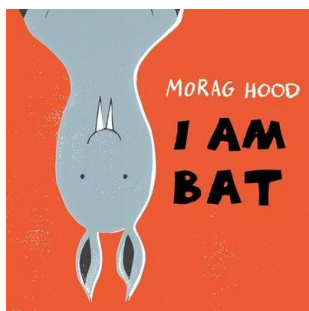


A selection of books especially selected for children in Reception.

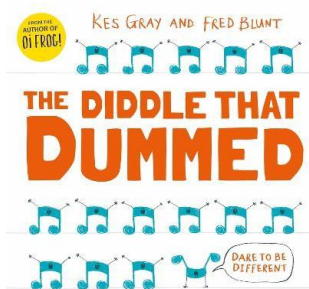
At Ferncumbe, our mission is to promote reading for pleasure and for children to develop a lifelong love of reading. Pupils are encouraged to read and explore a wide range of books in addition to the texts used in class. In this list, we have particularly avoided blockbusters and classics, so that we can include poetry, information texts and inspirational books in which all children can find themselves reflected. If your child is a competent reader or has read all of these titles, then try the books from the Year 1 list.



I Am Bat

Author: Morag Hood **Release Date:** 06/09/2018

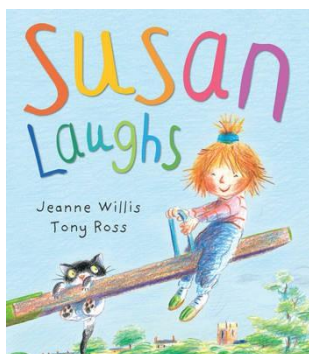
With minimalist illustrations and short lines of text, Morag Hood tells a story that will dazzle and entertain all readers. Bat's emotions - joy, anger, confusion, despair, surprise and joy again - are rendered brilliantly in the tilt of an eyebrow and the angle of the head while the intensity of those emotions will be hilarious yet recognisable to all.



The Diddle That Dumbled

Author: Kes Gray **Release Date:** 25/06/2020

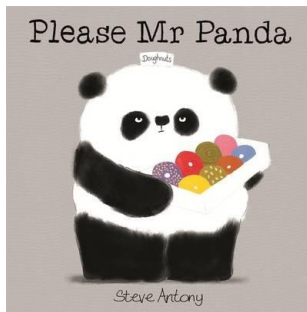
The Diddle that Dumbled is like your favourite pantomime distilled into 32 pages. Fiddler Flinty Bo Diddle is writing a tune for his fiddle - diddle diddle diddle diddle ... all is going well until - dum! Which diddle went dum? The culprit steps forward, shrugging: 'I'm not like the other diddles. Sometimes I like to go dum.' Flinty is beside himself, he wants all his diddles to diddle. They try again, and again - they try with the defiant diddle at the beginning and at the end, but every time the diddle goes dum. What seems a simple idea is full of surprises and cleverness and every one of us knows a diddle that dums.



Susan Laughs

Author: Jeanne Willis **Release Date:** 03/02/2011

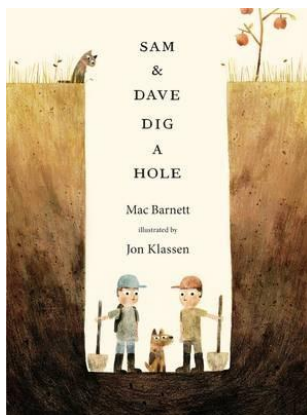
A prize-winning title, this introduces Susan who loves to swing, dance, swim, ride do all the things other children do. In fact, she's no different from any other little girl except that, as the final spread shows, she gets about in a wheelchair. The vigour and active text is perfectly supported by Tony Ross's warm-hearted illustrations.



Please Mr Panda

Author: Steve Antony **Release Date:** 03/09/2015

A somewhat grumpy Mr. Panda offers doughnuts to various animals, but he changes his mind when they demand a doughnut without saying "please". A humorous lesson in manners!



Sam & Dave Dig a Hole

Author: Mac Barnett **Release Date:** 03/09/2015

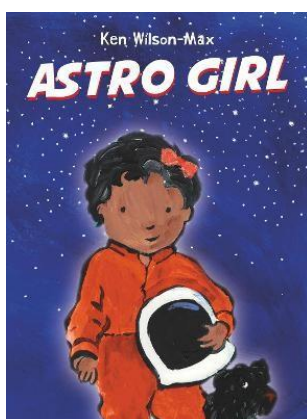
Award- winning illustrator Jon Klassen has created a second delightful and surprising picture book with Mac Barnett. Here two boys dig a hole. It doesn't seem to take them far, so they try digging a bit on their own. They still make little progress. So they take a rest...What happens while they are asleep turns out to be most surprising of all!



Hello, Friend!

Author: Rebecca Cobb **Release Date:** 20/08/2020

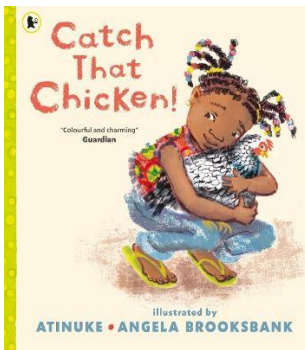
Rebecca Cobb's warm and uncluttered illustrations capture the importance of friendships and how they can best be made. Here, an eager little girl expresses her delightful enthusiasm for sharing everything including indoor and outdoor play, packed lunch and more while in pleasing contrast the boy who is the focus of her attentions shows that friendship can also take longer to develop. A sweet story which also provides a lot of scope for thoughtful conversation and reflection.



Astro Girl

Author: Ken Wilson-Max **Release Date:** 06/06/2019

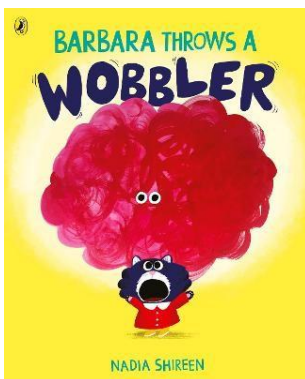
Astrid has always loved the stars and space. "I want to be an astronaut!" she says. While Mama is away, Papa and Astrid have fun acting out the challenges an astronaut faces on a space mission - eating food from a tube, doing science experiments, living and sleeping in near-zero gravity. Astrid can do it all! Then it's time to meet Mama at the airbase. But where has Mama been?



Catch That Chicken!

Author: Atinuke **Release Date:** 01/07/2021

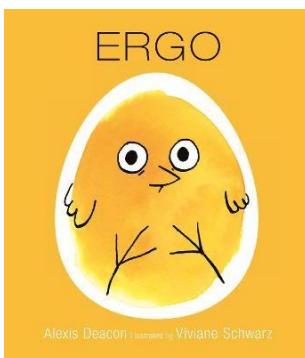
Told with great humour by Nigerian storyteller, Atinuke, this story of the headstrong, impetuous Lami will strike a chord with all children. The gentle message - to use quick thinking not just quick running - gives an incredibly satisfying ending, while Angela Brooksbank's beautiful artwork captures the energy and the beauty of the West African setting perfectly.



Barbara Throws a Wobbler

Author: Nadia Shireen **Release Date:** 15/04/2021

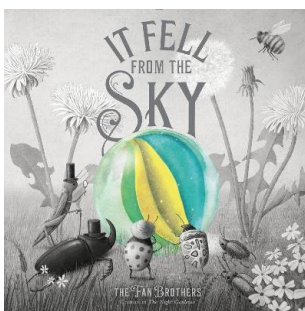
The story uses humorous personification of a tantrum to help children understand and manage their own intense emotions, showing how Barbara learns to work with her Wobbler to become cheerful again.



Ergo

Author: Alexis Deacon **Format:** Hardback **Release Date:** 05/08/2021

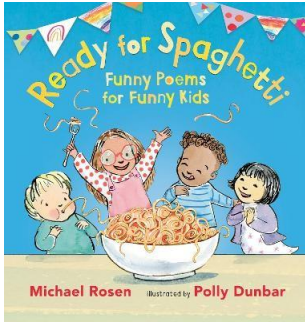
Ergo is a picture book about a chick named Ergo who hatches from her egg and explores her immediate surroundings, discovering her own body and thinking she is the world. After realizing there's a wall around her and hearing a sound from outside, Ergo decides to "peck" through it, breaking her isolation to meet other chicks and discover the world beyond her shell. The book is an inspiring, philosophical story for all ages, exploring themes of self-discovery and the importance of connecting with others.



It Fell From The Sky

Author: The Fan Brothers **Release Date:** 01/02/2022

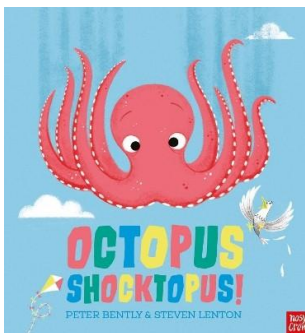
A mysterious object lands in a garden, leading to a greedy spider building an exhibition to charge others to see it. After greed causes the other insects to stop visiting, a larger creature steals the wonder. The spider is left alone, but later learns to give back and create wonder for everyone, teaching children about community and the importance of sharing.



Ready for Spaghetti: Funny Poems for Funny Kids

Author: Michael Rosen **Release Date:** 02/06/2022

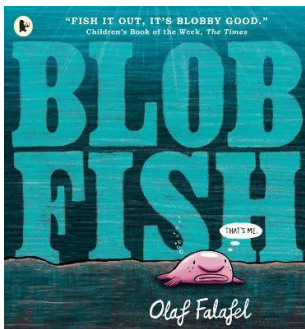
This is an inspiring guide to wordplay for young readers and their adults. I'm ready for spaghetti Will you getti the spaghetti? Don't say, Not yetti spaghetti! 'cos I'm all setti for spaghetti. Fizzing with rhythm, energy and laughter, the 30 poems in Ready for Spaghetti delight in the details of children's daily routines.



Octopus Shocktopus!

Author: Peter Bently **Release Date:** 02/07/2020

One day, a huge pink octopus appears on the roof of a young family's house, and despite the fire brigade's best efforts, it seems that it's there to stay. Yet, when the local children challenge it to a game of football, the octopus is an enthusiastic player - as well as being a brilliant slide and rollercoaster.



Blobfish

Author: Olaf Falafel **Release Date:** 01/06/2023

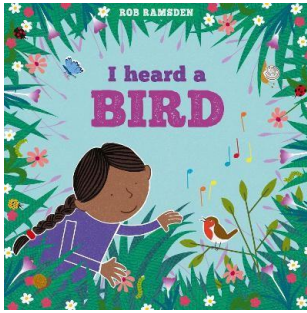
A heartfelt and humorous adventure from the bottom of the sea and beyond, following one fish on an epic journey. Deep, deep, deep under the sea ... lives Blobfish! Blobfish loves telling jokes, although he has no one to share them with, so he sets off on an adventure to find a friend. But sometimes friends turn up in the most unexpected places, even at the bottom of the ocean.



Lost

Author: Mariajo Ilustrajo **Release Date:** 07/02/2023

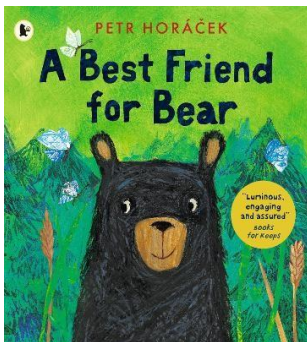
This book follows a polar bear who becomes lost in a big city, where he is ignored by busy people until a kind little girl takes him in. The girl feeds him, bathes him, and they share stories, but when the bear looks at a poster of the North Pole, she realizes he needs help to get home. The story emphasizes the power of friendship and kindness.



I heard a Bird

Author: Rob Ramsden **Release Date:** 06/04/2023

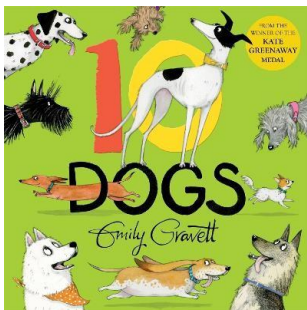
Dedicated to 'those who make friends with the birds', this delightful picture book stars a little girl who hears a robin singing in a tree. Sitting down she closes her eyes to concentrate on the sounds around her, listening to her own breathing and the beating of her heart. It's a lovely demonstration of mindfulness, and how the natural world can help us find peace and calm.



A Best Friend for Bear

Author: Petr Horacek **Release Date:** 06/04/2023

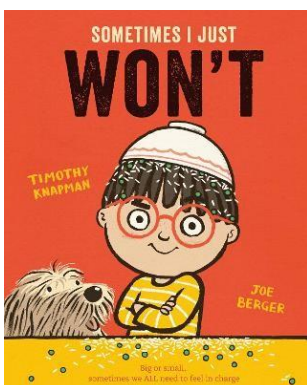
A heart-warming picture book about a charming bear duo on an adventure to find a best friend. Black Bear is feeling lonely, so he decides to look for a friend. Luckily, he meets Brown Bear, who is in the same situation! The bears decide to search for a friend together. They search everywhere, but their elusive friend is nowhere to be found. Or have they been right there all along?



10 Dogs

Author: Emily Gravett **Release Date:** 11/05/2023

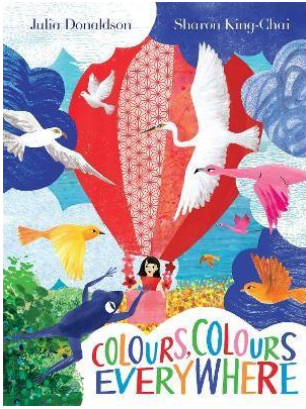
10 Dogs by Emily Gravett is a humorous picture book where ten dogs vie for a chain of sausages, leading to comical mishaps as they count, share, and ultimately find a way to enjoy the treats together. The book serves as a playful counting book for young children, teaching concepts like numbers one through ten and sharing.



Sometimes I Just WON'T

Author: Timothy Knapman **Release Date:** 18/08/2022

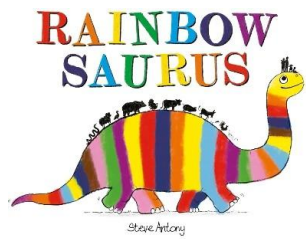
Sometimes I Just WON'T is a hilarious and helpful book about the ever-changing moods of small children. Some days you want to put your coat on, you don't mind sharing and you can't wait to have your bath. But some days, you just WON'T! And sometimes that's OK. But, with a little kindness and encouragement, you might find that something you don't want to do can become something you love to do!



Colours, Colours Everywhere

Author: Julia Donaldson **Release Date:** 13/10/2022

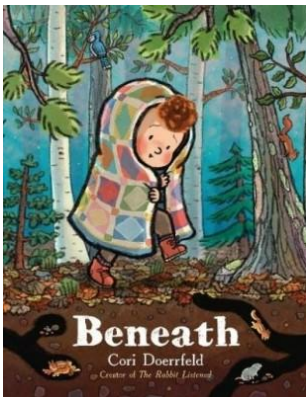
This is a stunning journey through the rainbow of colours. Following a little artist wondering what to paint today, we journey with the little girl through a series of lush landscapes and the breathtaking illustrations accompany Julia Donaldson's witty rhyming story.



Rainbowsaurus

Author: Steve Antony **Release Date:** 09/05/2024

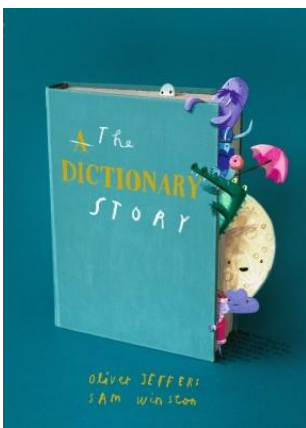
Two dads and their three children set out on a joyful adventure to meet the Rainbowsaurus. As they search, they meet an array of colourful and wonderfully noisy creatures. Animals in an array of non-traditional colours, make this a fun and bold story, whilst gently underlining the inclusive message of celebrating difference.



Beneath

Author: Cori Doerrfeld **Release Date:** 05/09/2024

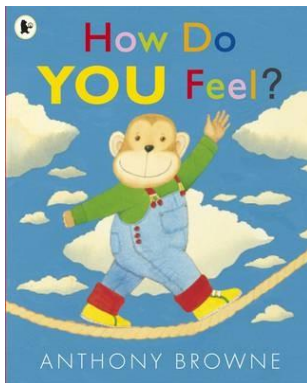
A child named Finn and his grandfather take a walk after Finn is in a bad mood. His grandfather uses nature, like tree roots and fish beneath the water, to show Finn that things aren't always as they seem on the surface. The book subtly explores themes of hidden emotions, grief, and empathy, using the idea that people, like nature, have depths and experiences beneath what is visible, and that others might share similar feelings too.



The Dictionary Story

Author: Oliver Jeffers, Sam Winston **Release Date:** 01/08/2024

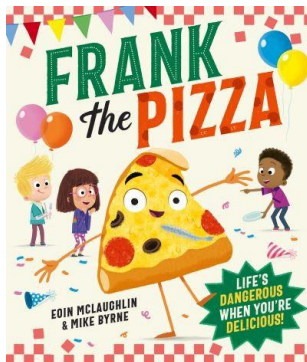
One day, Dictionary decided to bring her words to life. No longer happy with being the home of all words, she wants to tell a story of her own. Page by page she brings the words within to life as characters from the alphabet are allowed to ramble. After a series of mishaps, things get a little chaotic, a little out of control and Dictionary decides maybe she's a fan of organisation after all. With a little help from her friend Alphabet and things get back on track and order is resumed.



How Do You Feel?

Author: Anthony Browne **Release Date:** 06/09/2012

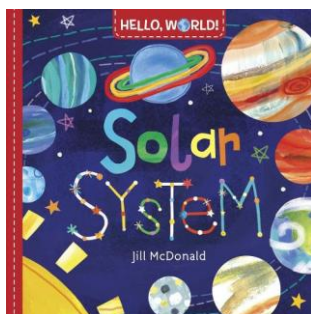
Former Children's Laureate Anthony Browne's characteristic and affecting illustrations are skillful in capturing simple emotions. Happy, sad, lonely, guilty, confident and shy - all these and more are eloquently expressed on the faces of Browne's endearing chimpanzees.



Frank the Pizza

Author: Eoin McLaughlin **Release Date:** 22/05/2025

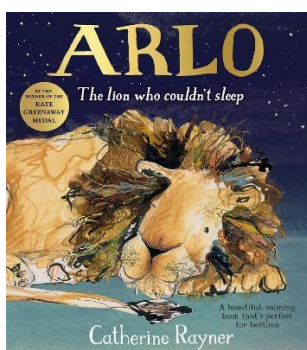
"It's hard to tell who your friends are when you're a pizza. Some people want to meet you. Other people want to eat you". As a result of this hard truth, Frank the Pizza's mum has concerns when he's invited to a birthday party. But Frank is set on going, and already picking out his party outfit, opting to keep it simple with classic pepperoni until his dad intervenes and makes Frank add olives and anchovies as a safety measure. While the addition of these unpopular toppings have the desired effect ("Who's ordered this disgusting pizza?" complains one of the party guests), Frank winds up sad and lonely until he meets Frances, a cute cupcake whose parents had taken comparable measures to keep her safe from being chomped.



Hello World! Solar System

Author: Jill McDonald **Release Date:** 08/03/2016

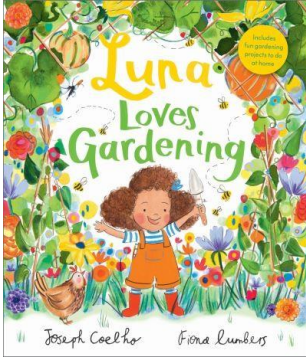
Children who enjoy looking up at space and dreaming of exploring the solar system will love this lively, fact-filled, illustrated tour of our galaxy, with fascinating details about each of the planets. Questions ask the reader to think about things such as "Would you like to live on a planet with a long winter or a short winter?" and "What would you bring on your Mars rover?"



Arlo The Lion Who Couldn't Sleep

Author: Catherine Rayner **Release Date:** 19/08/2021

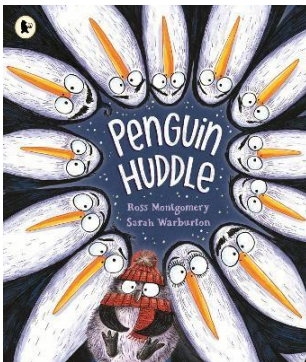
We can all empathise with the tired and grumpy Arlo who just cannot sleep. Luckily for Arlo, Owl is to hand with some useful advice on how he manages to sleep when everyone is awake during the day.



Luna Loves Gardening

Author: Joseph Coelho **Release Date:** 06/03/2025

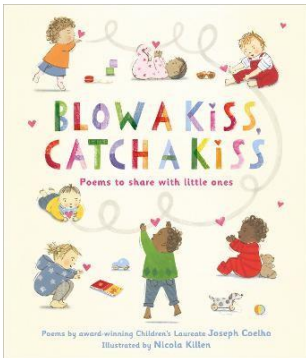
Working with her Dad and her grandparents in the community garden Luna not only learns about planting and tending plants to help them grow well but also about the importance of gardening for the insects who help to pollinate them. She also learns how plants come from all across the world and how each tells its own story.



Penguin Huddle

Author: Ross Montgomery **Release Date:** 02/11/2023

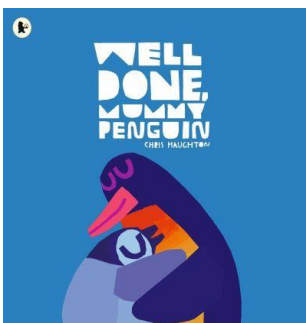
This big-hearted picture book of jolly penguins big and small is a celebration of friendship, community spirit and helping those in trouble. When the sun goes down, and the night grows cold and dark... "PENGUIN HUDDLE!" The penguins squeeze and squish together to stay warm and cosy. But one night, there is a freezing gale. And the next morning ... the penguins are stuck! Nobody in the Antarctic can figure out how to unstuck them. But Pipsqueak, the smallest penguin of them all, has a brilliant idea.



Blow a Kiss, Catch a Kiss

Author: Joseph Coelho **Release Date:** 05/10/2023

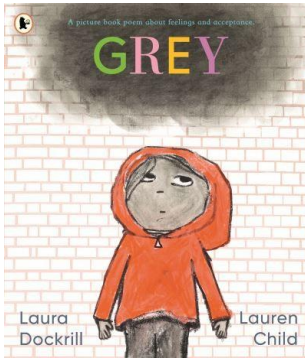
Children's Laureate Joseph Coelho's warm, elegant and meaningful poems capture both how young children experience everyday things like going shopping and the complexities of feelings as they are felt and expressed by the very youngest listeners.



Well Done, Mummy Penguin

Author: Chris Haughton **Release Date:** 05/10/2023

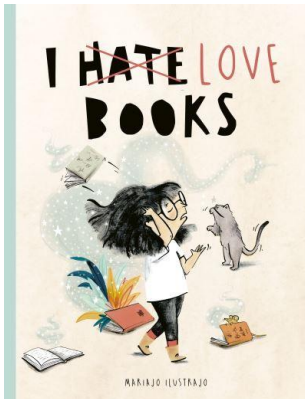
Chris Haughton perfectly captures the anxiety Little Penguin feels when mum goes off fishing for his dinner. And the pride he feels when she bravely comes back having overcome all kinds of obstacles with a big fish for the family to share.



Grey

Author: Laura Dockrill **Release Date:** 01/05/2025

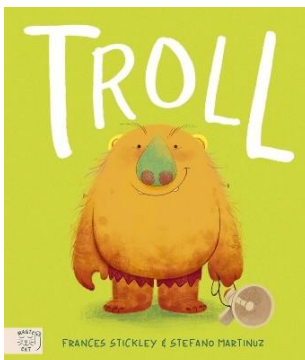
A picture book poem about a child who feels grey, a colour used to portray the emotions being felt by the character throughout the book. This book uses clever illustration techniques such as the use of page cut-outs and using simple but powerful illustrations.



I Love Books

Author: Mariajo Ilustrajo **Release Date:** 20/02/2025

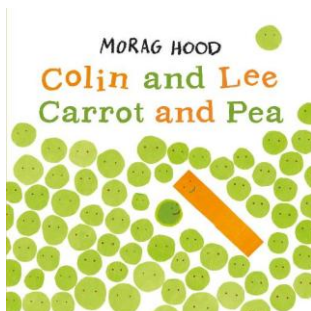
Imagine the injustice of having to read a WHOLE book over the summer holidays! That's the horror one little girl is faced with in I Love Books, and she's not happy about it. A trip to the library does little to quell her disgust at least not at first, but when the right book is put in her hands a world of imagination opens for her and maybe, just maybe, her hatred of books starts to change.



Troll

Author: Frances Stickley **Release Date:** 29/08/2024

Below the bridge, beneath the log, underneath the burping bog, where townsfolk whispered, cringed and crept, a terrifying monster slept... As group after group of animals encounter the dreaded bridge, they are confronted with the terrible Troll hidden in the depths below. Inspired by internet trolls, cloaked in anonymity, he delights in shouting mean things to passersby, hurting feelings just for fun until one small rabbit helps him see the errors of his ways.



Colin and Lee, Carrot and Pea

Author: Morag Hood **Release Date:** 16/06/2016

This book features an unlikely friendship between a pea named Lee and a carrot named Colin, celebrating diversity by showing how their differences—such as Colin's inability to roll like the other peas but ability to be a tower or slide—enrich their friendship. The story uses simple, humorous and vibrant collaged illustrations to convey the positive message that it's good to embrace and be friends with those who are different from you.