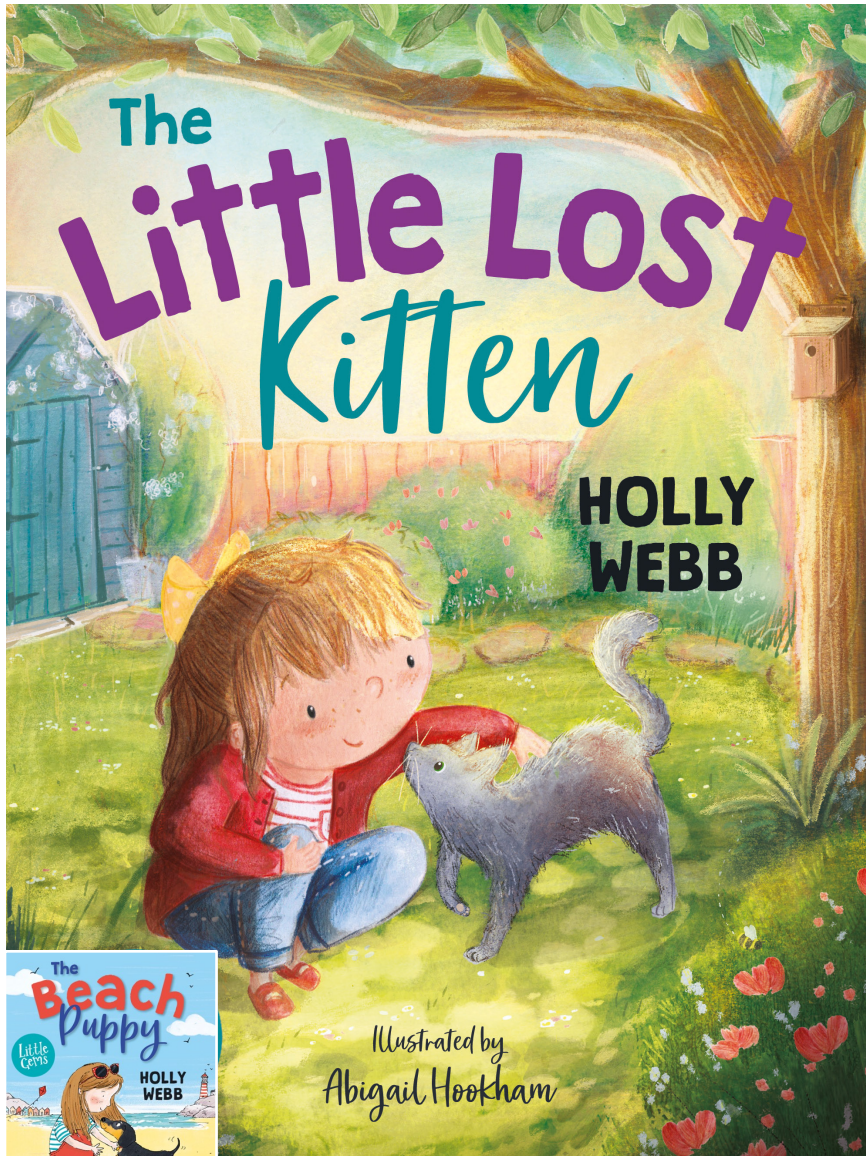


Barrington Stoke

Rights Guide 2023



Every child can be a reader



THE LITTLE LOST KITTEN

Written by Holly Webb, illustrated by Abigail Hookham

9781800901445 | £6.99 | PETS, FAMILY, RESCUE

An adorable stray kitten might be just what Lucy and her dad need in this gentle and heartwarming animal story from worldwide bestseller, Holly Webb.

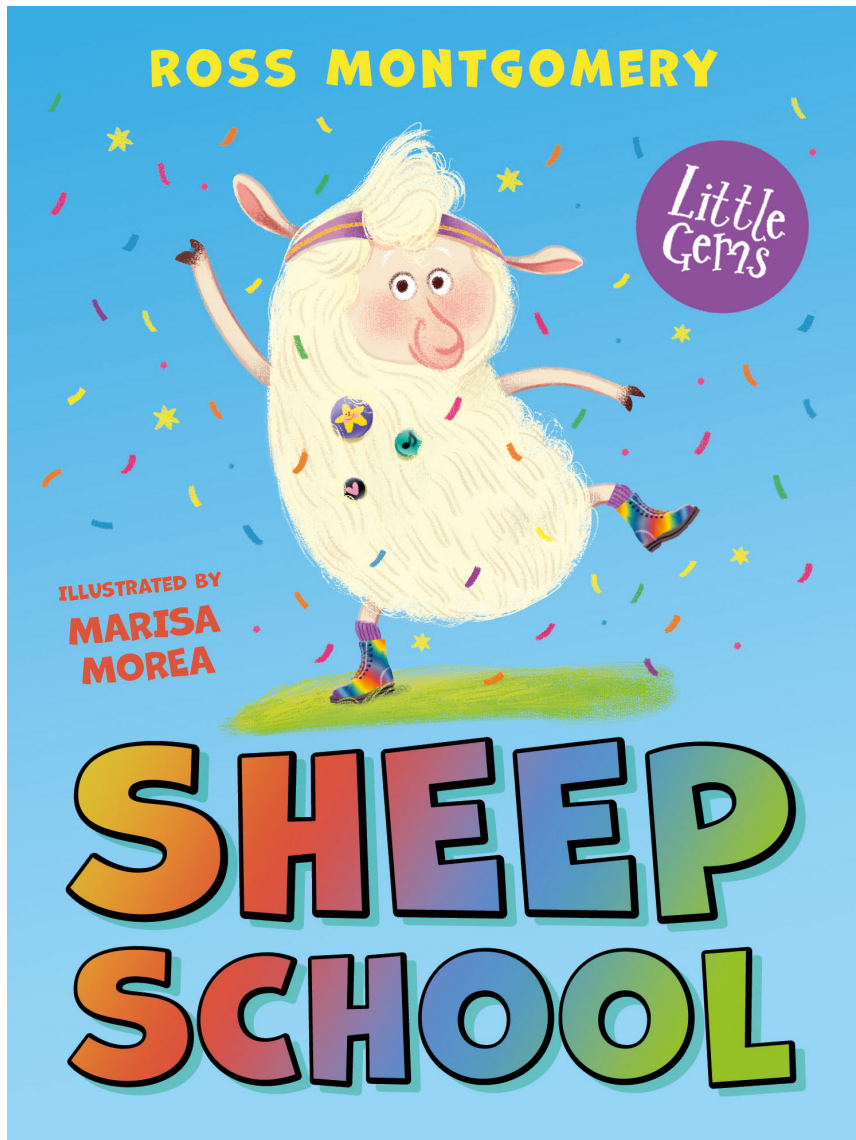
- Holly Webb is an [internationally bestselling author](#) with over 130 published titles and an instantly recognisable, much-loved voice
- Perfect for fans of [animal stories](#) – a gentle tale specially designed for [newly independent readers](#)
- Follows on from the success of Holly's first Little Gem, *The Beach Puppy*: "Truly adorable ... A hands-on winner for all little animal lovers" – *The Lancashire Evening Post*
- Downloadable activities available



Every child can be a reader



5+
FICTION



SHEEP SCHOOL

Written by Ross Montgomery, illustrated by Marisa Morea

9781800901933 | £6.99 | DRAMA, ANIMALS, CUNNING

A thwarted thespian must use his talents to save his flock from a woolly situation in this hilarious gem from bestselling author Ross Montgomery.

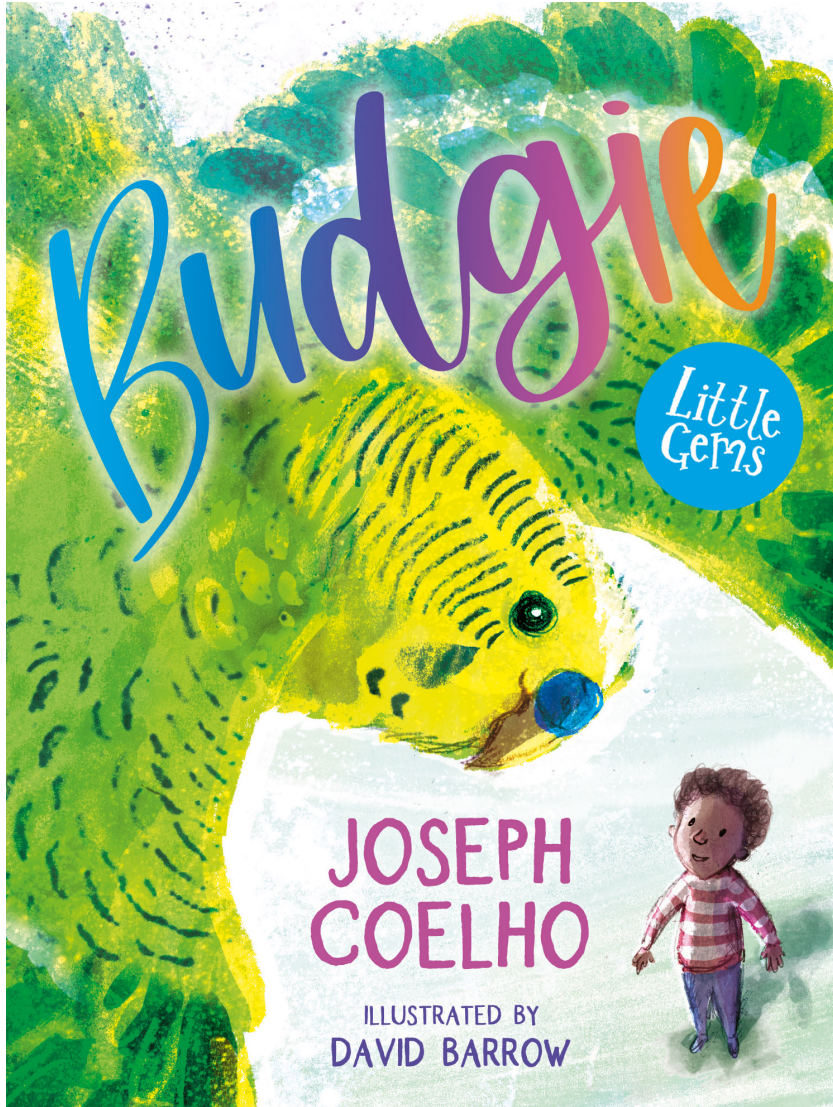
- A former primary school teacher, Ross Montgomery has a natural understanding of what makes child laugh
- He is the hugely successful author titles like Waterstones Book of the Month *The Midnight Guardians* and acclaimed picture book *Ten Delicious Teachers*
- A **hilarious animal tale** about standing out from the crowd and celebrating different talents
- Downloadable activities and author video content



Every child can be a reader



5+
FICTION



BUDGIE

Written by Joseph Coelho, illustrated by David Barrow

9781800901407 | £6.99 | FRIENDSHIP, INTERGENERATIONAL, KINDNESS

A missing budgie inspires an unlikely friendship between a young boy and his elderly neighbour in this touching Little Gem from Children's Laureate Joseph Coelho.

- From acclaimed author and poet [Joseph Coelho](#), who is the current [Waterstones Children's Laureate](#), has been shortlisted for both the Carnegie and the Lollies, and is renowned for his imaginative and lyrical writing
- A heartwarming and empathetic tale about [intergenerational friendship](#)
- Perfect for facilitating discussion around [key empathy-building themes](#) like loss and pre-judgement, for a broad range of ages
- Joseph is hugely popular, has an [excellent events presence](#)
- Beautiful illustrations from [award-winning artist David Barrow](#)



Every child can be a reader



5+
FICTION



JOSEPH COELHO

- Waterstones Children's Laureate 2022–2024
- An award-winning author, children's author and playwright with strong links across the trade

“A fresh new voice” – [CLPE Poetry Award](#)

“The joy of this collection is the author's ability to paint pictures with words” – [Poetry Zone](#)



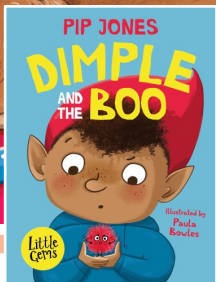
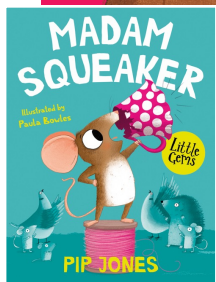
Every child can be a reader



5+
FICTION

PIP JONES

PEGGY LITTLE-LEGS

Little
GemsIllustrated by
Paula Bowles

PEGGY LITTLE-LEGS

Written by Pip Jones, illustrated by Paula Bowles

9781800902145 | £6.99 | PUPPIES, DIFFERENCES, RESCUE

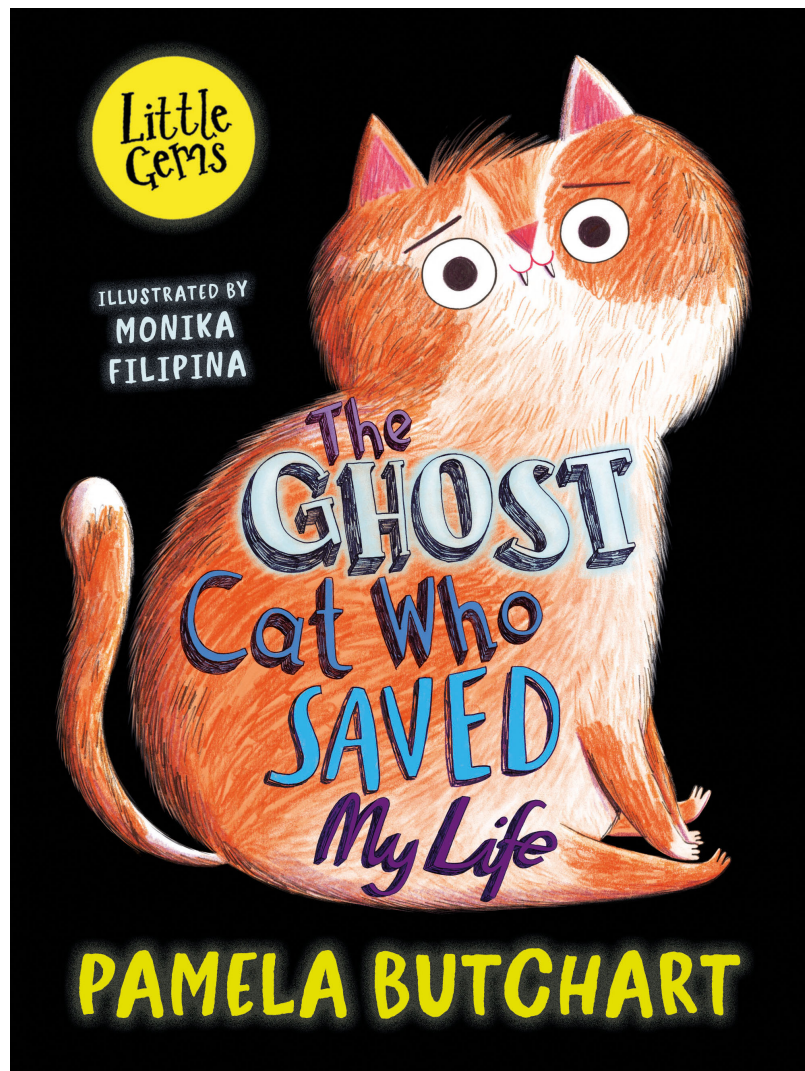
A little sausage dog discovers that she has strengths of her very own in this adorable gem from award-winning author Pip Jones, perfect for dog lovers.

- Packed with **puppies of every shape and size** – ideal for animal lovers, and especially fans of **sausage dogs**!
- A heartwarming story that encourages young readers to find and value their own strengths and talents
- From the bestselling author of **Squishy McFluff** (winner of the Greenhouse Funny Prize) and **Izzy Gizmo**
- Charming illustrations from Paula Bowles bring Peggy and her canine classmates to life
- Reunites the author-illustrator team behind *Madam Squeaker* and *Dimple and the Boo*, creating a **gorgeous commercial package**

Little
Gems

Every child can be a reader


5+
FICTION



THE GHOST CAT WHO SAVED MY LIFE

Written by Pamela Butchart, illustrated by Monika Filipina

9781800902152 | £6.99 | FUNNY, PETS, MYSTERY

Mysterious meowing from the empty flat upstairs sets Liam and Sav on a quest to find the ghost cat in this charming Little Gem from award-winning author Pamela Butchart.

- Former teacher Pamela Butchart is the fantastically successful author of over thirty children's books, including the bestselling *Pugly*, *Wigglesbottom Primary* and *Baby Alien* series
- Sparkles with Pamela's **trademark humour** in a story pitched perfectly for this age range
- Excellently captures the **childhood experience of longing for a family pet**, and will be especially appreciated by **cat lovers**
- Filled with **adorable illustrations** from the award-winning Monika Filipina



Every child can be a reader

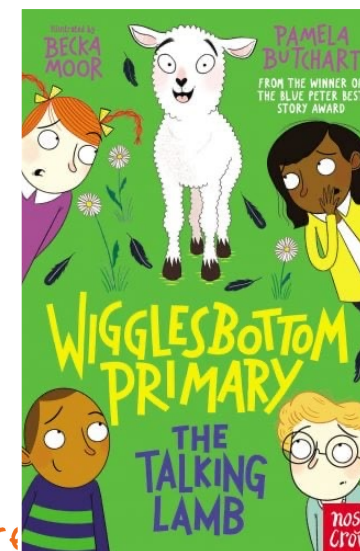
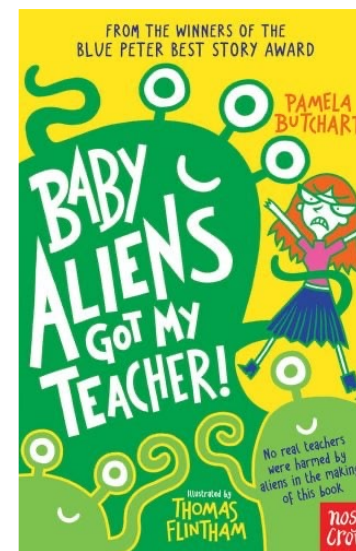
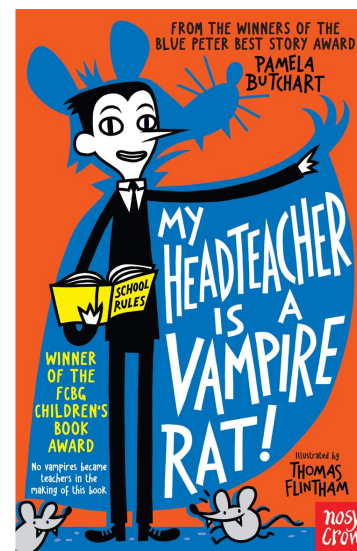


5+
FICTION



PAMELA BUTCHART

- A hugely successful, bestselling author who won the Blue Peter Best Story Award for *The Spy Who Loved School Dinners* and The Children's Book Award for *My Head Teacher is a Vampire Rat*
- 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*
- Based in Dundee



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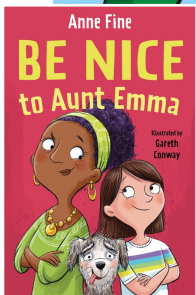
7+
FICTION

Every child can be a reader

Anne Fine

Next to ALICE

Illustrated by
Gareth Conway



NEXT TO ALICE

Written by Anne Fine, illustrated by Gareth Conway

9781800901742 | £7.99 | READING AGE: 7 | SCHOOL, EFFORT, REWARD

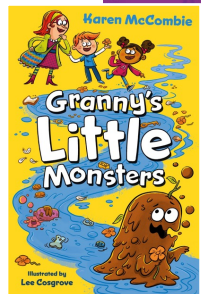
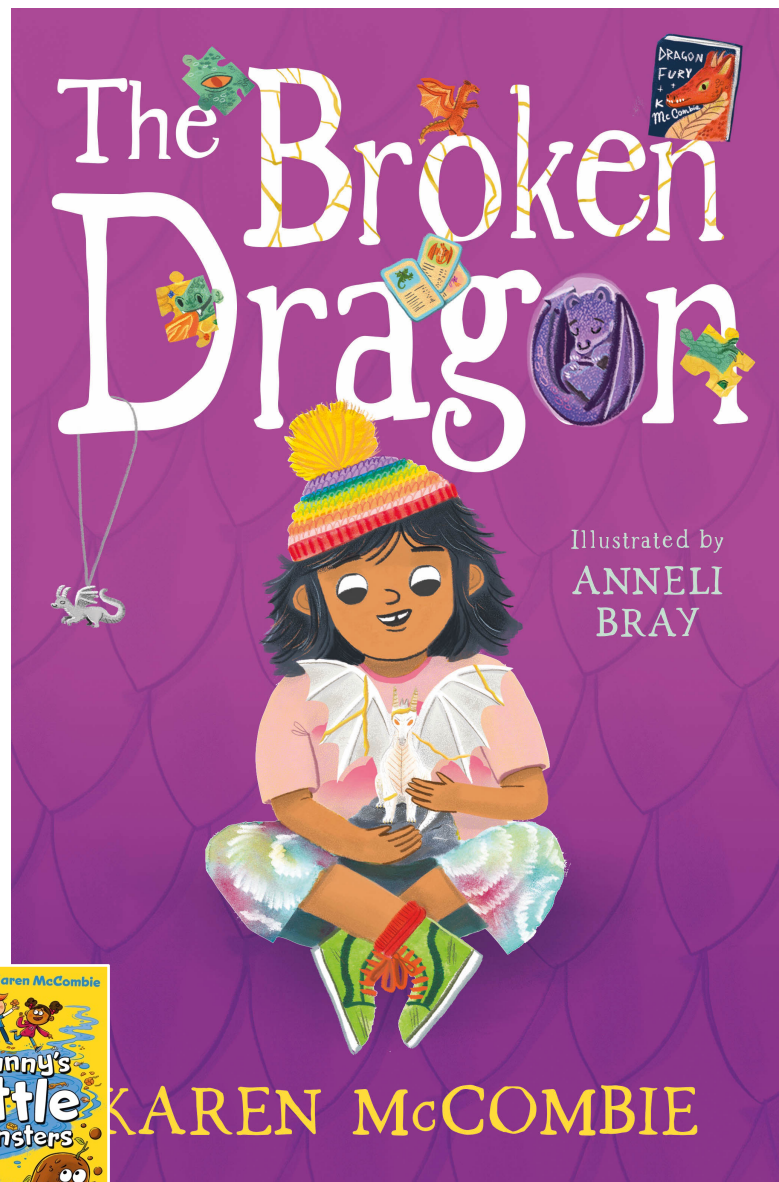
A change in classroom seating arrangements challenges old habits and leads to a new friendship in this funny school story from multi-award-winning author Anne Fine.

- Anne is a former UK Children's Laureate and two-time Carnegie winner who has written many children's classics and has an excellent profile across the trade, library and educational markets
- Sparkling with **Anne's trademark wit** – a gentle and funny story with a positive message about classroom dynamics and friendships
- “This book had me in stitches, I laughed so much ... Perfect for all young readers and will have them smiling inside and out” – Emma Suffield, Librarian review of *Be Nice to Aunt Emma*
- **Perfectly pitched for emerging and reluctant readers**

Every child can be a reader



7+
FICTION



THE BROKEN DRAGON

Written by Karen McCombie, illustrated by Anneli Bray

9781800901865 | £7.99 | READING AGE: 7 | FRIENDSHIP, REPAIRS, TREASURE

A smashed china dragon helps Tyra to bond with her new classmates in this touching tale from bestselling author Karen McCombie.

- Karen McCombie is a bestselling author for children who remains a strong brand in bookshops and schools – her recent titles include *Little Bird Flies*, which was a *Sunday Times* Book of the Week
- A heartwarming and relatable story about fitting in and starting out at a new school
- Inspired by *kintsugi* – the ancient Japanese art of restoring broken ceramic pottery with gold
- Helps children to understand and welcome imperfection in their lives

Every child can be a reader



7+
FICTION



MEG AND MERLIN – RUNNING AWAY

Written by Tanya Landman, illustrated by Sònia Albert

9781800901735 | £7.99 | READING AGE: 7 | HORSES, PERIL, TRUST

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

- The third book in the delightful *Meg and Merlin* series by Carnegie Medal winner and horse enthusiast Tanya Landman
- Celebrates the bond between *horse and rider* and the thrill of riding
- Inclusive stories: Tanya was keen to write about young horse lovers who are not from a privileged background
- Illustrator Sònia Albert returns, providing an eye-catching cover and interior illustrations that form a beautiful package alongside the rest of the series

Every child can be a reader



7+
FICTION



“This book may be short
but its impact is
astounding”
EMMA SUFFIELD,
LIBRARIAN

“An absolute delight from
start to finish”
NETGALLEY REVIEWER

“A charming story with a
lot of heart”
NETGALLEY REVIEWER

Every child can be a reader



7+
FICTION

OPERATION BANANA

Written by Tony Bradman, illustrated by Tania Rex

9781800901872 | £7.99 | READING AGE: 7 | WW2, FAMILY, SHORTAGES

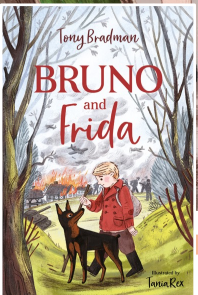
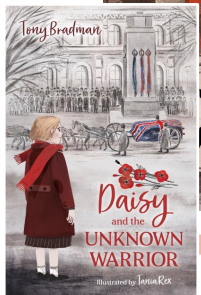
As World War II drags on, Susan sets out on a mission to cheer up her mum in this heartwarming wartime tale from award-winning historical fiction writer Tony Bradman.

- Tony is a **highly acclaimed** and prolific writer for children and his historical fiction is especially popular in schools and libraries
- Focuses on the reality of life for **Londoners** in the midst of WW2, exploring how **food shortages** and **separation from loved ones** affected the day-to-day experiences of ordinary families at home
- Excellent choice for World War studies in **schools**
- “Tony Bradman casts light among the forgotten shadows of history to show us something important about our past – but also about our present” – Tom Palmer on *Bruno and Frida*

Every child can be a reader



7+
FICTION



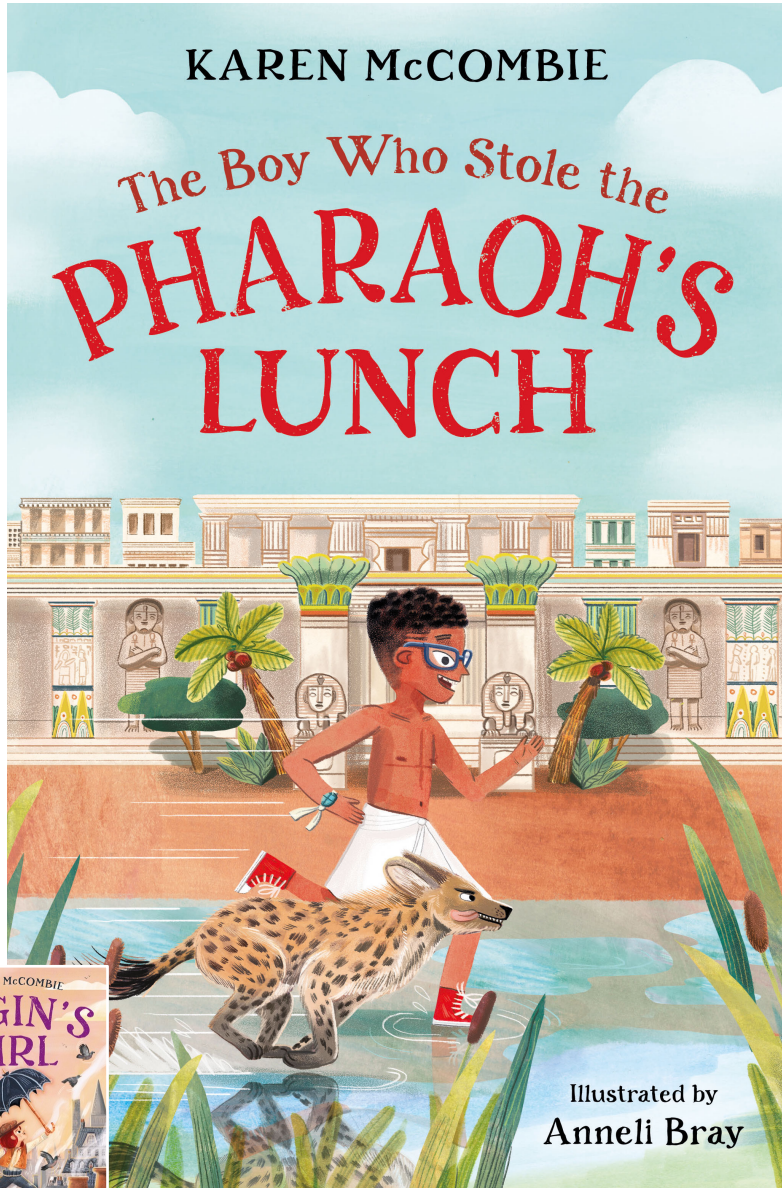
THE BOY WHO STOLE THE PHARAOH'S LUNCH

Written by Karen McCombie, illustrated by Anneli Bray

9781800902015 | £7.99 | READING AGE: 8 | EGYPT, TIME-TRAVEL, ADVENTURE

Seth learns some important life lessons when he's whisked back in time to Ancient Egypt in this absorbing time-travel adventure from bestselling author Karen McCombie.

- Karen McCombie is a much-loved children's writer who remains a **strong brand in bookshops**
- Builds on Karen's previous success with **historical fiction titles**, including the Carnegie-nominated *Little Bird Flies* and Barrington Stoke novellas *Fagin's Girl* and *The Girl With Her Head in the Clouds*
- Highly requested by teachers – fills a gap in the market for **fiction stories about Ancient Egypt**, with strong curriculum links



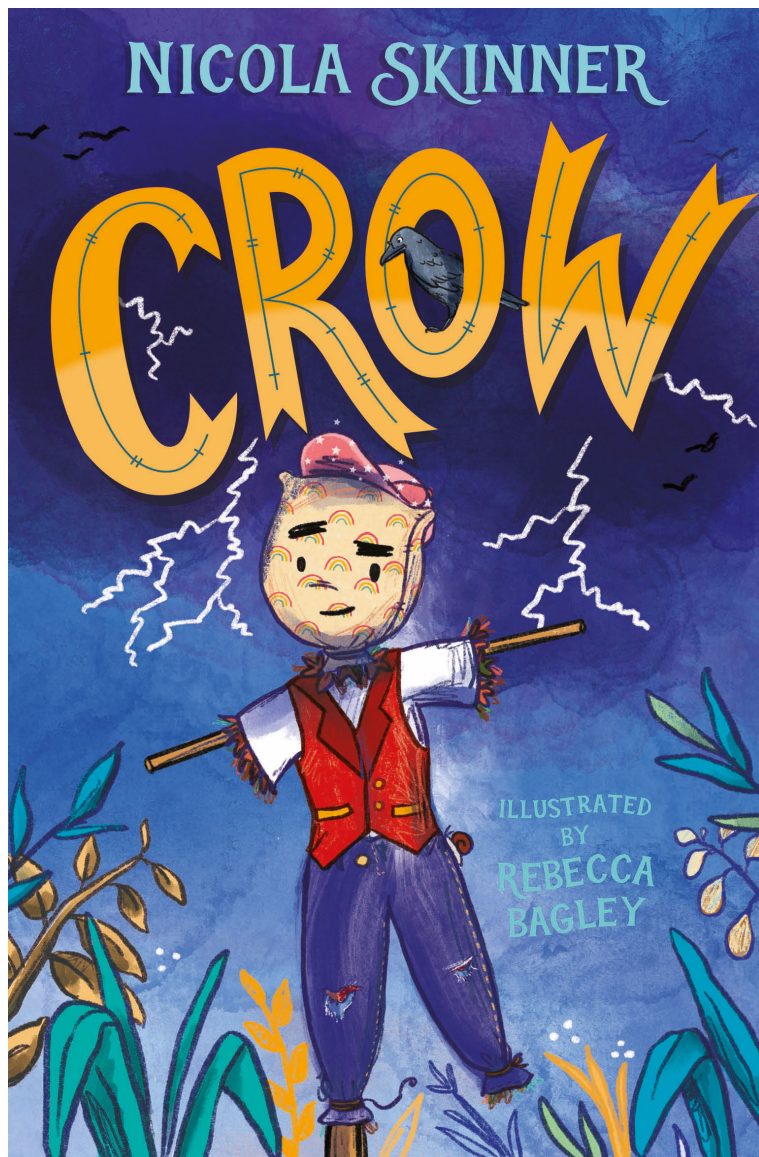
Illustrated by
Anneli Bray

Every child can be a reader



7+
FICTION





CROW

Written by Nicola Skinner, illustrated by Rebecca Bagley

9781800902190 | £7.99 | READING AGE: 7 | NEW SCHOOL, CREATIVITY, CONFLICT

New girl Hattie builds a scarecrow to protect her den at school, but she soon realises that she can't control him ... A darkly comic tale from acclaimed author Nicola Skinner.

- Nicola Skinner is a **unique voice** in children's literature – she first rocketed to success with her **dynamic debut** novel *Bloom*, which went on to become a *Guardian Book of the Year* and was longlisted for the **Blue Peter** and **Branford Boase Awards**
- Cleverly explores children's **anxieties surrounding friendships and starting at a new school** in a fantastical, off-the-wall storytelling style that is sure to thrill young readers
- Lively illustrations from Rebecca Bagley perfectly capture Nicola's **surreal sense of humour**

Every child can be a reader



7+
FICTION

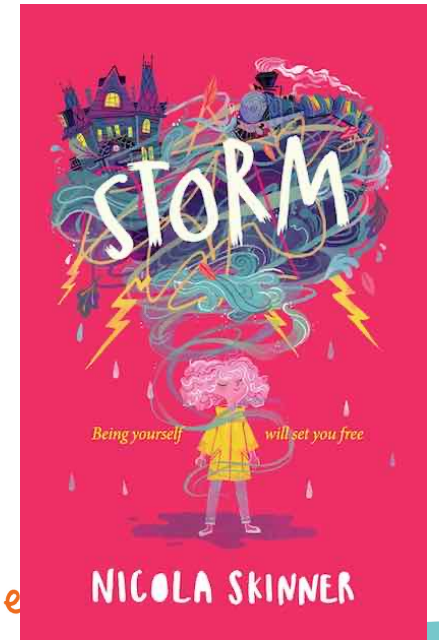


NICOLA SKINNER

- Nicola Skinner's debut work of children's fiction, *Bloom*, was a *Guardian Book of the Year* and longlisted for the *Blue Peter* and *Branford Boase Awards*. Her second novel *Storm* was nominated for the *Carnegie Medal*
- Nicola's unique voice has led to her books being selected as *The Times Children's Book of the Week*, and the *Guardian*, *Daily Mail* and *Bookseller* picks for the month

"A riotous, original and timely reminder that sometimes rules are made to be broken"

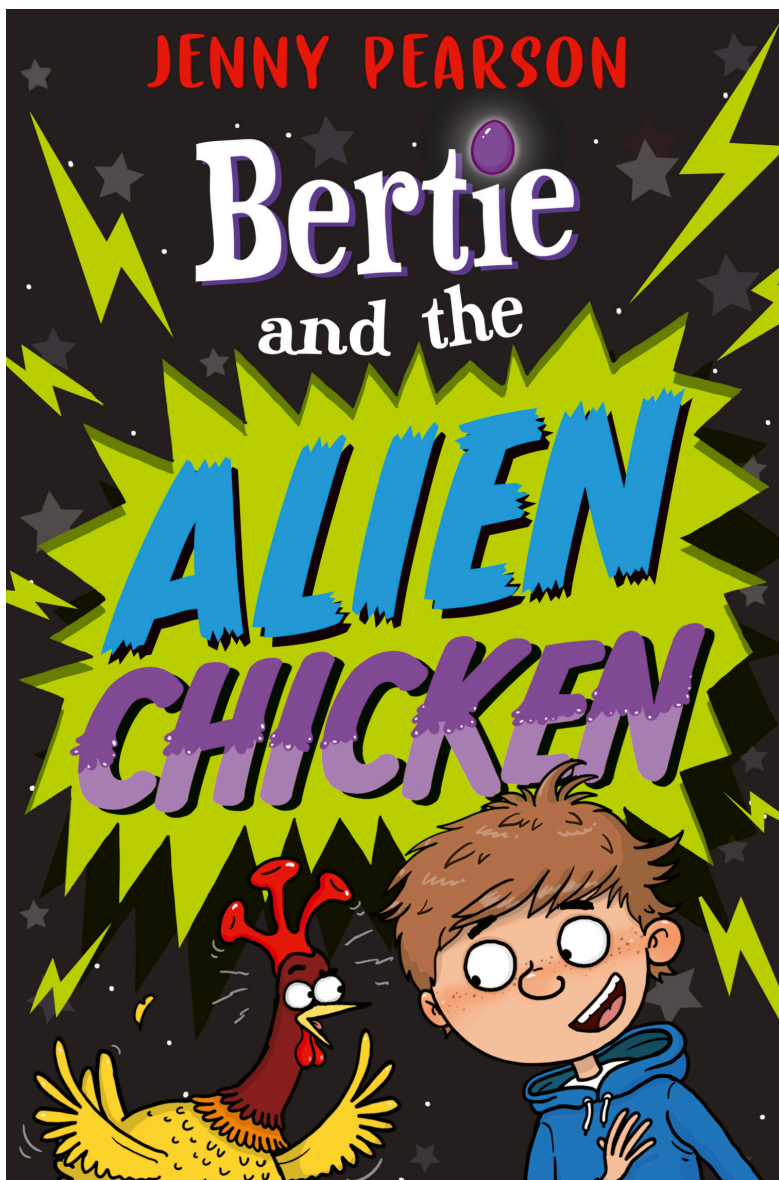
GUARDIAN BOOKS OF THE
YEAR 2019 – *BLOOM*



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9+
FICTION

Every child can be a reader



BERTIE AND THE ALIEN CHICKEN

Written by Jenny Pearson, illustrated by Aleksei Biskoff

9781800901810 | £7.99 | READING AGE: 8 | ALIENS, FRIENDSHIP, FUNNY

An alien chicken bent on exterminating Earth is disarmed by the power of friendship in this hilarious and heartfelt tale from Lollie-award-winning author Jenny Pearson.

- Primary school teacher, Jenny Pearson is the award-winning author of *The Super-Miraculous Journey of Freddie Yates*, which won a Lollie (9–13) and was shortlisted for the Waterstones, Costa and Branford Boase book awards
- **Fresh and authentic voice** – a hugely exciting addition to the list from a bestselling and hugely popular writer
- **Humour** is hugely popular with this age range and a great way to encourage reading for pleasure
- Author video, POS, social media assets

Every child can be a reader



9+
FICTION



JENNY PEARSON

- Based in [Durham](#)
- An experienced [primary school teacher](#) with an excellent events presence both in schools and across the trade



[THE SUPER MIRACULOUS JOURNEY OF FREDDIE YATES](#)

- A Waterstones Book of the Month, Times Book of the Year and Sunday Times Book of the Week
- Shortlisted for the Costa Children's Book of the Year, the Waterstones Children's Book Prize, the Branford Boase, the UKLA and the Lollies



“Heartwarming and genuinely funny” – [The Times](#)

“The must-read of the summer” – [The Sunday Express](#)

“Has all the fizz of Jeremy Strong” – [The Observer](#)

Every child can be a reader



9+
FICTION



THE TERROR OF HILLTOP HOUSE

Written by Dan Smith, illustrated by Chris King

9781800901308 | £7.99 | READING AGE: 8 | HORROR, SCI-FI, EXPERIMENT

A ground-breaking experiment at a new research farm quickly grows out of control in this modern take on Day of the Triffids from master of creepy sci-fi Dan Smith.

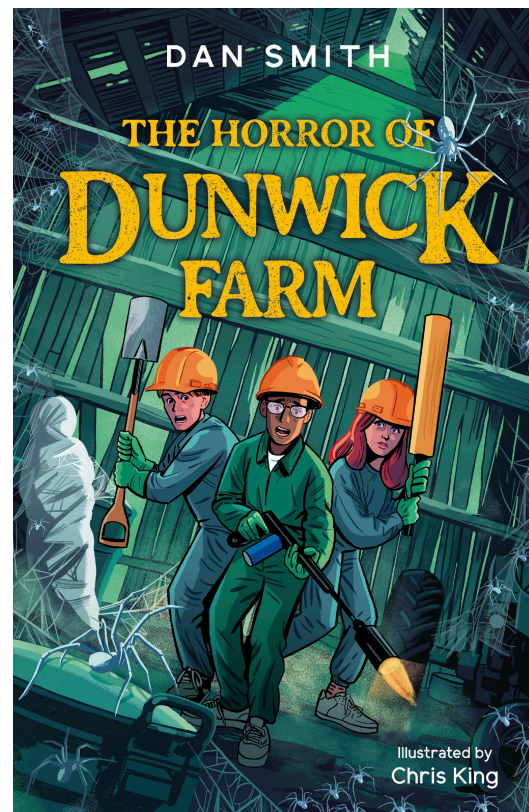
- The fourth chilling installment in the hugely popular [Crooked Oak](#) series, reuniting the mystery-solving gang for their [creepiest case yet](#)
- A brilliantly inventive take on one of literature's most iconic sci-fi stories
- Perfect for fans of *Doctor Who*, *Stranger Things* and Jennifer Killick's *Dread Wood/Crater Lake* books
- The series is hugely popular with a broad range of readers
- Publication supported by series [POS](#), [engaging video content](#) and [downloadable activities](#)

Every child can be a reader



9+
FICTION

SERIES POSTERS AND BOOKMARKS AVAILABLE FOR HALLOWEEN

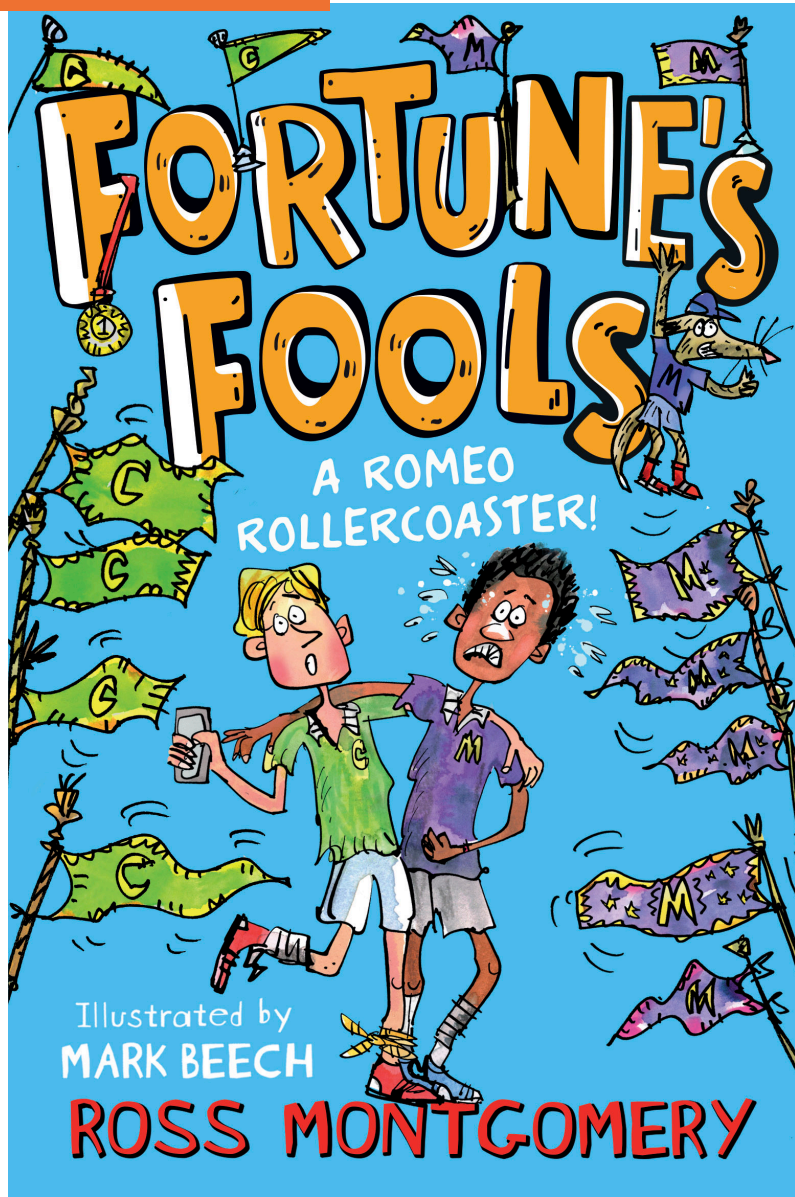


“Feels like a magnificent episode of The Twilight Zone or Doctor Who – one that stays with you for being so eerily strange it gives you goosebumps” – CHRIS SOUL ON THE INVASION OF CROOKED OAK

Every child can be a reader



9+
FICTION



FORTUNE'S FOOLS: A ROMEO ROLLERCOASTER!

Written by Ross Montgomery, illustrated by Mark Beech

9781800901469 | £7.99 | READING AGE: 8 | RIVALRY, SPORTS, SHAKESPEARE

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

- A witty retelling that provides [an accessible introduction](#) to the story of Romeo and Juliet, allowing [a younger readership](#) to enjoy one of the bard's most iconic plays
- Ross is a hugely popular author, with his recent title *The Midnight Guardians* becoming a much-loved Waterstones Book of the Month
- Publication to be supported by brilliant [video content](#) from the author, an engaging downloadable [activity pack](#) and series tie-in [POS](#)

Every child can be a reader



9+
FICTION

**FULL SERIES
TIE-IN
BOOKMARKS
AVAILABLE NOW**



“Will have youngsters giggling all the way to the final curtain”

— **LANCASHIRE EVENING POST**

Every child can be a reader



9+
FICTION



DRAGONRACERS

Written by Peter Bunzl, illustrated by Lia Visirin

9781800901780 | £7.99 | READING AGE: 8 | AVIATION, MYTHICAL, HISTORY

A mysterious dragon egg could mean a ticket to the skies for aspiring aeronauts Kitty and Harris in this page-turning adventure from award-winning author Peter Bunzl.

- Inspired by [a momentous real-life event](#), the 1910 London–Manchester air race)
- An instant hit for both fans of historical and fantasy fiction
- Peter Bunzl's previous Barrington Stoke novels have established an [enthusiastic audience for his shorter fiction](#), with *Featherlight* selling nearly 8k copies since publication and *The Clockwork Queen* over 4k since June
- Publication supported by lead title marketing, as well as printed POS for Peter's first two books

Every child can be a reader



9+
FICTION

"An absolute joy to read"

SOPHIE ANDERSON

"A beautiful story of bravery and hope ... Gorgeous!"

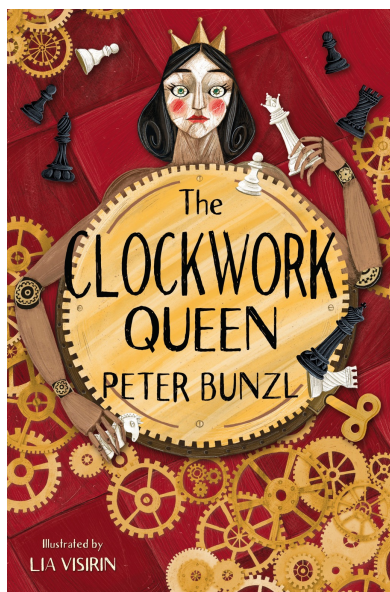
LISA THOMPSON

"Absolutely loved this gem of a story"

ANDY SHEPHERD

"A stunning and atmospheric tale from a master storyteller"

THE LANCASHIRE EVENING POST



"Imaginative, captivating and heart-warming"

BOOKS FOR TOPICS

"An absolute cracker ... A superb piece of historical fiction writing"

A WORD ABOUT BOOKS

"A steam-punk, Russian-based love letter to chess. Not one you see on the shelves every day"

TEACHER



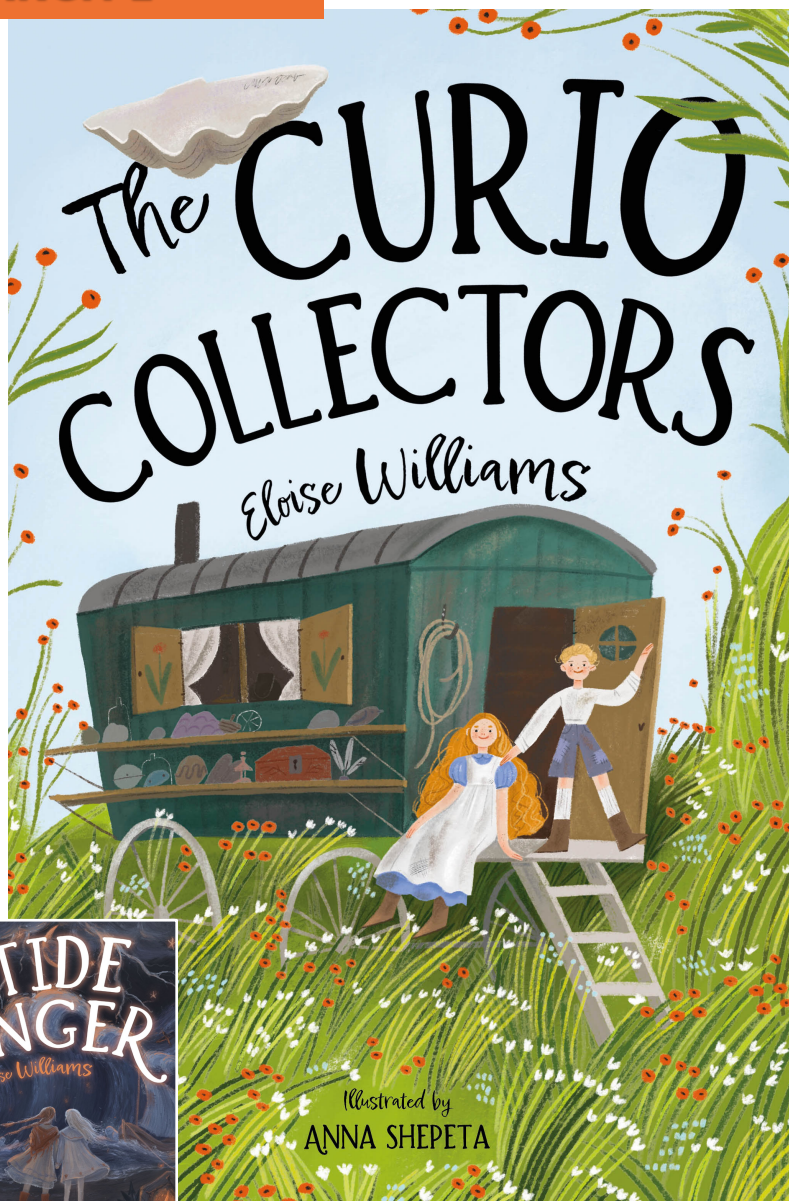
BOOKMARK
AVAILABLE NOW



Every child can be a reader



9+
FICTION



THE CURIO COLLECTORS

Written by Eloise Williams, illustrated by Anna Shepeta

9781800902008 | £7.99 | READING AGE: 8 | SECRETS, QUEST, SCRIMSHAW

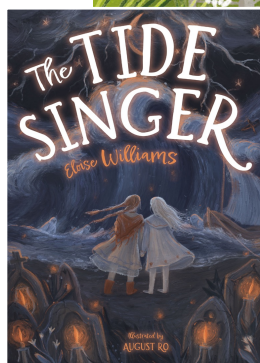
The discovery of a long-lost carving sparks new friendships and unmasks a villainous plot in this captivating adventure from former Children's Laureate Wales Eloise Williams.

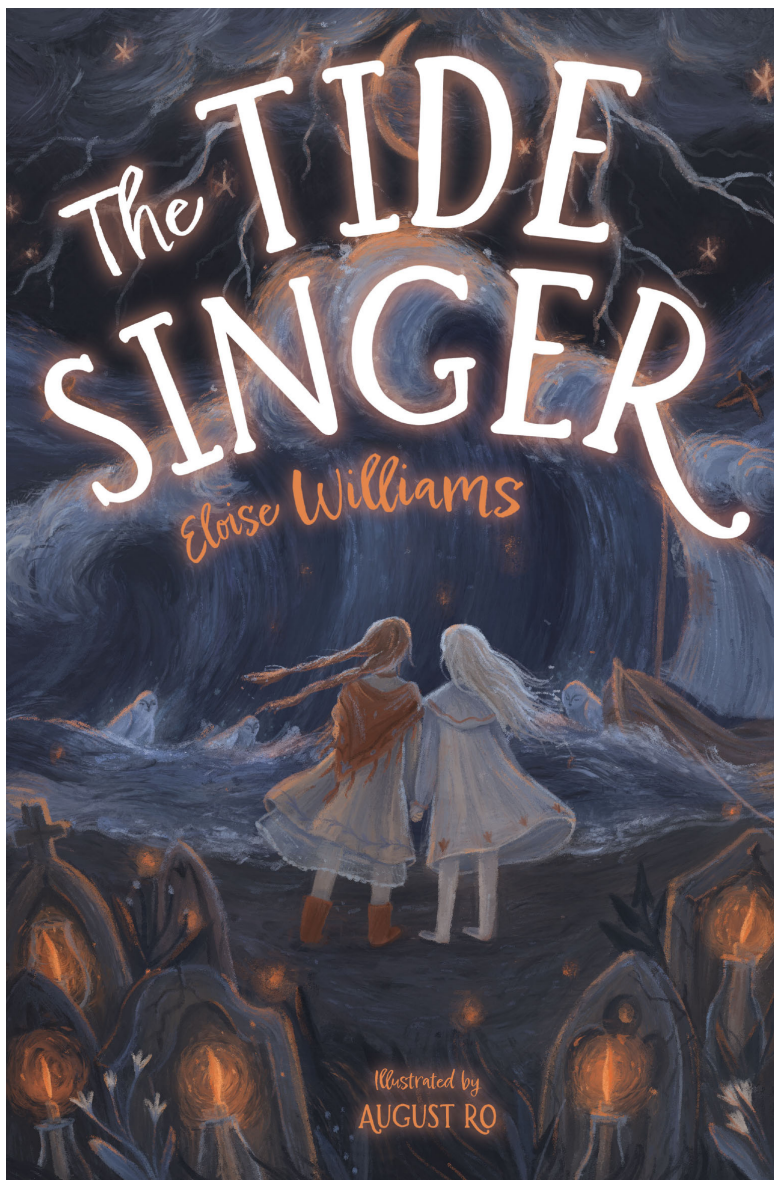
- A **riveting historical adventure** for a range of ages, combining the touching family story at its heart with a **high-stakes mystery** and a dastardly scheme
- Full of Eloise Williams' exceptional lyrical prose and immersive settings
- Life on the road and an unconventional family set-up makes for an interesting narrative background
- Illustrations by **rising star** Anna Shepeta

Every child can be a reader



9+
FICTION





"LOVED this stunning tale ... The writing is beautiful and haunting, and the story immediately sweeps us away, this time into the dark and mysterious world of the tide singers"

JENNIFER KILLICK

"Has the distinct feel of a classic"

JULIA THUM, REVIEWER

"A stunning intertwining of Welsh folklore and gripping adventure"

SCOPE FOR THE IMAGINATION

"Williams' character and world building are extraordinary in such a short book"

ROACHIE'S REVIEWS

"Clever, unique ... I've never read anything quite like this"

A PAPER GIRL A PAPER TOWN

"An enticing brew of magic, loyalty and fighting for what's right"

THE SCHOOL READING LIST

"Enthralling ... Myth meets historical fiction in this haunting drama"

JAMES HADDELL

Every child can be a reader



9+
FICTION



NIGHTJAR

Written by Katya Balen, illustrated by Richard Johnson

9781800901667 | £7.99 | READING AGE: 8 | NATURE, FAMILY, HEALING

The 2022 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.

- Katya Balen is one of the most exciting voices in children's fiction and won the [2022 Carnegie Medal](#) with her extraordinary second novel, *October, October* (Bloomsbury)
- *Nightjar* is a stunning [companion](#) to Katya's acclaimed first book for Barrington Stoke, *Birdsong* – described as “a perfect novella”
- A beautiful exploration of the complex relationship between a young boy and his distant father – touching on [different types of families](#), [conflicting beliefs](#), and the [healing power of nature](#)

Every child can be a reader



9+
FICTION



PRAISE FOR BIRDSONG

“This year’s must-read”
— MELISSA JORDAN

“97 pages of perfection”
— TEACHER

“A book to own, to
share and sing in life’s
silent places”
— ACADEMIC

“Read like poetry ... A
beautiful story”
— MAT TOBIN

“Word perfect — note
perfect”
— PHIL EARLE

“A sheer masterclass”
— GREAT BRITISH
BOOKWORM

“Birdsong needs to be
distinguished in some
way from those other
books, riffing on similar
themes. It’s utterly
singular and a triumph”
— JUST IMAGINE

“Beautiful”
— JACKIE MORRIS

“Exquisite”
— EDSPIRE

“A perfectly structured
novella”
— WATERSTONES

“One of my favourite
reads so far this year —
it’s touched a little bit
of my soul”
— MERRY BOOKWORM

Every child can be a reader



9+
FICTION



JODIE

Written by Hilary McKay, illustrated by Keith Robinson

9781800902206 | £7.99 | READING AGE: 8 | GHOSTS, ISOLATION, SCHOOL TRIP

Trapped and alone on the salt marshes, Jodie is troubled by a haunting presence in this eerily atmospheric ghost story from multi-award-winning author Hilary McKay.

- Hilary McKay is a widely beloved and decorated children's author –has written over 100 novels and won the [Guardian Children's Fiction Prize](#) for her debut *The Exiles*, the [Whitbread Award](#) for *Saffy's Angel* and the [Costa Children's Book Award](#) for *The Skylarks' War*
- A genuinely chilling, cleverly crafted [ghost story](#)
- Perfectly pitched for the [middle grade audience](#)
- Filled with [atmospheric artwork](#) from top illustrator Keith Robinson

Every child can be a reader



9+
FICTION



THE SUITCASE (S)WITCH

Written by Aisha Bushby, illustrated by Coralie Muce

MAY 4TH | 9781800901766 | £7.99 | READING AGE: 8 | MAGIC, MISHAPS, MISUNDERSTANDING

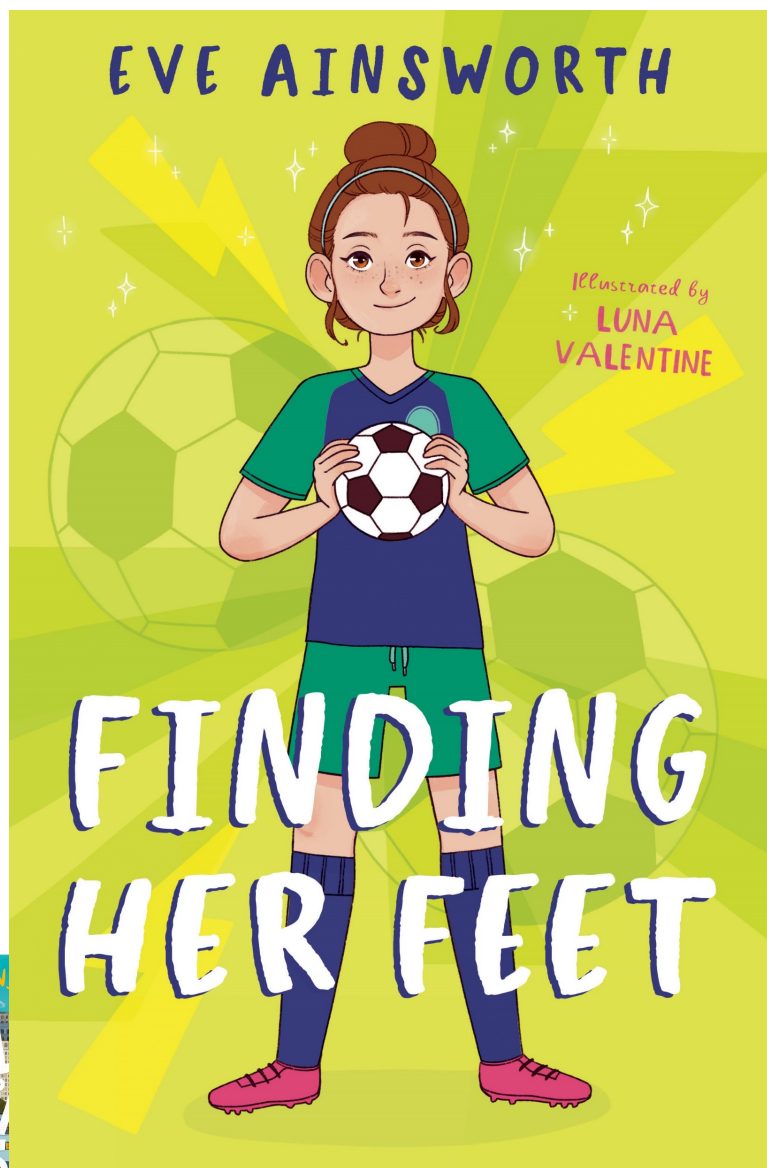
An accidental luggage swap with a witch conjures a series of mishaps for Zahra in this charming magical adventure from acclaimed children's author Aisha Bushby.

- Aisha Bushby is an award-winning writer for children and a hugely exciting [addition to the Barrington Stoke list](#)
- Her debut novel *A Pocketful of Stars* was longlisted for the Carnegie and shortlisted for the Branford Boase Award
- A [fun and magical](#) story with an enchanting, [Studio Ghibli-esque](#) twist
- [Fantasy fiction](#) is perennially popular with this age range and a great hook for [reluctant readers](#)

Every child can be a reader



9+
FICTION



FINDING HER FEET

Written by Eve Ainsworth, illustrated by Luna Valentine

JUNE 1ST | 9781800902022 | £7.99 | READING AGE: 8 | ANXIETY, FOOTBALL, MISUNDERSTANDING

A shy but talented footballer navigates challenging friendships and anxiety at school in this touching tale from acclaimed author Eve Ainsworth.

- Publishing to tie in with the [FIFA Women's World Cup](#) in 2023 and casts an important spotlight on the positive impact of [girls' football](#), following on from the excitement of the 2022 European Championships
- A gentle look at [mental health](#) and managing anxiety in a [school setting](#)
- Eve is passionate [working-class advocate](#) renowned for her realistic and sensitive explorations of contemporary social issues
- Passionate [football-focused fanbase](#) from Eve's acclaimed *Dick, Kerr Girls* series and previous Barrington Stoke title *All to Play For*, which was highlighted by *The Guardian*

Every child can be a reader



9+
FICTION

THE DAY THE HICCUPS TOOK OVER

Written by Jo Simmons, illustrated by Lee Cosgrove

JUNE 1ST | 9781800902176 | £7.99 | READING AGE: 8 | HICCUPS, COMEDY, SILLY

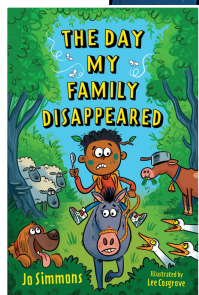
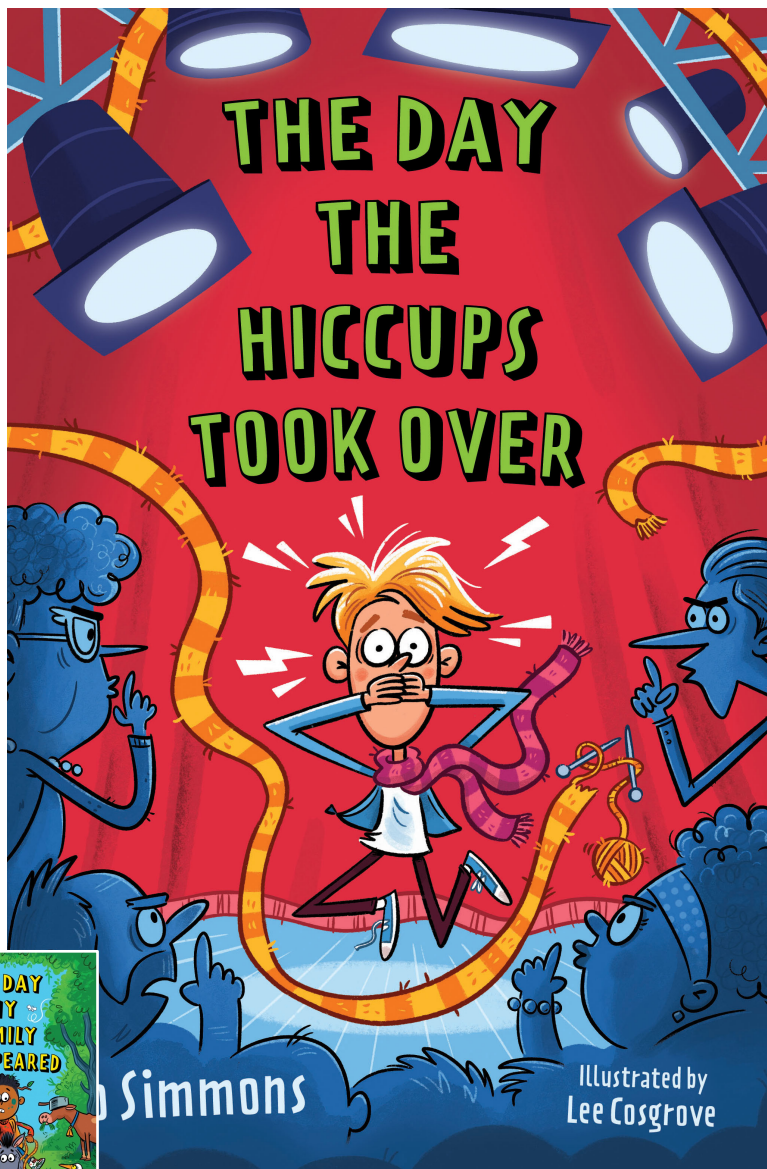
A case of incurable hiccups leads to hilarity in this madcap caper from comedy genius and bestselling author Jo Simmons.

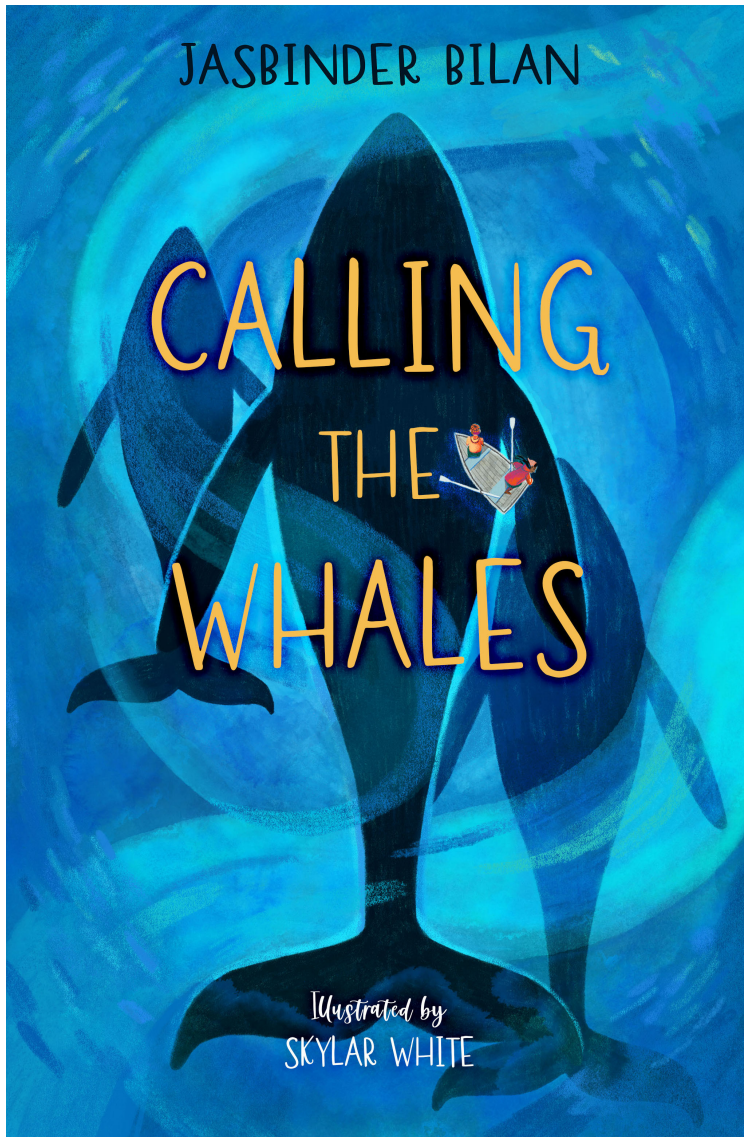
- Jo Simmons has found huge success with her funny fiction - hit title *Swapped My Brother on the Internet* was shortlisted for the 2020 Lollies and included in Tom Fletcher's picks for his WHSmith Book Club
- **Humour** hugely popular for this age group – young readers will be delighted by Frank's hilarious ideas and slapstick misfortunes
- Lively and funny illustrations from top illustrator **Lee Cosgrove**, creating a strong commercial look alongside 2022 title *The Day My Family Disappeared*

Every child can be a reader



9+
FICTION





CALLING THE WHALES

Written by Jasbinder Bilan, illustrated by Skylar White

9781800901803 | £7.99 | READING AGE: 8 | OCEANS, CONSERVATION, COURAGE

When a majestic whale is stranded near their Scottish hometown, Tushi and Satchen must summon all their courage to save it in this thrilling adventure from Jasbinder Bilan.

- Jasbinder Bilan has won a plethora of awards for her stunning children's books, including the [Times/Chicken House Prize](#) and [Costa Children's Book Award](#) for her debut, *Asha and the Spirit Bird*, and the [2021 Indie Children's Book Award](#) for *Tamarind and the Star of Ishta*
- Promotes a [powerful message about protecting our oceans](#), with additional [educational content](#) designed to raise awareness of the dangers of plastic pollution in the ocean and [encourage young readers to get involved in conservation activities](#) like beach clean-ups
- Jasbinder is a [passionate environmentalist](#)
- Casts a [spotlight on the beautiful Scottish coast](#) and its precious marine life

Every child can be a reader



9+
FICTION

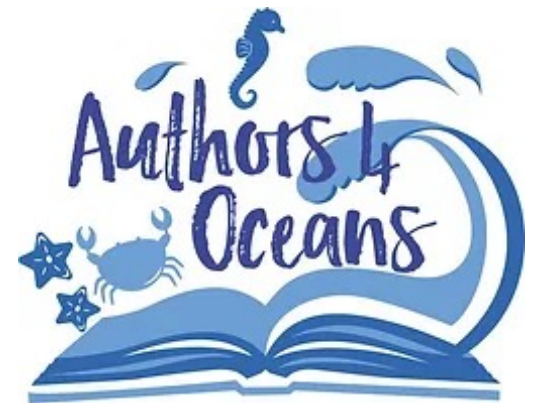


JASBINDER BILAN

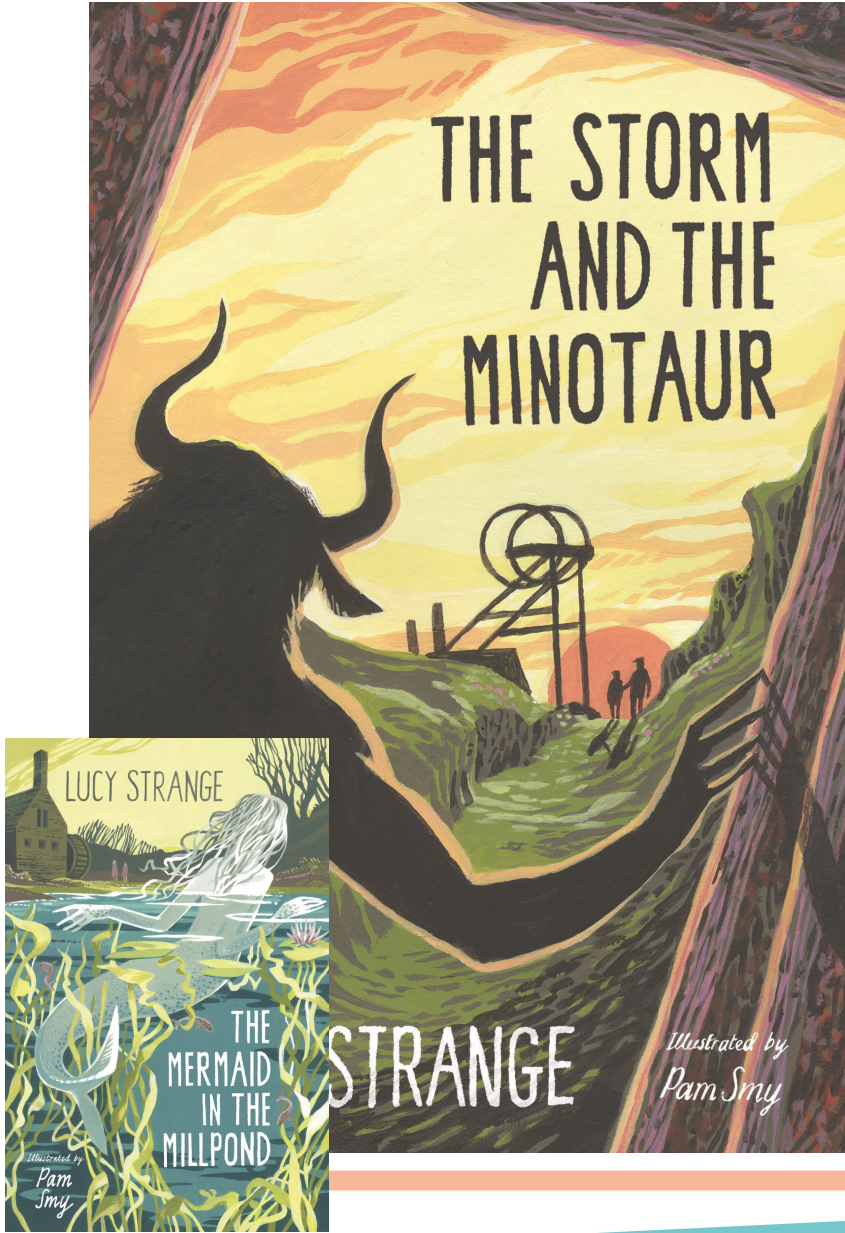
- Jasbinder's debut novel, *Asha and the Spirit Bird*, won the [Times/Chicken House Prize](#) and the [Costa Children's Book Award](#), as well as being shortlisted for the [Jhalak Prize](#) and the [Waterstones Children's Book Prize](#), and nominated for the [Carnegie Medal](#)
- She is an active member of [Authors4Oceans](#), an organisation campaigning to clean our oceans of plastic
- Born in [India](#), Jasbinder grew up on a farm near the [Himalayas](#) before moving to [Nottingham](#) at a young age. She now lives in [Somerset](#)

"Bilan's descriptions are beautifully vivid without ever sacrificing the pace. There is a beating heart throughout the story and a sense of myth and age that made me think of Indian epics like Rama and Sita."

CHRIS SOUL
ON *ASHA AND THE SPIRIT BIRD*



 Every child can be a reader



THE STORM AND THE MINOTAUR

Written by Lucy Strange, illustrated by Pam Smy

9781800902473 | £7.99 | READING AGE: 8 | COURAGE, OPPORTUNITY, PERIL

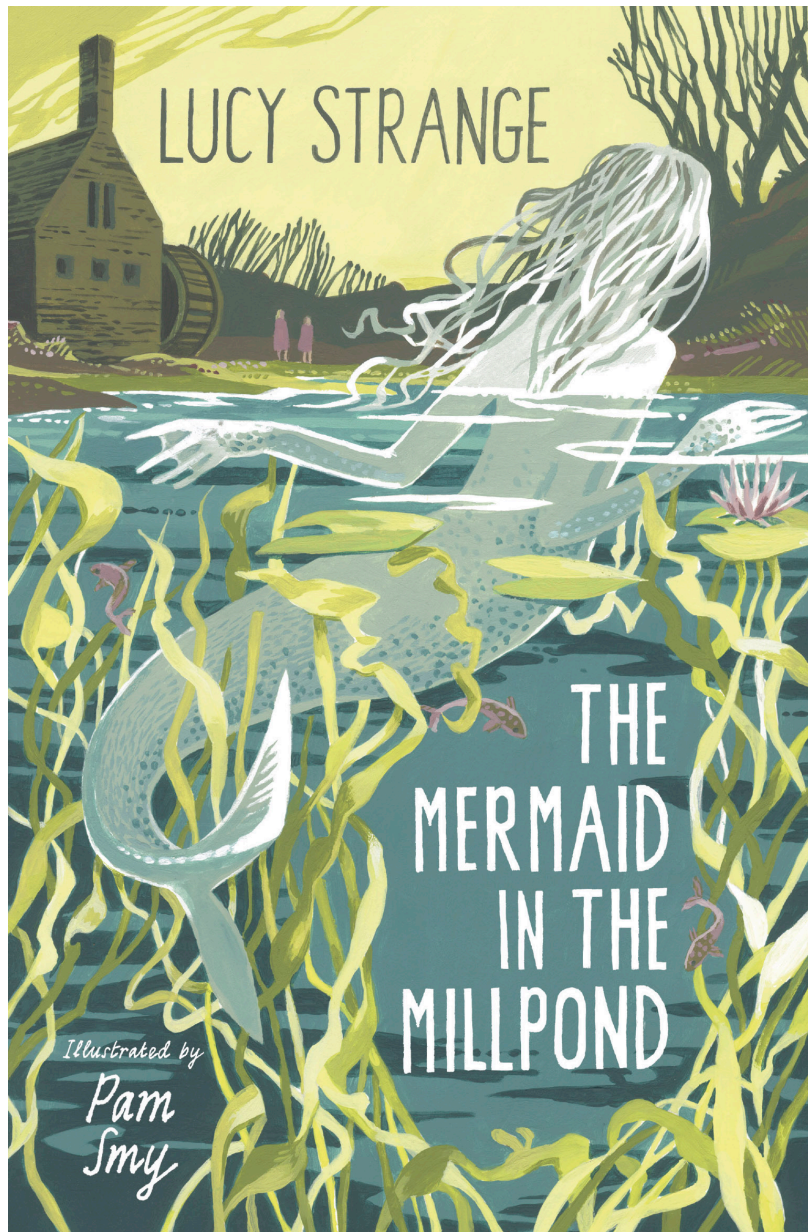
History and myth entwine in this gripping and atmospheric tale from bestselling author Lucy Strange and acclaimed illustrator Pam Smy.

- Lucy Strange is renowned for her crafting of such exquisite historical novels as *The Mermaid in the Millpond* and the Waterstones Prize shortlisted *Our Castle By the Sea*
- Featuring stunning cover artwork and illustrations from acclaimed artist Pam Smy, whose graphic novel *Thornhill* was shortlisted for both the Kate Greenaway Medal and the Waterstones Children's Book Prize
- “Evocative and eerie ... Another bite-size delight from Barrington Stoke” – Karen McCombie on *The Mermaid in the Millpond*
- Resources & POS available for *The Mermaid in the Millpond*

Every child can be a reader



9+
FICTION



PRAISE FOR *THE MERMAID IN THE MILLPOND*

"[An] evocative slice of historical drama ... a book that transports us from our world to an almost timeless zone of wonder in amongst the darkness"

THE BOOKBAG

"Lucy Strange has created a story of Dickensian quality ... A wonderful tale for children and adults alike"

THE OPINIONATED READER

"A gripping story of courage, kindness and friendship full of supernatural overtones and with a convincing Industrial Revolution setting"

BOOKS FOR KEEPS



THE WEATHER WELL

Written by Vashti Hardy, illustrated by Natalie Smillie

9781800901292 | £7.99 | READING AGE: 8 | INVENTIONS, PARTNERSHIP, MYSTERY

From sweltering sun to a wild snowstorm, wardens Grace and Tom must brave the elements to save the day in this thrilling Griffin Gate adventure from bestseller Vashti Hardy.

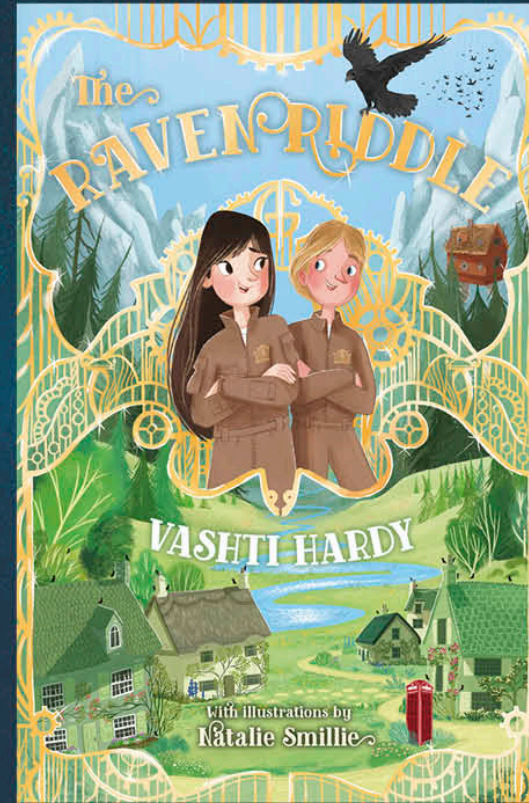
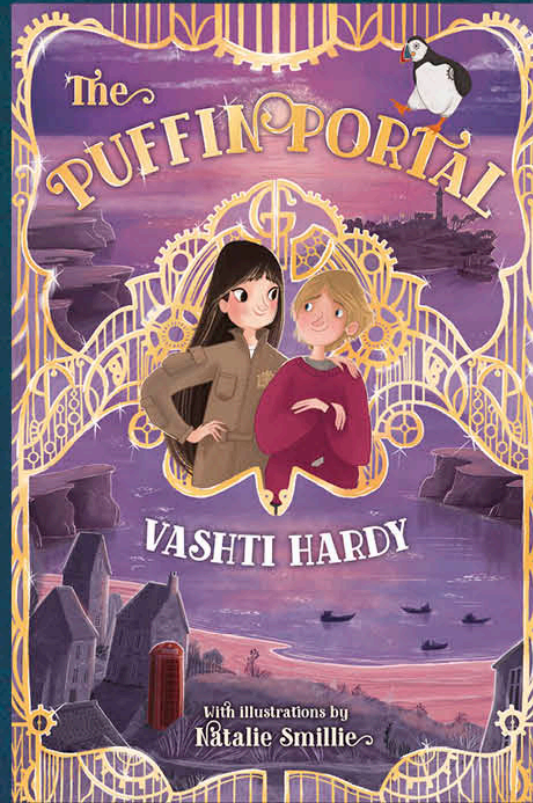
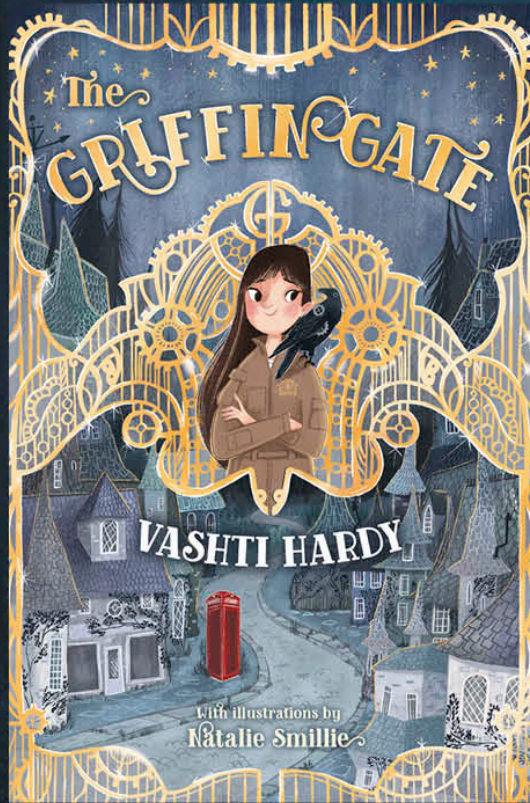
- Vashti Hardy is the [internationally successful](#) and award-winning author of numerous children's books, including the bestselling *Brightstorm* series, and [Blue Peter Book Award winner](#) *Wildspark*, and *Harley Hitch* for younger readers
- Acts as a standalone story whilst building on the incredible world established across the series
- [Celebrates women in STEM](#) through Vashti's hugely popular signature steampunk themes
- Vashti and illustrator Natalie Smillie are [a brilliant author-illustrator team](#), working together on social media to promote fan engagement and buzz for the series

Every child can be a reader



9+
FICTION

The GRIFFIN GATE SERIES





LUNAR

Written by Chris Bradford, illustrated by TBC

9781800902299 | £7.99 | READING AGE: 8 | SCI-FI, SURVIVAL, TECHNOLOGY

*Stranded and alone on the moon, Luna is running out of time ...
Bestselling author Chris Bradford channels *The Martian* in this gripping
outer-space survival story.*

- Chris Bradford is the internationally bestselling author of over thirty books for children, including the enormously popular *Young Samurai* series. Beloved for his authentic and action-packed adventures, he has a fantastic presence in schools across the world and has toured over 25 different countries
- Publishing during International Space Week, Luna's engaging narrative is filled with fascinating information about the moon and space travel, perfect for young astronomy lovers

Every child can be a reader

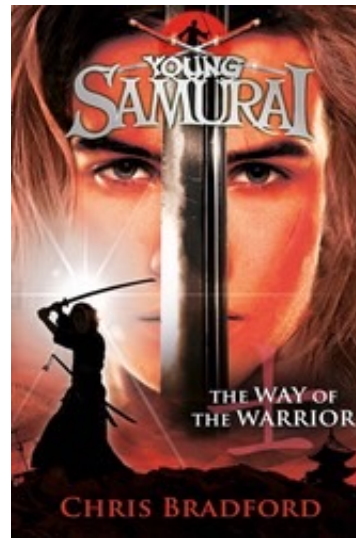


9+
FICTION



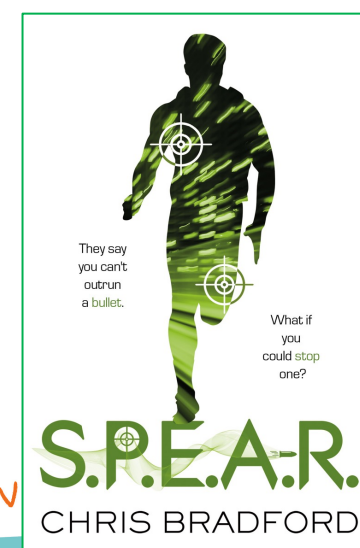
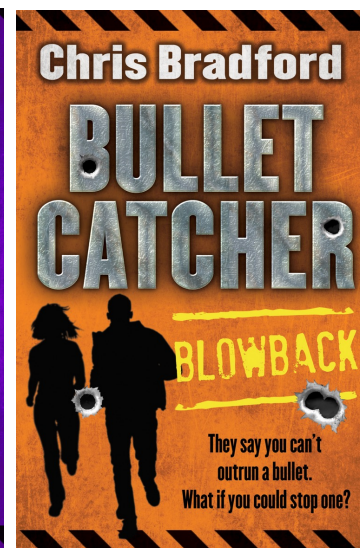
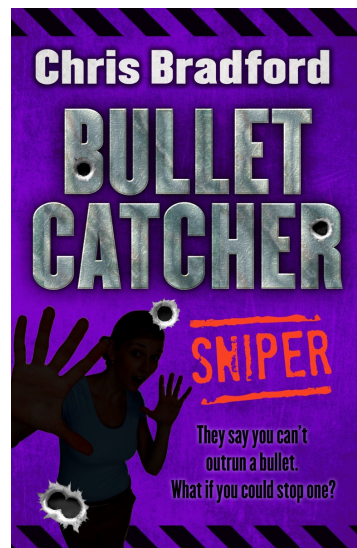
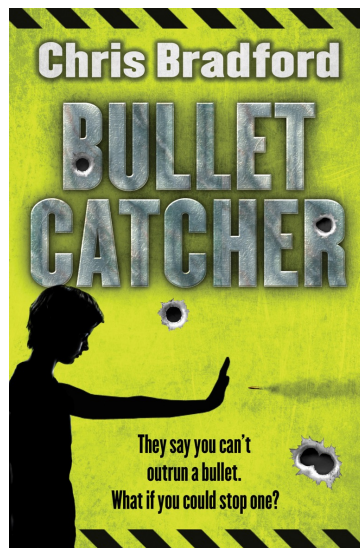
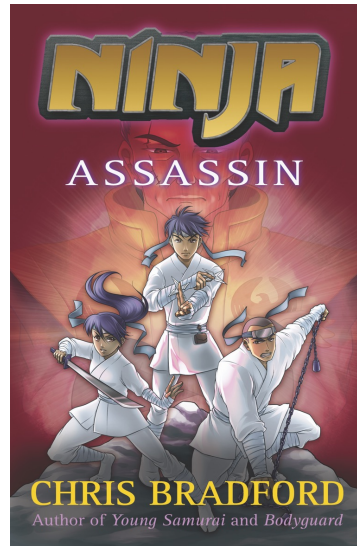
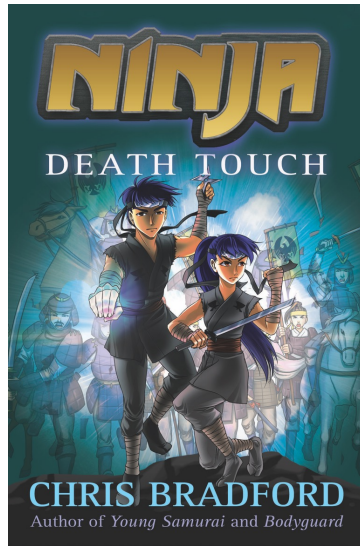
CHRIS BRADFORD

- A multi-million-copy bestselling author with sales in excess of 3 million copies, Chris Bradford is best known for his *Young Samurai* series, which has just been signed for an anime TV series
- Chris has a huge market in Germany, where over half a million copies of the *Bodyguard* series have sold so far
- His other key territories include the Netherlands, France & North America



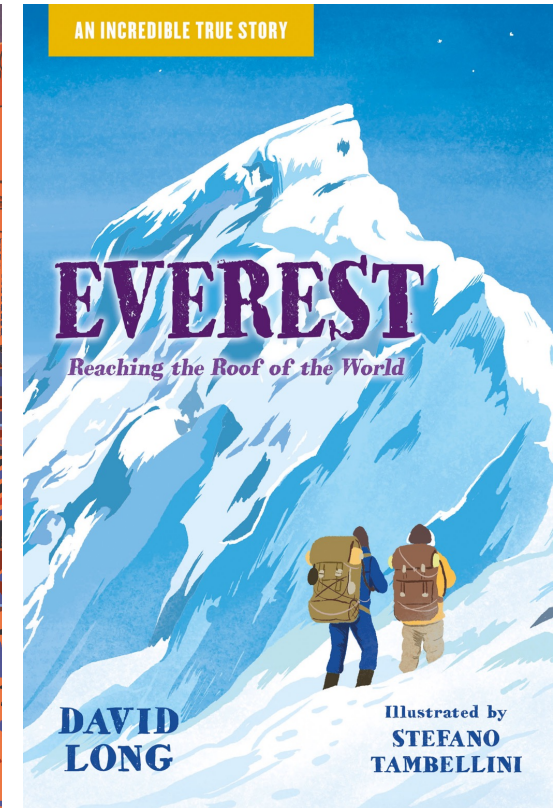
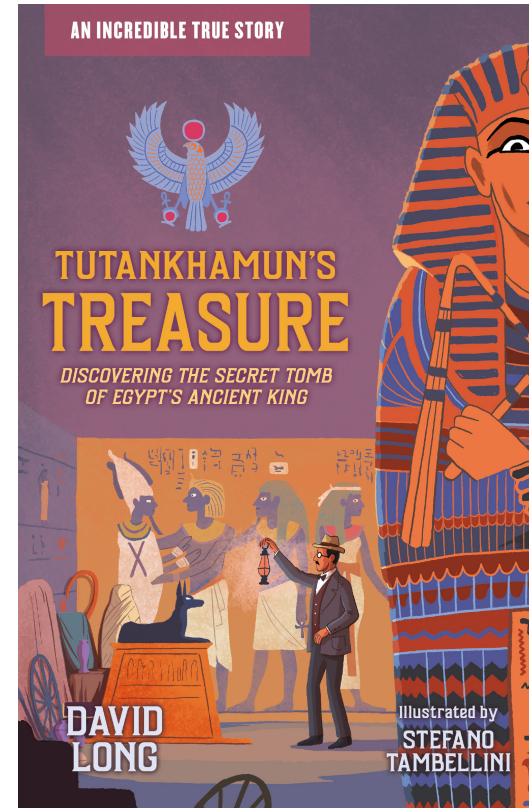
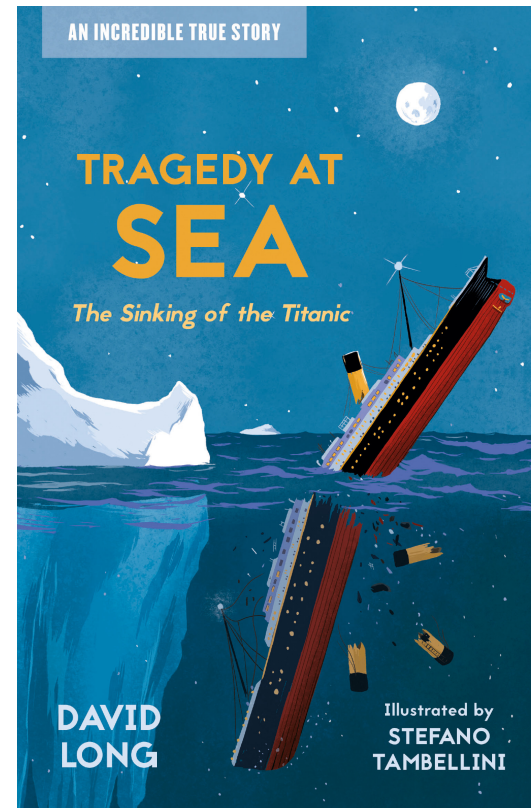
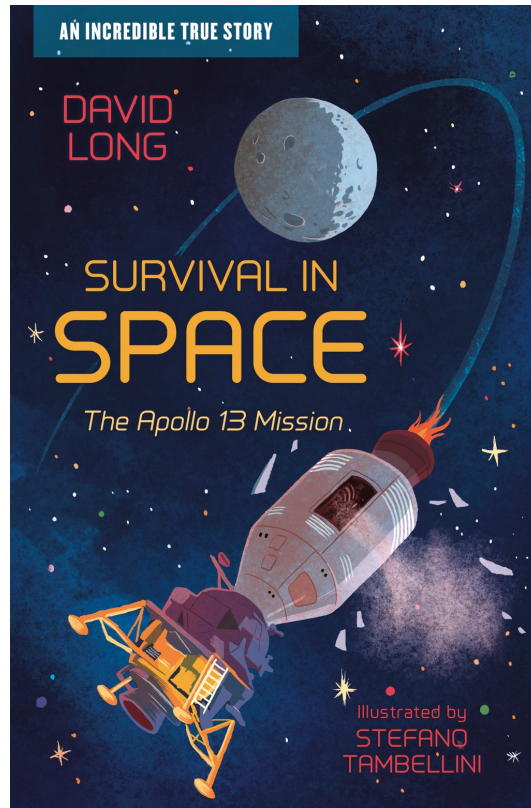
Every child can be a reader

CHRIS BRADFORD'S BRILLIANT BACKLIST



EV a reader

INCREDIBLE STORIES FROM HISTORY WITH DAVID LONG



“David Long excels at telling intriguing stories from the past ... will enthrall young readers” – *THE INDEPENDENT*

Every child can be a reader



9+
NON-FICTION



WHAT IT WAS LIKE TO BE A VIKING

Written by David Long, illustrated by Stefano Tambellini

9781800902121 | £7.99 | READING AGE: 8 | HISTORY, CIVILISATION, VIKINGS

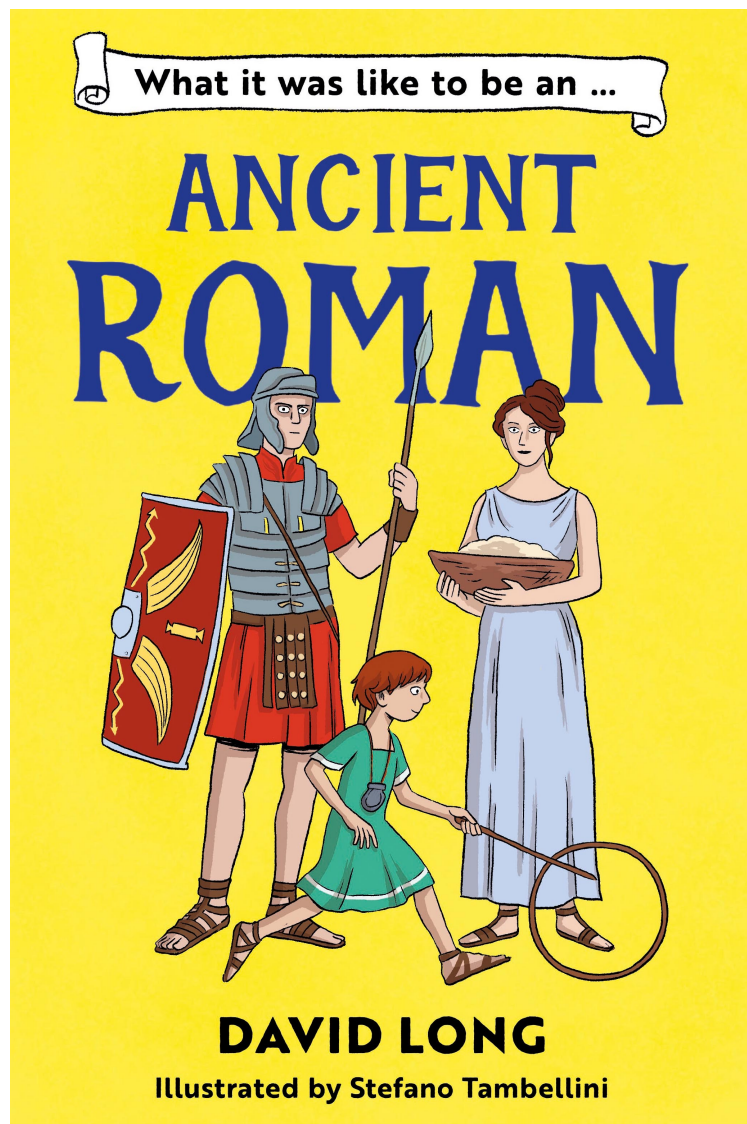
From traders to raiders, embark on an incredible voyage through Viking life and history in the first in an exciting new series from bestselling non-fiction writer David Long.

- The **first book** in the fascinating *What it Was Like to be...* series, exploring the daily life, culture and legacy of some of the world's most extraordinary **historical civilisations**
- Blue Peter Book Award winner David Long excels in **distilling complex stories from our history** in an informative and entertaining format
- Encourages a **deeper understanding** of Viking culture, including family life and their role as merchants
- An accessible, fact-filled and beautifully illustrated package with expert **free resources**

Every child can be a reader



9+
NON-FICTION



WHAT IT WAS LIKE TO BE AN ANCIENT ROMAN

Written by David Long, illustrated by Stefano Tambellini

9781800902138 | £7.99 | READING AGE: 8 | ROMANS, CIVILISATION, HISTORY

*Embark on a fascinating foray into the lives of the Ancient Romans in this second instalment of David Long's *What it was like to be...* series.*

- The second book in the new *What it was like to be...* series, exploring the daily life, culture and legacy of **some of the world's most extraordinary historical civilisations**
- **Concise and entertaining**, *What it was like to be an Ancient Roman* evokes a deeper understanding and appreciation of Roman culture, from the building of an empire to the daily lives of ordinary citizens
- An **accessible, fact-filled and beautifully illustrated package** perfect for KS2 classroom learning, with free activities and learning resources to be made available on publication

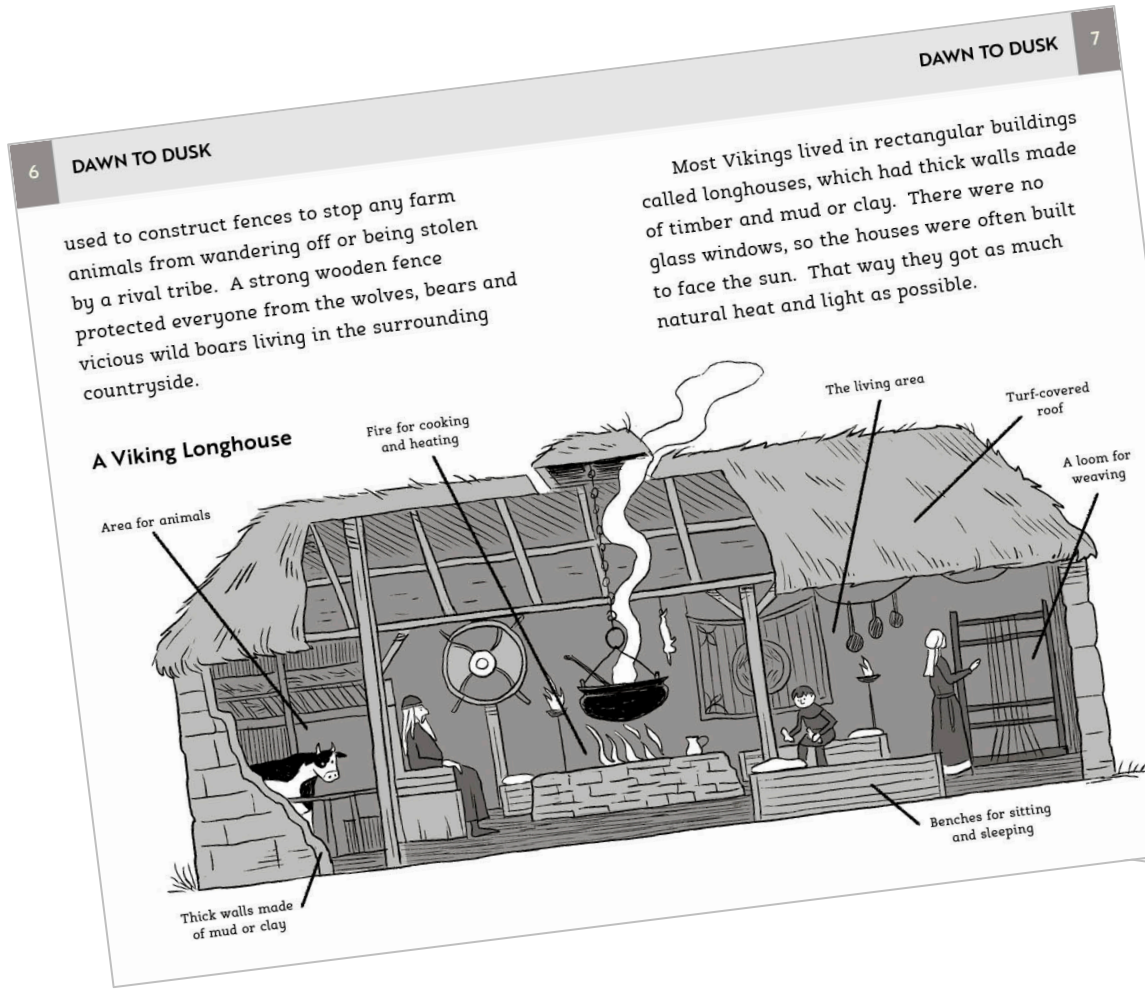
Every child can be a reader



9+
NON-FICTION

SPREAD PAGES FROM *WHAT IT WAS LIKE TO BE A VIKING*

Written by David Long, illustrated by Stefano Tambellini



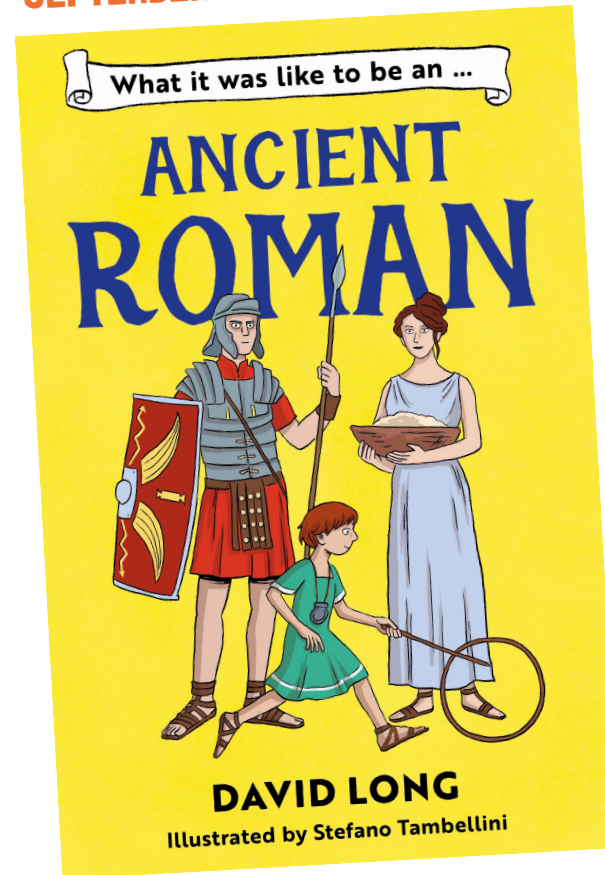
 Every child can be a Viking

APRIL 6TH



What it was like to be a ...

SEPTEMBER 7TH



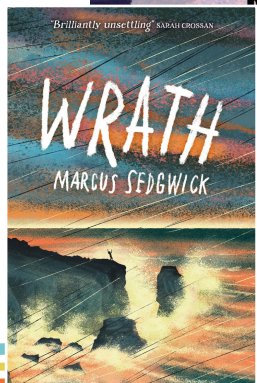
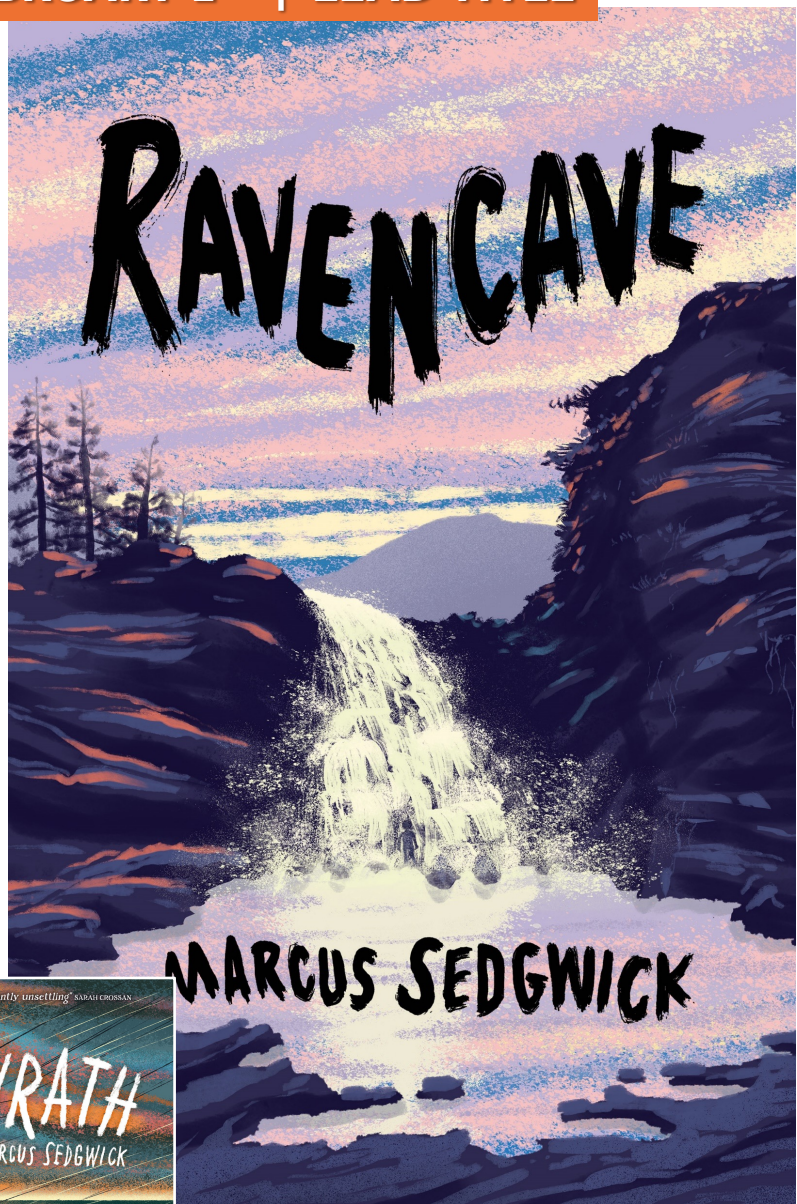
- This **new series introduces** and explains ancient civilisations in a way that is **accessible and informative** but also entertaining and meaningful
- Each book gives a **concise** but lively and **wide-ranging** account, exploring the lives of **ordinary people** as well as those of **key historical figures**, describing **family life** as well as the **political background** and key events, the **archaeology** as well as the society's cultural and historical achievements and its legacy

 Every child can be a reader

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11+
FICTION

Every child can be a reader



RAVENCAVE

Written by Marcus Sedgwick

9781800901926 | £7.99 | READING AGE: 8 | FAMILY, TRAUMA, GHOSTS

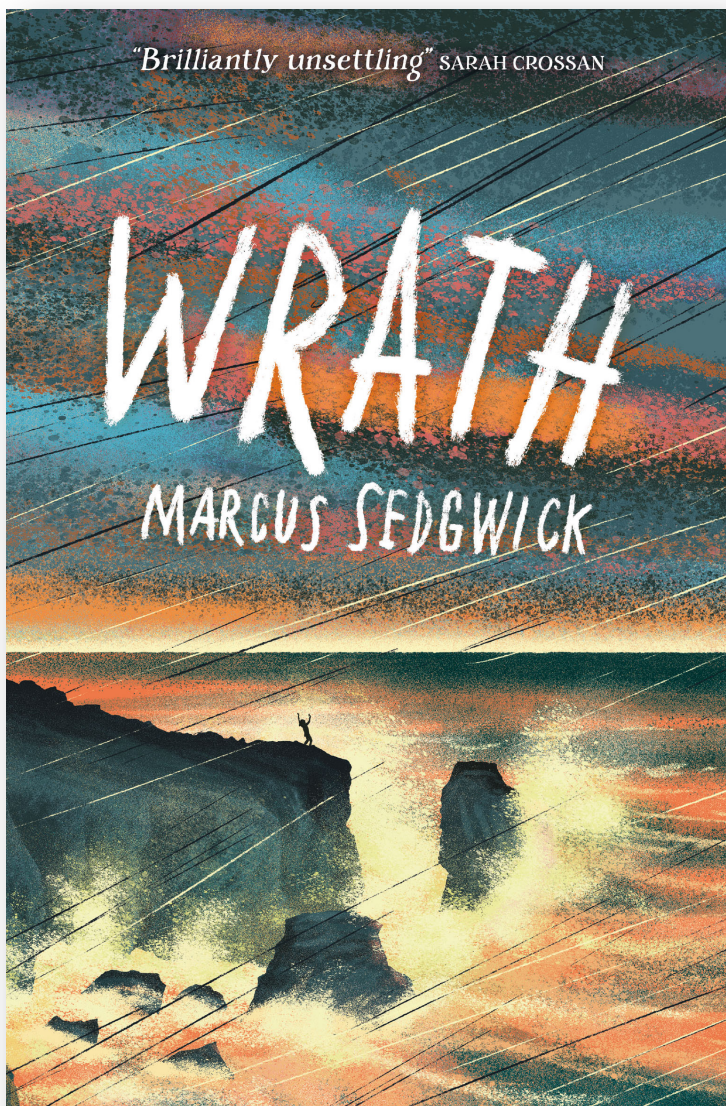
A grim discovery brings disturbing revelations in this chilling ghost story from international bestselling author Marcus Sedgwick, set amid a backdrop of family discord and growing social discontent.

- Marcus Sedgwick has won numerous awards, including the coveted Michael L. Printz Award, and has been shortlisted for the Carnegie Medal eight times
- A tightly plotted, masterfully written unsettling mystery that showcases Marcus's **layered and captivating writing**
- Marcus's previous Barrington Stoke title, *Wrath*, was selected as 'One to Watch' by *The Bookseller* and was described by reviewer as "a thrilling, thought-provoking, timely novella" (LoveReading4Kids) and "a brilliantly unsettling novel that readers will race through" (Sarah Crossan)
- Beautiful package with a full wrap cover
- Author lives in France

Every child can be a reader



11+
FICTION



"Thought-provoking and atmospheric"

THE BOOKSELLER

"Meaningful. Powerful. Wonderful"

TOM PALMER

"Such a delicately wrought and cleverly done piece of climate fiction"

LAUREN JAMES

"A brilliantly unsettling novel that readers will race through"

SARAH CROSSAN

"A thrilling, thought-provoking, timely novella ... Presents a poignantly original way of thinking about climate change and how we relate to each other"

LOVEREADING4KIDS

"A fascinating and layered drama"

THE BOOKBAG

"[Marcus Sedgwick and Barrington Stoke] is a marriage made in heaven"

THE LETTERPRESS PROJECT

Every child can be a reader



11+
FICTION



TRAPPED

Written by Sophie McKenzie

9781800902480 | £7.99 | READING AGE: 7 | PERIL, JUDGEMENT, UNDERSTANDING

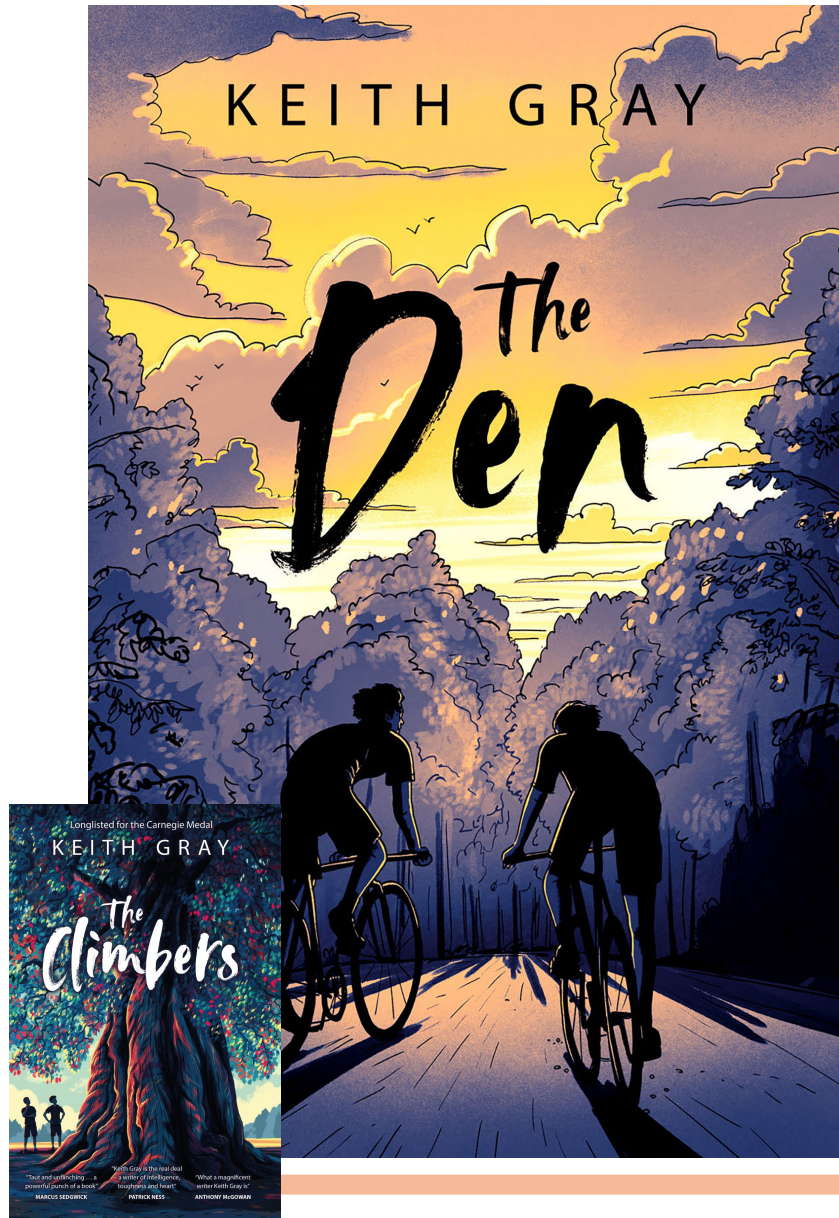
A dramatic coach crash forces Hailey to re-examine her relationships with her fellow singing-club members in this gripping drama from queen of teen thrillers Sophie McKenzie.

- Sophie McKenzie is the **internationally beloved and award-winning author** of the million-copy-selling *Girl, Missing*, as well as hit titles *Sister, Missing*; *Blood Ties* and *The Medusa Project* series. She is phenomenally successful worldwide and a huge name in schools, libraries and bookshops
- Writing in her heartland of teen thrillers, Sophie crafts an edge-of-your-seat high-school drama that is driven by **complex and authentic teen relationships**, perfectly tailored for ages 11+
- Specially designed and **edited to a reading age of 7**, this title is **ideal for EAL learners** and fills a crucial gap for engaging, age-appropriate titles aimed at struggling teen readers

Every child can be a reader



11+
FICTION



THE DEN

Written by Keith Gray, illustrated by Tom Clohosy Cole

9781800901919 | £7.99 | READING AGE: 8 | ESCAPE, BETRAYAL, FRIENDSHIP

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

- Keith Gray, the [Carnegie and Guardian Prize shortlisted](#) author of *Ostrich Boys*, has an unrivalled talent for [sensitively and subtly capturing the realities of growing up](#)
- Following the phenomenal success of *The Climbers*, which was [longlisted for the Carnegie Medal](#) and picked as a [Sunday Times Book of the Week](#), *The Den* evokes the complexities of friendship and family relationships that so many [teenagers can relate to](#)
- “Keith Gray is the real deal, a writer of intelligence, toughness and heart. *The Climbers* is a moving, surprising story of competition, self-awareness, friendship, and the more you look, the deeper the damn thing gets” – Patrick Ness

Every child can be a reader



11+
FICTION

"Keith Gray is the
real deal – a writer
of intelligence,
toughness and heart"

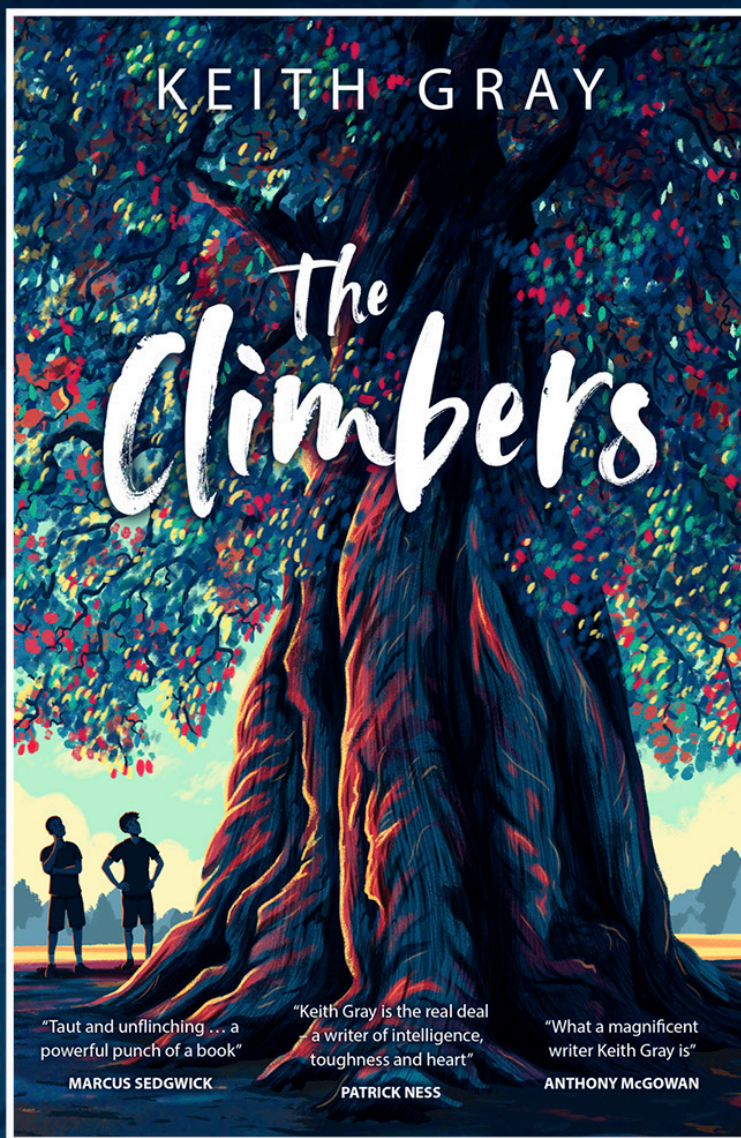
PATRICK NESS

*"The Climbers is a gem
of a book"*

PHIL EARLE

*"What a magnificent
writer Keith Gray is"*

ANTHONY MCGOWAN



"Taut and unflinching
... a powerful punch
of a book"

MARCUS SEDGWICK

"Hard-hitting,
unflinching, but
touched throughout
by warmth and soul"

BALI RAI

Barrington  Stoke

Artwork © Tom Clohosy Cole

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13+
FICTION

Every child can be a reader



NEEDLE

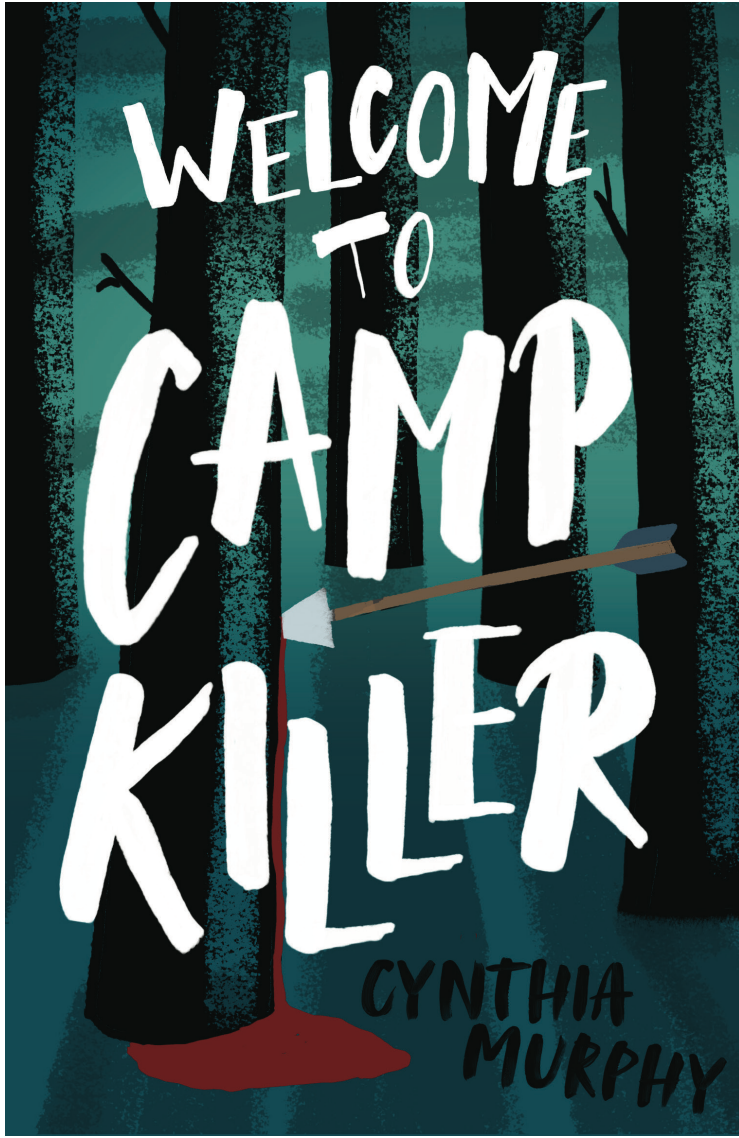
Written by Patrice Lawrence

9781800901018 | £7.99 | READING AGE: 8 | REMORSE, FOSTER-CARE, JUSTICE

Award-winning author Patrice Lawrence explores the harsh reality of the criminal justice system for young people in this riveting teen drama.

- Patrice is a “[fresh and important](#)” (*The Times*) figure in young-adult books and is widely celebrated for her [authentic portrayal of teenage voices](#) – she won both the [Bookseller YA Prize](#) and [Waterstones Prize for Older Children’s Fiction](#) with *Orangeboy*, and the inaugural children’s and YA category of the Jhalak Prize with *Eight Pieces of Silva*
- *Needle* is longlisted for the [Carnegie Medal](#), and explores the way our criminal justice system deals with young offenders – with a [tightly packed plot and compelling characters](#), it sheds a crucial light on an [important but often neglected issue](#)
- Patrice is a [passionate advocate for equality and social justice](#) and spent 20 years working with charities supporting these causes, making her perfectly suited to explore the themes in this story

 Every child can be a reader



WELCOME TO CAMP KILLER

Written by Cynthia Murphy

9781800902282 | £7.99 | READING AGE: 8 | THRILLER, MYSTERY, HORROR

Bestselling YA horror writer Cynthia Murphy makes her Barrington Stoke debut with a spine-chilling thriller about a summer camp gone deathly wrong.

- Prepare to be chilled by this Barrington Stoke debut from TikTok sensation Cynthia Murphy, whose gripping debut, *Last One to Die*, won the Redhill Trust Book Award 2021-22 and Lancashire Book of the Year 2022
- “*Point Horror* for a new generation” – Kathryn Foxfield, author of *Good Girls Die First*, on *Last One to Die*
- An addictive page-turner, *Welcome to Camp Killer* expertly captures the reader’s attention and, keeps them gripped with its sensational plot
- Amidst a wave in popularity of YA suspense horror this is perfect for fans of huge bestsellers *One of Us Is Lying* or *A Good Girl’s Guide to Murder*

Every child can be a reader

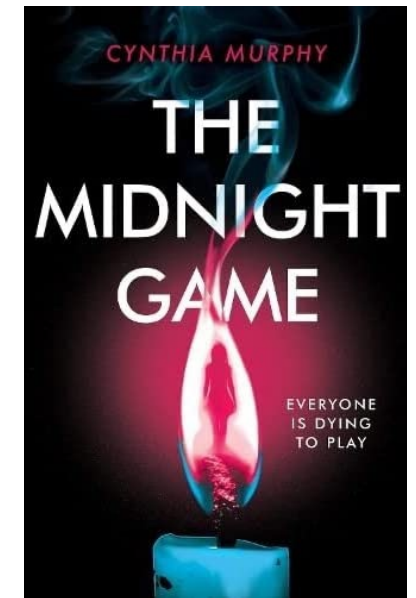


13+
FICTION



CYNTHIA MURPHY

- An avid fan of horror, Cynthia Murphy made her debut in YA fiction with *Last One To Die* in 2021, which quickly became a TikTok favourite and went on to win the [NE Book Award 2021–22](#) and the [Lancashire Book of the Year 2022](#), as well as being longlisted for the [Great Reads Award](#)
- Based in [Manchester](#)



be a reader



A SUDDEN STORM [TBC]

Written by Bali Rai

9781800902534 | £7.99 | READING AGE: 7 | RACISM, SIKHISM, VIOLENCE

An innocent night out to celebrate a sixteenth birthday turns to tragedy in this gripping story of racial intolerance from award-winning author Bali Rai.

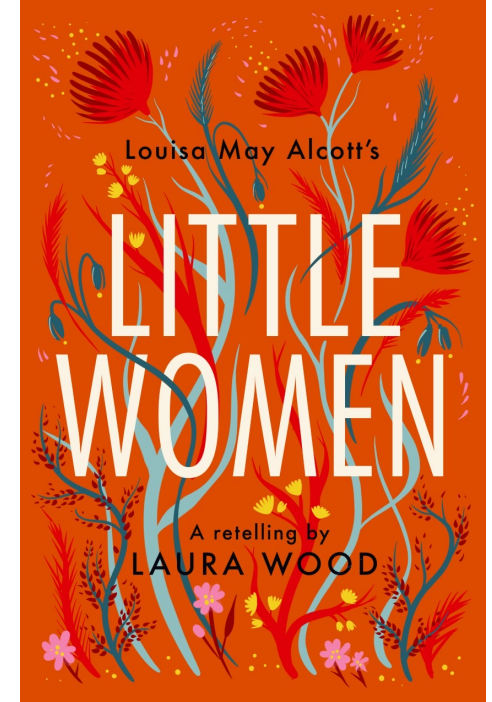
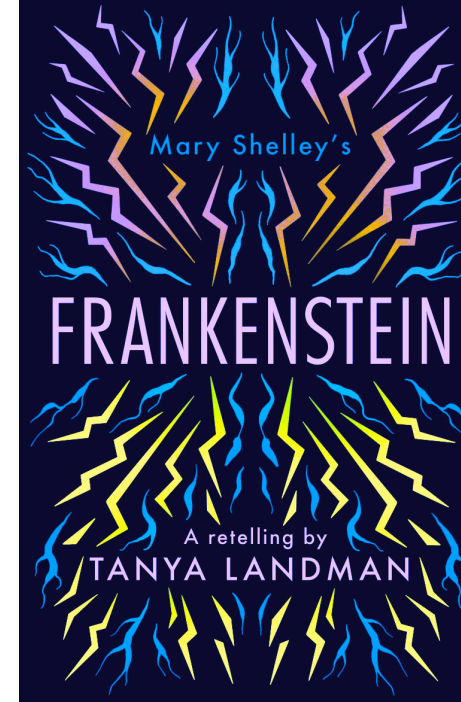
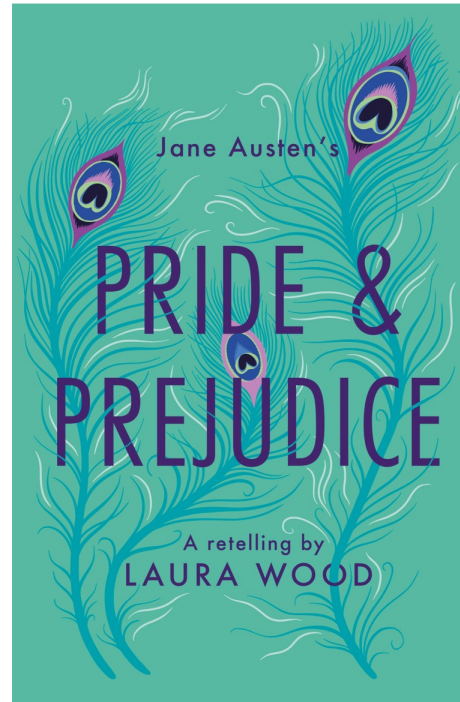
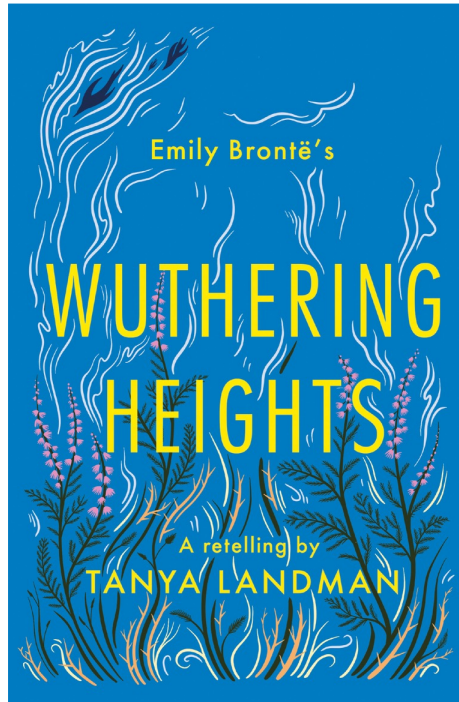
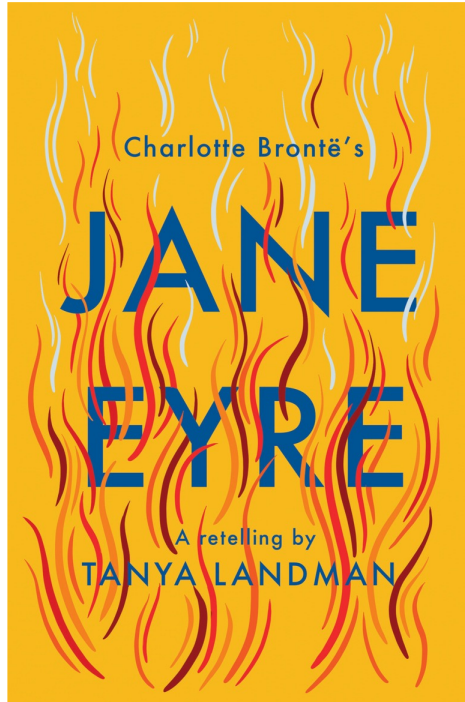
- Bali Rai is the **critically acclaimed author** of over forty books for children and young adults, best-known for *Rani and Sukh* (a set-text in GCSE English), *(Un)arranged Marriage* and *Now or Never: A Dunkirk Story*
- Both hard-hitting and conversation-provoking, Arjan's story casts a searing look at **systemic racism** within the UK today, highlighting **discrimination against Sikh communities**
- Bali is renowned for his skill in writing about **challenging themes in an approachable style** for teen readers
- Specially designed and **edited to a reading age of 7**, this title is **ideal for EAL learners** and fills a crucial gap for engaging, age-appropriate titles aimed at struggling teen readers

Every child can be a reader



13+
FICTION

STUNNING AND ACCESSIBLE CLASSIC RETELLINGS



Every child can be a reader



13+
FICTION

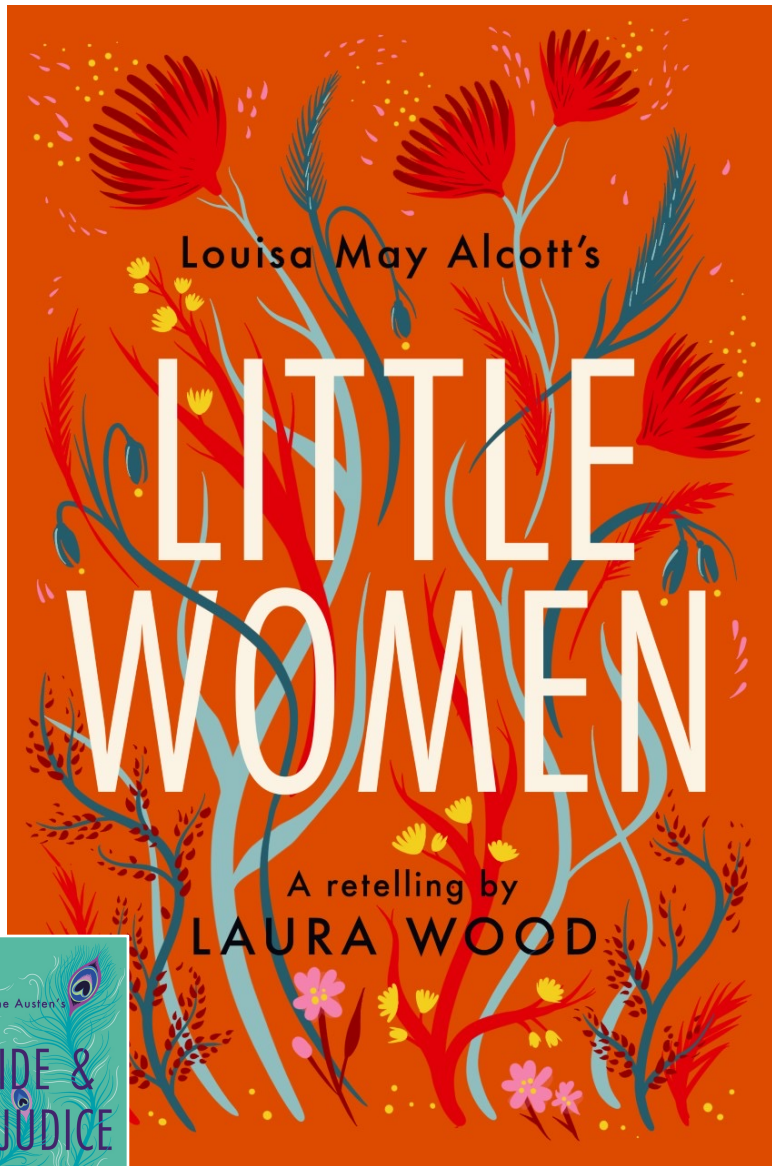
LITTLE WOMEN – A RETELLING

Written by Laura Wood

9781800901797 | £7.99 | READING AGE: 8 | SISTERS, WOMANHOOD, DUTY

Bestselling author Laura Wood brings the adventures of Meg, Jo, Beth and Amy to even more readers in this beautiful retelling of Louisa May Alcott's coming-of-age classic.

- Laura is well-loved for her [enchanting historical fiction](#), including YA Book-Prize shortlisted *A Snowfall of Silver* and *A Sky Painted Gold*
- Laura effortlessly captures the [impact and feel](#) of Alcott's original, retelling key moments from the sister's tumultuous journey to adulthood in a [concise, accessible format](#)
- Recently revived by Greta Gerwig's hit 2019 film, *Little Women* is a [timeless story](#) that is [endlessly relevant](#) and engaging for [modern readers](#)
- Specialist design features make this a perfect [accessible entry point](#) to students who may struggle with the length or language of the original



Every child can be a reader



11+
FICTION

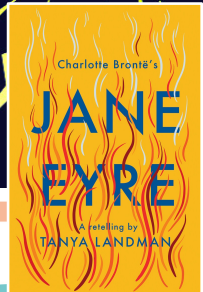
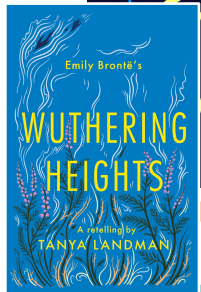
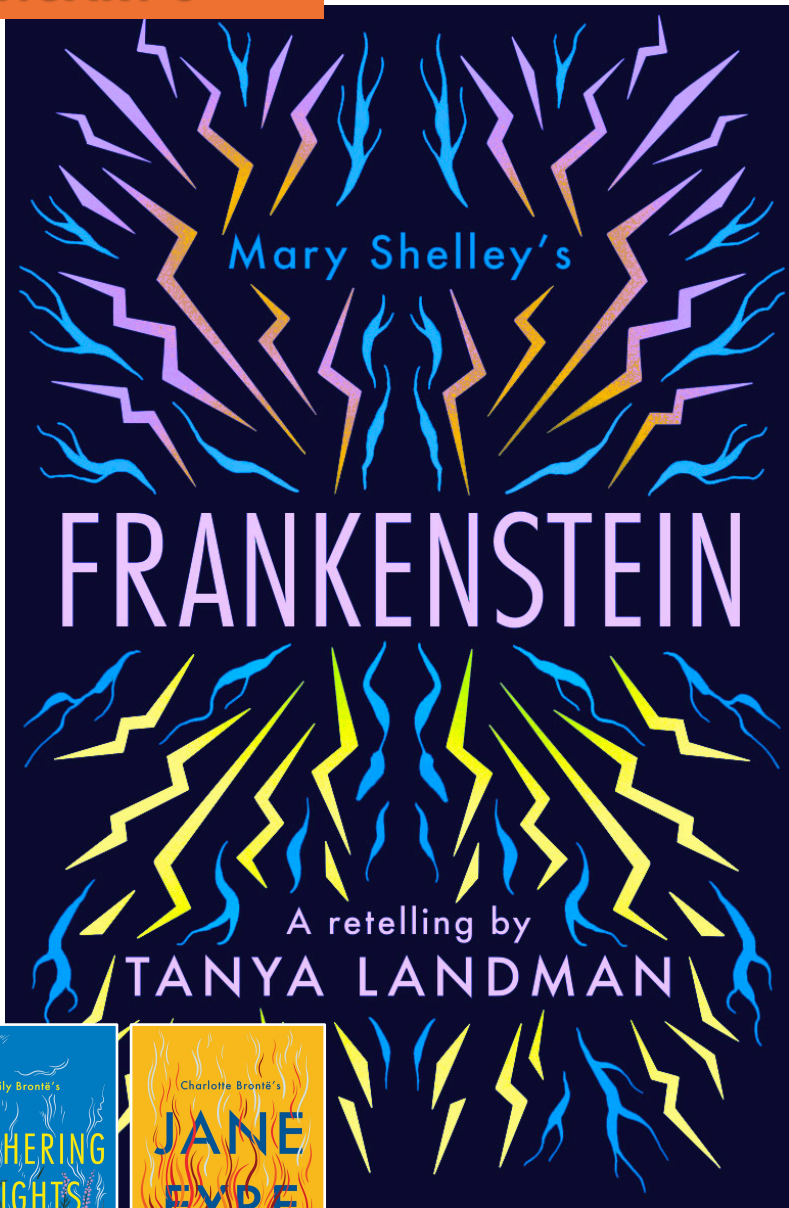
FRANKENSTEIN – A RETELLING

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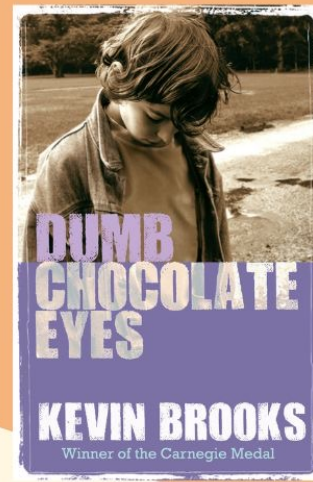
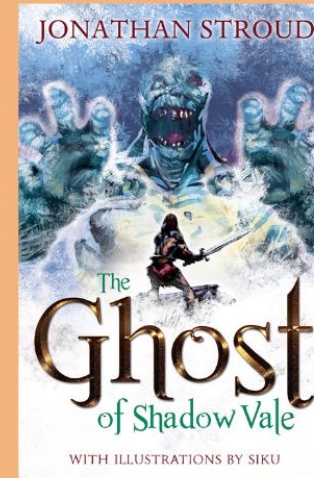
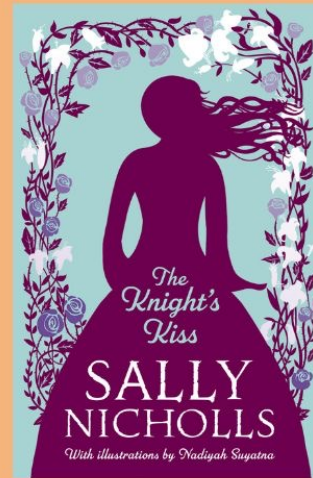
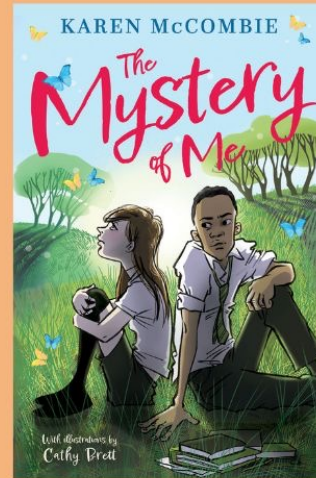


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