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# Christmas Book List

Dear Parents/Carers.

As we get closer to Christmas, Father Christmas may be looking for gift ideas!

Books are a wonderful gift and the book list, which has been compiled by the Book Trust, is filled with fabulous books that have been released in 2023. Your child may enjoy the surprise of a new book at Christmas or they may like to look through the book list with you and choose ones that interest them. There may be books that you can read as a family or that siblings can read together. Your child may find books by authors that they already know and love or it could be a great way of finding new authors.

I hope that you enjoy looking through the books as much as the teachers did!

Happy reading!

Miss Harris

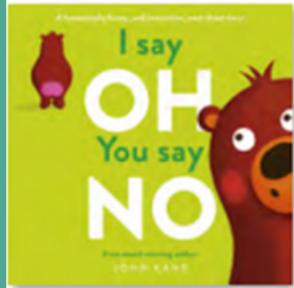
English Lead



# Early Years



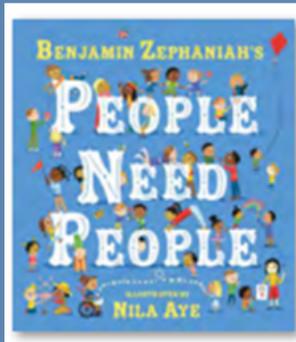
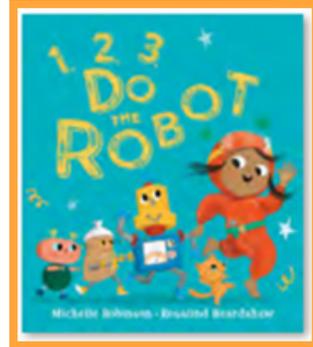
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Bear is like no bear you've ever met. He's a bear with a BARE BEAR BUTT! And bare butt bears like to dance...

The third in this series, *I Say Oh, You Say No* is a deliciously silly and cleverly crafted book which sets up a series of call and response rules with young readers to create a hilarious performative reading. Simply follow the instructions: if you see a bee, you shout out ME and if you see the colour brown, you jump up and down.

Children and grown-ups will love reading and participating in this joyous book. Hilarious, fun and silly.



Everyone in the world needs people.

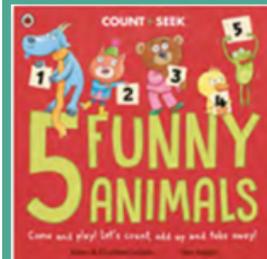
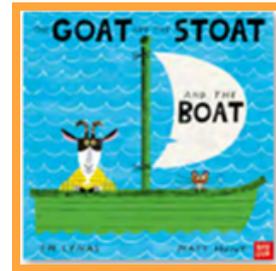
Benjamin Zephaniah's uplifting rhyming text shares the many reasons why people need other people – to play with, to learn from and to hug! The delightful illustrations by Nila Aye show people interacting in all sorts of situations – in the park, the nursery, the airport and a family feast. Every child is having fun in the pictures, and between them they represent a large variety of ethnicities.

It is impossible to read this book and not smile. The poem is perfect to read aloud, as you'd expect from a prize-winning poet. A wonderful celebration of community and connection.



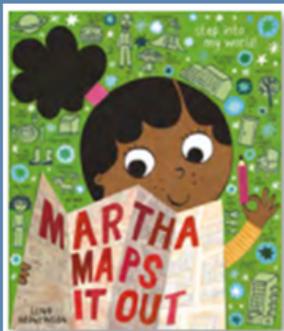
Goldilocks and her dog Tiddles set off through a dark wood to find 'that' house – the one with the chairs, porridge, beds and three bears. But instead of a bears' house, Goldilocks and Tiddles are lured by the song of the sea onto a beach, where they find a big cave.

Children who are familiar with the original Goldilocks fairy tale will delight in being able to anticipate the predictable elements of the story. But the original tale has been enhanced by Michael Rosen's wonderful rhyme and repetitive text and David Melling's warm and expressive illustrations.



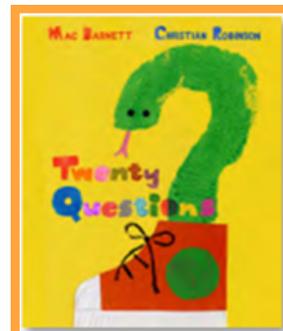
This charming picture book has five animals on each spread, but some are doing different things. If there are four bears eating honey and one bear reading, how many bears are there altogether? These gentle questions, written in rhyming couplets, mean the child practises counting and is introduced to the concepts of adding, subtracting and number bonds for five, though these concepts aren't named.

The animals' energy is joyful – there are bouncing frogs, sailing goats and singing cats! The delightful illustrations give a friendly feel to the jaunty text, and the whole book is brilliantly interactive.



Martha loves drawing maps to make sense of the world around her. Beginning in outer space, each map in the book zooms in closer and closer to Martha's own inner world. There's a map of planet Earth, a map of the city, tower block and bedroom where Martha lives – and even a map of Martha herself.

Combining factual labels with quirky details specific to Martha's own perspective, this is a book which offers both light-touch learning and a positive message about dreaming big. The delightful textured and patterned illustrations perfectly complement Martha's optimism and creativity.



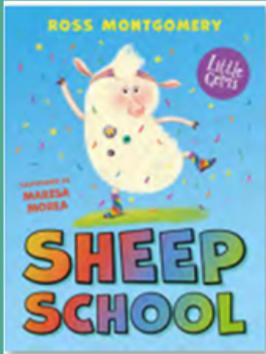
When a little boy is told by his grandpa that there's no such thing as dragons, he refuses to believe it. After all, he's somewhat of a dragon expert himself. But he needs proof! So he sets off on a dragon hunt. From high mountains and dark forests to castles and beaches, he looks everywhere for a real fire-breathing dragon. Just when he's close to giving up on his search, he spots smoke in a nearby cave. Perhaps dragons DO exist...

Filled with vibrant, colourful illustrations, there's lots of details to enjoy, including hidden dragons that children will love spotting.

# Key Stage 1



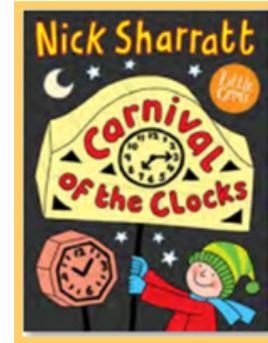
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William the lamb can't stand still or be quiet for more than a few minutes at a time.

The new head teacher, Mr Howler, has told the sheep the best thing they can learn is to stand still. So William tries his best to stand still and keep his eyes closed like the rest of the flock. Luckily for all, he can't – and so he witnesses the Big Bad Wolf steal his friends and family away! Can just one little lamb save all the sheep?

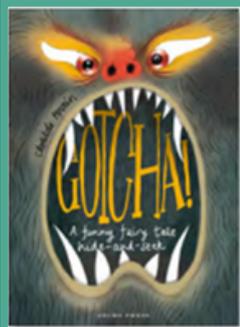
This enjoyable addition to the Little Gems series is packed with humour, perfect for beginner readers who love to laugh.



Pedro the little mouse has always dreamed of a big adventure, so he sets off with a suitcase and finds himself at a beach.

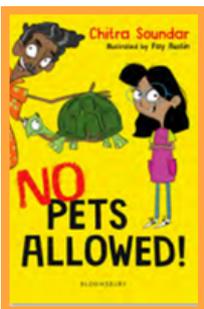
When he's swept out to sea, Pedro is rescued by Fledermaus, one of the Adventuremice, and taken to the Mousebase. Pedro wants to become one of the brave Adventuremice, but what use can a small mouse be?

The first book in a new series, Adventuremice is pacy with brilliant full-colour illustrations. Fun and heart-warming with just the right level of perilous adventure for the young reader.



Three fearsome monsters are coming to gobble you up... Hide! First is the house of the three little pigs. Lift the tablecloth to discover extra details. Then there's a house of gingerbread with more flaps to lift. Finally, there's a castle to sneak into, where everyone's asleep. But are you brave enough to stand up to the monsters?

This is a brilliantly interactive fairy tale book with 40 flaps to lift. Its large format makes it ideal to share, though the details bear poring over at closer range. The text includes some stretch words, but it's full of wit.



This clever book shows the exact size of deadly animals – or their key parts. It's fascinating to see how big a caiman's jaws are, and a lion's spiny tongue. The smaller predators are shown in all their deadly glory, including bullet ants, Chinese bird spiders and dragonflies. Yes, dragonflies – the most successful predators!

A final spread compares sizes – the great white shark is 20 Lifesize books long, while the Bengal slow loris is only one book long – and encourages the reader to measure themselves.



Best friends Aisha and Jayden are intrigued when a colourful canal boat moors up near their London block of flats. They are astounded to learn that the boat is actually the headquarters of the Secret Beast Club, an undercover society set up in the 1800s to protect magical creatures. Head of the club, Leila Fanque, is delighted to discover that both children have the gift of magic sight, enabling them to see magical realms which are invisible to most humans.

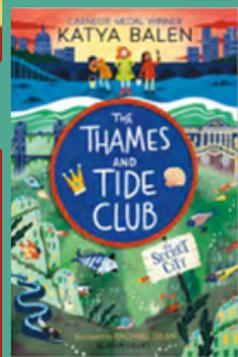
This exciting first book in the Secret Beast Club series features Black main characters and is ideal for confident young readers who enjoy fantasy adventures.



# Lower Key Stage 2



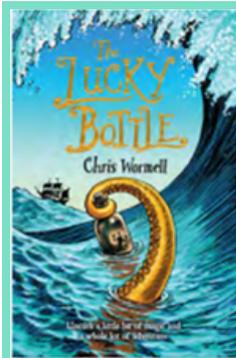
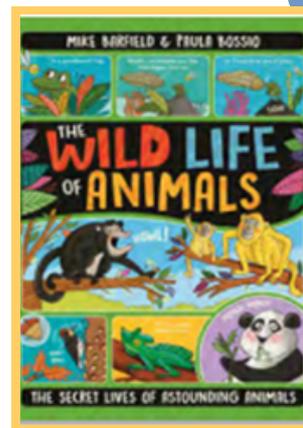
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Clem and her friends Ash and Zara are mudlarks. Every week they walk the shores of the river Thames discovering lost objects that have washed up.

One day, the weather is behaving strangely and water is spurting out of fountains and up drains. Most worryingly, there are cracks spreading across their block of flats. When Oswald the museum owner sees the item Clem has found, he tells the friends to return it to the river. But what – and who – will they find when they do?

Short chapters and fun illustrations bring huge appeal for readers who are keen to dive in to engaging but accessible stories.



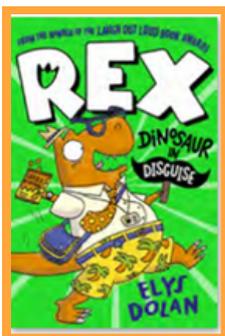
Ten-year-old Jack is shipwrecked on a desolate island after a terrible storm – and a row with his family. But then he meets Robinson, a man who's been living there all alone for years. Together, they find a way to survive.

But Jack yearns to go home so concocts a plan to do exactly that. It will involve magic, ingenuity and lots of bravery.

This stirring adventure has the feel of a classic, with its nod to Robinson Crusoe and the historical setting of a time when ships sailed the seas using only wind power. Chris Wormell's illustrations are brilliantly engaging and add drama and context.

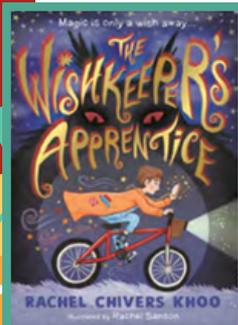


Humans need four things to survive: food, water, shelter and warmth. Divided into 12 different terrains, from polar ice caps to rainforests and oceans to deserts, this incredibly practical book provides useful tips for survival in each environment. There are facts about the flora and fauna, plus true-life stories of indigenous people. And there are step-by-step instructions with clear illustrations to show essential skills, like how to build a shelter, find water, stay warm and even where to thump an attacking shark.



When war threatens her city, Rowan and her mother flee to the Dark Forest to stay with her grandpa and his white wolf Arto. Exploring the Dark Forest, Rowan finds a baby dragon, but poachers have captured its mother. Soon she discovers that her grandpa is a wildsmith – a healer of magical animals. And he, Rowan and their friends must defeat the ruthless poachers once and for all.

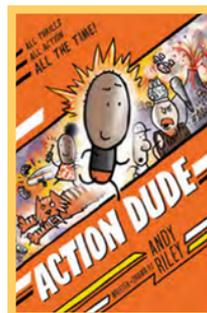
This is the first in a series of engaging magical animal adventures. It has short chapters and charming illustrations. There is a conservation theme and there are friendship issues to wrestle with too.



When Felix meets a man fishing coins out of the town's fountain, he discovers that whenever anyone in the town makes a wish, it is Rupus Beewinkle who makes it come true.

The wishkeeper is in dire need of an apprentice to help him, and as Felix is the only one to be able to see him, this becomes Felix's new job. But there's a terrifying wishsnatcher on the loose. Can one anxious boy and one disorganised wishkeeper defeat the wishsnatcher monster?

A delightfully charming and perfectly plotted adventure that packs a real emotional punch.





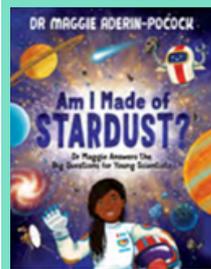
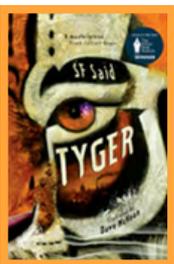
# Upper Key Stage 2



When Heather moves to Fablehouse children's home in the 1950s, she finds a safe haven and real friends for the first time in her life.

But as the children roam the ancient woodlands near to Fablehouse, they meet Palamedes, a Black Knight from way back in time: King Arthur's court.

At the same time, the other children and staff in the children's home start behaving oddly, as if they are possessed. It's up to Heather and her friends to defeat the powers of darkness and save Fablehouse and all who call it home. A wonderful book full of hope and magic.



Dr Maggie Aderin-Pocock is a real-life space scientist with a passion for sharing the wonders of space and science. This excellent book presents Dr Maggie's answers to some brilliant questions, from 'Did a person drive a car on the moon?' to 'What do aliens look like?' and 'Does it really rain diamonds on Jupiter?'.

Organised into three sections – The Universe, Our Solar System and Humans in Space – readers can dip in and out to answer any specific questions they may have. There's also a useful glossary of space and science words at the end.



It's the 1990s, everyone at school loves music, but the likes of Smash Hits magazine never feature lyrics by TLC, Mary J. Blige or Snoop Dogg. Therefore, Kofi and his best friend Kelvin create Paper Jam, a fanzine of song lyrics.

But the venture doesn't make Kofi popular with the teachers, who find him using the school photocopier for Paper Jam. At the same time, Kofi's having issues with Leroy, a new friend who's mean to Kelvin. Where do Kofi's loyalties really lie? And is the money worth losing a friend over?

Packed with snappy dialogue and full of humorous scenes, this is a truly engaging read.

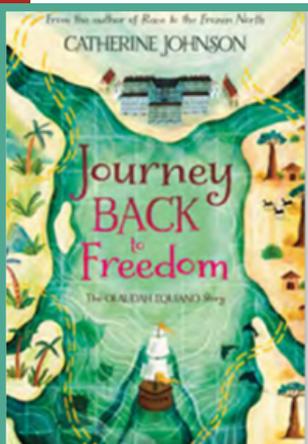


Daisy and her mother travel the world together, chasing stories for Daisy's mother's job as a journalist.

When Daisy's mother goes missing while working in the Amazon rainforest, Daisy escapes from boarding school and discovers Greenwild, an extraordinary world where botanists use green magic to look after plants and save those facing extinction.

As Daisy makes friends in Greenwild, she discovers that something sinister is going on – and it could affect her world, too. It's time to have a thrilling adventure to save her mother and both worlds!

Exquisitely balancing compelling detail with thrilling action, this has a strong eco message at its heart.



Oludah is just 11 years old when he is kidnapped and sold into slavery. Set in the 1700s, this is the true story of how Oludah grew up, becoming an experienced sailor and living all over the world including England's multicultural capital London, where he eventually returned as a free man.

It's a really exciting tale of daring adventures and incredible spirit, of bravery, and of the unimaginable cruelty and injustice of slavery.

This book is the most fascinating introduction to finding out more about such an important figure from British history. It's also a riveting and exciting read.

