

A Few Good Reads - Year 3

***The 13-Storey Treehouse* - Andy Griffiths & Terry Denton**

This is the first in a hilarious series by the best-selling Australian writing team. The story follows Andy and Terry's crazy adventures in their treehouse as they try to write a book, and is told through a combination of text and fantastic cartoon-style illustrations.

***The Abominables* - Eva Ibbotson**

Award-winning Eva Ibbotson's fantasy about the rescue of an entertaining family group of Yeti and their transportation from the Himalayan Mountains to England in a frozen food lorry is touching, tender and very funny. It also carries a strong message about the need for humans to leave nature alone and especially to protect the survival of all kinds of endangered species - real and imaginary! It has all the hallmarks of Eva's many successful books - comedy, loveable and eccentric characters, perfectly-crafted plotting, and inspiring themes of tolerance, kindness to animals, and the defeat of cruelty.

***Agatha Parrot and the Floating Head* - Kjartan Poskitt**

Old Street School seems to live up to its title in this hilarious series about Agatha Parrot and her very unusual school friends. There is something interesting and different about all the girls in her gang and their exploits at home and at school will delight and amuse. If you enjoy this, there are plenty more Agatha Parrot adventures to entertain you.

***Akimbo and the Elephants* - Alexander McCall Smith**

The first book in an exciting series of adventure stories full of the sights, sounds and smells of Africa from best-selling author Alexander McCall Smith. When Akimbo sees what poachers do to the elephants on his game reserve, he is determined to stop them. There's only one way to do it, and that's to become an elephant hunter himself! But it's going to take strength and courage, and will involve facing danger...

***The Angel of Nitshill Road* - Anne Fine**

This is a classic school story by the former Children's Laureate. Until the angel came, Penny, Mark and Marigold ('Fat,' 'Freak' and 'Smelly') were bitterly unhappy. Barry Hunter was bullying them and everyone at Nitshill Road School knew it. But the angel brings a clever solution. Life at school is going to be very different from now on.

***Atticus Claw Breaks the Law* - Jennifer Gray**

This prize-winning book is the first in a very funny series. book Atticus Claw is a cat with a background. And not in a good way... Atticus Claw is the world's leading cat burglar and, when he's approached by the equally criminal Jimmy Magpie to steal all the sparkling gems in Littleton-on-Sea, the pair looks set for a life of crime. But then Atticus Claw meets Inspector Cheddar and his family and soon he sees there is more to life than crime... Told with a light touch, this is an attractively witty story with great animal characters, and there are many other adventures to enjoy if you like this.

***A Bear Called Paddington* - Michael Bond**

The classic story of Paddington Bear, so called because the Brown family first meet him on Paddington Station and decide to take him home. Paddington Bear has travelled all the way from Darkest Peru with just a label round his neck that reads: "Please Look After This Bear", a jar of marmalade, a suitcase and his hat. Paddington is great fun to have around but ordinary things - like having a bath, travelling underground or going to the seaside - become quite extraordinary, if he is involved. This is just the first book telling of Paddington's adventures and if you enjoy those, you will probably also like Michael Bond's equally funny stories about a guinea-pig called Olga da Polga.

***Cosmo And The Magic Sneeze* - Gwyneth Rees**

Cat lovers in particular will love this, for Cosmo is a really special cat with amazing powers in the form of a magic sneeze. The sneeze enables him to become a witch cat but it also gets him in to a whole lot of trouble as well. You can enjoy more of Cosmo's adventures in *Cosmo and the Secret Spell*.

The Dancing Bear - Michael Morpurgo

A very moving story of the bond between a girl and a bear cub. Nothing disturbs the peace of a French village until the arrival of the cub. Adopted by the orphaned Roxanne, he quickly becomes part of village life, and the village grows to be famous for its honey. Then a film company arrives to make a video starring Niki, the pop singer, as the Pied Piper and everything changes.

The Diary of a Killer Cat - Anne Fine

The hilarious antics of Tuffy the killer cat, in his own words... Poor Ellie is horrified when Tuffy drags a dead bird into the house. Then a mouse. But Tuffy can't understand what all the fuss is about. Who on earth will be the next victim to arrive through the cat-flap? Can soft-hearted Ellie manage to get her beloved pet to change his wild, wild ways before he ends up in even deeper trouble? The hilarious antics of Tuffy and his family are told by the killer cat himself. If you enjoy this story, you can read about more of Tuffy's adventures in the other books in this series.

Dragon Rider - Cornelia Funke

To be a Dragon Rider is surely every child's wish - to fly on a dragon's back to the highest mountains of the world, making lasting friendships along the way. This happens to Ben, an abandoned boy, who has been chosen by destiny to search for a legendary place of refuge for the last silver dragons on earth. Dragon Rider has all the storytelling qualities we have come to expect from award-winning author, Cornelia Funke: an 'old-fashioned' story brimming with remarkable detail, imbued with a warm belief in humanity.

Dragons at Crumbling Castle & other Stories - Terry Pratchett

Dragons have invaded Crumbling Castle, and all of King Arthur's knights are either on holiday or visiting their grannies. It's a disaster! Luckily, there's a spare suit of armour and a very small boy called Ralph who's willing to fill it. Together with Fortnight the Friday knight and Fossfiddle the wizard, Ralph sets out to defeat the fearsome fire-breathers. But there's a teeny weeny surprise in store . . . This is just one of this book's fourteen fantastically funny stories from master storyteller Sir Terry Pratchett, full of time travel and tortoises, monsters and mayhem!

Finn Family Moomintroll - Tove Jansson

A classic fantasy from Sweden. Although they're small, fat and shy creatures, Moomins have the most amazing adventures. It all begins when Moominpappa tries on a magic hat that makes exciting and funny things happen. This is the first of a wonderful series of books about the Moomins and their friends.

Flat Stanley - Jeff Brown

Stanley Lambchop wakes up one morning to find a notice-board has dropped on him in the night, leaving him happy and healthy, but only half an inch thick. It's a little unusual, but he finds he can fly like a kite, be sent on holiday through the post and can use his special new skills to catch some art thieves. Still, he's glad when his brother Arthur thinks to use the bicycle pump to inflate him back to his normal shape. This is the first of a brilliant series of books about Stanley and his family.

Fudge: Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing - Judy Blume

Peter thinks he has the world's biggest problem - his little brother, Fudge. Fudge causes trouble wherever he goes and it's usually up to Peter to sort out the mess. When Peter wins a tiny green turtle called Dribble, he's determined to keep it away from his brother. But when Fudge does get his hands on Dribble - disaster strikes! Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing is the first book in this hugely successful series from bestselling author Judy Blume.

Great Stories from British History - Geraldine McCaughrean

King Canute, Lady Godiva, Guy Fawkes, Bonnie Prince Charlie, Grace Darling and other famous names live again in these 101 tragic, comic, stirring tales of adventure, folly and wickedness retold by award-winning author Geraldine McCaughrean. Spanning nearly three thousand years, and including stories as up-to-date as Live Aid, the Braer Oil Tanker disaster and the Hadron Collider, each story includes a note on what really happened.

Harry's Mad - Dick King-Smith

A funny and exciting tale from the award-winning master of the animal story. Harry isn't very pleased when he inherits a parrot from Great-Uncle George, but Maddison is no ordinary parrot. Not only can he talk, but you can have conversations with him and he and Harry quickly become great friends - but then Maddison is stolen ... Will he and Harry ever be reunited?

Harry the Poisonous Centipede - Lynne Reid Banks

Written by the author of the best-selling *The Indian in the Cupboard* series and many other great reads, this is the thrilling and often funny story of a little centipede's adventures in the scary world of the dreaded Hoo-Mins! Harry is a poisonous centipede and although he's not very brave, he is the star of this seriously squirmy story. Harry and his friend George's adventures up to the world of Hoo-Mins sparkle with fun and excitement. If you enjoy this story, there are two other books about Harry, which you might also like to read.

The Hundred Mile an Hour Dog - Jeremy Strong

Jeremy Strong's slogan is 'laugh your socks off' and true to form, this story, featuring a boy, an extremely fast family pet dog and a bet, is laugh-out-loud funny and chock full of action and adventure set during what might otherwise have been a rather boring summer holiday. And don't forget if you enjoy this one, the super-fast dog and his friend return in several more adventures.

How the Whale Became and other stories - Ted Hughes

Long ago when the world was brand new, all the creatures were pretty much alike. This classic collection of eleven stories by the former Poet Laureate tells how with practice and in all kinds of ways they each became altogether different. More of these wonderful fables can be found in another Ted Hughes book - *Tales of the Early World*.

I am a Poetato An A-Z of Poems About People, Pets and Other Creatures - John Hegley

This is a very funny, witty, zany collection for children, which will also appeal to the author's adult fans. It has all the John Hegley comic hallmarks, including references to wearing glasses, Luton, and dogs (being superior to cats)! The poems are arranged alphabetically by title, with family pets and other animals featuring strongly, from a mosquito and ants, through wise camels, goldfish and guillemots to Toby the armadillo from Peru and not forgetting the unusual unicorn in school. The book is packed with John's unique brand of deadpan humour, and is illustrated in scrap-book style with the author's own quirky line drawings. This is a poetry book like no other!

King Flashypants and the Evil Emperor - Andy Riley

Good versus evil is given a very funny workout in this, the first book in a very popular series. Edwin isn't an ordinary boy. He is a king, with a throne, and his own suit of armour and a castle with secret passages and everything. As kings go, Edwin is lovely, always distributing chocolate to his subjects. Unfortunately, being so nice - and being just a boy - he's no match for his nemesis the Emperor Norbison, who has his very own evil laugh (it goes 'Foo Hoo Hoo Hoo'), and a dastardly plan to make Edwinland his own..

The Kingfisher Treasury of Pirate Stories – Tony Bradman

There are parrots, planks and eye patches aplenty in this treasure chest of pirate tales. Included are stories by Joan Aiken, J M Barrie, Colin McNaughton, Margaret Mahy, Arthur Ransome, Tony Robinson and Robert Louis Stevenson amongst others.

The Little Prince - Antoine De Saint-Exupery

This touching and wise classic was first published over seventy years ago but it remains as original, imaginative and entertaining as ever. A pilot stranded in the desert awakes one morning to see, standing before him, the most extraordinary little fellow. Please, asks the stranger, draw me a sheep. And the pilot realizes that when life's events are too difficult to understand, there is no choice but to succumb to their mysteries. He pulls out pencil and paper...Thus begins this wise and enchanting fable that, in teaching the secret of what is really important in life, has changed the world forever for its readers. If you love this book, you might like to know that the very talented Peter Sis has recently published a beautifully illustrated and accessible award-winning biography of Antoine de Saint-Exupery called *The Pilot and the Little Prince*.

***Lizzie Dripping* - Helen Cresswell**

This book by best-selling author, Helen Cresswell, has been a 'must-read' since it was first published 40 years ago. Lizzie is an archetypal twelve-year-old dreamer who wanders around with her head in the clouds. Despite her family's failure to believe her, Lizzie makes friends with a witch with exciting, funny and often charming consequences.

***Maisie Hitchens: The Case of the Stolen Sixpence* - Holly Webb**

The first in a thrilling series of mystery stories by best-selling author, Holly Webb, set in Victorian London. Maisie Hitchens lives in her grandmother's boarding house, longing for adventure. She idolizes the famous detective, Gilbert Carrington, and follows his every case. But Maisie is about to be given the opportunity of a lifetime: her own mystery to solve! Maisie rescues a puppy in peril whilst running an errand, and adopts him. She decides to investigate the puppy's original cruel owner, but instead gets tangled up in an intriguing plot involving stolen sausages, pilfered halfpennies and a fast-paced bicycle chase. The streets are never safe, but Maisie's on the case!

***The Midnight Fox* - Betsy Byars**

A touching and exciting story by a best-selling author about the power of vulnerable animals to capture the heart of a boy. Tom is horrified when his parents tell him he is to stay on Aunt Millie's farm while they are away on a trip. When he arrives, he finds the farm every bit as strange and uncomfortable as he feared - that is, until the appearance of the black fox.

***Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters, An African Tale* - John Steptoe**

This is the tale of Mufaro's two daughters, two beautiful girls who react in different ways to the king's search for a wife - one is aggressive and selfish, the other kind and dignified. The king takes on disguises to learn the true nature of both girls and of course chooses Nyasha, the kind and generous daughter, to be his queen.

***My Dad's a Birdman* - David Almond**

A wonderful story about love and the importance of family by award-winning author, David Almond. Lizzie and Dad live in a rainy town in the north of England. It's just the two of them, and Auntie Doreen, who pops round to check Lizzie's spellings and tell Dad he's daft - and make them nice hot dumplings. But today there's something unusual going on: why is Dad building himself a pair of wings and studying the birds to see how they fly? The Great Human Bird Competition of course!

***The Night of the Unicorn* - Jenny Nimmo**

A meteor shower brings together two young children in this charming tale of secrets and dreams coming true by award winning author, Jenny Nimmo. One morning, after seeing shooting stars, Amber awakes to all sorts of discoveries. Hennie, her favourite hen, has vanished; a strange white horse has appeared at the animal sanctuary; and Luke Foster, the unhappy new boy at school, confides in Amber his impossible wish. But perhaps what Luke is looking for is not so impossible after all...

***The Ogre of Oglefort* - Eva Ibbotson**

This highly acclaimed book is a wonderfully spooky title from the award-winning author of *Journey to the River Sea*, Eva Ibbotson. When a Hag, an orphan boy called Ivo, Ulf the troll and wizard Brian Brainsweller are sent to rescue a princess from an ogre, they briefly consider running away and hiding. Can they be any match for the gruesome, terrifying, ghastly, flesh-eating Ogre of Oglefort? But not all is as it first appears - the Ogre is depressed and the princess doesn't want to be rescued. The Norns, who rule their fates, decide to take things in hand and send a gang of the vilest, most petrifying ghouls to get the job done properly ...

***Oliver and the Seawigs* - Philip Reeve & Sarah McIntyre**

In this award-winning book Philip Reeve spins a hugely original yarn encompassing moving islands, a short sighted mermaid, a stuck-up boy by the name of Stacey de Lacey and his private army of cheeky, smelly green sea monkeys and a charming hero Oliver whose search for his parents brings him into contact with all of the above. Sarah McIntyre's ebullient illustrations capture the quirky nature of this adventure perfectly. This talented author/illustrator team has created several other brilliant books, including *Cakes in Space* and *Pugs of the Frozen North*, which you will probably also enjoy if you like this one.

***The Orchard Book of Greek Myths* - Geraldine McCaughrean**

Simple but beautifully written retellings by an award winning author of some the best known of these timeless tales - Theseus and the Minotaur, Jason and the Golden Fleece, Odysseus, Hercules and Icarus amongst many others - accompanied by fabulous illustrations by Emma Chichester Clark.

Ottoline and the Yellow Cat - Chris Riddell

A quirky mystery-adventure by Children's Laureate, Chris Riddell, introducing Miss Ottoline Brown, an exceptionally inquisitive Mistress of Disguise, and her partner in crime, a small hairy creature called Mr. Munroe. No puzzle is ever too tricky for the two of them to solve and they love a spot of detective work. So they are the first to the scene of the crime when a string of high-society dog-nappings and jewel thefts hits Big City. Ottoline and Mr. Munroe go undercover - and expose an ingenious scam masterminded by furry feline crook, the Yellow Cat. If you enjoy this book, there are more Ottoline adventures to discover.

Pippi Longstocking - Astrid Lindgren

A classic story from Norway. Pippi is nine years old, lives alone with a horse and a monkey, and does exactly as she pleases. She has no mother and her father is king of a cannibal island. She gets up when she likes, never goes to school, talks a great deal, keeps a chest of gold coins under the bed, and is unexpectedly strong. This book contains many of her marvellous escapades and you can read even more in the other books about Pippi.

Pirate Diary - Richard Platt & Chris Riddell

This is a ground-breaking, and prize winning, piece of non-fiction written in diary form in the voice of nine year old cabin boy - Jake Carpenter - and filled with tales of derring-do on the high seas. It offers detailed information on swords, pistols, cannons, floggings and how to navigate ships and includes a fact section at the back about the colonies, the first pirates, viking raiders, buccaneers, famous pirates throughout history and piracy today. The same authors have also written a Castle Diary in the same style, which you will certainly enjoy if you like this.

Princess Mirror-Belle - Julia Donaldson

From the bestselling author of *The Gruffalo* and former Children's Laureate, Julia Donaldson, here is *Princess Mirror-Belle*, the exciting adventures of a princess with a difference. Ellen gets a big shock when her double appears out of the bathroom mirror. But Mirror-Belle is a double with a difference! She is a princess, and a very mischievous one at that who sweeps Ellen into a variety of hilarious escapades - from battling with Dragon Pox to exploring a department store and helping out with the local pantomime. If you enjoy this there are two more books filled with Ellen and Mirror-Belle's hilarious adventures.

Secret Friends - Elizabeth Laird

This is a moving story about Rafaella, the new girl at school who finds making friends hard. With her strange name and sticking out ears she's different from the rest. Lucy is the first to tease, the first to call her 'Earwig'. Until a secret friendship starts, full of warmth and mystery. Lucy is torn between her feelings for her new friend and her longing to be one of the popular girls at school.

The Snow Goose - Paul Gallico

Set in the Essex marshes in the years before the Second World War, it is a touching story of how a young girl rescues a beautiful but wounded snow-geese and takes it to be healed by a reclusive and frightening local figure who lives alone in a remote lighthouse. How the snow goose is restored to health, how Fritha discovers the gentle side of Rhyader and the special magic the goose brings on its annual return, is poetically told. A real gem. There are several editions of this classic book, including a particularly beautiful one illustrated by Angela Barrett.

Spy Dog - Andrew Cope

This is the first in a series of very funny and exciting books about a dog called Lara (or GM451 as she is known officially), a highly trained special agent, bred by the British Secret Service for use on dangerous missions around the world. In this story her latest mission has gone wrong and she is being hunted down by an evil drugs baron, Mr Big. Lara must go undercover as a normal dog, 'choose' a family to look after her and await her retrieval by the Secret Service. But can she keep her true identity a secret? And can she catch Mr Big? If you enjoy this book, there are lots more stories about Lara and her family to enjoy.

***The Spy Who Loved School Dinners* - Pamela Butchart**

Loaded with laughs and crazy capers, this brilliantly bonkers book was the winner of the Blue Peter Book Award. Izzy is really pleased to have been put in charge of the new girl at school. Matilde is French, and Izzy and her friends can't wait to show her their den and its moth, and to help her avoid school dinners (also known as poison). But Matilde LOVES school dinners and even has seconds! And that's when they know. Matilde is a spy and she has come to find out their secrets. They must stop her before it's TOO LATE!!! If you enjoy this, look out for Pamela Butchart's other hilarious books.

***The Tale of Despereaux* - Kate DiCamillo**

A deftly crafted and heart-warming fairy tale adventure story from a New York Times bestselling author, twice winner of the prestigious Newbery Medal. Here is the tale of a tiny, sickly mouse with unusually large ears; a mouse who takes his fate into his own hands. It is the tale of a beautiful, flaxen-haired princess who laughs often and makes everything around her seem brighter. It is the tale of a poor, deaf serving girl who entertains foolish dreams of splendour. It is a tale of impossible love, of bravery and of old-fashioned courage. And it is a tale of treachery - unlimited treachery...

***Three Cheers for Women!* - Marcia Williams**

A celebration of inspirational women from all over the world and throughout history, told in Marcia Williams' much-loved comic-strip style. From writers to warriors and astronauts to activists, discover their awesome stories and be amazed by their achievements. Featuring Cleopatra, Boudicca, Joan of Arc, Elizabeth I, Mary Wollstonecraft, Jane Austen, Florence Nightingale, Marie Curie, Eleanor Roosevelt, Amelia Earhart, Frida Kahlo, Wangari Maathai, Mae C. Jemison, Cathy Freeman and Malala

***Toto: The Dog-Gone Amazing Story of the Wizard of Oz* - Michael Morpurgo**

Master-storyteller Michael Morpurgo adds a witty twist to the classic story of The Wizard of Oz in his hugely entertaining re-imagining of the original. Here, Dorothy's pet dog Papa Toto, who accompanied her on the long journey, tells the story of the amazing adventures in the Land of Oz to his eager young puppies. All the drama of the original story and especially all the charm of the iconic characters The Tin Woodman, The Scarecrow and the Lion is retained while Morpurgo also adds details of his own including the delightful relationship between Dorothy and Toto.

***The Tree House* - Gillian Cross**

A wonderful family story by prize winning author, Gillian Cross. William and his brother are desperate to have a tree house in the grand old tree at the bottom of the garden. Their father has to go away, but is determined that the tree house should be built. So every month he sends a parcel home to the boys - a parcel containing things they'll need for the tree house. But will their father be home in time for Christmas - in time to join them in the tree house to eat the chestnuts that are growing there ...

***Where The Poppies Now Grow* - Hilary Robinson and Martin Impey**

This moving poetic text matched with warm-hearted illustrations captures the lives of two friends and the parts they played in the enormous military campaigns of the First World War. From their early days playing together through to their old age they shared everything. Above all, as young men they courageously shared the danger and devastation of the war which took place on their very own land. The result is a book that reflects the lasting importance of both friendship and place and how they can help to heal the tragedy of war. The same author and illustrator have gone on to produce several other equally beautiful, moving and unmissable books describing aspects of the First World War, including *The Christmas Truce*, *Peace Lily*, *A Song for Will and the Lost Gardeners of Heligan* and *Flo of the Somme*.

***Whizziwig & Whizziwig Returns 2 in 1* - Malorie Blackman**

Whizziwig is a small, furry alien who has crash-landed on Earth and ended up on top of Ben's wardrobe. Once Ben has recovered from the shock of this unexpected arrival he's delighted to learn that Whizziwig is a 'wish-giver' able to turn wishes into reality. But it's not as straightforward as it sounds. The wishes have to be made for someone else, and by accident, so it isn't long before some very strange, and very funny, things start happening.

Winnie the Pooh - A A Milne

I make no apology for including in this list this wonderful collection of stories about Winnie-the-Pooh, possibly the most famous bear in the world, because although they were first published eighty years ago they have lost none of their charm or their humour. If you haven't discovered them already, you will love finding out what happens when Pooh goes visiting and Piglet meets a Heffalump, not forgetting when Eeyore loses his tail and Pooh finds one! And even if you already know these stories, you will probably enjoy rediscovering them. You can find more of Pooh's adventures in *The House at Pooh Corner*.

The Worst Witch - Jill Murphy

The trials and tribulations of a disastrous new girl at Miss Cackle's Academy for Witches, a gloriously witchy boarding school, *The Worst Witch* has magic galore. Unfortunately for Mildred Hubble, most of it has a habit of going badly wrong. Her broomstick won't fly straight, her cat is tabby not black and she manages to turn her arch-enemy into a toad. You can read more of Mildred's chaotic adventures in the sequels to this classic book by one of our best loved children's authors.

You're a Bad Man, Mr Gum! - Andy Stanton

This is the first book in an award winning series. 'It's time for action,' said Mr Gum to nobody in particular. 'Nasty action.'. Mr Gum is a complete horror who hates children, animals, fun and corn on the cob. This book's all about him. And an angry fairy who lives in his bathtub. And Jake the dog, and a little girl called Polly. And there are heroes and sweets and adventures and everything. These books are a must for fans of Roald Dahl.