

PiXL Reading

READING FOR PLEASURE



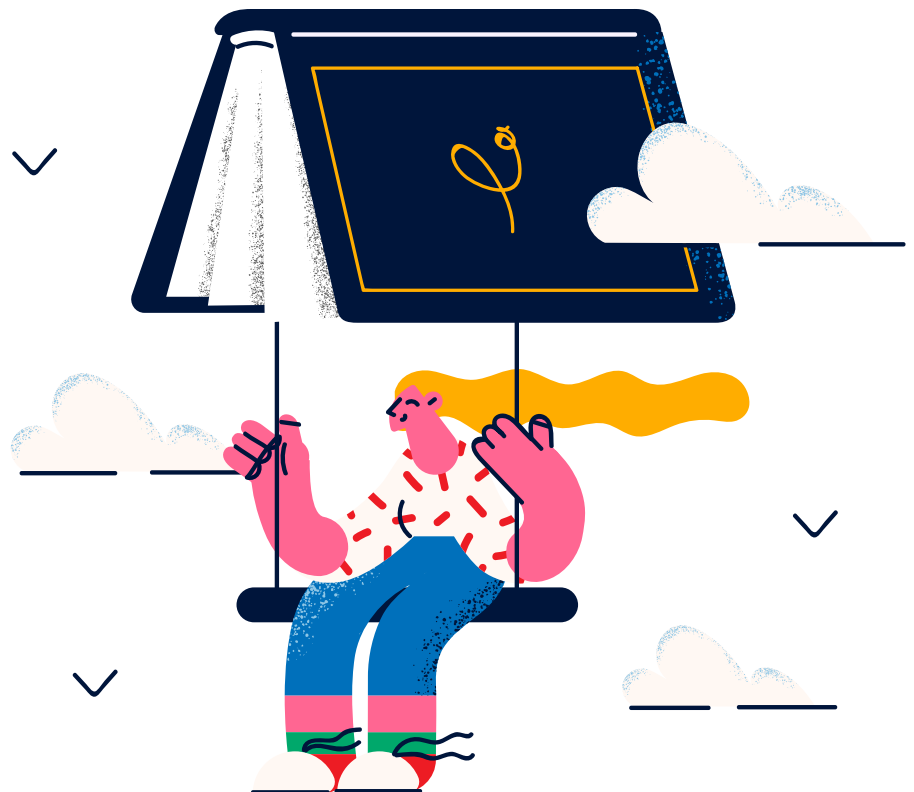
We hope you all enjoyed a restful break and are ready for the exciting term ahead! As we dive into this half term, we have a host of enriching events and celebrations planned to inspire and engage your children. From World Nursery Rhyme Week, which nurtures early language skills, to Non-fiction November, where we explore fascinating facts and stories, there's something for everyone to enjoy.

We'll also be celebrating World Science Day, encouraging curiosity and a love for discovery, as well as National Talk Money Week, which helps children build important life skills around understanding money. As we move closer to the festive season, we'll share stories and activities that capture the magic of Christmas and the beauty of winter.

We hope these events will bring plenty of joy and learning into your homes this term.

Happy reading and exploring!

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.



TALK MONEY WEEK

Talk Money Week is a national campaign designed to encourage open conversations about money and finances. Organised by the Money and Pensions Service, it provides a valuable opportunity for families to discuss their financial concerns, ask questions, and share advice. Many people find it challenging to talk about money, which can sometimes lead to financial difficulties. The aim of Talk Money Week is to break this silence and promote discussions around important topics such as budgeting, saving, investing, and managing debt.

This year, Talk Money Week runs from Monday 4th November to Friday 8th November. Talking about money is vital, as it plays a significant role in our everyday lives and overall wellbeing. Open conversations can help children and young people understand key financial concepts like saving and budgeting, giving them the tools to make informed financial decisions as they grow. Money can often be a source of stress, but sharing concerns and discussing finances openly with family can help ease some of that pressure. By making these conversations a normal part of everyday life, we can support each other and find solutions to financial challenges together.

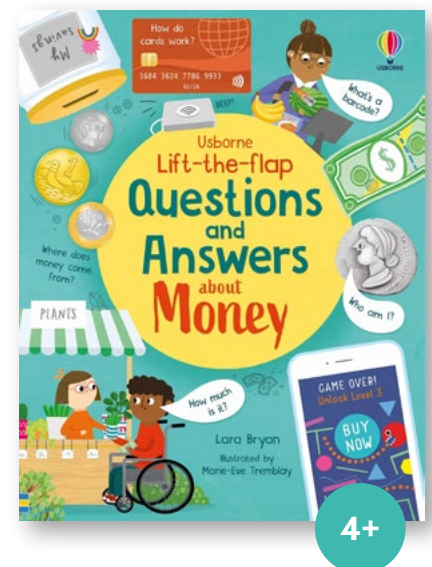
RECOMMENDED READS TO GET YOU STARTED:

LIFT-THE-FLAP: QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT MONEY

LARA BYRAN (AUTHOR), MARIE-EVE TREMBLAY (ILLUSTRATOR)

Understanding money today is so much more than learning about notes and coins. Where does money come from? Why do I have to save? What happens if I click BUY NOW? Find answers to important money questions, and some silly ones too, in this friendly and useful book.

- The question and answer lift-the-flap format is a perfect reading tool for curious kids.
- Written in consultation with money management expert Bobby Seagull – TV and radio presenter, teacher and ambassador for the National Numeracy charity.
- Early learning about money is key to building good money habits.



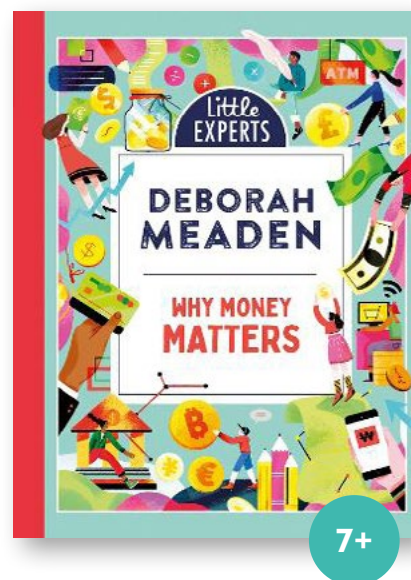
WHY MONEY MATTERS

DEBORAH MEADEN (AUTHOR), HAO HAO (ILLUSTRATOR)

Mystified by money? Discover how it shapes the world we live in with Dragons' Den investor and entrepreneur Deborah Meaden.

Our Experts are famous for their incredible know-how and passion for their subjects, and now they have made it their mission to share that knowledge with you in **Little Experts**: the inspirational new non-fiction series for six- to nine-year-olds. This jaw-dropping non-fiction journey has vibrant and inclusive artwork throughout by Hao Hao.

Deborah Meaden said, *"Money may not literally make the world go round, but it is a very big part of the human world we all live in now. I'm excited to take young readers on a fascinating journey to discover where money came from, how it shapes the world we live in today, and empower all children to become money experts."*



MONEY: A RICH ILLUSTRATED HISTORY

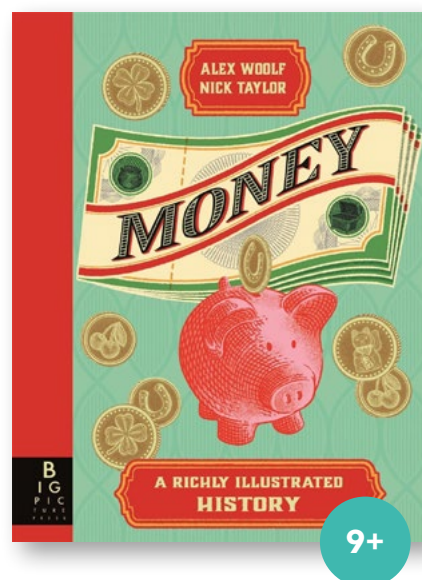
ALEX WOOLF (AUTHOR), NICK TAYLOR (ILLUSTRATOR)

This visually extraordinary book presents the history of money as it has never been seen before - from coins to contactless, bankruptcy to billionaires - perfect for readers aged 9+.

From trading seashells and vegetables to mining for cryptocurrency, the journey from cash to contactless has been one full of trial and error, entrepreneurial geniuses and expanding economies.

Uniquely presented through a series of posters, comic-strip retellings, timelines, newspaper articles and much more, this strikingly illustrated book charts the history of money in engaging and unusual ways - guaranteed to keep children gripped.

With expert text written by children's author Alex Woolf and stunning graphic artwork by Nick Taylor.



WORLD NURSERY RHYME WEEK

World Nursery Rhyme Week is a wonderful celebration of the joy and importance of nursery rhymes in early childhood. Since its launch in 2013, more than 4 million children from 106 countries have taken part, making it a truly global event. Founded by Music Bugs, a company specialising in interactive music and singing classes for young children, the week aims to highlight the positive impact nursery rhymes can have on early development and education.

This year, World Nursery Rhyme Week will take place from Monday 11th November to Friday 15th November. It's a time for everyone—parents, carers, early years practitioners, and anyone who loves working with children—to join in. While it's especially geared towards children under 7, everyone is welcome to take part. From grandparents and childminders to after-school clubs and nurseries, it's an opportunity to introduce children to the magic of rhymes, songs, and stories.

RECOMMENDED READS TO GET YOU STARTED:

NURSERY RHYMES

ROBERY LACEY (AUTHOR), BEN COPPIN (ILLUSTRATOR)

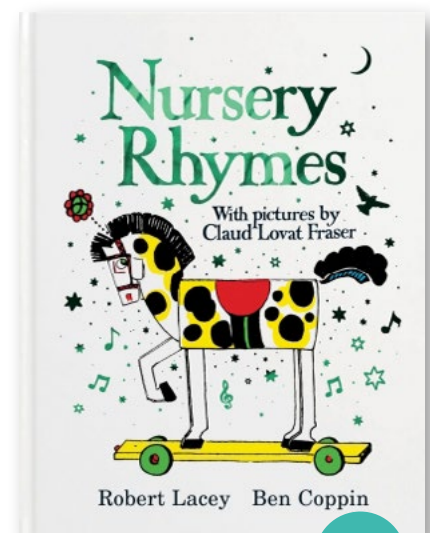
Best-selling historian Robert Lacey re-presents 82 of the most beloved nursery rhymes in a shared reading experience for children, parents and grandparents.

The book explores the magic of nursery rhymes and the meaning of their not-so-childish nonsense, and provides a reference section which details the history of the rhymes.

Accompanying the collection are 151 drawings by early 20th century stage designer and illustrator Claud Lovat Fraser, sourced from the Royal Academy archives, which have been vividly updated by Ben Coppin.

With historic and decorative endpapers and ribbons, this book makes a gorgeous gift.

A proportion of the royalties will be paid to the *Royal Academy Library*, and to *Storybook Dad and Mums* supporting imprisoned parents to record stories for their children.



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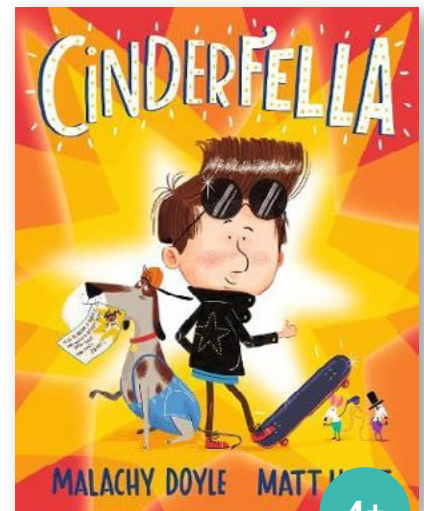
CINDERFELLA

MALACHY DOYLE (AUTHOR), MATT HUNT (ILLUSTRATOR)

To all the brothers at Number 12. You're invited to Kayleigh's party. Dress fancy. Come fancy. Dance!

Once upon a time, there lived Cinderfella – a little boy, forever bossed around by his two older brothers, Gus and Gareth. Turn up the TV! Shine our scooters! the brothers cry. Finish our homework!

But on the day of our story, Kayleigh, the town's kick-fastic karate champion, is having a party, and Cinderfella is determined to dream big, dress fancy and DANCE. He'll just need a little help along the way from his fairy dog-mother, Ruff – woof! A feel-good twist on the classic fairytale, brought to life with fresh vision and huge humour by Matt Hunt.



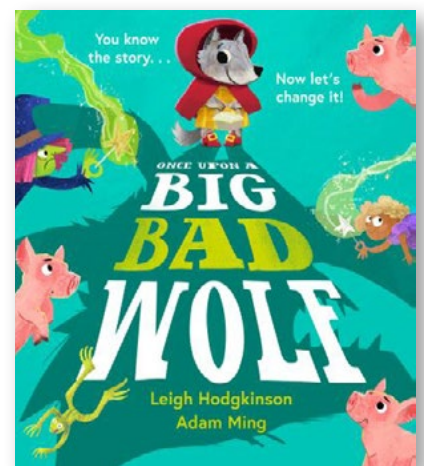
ONCE UPON A BIG BAD WOLF

LEIGH HODGKINSON (AUTHOR), ADAM MING (ILLUSTRATOR)

You know the story... now let's change it!

Have you ever wondered why the Mean Old Witch is mean? Or why the Big Bad Wolf is bad? They weren't always that way... The Big Bad Wolf used to be small and sweet. But when a witch was mean to him, everything changed... The Mean Old Witch used to be young and kind, singing to the birds and picking up litter, until an unfortunate encounter with a Horrible Stinky Troll...

Discover how unkind words and actions can have consequences – and how a simple apology has the magical power to transform everything!



CHANG'E ON THE MOON

KATRINA MOORE (AUTHOR), CORNELIA LI (ILLUSTRATOR)

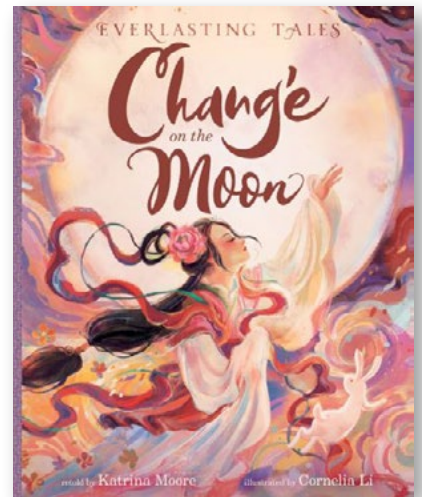
Everlasting Tales is a collection of multicultural fairy tales and folktales - honouring the stories traditionally passed down through oral tradition by refreshing and preserving them for new generations.

Before she was the famous goddess of the moon, she was simply Chang'e.

Once upon a time, there lived a kind, beautiful woman named Chang'e. She and her husband, Hou Yi, were deeply in love and existed in peaceful harmony... Until, one day, ten blazing suns rose into the sky and threatened everything they knew. But while the two worked together to save the lands from burning up, someone else they trusted was plotting against them.

This epic romance follows how Chang'e's bravery and selflessness saved her people, and why, centuries later, they celebrate her and retell her story all over the world.

In the first of the *Everlasting Tales* collection, multicultural folktales traditionally passed down through oral tradition now refreshed for a modern audience, Katrina Moore and Cornelia Li tell the Chinese legend of Chang'e, the moon goddess. Back matter includes an author's note and a condensed tale in Mandarin for bilingual readers, perfect all year and during mid-Autumn Festival celebrations.



THE LOST FAIRY TALES

ISABEL OTTER (AUTHOR), ANA SENDER (ILLUSTRATOR)

If damsels in distress and prissy princesses give you cause for despair then look no further...

Have you ever heard the tale of Bella and the Bear, from Sweden? What about the story of Maru-me and the wrestler, from Japan? Dive into this thrilling anthology of fascinating, inspiring myths and legends. This enchanting anthology of 20 overlooked and forgotten fairy tales has been collected from different cultures around the world. Every story features a strong female heroine who approaches life with humour, wit, cunning and bravery. **None of these heroines need rescuing.**

Retold in beautiful, thrilling text by Isabel Otter, and with gorgeous illustrations by Ana Sender, these stories of brave and bold girls from around the world will empower and inspire young readers!



ZOMBIERELLA

JOSEPH COELHO (AUTHOR), FREYA HARTAS (ILLUSTRATOR)

The first in a funny, deliciously dark, three-part series of twisted classics, written in verse by former Waterstones Children's Laureate Joseph Coelho and illustrated by Freya Hartas.

"Such a fun story with excellent illustrations... with enough familiarity to feel known but with enough difference to make it quirky and original" - Malorie Blackman

A yellow moon hangs in a satin sky the night Cinderella, barefoot and in hand-me-downs, slips at the top of the stairs... and dies. But not for long. The Shadow of Death arrives to breathe life back into her bones and, for three nights only, Cinderella goes forth as ZOMBIERELLA. With her skin as cold as ice and her faithful horse Lumpkin back by her side, can she seek revenge on her three cruel, fake sisters, once and for all?

Crawl out of the grave and step into your mushroom carriage for this haunting and humorous adventure of the undead girl searching for her happily ever after.



9+

WORLD SCIENCE DAY

World Science Day, celebrated on 10th November each year, is all about making the world of science more accessible and engaging for everyone. It was created to open up the fascinating world of scientific research and discoveries—covering topics like artificial intelligence and renewable energy—to people of all ages and backgrounds. The aim is to show that, even if you're not a scientist, science is all around you and plays a vital role in everyday life.

The full name, World Science Day for Peace and Development, reflects its broader mission. It's not just about understanding science but also about fostering global cooperation, especially between scientists in places experiencing conflict. This day offers a chance to highlight how science can be a force for good, contributing to a more peaceful and sustainable world. UNESCO, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, launched World Science Day in 2001 to bring the ideas discussed at a smaller conference in Budapest onto a global stage.

The aims of World Science Day include raising awareness of how science can help build a better future, encouraging international scientific cooperation, and renewing interest in science and technology as tools to benefit society. It's a day to celebrate the importance of science in our lives and to think about how it can help solve challenges around the world.

How Can Families Celebrate World Science Day?

World Science Day is a great chance for families to explore the wonders of science together. Here are a few fun ways to get involved at home:

- **Explore the Theme:** This year's theme is "Global Science for Global Wellbeing". You can discuss how science impacts our daily lives, like how renewable energy works, or how technology can make the world a better place. Look for documentaries or short videos that focus on these topics to watch together.
- **Science Experiments at Home:** Try some simple experiments that use everyday household items. Make a baking soda volcano, create a rainbow with a glass of water and a flashlight, or grow your own crystals. These activities show that science is everywhere, even in your kitchen!
- **Nature Walks and Stargazing:** Science isn't just in a lab—it's outside too! Go for a nature walk and talk about the different plants and animals you see. Or, if the skies are clear, try some stargazing and see if you can spot any constellations.
- **Read Science Books:** Share stories that encourage curiosity about the natural world. There are many engaging books for children that introduce concepts like space, animals, and the environment. It's a lovely way to connect science with reading.
- **Talk About Scientific Careers:** Discuss the many different kinds of jobs in science. From doctors to engineers to conservationists, understanding the variety of careers can inspire young minds to dream big.

By celebrating World Science Day together, families can enjoy learning, spark curiosity, and help children see how science connects to their world. It's a chance to make science feel approachable, fun, and truly part of everyday life!

RECOMMENDED READS TO GET YOU STARTED:

A LITTLE BLUE DOT

MAREN HASENJÄGER (AUTHOR/ILLUSTRATOR)

Meet the planets and discover why Earth is so special in this heart-warming story about our solar system.

Somewhere in our vast universe floats a little blue dot. This dot is Earth and she is surrounded by lots of impressive planets – Saturn with his ice-crystal rings and 146 moons, fiery Mars with his huge storms and volcanoes, bright and beautiful Venus... Earth feels small and insignificant, until the other planets tell her why she is the envy of them all. And then another little voice, very close by, has something important to say.

A Little Blue Dot is a story packed full of scientific information about the planets in our solar system and space exploration. Told by the planets themselves and charmingly illustrated, this reassuring story will be a hit with readers big and small.



4+

THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS A SILLY QUESTION

MIKE RAMPTON (AUTHOR), GUILHERME KARSTEN (ILLUSTRATOR)

A brilliantly silly question-and-answer book, fact-checked by world-leading experts from across the University of Cambridge.

Did you know that there's no set number of bones in the human body?

Most babies are born with around 300 bones, but by the time they've grown up, they usually have between 206 and 213.

Covering a range of subjects from science, technology, engineering and mathematics to evolution, zoology, social history and more, this hilarious yet clever book expertly answers 213 of the most unusual and interesting questions you never thought to ask about the world - one for at least every bone in your body!



8+

There really is no such thing as a silly question.

WORLD KINDNESS DAY

World Kindness Day, celebrated on 13th November, is a special opportunity to recognise and spread kindness in all its forms. It's a day dedicated to encouraging compassion, empathy, and positive actions within our communities and beyond. We believe that these values are just as important at home as they are in the classroom, and there are many ways families can embrace the spirit of this day together.

Why not make a kindness jar with your child? You can fill it with ideas like "help a neighbour," "give someone a compliment," or "make a thank-you card". Each day, pick a note from the jar and enjoy the warm feeling of making someone's day a little brighter. Or, you could create a kindness calendar together, with simple acts for each day of November, such as baking treats for friends, leaving a kind note for someone special, or donating toys or books to a local charity.

Reading stories that focus on kindness and empathy is another great way to celebrate. Sharing books that teach the value of kindness helps children understand the impact of their actions and encourages discussions about the importance of being kind to others.

We hope that World Kindness Day inspires your family to share a little extra kindness, whether that's through small gestures or simply taking the time to listen to one another. It's a wonderful chance to make a big difference with small actions, creating a ripple effect of positivity in our community and beyond.



RECOMMENDED READS TO GET YOU STARTED:

THE BLUE UMBRELLA

EMILY ANN DAVISON (AUTHOR), MOMOKO ABE (ILLUSTRATOR)

The most magical things can happen even on the rainiest of days... How many people can you fit under one umbrella? It wasn't even meant to rain the day the blue umbrella turned up, but for the people who used it that day, they found something more than just shelter: something truly amazing had happened. A community had come together, bound by kindness and friendship.



THE SMALL THINGS

LISA THOMPSON (AUTHOR), HANNAH COULSON (ILLUSTRATOR)

Anna's anxious when she's picked to befriend the new girl in her class. For a start, Ellie is ill and can't come to school herself. So Anna has to communicate with her through a new kind of robot. But Anna is also worried that her life's too small and boring to be of interest to her new friend. Compared to the other girls, she doesn't have anything exciting to talk about and so when Ellie asks her a question, a little white lie pops out. Then another and another. When Ellie finds out the truth, can their friendship survive...?

Inspired by a true story, a groundbreaking robot helps friendship blossom in this poignant and uplifting novella from bestseller Lisa Thompson.



7+

THE GOOD GUYS 50 HEROES WHO CHANGED THE WORLD WITH KINDNESS

ROB KEMP (AUTHOR), PAUL BLOW (ILLUSTRATOR)

A life-changing book that shows kids it's cool to be kind. A gloriously illustrated celebration of heroes who have changed the world with kindness and compassion, from David Attenborough to Nelson Mandela, Oskar Schindler to Usain Bolt. What if we celebrated boys for their kindness as well their strength? For their generosity as well as their success? For their loyal friendship as well as their charm? The Good Guys introduces us to 50 heroes who have showed that changing the world doesn't require a sword or a corporate jet. Readers will find stories of extraordinary men including Muhammad Ali, Professor Green, Patrick Stewart and Lionel Messi, as well as unsung heroes such as James Harrison, who has spent fifty years donating his rare blood to save millions of babies. There's even a section celebrating ten boys who didn't let their young age stop them from helping others, such as Matthew Kaplan, who responded to his brother's bullies by setting up an anti-bullying programme for schools. The Good Guys celebrates the feats of heroes and everyday men, and will show kids that it really is cool to be kind.



9+

NON-FICTION NOVEMBER

National Non-Fiction November is a month-long celebration, launched by the Federation of Children's Book Groups, that highlights the value of factual books and encourages children to enjoy reading non-fiction for fun. It's a wonderful opportunity for young readers to explore the world of information books beyond what they encounter in the classroom, diving into topics that captivate their curiosity.

Each year, the campaign introduces a new theme, and this year's theme is "Why Don't You...?". This theme invites children to explore new hobbies, interests, and experiences, sparking discussions about a wide range of activities they might want to try. Whether it's learning about space, discovering fascinating animals, or exploring hobbies like cooking or playing an instrument, the theme is all about inspiring children to explore new possibilities and follow their interests.

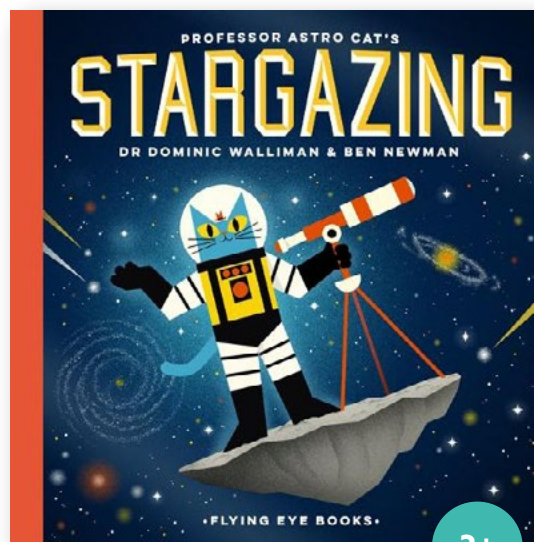
Non-Fiction November is a great time for families to explore factual books together, fostering a love for learning and discovery that can last a lifetime.

RECOMMENDED READS TO GET YOU STARTED:

PROFESSOR ASTRO CAT'S STARGAZING

DOMINIC WALLIMAN (AUTHOR), BEN NEWMAN (ILLUSTRATOR)

Welcome back, stargazers! Have you ever looked up at the night sky and wondered what a star looks like up close? Ever wondered how long it would take you to walk a light year? Join Professor Astro Cat and friends on another stellar mission! In this new addition to the best-selling science series, we learn all about the stars in our universe, including our own sun! From scientific discoveries to the constellations dreamed up by humans centuries ago, Ben Newman's beloved illustrations bring these fascinating facts to life for young readers.

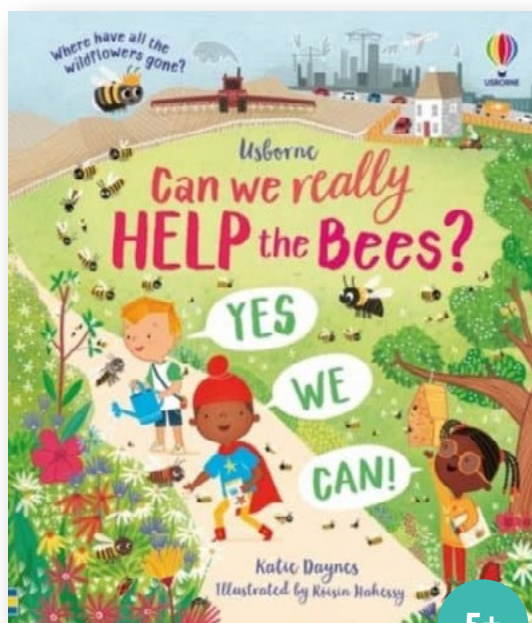


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CAN WE REALLY HELP THE BEES?

KATIE DAYNES (AUTHOR), ROISIN HAHESSY (ILLUSTRATOR)

The bees are in danger. They find a sparky bunch of kids to share their troubles with, and explain why there's much more at stake than just honey. With entire food webs threatening to unravel, the kids begin to brainstorm... and come up with a brilliant PLAN. This delightful book weaves important information about pollination, biodiversity, conservation and SHARING OUR PLANET into an entertaining and empowering narrative.



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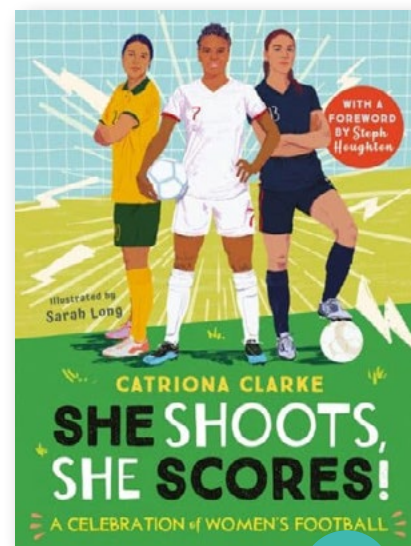
SHE SHOOTS, SHE SCORES!

CATRIONA CLARKE (AUTHOR), SARAH LONG (ILLUSTRATOR)

With a foreword by England Captain Steph Houghton, *She Shoots, She Scores!* tells the incredible story of the BEST sport in the world, women's football – from the men who tried to ban it to the superstars of today's game, including Lucy Bronze, Sam Kerr and Alex Morgan. Young footie fans can find out about . . .

- The girl who had to play football in secret but grew up into a goal-scoring legend
- The thirteen-year-old who shot to international fame but didn't get a mention in school assembly
- The greatest women's footballer ever, who scored in FIVE World Cups

Written by acclaimed YA novelist Catriona Clarke, the book is packed with facts and stats about the FIFA Women's World Cup and the Olympics, plus pocket profiles of the world's top players – from Marta to Megan Rapinoe – and record-breaking teams, including the US national women's team and Olympique Lyonnais. What's more, discover the key skills you'll need to become a great goalkeeper, a tough-tackling defender or the world's next superstar striker!



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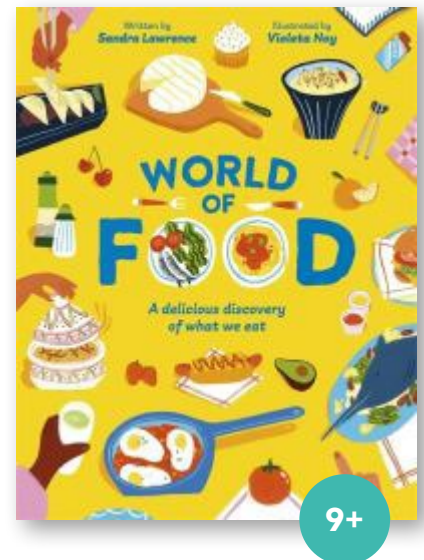
WORLD OF FOOD

SANDRA LAWRENCE (AUTHOR), VIOLETA NOY (ILLUSTRATOR)

What did the ancient Romans snack on? Where does chocolate come from? And how has the humble potato shaped history? There is a whole world of food to discover!

Everywhere on our planet where people can be found, there are different foods that we enjoy, and different ways of preparing and eating them, too. From fruits, vegetables, cheeses and grains to spices, honey, chocolate and foods of the future, find out where foods come from, and what we grow, farm, forage and cook in order to eat. Explore more than 100 dishes and food traditions from every corner of the globe, and what people ate for lunch 5,000 years ago. Roasted hedgehog, anyone?

Bursting with colour and fascinating facts, the World of... looks at what we have in common, and celebrates our differences.



CHRISTMAS READS

As the festive season approaches, there's no better time to embrace the magic of Christmas through reading. Christmas-themed books offer a wonderful way to bring the warmth and joy of the holidays into your home, with stories that capture the spirit of kindness, togetherness, and wonder.

In this section, we've curated a selection of Christmas-themed books that will fill your home with holiday cheer. These stories are perfect for cosy winter evenings, snuggled up with a good book and a cup of hot chocolate, letting the magic of the season unfold through the pages.

We hope these Christmas-themed books will become treasured favourites in your home, bringing joy and festive spirit to your reading time!

RECOMMENDED READS TO GET YOU STARTED:

THE BIG CHRISTMAS BAKE

FIONA BARKER (AUTHOR), PIPPA CURNICK (ILLUSTRATOR)

The Big Christmas Bake is a funny, lively romp through the twelve days of Christmas, taking the elements of the popular carol, and weaving them cleverly into the ingredients for a Twelfth Night Cake.

Starting with the partridge and its gift of dried fruit, this rhyming story includes all of the familiar characters from the song as they all contribute to the baking of the magnificent Twelfth Night Cake.

*A trio of French hens bring baking powder
Six geese bring eggs, and lots of feathers too
Ten lords help carry the cake into the oven ready to bake*

At the end of the story, there is a recipe included to bake your own cake at home, giving this book the potential to be a favourite Christmas story as well as a resource to be used every year in introducing a twelfth night cake tradition to a family.

Characterfully illustrated by Pippa Curnick, *The Big Christmas Bake* is a beautiful, lyrical, and gently humorous Christmas story for the whole family to enjoy.

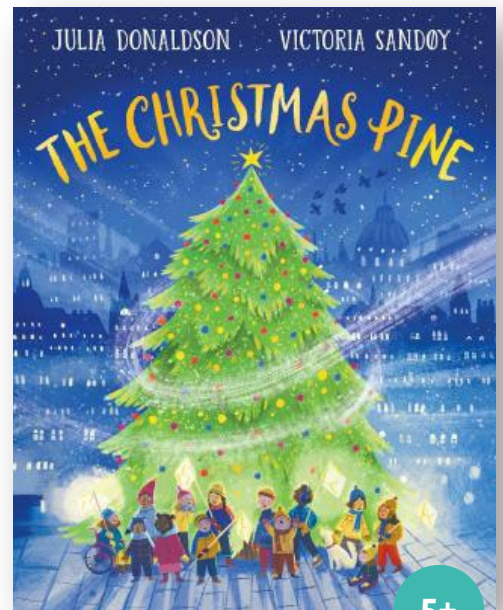


THE CHRISTMAS PINE

JULIA DONALDSON (AUTHOR),
VICTORIA SANDOY (ILLUSTRATOR)

This gorgeously illustrated hardback book has a gold-foiled dust jacket, making it the perfect Christmas gift for young children. Julia Donaldson's perfect rhyme is a joy to read aloud - this is a classic to treasure for generations. Victoria Sandoy's exquisite, atmospheric illustrations are full of gorgeous details to point out and share.

A paragraph on the final page of the book explains that *The Christmas Pine* is based on a true story. It celebrates a special tradition that stretches back over seventy years. Every year, the Mayor of Oslo in Norway presents the British people with a spectacular Christmas tree. The tree is a symbol of peace and friendship, and a thank you for the UK's support during World War II.



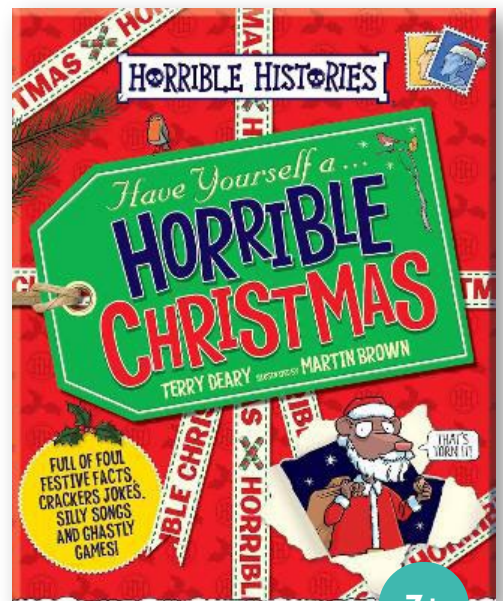
5+

HORRIBLE CHRISTMAS

TERRY DEARY (AUTHOR),
MARTIN BROWN (ILLUSTRATOR)

Filled with all the festive facts every Horrible Histories reader wants to know! The complete horrible history of Christmas tells tales of: the dark days when the Puritans tried to abolish Christmas, the Christmas in the trenches when the British and Germans traded bullets for footballs, plus dreadful jokes, rotten recipes and a Christmas quiz!

With full-colour illustrations by Martin Brown, this 2022 edition of *Horrible Christmas* is the perfect festive gift.



7+

THE BOY WHO SLEPT THROUGH CHRISTMAS

MATT LUCAS (AUTHOR), FORREST BURDETT (ILLUSTRATOR)

Leo LOVES Christmas. And this Christmas needs to be absolutely perfect, because it's the first one without Mum. Only it all keeps going wrong!

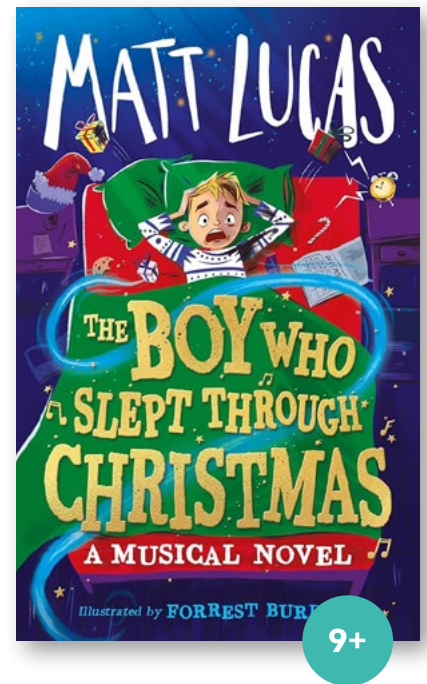
The fairylights are in a tangle???? The Christmas cards aren't finished???? The tree isn't decorated???? And the Christmas cakes have all been destroyed!

Soon Leo decides he's had enough - he makes a heartfelt wish that it would all GO AWAY. Then Leo wakes up on Christmas morning - and it's gone!! All of Christmas! But Leo isn't going to let it escape that easily...

Join Leo as he sets out on a mission to undo his wish and get Christmas back in the brand-new festive classic by bestselling author Matt Lucas.

Home Alone meets *A Christmas Carol* in a hilarious adventure with a big dollop of festive magic. Funny, sensitive and emotional in all the best ways, this warm and seasonal family story touches ever so gently on childhood grief but is wrapped up in a chaotic and heart-warming adventure.

Listen to over 20 original songs, written and recorded by Matt to accompany the story, bringing the joy of a musical to book form!



CREATING A COSY WINTER STORYTIME AT HOME

As the weather gets colder, there's nothing quite like snuggling up with a good book and sharing a story together. Here are a few simple ideas to create a special winter storytime at home, no matter what space or resources you have available:

- **Build a blanket fort or a cosy corner:** Gather some blankets and cushions and create a snug reading spot together. It could be a blanket fort in the living room, a pile of pillows by the radiator, or just a special chair draped with a cosy blanket.
- **Add a touch of light:** A little bit of soft lighting can make a storytime feel magical. If you have fairy lights, use them to brighten up your reading space. Otherwise, a small lamp or even a flashlight under a blanket can create a cosy atmosphere. The gentle glow can make reading feel extra special.
- **Warm up with a treat:** Sharing a warm drink or a snack can add to the storytime experience. A simple cup of hot chocolate, warm milk, or a favourite biscuit can be a lovely treat to enjoy together while reading. It's a great way to slow down and make storytime feel like a special moment.
- **Choose a favourite winter story:** Pick a book from our wintry reads list or revisit a family favourite that brings comfort and joy. Whether it's about snowy adventures, winter animals, or simply the warmth of a cosy home, let the story transport you to a new world.

These little touches can help make storytime a cherished winter tradition, no matter what you have at home. We hope your family enjoys these moments together and that they bring a little extra warmth and magic to your winter evenings.

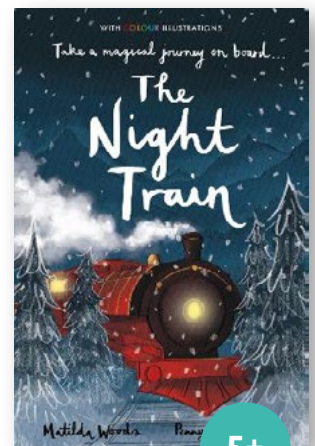
RECOMMENDED READS TO GET YOU STARTED:

THE NIGHT TRAIN

MATILDA WOODS (AUTHOR), PENNY NEVILLE-LEE (ILLUSTRATOR)

With a shrill whistle the Night Train is off, delivering its passengers to children's dreams. The yeti, the ballet dancer, the friendly monster and the princess all have starring roles. Then the train comes to an unexpected halt. A tree has fallen across the track and there's no way the guard can move it on his own.

It's a race against time and the passengers will need to use all their talents to get the train moving again. Can they reach their dreams before midnight?



THE BOY WHO BROUGHT THE SNOW

HOLLIE HUGHES (AUTHOR),
ANNA WILSON (ILLUSTRATOR)

A heartwarming story of winter magic from the bestselling author of [The Girl and the Dinosaur](#).

*Here's a city hard at work,
with a billion bustling feet -
its spires and domes all stretching up
from cobbled knobbled streets...*

In the heart of a great city lives a little boy without a home. But when Quinn finds a magical snow globe, everything begins to change... For when snow begins to fall, magic and kindness start to find their way out into the world.

A beautiful, wintry story with a kernel of magic at its heart, this heartwarming tale is destined to become a new favourite.



3+

HOW TO DRAW WINTER THINGS

ALLI KOCH (AUTHOR)

Perfect for budding artists and kids who have never drawn before, this beginner drawing book will teach your kid how to draw fun winter-themed pictures in no time! Author and professional artist Alli Koch's kid-friendly, mini drawing lessons will help your child practise their basic art skills and teach them how to draw with confidence. This book is perfect for kids 7-12, but kids as young as 5 with an interest in art will be able to easily follow along as well. No experience required! Easy-to-Follow Instructions: Simple steps and diagrams from start to finish; 40+ Cool Projects: Snowflake, Snowman, Christmas Tree and more; Layflat Binding: Making it easier for kids to keep the book open as they follow along; Perforated Pages and Premium Paper: Easily removable pages that are thick and sturdy and the foil on the cover will catch kids' eyes! 9 x 9 Size: Big pages so your kid has no problem seeing each step.



7+

THE WINTER SLEEPWALKER

JOAN AIKEN (AUTHOR), QUENTIN BLAKE (ILLUSTRATOR)

Join master storyteller Joan Aiken and illustrator extraordinaire Quentin Blake for eight original and wildly imaginative modern fairy tales.

From Martian dinosaurs and eight-legged horses to a girl cursed to turn into a pink snake on Sundays, these weird and wonderful short stories weave folktale, fantasy and modernity into something entirely unexpected.

Told with Aiken's distinctive wit and brought to life by Blake's marvellously atmospheric illustrations, these surreal, sublime and endlessly enjoyable tales are perfect for reading alone or together.

