

IGNITING LEADERS CHANGING LIVES

**PiXL** Reading

READING FOR  
PLEASURE



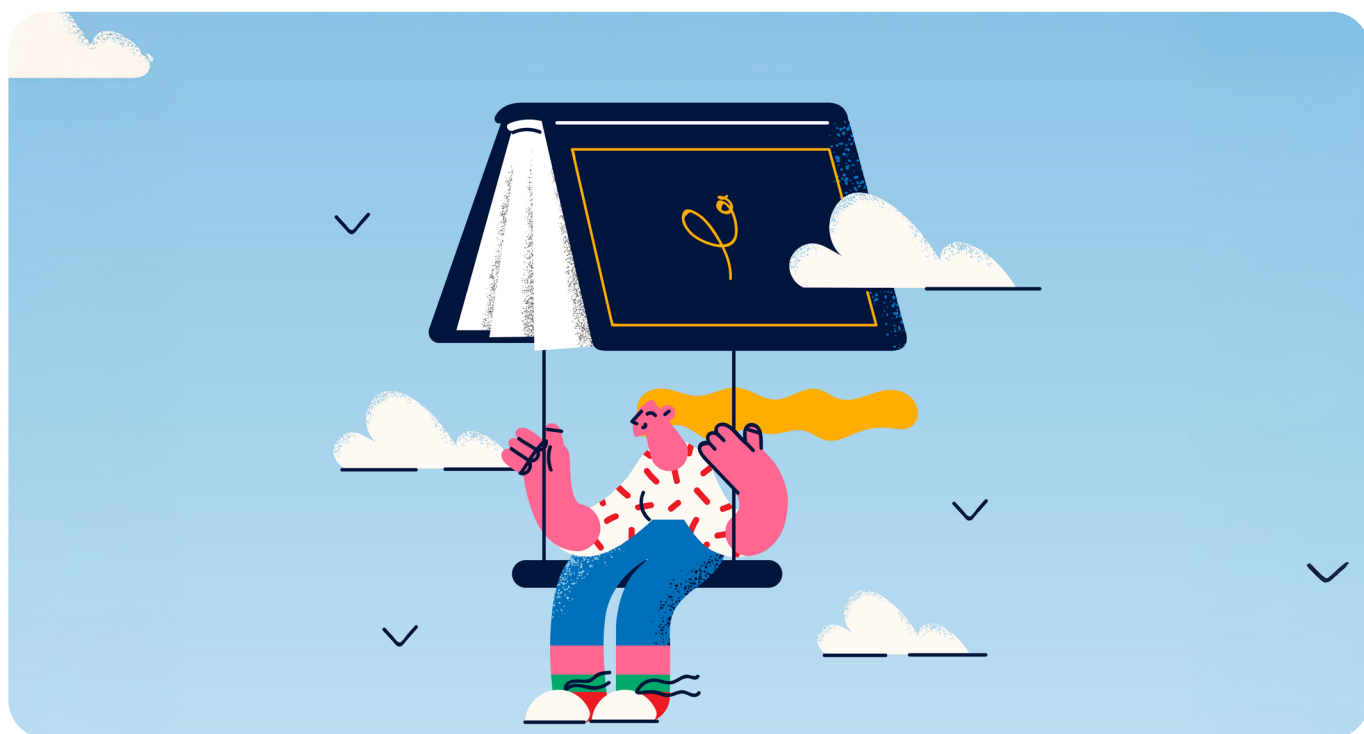
## HOME NEWSLETTER – SUMMER 2 2025

**As we approach the end of the school year, this half term is a good time to reflect on your child's progress and enjoy shared activities at home. The longer days and warmer weather also bring new opportunities to read, talk and learn together in simple ways.**

This newsletter includes key events from the calendar with suggestions for how you can explore these themes at home through stories, conversation and simple activities you can do together. Our aim is to help you feel informed and confident supporting your child's learning, whatever their age or stage.

We hope you find something helpful and enjoyable here for your family.

**Please note that the following texts are suitable from the age group stated, but please do research the books before selecting them to ensure that they are appropriate for your child.**



## KEY EVENTS IN THE CALENDAR:

### EMPATHY DAY FESTIVAL

2<sup>nd</sup>–12<sup>th</sup> JUNE

Empathy Day is all about helping children understand and connect with other people's feelings. Created by **EmpathyLab**, the festival uses stories to show how kindness, listening and imagination can help us build more caring communities. Empathy isn't something we're born with – it's a skill we can grow, and books are one of the best ways to do that.

When children read about someone who is lonely, nervous, excited or brave, they start to see the world from another point of view. This helps them recognise feelings in themselves and others, and to think about how their actions might make someone feel.



**At home, you might enjoy some of these gentle ways to explore empathy through stories and conversations:**

#### **Talk about characters' feelings:**

After reading a story together, ask questions like *"How do you think they felt?"* or *"What would you have done in that situation?"*

#### **Draw a feelings map:**

Choose a character from a favourite story and draw a simple timeline of how their emotions change. Use colours, emojis or simple drawings to show different moods.

#### **Kindness jar:**

Write down kind things your child does, or that others do for them, on small slips of paper. Read them out together at the end of the week.

#### **Swap roles in a story:**

Ask your child to retell a familiar story from a different character's point of view. What might the dragon, the teacher or the little brother have thought?

#### **Share a time you needed empathy:**

Talk about a moment when someone listened to you, helped you or made you feel better. These small stories show that empathy matters at every age.

Learning empathy helps children build friendships, manage feelings and understand others – all skills that support their wellbeing and confidence as they grow.

## Recommended Reads:

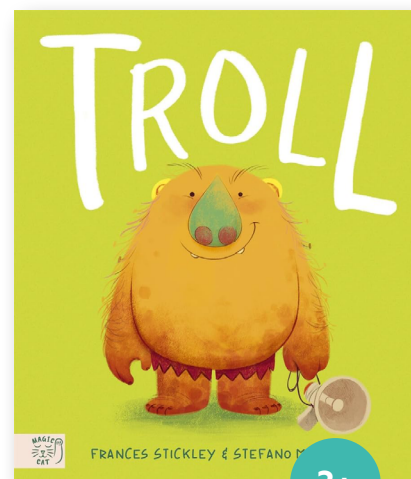
### TROLL

FRANCES STICKLEY (AUTHOR),  
STEFANO MARTINUZ (ILLUSTRATOR)

A funny, heartwarming story about internet trolling and learning to love yourself.

Below the bridge,  
beneath the log,  
underneath the burping bog,  
where townsfolk whispered, cringed and crept,  
a terrifying monster slept...

In this funny tale, inspired by both *Internet Trolls* and *The Three Billy Goats Gruff*, there is a terrifying troll that lives under a bridge. Unseen, he delights in shouting nasty things to passers-by. But when a d/Deaf bunny unwittingly faces up to him, he realises that it's not so fun to say nasty things to someone's face. Can Troll finally learn to love himself and others?



### NINA PEANUT IS AMAZING

SARAH BOWIE (AUTHOR AND ILLUSTRATOR)

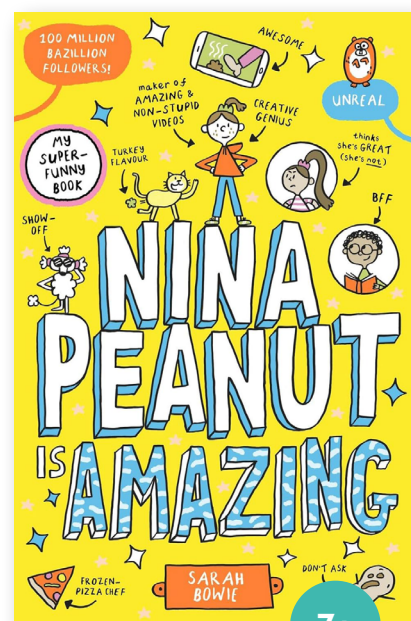
Nina Peanut — super-star in the making, frozen pizza chef, creative genius, owner of the world's stinkiest cat. The funniest new friend for all kids, everywhere. Nina Peanut creates amazing videos — so why is it only her nan and best friend Brian who watch them? Surely everyone should be interested in her SERIOUS and NOT-STUPID videos about potatoes with faces?

Nina dreams about being as popular as class queen bee Megan Dunne, who films NOT AMAZING AT ALL content of her pampered dog, Princess Trixie Bell.

So when Nina's stinky cat Les wanders into one of Megan's videos by accident, and goes viral, Nina and Les are suddenly internet famous!

But is overnight stardom as wonderful as Nina always imagined it would be?

Perfect for fans of *Wimpy Kid*, *Dork Diaries* and *Lottie Brooks*.

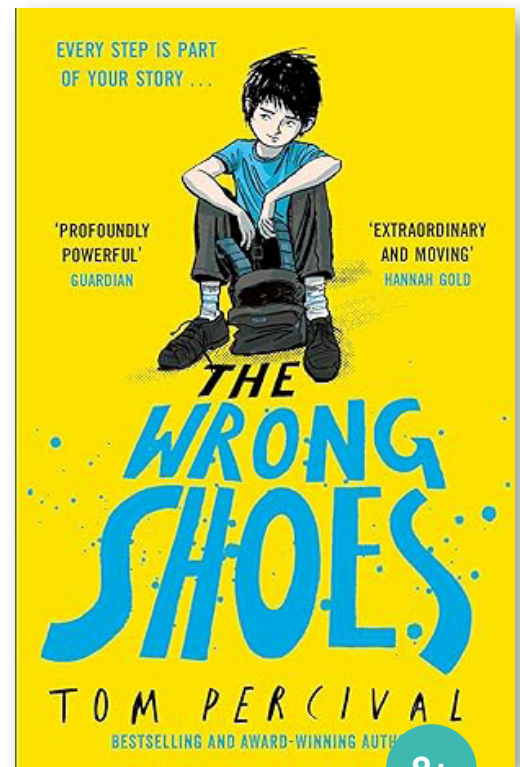


## THE WRONG SHOES

TOM PERCIVAL (AUTHOR)

*There's a bunch of kids in there and suddenly they're all looking at me like someone who can actually do something, not just some weirdo with the wrong shoes and a rubbish coat...*

Will has the wrong shoes — he's always known it but doesn't know how to change it. Navigating the difficulties of home and school when you feel you stick out is tough, but finding confidence with the help and empathy of friends can be all you need to see the way.



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## GREAT BIG GREEN WEEK

7<sup>th</sup>–15<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2025



Great Big Green Week is the UK's biggest celebration of community action to protect the environment. It's a chance to help children understand how everyday choices, like saving energy, reducing waste or protecting wildlife, can help care for the planet we all share.

For children, stories about nature can spark wonder and curiosity. They can also provide a gentle way to talk about big topics like climate change or pollution without causing fear. Even small activities, like watching a bee or recycling a bottle, can help children feel they are making a difference.



Here are some simple, practical ways to explore these ideas at home:

### Recycled craft:

Use safe household materials, like cardboard tubes, boxes or bottle tops, to create an animal or nature scene inspired by a book.

### Make a nature log:

Encourage your child to draw or write about the things they see on a short walk: birds, bugs, leaves or clouds. Even a windowsill or balcony can offer something to notice.

### Eco-story basket:

Gather books about animals, plants or the seasons. You could add small toys, natural items or photos to create a story basket to explore.

### Be a Green Detective:

Read a book about the environment, then go on a 'green mission' to find five things at home that help the planet (e.g. a reusable bag, a compost bin or a switch turned off).

### Share your family's green habits:

Talk about something your family already does to help nature, perhaps walking instead of driving or growing herbs on the windowsill. These small routines show children that they can have an impact.

Green Week is about noticing, appreciating and protecting the natural world, in whatever way is possible for your family.

## Recommended Reads:

### THE GREAT PAPER CAPER

OLIVER JEFFERS (AUTHOR AND ILLUSTRATOR)

When life in the forest begins to change; when trees mysteriously lose their branches, when whole tree trunks start to disappear, when homes are lost, the only course of action for the forest dwellers is to begin a full-scale investigation. Alibis must be proved, clues must be sought but even so, blame is never far from anyone's thoughts.

Who is the perpetrator of this heinous crime? Will justice be done?

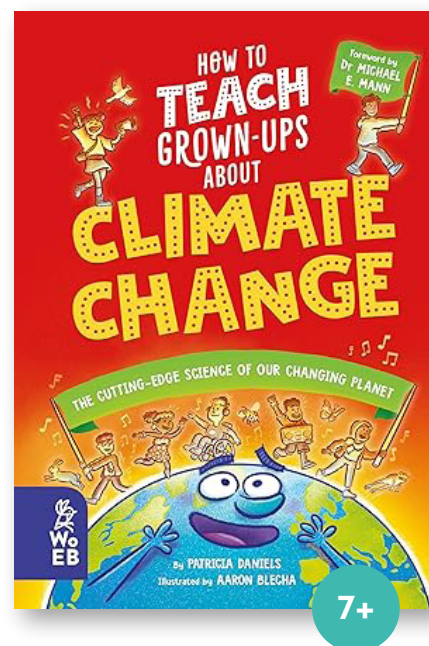


### HOW TO TEACH GROWN-UPS ABOUT CLIMATE CHANGE: THE CUTTING-EDGE SCIENCE OF OUR CHANGING PLANET

PATRICIA DANIELS (AUTHOR)

Never has there been a more perfect time to empower children to take the lead and educate their grown-ups about climate change. Featuring a foreword by internationally renowned climate scientist **Dr Michael E. Mann** and bursting with fabulous original illustrations, this delightfully witty book deals with the pressing topic of our changing planet in an uplifting, positive manner. Interwoven amongst the more serious questions — why is Earth so special in the first place? How do we know about climate change? What causes it? How can we recognise false information? Fun-filled facts about cow burps, woolly mammoths, panda-shaped solar panels, and much more.

Crucially, this book also equips children and adults alike with the practical tools they need to tackle climate change in their everyday lives. And there's a handy quiz at the end so that you can check your grown-up has been paying attention!



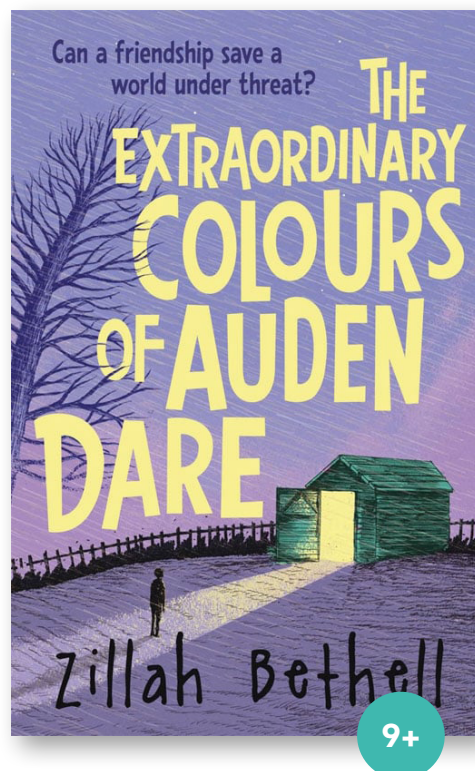
## THE EXTRAORDINARY COLOURS OF AUDEN DARE

ZILLAH BETHELL (AUTHOR)

Auden Dare has an unusual perspective on life: he cannot see in colour. He's always had this rare condition — and life is beginning to get harder for Auden. The war for water that is raging across the world is getting a little closer all the time. It hardly rains any more, anywhere. Everyone is thirsty all the time, and grubby, and exhausted. Auden has to learn to live without his father, who is away fighting, and has had to move to a new town with his mother, and start a new school, where everyone thinks he's a weirdo. But when he meets Vivi Rookmini, a smiling girl bright with cleverness, his hopes begin to lift.

It soon becomes clear to Auden, though, that there are some strange things afoot in his new hometown. He and his mother have moved into the old cottage of his recently-dead uncle Jonah Bloom — a scientist and professor at the university. The place is in disarray — and although Auden's mother tells him it's because Jonah was a messy old thing, Auden knows differently. Someone else did this — someone who was looking for something of Jonah's. Auden had heard too that Jonah was working on something that could cure Auden's condition — could this be it?

Then Auden and Vivi make an extraordinary discovery. Hidden away under the shed at the bottom of Jonah's garden is an enigmatic and ingenious robot, who calls himself Paragon. A talking, walking, human-like robot. Apparently built by Jonah — but why? The answer to this will take Auden and Vivi on a thrilling journey of discovery as they seek to find out just what exactly Paragon is — and what link he has to Auden — and find that the truth is bigger and more wonderful than either of them could have imagined.



## WINDRUSH DAY 22<sup>ND</sup> JUNE

Windrush Day marks the arrival of the HMT Empire Windrush at Tilbury Docks in 1948, carrying people from the Caribbean who came to help rebuild Britain after the war. It's a day to remember the contributions, struggles and successes of the Windrush Generation and their descendants.

For children, it can be a chance to learn about migration, identity and belonging through the eyes of characters their age. Stories about families coming to the UK, adjusting to a new culture or keeping traditions alive can help children value the richness of our shared history.



### Here are a few ways to bring Windrush stories into family life:

#### Share family stories:

Talk about where your family is from, whether that's another country or region. What was the journey like? What stayed the same? What changed?

#### Explore Caribbean culture:

Try a recipe, song or poem from the Caribbean and talk about what you notice. Many libraries have books, CDs or displays that celebrate Windrush heritage.

#### Create a memory collage:

Inspired by the idea of bringing a piece of home with you, make a picture using drawings, cut-outs or words that show the people, places or memories that matter most to your family.

#### Read real stories:

Choose books based on true experiences or inspired by historical events. Talk about what the characters faced and what helped them feel at home.

Windrush Day is about learning from the past and celebrating the contributions of Caribbean communities to life in Britain today.

## Recommended Reads:

Download four free [A River of Stories](#) anthologies containing stories and poems from each of the countries of the Commonwealth.

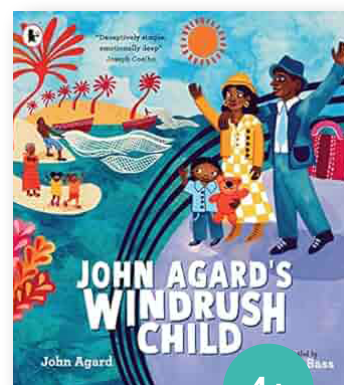
You can read interviews with Patrice Lawrence and Benjamin Zephaniah talking about their books [Granny Came on the Empire Windrush](#) and [Windrush Child](#) on the Book Trust website.

### WINDRUSH CHILD

JOHN AGARD (AUTHOR)

*"you're stepping into history  
bringing your Caribbean eye  
to another horizon"*

With one last hug, Windrush child waves goodbye to his Caribbean home and sets sail across the ocean to Britain. In this powerful picture book, full of hope and promise, celebrated poet John Agard and illustrator Sophie Bass movingly evoke the journey made by children and their families as part of the Windrush Generation.



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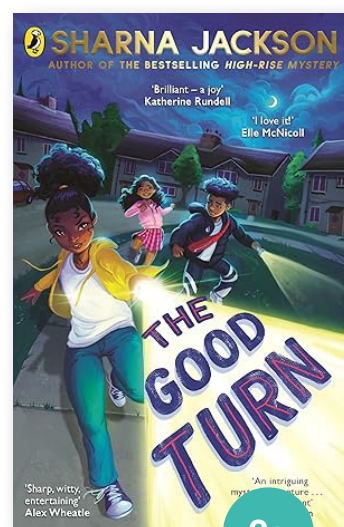
### THE GOOD TURN

SHARNA JACKSON (AUTHOR)

Josephine Williams is definitely a leader - and her teachers know it! What other eleven-year-old is desperate for MORE schoolwork?

Looking for more challenging tasks, Josie enlists her friends Wesley and Margot into her very own Scout troop, the Copseys, named after the street they all live on. Together they start their quest for their camping badge by sleeping out near to the abandoned factory behind their houses.

But that night they stumble across something strange. Someone seems to be living in the derelict building! The Copseys have to solve the mystery... and perhaps earn their bravery and activism badges along the way...



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## GETTING READY FOR CHANGE (TRANSITION) END OF YEAR REFLECTIONS

As the school year comes to an end, many children begin to think about what's next. They might be moving to a new classroom, saying goodbye to a teacher or even starting a new school altogether. While this can be exciting, it can also bring uncertainty.

Stories about change and new beginnings can help children make sense of their feelings and see that they are not alone. Books offer comfort, normalise worries and spark useful conversations.



**Here are some gentle and supportive ways to explore transition at home:**

### **Talk about feelings:**

Read a story where a character faces change. Ask what helped them feel brave or what they were worried about. Connect this to your child's own experience.

### **Make a memory box or booklet:**

Collect drawings, photos or little notes about this school year. Looking back can help children feel proud and ready to move forward.

### **Picture what's next:**

Encourage your child to draw or describe what they think their new class or school might be like. Use their ideas as a way to talk through questions and expectations.

### **Share a story from your own childhood:**

Talk about a time when you had to start something new. Children often enjoy hearing how grown-ups felt in similar situations.

Transitions can feel big or small, but with support and stories, children can face them with confidence and hope.



## Recommended Reads:

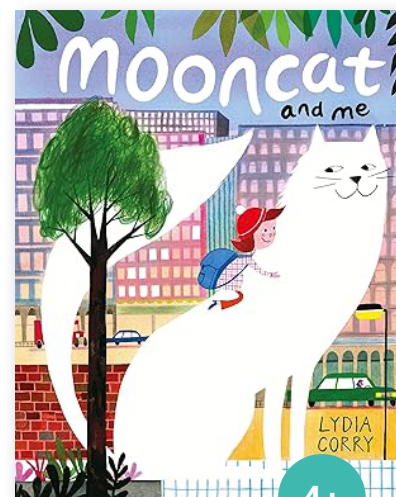
### MOONCAT AND ME

LYDIA CORRY (AUTHOR)

With colourful pages thronging with modern city life, Mooncat and Me tells the story of Pearl as she overcomes the anxiety of moving house and starting a new school, with the help of a giant white cat.

We can all empathise with Pearl's fear that '*I won't know anyone, and no one will know me*' but as we watch her grow in confidence, we will learn that with a bit of imagination and determination, there's nothing we can't do.

The gorgeous, brightly coloured illustrations are full of busy people filling pavements and buses and cars, or seen through the windows of their homes, leading their different lives. Mooncat's own calm and reassuring presence encourages Pearl to explore the vibrant city with her mother, and to face school, where she soon finds there are friends to be made.

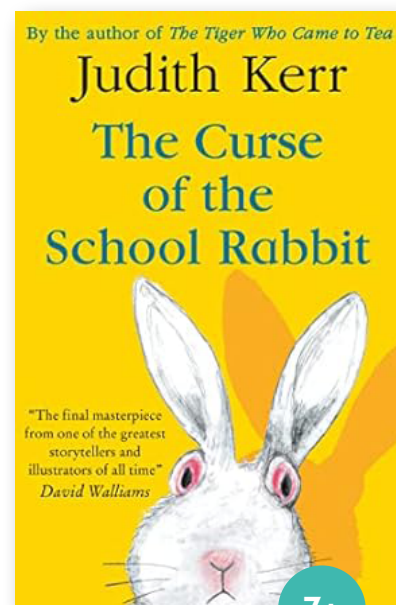


### THE CURSE OF THE SCHOOL RABBIT

JUDITH KERR (AUTHOR)

The laugh-out-loud story of a boy who needs a new bike for Christmas, the rabbit who might help him get it, and a lot of bad luck... From the one and only Judith Kerr, creator of *The Tiger Who Came to Tea* and *Mog the Forgetful Cat*!

It all started with the school rabbit... Snowflake is the school rabbit, and Snowflake is TROUBLE. At least that's what Tommy thinks. And when Snowflake unexpectedly comes to stay just before Christmas and EVERYTHING starts to go wrong, it looks like Tommy might be right. Even if he is getting more pocket money for feeding it and might be able to get that new bike after all... With a sick sister left in bed, a snobby actor left with suspiciously damp trousers, and no rabbit anywhere to be seen, Tommy can see his hopes of a new bike for Christmas disappearing as fast as Snowflake. Will Snowflake turn up, and turn out to be more good luck than bad? Or are Tommy and his family DOOMED by the curse of the school rabbit?

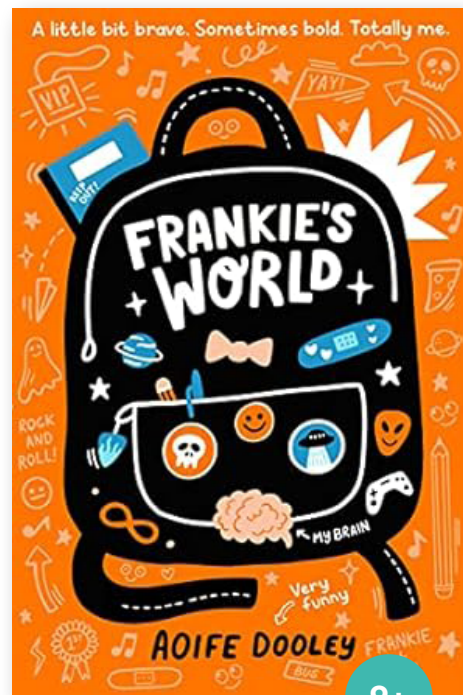


## FRANKIE'S WORLD

AOIFE DOOLEY (AUTHOR)

How do you fit in and stand out when you feel different to everyone around you?

Frankie knows she's not like anyone else in her class: she's different, but she can't quite figure out why. Is it the new freckle on her nose, or the fact she's small for her age? Or that she has to go to the hospital sometimes? Everyone else seems to think she's weird too, and they make fun of her at school. Frankie's dad left when she was a baby — maybe he was different too? It would explain why she always feels like an alien. So she and her best friend Sam embark on a mission to track him down.



## MORE MOMENTS TO EXPLORE:

### WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY

5<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2025

This is a day to think about how we care for the world around us. Whether it's recycling more, saving water or protecting wildlife, even small actions can make a difference.



#### At home, you might talk about:

What part of nature your child enjoys or feels connected to

One small change your family could try – like turning off taps or bringing a bag for life

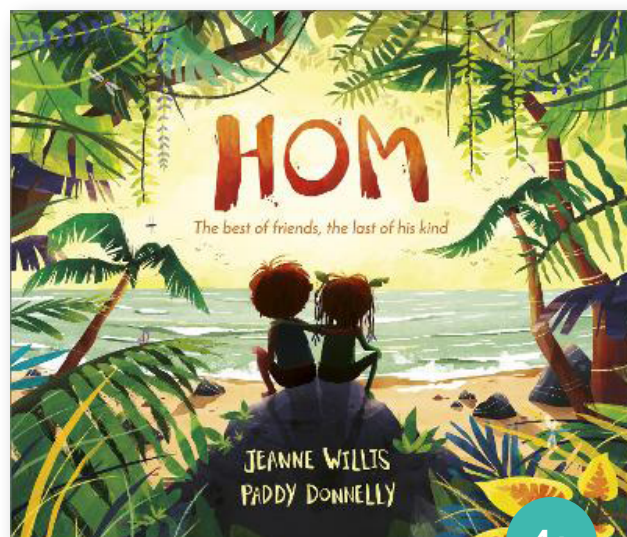
A story where nature plays an important role and how it made your child feel

## Recommended Reads:

### HOM

JEANNE WILLIS (AUTHOR),  
PADDY DONNELLY (ILLUSTRATOR)

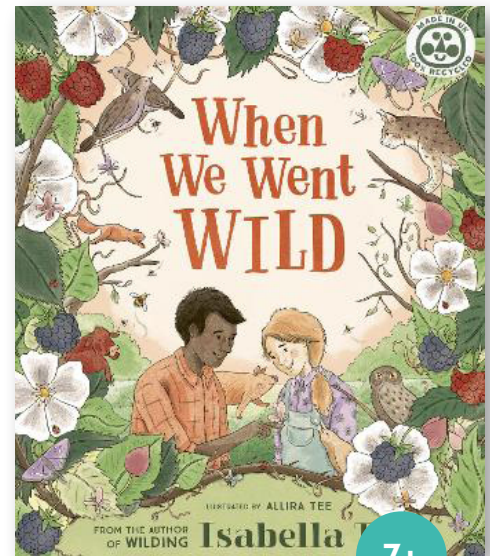
*Hom is the last of his kind. I don't know what kind of creature he is, and nobody knows he exists... apart from me.*



## WHEN WE WENT WILD

ISABELLA TREE (AUTHOR),  
ALLIRA TEE (ILLUSTRATOR)

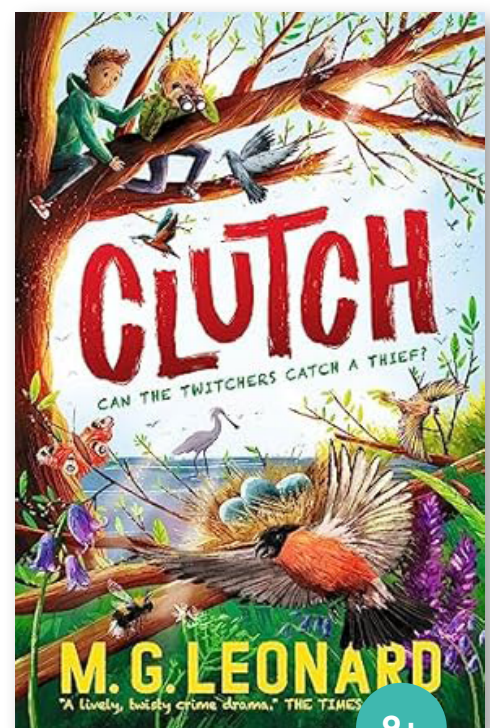
Nancy and Jake are farmers. They raise their cows and pigs, and grow their crops. They use a lot of big machines to help them, and spray a lot of chemicals to get rid of the weeds and the pests. That's what all good farmers do, isn't it? And yet, there is no wildlife living on their farm. The animals look sad. Even the trees look sad! One day, Nancy has an idea... what if they stopped using all the machines, and all the chemicals, and instead they went wild?...



## CLUTCH

M. G. LEONARD (AUTHOR)

*Clutch* is a thrilling spring mystery adventure about friendship, bravery and protecting nature, perfect for readers 9+ and for fans of Robin Stevens, Lauren St John and Jenny Pearson.





## WORLD OCEANS DAY

8<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2025

This day invites us to learn about the oceans and how to protect sea life. Children are often fascinated by the sea: its creatures, colours and mysteries.



### You could explore together:

What your child knows about the sea and what they'd like to learn

A sea-themed story, with time to draw or talk about their favourite part

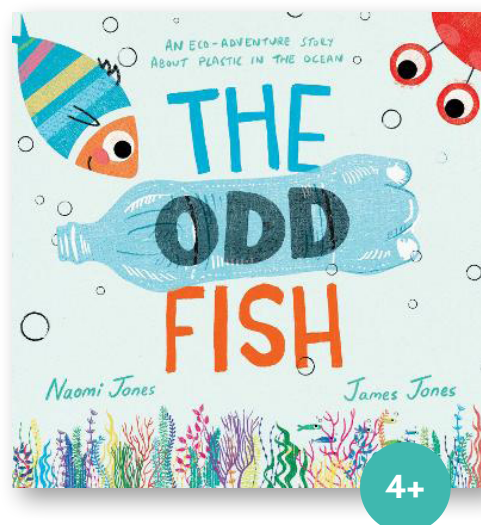
The idea of plastic pollution and how we can use fewer single-use items

## Recommended Reads:

### THE ODD FISH

NAOMI JONES (AUTHOR), JAMES JONES (ILLUSTRATOR)

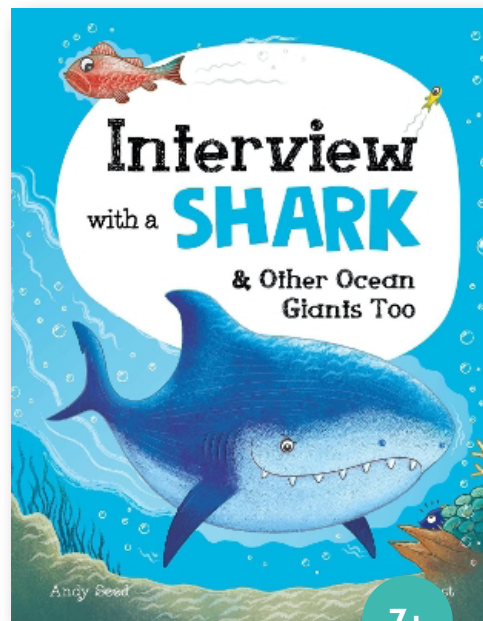
When Little Fish and her family encounter an odd new fish bobbing along on its own, they embark on an exciting journey to reunite it with its family. But Odd Fish isn't the only creature who needs Little Fish's help. Turtle has a tummy ache and Octopus's tentacles are tangled. Clever readers will spot the one thing that links them all... plastic. Maybe Odd Fish doesn't belong in the sea after all? Eight million tonnes of plastic find their way into our oceans and rivers every year. That's equal to dumping one rubbish truck every minute into the sea!



## INTERVIEW WITH A SHARK AND OTHER OCEAN GIANTS TOO

ANDY SEED (AUTHOR), NICK EAST (ILLUSTRATOR)

In this fun and fact-filled book, bite-sized text in a question-and-answer format is paired with colourful and engaging illustrations throughout, perfect for emerging or reluctant readers, or any young animal enthusiast who enjoys a bit of humour! Features 'interviews' with a great white shark, blue whale, orca, sunfish, giant squid, narwhal, manta ray, octopus, conger eel, and angler fish. Plus, ideas for how to do your bit to help endangered species.



## BEACH EXPLORER

HEATHER BUTTIVANT (AUTHOR)

Investigate the wonderful world of sand, watch how crabs move and marvel at spectacular seashells as you become a beach explorer. This book is bursting with hands-on activities, fascinating experiments and amazing facts to discover at home or on the shore.

You can: become a tide fort champion, create a miniature rock pool, find out what makes star fish so special, spy on a hermit crab battle, design your own fish, identify where beach litter comes from and experiment with seashells.





## FATHER'S DAY

15<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2025

A time to think about the people who support, guide and care for us — not just fathers but any special adults in a child's life.



### You might enjoy:

Sharing a memory of something kind or funny a loved one did

Talking about what makes someone a good role model

Reading a book about families and the many forms they take

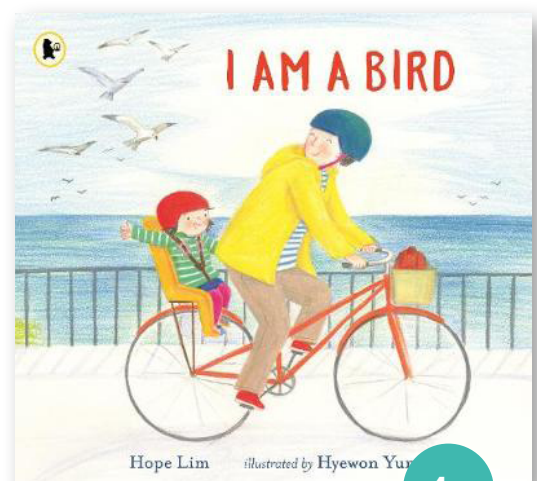
## Recommended Reads:

### I AM A BIRD

HOPE LIM (AUTHOR), HYEWON YUM (ILLUSTRATOR)

Every day, a little girl rides to school on the back of Daddy's bike. As they twist and turn through the city streets, the little girl spreads her arms like wings and sings her birdsong for all to hear. But when they pass the strange woman in blue who carries a mysterious bag, the girl goes quiet until the woman is out of sight.

One day, when they're running late, the little girl discovers what the woman does with her bag each morning — a surprise that transforms her wariness into a feeling of kinship to be celebrated.



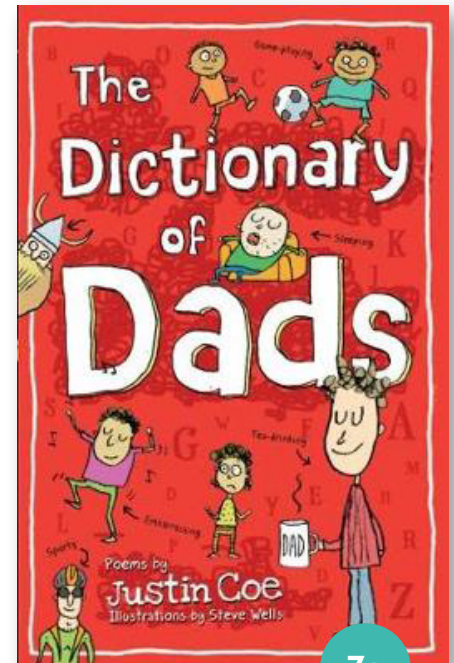
Hope Lim illustrated by Hyewon Yum

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## THE DICTIONARY OF DADS

JUSTIN COE (AUTHOR), STEVE WELLS (ILLUSTRATOR)

Look out for Big Bad Dad and Caveman Dad, laugh at Daddy Disaster and Donkey Dad, feel sorry for Faraway Dad and look forward to Homecoming Dad. Then raise a cheer for Mum-Dad! There are more than fifty different dads in The Dictionary of Dads. Find your favourite — but watch out for Exploding Dad!



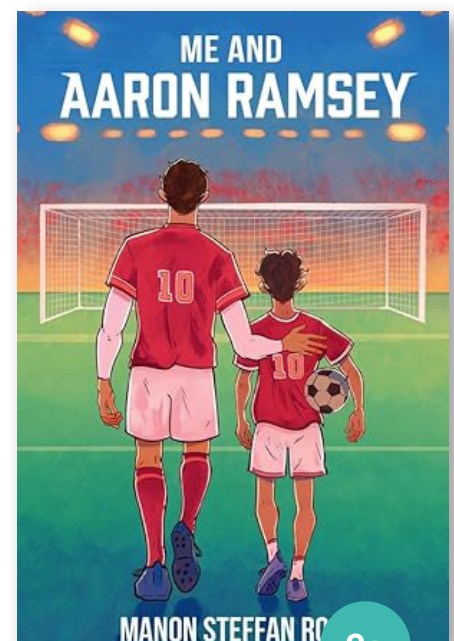
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## ME AND AARON RAMSEY

MANON STEFFAN ROS (AUTHOR)

Me and Aaron Ramsey tells the story of Sam and his dad who both love football, which is always there for them however tough real life becomes. That is, until Dad's dreams of football stardom go horribly wrong.

Sam's love for the footballing legend becomes tangled with his relationship for his father as things go south in their family life.



9+

## INSECT WEEK

23<sup>rd</sup>-29<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2025

Insects are a vital part of our world. Whether it's bees, beetles or butterflies, they help keep nature in balance.



### Try noticing together:

Where insects live and what they do

Stories where bugs are characters — and what they can teach us about resilience or teamwork

How different minibeasts move or survive

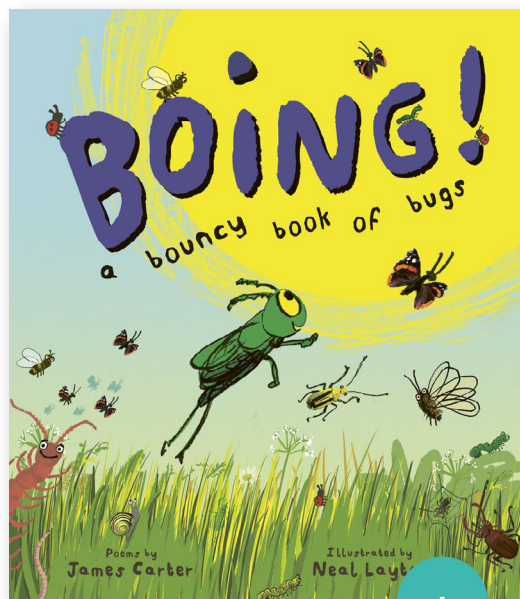
## Recommended Reads:

### BOING

JAMES CARTER (AUTHOR),  
NEAL LAYTON (ILLUSTRATOR)

Bestselling poet James Carter and illustrator Neal Layton love bugs and minibeasts and here they celebrate them all — from grasshoppers, ladybirds and dung beetles to moths, flies, wasps — and even bedbugs. Including the extraordinary tardigrades who can live in outer space.

With 24 poems, including shape poems, riddles, rhyming poems and free verse, plus amazing and informative facts about each bug or minibeast on every page, the world of insects is brought buzzing to life, matched by Neal Layton's bugtiful colour illustrations.



## DO YOU LOVE BUGS?

MATT ROBERTSON (AUTHOR)

Crawly! Hairy! Maybe a bit scary? Snails slime upside down. Eeek! Worms can somersault and butterflies smell like cake. YUM. Wait, don't eat them... Because bugs are truly BRILLIANT! Matt Robertson's quirky text and sweet yet hilarious illustrations show exactly why minibeasts can be truly awesome in their own unique way. The book includes 14 hilarious globally inclusive, bug-tastic spreads, featuring worms, bees, beetles, dragonflies, butterflies, moths, grasshoppers, spiders, ants, snails and stick insects. Find out how honey bees make their honey, why moths always fly around lamps and how bombardier beetles protect themselves from hungry predators. There's something new to learn about each bug. Did you know that stick insects can dance? Or that butterflies can smell like cake? And guess what? A grasshopper will spit on you if it gets angry!

So always be good to grasshoppers, give spiders a smile not a screech and never get angry at ants! There are so many more fun facts to uncover about our tiny furry and slimy friends.



## NATIONAL WRITING DAY 25<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2025

Writing helps children express themselves, build confidence and explore their ideas. It doesn't have to be perfect, it just needs to be theirs.



### Try noticing together:

Chat about a time your child made something up: a game, a story, a name

Share a story you remember writing as a child

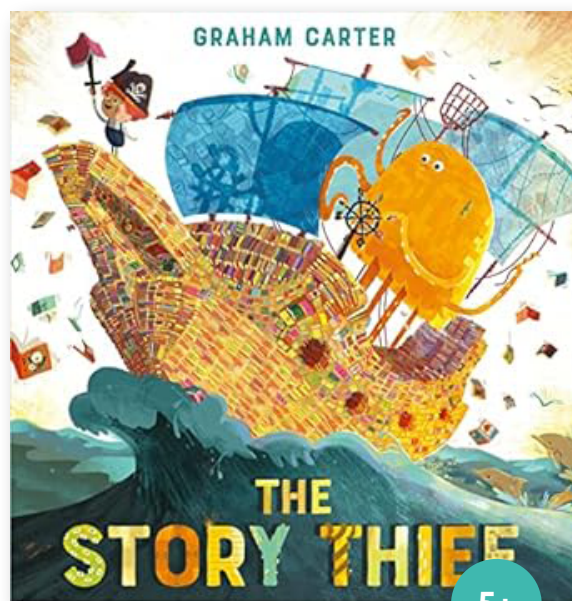
Encourage writing in everyday ways: notes, shopping lists or thank-yous

## Recommended Reads:

### THE STORY THIEF

GRAHAM CARTER (AUTHOR)

Olive is a shy girl who prefers reading about adventures to having them herself. But when a mysterious figure steals all of the books in town, Olive decides to set out straight into an adventure of her own. The thief, meanwhile, doesn't quite know what to do with the stories he's stolen. Olive must track down the thief and teach him the joys of reading — and sharing — stories.



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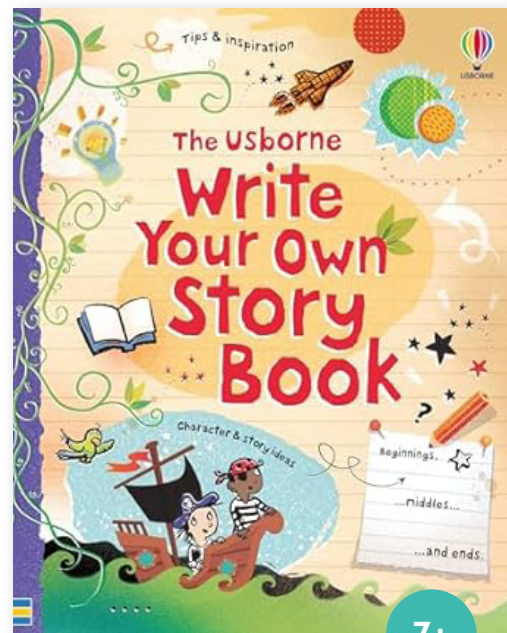


## WRITE YOUR OWN STORY BOOK

LOUIE STOWELL (AUTHOR)

A fantastic write-in book that helps children learn to write their own stories.

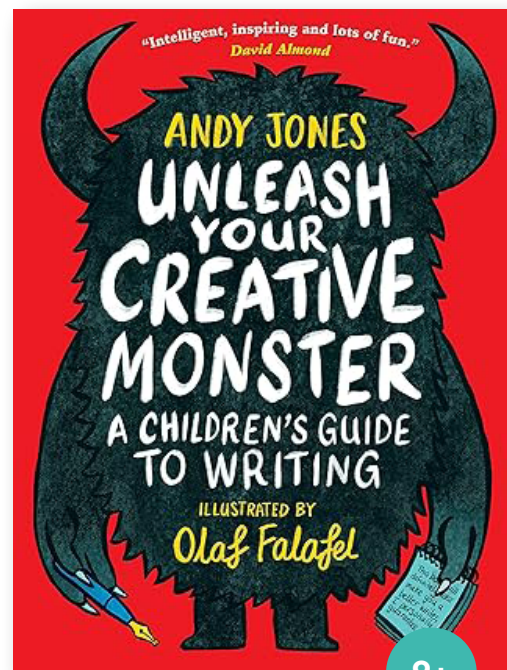
Includes lots of different writing activities including a fictional school journal, writing a comic strip, and forming a story around a picture. Packed with writing tips and a 'storywriting toolkit' to inspire budding authors. Concealed spiral binding that allows the book to open flat but doesn't get in the way as you write.



## UNLEASH YOUR CREATIVE MONSTER: A CHILDREN'S GUIDE TO WRITING

ANDY JONES (AUTHOR), OLAF FALAFEL (ILLUSTRATOR)

A funny and accessible guide to creative writing, packed with practical advice, exciting story prompts and a cast of creative monsters. In the pages of Unleash Your Creative Monster, budding writers will sink their teeth into story basics, essential writing tools and the hidden secrets of the wordsmith. Featuring top tips on finding inspiration, how to keep a story moving and beating writer's block, this essential guide has everything you need to unleash your creative monster.

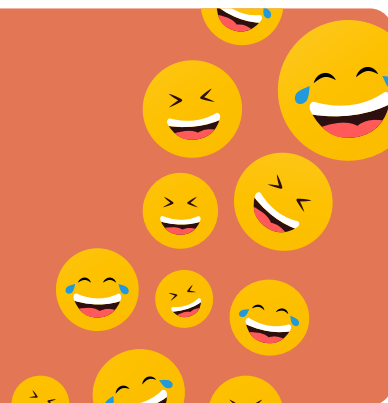




## INTERNATIONAL JOKE DAY

1<sup>st</sup> JULY 2025

Laughter is a great way to connect and build confidence.  
Funny stories and jokes also support language and memory.



### Try this instead of a joke list:

Talk about a book or film that  
made your child laugh

Make up silly endings to stories  
or swap character names around

Share your own favourite joke  
from when you were little

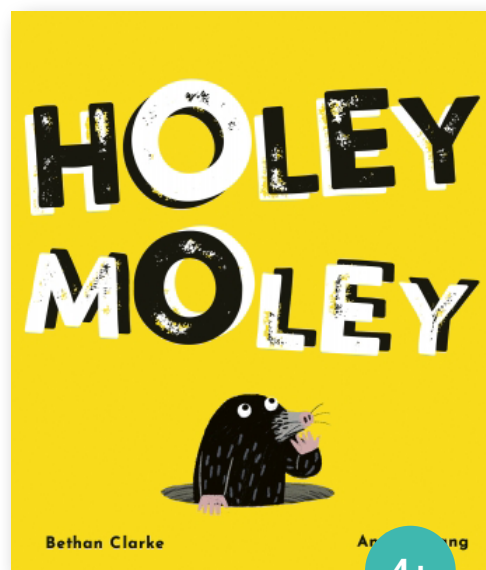
## Recommended Reads:

### HOLEY MOLEY

BETHAN CLARKE (AUTHOR),  
ANDERS FRANG (ILLUSTRATOR)

An anarchic, hilarious story by exciting debut author Bethan Clarke,  
illustrated with deadpan humour by rising star Anders Frang.

Gus the Goat loves guessing. And he loves rhyming. So, when he meets  
Mavis Mole, he can't help himself trying to guess where she lives. Is it in a  
hole? In a bowl!? In a Sausage ROLL!! No, not quite...

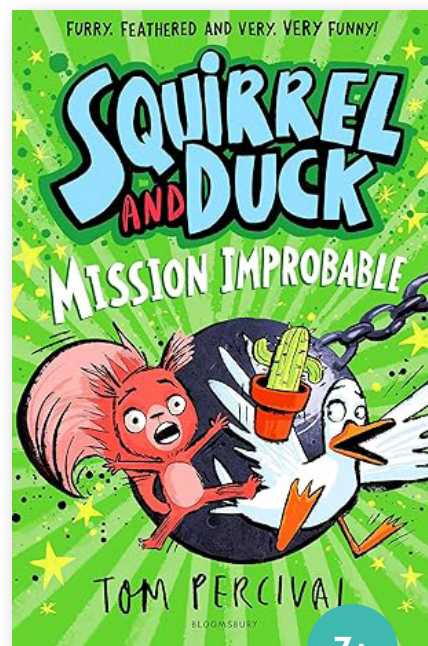


4+

**SQUIRREL AND DUCK:  
MISSION IMPROBABLE**

TOM PERCIVAL (AUTHOR)

Squirrel and Duck might seem strange housemates but they are drawn together by their secret — they are the only two talking animals in the world. When bulldozers arrive to redevelop the abandoned theme park they call home, they flee with nothing but Mr Spikes, Duck's beloved 'pet' cactus. Overhearing a conversation between two nincompoop art thieves puts them on the trail of untold riches (according to Squirrel) or a great deed to help the nation (as far as Duck's concerned). Only some surprisingly unhelpful woodland creatures and a temporary lack of transport stand in their way! Young readers will love this zanily brilliant story, full of unlikely scenarios and laugh-out-loud moments.

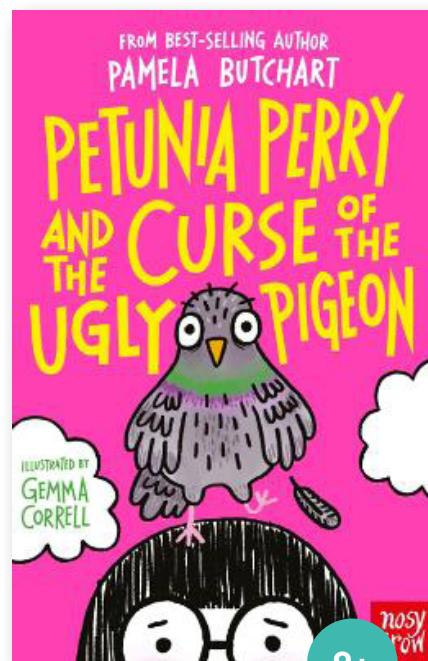


7+

**PETUNIA PERRY AND THE  
CURSE OF THE UGLY PIGEON**PAMELA BUTCHART (AUTHOR),  
GEMMA CORRELL (ILLUSTRATOR)

A hilarious novel about how to fit in when you don't want to conform, with brilliant illustrations throughout by world-renowned Gemma Correll. Perfect for fans of Louise Rennison and Holly Smale.

Petunia Perry has decided to write her memoirs. She wants the world to know what it's like to start secondary school with a best friend who stages one-person flash mobs in the canteen, a mother who over-shares at parents' evenings and an unwelcome suitor who draws pictures of her as a unicorn. But it's when she decides to start a band with a spoon-player and a lead-singer who's a cat that things take a turn for the truly crazy...



9+

## WORLD CHOCOLATE DAY

7<sup>th</sup> JULY 2025

Chocolate often appears in stories as a treat or temptation but it also connects to ideas of celebration, sharing and culture.



### To mark the day, you could:

Talk about where chocolate comes from and how it's made

Remember a time you shared a special treat with someone

Explore a story where food plays a key role

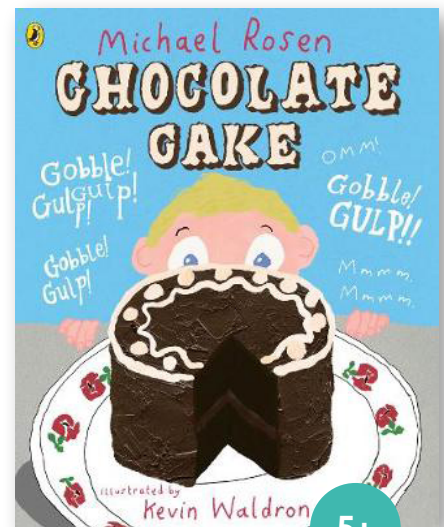


## Recommended Reads:

### CHOCOLATE CAKE

MICHAEL ROSEN (AUTHOR)

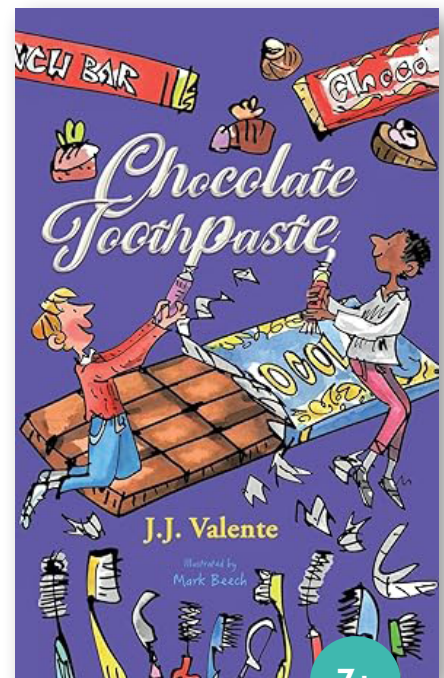
When I was a boy, I had a favourite treat. It was when my mum made... CHOCOLATE CAKE! Ohhh! I LOVED chocolate cake. Fantastically funny and full of silly noises, this is Michael Rosen's love letter to every child's favourite treat, chocolate cake.



### CHOCOLATE TOOTHPASTE

J.J. VALENTE (AUTHOR)

Daniel hated brushing his teeth! But what if toothpaste tasted of something a little more delicious? Join him and his best friend Lucas on their daring adventure to create the World's first... Chocolate Toothpaste. However, this crazy endeavour has dire consequences, turning the entire town upside down...!



# PiXL Reading

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