



Recommended Reads for Christmas

With hundreds of books available, it can be hard to know where to start when choosing a book for your child! This list offers some great suggestions for books for children of primary school age.

Click on a year group below to be taken to the relevant section:

[Recommended Reads for Reception](#)

[Recommended Reads for Year 1](#)

[Recommended Reads for Year 2](#)

[Recommended Reads for Year 3](#)

[Recommended Reads for Year 4](#)

[Recommended Reads for Year 5](#)

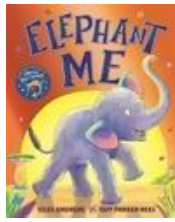
[Recommended Reads for Year 6](#)

Finished your Christmas shopping? Hang onto the list for ideas of books to read in the new year.

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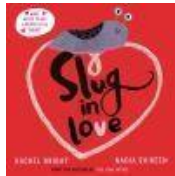
Recommended Reads for Reception



**Andreae,
Giles**

Elephant Me

When Num Num the elephant can't perform a spectacular feat for the King, he leaves the herd under a cloud. But Num Num has hidden talents that are appreciated by the other animals who show him that just being you is enough to make you special.



**Bright,
Rachel**

Slug in Love

Doug the slug is persistent in his hunt for a hug and some love. Will his search end in success? A lovely rhyming story about everyone being appreciated by someone who may be very unexpected.



**Butterworth,
Nick**

Percy's 123

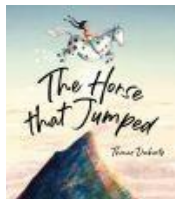
A counting book using characters from the popular series Percy the Parkkeeper and his animal friends. A great book to introduce numbers and counting in class.



**Clarkson,
Stephanie**

**Super Milly
and the Super
School Day**

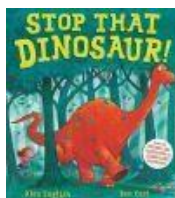
It is Superhero day at Milly's school but she is concerned she has no superpowers. But during the day she realises that superpowers can be more subtle but just as effective.



**Docherty,
Thomas**

**The Horse
That
Jumped**

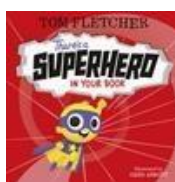
A girl and a horse go on a magical adventure over mountains, clouds and more. They discover wonderful worlds before returning home. A lovely read aloud book about imagination.



**English,
Alex**

**Stop That
Dinosaur!**

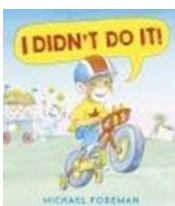
When a dinosaur steals a little girl's Grandma, she has to follow it to rescue her. But the dinosaur is not all bad and ends up going back for tea with the girl and her gran. Great to read aloud as well as introducing familiar places as the rescue unfolds.



**Fletcher,
Tom**

**There's a
Superhero
in Your
Book**

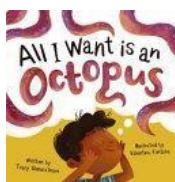
The Scribbler is causing chaos in a story book so the Superhero needs some help!. A fun interactive story where the readers have to help Superhero foil the antics of Scribbler. Good for following instructions and joining in.



**Foreman,
Michael**

**I Didn't Do
It!**

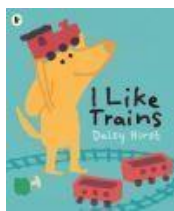
Milo doesn't want to miss the cycle race that is coming to town. As he cycles to see it he sets off a chain of chaotic events of which he is oblivious but it all works out in the end. Good for inspiring writing and talking about what might happen next.



**Gunaratnam,
Tracy**

**All I Want is an
Octopus**

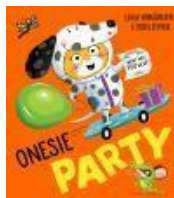
A little boy wants an octopus as his pet but his parents are not so keen. But will Gran be able to persuade them that octopi are very good house pets with many special skills.



**Hirst,
Daisy**

I Like Trains

Small Dog is obsessed by trains and plays with his toy one all the time. But nothing beats going on a real train especially when you meet someone you love at the end of the journey.



**Hodgkinson,
Leigh**

Onesie Party

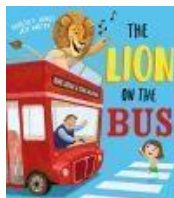
Let's meet a host of animals who are all invited to a onesie party. Great to read aloud as well as introducing a wide range of animals to talk about.



Jarvis

**Follow Me,
Flo!**

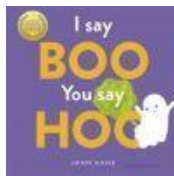
Flo has an unfortunate habit of wandering off so Daddy Duck has to keep her in line with a song. But Flo invents her own version with interesting consequences. Good for introducing opposites and describing words.



**Jones,
Gareth P**

**The Lion on
the Bus**

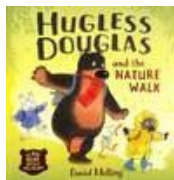
The wheels on the bus go round and round but what does a lion on a bus do? The familiar rhyme with some animal passengers make this a wonderful read aloud story.



**Kane,
John**

**I Say Boo
You Say
Hoo**

Let's tell this story by joining in with a small ghost who is afraid of the dark. Good for interactive telling with the children picking up on the verbal and visual clues as they go along.



**Melling,
David**

**Hugless
Douglas and
the Nature
Walk**

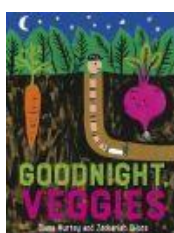
Hugless Douglas goes on a nature walk with his class, spotting insects, animals and plants along the way. It starts to rain, an adventure follows and Douglas saves the day. Includes a nature spotters guide in the back of the book.



**Melling,
David**

**Ruffles and the
Red, Red Coat**

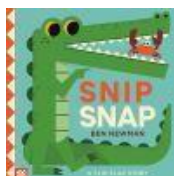
Ruffles is a small puppy who knows his own mind and wearing his red coat is definitely not what he wants to do. But when he wants to play with his friend Ruby, he realises that his coat might be a good thing after all. Ideal for discussing compromising as well as being able to admit you were wrong.



**Murray,
Diana**

**Goodnight,
Veggies**

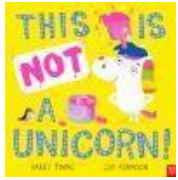
A delightful bedtime story saying goodnight to all the vegetables in the garden as they settle down for the night.



**Newman,
Ben**

Snip Snap

Crocodile is peacefully minding her eggs when Crab decides to sneak up and bite her. What follows next introduces children to onomatopoeic words that everyone can join in with.



**Timms,
Barry**

**This is NOT a
Unicorn!**

A little girl has a friend who is definitely not a unicorn but what is that thing on the top of its head if it is not a horn? Lots of wordplay and imagination as we discover all the things that a horn can be used for - but it is not a unicorn!



**Williams,
Sam**

**How About a
Night Out?**

A cat and his friends take the reader on a trip round the city at night. Lots to see and hear as we explore a night time world.

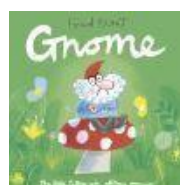
Recommended Reads for Year 1



**Altes,
Marta**

New in Town

A dog arrives in a new town and is filled with apprehension and excitement. Great to discuss new experiences and how we feel when dealing with them



**Blunt,
Fred**

Gnome

Gnome is very rude to everyone but when he is asked nicely to stop fishing in a pond and refuses to comply, he gets his just deserts. A very funny story about manners and being nice to other people.



**Bond,
John**

Mini Rabbit Come Home

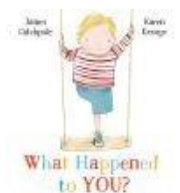
Mini Rabbit is camping in his back garden and needs to prepare. But will he manage to get everything together before the weather turns to rain.



**Bright,
Rachel**

Free-Range Freddy

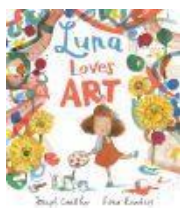
A newly-hatched chicken does not conform to normal chicken behaviour much to the distress of the other chickens. But Freddy shows them that being different is not so bad and can add some colour into everyone's life.



**Catchpole,
James**

What Happened to You?

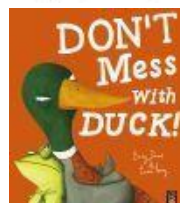
Joe has only one leg but just wants to get on with having fun in the playground. But everyone else is curious about his disability and interrupts him constantly. Lots to discuss about how disabled people feel and how they have feelings just like the rest of us.



**Coelho,
Joseph**

Luna Loves Art

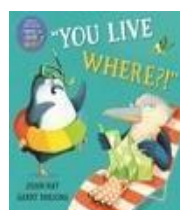
This is a story about a school trip to an art gallery but is also about how a little boy is dealing with his sense of place in the world.



**Davies,
Becky**

Don't Mess With Duck!

Duck is on a mission to find a peaceful pond but just when he thinks he has found one, Frog appears. Can the two animals realise that sharing is a good thing when they both want the same thing.



**Hay,
John**

You Live Where?!

Kookaburra casually asks the other animals on holiday where they come from and then is astonished at the funny place names he discovers. A really entertaining book which also introduces countries around the world and how places get called the names they do.



Hemming, Alice

The Leaf Thief

Squirrel can't understand who is stealing the leaves on the tree so sets out to discover the culprit. A fun story about the seasons and how nature changes throughout the year.



Jones, Pip

On With the Show

Ava and her cat Squishy McFluff are going to the circus but the last thing they expect to do is to take part in the performance. This latest in the series is a good short chapter book for developing readers.



Kinnear, Nicola

Shhh! Quiet!

Fox is naturally very quiet and often ignored by the other animals who are much more boisterous. But Fox is more observant and spots a bear lurking in the wood. Can she be strong and loud enough to warn the other animals. A story about how everyone has a voice and should not be overlooked.



Macdonald, Alan

Pirates Don't go to School!

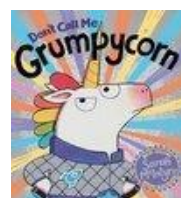
Pirates aren't meant to go to school but Jake is determined to do it. But are you allowed to bring your pet parrot? And how much mayhem can one parrot cause. A fun story about pirates and fitting in.



Mantle, Ben

Frog vs Toad

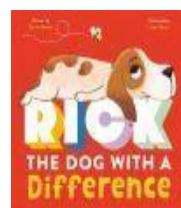
Frog and Toad don't believe that they have anything in common, until an alligator comes along to dispel the myth.



McIntyre, Sarah

Don't Call Me Grumpycorn

Four friends decide to head off to space for an adventure but disagree on which planet to visit first. Unicorn turns into Grumpycorn but can he realise that being with his friends is much more fun than being on his own.



Mowat, Claire

Rick: The Dog With a Difference

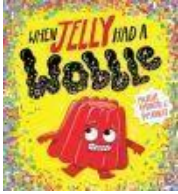
Rick is conscious that he is different to other dogs, he doesn't enjoy typical dog like things. But then he meets other animals who also don't fit in with stereotypes and realises that it is okay to be a bit different.



Rand, Emily

The Lost Property Office

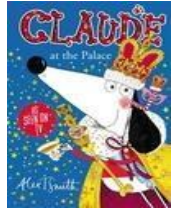
A little girl leaves her favourite teddy on a train and is devastated, but Grandpa takes her to a magical place - the Lost Property Office - where she discovers all sorts of treasures that have been lost. A reassuring story but also one where she discovers about all the different people who travel on the train.



**Robinson,
Michelle**

**When Jelly Had
a Wobble**

Jelly is suffering from self-doubt and nerves as she enters the Best Food Competition. She thinks she has no chance of winning but everyone loves jelly, don't they?



**Smith,
Alex T**

**Claude at the
Palace**

Claude and his best friend Mr Bobblysocks should be tucked up at home on a dreary wet day. Instead, they get into a right royal mess whilst looking after the Royal children on the Queen's birthday! Will Claude be in trouble or save the day?! Young readers will love all the illustrations and madcap moments.



**Sperring,
Mark**

**The Don't
Panic Gang!**

3 animal superheroes are always ready to help but can they save a spider terrified by a human in the bath! A twist on the idea of being scared of spiders but a very enjoyable tale for superheroes topics.



**Whitty,
Hannah**

**We've Got
Talent**

Sam and Olivia are best friends and love performing but they don't want to conform to stereotypes in the school play. A story showing that you can do anything no matter what your gender and what other people expect.

Recommended Reads for Year 2



**Agard,
John**

**Books Make
Good Pets**

Bet you never thought of a book as a pet? But this story shows that books are pets - they are fun, they are there when you need some support and they can be your best friends. A lovely look at the value of books and stories



**Biddulph,
Rob**

Dog Gone

Teddy and his human Dave are exploring the local park when a storm descends. In the rush to get somewhere dry, Teddy and Dave get split up. Teddy has to find his human but finds some unexpected surprises on the way.



**Brol,
Magda**

**Once Upon a
Penguin**

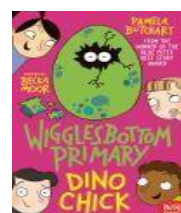
Paco the penguin finds a strange object on his iceberg that turns out to be a book; and the penguins love it. So, they decide to go off to find more, a journey that ends in a library! A delightful tale about the joys of reading and also how useful a library can be.



**Burrows,
Sophie**

**Ig Pig and Og
Frog**

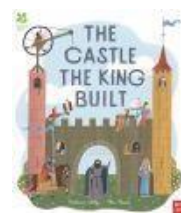
Ig Pig and Og Pog do everything together - they are best friends. Until Bog, another frog, turns up to spoil the party. An exuberant look at how life changes but there is always room for one more friend.



**Butchart,
Pamela**

Dino Chick

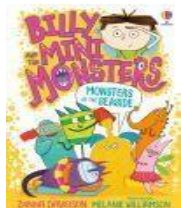
The Year 2 children at Wigglesbottom primary have 3 more adventures in this latest title in the series. Is an egg a chicken's or a dinosaur's? What happens when a new girl joins the class and turns out to be someone special and how do the children react when their beloved school library is threatened with closure children.



**Colby,
Rebecca**

**The Castle the
King Built**

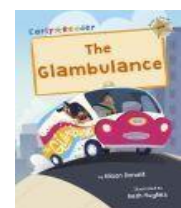
A rhyming story about the working life inside a medieval castle. Lovely illustrations to pore over as well as to discuss all the jobs needed to keep the castle running. Can be read as a story or an information book.



**Davidson,
Zanna**

**Monsters at
the Seaside**

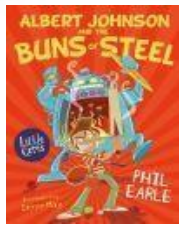
Billy and his mini monsters are off for a holiday the Seaside at the seaside. They have lots of fun until one of the monsters is stolen by a seagull. An enjoyable story for developing readers with lots of pictures to help with the story.



**Donald,
Alison**

**The
Glambulance**

When you are a dog stuck in a police pound and Alison Glambulance no one wants you, you need the team from the Glambulance to come and do a make over. A fun story about helping out other people, this is an ideal beginner reader story



Earle, Phil

Albert Johnson and the Buns of Steel

Albert loves sport but his Dad loves baking. When Dad gets a robot to help out in the bakery, all seems well until the robot malfunctions. Albert needs all his sporting prowess to stop the robot ruining everything. A short chapter book ideal for children moving onto longer texts



Meserve, Jessica

Beyond the Burrow

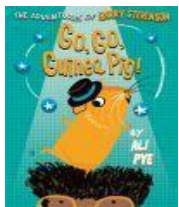
A small rabbit ventures out of her burrow to discover a big world outside. But she has to be brave as she encounters other animals and situations. A reassuring book about being brave and trying new things.



Mortimer, Helen

Omar, the Bees and Me

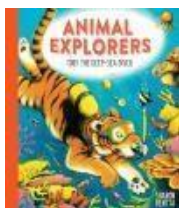
An inclusive story ostensibly about bees and how important they are to the environment but also about how a refugee boy finds his place in his new home. Lots to talk about but told in a very gentle manner.



Pye, Ali

Go, Go, Guinea Pig

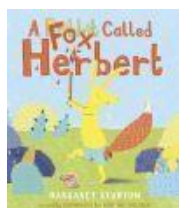
Two separate stories about the adventures of Harry the guinea pig. Harry is accidentally swapped with another guinea pig and ends up on TV - can he perform some tricks? Can Harry make it to France with his family when they go on holiday?



Rentta, Sharon

Toby the Deep-Sea Diver

Toby is a tiger that loves to dive. He really wants to go to the ocean deep, so finds a way to go Diver into the ocean and have an adventure.



Sturton, Margaret

A Fox Called Herbert

Herbert loves foxes and just wants to be one. His Mum doesn't understand and wants him to behave like a good rabbit. A story about identity and being accepted for who you are.



Todd-Stanton, Joe

A Mouse Called Julian

Julian lives by himself and that is the way he likes it but when a fox makes an unannounced visit to Julian's home, Julian realises that friends are not so bad after all. A story that shows that change is not always a bad thing and you can try new experiences if you want.



Webster, Stanley

One Little Bird

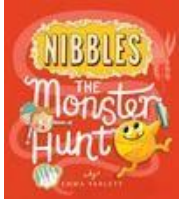
An environmental story about how one action can impact on many things. When a small bird has her tree cut down by a human, she protests by nesting on his house. Her single action prompts other animals to take a stand as well, thus showing that by working together we can make a difference.



**Woolvin,
Bethan**

**I Can Catch a
Monster**

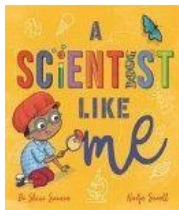
Bo the Brave is left behind when her brothers go off to find a monster. So, Bo decides to have an adventure all by herself with some surprising consequences. A story of female ingenuity and bravery showing that girls can be as good as the boys.



**Yarlett,
Emma**

**Nibbles: The
Monster Hunt**

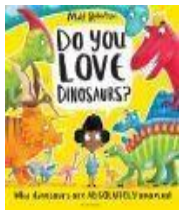
Nibbles, the book eating monster, discovers some non-fiction books for a change. This fun story introduces non-fiction books and shows the variety that are available to read for pleasure.



**Somara,
Shini**

**A Scientist Like
Me**

A routine visit to the beach develops into a realisation that science is all around us. This is non-fiction but reads like a story showing how important science is to everyday life.



**Robertson,
Matt**

**Do You Love
Dinosaurs**

This book is full of facts and information about dinosaurs and other prehistoric creatures but told in a fun and entertaining manner. Lots of illustrations make it very accessible to all those dinosaur lovers in school.

Recommended Reads for Year 3



**Bell,
Jennifer**

**Operation
Icebeak**

Attie & Agnes are members of Spears – the Society for the Protection of Endangered and Awesomely Rare Species – and on their second mission – Operation Icebeak! Will they save the outpost? Why are the Adelie Penguins acting strangely and why is Cynthia Steelsharp, TV presenter, acting suspiciously? Readers will learn interesting facts about Antarctica and its habitat, as well as raising questions about the environment and saving our planet.



**Davidson,
Zanna**

**Monsters Go
Camping**

Billy can't help worrying about the forthcoming school camping trip. His worries grow and grow but the mini monsters are on hand to help! Billy soon finds his confidence and even volunteers to lead a team of school chums into the woods! A great read at lower Key Stage 2 to help anxious children talk about their worries.



**Davies,
Nicola**

The New Girl

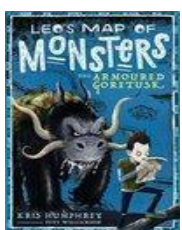
Have you ever felt alone or confused at school? New Girl is a beautifully illustrated picture book all about hope and resilience and overcoming bullies. It shows how children must never judge and need to be open to new things and new people even if they do not understand them. This book is thought provoking and great for looking at 'Belonging' and 'Being me' themes in the lower Key Stage 2 curriculum.



**French,
Vivian**

**The Giants' Tea
Party**

Prince Max is on a mission. The royal family are almost penniless. Can Max and his talking, very grumpy, donkey save the day? His parents, The King and Queen of Little Slippington, send him off to the Valley of the Giants because according to legends the giants are rich beyond measure, and they want Max to persuade them to part with their treasures! A humorous adventure with a dash of fairytale madness thrown in, including some baddies!



**Humphrey,
Kris**

**The Armoured
Goretusk**

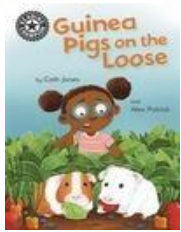
On his ninth birthday, Leo is assigned as Apprentice to the Guardian. Armed only with a Goretusk slingshot and a strange map, his role is to protect the village from the monsters that lurk in the surrounding forest. Leo's first mission is to do battle with an angry armoured goretusk heading straight for the village. An epic fantasy world for emerging readers with clear text and illustrations and a what next? for Beast Quest fans. First in this fantasy series.



**James,
Laura**

News Hounds

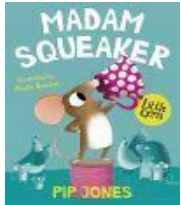
Stop Press! Gizmo has a nose for a story and Laura Hounds: when Jilly's puppies are about to be given to new owners far away, he starts a newspaper with the Puppy help of his canine friends to help keep the puppies Problem in the village. A delightful, illustrated story just right for new readers and reluctant readers because one dog is embarrassed he is unable to read. Start of a new series.



Jones, Cath

Guinea Pigs on the Loose

Becks has the responsibility of looking after her school's two school guinea pigs for the weekend. Despite looking after them well, the cheeky guinea pigs are far too interested escaping into next door's garden! A great book for early independent readers. Great language supported by bright, colourful illustrations.



Jones, Pip

Madam Squeaker

Minetta the Mouse is fed up with the rats bullying everyone at Hollyhock house; they eat up more than their fair share of food and leave a mess everywhere they go. Her voice is small, and she wonders how she can get them to listen and understand the error of their ways! This super story helps children realise about standing up for what is right. It is a gentle introduction to the idea of government, equality and social justice. Great for citizenship at lower Key Stage 2.



Lenton, Steven

Genie and Teeny Make a Wish

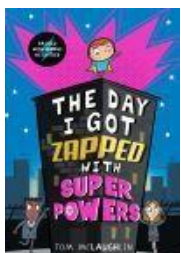
Grant the genie has been cast out of Genie world because he muddles his words when granting wishes. Living in a cracked teapot on earth, he meets Teeny, a lost puppy. Together they embark on an adventure to find home but not before being kidnapped by the evil purple-loving Lavinia Lavender. An explosion of illustrations and funny moments make this book ideal for newly confident readers or those finding full text overwhelming. Some super opportunities for interaction between the reader and the storyline.



Lewis, Gill

Willow Wildthing and the Shooting Star

The wilderness is a place where magic and nature collide and Willow and her friends, the Wildthings, watch in dismay as their wilderness camp is Shooting washed away in a flood. When three shooting stars Star fall from the sky, Willow discovers a family of swans and endeavours to help the poorly cygnet. Lyrical storytelling with two tone illustrations this book is a celebration of the power of nature and the imagination.



McLaughlin, Tom

The Day I Got Zapped with Super Powers

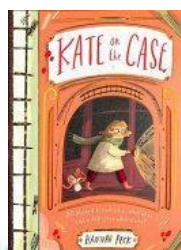
Harry is 9 and loves comic books but one day he is accidentally zapped with a mega dose of superhuman power. Followed by a pair of secret with agents, Harry and Grandad go on a crime busting spree and need to find a way to reverse the laser before Harry gets stuck with superpowers for ever. A great, fun adventure but watch out for Grandad's word of the day - a dichotomy to the rest of the text!



Milway, Alex

Big Sky Mountain

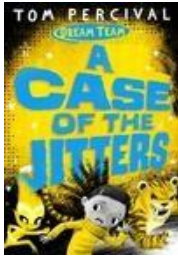
Not used to life in the wilderness, Rosa has come to stay with Nan in the wilds of Big Sky Mountain. It's not long before they are both off on an exciting adventure meeting bears, hares and parachuting beavers along the way. A lovely transition to chapter books, this story highlights the need for us all to work together to look after the natural world. The descriptive language, illustrations and extra details all help to make this a wild and wonderful reading experience.



Peck, Hannah

Kate on the Case

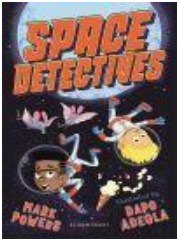
Kate is on a train bound for the Arctic when a CF Hannah the Case series of thefts start to cause alarm. With the help of Rupert, her pet mouse, Kate is determined to solve the mystery and oust the culprit but is all what it seems to be? Lovely two tone illustrations and rich language make this the perfect adventure for younger readers.



Percival, Tom

A Case of the Jitters

The Jitters are on the prowl again in Chanda's dreams and causing havoc! Can Erika and the Dream Team battle the irritating Jitter who just won't leave her dreams? Is there a connection between Erika's hilarious friend Kris and Chanda that can help stop the pesky Jitter and help Chanda find her confidence again? Great adventure filled with positive messages to boost self-confidence.



Powers, Mark

Space Detectives

Connor and Ethan are selling ice-cream on Starville, a human and alien inhabited city orbiting Earth but they dream of solving inter-galactic crime as space detectives. When they witness a slimy, green Tufted Grotsnobbler stealing a human girl's bag, they stumble onto a case far more difficult and dangerous than it first seems. A hugely funny story with engaging characters and wonderful illustrations. The descriptive language would stretch young readers but would



Rix, Megan

The Mystery of the Missing Puppies

Animal lover Lizzie is desperate for a dog but one day witnesses a puppy being bundled suspiciously into the back of a van. When no one takes her seriously Lizzie turns detective, determined to find Puppies the missing puppy and catch the dog thieves. Large, well-spaced text and detailed illustrations are perfect for improving reading stamina. Lizzie and her parents are deaf, and the book gives an interesting insight into life with hearing loss and use of sign language.



Sheibani, Jion

Sohal Finds a Friend

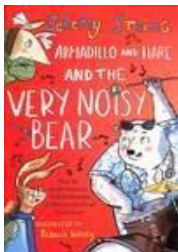
Sohal worries about lots of things then one day his teacher asks him to draw a picture of them. Soon his worries spring to life and become very real. However, once he meets Jaz, his new friend, a whole lot of different things begin to happen. This book is a great book to share with worriers young and old. It really helps readers understand how their worries work, that everyone has worries and by facing them they have the ability to shrink them.



Simon, Francesca

Two Terrible Vikings

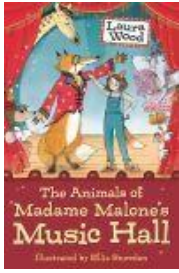
Terrible twins, Hack and Whack are proud to be the best worst Vikings wreaking havoc in their village much to the pride of their parents. In three short stories the twin's bad behaviour goes disastrously wrong. The bold and well-spaced text and cartoon illustrations are perfect for new readers.



Strong, Jeremy

Armadillo and the Very Noisy Bear

A gentle collection of eight short stories about best friends Armadillo and Hare who live together in the big forest. Amongst the antics, Armadillo decides to host an exhibition of his paintings, variations on the theme of cheese sandwiches, and peace is disturbed when a polar bear moves to the forest with his drumkit. Ideal for building reading stamina and would read well aloud.



**Wood,
Laura**

**The Animals of
Madame
Malone's
Music Hall**

Callie uncovers the secrets of the theatre when on holiday visiting her Gran. Will Callie change her of mind about helping Gran save her precious theatre? Who is Madame Malone and how can she teach Callie the importance of fighting for what you believe in? This is a story of perseverance and working together for a common cause.

Recommended Reads for Year 4



**Bunzl,
Peter**

Featherlight

Deryn is left in charge of the lighthouse whilst her Mum & Dad go to the mainland to have their baby. Will Deryn manage all alone? Are the legends of the Firebird true? Will Deryn and her grandmother save the fisherman whose boat hits the rock? Featherlight has been inspired by the life of Grace Darling and Ida Lewis, both daughters of Lighthouse keepers.



**Butterworth,
Jess**

**Red Panda
Rescue**

Eight year old, Tilly is desperate for an adventure and to make friends. Can she convince Mum & Dad to let her enter a competition to win the chance of going to Nepal to monitor Red Pandas as part of The Adventure Club? Will she fulfil all her wildest dreams? This a fabulous read for all animal lovers and adventurers! Great for class discussions on the environment and conservation. Nice tips on how to create a Bee hotel in the back of the book.



**Carney,
Jen**

**The Accidental
Diary of B.U.G.**

Welcome to Billie's world – her Mums are getting married and there is a new girl at school. However, Billie becomes suspicious of Janey's closeness to her best friend Layla and even suggests Janey is responsible for the theft of Mrs Robinson's purse. Many children will identify with the characters and themes in this book which are dealt with in a very inclusive and sensitive manner perfect for this age group. Written in a diary format full of hilarious observations, doodles and of course biscuits.



**Creech,
Sharon**

**Saving
Winslow**

One night, an orphaned and sickly donkey arrives at Louie's door. With the help of his quirky friend Nora, the pair are determined to save the donkey, a true battle against the odds – it's hard hoping for the best when everyone is thinking the worst! A heart-warming and emotional tale with elegant language but highly accessible with very short chapters. Would read aloud well.



**French,
Vivian**

**Lottie Luna and
the Giant
Gargoyle**

Princess Lottie loves going to her new school, Shadow Academy, but only a few friends and the headmistress know that she is a real princess and Lottie really wants it to stay that way! However, her secret might come out if she doesn't find a way of hiding who she is when her parents are invited to present the winner's trophy at the school's talent competition! Will Lottie's closest friends save the day? Will Aggie spoil their plans? A lovely story of friendship, forgiveness and belonging.



**Gardner,
Sally**

**Mr Tiger, Betsy
and the Golden
Seahorse**

All is not well in the underwater world of Mermaid City. Sea Pig's prized seahorse, Pudding Pie, has gone missing and the cantankerous octopus is implicated in the disappearance. Betsy and her friend Mr Tiger must go to the rescue in their submarine and search for a happy ending for everyone. Plenty of quests, magic and jeopardy and the author's choice of language is superb, perfect for modelling higher level writing and reading aloud. It is printed in Dyslexie font to make it more accessible and fun.



Hardy, Vashti

Harley Hitch and the Iron Forest

Harley, her robot dog Sprocket and best friend Cosmo live in Inventia, a world where science rules and technology literally grows on trees. When a strange fungus starts spreading through the Iron Forest, Harley and Cosmo must find a solution to rebalance the forest ecology before it is too late. Strong STEM themes, fabulous world building and a feisty protagonist who is not afraid to make mistakes. A perfect way to introduce younger readers to this award-winning author.



Heape, Harry

Indiana Bones

Aisha is an amateur archaeologist and with her talking dog Indiana Bones they travel to Egypt determined to find the treasure trove of The Lonely Avenger, a French Knight, which has been successfully hidden for many years but of course there are baddies also on the hunt. This is the start of a funny and clever new adventure series with rich language and a clear and bold font for young readers.



Kelly, John

Slime Crime

Unclassified creatures and various Monsters need help and treatment from the Monster Doctor. Will a new medicine designed to cure all Monster ailments do the trick and fix his patients? Lively illustrations, monster humour and readable format make this a fun read for reluctant readers.



Lacey, Josh

Hope Jones Will Not Eat Meat

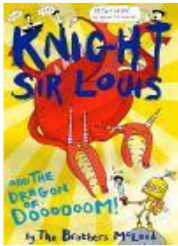
Hope Jones is a young eco-warrior and this time as a keen vegetarian she attempts to convince everyone that eating less meat is better for the planet. Written through Hope's blog entries, the short chapters and illustrations compliment the lively and pacy narrative. The book presents balanced facts for both opinions which could lead to some lively discussion – definitely food for thought!



McLaughlin, Tom

Queen of King Street

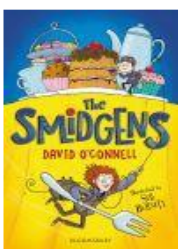
The Queen's fortune has been gambled away by her brother, unlucky Bertie! How will they ever manage? Resourceful as ever the Queen forges a new career in reality TV! A series of mishaps along the way will amuse readers and teach them important lessons about being kind, tolerant and accepting of others, even if they appear different from you at first. The dyslexia style print and paper colour ensures accessibility for dyslexic or struggling readers.



McLeod, The Brothers

Knight Sir Louis and the Dragon of Doooooom!

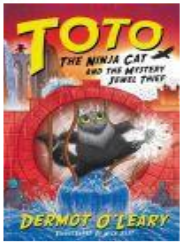
The double headed dragon, Borax is causing fiery mischief and can only be stopped with an ancient talisman, a Thingamabob! Can Knight Sir Louis, his flying robot horse, Clunkalot and trust sword Dave save the day? Fantastic engaging characters and expressive illustrations with an interesting interactive element for the reader to decide which route Sir Louis should take.. Absolutely bonkers brilliant!



O'Connell, David

The Smidgens

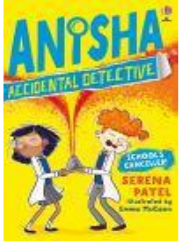
Gafferty Sprout is a Smidgen on a mission. She believes there are others just like her but where? She wants more from the world but Dad has banned her from the Tangle! Can she outwit the evil Claudia Slymark and her three ghost helpers? An exciting an adventure that has kindness and adventure spilling from every page. A good fun read for LK2 with charming illustrations.



**O'Leary,
Dermot**

**Toto the Ninja
Cat and the
Mystery Jewel
Thief**

Toto the Ninja Cat is back on assignment when she visits the Tower of London with the French Ambassador, and finds the sacred diamond cat collar is missing and it appears Toto's boss Larry is responsible, Toto and her friends embark on an action packed adventure to solve the mystery of the missing jewels. Large font and lively illustrations will appeal to young readers.



**Patel,
Serena**

**School's
Cancelled**

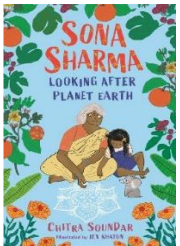
Anisha and her friends have made a volcano for the science fair but when it explodes and floods the school with a foam-plosion Anisha is disqualified. Did they really get the science wrong or is someone else trying to win first prize? Sound like a case for Anisha, Accidental Detective! This is the second in this diverse and hilarious series.



**Quayle,
Ruth**

**Peril at the
Bake Off**

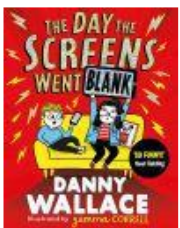
The terrible trio are back together at Granny's for the summer. They are convinced there is a thief in town and Granny's precious cake recipe has gone missing hours before the village bake off! Mayhem ensues and the local police are called in. A cautionary tale about jumping to conclusions and telling the truth!



**Soundar,
Chitra**

**Sona Sharma,
Looking After
Planet Earth**

After learning about climate change in school, Sona Sharma is determined to involve all her family to make some changes. However, when Sona realises that the traditional Indian art of kolams are no longer organic she bravely sets out to involve the whole community to make changes for the future. Lovely details of family life in India with a strong environmental theme – start small, start now!



**Wallace
Danny**

**The Day the
Screens Went
Blank**

Stella and her family can't believe their screens have gone blank. Then they realise it's a global problem and the world has been plunged into chaos. Can they make the trip to Scotland to save Gran and can Stella's Dad cope without his phone? A humorous but thought provoking tale about a world without the internet and the power of talking to each other.



**Webb,
Holly**

Frost

Lonely Cassie spends her summer feeding and looking after a group of urban foxes, particularly her favourite she named Frost. One snowy night Cassie hears Frost's howls and feels compelled to follow the fox through London but is soon transported back to 1683 and the first Frost Fair on the frozen river Thames. A magical, timeslip adventure exploring themes of friendship with some endearing illustrations to break up the text for independent readers but alternatively it would make an excellent class read.



**Wormell,
Chris**

**The Magic
Place**

Locked in a cellar and treated as a slave by her wicked Aunt and Uncle, Clementine dreams of a magic place beyond the cellar walls. With the help of a cat called Gilbert, Clementine escapes across the rooftops but will she find what she is looking for? A moving yet often comical story with superb characterisation. The generous illustrations and fast paced narrative are cleverly integrated to help tell this magical story about hope.

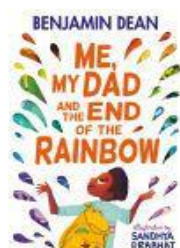
Recommended Reads for Year 5



**Bethell,
Zillah**

**The Shark
Caller**

Set in Papua New Guinea, this novel has a wonderful sense of place. It mixes traditional and modern life and values, and includes Papuan Pidgin English words. A story of friendship as two girls explore the grief and guilt they feel about a parent's death.



**Dean,
Benjamin**

**Me, My Dad
and the End of
the Rainbow**

A thought provoking, heartfelt and amusing story about a family coming to terms with one parent's need to follow their true path. When Archie discovers his dad is gay, he tries to fix the awkwardness between them whilst not quite knowing if their relationship will ever be the same again.



**Earle,
Phil**

**The Dog That
Saved the
World (Cup)**

Pickles the dog observes that the joy of playing and watching football sustains his beloved owner, Elsie, even when everything else in her life is very hard. When the world cup goes missing, Pickles is determined to save the day.



**Edge,
Christopher**

Space Oddity

Jake's Dad is lovable but very embarrassing, even more so on a local camping trip. But once Jake realises 'where his Dad is coming from' he knows he has to do everything he can to rescue him.



**Elphinstone,
Abi**

**The
Crackledown
Dragon**

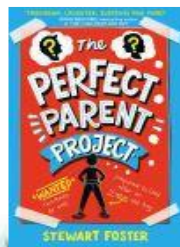
Zeb is lonely and fed up with adults who always seem to let him down. Sheltering in a disused theatre having run away from his latest Children's home, two very different futures present themselves. During this page turning adventure he discovers the importance of friendship and trust. The pages are brimming with wonderful mythical creatures and a page turning plot. Part of the Unmapped Kingdom series but this can be read first or last!



**Evans
Maz**

Licence to Chill

A brand-new series full of adventure, jokes and supervillains! Vi wants to be a spy and while her parents are too busy concentrating on their divorce, Vi is left to save the world!



**Foster,
Stewart**

**The Perfect
Parent Project**

Sam has decided, with the help of his friend Leah, to advertise for his 'forever' family. He is determined to be in school production of Bugsy Malone and does not want to be moved again but he can see the signs that this family are thinking about asking him to go. By chance he spies his perfect family and sets out to join them. On his road of discovery, he unearths lots of surprises. A heart-warming read.



Fountain, Ele

Melt

This is a tale of survival as two children battle against the elements and a corrupt corporation to escape from the Arctic. Told by Yutu who lives in the Arctic with his grandmother following a traditional lifestyle and Bea who has accompanied her father, a geologist, on his work trip. It all starts to go wrong when Bea's father is attacked. Great suspense and adventure.



Fowler, Gemma

City of Rust

For any Star War fans this is a nail-biting adventure set in the future. Earth has so much rubbish it has launched it into space and in a fight for power, this now threatens the Earth's safety. A dystopian sci fi story packed with action which keeps the reader gripped to the last page.



Galvin, Lindsay

Darwin's Dragons

Syms Covington makes a huge discovery when sailing with Charles Darwin and then goes to extraordinary lengths to preserve it. A fantastic historical adventure that spans land, sea, and a lifetime. Do you dare to believe in dragons?



Gibbons, Francesca

A Clock of Stars: The Shadow Moth

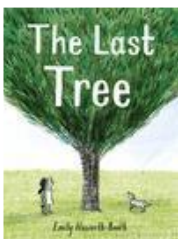
Never has a visit to a tearoom been so exciting! Two sisters discover a door which opens into a magical kingdom where a Prince is desperate for friends and monsters come out to kill at night. The sisters piece together parts of the puzzle which also helps them to get back to mum. This is the first in the trilogy. A great adventure story which also reveals hidden bravery and greater empathy skills as the family reunites.



Hafiza, Radiya

Rumaysa: A Fairytale

An empowering spin on three traditional fairytales. Rumaysa is a feisty Muslim hero who refuses to conform to expectations and, whilst forging a new path for herself, inspires others to do the same.



Haworth-Booth, The Last Tree Emily

The children in a community act to affect change as their parents squabble and squander the precious natural resources around them. A though provoking, environmental fable for our times.



Jennings, Jenni

Malice in Underland

Malice Malign is at odds with her family who like to cause magical mischief amongst the Topsiders. When her lovely grandad ghost goes missing, she uses her quick thinking wit to rescue him.



Leonard, M. G.

Murder on the Safari Star

A fabulous mystery set on a train travelling through South Africa. Can Harrison and his friend Winston solve the mystery of a dead body in a locked compartment? If you have enjoyed this, do try the other titles in the series.



Mbaliya, Kwame

The Last Gate of the Emperor

Yared's uncle is forever reminding him of battles and warring nations, but Yared does not believe any of it and thinks his uncle is delusional. This all changes when the monsters finally make an appearance, and guess who they are after - Yared! A great sci fi adventure but also a look at keeping alive family history even when you have been exiled from your country of birth, Ethiopia.



Parr, Lesley

The Valley of Lost Secrets

A great mystery set in 1939. Jimmy and his brother have been evacuated to a rural village in Wales. His brother appears to adapt quickly but Jimmy is desperate to return home and the order he knows well. Here things seem to have been turned on its head - new friendships blossom and the discovery of the skull helps heal the community. The author has hidden visual clues as well as other clues which the reader is encouraged to



Pearson, Jenny

The Incredible Record Smashers

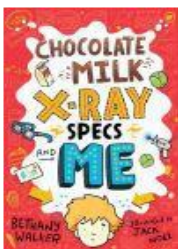
Lucy loves fixing things and so decides she knows exactly how to fix her mum. This involves her having to break a world record so she can appear on Record Smashers. Full of laugh out loud moments as well as a deeper understanding about mental health, this is a fantastic read. It does carry a health warning - do not try any of Lucy's antics at home!



Stead, Rebecca

The List of Things That Will Not Change

It finally looks like Bea will get her wish of having a sister when her dad announces he is marrying his partner, Jesse. But family life is complicated and made more so as her new sister lives miles away from her. A wonderful family read looking at the impact of divorce and LGBTQ+ relationships, as BEA charts the last few years of her life. It is bursting with memories and worries and the joy of being loved.



Walker, Bethany

Chocolate Milk, X-ray Specs & Me

10-year-old Freddie writes letters to his parents who are away working on a Brussel sprout farm. Really? The truth is even more bizarre, they are spies. Full of laughs read on to discover how Freddie and his grandfather are all involved. Accompanied by great illustrations and doddles which add to the overall enjoyment of this book.



Yang, Kelly

Front Desk

Mia Tang has immigrated to California with her parents from China with the hope of living the 'American Dream'. After gaining employment from the owner of a motel, Mia and her parents work hard to manage the property and get to know the people who stay there. Living as an immigrant in the US is not always easy, but with the help of her friends, family and own resourcefulness Mia discovers how to live her dream.

Recommended Reads for Year 6



**Anderson,
Sophie**

**The Castle of
Tangled Magic**

Olia's castle home is mysteriously threatened. To rescue it, she is drawn into a land full of tangled magic with a 'domovoi' fox for company. In this magical mixture of fairytales and Russian folklore, Olia learns to believe in magic and in her own courage and wisdom.



**Applebaum,
Kirsty**

**The Life and
Time of Lonny
Quickie**

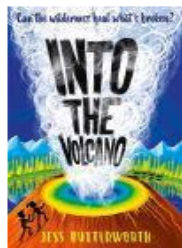
This novel skilfully weaves mythology and modern life. Lonny is a 'Lifeling' - he can heal living creatures but by doing so shortens his own life. His father realises his power and hides him in the forest but Lonny is desperate to be part of the town. He takes his chance and goes and then realises all his father's fears are confirmed as humans will do anything to save the people they love. This is a thought provoking read and



**Bailey,
Susanna**

Otters' Moon

A disparate city boy and an independent island girl become unlikely allies as they try to rescue an otter pup and wrestle with the difficulties in their individual families on a remote Scottish island.



**Butterworth,
Jess**

**Into
the Volcano**

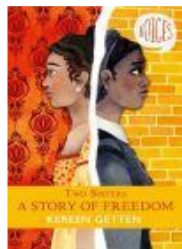
Seb is feeling lost after his best friend was gravely injured in a shooting. He believes the only way to heal his friend is to reach the rainbow pool in Yellowstone National Park. Vivi has travelled to the US to grieve her grandmother who was killed in the same shooting. After a chance meeting, the two travel together across Yellowstone to reach the rainbow pool but first they must survive! A gripping adventure through wild habitats filled with resilience, survival and, above all, healing.



**Farrant,
Natasha**

**Voyage of the
Sparrowhawk**

In the aftermath of the First World War two isolated children join forces and decide to cross the Channel in a barge, in search of lost family. A heartfelt yet joyful story of love and loss, the kindness of strangers and the importance of belonging.



**Getten,
Kereen**

**Two Sisters: A
Story of
Freedom**

Two half-sisters have different experiences of racism and prejudice, in a novel about slavery and society set in Jamaica and London in 1781 and based on real life events and people.



**Ho-Yen,
Polly**

**How I Saved
the World in a
Week**

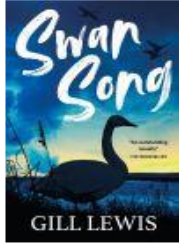
Billy's Mum is always teaching Billy survival skills, but he has no idea when he will need to use them. When his Mum goes into hospital, and Billy goes to live with his Dad, he realises that something strange is happening and he needs all of his skills to save himself and others. Will he be able to do it?



Jamieson, Victoria

When Stars Are Scattered

Based on a true story this graphic novel is set in a refugee camp in Kenya. A story of bravery, resilience and hope as the two brothers look to the future.



Lewis, Gill

Swan Song

Following an unhappy exclusion from school, Dylan moves back to a remote village in Wales. His Grandfather's gentle introduction to the landscape and nature around him restores his soul and gives him a renewed interest in life.



McKay, Hilary

The Time of Green Magic

Abi is struggling with all the change - a new family with step brothers, a new house and now it appears there are magical forces at work. Realising the danger can she overcome her differences with her step brothers to save them all?



McNicoll, Elle

Show Us Who You Are

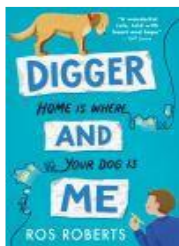
When progressive organisation Pomegranate researches creating holograms of the recently departed it seems like a wonderful idea. But Cora and her friend Adrien, both neurodivergent, become suspicious of the company's ethos and motives and must fight to make their voices heard.



Noel, Jack

Treasure Island

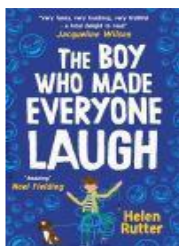
Jim Hawkins lives with his mum, bored and craving adventure. But when an old sea captain appears, Jim finds himself on an adventure bigger than he could have dreamed of. Will Jim find the treasure and escape the pirates, or will he end up walking the plank? The original (abridged) text is presented with lots of two-colour cartoons, diagrams, fact boxes and snippets of modern text which make this version of the classic adventure visually appealing and much more accessible.



Roberts, Ros

Digger and Me

James is struggling to adapt to living between two households. When his beloved dog Digger falls ill, the gentle encouragement by a new teacher to write poetry, somehow seems to help.



Rutter, Helen

The Boy Who Made Everyone Laugh

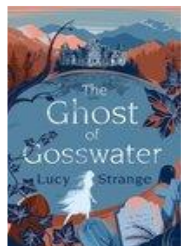
Billy has a dream to be a comedian but there is something that stands in his way - his stammer. He hates it and how it complicates making friends and opens him up to bullying. At his new secondary school, he begins to understand that everyone has their challenges. As the school term comes to an end, will he be brave enough to enter the Talent Show?



Sherrick, Ally

The Queen's Fool

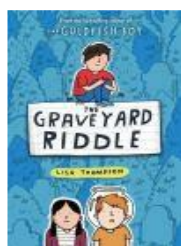
An adventure set during the Tudor reign of Henry VIII. Cat is heart broken when her sister Meg disappears from their convent home. Determined to find her she sets out on her trail and is joined by Jacques out to avenge his father's death. Cat has learning difficulties but this does not stop her seeing through the treachery of the Tudor court nor in foiling a plot to kill the Queen. A powerful tale including a note from the



Strange, Lucy

The Ghost of Gosswater

A devastating start to this gothic style story. Everything Agatha knows has been taken away from her and she is sent to live with a man she does not know but is her father. Then the ghost appears and Agatha must try to piece her past together so she can face her future. Wonderfully atmospheric setting in the Lake District.



Thompson, Lisa

The Graveyard Riddle

The stories and lives of people in a local community are woven together as Melody Bird tries to solve the mystery of the boy in the graveyard whilst coming to terms with her own changing family situation. A story full of endearing characters and genuine neighbourliness that deals deftly with some big issues.



Traore, Efua

Children of the Quicksands

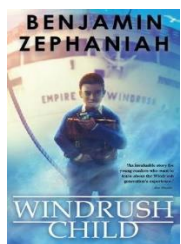
Great storytelling which weaves modern and traditional Nigeria in this gripping and highly believable tale as Simi discovers her family's history. A captivating tale with a mesmerising front cover, this is the author's first novel. It all starts with Simi having to stay with her grandmother in a remote location with no phone or internet coverage...



Wolk, Lauren

Echo Mountain

Set in 1930's post-depression America. As Ellie's family struggle to survive in extreme hardship, Ellie learns to live, thrive and heal on the mountain. A beautifully written novel.



Zephaniah, Benjamin

Windrush Child

Leonard's father takes the opportunity to go to the UK on the Windrush ship from Jamaica to build a better life for his wife and child. Ten years later they follow him to England. Life in England is hard for Leonard, the food is awful, it's cold and wet and he misses his grandmother and on top of that not everyone in Manchester is happy to see a black face in their city.



Page, Louise

Great People Who Reached for the Stars

An empowering collection of 26 biographies who have not let disability or long-term illness affect their dreams. Historical and contemporary people are featured from a range of backgrounds. Good for inspiring everyone on their 'next steps' journey.

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