

Front to Back 2023

Great stories for ages 7-11



Adventure

Crookhaven: The School for Thieves

JJ Arcanjo

9781444965735 Hodder: 2023

Crookhaven is a boarding school with a difference. The curriculum includes forgery and pickpocketing and the pupils have some very unusual skills indeed. For one young pickpocket the school may be able to cast light on his family's past, but to find out he needs to recruit some of his classmates, and in a school where everyone is a criminal, how does he know who to trust? **9+**



Relationships/Family

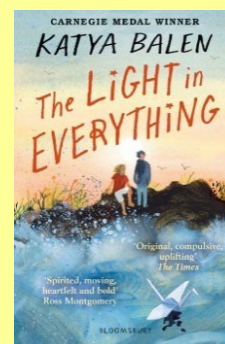
The Light in Everything

Katya Balen

9781526622983 Bloomsbury: 2023

ebook available

Tom is quiet and cautious, still recovering from a traumatic family breakup. Zofia is the opposite; Loud, boisterous, and intolerant of people who are not like her. When they are forced to live together after his mother and her father fall in love, Tom and Zofia quickly find that they drive each other mad. Can they put aside their differences and learn to live together as a family? **10+**



Mystery

Murder at the Museum

Alasdair Beckett-King

9781529501049 Walker: 2023

ebook available

Someone has been murdered at the Hornville Museum. This is a job for Montgomery Bonbon, ace detective! (who underneath the false moustache and jaunty beret is actually a ten year-old girl called Bonnie Montgomery). Fast-moving, humorous and with plenty of satisfying twists. **9+**



Adventure/Fantasy

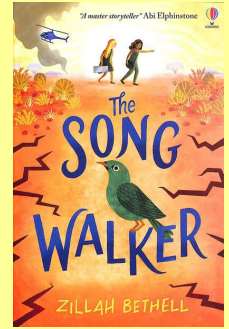
The Song Walker

Zillah Bethell

9781474966856 Usborne: 2023

ebook available

A girl is walking through a fiery red landscape. She has no idea how she got there or who she is. All she knows is that she is carrying a locked metal box and that she has lost one shoe. Luckily help is at hand, but the path back to safety and to finding her identity turns out to be scary and hard. A story about an unlikely friendship that is also an intriguing mystery. **10+**



Adventure

Lost on Gibbon Island

Jess Butterworth

9781510110328 Orion: 2023

Twelve year-old Lark is in trouble. She has been stranded on a remote Cambodian island, her only company a baby gibbon. She has no food and the sea seems to be full of dangerous jellyfish. Lark is clever and resourceful, but is that going to be enough to keep her alive until rescue arrives? Recorded in her diary, this is a nail-biting adventure. **9+**



Fantasy/Relationships

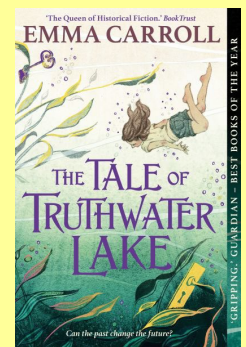
The Tale of Truthwater Lake

Emma Carroll

9780571332861 Faber: 2022

ebook available

When a girl from 2032 goes diving in an old reservoir she finds a sunken village and a portal that takes her back 80 years, to a world before global warming, where she encounters a girl from 1952 whose big ambition is to swim the channel and whose life seems linked to hers in some way. **10+**



Humour

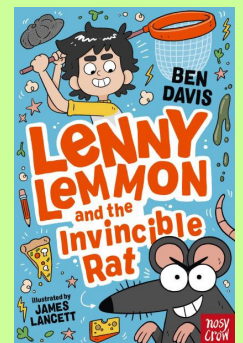
Lenny Lemmon and the Invincible Rat

Ben Davis

9781839949296 Nosy Crow: 2023

ebook available

Lenny's class are doing Olden Days School, where they pretend to be Victorians, so he has decided to bring along his pet rat to add to the atmosphere. Now the rat has escaped and is running around somewhere in the school, and if Lenny doesn't get it back soon there is going to be big trouble! **7+**



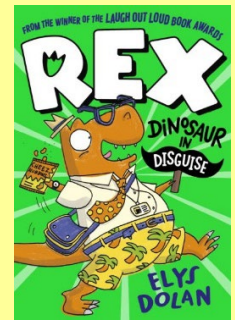
Humour

Rex, Dinosaur in Disguise

Elys Dolan

9781406397703 Andersen Press: 2021

When the glacier that contains Rex the dinosaur melts he discovers that that a lot has changed in 65 million years. How can a dinosaur survive in the heart of New York City? In disguise, of course! But the girl who lives downstairs is getting suspicious of her new neighbour.. Packed with illustrations, this is fast-moving fun. **7+**



Historical/Adventure

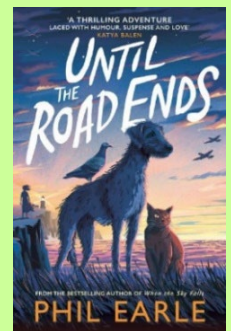
Until the Road Ends

Phil Earle

9781839133169 Andersen Press: 2022

ebook available

Set during the Second World War, this tense and emotional adventure follows Beau the dog and his unlikely companions, a cat and a pigeon, as they travel from the bomb-ravaged streets of London to the depths of rural Dorset to track down the girl who once rescued Beau from a life on the streets. **10+**



Animals

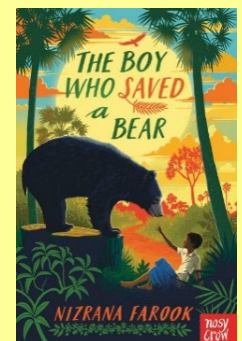
The Boy who Saved a Bear

Nizrana Farook

9781839943928 Nosy Crow: 2023

ebook available

Nuwan has a key that will open a door to magnificent treasures. He didn't mean to take it, but now he is on the run, hiding from thieves who will stop at nothing to get the key from him. Luckily Nuwan has an unlikely ally, a massive (and very scary) sloth bear. A fast-moving adventure set in a fictional Sri Lanka. **9+**



Family/Relationships

The Rescue of Ravenwood

Natasha Farrant

9780571348787 Faber: 2023

ebook available

For Bea and Raffy, Ravenwood is more than just a crumbly old house. It is a magical place, with a beach and an ancient tree where they can have endless adventures. So when the adults around them want to destroy it they have to act fast, taking bold action to save their home. Great characters and real tension. **9+**



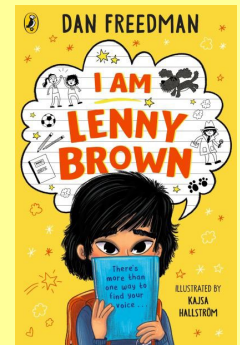
Relationships

I am Lenny Brown

Dan Freedman

9780241610541 Simon & Schuster: 2022

Starting a new school is tough for anyone, but for Lenny, who can't speak to anyone (except his Mum, and she isn't at school with him) the challenge seems almost impossible. Luckily Lenny discovers that he has a hidden talent that may be just what he needs to help him fit in. A highly illustrated story about making friends and conquering your fears. **7+**



Mystery/Adventure

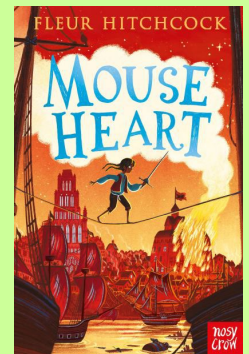
Mouse Heart

Fleur Hitchcock

9781788009485 Nosy Crow: 2022

ebook available

Mouse loves her chaotic life with the Moth Theatre Company, whose colourful and eccentric characters are like family to her. Then disaster strikes when the lead actor is arrested for murder. Mouse is certain that he is innocent and sets out to prove it, a perilous task that throws up some unexpected surprises. Packed full of engaging characters, dramatic sword-fights and unexpected plot twists, this is an atmospheric and satisfying mystery. **9+**



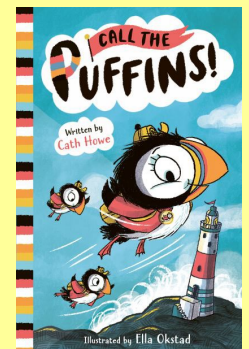
Animals

Call the Puffins!

Cath Howe

9781801300360 Pushkin: 2021

Muffin the Puffin is leaving her family for the first time to join the Puffin Rescue Team. All kinds of challenges lie ahead as she struggles through the training, makes new friends and finds her new skills called on to rescue a bird in trouble. Full of appealing illustrations, this is a story about teamwork and accepting differences. **6+**



Magic

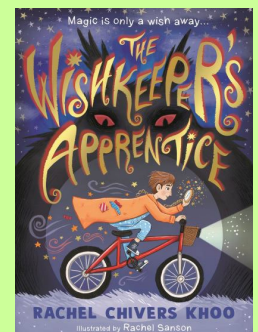
The Wishkeeper's Apprentice

Rachel Chivers Khoo

9781529507904 Walker: 2021

ebook available

Rupus Beewinkle is a Wishkeeper. His job is to make all the hopes and wishes in the town of Whittlestone come true. But Rupus is getting old and struggling to keep up. Worse still, there is an evil Wishsnatcher on the loose, ruining people's wishes. Rupus needs an apprentice, and a young boy called Felix seems to be ideal. There is just one snag; Felix doesn't believe that wishes come true. Uplifting and charming. **7+**



Family/Adventure

The Misunderstandings of Charity Brown

Elizabeth Laird

9781529075656 HarperCollins: 2022

ebook available

Charity Brown's life is changing. She has just recovered from a serious illness and the family is moving to a huge house, which for Charity means a new school and new neighbours. She is also beginning to wonder if the life that her loving but deeply religious parents want her to live is really what she wants for herself. Set in the 1950's, this evocative family story is based on the author's own experiences. **9+**



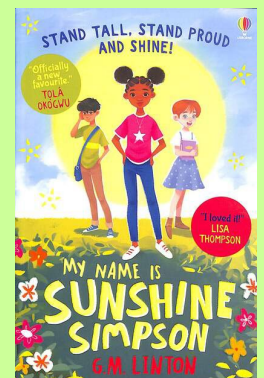
Relationships/Family

My Name is Sunshine Simpson

G M Linton

9781801313346 Usborne: 2023

Sunshine has a lot on her mind. She is worrying about taking part in the end of year concert, her new friend Evie seems to be better at everything than Sunshine, and her beloved Grandad seems to be getting tired and slow. Can she overcome her worries and let the sun shine through? Told in Sunshine's words, this is an engaging easy read. **9+**



Adventure

My Mum is a Spy

Andy McNab and Jess French

9781801300193 Welbeck Flame: 2022

Idris' Mum definitely isn't a spy. She is really unfit and works at a paperclip factory. So why has she apparently been kidnapped? Idris and his Mum's boyfriend's annoying daughter Lucia set off to find out. Former soldier and thriller writer Andy McNab and vet and TV star Jess French unite to write this story about spies and animal smuggling. **8+**



Fantasy/Adventure

Hunted

Skye Melki-Wegner

9781529504736 Walker.: 2023

ebook available

Two dinosaur kingdoms are at war. Eleri, a young oryctodromeus, has been banished from his kingdom to The Deadlands, a barren and inhospitable place full of deadly predators. Has he got what it takes to escape from the Deadlands and bring peace to the dinosaur kingdoms? First in a series, this adventure is packed with fast-paced action. **9+**



Fantasy/Adventure

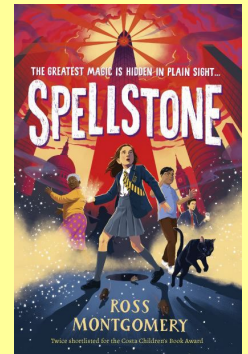
Spellstone

Ross Montgomery

9781529501933 Walker: 2023

ebook available

For years evil magic has been trapped in the Spellstone, hidden away from prying eyes. Now an evil magician is trying to secure the powers in the Spellstone for himself, and the only thing that can stop him is a seemingly ordinary girl called Evie, who has absolutely no idea that she is about to save the world. Imaginative and exciting. **9+**



Fantasy/Adventure

The Kingdom over the Sea

Zohra Nabi

9781398517707 Simon and Schuster: 2023

ebook available

When Yara's Mum died she left her daughter a letter telling her how to return to Zehaira, the city of her birth. When she gets there she finds a place where sorcerers and magic carpets are real. But magic has been banned and the Sultan's Alchemist wants to wipe out the sorcerers. Yara and a small gang of helpers may be the only ones who can take on the Alchemist and save the city. **9+**



Magic

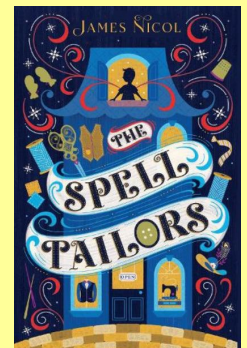
The Spell Tailors

James Nicol

9781913322861 Chicken House: 2022

ebook available

Hen's family are Spell Tailors, who can stitch magic into clothes so that they will keep you cool in summer or safe on a journey. But the mysterious Tiberius Pepper's huge factories are driving them out of business by producing cheaper garments. Hen might have stumbled across something that will save the business, but the fightback isn't going to be easy. **8+**



Myth/Adventure

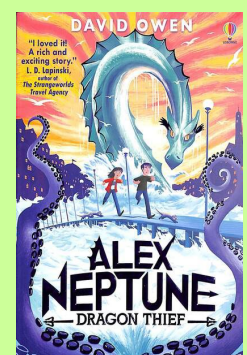
Alex Neptune. Dragon Thief

David Owen

9781474999236 Usborne: 2022

ebook available

The once-beautiful seaside town of Haven is being swamped by pollution, which is driving the tourists away. Alex and his friends think that the source of the trouble is a mysterious and heavily-guarded building by the sea and decide to investigate. What they uncover is astonishing and unexpected. It seems that some ancient legends are true and that Alex himself is involved. **8+**



Fantasy/Magic

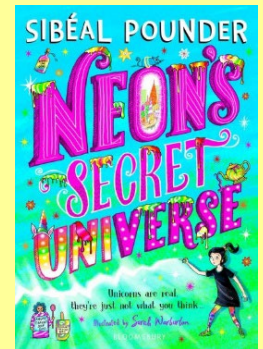
Neon's Secret Universe

Sibeal Pounder

9781408894149 Puffin: 2022

ebook available

Neon Gallup has discovered a whole new universe. It is packed with glitter, colour and magic and (even better) full of Unicorns, except that these Unicorns look just like humans. Now Neon is stuck, and if she can't learn to control the goo that gives the Unicorns their magic she will be trapped in the new Universe for ever. Funny and slightly bonkers, with a great central character. **8+**



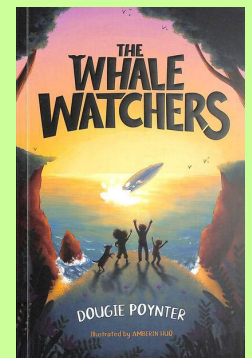
Animals

The Whale Watchers

Dougie Poynter

9781913339548 Owlet Press: 2022

Finn thinks his holiday in the North of Scotland is going to be cold and boring. He quickly realises he was wrong when a local girl introduces him to the magnificent local wildlife, including whales, and shows him how he play his part in protecting them from the dangers of plastic pollution. This adventure also contains factual information about whales and what we can do to help them. **9+**



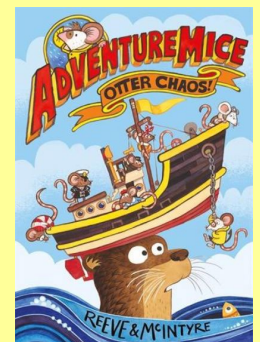
Humour/Adventure

Otter Chaos

Philip Reeve and Sarah McIntyre

9781788452670 David Fickling Books: 2021

Pedro the little mouse is desperate to join the Adventuremice, a team of brave mice equipped with planes and boats who perform daring rescues from the seas that surround their island home. This gentle and, beautifully-illustrated adventure is the latest from a popular and award-winning writer/artist duo. **7+**



Adventure

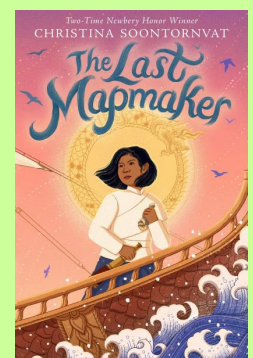
The Last Mapmaker

Christine Soontornvat

9781529511833 Walker: 2023

ebook available

Sai is desperate to escape her past, so when she is offered a place on an expedition sailing to uncharted waters she jumps at the chance. However danger lies ahead and she finds herself dealing with treacherous shipmates and mythical creatures as the ship sails into the fabled Sunderlands. Infused with Thai mythology, this is a fantasy adventure with a difference. **9+**



Fantasy/Adventure

The Bramble Fox

Kathrin Tordasi

9781782693451 *Pushkin: 2022*

ebook available

For years the Grey King has been trying to break out of the world of Faerie, spreading his grey fog through the human world so that people forget themselves and let him rule there too. When two children open a door from the human world to the land of Faerie he thinks his chance has come at last, and the children find themselves drawn into a titanic struggle to keep the Grey King at bay. **10+**



Historical/Mystery

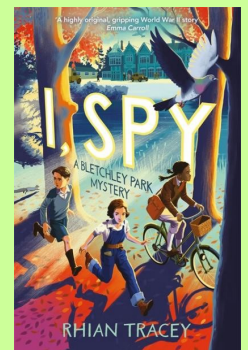
I Spy: a Bletchley Park Mystery

Rhian Tracey

9781800784406 *Piccadilly Press: 2023*

ebook available

1939. Robyn and her gang of friends are in a race against time. A German spy is on the loose in the secret code-breaking centre at Bletchley Park, which is vital to the war effort, and if the friends don't stop them and the centre's secrets are revealed then many British and American lives will be lost. An exciting mystery in an authentic setting. **10+**



Sci-fi/adventure

Suzie Saves the Universe

Katie and Kevin Tsang

9780755500161 *Farshore: 2022*

ebook available

Ace inventor Suzie Wen gets a lot more than she bargained for when her 3DTV device catapults her into the middle of her favourite TV show, 'Space Blasters', and she finds herself joining Captain Jane and the rest of the crew in saving the universe. Well-illustrated and dotted with fun facts about science and space, this is first in a series by a hugely popular writing duo. **7+**



Relationships

My Especially weird Week with Tess

Anna Woltz

9780861542963 *Rock the Boat: 2023*

ebook available

Sam is dreading a lonely summer holiday when along comes Tess, an irresistible force of nature, who takes Sam under her wing, bringing him out of his shell and recruiting him into a crazy scheme to track down her long-lost father. A prize-winner across Europe, this warm-hearted story has great characters. **10+**

