

IGNITING LEADERS CHANGING LIVES

PiXL Reading

**READING FOR
PLEASURE**



HOME NEWSLETTER - SPRING 2

As we step into a new half term, we have plenty of exciting events to celebrate together!

March brings International Women's Day and Women's History Month, a time to recognise inspiring women from history, including pioneering scientists and engineers. British Science Week will spark curiosity and discovery, while World Book Day and World Poetry Day celebrate the magic of stories and rhyme.

We'll also be marking Sign Language Week, promoting inclusive communication, and the International Day of Happiness, reminding us to appreciate life's small joys. As we move into spring, Earth Hour will encourage us to care for our planet, and National Pet Month is a wonderful chance to celebrate our animal companions.

With so much to explore, we hope you enjoy a term full of reading, learning and discovery!

Happy reading!

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.



WORLD BOOK DAY

6th MARCH

WORLD
**BOOK
DAY**
4 MARCH 2021

World Book Day is a yearly celebration of books and reading, held on the first Thursday of March. In 2025, it falls on 6th March, bringing another fantastic opportunity to inspire a love of reading in children.

A key part of World Book Day is the **£1/€1.50 book token**, which children can use to choose a free book from a special selection or put towards a book or audiobook of their choice at participating bookshops. To ensure accessibility, World Book Day books are also available in braille, large print and audio formats.

The World Book Day website offers resources all year round to support families, schools and communities in encouraging children to read for pleasure. Their six key principles help create a love of reading:

- **Being read to regularly** – Sharing stories together builds confidence and enjoyment.
- **Access to books at home and school** – A variety of books helps children find stories they love.
- **Freedom to choose** – Allowing children to pick their own books makes reading more exciting.
- **Time to read** – Making space in the day for reading encourages a lifelong habit.
- **A community of readers** – Talking about books with friends, family and teachers brings stories to life.
- **Making reading fun** – Books should be a source of joy and adventure!

World Book Day is the perfect time to explore new stories, share favourite books and celebrate the magic of reading and is all about making reading enjoyable and accessible for everyone. Here are some ideas to celebrate!



Reading without books!

- **Read the world around you** – Street signs, food labels, bus timetables, menus—reading is everywhere!
- **Invent your own bedtime story** – Have you ever had a bookless bedtime story? Let your child 'read' you a story they imagine.

Story-based play

- **Book Bingo** – Make a simple bingo card with fun reading challenges like "Read with a silly voice," "Read under a table," or "Read a book with an animal in it."
- **Story Cubes** – Roll dice or pick random words (e.g. "dragon," "rain," "treasure") and create a story around them.
- **Act out a book scene with household objects** – A blanket can be a wizard's cloak, a wooden spoon can be a knight's sword!

Audio and storytelling adventures

- **Turn daily routines into storytelling time** – Make up a story while walking to school, cooking dinner or tidying up. Each family member can add a sentence to keep the story going!
- **Create a 'radio show'** – Record your child reading a book or making up their own story. Add sound effects for fun!
- **Call a relative for a story swap** – A grandparent, aunt or uncle can tell a story over the phone or a video call.

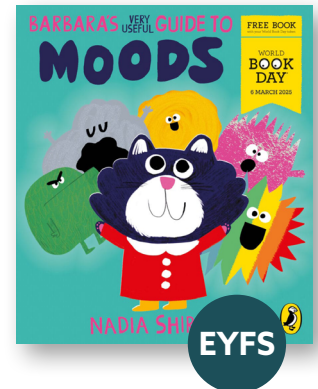


RECOMMENDED READS:

BARBARA'S VERY USEFUL GUIDE TO MOODS

NADIA SHIREEN (AUTHOR)

Fans of Barbara Throws a Wobbler will love this title for beginner readers! Barbara's Very Useful Guide to Moods by Nadia Shireen takes us through a day full of big emotions in this hilarious guide to what we feel.

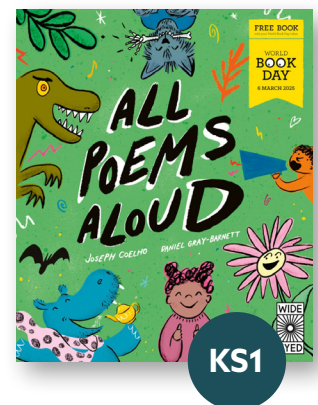


ALL POEMS ALOUD

JOSEPH COELHO (AUTHOR)

The poems in this book want to be read aloud!

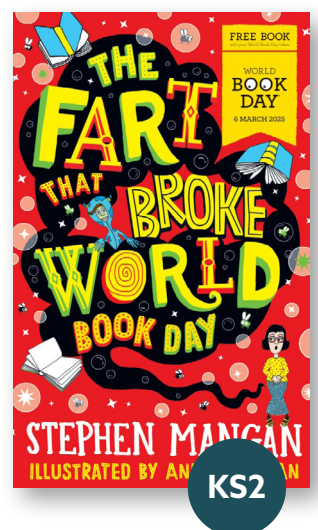
Read these poems to yourself or to a friend, loudly, softly or in a whisper. There are poems to make you laugh, testing tongue twisters and poems to make you think. From Children's Laureate 2022-2024, here are all sorts of poems, for every occasion and every voice.



THE FART THAT BROKE WORLD BOOK DAY

STEPHEN MANGAN (AUTHOR)

It's World Book Day and school is full of kids dressed up as their favourite literary characters and celebrating the magic of reading. But something smells funny... in every classroom, there's a teacher letting go of a long, loud, ground-shaking, ground-breaking fart. And when our hero spots a fellow pupil (dressed almost too convincingly as an alien) hovering by the teachers' bums, and then discovers what looks like a spaceship powered by farts behind a hedge, he's on a mission to stop some unexpected visitors from kicking up a massive stink!



INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY AND WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

8th MARCH



International
Women's Day

Every year on 8th March, we celebrate International Women's Day as part of Women's History Month. It's a time to recognise the amazing contributions of women in all areas of life—at home, at work and in communities around the world. It's also a chance to reflect on how we can continue working towards fairness and equality for everyone.

Each year, a theme is chosen to inspire change. The theme for 2025 is #AccelerateAction, encouraging people to take steps — big or small — towards a more equal and inclusive future.

WAYS TO CELEBRATE AT HOME

Read stories about inspiring women:

Share books about female pioneers in science, sports, activism and the arts.

Explore women in history:

Watch documentaries, research achievements or visit local museums.

Create a 'Future Me' poster:

Children can draw or write about what they want to achieve, inspired by strong female role models.

Talk about role models:

Encourage children to think about women who inspire them, whether family members, teachers or famous figures.



RECOMMENDED READS:

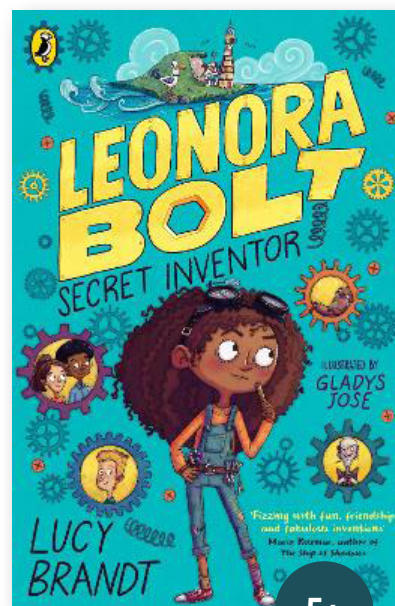
LEONORA BOLT: SECRET INVENTOR

LUCY BRANDT (AUTHOR), GLADYS JOSE (ILLUSTRATOR)

WARNING: EPIC INVENTIONS AND SECRET SOCIETIES AHEAD...

Leonora Bolt spends her days creating incredible inventions in her TOP SECRET laboratory, under the watchful eye of her terrifying uncle. Everything changes one day when a strange boy washes up on an inflatable lobster and reveals that Uncle Luther has been stealing her inventions and selling them on the mainland. Leonora, armed with her most important inventions, must leave Crabby Island for the first time EVER to embark on an unforgettable journey that will test her brainpower to its limits.

With the help of an otter with a special skill, a questionable cook and a singing sea captain, can Leonora dream up an invention that will defeat her evil uncle once and for all? Violet Baudelaire meets Peanut Jones in this epic STEM-themed adventure about believing in your brainpower – and yourself!



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FANTASTICALLY GREAT WOMEN ARTISTS AND THEIR STORIES

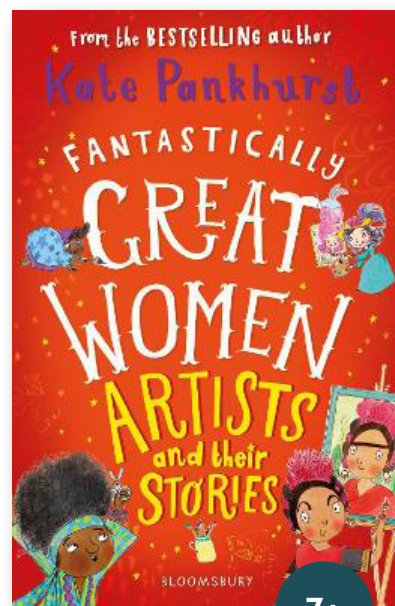
KATE PANKHURST (AUTHOR)

Over half of all the visual artists working today are women, but the paintings and sculptures shown in many galleries and museums tell a different story because they're usually the work of men.

In this book **Kate Pankhurst**, descendent of **Emmeline Pankhurst**, tells the fascinating stories of some of history's most talented female artists.

Express your feelings and find your identity through art with Frida Kahlo. Run away to the circus and paint with Laura Knight. Help bring talented artists into the spotlight with Peggy Guggenheim. Challenge racism and segregation by creating powerful art with Faith Ringgold.

Including comic strips, family trees, maps and more, *Fantastically Great Women Artists and Their Stories* is a celebration of just some of the women whose creativity and dreams have made a mark on the world.



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GODDESS

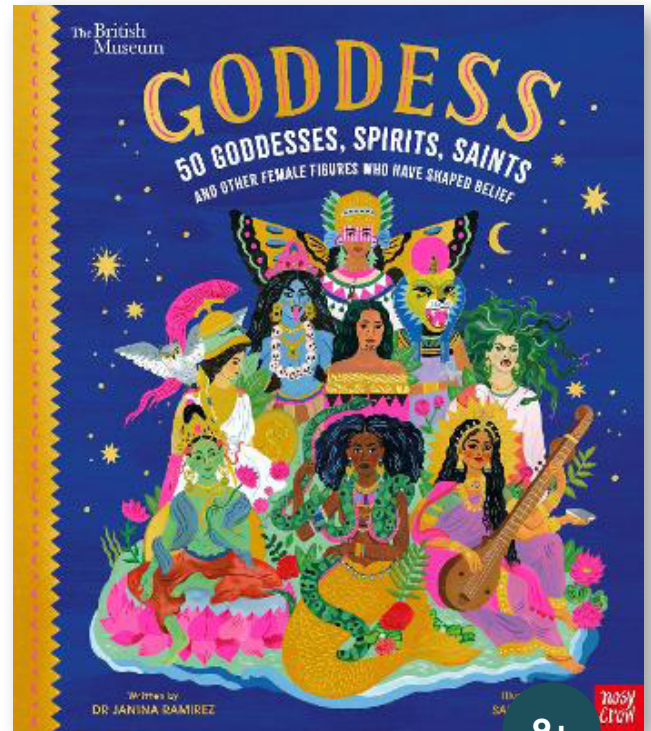
JANINA RAMIREZ (AUTHOR),
SARAH WALSH (ILLUSTRATOR)

Tales of powerful female figures have been told since the beginning of time and this collection brings together 50 stories from around the world. There are loving creators, wise leaders, fearsome warriors, gentle healers and mystical protectors, and they can each inspire you to find strength within yourself.

Beautifully written by cultural historian and broadcaster, **Dr Janina Ramirez**, and stunningly illustrated by **Sarah Walsh**, this amazing book contains goddesses, guides, spirits, saints, witches, demons and many more female figures that have played an important role in shaping belief today.

Based on original sources and with photographs from the British Museum collection, this incredible introduction to goddesses throughout history will entertain, engage and empower readers everywhere. Divided into thematic chapters, but connected by the power of the female, there are important stories of creation and love, action-packed stories of war and death, and heroic stories of great adventure and strength.

Each gorgeously illustrated spread is a celebration of girl power in its many forms.



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BRITISH SCIENCE WEEK7th – 16th MARCH 2025

British Science Week is a ten-day celebration of science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM), inspiring children to explore the world around them. Running from 7th to 16th March, this year's theme, *'Change and Adapt'*, encourages young minds to discover how living things, technology and even our daily lives evolve over time.

From animal adaptations to climate change and the way inventions shape our future, this theme is a great opportunity to spark curiosity and hands-on learning. Whether through simple experiments at home, exploring books about scientific discoveries or taking part in local events, there are plenty of ways to celebrate!

British Science Week is a fantastic opportunity to explore science in fun and simple ways at home. Here are some easy activities to inspire curiosity and discovery, all linked to this year's theme: *'Change and Adapt.'*

Observe nature's changes

- Take a nature walk and look for signs of spring – new leaves, budding flowers or birds building nests. Discuss how animals and plants adapt to changing seasons.
- Keep a weather diary for the week, recording how the temperature, wind and rain change each day.

Fun science experiments

- Colour-changing cabbage: Cut up red cabbage and soak pieces in different liquids (lemon juice, vinegar, baking soda water). Watch how the colour changes based on acidity – just like nature adapting to different environments!
- Floating paper fish: Cut out a small paper fish, place it on water and add a drop of washing-up liquid to its tail. Watch how it moves – just like animals adapting to survive in water.
- Ice and salt experiment: Place ice cubes on different surfaces (metal, wood, plastic) and sprinkle salt on some of them. Observe which melts first and discuss how salt is used in icy weather.

Everyday science conversations

- Discuss how people adapt to different environments – why do people wear different clothes in hot vs. cold places? How do animals survive in extreme conditions?
- Think about future inventions – what problems do we face today, and what could be invented to help?
- By bringing science into everyday life, children can see how it's not just something learned in school – it's part of the world around them!

RECOMMENDED READS:

Reading about real-life discoveries and inspiring scientists can bring the theme to life. Try:

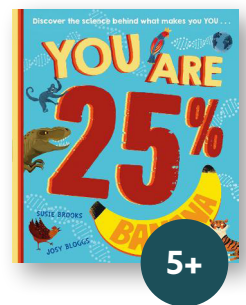
YOU ARE 25% BANANA

SUSIE BROOKS (AUTHOR), JOSY BLOGGS (ILLUSTRATOR)

A brilliantly funny first guide to genetics that is perfect for children aged 5 years and over.

This stunningly illustrated book will boggle your brain with astonishing facts, as it shows how we're all related to every living thing on the planet. Did you know that a grain of rice has more genes than you? Or that you're related to dogs, dung beetles and even daffodils? Luckily, even though you're 99.9% like a chimpanzee, you're still 100% YOU!

The extraordinary world of genetics has never been explained so simply. You'll be amazed at what makes you YOU.



THE STORY OF PLANET EARTH

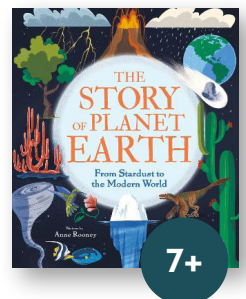
ANNE ROONEY (AUTHOR), MARGARIDA ESTEVES (ILLUSTRATOR)

A wonderful introduction to planet Earth for young readers.

4.5 billion years ago, a young planet formed from swirling stardust in the Orion Arm of the Milky Way galaxy. Its name – Earth.

This book tells the incredible tale of that world's transformation from a fiery lump of rock to a planet cloaked with greenery and teeming with life. Discover the story of everything from volcanoes to weather, where the Moon and our mountains came from, and a wealth of other fascinating secrets.

Featuring fun fact boxes, an illustrated timeline and a glossary of key terms, this book supports STEM education. It's an excellent way to give context to school learning and deepen young readers' knowledge and understanding about our world.



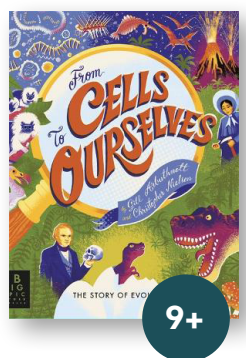
FROM CELLS TO OURSELVES: THE STORY OF EVOLUTION

GILL ARBUTHNOTT (AUTHOR), CHRIS NIELSEN (ILLUSTRATOR)

From the Big Bang to the abundance of life that surrounds us today, this beautiful book - the third by the award-winning duo Gill Arbuthnott and Chris Nielsen - is the story of evolution, from the very first cells to ourselves.

How old exactly is the Earth? How do we know what was here before us? Are we still evolving? From Cells to Ourselves is the story of the beginnings of life around 3.8 billion years ago, to the millions of species alive today, including humans.

Learn about mythology giants who formed the Earth, analyse fossils, walk with the dinosaurs, join Charles Darwin on his exploration of the Galápagos islands and marvel at some of the random and bizarre acts that have shaped our world in this beautifully illustrated book.



INTERNATIONAL DAY OF HAPPINESS

20th MARCH 2025

Happiness isn't about having more — it's about finding joy in the little things. The International Day of Happiness, celebrated every year on 20th March, reminds us to focus on what makes us feel good, whether that's spending time with loved ones, enjoying a moment of calm, or helping someone else smile.

It was created by the United Nations in 2011 to recognise that happiness is important for everyone, no matter where they live or what they have. Small things can make a big difference, and happiness grows when we share it with others!

SIMPLE, EVERYDAY WAYS TO CELEBRATE HAPPINESS AT HOME

'One Good Thing' check-in:

At the end of the day, ask: *What was one good thing about today?* It could be as simple as eating a favourite meal or hearing a funny joke.

Watch something that makes you smile:

A silly advert, a clip of a favourite show, or a funny video — sometimes a small giggle or made-up adventures is all it takes to lift the mood.

Five-minute favour:

Do something kind that doesn't cost a penny — make someone a cup of tea, give up your seat, or let a sibling have the TV remote. Happiness spreads!

Happiness notes:

Write short, happy messages on scraps of paper and hide them around the house (in a coat pocket, on a cereal box, inside a school bag). A surprise note can bring a little joy later!

The 'Tell Me More' game:

Take a moment to really listen. Ask a child, friend, or family member about something they love — maybe a favourite show, hobby, or memory. Giving people a chance to share their joy boosts happiness for everyone.

Look for a 'Happy Colour':

Choose a colour (yellow, blue, green) and see how many times you can spot it throughout the day. A simple focus shift can brighten even a grey day.

RECOMMENDED READS :

DANCE LIKE A FLAMINGO MOVE AND GROOVE LIKE THE ANIMALS DO!

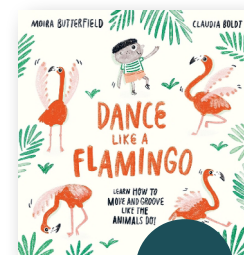
MOIRA BUTTERFIELD (AUTHOR), CLAUDIA BOLDT (ILLUSTRATOR)

Learn how to move and groove like the animals do with this bright, fun and silly book aimed at younger readers to engage them in movement!

Scuttle sideways like a crab, leap like a lemur, and waggle dance like a bumble bee.

Meet a collection of animals from around the world and discover how they move, and why.

The book features a different creature on each spread, along with step-by-step actions to help the kids move just like the animal. The perfect book to read aloud one-to-one, or as a fun activity to engage a group of young children and get them stretching, hopping, wriggling and jumping!



4+

WAYS TO MAKE SUNSHINE

RENÉE WATSON (AUTHOR), MECHAL ROE (ILLUSTRATOR)

Ryan Hart and her family live in Portland, Oregon, and her dad lost his job a while ago. He finally got a new one, but it pays less, and he'll have to work nights. And so they're selling the second car and moving to an (old) new house. The Harts are an everyday family - a family with siblings who bicker, parents who don't always get it right, but a family that loves. A family working hard to make it in tough economic times, a family with traditions and culture, a family that tries new things.



7+

THE SECRET SUNSHINE PROJECT

BENJAMIN DEAN (AUTHOR)

Bea's family are happy. Like, really happy. Like, kind of gross but also cute happy. So when they visit London Pride together and have the ultimate day out, Bea doesn't think her family could possibly get any happier.

But a year later, a grey cloud is following Bea's family around. Dad has passed away, and without him around they have no choice but to pack their bags and move to the countryside to live with Gran. With Bea's big sister, Riley, taking the news hard, Bea will do anything to cheer her up. So with the help of new friends, The Secret Sunshine Project is formed - Bea's plan to bring Pride to the countryside and a smile back to Riley's face. There's just one teeny tiny problem - the village mayor. A grumpy old woman who's on a mission to rain on Bea's parade.



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