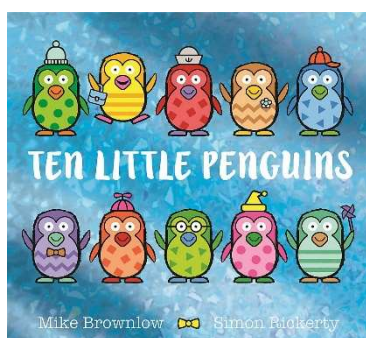


Michaelmas Holiday 2022

Reading Recommendations from the Junior Library

Listed *roughly* in ascending order of difficulty

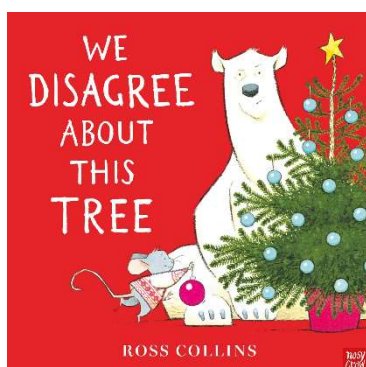
Ten Little Penguins by Mike Brownlow



The Ten Little series is a simple and yet effective method of embedding numeracy into an enjoyable and engaging story. Presented in rhyme and filled with bold illustrations, readers are drawn into the story and have a sense of pride when they can predict the next steps.

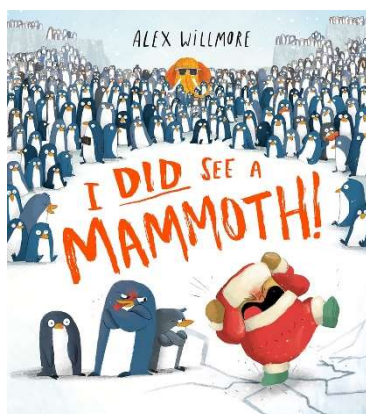
The latest release follows Penguins, with ten of them searching for gifts to cheer Granny up. Others in the same format include Superheroes, Unicorns and Elves if penguins don't appeal.

We Disagree about this Tree by Ross Collins



Ross Collins has perfected the Bear and Mouse pairing. Simple illustrations, simple text, a simple concept and yet his stories are always endearing and funny. In theory, the pair are now living harmoniously (having previously disagreed about chairs and houses) however this is until the Christmas tree arrives and needs decorating. Cue delightful rhyming and ongoing funny disagreements.

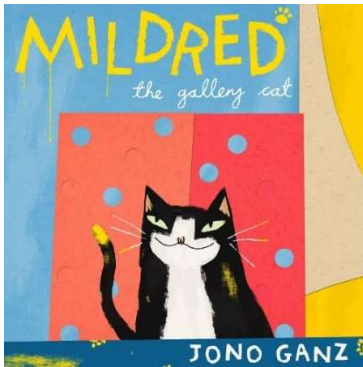
I DID See a Mammoth by Alex Willmore



I DID see a Mammoth is a hilarious Antarctic adventure following a bunch of intrepid explorers. They're making an in-depth study of penguins. Penguins. Penguins. Penguins. So many penguins. But one young explorer has discovered something different. Something totally wild, spectacularly cool and quite a lot extinct - so extinct that no one believes him. No one believes he saw a mammoth dancing, a mammoth swimming or a mammoth skateboarding.

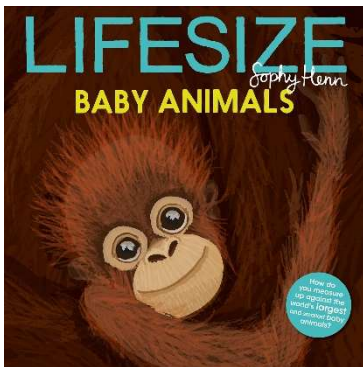
The beauty of this fun tale is that a lot of the story is inferred through the bold illustrations, making it a fabulous book to share with non-readers.

Mildred the Gallery Cat by Jono Ganz



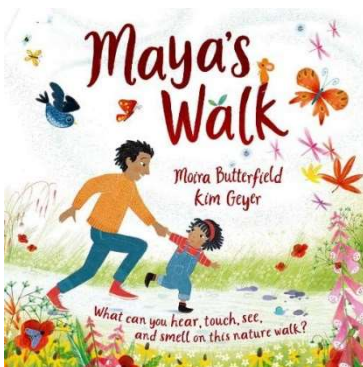
Produced in memory of Tate's very own gallery cat, Mildred is a delightful tale of life after closing time in the art gallery. Through beautiful simple illustrations, the reader follows Mildred as she explores all that the gallery has on offer and discovers the artist within herself.

Lifesize Baby Animals by Sophy Henn



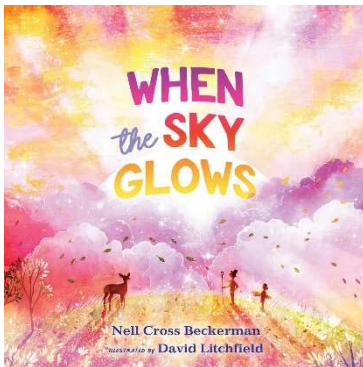
Lifesize Baby Animals is very much a hands-on interactive book. Part of the Lifesize series, this book is illustrated to scale meaning that readers can understand how big things are in direct comparison to themselves. Readers can go eye to eye with a baby blue whale, snuggle up with some red panda cubs and open the fold-out pages to discover a lifesize baby African elephant.

Maya's Walk by Moira Butterfield



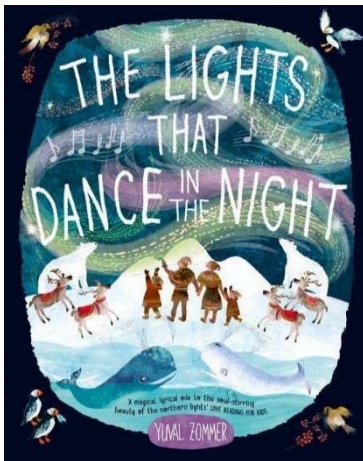
Maya's walk is a delightful book highlighting all the amazing and interesting things that can be seen outside our front doors. It illustrates how to have a good walk; Smelling flowers, listening for sounds, jumping over cracks and looking for all the colours of the rainbow. This inspirational story will have children itching to get out and about.

When the Sky Glows by Nell Cross Beckerman



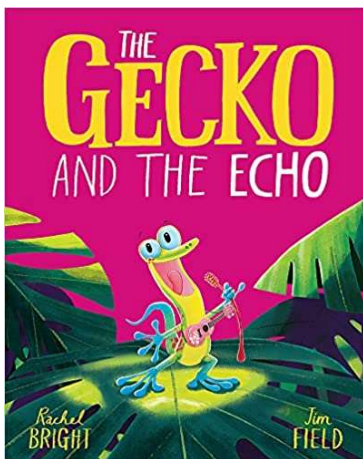
Telling the simple story of the illuminated sky with very simple text Nell Cross Beckerman draws in the reader. Each subject; sunrise, sunset, lightning, is combined with a more detailed paragraph to give context and inform without detracting from the beautiful story. David Litchfield (Bear & the Piano, Rain before Rainbows) further enhances the text to create moving and powerful scenes.

The Lights that Dance in the Night by Yoval Zommer



The Light that Dances in the Night is a mesmerising encounter with the Northern Lights and their neighbouring Arctic animals. Zommer's trademark illustrations capture the magic and music of the lights as they float across the winter sky, passing all that live below. Coupled with delicate rhyming text, this is a beautiful read.

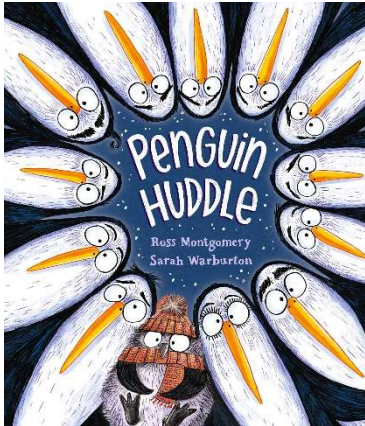
Gecko and the Echo by Rachel Bright



Gecko and the Echo is Rachel Bright's latest rhyming release and comes with her trademark subtle message, this time about the importance of treating everyone with kindness.

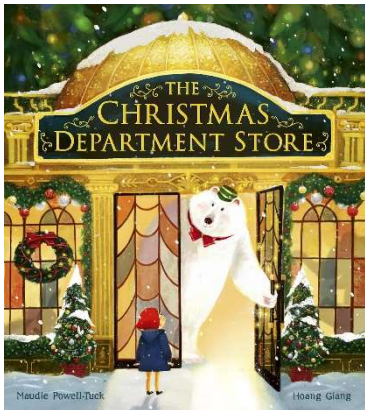
The Gecko in question is Goldy and Goldy wants one thing, and one thing only to be a superstar. On the sunny island this gecko calls home, it's always 'the Goldy show'. But when you're dazzled by the limelight, it's easy to lose sight of the world around you. And when Goldy's performance starts to go wrong, the little gecko discovers that friendship means so much more than fame.

Penguin Huddle by Ross Montgomery



This light-hearted tale of jolly penguins big and small is a fun celebration of friendship, adventure and helping those in trouble. Like all penguins, this penguin pack likes to huddle together once the day ends to keep warm. However, one night there is a freezing gale and the next morning they are stuck like giant penguin ice pop. Nobody in the Antarctic can figure out how to unstick them. But Pipsqueak, the smallest penguin of them all, has a brilliant idea. They must adventure out of their snowy home to a vibrant city across the great, gleaming ocean to solve their penguin puzzle.

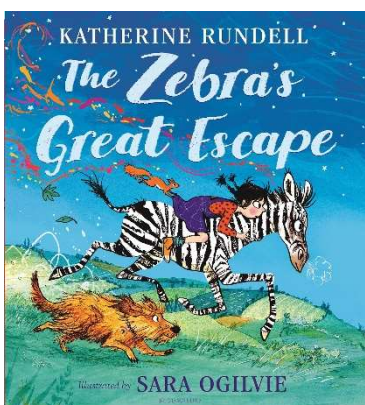
The Christmas Department Store by Maudie Powell-Tuck



The Christmas Department Store is freshly released in paperback this winter and is a stunning festive tale, celebrating the joy of giving and the importance of love and family at Christmas.

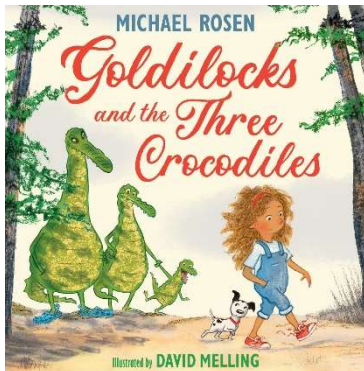
Christmas for Benji has lost its magic. This year his family can't afford a tree, or even a turkey. However, his Gran always says that Christmas Eve is magical. As he walks home on Christmas Eve, he stumbles upon the most extraordinary department store, where polar bears talk and the presents are out of this world. Perhaps Gran is right. Perhaps Christmas might be better than he's expecting.

The Zebra's Great Escape by Katherine Rundell



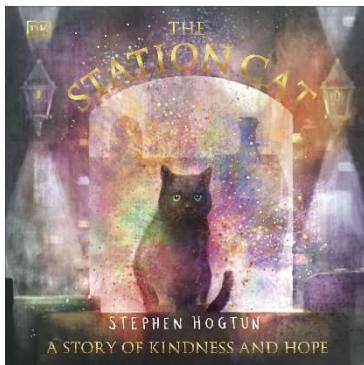
The Zebra's Great Escape is award winning Rundell's first foray into picture books. The book is unsurprisingly 'text-heavy' however when combined with Ogilvie's beautiful illustrations, it is both accessible for newly confident readers and also a perfect book for family sharing. Its underlying story is one of bravery and friendship, and it is successful through its adorable menagerie of animals.

Goldilocks and the Three Crocodiles by Michael Rosen



Goldilocks and the Three Crocodiles comes from two legends of the children's literature world; author and poet Michael Rosen (We're going on a Bear Hunt) and illustrator David Melling (Hugless Douglas). This snappy twist on the traditional fairy tale follows Goldilocks and her dog, Tiddles, as they seek to refind the house with the chairs, the porridge and the bears. The pair do find a house however hilariously it's not that of the bears; this one has slimy chairs and noisy beds!

The Station Cat by Stephen Hogtun



Nominated for the 2023 Yoto Carnegie Medal for illustration, The Station Cat is a stunning book with an underlying message of kindness and hope.

A lonely little kitten wanders into a dull, grey station, full of dull, grey people. Her colourful fur and bright green eyes bring warmth and life to this weary place, and soon people begin to notice the kitten. As she learns about the different travellers and their struggles, the little kitten wants to help fill their world with hope and colour, too.

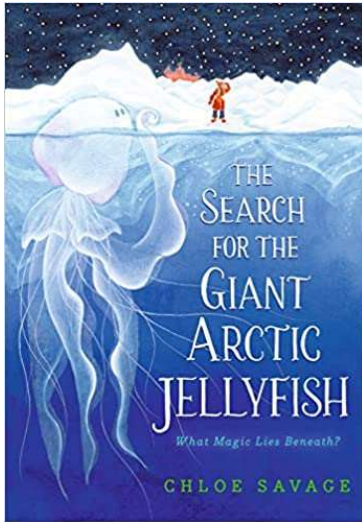
With a sensitive storyline, slightly text-heavy pages and a longer length than usual picture books, this is a beautiful tale to share as a family.

Birds of a Feather by Lauren Fairgrieve



Birds of a Feather spectacularly brings non-fiction to life. Focussing on 10 common British birds, Fairgrieve combines detailed informative explanations with amazing 'push-out' models to create and treasure. The colours and illustrations are enchanting and the accompanying text is enlightening.

The Search for the Giant Arctic Jellyfish by Chloe Savage



The Search for the Giant Arctic Jellyfish is a beautifully illustrated adventure, following a fantastic female STEM role model.

Dr Morley embarks on a quest to the northernmost tip of the world, to discover a creature that everyone talks about but nobody has ever seen: The Giant Arctic Jellyfish. After years of research and hard graft, she gathers together a highly trained crew and a boat full of specialist equipment, and sets sail for the vast icy scapes of the Arctic.

A moving tale of grit, endurance and self-belief to inspire young explorers and dreamers from a stunningly talented debut.

Princess Minna: The Big Bad Snowy Day by Kirsty Applebaum

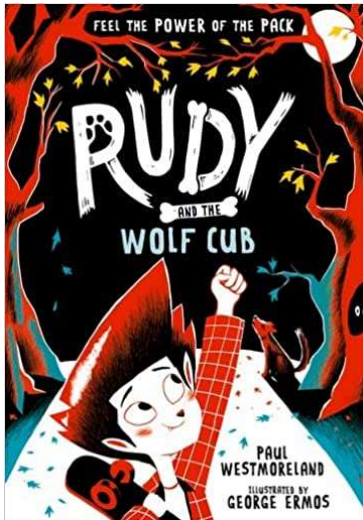


Princess Minna: The Big Bad Snowy Day has the feel of a chapter book however its bright illustrations and limited text make it perfect for emerging readers.

Princess Minna lives in Castle Tall-Towers with the King and Queen, Raymond the Wizard and her best dragon friend, Lorenzo. There are often mix-ups and mishaps in the kingdom and Princess Minna loves to sort them out!

In this seasonal edition, snow has fallen overnight and poor Granny Hoody is snowed in. It falls on Princess Minna to fix things. But Granny Hoody lives in the dark forest and there's a big bad wolf who lives there too.

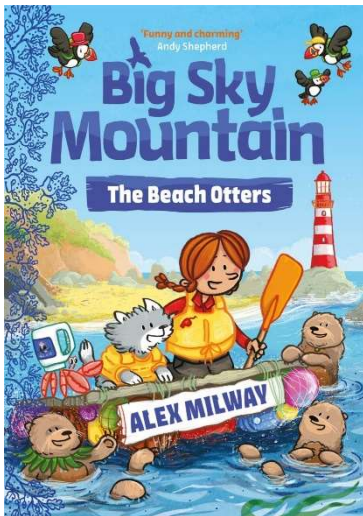
Ruby and the Wolf Cub by Paul Westmoreland



With boundless energy and an impulsive nature, Rudy is always ready to follow the scent of adventure! And with his loyal pack of friends by his side there's nothing he can't achieve. When Rudy finds a lost wolf cub at the skatepark, he knows he has to help him. Rudy tries everything he can think of to find the cub's pack, but they're nowhere to be seen, or smelled, and time is running out.

Howlingly cool illustrations and an irresistible character finding his way in the world make Rudy and the Wolf Cub the ideal choice for those looking to bridge the gap between picture books and independent reading.

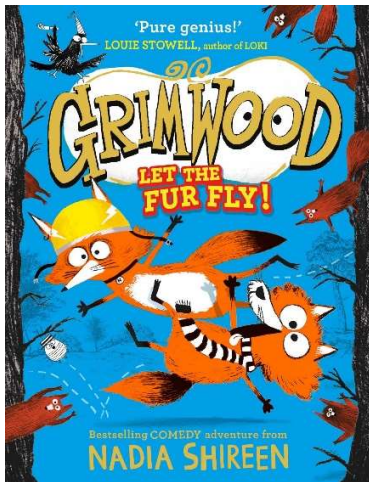
Big Sky Mountain: The Beach Otters by Alex Milway



Third in the series by Alex Milway, author of the ever-popular Hotel Flamingo, The Beach Otters follows Rosa and her Grandma Nan as they seek to look after their local beach. Initially, they head down to Toe-Dipper Bay when they spot a distress flare but when they arrive they are faced with a sea of plastic and a family of friendly otters trying to clear it all up. They are keen to join in but they also need to reach whoever has sent up the flare.

A gentle adventure-based story of animals and helping the environment, this latest instalment is perfect for newly confident readers.

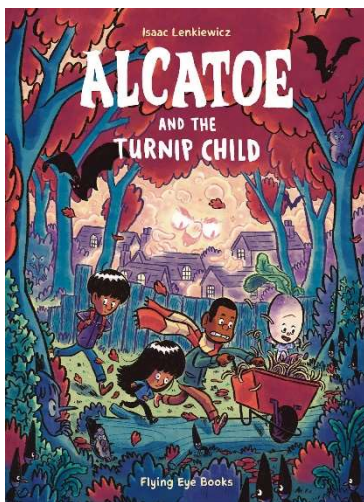
Grimwood: Let the Fur Fly by Nadia Shireen



The Grimwood series is a comical short chapter group of books perfect for newly confident readers. Readers are treated to illustrations and high jinx as they follow the chaotic lives of Ted and Nancy.

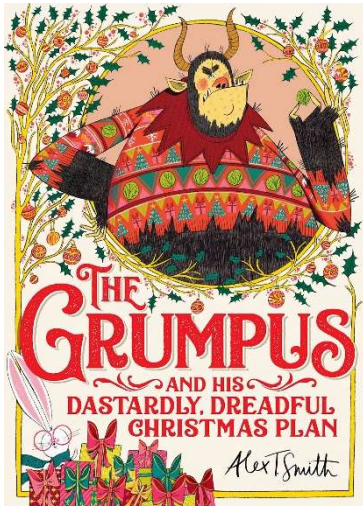
In this the second book, Ted and Nancy are happily settled in Grimwood, the forest where anything can happen. Happy until the dastardly mayor of neighbouring town Twinklenuts decides he wants to take over Grimwood and kick everyone out. Ted and Nancy must muster up bags of courage, rally their friends, and show off their treebonking skills to save the home they've grown to love.

Alcatoe and the Turnip Child by Isaac Lenkiewicz



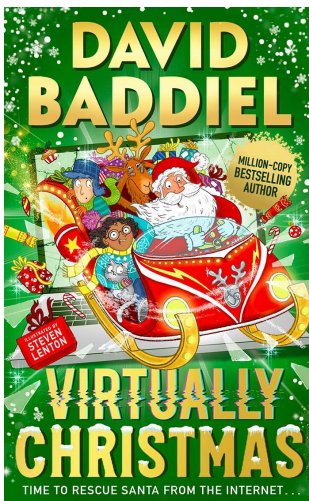
Alcatoe and the Turnip Child is a fun book that combines features of a typical picture book with those of a graphic novel making it perfect for mature yet emerging readers. Topically set in the Autumn, the children of Plum Wood are set to compete against the grumpiest old man in the vegetable growing contest. They enlist the magical help of Alcatoe, the only witch in the woods, and beg for a spell to grow the biggest turnip. But a lot can go wrong even with a perfectly simple turnip-enlarging spell... like growing a few arms and legs. "Wonderful! Sumptuous, sweet and just the right amount of sinister".

The Grampus and his Dastardly Dreadful Christmas Plan by Alex T Smith



The Grampus is an intriguing and delightful new Christmas story from favourite author, Alex T. Smith (mastermind of the Claude series and How Winston Delivered Christmas). Inspired by The Krampus and with a hint of The Grinch, The Grampus is meant to be a grumpy fellow however during his adventures to the North Pole he becomes an unlikely hero. On his travels, he unwittingly and reluctantly makes lots of new friends. Perfect for reading together at bedtime, this colourful chapter book celebrates the true meaning of Christmas.

Virtually Christmas by David Baddiel



Pupil's favourite David Baddiel returns with a festive delight. However, Christmas has been taken over by Winterzone and all has changed. All the things that made Christmas special are gone: the human connection, the baubles passed down through generations, even the rubbish cracker jokes. Instead, Christmas is run by robots, while 3D holograms of Santa Claus called Santavatars check if you've been naughty or nice. Now on Christmas Eve, all of the presents are delivered by ZoneDrones instead of Santa's reindeer! But when they stumble on a curious clue, eleven-year-old Etta and her friend Monty find themselves thrown into a fight to bring back Christmas. Racing against time and against the might of Winterzone, they must find the real Santa – before the true meaning of the festive season is lost forever.