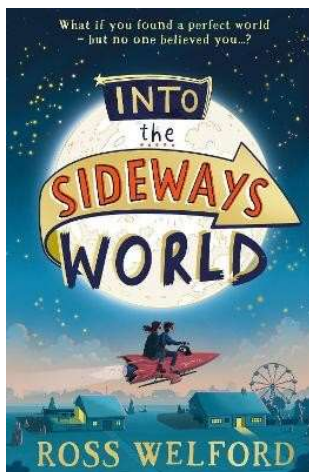


A selection of books especially selected for children in Year 5.

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 6 list.



Into the Sideways World

Author: Ross Welford **Release Date:** 20/01/2022

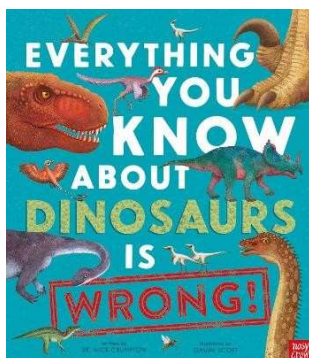
A moving, funny, thrilling and adventured-filled novel. When twelve-year-olds Willa and Manny hear of a mysterious animal prowling their town, they are determined to prove it is real. Following the creature into a cave one full moon, they are swept into an alternate, ideal, world - one where pollution and conflict have been conquered decades ago and even their own families seem happier. But when they return, no one believes them. So, with a global war looming in their own world, their quest for proof of the Sideways World becomes ever-more urgent, in a nail-biting race against time.



The Lion Above the Door

Author: Onjali Q. Rauf **Release Date:** 14/10/2021

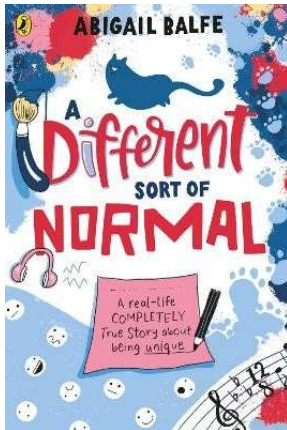
On a school trip to Rochester Cathedral, Leo is astonished to see a World War II memorial to a man with exactly the same name as him, Leo Kai Lim. Who was the Leo commemorated with a golden lion in the cathedral, and could there be a family connection? Determined to find out more, Leo suggests forgotten heroes as the theme for the class project on WWII and it's chosen alongside family histories. In his endeavour to find out more about his namesake, Leo is helped by his best friend Sangeeta, who is tracking down information on the part played by Indian soldiers in the war and is thrilled to discover more about the role played by women too. This story will intrigue and entertain young readers while also helping them understand racism, past and present.



Everything You Know About Dinosaurs is Wrong!

Author: Dr Nick Crumpton **Release Date:** 16/09/2021

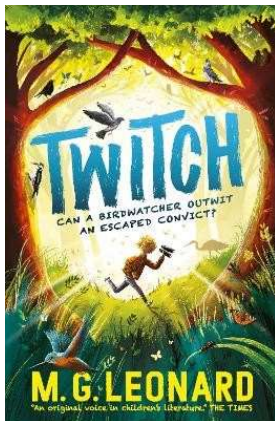
This fascinating, easy-to-understand text by zoologist, researcher and writer, Dr Nick Crumpton is complemented by amazingly detailed dinosaur artwork on every spread. It features jaw-dropping research that will debunk many myths about all kinds of prehistoric creatures - you'll never look at a pigeon in the same way again!



A Different Sort of Normal

Author: Abigail Balfe Release Date: 22/07/2021

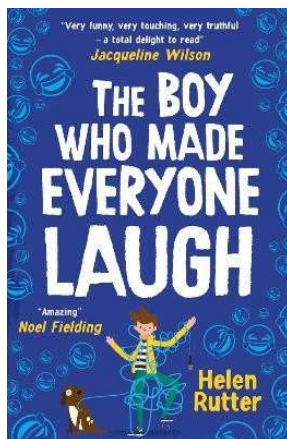
Abigail Balfe is autistic and has written this honest, amusing and very useful book about some of the things she was aware of as she was growing up. Balfe knew she was different all the way through her childhood and youth - and this book is full of observations on how she navigated her younger years. It was not until she was an adult that her diagnosis of autism was delivered - which suddenly explained a great deal of confusing issues from her youth.



Twitch

Author: M.G. Leonard Release Date: 03/06/2021

Can a birdwatcher outwit an escaped convict? Twitch has three pet chickens, four pigeons, swallows nesting in his bedroom and a passion for birdwatching. On the first day of the summer holidays, he arrives at his secret hide to find police everywhere: a convicted robber has broken out of prison and is hiding in Aves Wood. Can Twitch use his talents for birdwatching to hunt for the dangerous prisoner and find the missing loot?



The Boy Who Made Everyone Laugh

Author: Helen Rutter Release Date: 04/02/2021

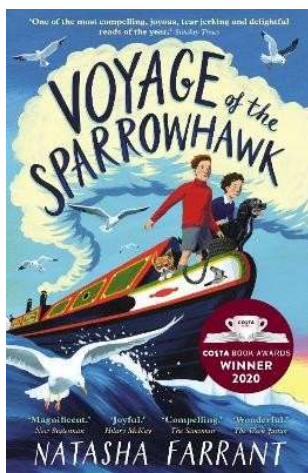
Billy likes nothing more than making and performing jokes and dreams that one day he will be a famous stand-up comedian. But Billy has a stammer and it can be hard for him even to get a joke out quickly enough. Both touching and funny this is a brilliant story about being brave, being different and learning that being you is what really matters.



The Midnight Guardians

Author: Ross Montgomery Release Date: 05/11/2020

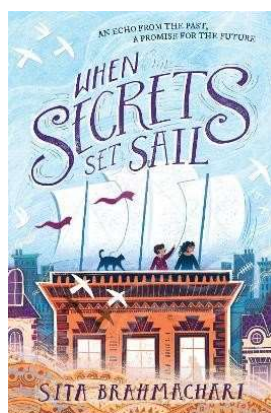
When Col's childhood imaginary friends come to life, he discovers a world where myths and legends are real. Accompanied by his guardians - a six-foot tiger, a badger in a waistcoat and a miniature knight - Col must race to Blitz-bombed London to save his sister. But there are darker forces at work, even than the Nazi bombings. Soon Col is pursued by the terrifying Midwinter King, who is determined to bring an eternal darkness down over everything.



Voyage of the Sparrowhawk

Author: Natasha Farrant Release Date: 03/09/2020

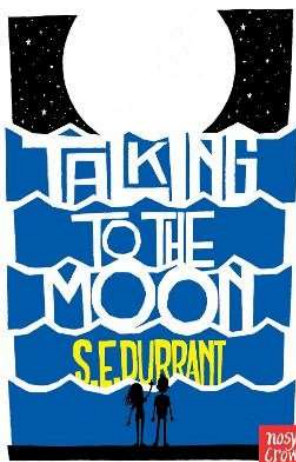
In the aftermath of World War One, everyone is trying to rebuild their lives. If Ben is to avoid being sent back to the orphanage, he needs to find his brother Sam, wounded in action and is now missing. Lotti's horrible aunt and uncle want to send her away to boarding-school (when she has just so successfully managed to get expelled from her last one!) And Clara, their young teacher, is waiting for news of her missing fiancé. Just as they think they've found their feet in the new order, disaster strikes, and Lotti and Ben must get away. And so they hatch a plan - to cross the Channel on Ben's narrowboat and find Sam.



When Secrets Set Sail

Author: Sita Brahmachari Release Date: 20/08/2020

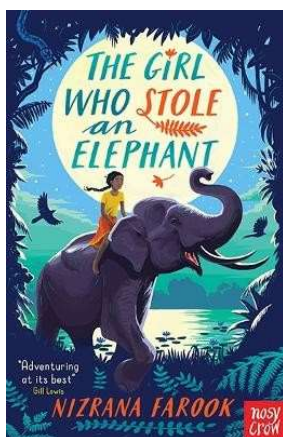
Usha is devastated when her grandmother Kali Ma passes away. Then her new adoptive sister Imtiaz arrives and the two girls clash instantly. That is until Kali Ma's ghost appears with a task for them. Immy's and Usha's home is full of history and secrets. Many years ago it was The House of the Ayahs - for those nannies who couldn't return to their Indian homeland. Today, their over-worked parents run the house as a home for refugees but eviction threatens. The precious documents that could save them are lost. If Usha and Imtiaz can set the secrets of generations free, will they be in time to save their home?



Talking to the Moon

Author: S. E. Durrant Release Date: 05/03/2020

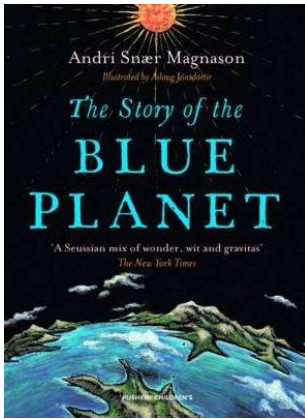
Iris takes refuge with her grandma, Mimi, to escape the chaos at home caused by her two-year old twin siblings and her dad's DIY repairs. There's a different kind of disorder in Mimi's house which is chock full of items collected over the years, chiefly boxes of photos she's taken and developed. Among the photographs of other people's weddings are family portraits and its one of these that sets Iris on a hunt to unravel an old mystery, even as Mimi's memories are fading.



The Girl Who Stole an Elephant

Author: Nizrana Farook Release Date: 09/01/2020

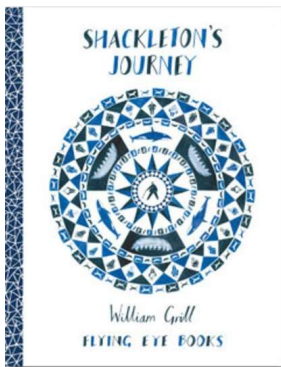
The story is set on the island of Serendib, now known as Sri Lanka, and transports readers to a vivid, larger-than-life world where young people can be bold, true and have some extraordinary adventures. Twelve-year old Chaya is a thief with a heart of gold, stealing from the king's palace to help those in her village. She makes a mistake when she takes jewels from the queen's bedroom though, triggering a series of events that leads to Chaya and two friends fleeing into the rainforest on the king's elephant.



The Story of the Blue Planet

Author: Andri Snær Magnason Release Date: 07/05/2015

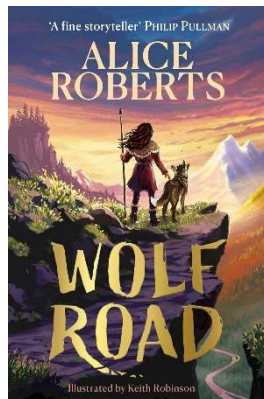
A whimsical fairy tale, *The Story of the Blue Planet* is the story of two children who live on a planet inhabited only by children who never grow old. There's a powerful underlying message about caring for our environment whilst at the same time telling a wonderfully entertaining story that is combined with bright, magical illustrations.



Shackleton's Journey

Author: William Grill Release Date: 02/01/2014

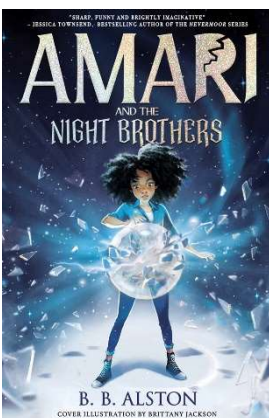
A detailed visual narrative of Shackleton's epic journey to Antarctica. Children will love examining the exploded diagrams of the now peculiar provisions taken and the individual drawings of each sled dog and pack horse. This book takes the academic and historical information surrounding the expedition and reinterprets it for a young audience in a way that will capture their imaginations.



Wolf Road

Author: Alice Roberts Release Date: 06/06/2024

Tuuli is a prehistoric girl, travelling with her tribe through the seasons - making camp, hunting for food and protecting themselves against the many hazards that the climate throws at them. Tuuli knows there's a bigger world out there, and when she spots a strange boy lurking outside their camp, she realises that he might hold the adventure she is looking for. He is from another tribe, sent to find safer ground and as he and Tuuli strike up an unlikely friendship, they set out on a journey that will impact the rest of human history.

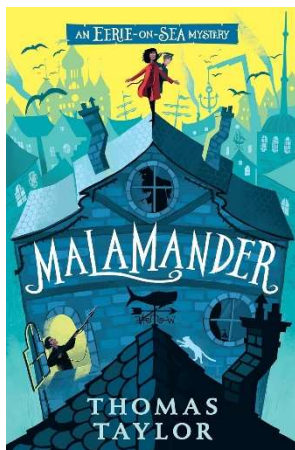


Amari and the Night Brothers

Author: B.B. Alston Release Date: 05/08/2021

Amari Peters knows three things. Her big brother Quinton has gone missing. No one will talk about it. His mysterious job holds the secret...

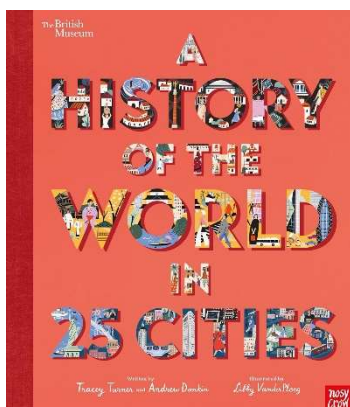
So when Amari gets an invitation to the Bureau of Supernatural Affairs, she's certain this is her chance to find Quinton. But first she has to get her head around the new world of the Bureau, where mermaids, aliens and magicians are *real*, and her roommate is a weredragon. Amari must compete against kids who've known about the supernatural world their whole lives, and when each trainee is awarded a special supernatural talent, Amari is given an illegal talent - one that the Bureau views as dangerous.



Malamander

Author: Thomas Taylor Release Date: 02/05/2019

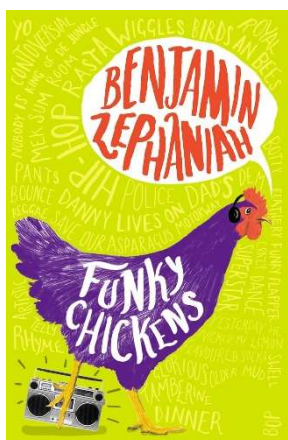
Herbert Lemon, Lost-and-Founder at the Grand Nautilus Hotel, knows that returning lost things to their rightful owners is not easy - especially when the lost thing is not a thing at all, but a girl. No one knows what happened to Violet Parma's parents twelve years ago, and when she engages Herbie to help her find them, the pair discover that their disappearance might have something to do with the legendary sea-monster, the Malamander. Eerie-on-Sea has always been a mysteriously chilling place, where strange stories seem to wash up. And it just got stranger...



A History of the World in 25 Cities

Author: Tracey Turner & Andrew Donkin
Release Date: 02/09/2021

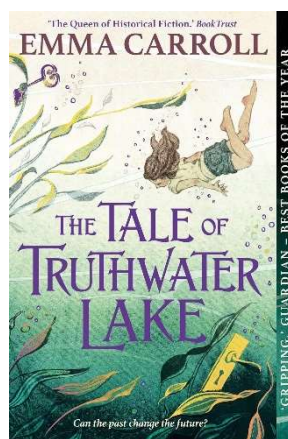
Explore cities that have shaped the course of human history. This wonderful book unveils uniquely illustrated city maps from around the world. The journey spans ancient history to the present day, guiding readers on a mesmerizing tour through time and place, from the Dawn of Time to the Modern Metropolis.



Funky Chickens

Author: Benjamin Zephaniah
Release Date: 04/10/2018

The rap style of these poems sings through the rhythmical lines which are brilliant for reading aloud and the poems are often funny, colloquial in language and sometimes irreverent. There's a real energy and playfulness to the poems, and hot topics like environmentalism, racism, veganism and politics weave in between bursts of clever wordplay and delightfully silly imagery that will thrill older primary readers.



The Tale of Truthwater Lake

Author: Emma Carroll Release Date: 06/04/2023

It's the near-future and Britain is having yet another heatwave. Of course, the government have put in the normal curfews for this kind of weather, and shops are forced to shut again. For Polly, it's the sort of heat that makes her do wild, out-of-character things just to cool down. Like face her fear of deepwater. Essential when she and her brother have been sent to their aunt's eco lake-side house for the summer. But Truthwater Lake is beginning to dry up. As the water level diminishes, a lost village emerges. Swimming over the rooftops at midnight, Polly dives down and is suddenly able to breathe, to hear church bells and bird song.