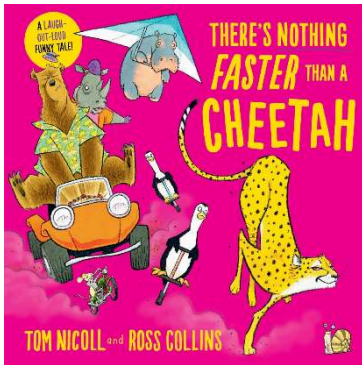


Easter Holiday 2023

Reading Recommendations from the Junior Library

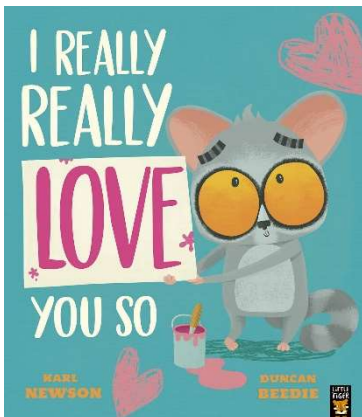
Listed *roughly* in ascending order of difficulty

There's Nothing Faster than a Cheetah by Tom Nicoll



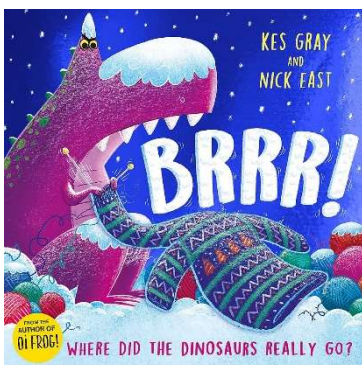
There's Nothing Faster than a Cheetah is a riot of a book, packed with bright, bold illustrations and hilarious, simple text. The challenge is simple; to find an animal that's faster than a cheetah. However it's really not an easy task, so the animals go to greater and greater lengths to gain speed, deploying a whole manner of transportational modes with funny results.

I Really Really Love You So by Karl Newson



A simple but highly entertaining book following Bushbaby as he tries to figure out the best way to show his love and affection. The comic illustrations are complemented by the rhyming text as he goes to greater and greater lengths to demonstrate his love. In the end, perhaps it can be achieved in a simple way.

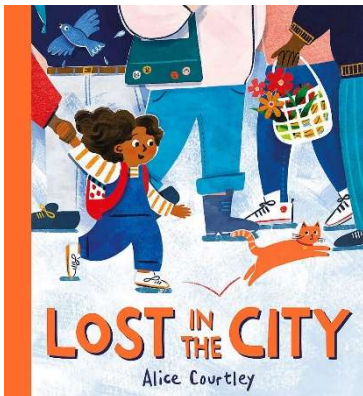
Brrr! by Kes Gray and Nick East



Fresh from the best-selling author of Oi frog!, Brrr! is a bright and entertaining read. It doesn't have Kes Gray's signature rhyme but that is more than compensated by the fun storyline - The Ice Age is coming and the dinosaurs are worried. They figure out that the solution to their problems is knitted jumpers, they just need to convince the T-Rexes to use their perfect knitting arms to help out. Then the world, and outer space, is their oyster.

Nick East's simple and bold illustrations combine to make this new release perfect for young dino fans (and non-dino fans too).

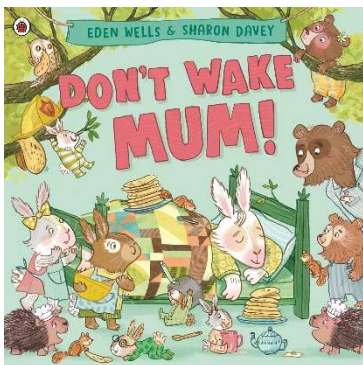
Lost in the City by Alice Courtley



Lost in the City is a Spot & Find book with a compelling underlying storyline. Maya heads to the big city with her Granny. She would have preferred to bring her kitten Sammy with her but Granny said it's no place for a cat. Initially Maya thinks the city is big and scary, and that she is too small for the city. However, when she learns that Sammy has stowed away in her bag and is now lost, it's up to Maya to face her worries and find him.

A fantastic story about trying new things and potentially enjoying them, wrapped up with engaging illustrations and lots of opportunities to spot Sammy.

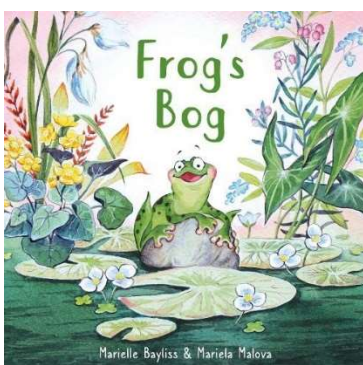
Don't Wake Mum! by Eden Wells & Sharon Davey



Don't Wake Mum! is a sweet woodland based story that's perfect for Spring and even Mother's Day. The cute little animals decide they are going to make a treat for Mum, who has just got a new job as a Firefighter and needs her rest. However, their baking soon attracts lots of visitors. Despite their best efforts to keep things quiet and under control, the inevitable happens!

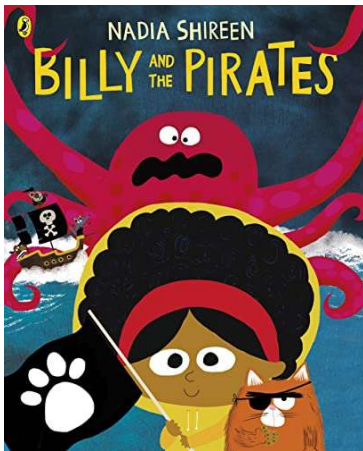
With cute drawings and rhyming text, this is an endearing little book to read together.

Frog's Bog by Marielle Bayliss



A stunning springtime book which follows Frog as he tries to find the perfect place to relax. Each time he seems to have it sorted, he's interrupted by a fellow countryside creature - Fox dunks him, dragonfly dive bombs him and woodpecker speckles him in wood chips! Malova's delicate illustrations are combine with Bayliss' rhythmic verse to create an engaging funny tale.

Billy and the Pirates by Nadia Shireen

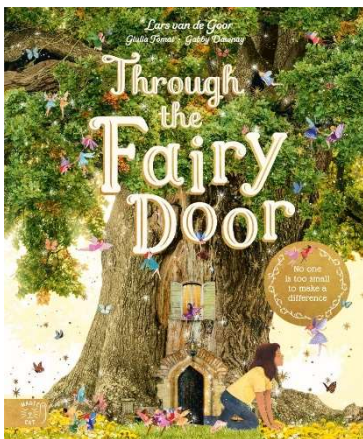


Billy and her sidekick, the amusingly monobrowed Fatcat, are on their third quest to escape Captain Howl. As usual, it's not a straight-forward task - they quickly find themselves facing singing mermaids and sticky toffee eating sharks.

It all starts when they find a mysterious message in a bottle at sea. When suddenly something terrible happens: they bump into a pesky pirate and his smelly crew. Fortunately for our courageous twosome, they're no strangers to peril: they always have a trick (or treat) up their sleeves.

Shireen's comic timing is first class, and her characters are full of brilliant wide-eyed, hilarious expressions while remaining cuddly, relatable and full of comforting warmth.

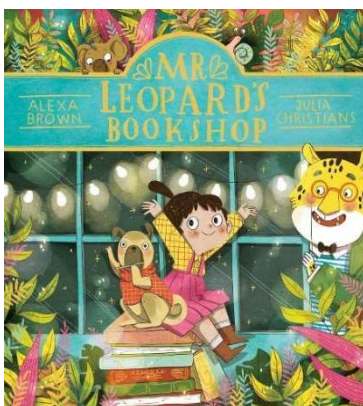
Through the Fairy Door by Gabby Dawnay, Lars van de Goor & Giulia Tomai



Through the Fairy Door is an intriguing book, with unusual illustrations combining both photographs and drawings. Interestingly each page has two levels of text - simple rhyming within the pictures for a delightful simple tale and then extra detail below for a more depth story.

The story follows Willow, a city girl who is one of the few to pay attention to the little things in life. When one day she spots a Fairy Door, she escapes into the world of the fairies as they magically work to deliver the seasons.

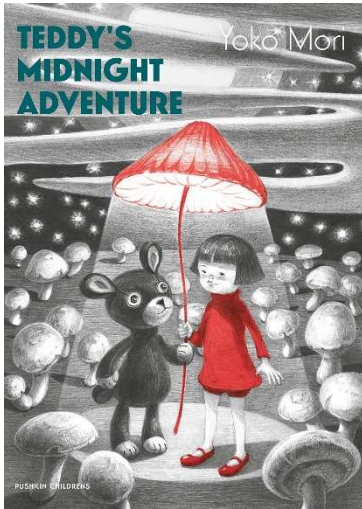
Mr Leopard's Bookshop by Alexa Brown & Julia Christians



As librarians we cannot think of a better premise for a story than 'visiting a bookshop'. And what a bookshop! Mr Leopard's Bookshop is a feast for the imagination. Initially, it appears to be a higgledy-piggledy mess, but Sophie soon realises that it's much more, this bookshop is magical. Owned and run by Mr Leopard, the backroom is full of his jungle friends all working together to create amazing books.

Beautifully illustrated in a simple palette, and written in engaging verse, this book has the making of a family favourite.

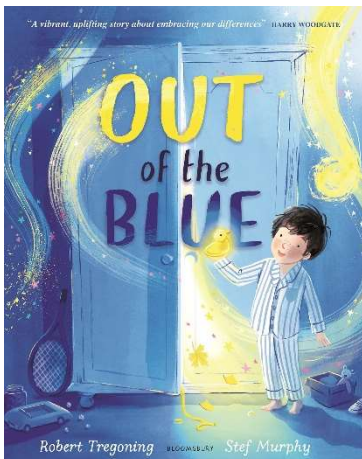
Teddy's Midnight Adventure by Yoko Mori



Teddy's Midnight Adventure is Japanese author Yoko Mori's first book to be published in English. Mori is an artist and author, specialising in pencil drawings which are evident throughout this exquisite book. The pencil shading is expertly combined with strategic scatterings of red to create page after page of stunning illustrations.

Teddy's Midnight Adventure starts when he manages to lose one of his eye buttons. In the magical moonlight, Teddy and his owner Akiko head outside to the strange and mysterious garden. They talk to lots of the garden's inhabitants in an attempt to find the missing eye.

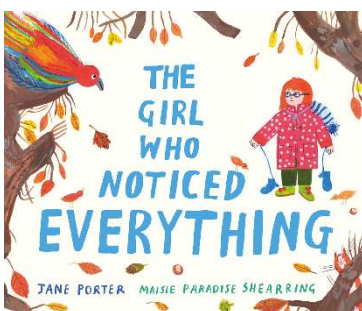
Out of the Blue by Robert Tregoning



Out of the Blue is a beautifully illustrated, rhyming celebration of being different. It follows a little boy who lives in a city where only blue is permitted; the roads are blue, the houses are blue, even the gardens are painted blue. But he has a secret, he loves yellow. Unable to tell anyone, not even his father, he hides his collection of yellow things in the cupboard. Until one day, it all comes crashing out and releases a wave of colour.

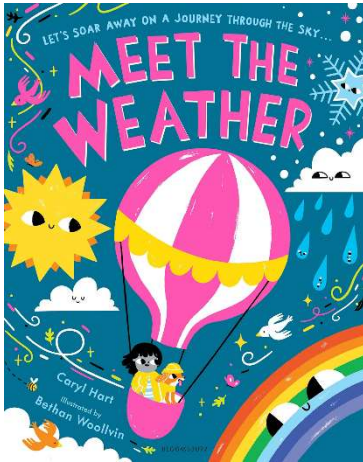
This book is a stunning celebration of just being yourself and living in a full rainbow of colour.

The Girl who Noticed Everything by Jane Porter



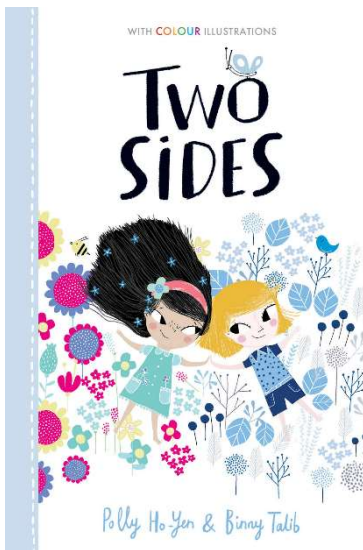
The Girl who Noticed Everything is a heart-warming book, perfect for sharing. It follows Stella and her Dad as they take a simple walk through the park. Stella is an observant girl and notices everything. She's constantly pointing things out and constantly commenting. Her Dad explains that sometimes it's not the best thing to do, however she soon turns her curiosity into useful detective work.

Meet the Weather by Caryl Hart



Award-winning Hart's latest book, *Meet the Weather*, is vibrant and super engaging. Presented as an exciting balloon ride, readers are subtly introduced to facts about STEM as the balloon floats through the sky. The rhyming text provides pace and rhythm which is wonderful to read aloud, and equally simple to grasp for emerging readers. If the weather's not your cup of tea, then Hart has also published *Meet the Oceans* and *Meet the Planets* - both equally informative and enjoyable.

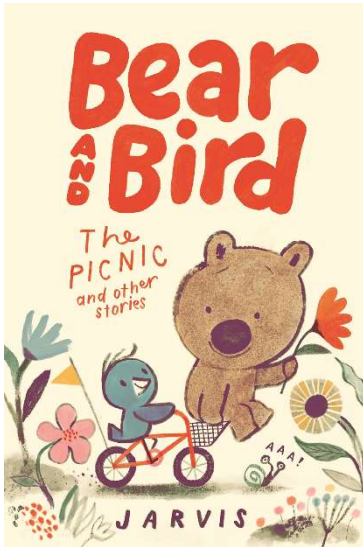
Two Sides by Polly Ho-Yen and Binny Talib



Two Sides by Polly Ho-Yen and Binny Talib is a beautiful book which feels like a 'grown up' chapter book but has the text volume and illustrations of a picture book, making it very accessible. The vibrant colourful illustrations complement the important story of friendship and its complications.

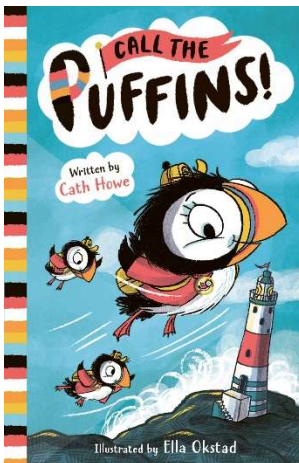
Lula and Lenka have been best friends since they were born. Their characters are totally different but it didn't matter until their friendship was spoiled by a little argument in which words were said which hurt. Afterwards they no longer want to be friends. Despite making new friends the girls are lonely, and consider that perhaps there is another way.

Bear and Bird: The picnic and other stories by Jarvis



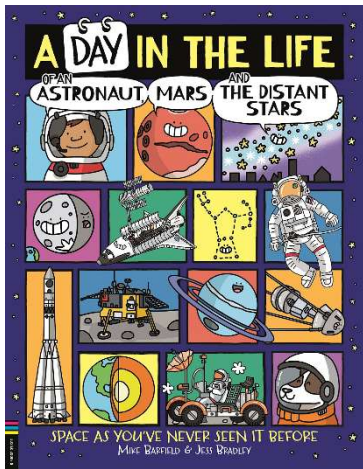
This lovely new book 'Bear and Bird: The picnic and other stories' follows the beautiful friendship of the pair and is peppered with subtle comedy moments - a bit like an extended version of Elephant and Piggie books. Gorgeously illustrated, the pair navigate through a series of mix-ups and misunderstandings. With short mini chapters and accessible storylines, this book is great for new readers.

Call the Puffins by Cath Howe



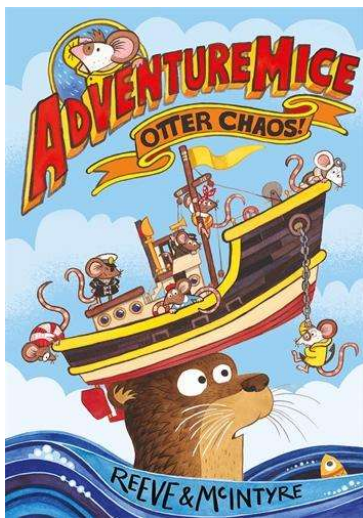
Call the Puffins is the first in an exciting new series following Muffin the Puffin and her friends as they try to join the Puffin Rescue Team. Muffin is anxious to do her best but is worried about her upturned feet, Tiny sometimes struggles with his eyesight but is determined to succeed, and Forti is always desperate to impress. Together they must learn the ropes and try to help other birds in need. The three of them are endearing characters and, with illustrations on each page, readers soon become absorbed in their efforts. This mini chapter book is perfect for readers starting to move on from picture books.

A Day in the Life of an Astronaut, Mars and the Distant Stars by Mike Barfield & Jess Bradley



Following on from Blue Peter winner 'A Day in the Life of a Poo, a Gnu and You', Barfield and Bradley's new Space book is a fantastically engaging Non-Fiction book. Brightly illustrated, the pages are packed with information - perfect for a quick 'dip-in' or alternatively a lengthy 'delve'. An added bonus is that the book has lots of levels of detail, meaning it will last as children grow.

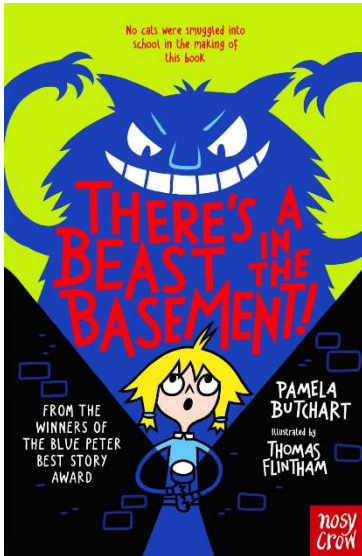
AdventureMice - Otter Chaos by Philip Reeve & Sarah McIntyre



AdventureMice is the brand new series from one of our favourite author/illustrator combinations; Philip Reeve and Sarah McIntyre (Pugs of the Frozen North, Cakes in Space). The series is packed with colour illustration and a larger font making it perfect for newly independent readers. With both a slightly smaller book size and also slightly fewer pages, readers can soon gain a sense of achievement as they chip through the pages.

In this first instalment, the formidable Pedro is introduced. He attempts to locate Mouse Islands, where the AdventureMice carry out daring rescues and brave feats, using their fleet of boats, submarines, seaplanes and helicopters. Enough to tempt any new reader, with the only disappointment likely to be the wait until the second instalment is released.

There's a Beast in the Basement by Pamela Butchart



There's a Beast in the Basement is Pamela Butchart's latest instalment in her Baby Aliens mega series. This series is very popular for a simple reason; it combines bold illustrations, funny storylines and light text to create super engaging chapter books for newly confident readers. This series often provides the spark needed to embed a love of reading - even older readers return for the new releases as a quick fun read. This latest edition continues to follow Izzy and her friends as they navigate the perils of an unusual school life - this time they're looking for treasure in the basement but the 'evidence' suggests it might not be treasure and in fact it might be a 'beast'!

Space Blasters: Suzie and the Moon Bugs by Katie & Kevin Tsang

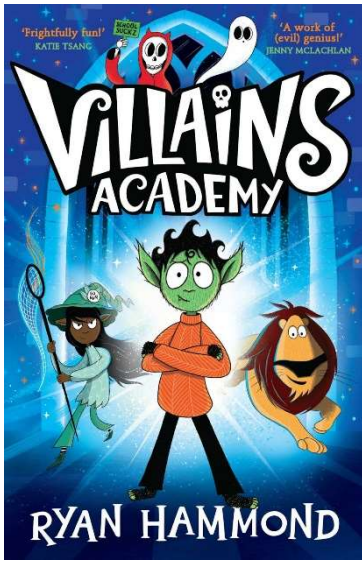


Space Blasters is a great new series following STEM heroine Suzie. Suzie sees herself as an inventor however things don't quite go to plan. In the first novel, her Super 3DTV Gizmo went a little awry and blasted her into her favourite TV show, Space Blasters where it was down to her to save the universe. In 'Moon Bugs', the second in the series, Suzie's happily exploring the Space Blasters universe when it again falls upon her to save the day. Cue hilarious antics, and fun-filled adventure.

Katie and Kevin Tsang's latest creation sits midway between their Sam Wu adventures and the Dream Realm, with occasional illustrations, making the series a fun, engaging read.



Villains Academy by Ryan Hammond



Villains Academy is a great new accessible series packed with fabulous illustrations throughout. It follows Class Z, with Bram, Skele-Tony and the Tooth Hairy, as they start at Villains Academy, the most prestigious evil school in the land. Werewolf Bram doesn't really feel like a villain, but the coveted Villain of the Week trophy is up for grabs so perhaps he can dig deep to achieve glory.

This spooky funny adventure should appeal to fans of Loki and Grimwood.