

## A Few Good Reads - Nursery and Reception

### ***Aesop's Fables for the Very Young* - Sally Grindley**

A perfect introduction to these classic tales. 'Once upon a time, a very hungry fox was looking for food, when he saw the most enormous bunch of fat grapes hanging from a trellis. O, how his tummy rumbled and his mouth watered! O, how his eyes grew big as saucers!' The jaunty illustrations perfectly complement these lively retellings of some of the best known tales, including The Hare and the Tortoise, The Fox and Grapes and many more.

### ***Augustus and his Smile* - Catherine Rayner**

The words and the pictures are perfectly matched in this extraordinary prize-winning book. Augustus the tiger is sad. He has lost his smile. So he does a HUGE tigery stretch and sets off to find it. As he climbs mountain crests patterned with frost and swims to the bottom of inky blue oceans, Augustus soon realises that his smile will be there whenever he is happy. He just needs to open his eyes to the beauty of the natural world around him.

### ***Avocado Baby* - John Burningham**

A very funny book complete with a healthy eating message. The Hargraves' puny new baby seems to be getting weaker by the day until his parents are persuaded to feed him an avocado and from that moment an amazing transformation takes place. Soon the baby is bursting with strength, seeing off a burglar and tossing a couple of bullies into a pond!

### ***Baby Brains, the Smartest Baby in the World* - Simon James**

Meet the extraordinary Baby Brains! He reads the paper, mends the car and works as a doctor at the hospital. He's so clever that some scientists ask him to go on their next space mission. And that's when Baby Brains shows that in one way at least he's like every other baby in the world: he wants his mummy! If you enjoy this clever, funny book, look out for Simon James' other books about Baby Brains.

### ***The Bear and the Piano* - David Litchfield**

This beautiful award-winning book was illustrator David Litchfield's first picture book. One day, a young bear stumbles upon something he has never seen before in the forest. As time passes, he teaches himself how to play the strange instrument, and eventually the beautiful sounds are heard by a father and son who are picnicking in the woods. The bear goes with them on an incredible journey to New York, where his piano playing makes him a huge star. He has fame, fortune and all the music in the world, but he misses the friends and family he has left behind.

### ***Blown Away* - Rob Biddulph**

Meet Penguin Blue in this Waterstones Children's Book Prize winning tale by our own very talented Rob Biddulph, father of Poppy as well as Ella and Kitty who were also pupils here. It's a windy day, and the fearless Penguin Blue has a brand new kite - but where's he going on this unexpected maiden flight? Penguin Blue and his friends go on a gloriously illustrated adventure full of good ideas, homesickness and the perils of kites. Don't miss *Sunk!* Rob's other brilliant book about Penguin Blue.

### ***The Blue Balloon* - Mick Inkpen**

This brilliant creation by the award-winning author/illustrator, Mick Inkpen, was the book that introduced the lovable Kipper the dog over 25 years ago. It tells the story of a how a magic blue balloon takes a boy and Kipper on a wonderful adventure and has pages that expand into huge spreads that help to tell the story. If you like this, you should also try some of Mick Inkpen's other *Kipper* books as well as *Billy's Beetle*.

### ***The Bog Baby* - Jeanne Willis and Gwen Millward**

*The Bog Baby* is a prize-winning, magical story. When two small sisters go fishing to the magic pond, they find something much better than a frog or a newt. They find a bog baby. Small and blue with wings like a dragon, the girls decide to make him their secret. But the bog baby is a wild thing, and when he becomes poorly, the girls decide they must tell their mum. And she tells them the greatest lesson: if you really love something, you have to let it go.

**Burglar Bill - Allan and Janet Ahlberg**

This hilarious picture book by prize winning team Allan and Janet Ahlberg has become a modern classic. Burglar Bill's home is filled with stolen things and every night he goes out to work, stealing more. One night, by mistake, he steals a baby. . . and his life is changed for ever!

**Cat in the Manger - Michael Foreman**

A warm-hearted, beautifully told cat's view of the Christmas story. The cat who lives in the manger is a cat with attitude, sometimes grumpy and often moaning but tonight it is looking forward to a quiet night with just the cows for company when some unexpected visitors turn up. The cat hates donkeys and it doesn't like being tipped out of the manger but it soon becomes clear that something very wonderful is taking place that night. This beautiful, original and humorous take on the Nativity story is a Christmas classic.

**Cats Ahoy - Peter Bently**

This is a prize-winning, swashbuckling tale of pirate plunder, derring-do and a huge haul of haddock with an infectious rhyming text and laugh-out-loud illustrations! When Alfonso the cat hears there's a boat coming into harbour carrying its largest ever catch, he hatches a plan. It's brave! It's bold! And it involves a ghost pirate ship, some rather gullible fishermen, and cats, LOTS of cats. If you enjoy this, you should also read Peter Bently's other hilarious picture books, including *The Great Dog Bottom Swap* and *The Great Balloon Hullabaloo*.

**Cockatoos - Quentin Blake**

This award-winning book is one of the best counting books ever. Every morning Professor Dupont follows the same routine and when he's ready for the day he greets his ten cockatoos. Then one day the cockatoos decide to have some fun and escape from their conservatory to hide around the house. Poor Professor Dupont struggles to find them, but you may have more success!

**Come On, Daisy! - Jane Simmons**

In this warm and comforting story about Daisy Duck, Mamma Duck tells Daisy to stay close, but Daisy thinks that chasing dragonflies and bouncing on lily pads looks much more fun . . . If you enjoy this story, you will also enjoy Jane Simmon's other beautiful books, not just about Daisy but also many other appealing animal characters.

**You're a Hero, Daley B! - Jon Blake**

A hilarious book about a rabbit with an identity crisis. Daley B is full of questions. He doesn't know what sort of animal he is, where he should live, what he should eat or why he has such big feet. Then, one day, there is panic in the woodland. The wicked weasel Jazzy D is on her way - and she eats rabbits! But Daley B is unperturbed - and when Jazzy D attacks, he finally finds a use for his big feet and kicks her. He also finds out what he is - a hero.

**Dogger - Shirley Hughes**

This is the endearing story of how Dave's beloved toy Dogger was lost and found. Written by the wonderful Shirley Hughes and winner of the Kate Greenaway Medal, *Dogger* is a timeless classic which, in simple words and detailed pictures, shows the distress the loss of a toy causes a child, as well as the reality of family life.

**Dogs Don't Do Ballet - Anna Kemp**

A fabulously funny, feel-good book about a pug dog with a big personality and even bigger dreams. Biff is not like ordinary dogs. He doesn't do dog stuff like peeing on lampposts, scratching his fleas or drinking out of toilets. If you throw him a stick, he'll just look at you like you're crazy. No, Biff is no ordinary dog. Biff likes moonlight and music and walking on his tiptoes. You see, Biff doesn't think he's a dog, Biff thinks he's a ballerina, which is all very well ...But dogs don't do ballet - do they?

**Each Peach Pear Plum - Allan and Janet Ahlberg**

This classic, award-winning picture book introduces characters from well-known nursery stories, such as the Three Bears, Mother Hubbard and Tom Thumb. The combination of the simple text, with its strong rhyme and rhythm, and the pictures, which are full of 'I-spy' detail, makes this a perfect book to read aloud, If you like this, don't miss the Ahlberg's equally fascinating, *Peepo!*, which is filled with fascinating pictures of life in the 1940s seen through a baby's eyes.

***The Elephant and the Bad Baby* - Elfrida Vipont**

One day, an Elephant offers a Bad Baby a ride through the town, and so begins a delicious adventure and a cumulative "rumpetting" chase. But when the Elephant realizes that the Bad Baby has forgotten his manners, the chase ends with a BUMP . . . and tea for everyone! A classic story warmly and wittily illustrated by Raymond Briggs.

***Elmer* - David McKee**

This is the first in the best-selling series of books starring Elmer the colourful patchwork elephant and has enthralled readers since it was first published nearly 30 years ago. It is a celebration of individuality and laughter and sends a clear message that it is OK to be different. There are many other Elmer stories for you to enjoy if you like this.

***Farmer Duck* - Martin Waddell**

This award-winning story is a hugely enjoyable read. Duck works hard all day while the lazy farmer stays in bed all day. So the duck's many friends decide to club together to get their own back on the farmer and give the duck a wonderful surprise. Lavish illustrations complement the simple text very well. If you like this, you will also enjoy another of Martin's farmyard tales, *The Pig in the Pond*.

***Five Minutes' Peace* - Jill Murphy**

This warm and funny modern classic from prize-winning author-illustrator, Jill Murphy, is the story of Mrs Large the elephant - who just needs five minutes of peace and quiet away from her boisterous children! So, taking refuge in the bathroom, she fills herself a hot, foamy bubble bath and takes in a tray of her favourite breakfast and the morning paper. But there's never a dull moment with the Larges, and it soon becomes clear that mum's quiet time is to be very short-lived! If you enjoy this, don't miss Jill's other wonderful books about the lovable Large family, including *All in One Piece* and *A Quiet Night In*.

***The Giant Jam Sandwich* - John Vernon Lord**

'One hot summer in Itching Down, Four million wasps flew into town'. What are the villagers going to do about this noisy, nasty nuisance of a swarm? Make a giant jam sandwich - that's what! A picture book classic with lively rhyming text and brilliantly detailed illustrations.

***A Great Big Cuddle* - Michael Rosen and Chris Riddell**

A brilliant collaboration between two former Children's Laureates! The poems in *A Great Big Cuddle* fizz off the page with sound and rhythm, energy and laughter, as Michael Rosen captures in the most remarkable way what it means to be very, very young. A child's world with all its details and feelings - toys and games, animals and made-up creatures, likes and dislikes - is vividly conjured up in the most memorable, playful language, and Chris Riddell has produced some of his most extraordinary pictures ever to bring this world to life.

***Guess What I Found in Dragon Wood* - Timothy Knapman and Gwen Millward**

A funny, brilliantly illustrated story with a twist. If you go down to the woods today, you never know what you might find. A curious little dragon meets a new friend, but he's not sure what to make of him at all. Apparently, it's called a Benjamin, but the Benjamin doesn't have any wings, scales or even a tail! Luckily, little boys AND little dragons like football, and the Benjamin soon teaches them a trick or two. If only the grown-up Benjamins were as friendly!

***Hairy Maclary from Donaldson's Dairy* - Lynley Dodd**

Written by Lynley Dodd, New Zealand's best known and most highly respected picture book author, this is the first in a classic series of rhyming, catchy and comical books with brilliant characters and plots about the adventures of a scruffy dog called Hairy McClary. It is a joyous and absurd cumulative rhyme which tells how Hairy Maclary and his friends, 'Bottomley Potts all covered in spots' and 'Hercules Morse as big as a horse' are put to flight by the toughest tom in town. And just so you know a 'dairy' in New Zealand is a corner shop. If you enjoy these books, you will certainly also love Lynley Dodd's other books, especially the *Slinki Malinki* and the *Schnitzel Von Krum* series.

***Handa's Surprise* - Eileen Browne**

In this bestselling picture book, Handa puts seven delicious fruits in a basket for her friend Akeyo. Which fruit will Akeyo like best, she wonders. After a long walk to the next village, the answer turns out to be a big surprise! If you like this book, don't miss the fabulous sequel, *Handa's Hen*.

***The Happy Families Series - Janet & Allan Ahlberg***

Janet and Allan Ahlberg's Happy Families series is full of wonderful and funny books, perfect for children who are learning to read to try on their own or for reading together. There are lots to choose from - including Master Bun the Bakers' Boy; Mrs Lather's Laundry; Mr the Creep the Crook; Miss Jump the Jockey; Miss Brick the Builders' Baby; Mrs Wobble the Waitress and Mrs Plug the Plumber - each one as brilliant and readable as the last.

***Hermelin the Detective Mouse - Mini Grey***

This is a warm-hearted caper by the award-winning author/illustrator, Mini Grey. Hermelin is a noticer. He is also a finder. The occupants of Offley Street are delighted when their missing items are found, but not so happy to learn that their brilliant detective is a mouse! What will happen to Hermelin? Will his talents go unrewarded? Will he ever find a friend,

***I am Henry Finch - Alexis Deacon and Viviane Schwarz***

This is a multi-award-winning and enlightening story about courage and making a difference. For budding philosophers of all ages, this is the uplifting story of Henry Finch, the loveable little bird who strives for greatness, gets it all a bit wrong, then makes it right again in a very surprising way - truly becoming great. This is an inspirational book. It is also very funny. I Am Henry Finch is a book for everyone - from the very young to the very old. It is for dreamers, philosophers, artists, the foolish and the enlightened. And anyone with a big bright idea. Vegetarians will love it too. A profound picture book experience told with simplicity and style.

***I Want My Hat Back - Jon Klassen***

This is the first picture book by an award-winning author/illustrator and it tells a cumulative tale with a cheeky twist, aided by graphically simple, and truly hilarious, illustrations. The bear's hat is gone, and he wants it back. Patiently and politely, he asks the animals he comes across, one by one, whether they have seen it. Each animal says no, some more elaborately than others. But just as it he begins to lose hope, a deer comes by and asks a rather obvious question that suddenly sparks the bear's memory and renews his search with a vengeance. The companion book, *This is Not My Hat*, is just as great.

***Jasper's Beanstalk- Nick Butterworth & Mick Inkpen***

This is a picture book classic by the award-winning creators of Percy the Park Keeper and Kipper - perfect for children finding out about nature and how things grow. Jasper plants a bean. He waits for it to grow into a beanstalk all week. How long will he have to wait before he can start looking for giants?

***The Lighthouse Keeper's Lunch - Ronda & David Armitage***

This classic story is one of a series about Mr Grinling, the Lighthouse Keeper, and his hard-working and resourceful wife. Every day Mrs Grinling prepares a delicious lunch and sends it along a wire to her husband out in the lighthouse but the seagulls soon realise that there are tasty snacks to be had and start stealing from the basket as it travels across the bay. If Mr Grinling is ever going to be able to enjoy his lunch, Mrs Grinling has to come up with a plan to stop them for good...

***Little Rabbit Foo Foo - Michael Rosen***

A hilarious tale by poet and former Children's Laureate, Michael Rosen. He's wild, he's wicked, he's Little Rabbit Foo-Foo! The bully-boy bunny likes nothing better than to ride through the forest bopping everyone on the head. Wiggly worms, tigers, no one is safe. But here comes the Good Fairy - and she is not amused! Will Little Rabbit Foo-Foo learn his lesson before it's too late...?

***Little Red and the Very Hungry Lion - Alex T. Smith***

A wonderfully engaging and brilliantly illustrated classic fairy tale with a twist by an award winning author/illustrator. Little Red sets off to visit her auntie who is poorly. She walks under the giraffes, over the sleepy crocodiles, past the enormous elephants and the chattering monkeys. Then a Very Hungry Lion approaches Little Red, wanting to gobble her up. But despite all the cunning plans by Lion, quick thinking Little Red outsmarts him and soon has him saying sorry and eating doughnuts instead. If you like this, you will love Alex's other picture books, especially *Ella* (another reworking of a classic fairy tale) and *Hector and the Big Bad Knight*.

**Lost and Found - Oliver Jeffers**

Celebrating the value of friendship, this is an exquisitely illustrated award-winning picture book with a simple story line. Opening his door and finding a penguin there, the little boy takes pity on the sad looking creature who he immediately assumes is lost. Together they set out on an adventure across icy-blue wastes to find the penguin's real home. The cool of the landscape makes a perfect backdrop to the warmth of the friendship between the pair. If you enjoy this, you should also read about the boy's other adventures in the equally enchanting *How to Catch a Star*, *The Way Back Home* and *Up and Down*.

**Madeline - Ludwig Bemelmans**

'In an old house in Paris that was covered in vines lived twelve little girls in two straight lines...' This classic picture book - first in a wonderful series recording the life of small but feisty Madeline and her Parisian world - has been constantly in print since it was first published over 70 years ago. Something is not right with little Madeline. Her friends are sad when she goes to hospital to have her appendix removed. But they cheer up when they see her impressive scar!

**Man on the Moon - Simon Bartram**

The everyday story of an ordinary man? Well, sort of! Bob is the man on the moon, and he has a very special job, looking after the moon, cleaning it up, showing visitors around and selling souvenirs. He knows almost everything there is to know about the moon - but there's something going on behind his back that he hasn't spotted... If you enjoy this, you can read more about Bob in *Bob's Best Ever Friend* and also about his equally unobservant cousin Dougal, in *Dougal's Deep-Sea Diary*.

**Max - Bob Graham**

A funny and touching tale from a multi-award-winning author/illustrator. What does a Superhero do when they are not being 'Super'? A funny story about being loved for who you are and not just what you can or cannot do. It's not easy being the son of legendary superheroes Captain Lightning and Madam Thunderbolt. Max has a cape and a mask, but he doesn't fly. His parents can't understand it. It seems that Max is just an ordinary boy, until finally, to save a falling baby bird, Max discovers he can fly! He'll be a small hero, doing small deeds. The world needs more of those, says his mum.

**Mog The Forgetful Cat - Judith Kerr**

This classic story about everyone's favourite family cat has been a best-seller for 40 years, and with good reason! Mog always seems to be in trouble because she is such a very forgetful cat. She forgets that she has a cat flap and she forgets when she has already eaten her supper. But, one night, when an uninvited visitor turns up at the house, Mog's forgetfulness comes in very handy! If you enjoy this first Mog story, you will definitely love Judith Kerr's many other wonderful Mog books, as well as her other classic story, *The Tiger who Came to Tea*.

**Mr Gumpy's Motor Car - John Burningham**

This is a classic story by the award-winning author-illustrator, John Burningham. It's a nice day, the sun is shining and Mr Gumpy has decided to go for a ride in his motor car. But almost immediately his car is filled with a whole variety of friends and neighbours who want to join him on his outing. All is well until the weather changes, the rain falls and the car gets stuck in the mud... Will his passengers help, or will Mr Gumpy have to deal with the problem all by himself? Mr Gumpy's kind heart also gets him into difficulties in the equally brilliant *Mr Gumpy's Outing!*

**Mr Pusskins - Sam Lloyd**

A hilarious but touching tale from an exciting award-winning talent with a larger-than-life character at its centre. Meet Mr Pusskins. He's got it all...an owner who adores him, who tends to his every need, who plays mouse games with him, who brushes his fur, who reads him a bedtime story every night, and tells him how much she loves him. But Mr Pusskins is bored. What Mr Pusskins really wants is 'adventure', and so one night he goes off in search of it...But is Mr Pusskins' new lifestyle all it's cracked up to be? Don't miss the equally entertaining sequel, *Mr Pusskins Best in Show*.

**Mr. Wolf's Pancakes - Jan Fearnley**

A favourite story about the importance of sharing with echoes of *The Little Red Hen!* Mr Wolf loves pancakes. He's sure he can make himself a tasty batch but he is not certain of the recipe. Perhaps his neighbours can help? When no one offers to help him, Mr Wolf takes control and makes his own pancakes. They are delicious. And guess who wants to eat them? If you enjoy this, then look out for Jan Fearnley's other books featuring Mr Wolf and a twist on a traditional story - *Mr Wolf and the Enormous Turnip* and *Mr Wolf and the Three Bears*.

**Mrs Armitage on Wheels - Quentin Blake**

Mrs Armitage is the hilarious creation of much loved and award-winning author-illustrator, Quentin Blake. One sunny day, Mrs Armitage sets off for a quiet cycle with her faithful dog, Breakspear, but she just can't help thinking of ways to improve her bicycle and before long she is riding a very eye-catching contraption. But eventually she makes one addition too many and then she really runs into trouble. . . If you like this story, you will be very glad to know that Mrs Armitage is equally inventive with her car, in *Mrs Armitage, Queen of the Road*, and with her surfboard, in *Mrs Armitage and the Big Wave!*

**My Mum/My Dad - Anthony Browne**

This is an irresistible pair of books by award winning author/illustrator Anthony Browne, which lovingly celebrate parents and the many wonderful things that they are and they do. With his familiar wit, Anthony Browne shows how Mums juggle the many things in their lives, how they be can strong and soft as well as comfortable and beautiful. Dads meanwhile are superheroes even when they are doing everyday things. As with all Anthony Browne's books, the pictures are extraordinary and full of surprises.

**Nice Work Little Wolf - Hilda Offen**

This Smarties Prize-winning book is a great twist on the classic fairy tale. One day when Mrs Wolf takes Little Wolf for a stroll in his pram, he decides he is bored, so he climbs out of his pram and over a fence into a garden belonging to the Porkers, a family of pigs. They are delighted with their new pet but being the laziest family ever, they take advantage and expect him to do more and more for them, not noticing that he is growing bigger as time passes...

**Oi Frog! - Kes Gray & Jim Field**

From the award-winning Kes Gray and the winner of the Roald Dahl Funny Prize, Jim Field, comes an hilarious rhyming tale about a frog who discovers that all animals have their special places to sit! Cats sit on mats, hares sit on chairs, mules sit on stools and gofers sit on sofas, but Frog does not want to sit on a log! Can't get enough? Look out for *Oi Dog!* and *Oi Cat!*

**Old Bear - Jane Hissey**

This classic book with its gorgeous illustrations is one of the best-selling picture books ever published. It tells the story of how a much-loved teddy bear is lost and finally found again. Bramwell Brown and his friends Little Bear, Duck and Rabbit attempt to rescue Old Bear from the attic using a number of ingenious methods. If you enjoy this, you must also read Jane Hissey's other books about Old Bear and his friends.

**On the Way Home - Jill Murphy**

This brilliant book by Jill Murphy, the author and illustrator of so many bestselling books, is a fantastic journey of the imagination that every child can relate to. Claire has hurt her knee so she sets off home to tell her mum all about it. On the way she meets her friends and tells them how the fall happened. But just how did it happen . . .? Which is the real story?

**The Owl and the Pussycat - Edward Lear**

'The Owl and the Pussy-cat went to sea, in a beautiful pea-green boat, they took some honey, and plenty of money, wrapped up in a five-pound note'. So begins one of this country's favourite poems, which has been enjoyed by generations of both children and adults for almost 150 years. There are several editions including one beautifully illustrated by the very talented Ian Beck, and also a brilliant sequel written by Julia Donaldson and illustrated by Charlotte Voake, called *The Further Adventures of the Owl and the Pussycat*.

**Owl Babies - Martin Waddell and Patrick Benson**

The perfect bedtime story, this beautifully illustrated book is a comforting read for any small child who has ever worried about being left alone. Sarah, Percy and Bill the baby owls wake one night to find their mother gone. And as the darkness gathers and they perch patiently on their branch waiting for her return, oh how they worry!

**The Pirates Next Door - Jonny Duddle**

A multi-award winning book by a hugely successful author/ illustrator. The Jolley-Rogers, a pirate family, arrive in Dull-on-Sea, a quiet seaside town. Stopping to fix up their ship, this unusual family get the whole neighbourhood spreading rumours. Defying the grown-ups, Matilda from next door makes friends with the youngest pirate son. When the Jolley-Rogers leave, the town discovers they were wrong to assume the worst - the pirate clan have buried treasure in everyone's gardens. Matilda feels sad until she discovers her own treasure - an incredibly exciting new pen friend.

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

There are of course many retellings of Hans Christian Andersen's classic story but this is one of the best - the tale of a prince, a princess, perfect politeness and a peculiarly hard pea. This highly original interpretation of the tale has dazzling illustrations from multi-talented collaborators, award-winning Lauren Child and 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!

**Rumble in the Jungle - Giles Andreae and David Wojtowycz**

There is a rumble in the jungle, There's a whisper in the trees, The animals are waking up and rustling the leaves. Enter the jungle and explore this noisy collection of animal poems.

**Shark in the Park! - Nick Sharratt**

A very funny interactive picture book from the talented illustrator and writer Nick Sharratt, following Timothy Pope on a trip through the park. Who can resist a peep through Timothy Pope's brand new telescope? What can you see? Could it be the Shark in the Park? Be brave, take a peep...and find out what's really there! If you like this, don't miss more of Timothy's adventures in *Shark in the Dark*.

**Six Dinner Sid - Inga Moore**

This Smarties Award winning book has been a best seller for over 20 years. Sid is a cat who is addicted to having six meals a day and glories in this lifestyle. Manipulative, persuasive and a charmer he has wrapped everybody round his little paw - each owner believes that Sid belongs to them only . . . until the day he is found out! Read more of Sid's exploits in the sequel, *Six Dinner Sid - A Highland Adventure*.

**That Rabbit Belongs to Emily Brown - Cressida Cowell**

An award-winning picture book by the best-selling author of the *How to Train Your Dragon* books. Emily Brown's toy rabbit, Stanley, is so charming that the queen decides that she wants it! But Emily isn't prepared to give her rabbit to anyone - even the Queen. She soon gets her rabbit back and teaches the queen a lesson about love and sharing into the bargain. You can read more about Emily and Stanley in the equally brilliant *Emily and the Thing*.

**The Tiger Child (A Folk Tale from India) - Joanna Troughton**

This lively folk tale from India, retold and beautifully illustrated by the talented Joanna Troughton, explains why tigers eat their food uncooked and why cats live with people. The tiger child is sent to fetch some more fire from the village, but on the way he gets distracted by his friends. By the time he gets to the village, he has forgotten what he has been sent to fetch. If you enjoy this book, look out for Joanna's other magical retellings of folk tales from around the world, including *How Rabbit Stole the Fire* and *The Wizard Punchkin*.

### ***The Tiger-Skin Rug* - Gerald Rose**

Full of wit, this classic story with amusingly detailed pictures tells how a tired old tiger cleverly swaps his dangerous life in the jungle for the easier lifestyle of the Rajah's palace. Becoming a tiger skin rug is not so hard for the thin old tiger! Now he is surrounded by glorious food and drink, he is kept dry and warm and he has lots of friendly company to play with. But what will happen when he gets found out? Luckily for the tiger he has a chance to show just how valuable he really is to the rajah and so earns a lifetime reward.

### ***Traction Man Is Here* - Mini Grey**

Another winning story by the very talented Mini Grey. Hurrah for Traction Man, the stylish toy hero who, with his faithful side kick Scrubbing Brush, is up for adventures anytime and anyplace. The pair will tackle any challenge and bravely fight their way through to success. But when Traction Man is given a green knitted romper suit, he has to find new reserves of courage to survive the indignity of such an outfit. Wonderful jokes make this make-believe world come alive. *Traction Man meets Turbo Dog* is also brilliant.

### ***Twinkles, Arthur and Puss* - Judith Kerr**

A story of cats and chaos from the brilliant creator of Mog the Forgetful Cat and The Tiger Who Came to Tea! Grandpa has a black cat called Puss. They like eating bacon and chips together. The Jones family also have a black cat. They call him Twinkles. Lady Daisy found a lovely black cat outside her window one day, whom she calls Arthur. One day Twinkles, Arthur and Puss all disappear! As Grandpa, The Jones' and Lady Daisy search everywhere for their cats, a hilarious plot unfolds. Whatever have Twinkles, Arthur and Puss been getting up to?

### ***Twinkle Twinkle Chocolate Bar* - edited by John Foster**

This timeless collection of poems is pure delight. With themes ranging from pets, magic and weather to favourite foods, families and toys, there are poems for every occasion. And the mix of cautionary verse, nonsense rhymes, lullabies, lyrical poems and comic verse adds up to an anthology to suit all moods and moments. There are contributions from Michael Rosen, Wendy Cope, Charles Causley, Valerie Bloom, Brian Moses, Spike Milligan, Jack Prelutsky and many, many more. Each poem is accompanied by full colour artwork - from a diverse range of illustrators including Tony Ross, Nick Sharratt, Ian Beck, Brian Wildsmith and Korky Paul.

### ***Until I Met Dudley* - Roger McGough & Chris Riddell**

Award winning duo - poet Roger McGough and illustrator Chris Riddell - have created a stunning picture book that is part-fact, part brilliant invention. A little girl thinks she knows just how everything works. Take a toaster, for example. Surely, there's a dragon inside who breathes fire and makes the toast just right? Or is there another explanation all together? And what about the polar bears in the fridge? Or the pigs in the rubbish truck? Luckily Dudley is on hand to put her right with some rather more scientific answers!

### ***We're Going on a Bear Hunt* - Michael Rosen and Helen Oxenbury**

*We're going on a bear hunt. We're going to catch a big one. Will you come too?* For over a quarter of a century, readers have been swishy-swashying and splash-splashing through this award-winning favourite. Follow and join in the family's excitement as they wade through the grass, splash through the river and squelch through the mud in search of a bear. What a surprise awaits them in the cave on the other side of the dark forest!

### ***What's Your Favourite Animal?* - Eric Carle and Others**

Who would have thought Lucy Cousins's favourite animal is a leopard, NOT a mouse! And Eric Carle? He loves CATS! Bringing together some of the finest modern children's book illustrators of our time - Jon Klassen, Eric Carle, Lucy Cousins, Nick Bruel, Susan Jeffers, Steven Kellogg, Tom Lichtenheld, Peter McCarty, Chris Raschka, Peter Sis, Lane Smith, Erin Stead, Rosemary Wells, Mo Willems - Eric Carle asks, What's your favourite animal? and the result is an astonishingly colourful parade of animals, from giraffes with their heads in the clouds to fuzzy dogs and squishy snails.



***Where the Wild Things Are* - Maurice Sendak**

This classic, award-winning story of the power of a childhood tantrum has been a best-seller since it was first published in 1964. Max rushes round in his wolf-suit and shouts at his mother, who calls him Wild Thing and sends him to bed without his supper. 'The carpet turns to grass, trees shoot up, an ocean tumbles by'; off he sails to the land where the wild things are - monsters, fearful and funny with frightful claws. Max is made king, there's a wild rumpus and he sends the monsters off to bed without their supper. Finally, wanting to be 'where someone loved him best of all', he returns home where his supper is waiting for him. Magnificently tempestuous and infinitely reassuring.

***Who Are You, Stripy Horse?* - Jim Helmore and Karen Wall**

This is an utterly delightful tale by an award-winning team in which animals come to life one night in a shop, starting with a stuffed stripy horse who wants to know his name. But who can help? That's when the adventure begins - thrills, spills and some seriously silly situations occur until he and his friends meet Ming... The enormous success of this story has led to further great stories about Stripy Horse and his friends - don't miss them.

***Why Is The Sky Blue?* - Sally Grindley and Susan Varley,**

This beautifully illustrated book tells the story of rabbit and donkey. Rabbit is very inquisitive and is always asking questions about everything! He wants to know why the sky is blue and his old friend, Donkey, knows a lot of things, and promises to teach him but doesn't always quite manage to finish explaining. In fact, in the end their roles are reversed in this wonderfully uplifting tale of friendship.

***The Wild Washerwoman* - John Yeoman**

Celebrate liberation with this classic award-winning story. Forced to wash grubby hankies, horrid socks and ghastly towels by their skinflint boss, seven oppressed washerwomen go on strike and, getting aboard a goat cart, set out to have fun. Seven woodcutters think they'll get the better of them but they are easily outwitted by the ebullient and determined washerwomen. All ends happily as washerwomen and woodcutters settle down to married bliss, which includes making choices about washing and woodcutting.

***Winnie the Witch* - Valerie Thomas and Korby Paul**

This award-winning book is the first of a best-selling series of stories about Winnie, a rather wacky witch, and her long-suffering cat, Wilbur. Winnie, the Witch lives in a black house. She has black chairs and black stairs, black floors and black doors. The trouble is that Winnie's cat, Wilbur, is also black. After sitting on him and tripping over him, Winnie decides to turn Wilbur into a green cat. But then, he goes out into the long grass! Winnie is going to need a little magic to make sure she can always see Wilbur... This is a beautifully-crafted story with a colourful final twist. If you enjoy it, look out for Winnie and Wilbur's many other adventures.

***Wombat Goes Walkabout* - Michael Morpurgo**

A funny and touching from the former Children's Laureate, perfectly complemented by the extraordinary illustrations of Christian Birmingham. Wombat loves digging holes and thinking, but when he emerges one day from the cool dark of his deepest hole, his mother has disappeared. He is all alone. As Wombat searches the outback for her, the wonderful creatures he encounters scoff at his skills. It is only when danger threatens the bush that wombat's thinking proves the most brilliant skill of all...

***Wonder Goal!* - Michael Foreman**

Award-winning author/illustrator Michael Foreman's own love of football suffuses this story which perfectly captures the thrill all footballers have of scoring the winning goal. As the new boy in a small local team a young boy dreams that one day he will be out on the pitch and will the strike the winning goal at the World Goal. But in the meantime, scoring the perfect, time-stopping goal would be just fine. And once you've done that, who knows what the future might hold.