



Welwyn St. Mary's Primary School

Recommended Reading List

All our reading suggestions are taken from the Book Trust guide. Please visit their website for further details and other recommended books.

www.booktrust.org.uk/books-and-reading/our-recommendations/

The list attached is only suggestion - you may have found other super reads. If your child enjoys a particular book, try other books by the same author. Visit the library - this helps children to develop a lifelong love of reading.

It doesn't matter what age your child might be, always share a book with them. The best way to do this is by reading to your child. Once they get older don't stop - take turns in reading - this is not only quality time with your child but also has a profound effect on their learning. *'Reading to your child on a daily basis throughout childhood is one of the most important factors in raising a reader for life, and creating a family reading habit enriches child-parent bonds.'* World Book Day.

Books for 0-5 years based on the 100 best books

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|---|-------------------------|
| • The Tiger Who Came to Tea | Author: Judith Kerr |
| • Where's Spot? | Author: Eric Hill |
| • Each Peach Pear Plum | Author: Allan Ahlberg |
| • The Very Hungry Caterpillar | Author: Eric Carle |
| • The Elephant and the Bad Baby | Author: Elfrida Vipont |
| • Dogger | Author: Shirley Hughes |
| • Lost and Found | Author: Oliver Jeffers |
| • Little Mouse's Big Book of Fears | Author: Emily Gravett |
| • I Will Not Ever Never Eat a Tomato | Author: Lauren Child |
| • Room on the Broom | Author: Julia Donaldson |
| • The Snowman | Author: Raymond Briggs |
| • Ten Little Fingers and Ten Little Toes | Author: Mem Fox |
| • Dear Zoo | Author: Rod Campbell |
| • Gorilla | Author: Anthony Browne |
| • We're Going on a Bear Hunt | Author: Michael Rosen |
| • Hairy Maclary from Donaldson's Dairy | Author: Lynley Dodd |
| • Not now, Bernard | Author: David McKee |
| • Where the Wild Things Are | Author: Maurice Sendak |
| • The Jolly Postman or Other People's Letters | Author: Allan Ahlberg |
| • I Want My Hat Back | Author: Jon Klassen |
| • The Cat in the Hat | Author: Dr Seuss |
| • Meg and Mog | Author: Helen Nicholl |
| • Would You Rather... | Author: John Burningham |
| • Princess Smartypants | Author: Babette Cole |
| • I Want My Potty! | Author: Tony Ross |

Books for 6-8 year olds based on the 100 best books

- Mister Magnolia Author: Quentin Blake
- The Queen's Nose Author: Dick KingSmith
- The True Story of the Three Little Pigs Author: Jon Scieszka
- The Sheep-Pig Author: Dick King-Smith
- That Rabbit Belongs to Emily Brown Author: Cressida Cowell
- Clarice Bean, That's Me Author: Lauren Child
- Amazing Grace Author: Mary Hoffman
- Diary of a Wimpy Kid Author: Jeff Kinney
- The BFG Author: Roald Dahl
- A Bear Called Paddington Author: Michael Bond
- Asterix the Gaul Author: Renné Goscinny
- Finn Family Moomintroll Author: Tove Jansson
- Pippi Longstocking Author: Astrid Lindgren
- Horrid Henry Author: Francesca Simon
- Winnie-the-Pooh Author: A A Milne
- The Story of Babar Author: Jean De Brunhoff
- Little House in the Big Woods Author: Laura Ingalls Wilde
- The Enchanted Wood Author: Enid Blyton
- My Naughty Little Sister Author: Dorothy Edwards
- Charlotte's Web Author: E B White
- Flat Stanley Author: Jeff Brown
- The Worst Witch Author: Jill Murphy
- The Milly-Molly-Mandy Storybook Author: Joyce Lankester Brisley
- The Arrival Author: Shaun Tan

Books for 9-11 year olds based on the 100 best books

- Flour Babies Author: Anne Fine

- Private Peaceful
 - Journey to the River Sea
 - Millions
 - Matilda
 - Once
 - The Story of Tracy Beaker
 - Skellig
 - Artemis Fowl
 - Carrie's War
 - Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone
 - Goodnight Mister Tom
 - The Borrowers
 - The Hobbit
 - Stig of the Dump
 - The Adventures of Tintin
 - Ballet Shoes
 - The Little Prince
 - The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe
 - The Wolves of Willoughby Chase
 - The Witches
 - Truckers
 - Holes
 - A Monster Calls
- Author: Sir Michael Morpurgo
 - Author: Eva Ibbotson
 - Author: Frank Cottrell Boyce
 - Author: Roald Dahl
 - Author: Morris Gleitzman
 - Author: Jacqueline Wilson
 - Author: David Almond
 - Author: Eoin Colfer
 - Author: Nina Bawden
 - Author: J K Rowling
 - Author: Michelle Magorian
 - Author: Mary Norton
 - Author: JRR Tolkien
 - Author: Clive King
 - Author: Hergé
 - Author: Noel Streatfeild
 - Author: Antoine de Saint-Exupéry
 - Author: C S Lewis
 - Author: Joan Aiken
 - Author: Roald Dahl
 - Author: Terry Pratchett
 - Author: Louis Sachar
 - Author: Patrick Ness

Great Books Guide: for 6 to 7 year olds

A Dog With Nice Ears

- **Author:** Lauren Child
Publisher: Hachette
- It's always a delight and a comfort to step into the lovely world of Charlie and Lola and this charming, warm and very funny book is no exception. Lauren Child captures perfectly the thought processes and dialogue of children who wish they had a dog

Billy and the Beast

- **Author:** Nadia Shireen
Publisher: Puffin
- Billy and her friend Fatcat are enjoying a walk in the woods when they notice that the bunnies and mice have gone missing - and a hungry Beast is collecting ingredients for a terrible soup. An empowering story, full of humour and humanity.

Cake

- **Author:** Sue Hendra and Paul Linnet
Publisher: Macmillan
- Cake is delighted when he receives his first ever party invitation. But will being a cake at a birthday party really end well...? Lots of humour and vibrant illustrations will have children giggling in anticipation as they wait to discover Cake's fate.

Creature Features

- **Author:** Natasha Durley
Publisher: Big Picture Press
- This large format book about nature features tough card pages full of brightly illustrated animals, organised by their special features: excellent for young readers building their vocabulary and learning about the natural world.

Cyril and Pat

- **Author:** Emily Gravett
Publisher: Two Hoots
- Cyril the Squirrel is so lonely that, when he finally makes a friend, he doesn't seem to notice that "Pat" might not be quite what he seems. A colourful, rhyming story about friendship against the odds.

Gary's Banana Drama

- **Author:** Jane Massey
Publisher: Simon & Schuster
- When Gary the gorilla runs out of bananas he is forced to go out and find more but although he sees bananas everywhere, he can't eat a single one of them! Hilarious and packed with visual puns.

Hello, Hot Dog!

- **Author:** Lily Murray **Illustrator:** Jarvis
Publisher: Lincoln Children's Books
- Hot Dog is having a lovely snooze on a comfy bread roll when he sees a bottle of ketchup approaching and realises he's about to become... LUNCH! A quirky tale told in a delightful conversational style, which is full of humour and mild jeopardy.

How To Be A Lion

- **Author:** Ed Vere
Publisher: Puffin
- Leonard is a gentle lion: just because you're a lion doesn't mean that you have to roar. A book about ignoring the aggressive voices in our society and lending an ear to our quieter thoughts, this is a warm and reassuring story.

Julian is a Mermaid

- **Author:** Jessica Love
Publisher: Walker Books
- When Julian spots three women in lavish mermaid costumes, it fires his imagination and all he can think about is becoming a mermaid himself - with a little help from his nana's soft furnishings.

Juniper Jupiter

- **Author:** Lizzy Stewart
Publisher: Lincoln Children's Books
- Juniper Jupiter is a real-life superhero, but something is missing. What is a hero without an amazing sidekick? An utterly witty and earnest story about the quest for friendship and realising special bonds already forged.

Luna Loves Library Day

- **Author:** Joseph Coelho **Illustrator:** Fiona Lumbers
Publisher: Anderson Press
- From the talented poet Joseph Coelho, this charming picture book highlights the wonders of libraries for families and communities. Accompanying the poetic text is gloriously bright and delightful illustrations to bring the magic of the library to life.

Mixed

- **Author:** Arree Chung
Publisher: Macmillan Children's Books
- A funny, vibrantly illustrated, allegorical tale that celebrates individual differences and talents and has an inspiring message about understanding and acceptance.

Planet Awesome!

- **Author:** Stacy McAnulty **Illustrator:** David Litchfield
Publisher: Faber & Faber
- A humorous, fabulously entertaining and lavishly illustrated introduction to astronomy, geology, natural history and ecology from the point of view of planet Earth herself.

Simon Sock

- **Author:** Sue Hendra and Paul Linnet **Illustrator:** Nick East
Publisher: Hodder Children's Books
- All the socks in the draw have pairs except for Simon Sock - he's all alone. He's odd. But when there's a voice from under the chest of drawers, will he be about to meet his perfect match? A bright and sweet book about relationships.

Ten Fat Sausages

- **Author:** Michelle Robinson **Illustrator:** Tor Freeman
Publisher: Andersen Press
- Everything in this sausagey counting book works perfectly: from the big, bold illustration to the satisfying rhyme that works well for preschoolers. It will also entertain adults and older children, who will really get the silly humour.

The Last Wolf

- **Author:** Mini Grey
Publisher: Jonathan Cape
- *The Last Wolf* ranks alongside Mini Grey's other picture book masterpieces, with all her trademark rich, characterful illustration, quirky humour and perfect pacing. The story has an environmental message but is in no way preachy or boring.

The New Neighbours

- **Author:** Sarah McIntyre
Publisher: David Fickling Books
- Sarah McIntyre returns to Pickle Rye, the setting for her comic *Vern and Lettuce*, in this clever book about tolerance and not believing gossip. Readers will love her customary attention to detail, as well as the message about being a good neighbour.

Valdemar's Peas

- **Author:** Maria Jönsson
Publisher: Gecko Press
- A cheeky and ingenious little wolf must find a way to get the ice cream he loves without having to eat the peas he hates.

Katinka's Tail

- **Author:** Judith Kerr
Publisher: HarperCollins
- Katinka is an ordinary and lovely white pussycat - apart from her tail, which is stripy. This is a beautiful, funny, warm and tender picture book, which takes a joyous and magical twist at the end. Fans of Judith Kerr's *Mog* books will love it, of course...

Great Books Guide: for 6 to 7 year olds

Once Upon a Wild Wood

- **Author:** Chris Riddell
Publisher: MacMillan Children's Books
- A brand-new fairytale character, Little Green Rain Cape, sets off through the wild woods on her way to Rapunzel's birthday party. On the way, she meets and helps a host of beloved fairytale characters. A delightful picture book that children of all ages will love.

Bad Nana: Older Not Wiser

- **Author:** Sophy Henn
Publisher: HarperCollins Children's Books
- Bad Nana is quite unlike Jeanie's other two grandmas. So when Jeanie and her class go on a school trip, it's no surprise that Bad Nana manages to make it a lot more interesting than anyone expected. A riot of bright colour and laugh-out-loud moments.

Dave Pigeon (Racer!)

- **Author:** Swapna Haddow **Illustrator:** Sheena Dempsey
Publisher: Faber & Faber
- The third book in the brilliantly funny Dave Pigeon series continues its light-hearted focus on friendship and the trials and tribulations younger children can face. In this instalment, Dave and Skipper have to face a too-cool-for-school gang of other animals.

Dogs in Space

- **Author:** Vix Southgate **Illustrator:** Iris Deppe
Publisher: Wren & Rook
- This informative and exciting picture book details the journey of Belka and Strelka (dogs sent into space as part of the Soviet programme): through training to orbiting the earth and returning home safely.

Everything You Need for a Treehouse

- **Author:** Carter Higgins **Illustrator:** Emily Hughes
Publisher: Chronicle Books
- Surely there can be no better imaginary treehouses than the incredible ones in this lyrical and beautiful book. The final message is about the power of imagination and aspiration.

Fox & Chick: The Party and Other Stories

- **Author:** Sergio Ruzzier
Publisher: Abrams & Chronicle
- Explore the unique friendship and everyday adventures of mild-mannered Fox and excitable Chick: two seemingly opposite friends. Full of personality and humour.

Hansel & Gretel

- **Author:** Bethan Woollvin
Publisher: Two Hoots
- Willow is a good witch, and it's the horrendously naughty Hansel and Gretel who wreck her house and her magic spells. A delightful twist on the classic fairy tale.

I Say OOH You Say AAH

- **Author:** John Kane
Publisher: Templar Books
- A brilliant call-and-response book, which is perfect for fun with kids who can remember and relish all its chaotic rules.

Joan Procter, Dragon Doctor

- **Author:** Patricia Valdez **Illustrator:** Felicita Sala
Publisher: Andersen Press
- This amazing and deeply inspiring story of a largely unknown scientist - and pioneer of the care of Komodo dragons - is a fascinating read, beautifully illustrated.

Read The Book, Lemmings!

- **Author:** Ame Dyckman **Illustrator:** Zachariah OHora
Publisher: Andersen Press
- Welcome aboard the S S Cliff with first mate Foxy, Captain Polar Bear and three little lemmings. According to Foxy's book, lemmings don't actually jump off cliffs. There's just one problem: the lemmings haven't read it. An absolute joy to read.

The Wildest Cowboy

- **Author:** Garth Jennings **Illustrator:** Sara Ogilvie
Publisher: Macmillan
- The Wild West isn't usually a setting for many picture books (at least in the UK), which seems a shame based on this riotous, colourful adventure, which fuses the joy of fancy dress with the dusty remoteness of a pioneer town.

The Goozillas! Escape from the Monstrous Maze

- **Author:** Dexter Green **Illustrator:** Jake Dash
Publisher: Oxford University Press
- In this second adventure in the series, Max and the Goozillas must navigate through the monstrous maze, avoiding the pixelated ghosts. This fast-paced, accessible series will appeal to fans of computer games, comics and all things slimy.

Magical Kingdom of Birds: The Sleepy Hummingbirds

- **Author:** Anne Booth **Illustrator:** Rosie Butcher
Publisher: Oxford Children's Books
- When Maya receives a colouring book called The Magical Kingdom of Birds, she is transported to a beautiful realm filled with magnificent birds. A magical adventure story that is great for nature-lovers and those advancing to chapter books.

The Truth About My Unbelievable School

- **Author:** Davide Cali **Illustrator:** Benjamin Chaud
Publisher: Chronicle Books
- When Henry is asked to show a new pupil around the school, he takes her to see some rather fantastical things. A brilliantly quirky book, which is a quick read but still feels super cool.

The Variety of Life

- **Author:** Nicola Davies **Illustrator:** Lorna Scobie
Publisher: Hodder Children's Books
- Did you know there are 400,000 species of beetle but only eight species of bear? Jam-packed with fun facts and figures, this is a glorious celebration of our world by non-fiction specialist Nicola Davies.

The Bad Guys: Episodes 1 and 2

- **Author:** Aaron Blabey
Publisher: Scholastic
- Written like a comic book, this is a very funny story, full of action and crazy characters. It's lots of fun and will probably make you laugh out loud.

The Zoological Times

- **Author:** Stella Gurney **Illustrator:** Matthew Hodson
Publisher: Lincoln Children's
- *The Zoological Times* is laid out like a newspaper and jam-packed with news, fun facts and interactive features. It's all kept light and is very, very funny. It's a brilliant way to keep kids entertained in the holidays - and they won't even realise they're learning.

Rose's Dress of Dreams

- **Author:** Katherine Woodfine **Illustrator:** Kate Pankhurst
Publisher: Little Gems
- Bestselling children's author Katherine Woodfine has created a beguiling, silky, beautiful tale based on the true story of the world's first fashion designer, Rose Bertin. Perfect for any young fashion fans and for children just moving away from picture books.

The Night Knights

- **Author:** Gideon Sterer **Illustrator:** Cory Godbey
Publisher: Abrams Books for Young Readers
- Night time might be considered a time for monsters, except heroic Night Knights guard children's houses when darkness falls. A magically reassuring book for bedtime.

Sports are Fantastic Fun!

- **Author:** Ole Könnecke
Publisher: Gecko Press
- Full of brilliant detail about a vast range of sports, this highly entertaining illustrated picture book gives children a good introduction to their rules and ethos. Perfect for sporty children but also those less competitive!

Great Books Guide: for 8 to 9 year olds

Ade's Amazing Adventures: Battle of the Cyborg Cat

- **Author:** Ade Adepitan
Publisher: Studio Press
- This first book by Paralympian and TV presenter Ade Adepitan offers a fascinating picture of his childhood. With a light touch and plenty of wit, he recalls the influences and events that helped to shape his life and career. Entertaining, accessible and inspiring.

Amelia Fang and the Barbaric Ball

- **Author:** Laura Ellen Anderson
Publisher: Egmont
- The first in a series, this ghoulishly funny chapter book is full of fabulous gothic pen-and-ink illustrations and explores the importance of friendship.

Bee Boy: Clash of the Killer Queens

- **Author:** Tony De Saulles
Publisher: Oxford Children's Books
- When Mel discovers he can transform into a honeybee, he enjoys an amazing bee's-eye view of life inside a hive. This funny illustrated chapter book incorporates fascinating facts about these invaluable insects.

Corpse Talk: Ground-Breaking Women

- **Author:** Adam & Lisa Murphy
Publisher: David Fickling Books
- Adam Murphy interviews 18 amazing women from history. With a casual, chatty style and colourful comic-strip illustrations, this unique, accessible and slightly macabre series is packed full of humour and fascinating facts.

Curse of the Werewolf Boy

- **Author:** Chris Priestley
Publisher: Bloomsbury
- Mildew and Sponge race to solve the theft of the School Spoon in this hilarious, ridiculous adventure that takes in time travel, werewolves and even rogue Vikings.

Alice Dent and the Incredible Germs

- **Author:** Gwen Lowe
Publisher: Chicken House
- Can Alice outwit the Best Minister for Everything Nicely Perfect's evil plans? Find out in this brilliantly original tale of friendship and adventure.

Elise and the Second-Hand Dog

- **Author:** Bjarne Reuter **Illustrator:** Kirsten Raagaard **Translator:** Sian Mackie from Danish
Publisher: Wacky Bee Books
- Elise gets a secondhand mongrel to keep her company - and turns out, the dog's name is McAddudi and he's from Scotland. Elise and McAddudi soon grow to become best friends. A quirky and original book that is full of laughs and heart.

I Bet I Can Make You Laugh

- **Author:** Joshua Seigal and Friends **Illustrator:** Tim Wesson
Publisher: Bloomsbury
- Featuring a range of children's poets and traditional verses from cultures around the world, this is a great collection for older primary kids.

Iguana Boy Saves the World with a Triple Cheese Pizza

- **Author:** James Bishop **Illustrator:** Rikin Parekh
Publisher: Hodder Children's Books
- Dylan Spencer has a rubbish superpower: he can talk to iguanas. But when all the rest of the world's superheroes are kidnapped, he is the only one left to save the planet. A hilarious and heart-warming book, packed full of brilliant, comic-strip illustrations.

KidGlovz

- **Author:** Julie Hunt and Dale Newman
Publisher: Allen & Unwin
- This stunning pencil-drawn graphic novel of talent, music and friendship will readers young and old. You'll be rooting for KidGlovz, the nine-year-old musical prodigy: a poignant story to be remembered for a long time.

Real-Life Mysteries

- **Author:** Susan Martineau **Illustrator:** Vicky Barker
Publisher: b small
- An ideal book for anyone who's been intrigued by stories about sightings of Bigfoot, UFOs, crop circles, ghosts etc. A chance to examine the evidence and maybe solve a mystery.

Pony on the Twelfth Floor

- **Author:** Polly Faber **Illustrator:** Sarah Jennings
Publisher: Walker Books
- This hilarious and heart-warming chapter book combines an entertaining plot and a diverse range of characters with delightfully funny black-and-white illustrations. The cheeky antics of the mischievous pony are great fun.

Shiny Pippin and the Broken Forest

- **Author:** Harry Heape **Illustrator:** Rebecca Bagley
Publisher: Faber & Faber
- When Pippin discovers she possesses magical powers, she uses her newfound skills to investigate the mysterious water shortage in Funsprings. This hilarious fantasy adventure will have readers rolling around with laughter.

Splat the Fake Fact

- **Author:** Adam Frost **Illustrator:** Gemma Correll
Publisher: Bloomsbury
- These days it's very important to be able to identify fake facts. With a series of interactive activities, this book not only allows children to find out what is and isn't true. Fabulously original and interactive non-fiction.

Young, Gifted and Black: Meet 52 Black Heroes from Past and Present

- **Author:** Jamia Wilson **Illustrator:** Andrea Pippins
Publisher: Wide Eyed Editions
- This beautiful and eye-catching hardback celebrates a selection of black icons from history and the present day to inspire all children to discover what they can achieve.

Mr Penguin and the Lost Treasure

- **Author:** Alex T Smith
Publisher: Hodder Children's Books
- With the help of Colin (a spider), Mr Penguin battles ferocious beasts and makes his way into a hidden jungle underneath the museum with exciting (and often hilarious) results.

Sam Wu is Not Afraid of Ghosts

- **Author:** Katie and Kevin Tsang **Illustrator:** Nathan Reed
Publisher: Egmont
- Sam Wu is scared of many things but is determined not to let anyone find out. This funny, fast-paced chapter book is the first in a series of Sam Wu adventures. Full of humour, black-and-white illustrations and a wacky plot.

Looshkin

- **Author:** Jamie Smart
Publisher: David Fickling books
- Looshkin is named 'the maddest cat in the world' for good reason - anything that could possibly go wrong all comes down to this kitty. An outrageously fun graphic novel in a class of its own for silliness.

Alastair Humphreys' Great Adventurers

- **Author:** Alastair Humphrey **Illustrator:** Kevin Ward
Publisher: Big Picture Press
- An inspiring introduction to 20 adventurers and explorers from the last 700 years. This book will encourage readers to live more adventurously, think a little more boldly and go a little further themselves.

Professor Astro Cat's Human Body Odyssey

- **Author:** Dr. Dominic Walliman **Illustrator:** Ben Newman
Publisher: Flying Eye Books
- Everyone's favourite cat-astronaut investigates the human body in this beautiful, graphically illustrated look at everything from eyes to muscles, genetics to reproduction and the immune, endocrine and lymphatic systems.

Great Books Guide: for 10 to 11 year olds

Embassy of the Dead

- **Author:** Will Mabbitt
Publisher: Orion Children's Books
- A witty, creepy lesson in staying alive despite being on the Grim Reaper's hit list, this wacky adventure is packed with ghosts, grave robbers and gruesome beasts. A hilarious fright-fest!

Suee and the Shadow

- **Author:** Ginger Ly **Illustrator:** Molly Park
Publisher: Amulet
- When her dad gets demoted at work, Suee has to transfer school from the cosmopolitan Bustle Elementary to lame Outskirtsville, which is darker, duller and in all ways unwelcoming - not least the other kids, who make fun of Suee's black clothes and strange sense of humour.

The Book Case

- **Author:** Dave Shelton
Publisher: David Fickling Books
- This sniggeringly funny, totally deadpan adventure is a joy to read. Loosely set in the 1930s, it's a bit like reading a really well-written and funny Famous Five or Secret Seven by Enid Blyton.

The House With Chicken Legs

- **Author:** Sophie Anderson
Publisher: Usborne
- A story of death, magic and the afterlife told by Marinka, who is desperate not to follow in her grandmother's footsteps and wants to find her own destiny. Loosely based on the Slavic myth of Baba Yaga, this story is delightfully macabre and utterly engrossing.

The Infinite Lives of Maisie Day

- **Author:** Christopher Edge
Publisher: Nosy Crow
- On Maisie's birthday, she finds that her family have disappeared and her house is being consumed by darkness. A brilliant introduction to physics wrapped inside a great story.

The Murderer's Ape

- **Author:** Jakob Wegelius **Translator:** Peter Graves
Publisher: Pushkin Children's Books
- Sally Jones is an engineer and loyal friend to Captain Koskela. She's also an ape. When Koskela is falsely accused of murder, she's the one who must unravel the mystery. A brilliant adventure, rich with lovable characters.

The Polar Bear Explorers' Club

- **Author:** Alex Bell **Illustrator:** Tomislav Tomic
Publisher: Faber & Faber
- Stella wants to join The Polar Bear Explorers' Club - although technically, she can't, simply because she's a girl. Stella is determined to prove she can be as good an explorer as anyone. This is a magical and charming adventure with memorable characters.

The Rise of Wolves

- **Author:** Kerr Thomson
Publisher: Chicken House
- When Innis spots a large, black wolf on his island home, he thinks he must be hallucinating. Wolves became extinct in Scotland centuries ago - didn't they? A multi-layered mystery adventure with a gripping plot.

The Secret of the Purple Lake

- **Author:** Yaba Badoe **Illustrator:** Gbolahan Adams
Publisher: Cassava Republic
- This collection of interlinked folk tales has a truly global feel, with stories reaching from Africa to the Orkney Islands, by way of Spain and Norway.

The Wizards of Once

- **Author:** Cressida Cowell
Publisher: Hodder Children's Books
- Wish is a girl from a warrior tribe and Xar is a boy from a wizard tribe, living in a world loosely based on Ancient Britain at the beginning of the Iron Age, but where magic is real. A fabulously imaginative, funny and unpredictable adventure.

What Lexie Did

- **Author:** Emma Shevah **Illustrator:** Helen Crawford-White
Publisher: Chicken House
- When Lexie is caught between telling the truth and lying, her decision splits her family apart - can she figure out how to bring them back together? A complex, sophisticated exploration of honesty that's also brilliantly funny and compelling.

My Brigadista Year

- **Author:** Katherine Paterson
Publisher: Walker Books
- Based on real events in post-revolutionary Cuba, this is the story of 13-year-old Lora who volunteers to spend a year in bandit country in a bid to help eliminate illiteracy. A fascinating look at recent world history, seen through the eyes of an idealistic girl.

Nevermoor: The Trials of Morrigan Crow

- **Author:** Jessica Townsend
Publisher: Orion Children's Books
- Born on Eventide, Morrigan Crow is a 'cursed child', blamed for every misfortune and destined to die on her eleventh birthday. But just before midnight strikes, the mysterious Jupiter North appears, offering Morrigan another choice: journey with him to Nevermore. In this magical world, she moves into Jupiter's awesome, ever-changing hotel and enters the tria...

Illegal

- **Author:** Eoin Colfer and Andrew Donkin and **Illustrator:** Giovanni Rigano
Publisher: Hodder Children's Books
- *Illegal* tells the story of Ebo, a 12-year-old boy who flees grinding poverty, zero opportunities and a drunken uncle in his small village in Africa. An absolute must-read, this graphic novel is thought-provoking, profound, sensitive and totally gripping.

Kat Wolfe Investigates

- **Author:** Lauren St John
Publisher: Macmillan Children's Books
- Kat Wolfe loves her new home in idyllic Bluebell Bay, especially as it comes with a resident wildcat. But when she starts pet-sitting for pocket money, she finds that beneath the town's perfect surface lie some dark and dangerous secrets.

Max and the Millions

- **Author:** Ross Montgomery
Publisher: Faber
- When a school caretaker mysteriously disappears, leaving behind a small pile of sand, a student is drawn into an extraordinary adventure. Alongside the delightfully daft plot, Montgomery successfully touches on topics such as assumptions about deafness.

Brightstorm

- **Author:** Vashti Hardy
Publisher: Scholastic
- Twelve-year-old twins Maudie and Arthur's world comes crashing in when their explorer dad is reported dead in his mission to get to South Polaris, and they race to restore the family name. A real edge-of-your-seat Victoriana romp.

A Good Day For Climbing Trees

- **Author:** Jaco Jacobs **Illustrator:** Jim Tierney **Translator:** Kobus Geldenhuys from Afrikaans
Publisher: Rock the Boat
- Thirteen-year-old Marnus finds himself at the centre of a protest when he and a girl named Leila camp out in a tree to prevent it from being cut down by developers. This is the perfect feel-good book from one of South Africa's top children's authors.

Beyond the Sky: You and the Universe

- **Author:** Dara Ó'Briain **Illustrator:** Dan Bramall
Publisher: Scholastic
- Beginning with the question, 'So you want to go into space?', this book takes readers on a fascinating and hilarious journey through the solar system and beyond.

Timeless: Diego and the Rangers of the Vastlantic

- **Author:** Armand Baltazar
Publisher: HarperCollins
- The Time Collision changed everything. A cosmic cataclysm from beyond the stars has reshaped earth. Continents have shifted, timelines have merged, but humanity has endured.