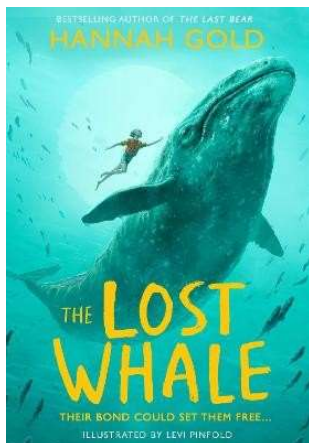


A selection of books especially selected for children in Year 4.

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 very competent reader or has read all of these titles, then try the books from the Year 5 list.



The Lost Whale

Author: Hannah Gold Release Date: 31/03/2022

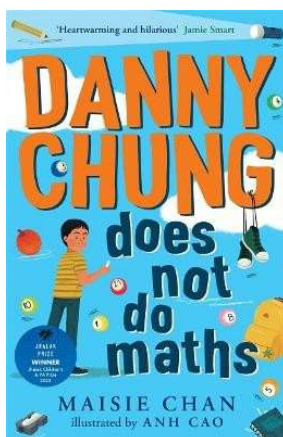
Rio has been sent to live with a grandmother he barely knows in California, while his mum is in hospital back home. Alone and adrift, the only thing that makes him smile is joining his new friend Marina on her dad's whale watching trips. That is until an incredible encounter with White Beak, a gentle giant of the sea changes everything. But when White Beak goes missing, Rio must set out on a desperate quest to find his whale and somehow save his mum. Dive into this incredible story about the connection between a boy and a whale and the bond that sets them both free.



Peanut Jones and the Illustrated City

Author: Rob Biddulph Release Date: 02/09/2021

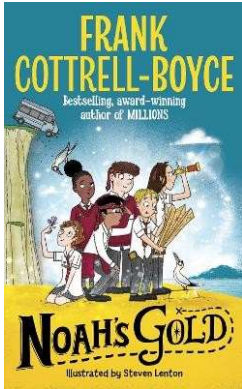
Drawing feels like magic to Peanut Jones. But art can't fix her problems. Her dad has gone missing, and she's stuck in a boring new school. Until the day she finds a unique pencil turbo-charged with special powers. Suddenly she's pulled into a world packed with more colour, creativity, excitement and danger than she could ever have imagined. And maybe, just maybe, she might find out what happened to her dad.



Danny Chung Does Not Do Maths

Author: Maisie Chan Release Date: 10/06/2021

Danny Chung loves art. Unfortunately, everyone else - parents and schoolfriends alike - thinks he should love maths. Then his grandmother arrives from China, and she and Danny have to share a bedroom. It feels like a catastrophe, but could funny, intelligent Nai Nai turn out to be his best friend?

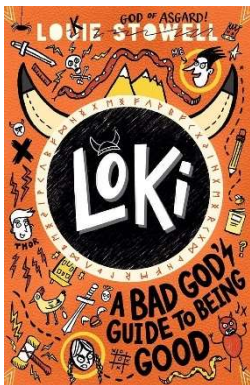


Noah's Gold

Author: Frank Cottrell Boyce Release Date: 13/05/2021

Eleven-year old Noah sneaks along on his big sister's geography field trip. Everything goes wrong! Six kids are marooned on an uninhabited island. Their teacher has vanished. They're hungry. Their phones don't work and Noah has broken the internet. There's no way of contacting home ... Disaster!

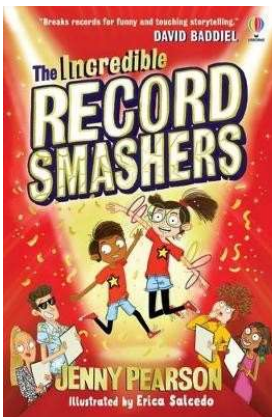
Until Noah discovers a treasure map and the gang goes in search of gold.



Loki: A Bad God's Guide to Being Good

Author: Louie Stowell Release Date: 03/02/2022

Oh, how the mighty are fallen! After playing one joke too many, trickster god Loki has been banished to earth by Odin, and this book presents Loki's diary account of his 31-day exile as a mere mortal. Despite believing "I am too awesome to be treated like this!", Loki reluctantly admits that "Odin IS the boss of me", which leaves him no choice. If he wants to return to his god-form, he must do good deeds, go to school, and show some kind of progress.



The Incredible Record Smashers

Author: Jenny Pearson Release Date: 29/04/2021

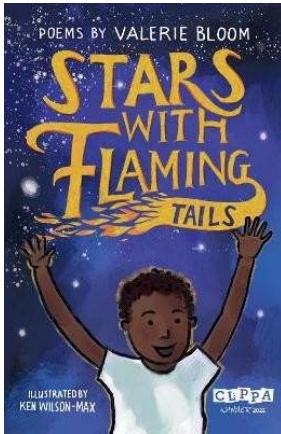
Lucy is a fixer of broken things. But there's one thing she can't fix and that's her unhappy mum. Until she comes up with an INCREDIBLE plan. Along with her best friend, Lucy is going to SMASH a world record. Because she's convinced that starry Paul Castellini - Record Smashers TV host and singing legend - is the answer to her mum's problems. But breaking a world RECORD when watermelons, kumquats, two baddies and a 30 cm shatter-resistant school ruler are involved isn't quite as easy as Lucy thought. Can she learn that sometimes happiness doesn't come with a plan?



A Girl Called Joy

Author: Jenny Valentine Release Date: 29/04/2021

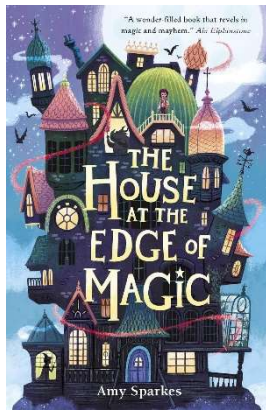
Joy's family have always travelled the world - Mum working as a nurse, Dad as a chef with Claude and Joy - sisters but totally different characters - until now. They have returned to the UK and are all crammed into Grandad's house where normality reigns supreme! Both girls have to go to school - for the first time ever - and find it difficult to settle and find life as engaging as it used to be. Joy has always looked for silver-linings but at the moment she finds it incredibly hard to find any, until she meets Benny who becomes a firm friend.



Stars With Flaming Tails

Author: Valerie Bloom Release Date: 07/01/2021

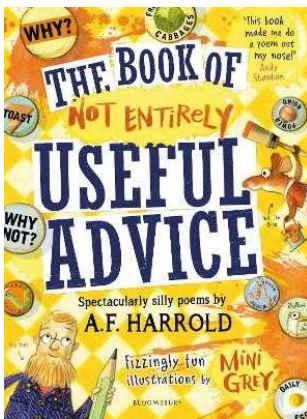
Stars with Flaming Tails is like a passport to the whole world and beyond. This is poetry that can go anywhere, from the personal to the planetary, the surreal to the scientific, with its invitation to us all to look and to laugh, to listen to our feelings and to think. And meanwhile, almost without noticing it, we're being handed the keys to the craft of writing for ourselves.



The House at the Edge of Magic

Author: Amy Sparkes Release Date: 07/01/2021

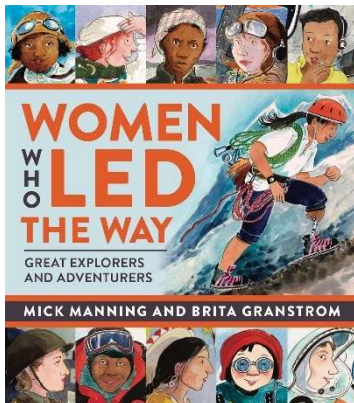
Nine is an orphan pickpocket determined to escape her life in the Nest of a Thousand Treasures. When she steals a house-shaped ornament from a mysterious woman's purse, she knocks on its tiny door and watches it grow into a huge, higgledy-piggeldy house. Inside she finds a host of magical and brilliantly funny characters, including Flabberghast - a young wizard who's particularly competitive at hopscotch - and a hideous troll housekeeper who's emotionally attached to his feather duster. They have been placed under an extraordinary spell, which they are desperate for Nine to break.



The Book of Not Entirely Useful Advice

Author: A. F. Harrold Release Date: 03/09/2020

A glorious collection of poems offering unforgettable advice on an extraordinary range of subjects. Scanning through the index will give you an idea of the topics covered and how: there are three entries for tiger, referring you to very useful poems, including the one that explains just how many tigers it takes to spoil a picnic. It's a book to fire the imagination and to make you see things in a whole new way.



Women Who Led the Way

Author: Mick Manning Release Date: 03/03/2022

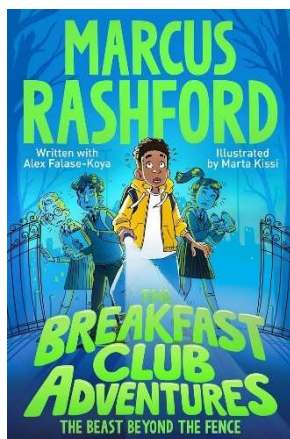
From Aud the Deep-Minded, an early voyager to Iceland, and Sacagawea, who guided the Lewis and Clark expedition across the USA, to Mae Jemison, the first black woman in space and Arunima Sinha, the first woman amputee to climb Mount Everest, this diverse and inclusive book shows the incredible courage, determination and power of women explorers over the last 1200 years. These women have led the way exploring lands, oceans, mountains, skies, and space, but have also made pioneering discoveries in the fields of science, nature, archaeology, ecology, and more. The lives of these women, told as personal stories, are an inspiration to us all.



Asha & the Spirit Bird

Author: Jasbinder Bilan Release Date: 07/02/2019

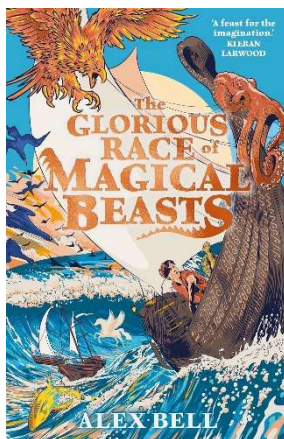
Asha lives in the foothills of the Himalayas. Money is tight and she misses her papa who works in the city. When he suddenly stops sending his wages, a ruthless moneylender ransacks their home and her mother talks of leaving. From her den in the mango tree, Asha makes a pact with her best friend, Jeevan, to find her father and make things right. But the journey is dangerous: they must cross the world's highest mountains and face hunger, tiredness - even snow leopards. And yet, Asha has the unshakeable sense that the spirit bird of her grandmother will be watching over her.



The Breakfast Club Adventures: The Beast Beyond the Fence

Author: Marcus Rashford Release Date: 26/05/2022

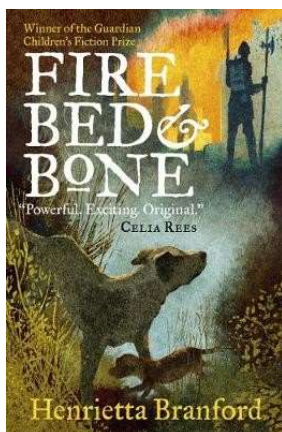
When twelve-year-old Marcus kicks his favourite football over the school fence, he knows he's never getting it back. *Nothing* that goes over that wall ever comes back. But when Marcus gets a mysterious note inviting him to join the Breakfast Club Investigators, he is soon pulled into an exciting adventure with his new mates Stacey, Lise and Asim to find out what is lurking on the other side of the fence - and get his football back!



The Glorious Race of Magical Beasts

Author: Alex Bell Release Date: 01/02/2024

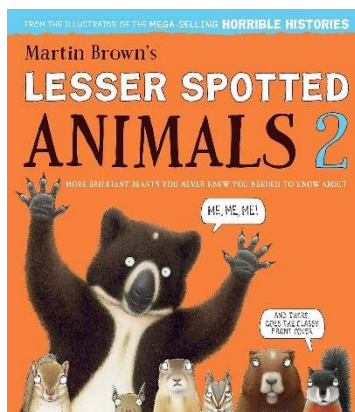
Eli is an apprentice librarian at the largest library in the world. But when his grandmother falls ill, he enters the Glorious Race of Magical Beasts to raise money for her treatment. This annual race is always held in the most perilous places and is full of spiky dangers. Most participants seek out unicorns and dragons to help them on their conquest. But not Eli. He embarks on this journey with his trusted pet and friend, Humphrey, his moon tortoise. Moon tortoises aren't suited to racing and Eli is no natural adventurer. But he soon finds himself in an unlikely partnership with Raven, a rule-breaker and skilled archer, and her ice hare - one of the fastest animals in the world.



Fire, Bed and Bone

Author: Henrietta Branford Release Date: 06/09/2018 (reissue)

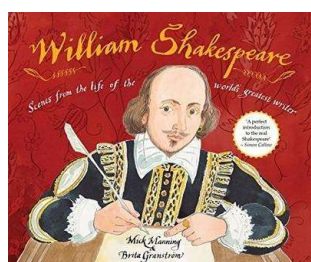
A moving narrative about injustice, upheaval and survival in fourteenth century Britain told from the point of view of a devoted and sought-after hunting dog. The story focuses on the societal tension and oppression that lead to her beloved masters Rufus and Comfort being arrested for heresy during the Peasants' Revolt and how she must then struggle to raise her puppy Fleabane and forge a life away from the cruel landlord and violence happening all around her. Ultimately an uplifting story about loyalty and hope.



Lesser Spotted Animals 2

Author: Martin Brown Release Date: 04/04/2019

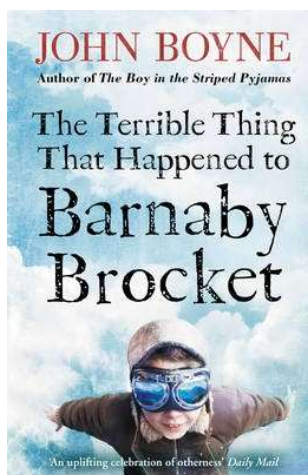
This is no ordinary animal book, you won't find the usual suspects in its page, no tigers, pandas, bears here. Instead be prepared to be amazed by animals you've never heard of, from the altai argali to the yellow-throated marten and everything in between. Each page is packed with fascinating information, cleverly laid out with frequent jokes and cartoon asides adding to the fun. At the same time, there's a serious message about the threat to these creatures from humans, and habitat loss.



William Shakespeare Scenes from the Life of the World's Greatest Writer

Author: Mick Manning Release Date: 03/03/2016

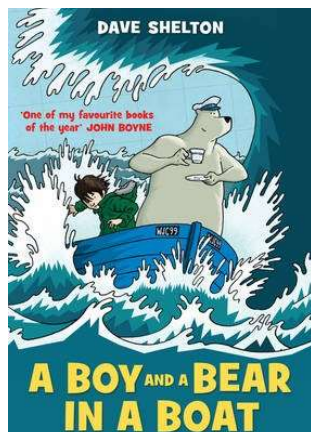
Beautifully illustrated throughout this is beautiful to look at and packed with information. There is lots on Shakespeare's childhood and the book provides a very clear impression of Tudor life. It explains the 'lost years', when no-one really knows what Shakespeare was up to, and cleverly puts the plays in the context of Shakespeare's life and times. There are also retellings of some of the most well-known plays - Hamlet, Macbeth, A Midsummer Night's Dream and Romeo and Juliet.



The Terrible Thing That Happened to Barnaby Brocket

Author: John Boyne Release Date: 28/03/2013

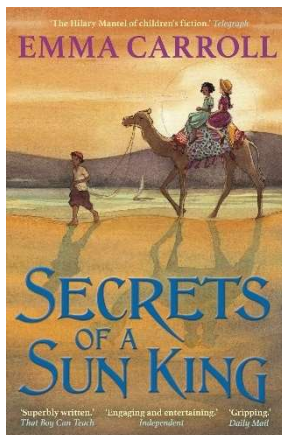
Barnaby Brocket's parents want only thing - to lead an utterly normal life. But when Barnaby, their third child is born, they know at once that he is very far from normal. The problem is, Barnaby cannot stay on the ground; he floats ever upwards unless weighted down or restrained. Embarrassed by their problem son and the attention he may attract, Barnaby's parents let him go... Now a free spirit and travelling in many different ways, Barnaby's adventures take him across the world.



A Boy and a Bear in a Boat

Author: Dave Shelton Release Date: 14/03/2013

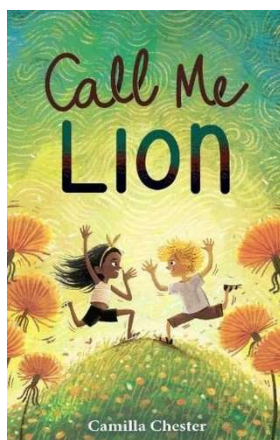
An amazing adventure follows when a boy takes what he thinks will be a short ride in a boat with a bear. But the ride is not a short one... Soon, the boat is in the middle of an empty sea and the bear is struggling with a map and searching the horizon with a telescope. Luckily the boy has brought some food with him as together, the boy and the bear deal with impenetrable mist, a terrifying sea monster and even the remains of a disgusting sandwich in this humorous and gentle journey of survival and self-discovery.



Secrets of a Sun King

Author: Emma Carroll Release Date: 02/08/2018

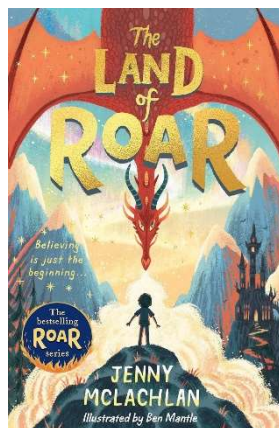
When Lilian Kaye finds a parcel on her grandad's doorstep, she is shocked to see who sent it: a famous Egyptologist, found dead that very morning, according to every newspaper in England! The mysterious package holds the key to a story about a king whose tomb archaeologists are desperately hunting for. Lil and her friends must embark on an incredible journey - to return the package to its resting place, to protect those they love and to break the deadly pharaoh's curse.



Call Me Lion

Author: Camilla Chester Release Date: 16/06/2022

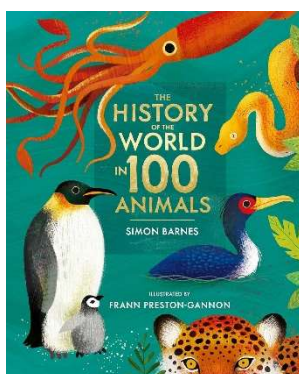
Ten-year-old Leo dreams of performing in the West End. His love of dancing is getting him through the Luton heatwave, but his selective mutism is putting his spot in the end-of-summer dance show on the line. When chatty Richa moves in next door, Leo finds it easy to bond with her. She talks enough for the both of them... at least to begin with. But when he learns her secret it's clear that Richa needs Leo's support as much as he needs hers. With Richa's help, will Leo be able to follow his dreams? Or will Leo's inability to talk cost him their friendship?



The Land of Roar

Author: Jenny McLachlan Release Date: 01/08/2019

When Arthur and Rose were little, they were heroes in the Land of Roar, an imaginary world that they found by climbing through the folding bed in their grandad's attic. Roar was filled with things they loved - dragons, mermaids, ninja wizards and adventure - as well as things that scared them. Now the twins are eleven, Roar is just a memory. But when they help Grandad clean out the attic, Arthur is horrified as Grandad is pulled into the folding bed and vanishes. Is he playing a joke? Or is Roar real?



The History of the World in 100 Animals

Author: Simon Barnes Release Date: 02/12/2021

This beautiful book proposes the 100 animals who have had the greatest impact on humans and the way we view the world around us. From the bees who pollinate our food to the chimpanzees who share over 98% of our DNA, this book explores the unique and thought-provoking relationship between humans and animals throughout history. This fact-filled guide is sure to inspire and delight animal lovers.