

Education Library Service Recommended Primary Fiction Summer Term 2018



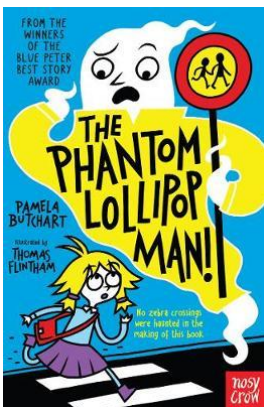
Bell, Alex

The Polar Bear Explorers' Club

Faber	Pbk	£6.99	9780571332540
Interest age:	9+	Reading age:	10+

Stella's adoptive father, Felix, is a member of The Polar Bear Explorers' Club, and Stella has always wanted to be an explorer. Technically girls aren't allowed to join The Club, but when the chance arises to join Felix, Stella is determined to prove she can be as good an explorer as anyone. She goes on an expedition to explore a frozen wilderness, the Icelands. Stella meets her three fellow explorers but the four of them get separated from their expedition. Together they trek across the snowy ice lands and come face-to-face with frost fairies, snow queens, outlaw hideouts, unicorns, pygmy dinosaurs and carnivorous cabbages.

An imaginative & well written fantasy/adventure story, with an engaging cast of characters. The polar landscape is depicted vividly, along with daring deeds and dangerous magic. A ripping yarn!



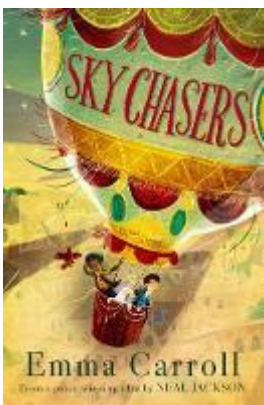
Butchart, Pamela

The Phantom Lollipop Man

Nosy crow	Pbk	£6.99	9781788000482
Interest age:	6+	Reading age:	7+

Izzy and her friends are shocked when they find their lollipop man has disappeared! Maisie thinks he's gone to Rome but if that's true, why do they keep seeing a weird white wispy cloud around the school? And why do Izzy's legs feel cold even though she's got tights on? Could it be that the lollipop man is a phantom and he's come to spook them all?

The lollipop man's disappearance is eventually explained and all is well when the children organise a thank you party for him which the adults had failed to do. Heart-warming humorous story for Lower KS2.



Carroll, Emma

Sky Chasers

Chicken House	Pbk	£6.99	9781910655535
Interest age:	9+	Reading age:	9+

An encounter with a boy dangling from the sky changes pickpocket Magpie's life forever. Like her, the boy dreams of flying over the rooftops of Paris. His family, the Montgolfiers, are desperate to be first to discover the secret of flight. Together with Pierre, Magpie is soon caught up in a world of inflatable bloomers, spies and a trio of unruly animals in a race to be the first to fly a hot air balloon - in front of the King and Queen of France.

Feisty female lead character tells a fictional story around the story of the first balloon flight.



Elphinstone, Abi **Sky Song**

Simon & Schuster Pbk £6.99 9781471146077

Interest age: 10+ Reading age: 10+

The Kingdom of Erkenwald is divided into three tribes; Fur, Feather and Tusks. An evil Ice Queen has persuaded the Tusks to work for her, and they have captured all the adults of the other two tribes. The Ice Queen needs to swallow all the voices of all the members of the tribes before the next midnight sun, in order to gain immortality. Flint, the son of the chief of the Fur tribe rescues a girl, Eska, from the Ice Queen's Palace. Eska is a magical being, who has the power to stop the queen and bring the tribes together again. Unfortunately, she can't remember who she is, and the Fur and Feather tribes are at war with each other. A gripping, fast-paced tale of magic and friendship.

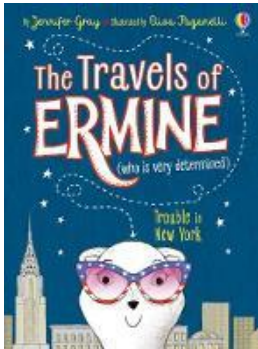


EVANS, Lissa **Wed Wabbit**

David Flickling Books Pbk £6.99 9781910989449

Interest age: 9+ Reading age: 9+

When 10 year old Fidge is cross and kicks her little sister's favourite soft toy Wed Wabbit into the road, she never expects a car accident. When Fidge hurls Web Wabbit down the basement stairs in a thunderstorm and dares her spoilt hypochondriac cousin Graham to go after it, neither expect to be transported into the bizarre picture book world of the Wimbley Woos. Can Fidge, Graham and some very odd assorted soft toys co-operate with the Wimbley Woos to save Wimbley land from the tyrant Wed Wabbit and get back home to Fidge's sister? Fantastically imaginative adventure tale, with superb characterisation, jeopardy and plenty of hilarity, and excellent world building. Would make a terrific group read, and encourage the reluctant reader, both boys and girls.



Gray, Jennifer **Trouble in New York**

Usborne Pbk £5.99 9781474927253

Interest age: 8+ Reading age: 8+

First title in a new series. Ermine is a globe-trotting stoat who has an adventure when she visits New York and gets her baggage accidentally mixed up with that of a diamond thief. She's on a world tour and determined to fill her scrapbook with tales of adventure. Ermine arrives in New York to stay with Michael Megabucks and his son - and is soon fighting off alligators at Central Park Zoo and outwitting bungling diamond thieves! It's a romp of a story with adventure, derring-do and great characters.



Higgins, Chris **Trouble at school**

Bloomsbury Pbk £4.99 9781408868850

Interest age: 6+ Reading age: 7+

It's Bella's first day at her new school and, she's already got a best friend who will be in the same class – Magda, her next-door neighbour. Bella is determined to make a good impression, but with Magda around, things don't always go according to plan. By the time she arrives, she's already drenched in yoghurt and marmalade, and things get much worse. A story for children starting to read with black and white line drawings throughout to break up the text. Short chapters and relatable characters.

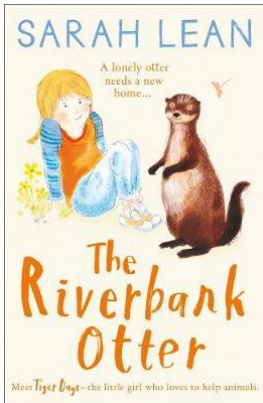


Jones, Guy

The Ice Garden

Chicken House
 Interest age: 10+ Pbk £6.99 9781911490043
 Reading age: 10+

Jess is allergic to the sun, and so lives in a world of shadows and hospitals, watching other children in the playground from behind curtains. Her only friend is a boy in a coma, to whom she tells stories. One night she sneaks out to explore the empty playground she's longed to visit, where she discovers a magical garden wrought of ice, and meets a boy made of ice who may hold a cure for her condition. A gentle tale which is a mix of a fantasy and family story.

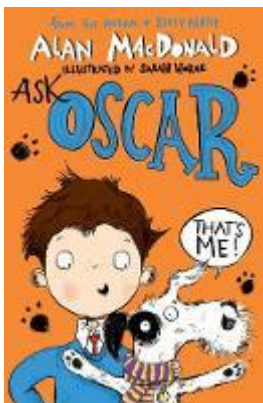


Lean, Sarah

The Riverbank otter

Harper Collins
 Interest age: 7+ Pbk £6.99 9780007512263
 Reading age: 7+

When nine-year-old Tiger Days visits her grandmother at Willowgate House, she looks forward to playing with her friend Tom. But when he discovers a boat in the shed which he and his grandfather refurbish, Tiger feels a little pushed out, especially as she is nervous of the water. However, the local vet asks Tiger to investigate the river habitat as a potential new home for an orphaned otter, and this gives her a good reason to explore. Lovely gentle tale which would probably suit girls best, with good characterisation and plenty of British wildlife detail.

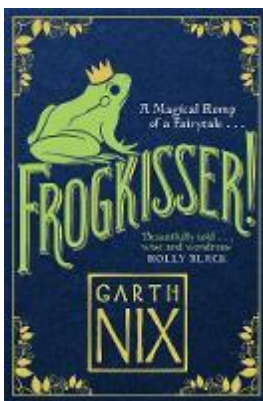


MacDonald, Alan

Ask Oscar

Egmont
 Interest age: 7+ Pbk £5.99 9781405287227
 Reading age: 7+

Meet Oscar. He's no ordinary dog. Sam has wanted a dog for ages, so when Oscar turns up on his doorstep he can't believe his luck. And when he finds out Oscar can talk he can't believe it. Oscar thinks humans are silly and rather badly trained but Oscar manages to save the day in their adventures. Humorous, slapstick humour which will appeal to the intended age group.

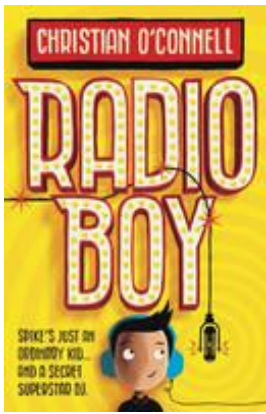


Nix, Garth

Frogkisser!

Piccadilly
 Interest age: 9+ Pbk £6.99 9781848126374
 Reading age: 10+

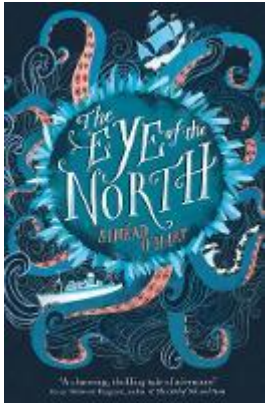
Princess Anya and her loyal dog, must embark on a terribly important (capital Q) Quest to acquire the ingredients for a reversal lip balm, the vital item needed to change a frog back to a prince and save her kingdom from her villainous stepfather. Great central character in Anya who is childlike but has definite views and a strong moral compass. Amusing, well written adventure based very loosely on the fairy tale of "The Frog Prince".



O'Connell, Christian Radio Boy

Harper Pbk £6.99 9780008183325
 Collins
 Interest age: 10+ Reading age: 10+

When 11-year-old Spike is fired from his show on hospital radio, he sets up his own pirate radio station, broadcasting from his garden shed. He disguises his voice and goes by the name Radio Boy. Word gets around and soon Radio Boy is a star, but folk do not know who he is! Then Spike goes too far with his mocking of the school headmaster and a hunt is launched for the mysterious Radio Boy. A first novel by a radio presenter. Easy to read story, which is fun. Has similarities to Adrian Mole and Tom Gates. Great for reluctant readers, particularly boys.

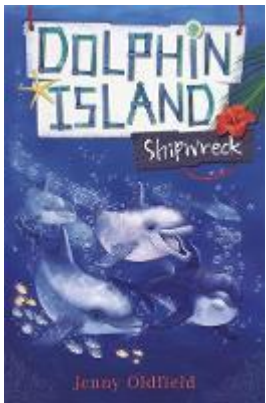


O'Hart, Sinead The Eye of the North

Stripes Pbk £6.99 9781847159410
 Interest age: 10+ Reading age: 10+

When Emmeline Widget's scientist parents mysteriously disappear, she finds herself on a ship heading for a safe house in Paris. On board she is befriended by an urchin stowaway called Thing. Before she can reach her destination, she is kidnapped by the sinister Dr Siegfried Bauer. Dr Bauer is bound for the ice fields of Greenland to summon a legendary monster from the deep. Can Emmeline and Thing stop his fiendish plans and save the world?

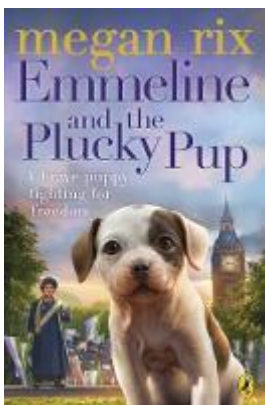
First title suggested on the UKLA/OU Teachers Reading group for discussion. A well written fantasy adventure story with eccentric characters and a theme of friendship. Great opening but perhaps more for the committed reader at 375 pages.



Oldfield, Jenny Shipwreck

Hodder Pbk £5.99 9781444928273
 Interest age: 8+ Reading age: 8+

A family are spending the summer holidays sailing a yacht around the South Pacific. However, there is a violent storm and the yacht hits some rocks and capsizes. The three children and their parents are helped to a nearby island by a pod of dolphins. As the family forage for food and make a shelter on the island, they make friends with the dolphins, who prove to be extremely useful companions. A light read with occasional black and white illustrations.

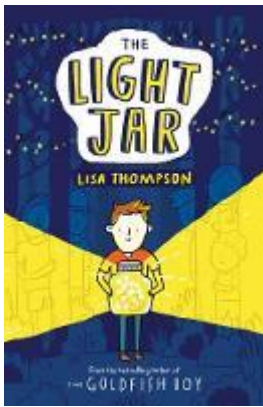


Rix, Megan Emmeline and the Plucky Pup

Puffin Pbk £5.99 9780141385709
 Interest age: 9+ Reading age: 9+

Alfie and his sister, Daisy run away from the Workhouse. They are both taken in by Emmeline Parkhurst. Alfie can't believe his luck when he is allowed to keep a puppy he finds abandoned on the street. Rascal is cute and has lots of attitude, and Emmeline Parkhurst is thrilled that her ward Alfie has a new friend. Alfie and Rascal deliver messages between the Suffragettes as they organise their 'Votes for Women' campaign. Sometimes the work is dangerous and they come into contact with the police.

A story in usual Megan Rix style which blends animals and history.



Thompson, Lisa The Light Jar

Scholastic Pbk £6.99 9781407171289
Interest age: 10+ Reading age: 10+

11 year old Nate and his mum run away from her bullying partner, but he is left alone in an abandoned cottage in the middle of woods when she goes to do some shopping. Comfort comes from an imaginary friend and a mysterious girl trying to solve the clues of a treasure hunt. Big issues and psychological themes are tackled sensitively with magical realism. A gentle and compelling writing style with lots of empathy and an unexpected twist at the end. Nate is a sensitive soul, who has panic attacks but as the story unfolds you realise the background and why he is like he is. There is also a mystery, where has his Mum disappeared to and why?

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angie.jacks@inspireculture.org.uk

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