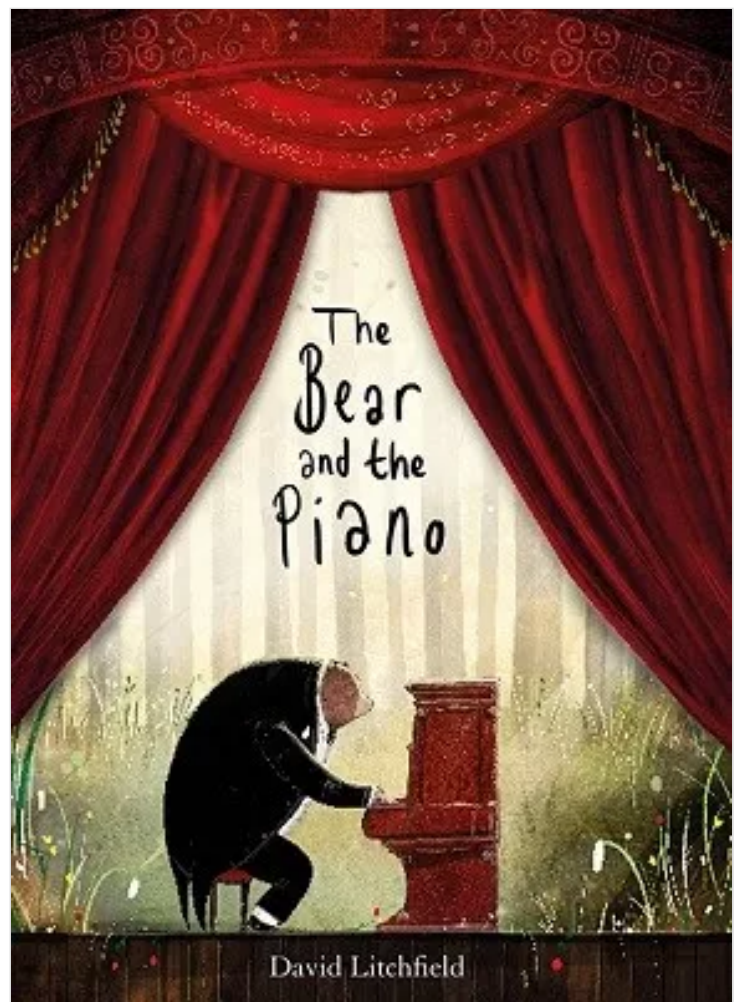
KS1/KS2

Discovering a piano deep within the forest of his home, Bear finds himself drawn to the music and, in finding a love of playing, hears the call from far away to pursue his dreams. In doing so he must leave the comfort and love of home. A wonderful story around transitional spaces and following your aspirations.

<https://app.box.com/s/nwcf6327mdvaf5804ml2g8kaixxxknx7>

<https://app.box.com/s/afaw1clyj2n3or7lr40hea3rpy6z9t9>

<https://app.box.com/s/4avw4kz76ffumnarpab6xlzgjeie4vdi>



Varmints by Helen Ward and Marc Traste

KS2

A powerful picture book for KS2. A tale of three parts. The first one of pastoral peace with the varmints happily at one with their world. The second seems a haunting transformation in which a new breed of varmints arrives bringing with them cities of a stifling of the imagination. The final part brings hope and a chance that the previous life may still be obtainable: it is a warning for our time and chimes with many themes which are important in the world today in which man's self-destructive force is something that we need to control and contain before it consumes us all.

<https://app.box.com/s/s6ch851c9leljh0ds7y2cno3iidqik85>

<https://app.box.com/s/re3kd351v5nsa4p1jlqv6u6f3xqjr998>

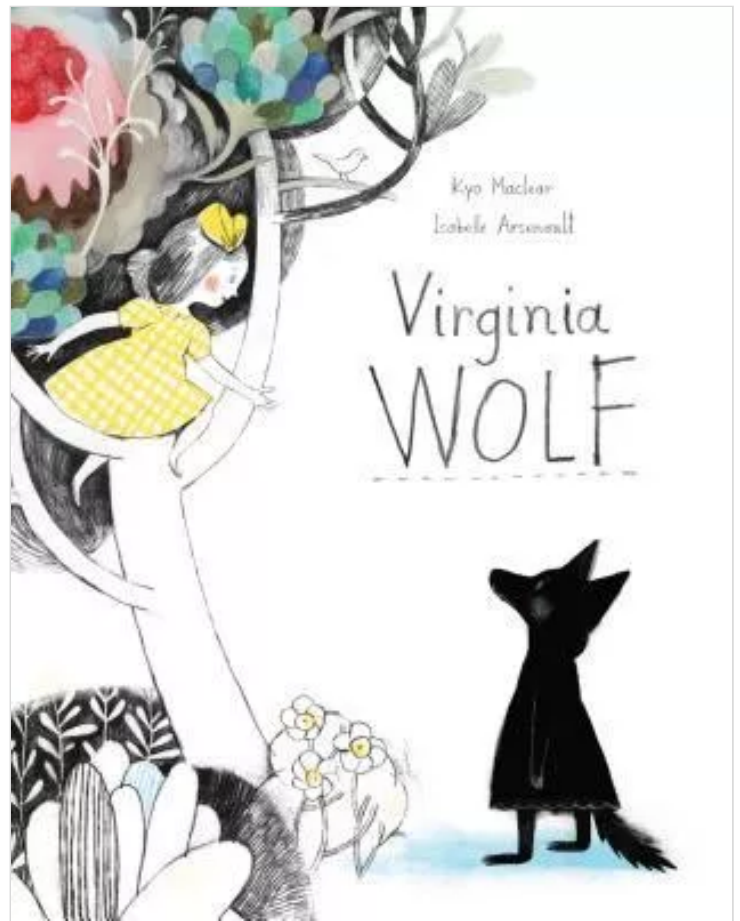


Virginia Wolf by Kyo Maclear & Isabelle Arsenault

KS1/2

A beautiful picturebook which extremely strong links to the life of the author herself yet can be read, intentionally, as a story within itself. Virginia has dark and depressing thoughts which keep her trapped within her bed but her younger sister does all that she can to lift the mood and bring some colour into her life even when her sister unleashes her dark mood upon her. This is a touching book about the heavy darkness that can weigh us all down and how those who love us endure and support as much as they can.

<https://app.box.com/s/5z262i4qrqmxpby3k5odt26ivfhj47gn>
(Y5/6)

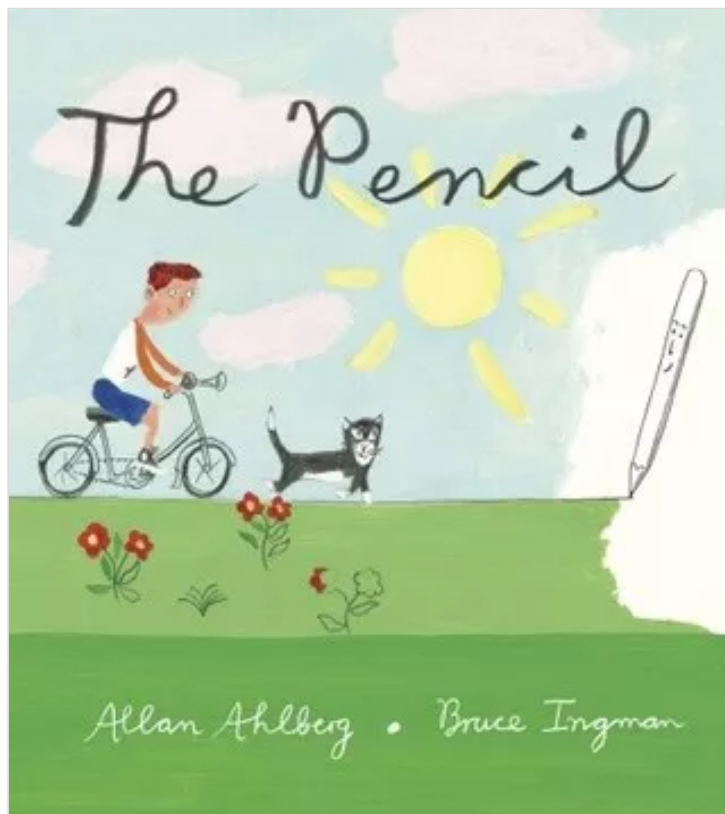


The Pencil by Allan Ahlberg and Bruce Ingman

KS1

This is a story of a lonely pencil who decides to create its own world, filled with a boy, a dog, a cat, a paintbrush and much more. Yet trouble looms when the pencil creates an eraser who starts to take control. A humorous and clever book in which there are, in true Ahlberg style, plenty of silly moments. Ingman's illustrations work so well on the black-and-white spreads as do those with those wild with colour.

<https://app.box.com/s/y4dpn7hxfarrg07870k2jxyfqhwhnb3>
(Y2)

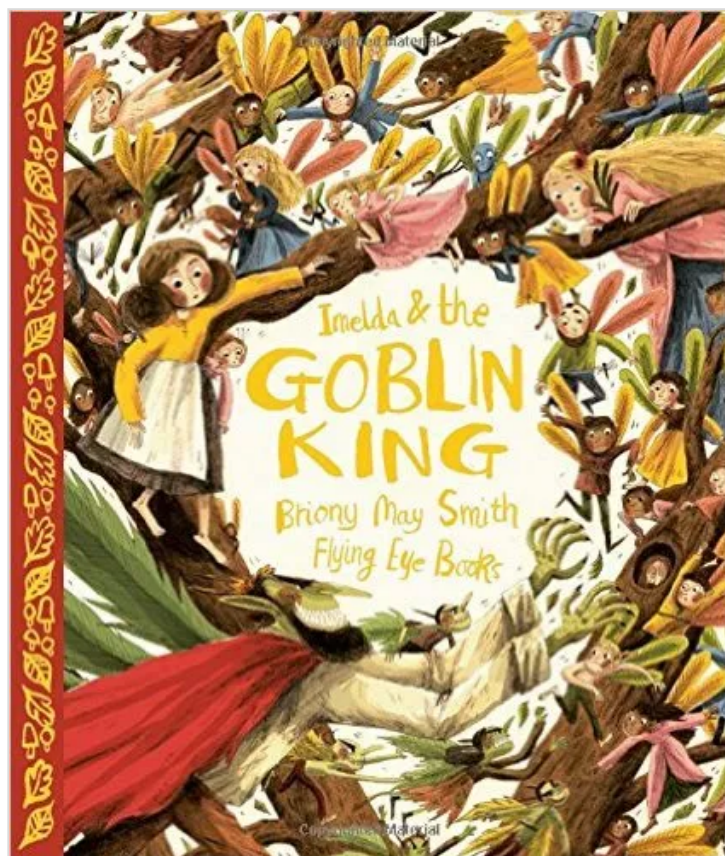


Imelda and the Goblin King by Bryony May Smith

KS1

This is Smith's first picturebook and she is a welcome addition to the scene. Her illustrations are wickedly delightful and her plucky heroine someone who is strong and witty enough to challenge the traditional male bully within the fairy world. A lovely, humorous story which will help children laugh against those who bully.

<https://app.box.com/s/hdfqnnqkmn4ulr7xz033gj6i7vubr45m>



The Journey by Francesca Sanna

KS1/2

What is it like to leave everything behind and travel many miles to somewhere unfamiliar and strange? After losing her husband to war, a mother and her two children set out to escape a land of darkness in the hope of finding a safer place to call home. This is an excellent tale of refugees trying to escape a land they once called home and could help children empathise with those who need our help.

My own review [here](#).

<https://app.box.com/s/3dq09xqx5d03pocltzsrnsxin6goy8fq>

<https://app.box.com/s/tvrlfvjobxgoolbub5w544pblop3h3ii>



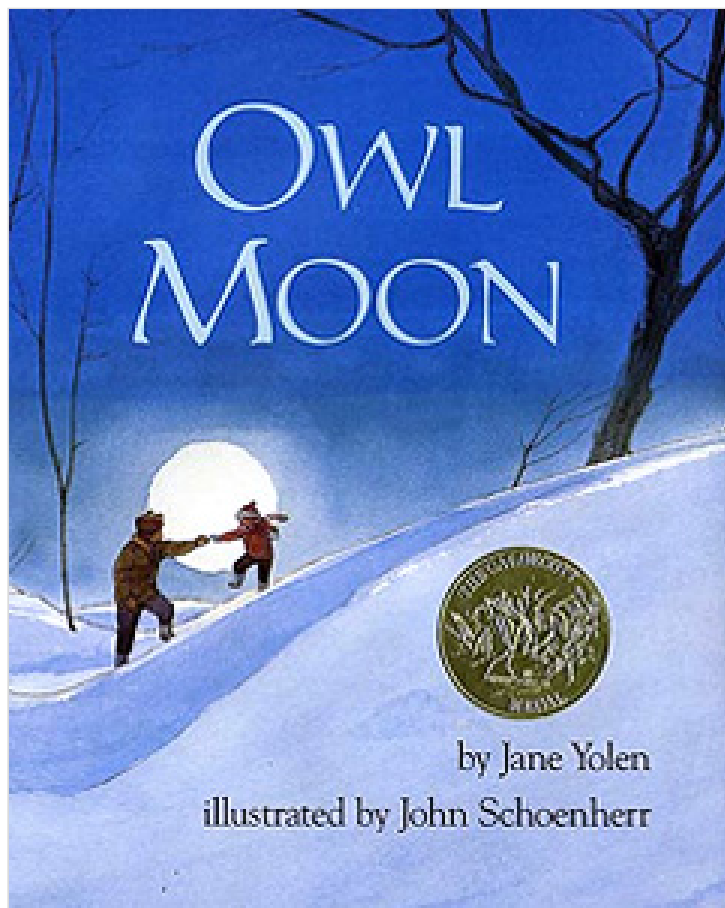
Owl Moon by Jane Yolen & Illustrated by John Schoenherr

FS-KS2

A girl and her father go searching for owls at night. As they walk through the silence, we see all manner of creatures. In comfortable silence, they both wonder and hope to meet one and then...

This is a beautiful poem supported by illustrations that speak of the silence of the night and the grace of the natural world. A perfect read aloud.

<https://app.box.com/s/8nmok94f55yi9cavs5b11ylbyu4p0u81>



Meerkat Mail by Emily Gravett

KS1/LKS2

An interactive book which follows the journey of young meerkat, Sunny, who is fed up with the dull, normative lifestyle of living in the pack, decides to set off on a journey to find more of his distant cousins and see if the grass is greener on the other side. The blend of narrative and fact make it a humorous read in which children will also feel that they are learning something about different animals in different habitats. All told through Gravett's enviable illustrative style.

<https://app.box.com/s/k04bkihwlkv7u39cpnf8dpwik5r4k7fo>

<https://app.box.com/s/k04bkihwlkv7u39cpnf8dpwik5r4k7fo>



The Red Tree by Shaun Tan

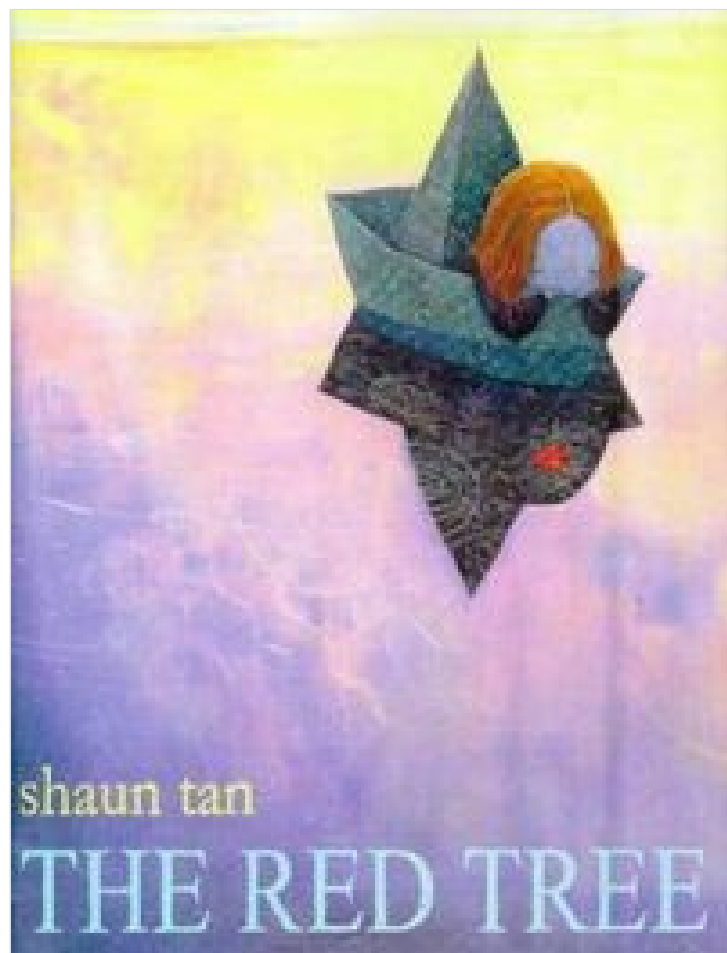
KS2

A book which explores dark feelings within a landscape full of wonder and imagination, Tan's beautiful work is not empty of hope yet is unafraid to explore complex and challenging issues which can touch all of us at some point in our lives. A story of hope and renewal when adversity seems overwhelming.

<https://app.box.com/s/fzmtfn51czh9rbv352x6clraxrvz36d4>

<https://app.box.com/s/r4g6yztucs36w80k20234wam5r9sx6n1>

<https://app.box.com/s/npg9ka5pmugdxb9rkktijnku44aiut0>



Wild by Emily Hughes

KS1/2

Visually stunning but an exciting and undeniably gifted illustrator AND storyteller. A young girl found living in the wild. Surely she must be saved by humanity and taught to live within her own culture and society? A wonderful book which reflects on celebrating children's wildness and inherent link with the natural landscape.

<https://app.box.com/s/8su8sei57gxzbjs7bobufzhdkbmmjo9i>

<https://app.box.com/s/dd2n1r2etlyy7e47xzyfj0egy79vm8bh>

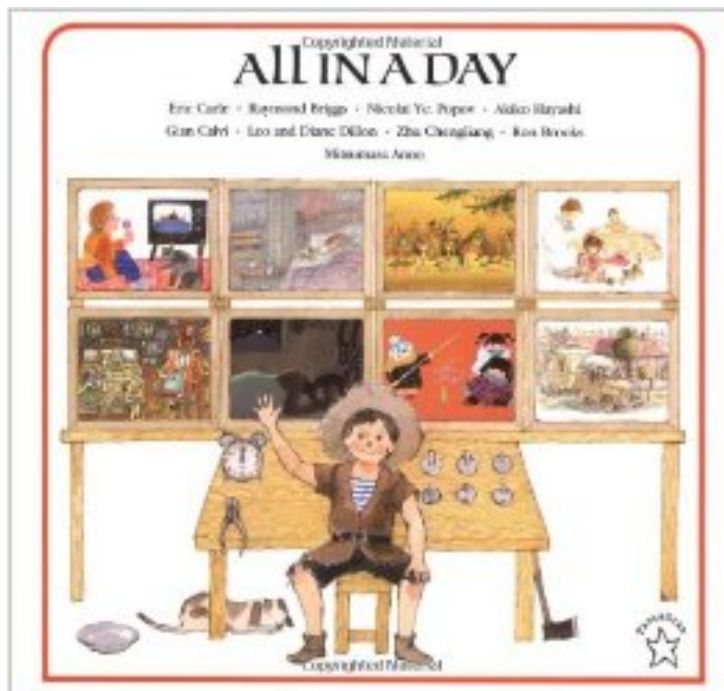
<https://app.box.com/s/8su8sei57gxzbjs7bobufzhdkbmmjo9i>



All in a Day by Mitsumasa Anno

KS2/KS1/FS

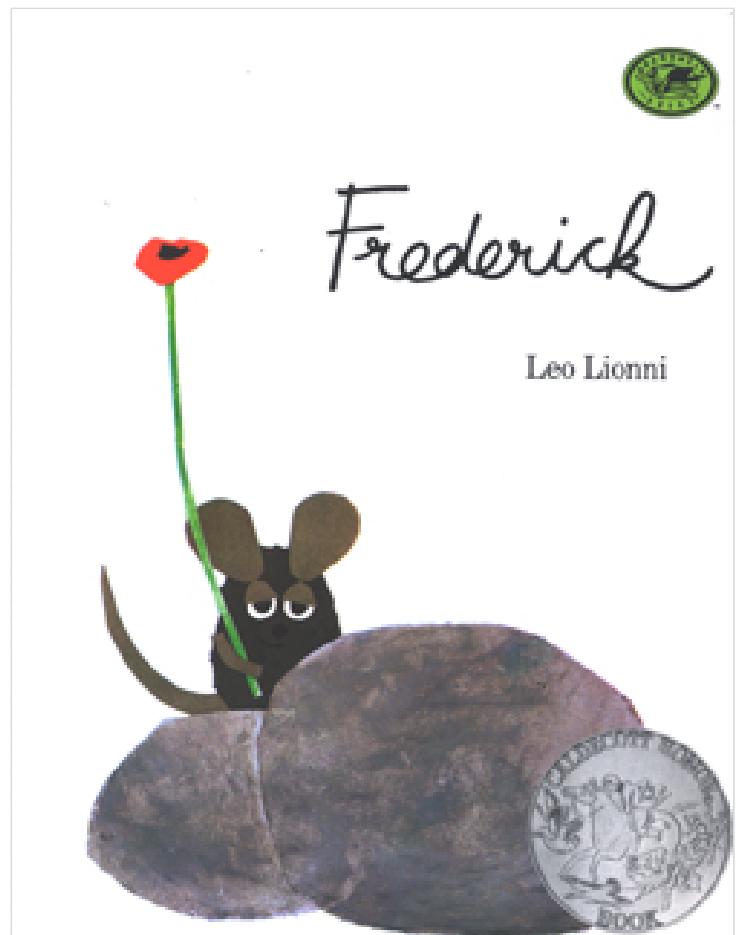
This is collaborative picturebook in which eight different illustrators from eight different countries tell a story about the last day of the year and how they each celebrate it. It celebrates the differences in language, culture, time and season and is far ahead of its time in terms of diversity.



Frederick by Leo Lionni

KS1/FS

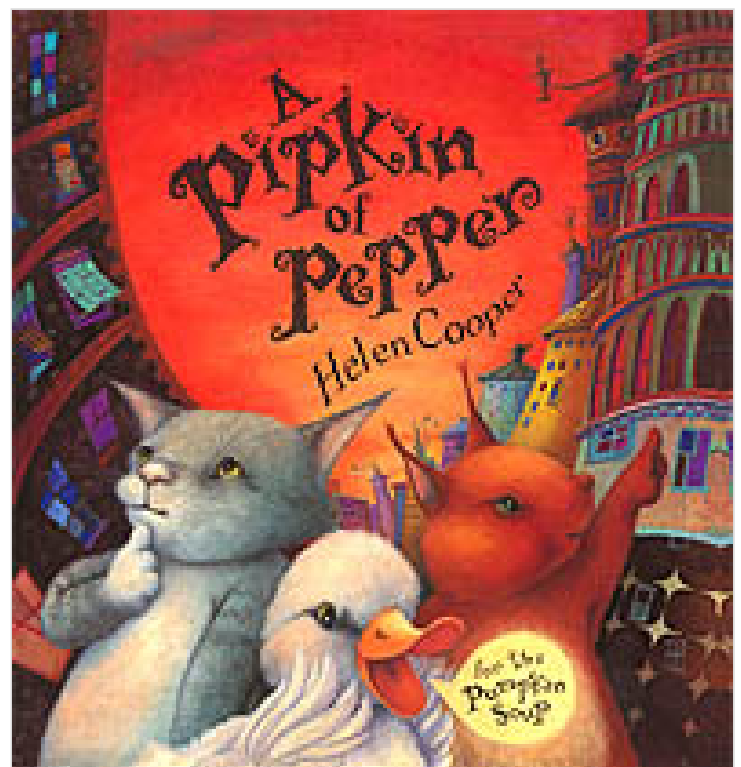
A beautiful little book which I thought was going to be moralistic but instead turned out to be a celebration of language and creativity and love. I adored the love mouse and can see so much potential in a creative teaching approach when exploring him and his fellow field mice.



A Pipkin of Pepper by Helen Cooper

EYFS & KS1

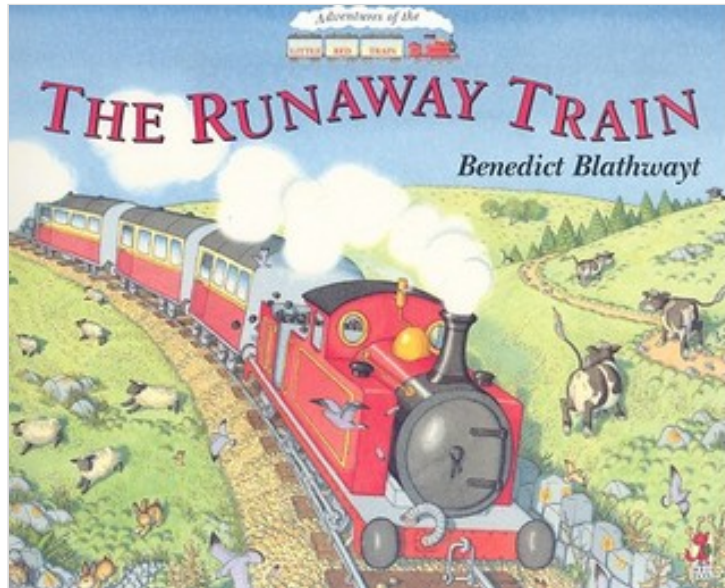
This sequel to Pumpkin Soup, on the surface, is a simple one of going to the city to fetch some salt, it deals with early childhood fears such as getting lost and feeling out of place as well as the imposing nature of big places and feeling small. The city and its denizens are fascinating. Cooper uses perspective so well to give that sense of being lost and this is contrasted beautifully at the end when Duck travels back home in a helicopter, seeing the world from above.



The Runaway Train by Benedict Blathwayt

EFYS & Y1

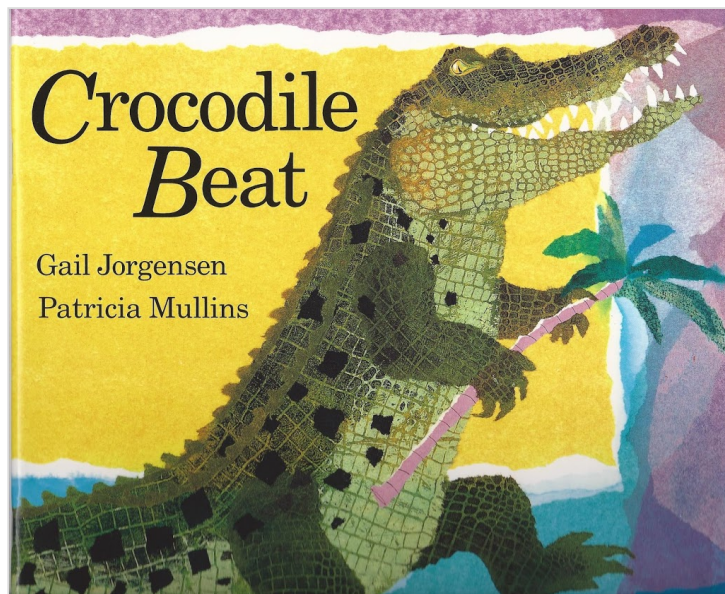
I really like everything about this picturebook. The repeating statements, the onomatopoeia, the rich and broad landscapes and the sense that each drawn person in the story is someone real. This is a lovely book rich in cross-curricular opportunities.



Crocodile Beat by Gail Jorgensen & Patricia Mullins

EYFS & Y1

A lovely, rhythmic beat of a tale that reads more like a song at times than a story - hence the name! Lovely Eric Carle-like illustrations on rich double-page spreads. Children will enjoy mimicking the actions of the different animals and using drama and dance to enjoy the sounds and actions.



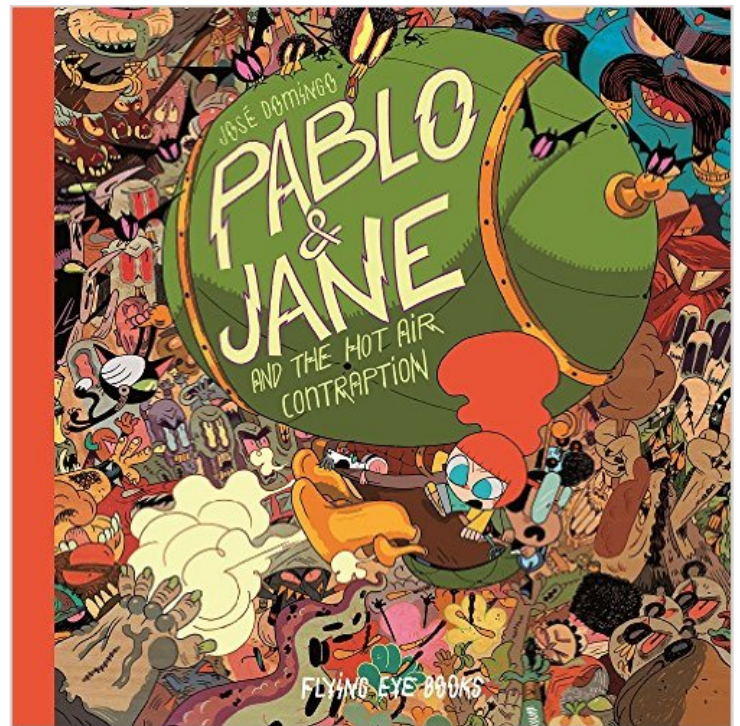
Pablo & Jane and the Hot Air Contraption by Jose Domingo

KS1 & KS2

An absolute visual overload and a sure-fire winner with your reluctant readers. Join Pablo and Jane as they travel to an alternate reality where monsters rule the world. This book celebrates cultural heritages from around the world in terms of the myths and legends. Children can lose themselves in the images and I see great potential in adding music and stories to the glorious double-page spreads.

I review it here:

<http://mattobin.blogspot.co.uk/2015/08/pablo-jane-and-hot-air-contraption.html>



The Giant of Jum by Elli Woollard & Illustrated by Benji Davies

KS1/Y3

A wonderful narrative poem with a repeating rhyme and rhythm which tells the story of a disgruntled giant who feels his diet and life might be improved by eating this 'Jack' boy that gave his brother some trouble. With a nod at Oscar Wilde's 'Selfish Giant' this story celebrates the importance of looking beyond the surface of someone to help them find their inner good. Davies illustrations add so much to the world that Woollard has created so well.

<https://app.box.com/s/3anqpndjxvd7j89slj4ocpyy83u6r8mk>

<https://app.box.com/s/cupfpbmqxncdcdlcnqcdcelqmm5qsta>

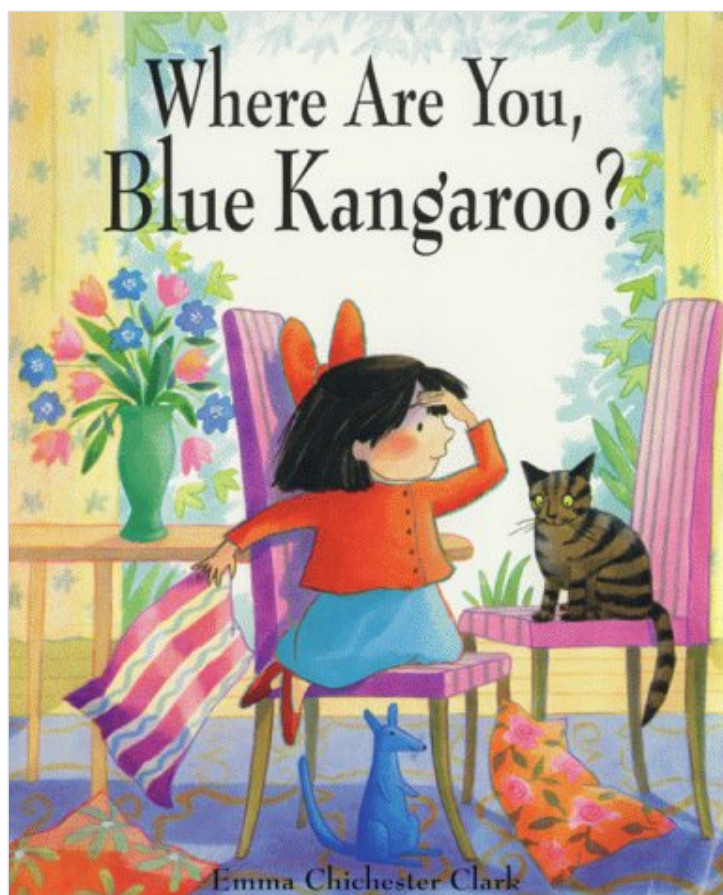
<https://app.box.com/s/zqrc1ax0feaga0eds1bcq6u2q9xtzrz2>



Where are you Blue Kangaroo? by Emma Chichester Clark

FS Y1

This is a delightful story of a little girl called Lily and her Blue Kangaroo cuddly. Lily is always leaving Blue Kangaroo around and learns, through a little fear, the importance of starting to take some responsibility in looking after the things we love and care for. Lovely repetition and especially touching that we hear Blue Kangaroo's own thoughts and feelings too.

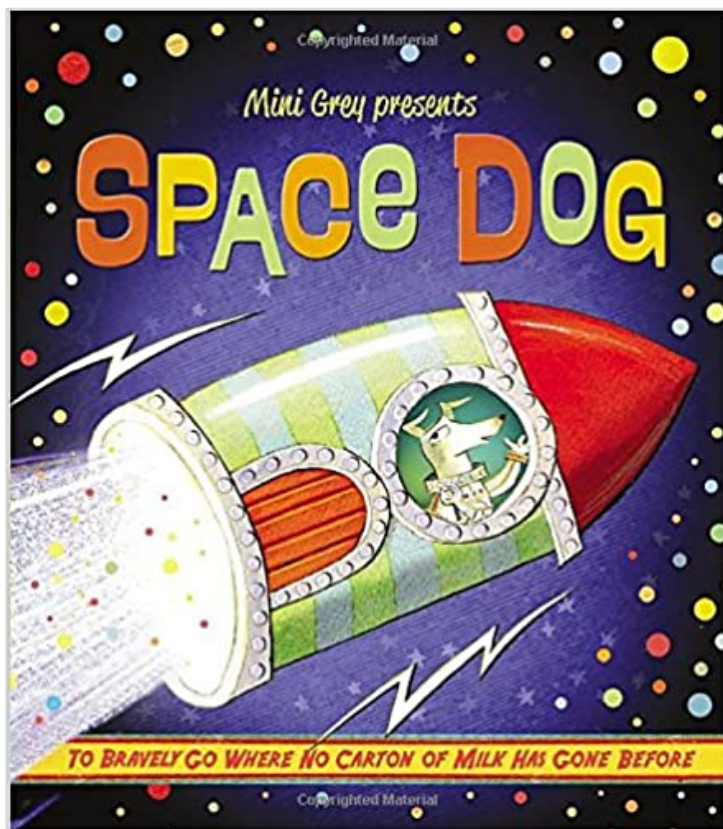


Space Dog by Mini Grey

KS1 - Y5

Mini brings her delightful humour to the world of space with his story of old enemies, cats and dogs and their need to forget their differences for the sake of the Universe. Readers will revel in all the intertextual and world-to-text jokes as well as the warming message that the story carries. Mini's webpage has some lovely creative ideas around the book too. Mini does a guide on how to draw Space Dog here:

<http://www.theguardian.com/childrens-books-site/gallery/2015/feb/28/how-to-draw-space-dog-mini-grey>



The Marvellous Fluffy Squishy Itty Bitty

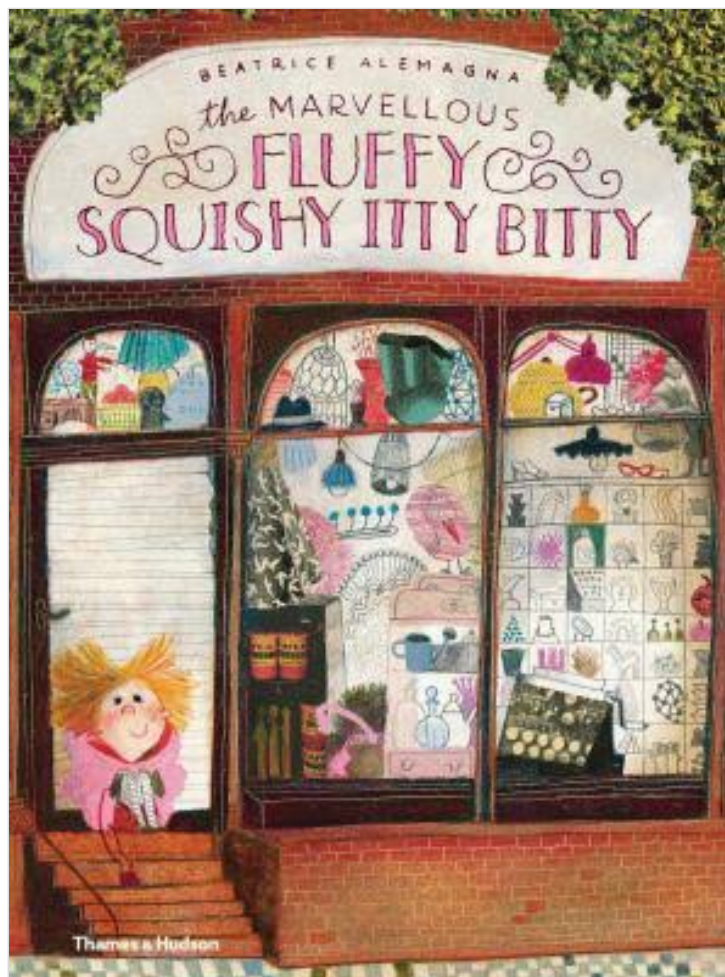
FS/KS1 Y3

Eddie is on a quest to find an appropriate present for her mum's birthday. She has an idea of exactly what she wants to get her but has no idea what it looks like.

This is a beautiful picturebook in which we are given a glorious tour of the streets of France in which we encounter all sorts of characters and learn that it can take a real independent journey to find out who we really are and what we are good at.

Wonderful review by [Zoe Toft](#) and [Picturebook Makers](#).

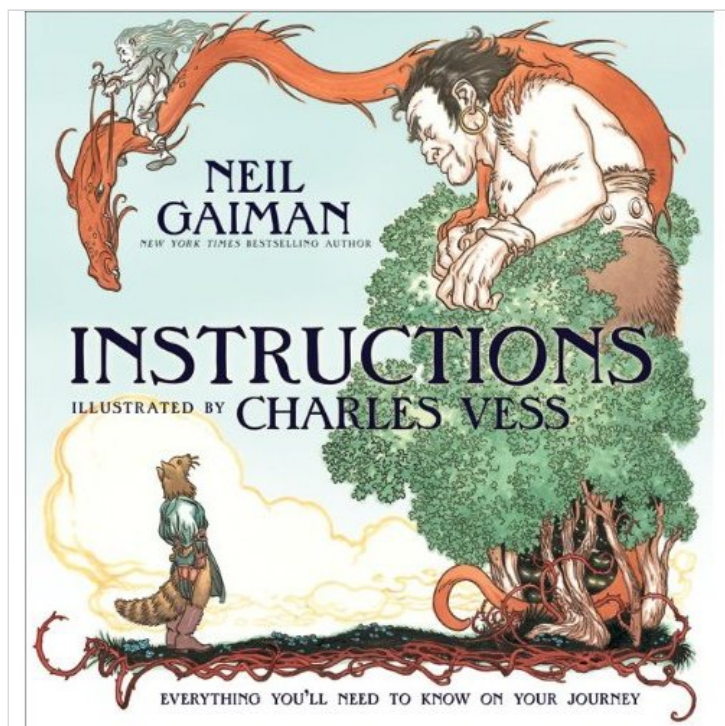
<https://app.box.com/s/y4w9kq2w3vjfhajk89e28n7mmfseyp2i>



Instructions by Neil Gaiman and Illustrated by Charles Vess

Y4+

A clever story of a sequence of instructions that guide the reader through the trials and tribulations that come with traditional tales. A great excuse to explore a range of real stories and the image off an endless range of possibilities with regard to creative writing. Limited words but huge potential to a creative curriculum.



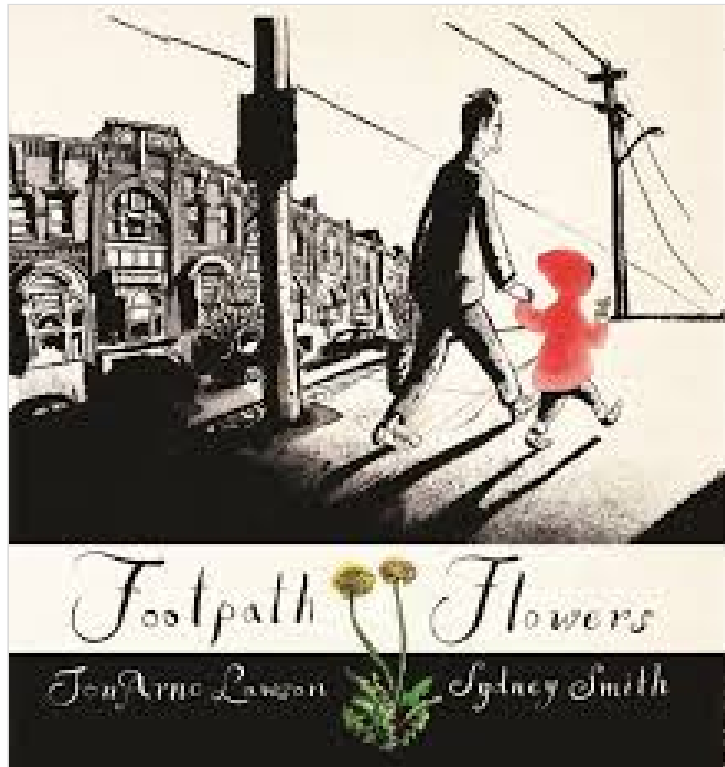
Footpath Flowers by Jon Arno Lawson & Sydney Smith

KS1 & KS2

With the aim of perhaps starting it at Year 2 or above, this is a beautiful, wordless picturebook set in the States which looks at the disconnect that we have with the natural world. The use of perspective and clever play with colour means that the pictures tell much more than perhaps words could.

<https://app.box.com/s/mecl8i0lm41n801a65vz6yniyj00jizg>

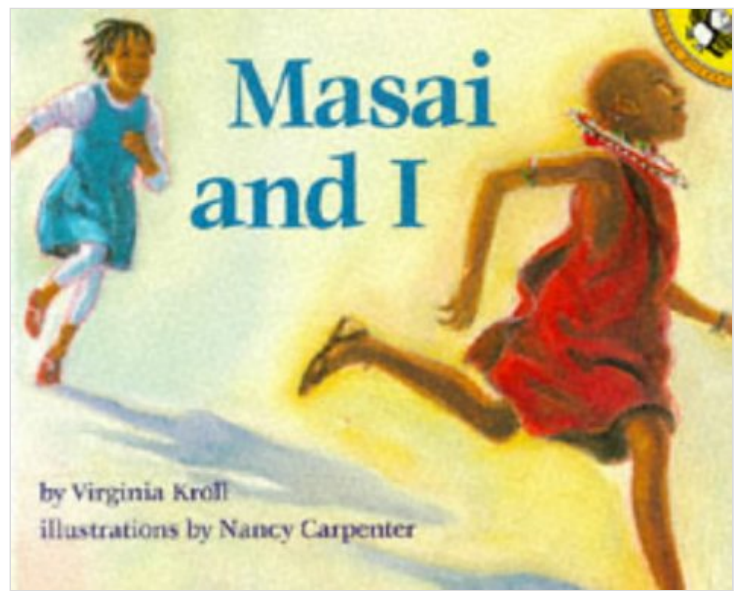
<https://app.box.com/s/1sxwr4rjor15lskklmk2pq55zayfdzu>



Masai and I by Virginia Kroll & Illustrated by Nancy Carpenter

KS1 & LKS2

Linda has been learning about the Masai people at school and feels a strong affinity for them. As she goes through her day we get a glimpse of how her life in the city is different to the one she could have lived as a Masai. Yet both are bound together so beautifully by the words and, especially, Carpenter's images. A wonder book that celebrates diversity.

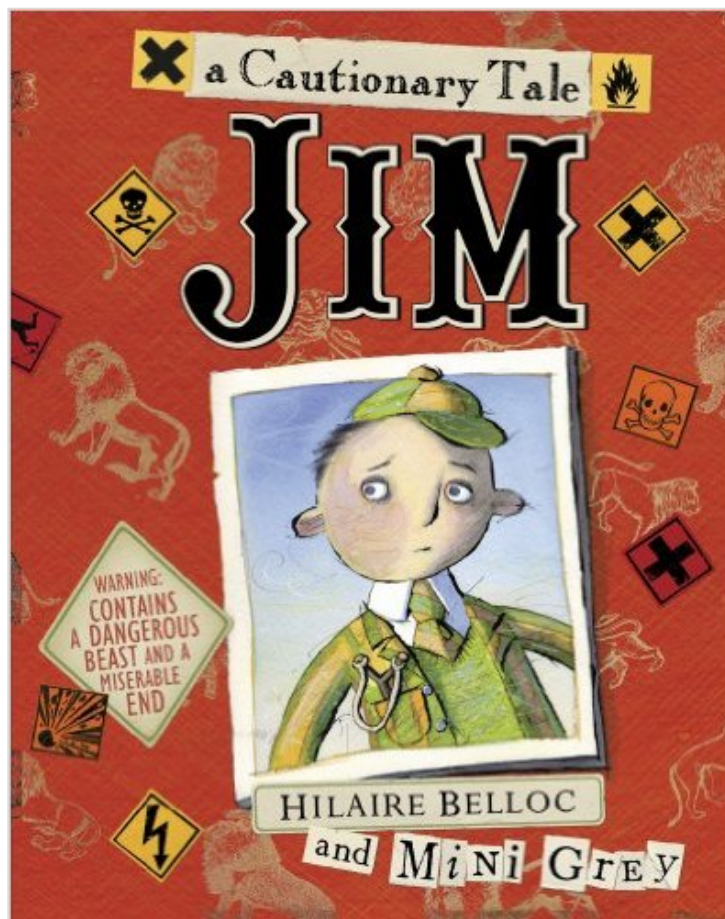


Jim: A Cautionary Tale by Hilaire Belloc & Mini Grey

Y3 & Y4

Grey illustrates Belloc's famous cautionary poem here and although it could be argued that the text could be read quickly in one day, it is the depth and richness of Grey's approach to the poem that makes the reading. Chn will want to return repeatedly in order to see what signs there are that let us know how neglected and alone Jim feels. Endless signs at the zoo, downcast looks from the protagonist all help build up a real sense of pity for the character. Although the discussion of neglect could lead to some interesting booktalk, there is much more here that you could do with the text. Children could enjoy creating their own lift-the-flap/pop-up version of another Belloc poem and learn much from how Grey plays with the size and formatting of the text.

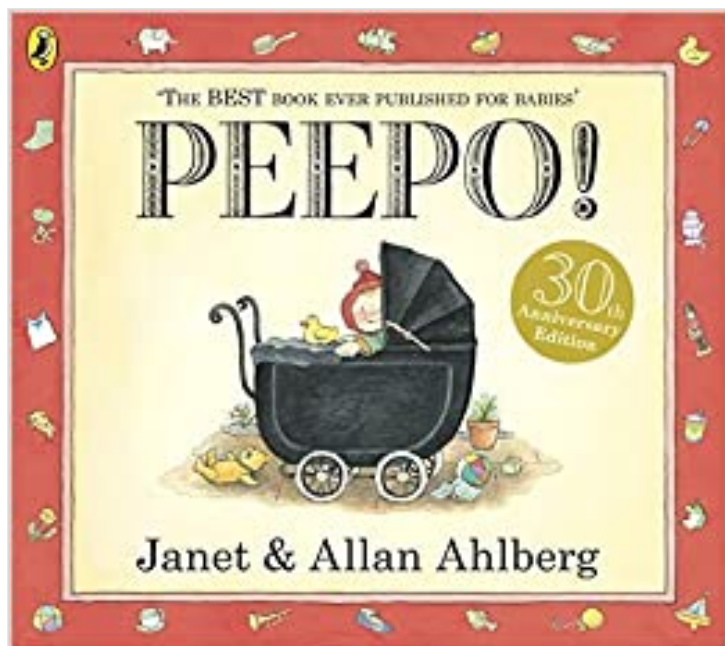
[@Bonzetta1](#)



Peepo by Janet & Allan Ahlberg

Y1 & FS

This seminal picturebook should need no introduction. Follow a day of a little baby through the 1940s from the moment he wakes up to the moment he goes to bed. The beautiful rhythm and rhyme coupled with Janet's flawless, busily inviting illustrations mean that there is much to talk about and so much to see. This is a picturebook about a time and a people. I see so much potential in Y1 here.

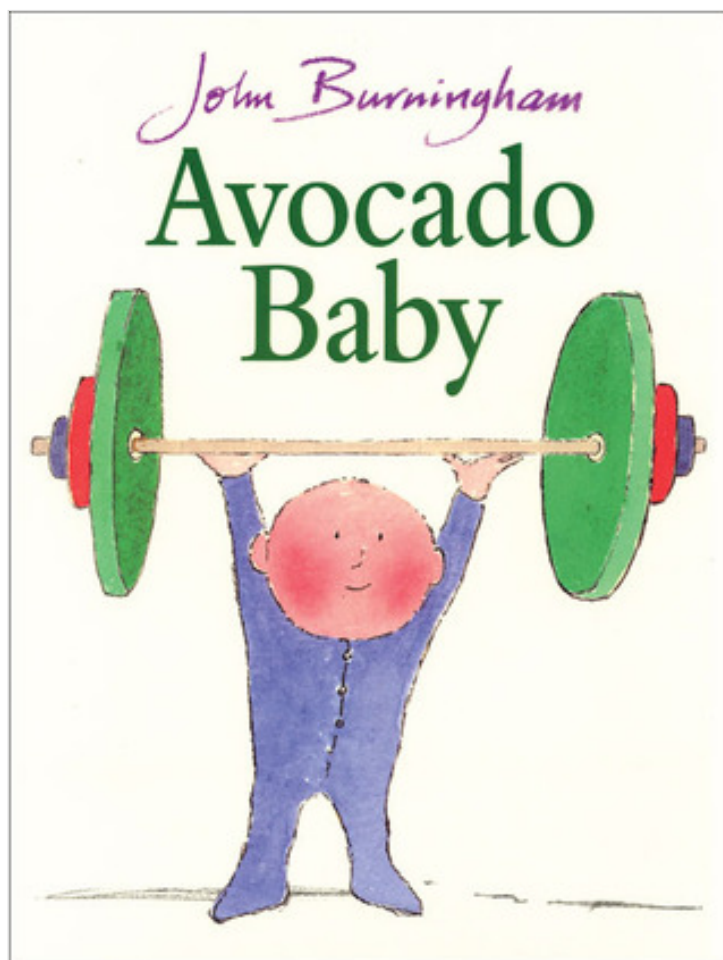


Avocado Baby by John Burningham

Y1 & FS

The Hargraves family are generally considered to be a rather weak and feeble lot. When they have a new baby, they think the worst but it isn't long before they discover that their baby has a love of avocados which seem to bless it with unrivaled strength. Another book that both adults and children will get something from, Burningham's book. It celebrates healthy eating and the idea of trying something new but with Burningham's simple and clear illustrations, it also offers a peak into family life when a new member joins the flock. It is full of humour throughout - my favourite being the baby chasing off the burglar!

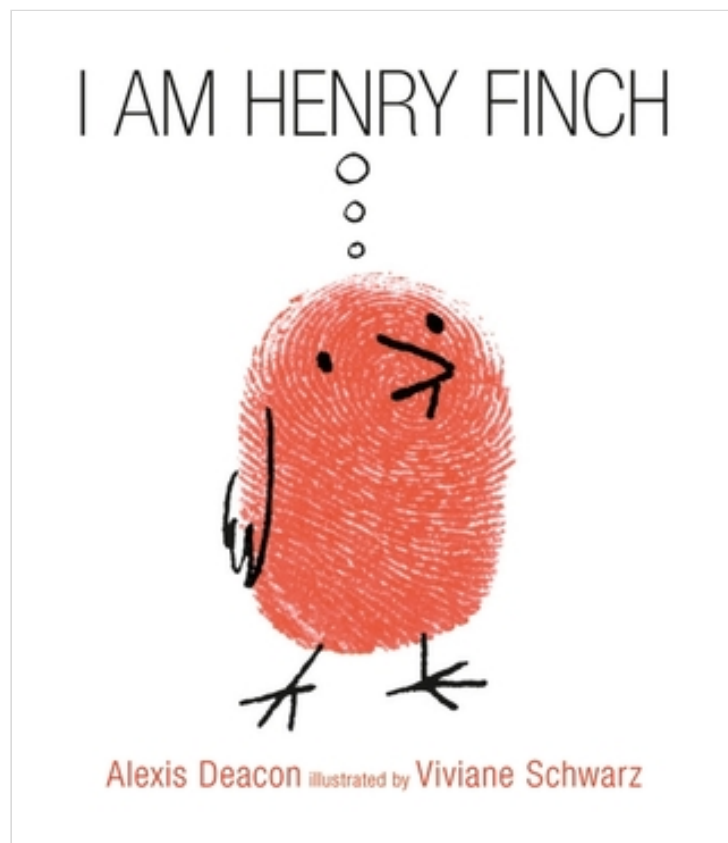
@john_burningham



I am Henry Finch by Alexis Deacon Illustrated by Viviane Schwarz

KS1/2

This is a story for everyone - both young and old for it is a story about the importance of individuality and the struggle it can take to find your place in the world. Deacon's words are seamlessly complimented by Schwarz's lovely little finger-print Finches. It is a book that asks questions about identity and the qualities we need to stand up and out for what we believe in) in a simple, humorous way. Lost in a crowd of other Finches, Henry wakes up one day with a thought unlike any he has had before: he wishes to aspire to greatness and make his mark on the world. Although his journey is riddled with mistakes, he returns to his flock the better for it and with an important message: we can and should celebrate our uniqueness. There is much cross-curricular potential with this book throughout the whole school. <https://app.box.com/s/brlq6qlee1bddcxoueptzhqq4lzkeykr>



I am Thomas by Libby Gleeson and Armin Greder

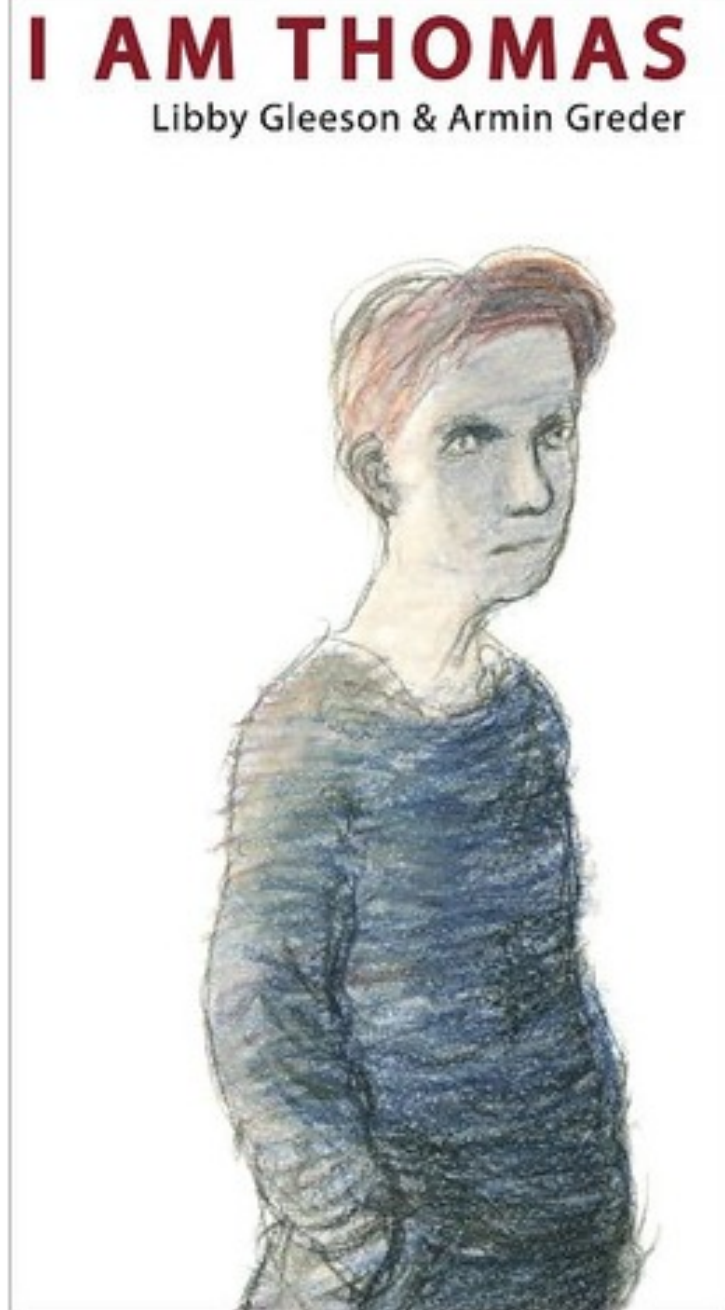
Y6 KS3

Powerful illustrations and sparing use of text make a parable of Thomas's journey, which reflects the courage we all need to find our passion and be ourselves.

This text would support discussions on coming of age, resistance against gang pressure, parental pressure, religious imperatives and political dogma.

Thomas's bravery to be sensitive, when faced with aggressions of society, are portrayed beautifully and shockingly by the masterful illustrator, Armin Greder.

@bednall_jane and @jonnywalker_edu



Collect Raindrops: The Seasons Gathered by Nikki McClure

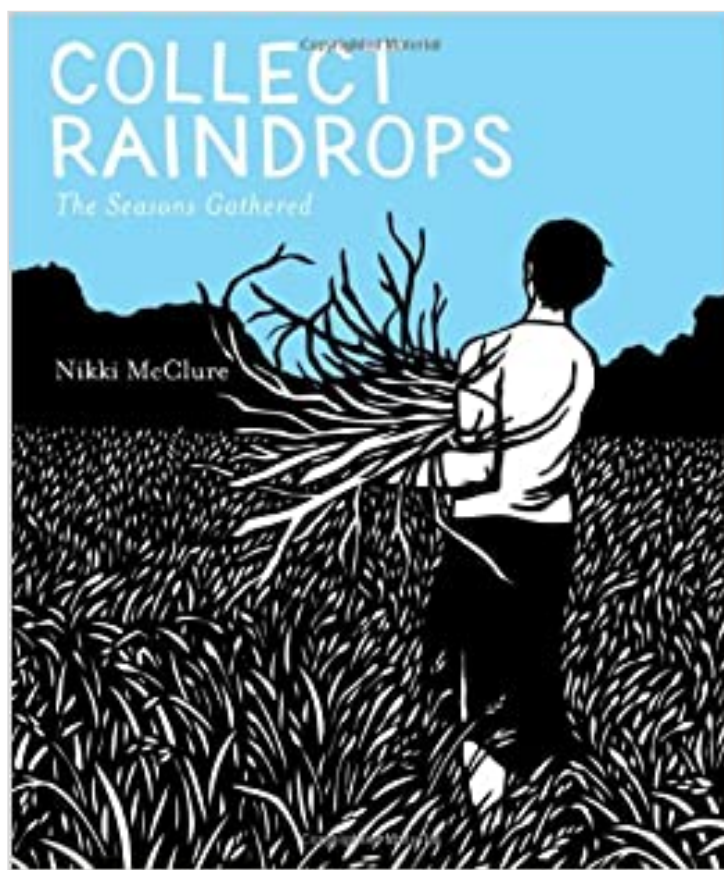
KS2

Nikki's intricate paper cuts gently lead us think about a life where our hands matter, to slow down and to gather nature. The juxtaposition of word and image is great for critical thinking and visual literacy. We used it as a Multimodal Geography project focused on climate change and environmentalism. The images exude optimism that revolves around community sustenance, parenting and appreciating both urban and rural landscapes.

<https://app.box.com/s/g7p5eblw4jz1jna139joj9cqeg0j1dk1>

@bednall_jane and @jonnywalker_edu

[@nikkimcclure](#)



Have you Ever Ever Ever by Colin McNaughton and Illustrated by Emma Chichester Clark

FS & KS1

A beautiful celebration of Mother Goose Rhymes and more. A boy's, dull and colourless life is transformed through his exposure to poems and tales from the page of Mother Goose. Chichester Clark plays so effortlessly in her contrast between the boy's grey world and the melange of colours that populates Mother Goose's. It's an important book that celebrates our rich heritage of nursery rhymes and tales - something that is missing from many children's lives.

[@emmachichesterc](#)



The Journey Home by Frann Preston-Gannon

KS1

A very touching and sad story that highlights the importance of conservation. Although told subtly, the story is a cumulative one in which different animals board a boat since their habitats are disappearing and there is little room to live. Together they take to the seas in search of a home

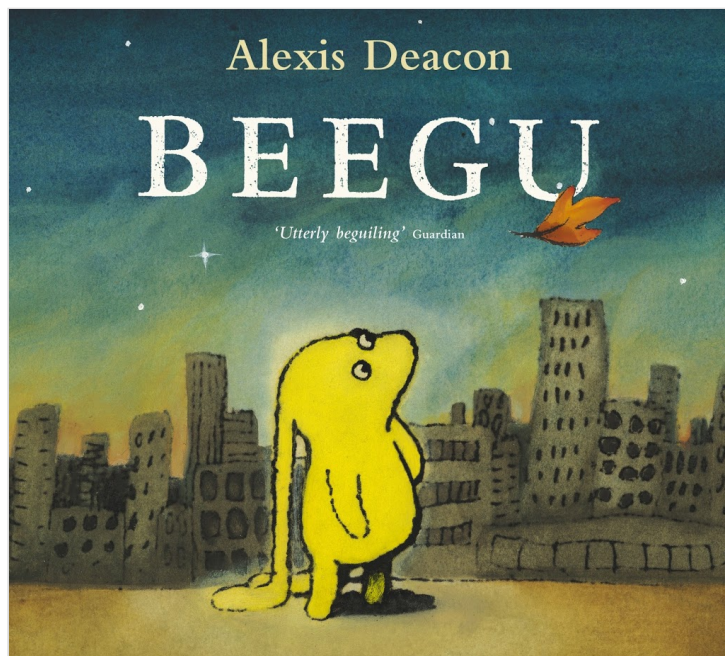
[@FrannPG](#)



Beegu by Alexis Deacon

KS1

Beegu crashes on our planet. Confused and alone she sets out in search of her parents and meets a confusing and cold world of adults and city streets. It is only when she sees children that they ignore her differences and embrace her joy & difference. A lovely story about being alone and feeling alone as much as it is about friendships and acceptance.



The King of Space by Jonny Duddle

KS1 & Y3

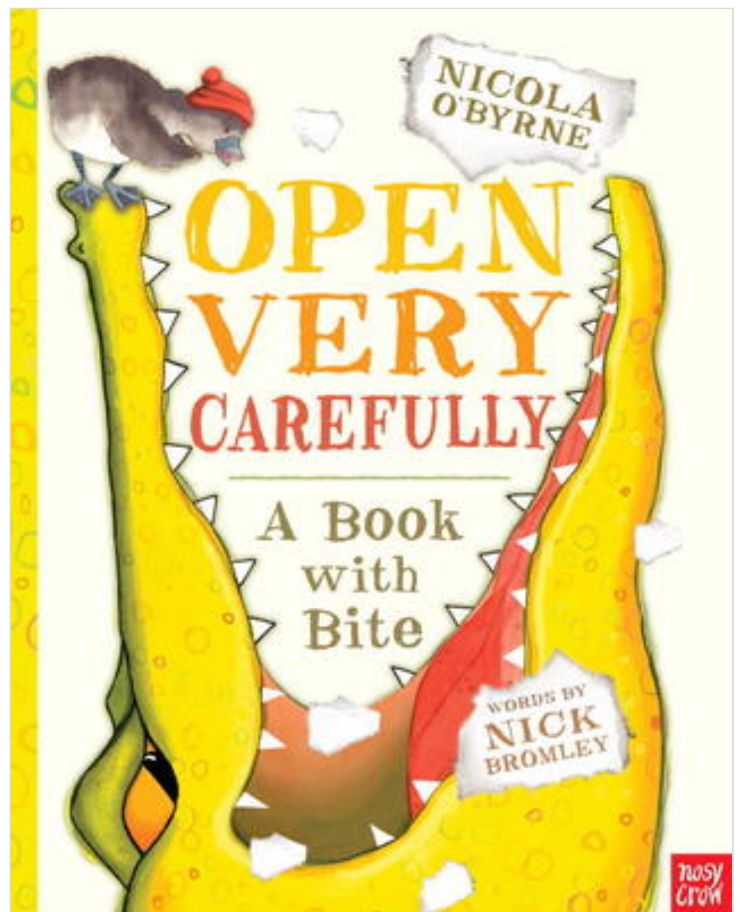
No matter how much power you wield, your mum will always be the one in control! This is a fun, creative and wonderful story about Rex who secretly tries to rule the Universe from his basement. All goes well until the Galactic Alliance track him down!



Open Very Carefully Nick Bromley, Illustrated by Nicola O'Byrne

KS1 & Y3

This postmodern picturebook plays with a lot of storytelling conventions in a hilarious way that children will love. I imagine them doing the same with their own choice of traditional tale and understanding that it can be fun to break the rules of writing.

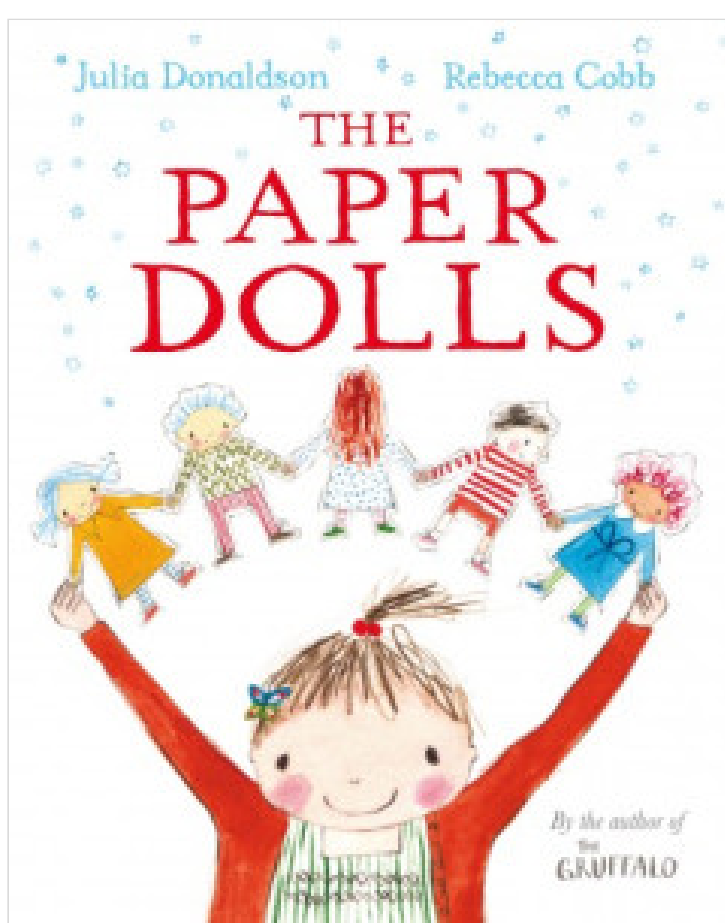


The Paper Dolls by Julia Donaldson, Illustrated by Rebecca Cobb

FS

A little girl and her mother create a string of paper dolls who go on an exciting adventure around their home. The places they visit relate so strongly to play area in FS that children will love mimicking the story with their own paper dolls.

@rebecca_cobb

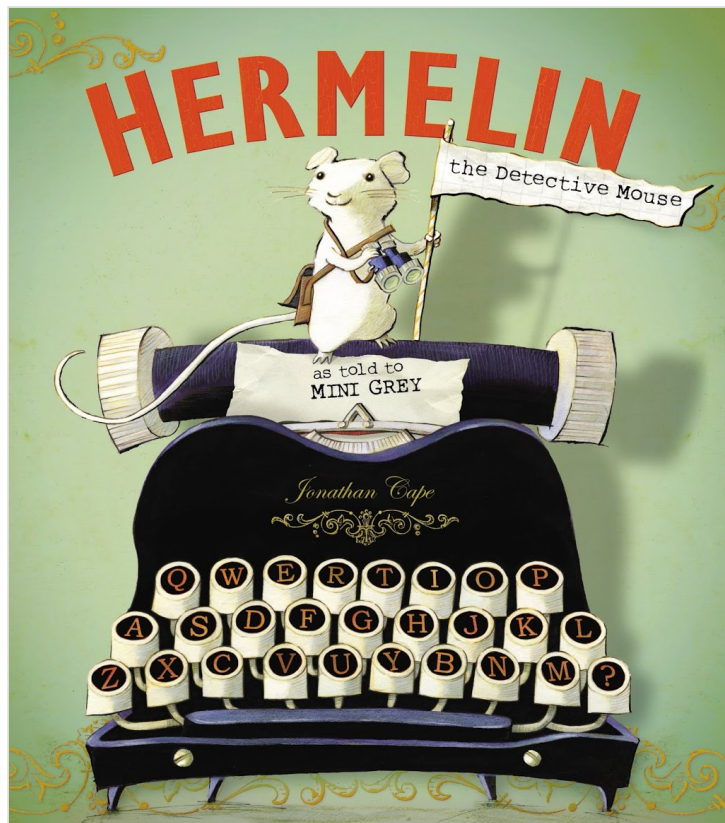


Hermelin by Mini Grey

Almost anywhere from KS1 to Y5

This is a story of Hermelin the detective mouse who finds he can read and is a dab hand at solving mysteries. So much to explore in the book and the depth of Hermelin's character means there is so much to build on from this. Super characters too.

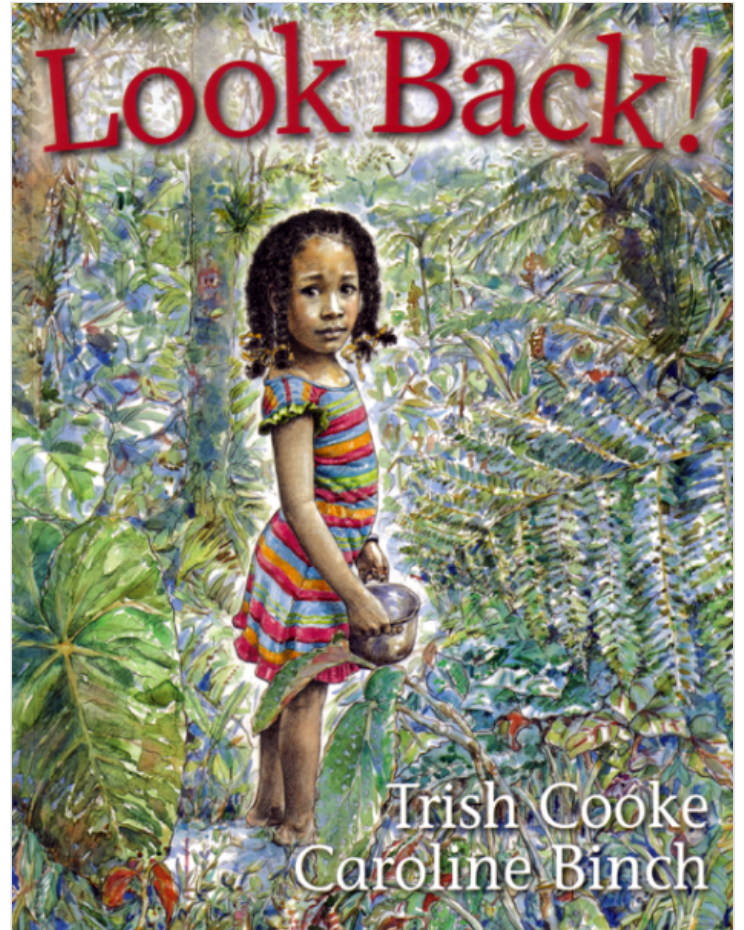
[@Bonzetta1](https://app.box.com/s/y3x6noe31q4fsi8l57mfwemeiuoqe802)



Look Back by Trish Cooke and Illustrated by Caroline Binch

KS1 & LKS2

I think this is a wonderful, Dominican folktale of a mysterious creature called the Ti Bolom who follows you through the forests and in the shadows. A lovely story from the Caribbean passed down from grandparent to grandchild. It is a story about being brave & ties so strongly with other fairy tale tropes.

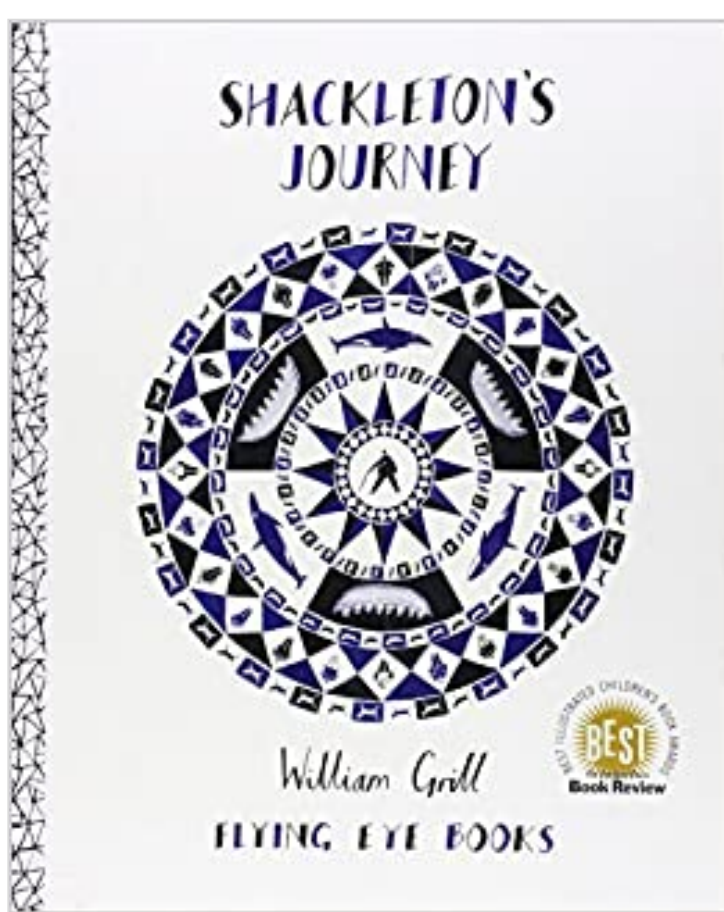


Shackleton's Journey by William Grill

KS2

This is beautiful non-fiction picturebook that follows the true story of William Shackleton's expedition to the Antarctica and their epic survival. The layout and soft illustrations bring the story to life and make it an immersive read.

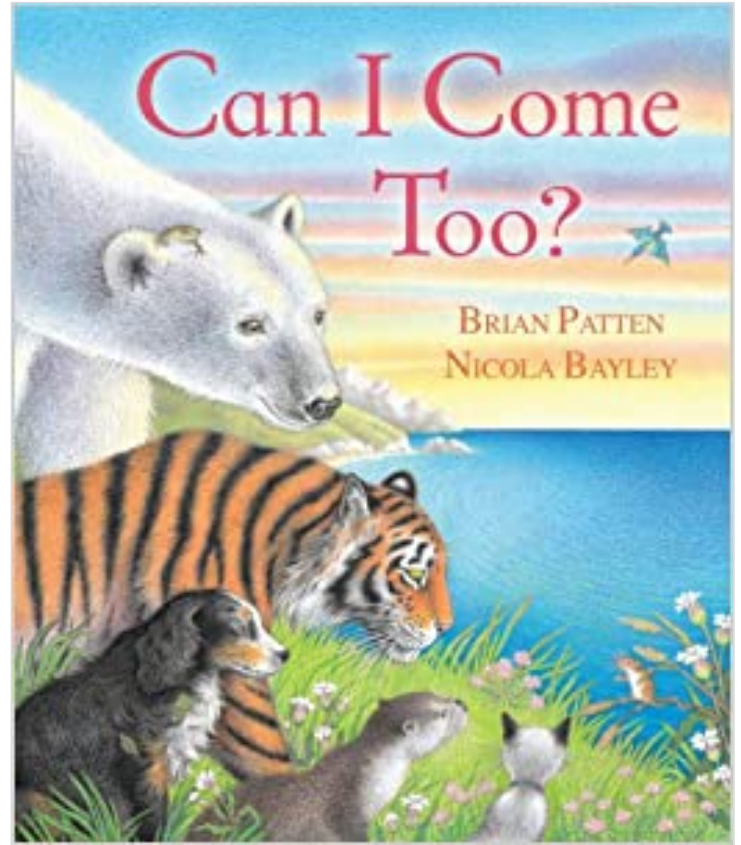
@williamgrill



Can I Come Too? by Brian Patten Illustrated by Nicola Bayley

FS & Year 1

This is a wonderful accumulative tale about a mouse who wants to find the biggest creature on earth. On its way, it encounters a range of larger and more exotic animals. Lovely repetition and warm illustrations. Plenty of animals for children to explore and enjoy.

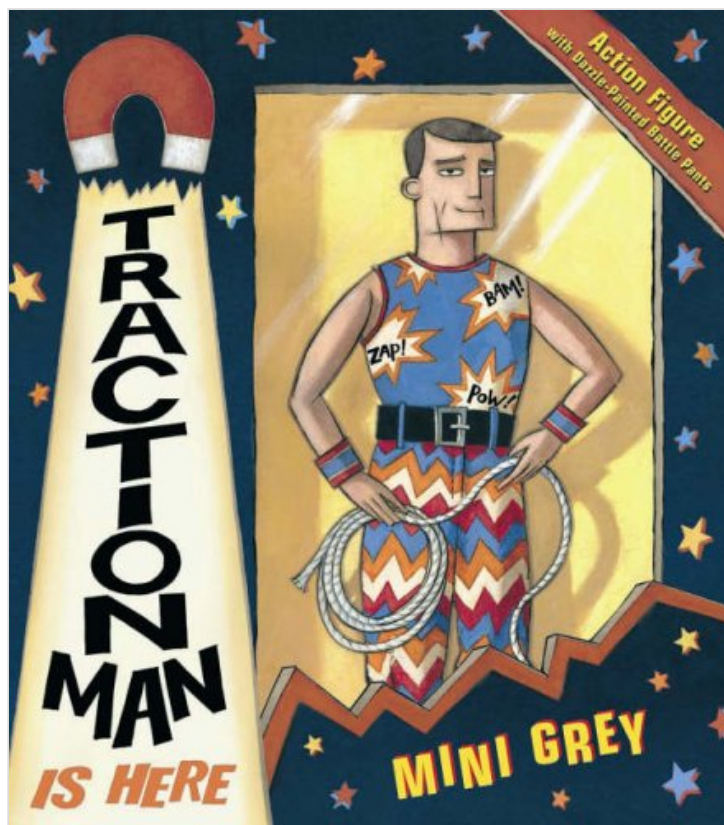


Traction Man by Mini Grey

KS1 & Y3

Grey's layout, use of different fonts & backgrounds for speech and ability to celebrate the idea of creative play makes Traction Man a wonderful story. Children will want to continue to the adventures of Traction Man or their own superhero.

@Bonzetta1



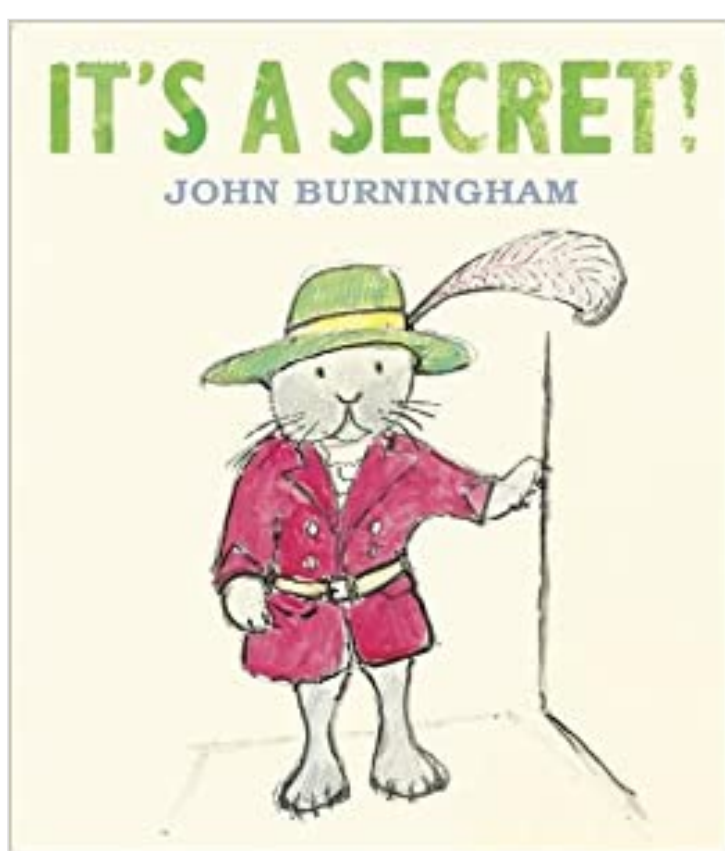
It's a Secret by John Burningham

FS

Ever wonder where your cat goes at night? I suspect many children do so one night, Marie Elaine decides to follow her cat and she stumbles across a grand party and celebrations. A lovely night-adventure in which two children cross a city in the night to meet the Queen of Cats.

<https://app.box.com/s/suj815tjksrecay3mimpkf47oyvssveg>

@john_burningham



Can you catch a Mermaid? by Jane Ray

LKS2

A story about a need for friendship so strong that it can smother and constrict. Ideal for LKS2 since balancing friendships can be difficult. Beautifully illustrated. Eliza, alone when her father sails off to fish, befriends a Mermaid and strands her on the coast so that she is never alone.

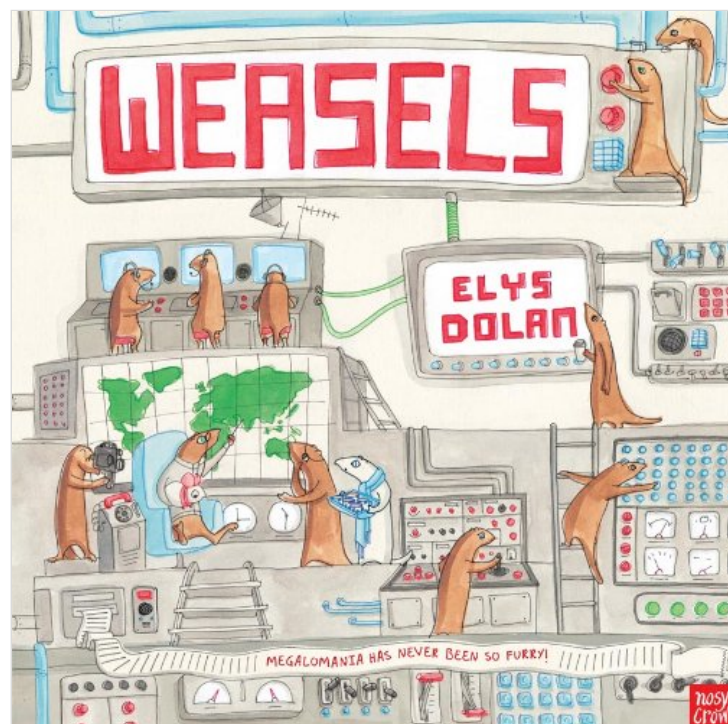


Weasels by Elys Dolan

LKS2

As the narrator guides us through the Weasels quest for world domination, we are treated to a hilarious insight into the actions of these adorable characters as together they solve what's gone wrong with their machine of terrible destruction. Endpapers cleverly involved in telling the story too!

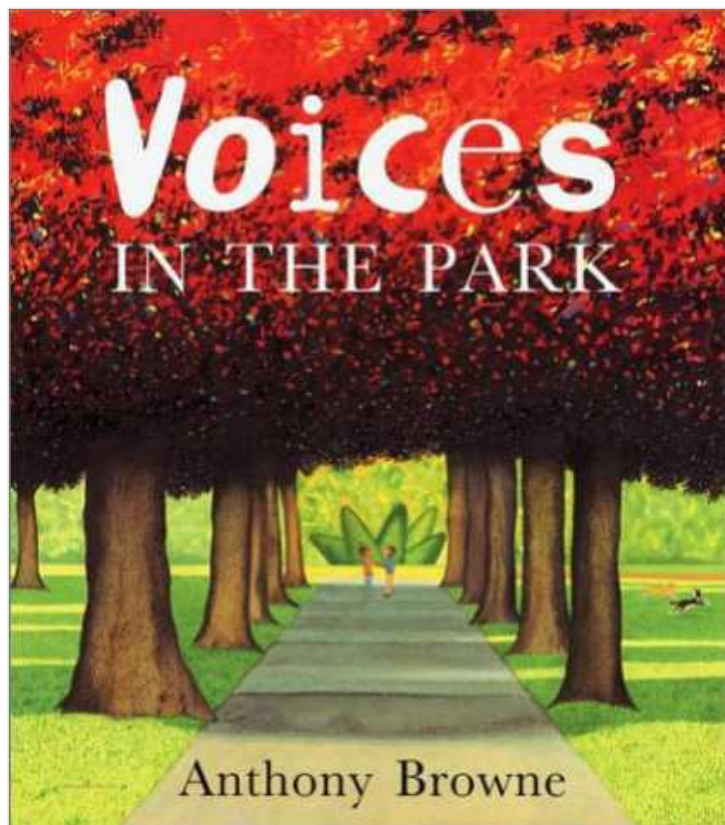
@ElysDolan



Voices in the Park by Anthony Browne

KS2

This is a complex narrative book in the four key characters each tell their version of a trip to the park. It asks questions of the differences between class as two different families meet. Browne's method of using the landscape to reflect internal moods of the characters makes for an explorative and engaging way of investigating characterisation.



Toys in Space by Mini Grey

FS & KS1

A wonderful, storytelling adventure. When a group of toys are left out in the garden at night, Wonderdoll finds that she must spin a story to help entertain her fellow toys. As with all of Mini's work, the layout is exciting but equally, the narrative format and the different voices of the characters make for an immersive read in a touching tale.

[@Bonzetta1](#)

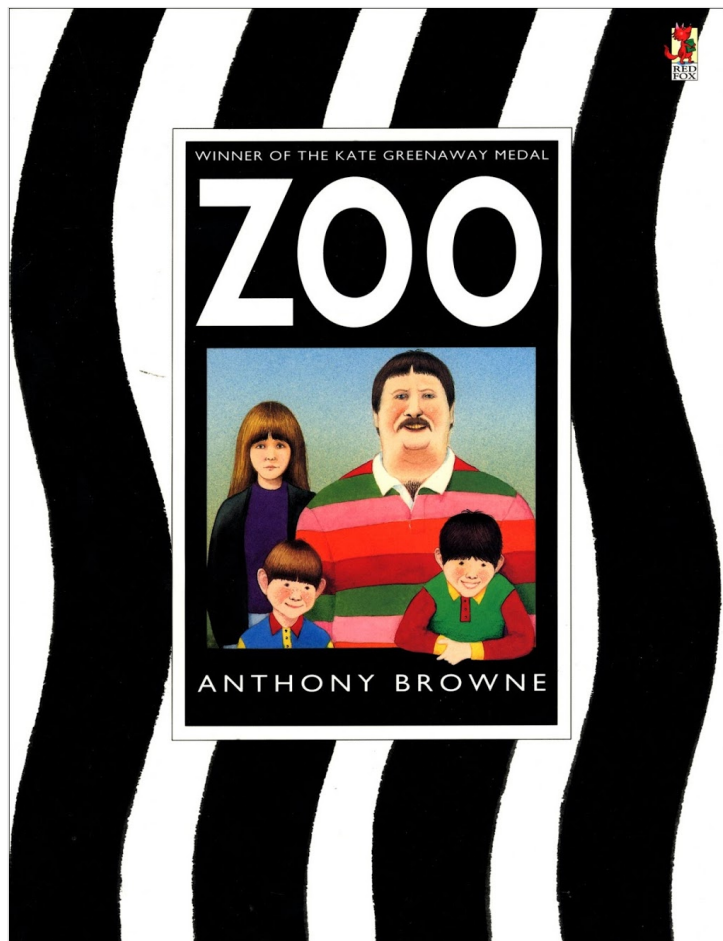


Zoo by Anthony Browne

UKS2

Mum, Dad and two sons go to visit the zoo for the day. While there, we find that looking through the cages we find that trapped animals are more humane than many of the visitors. Browne send a deep and touching message about what humanity is and how we should consider how we care and protect our planet

<https://app.box.com/s/25cf3en7hiv7b2kbrhm26ijf0q6e3x3>

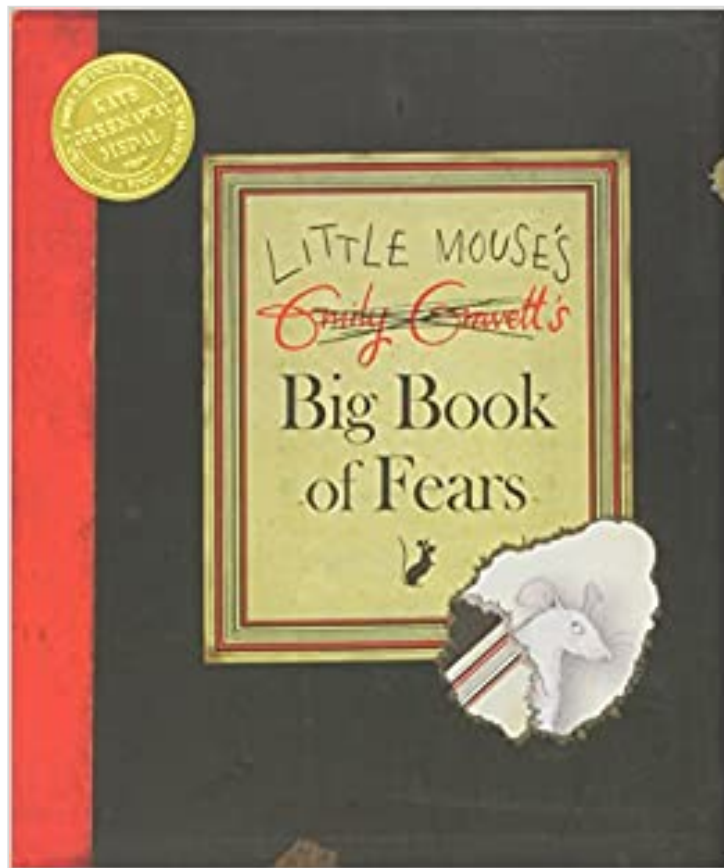


Little Mouse's Big Book of Fears by Emily Gravett

KS2

I've used this as a whole-school text when exploring our own fears and made a whole school book. Readers love the play that Gravett has with the format of a book & the collage approach to its style.

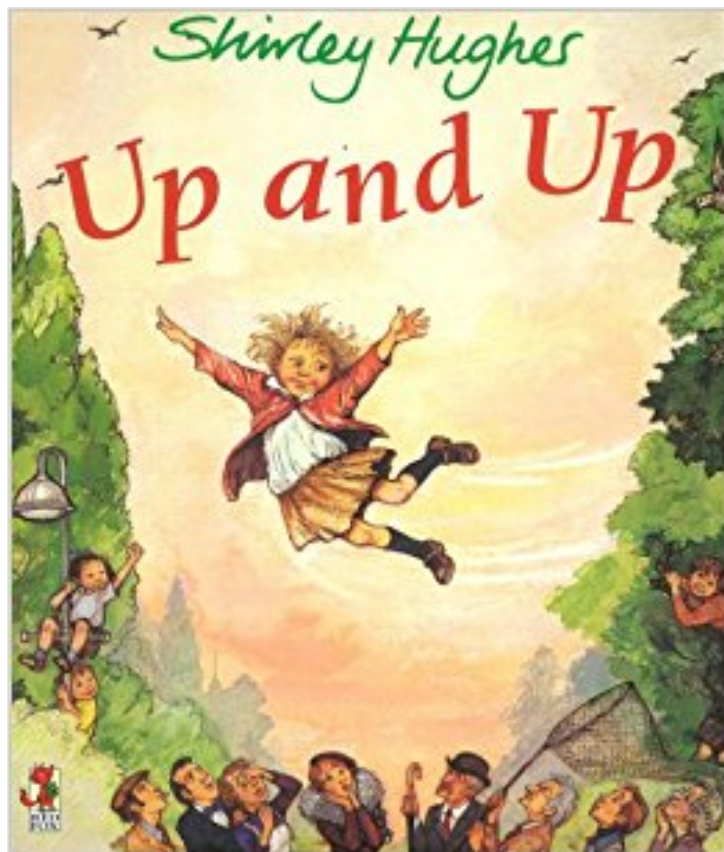
<https://app.box.com/s/vrxorf0kcioq5f0ic2nmt33zpavdpsq5>



Up & Up by Shirley Hughes

KS1 & FS

This is a gorgeous wordless picture book about a little girl whose wish to fly comes true. The story though comes in Hughes' wonderful capture of the adults and children in the story - their faces and reactions make for great discussion as does the theme of science versus magic.

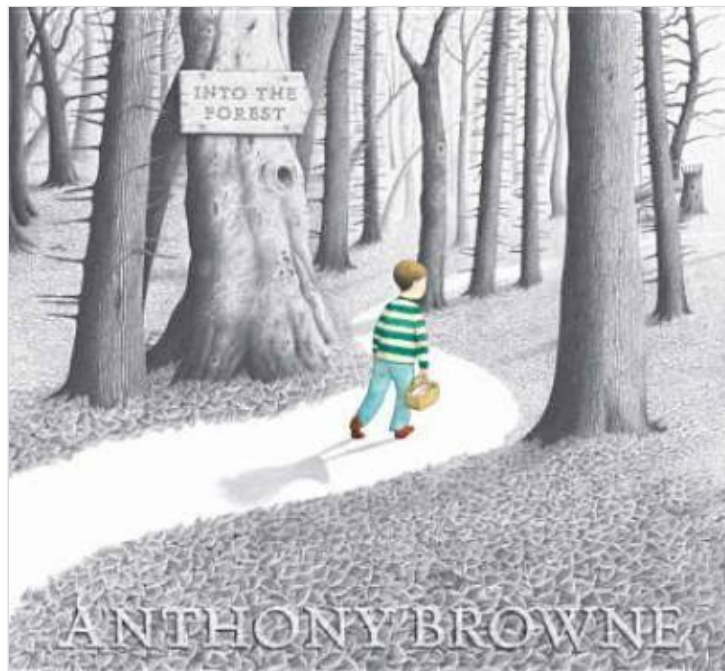


Into the Forest by Anthony Browne

KS2

Browne goes back to his fairy tale roots in this book in what he does best. Plenty of intertextual links and nice to see a picturebook about a bond between father and son. Plenty of fairy tale allusions & the fear of loss.

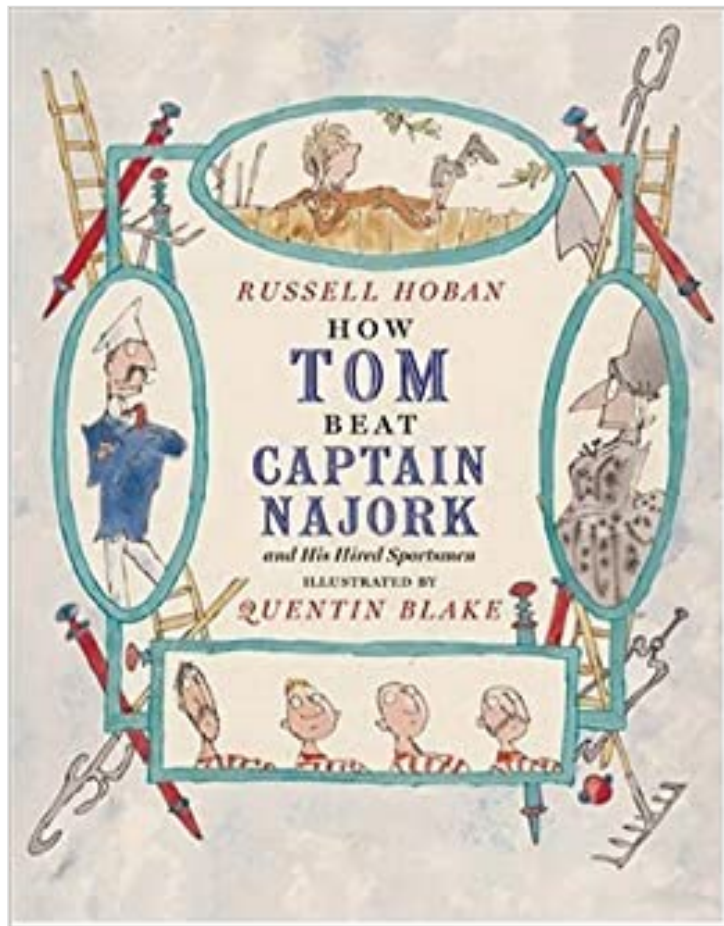
<https://app.box.com/s/o0gtk8gcubl4ezr0swa1368vssvmxgf8>



How Tom Beat Captain Najork and his Hired Sportsmen by Russell Hoban and Quentin Blake

LKS2

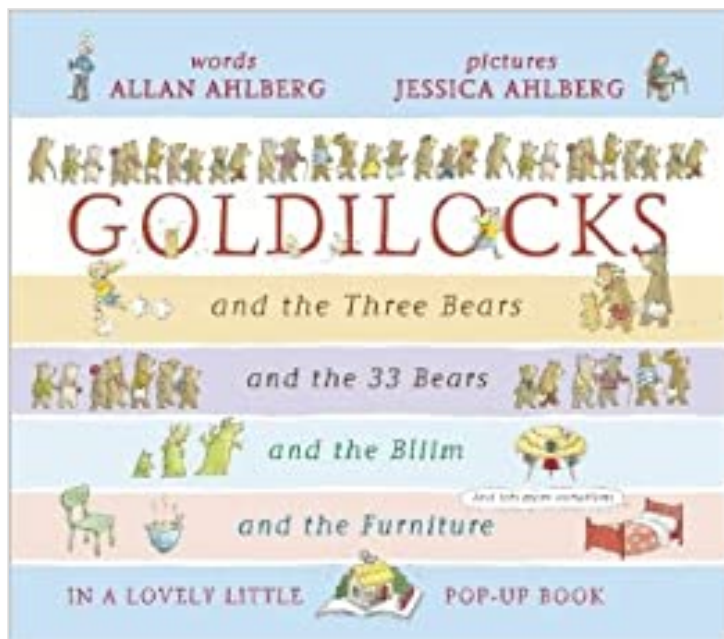
Full of wonderful characters such as Miss Fidget Wonkham-Strong (who took no nonsense from anyone), this is a wonderful story of Tom using his wit and love of the outdoors to overcome the Captain and his men. It celebrates the idea of creative, messy explorative outside play and through a language rich story



Goldilocks and the Three Bears and the 33 Bears and the Blim and the Furniture by Allan and Jessica Ahlberg

KS1 & LKS2

Alright, this is technically a Pop-Up book but it's too delicious to not put in. It is a book which plays with variations of the story and the fairy tale mode. Lift the flaps; plays and stories within the books abound. Children will love its silliness and it opens up a new approach to rewriting fairy tales.



The True Story of the Three Little Pigs by Jon Scieszka Illustrated by Lane Smith

Y2, KS2

This is a post-modern twist on the fairy tale. Set in a 1950s American backdrop, the wolf claims that he was framed for the destruction of the pigs' homes and killing the pig was a complete misunderstanding. So much to work with here in terms of playing around and twisting other fairy tales which Scieszka does so well.

[@Jon_Scieszka](#)

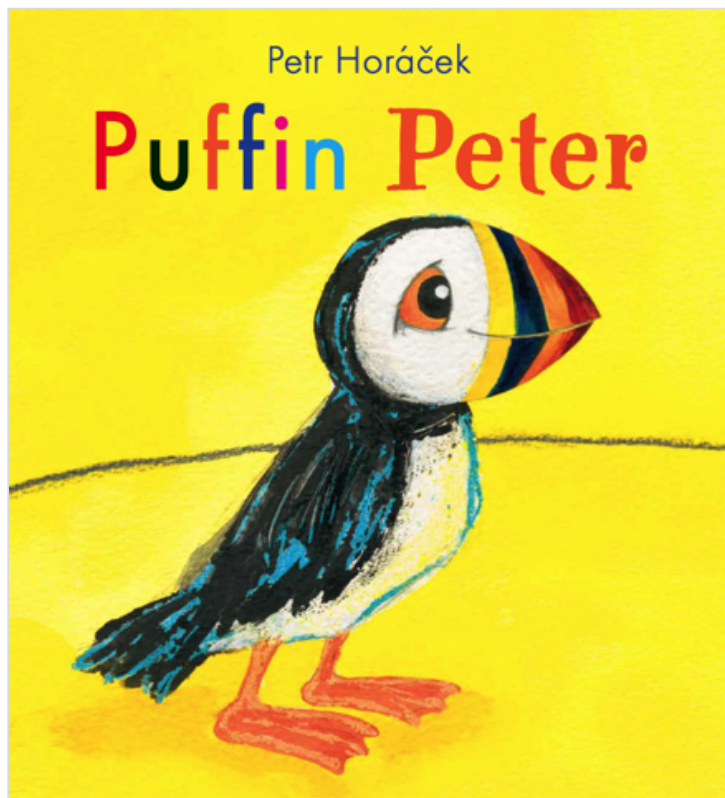


Puffin Peter by Petr Horacek

KS1 & FS

What Peter's best friend Paul goes missing in a storm, he goes on a journey that spans the oceans and lands until he finds him. Friendship and Perserverance are some themes explored here.

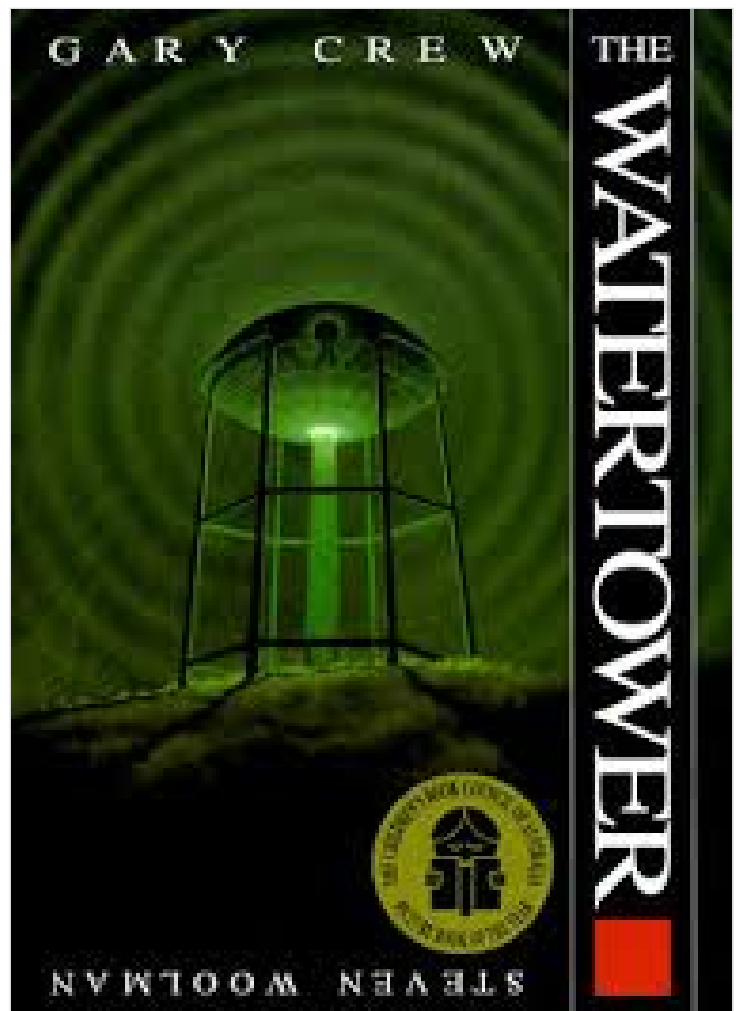
[@PHoracek](#)



The Watchtower by Gary Crew and Steven Woolman

Year 6

Nobody in Preston could remember when the watertower was built but it casts its shadow across the town and those who enter it never come out the same again. Creepy, haunting and gripping without revealing. A great sci-fi story.



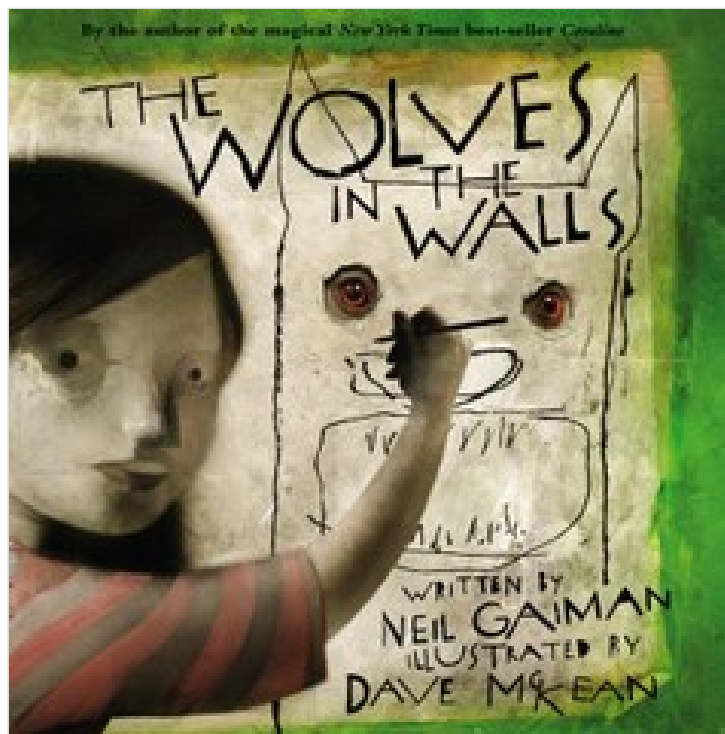
The Wolves in the Walls by Neil Gaiman & Illustrated by Dave McKean

UKS2

Lucy suspects that something is living in the walls of her house. Her family think she's imagining it but when the wolves come out, Lucy finds that she must fight her fears in order to get her home back. A little scary but deeply funny too.

@neilhimsel

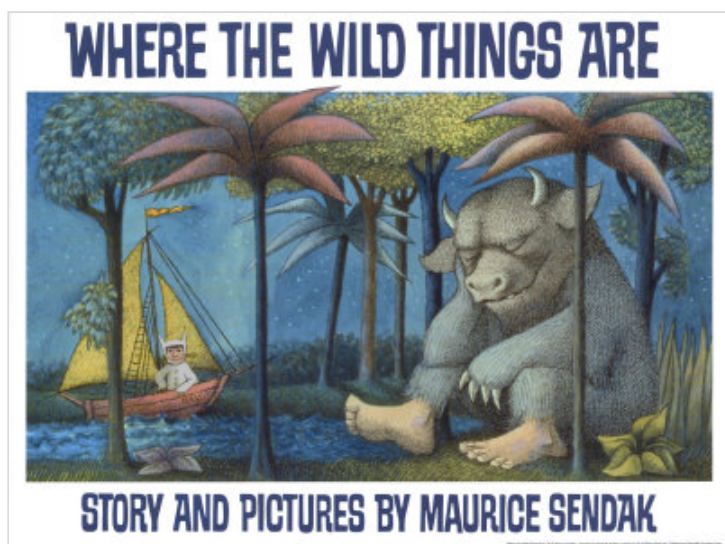
@DaveMcKean



Where the Wild Things Are by Maurice Sendak

KS1/FS

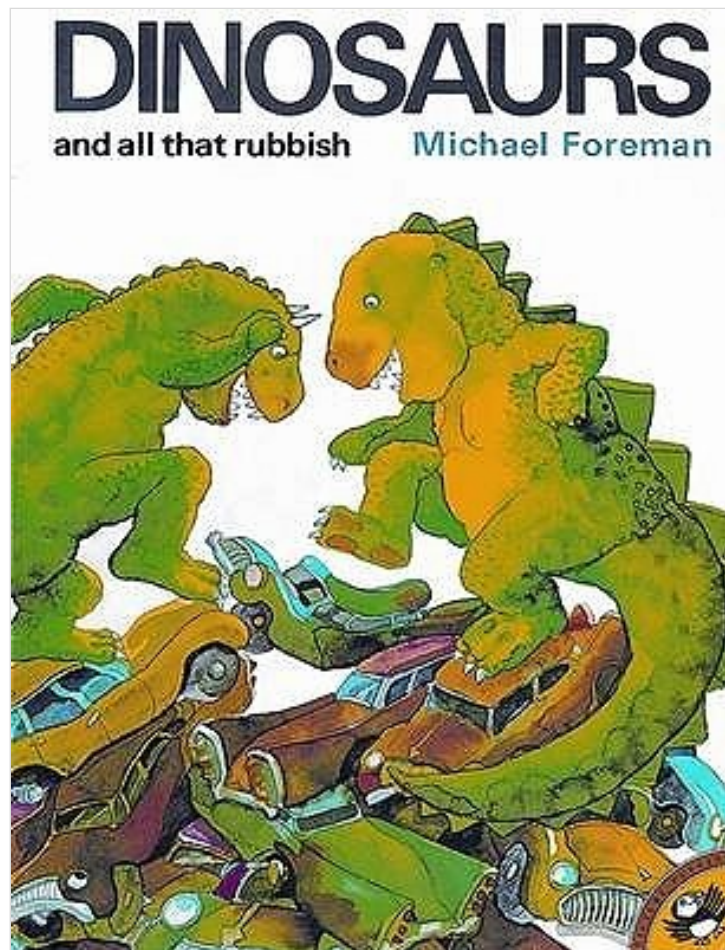
This picturebook that set the standard for all future picturebooks. A story about Max, a very naughty boy, who is sent to his bedroom without supper. In his anger he sails off to the land where the Wild Things and rules there until his stomach and tiredness calls him back home.



Dinosaurs and all that Rubbish by Michael Foreman

KS1

This is an environmental tale that looks at the importance of recycling and caring for the planet before we meet the same fate as the dinosaurs. An oldie but a goodie!



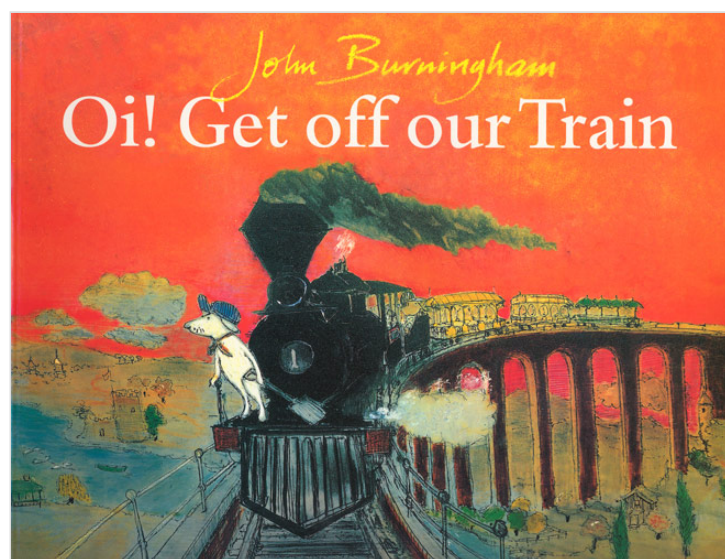
Oi! Get off our Train by John Burningham

FS & KS1/LKS2

A young boy and his teddy go on a dream-like journey on a train picking up animals from all over the world whose habitats and way of life have been removed by man. It is a repetitive tale exploring conservation.

[@john_burningham](https://app.box.com/s/blvg36rj97svbxdajt9cfyrt0f36zz0)

<https://app.box.com/s/blvg36rj97svbxdajt9cfyrt0f36zz0>

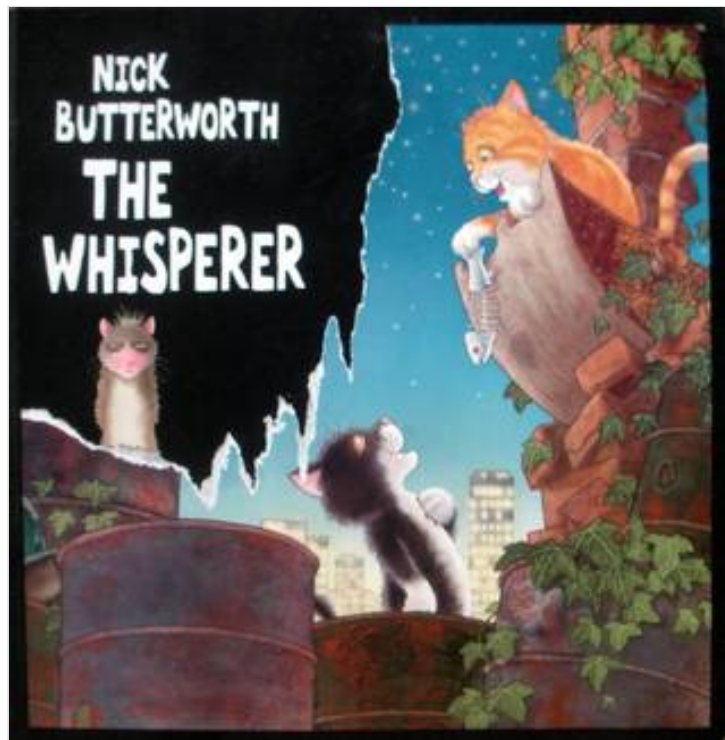


The Whisperer by Nick Butterworth

With a nod to Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet, two gangs of cats are constantly fighting each other and have been doing so for as long as they can remember.

But are things about to change as two young cats fall in love; one from each side of the family.

<https://app.box.com/s/jicvs6v3ixko3841e83n3zway5vwnbj8>

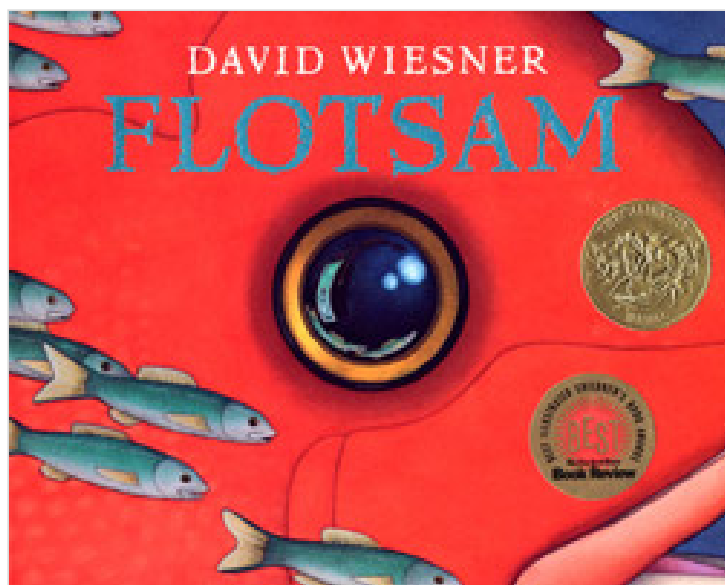


Flotsam by David Wiesner

All Years but more chance of getting more from it in KS2

A wordless picture book about a camera that spends its time floating through the world's oceans and seeing the most wondrous things. The camera passes from child to child around the world and offers a lovely, diverse link that joins us all together. A world of creative and exciting thought.

<https://app.box.com/s/aw8qytdyof079m0epy2r3jjpnv47my1w>



The Arrival by Shaun Tan

Year 6

A deeply thought-provoking wordless picturebook that looks at one person's journey into a new country to make a living. It asks questions about immigration. Another story relating to Belonging.

9895293.jpg

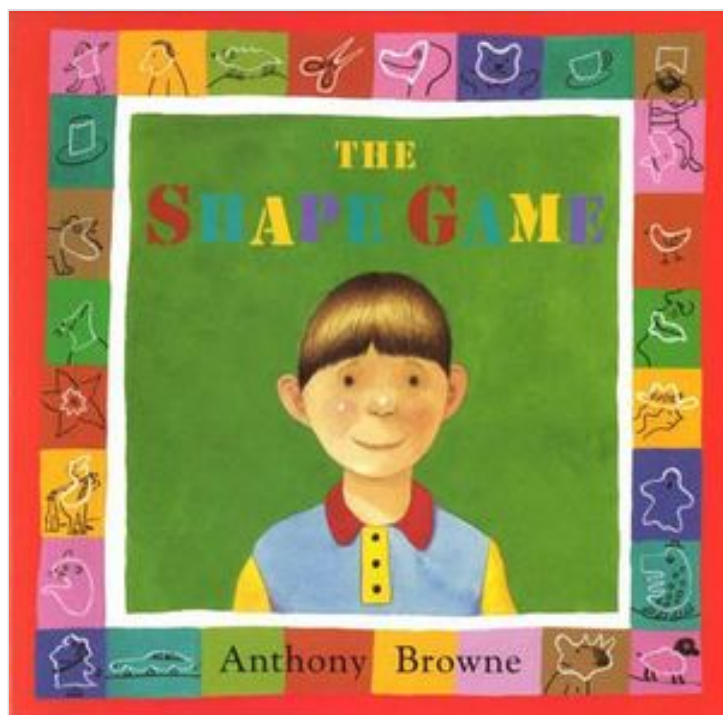
FABLECROFT.COM.AU

The Shape Game by Anthony Browne

Y2 - Y6

Mum wants to enjoy the work at an art gallery and her husband and two boys begrudgingly agree. Together though, they find themselves exploring the art and seeing the world and themselves a little differently.

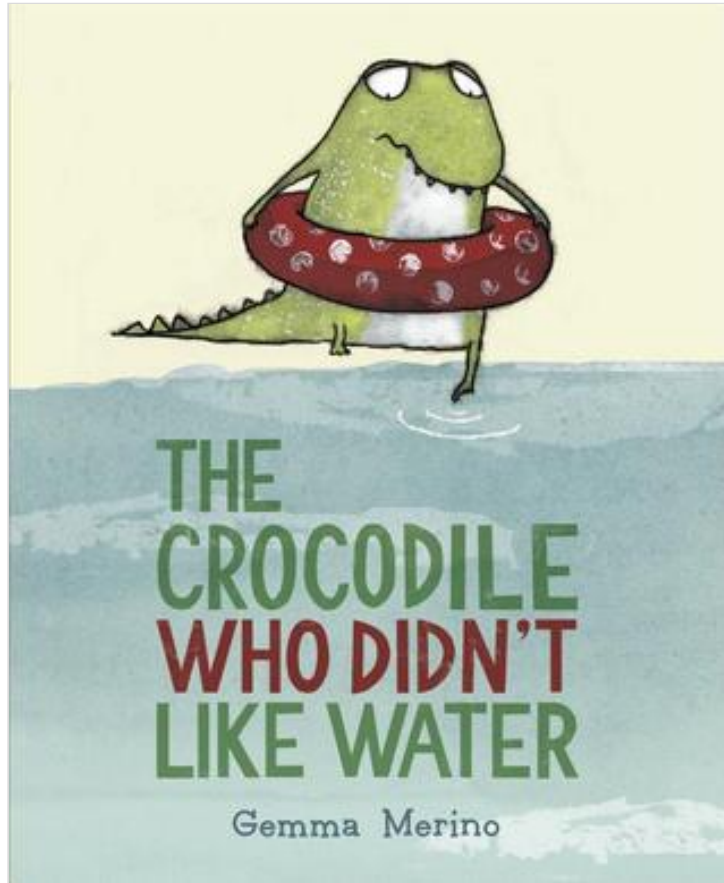
<https://app.box.com/s/5zasg9kiu889qmlpvhoj0p8pno42f2m>



The Crocodile Who Didn't Like Water by Gemma Merino

KS1 & FS

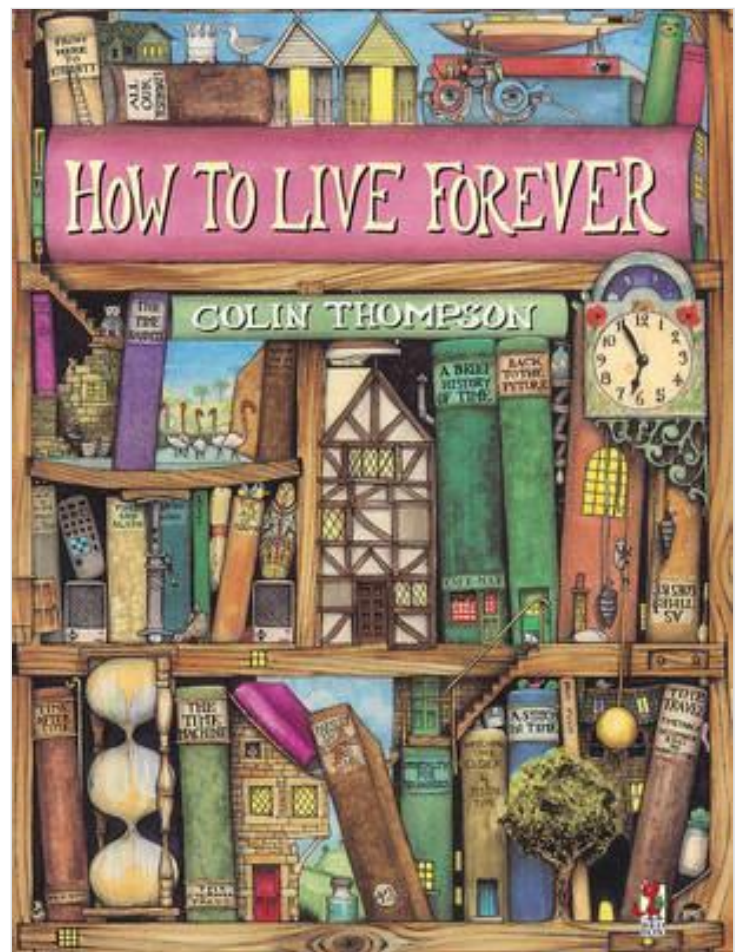
An ugly-duckling story for the modern age. Everybody knows that crocodiles love water, but this little crocodile is different. He doesn't like water at all.... Could it be that this little crocodile isn't a crocodile at all? (tweaked from Amazon)



How to Live Forever by Colin Thompson

UKS2

A deep and thoughtful story, all of Thompson's books are so elaborate and full of detail that children will want to return all the time. Peter goes on a quest to find a copy of the mysterious book: How To Live Forever



The Lost Thing by Shaun Tan

UKS2

A boy discovers a bizarre-looking creature and sensing that it is lost, he tries to find out who where it needs to be, What is sad that this creative and incredible creature goes unnoticed by everyone else. A book that encourages us to not ignore those who are different and to not let our creativity die.