

Primary Arts: Brilliant Box of Books!

Books for your school and book lists curated by the Centre for Literacy in Primary Education (CLPE)

Curated by CLPE's librarian, our book lists contain an inspiring range of books that complement the Primary Arts In-Schools Touring Programme. The lists suggest books from EYFS through KS1 and up to KS2, including picture books, information books and novels.

The books have been chosen to tie in with five themes linked to the 10 performances and workshops on offer this year:

- **I'm a Storyteller Explorer!**
- **I'm a Poet, And I Know it!**
- **I Can Move to the Music!**
- **See Me, Hear Me!**
- **I Play! I Persevere! I Puppeteer!**

And even better – in this brilliant Box of Books, you'll find a selection of these for you to use in your classroom, school library or book corner. We hope you and your pupils enjoy exploring them!

View this
resource online



**A NEW
DIRECTION**



CLPE

The Centre for Literacy in Primary Education (CLPE) is an independent UK-based charity. We support schools to teach literacy creatively and effectively, enabling children to read and write for purpose and for pleasure. We provide professional development and resources and conduct research into all areas of literacy, using findings to inform practice and contribute to national and international perspectives.

Phoebe Demeger – CLPE Librarian

Phoebe is the Librarian at the Centre for Literacy in Primary Education (CLPE). A former bookseller, she manages CLPE's extensive reference library of children's books, hosts regular visitors to the library, and assists the wider team in their delivery of training programmes and special events. She produces book reviews and recommendations for CLPE, ensuring that the very best titles find their way into schools and classrooms.



**Wherever you find
this symbol on the
book list, you'll find
that book in your
brilliant Box of Books.**

I'm a Storyteller Explorer!



EYFS

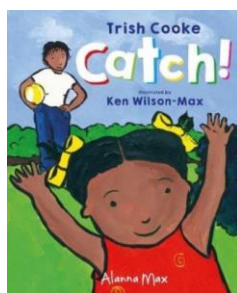
Picture Books



We're Going to Find the Monster!, by Malorie Blackman and Dapo Adeola (Puffin)

Two intrepid siblings embark on an adventure across oceans, mountains, jungles and a bubbly bubble lake in search of a mysterious monster, which turns out to be their teenage brother in his cave-like bedroom. A cumulative, rhythmic celebration of young children's imagination.

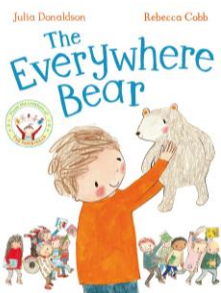
SHOW LINK: storytelling, quests and adventure.



Catch!, by Trish Cooke and Ken Wilson-Max (Alanna Max)

Little Kiona tries to catch things her mother throws to her, but they are all too big, too hard, or too slippery. Happily, she finds something she can easily catch and hold on to: a kiss from Mum.

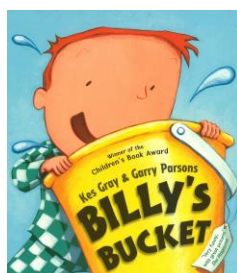
SHOW LINK: objects and engaging the senses.



The Everywhere Bear, by Julia Donaldson and Rebecca Cobb (Macmillan Children's Books)

The children of Class One take it in turns to bring the Everywhere Bear home for the weekend, until one day, he falls out of a boy's backpack, down a drain, and into an adventure. A series of happy circumstances bring the Bear safely home again.

SHOW LINK: objects, storytelling and adventure.



Billy's Bucket, by Kes Gray and Garry Parsons (Andersen Press)

All Billy wants for his birthday is a bucket. His parents eventually humour him and let him pick one out. When filled with water, Billy can see a whole underwater world inside his bucket. A light-hearted celebration of imagination.

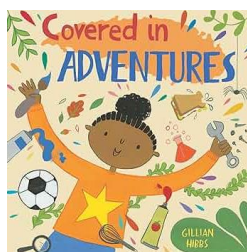
SHOW LINK: objects and storytelling.



Is it a Book or is it a Plane?, by Mike Henson and Katie Vernon (Happy Yak)

Co-produced with Great Ormond Street Hospital, this book plays with the notion of a book as an object and actively encourages creative, interactive play, using flaps and die-cut pages to transform the book into a mask, a hat, a plane, and more.

SHOW LINK: objects, storytelling, and engaging the senses.



Covered in Adventures, by Gillian Hibbs (Child's Play)

Sasha's dads try to convince her to throw away her dirty old jumper, but to Sasha, its stains, tears and smells serve as a reminder of all the adventures she had while wearing it.

SHOW LINK: objects, adventure and engaging the senses.

I'm a Storyteller Explorer!



EYFS

Picture Books



Can You Hear Me?, by Ekaterina Trukhan (Milky Way Picture Books)

An unseen narrator addresses a child and invites them to engage with nature using all of their senses. The sensory language and bright, collaged illustrations make this a gently immersive read.

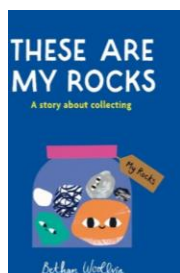
SHOW LINK: engaging the senses.



Ruby's Sword, by Jacqueline Véissid and Paola Zakimi (Chronicle Books)

While taking a break from trying to catch up with her brothers, Ruby discovers a pile of sticks on the ground – the perfect swords for a day of imaginative play. She fights dragons, rescues ants, decorates the dirt, and eventually the siblings work together to build a magnificent castle.

SHOW LINK: objects and storytelling.

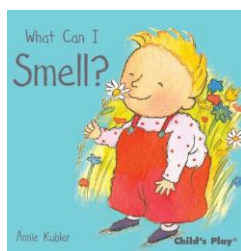


These Are My Rocks, by Bethan Woolvin (Frances Lincoln Children's Books)

The narrator proudly takes the reader on a tour through their curious collections, including wobbly things, stinky things, and things with too many legs. With plenty of opportunities for interaction, and vibrant digital collage artwork.

SHOW LINK: objects, artefacts and engaging the senses.

Board Books



What Can I Smell?, by Annie Kubler (Child's Play)

Part of Child's Play's 'Small Senses' series, each focusing on one of the five senses. This board book follows a group of toddlers as they encounter various familiar scents, with evocative language and inclusive illustrations.

SHOW LINK: engaging the senses.



Stories for Your Senses, by Emma Steel and Wendy Wen (Every Cherry)

A series of board books themed around the seasons and featuring representation of diverse families, specially created to invite engagement from the senses. Each book comes with tactile elements, a free audiobook, and a soundscape to support with bringing the story to life.

SHOW LINK: multi-sensory stories and engaging the senses

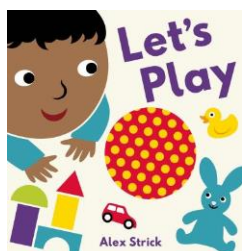


I'm a Storyteller Explorer!



EYFS

Board Books



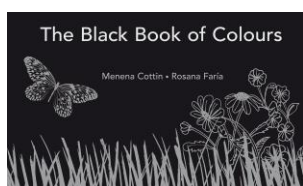
Let's Play, by Alex Strick, Annie Kubler and Sarah Dellow (Child's Play)

A touch-and-feel book with accessible elements, including tactile features, high-contrast illustrations, and keywords in signs and Braille, that encourages all young children to engage their senses as they play.

SHOW LINK: multi-sensory stories and engaging the senses.

Key Stage One

Picture Books



The Black Book of Colours, by Menena Cottin and Rosana Faría (Walker Books)

An imaginative tactile book which poetically describes colours using senses other than sight. The text appears in both typeface and Braille, and is accompanied by raised line drawings on black pages.

SHOW LINK: multi-sensory stories and engaging the senses.



Meerkat Mail, by Emily Gravett (Macmillan Children's Books)

Sunny the meerkat sets off to see the world, staying with various relatives along the way and sending postcards home to his family as he travels. With lift-the-flap postcards, and scrapbook-style collaging.

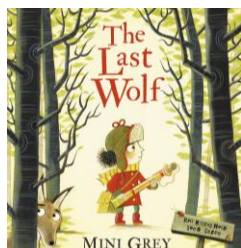
SHOW LINK: storytelling, artefacts, maps and adventure.

I'm a Storyteller Explorer!



Key Stage One

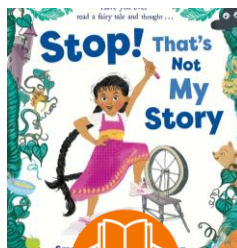
Picture Books



The Last Wolf, by Mini Grey (Puffin Books)

This picture book repositions 'Little Red Riding Hood' as an environmental fable about protecting and restoring wild spaces, in which Little Red steps out into the woods to catch a wolf, and happens upon the last of its kind – along with the Last Lynx and the Last Bear – due to habitat loss.

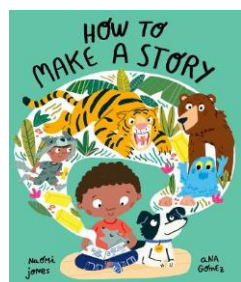
SHOW LINK: storytelling, adventure and reworking fairy tales.



Stop! That's Not My Story, by Smriti Halls and Erika Meza (Simon & Schuster)

Rhyming text and repeated refrains tell the story of a girl who falls into a book of fairy tales and experiences each one in turn, but none seem quite right for her. She picks up pen and paper and decides to write a story of her own, one where she gets to be the hero.

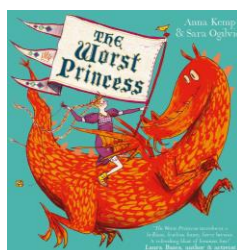
SHOW LINK: reworking fairy tales.



How to Make a Story, by Naomi Jones and Ana Gomez (Oxford University Press)

Through imaginative play, Milo makes up a story about a treasure hunt, drawing inspiration from his home environment and little siblings. He then uses pen and paper to turn his story into a book – a facsimile of which appears on a double-page spread – ready to be shared with his family.

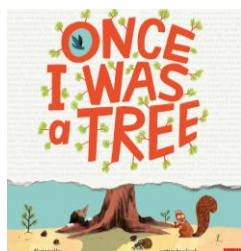
SHOW LINK: storytelling and adventure.



The Worst Princess, by Anna Kemp and Sara Ogilvie (Simon & Schuster)

Princess Susan dreams of being rescued from her tower so she can go on adventures, but when her 'rescuer' brings her home to his own boring tower, she enlists the help of a dragon to start her real, happily-ever-after adventure. A rhyming feminist retelling.

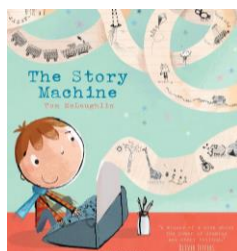
SHOW LINK: reworking fairy tales.



Once I Was a Tree, by Eoin McLaughlin and Guilherme Karsten (Nosy Crow)

A clever, fourth-wall-breaking picture book narrated by the book itself, as it tells the story of how it went from seed to tree to book, therefore literally bringing to life the story of an object.

SHOW LINK: storytelling, objects and adventure.



The Story Machine, by Tom McLaughlin (Bloomsbury)

A boy finds a typewriter in the attic and discovers he can use its letters to make stories, first as words, then as pictures. Eventually he learns that his own imagination, rather than the machine, is the true story-maker.

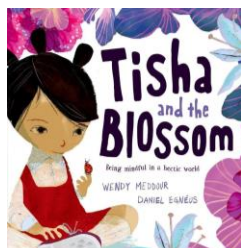
SHOW LINK: objects and storytelling.

I'm a Storyteller Explorer!



Key Stage One

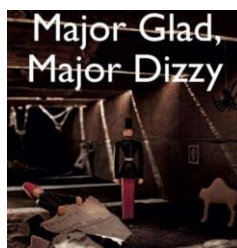
Picture Books



Tisha and the Blossom, by Wendy Meddour and Daniel Egneus (Oxford University Press)

Tired of always being told to “hurry up” and rush through her day, Tisha encourages her parents to spend time slowing down with her: counting seagulls, sitting in the sun, and enjoying crunchy, chewy, tingly picnic food. A sensory celebration of mindfulness.

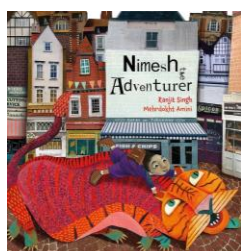
SHOW LINK: engaging the senses.



Major Glad, Major Dizzy, by Jan Oke (Little Knowall)

Uniquely illustrated using models and photography, two wooden toy soldiers fall through the floorboards of a family home and witness the passage of history unfold above them, from the late 1800s to present-day London.

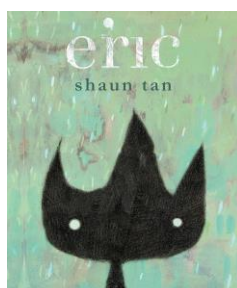
SHOW LINK: objects, artefacts and histories.



Nimesh the Adventurer, by Ranjit Singh and Mehrdokht Amini (Lantana)

Nimesh's imagination transforms his walk home from school into a world-spanning adventure, his surroundings becoming a dragon's cave, the North Pole, and a pirate ship. With collage illustrations that blur the line between reality and fantasy.

SHOW LINK: storytelling and adventure.

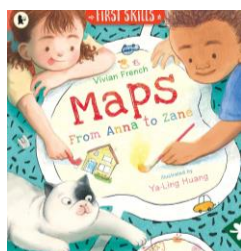


Eric, by Shaun Tan (Templar Publishing)

A small creature, known as Eric, comes to stay with a family as an exchange student and shows great curiosity in the world and the small objects he finds on his travels. When Eric departs, the narrator discovers he has repurposed this collection of items as magical plant pots.

SHOW LINK: objects and artefacts.

Information Books



Maps: From Anna to Zane, by Vivian French and Ya-Ling Huang (Walker Books)

Inspired by a map of their town drawn by her friend Zane, Anna and her father explore a range of different maps and their features – such as scale, birds-eye view, symbols and perspective – and how they help us navigate our surroundings.

SHOW LINK: maps and exploring the world.



Martha Maps it Out and Martha Maps it Out in Time, by Leigh Hodgkinson (Oxford University Press)

Martha introduces the reader to her world via a series of maps on an ever-decreasing scale, zeroing in on the planet, city, house, and finally Martha herself, including her internal thoughts and dreams for the future. A follow-up sees Martha take the reader on a tour through time, from recent history to the Big Bang and fast-forwarding into the future.

SHOW LINK: maps, exploring the world and histories.

I'm a Storyteller Explorer!



Key Stage One

Poetry



Goodnight, Starry Night,
by Joseph Coelho, Mary Rose Brady and Allison Colpoys (Thames and Hudson)

Written by a former Children's Laureate, each poem in this bedtime-themed collection is written in response to a work of art – with photographs of the artwork included – showing how different art forms can be inspired by one another.

SHOW LINK: storytelling and artefacts.

Traditional Tales



Gina Kaminski Saves the Wolf and Gina Kaminski Rescues the Giant, by Craig Barr-Green and Francis Martin (Little Tiger Press)

When Gina Kaminski hears fairy tales for the first time, she is quick to spot the mistakes, and takes it upon herself to enter the tales and set things right. Starring a confident, autistic protagonist, and utilising pictorial emoji language.

SHOW LINK: storytelling, adventure, and reworking fairy tales.



Little Red, Rapunzel, Hansel and Gretel and Robin Hood, by Bethan Woollvin (Two Hoots)

A series of 'fractured' fairy tales offering feminist or radical takes on these popular stories, with a witty writing style and digital paper collage illustrations.

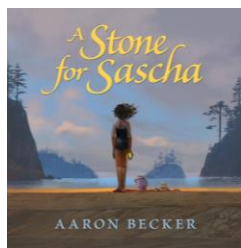
SHOW LINK: reworking fairy tales.

I'm a Storyteller Explorer!



Lower Key Stage Two

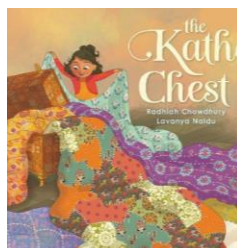
Picture Books



A Stone for Sascha, by Aaron Becker (Walker Books)

On a visit to the beach and grieving the loss of her pet dog, a girl picks up a stone, and the book launches into a wordless flashback of how that stone came to be in her hands, from asteroid to standing stone, obelisk to artefact. Eventually she lays the stone on her dog's grave.

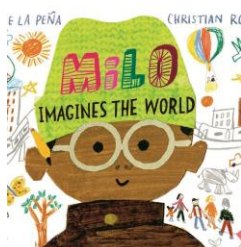
SHOW LINK: objects, artefacts and histories.



The Katha Chest, by Radhiah Chowdhury and Lavanya Naidu (Allen and Unwin)

A young girl immerses herself in the box of kathas at her grandmother's house – Bangladeshi quilts sewn from old saris. The kathas hold the stories of the women who wore them; these stories are depicted in wordless vignettes, drawn as if stitched onto the fabric.

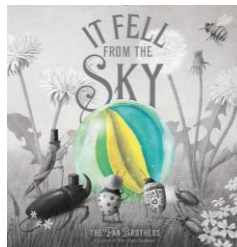
SHOW LINK: objects, artefacts, histories and engaging the senses.



Milo Imagines the World, by Matt de la Peña and Christian Robinson (Two Hoots)

Milo is preoccupied during a subway journey, so he takes out his sketchbook and visually imagines the lives of the people around him, until a chance encounter causes him to confront his surface-level assumptions.

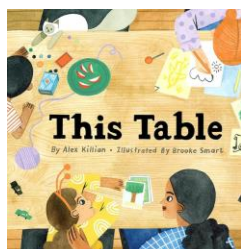
SHOW LINK: storytelling.



It Fell from the Sky, by Terry and Eric Fan (Frances Lincoln Children's Books)

One day, a marble falls from the sky and lands amongst a society of insects. While they speculate as to what this mysterious object might be, a crafty spider seeks to capitalise on the situation.

SHOW LINK: objects and artefacts.



This Table, by Alex Killian and Brooke Smart (Greystone Kids)

A 'life cycle' story following a seed which grows into a tree, which is transformed into a table, which becomes the centrepiece of a family home. A reflective book about the role of objects in our lives and the meanings they hold.

SHOW LINK: objects and artefacts.

I'm a Storyteller Explorer!



Lower Key Stage Two

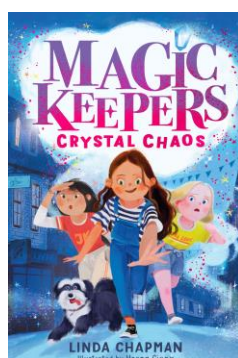
Novels



The Secret Diary, by Philip Ardagh and Jamie Littler (Nosy Crow and the National Trust)

This series imagines the reader stumbling upon the lost diaries of a knight-in-training, a Victorian housekeeper, a young Tudor spy and a smuggler's daughter, bringing history to life through the eyes of those who experienced it. Footnotes provide additional historical context.

SHOW LINK: storytelling, artefacts and histories.



Magic Keepers: Crystal Chaos, by Linda Chapman and Hoang Giang (Little Tiger Press)

Ava's great aunt is an archaeologist and when she passes away, Ava and her mother move into her house which is full of curious artefacts from around the world. Ava finds herself the custodian of a mysterious and magical set of crystals.

SHOW LINK: artefacts and adventure.

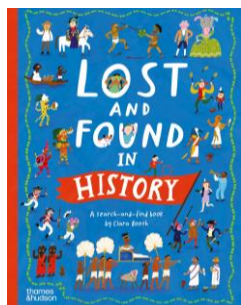


Flora Stormer and the Golden Lotus, by Isabella Harcourt and Hannah McCaffery (Orchard)

When Flora's explorer father falls gravely ill, she takes his place on an expedition to find the fabled golden lotus flower, said to have healing powers. The first in a globe-trotting adventure series, starring a girl with Tourette's Syndrome.

SHOW LINK: explorers, quests and adventure.

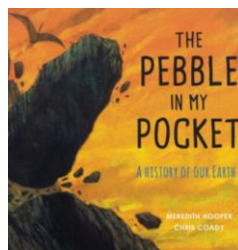
Information Books



Lost and Found in History, by Clara Booth (Thames & Hudson)

Follow two children and their dog in this search-and-find adventure through time, seeking interesting objects and people in nine intricately illustrated spreads. Fact sections provide additional insight into the different eras.

SHOW LINK: objects, artefacts, histories and adventure.



The Pebble in my Pocket, by Meredith Hooper and Chris Coady (Frances Lincoln Children's Books)

Blending factual information with lyrical language, this book recounts the history of earth as told through the journey of a single pebble, from its volcanic origins 480 million years ago to being found on the ground by a modern-day child.

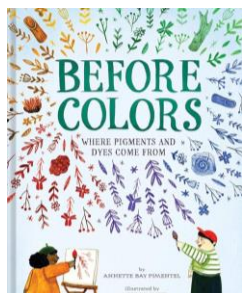
SHOW LINK: objects, artefacts and histories.

I'm a Storyteller Explorer!



Lower Key Stage Two

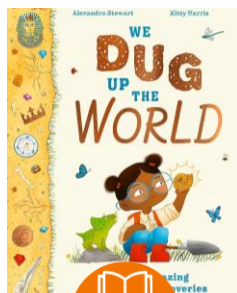
Information Books



Before Colors: Where Pigments and Dyes Come From, by Annette Bay Pimentel and Madison Safer (Abrams Books)

This large-format picture book examines the origins of pigments and dyes throughout history, covering animal, plant and mineral sources, as well as exploring the scientific and cultural meanings behind colours.

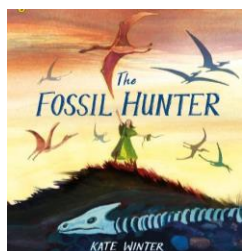
SHOW LINK: objects, artefacts, histories and engaging the senses.



We Dug Up the World, by Alexandra Stewart and Kitty Harris (Laurence King Publishing)

An introduction for younger readers to the field of archaeology, spotlighting not only a range of archaeological discoveries, but the people who made them, including Mary Anning and George McJunkin.

SHOW LINK: objects, artefacts and histories.



The Fossil Hunter, by Kate Winter (Puffin)

An immersive work of narrative non-fiction which juxtaposes the life of Mary Anning alongside facts about the dinosaurs she was instrumental in unearthing. The story is brought to life through labels, diagrams, and extracts from Mary's journal.

SHOW LINK: artefacts and histories.

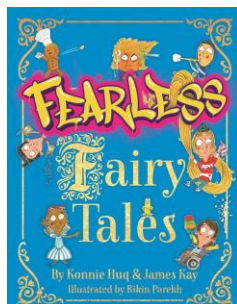
Traditional Tales



Fairy Tales Gone Bad, by Joseph Coelho and Freya Hartas (Walker Books)

A trio of twisted fairy tale retellings, written in verse, adding a humorously spooky spin to the stories of Cinderella, Rumpelstiltskin and Sleeping Beauty.

SHOW LINK: reworking fairy tales.



Fearless Fairy Tales, by Konnie Huq, James Kay and Rikin Parekh (Piccadilly Press)

A hilarious and engaging collection of traditional tales, re-imagined for the 21st century and tackling with wit such themes as pollution, fake news and equal pay, accompanied by anarchic illustrations.

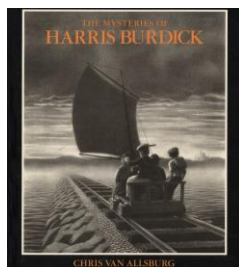
SHOW LINK: reworking fairy tales.

I'm a Storyteller Explorer!



Upper Key Stage Two

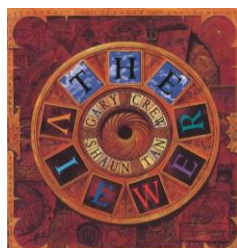
Picture Books



The Mysteries of Harris Burdick, by Chris Van Allsburg (Andersen Press)

The premise of this unique picture book is that fourteen drawings, each with a title and mysterious caption, were left with a publisher by a man who subsequently disappeared. An imaginative stimulus for creative writing.

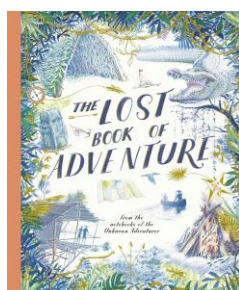
SHOW LINK: imagination and storytelling.



The Viewer, by Gary Crew and Shaun Tan (Hachette Children's Book)

A boy finds an old Viewmaster toy on a rubbish dump, through which he realises he can observe snapshots of disaster, destruction and devastation throughout world history, from prehistoric times to the war-torn modern era.

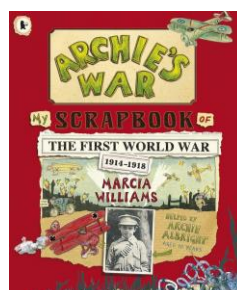
SHOW LINK: objects, artefacts and histories.



The Lost Book of Adventure, by Teddy Keen (Frances Lincoln Children's Book)

Presented as a facsimile of the notebooks of the mysterious 'Unknown Adventurer', this engaging book couples an adventure narrative with field notes and how-tos for outdoor adventuring.

SHOW LINK: artefacts, explorers and adventure.

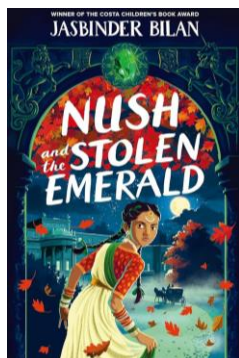


Archie's War and My Secret War Diary, by Marcia Williams (Walker Books)

Presented as a pair of scrapbooks of the lives of two children, these books paint a picture of everyday life during World Wars I and II, using newspaper cuttings, photographs, diary entries, doodles, and fold-out letters and cards.

SHOW LINK: objects, artefacts and histories.

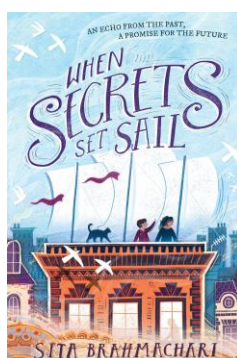
Novels



Nush and the Stolen Emerald, by Jasbinder Bilan (Chicken House)

Inspired by real events, this empowering historical adventure follows a young Indian princess on her quest to reclaim a precious emerald stolen from her family by the East India Company.

SHOW LINK: artefacts, forgotten histories and adventure.



When Secrets Set Sail, by Sita Brahmachari (Orion)

Guided by literal ghosts of the past, two girls embark on a quest across London to uncover a series of objects and documents that will unveil the secrets of the past and, with any luck, save their home. A poignant and lyrical story about family, community, and overlooked histories.

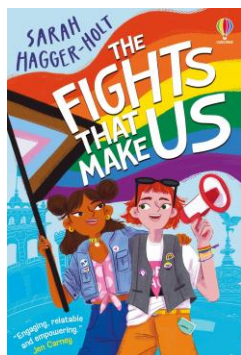
SHOW LINK: objects, artefacts and forgotten histories.

I'm a Storyteller Explorer!



Upper Key Stage Two

Novels



The Fights That Make Us, by Sarah Hagger-Holt (Usborne)

While searching for ideas for a school history project, non-binary teen Jesse comes across their cousin's diary from the 1980s and learns about the history of Section 28. An empowering story about LGBTQ+ activism from the past and the present day, with the narrative alternating between Jesse's voice and cousin Lisa's diary.

SHOW LINK: artefacts and forgotten histories.



Last Girl In, by Cheryl Diane Parkinson (Dinosaur Books)

A timeslip adventure starring cricket-mad Kerry-Ann, who is transported through time by her grandfather's cricket bat, where she learns about her family's history as part of the Windrush Generation, and the importance of standing up for herself.

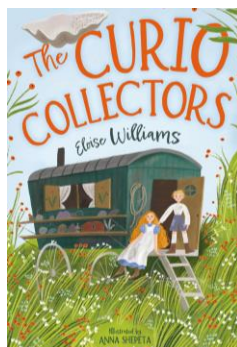
SHOW LINK: objects, forgotten histories and adventure.



Voices, by various authors (Scholastic)

A ground-breaking series of historical novels that spotlight hidden voices from British history and place the authentically-told stories of underrepresented and marginalised groups at the forefront. Series authors include Bali Rai, Patrice Lawrence, Richard O'Neill and more.

SHOW LINK: storytelling and forgotten histories.

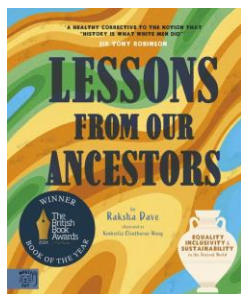


The Curio Collectors, by Eloise Williams and Anna Shepeta (Barrington Stoke)

Lily, Tom and their mother are a travelling family who make their living by searching for and selling curious objects, including a mysterious carved shell which attracts the attention of both a young maid and a suspicious gentleman.

SHOW LINK: objects, artefacts and adventure.

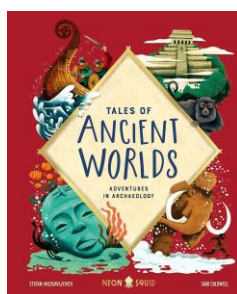
Information Books



Lessons from Our Ancestors, by Raksha Dave and Kimberlie Clinthorne-Wong (Magic Cat)

This inclusive and illuminating book takes so-called 'modern' concepts such as sustainability and gender equality, and exposes them as having always been present in ancient civilizations by focussing on real-life archaeological finds from each era.

SHOW LINK: objects, artefacts and forgotten histories.



Tales of Ancient Worlds: Adventures by Archaeology, by Stefan Milosavljevich and Sam Caldwell (Neon Squid)

An engagingly written and beautifully produced guide to a broad range of archaeological discoveries from throughout history, which thoughtfully delves into the stories they unveil about the people and eras they come from.

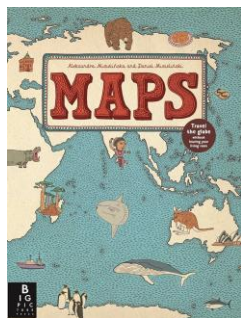
SHOW LINK: objects, artefacts, forgotten histories and adventure.

I'm a Storyteller Explorer!



Upper Key Stage Two

Information Books



Maps, by Aleksandra Mizielinska and Daniel Mizielinski (Big Picture Press)

A large-format atlas with maps of a selected range of countries from each continent. Each map is filled with intricate drawings of people, geographies, flora and fauna, food and items associated with that country's culture and customs, inspiring a voyage of discovery for young readers.

SHOW LINK: artefacts and adventure.

Graphic Books

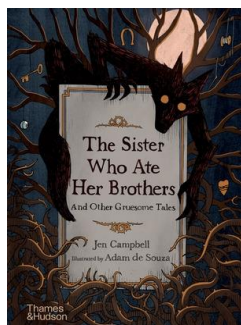


Loose Threads, by Isol and Lawrence Schimel (Enchanted Lion Books)

The medium of this innovative book contributes to the storytelling: photographs of an embroidered Palestinian shawl form the background, and the story follows Leilah, who becomes convinced that her lost items are disappearing to the Other Side – the reverse of the embroidery.

SHOW LINK: storytelling, objects and artefacts.

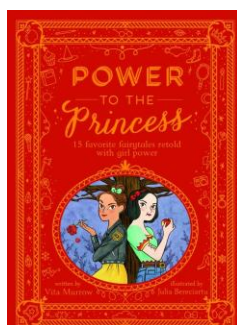
Traditional Tales



The Sister Who Ate Her Brothers, by Jen Campbell and Adam de Souza (Thames & Hudson)

An accomplished and atmospheric collection of fourteen particularly gruesome fairy stories collected from around the world, rewritten to amplify their feminist messaging, incorporate queer characters, and ensure positive representation of disability.

SHOW LINK: reworking fairy tales.



Power to the Princess and High-Five to the Hero, by Vita Murrow and Julia Bereciartu (Frances Lincoln Children's Books)

Two beautifully produced fairytale collections that deconstruct many of their tropes, particularly around gender and, with wit and warmth, show that there are many ways of being a hero.

SHOW LINK: reworking fairy tales.

I'm a Poet, And I know it!



EYFS

Picture Books



All Join In, by Quentin Blake (Red Fox)

An exuberant collection of poems in picture book format by a beloved children's creator. The rhymes, rhythms and repetition are perfect for encouraging participation from young children, especially the noisy onomatopoeia of beeps, quacks, and clangs.

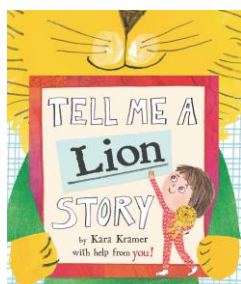
SHOW LINK: poetry and performance.



New Nursery Rhymes, by Katrina Charman and Nick Sharratt (Bloomsbury)

These colourful, rhyming picture books reinterpret popular nursery rhymes and songs with new lyrics, ideal for singing along. The series includes a reimagining of 'Baa Baa Black Sheep' as *Car, Car, Truck, Jeep*, and wheels are swapped for whales in *The Whales on the Bus*.

SHOW LINK: poetry and lyrics.



Tell Me a Lion Story, by Kara Kramer (Walker Books)

This interactive picture book opens with a child requesting their parent tell them a story about a lion, and soon the reader's help is enlisted to add their own choices and flourishes to the tale.

SHOW LINK: creative writing.

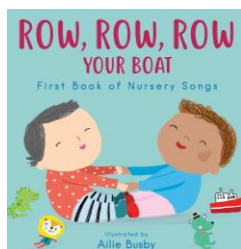


Hands-On Songs, by Anthony Lewis (Child's Play)

Child's Play specialise in beautifully designed, inclusive board books for the very young. Their 'Hands-On Songs' series shares popular nursery rhymes and songs, complete with actions in BSL and a musical score on the back page.

SHOW LINK: poetry, performance and lyrics.

Poetry



Row, Row, Row Your Boat: First Book of Nursery Songs, by Ailie Busby (Child's Play)

A board book collection of well-known nursery rhymes and songs, with a few modern variations, inclusive illustrations, and suggestions for actions.

SHOW LINK: poetry, lyrics and performance.



Zim Zam Zoom! Zappy Poems to Read Out Loud, by James Carter and Nicola Colton (Otter-Barry Books)

This poetry picture book is perfectly pitched for the young listener or early reader. These rhythmic, patterned poems ask to be read aloud and provide plenty of opportunities for joining in.

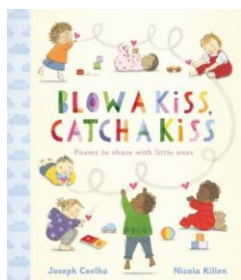
SHOW LINK: poetry and performance.

I'm a Poet, And I know it!



EYFS

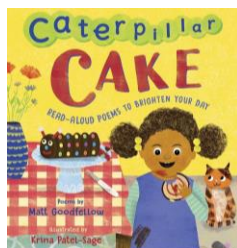
Poetry



Blow a Kiss, Catch a Kiss, by Joseph Coelho and Nicola Killen (Andersen Press)

Subtitled 'Poems to share with little ones', this well-considered and beautifully produced collection speaks to the experiences of very young children and is an invitation to connect with the world around them.

SHOW LINK: poetry.



Caterpillar Cake, by Matt Goodfellow and Krina Patel-Sage (Otter-Barry Books)

Tuneful, witty and warm poems that are perfect for reading aloud and joining in with, reflecting everyday experiences, and opening up the imaginative possibilities of poetry, accompanied by exuberant and colourful illustrations.

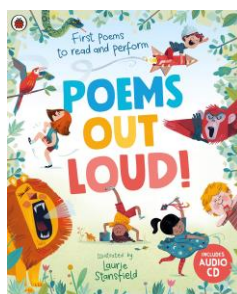
SHOW LINK: poetry.



Big Green Crocodile: Rhymes to Say and Play and Big Red Dragon: Play Rhymes Through the Year, by Jane Newberry and Carolina Rabei (Otter-Barry Books)

Two playful collections of sixteen contemporary action rhymes brought to life through bright and lively illustrations – *Big Green Crocodile* focuses on play, while *Big Red Dragon* explores seasonal celebrations. Each poem is accompanied by a 'Let's Play' section, inviting actions and interactions from the child reader.

SHOW LINK: poetry and performance.



Poems Out Loud! First Poems to Read and Perform, by Laurie Stansfield (Ladybird)

Presented in picture book format, this anthology features works from a diverse range of poets and performers which all lend themselves to reading and enjoying aloud. Relatable childhood experiences and fantastical themes are threaded throughout.

SHOW LINK: poetry and performance.



Five Little Friends, by Sean Taylor and Fiona Woodcock (Walker Books)

This interactive poetry book features more than 30 original action rhymes with easy-to-follow illustrated instructions, inviting children to use their fingers and hands to bring these poems to life.

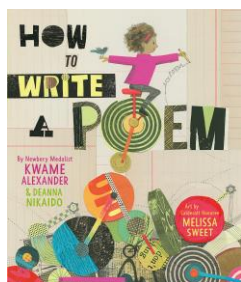
SHOW LINK: poetry and performance.

I'm a Poet, And I know it!



Key Stage One

Picture Books



How to Write a Poem, by Kwame Alexander, Deanna Nikaido and Melissa Sweet (HarperCollins)

Written in verse, and with dynamic collage artwork, this invigorating picture book by renowned poet Alexander encapsulates the joys of poetry and the wonders of a child's imagination.

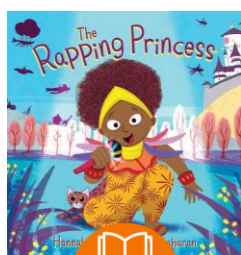
SHOW LINK: poetry and creative writing.



A Very Late Story, by Marianna Coppo (Flying Eye Books)

Five characters appear on a blank page and wait for their story to begin, but Rabbit finds waiting boring and takes matters into its own hands. A witty tale of storytelling and imagination.

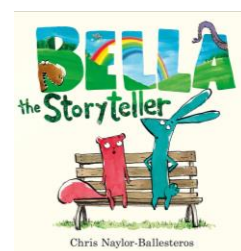
SHOW LINK: creative writing and imagination.



The Rapping Princess, by Hannah Lee and Allen Fatimaharan (Faber & Faber)

Princess Shiloh wishes she could sing as well as her sisters, until she discovers a hidden talent for rapping. A reassuring and rhyming picture book about self-expression and individuality.

SHOW LINK: performance and spoken word.

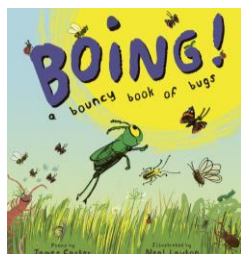


Bella the Storyteller, by Chris Naylor-Ballesteros (Andersen Press)

Squirrel and Rabbit find themselves at the mercy of an omnipotent narrator, who takes over the narrative and fills it with all sorts of outlandish events.

SHOW LINK: creative writing and imagination.

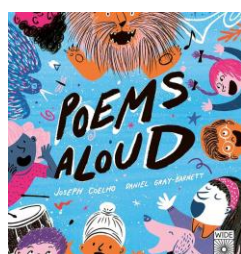
Poetry



Boing! A Bouncy Book of Bugs, by James Carter and Neal Layton (Otter-Barry Books)

An exuberant poetry picture book, perfect for reading and sharing aloud, and packed with all kinds of poems about all kinds of bugs, from riddles and kennings to tardigrades and snails. With friendly, googly-eyed illustrations, and fact boxes throughout.

SHOW LINK: poetry and sparking curiosity.



Poems Aloud, by Joseph Coelho and Daniel Gray-Barnett (Wide Eyed Editions)

A brilliant introduction to performance poetry, in which each poem, riddle and tongue-twister opens with a suggestion for how to perform it. A dynamic and inviting illustrated collection.

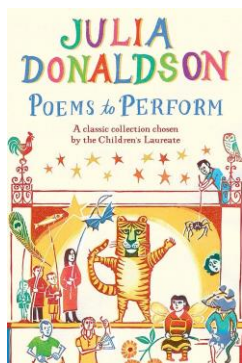
SHOW LINK: poetry and performance.

I'm a Poet, And I know it!



Key Stage One

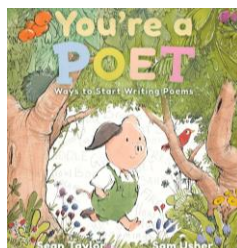
Poetry



Poems to Perform, by Julia Donaldson and Clare Melinsky (Macmillan Children's Books)

A curated anthology of classic and contemporary poems that lend themselves to being performed collaboratively. The book closes with a list of suggestions for how each poem could be verbally and dramatically presented, while leaving space for interpretation.

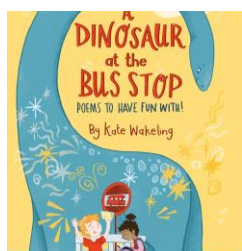
SHOW LINK: poetry and performance.



You're a Poet: Ways to Start Writing Poems, by Sean Taylor and Sam Usher (Walker Books)

Five short, illustrated stories starring a piglet and his friends are paired with five writing activities for creating one's own poems, in this warmly accessible introduction to the world of poetry.

SHOW LINK: poetry, prompts and creative writing.

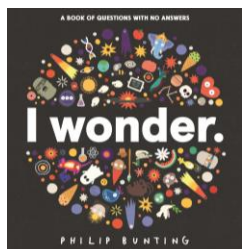


A Dinosaur at the Bus Stop, by Kate Wakeling and Eilidh Muldoon (Otter-Barry Books)

Subtitled 'Poems to Have Fun With', this playful collection delights in wordplay, offers plenty of opportunities for performance, and seeks to make the everyday appear magical.

SHOW LINK: poetry and performance.

Information Books



I Wonder: A Book of Questions with No Answers, by Philip Bunting (Walker Studio)

A playful, philosophical and thought-provoking exploration of questions without concrete answers, such as: "I wonder why we make art?" and "I wonder what it's like to be a tree?". A graphically illustrated celebration of the natural curiosity of humans.

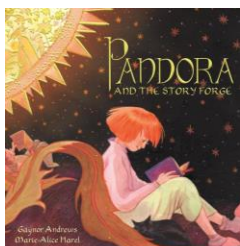
SHOW LINK: questions that spark curiosity.

I'm a Poet, And I know it!



Lower Key Stage Two

Picture Books



Pandora and the Story Forge, by Gaynor Andrews and Marie-Alice Harel (Rocket Bird Books)

A lyrical and imaginative picture book about the joy and wonder of discovering new words, in which the mysterious and generous Pandora collects words and forges them into stories for children to discover.

SHOW LINK: creative writing, vocabulary and storytelling.



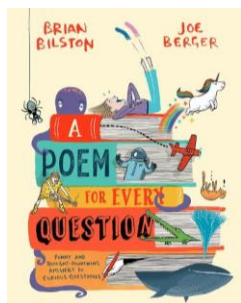
Ten-Word Tiny Tales, by Joseph Coelho and various illustrators (Walker Books)

Created by a former Children's Laureate, this is a collection of imaginative tales told in just ten words, each paired with full-page artwork by a different illustrator. The book closes with tips on writing your own tiny tale.

SHOW LINK: storytelling and creative writing, with a focus on short fiction.



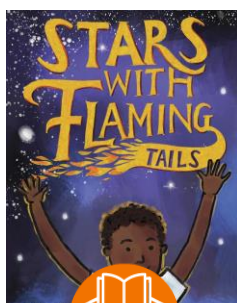
Poetry



A Poem for Every Question, by Brian Bilston and Joe Berger (HarperCollins)

Each poem in this collection is written in response to the kinds of wild and wonderful questions children love to ask about the world, from "who invented football?" to "why do we fart?". A combination of the thought-provoking and hilarious, with informational asides.

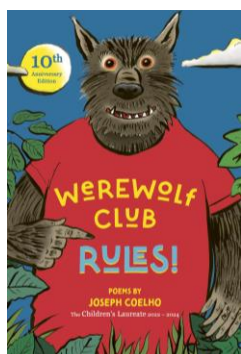
SHOW LINK: poetry, prompts and questions that spark curiosity.



Stars with Flaming Tails, by Valerie Bloom and Ken Wilson-Max (Otter-Barry Books)

A collection of beautifully crafted, inspiring and relatable poems, thematically arranged and accompanied by ink illustrations. Includes a section dedicated to exploring poetic forms, alerting the reader to the wide communicative possibilities of poetry.

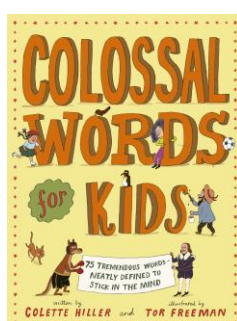
SHOW LINK: poetry.



Werewolf Club Rules!, by Joseph Coelho and John O'Leary (Frances Lincoln Children's Books)

This playful debut collection from a highly acclaimed performance poet – and former Children's Laureate – offers a heartfelt, funny, and often surreal view of the world, using carefully crafted and ambitious wordplay.

SHOW LINK: poetry and spoken word.



Colossal Words for Kids, by Colette Hiller and Tor Freeman (Frances Lincoln Children's Books)

Each poem in this illustrated collection explores the meaning of an intriguing word in an innovative and accessible format. Not only do the rhymes make the definitions more memorable, they also unveil the power and playfulness of language.

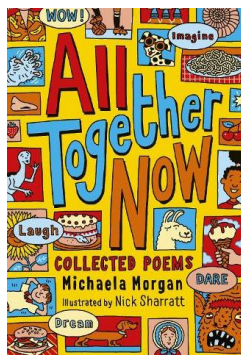
SHOW LINK: poetry, creative writing and curiosity.

I'm a Poet, And I know it!



Lower Key Stage Two

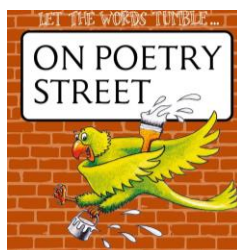
Poetry



All Together Now, by Michaela Morgan and Nick Sharratt (Otter-Barry Books)

A thoughtful, funny and varied collection, arranged thematically. While some poems are written specially for performance, many others open with a brief foreword from the poet suggesting ways of lifting it off the page or using it to write one's own poem.

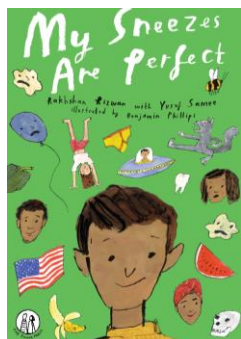
SHOW LINK: poetry, performance and creative writing.



On Poetry Street, by Brian Moses and Mark Elvins (Scurrywag Press)

These fifty-two poems – one for every week of the year – each offer a jumping-off point on which budding poets can model their own writing. The poems are supplemented by an extensive afterword in which Moses shares his inspirations and ideas.

SHOW LINK: poetry and creative writing.

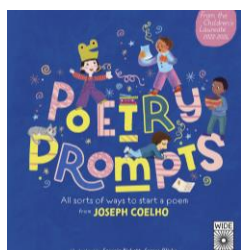


My Sneezes are Perfect, by Rakhshan Rizwan, Yusuf Samee and Benjamin Phillips (The Emma Press)

Co-written by a mother and son duo during the COVID-19 pandemic, this witty and thoughtful collection perfectly encapsulates the experiences and interior life of a child.

SHOW LINK: poetry by children.

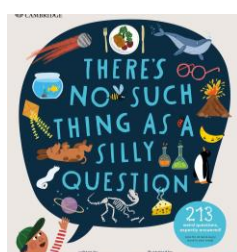
Information Books



Poetry Prompts: All Sorts of Ways to Start a Poem, by Joseph Coelho, Georgie Birkett, Grasya Olyko, Amanda Quartey and Viola Wang (Wide Eyed Editions)

A compilation of the 'poetry prompts' created by Coelho during his time as Children's Laureate, with over 40 creative ideas for crafting poems of all different forms.

SHOW LINK: poetry, prompts, performance and creative writing.



There's No Such Thing as a Silly Question, by Mike Rampton and Guilherme Karsten (Nosy Crow and the University of Cambridge)

An illustrated encyclopaedia of over 200 questions about the world and fact-checked, honest attempts at answers, whether those answers are somewhat silly, matter-of-fact, or acknowledge the question as ultimately unanswerable. Includes a glossary and a themed index.

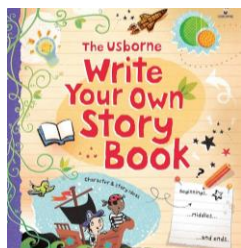
SHOW LINK: questions that spark curiosity.

I'm a Poet, And I know it!



Lower Key Stage Two

Information Books



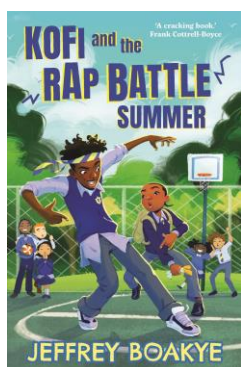
Write Your Own Story Book, by Louie Stowell and Katie Lovell (Usborne)

This accessible and engaging activity book is filled with creative writing tips and activities to inspire young people, including choosing the right words, generating plots and characters, and exploring different genres and forms.

SHOW LINK: storytelling and creative writing.

Upper Key Stage Two

Novels



Kofi and the Rap Battle Summer, by Jeffrey Boakye (Faber & Faber)

Set in an inner-city school in the 90s, this energetic novel stars Kofi, a natural entrepreneur who draws on the photographic memory of his music-loving friend Kelvin to create a fanzine of popular lyrics to sell to their classmates.

SHOW LINK: poetry and lyrics.



The Final Year, by Matt Goodfellow and Joe Todd-Stanton (Otter-Barry Books)

In this award-winning verse novel, Nate finds himself facing changing friendship dynamics, managing his anger, and confronting a disaster that rocks his family, all during the course of his final year at primary school. With the support of his new English teacher, he discovers the transformative power of poetry.

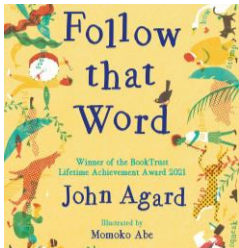
SHOW LINK: poetry and creative writing.

I'm a Poet, And I know it!



Upper Key Stage Two

Poetry



Follow That Word, by John Agard and Momoko Abe (Hodder Children's Books)

A fascination with words permeates this collection, as Agard playfully investigates the roots and meanings of language, with many poems lending themselves to performance.

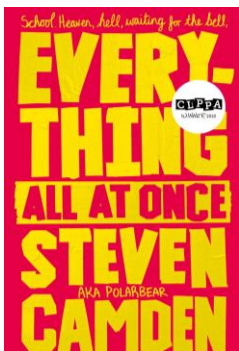
SHOW LINK: poetry, creative writing and performance.



Reasons to Write Rhymes, by Rob Bradley and Joseph Witchall (Caboodle Books)

This reflective collection by a poet, rapper and storyteller is divided into seven sections, each exploring one of the reasons someone might feel compelled to write poetry, whether processing difficult feelings or sharing moments of joy.

SHOW LINK: poetry, creative writing and performance.



Everything All At Once, by Steven Camden, aka Polarbear (Macmillan Children's Books)

Set over the course of a week, the trials and tribulations of secondary school are perfectly captured by the authentic, relatable voice of spoken word artist Camden. A suitable transition text for Year 6.

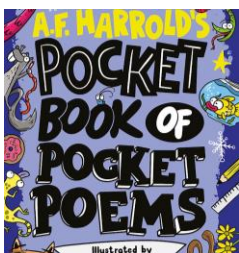
SHOW LINK: poetry and spoken word.



Let's Chase Stars Together, by Matt Goodfellow and Oriol Vidal (Bloomsbury)

This accessible and uplifting collection speaks with care and consideration to its audience through not only its relatable themes and voice, but also by showcasing the power of poetry to process and express emotions.

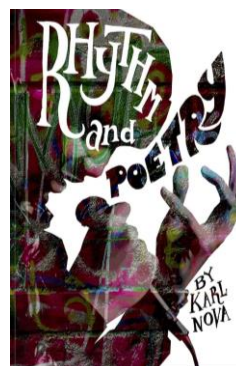
SHOW LINK: poetry.



A.F. Harrold's Pocket Book of Pocket Poems, by A.F. Harrold and Jack Viant (Bloomsbury)

A witty and imaginative collection in which the poems decrease in size as the book progresses, beginning with just sixty words and ending with zero. Perfect for demonstrating how meaning and humour can be created with a few well-chosen words.

SHOW LINK: poetry and creative writing.



Rhythm and Poetry, by Karl Nova and Joseph Witchall (Caboodle Books)

Poet, performer and Hip Hop artist Nova incorporates the beats and rhythms of rap into this collection of energetic poems that leap off the page and speak directly to the reader. Each poem is accompanied by a set of contextual notes demystifying the writing process.

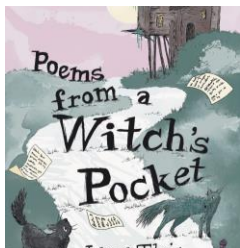
SHOW LINK: poetry, spoken word, creative writing and performance.

I'm a Poet, And I know it!



Upper Key Stage Two

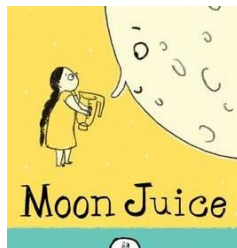
Poetry



Poems from a Witch's Pocket, by Laura Theis and Kate Lucy Foster (The Emma Press)

Letters, lists, how-to poems and spells populate this enchanting collection of poetry, presented as being written by a young witch. The book closes with a list of ideas for writing one's own poems based on Theis' works.

SHOW LINK: poetry and creative writing.



Moon Juice and Cloud Soup, by Kate Wakeling and Elina Brasliņa (The Emma Press)

Two pocket-sized collections filled with wordplay and wit, covering a broad range of familiar and otherworldly topics with playful and engaging figurative language, and keeping at their core a sense of wonder in the everyday.

SHOW LINK: poetry and performance.

I Can Move To The Music!



EYFS

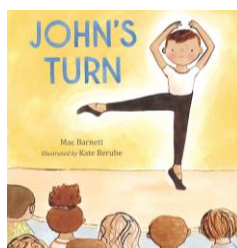
Picture Books



All the Wonderful Ways to Move, by Laura Baker and Sandra de la Prada (Little Tiger Press)

Young readers can explore different ways of moving and being active in this dynamic rhyming picture book, starring a human protagonist and their animal friends. Filled with actions and exclamations, perfect for reading aloud and enjoying together.

SHOW LINK: dance, movement and self-expression.



John's Turn, by Mac Barnett and Kate Berube (Walker Books)

It's talent sharing day at school, and John waits patiently to perform his ballet routine. But what will his classmates think? A quiet, sensitive and uplifting tale.

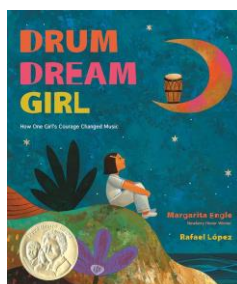
SHOW LINK: dance and self-expression.



Luna Loves Dance, by Joseph Coelho and Fiona Lumbers (Andersen Press)

Luna's love for dance is shaken when she takes a tumble during her final exam. With the gentle support of her family and friends, she gradually rediscovers dancing for the joy of it.

SHOW LINK: dance.



Drum Dream Girl, by Margarita Engle and Rafael López (HMH Books)

On an island where only boys are permitted to be drummers, one girl can't help but be inspired by the rhythms all around her, so practises the drums in secret under the moon. Loosely inspired by the childhood of Cuban musician Millo Castro Zaldarriaga.

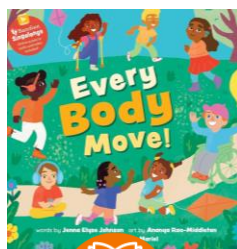
SHOW LINK: music from around the world, with a focus on drumming.



Big Dance, by Aoife Greenham (Child's Play)

Pippa's friends are practising their special moves in preparation for the Big Dance, but will Pippa find the confidence to join in? Brightly coloured characters populate this story about self-expression and going your own way.

SHOW LINK: dance and movement.



Every Body Move!, by Jenna Elyse Johnson and Ananya Rao-Middleton (Barefoot Books)

This inclusive and uplifting book celebrates the various ways that disabled children dance and move their bodies, and spotlights the mobility aids that help them do so. Features access to original music by jazz artist Audra Mariel.

SHOW LINK: dance and music.

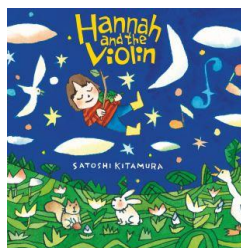


I Can Move To The Music!



EYFS

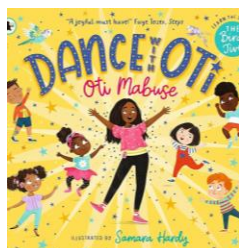
Picture Books



Hannah and the Violin, by Satoshi Kitamura (Sallywag Press)

Hannah finds a violin-shaped leaf in her back garden one day – as she ‘plays’ it, the sounds of the natural world join in around her. A gentle celebration of music and imaginative play.

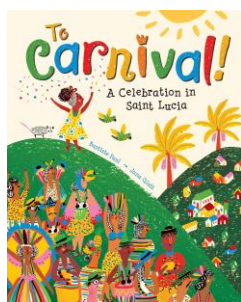
SHOW LINK: instruments and classical music.



Dance with Oti, by Oti Mabuse and Samara Hardy (Walker Books)

Written by Strictly Come Dancing personality Oti Mabuse, this light-hearted series follows a class of children at a dance school – led by Mabuse herself – where they learn different dance routines, as well as important life lessons.

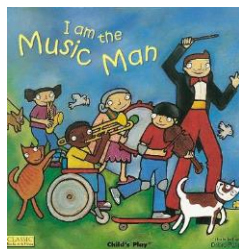
SHOW LINK: music, dance and movement.



To Carnival! A Celebration in Saint Lucia, by Baptiste Paul and Jana Glatt (Barefoot Books)

Sensory, onomatopoeic language and bold, folk art-esque illustrations bring Saint Lucia and its people to life as we follow one little girl's journey to reach the Carnival parade on time.

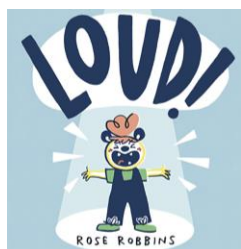
SHOW LINK: music from around the world, instruments and dance.



I Am the Music Man, by Debra Potter (Child's Play)

The classic children's song, with its cumulative verses and musical onomatopoeia, is transformed into a rhyming picture book. Peep-through pages slowly reveal a house full of people, each playing a different instrument.

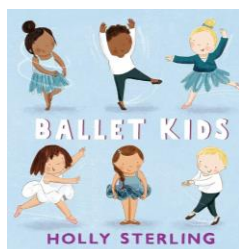
SHOW LINK: music and instruments.



Loud!, by Rose Robbins (Sallywag Press)

Abigail is restless and finds it hard to focus in a classroom environment, but when she attends her first music class, she finds a way to channel her ‘loud’ energy and express herself with pride.

SHOW LINK: music and self-expression.



Ballet Kids, by Holly Sterling (Walker Books)

A diverse class of young children prepare for a ballet performance in this joyful and inclusive celebration of the magic of dance.

SHOW LINK: music and movement.

I Can Move To The Music!



EYFS

Picture Books

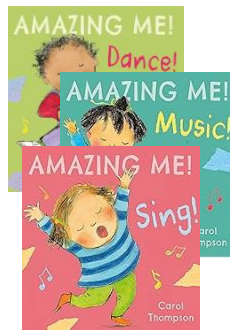


Marching Band, by Kael Tudor and Kate Hindley (Nosy Crow)

Follow along as the marching band parades through town and beyond, collecting new members as they go and encountering a range of different sounds and settings. The wonderfully catchy text is filled with rhythmic rhymes and repetition.

SHOW LINK: music and instruments.

Board Books

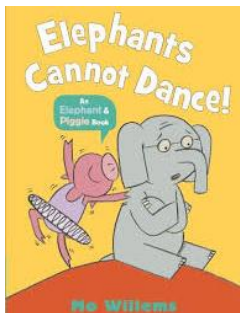


Amazing Me!, by Carol Thompson (Child's Play)

An exuberant series of board books celebrating creativity, depicting a diverse group of toddlers as they enjoy singing, dancing and making music together.

SHOW LINK: music, instruments and dance.

Graphic Novels



Elephants Cannot Dance! and Listen to My Trumpet!, by Mo Willems (Walker Books)

The 'Elephant and Piggie' books are a wonderful early introduction to comics, as friends Gerald and Piggie navigate a range of experiences with humour and empathy. Here, Piggie shows off her trumpet skills, and Gerald tries in vain to learn how to dance.

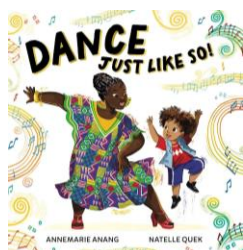
SHOW LINK: instruments, music and dance.

I Can Move To The Music!



Key Stage One

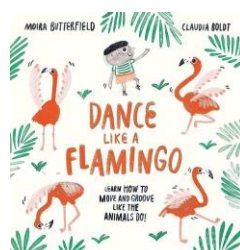
Picture Books



Dance Just Like So!, by Annemarie Anang and Natelle Quek (Five Quills)

Kwesi loves learning dances from his grandmother, but when she falls and injures herself before she can share her most special dance, Kwesi comes up with a solution so that everyone can dance together.

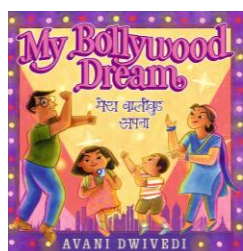
SHOW LINK: dance and movement.



Dance Like a Flamingo, by Moira Butterfield and Claudia Boldt (Welbeck Editions)

This energetic book introduces twelve animals and encourages readers to follow simple illustrated dance steps to move as they do, from jiggling like a jellyfish to leaping like a lemur.

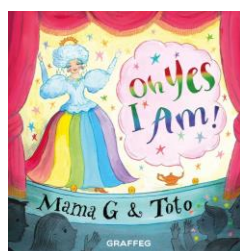
SHOW LINK: dance and movement.



My Bollywood Dream, by Avani Dwivedi (Walker Books)

A girl reminisces about Friday nights when she and her family would travel across Mumbai to watch a Bollywood film at the cinema together, and the joys of being swept up in the atmosphere.

SHOW LINK: music, dance and Bollywood musicals.



Oh Yes I Am!, by Mama G and Toto (Graffeg)

Bobby lives in a grey world and longs to show off his true, colourful self. A visit to the pantomime affirms the importance and joy of believing in yourself and embracing who you are. A colourful and heart-warming fable written by a storyteller and pantomime dame.

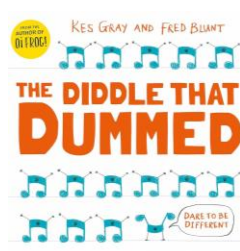
SHOW LINK: performance and pantomime.



One Sweet Song, by Jyoti Rajan Gopal and Sonia Sánchez (Walker Books)

Separated by distance, a group of neighbours unite through music by playing instruments from their balconies. The cumulative rhyming text builds to a crescendo as more instruments join together in collective song.

SHOW LINK: music and instruments from around the world.



The Diddle That Dumbled, by Kes Gray and Fred Blunt (Hachette Children's Books)

An increasingly exasperated composer is trying to write a tune, but one of the 'diddles' keeps going 'dum' and throwing off the rhythm. A hilarious, rhythmic story about subverting expectations.

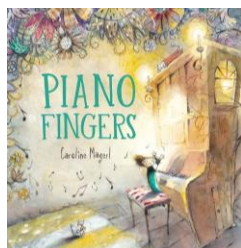
SHOW LINK: music and composition.

I Can Move To The Music!



Key Stage One

Picture Books



Piano Fingers, by Caroline Magerl (Walker Books)

Bea's big sister plays the violin beautifully, but will Bea ever discover her own musical talent? With carefully crafted lyrical language and evocative watercolour illustrations.

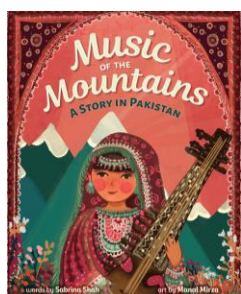
SHOW LINK: music and instruments.



Ossiri and the Bala Mengro, by Richard O'Neill, Katharine Quarmby and Hannah Tolson (Child's Play)

Ossiri uses the upcycling skills learned from her Traveller community to fashion a musical instrument, which not only sounds terrible, but threatens to awaken the infamous ogre of the hills.

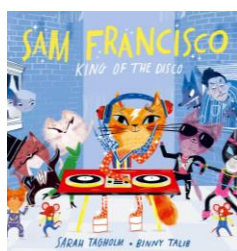
SHOW LINK: music and instruments.



Music of the Mountains: A Story in Pakistan, by Sabrina Shah and Manal Mirza (Barefoot Books)

Roohi wishes she could play the rabab as well as her grandfather. When he falls ill in the run-up to her school's Eid concert, Roohi must learn to find her own rhythm. Like many of Barefoot's titles, the book closes with backmatter providing additional cultural context to the story.

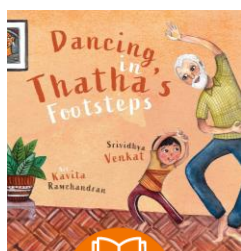
SHOW LINK: music and instruments from around the world.



Sam Francisco, King of the Disco, by Sarah Tagholm and Binny Talib (Rocket Bird Books)

All the cats of the neighbourhood love to party with Sam and his DJ decks, but local human resident Buzzkill Bill is having none of it. A rhythmic rhyming tale about a disco-loving cat.

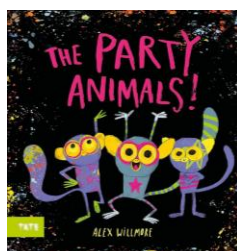
SHOW LINK: music, dance and discos.



Dancing in Thatha's Footsteps, by Srividhya Venkat and Kavita Ramchandran (Yali Books)

One day, Varun accompanies his sister to her Bharatanatyam class and becomes fascinated by the rhythms of the dance. So, he decides to learn it for himself. An intergenerational story about gendered expectations and embracing your passions.

SHOW LINK: dance from around the world.



The Party Animals, by Alex Willmore (Tate Publishing)

A troop of monkeys move to the forest and host late-night dance parties, much to the annoyance of the forest's existing residents. The solution? A silent disco, which everyone can enjoy.

SHOW LINK: music, dance and discos.

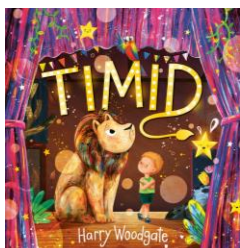


I Can Move To The Music!



Key Stage One

Picture Books

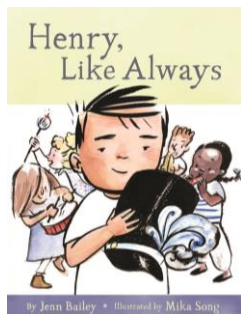


Timid, by Harry Woodgate (Little Tiger Press)

Timmy loves dressing up and performing, but their shyness – personified as a giant lion – prevents them from doing so in public. With the support of a new friend, they learn how to manage their anxieties and put on a spectacular show together.

SHOW LINK: performance and self-expression.

Novels



Henry, Like Always, by Jenn Bailey and Mika Song (Chronicle Books)

Henry enjoys the routine of his classroom, and so he must navigate the changes, when his teacher announces that rather than their usual Share Time on Friday, they will hold a parade instead. An empathetic story, with a neurodiverse protagonist.

SHOW LINK: music and instruments.

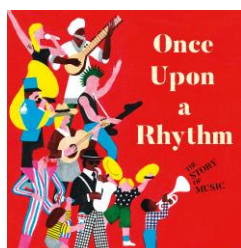


Ballet Bunnies: The New Class, by Swapna Reddy and Binny Talib (Oxford University Press)

The first in a sweetly heartwarming series about a little girl who befriends a group of helpful rabbits who live at the ballet school – they help her to navigate early life experiences, as well as supporting her with her dance skills.

SHOW LINK: dance.

Information Books



Once Upon a Rhythm: The Story of Music, by James Carter and Valerio Vidali (Little Tiger Press)

An exuberant, rhythmic, rhyming picture book tracing the history of music through the centuries. Additional information is conveyed in a closing fact section, presented in acrostic form spelling out 'rhythm'.

SHOW LINK: music from around the world.



The Very Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra, by Tim Lihoreau, Philip Noyce and Olga Baumert (Dorling Kindersley, with Classic FM)

An introduction to the world of orchestra, including how the history of world music can be seen in the contemporary classical orchestra. The text offers numerous ways of accessing information: a time-travel narrative, factual asides, poetic couplets, diagrams and musical recordings.

SHOW LINK: classical music and music from around the world.

I Can Move To The Music!



Key Stage One

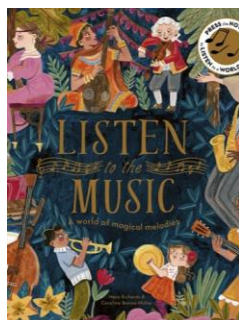
Information Books



Busy Little Fingers: Music, by Eva Wong Nava and Eleonora Marton (Big Picture Press)

Exuberant text and vibrantly painted illustrations lead the reader through a potted history of ten musical genres, including activities and ideas for making your own music.

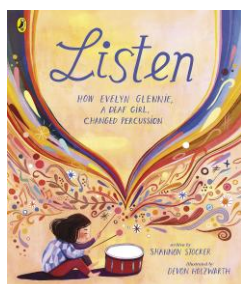
SHOW LINK: music and instruments.



Listen to the Music, by Mary Richards and Caroline Bonne-Müller, and **Listen to the Music: The Instruments**, by Mary Richards and Khoa Le (Wide Eyed Editions)

A pair of sumptuously illustrated books which take readers on a chronological journey through world music and its instruments. Encounter ten moments in music history and ten notable instruments, with buttons to press and hear a clip of music from each era.

SHOW LINK: music and instruments from around the world.



Listen: How Evelyn Glennie, a Deaf Girl, Changed Percussion, by Shannon Stocker and Devon Holzwarth (Puffin Books)

This picture book biography tells the story of a music-loving girl who experienced hearing loss, then defied societal expectations and found her calling as a professional percussionist thanks to the powerful vibrations of the drums. Closes with a thoughtful author's note, and an afterword from Glennie herself.

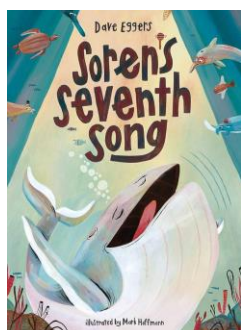
SHOW LINK: music and instruments.

I Can Move To The Music!



Lower Key Stage Two

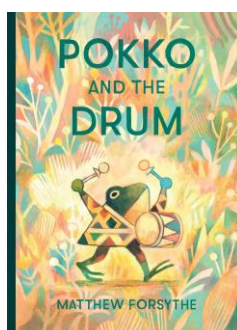
Picture Books



Soren's Seventh Song, by Dave Eggers and Mark Hoffmann (Cameron Kids)

Soren is a young whale who thinks the twenty-minute-long, droning tunes sung by adult whales are boring, so he sets out to compose a new kind of whale song. He soon learns that the creative process does not always go smoothly. An offbeat fable about resilience and honing your craft.

SHOW LINK: music and composing.

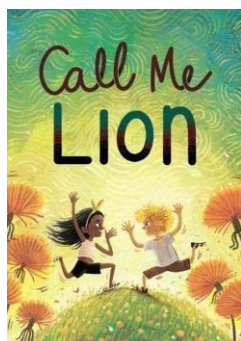


Pokko and the Drum, by Matthew Forsythe (Simon & Schuster)

Pokko the Frog's parents suggest she take her new drum into the forest to practice (so they can have some peace and quiet). Her playing attracts more and more forest creatures, and soon a whole noisy band has formed, with Pokko leading the way.

SHOW LINK: music and instruments.

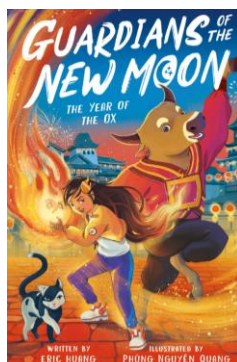
Novels



Call Me Lion, by Camilla Chester (Firefly Press)

An empathetic story about a boy with selective mutism who dreams of dancing on the West End stage, with themes of self-confidence, friendship and understanding. The first-person narrative means we hear Leo's voice even when he is not speaking.

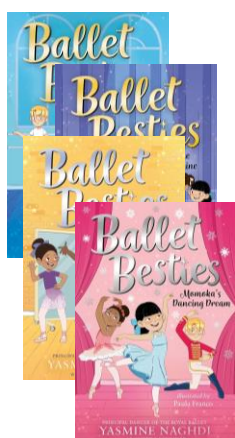
SHOW LINK: dance and self-expression.



Guardians of the New Moon: The Year of the Ox, by Eric Huang and Phùng Nguyễn Quang (Little Tiger Press)

The third in an exciting new series based around the animals of the Chinese Zodiac. Here, Xiao Nioh the Ox, with the support of his friends, is compelled to balance his family's expectations against his dreams of being a dancer.

SHOW LINK: dance from around the world.



Ballet Besties, by Yasmine Naghdi, Chitra Soundar and Paula Franco (Piccadilly Press)

Co-written by a principal dancer of the Royal Ballet, this uplifting and inclusive series centres on a group of friends attending dance class together, with each book giving a different character the spotlight, and sharing warm lessons around friendship, perseverance, and being yourself.

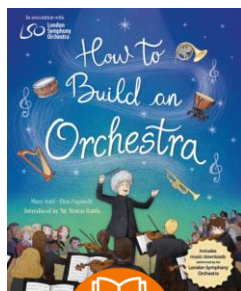
SHOW LINK: dance and music.

I Can Move To The Music!



Lower Key Stage Two

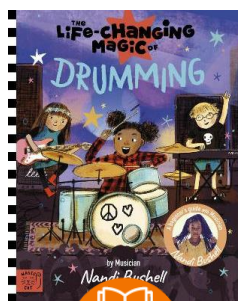
Information Books



How to Build an Orchestra, by Mary Auld and Elisa Paganelli (Wayland, with the London Symphony Orchestra)

Using the framing device of a conductor (modelled on former LSO musical director Simon Rattle) holding auditions for his new orchestra, this is a detailed and vibrant introduction to the instruments that make up an orchestra. Features musical downloads performed by the LSO that help bring the orchestra to life.

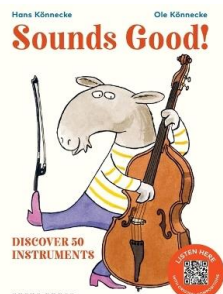
SHOW LINKS: instruments and classical music.



The Life-Changing Magic of Drumming, by Nandi Bushell and Andrea Stegmaier (Magic Cat Publishing)

An illustrated guide to learning and playing the drums written by young musician Nandi Bushell, filled with sequential, comic-style illustrations, activities and how-tos, and life lessons to be learned.

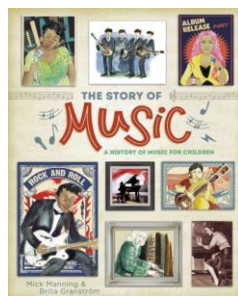
SHOW LINK: music and instruments, with a focus on drumming.



Sounds Good! Discover 50 Musical Instruments, by Hans Kønnecke, Ole Kønnecke, and Melody Shaw (Gecko Press)

Each spread of this book uses informative and witty text to introduce a different musical instrument on one side – some familiar, some less well-known – with an accompanying illustration of an animal performing with that instrument on the other. Includes access to digital recordings of each instrument.

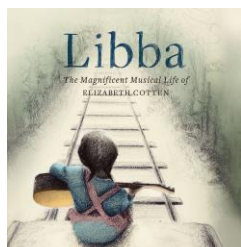
SHOW LINK: instruments from around the world.



The Story of Music: A History of Music for Children, by Mick Manning and Brita Granström (Franklin Watts)

A comprehensive, chronological guide to the global history of music, beginning with ancient and folk music through to contemporary pop and indie, with photographs and illustrations throughout.

SHOW LINK: music and instruments from around the world.



Libba: The Magnificent Musical Life of Elizabeth Cotten, by Laura Veirs and Tatyana Fazlalizadeh (Chronicle Books)

A picture book biography of the African American folk singer who composed the well-known song 'Freight Train', from learning to play "upside down and backwards" on her brother's right-handed guitar, to working as a housekeeper to the Seeger family of musicians, and becoming known as a composer and performer herself.

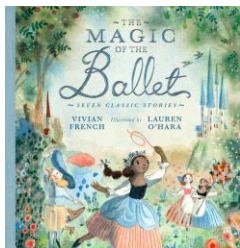
SHOW LINK: folk music and instruments.

I Can Move To The Music!



Lower Key Stage Two

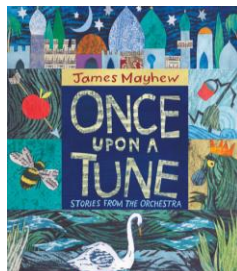
Traditional Tales



The Magic of the Ballet: Seven Classic Stories, by Vivian French and Lauren O'Hara (Walker Books)

Vintage-style watercolour illustrations accompany this attractive anthology of tales from the world of ballet, including 'The Nutcracker', 'Swan Lake' and 'The Firebird'. Each tale opens with a brief history of the piece.

SHOW LINK: classical music and dance.



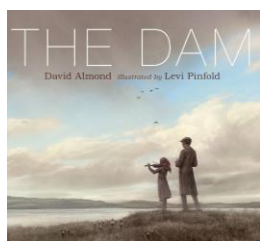
Once Upon a Tune and A Symphony of Stories, by James Mayhew (Otter-Barry Books)

A duology of collections, each sharing six tales that inspired famous works of classical music, such as 'The Sorcerer's Apprentice', 'In the Hall of the Mountain King' and 'The Four Seasons'. Featuring collage artwork that incorporates musical notation, detailed endnotes, and recommended musical recordings.

SHOW LINK: classical music and composers.

Upper Key Stage Two

Picture Books



The Dam, by David Almond and Levi Pinfold (Walker Books)

Before their Northumberland valley is flooded with water by the building of a new dam, a girl and her father walk together and fill the places that will be drowned with music – she with her fiddle, he with his voice. Though the land changes, the music lives on.

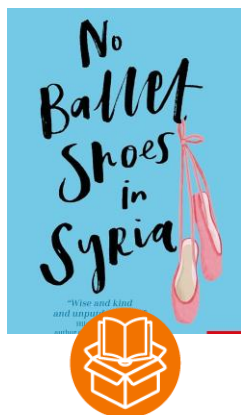
SHOW LINK: music and instruments.

I Can Move To The Music!



Upper Key Stage Two

Novels



No Ballet Shoes in Syria, by Catherine Bruton (Nosy Crow)

Aya has recently arrived from Syria seeking asylum in Britain. She throws herself into ballet lessons in the hopes of obtaining a scholarship, while she and her family continue to fight for their right to remain in the country.

SHOW LINK: dance.



Keep Dancing, Lizzie Chu, by Maisie Chan (Piccadilly Press)

Lizzie is the primary carer for her grandfather Wai Gong. When his health appears to deteriorate, she comes up with a plan to bring him to Blackpool to rekindle his love for ballroom dancing, with a little help from her family and friends, in this warm-hearted tale of intergenerational love.

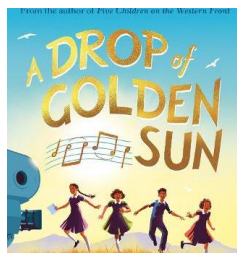
SHOW LINK: dance.



The Piano at the Station, by Helen Rutter and Elisa Paganelli (Barrington Stoke)

Lacey often finds herself getting in trouble in a traditional classroom environment – it's only when she joins a lunchtime music class that she takes a shine to the piano, and its capacity for self-expression. An insightful book about passion, family and identity.

SHOW LINK: instruments, music and classical music.



A Drop of Golden Sun, by Kate Saunders (Faber & Faber)

The final novel by a beloved children's author follows Jenny, who has just been cast in a 1970s Hollywood production – loosely inspired by *The Sound of Music* – and spends the whole summer on a movie set, experiencing all the ups and downs it entails. With themes of mental health, empathy and friendship.

SHOW LINK: music and musicals.



One Chance Dance, by Efua Traoré (Chicken House)

Jomi is worried about his mother who moved to Lagos to make a new life for them but hasn't been heard from since. After befriending a group of street children, he comes up with an ingenious way of being spotted by her: to participate in Nigeria's biggest TV dance competition, held in Lagos.

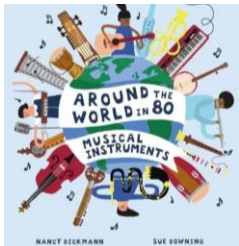
SHOW LINK: dance from around the world.

I Can Move To The Music!



Upper Key Stage Two

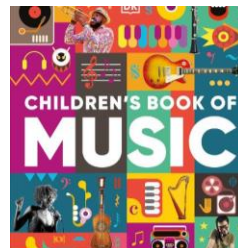
Information Books



Around the World in 80 Musical Instruments, by Nancy Dickmann and Sue Downing (Welbeck Editions)

A comprehensive and inclusive guide to the instruments of the world, featuring: labelled maps showcasing their origins; a focus on traditional instruments from various cultures; a fold-out family tree; and a 'make your own' section of crafting instruments from household items.

SHOW LINK: music and instruments from around the world.



Children's Book of Music (Dorling Kindersley)

A comprehensive fact file with accompanying photographs that highlights musical styles, movements and instruments from throughout history and around the world.

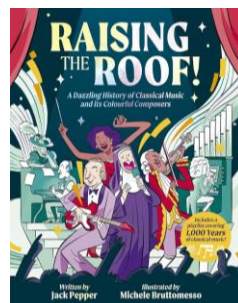
SHOW LINK: music and instruments from around the world.



Music: A Fold-Out Graphic History, by Nicholas O'Neill, Susan Hayes and Ruby Taylor (What On Earth Books, with the Royal Albert Hall)

Beginning with a map of ancient music and travelling through the centuries to the present day, this fold-out global timeline explores notable musicians and changemakers, how historical contexts have shaped music, and new developments in instruments, technology and music-making.

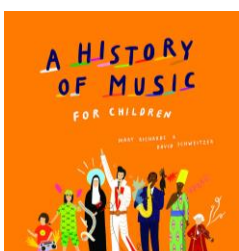
SHOW LINK: global history of music and instruments.



Raising the Roof: A Dazzling History of Classical Music and its Colourful Characters, by Jack Pepper and Michele Bruttomesso (Templar Books)

A comprehensive and diverse history of classical music and its composers, with bold comic-art illustrations. It showcases classical music from around the world, breaks down musical terminology, and spotlights a truly diverse range of composers from the 11th century to the present day.

SHOW LINK: music from around the world, classical music, classical composers.



A History of Music for Children, by Mary Richards, David Schweitzer and Rose Blake (Thames & Hudson)

A brilliantly comprehensive and global guide to music history, exploring many different cultures and contexts and addressing how and why music is made, performed and enjoyed.

SHOW LINK: music and instruments from around the world.



Welcome to the Arts: Dance, by Sir Alistair Spalding and Jason Raish (Big Picture Press, with Sadler's Wells)

A large-format, beautifully produced guide to a wide variety of dance styles from around the world, encompassing contemporary, folk, ceremonial, theatrical and more. Curated by the CEO and Artistic Director of Sadler's Wells Theatre.

SHOW LINK: dance from around the world.

I Can Move To The Music!



Upper Key Stage Two

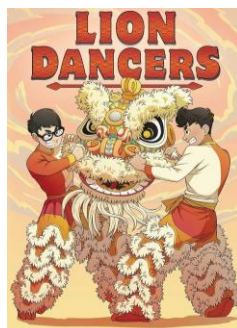
Graphic Novels



Speak Up!, by Rebecca Burgess (Quill Tree Books)

Mia is autistic and navigates a world that doesn't always understand or accept her for who she is by creating music with her best friend. Her secret life as internet sensation Elle-Q allows her to speak up and express her true voice.

SHOW LINK: [music and self-expression.](#)

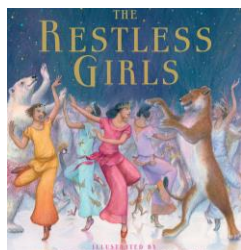


Lion Dancers, by Cai Tse (Simon and Schuster)

Two childhood friends become bitter rivals, each vying for the crown of being their school's most talented lion dancer, in this dynamically illustrated and heartfelt story of friendship, competition, and teamwork.

SHOW LINK: [dance from around the world.](#)

Traditional Tales



The Restless Girls, by Jessie Burton and Angela Barrett (Bloomsbury)

A stylish and atmospheric feminist retelling of 'The Twelve Dancing Princesses', in which twelve sisters discover a secret door which leads them to a world of creativity and freedom, away from the rules of their father's house.

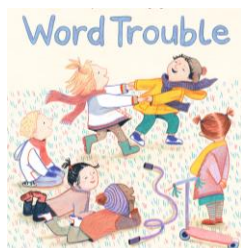
SHOW LINK: [dance.](#)

See Me, Hear Me!



EYFS

Picture Books



Word Trouble, by Vyara Boyadjieva (Walker Books)

Ronnie has not only moved to a new school, he's also moved to a new country with a whole new language to learn. A sensitive depiction of starting school with English as an additional language.

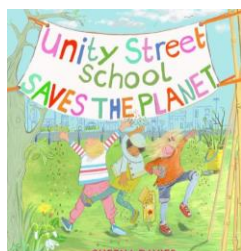
SHOW LINK: celebrating inclusion, having a voice and self-confidence.



The Tour at School, by Katie Clapham and Nadia Shireen (Walker Books)

As well as a reassuring 'back-to-school' text, in which an exuberant narrator shows a shy new starter around their new environment, this book also gently encapsulates the meaning of solidarity, and how empathy and kindness can be passed onto those who need it most.

SHOW LINK: celebrating inclusion, and self-confidence.



Unity Street School Saves the Planet, by Sheena Davies (Otter-Barry Books)

Following an educational visit from an environmental group, a group of diverse schoolchildren become empowered to enact meaningful change and launch a programme of environmental activities in their school setting.

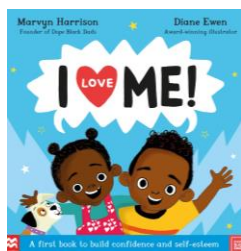
SHOW LINK: children's rights, having a voice, empowerment and taking action.



The Littlest Yak, by Lu Fraser and Kate Hindley (Simon & Schuster)

Gertie wishes she was as big as the other yaks in her herd, but she soon discovers that there is no one way for a yak to be, in this charming rhyming tale about self-acceptance. Followed by two sequels, 'The New Arrival', and 'Home is Where the Herd Is'.

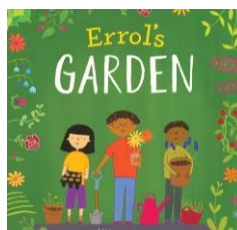
SHOW LINK: diversity, self-confidence and empowerment.



I Love Me!, by Marvyn Harrison and Diane Ewen (Macmillan Children's Books)

Written by the founder of Dope Black Dads, this uplifting book contains a different affirmation for every day of the week to help build confidence and self-esteem in the youngest children.

SHOW LINK: representation, self-confidence and empowerment.



Errol's Garden, by Gillian Hibbs (Child's Play)

A resourceful young boy enlists the help of his neighbours to plant a garden on the roof of his tower block, bringing the community together.

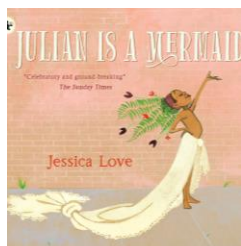
SHOW LINK: diversity, children's rights, having a voice and taking action.

See Me, Hear Me!



EYFS

Picture Books



Julian is a Mermaid, by Jessica Love (Walker Books)

Inspired by seeing three glamorous women dressed as mermaids on the train, Julian transforms himself into one using items from around his Nana's home. She validates his self-expression by bringing him to a vibrant costume parade.

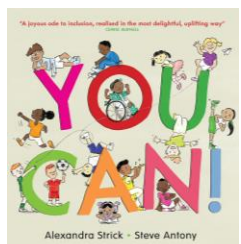
SHOW LINK: diversity, representation, and self-confidence.



All Are Welcome, by Alexandra Penfold and Suzanne Kaufman (Bloomsbury)

This rhyming picture book, with its repeated refrain of "all are welcome here", takes place over the course of a day in the life of a group of schoolchildren. The diversity of cultures, ethnicities and abilities of their community are roundly celebrated.

SHOW LINK: diversity, representation, celebrating difference and inclusion.



You Can! and We Can!, by Alexandra Strick and Steve Antony (Otter-Barry Books)

A pair of empowering picture books created with input from real children. *You Can!* follows a group of children as they grow from babies into young people, embracing their unique identities as they go, while *We Can!* revisits the same cast as they work together to stage a festival about making a difference.

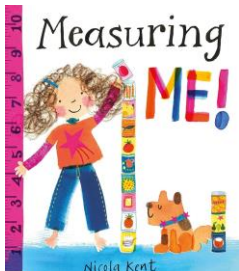
SHOW LINK: diversity, representation, children's rights, celebrating difference and inclusion, and empowerment.

See Me, Hear Me!



EYFS

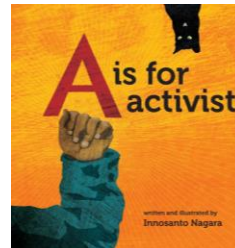
Information Books



Measuring Me, by Nicola Kent (Little Tiger Press)

This book measures the average child's body and the things it can do through relatable comparison with everyday objects, such as being "as tall as ten tin cans". The enthusiastic narration empowers the child reader to reflect on their own amazing bodies.

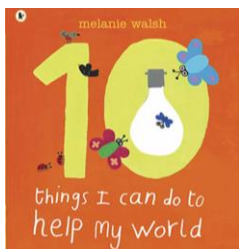
SHOW LINK: diversity, self-confidence and empowerment



A is for Activist, by Innosanto Nagara (Seven Stories Press)

Bold and vibrant artwork accompanies this alphabetical introduction to activism, human rights and social justice for very young readers and their families.

SHOW LINK: human rights and empowerment



10 Things I Can Do to Help My World, and My Green Day, by Melanie Walsh (Walker Books)

These two books use friendly paint-and-collage illustrations to share simple lifestyle changes that even young children can make to help look after the environment, such as recycling, turning off appliances, and reducing food waste. *10 Things...* also contains large lift-the-flap pages.

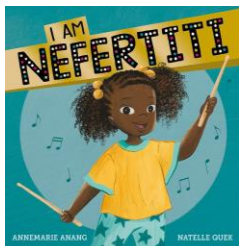
SHOW LINK: children's rights, empowerment and taking action.

See Me, Hear Me!



Key Stage One

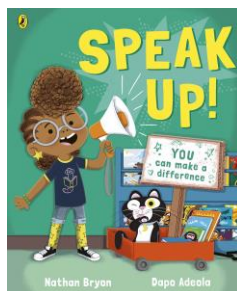
Picture Books



I Am Nefertiti, by Annemarie Anang and Natelle Quek (Five Quills)

When Nefertiti's new teacher shortens her name to 'Nef', it throws off her rhythm and shrinks her down into a smaller version of herself. Luckily, her bandmates are on hand to help restore her identity.

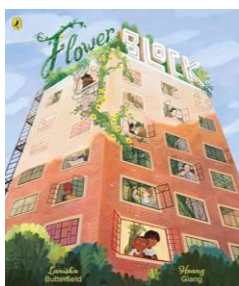
SHOW LINK: diversity, self-confidence and having a voice.



Speak Up!, by Nathan Bryan and Dapo Adeola (Puffin Books)

The third in this empowering series about exuberant young Rocket, who uses her voice and her passion to rally the community together in protest against the impending closure of their local library.

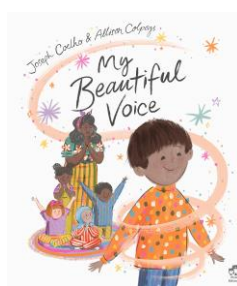
SHOW LINK: having a voice, empowerment, taking action, and children as changemakers.



Flower Block, by Lanisha Butterfield and Hoang Giang (Puffin Books)

When Jeremiah's sunflower seeds sprout into a gigantic plant and burst through the floorboards above, he and his brother race up the floors of their tower block, gathering neighbours along the way, to find something magical at the top. A celebration of nature and community.

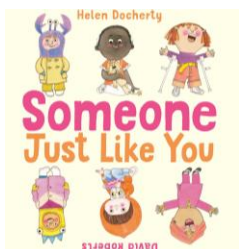
SHOW LINK: representation and having a voice.



My Beautiful Voice, by Joseph Coelho and Allison Colpoys (Frances Lincoln Children's Books)

A quiet child writes a poem in class, and with the encouragement of her new teacher she finds the courage to be brave and share her voice with the world. A moving picture book by a former Children's Laureate.

SHOW LINK: self-confidence and having a voice.



Someone Just Like You, by Helen Docherty and David Roberts (Simon & Schuster)

This picture book uses inclusive illustrations and lyrical text to celebrate the shared experiences and emotions which unite people, regardless of their outward differences, and transcend many kinds of boundaries.

SHOW LINK: celebrating difference and inclusion.



The Silver Shadow, by Marieta Dulak and Alea Marley (Walker Books)

One day at the beach, a girl finds a small shark stranded in a shallow pool. When her older siblings plan to catch it to sell to a fisherman, she uses her voice to advocate to something more vulnerable than herself.

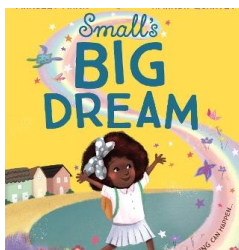
SHOW LINK: having a voice, and children as changemakers.

See Me, Hear Me!



Key Stage One

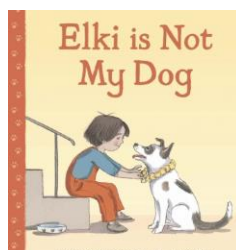
Picture Books



Small's Big Dream, by Manjeet Mann and Amanda Quartey (HarperCollins Children's Books)

The debut picture book from an acclaimed children's poet stars a young girl who, although small, harbours big dreams and aspirations about her future. A celebration of everyone's right to dare to dream big.

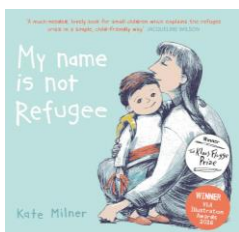
SHOW LINK: self-confidence and empowerment



Elki Is Not My Dog, by Elena Arevalo Melville (author), Tonka Uzu (Scurrydog Press)

A tale of empathy and community about a stray dog who is given companionship by a group of children from the same block of flats. When Elki gets injured, the children rally together to take action as a collective.

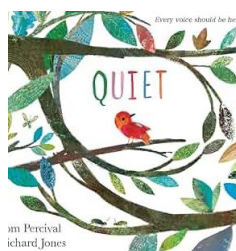
SHOW LINK: inclusion, and children as changemakers.



My Name Is Not Refugee, by Kate Milner (Barrington Stoke)

This powerful and tender picture book is told from the perspective of a young boy as he and his mother prepare to leave their home and journey towards a new one. Impactful direct questions draw the reader further into the narrative and invite reflection.

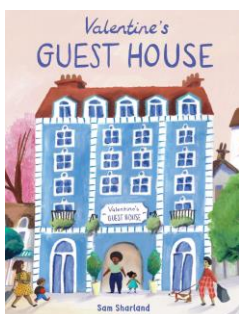
SHOW LINK: human rights, children's rights and having a voice.



Quiet, by Tom Percival and Richard Jones (Simon & Schuster)

Poetic language and soft illustrations come together in this tale of environmental activism, quiet confidence, and the empowerment of having your voice heard, as a shy little bird takes a stand against the diggers that threaten her woodland home.

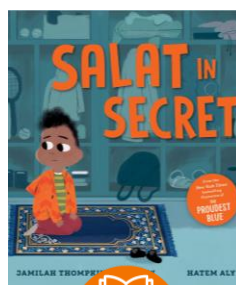
SHOW LINK: having a voice, empowerment, and taking action.



Valentine's Guest House, by Sam Sharland (Child's Play)

A gently fantastical story about inclusion and welcome, starring a resourceful mother and daughter who step up to the challenge of accommodating the differing needs of their guest house's new residents, including a large, friendly tiger.

SHOW LINK: celebrating inclusion.



Salat in Secret, by Jamilah Thompkins-Bigelow and Hatem Aly (Andersen Press)

A young Black Muslim boy tries to build the courage to ask for a quiet place to pray at school, but memories of how people perceive his father for praying in public cause him to hesitate. A thoughtful and empathetic picture book.

SHOW LINK: representation, human rights, self-confidence and having a voice.

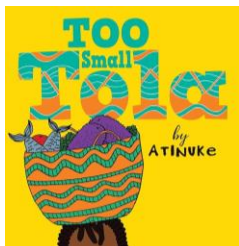


See Me, Hear Me!



Key Stage One

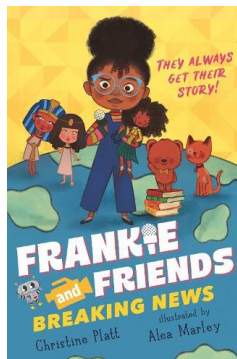
Novels



Too Small Tola, by Atinuke and Onyinye Iwu (Walker Books)

A series of interconnected short stories about a young girl and her family living in a tower block in Lagos. What Tola lacks in size, she makes up for in determination, integrity, cleverness, good humour, and care for those around her.

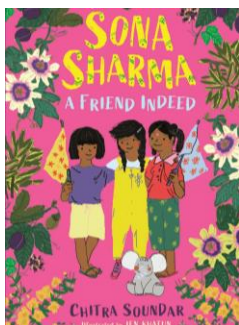
SHOW LINK: representation and self-confidence.



Frankie and Friends: Breaking News, by Christine Platt and Alea Marley (Walker Books)

Frankie may be little, but she dreams of being a top investigative journalist, inspired by her mother. Now all she needs is a scoop! Closes with a glossary of journalism and news terminology.

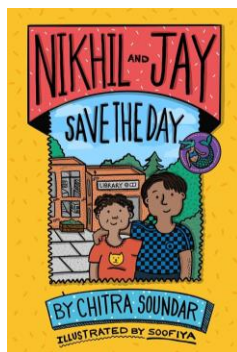
SHOW LINK: representation, having a voice, and children as changemakers.



Sona Sharma: A Friend Indeed, by Chitra Soundar and Jen Khatun (Walker Books)

Part of a series of short chapter books set in India about a little girl with a big family. In this story, Sona puts herself forward to be elected class leader, but finds she must compete against one of her best friends. A warm introduction to politics for young readers.

SHOW LINK: representation, having a voice, and children as changemakers.

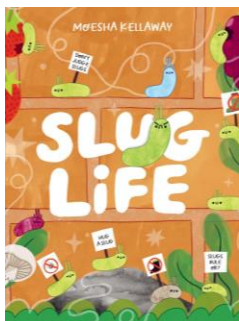


Nikhil and Jay Save the Day, by Chitra Soundar and Soofiya (Otter-Barry Books)

Four interlinked stories about a pair of British Asian brothers which speak authentically to the emotional lives of young children. In one story, Jay learns to accept help and accept himself for who he is, and in another, the brothers launch a campaign to save their local library.

SHOW LINK: diversity, representation, self-confidence and having a voice.

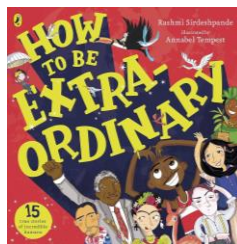
Information books



Slug Life, by Moesha Kellaway (Rocket Bird Books)

Stevie the slug is so fed up with being called a gross, disgusting pest that his mum sends him to 'slug self-esteem class' to learn all about what makes his species so brilliant. A witty celebration that gives voice to this misunderstood minibeast.

SHOW LINK: self-confidence.



How to be Extraordinary and How to Change the World, by Rashmi Sirdeshpande and Annabel Tempest (Puffin Books)

The dynamic illustrations and engaging text in this pair of illustrated information books introduce the reader to a wide range of inspirational people, who have all changed the world in their own unique way.

SHOW LINK: representation, having a voice and empowerment

See Me, Hear Me!



Lower Key Stage Two

Picture Books



Sofia Valdez, Future Prez, by Andrea Beaty and David Roberts (Abrams & Chronicle)

Part of the inspirational 'Questioners' series, this rhyming picture book stars Sofia, a young girl with a talent and passion for community-building who bravely launches a campaign to advocate for the rights of her townspeople.

SHOW LINK: human rights, having a voice, empowerment, and taking action.



Our Tower, by Joseph Coelho and Richard Johnson (Frances Lincoln Children's Books)

Three children leave their tower block and explore the enchanted ancient woodlands beyond, in a lyrical affirmation of the importance of access to nature, and the wonder that can be found in both green and urban spaces.

SHOW LINK: children's rights and celebrating inclusion.



In Our Hands, by Lucy Farfort (Tate Publishing)

A picture book fable about a mysterious 'dulling' that drains all the colour from the world, and the brave and resourceful children who rally together with shared purpose to raise their voices and make a difference.

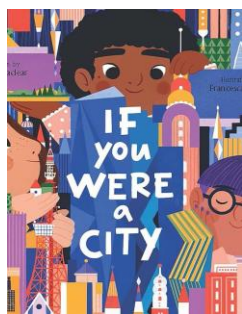
SHOW LINK: having a voice, empowerment, and children as changemakers.



Big, by Vashti Harrison (Puffin Books)

As a little girl grows, the word 'big' that used to carry praise becomes more associated with people's negative reactions to her. A lyrical, compassionate, and beautifully produced book about bodies, prejudice, and self-love.

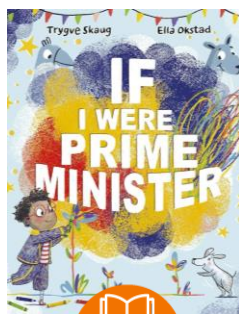
SHOW LINK: diversity, representation, celebrating inclusion, and empowerment.



If You Were a City, by Kyo Maclear and Francesca Sanna (Abrams & Chronicle)

Using figurative language and rhetorical questions, and artwork depicting real-life cities, this imaginative book invites the reader to view parallels between people and cities, and to reflect on their own identities.

SHOW LINK: diversity, celebrating difference and inclusion, and empowerment.



If I Were Prime Minister, by Trygve Skaug, Ella Okstad and Rosie Hedger (Lantana)

In this exuberant picture book, a boy shares his recommendations for how to make the world a better place, from the playful to the profound. A light-hearted introduction to social change that encourages readers to reflect on their own hopes for the future.

SHOW LINK: representation, having a voice and empowerment

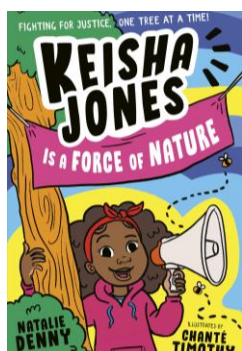


See Me, Hear Me!



Lower Key Stage Two

Novels



Keisha Jones is a Force of Nature, by Natalie Denny and Chanté Timothy (Little Tiger Press)

The second book in an illustrated series about an exuberant young eco-warrior, in which Keisha, inspired by her activist great-aunt, launches a campaign to save some local trees from being cut down to make space for a car park.

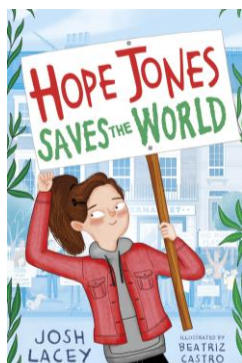
SHOW LINK: having a voice, empowerment, and taking action.



The Last Dragon, by Polly Ho-Yen and Charis Loke (Knights Of)

With her sister in hospital and facing problems at her new school, Yara has enough to be anxious about without the last dragon on earth entrusting her to look after its only egg. A pacey and moving story about responsibility, righteous anger, and standing up for what's important.

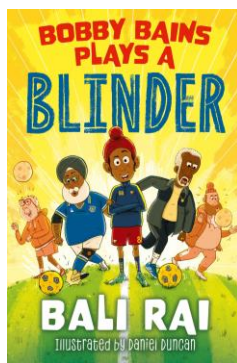
SHOW LINK: having a voice, empowerment, and children as changemakers.



Hope Jones Saves the World, by Josh Lacey and Beatriz Castro (Andersen Press)

Presented in the form of a blog, this light-hearted and empowering book catalogues Hope's New Year's resolution to give up using plastic, and her ongoing attempts to convince others to join her campaign to help save the world.

SHOW LINK: having a voice, empowerment, and children as changemakers.



Bobby Bains Plays a Blinder, by Bali Rai and Daniel Duncan (Barrington Stoke)

A warm and uplifting story, with super-readable, accessible text, that centres on intergenerational friendship, community activism, and the power of football to bring both individuals and community together, starring a Sikh protagonist and his family.

SHOW LINK: diversity, celebrating inclusion, and empowerment.

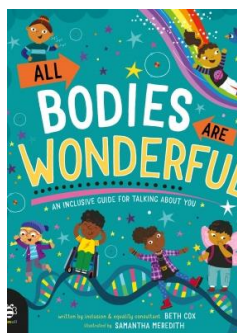
Information Books



Fighting for Yes! The Story of Disability Activist Judith Heumann, by Maryann Cocca-Leffler and Vivien Mildener (Abrams Books)

A picture book biography of American activist Judith Heumann – with an afterword by Heumann herself – detailing her lifelong campaign for disability rights.

SHOW LINK: human rights, celebrating inclusion, and having a voice.



All Bodies Are Wonderful, by Beth Cox and Samantha Meredith (b small publishing)

An inclusive, informative and empowering guide to bodies, co-written by an expert consultant, which covers the scientific and social construction of bodies, encourages acceptance of our own bodies and those different from our own, and affirms the naturalness of difference.

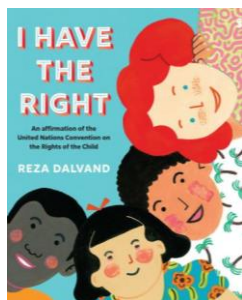
SHOW LINK: diversity, representation, celebrating difference and inclusion, self-confidence and empowerment.

See Me, Hear Me!



Lower Key Stage Two

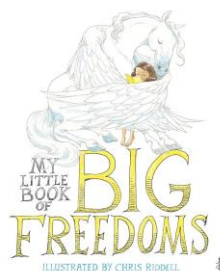
Information Books



I Have the Right, by Reza Dalvand (Scribble)

An illustrated introduction to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, with each spread affirming each of these rights alongside vibrant artwork, and endpapers depicting the rights in a range of languages and scripts.

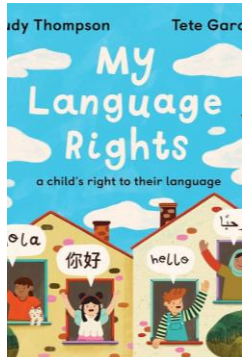
SHOW LINK: human rights, children's rights, empowerment



My Little Book of Big Freedoms, by Chris Riddell (Michael O'Mara Books, with Amnesty International)

Subtitled 'The Human Rights Act in Pictures', each spread takes one of the freedoms from this act and pairs it with a complementary, evocative illustration, introducing the young reader to the importance of this Act.

SHOW LINK: human rights and children's rights.

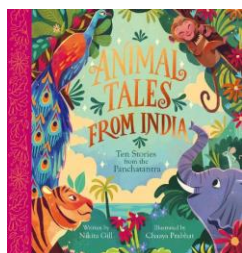


My Language Rights, by Judy Thompson and Tete Garcia (Scribble)

This empowering picture book, supported by the Universal Declaration for Linguistic Rights, celebrates the diversity of language and multilingualism, the shared stories and identities that languages hold, and what is at stake when language is suppressed.

SHOW LINK: human rights, having a voice and empowerment

Traditional Tales



Animal Tales from India, by Nikita Gill and Chaaya Prabhat (Nosy Crow)

A collection of animal fables from the Panchatantra, with immersive illustrations and warmly imparted lessons around courage, self-belief, and that heroes come in all shapes and sizes.

SHOW LINK: diversity, self-confidence, and enacting change.

See Me, Hear Me!



Upper Key Stage Two

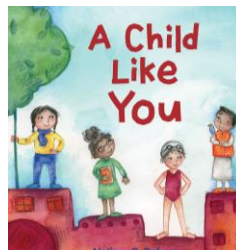
Picture Books



A Hero Like Me, by Angela Joy, Jen Reid and Leire Salaberria (Frances Lincoln Children's Books)

Inspired by the 2020 toppling of a statue of slave trader Edward Coulston in Bristol, and co-written by one of the activists involved in this protest, this urgent and hopeful book invites interrogation of the meaning of heroes, and who we choose to celebrate.

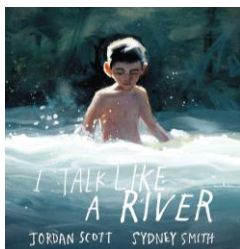
SHOW LINK: human rights, having a voice and empowerment



A Child Like You, by Na'ima B. Robert and Nadine Kaadan (Otter-Barry Books)

A lyrical and profound picture book that uses patterned text and evocative illustrations to introduce four real-life child activists, and affirm that, in the face of fears and challenges, both hope and change are possible.

SHOW LINK: human rights, children's rights, having a voice and empowerment



I Talk Like a River, by Jordan Scott and Sydney Smith (Walker Books)

Partially based on the author's childhood experiences with dysfluency, this tender and evocative book centres on a boy having a "bad speech day" and struggling to vocalise words. His father brings him to the river, where he finds that the churning, whirling, crashing water mirrors his own speech patterns: "even the river stutters, like I do".

SHOW LINK: having a voice and empowerment



Imagine a Garden, by Rina Singh and Hoda Hadadi (Greystone Kids)

Subtitled 'Stories of Courage Changing the World', this original text combines picture book with biography and poetry to tell real-life stories of ordinary people performing small yet extraordinary acts of community care and activism.

SHOW LINK: human rights, having a voice and empowerment

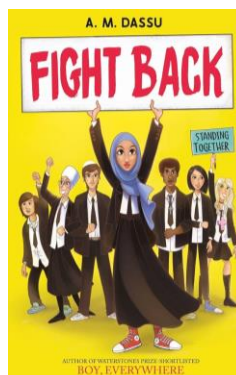
Novels



How to Be More Hedgehog, by Anne-Marie Conway and Danielle Dey (UCLan Publishing)

Lily cares deeply about the environment; she is also self-conscious about her stammer. When an embarrassing video of her goes viral, she gathers the strength to speak up for what she believes in and accept herself in her entirety.

SHOW LINK: celebrating difference and inclusion, having a voice, self-confidence and empowerment



Fight Back, by A.M. Dassu (Scholastic)

Following a terrorist attack in her area, Aaliyah begins wearing a hijab to challenge people's perceptions of Muslims, but when her school bans religious symbols, she continues to speak out, alongside other young people facing discrimination.

SHOW LINK: children's rights, representation, empowerment, and taking action.

See Me, Hear Me!



Upper Key Stage Two

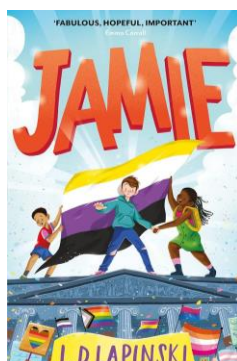
Novels



Running My Own Race,
Abena Eyeson (Nosy Crow)

Kofi wins a scholarship to a private school thanks to his sporting prowess, but soon finds himself facing pressures and challenges from all directions, in this pacy and involving story of taking a stand and pursuing your dreams.

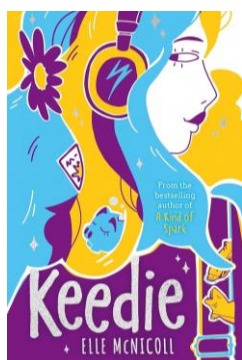
SHOW LINK: diversity, representation, celebrating inclusion, and empowerment.



Jamie, by L.D. Lapinski
(Orion)

An empowering and hopeful novel about a non-binary child who, along with their friends, takes matters into their own hands upon discovering that the only secondary schools available to them are for “boys” or “girls” only.

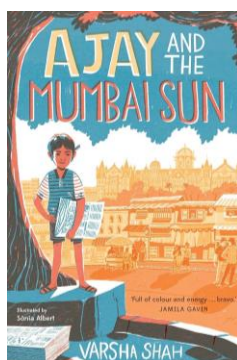
SHOW LINK: diversity, representation, celebrating inclusion, having a voice, and empowerment



Keedie, by Elle McNicoll
(Knights Of)

This standalone prequel to the award-winning A Kind of Spark follows Keedie, an autistic teenager with a strong sense of social justice and an unshakeable desire to combat bullying in all its forms. A novel with a campaigning spirit.

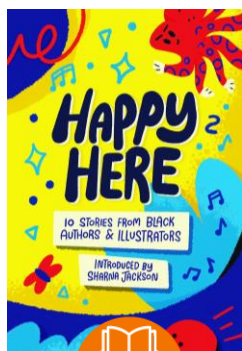
SHOW LINK: diversity, having a voice, empowerment, and taking action.



Ajay and the Mumbai Sun,
by Varsha Shah and Sònia Albert
(Chicken House)

Ajay lives on the streets and dreams of being a journalist. He and his friends launch a newspaper – the Mumbai Sun – and find themselves investigating high-level corruption in their community. A gripping story with a strong sense of social justice.

SHOW LINK: human rights, children's rights and having a voice.



Happy Here, various
authors and illustrators
(Knights Of)

A landmark anthology which brings together established and emerging Black British authors and illustrators to tell ten short stories, all centring around themes of connection, humour, adventure, home, and above all, joy.

SHOW LINK: diversity, representation and celebrating inclusion.

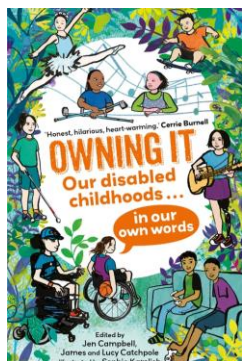


See Me, Hear Me!



Upper Key Stage Two

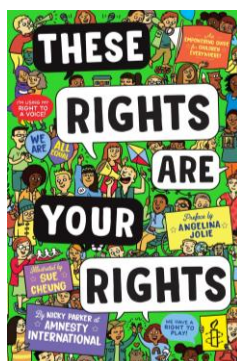
Information Books



Owning It: Our Disabled Childhoods in Our Own Words, by Jen Campbell, James and Lucy Catchpole, and Sophie Kamlish (Faber & Faber)

Editors Campbell, Catchpole and Catchpole curate twenty-two personal essays from writers with a range of disabilities, sharing true stories from their childhoods as disabled people, and sometimes speaking directly to themselves as children. An engaging and honest collection.

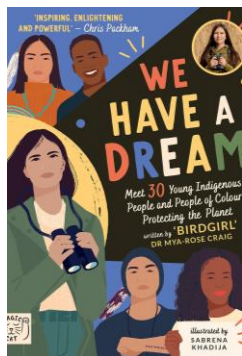
SHOW LINK: diversity, representation, celebrating difference and inclusion, and having a voice.



These Rights Are Your Rights, by Nicky Parker and Sue Cheung (Andersen Press)

Co-produced by Amnesty International, this is a comprehensive guide to children's human rights, with sections on the history and context of child rights, explaining the rights in more detail, and how to take action and stand up for children's rights.

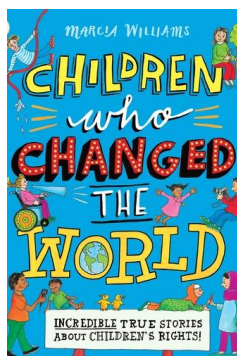
SHOW LINK: human rights and children's rights.



We Have a Dream, by Mya-Rose Craig and Sabrena Khadija (Magic Cat)

Indigenous people and people of colour are disproportionately affected by climate change yet are often not heard in global conversations. This inspirational title seeks to combat this marginalisation, spotlighting the work of thirty young activists from these groups.

SHOW LINK: representation, children's rights, empowerment and taking action.



Children Who Changed the World, by Marcia Williams (Walker Books)

Using Williams' distinctive comic-strip style, this book shares true stories about incredible child activists, some familiar and others less well-known, who campaigned for their rights and the rights of others. Told with humour, heart and hope.

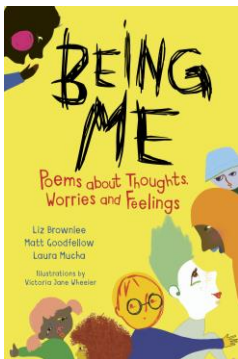
SHOW LINK: human rights and children's rights.

See Me, Hear Me!



Upper Key Stage Two

Poetry

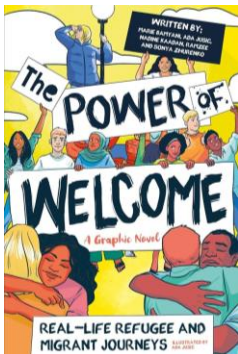


Being Me: Poems About Thoughts, Worries and Feelings, by Liz Brownlee, Matt Goodfellow, Laura Mucha and Victoria Jane Wheeler (Otter-Barry Books)

A timely and empathetic collection that articulates and validates a wide breadth of emotions familiar to children, lending them the language to help process them.

SHOW LINK: children's rights, having a voice and empowerment

Graphic Novels



The Power of Welcome: Real-Life Refugee and Migrant Journeys, by Marie Bamyani, Ada Jusic, Nadine Kaadan, Ramzee, Sonya Zhurenko and Bali Rai (Scholastic)

A powerful collection of personal stories by creators with lived experience of being displaced and seeking refuge, evocatively illustrated by Jusic, and with additional factual sections about each contributor's country of origin by Rai.

SHOW LINK: human rights and having a voice.



Save Our Forest!, by Nora Dåsnes and Lise Lærdal Bryn (HarperCollins)

Intrepid teenager Bao takes a stand to defend her local woodland from demolition, though she finds it much harder to convince the adults in her life than her fellow teenagers. Closes with an empowering information section on environmental activism.

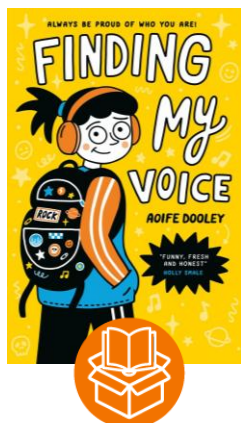
SHOW LINK: children's rights, having a voice, empowerment, and taking action.

See Me, Hear Me!



Upper Key Stage Two

Graphic Novels



Finding My Voice, by Aoife Dooley (Scholastic)

Frankie has just started secondary school – her autism means this new environment brings challenges, so she decides to join a band in order to make new friends and embrace her passion. A two-colour graphic novel about standing out and celebrating difference.

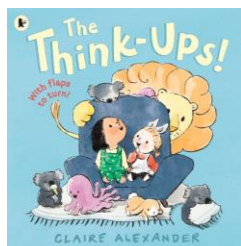
SHOW LINK: representation, celebrating difference and inclusion, having a voice, and self-confidence.

I Play, I Persevere, I Puppeteer!



EYFS

Picture Books



The Think-Ups!, by Claire Alexander (Walker Books)

Stuck inside on a rainy day, Anna and Kiki conjure up a herd of imaginary animals called Think-Ups, but the friends' ideas of fun don't always coincide. A sweet story about playing together and negotiating friendships.

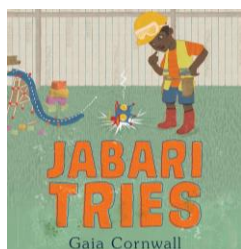
SHOW LINK: creative play, working together and having fun.



I'm Going to Make a Friend, by Darren Chetty and Sandhya Prabhat (Little Tiger Press)

Playing with the double-meaning of 'making' a friend, the inner voice of the protagonist asks reflective questions about what makes a good friend, while not only building their own 'friend' out of cardboard, but gradually finding common ground with another child.

SHOW LINK: puppets, creative play, paper crafts and working together.



Jabari Tries, by Gaia Cornwall (Walker Books)

Young inventor Jabari is frustrated that his flying machine is refusing to fly. Though he initially refuses help, working together with his little sister helps him solve the problem.

SHOW LINK: building and crafting, perseverance and working together.



Moon Girl, by Thomas Docherty (Oxford University Press)

Leila loves bright colours but is afraid of the dark, until the night she meets a magical Moon Girl, who helps her discover the beauty and wonder of night-time.

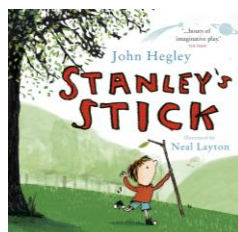
SHOW LINK: shadows and light.



We All Play / kimētawānaw, by Julie Flett (Greystone Kids)

Muted natural colours and alliterative, patterned language show different animals at play, followed by the repeated refrain "We play too! kimētawānaw mīna" over an image of a diverse group of children. Closes with a glossary and pronunciation guide to Cree language.

SHOW LINK: play and having fun.



Stanley's Stick, by John Hegley and Neal Layton (Hachette Children's Books)

Stanley's stick is not just a stick: it is his constant companion with which he creates 'game after sticky game', with endless possibilities. A playful tribute to children's imagination.

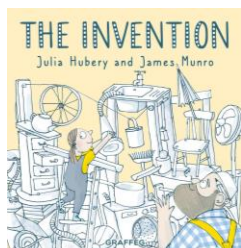
SHOW LINK: play, creative play and having fun.

I Play, I Persevere, I Puppeteer!



EYFS

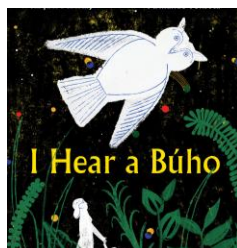
Picture Books



The Invention, by Julia Hubery and James Munro (Graffeg)

The neighbours in Fili's tower block rarely speak to her or each other, so with the help of her caretaker dad, she starts building a mysterious invention which just might bring them together.

SHOW LINK: creative play, building and crafting, and working together.



I Hear a Búho, by Raquel MacKay and Armando Fonseca (Scribble)

Both a celebration of imaginative play and the parent-child bond, and an early introduction to the Spanish language, this rhyming patterned text depicts a bedtime game between mother and child of pretending to be different animals, and closes with a Spanish glossary and pronunciation guide.

SHOW LINK: creative play, and collage artwork which resembles shadow puppets.



Not a Box and Not a Stick, by Antoinette Portis (HarperCollins)

A delightful pair of picture books that sees their protagonists transform a box and a stick into a wide array of objects and games through the power of imaginative play. The books' design and endpapers cleverly mirror each material.

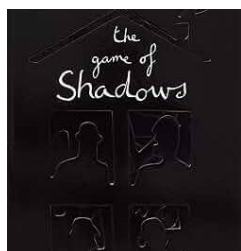
SHOW LINK: creative play and having fun.



On Sudden Hill, by Linda Sarah and Benji Davies (Simon & Schuster)

Best friends Birt and Etho love to play games on Sudden Hill with their cardboard boxes, until the day a third child joins them, and Birt feels conflicted about sharing his friend. Can the power of play bring the trio together?

SHOW LINK: creative play, building and crafting, and working together.



The Game of Shadows, by Herve Tullet (Phaidon)

A playful and innovative book with paper cut-outs through which a torch can be shone and images can be projected onto the wall, casting shadows and adding atmosphere to this interactive story about a mysterious noise in the garden.

SHOW LINK: shadow puppets and creative play.



Invisible Dogs, by Ruby Wright (Rocket Bird Books)

Ida struggles with the bustling environment of her new school, so her grandfather suggests she conjure up her own invisible friends to keep her company, which leads her to form unexpected connections with her new classmates.

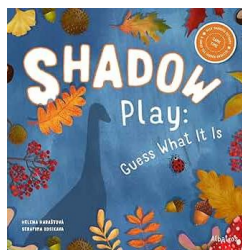
SHOW LINK: creative play, working together and having fun.

I Play, I Persevere, I Puppeteer!



EYFS

Information Books



Shadow Play: Guess What It Is, by Helena Haraštová and Serafima Kosikava (Albatros Media)

An interactive guessing game, inviting readers to decipher a series of mysterious shapes, and rewarding them with fun facts with each turn of the page.

SHOW LINK: shadow puppets, creative play and having fun.



My Small World, by Caryl Hart and Harry Woodgate (Simon & Schuster)

This imaginative series takes the reader on a rhyming tour through three different settings – 'Underwater', 'Dinosaurs' and 'Frozen' – where the landscapes are made from recycled materials. Each book closes with child-friendly instructions for making your own 'small world'.

SHOW LINK: creative play, and building and crafting.



Rosa's Big Shadow Puppet Experiment, by Jessica Spanyol (Child's Play)

Part of the 'Rosa's Workshop' narrative non-fiction series that introduces STEM topics to very young children. Here, Rosa and friends learn about light and shadow, and stage their own shadow puppet show.

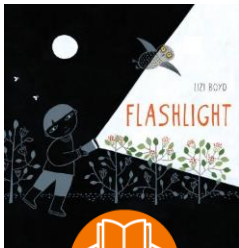
SHOW LINK: shadow puppets, light, and creative play.

I Play, I Persevere, I Puppeteer!



Key Stage One

Picture Books



Flashlight, by Lizi Boyd (Chronicle Books)

An enchanting wordless picture book about the wonders of nature and night-time, as a child shines their trusty flashlight around a woodland setting to reveal the creatures that live there.

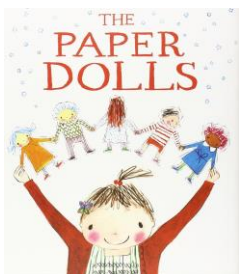
SHOW LINK: shadows and light.



Night Flight, by Katie Cottle (Puffin Books)

Ellie is confused by the absence of birds in her new city surroundings, until a magical encounter with a starling reveals that light pollution has been disrupting the birds' navigation, and she rallies her community to help make a difference.

SHOW LINK: dark, light, perseverance and working together.



The Paper Dolls, by Julia Donaldson and Rebecca Cobb (Macmillan Children's Books)

A girl and her mother create a string of paper dolls who embark on adventures and evade imaginary dangers, but when a pair of scissors snips them up for real, the dolls live on in the girl's imagination.

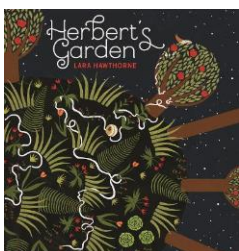
SHOW LINK: puppets, creative play, imagination and paper crafts.



The Night Box, by Louise Greig and Ashling Lindsay (Egmont Books)

Poetic and immersive words and images celebrate the wonders of night-time, in this fable about a boy tasked with looking after the transition from day to night and back again.

SHOW LINK: shadows and light.



Herbert's Garden, by Lara Hawthorne (Big Picture Press)

Herbet the slug wishes he was as creative as the other minibeasts in the garden, until night comes, and the shimmering, silver slime path he drew on his travels is finally illuminated.

SHOW LINK: dark, light, creativity and trying your best.



Get Real, Mallory, by Daisy Hirst (Walker Books)

Nomi would love a dog, but she's not allowed one in her flat. She is therefore delighted when her drawing of a dog – upon being told to "get real" – magically comes to life.

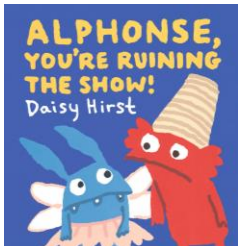
SHOW LINK: creative play.

I Play, I Persevere, I Puppeteer!



Key Stage One

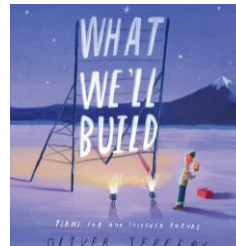
Picture Books



Alphonse, You're Ruining the Show!, by Daisy Hirst (Walker Books)

Little monsters Natalie and Alphonse spend the night at their grandmother's house while their parents are at the theatre and decide to stage a production of their own, but a disagreement threatens to derail the show.

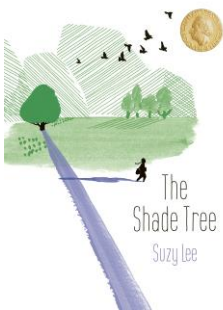
SHOW LINK: creative play and working together.



What We'll Build, by Oliver Jeffers (HarperCollins Children's Books)

Lyrical rhyming text accompanies this story about a father and child – modelled on the creator and his daughter – as they build their perfect world together, and consider all the things they'll need for their shared future.

SHOW LINK: working together, building and crafting.



The Shade Tree, by Suzy Lee (Aldana Libros)

A modern fable about a resourceful young traveller who strikes a deal to purchase the shadow cast by a tree on a rich and greedy man's land. As the shadow continues to lengthen, the traveller shares it with the villagers, and the greedy man is taught a lesson.

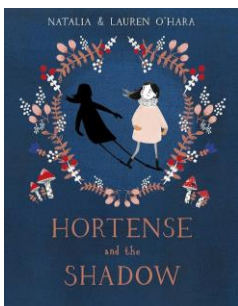
SHOW LINK: shadows, light, and perseverance.



Grandpa Kuma, by Michelle Maiden (Wacky Bee Books)

Miko's grandfather comes to visit from Japan, and the pair finds ways to communicate and play together despite their language barrier, including making origami birds. Grandpa is depicted as a polar bear ('Kuma' in Japanese), and the book features bilingual English-Japanese text.

SHOW LINK: creative play, paper crafts and perseverance.



Hortense and the Shadow, by Natalia and Lauren O'Hara (Puffin Books)

An original fairy tale about embracing the darkness alongside the light, as a young girl cuts herself off from her shadow, only to find she misses it more than she thought she would.

SHOW LINK: shadows and light.



The Dark, by Lemony Snicket and Jon Klassen (Hachette Children's Books)

Laszlo is afraid of the dark, and thankfully the dark spends most of its time in the basement, until the night it pays a visit to Laszlo. A poetic and insightful book about fear, bravery and empathy.

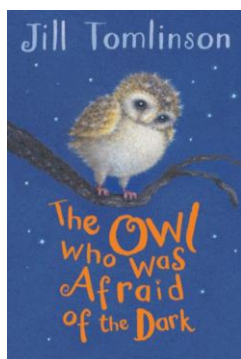
SHOW LINK: shadows and light.

I Play, I Persevere, I Puppeteer!



Key Stage One

Novels

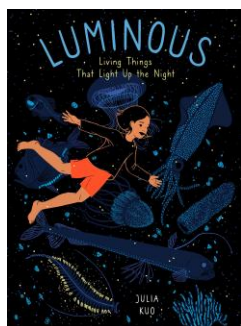


The Owl Who Was Afraid of the Dark, by Jill Tomlinson and Paul Howard (Egmont Books)

A classic chapter book about a little owl who, through a series of encouraging encounters, comes to appreciate the dark as something kind, fascinating, necessary and wonderful.

SHOW LINK: dark, light, and perseverance.

Information books



Luminous: Living Things That Light Up the Night, by Julia Kuo (Greystone Kids)

This attractive and immersive book unveils the lives of bioluminescent creatures, using dual text of short, poetic musings and fuller informative paragraphs. The black paper stock allows the glowing organisms to shine out from the page.

SHOW LINK: dark and light.



Creative Crafting: A First Book of Upcycling, by Daniela Sosa (Walker Books)

Sixteen craft projects with easy-to-follow illustrated instructions, that use everyday items that can be found around the house and encourage imaginative, sustainable play.

SHOW LINK: creative play, building and crafting.



Paper Adventures: A Rip and Glue Activity Book, by Aya Watanabe (Templar Books)

A vibrant activity book encouraging both artistic and storytelling skills. The reader is invited to add their own collaged elements to each spread by ripping and gluing from the sheets of patterned, coloured paper at the back of the book.

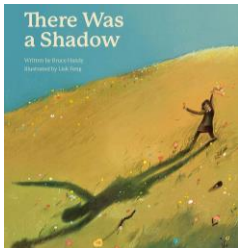
SHOW LINK: creative play and paper crafts.

I Play, I Persevere, I Puppeteer!



Lower Key Stage Two

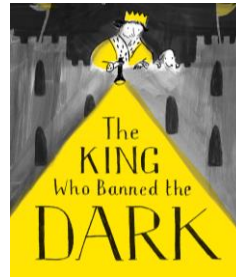
Picture Books



There Was a Shadow, by Bruce Handy and Lisk Feng (Enchanted Lion Books)

A lyrical picture book that skilfully couples the science of shadows with emotional awareness, with patterned text that traces the interplay of light and shadow over the course of a day.

SHOW LINK: shadow and light.



The King Who Banned the Dark, by Emily Haworth-Booth (Pavilion)

Due to a childhood fear of the dark, the new king decides to use his power to ban it, and his advisors persuade him that the best way to do this is by convincing the people that it's what they want too. But the people are not as susceptible as the king believes.

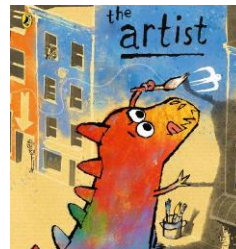
SHOW LINK: dark, light, and working together.



The Comet, by Joe Todd-Stanton (Flying Eye Books)

Nyla struggles with the changes to her life when she and her busy father move to the city for his new job. It takes the unexpected appearance of a comet and an explosion of imagination to help Nyla and her father figure out what they've been missing: the opportunity to make their house a home.

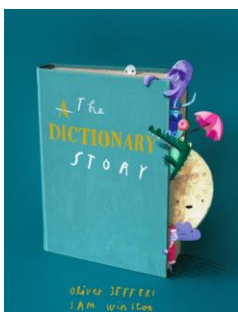
SHOW LINK: light, creativity, perseverance and working together.



The Artist, by Ed Vere (Puffin Books)

Collage-style and painted illustrations tell the story of a little dinosaur who moves to the big city to make big art, where she learns not only about embracing the wonders of the world, but also the value of being brave, making mistakes and trying again.

SHOW LINK: creativity and trying your best.



The Dictionary Story, by Sam Winston and Oliver Jeffers (Walker Books)

The dictionary is tired of being just a list of words, and decides to tell her own story, with chaotic consequences. Illustrated with collage and typography, this book celebrates embracing new ideas and outcomes, even if they don't always go to plan.

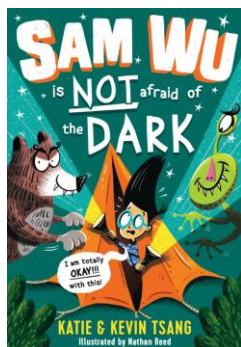
SHOW LINK: creativity, trying your best, and artwork inspired by paper crafts.

I Play, I Persevere, I Puppeteer!



Lower Key Stage Two

Novels

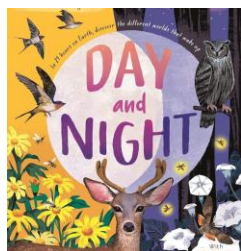


Sam Wu is NOT Afraid of the Dark, by Katie and Kevin Tsang and Nathan Reed (HarperCollins Children's Books)

The third in a light-hearted chapter book series, heavily illustrated and with dynamic typography, all about embracing common childhood fears. In this instalment, Sam reluctantly agrees to embark on an overnight camping trip, with hilarious results.

SHOW LINK: dark, light, perseverance and trying your best.

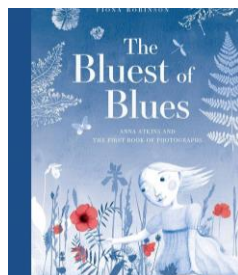
Information Books



Day and Night, by Lela Nargi and Xuan Le (Templar Books)

This engaging title takes the reader on a tour through twenty-four hours on planet Earth, revealing the animals and organisms who thrive at all different times of night and day, with captivating glow-in-the-dark illustrations.

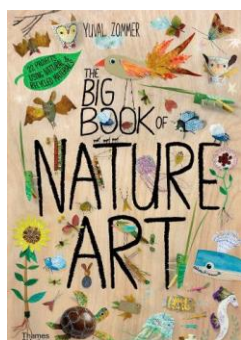
SHOW LINK: dark and light.



The Bluest of Blues: Anna Atkins and the First Book of Photographs, by Fiona Robinson (Abrams Books)

The life of Anna Atkins – acknowledged as one of the first women to take a photograph, and an early pioneer of cyanotype printing – is creatively depicted in this illustrated biography, which features Atkins' own botanical cyanotypes and tips for creating your own.

SHOW LINK: light, perseverance and creativity.



The Big Book of Nature Art, by Yuval Zommer (Thames & Hudson)

A large-format inspiring activity book, with every project built from recycled materials and treasures from the natural world.

SHOW LINK: craft and creative play.

I Play, I Persevere, I Puppeteer!



Lower Key Stage Two

Poetry

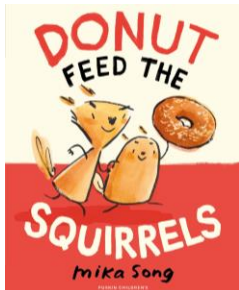


Press Start to Play, by Sam Gayton (Andersen Press)

Puzzles, gaming, and poetry unite in this endlessly inventive and interactive book of poems, that celebrates the creativity of the form, and encourages readers and aspiring poets to think outside the box.

SHOW LINK: creative play and having fun.

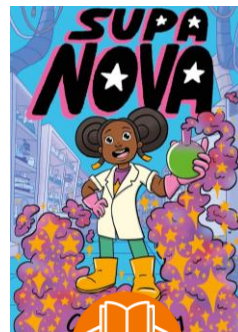
Graphic novels



Donut Feed the Squirrels, by Mika Song (Pushkin Children's)

Norma and Belly are two squirrels with an enormous appetite for snacks, who must work together in their quest to find and eat a delicious doughnut. A hilarious graphic novel told in short chapters, with full-colour watercolour illustrations.

SHOW LINK: creativity, perseverance, and working together.



Supa Nova, by Chanté Timothy (Nosy Crow)

An enthusiastic young inventor called Nova sets out to build a solution to the world's plastic pollution problem, only to create an even bigger problem in the form of a giant, pink, plastic-eating monster.

SHOW LINK: building, perseverance, and trying your best.

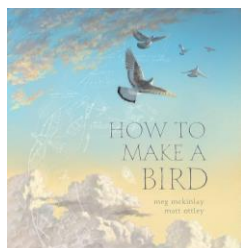


I Play, I Persevere, I Puppeteer!



Upper Key Stage Two

Picture Books



How to Make a Bird, by Meg McKinlay and Matt Ottley (Walker Books)

A highly original picture book that ruminates on the creative process, from ideation to releasing the creation into the world, as a girl slowly but surely builds a bird using elements from the natural world.

SHOW LINK: creativity, building and crafting, and perseverance.

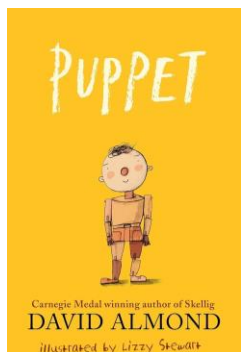


To the Other Side, by Erika Meza (Hodder Children's Books)

A boy describes a game played by him and his sister, which we come to realise is in fact a narrative of migration to the Mexico-United States border wall and beyond. The children wear colourful masks and are pursued by shadowy inkblot figures.

SHOW LINK: shadows, play and perseverance.

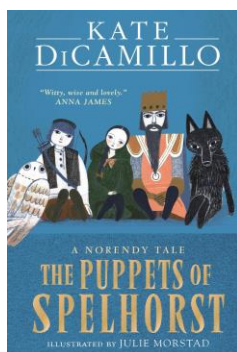
Novels



Puppet, by David Almond and Lizzy Stewart (Walker Books)

Silvester the elderly puppet-maker decides to make one last puppet for old times' sake – to his surprise, this puppet comes to life. A moving work by two award-winning creators, with enchanting text interspersed with wordless illustrated spreads.

SHOW LINK: puppets.



The Puppets of Spelhorst, by Kate DiCamillo and Julie Morstad (Walker Books)

Five puppets, each with distinct identities and aspirations, are launched into adventure by circumstances beyond their control, and find themselves playing roles in stories far bigger than themselves.

SHOW LINK: puppets and play.



The Light Thieves, by Helena Duggan (Usborne Books)

When the Earth shifts on its axis and a dark spot appears on the sun, a tech billionaire claims to have the answer to saving the world from darkness, but Grian and his friends suspect there is more to the story, in this intriguing eco-adventure.

SHOW LINK: shadows, light, and working together.



Ella Jones vs the Sun Stealer, by Lucy Edwards (Scholastic)

In this pacey, superhero adventure written by a disability activist, the world is plunged into darkness by a vengeful Pagan god, and Ella, our sight-impaired protagonist, finds herself uniquely placed to save the world.

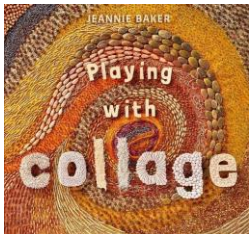
SHOW LINK: dark, light, working together and unexpected heroes.

I Play, I Persevere, I Puppeteer!



Upper Key Stage Two

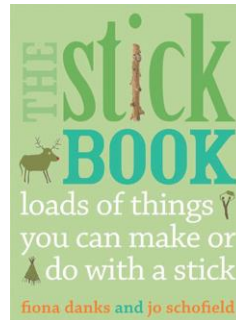
Information Books



Playing with Collage, by Jeannie Baker (Walker Books)

Artist Jeannie Baker shows how to create stunning and thoughtful collage artwork, using a broad range of natural and human-made materials.

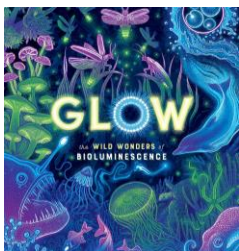
SHOW LINK: craft and creative play.



The Stick Book, by Jo Schofield and Fiona Danks (Frances Lincoln Children's Books)

This book contains a multitude of imaginative ideas for activities using sticks, whether practical, magical, playful or musical. With links to literature, role-playing and storytelling, and with full photographic instructions.

SHOW LINK: creative play, crafting and having fun.



Glow: The Wild Wonders of Bioluminescence, by Jennifer N.R. Smith (Thames & Hudson)

A large-format, detailed and immersive work, with luminous artwork, which explores the phenomenon of bioluminescence, from creatures that glow in the dark, to what scientists can learn from this process.

SHOW LINK: dark and light.

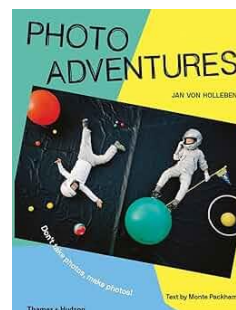
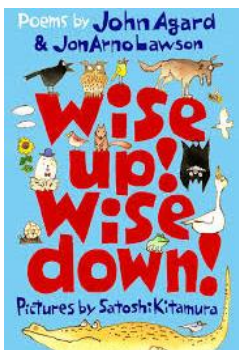


Photo Adventures, by Jan von Holleben and Monte Packham (Thames & Hudson)

With input from a professional photographer, this book shares tips and tricks for creating imaginative worlds and special effects through photography, using playful rhyming text and helpful how-to instructions.

SHOW LINK: creative play and having fun.

Poetry



Wise Up! Wise Down!, by John Agard, JonArno Lawson and Satoshi Kitamura (Walker Books)

Two acclaimed poets are placed in conversation with one another, each responding to the same theme or prompt in their own unique way, in this inviting collection that presents new ways of looking at the world.

SHOW LINK: creativity and working together.



Fia and the Last Snow Deer, by Eilish Fisher and Dermot Flynn (Puffin Books)

An evocative and atmospheric novel in verse set in ancient Ireland, following a girl and a deer on a prophesised quest to bring sunlight back to their community as the solstice approaches. Flynn's artwork makes captivating use of shadow and light.

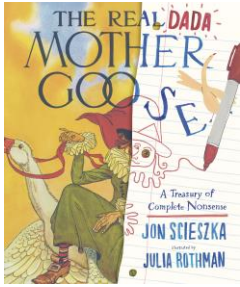
SHOW LINK: shadow, light, perseverance and unexpected heroes.

I Play, I Persevere, I Puppeteer!



Upper Key Stage Two

Poetry



The Real Dada Mother Goose: A Treasury of Complete Nonsense, by Jon Scieszka and Julia Rothman (Walker Books)

Favourite nursery rhymes of childhood are subverted, deconstructed, and reimagined from every possible angle in this irreverent collection, transformed by a gaggle of pen-wielding geese into anagrams, mash-ups, quizzes, news articles, and more.

SHOW LINK: creative play and having fun.

About A New Direction

A New Direction is an award-winning charity (1126216) working to enhance the capacity and agency of children and young people in London to own their creativity, shape culture, and achieve their creative potential.

Primary Arts is supported by The City of London Corporation City Educational Trust Fund (29084), a City of London Corporation charity. We are extremely grateful to them for their support.

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**A NEW
DIRECTION**
We create **opportunity**