

BARRINGTON STOKE

New Titles 2023

Every child can be a reader

Barrington  Stoke

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Barrington Stoke



This year marks an important milestone for us. Twenty-five years ago, Barrington Stoke was founded to produce books for children the mainstream publishing industry was largely ignoring – those who were reluctant to read or who struggled for reasons such as dyslexia or visual stress.

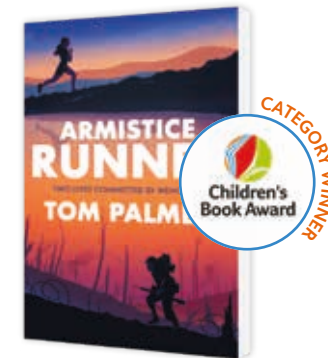
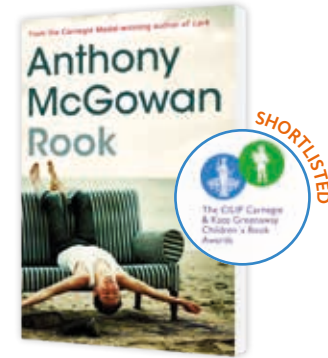
Since then we have become champions of literacy, pioneering super-readable dyslexia-friendly books that are as accessible as possible, helping to empower **every** child to become a reader and enjoy the myriad benefits that reading for pleasure brings.

Recent years have shown that there is a greater need for our books than ever, with an increasing attainment gap and larger numbers of children experiencing difficulty with reading. We remain committed to reaching these young people with shorter, expertly edited and designed books that are appropriate for their age and get them hooked with stories that are gripping, exciting, heartfelt and funny, offering something for everyone.

To help us do this we have always aimed to work with the very best authors and illustrators in the business, and in this important anniversary year we're excited to be publishing a stellar list of titles from both new names and stalwart supporters of our mission.

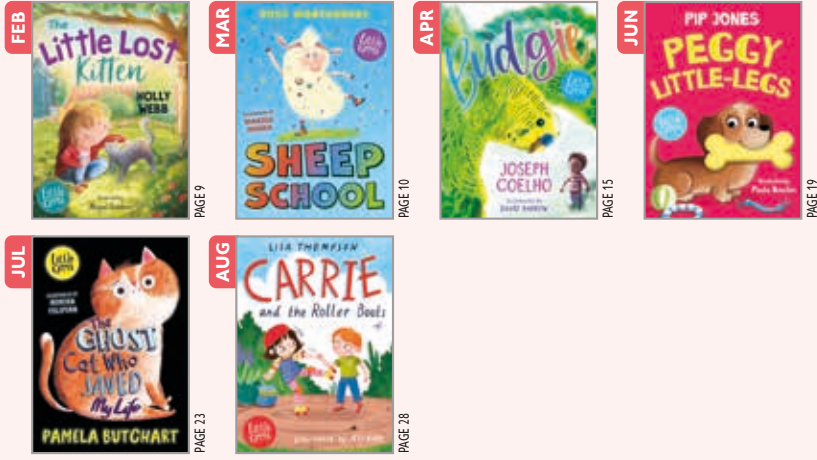
We're also delighted to be an Empathy Builder Publisher for 2023 and beyond, committed to supporting Empathy Lab in their work to develop a book-based empathy movement and making Empathy Day a major force for social change.

With best wishes from **The Barrington Stoke Team**



25 AWARD-WINNING YEARS

FOR AGES 5+



FOR AGES 7+



FOR AGES 9+



FOR AGES 9+



FOR AGES 11+



FOR AGES 13+





The Terror of Hilltop House

Dan Smith

The Crooked Oak mystery-solving team investigate a ground-breaking experiment that's grown out of control in this modern take on *The Day of the Triffids*.

When Pete, Krish and Nancy read a story in the local paper about missing sheep and weird gunk found in a field near Hilltop House, they're sure there's a mystery to be investigated.

The research farm at Hilltop is working on the creation of new bio-fuels, but when a storm knocks out the power in the local area and something escapes from the farm, it's clear that the research has gone horribly wrong ... Can the brave trio save their village from a truly terrifying threat?



Month: Jan | Illustrator: Chris King | 9781800901308 | £7.99 | 9+
Reading age 8 | B&W | PB | 128pp | B format | BIC code: 5AR, YFD, YFC,
YFB, YFG | CBMC code: D3N79 | Rights: World
Author location: Newcastle | Illustrator location: Leeds

Praise for The Crooked Oak series:

"Fast-paced and sinister ... Will have readers on the edge of their seats" BOOKTRUST

"Feels like a magnificent episode of *The Twilight Zone* or *Doctor Who* – one that stays with you for being so eerily strange it gives you goosebumps" CHRIS SOUL

Dan Smith is the award-winning and bestselling author of books for both children and adults. His children's titles, which include *Nisha's War*, *My Friend the Enemy* and *Boy X*, have won him numerous accolades, including the Coventry Inspiration Book Award, the Essex Book Award, and nominations for the Branford Boase Award and the Young Quills Award.



© Mike Smith



Bertie and the Alien Chicken

Jenny Pearson

An alien chicken bent on exterminating Earth is disarmed by the power of friendship in this heartfelt comedy from the author of *The Super Miraculous Journey of Freddie Yates*.

Bertie is NOT looking forward to spending the summer holidays on stinky Long Bottom Farm. But things take an interesting turn when he encounters Nugget, the alien chicken.

Nugget's mission is to find the Earth's most valuable resource and transport it back to Nurgle 7, and he needs Bertie's help. But what could the Earth's most valuable resource be, and can they find it in time to stop the Nurgles exterminating the Earth?!



Month: Jan | Illustrator: Aleksei Bitskoff | 9781800901810 | £7.99
9+ | Reading age 8 | B&W | PB | 120pp | B format | BIC code: 5AR,
YFN, YFG, YFB, YFQ | CBMC code: D3N79 | Rights: World
Author location: Durham | Illustrator location: Surrey

Praise for *Bertie and the Alien Chicken*:

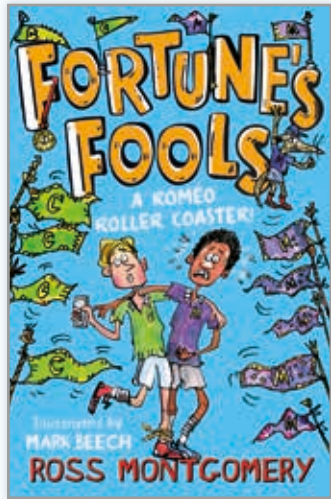
"Wise, witty and wonderful" LANCASHIRE EVENING POST

"Funny and sensitive ... [Jenny's] understanding of the way children think and speak is second to none" BOOKS FOR KEEPS

"Brimming with Jenny's trademark humour ... As funny and rib-tickling as it is wise and challenging" A WORD ABOUT BOOKS

Jenny Pearson's debut children's novel *The Super Miraculous Journey of Freddie Yates* won the Lollies 2022 and was shortlisted for the Costa Children's Book of the Year 2020, Waterstones Children's Book Prize, the Branford Boase and UKLA Book awards. When she's not writing, Jenny enjoys inspiring young writers in her classroom and looking after her family and their many animals.





Fortune's Fools: A Romeo Roller Coaster!

Ross Montgomery

Prepare for Sports Day carnage as the Montagues and Capulets battle for the House Medal in this laugh-out-loud Shakespeare-inspired drama.

Top school athletes Dom and Blake have been best friends for ever. But with Sports Day approaching, their friendship is suddenly under threat. With Dom in Montague House going head-to-head with Blake from Capulet House, will these two best buds end the day as mortal enemies or will brotherly love prevail?

Month: Jan | Illustrator: Mark Beech | 9781800901469 | £7.99 | 9+ | Reading age 8 | B&W | PB | 72pp | B format | BIC code: 5AR, YFS, YFR, YFB, YFQ, YFMF, YFZV, YXHB | CBMC code: D3N79 | Rights: World | Author location: London | Illustrator location: Lancashire



978181129210

978181129616

9781800900820



The Little Lost Kitten

Holly Webb

Illustrated by Abigail Hookham

An adorable stray kitten might be just what Lucy and her dad need in this gentle and heartwarming tale from a superstar of animal fiction.

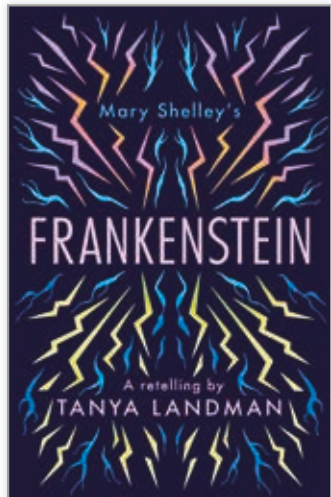
When a little lost kitten turns up in her garden, Lucy doesn't want to tell her dad in case he sends the kitten away. But Lucy grows to love the little kitten and she doesn't seem to have a home, so finally Lucy has to tell her dad the truth. Will her dad allow the little kitten to stay?

Month: Feb | 9781800901445 | £6.99 | Little Gems 5+ | Colour | PB | 96pp | 126 x 168mm | BIC code: YFN, YFB, YFP | CBMC code: B3N79 | Rights: World | Author location: Berkshire | Illustrator location: Lincolnshire

"Simple, effective ... ideal for newly independent readers"
THE GUARDIAN



978181129500



Frankenstein: A Retelling

Tanya Landman

Mary Shelley's iconic classic is brought to life for a new generation of readers in this gripping and gruesome retelling.

Victor Frankenstein intended to create a beautiful being. But the moment it breathes, he sees he has given life to a hideous monster. Creature and Creator are soon locked in a deadly struggle. But which of them is the real monster? Tanya Landman revisits Mary Shelley's classic Gothic horror story, bringing to life Dr Frankenstein and his monstrous creation in an accessible format that more readers can enjoy.

"The perfect gateway for readers to discover the power and magic of the dazzling original ... It's lucid and sharp, evocative and emotional" LOVEREADING4KIDS

Month: Jan | 9781800901773 | £7.99 | 13+ | Reading age: 9 | PB | 112pp | B format | BIC code: 5AR, YFT, YFG, YFD, YFCB, YFBA, YFV | CBMC code: E3N79 | Rights: World | Author location: Devon



978181129128

978181129371



Next to Alice

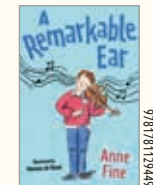
Anne Fine

A change in classroom seating arrangements challenges old habits and leads to a new friendship in this funny school story from award-winning author Anne Fine.

At first Ben doesn't want to sit next to Alice in the classroom. She's scary and tells him off for his squiggly drawing and poor handwriting. She even points out his bad table manners. But when Ben starts to take Alice's advice, he realises that she might have a point and discovers that sitting next to her isn't so bad after all.

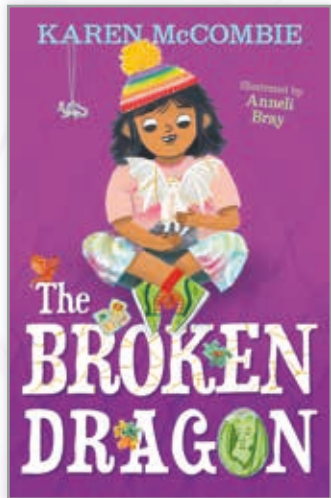
"Besides being an entertaining tale conveys an important message" ANNE THOMPSON, A LIBRARY LADY

Month: Feb | Illustrator: Gareth Conway | 9781800901742 | £7.99 | 7+ | Reading age: 7 | B&W | PB | 64pp | B format | BIC code: 5AR, YFQ, YFB, YFS | CBMC code: D3N79 | Rights: World | Author location: Durham | Illustrator location: Devon



978181129449

978181129654



The Broken Dragon

Karen McCombie

A smashed china dragon helps Tyra bond with her new classmates as she discovers that sometimes when something is repaired it can become even more special than it was before.

Tyra gets off to a tough start at her new school. She's loud and different and nobody seems to be particularly friendly. So when her nan gives her a beautiful china snow dragon, Tyra decides to take it to school, hoping that people will think it's interesting and talk to her. But disaster strikes and the beautiful dragon is smashed. Can Tyra find a way to repair her treasure while also making some new friends along the way?

"McCombie at her storytelling best"
LANCASHIRE EVENING POST

Month: Feb | Illustrator: Anneli Bray | 978180091865 | £7.99
7+ | Reading age: 7 | B&W | PB | 64pp | B format | BIC code: 5AR,
YFS, YFB, YFQ, YXE, YXHB, YXZD | CBMC code: D3N79 | Rights:
World | Author location: London | Illustrator location: Lancaster



9781781172956



Meg and Merlin: Running Away

Tanya Landman

A ride in the countryside spirals out of control for Meg and Merlin in this dramatic addition to Tanya Landman's charming horse-riding series.

Meg and her new friend Sam Houseman meet up to take their horses out on a hack, but after a lovely day in the countryside, Meg gets lost while making her way home. Then things take a dangerous turn when Merlin gets spooked and takes off, galloping straight towards a main road ... Can Meg get him back under control before disaster strikes?

"A gorgeous girl-meets-pony story that will go straight to the heart of young horse lovers"
LOVEREADING4KIDS ON
MEG AND MERLIN: MAKING FRIENDS

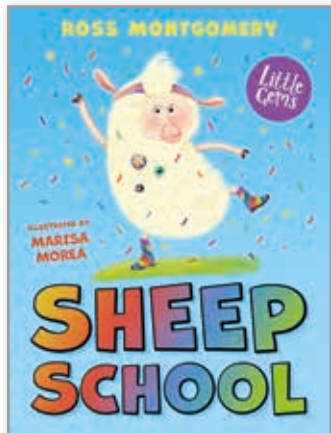
Month: Mar | Illustrator: Sónia Albert | 9781800901735 | £7.99
7+ | Reading age: 7 | B&W | PB | 64pp | B format | BIC code: 5AR,
YFR, YFN, YFB, YFP | CBMC code: D3N79 | Rights: World
Author location: Devon | Illustrator location: Spain



9781800900851



9781800900851



Sheep School

Ross Montgomery

Illustrated by Marisa Morea

A thwarted thespian must use his show-stopping talents to save his flock from a woolly situation in this hilarious first Little Gem from bestselling author Ross Montgomery.

William the lamb just can't stand still. His feet are always tapping, ready to dance, and he loves nothing more than bursting into song. But his talents aren't always appreciated at Sheep School. Cast out of the flock, he witnesses the rest of the sheep being captured by the Big Bad Wolf. Can William find a way to put his artistic skills to use to save the day?

Month: Mar | 9781800901933 | £6.99 | Little Gems 5+ | Colour
PB | 96pp | 126 x 168mm | BIC code: YFQ, YFB, YFP, YXE
CBMC code: B3N79 | Rights: World | Author location: London
Illustrator location: Madrid



The Curio Collectors

Eloise Williams

The discovery of a long-lost carving sparks new friendships and reveals a villainous plot in this captivating tale.

Lily, Tom and Ma Hawker travel the county, enthraling crowds with their amazing collection of curios. When an unusual piece of scrimshaw comes into their possession, it attracts the attention of a young maid who is searching for a special shell that belonged to her mother. But another shadowy figure is also very interested in the scrimshaw and it appears he will stop at nothing to get his hands on it. Can the Curio Collectors uncover the mystery behind the carvings before time runs out?

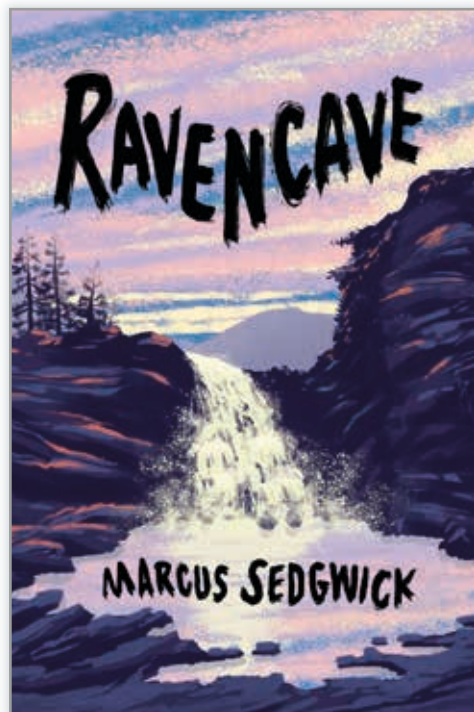
"A brilliant historical mystery adventure"
JUST IMAGINE

"Sweet and satisfying" KAREN McCOMBIE

Month: Mar | Illustrator: Anna Shepeta | 9781800902008 | £7.99
9+ | Reading age: 8 | B&W | PB | 104pp | B format | BIC code: 5AR,
YFN, YFCF, YFC, YFB, YFT | CBMC code: D3N79 | Rights: World
Author location: Pembrokeshire | Illustrator location: Ukraine



9781800900110



Ravencave

Marcus Sedgwick

A grim discovery brings disturbing revelations in this chilling ghost story from the late Marcus Sedgwick.

While mucking about in the ruins of an old farm during a holiday in Yorkshire, James hears strange laughter echoing around the walls. The ghost of a young girl appears and urges James to follow her, but at first he's too afraid.

When she appears again, this time James follows. But will he be able to face the terrible truth she reveals?

Month: Mar | 9781800901926 | £7.99 | 11+ | Reading age 8 | PB | 120pp
B format | BIC code: 5AR, YFD, YFB, YFCB, YFN | CBMC code: E3N79
Rights: World

Praise for *Ravencave*:

"A ghost story guaranteed to reel you in from the first page and then give you the shivers" *THE TIMES CHILDREN'S BOOK OF THE WEEK*

"A melancholic yet spine-tingling ghost story written with grace and poignancy" KEITH GRAY

Marcus Sedgwick was one of this generation's most lauded and highly regarded writers for children and young people, having published over forty books, including acclaimed *Midwinterblood* and *The Monsters We Deserve*. He won multiple prestigious awards, most notably the Michael L. Printz Award, the Branford Boase Award, the BookTrust Teenage Prize and the Blue Peter Book Award, and was shortlisted for numerous others, including the *Guardian* Children's Fiction Prize and the Carnegie Medal. Marcus sadly passed away in November 2022 at the age of 54.



Dragonracers

Peter Bunzl

The daring exploits of the earliest aviators inspire Kitty and Harris Hawk to take to the skies on their incredible dragon in this page-turning blend of fantasy and historical fiction.

Kitty Hawk dreams of taking to the skies and competing in the world's first long-distance air race. But little does she imagine that her first flight will take place on the back of a dragon!

When Kitty and her brother find an unusual egg, the little dragon that hatches from it grows rapidly into a magnificently powerful creature that learns to fly with Kitty riding on her back. Together, can they win the huge prize that's at stake, and will their daring adventure bring Kitty closer to achieving her dreams?

Month: Mar | Illustrator: Lia Visirin | 9781800901780 | £7.99 | 9+
Reading age 8 | B&W | PB | 112pp | B format | BIC code: 5AR, YFH,
YFB, YFC, YFN, YFT | CBMC code: D3N79 | Rights: World
Author location: London | Illustrator location: Romania

Praise for *Dragonracers*:

"Packed with suspense ... this sky-high adventure is a thrill ride from the starting gun right through to the finish line" *LANCASHIRE EVENING POST*

"A brilliant blend of fantasy and history" *SCOPE FOR IMAGINATION*

"Packed with nostalgia and facts, adorned with magic and impossibility" JAMES HADDELL

Peter Bunzl started his career as an animator and film-maker working on everything from commercials to BAFTA winning children's TV programmes. He is now best known as the award-winning and bestselling author of the Cogheart series, the first book of which was nominated for several prestigious awards, including the Waterstones Children's Book Prize, the Branford Boase Award and the Carnegie Medal.





Month: Apr | Illustrator: Tania Rex | 9781800901872 | £7.99 | 9+
Reading age: 7 | B&W | PB | 64pp | B format | BIC code: SAR, YFT,
YFN, YFS, YXZW, YXEJ, YFB | CBMC code: D3N79 | Rights: World
Author location: Kent | Illustrator location: Lithuania

Operation Banana

Tony Bradman

As World War II drags on, Susan sets out on a mission to cheer up her mum in this heartwarming wartime tale.

It's the dark days of the Second World War and Susan is worried about her mum. She's struggling with long hours at the factory and upset because they haven't heard from Susan's dad for months. Susan decides she's going to cheer her mum up by getting her a treat – a sweet, delicious banana. But everything is in short supply in London and no one's even seen a banana for years, so how is Susan going to find one? Let Operation Banana commence!



Month: Apr | Illustrator: Stefano Tambellini | 9781800902121
£7.99 | 9+ Non-Fiction | Reading age 8 | B&W | PB | 104pp
B format | BIC code: YNH, YNM, YN, YNG | CBMC code: D5N79
Rights: World | Author location: Suffolk | Illustrator location: Italy

What it was like to be a Viking

David Long

Embark on an incredible voyage through Viking life and history in the first in an exciting new non-fiction series about extraordinary historical civilisations.

The Vikings were a terrifying force that changed history across the globe. But they were merchants as well as marauders, explorers as well as adventurers. Award-winning writer David Long's concise but wide-ranging account brings their fascinating civilisation into focus, explaining what Viking life was actually like as well as considering their lingering influence throughout the world.

"David Long excels at telling intriguing stories from the past" *THE INDEPENDENT*



PAGE 28



Month: Apr | 9781800901407 | £6.99 | Little Gems 5+ | Colour | PB
96pp | 126 x 168mm | BIC code: YFMF, YFN, YFP, YXG, YXEJ, YXED,
YFB, YXE | CBMC code: B3N79 | Rights: World
Author location: London | Illustrator location: Northamptonshire

Budgie

Joseph Coelho

Illustrated by David Barrow

A lost little budgie brings together a young boy and his seemingly grumpy older neighbour in this touching gem from the Waterstones Children's Laureate.

Mr Buxton always seems to be cross, and he shouts at Miles and his friends for climbing the trees outside their tower block. But when Miles find a lost little budgie, he discovers that he and Mr Buxton have more in common than they could ever have imagined.



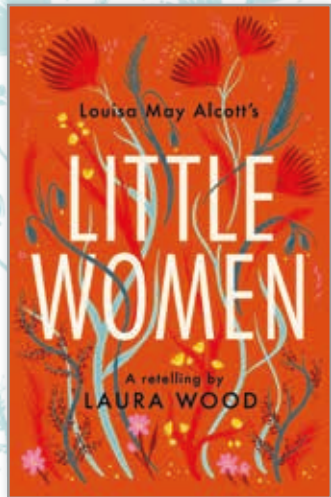
Praise for Joseph Coelho:

"His dynamic performance, passionate advocacy and engaging writing ... inspires children of all ages" KATE EDWARDS, CHAIR OF THE WATERSTONES CHILDREN'S LAUREATE JUDGING PANEL

"His passion for stories and poetry brings a hefty dose of sunshine to readers, inspiring all those who experience his work" FLORENTYNA MARTIN, HEAD OF CHILDREN'S AT WATERSTONES

Joseph Coelho is a playwright, poet, award-winning children's author and the Waterstones Children's Laureate 2022–24. Joseph's poems have featured in many anthologies such as *Green Glass Beads* by Jacqueline Wilson, and his own debut poetry collection, *Werewolf Club Rules*, earned him the CLiPPA Poetry Award in 2015. Joseph is also the author of the picture-book series *Luna Loves*, and the middle-grade *Fairytales Gone Bad* series. Most recently *The Girl Who Became a Tree* was shortlisted for the 2021 CILIP Carnegie Medal.





Month: Apr | 9781800901797 | £7.99 | Classic Retellings | 11+
Reading age 9 | PB | 128pp | B format | BIC code: YFA, YFN, YFM,
5AR, YFB | CBMC code: E3N79 | Rights: World
Author location: Warwickshire

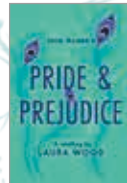
Little Women: A Retelling

Laura Wood

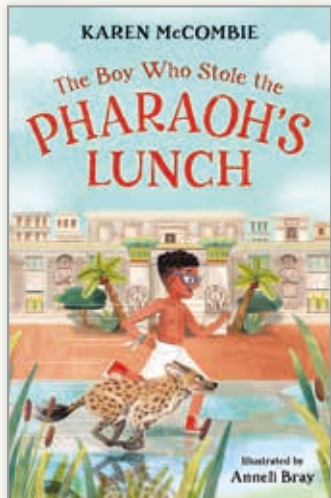
The adventures of Meg, Jo, Beth and Amy are brought to even more readers in this beautiful retelling of Louisa May Alcott's coming-of-age classic.

Little Women, the charming story of the brave and resilient March sisters, has been adored by generations of readers who have identified with the struggles of kind and pretty Meg; gentle, delicate Beth; precocious, artistic Amy; and of course wild, tomboyish Jo, determined to forge her own path and become a writer. Follow the girls as they come of age during the American Civil War and fall in love with the story all over again in this retelling by award-winning writer Laura Wood.

"An excellent modernisation that keeps the soul of Jane Austen's novel as its core"
PAPER LANTERNS ON PRIDE AND PREJUDICE:
A RETELLING



978180090240



Month: May | Illustrator: Anneli Bray | 9781800902015 | £7.99
7+ | Reading age 7 | B&W | PB | 88pp | B format | BIC code: 5AR,
YFT, YFS, YFQ, YFC, YXD, YFB | CBMC code: D3N79 | Rights: World
Author location: London | Illustrator location: Lancaster

The Boy Who Stole the Pharaoh's Lunch

Karen McCombie

Seth learns some important life lessons when he's transported back to Ancient Egypt in this absorbing time-slip adventure, featuring engaging tie-in facts.

While awaiting punishment for his latest piece of mischief, prankster Seth picks up a golden amulet from his teacher's desk and is whisked back in time to Ancient Egypt. In a village by the Nile, Seth works for the local tradesmen and plays with the local children. But things take a dangerous turn when he decides to save a pet hyena destined for the pharaoh's table ...

"A captivating story"
I NEWSPAPER ON FAGIN'S GIRL



978180090554



978181129456



Month: May | Illustrator: Keith Robinson | 9781800902206 | £7.99
9+ | Reading age 8 | B&W | PB | 104pp | B format | BIC code: 5AR, YFD,
YFCB, YFS, YFB | CBMC code: D3N79 | Rights: World
Author location: Peak District | Illustrator location: Dorset

Praise for *Jodie*:

"Superbly chilling, brilliantly satisfying. A masterpiece of a modern-day ghost story" EMMA CARROLL

"Hilary McKay has an unerring sense of children's dialogue and behaviour" BERLIE DOHERTY

"A hugely satisfying story about real loneliness, real friendship and a real ghost" LISSA EVANS

Hilary McKay is one of Britain's best-loved children's authors. Her books – including *Saffy's Angel*, *The Skylarks' War* and *The Swallows' Flight* – have been published in over 30 languages and have won the Costa Children's Book Award, the *Guardian* Children's Fiction Prize, the Nestlé Smarties Book Prize Gold Award and countless other accolades.

Jodie

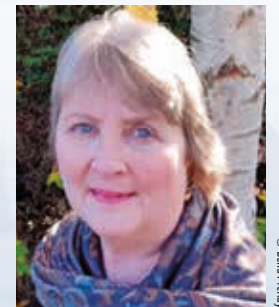
Hilary McKay

Trapped and alone on the salt marshes, Jodie is troubled by a haunting presence in this eerily atmospheric ghost story from a master storyteller.

Jodie never wanted to come on the residential trip to the field centre.

A loner at school, she's forced into a dormitory with other girls from her class who don't understand her and talk about her behind her back. Even though they're not trying to be mean, Jodie feels excluded and miserable, and eventually escapes out onto the salt marshes in search of a little dog she can hear barking in the distance.

But the salt marshes are dangerous and Jodie gets trapped by the incoming tide. Stuck in the sucking mud, will anyone even notice that she's gone? And where is the little dog that keeps barking so mournfully ...?



© Hilary McKay



Suitcase S(witch)

Aisha Bushby

An accidental luggage swap with a witch conjures a series of misadventures for Zahra in Aisha Bushby's magical Barrington Stoke debut.

When Zahra accidentally swaps suitcases with a witch, it's the beginning of a whole series of magical mishaps. Her feet take on a dancing life of their own when she puts on a pair of enchanted boots – mortifying! And her first flying adventure in a charmed cloak nearly ends in disaster – terrifying!

But playing with magic can be amazing too! She learns a spell that can transform her dad's worst cooking into a delicious delight and makes a new best friend in the form of a talking cat. When she finds the witch again, will Zahra even want to get her own suitcase back?!

Month: May | Illustrator: Coralie Muce | 9781800901766 | £7.99
7+ | Reading age 8 | B&W | PB | 72pp | B format | BIC code: 5AR,
YFHD, YFH, YFQ, YFB | CBMC code: D3N79 | Rights: World
Author location: Lincolnshire | Illustrator location: France

Praise for Aisha Bushby:

"Absolutely masterful writing that manages to be vivid, powerful and tender all at once. Aisha Bushby is a storytelling genius"
LOUIE STOWELL ON A FLASH OF FIREFLIES

"Gorgeous, evocative storytelling" THE BOOKSELLER ON MOONCHILD:
VOYAGE OF THE LOST AND FOUND

"Poignant and atmospheric" THE GUARDIAN ON A POCKETFUL OF STARS

Aisha Bushby's debut novel, *A Pocketful of Stars*, was longlisted for the Carnegie Medal and shortlisted for the Branford Boase award, and she was a contributing author in the Stripes anthology for BAME writers, *A Change is Gonna Come*, which was awarded a YA Book Prize Special Achievement Award. Aisha's books are always full of heart and have a sprinkling of magic in them.



Peggy Little-Legs

Pip Jones

Illustrated by Paula Bowles

A sausage dog discovers that, despite being small, she has strengths of her very own in this adorable Little Gem, perfect for young dog lovers.

Peggy the sausage dog feels really sad when she finds she's too small to really compete with the other dogs at puppy school. Her little legs and long body make it hard for her to jump high or run very fast. But when one of her school friends has a dangerous fall, it's Peggy who comes to the rescue, proving that heroes come in all different sizes!

Month: Jun | 9781800902145 | £6.99 | Little Gems 5+ | Colour
PB | 96pp | 126 x 168mm | BIC code: 5AR, YFP, YFQ, YXD, YFB
CBMC code: B3N79 | Rights: World | Author location: London
Illustrator location: Bristol

"The most delightful of reads ... Utterly gorgeous"
A WORD ABOUT BOOKS
ON MADAM SQUEAKER



The Day the Hiccups Took Over

Jo Simmons

When Frank's hiccups just won't STOP, they get him into all kinds of trouble in this madcap comedy caper.

Frank has a big day ahead of him – a trip to the dentist, a trumpet exam, a swimming trial and then, the event he's been looking forward to for months, his knitting hero live on stage, here in his hometown! Frank can't wait, but he also can't stop hiccupping. HIC! HIC! HIC! They start before breakfast and they will not GO AWAY! Helped by his new friend Daisy, Frank tries ever more hare-brained ideas to get rid of the HICS! Will they ruin his day, or can Frank overcome the hiccupping horrors?



Month: Jun | Illustrator: Lee Cosgrave | 9781800902176 | £7.99
9+ | Reading age 8 | B&W | PB | 80pp | B format | BIC code: 5AR,
YFQ, YFS, YFB | CBMC code: D3N79 | Rights: World
Author location: Brighton | Illustrator location: NW England

"Very funny ... Wastes no time in hooking the reader in" BOOKTRUST ON THE DAY MY
FAMILY DISAPPEARED





Finding Her Feet Eve Ainsworth

When shy but talented Lily joins the local girls' football team, has she finally found a place where she fits in? Accompanied by fascinating true facts about women's football.

Lily always feels a little bit left out. Shy and anxious, she finds school really hard, particularly as most of the other girls all seem so confident. Most of the time, Lily wishes that she could just disappear.

But during a game of football in PE, Lily's teacher spots her natural talent and invites Lily to join the local girls' team, where she starts to make friends with some of the other players. Finally, she thinks she's found a place where she fits in, but will an argument between two of her teammates put all her progress in jeopardy?



9781800900929

Month: Jun | Illustrator: Luna Valentine | 9781800902022 | £7.99
9+ | Reading age 8 | B&W | PB | 80pp | B format | BIC code: 5AR, YFR,
YFS, YXD, YFB, YXE | CBMC code: D3N79 | Rights: World
Author location: West Sussex | Illustrator location: Nottingham

Praise for *All To Play For*:

"A moving, engaging story for 7+ football fans" *THE GUARDIAN*

"A perfectly pitched, top-of-the-league triumph ... Readers will be on the edge of their seat" *LOVEREADING4KIDS*

"Emotionally charged ... Conveyed with all the importance of a premier league top-of-the-table clash!" *ANNE THOMPSON, A LIBRARY LADY*

Eve Ainsworth is an award-winning author and experienced school speaker, with a background working for secondary schools in pastoral and child-protection roles. She is the author of several bestselling novels, including the award-winning and Carnegie Medal nominated *7 Days*, and the acclaimed Dick, Kerr Girls series. Her most recent Barrington Stoke title, *All to Play For*, was shortlisted for the UKLA Book Awards.



© Linda Woodard



Nightjar Katya Balen

Carnegie Medal winner Katya Balen returns with a stunning tale about a fractured bond between father and son – and the injured bird that helps to heal it.

When Noah's dad visits from New York, he and Noah come across an injured nightjar during a walk in the countryside. Noah is determined to save the bird, but his dad believes they should leave it alone to let nature take its course.

As father and son argue, it becomes clear that Noah is angry about more than just the bird. He feels abandoned and misunderstood by his dad, who has moved to the US and started a new family there that doesn't seem to have room for Noah. Can they find a way to build a new relationship and rediscover the common ground between them?



9781800900981

Month: Jun | Illustrator: Richard Johnson | 9781800901667 | £7.99
9+ | Reading age 8 | B&W | PB | 88pp | B format | BIC code: 5AR,
YFN, YFP, YXED, YXFB, YFB | CBMC code: D3N79 | Rights: World
Author location: Croydon | Illustrator location: Lincolnshire

Praise for *Nightjar*:

"Thoughtful, calm, beautiful and wise" *ROSS MONTGOMERY*

"A magical story filled with tenderness and strength" *JASBINDER BILAN*

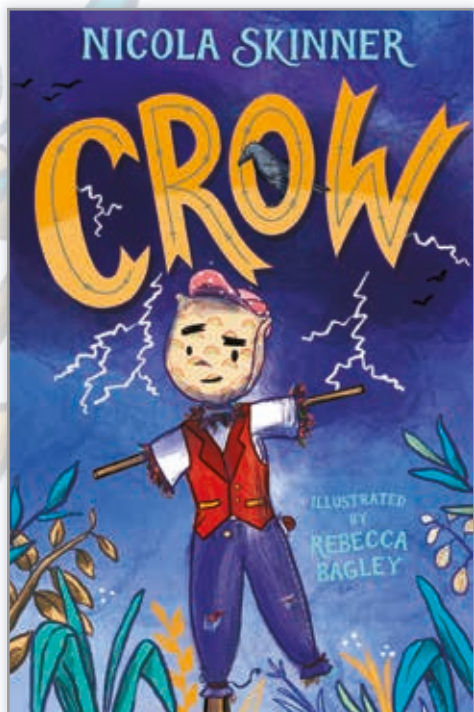
"Balen is one of our very best storytellers" *KIRAN MILLWOOD HARGRAVE*

"A voice unlike any other, that pulls you through with its wonder and wisdom and leaves you utterly changed" *STRUAN MURRAY*

Katya Balen is a rising star in children's publishing in the UK. Her first book, *The Space We're In*, was longlisted for the Carnegie Medal and shortlisted for the Branford Boase Award, while *October, October*, described by *The Times* as "a future wild classic", won the 2022 Carnegie Medal.



© Patrick Simpson



Crow Nicola Skinner

In this darkly comic tale, new girl Hattie hopes a scarecrow will protect her den at school – but Crow takes his job too seriously, with scary results ...

When lonely Hattie feels out of place at her new school, she creates a scarecrow – Crow. Hattie wants him to guard the den she finds in the playground, the only place she feels happy and comfortable.

Poor Crow really just wants to have fun with the other children, but he takes his job for Hattie very seriously and his behaviour starts to get scarier and scarier.

Will Hattie realise that Crow is ruining her chance to make new friends before it's too late?

Month: Jul | Illustrator: Rebecca Bagley | 9781800902190 | £7.99
7+ | Reading age 7 | B&W | PB | 96pp | B format | BIC code: 5AR,
YFMF, YFHK, YFHD, YFN, YFS | CBMC code: D3N79 | Rights: World
Author location: Somerset | Illustrator location: Bath

Praise for *Bloom*:

“A riotous, original and timely reminder that sometimes rules are made to be broken” *THE GUARDIAN*

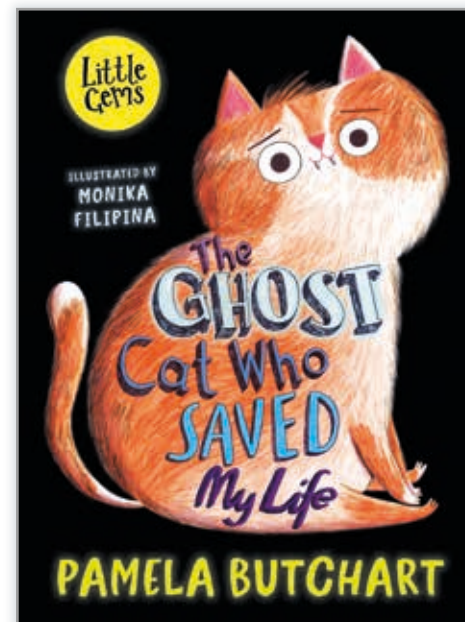
“A cracking debut ... Fresh and fun” *THE TIMES CHILDREN'S BOOK OF THE WEEK*

“Original, surprising and wonderfully surreal” *THE BOOKSELLER*

Nicola Skinner is a critically acclaimed children's author whose debut novel, *Bloom*, became a *Guardian* Book of the Year and was longlisted for the Blue Peter and Branford Boase awards. An exciting and unique voice in children's literature, Nicola's books have been picks for the *Sunday Times* Children's Book of the Week, the *Guardian* Book of the Month and *The Bookseller* Editor's Pick.



© Gareth Ivan Jones



The Ghost Cat Who Saved My Life Pamela Butchart Illustrated by Monika Filipina

When they hear mysterious meowing from the empty flat upstairs, Sav and Liam decide to investigate ... Bestselling author Pamela Butchart makes her Barrington Stoke debut with this gentle comic Little Gem.

MEOW! MEOW! MEOW!

The flat upstairs from Sav is empty, so who or what is making the strange yowling noises she can hear at night?

Could it be a ghost cat?

Sav and her best friend Liam decide to investigate, but nothing is quite what it seems on this very surprising ghost hunt!

Month: Jul | 9781800902152 | £6.99 | Little Gems 5+ | Colour | PB
88pp | 126 x 168mm | BIC code: YFQ, YFP, YFCF, YFB, 5AR | CBMC
code: B3N79 | Rights: World | Author location: Dundee
Illustrator location: Poland

Praise for Pamela Butchart:

“A hilarious and gripping story of friendship” *EVENING STANDARD ON THE SPY WHO LOVED SCHOOL DINNERS*

“As accessible as it is hilarious” *THE INDEPENDENT ON MY HEADTEACHER IS A VAMPIRE RAT*

“A laugh-out-loud riot that will have the whole family giggling” *BOOKTRUST ON THE BROKEN LEG OF DOOM*

Pamela Butchart is a trailblazing author known for her hilarious trademark humour. Her bestselling books include *The Spy Who Loved School Dinners*, which won the Blue Peter Book Award, and *My Head Teacher is a Vampire Rat*, which scooped the Children's Book Award. Two of her other stories were shortlisted for the Lollies. Pamela has also written two brand-new stories for Enid Blyton's Secret Seven series: *The Mystery of the Skull* and *The Mystery of the Theatre Ghost*.





The Piano at the Station

Helen Rutter

Constantly in trouble at school with little encouragement at home, Lacey's future looks bleak until she discovers a love of music in this compelling tale by bestseller Helen Rutter.

Lacey Layton's smart tongue and quick temper are constantly getting her confined to isolation at school. But there's a lot more to Lacey that most people never see, and when she gets sent to lunch-time music lessons to keep her out of trouble, she discovers a love and talent for the piano that opens up a whole new world for her.

Just as she's really beginning to make progress, her music teacher has to leave, which throws Lacey back into turmoil. Will she go back to her self-destructive ways or will music offer her a way to save her from herself?

Month: Jul | Illustrator: Elisa Paganelli | 9781800902183 | £7.99
9+ | Reading age 8 | B&W | PB | 104pp | B format | BIC code: 5AR, YFN, YFB, YFM | CBMC code: D3N79 | Rights: World
Author location: Peak District | Illustrator location: High Wycombe

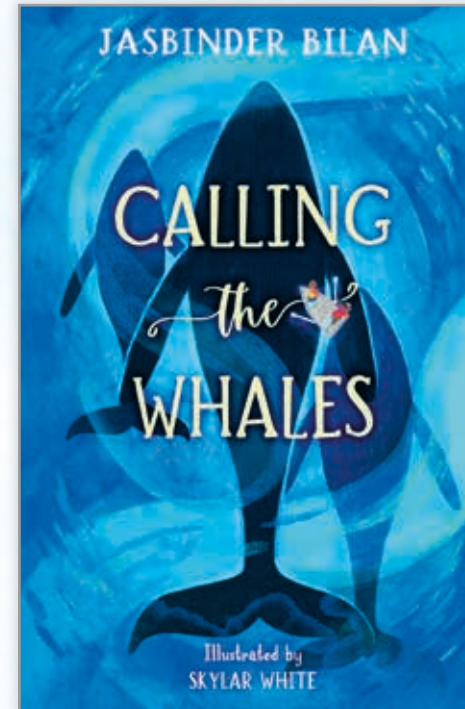
Praise for *The Boy Who Made Everyone Laugh*:

"Very funny, very touching, very truthful – a total delight to read"
JACQUELINE WILSON

"Tugs at your heartstrings and makes you laugh out loud in equal measure" LISA THOMPSON

"As warm and wise as it is funny" SHAPPI KHORSANDI

Helen Rutter is an acclaimed author and comedian. Her debut novel, *The Boy Who Made Everyone Laugh*, was selected as a Waterstones Children's Book of the Month, in addition to being nominated for the Carnegie Medal, shortlisted for the Costa, Blue Peter and Branford Boase Awards and awarded the Teach Primary Book Award.



Calling the Whales

Jasbinder Bilan

When a majestic whale is stranded near their Scottish hometown, Tushi and Satchen risk their lives to save it. A thrilling adventure with a powerful message about protecting oceans at its heart.

After rowing out to an island near their seaside home, Tushi and Satchen discover a whale that has been trapped in a fishing net. Determined to try to free the magnificent creature, they repeatedly dive down into the freezing sea to cut the netting, but eventually, exhausted and with a storm rolling in, they have to admit defeat.

As they head for home to seek help, their boat capsizes in the storm and they're left clinging to it, dangerously adrift. Just as they think all is lost, help arrives from an unexpected source ...

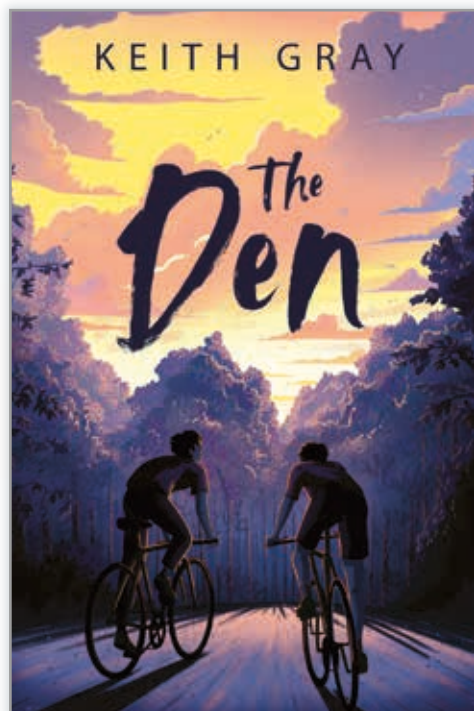
Month: Jul | Illustrator: Skylar White | 9781800901803 | £7.99
9+ | Reading age 8 | B&W | PB | 80pp | B format | BIC code: 5AR, YFP, YNNJ14, YFB, YFMF | CBMC code: D3N79 | Rights: World
Author location: Bath | Illustrator location: New York

Praise for *Calling the Whales*:

"A powerful story to resonate with all those who value the wild world and the need to protect it" GILL LEWIS

Jasbinder Bilan has won a plethora of awards for her stunning children's books, with her debut novel, *Asha and the Spirit Bird*, winning the *Times/Chicken House* Prize and the Costa Children's Book Award, as well as being shortlisted for the Waterstones Children's Book Prize, longlisted for the Jhalak Prize and nominated for the Carnegie Medal. Jasbinder is also an active member of Authors4Oceans, an organisation campaigning to clean our oceans of plastic.





The Den

Keith Gray

The complicated nuances of teenage friendship are captured perfectly in this story of summer adventure and exploration by award-winning author Keith Gray.

Marshall feels the need to escape because things are so tough at home. Rory is just happy it's the first day of the summer holidays. While out on their bikes they stumble across a long-forgotten underground bunker at the edge of the woods.

This is the den, and going down inside will stretch their friendship to its limits. There will be rivalry and betrayal, but can wrecked relationships be saved before the summer has even begun?

Month: Aug | 9781800901919 | £7.99 | 11+ | Reading age 8 | PB
128pp | B format | BIC code: 5AR, YFN, YFM, YFU, YFB | CBMC code:
E3N79 | Rights: World | Author location: Vienna

Praise for *The Climbers*:

“Profound ... A neatly constructed page-turner” *THE TIMES*
CHILDREN'S BOOK OF THE WEEK

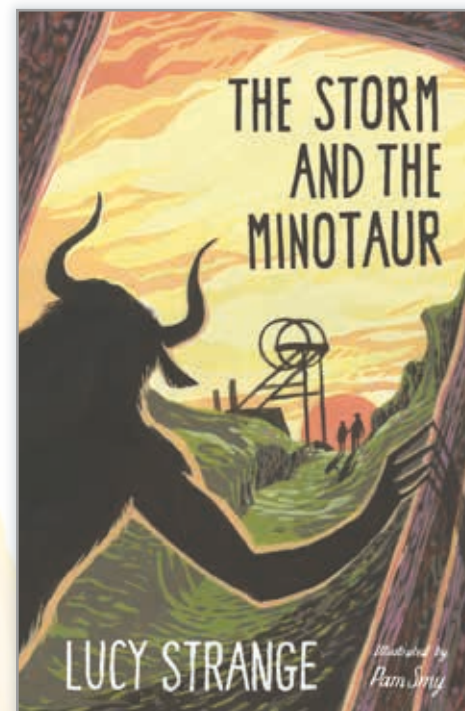
“Spare, brief, limpidly clear ... Distills the thin-skinned, painful
sensitivity of teenage boys” *THE GUARDIAN*

“A moving, surprising story of competition, self-awareness, friendship,
and the more you look, the deeper the damn thing gets” PATRICK NESS

Keith Gray's debut novel *Creepers* was published when he was only 24 and was shortlisted for the *Guardian* Children's Fiction Prize. His subsequent books include the Carnegie and Costa Children's Book Award shortlisted *Ostrich Boys*, which was adapted for the stage, the Scottish Teen Book Award shortlisted *The Last Soldier* and Smarties Silver Medal winner *The Runner*. Keith lives in Vienna, where he co-founded Kulturveiren: Sunday Writers Club.



9781781129999



The Storm and the Minotaur

Lucy Strange

The Industrial Revolution meets gripping Greek mythology in this atmospheric tale from a superstar author-illustrator pairing.

Money is scarce in George's family and so at the age of nine he has to join his father underground, hewing coal in the local mine. It's far from the dreams George had of continuing his education, and it's also a dangerous way to earn a living that has already claimed the life of his dad's older brother.

Not long after he starts work, a summer storm leads to flooding in the mine. Trapped down in the dark, George spots a shadowy figure that seems to be telling George to follow him.

Can a ghost from the past lead him back to safety, or will George meet the same fate as his long-lost uncle?

Month: Aug | Illustrator: Pam Smy | 9781800902473 | £7.99
9+ | Reading age 8 | B&W | PB | 96pp | B format | BIC code: 5AR, YFT,
YFHD, YFM, YFB | CBMC code: D3N79 | Rights: World
Author location: Kent | Illustrator location: Cambridge

Praise for *The Mermaid in the Millpond*:

“A slight but poignant novella ... We need a follow-up” *THE TIMES*
CHILDREN'S BOOK OF THE WEEK

“Evocative and eerie” KAREN McCOMBIE

“[An] evocative slice of historical drama ... transports us from our
world to an almost timeless zone of wonder” *THE BOOKBAG*

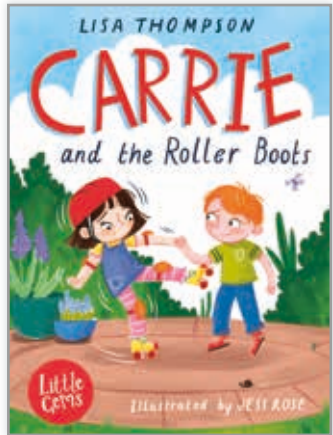
Lucy Strange is the bestselling children's author of titles including *The Secret of Nightingale Wood*, a Waterstones Children's Book of the Month, and *Our Castle by the Sea*, which was nominated for the Carnegie Medal, shortlisted for the Waterstones Children's Book Prize, and was the first Independent Booksellers' Children's Book of the Month.



© Claudine Smet



9781800900493



Carrie and the Roller Boots

Lisa Thompson
Illustrated by Jess Rose

Carrie has an amazing roller-skating routine planned for Friday Fun Time. But there's one big problem: she's never roller skated before ...

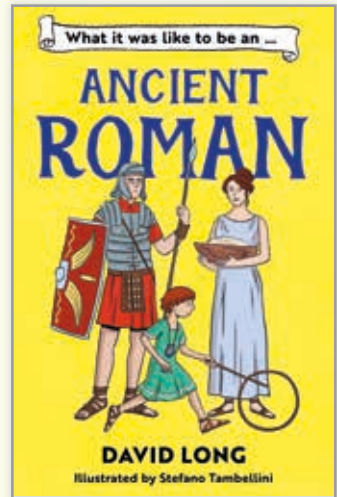
Carrie's best friend Sidney is planning to show off his tap-dancing skills during Friday Fun Time at school and Carrie wants to join in. She plans an amazing routine where Sidney will dance and she will roller skate. But there's one big problem ... Carrie has never roller skated before. Will the performance end in disaster or will their friendship help them to dazzle the audience?

"Warm and enchanting ... [A] superbly crafted tale" LANCASHIRE EVENING POST
ON SIDNEY MAKES A WISH



9781800901438

Month: Aug | 9781800901896 | £6.99 | Little Gems 5+ | Colour
PB | 88pp | 126 x 168mm | BIC code: YXHB, YFQ, YXE, YFM, YFB
CBMC code: B3N79 | Rights: World | Author location: Suffolk
Illustrator location: Yorkshire



What it was like to be an Ancient Roman

David Long

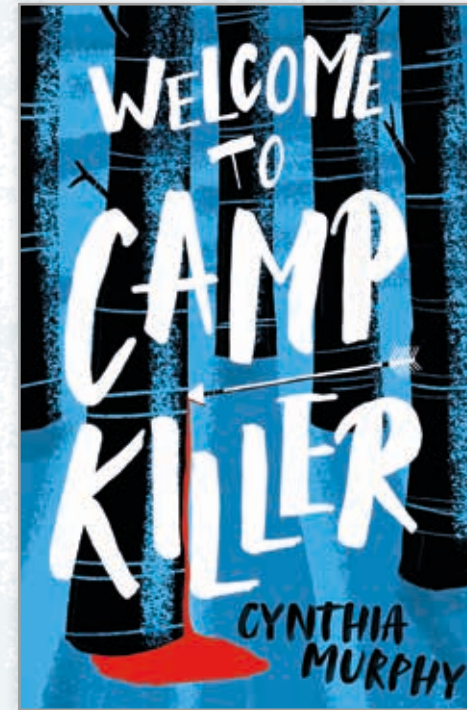
David Long tackles the rise and fall of one of history's most innovative civilisations in this fact-packed second instalment in the What it was like to be ... series.

Who were the Romans and how did this small tribe come to dominate Italy before establishing the largest empire the world has ever seen? Why were the Romans such brilliant innovators? What made their army invincible and their buildings so remarkable? And why, eventually, did the whole empire come crashing down?



9781800902121

Month: Sep | Illustrator: Stefano Tambellini | 9781800902138
£7.99 | 9+ Non-Fiction | Reading age 8 | B&W | PB | 104pp
B format | BIC code: YNH, YNM, YN, YNG | CBMC code: D3N79
Rights: World | Author location: Suffolk | Illustrator location: Italy



Welcome to Camp Killer

Cynthia Murphy

Strange incidents at a residential summer camp lead to fears that something sinister is going on ... A spine-chilling thriller from TikTok sensation Cynthia Murphy.

When an American-style residential camp is set up in the grounds of an English stately home, the teenage instructors are looking forward to a fun summer of activities.

But right from the outset, things don't feel quite right at Camp Miller. There are rumours of a tragedy that took place in the grounds and sightings of a ghostly presence.

Then the incidents begin – a near-drowning out on the lake, a fatal fall from a cliff-face ... Are these tragic accidents or is there something more sinister going on at Camp Killer?

Month: Sep | 9781800902282 | £7.99 | 13+ | Reading age 8 | PB
128pp | B format | BIC code: 5AR, YFCB, YFD, YFB | CBMC code: E3N79
Rights: World | Author location: NW England

Praise for *Last One to Die*:

"Point Horror for a new generation" KATHRYN FOXFIELD

"Chilling, funny and gripping" EMILY BARR

"Entertaining and menacing in equal measure" LOVEREADING4KIDS

"A supernatural terror-fest ... I absolutely devoured it!" KAT ELLIS

TikTok sensation Cynthia Murphy's debut *Last One to Die* has been hailed "Point Horror for a new generation", winning the Redhill Trust Book Award and Lancashire Book of the Year 2022. Her second novel, *Win Lose Kill Die*, was shortlisted for the KSC Book Award and was an Indie Bestseller in 2022.





The Weather Well

Vashti Hardy

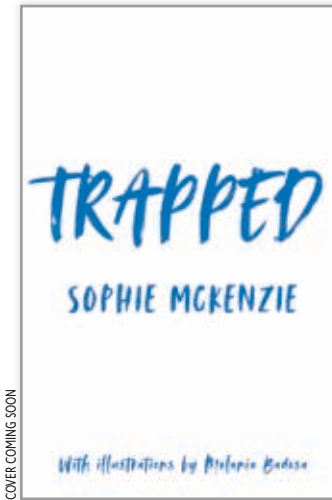
From sweltering sun to a wild snowstorm, wardens Grace and Tom must brave the elements to save the day in the thrilling conclusion to The Griffin Gate series.

It's the height of summer in Moreland, and Grace Griffin and her fellow warden Tom Eely are sweltering in the heat until they answer a strange call for help that comes through on the amazing Griffin map.

After teleporting to Oakwell, they find the town paralysed by a freezing snowstorm. Can Grace and Tom find the cause for the weird weather and restore summer from the snow?



Month: Oct | Illustrator: Natalie Smillie | 9781800901292 | £7.99
9+ | Reading age 8 | B&W | PB | 112pp | B format | BIC code: 5AR,
YFGS, YFH, YFN, YFB | CBMC code: D3N79 | Rights: World
Author location: Sussex | Illustrator location: Cambridge



Trapped

Sophie McKenzie

A dramatic coach crash forces Hailey to re-examine her relationships with both her crush and her arch nemesis in this gripping drama from the queen of teen thrillers.

A singing-club trip ends in disaster when the coach carrying the members spins out of control. Hailey is trapped at the back of the coach with her nemesis Bex, who's taken the lead role in their latest performance, and handsome Kit, on whom Hailey has a massive crush.

As the coach hangs over the edge of a precipice and Kit escapes to find help, Hailey and Bex have to get over their initial judgements about each other and work together if they are to stand a chance of survival.

Will they find a way to safety?

COVER COMING SOON

Month: Oct | Illustrator: Melania Badosa | 9781800902480 | £7.99
11+ | Reading age 7 | B&W | PB | 104pp | B format | BIC code: 5AR,
YXHB, YXT, YFCB, YND, YFB | CBMC code: E3N79 | Rights: World
Author location: London | Illustrator location: Barcelona



Lunar

Chris Bradford

In this gripping outer-space survival story, Luna is separated from her father and left stranded and alone on the moon – and she's running out of time ...

Yesterday, Luna and her father were part of a pioneering mining mission to the Moon, searching for precious minerals. Today, after a devastating meteorite shower, she's alone, with no shelter, few supplies and with time and oxygen quickly running out.

Facing what seem like unsurmountable odds, can Luna call upon her training and resourcefulness to find a way to survive?



Month: Oct | Illustrator: Charlotte Grange | 9781800902299 | £7.99
9+ | Reading age 8 | B&W | PB | 72pp | B format | BIC code: 5AR,
YFG, YNNZ, YFC, YXW | CBMC code: D3N79 | Rights: World
Author location: South Downs | Illustrator location: South East England

DRAFT COVER

A Sudden Storm

Bali Rai

An innocent night out to celebrate a sixteenth birthday turns to tragedy in this powerful story of racial intolerance.

It's Arjan's sixteenth birthday and he's celebrating with his mates – going to see a film and then get a Nando's. He's looking forward to some good banter and wondering what might happen with Jem, who's been looking at him differently these days ...

But the night comes to a dramatic and violent end when Arjan is targeted by a group of racist thugs, who single him out due to the colour of his skin and the turban that he wears, a symbol of his commitment to his faith and culture.

Is the life of a good friend and beloved son really worth so little?



Month: Oct | Cover illustration: Andy Gellenberg
Interior illustrations: David Shephard | 9781800902534 | £7.99
13+ | Reading age: 7 | B&W | PB | 104pp | B format | BIC code:
5AR, YXPB, YXM, YFB, YXN | CBMC code: E3N79 | Rights: World
Author location: Leicester | Illustrator location: Sussex

Barrington Stoke

Praise for Barrington Stoke

“I have always admired the team at Barrington Stoke, their passion for stories and for making stories accessible” SIR MICHAEL MORPURGO

“Outstanding” *THE TIMES*

“You have given my children one of the most special gifts ever: to read!” PARENT

“No other publisher can match this combination of design brilliance, editorial expertise and authorial distinction” ANTHONY MCGOWAN

“Barrington Stoke publishes short books from top-notch authors ... [with] a type so clean you could eat a currant bun off it” *THE TIMES*

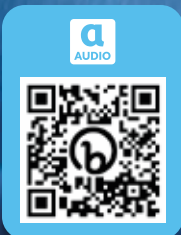
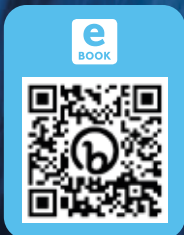
“Well done, Barrington Stoke. Without your books we would not have so many keen and enthusiastic readers” LIBRARIAN

“Since being introduced to your range of books he is reading with enjoyment for the first time in his life” PARENT

“One of the most important publishers ever – have enabled so many readers” TEACHER

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Cover artwork from *Nightjar* © Richard Johnson