



BookSpace's Lockdown Learning

A booklist for KS2 pupils

Reading for Pleasure Booklist

Key Stage 2

Even at the best of times encouraging children to read for pleasure can be an uphill struggle, but during lockdown it can be harder still. After a long day of home learning how do you find the time and energy to search for a book that will quickly engage your child and get them reading?

We hope that our Lockdown Booklists might go some way to solving this problem. The BookSpace team have worked their way through all the lists of recommended books published in 2020 and selected the ones that we think are most likely to capture children's imaginations and get them reading for pleasure.

Where possible we've also provided a link to activities which can be used to support your child's reading experience but, as with the book choices themselves, we've focused on resources which are fun and engaging. We've also provided a link, where available, to listen to the author reading an extract from their book which is a good way of your child checking out if it's the book for them.

If you have any feedback, we'd be delighted to hear from you.

Best wishes,

The BookSpace Team

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BookSpace helps schools to present books positively to children.
Visit our [website](#) to find out more about our products and services.



Bad Nana: That's Snow Business

by Sophy Henn

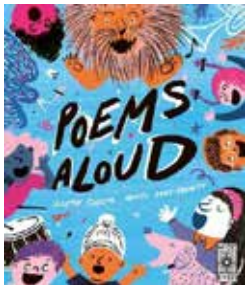
Ages 6 to 8 years

Hi! I'm Jeanie - still 7 3/4 years old, and back for another adventure with my BRILLIANT grandma BAD NANA. There's a local winter talent show, and the whole town is SO excited. Especially as the SPECTACULAR Bobby Trulove is in charge. He's an old friend of BAD NANA's and he's quite, erm, dramatic!

The day before the show, a freak weather storm hits, and leaves the town snowed in. Can BAD NANA save the show?

Listen to the author:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=29Z4ffbJlI>



Poems Aloud

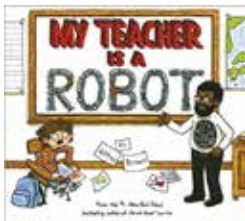
by Joseph Coelho and Daniel Gray-Barnett

Ages 6 to 9

A wittily illustrated anthology of poems, designed to be read aloud. Twenty poems by the award-winning Joseph Coelho arm children with techniques for lifting poetry off the page and performing with confidence. Children will discover 20 techniques for reading aloud by trying out 20 funny and thoughtful original poems. There are tongue twisters, poems to project, poems to whisper, poems to make you laugh. There are poems to perform to a whole class and others to whisper in somebody's ear. Richly textured, warm and stylish illustration by Daniel Gray-Barnett bring each page to life.

Listen to the author:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ixCdHgzb9HY>



Is My Teacher a Robot?

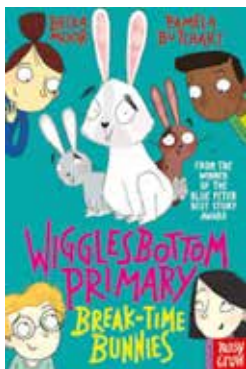
by Dave Cousins and Catalina Echeverri

Ages 6 to 10

When Robin the robot wakes up one day convinced he's a teacher, he ends up as a supply cover for Jess and Jake's class - but when he disappears on the night of the science fair, the children fear the worst. A zany twist on school life with lots of laughs, adventure, and a suitably challenging vocabulary for younger readers.

Listen to the author reading an extract:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=agJfM3H5WrE>



Wigglesbottom Primary: Break-Time Bunnies

by Pamela Butchart and Becka Moor

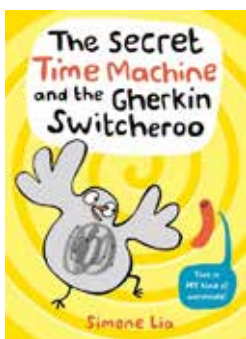
Ages 6 to 8

Life at Wigglesbottom Primary is often lived on the edge. An unexpected visitor, a bewitched violin and an invasion of bunnies! What can it all mean???

Three short stories in each book keep just confident readers engaged while lively two-colour illustrations bring these hilarious early readers to life and perfectly bridge the gap between picture books and chapter books.

Listen to the author:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2y4M3a-funUmnnjhghhhhhh>



The Secret Time Machine and the Gherkin Switcheroo

by Simone Lia

Ages 6 to 11

Marcus is in trouble. He didn't think his friend Laurence would actually believe him when he said his super brainy aunt built the very first time machine. After all, he only invented the story in a spur of the moment bid to win a silly argument! Now how on earth will he make it come true? In this hilarious and quirky new adventure starring the most unlikely of friends – a worm and a bird.



Isadora Moon Goes on Holiday

by Harriet Muncaster

Ages 7 to 10

Isadora Moon is special because she's different. Her mum is a fairy and her dad is a vampire and she's a bit of both. When Isadora wins an amazing holiday for her whole family she's ready for sun, sea, and sand! But there's work to be done when she and her mermaid friend Marina discover a baby turtle in trouble. Can Isadora help the turtle find a way home?

Activity sheets:

<https://harrietmuncaster.co.uk/resources>

Listen to the author reading an extract:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YNZ3g0JweLQ>



Harriet Versus the Galaxy

by Samantha Baines and Jessica Flores

Ages 7 to 10

The intergalactic adventure starts at home with Harriet, who discovers that her hearing-aid can do more than she ever bargained for when she finds an alien in her room. Discovering that her family secretly work for an intergalactic agency, Harriet becomes the Earth's first line of defence as the only one who can understand the invaders. Sure, her hearing aid helps her understand aliens from across the universe, if only she could understand her own feelings.

Watch the author at The Edinburgh Book Festival:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jEWIT8Ts8r4>



Planet Omar: Unexpected Super Spy

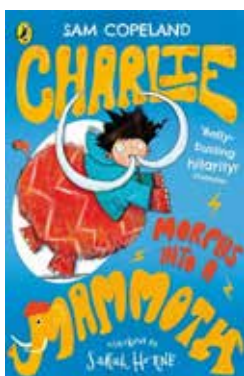
by Zanib Mian and Nasaya Mafaridik

Ages 7 to 11

Omar and his friends have been saving up their pocket money for ages so they can have the world's most epic Nerf Blaster battle. But when Omar discovers that his mosque is in trouble, they decide to donate their pennies to help save it. Then they try to raise some more money by: Doing some chores (boorrring); Selling some home-made cookies (deeelicious); Holding a talent contest (YESSSSSSS). Everything goes PERFECTLY until the money mysteriously goes missing. Can they work out who has taken it in time to stop the mosque closing down?

Listen to the author reading an extract:

<https://soundcloud.com/penguin-audio/planet-omar-unexpected-super>



Charlie Morphs Into a Mammoth

by Stuart Murray

Ages 8 to 10

Charlie McGuffin is an actual superhero. He's gained control over his wacky ability to change into animals - he's even able to use it to turn the tables on school bully Dylan.

But there are some things Charlie can't control, like the arguments his parents keep having (which are making him more worried than ever) or the mysterious animal disappearances spreading through town (which might be connected to Charlie himself).

Can Charlie unravel the mystery of the pet-nappings before his biggest secret is revealed to the world...?

Listen to the author reading an extract from the 'Charlie Turns Into series':

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sMurFd8pYyA>

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Willow Wildthing and the Swamp Monster

by Gill Lewis and Rebecca Bagley

Ages 8 to 10

When Willow crosses the boundary to the patch of woodland behind her house, something amazing happens: she enters The Wilderness, where magic and nature collide. It holds more than you could possibly imagine: secrets, shadows, a witch. Even a monster. Here she meets the Wild Things, a group of children who have taken on the characteristics of the wild creatures they are named after. For when you are in The Wilderness, the only limit to the world is your imagination. To her family she is simply Willow. To her new friends and in her new world, she is Willow Wildthing.

Listen to the author reading the first chapter:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1oH6lkYTuWc>



I, Cosmo

by Carlie Sorosiak

Ages 8 to 11

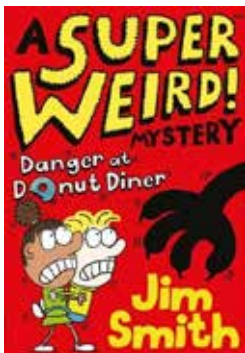
The story of one dog's attempt to save his family, become a star, and eat a lot of bacon. Cosmo's family is falling apart. And it's up to Cosmo to keep them together. He knows exactly what to do. There's only one problem. Cosmo is a Golden Retriever.

Activity sheets:

<https://nosycrow.com/resource/i-cosmo-activity-sheets/>

Listen to the author reading a chapter:

<https://soundcloud.com/nosycrow/i-cosmo-preview>



A Super Weird! Mystery: Danger at Donut Diner

by Jim Smith

Ages 8 to 11

Things are about to get SUPER WEIRD. When Melvin moves from the city to Donut (a perfectly round island with a hole in the middle), he thinks it's the most rubbish place ever. Then he meets Rhubarb. Rhubarb is OBSESSED with mysteries and has her own school newspaper to investigate the strange goings on in Donut. (Unfortunately nothing ever happens in Donut so she's never had anything to write about.) But then Melvin notices that the kids at school are acting very strangely. Could it be something to do with the Donut Hole Monsters that everyone is collecting?

Activity sheets:

<https://www.egmontbooks.co.uk/resources/super-weird-activity-pack/>

Listen to the author reading an extract from 'A Super Weird! Mystery series:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=neDcbLK0GBY>



The Girl Who Stole an Elephant

by Pamela Butchart and Becka Moor

Ages 9 to 11

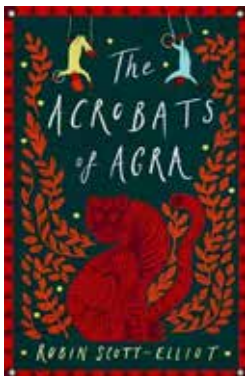
Chaya, a no-nonsense, outspoken hero, leads her friends and a gorgeous elephant on a noisy, fraught, joyous adventure through the jungle where revolution is stirring and leeches lurk. Will stealing the queen's jewels be the beginning or the end of everything for the intrepid gang?

Activity sheets:

<https://nosycrow.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/The-Girl-Who-Stole-Elephant-discussion-notes.pdf>

Listen to the first chapter:

<https://soundcloud.com/nosycrow/the-girl-who-stole-an-elephant-preview>



The Acrobats of Agra

by Robin Scott-Elliott

Ages 9 to 11

Agra 1857, the Indian rebellion. Three children are trying to make their way through a country at war with a circus tiger in search of safety. Jacques is a boy acrobat who has lost his circus; Beatrice (Bea) and Ping are both orphans. United by a deep friendship and their desire to save Tonton the tiger, find Bea's lost brother and Kamal the fire-eater, they set out on a wild and dangerous journey. Will they make it?

Listen to the author reading an extract:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6SMEqI5z_rM



The Wizard in my Shed

by Simon Farnaby

Ages 9 to 11

Back in the Dark Ages, Merdyn the Wild has been a badly behaved warlock sentenced to spend seven years in the Rivers of Purgatory. Unfortunately for him, the wizard tasked with sending him there turns to the wrong page in his spell book and Merdyn ends up in the middle of a busy 21st century shopping centre. Rose is an ordinary girl whose best friend, Bubbles, is a guinea pig. On her way to the chip shop she bumps into Merdyn and, although he is probably the smelliest person she's ever met, agrees to help him get back to his own time in exchange for a spell that she hopes will change her life.

Listen to the author reading an extract:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MkdkWfd3UPc>



Orphans of the Tide

by Stuart Murray

Ages 9 to 11

When a mysterious boy washes in with the tide, the citizens believe he's the Enemy - the god who drowned the world - come again to cause untold chaos. Only Ellie, a fearless young inventor living in a workshop crammed with curiosities, believes he's innocent. But the Enemy can take possession of any human body and the ruthless Inquisition are determined to destroy it forever. To save the boy, Ellie must prove who he really is - even if that means revealing her own dangerous secret...

Listen to the author reading an extract:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WKbMplJf3Zs>



The Cloud Horse Chronicles: Guardians of Magic

by Chris Riddell

Ages 9 to 11

For as long as anyone can remember, children have made a wish on a cloud horse, never quite believing that their wishes will come true. But times are changing. The future of magic is in danger. Enemies are working together to destroy it - especially the magic of nature and its most powerful source, The Forever Tree. Unless three brave children fight back and believe in the impossible, soon magic and the cloud horses will be gone. Zam, Phoebe and Bathsheba don't yet know how powerful they are.

Listen to the author reading an extract:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7D7xXAO9jV0>