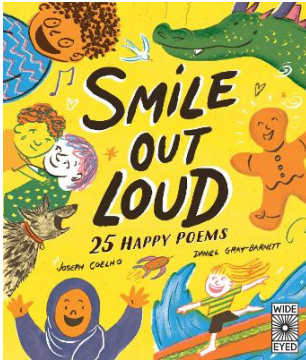


A selection of books especially selected for children in Year 2 (6 - 7 year olds) of average reading ability for the 2021/22 academic year.

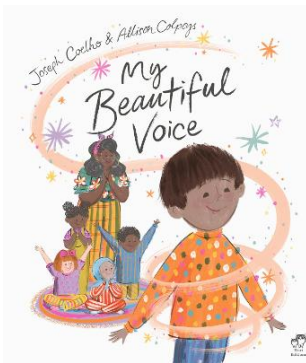
If your child is a competent reader or has read all these titles then try the books from the Year 3 list. Alternatively if these books are a little challenging try books from the Year 1 list. Our overall mission is to promote reading for pleasure with quality texts that are perfectly pitched for the age group and the curriculum. We have particularly avoided blockbusters, classic or set texts, known to everyone, so that we can include poetry, stunning information texts and inspirational books in which all children and young people can find themselves reflected.



Smile Out Loud 25 Happy Poems

Author: Joseph Coelho **Format:** Hardback **Release Date:** 10/05/2022
Year Groups: Key Stage 1

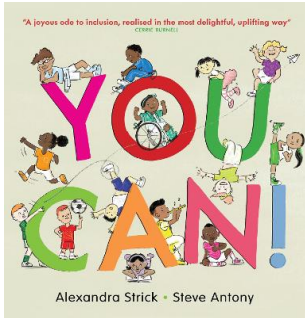
This is a compendium of poetry full of different styles, different shapes and different rhyme schemes that makes a wonderful read out loud collection that should be in every classroom. Each poem comes with a suggestion of how it might be used or how children might read it to each other, or even act out the different verses of specific poems. The poems make you smile, make you laugh, make you think, and the bright illustrations add colour, humour and pathos to the collection. Both author and illustrator are prize winners in their own right - making this book a delight from start to finish. Everyone will enjoy reading it plus it can be used across a wide range of ages. If you have read their previous book Poems Aloud you will love this new collection.



My Beautiful Voice

Author: Joseph Coelho **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 03/05/2022
Year Groups: Key Stage 1

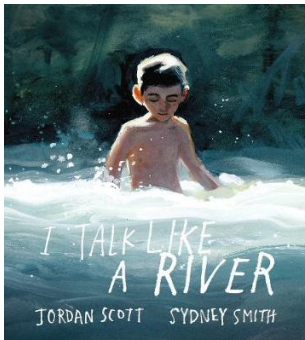
From the team which brought you the critically acclaimed *If All the World Were...* we have an inspirational story about finding your voice, both literally and metaphorically. The lyrical text and expressive images capture the intense anxiety of the shy protagonist who never speaks in school and also the transformative power of a good teacher. The illustrations show us the colour, vivacity and joy which Miss Flotsam brings to the classroom and the creativity which she inspires. Getting the child engaged in responding to poetry is the first step into unlocking her feelings and revealing what she needs to say. Gradually and cleverly building confidence and ensuring a nurturing atmosphere in the classroom, Miss Flotsam supports the child until she is ready to read her words aloud. The visual representation of creativity is so well done and is a perfect match for the carefully considered words. This lovely story has a powerful message of resilience, courage and determination and will encourage all children to unlock their potential.



You Can!

Author: Alexandra Strick **Format:** Hardback **Release Date:** 07/10/2021 **Year Groups:** Key Stage 1

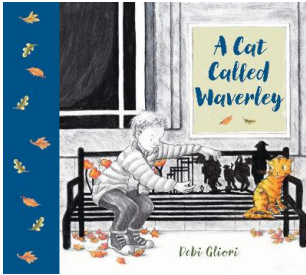
This book results from a unique, direct collaboration with children and young people aged from 8-18, where Alex Strick, co-founder of Inclusive Minds, asked them what they would say to their younger selves to inspire, reassure and enthuse them about the future. Their responses have been worked into a truly remarkable text, which follows 14 characters from babies to toddler through to young adults. Each character is brought vividly to individual life by the beautiful, richly detailed illustrations of Steve Anthony and reflects a truly diverse range of different interests, identities and friendships. Each vignette tells a continuing story as they grow and change, and a clever and subtle use of colour enables even very young readers to track their development. The language is beautifully paced and the scenes depicted are absolutely redolent of authentic life experiences. Inspirational, aspirational, reassuring and hopeful, this important book deserves a place in every classroom and will truly allow every child to feel seen, heard and respected.



I Talk Like a River

Author: Jordan Scott **Format:** Hardback **Release Date:** 10/09/2021 **Year Groups:** Key Stage 1

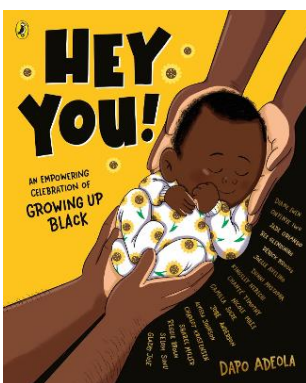
Shortlisted for the Yoto Kate Greenaway Medal 2022 What if words got stuck in the back of your mouth whenever you tried to speak? After a day of being unable to speak when asked, and of being stared at, a boy and his father go to the river for some quiet time. It's just a bad speech day, says Dad. But the boy can't stop thinking about all the eyes watching his lips twisting and twirling. When his father points to the river bubbling, churning, whirling and crashing, the boy finds a way to think about how he speaks. Even the river stutters. Like him. I talk like a river, he says. An incredibly moving picture book that offers understanding rather than a solution, and which will resonate with all readers, young and old. Masterfully illustrated by Sydney Smith, winner of the Kate Greenaway Medal.



A Cat Called Waverley

Author: Debi Gliori **Format:** Hardback **Release Date:** 12/08/2021
Year Groups: Key Stage 1

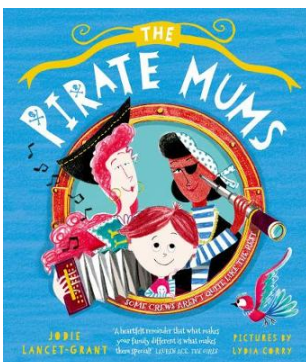
Born in a city park, Waverley is looked after by his best friend, Donald. Until, one fateful day, Donald signs up to fight in a war-zone far away. Loyal and patient, the homeless little ginger cat waits for his friend at Edinburgh's Waverley Station. He waits... and waits. Years go by but Waverley never gives up. He knows that home is where Donald is. Will Donald ever return and will he and Waverley find a home at last?



Hey You!

Author: Dapo Adeola **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 10/06/2021
Year Groups: Key Stage 1

This book is outstanding in its gathering of talent to provide the illustrations to Adeola's messages. It is a powerful, personal response to the murder of George Floyd and the awakening around the world to the Black Lives Matter movement. It is an honest and very personal letter to Adeola's younger self, messages he wishes he had seen and heard at a young age, created now for the children of the future. The messages apply to any child – and the illustrations show a diverse range of children and adults; the writing is simple, straightforward and obviously deeply felt, urging children to be themselves, be curious and love the skin you are in. Each double page spread, and the end papers, are all created by one of the eighteen talented black illustrators assembled from all over the world for this book. It is a joy to see so many different yet complementary styles of illustration creating the whole. A book for every classroom and nursery in the country!

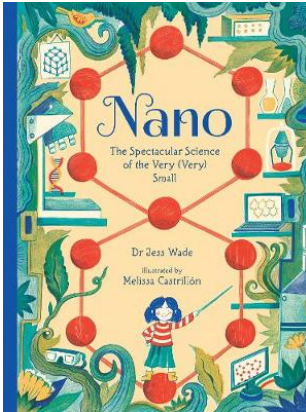


The Pirate Mums

Author: Jodie Lancet-Grant **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 03/06/2021
Year Groups: Key Stage 1

The Pirate Mums is a swashbuckling, high-seas adventure starring Billy and his two extraordinary mums, complete with a bad-tempered parrot called Bird-Brain, a sudden storm, a sea-sick teacher and a captain who gets stuck in the toilet. Billy wishes his family could be a bit more like everyone else's, and just a bit more ordinary. But his mums aren't like other mums. They are pirates. They wear outlandish pirate clothes, insist on dancing jigs and singing sea shanties when Billy's friends come round to play, and they have decidedly fishy taste in home decor. When his mums volunteer to accompany Billy's class on a school trip to the seaside, with a boat trip included (Billy's mums love boats), he makes them promise to be normal. But when the boat gets into trouble, their

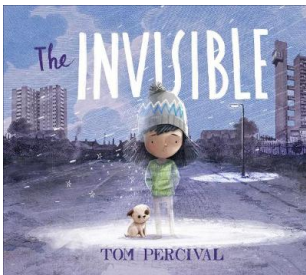
nautical knowledge and salty sea-legs save the day. Billy discovers that it's what makes his mums different that also makes them – and himself – special.



Nano: The Spectacular Science of the Very (Very) Small

Author: Dr. Jess Wade **Format:** Hardback **Release Date:** 01/04/2021
Year Groups: Key Stage 1, Key Stage 2

Shortlisted for the UKLA Book Awards 2022 Information Books 3-14 This exciting non-fiction picture book introduces young readers to the fascinating (and cutting-edge) science of the very, very small. Everything is made from something - but the way we make things, from the materials we use to the science and technology involved, is changing fast. Nano offers a fascinating narrative introduction to this cutting-edge area of STEM, better known by the name nanotechnology .

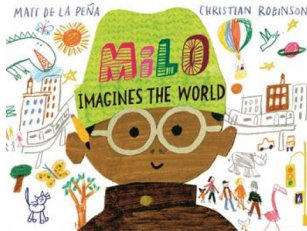


The Invisible

Author: Tom Percival **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 04/02/2021
Year Groups: Key Stage 1, Key Stage 2

Shortlisted for the UKLA Book Award 2022 ages 3-6 This is a vital picture book for society today – with an emphasis on family and belonging. Isabel is a small girl who lives with her family, and though they have little they have each other, so life is happy. Then disaster strikes and they have to leave their home to move to the other side of town - where everything is grey and cold and sad and lonely. As she walks about Isabel realises she is ignored by people, and feels she is literally fading away. It is not until she has faded and become truly invisible that she notices all the other invisible people sitting or working away at different things – like planting flowers in old paint pots or mending a bike – but they are all alone too. So, Isabel decides to help, she helps to fix things up and gradually others join in too. As more people join in they become less invisible, until they have created a vibrant area where they can all be seen. By doing as she did Isabel has learned that one of the hardest things is to make a difference. This full colour picture book uses muted shades for much of the story – showing us just how cold and dark it is and how awful it is to be ‘invisible’. The beginning of the story has colour – but it is all edged with cold, and icy windows. It is not until the end of the book – when winter has passed, when the sun and spring add to the wonderful colour the new community has created by all working together. This is a very gentle story with a potent and persuasive message, that small acts can add up to a huge change. Whilst being selfless it also shows that Isabel and her family have all benefitted by the actions she has instigated. This is a very personal message from the author, who had a very happy childhood even when his family had very little – underlining the

message we can all contribute somehow, and that we all belong! A book that should be in all classrooms and school libraries for its message and its powerful pictures.

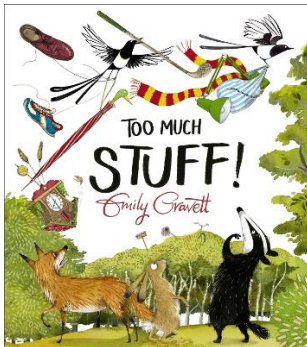


Milo Imagines The World

Author: Matt de la Peña **Format:** Hardback **Release Date:** 04/02/2021 **Year Groups:** Early Years, Key Stage 1

Shortlisted for the Yoto Kate Greenaway Medal 2022 Milo

Imagines the World is a warm and richly satisfying story from the award-winning and New York Times bestselling picture book duo, about a little boy with a big imagination who learns that you can't know anyone just by looking at them. Set in a bustling city, and full of a family love that binds even in difficult circumstances. Milo is on a train journey through the city with his older sister, looking at the faces of the other passengers and drawing pictures of their lives. The whiskered man with a crossword puzzle he imagines playing solitaire in a cluttered flat full of pets. The little boy in bright white trainers he imagines living in a castle with a moat and a butler. But when the little boy gets off at the same stop and joins the same queue as him, Milo realises that you can't judge by appearances and that we are all more alike than we are different: both boys are visiting their mothers in prison. Matt de la Peña and Christian Robinson once again deliver a hugely powerful and enjoyable picture book, full of rich details both to look at and to talk about. Anyone who has ever travelled on public transport will relate to Milo's journey.

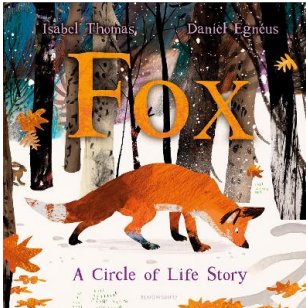


Too Much Stuff

Author: Emily Gravett **Format:** Hardback **Release Date:** 15/10/2020 **Year Groups:** Early Years, Key Stage 1

Longlisted for the UKLA Book Award 2022 ages 3-6 | Shortlisted for the Yoto Kate Greenaway Medal 2022 Meg and Ash, two magpies, build a cosy nest in the tallest tree for their four bright blue eggs. But they then start to get worried 'their nest/ Needed more stuff to make it the best.' Written in rhyming verse, we stare in amazement at all the things the magpies collect to add to their nest – until there is no hope of seeing the nest, and we can only see the teetering heap of things that have been added on top! Disaster strikes as the tree gives way! Happily, all the animals around help to clear the mess – and create useful homes and shelters out of all the rubbish! A gentle, funny and very beautifully illustrated poem, with a little frisson of anxiety when the tree collapses, about waste and recycling – a good way to introduce children to the idea of recycling useful things. As ever with Emily Gravett – there is a great deal going on in all the illustrations – lots to see and talk about, all beautifully laid out across the double-page spreads. The end papers are particularly fun, containing adverts for some of the items in the book – and also an advert for libraries! I particularly liked the 4 'R's of Recycling right at the back of the book!

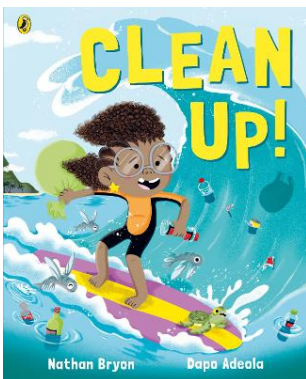
This will become a class and personal favourite for many people – children and adults alike – and could provide the basis for class projects on recycling, too.



Fox

Author: Isabel Thomas **Format:** Hardback **Release Date:** 01/10/2020
Year Groups: Key Stage 1

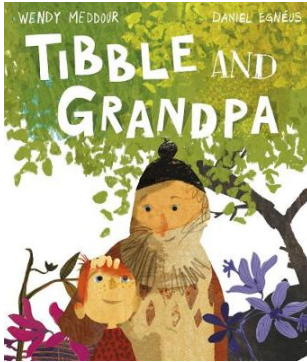
Longlisted for the UKLA Book Awards 2022 Information Books 3-14 Life is everywhere, we read at the close of this exceptional picture information book, and every page prior is brimming with it, so vividly depicted in Daniel Egnéus' illustrations that you can almost hear the yapping and gekkering of the fox cubs, their mother's barks, and all the constant bustle and hum of the natural world. Even in death we see there is life: the mother fox is hit and killed by a car but immediately tiny creatures get to work. As the seasons roll round and winter turns to spring, new life grows again and the particles that made up the fox become something else. Text and illustration together explain the circle of life with an extraordinary clarity while retaining a sense of the sheer wonder of it all. Share this with children who want to know what happens when something dies, or who just want to understand our world better. You can find more wintry & festive stories in our Best Books for Kids this Christmas collection!



Clean Up!

Author: Nathan Bryon **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 23/07/2020
Year Groups: Key Stage 1

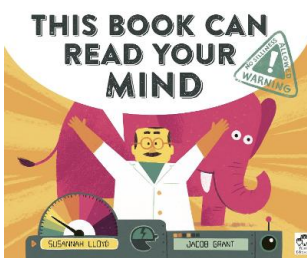
Longlisted for the UKLA Book Award ages 3-6 When Rocket goes for a holiday to visit her grandparents, she's shocked by the pollution that is spoiling their island home and putting the local sea life at risk. Can she think of a way to save the day?



Tibble and Grandpa

Author: Wendy Meddour **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 21/05/2020 **Year Groups:** Key Stage 1

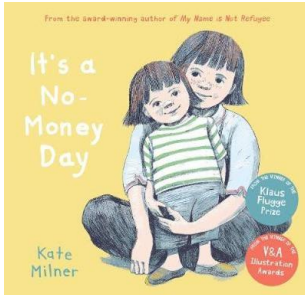
Highly Commended in the UKLA Book Awards 2021 A touching intergenerational story of love and resilience. Tibble loves talking to Grandpa. But Grandpa has stopped listening. Mum says just give him time. But Tibble wants to talk to Grandpa now. . . So Tibble tries his favourite game -TOP THREES! And something amazing happens. Grandpa starts talking again . . . A moving story about love, loss, and the wonder of families.



This Book Can Read Your Mind

Author: Susannah Lloyd **Format:** Hardback **Release Date:** 07/01/2020 **Year Groups:** Key Stage 1

January 2020 Book of the Month With a concept based entirely upon the universal truth that as soon as somebody tells you not to think of something, you immediately do so and the quite philosophic concept of visualisation of language heard or read, this book will have young(and old) readers in stitches. Stamped with a No Silliness Allowed warning on the front cover, we can anticipate plenty of silliness ahead despite the firm instructions from the very serious scientist introducing the amazing book that has the power to show a picture of the reader's thoughts. Sadly, it all goes wrong for him as soon as he uses pink elephants as an example of what not to think about and quickly escalates as he thinks of more terrible scenarios involving elephants, mice, panties and their bottoms. The explosive finale causes him to order the reader to put the book down and "Don't even think about" picking it up again.....This is bound to be instantly disobeyed in every home and classroom! The zany illustrative style is perfectly suited to this story and the clever use of the only white space being within the speech bubbles immediately emphasises the instructional and increasingly shouty nature of the scientist's words. Both great fun and a creative inspiration, this is a must have purchase!



It's a No-Money Day

Author: Kate Milner **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 15/10/2019
Year Groups: Early Years, Key Stage 1

Shortlisted for CILIP Kate Greenaway Medal 2021 | Shortlisted for the UKLA Book Awards 2021 | October 2019 Book of the Month

Kate Milner, winner of the 2018 Klaus Flugge Award for most promising newcomer to children's book illustration has certainly lived up to her laurels with this delicate and subtle picturebook, which packs a real emotional and political punch. It is a cause of great shame to many, in this country and in the 21st century, that more children than ever are living in poverty and that there has been a huge expansion in the use of foodbanks. Mum works really hard and watches every penny, but today is a no money day. Her little girl, who tells the story, takes great pleasure in life from the simple, free activities they share- visits to the library and dressing up in the charity shops. Unlike her humiliated Mum, she loves the visits to the food bank for the drink and biscuits and the kind ladies to talk to. On the way home they play the maybe one day game- dreaming of pets and washing machines and new warm clothes. They go to bed and "because of kind people our tummies are full". Nothing is laboured in text or image- the colours are subdued but still there. The despair and tiredness of the mother is evident in every expression and nuance of body language, but so is the warmth and love between them and so is the irrepressible spirit of a child who knows they are loved even if as the pictures subtly show us, she is clearly malnourished. This is a book which can be used with a very wide range of children and will encourage empathy and discussion of a very current and appalling crisis in our society.

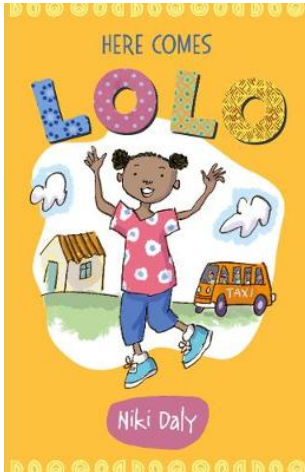


Small in the City

Author: Sydney Smith **Format:** Hardback **Release Date:** 05/09/2019
Year Groups: Key Stage 1

Shortlisted for CILIP Kate Greenaway Medal 2021 This is the first time that Sydney Smith has written his own text for a picturebook and he demonstrates as much skill with words as with the art which has won so many accolades and reaches even greater heights of excellence in this stunning book. From the unusual thin skyscraper shape of the book to wordless passages of comic panel-style vignettes and full spreads of gridded streets and buildings, traffic lights and crowds, everything sets the tone of a chaotic city in winter. The moody art, mostly inky line and subdued watercolor with some gouache for thicker textures in the snow is intensely atmospheric. Masterful use of scale and perspective shows how terrifyingly small the gender unspecified, all-wrapped-up-for-winter, little protagonist is. "I know what it's like to be small in the city" the story starts and only gradually do we realise that it is Small who is speaking and only slowly do we realise who is being addressed as advice is given on finding warmth and shelter and dark alleys and dangerous dogs to avoid. There is a wonderful narrative twist which is

best left to a first reading so you can fully appreciate the powerful emotional journey, but I can guarantee an immediate re-reading will be demanded so that you can spot all the clues. A truly exceptional picturebook.



Here Comes Lolo

Author: Niki Daly **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 08/08/2019
Year Groups: Key Stage 1

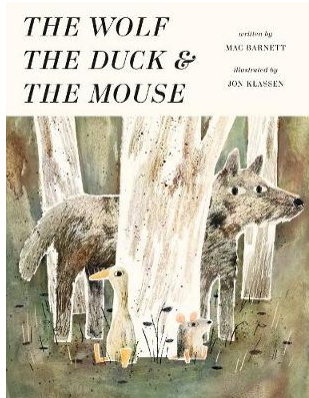
Lolo skips through life, leaving a trail of laughter and a few frowns! She's sure to become your new best friend! In these four easy-to-read stories Lolo, follow Lolo as she gets a gold star at school, longs for a cute floppy hat, finds a missing ring and helps to rescue a dog...



After the Fall

Author: Dan Santat **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 23/11/2018
Year Groups: Key Stage 1

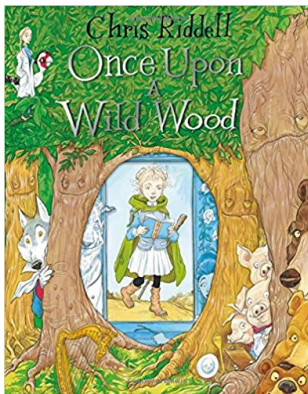
Highly Commended in the UKLA Book Awards 2019 Anyone familiar with the story of poor old Humpty Dumpty will be intrigued by Dan Santat's story of what happens after that fall. In his version the king's men do manage to put Humpty together again but the cracks are still there, and not just on the outside: a shadow of his former self, Humpty is too afraid to climb back up onto the wall where he used to love to sit and watch the birds. At last though he finds a way to enjoy the skies again and in a surprise ending flies away himself. A powerful story of recovery and overcoming fear this will resonate with all readers. The illustrations are full of clever jokes but portray Humpty's emotional state perfectly while the sequence that sees him soar away on golden wings is glorious.



The Wolf, the Duck and the Mouse

Author: Mac Barnett **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 04/10/2018
Year Groups: Early Years, Key Stage 1

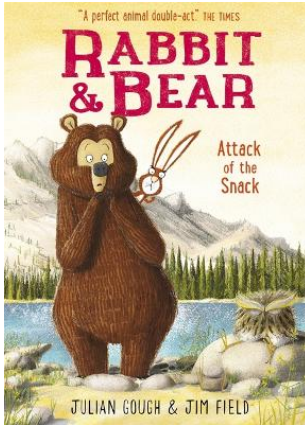
UKLA Longlist Book Awards - 2019 | Shortlisted for the CILIP Kate Greenaway Medal 2019 Award-winning duo, Mac Barnett and Jon Klassen are beloved for their trade mark dark humour in which nasty things happen and some unexpected results follow. Here, the Mouse is swallowed by the Wolf. But being swallowed by the Wolf turns out not to be such a bad thing after all. The Mouse finds the Duck is already comfortably at home in the Wolf's stomach and soon the pair are happy improving their dark but cosy home – with the unwitting help of the Wolf. After all, as the Duck says, "I live well. I may have been swallowed, but I have no intention of being eaten." As ever, Barnett and Klassen amusingly provoke readers to question apparent truths.



Once Upon a Wild Wood

Author: Chris Riddell **Format:** Hardback **Release Date:** 23/08/2018
Year Groups: Key Stage 1, Key Stage 2

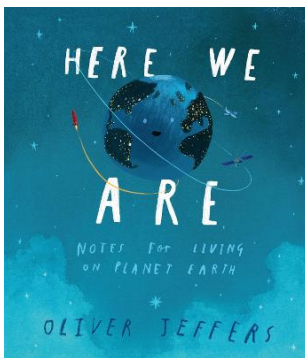
A Julia Eccleshare Pick of the Month September 2018 Former Children's Laureate Chris Riddell weaves a wonderful fantasy adventure around some of the best loved fairy story characters in this hugely attractive and thoroughly entertaining picture story book. Little Green Cape sets out with a handful of useful things including a strong straight stick, comfortable clumpy boots and an invitation to a party. Once in the wild woods she is in a magical world where even the trees have faces, full of surprising characters. There's a Beast looking for his Beauty, three Bears who are mistrustful of strangers, a talking harp, three little pigs, seven dwarves and many more. Young readers will love both feeling they know the stories being surprised by some of the turns of events.



Attack of the Snack

Author: Julian Gough **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 09/08/2018
Year Groups: Key Stage 1

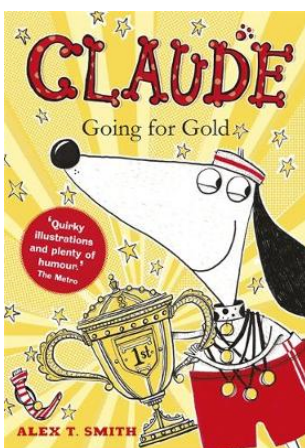
Rabbit and Bear: Book 3 Rabbit and Bear, like Claude, are perfect companions for building reading confidence and getting young children hooked into reading. Laugh aloud text and lively illustrations throughout. Gorgeously illustrated and with a classic feel, this is a brilliantly funny story of a rabbit and a bear who discover that things are always better when they're shared with a friend. Ideal for readers moving on from picture books.



Here We Are

Author: Oliver Jeffers **Format:** Hardback **Release Date:** 14/11/2017
Year Groups: Early Years, Key Stage 1

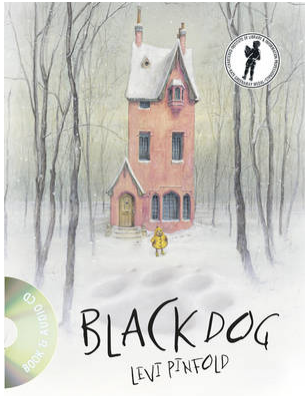
UKLA Longlist Book Awards - 2019 One of Our Books of the Year 2017 | A Julia Eccleshare Pick of the Month November 2017 Inspired by the birth of his son, award-winning Oliver Jeffers has created a deeply touching introduction to the world as a physical space and also as a place that needs to be treated with great care and respect. Subtitled 'Notes for Living on Planet Earth' Jeffers uses richly coloured double page spreads and only a few words of commentary to describe the obvious features of land, sea, night and day but also how time can move both slow and fast and should never be wasted! The perfect gift for all parents to share with their new babies – and each other.



Claude Going for Gold!

Author: Alex T. Smith **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 23/02/2017
Year Groups: Key Stage 1

From the World Book Day Illustrator 2014 comes a brand-new tale about Claude, the bestselling beret-clad canine hero.



Black Dog

Author: Levi Pinfold **Format:** Audiobook **Release Date:** 01/01/2014

Year Groups: Key Stage 1

Winner of the 2013 CILIP Kate Greenaway Medal The judges described the book as a "visual treat, full of mood and atmosphere, the beautiful illustrations are full of detail and perfectly in keeping with the story. The use of scale, with the big dog pushing the text off the page, is clever. A timeless, thought-provoking book about facing up to anxiety, fears, and the black dog that visits some of us from time-to-time." This beautifully illustrated edition is now available with an audio cd.
