

Reading Suggestions Year 4



Key Stage 2

There is a huge range of excellent fiction for the 7 – 11 year age range. These lists for each year group list just a few and many cross the year group boundaries. Some may look too young but the length of a book can be deceptive. Some feature more illustration than text: illustration can be as important in the telling of a story as words and will introduce children to key illustrators.

There are also plenty of series that are perfect for this age range, with various good authors writing in the same format, getting children used to books that are not too long but which are of guaranteed quality: *Banana Books*, *Colour Jets* (illustrated here), *Jets*, *Seriously Silly Stories*, *Collins Shivery Storybooks*, *Corgi Pups*, *Books for Boys*, *Sprinters*, *Young Puffins* etc.

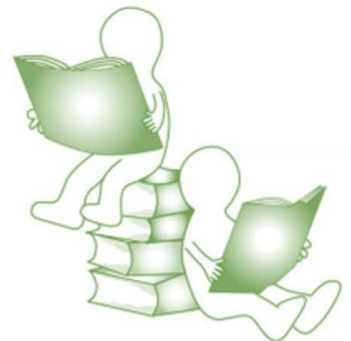


Some authors such as Jacqueline Wilson and Malorie Blackman write across the age range and some of their titles are more suited to older children than those in Middle Years.

The Harry Potter series is well known and not included in these lists.



Children can try it out at any stage, though at Year 3, it might be better to read it with the child.



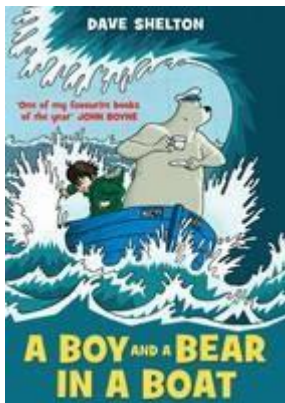
Reading Suggestions

Year 4 (age 8-9)

Year 4 students should be picking from our class libraries in order to progress their reading. While the children may feel that reading longer books is a better progression, reading lots of shorter books is very helpful for their creative English, as they experience new vocabulary, characters and places.

If your child is a competent reader or has read all these titles then try the books from the Year 5 list. Alternatively, if these books are a little challenging, try books from the Year 3 list.

The Harry Potter series is well known and not included in these lists. Children can try it out at any stage, though it might be better to read parts with the child.



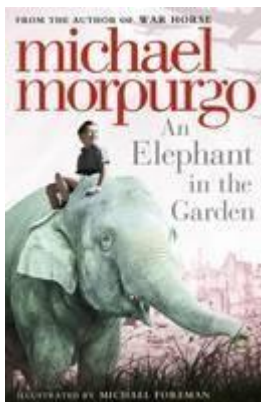
A Boy and a Bear in a Boat

Dave Shelton

A boy and a bear go to sea, equipped with a suitcase, a comic book and a ukulele. They are only travelling a short distance and it really shouldn't take long. But their journey doesn't quite go to plan...Faced with turbulent storms, a terrifying sea monster and the rank remains

of a very dangerous sandwich, the odds are against our unlikely heroes. Will the Harriet, their trusted vessel, withstand the violent

lashings of the salty waves? And will anyone ever answer their message in a bottle? Brilliantly funny and tender, this beautiful book maps the growth of a truly memorable friendship and explores how, when all else is lost, the most unexpected joys can be found.



An Elephant in the Garden

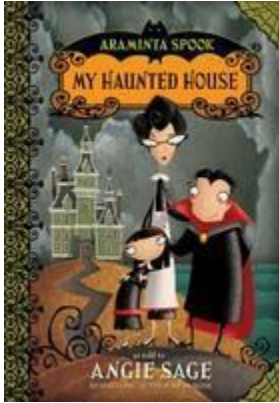
Michael Morpurgo, M. B. E.

A thrilling and moving novel about an extraordinary animal caught up in a very human war, for anyone who loved The Amazing Story of Adolphus Tips or The Butterfly Lion...By the award-winning former Children's Laureate and author of War Horse.

Dresden, 1945. Elizabeth and Karli's mother works at the zoo, where her favourite animal is a young elephant named Marlene. Then the zoo director tells her that the dangerous animals - including the elephants - must be shot before the town is bombed. Unable to give Marlene up, their mother moves her into the back garden to save her...and then the bombs start to fall. Their home destroyed, the whole family must flee the bombed-out city and through the perilous, snow-covered landscape, all the while avoiding the Russian troops who are drawing ever closer. It would be hard enough to do, without an elephant in tow...

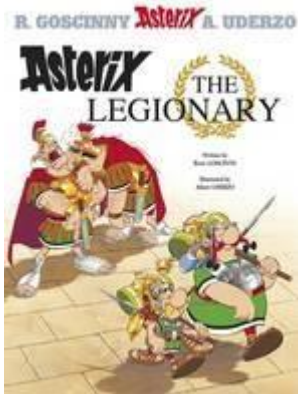
Araminta Spook: My Haunted House

Angie Sage



Araminta Spook is just like any girl. She likes bats, ghosts, werewolves and vampires. One of Araminta's greatest ambitions is to see a ghost, and living in Spook House with her aunt and uncle there is a fair

chance she will. Then her Aunt Tabitha drops a bombshell: they are moving. The boiler is a menace, plus there are a few other issues relating to dust and spiders. Tabitha is not going to take this lying down and devises an array of Cunning Plans. She is determined to stay, and perhaps there is still a chance her greatest ambition will come true, too.



Asterix the Legionary Goscinny , Uderzo

Gaul was divided into three parts. No, four parts - for one small village of indomitable Gauls still held out against the Roman invaders. A hugely fun series.

BOOK 10 - Asterix and Obelix enlist in the Roman army to rescue Tragicomix, the forcibly conscripted fiance of the beautiful Panacea.

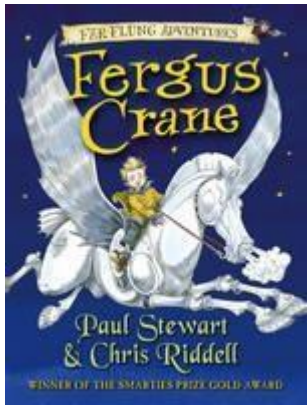
Charlotte's Web

E. B. White

This is the story of a little girl named Fern who loved a little pig named Wilbur and of Wilbur's dear friend, Charlotte A. Cavatica, a beautiful large grey spider. With the unlikely help of Templeton the rat, and a wonderfully clever plan of her own, Charlotte saves the life of Wilbur, who by this time has grown up to be quite a pig. A time-honoured classic favourite.

Fergus Crane

Paul Stewart, Chris Riddell



FERGUS CRANE! YOU ARE IN GREAT DANGER! I AM SENDING HELP. Signed T. C., your long-lost Uncle Theo Fergus Crane has an almost ordinary life - having lessons taught by rather odd teachers on the school ship Betty Jeanne, helping his mother in the bakery. But then a mysterious flying box appears at the window of his waterfront home - and Fergus is plunged headlong into an exciting adventure! The box is followed by a winged mechanical horse that whisks him off to meet his long-lost uncle and his penguin helpers, Finn, Bill and Jackson. Fergus finds out that his teachers are not quite what they seem - they're actually pirates! Can Fergus and his winged horse save his schoolmates from the far-off Fire Island? And who else will he find there...?



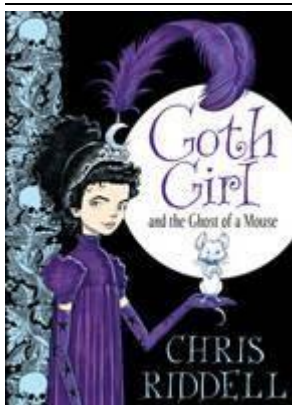
George's Secret Key to the Universe
Lucy Hawking, Stephen Hawking

Take a rollercoaster ride through the vastness of space and, in the midst of an exciting adventure, discover the mysteries of physics, science and the universe with George, his new friends next door - the scientist Eric and his daughter, Annie - and a super-intelligent computer called Cosmos, which can take them to the edge of a black hole and back again. Or can it? And who else would like to get their hands on Cosmos? A funny and hugely informative romp through space, time and the universe.



Gobolino the Witch's Cat
Ursula Moray Williams

Gobolino by Ursula Moray Williams is the charming tale of a witch's cat who would rather be a kitchen cat. Gobolino has one white paw and blue eyes and isn't wicked at all, so his mother doesn't like him. He escapes to look for a kitchen home but is distrusted everywhere he goes and blamed for mysterious happenings, such as the farmer's milk turning sour and the orphanage children's gruel turning into chocolate.



Goth Girl and the Ghost of a Mouse
Chris Riddell

Ada Goth is the only child of Lord Goth. The two live together in the enormous Ghastly-Gorm Hall. Lord Goth believes that children should be heard and not seen, so Ada has to wear large clumpy boots so that he can always hear her coming. This makes it hard for her to make friends and, if she's honest, she's rather lonely. Then one day William and Emily Cabbage come to stay at the house, and together with a ghostly mouse called Ishmael they and Ada begin to unravel a dastardly plot that Maltravers, the mysterious indoor gamekeeper, is hatching. Ada and her friends must work together to foil Maltravers before it's too late!

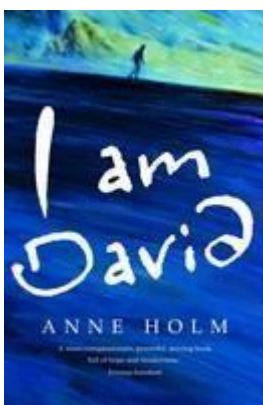
How to Train Your Dragon

Cressida Cowell



Read the books that inspired the *How to Train Your Dragon* films! This book will be a hit with children and adults alike. The story begins in the first volume of Hiccup's *How to Train Your Dragon* memoirs...

Hiccup Horrendous Haddock III was an awesome sword-fighter, a dragon-whisperer and the greatest Viking Hero who ever lived. But it wasn't always like that. In fact, in the beginning, Hiccup Horrendous Haddock III was the most put upon Viking you'd ever seen. Not loud enough to make himself heard at dinner with his father, Stoick the Vast; not hard enough to beat his chief rival, Snotlout, at Bashyball, the number one school sport and CERTAINLY not stupid enough to go into a cave full of dragons to find a pet...It's time for Hiccup to learn how to be a Hero.



I am David

Anne Holm

'You must get away tonight,' the man had told him. David escapes from the concentration camp where he has spent his entire life and flees

across Europe. He is utterly alone - who can he trust? What will await him? And all the while, how can he be sure that they won't catch up

with him ...This is the remarkable story of David's introduction to the world: sea, mountains and flowers, the colours of Italy, the taste of fruit, people laughing and smiling, all are new to David. David learns that his polite manner, his haunted eyes and his thin features are strange to other people. He must learn to fend for himself in this strange new world. An incredible story of survival against all odds and self discovery.

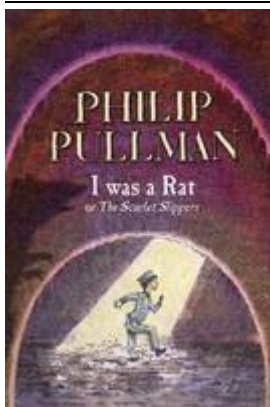
Igraine the Brave



Cornelia Funke

An adventure is what Igraine wishes for most in the world - and on her twelfth birthday she finds one! Everyone at Castle Pimpernel is looking

forward to Igraine's birthday. But when her magical present goes wrong and her parents turn themselves into pigs, it's up to Igraine to put things right - even if that means facing giants, and a particularly Spiky Knight.



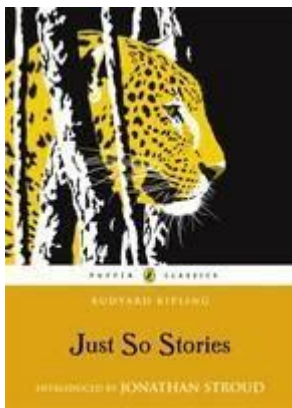
I Was a Rat! Or, the Scarlet slippers
Philip Pullman

I WAS A RAT!' So insists Roger. Maybe it's true. But what is he NOW? A terrifying monster rampaging in the sewers? The Daily Scourge is sure of it. A money-spinning fairground freak? He is to Mr Tapscrew. A champion wriggler and a downy card? That's what Billy hopes. Or just an ordinary small boy, though a little ratty in his habits? Only three people believe this version of the story. Only one of them knows who Roger really is. And luckily a story about her can sell even more newspapers than one about a rat-boy ...

Just So Stories

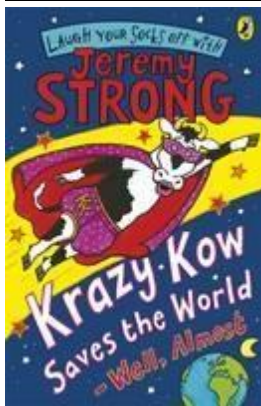
Rudyard Kipling, Jonathan Stroud

This book presents the delightful tales of whales and cats and kangaroos and crabs - everything from how the camel got in a

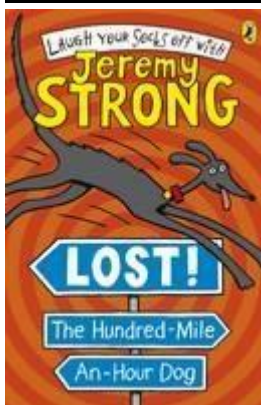


humph (and got his hump!) to how the alphabet was invented. Enchanting and funny, these fantastical stories continue to delight each and every generation.

Krazy Kow Saves the World - Well, Almost **Jeremy Strong**



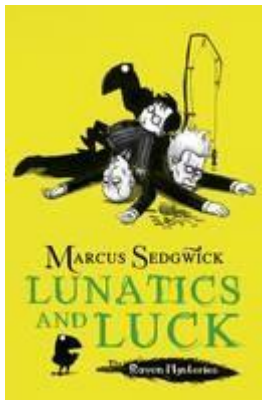
Krazy Kow is Jamie Fink's idea - a cow superhero with some amazing udder attachments. He's trying to make a film starring the Kow as she battles against the Dark Contaminator. But first he has to cope with a few little problems, like exploding strawberries, rampaging toddlers and hostile football fans. After this, saving the world should be a doddle!



Lost! The Hundred-Mile-An-Hour Dog **Jeremy Strong**

From The Hundred-Mile-an-Hour Dog to karate princesses and hot cross bottoms, there's a Jeremy Strong story to suit every child's sense of humour. Jeremy's readers range from 7 to teen, perfect for fans of Roald Dahl and Andy Stanton.

Streaker the dog is lost. And not just a bit lost, but really lost. It wasn't even her fault! She wanted to protect some pies from the PIE ROBBER and suddenly she's miles from home and two-legged Trevor AND she has to make friends with a cat. A CAT! But it gets a lot HAIRIER when they find themselves face-to-face with a baboon...Will Streaker ever see her beloved pups again? And more importantly, will she ever eat another donut again?



Lunatics and Luck

Marcus Sedgwick

Join the wonderfully weird Otherhand family and their faithful guardian, Edgar the raven, and discover the dark secrets of Castle Otherhand. Solstice and Cudweed are appalled to find their father has appointed a new school master. But things get even worse when the grumpy, viciously mean teacher actually arrives. The Otherhand

children are sure there's something more to him than meets the eye - the trouble is, who will believe them? No one it seems. Except, perhaps, Edgar.

Winner of the 2011 Blue Peter Book Award for Most Fun Story With Pictures, LUNATICS AND LUCK is the third story in this hilarious six book mystery series (with a touch of goth-froth) for 9 year olds from bestselling author, Marcus Sedgwick with quirky black and white line illustrations from new talent, Pete Williamson.



Matilda

Roald Dahl

Matilda is one of Roald Dahl's most magical stories! Now part of the Puffin Modern Classics series.

Matilda Wormwood's father is a mean crooked crook. And her mother's just plain stupid. They think Matilda is a nuisance who should watch more TV and read fewer books! But her lovely teacher Miss Honey thinks Matilda is a genius. Matilda has a few extraordinary tricks up her sleeve, so her horrible parents and even more horrible headmistress had better watch out.



Midnight for Charlie Bone

Jenny Nimmo

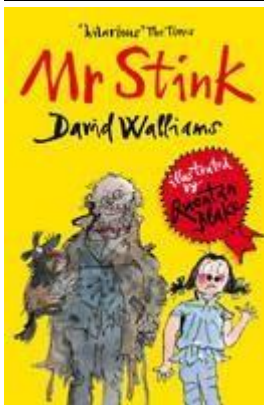
Since his father died, Charlie Bone has lived with his mother and her mother, in the house of his other grandmother, Grandma Bone.

Looking at a picture of a couple with a baby and a cat, he suddenly discovers he can hear their voices. Although he tries to hide his new gift, Grandma Bone and her scary sisters soon find out, and send him to Bloor's Academy. Charlie quickly finds life at Bloor's pretty tough, with its strict rules and the malevolent head boy, Manfred, set against him. When Charlie discovers that the child in the photograph is being held, hypnotised, against her will, he and his new friends with 'gifts' try to awaken her. But can they overcome Manfred's sinister hypnotic gifts?



Monster Mission **Eva Ibbotson**

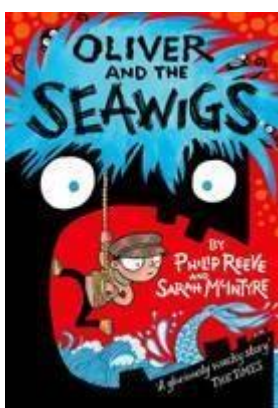
'We must kidnap some children,' announced Aunt Etta. 'Young, strong ones. It will be dangerous, but it must be done.' Three children are stolen and taken to a bizarre island, which is home to some extraordinary creatures -- including mermaids, selkies and the legendary kraken. The island is the base for a very mysterious mission. But the magical adventure is cut short, when the island is suddenly under siege. Can they save themselves and their new friends?



Mr Stink **David Walliams**

The second original, touching, twisted, and most of all hilarious novel for children from David Walliams, number one bestseller and fastest growing children's author in the country - beautifully illustrated by Quentin Blake.

Mr Stink stank. He also stunk. And if it was correct English to say he stinked, then he stinked as well... It all starts when Chloe makes friends with Mr Stink, the local tramp. Yes, he smells a bit. But when it looks like he might be driven out of town, Chloe decides to hide him in the garden shed. Now Chloe's got to make sure no one finds out her secret. And speaking of secrets, there just might be more to Mr Stink than meets the eye...or the nose.



My Life as a Goldfish And Other Poems
Rachel Rooney

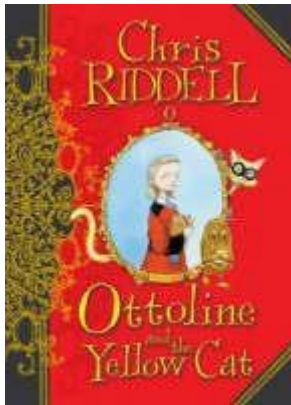
Magic slips between the cracks in real life. One day you will step on it. A monster's lunch, a wolf boy, Monday mornings, monkeys, headlice, Christmas, making friends, goldfish - and lots more. Full of jokes, surprises and puzzles, but also sensitive and thought-provoking, this is a spellbinding new collection from the winner of the CLPE Poetry Award.

Oliver and the Seawigs
Philip Reeve

A lively, gorgeously illustrated story from Dynamic Duo, Reeve and McIntyre! Along with his new friends, a grumpy old albatross, a short sighted mermaid, and a friendly island called Cliff, Oliver goes off in search of his missing parents. But before he can put his rescue plan into action there's the evil Stacey de Lacey and an army of greasy, green sea monkeys to contend with ...

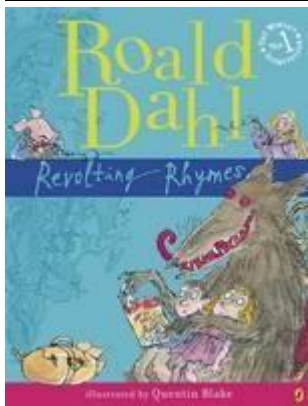
Format: Paperback

Price: £5.59 - Saving - Saving £1.40 (20%)



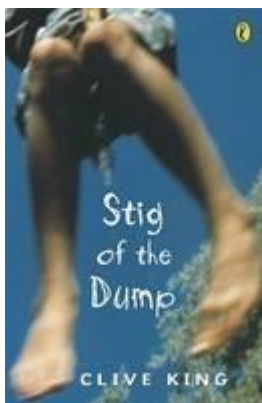
Ottoline and the Yellow Cat
Chris Riddell

Introducing Miss Ottoline Brown, an exceptionally inquisitive Mistress of Disguise, and her partner in crime, Mr. Munroe. No puzzle is ever too tricky for the two of them to solve ...Ottoline lives in a stylish apartment in Big City with a small hairy creature called Mr. Munroe. Together they look after the Brown family's eclectic collections - and dabble in a spot of detective work. So they are the first to the scene of the crime when a string of high-society dog-nappings and jewel thefts hits Big City. Ottoline (who luckily has a diploma from the Who-R-U Academy of Disguise) and Mr. Munroe go undercover - and expose an ingenious scam masterminded by furry feline crook, the Yellow Cat.



Revolting Rhymes
Roald Dahl

This is Roald Dahl's irreverent and hilarious collection, Revolting Rhymes . Six of the best-loved nursery tales, retold with surprising and sometimes disgusting twists! Wicked beasts, brazen crooks and a ghastly giant star in these hilarious nursery rhymes with bite.



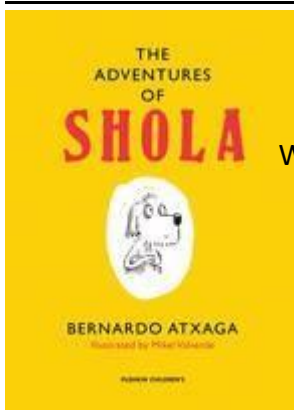
Stig of the Dump
Clive King

Stig of the Dump by Clive King is 50 years old and the story of Barney and his best friend, cave-man Stig, is as fresh today as it was when first published. 'Stig's nice. He's my friend' Nobody believes Barney when he says he's discovered a boy living wild in the dump. But for Barney, Stig is totally real. They become great friends, learn each other's ways and embark on a series of exciting adventures.



Stuart Little
E. B. White

Stuart Little is the enchanting tale of the mouse who is small in size but enormous in spirit by E. B. White, author of Charlotte's Web. Stuart Little is no ordinary mouse. Born to a family of humans he lives in New York City with his parents, his older brother George and Snowball the cat. He's an adventurous and heroic little mouse. When his best friend, a beautiful little bird called Margalo disappears from her nest, Stuart is determined to track her down. He ventures away from home for the very first time in his life and finds himself embroiled in one exciting adventure after another, making new friends and meeting old ones along the way.



The Adventures of Shola
Bernardo Atxaga, Mikel Valverde

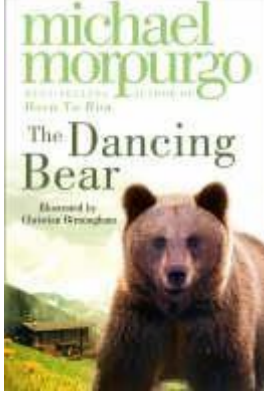
Winner of the 2014 Marsh Award for Children's Literature Shola is a little dog with attitude. Frustratingly for her, she loves both comfort (mainly in the form of food) and adventure (in theory, at least), and spends much of her time trying to decide between the two. Whether she is faced with the possibility that she may really be a lion or the prospect of a boar-hunt, with eccentric American visitors or insufferable country bumpkins, Shola is not afraid to pursue her dreams ...up to a point.

The Boy in the Dress
David Walliams

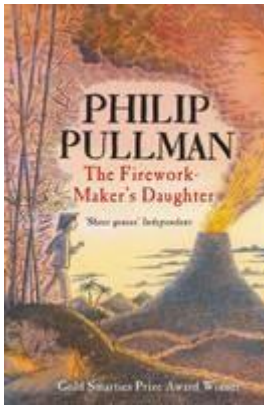
Dennis was different. Why was he different, you ask? Well, a small clue might be in the title of this book...Charming, surprising and hilarious - The Boy in the Dress is everything you would expect from the cocreator of Little Britain. David Walliams's beautiful first novel will touch the hearts (and funny bones) of children and adults alike.

The Dancing Bear
Michael Morpurgo, M. B. E.

A gentle and deeply moving story of a young girl and her bear, told with great charm by a master storyteller. High in the mountains, in a

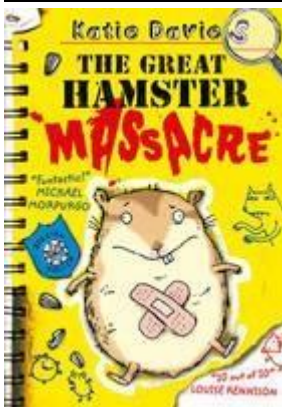


tiny village, an abandoned bear cub is adopted by a lonely orphan child. Soon they are inseparable, beloved by the whole village - safe, until the arrival of a glamorous film crew who need a dancing bear...



The Firework-maker's Daughter
Philip Pullman

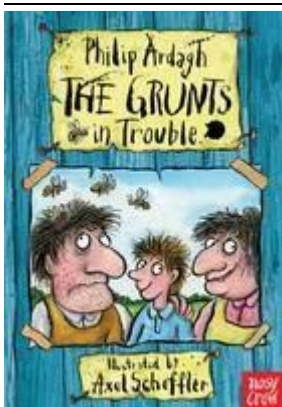
What Lila wants to be more than anything else in the world is ...a Firework-Maker! But firework-making is not just about being able to make Crackle-Dragons and Golden Sneezes. There is also one special secret: every Firework-Maker must make a perilous journey to face the terrifying Fire-Fiend! Not knowing that she needs special protection to survive the Fire-Fiend's flames, Lila sets off alone. Her friends, Chulak and Hamlet - the King's white elephant - race after her. But can they possibly reach her in time?



The Great Hamster Massacre
Katie Davies

A very natural and honest version of life's events from the perspective of a young girl - from her suspicions about her

neighbours, to her rocky friendship with the girl next door; from the sudden death of her beloved granny to her relentless quest for a pet hamster, only to then find it mysteriously slaughtered - which kickstarts a local investigation of 'suspects'.

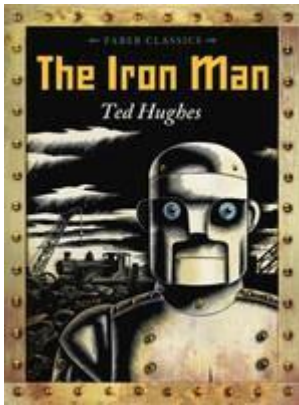


The Grunts In Trouble
Philip Ardagh

Meet Mr and Mrs Grunt. Oh, go on. They're not that bad. No, actually, they ARE. Maybe worse, even. But Sunny, their sort-of son, is okay. They stole him from a washing line as a baby. He was hanging by his

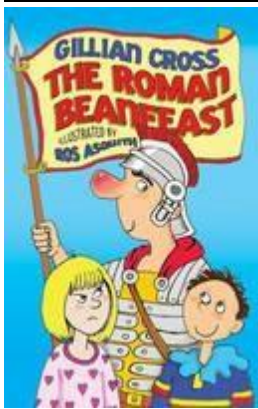
ears, which probably explains why they're so wonky (but not why he has sticky-up hair that NEVER lies flat, even if you pour glue into it or try taping it in place). Sticky around and you'll also meet Lord Bigg of Bigg Manor, Bigg-hater Larry Smalls, Mimi the Bigg Manor boot boy

(yup, she's a girl) and...Well, you'll have to READ the book to find that out. But I should mention the bees. Did I warn you about the bees?!



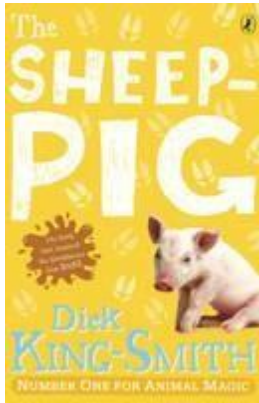
The Iron Man
Ted Hughes

Mankind must put a stop to the dreadful destruction by the Iron Man and set a trap for him, but he cannot be kept down. Then, when a terrible monster from outer space threatens to lay waste to the planet, it is the Iron Man who finds a way to save the world.



The Roman Beanfeast
Gillian Cross

Like every other school in the country, Davy's class are working on the Romans. Everyone is to do a piece of work based on the visit they made to a Roman fort and the best will get a prize at the Roman Feast planned by the school. Davy's problem is that bossy Molly from next door keeps stealing his ideas. That is until Davey draws inspiration from Julius Sneezzer the Roman soldier. A funny and insightful story from the popular prize winning author of The Demon Headmaster.

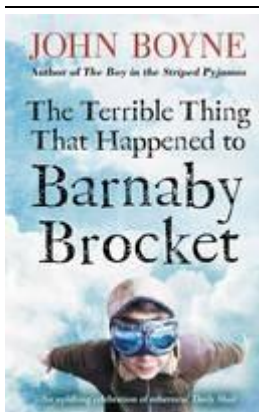


The Sheep-pig **Dick King-Smith**

The Sheep-pig is one of Dick King-Smith's most famous tales. It shot to further fame when the film adaptation, Babe, was released in 1995.

'Why can't I learn to be a Sheep-Pig?' When Babe, the little orphaned piglet, is won at a fair by Farmer Hogget, he is adopted by Fly, the kindhearted sheep-dog. Babe is determined to learn everything he can from Fly. He knows he can't be a sheep-dog. But maybe, just maybe, he might be a sheep-pig.

The Terrible Thing That Happened to Barnaby Brocket



John Boyne

There's nothing unusual or different about the Brocket family - and they're keen to keep it that way. But when Barnaby Brocket comes into the world, it's clear he's anything but ordinary. To his parents' horror,

Barnaby defies the laws of gravity - and floats. Soon, the Brockets decide enough is enough. The neighbours are starting to talk. They never asked for a weird, abnormal, floating child. Barnaby has to go...Betrayed and frightened, Barnaby floats into the path of a very special hot air balloon - and so begins a magical journey around the world, with a cast of extraordinary new friends.

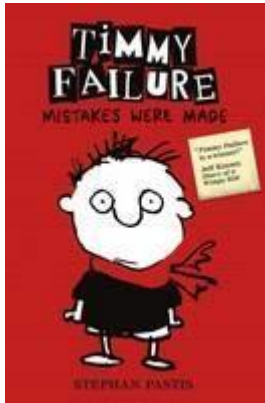
The Unlikely Adventures of Mabel Jones



Will Mabbitt

The first book by brilliant new comic author, Will Mabbitt. When Mabel Jones unknowingly commits 'The Deed' she finds herself swiftly bundled into a sack and carried off to the pirate ship the Feroshus

Maggot. Crewed by the strangest bunch of pirates you would ever want to meet and captained by the dreaded Idryss Ebenezer Split (a wolf with a false leg carved from a human thighbone, a rusty cutlass sheathed in his belt and a loaded pistol tucked in his pants with no fear of the consequences), the Feroshus Maggot whisks Mabel Jones off on the adventure of a lifetime.



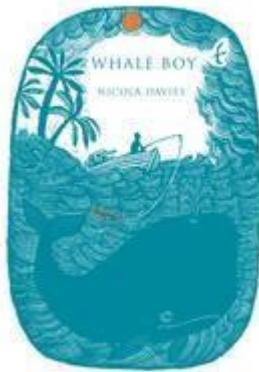
Timmy Failure: Mistakes Were Made

Stephan Pastis

Perfect for fans of Wimpy Kid and Big Nate, Timmy Failure: Mistakes Were Made is the first book in the New York Times bestselling series.

Listed as one of 100 Modern Children's Classics by The Sunday Times, it was also a Booktrust Best Book Awards winner.

Meet Timmy Failure, founder of the best detective agency in town - Total Failure, Inc. With the help of his polar bear, Total, the clueless, comically self-confident Timmy already has plans for world domination. Plans that will make his mother rich and unpaid bills a thing of the past. And plans that will defeat Corrina Corrina, The One Whose Name Shall Not Be Uttered . But she's not going away.



Whale Boy

Nicola Davies

Michael, a young boy growing up on the tropical island of Rose Town, has been saving up for his own fishing boat for years. But when a terrible storm wrecks his home, Michael is forced to take a job working for a rich, mysterious newcomer named Spargo. Spargo asks Michael to search for one thing in the deep waters around Rose Town - whales...