

A Few Good Reads - Year 1

Abel's Moon - Shirley Hughes

You probably know Shirley Hughes' brilliant books for young children. In this beautiful book for slightly older children, she celebrates the power of the bond between parents and children and of the imagination. Abel Grable's work takes him into remote jungles with only the moon to guide the way. When he comes home, his children love to hear about his moonlit adventures and when he has to go away again, they relive his tales of earlier adventures, make a moon machine out of an old table, and dream of being joined with him through the all-seeing moon.

All Aboard the London Bus - Patty Toht

Come! Board the London Bus and see the London sights with us. At any time, hop off, explore! Then climb back on, and ride some more... As a family of four spend a day exploring London, fun, child-friendly poems introduce readers to our wonderful capital city, and all its secrets. Well-known landmarks like Buckingham Palace, Big Ben and the London Eye, plus inescapable features like rain and taking tea, all get Patty Toht's witty treatment. Non-fiction facts provide more information about the subjects, while rising star Sam Usher brings them to life with his signature style and humour.

Amazing Grace - Mary Hoffman

Grace loves to act out stories. Sometimes she plays the leading part, sometimes she is 'a cast of thousands.' When her school decides to perform Peter Pan, Grace is longing to play Peter, but her classmates say that Peter was a boy, and besides, he wasn't black...But Grace's Ma and Nana tell her she can be anything she wants if she puts her mind to it. Look out for the other wonderful books about Grace and her family.

Anna Hibiscus - Atinuke

This is a captivating picture of everyday life in West Africa centred on the irrepressible Anna Hibiscus. Anna Hibiscus lives with her whole family in a wonderfully warm and welcoming house. There is always someone to laugh or play with. She loves to splash in the sea with her cousins and have parties for her aunties. But more than anything else in the world, Anna would love to see snow... If you enjoy this, look out for Anna Hibiscus's other adventures.

The Bad Mood and the Stick - Lemony Snicket

A wise observation about the emotional forces that impact our lives. Best-selling author, Lemony Snicket's, simply told story offers a refreshing, thoughtful, and hilarious look at the ways in which a bad mood wreaks havoc as it moves from person to person, leaving an unexpected trail of surprise in its wake: opportunities for laughter, forgiveness and even love. Meet the most endearing and unpredictable bad mood yet - an emoji-like cloud character - who allows young readers to look their bad mood in the eye. If you like this, don't miss Lemony Snicket's equally compelling *The Dark*.

Beauty and the Beast - Michael Morpurgo & Loretta Schauer

Award-winning Michael Morpurgo gives a fresh and lively retelling of this classic fairy story of how a generous-hearted girl gives herself to a monster only to find that he is not so monstrous after all... Loretta Schauer, winner of the 2012 Waterstones *Picture This* competition, brings the story to life in a new and exciting way.

Beware of the Storybook Wolves - Lauren Child

Every night, Herb's mother reads him a bedtime story. Sometimes it's about a big bad wolf who terrifies little girls and their grandmothers, with his chilling growl and big yellow teeth. The story gets very nasty in the middle and everybody nearly comes to a sticky end. But, by the last page, it all turns out well and happy-ever-afterly. But what will happen to Herb when the wolves escape from his book? Will they gobble him up? Or will this, too, end happily-ever-after? Read this thrilling tale to find out - and learn what to do if the wolves ever escape from your storybook! This prize winning book and scary book by best-selling author, Lauren Child, has an equally brilliant sequel, also starring Herb- *Who's Afraid of the Big Bad Book*.

***Camille and the Sunflowers* - Laurence Anholt**

"One day a strange man arrived in Camille's town. He had a straw hat and a yellow beard." The strange man is the artist Vincent van Gogh, and Camille is entranced by his paintings. Sadly though, as Camille discovers, not everyone appreciates the genius of the "Sunflower Man" and Vincent is taunted and bullied until he is forced to leave the town. This is just one of a series of fascinating books by the award winning writer and artist, Laurence Anholt, which introduce you to the life and work of some great artists, including Leonardo da Vinci, Monet, Cezanne and Picasso.

***Can You Catch a Mermaid?* - Jane Ray**

Have you ever seen a mermaid? Eliza has! And this is the story of how she and a little mermaid became the most inseparable of friends ...A bewitching and thought-provoking picture book filled with myth and mystery from the award-winning Jane Ray.

***Caterpillar Butterfly* - Vivian French**

Watch a caterpillar metamorphose into a butterfly in this fun, informative, award-winning picture book, part of the excellent Nature Storybooks series, each of which has been written by one of our best childrens' authors. You will love discovering each stage in the journey, from wriggly green caterpillar to the beautiful butterfly, in this picture book which combines story with information. If you enjoy this book, look out for the others in the series, including *Big Blue Whale* and *White Owl, Barn Owl* by Nicola Davies and *Walk with a Wolf* by Janni Howker.

***The Dancing Tiger* - Malachy Doyle**

This is a magical story, with a simple storyline. A young girl discovers a dancing tiger. As a reward for not telling anybody about him, she is allowed to dance with him once a month, when there is a full moon. The story then takes you through the seasons, showing the girl and tiger dancing in the bluebells, kicking the autumn leaves, etc. The illustrations are glorious, with the joy of movement in every page. At the very end of the book, the little girl of the story has become an old woman and now she gives the secret to her great granddaughter and watches the tiger take the little girl on her first dance.

***The Day the Crayons Quit* - Drew Daywalt and Oliver Jeffers**

A brilliant best-selling book from an award- winning pair. Drew Daywalt and Oliver Jeffers team up to create a colourful solution to a crayon-based crisis in this playful, imaginative story that will have children laughing and playing with their crayons in a whole new way. Poor Duncan just wants to colour in. But when he opens his box of crayons, he only finds letters, all saying the same thing: We quit! What is Duncan to do? Don't miss the equally entertaing sequel - *The Day the Crayons Came Home*.

***The Detective Dog* - Julia Donaldson and Sara Ogilvie**

The Detective Dog is a fast-paced celebration of books, reading, libraries, and the relationship between a little boy and his rather special dog. Peter's dog, Detective Dog Nell, has an amazing sense of smell. Whether it's finding a lost shoe or discovering who did a poo on the new gravel path, her ever-sniffing nose is always hard at work. But Nell has other talents too. Every Monday she goes to school with Peter and listens to children read. So who better to have on hand when they arrive one morning to discover that the school's books have all disappeared! Who could have taken them? And why? There's only one dog for the job... and Detective Dog Nell is ready to sniff out the culprit!

***Dilly the Dinosaur* - Tony Bradman**

Introducing Dilly, the world's naughtiest dinosaur, famous for his exceptionally loud, 150 mile-an-hour scream when he doesn't get what he wants. In these first four stories by best-selling author, Tony Bradman, Dilly the Dinosaur gets up to all sorts of mischief. If you like this, there are several other books about Dilly for you to read.

***Dixie O'Day: In the Fast Lane* - Shirley Hughes**

Introducing Dixie O'Day and also, of course, his friend Percy! This dashing duo are always getting into adventures - here they enter the All-Day Car Race little knowing what is ahead of them! Dixie and Percy run into all sorts of peril, as does their arch enemy, Lou Ella. But who will win, and will Lou Ella get her comeuppance? If you like this, look out for the other books about Dixie and his friends.

***Dogbird and Other Mixed-up Tales* - Paul Stewart & Tony Ross**

Three funny and fanciful stories about animals who have got just a little bit mixed-up from Smarties Prize-winning author Paul Stewart, brilliantly illustrated by Tony Ross. WOOF! Alice's new pet budgie doesn't speak. It barks! Dad says the bird must go, but what do you do with a barking budgie? OINK! When greedy Albert pinches a Mars bar, his grandmother warns him of the curse of the were-pig. Will he grow a curly tail when the sun comes out? RIBBIT! The croaking frog in the garden is driving Looby loopy! Grandad wonders if it's an enchanted prince, but Looby doesn't believe in fairy tales any more. Maybe she should just give the frog a tiny kiss . . .

***The Enormous Crocodile* - Roald Dahl**

If you haven't already discovered the wonderful Roald Dahl, this is the ideal introduction! The Enormous Crocodile is planning what to have for his lunch. This foul fiend - the greediest croc in the whole river - wants to eat something juicy and delicious. His teeth sparkle like knives in the sun and he's getting hungrier and hungrier. But what can the greedy grumpious brute guzzle up? Beware - he's looking for someone ...someone who looks a lot like YOU! This fantastic and hilarious (but slightly scary) story is perfectly complemented by Quentin Blake's wonderful illustrations

***Gentle Giant* - Michael Morpurgo**

The former Children's Laureate, Michael Morpurgo, draws on traditional storytelling to weave a tale of extraordinary relevance to our own world today. A story of compassion, and love, and a simple belief in the healing powers of nature. This is a powerful folktale about a lonely giant who lives by a beautiful lake. When he saves a girl from drowning, the giant finds the love and courage to save the lake from destruction.

***Gorilla* - Anthony Browne**

This prize-winning book by the former Children's Laureate tells the endearing story of a lonely little girl. Hannah loves gorillas but has never seen one. Her father, who looks after her by himself, is too busy to take her to the zoo - or for anything else come to that. For her birthday, Hannah asks her father for a gorilla - but is disappointed when she discovers that the gorilla she's been given is just a toy. But then something extraordinary happens; the toy turns into a real gorilla, puts on her father's hat and coat and takes her off for a magical visit to the zoo.

***Greatest Animal Stories* - Various Authors (Chosen by Michael Morpurgo)**

Award-winning children's writer and former Children's Laureate Michael Morpurgo has collected together here some of the greatest animal stories from all around the world, including such favourites as Puss in Boots, The Ugly Duckling, and Peter and the Wolf, as well as many less well known tales. So whether you're looking for a quick read or a longer story to lose yourself in, something to read alone or a tale to share, there's a great animal story in this beautifully illustrated book for everyone.

***Hot Dog Harris* - Rose Impey**

All about the Smallest Dog in the World! Hot Dog Harris is no bigger than a bar of soap or a bag of chips. But for a very small dog, he has some very BIG adventures! This funny, brightly illustrated book is part of the *Animal Crackers* series by best-selling author, Rose Impey. If you enjoy this, don't miss the other books in the series.

***The Incredible Book Eating Boy* - Oliver Jeffers**

A mouth-watering book from acclaimed author illustrator, Oliver Jeffers. Henry loves books...but not like you and I. He loves to EAT books! This exciting story follows the trials and tribulations of a boy with a voracious appetite for books. Henry discovers his unusual taste by mistake one day, and is soon swept up in his new-found passion - gorging on every delicious book in sight! And better still, he realises that the more books he eats, the smarter he gets. Henry dreams of becoming the Incredible Book Eating Boy; the smartest boy in the world! But a book-eating diet isn't the healthiest of habits, as Henry soon finds out...

***It Starts with a Seed* - Laura Knowles**

Beautiful and evocative, *It Starts with a Seed* is a factual story that will touch children with its simple but enchanting message of life and growth. In gentle rhyme, *It Starts with a Seed* evocatively explores the growth of a tiny sycamore seed. Taking a journey through the seasons and years, we follow the seed as it transforms from a seedling to a sapling, then a young tree, until it becomes a large tree with its branches and roots filling the page. As the tree grows, it provides a home for many woodland creatures - squirrels and rabbits, butterflies and owls.

***Katie Morag Delivers the Mail* - Mairi Hedderwick**

This is just one of a series of gentle, beautifully illustrated picture books featuring the endearing and ever-resourceful Katie Morag and her family and friends on the Isle of Struay off the Scottish coast. When the village mail gets muddled up, it's up to Katie to sort things out - with a little help from Grannie Island and her tractor. Don't miss Katie Morag's other adventures if you enjoy this book.

***Katie's Picture Show* - James Mayhew**

A classic picture book and the most exciting introduction to the world of art. The ever-curious Katie visits the gallery for the first time with Grandma and discovers that art is wonderfully fun and exciting, especially when five famous paintings come alive for her! Includes reproductions of several very well-known paintings in differing styles. This is just one of the amazing Katie series by the very talented James Mayhew. Each fascinating story introduces Katie to a new artist or group of artists, including Leonardo da Vinci and the Impressionists, or to a place, for example London or Scotland. They are all unmissable!

***Kevin* - Rob Biddulph**

Award-winning Rob Biddulph's warm-hearted story is both a celebration of imaginary friends and a cautionary tale about how best to manage them. When things go wrong around Sid there is always someone else to blame - his imaginary friend Kevin. But then Sid becomes Kevin's imaginary friend and he soon realises that friendship is better if everyone takes responsibility for their own actions. Rob Biddulph's rhyming text strikes a sure note in a story about the delights of imagination and the importance of taking responsibility.

***Lady Lollipop* - Dick King-Smith**

A classic pig-tale from the best-selling author of *The Sheep Pig*. Lollipop is no ordinary pig. According to her young owner Johnny Skinner, she's the cleverest pig in the whole kingdom. When people stare into Lollipop's bright, intelligent eyes, it seems to change them for the better. But will Lollipop win over spoilt Princess Penelope - and the King and Queen? If you enjoy this, Lollipop's adventures continue in *Clever Lollipop*.

***The Lemur's Tale* - Ophelia Redpath**

This is the beautifully written and illustrated story of a baby ring-tailed lemur who escapes from captivity on board a ship and finds a warm refuge hiding away in the home of an eccentric family. His night-time antics cause confusion, as he nibbles on the family's plants and raids their larder, and unfortunately the daughter of the family gets the blame. But the truth comes out at last when the family discover him curled up in a teapot and the lemur finds a loving home and a lonely little girl finds happiness with her new friend.

***Leon and the Place Between* - Angela Mcallister and Grahame Baker-Smith**

Highly commended for the Kate Greenaway Medal for the stunning combination of text and illustration. Wanting to prove to his brothers and sister that magic really exists, Leon volunteers to be in Abdul Kazam's magic show and gets transported to a mysterious world. Filled with rabbits, doves, playing cards and magician's assistants - among other things - if a magician can make it disappear, it will end up in the Place Between! When Leon returns, not only do his brothers and sister believe, but we do too. With diecut holes into and out of the 'Place Between', the reader takes a journey right through the pages of the book, into the mysterious world of Grahame Baker-Smith's breath-taking illustrations.

***Lion in the Meadow* - Margaret Mahy**

This is a classic picture book by prize-winning author, Margaret Mahy. A boy sees a lion in the meadow. It frightens him, so his mother gives him an empty match box out of which a dragon will come to chase the lion away... But the lion becomes the boy's friend and companion, whilst the dragon sleeps.

***The Lonely Beast* - Chris Judge**

The debut book by award-winning author, Chris Judge. How the Beast overcomes his loneliness is a touching story about friendship of all kinds. Despite his name, the Beast, and all other Beasts, are gentle creatures who love gardening and cake baking. The Beast travels across the world to share his friendship with all those he meets: he is loved for his gentleness and kindness. But still the beast is lonely; what he wants most is to be friends with another Beast. Glorious illustrations of the Beast as he makes friends all over the world bring this story vividly to life. Follow more of the Beast's adventures in the equally wonderful *The Brave Beast* and *The Snow Beast*.

***The Man Who Wore All His Clothes* - Allan Ahlberg**

The first hilarious story about the Gaskitt family. One morning Mr Gaskitt puts on all his clothes, Mrs Gaskitt picks up a robber in her taxi, Gus & Gloria have trouble with a teacher, Horace the cat goes to a friend's house to watch TV and the car radio gets things wrong. What happens next is an action-packed, farcical romp that weaves all the different plots together, and ends in a thrilling car chase with Mr Gaskitt saving the day! If you like this book, read more about this amazing family in the other books in the series - *The Woman Who Won Things*, *The Cat Who Got Carried Away* and *The Children Who Smelled a Rat*.

***Meerkat Mail* - Emily Gravett**

A brilliant picture book from a prize-winning author. Sunny the meerkat lives with his enormous family in the Kalahari desert. They are all very close ...so close, in fact, that one day Sunny decides he's had enough and packs his bags. He's off to visit his mongoose cousins. But from the watery world of the Marsh Mongoose to the nocturnal lifestyle of the Malagasy Mongoose, Sunny just doesn't fit in. And who's that shadowy figure who seems to be following him around? There's so much to enjoy, from the newspaper cuttings on the endpapers to the wittily accurate information about each mongoose species Sunny visits on his journey.

***Michael* - Tony Bradman and Tony Ross**

Michael is...different. At school, Michael's teachers despair of him. He is late, scruffy, cheeky and doesn't listen. He loves reading and sums and science. But NOT the kind that happens in school. While the teachers wag their fingers, Michael gets set for the adventure of his life. Have those teachers have misjudged him? Is there no hope for him at all? Or is it good to be different?

***Miranda the Explorer* - James Mayhew**

Gorgeously illustrated, this is a magical way to learn about some of the world's great landmarks. A competition to win a ride in a hot air balloon becomes an exciting adventure when the rope holding the balloon snaps and Miranda sails away. All alone and with only a map to aid her, Miranda takes an unexpected trip around the world. With a little bit of help from people she meets along the way, Miranda soon discovers how to fly the balloon but will she find her way home again?

***The Most Wonderful Thing in the World* - Vivian French and Angela Barrett**

Vivian French's masterful retelling of a forgotten story is both funny and heart-warming, and Angela Barrett's breathtaking illustrations give life to an enchanting and romantic fairytale city. When a king and a queen promise to marry their daughter Lucia to the man who can show them the most wonderful thing in the world, suitors descend on the palace bearing gifts. Roses, jewels and exotic birds; dancing girls, wind machines and mythical beasts - but nothing feels quite right. As the last suitor leaves, his weapons of mass destruction rejected, the king and queen are exhausted. But when a shy, young man, who isn't a suitor at all, steps forward, they finally understand what the most wonderful thing in the world really is.

***The Mousehole Cat* - Antonia Barber**

A modern classic, this is the stunningly illustrated story of the seaside village of Mousehole, Cornwall, where Mowzer the cat lives happily with old fisherman Tom. Their life is a happy one - until one terrible winter the Great Storm-Cat comes clawing and snarling and leaping at the harbour walls, so that no boat can go out to sea to fish. Soon, with Christmas coming, there is no food left in Mousehole. It is then that Mowzer and Tom set out to brave the fury of the waves together, and discover that it might just need a cat's perspective to understand - and tame - the ferocious ways of the Great Storm-Cat sea... Gently yet powerfully told, this is an incredibly moving story of bravery, sacrifice and companionship inspired by Cornish legend.

***Mr Wolf Bounces Back* - Tony Bradman**

This hilarious and easy to read book is part of a series of stories about what happens after the fairy tale ends. In this book, we find out what the big bad wolf does when he has had enough of being mean and scary. He takes himself down to the job centre where he finds the perfect role as a security guard to the three little pigs! Look out for the other great books in this series too - including *Red Riding Takes Charge*, *Rapunzel Cuts Loose* and *Goldilocks and the Just Right Club*.

***Mungo and the Picture Book Pirates* - Timothy Knapman and Adam Stower**

A 'bookish' adventure written by best-selling author, Timothy Knapman. with bold cartoon style illustrations by Adam Stower. Each night Mungo reads his favourite story, a swashbuckling tale of danger, kidnap and rescue. But one night the hero, Captain Fleet, isn't there to save the day so Mungo decides to step in. He takes a deep breath and bravely jumps into the story and his very own pirate adventure. If you enjoy this, don't miss the companion books, *Mungo and the Dinosaur Island* and *Mungo and the Spiders from Space*.

***My Naughty Little Puppy 1: A Home for Rascal* - Holly Webb**

Keen readers who love animals will really enjoy this first book in a best-selling series by the hugely popular author, Holly Webb. Ellie's family have just adopted a beautiful Jack Russell puppy, who Ellie names Rascal, although when she chooses the name, she doesn't realize how right she is! Rascal is really naughty, and he's soon getting himself and Ellie into all sorts of trouble. Will she ever be able to keep up with him? If you like this, there are several other books in the series to enjoy.

***The Orchard Book of Aesop's Fables* - Michael Morpurgo**

A collection of over twenty of Aesop's best-loved fables, including favourites such as *The Hare and the Tortoise*, *Town Mouse and Country Mouse*, *Dog in the Manger* and *The Lion and the Mouse*. The tales are retold with warmth and humour by former Children's Laureate Michael Morpurgo and brought to life by Emma Chichester Clark's amazing illustrations.

***The Other Ark* - Lynley Dodd**

A fabulously fun new twist on Noah's Ark by prize-winning author, Lynley Dodd! The rain is fast approaching and Noah's ark is full, but there are still lots of animals queueing to get on board. So Noah has to ask his friend, Sam Jam Balu, to take the mad kangaroosters, flying flapdoodles and Mongolian sneeth in the 'second-best' boat. But is the super confident Sam up to the task? Something is bound to go wrong - and it does! If you like this and you haven't already discovered them, you should also look out for Lynley Dodd's brilliant and funny *Hairy Maclary* and *Slinki Malinki* books

***The Owl Who Was Afraid of the Dark* - Jill Tomlinson**

How can Plop, the baby owl who is afraid of the dark, overcome his problems? Luckily, everyone has a story to tell him about the very special things that happen after dark and soon Plop is as happy in the dark as any other baby owl. If you enjoy this book, look out for some of Jill Tomlinson's other gentle and reassuring animal stories. There are two versions of this story, both illustrated by Paul Howard - the full story is told in a chapter book with simple line drawing illustrations but there is also an abridged full colour picture book edition.

***The Night Gardener* - Terry and Eric Fan**

This is a beautiful book which invites us to see the beauty of the world around us, and celebrates the power of art to bring us together and enrich lives. Grimloch Lane is a quiet place and its residents hurry up and down in silence. One day, William discovers that the tree outside his window has been sculpted into a wise owl. In the following days, more topiaries appear, and each one is more beautiful than the last. Soon, William's grey little town is full of colour and life. And though the mysterious night gardener disappears as suddenly as he appeared, William and his town are changed forever.

***The Paper Bag Princess* - Robert Munsch**

The Paper Bag Princess has been called one of the best children's books ever written and has been a best-seller for nearly 40 years. It is the story of a resourceful princess and her useless prince, reverses the princess and dragon folklore stereotype and celebrates feisty females everywhere.

***The Pet Person* - Jeanne Willis & Tony Ross**

This favourite tale from prize-winning picture book creators Jeanne Willis and Tony Ross, takes a typically sideways and comic look at family life and pet ownership. Little Rex the dog is desperate to get a pet person for his birthday, but his parents and relations are dead against it: 'it'll ruin the furniture' says mum, draped on an elegant chaise longue; '*they are impossible to train*' barks Auntie Sheba, resplendent in tweed suit and feathered trilby. Indeed, when Rex finds a little ginger person in the park, he quickly realises there's a lot of truth in the grown-ups' warnings! If you enjoy this, look out for some of the other Jeanne Willis/Tony Ross collaborations.

***Pirate School: Just a Bit of Wind* - Jeremy Strong**

This is the first in a hilarious series of brightly illustrated chapter books by best-selling comic author, Jeremy Strong. It's the first day at Pirate School for Ziggy, Smudge, Carkella and Flo and they have lots of new things to contend with. Their headteacher is the scary Patagonia Clasterbotton and they have to take lessons include walking the plank and hand-to-hand fighting. When out on the pirate ship a storm blows up, resulting in the children having to rescue Patagonia when she's swept overboard, and they learn that really Patagonia is not so scary after all! If you like this, you will also enjoy the other Pirate School books.

***The Princess and the Pea* - Lauren Child and Polly Borland**

There are of course lots of retellings of Hans Christian Andersen's story but this is one of the best - the tale of a prince, a princess, perfect politeness, pages of love and a peculiarly hard pea. This utterly original interpretation of the classic tale has dazzling illustrations from multi-talented collaborators, award-winning Lauren Child and widely acclaimed photographer Polly Borland. For a different take on the story, try *The Pea and the Princess* by Mini Grey, which tells it from the point of view of the Pea and is very funny!

***Princess Smartypants* - Babette Cole**

In this riotously funny picture book, Princess Smartypants does not want to get married. She enjoys being a Ms. But being a rich and pretty princess means that all the princes want her to be their Mrs. Find out how Princess Smartypants fights to preserve her independence in this fairy-tale-with-a-difference. If you like this, don't miss Babette Cole's other books about this feisty princess or the equally entertaining tale of *Prince Cinders*.

***Sir Charlie Stinky Socks and the Really Big Adventure* - Kristina Stephenson**

The best-selling children's picture book about one brave knight and a whole lot of adventure. Once upon a time, there was a deep, dark forest, where monstrous trees groaned, terrible beasts moaned and wiggly woos waited to tickle your toes. Nobody ever went there until... Sir Charlie Stinkysocks, his good grey mare and his pet cat Envelope decide the time has come for a really big adventure. Sir Charlie packs his best sword and his sandwiches and off he goes, over the hills and far away, until he gets to the deep, dark forest. Sir Charlie doesn't flinch when he meets the beasts, or the dragon, or the wily witch, but when he comes across the princess, he realises he's met his match! This is just one of Sir Charlie's swashbuckling, funny and charming adventures. Keep an eye open for the others.

Something Else - Kathryn Cave

A gentle, eloquently told story about the meaning of tolerance, about a small creature who does his best to join in with the others. But he's different. No matter how he tries, he just doesn't belong. Then Something turns up and wants to be friends. But Something Else isn't sure he's like him at all...Kathryn Cave's poignantly simple story is brought to life by Chris Riddell in this enchantingly original picture book.

The Story of Bear - Hilary McKay

This is a wonderful book filled with adventure from an award-winning author. It was Christmas time when the Bear arrived. He was not invited; he just appeared. Nobody needed him. Nobody wanted him. The Bear was dropped in a skip where he remained until a brave little girl and a cheery seagull helped him to get a life. Little did he know that his new home would be a place filled with rubbish mountains, bulldozers, blue rabbits and mad horses!

The Story of Ferdinand - Munro Leaf

Once upon a time in Spain, there was a little bull and his name was Ferdinand . . . Unlike all the other little bulls - who run, jump, and butt their heads together in fights - Ferdinand would rather sit under his favourite cork tree and smell the flowers. So what will happen when Ferdinand is picked for the bullfights in Madrid? Beloved all over the world for its timeless message of peace, tolerance and the courage to be yourself, this truly classic story has never been out of print since its release in 1936.

There's a Tiger in the Garden - Lizzy Stewart

Grandma's back garden turns into a jungle full of adventure in this striking, prize-winning picture book. When Grandma says she's seen a tiger in the garden, Nora doesn't believe her. She's too old to play Grandma's silly games! Everyone knows that tigers live in jungles, not gardens. So even when Nora sees butterflies with wings as big as her arm, and plants that try and eat her toy giraffe, and a polar bear that likes fishing, she knows there's absolutely, DEFINITELY no way there could be a tiger in the garden ...Could there?

Tidy - Emily Gravett

Emily Gravett, author/illustrator of many best-selling books, offers us this very funny rhyming woodland story about the perils of being too tidy. Pete the badger likes everything to be neat and tidy at all times, but what starts as the collecting of one fallen leaf escalates quickly and ends with the complete destruction of the forest! Will Pete realise the error of his ways and set things right? Lush foliage and delightfully funny characters abound in this dramatic tale of overzealous neatness that delivers its message of environmental preservation with subtlety and humour.

The Tin Forest - Helen Ward and Wayne Anderson

There was once a wide wind-swept place, near to nowhere and close to forgotten...So begins this story that shows how, with a little love, even the most barren landscape can be a home to all sorts of life. Exquisite and fascinating illustrations beautifully capture the hopeful mood of this story about the power of dreaming. Living in a miserable grey world, an old man repeatedly dreams of colour and growth. Gradually his world begins to full up with colour, change and therefore hope. Helen Ward, better known as one of our finest illustrators, has produced a poetic text, while Wayne Anderson has brought this fantastical world to life in his inimitable style.

Willy and Hugh - Anthony Browne

This is just one of the former Children's Laureate wonderful, funny and thought-provoking books about Willy the Chimp. In this story, lonely Willy meets and becomes friends with Hugh Jape. They are very different but together they make a great team and are able to help each other out. If you like this book, look out for some of the others in the series - including *Willy the Champ*, *Willy the Wimp* and *Willy the Wizard*.