

### Year 3/4 Suggested Book List

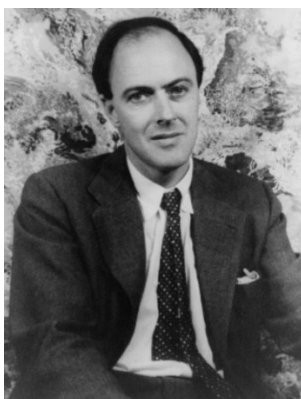
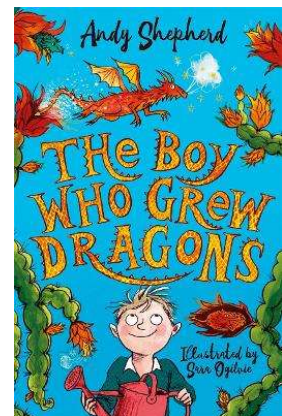
This document offers suggested books for children in Years 3 and 4 to read; they have been chosen for a variety of reasons that are detailed below:

- Appropriate level of challenge for pupils (based on book band and Lexile Count)
- A range of backgrounds to ensure variety in children's experiences of authors
- A mixture of classical and contemporary authors
- The novels selected are from a range of fiction genres e.g., action, drama, comedy, fantasy, horror
- A range of authors taken from suggested reading schemes/spines e.g. Pie Corbett (Educational author)
- Suggestions taken from staff *and* pupils at Newfield Park Primary Academy



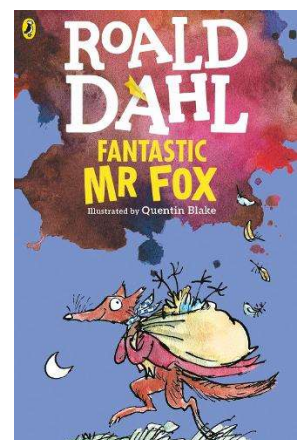
#### **The Boy Who Grew Dragons** *Andy Shepherd*

The first book in a sparky and utterly enchanting new series. When Tomas discovers a strange old tree at the bottom of his grandad's garden, he doesn't think much of it. But he takes the funny fruit from the tree back into the house - and gets the shock and delight of his life when a tiny dragon hatches! Tomas soon finds out that life with Flicker is great fun, but also very ... unpredictable. Yes, dragons are wonderful, but they also set fire to your toothbrush and leave your pants hanging from the TV aerial!



#### **Fantastic Mr Fox** *Roald Dahl*

There are so many Roald Dahl books appropriate for Year 3/4 and Fantastic Mr Fox is one of a number of books we could recommend by the world-renowned author. Join Dahl as he takes you underground to join a courageous crew of woodland animals led by fantastic Mr Fox as they try to stay one step ahead of the farmers. No-one is more cunning than fantastic Mr Fox and he has some tricks up his sleeve to make the farmers wish they'd never thought to out-smart the smartest creature of all; an absolute classic!

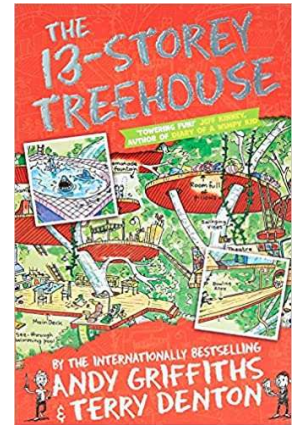




## The 13-Storey Treehouse

*Andy Griffiths*

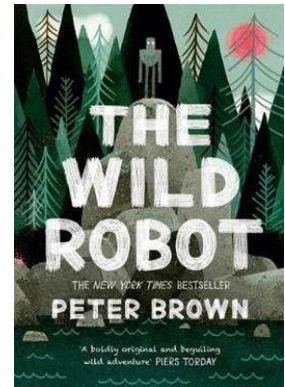
Andy and Terry live in the WORLD'S BEST treehouse! It's got a giant catapult, a secret underground laboratory, a tank of man-eating sharks and a marshmallow machine that follows you around and shoots marshmallows into your mouth whenever you're hungry! Just watch out for the sea monkeys... and the monkeys pretending to be sea monkeys. Andy Griffiths' fantastically funny 13-Storey Treehouse is told through a combination of text and cartoon-style illustrations!



## The Wild Robot

*Peter Brown*

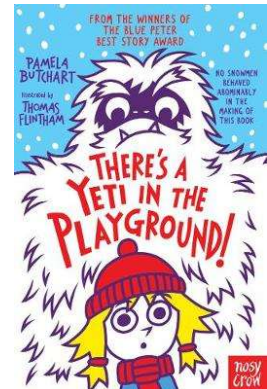
Robot Roz opens her eyes for the first time on a remote island, after the boat transporting her sinks – activated by a curious otter who presses the button on the back of her neck. She is a learning robot who has no idea what her purpose is, apart from to survive. At first, the wild animals are terrified of Roz as she's a huge and scary looking metal robot! But things soon begin to change... A fairly challenging book full of adventure and wonderful illustrations! Good for confident Year 4 readers – perfect to read before watching the film!



## There's A Yeti In The Playground!

*Pamela Butchart*

The latest book in the 'Baby Aliens' series sees Izzy wrestle with a monster playground problem, with hilarious results. Full of action, this series is also ideal for encouraging reluctant readers. Izzy and friends are excited! The snow is falling fast and they're hoping they'll all be sent home early. But then they hear weird noises in the playground, and find a big footprint in the snow... And that's when they know! There's a YETI in the playground and it's HUNGRY!

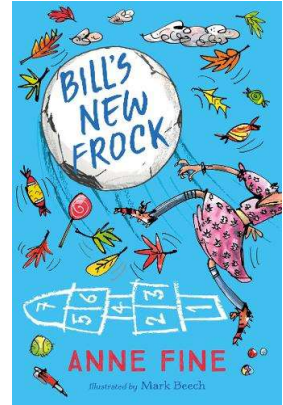




## Bill's New Frock

*Anne Fine*

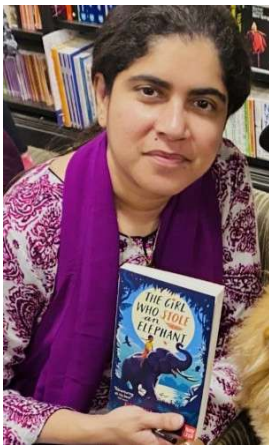
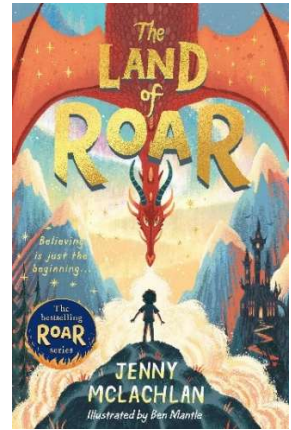
A classic children's story from one of our best-loved authors, former Children's Laureate Anne Fine. First published in 1989, it concerns a young boy, Bill Simpson, who wakes up one morning to find he has transformed into a girl. Now forced to go to school in a pink dress, Bill discovers one of the worst days in his life is about to unfold. Baffled by the way things are just different for girls, Bill falls headlong into trouble. The book won the Nestlé Smarties Book Prize and remains popular to this day!



## The Land of Roar

*Jenny McLachlan*

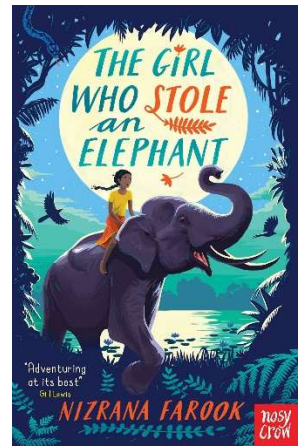
When Arthur and Rose were little, they were heroes in the Land of Roar, an imaginary world that they found by climbing through the folding bed in their grandad's attic. Roar was filled with things they loved – dragons, mermaids, ninja wizards and adventure – as well as things that scared them (including a very creepy scarecrow. . .) Now the twins are eleven, Roar is just a memory. But when they help Grandad clean out the attic, Arthur is horrified as Grandad is pulled into the folding bed and vanishes. Is he playing a joke? Or is Roar... real?



## The Girl Who Stole an Elephant

*Nizrana Farook*

Chaya, a no-nonsense, outspoken hero, leads her friends and a gorgeous elephant on a noisy, fraught, joyous adventure through the jungle where revolution is stirring and leeches lurk. Will stealing the queen's jewels be the beginning or the end of everything for the intrepid gang? An exotic setting and hypnotic storytelling make Chaya's story impossible to put down. The young characters all have their flaws but are all driven by an underlying desire for a better, fairer way of living. A challenging book but brilliant for confident readers!

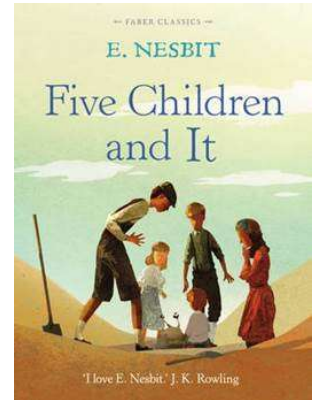




### Five Children and It

*E. Nesbit*

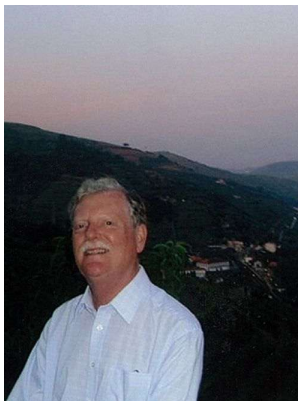
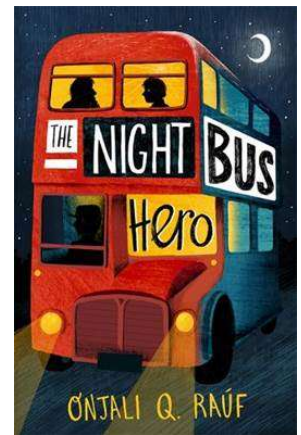
When five siblings - Cyril, Anthea, Robert, Jane and their baby brother, the Lamb - discover a sand-fairy in their gravel pit, they are jolly surprised and a little delighted. Even better, the 'Psammead' is able to grant them wishes, although the magic wears off at the day's end. Unfortunately, all of the wishes the children make go hilariously wrong and they soon learn that their foolish desires are more likely to get them into trouble than get them what they want! Full of fantasy, Five Children and It is an all-time classic.



### The Night Bus Hero

*Onjali Q. Rauf*

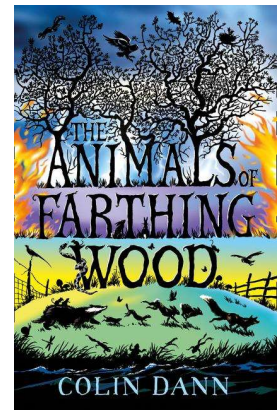
A brilliantly written and totally engrossing story that will help children understand and think deeply about the real human beings whose lives are impacted by homelessness - and also more generally about the power of kindness, friendship, empathy and how everyone has the potential to change for the better. Onjali Q Rauf (winner of the Blue Peter Book Award and Waterstones book prize for The Boy at the Back of the Class) has written a gripping, realistic, and relatable tale with a strong moral at its heart, perfect for children aged seven and up; she visited us in 2024 at Newfield and was very inspiring!



### The Animals of Farthing Wood

*Colin Dann*

First published as a series of shorter books, The Animals of Farthing Wood has been enthralling readers for over 30 years and has never fallen out of print. The animals must unite in adversity for this is a story about tolerance, *and* cooperation. Both heart-wrenching and heart-warming, this classic story continues to appeal and capture children's imaginations. Tackling a range of topical issues and in particular the environment, this novel was awarded the National Award for Children's Literature.

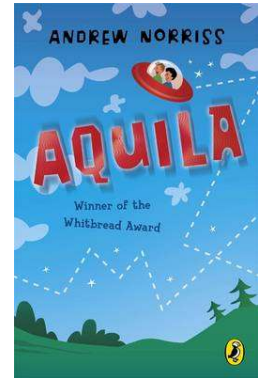




### Aquila

*Andrew Norris*

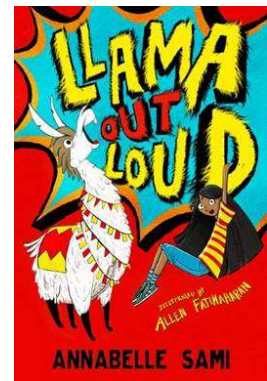
Entertainingly written, prize-winning Aquila is an exciting adventure. On a boring school trip, Tom and Geoff discover an ancient flying machine. Determined to find out more about it but also desperate to keep their find a secret, the boys return to the spot and, having mastered how to fly the thing, are soon off on incredible travels in a ship with strange powers including the ability to make them invisible. Along the way, they even have to learn some Latin!



### Llama Out Loud

*Annabelle Sami*

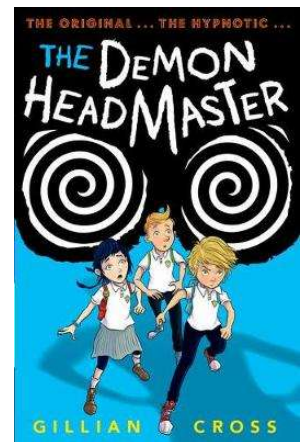
The first of a hilarious and heart-warming new series featuring a mute ten-year-old girl and her toy llama who does enough talking for both of them, Sami's story is constructed with flawless comic timing! This is a unique novel, with a heroine whose likeable personality comes across although she does not speak a word for most of the book. It would suit readers who like a laugh-out-loud story with a big heart and a spark of magic.



### The Demon Headmaster

*Gillian Cross*

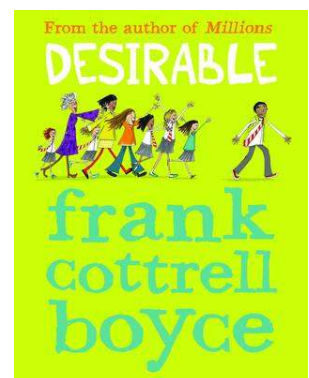
One of the great characters of children's books, the Demon Headmaster rules his school with his sea-green eyes through which he hypnotises the pupils. When Dinah arrives she sets up SPLAT, a group designed to protect the pupils from the head's paranormal powers and to break his dictatorship. From the very first day at her new school, Dinah can see that something is horribly wrong. The children are strangely neat and well-behaved and they even work during break. What's going on? A brilliant spooky series for readers aged eight and over!



### Desirable

*Frank Cottrell Boyce*

A delicious comedy in which geeky George whose passion for Warhammer games has long made him a social outcast, is transformed by some past its sell by date after-shave! Suddenly everyone wants to be George's friend. Can he escape? A humorous look at the pitfalls of popularity! The plot is clear, the characters appealing and there are plenty of visual clues! There are many, many books we could suggest to read by Frank Cottrell Boyce, one of our best, contemporary children's authors!

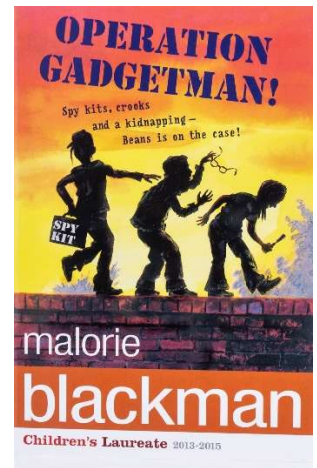




## Operation Gadgetman!

*Malorie Blackman*

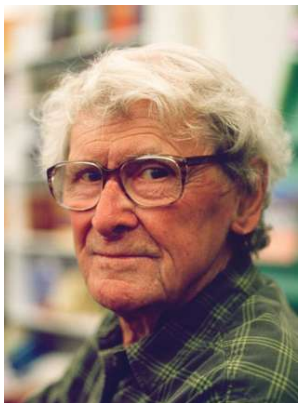
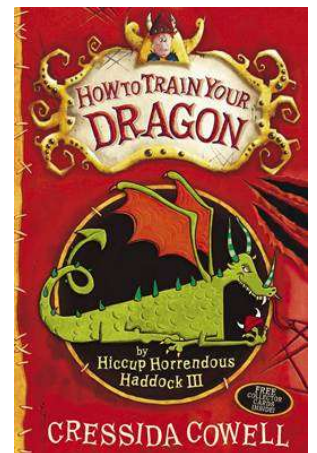
Beans's Dad is a bit of an eccentric. When he's not embarrassing her in front of her friends with his strange behaviour, he's in his workshop inventing ridiculous things like exploding shortbread (and irritating the neighbours while he's about it). But one day, Beans comes home from school to find that he has been kidnapped! She and her friends set out to find him using only their wits and the 'Gadgetman Spy Kits' he has given them, and in the process uncover a sinister criminal conspiracy... Blackman is one of our greatest, contemporary authors!



## How to Train Your Dragon

*Cressida Cowell*

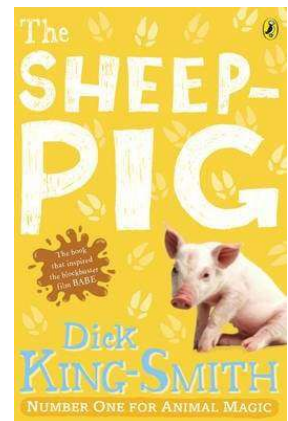
Hiccup Horrendous Haddock III was an incredible sword-fighter, dragon-whisperer and the greatest Viking hero who ever lived. But he wasn't always like that - in fact, in the beginning, Hiccup wasn't fierce, brave or heroic at all. But the arrival of the Seadragonus Giganticus Maximus offers the chance for Hiccup to shine... This award-winning story of Vikings and dragons, with its striking black-and-white-illustrations, is enormous fun. Young readers will love Cressida Cowell's sharp wit and humour, and will be keen to follow Hiccup's adventures through the rest of the books in this hugely popular series!



## The Sheep-Pig

*Dick King-Smith*

The magic of a special animal is perfectly captured in the heroic antics of Babe, a piglet with a difference. The runt of a litter, Babe arrives on the farm where he is trained by the sheep dog along with her own puppies. And Babe turns out to be a genius at it. His secret? Babe treats the sheep with courtesy and respect. One of Dick King-Smith's best-loved tales, this wonderful book is full of gentle humour. The short chapters make it ideal for early confident readers, and it will be especially adored by young animal lovers!

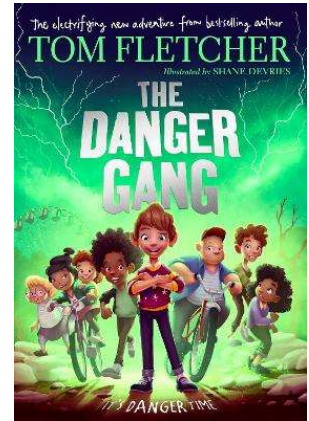




## The Danger Gang

*Tom Fletcher*

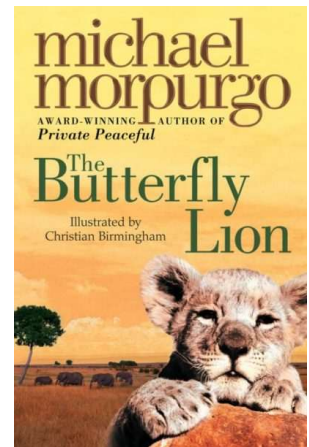
The electrifying adventure from bestselling author Tom Fletcher is hugely popular! Franky can't wait to move to his new town - although he wishes he didn't have to leave his best friend Dani behind. But everything changes after the storm, when strange green lightning and powerful thunder crash down on the town. From that night on, the kids who live on Franky's street start to change. One by one, they become a little odd. A little unusual you might say... A compelling adventure and a celebration of friendship!



## The Butterfly Lion

*Michael Morpurgo*

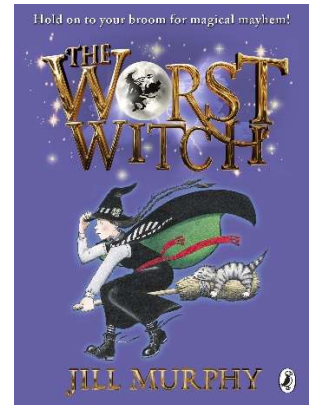
The inspiring magic of a white lion brings friendship and hope to a lonely ten year old. Miserable at his boarding school, Bertie runs away. He is rescued by a kind old lady who tells him of how another Bertie, a little boy from a long time before, saved an orphaned lion cub in Africa. The symbol of the white lion becomes an emblem of hope as well as a link across generations. Michael Morpurgo is skilful in weaving together magical and real stories, and The Butterfly Lion is yet another addition to his repertoire of fantastic stories!



## The Worst Witch

*Jill Murphy*

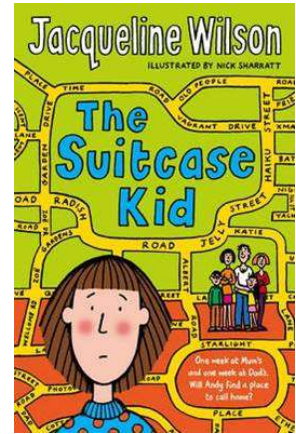
Long before Harry Potter first went to Hogwarts, trainee witch Mildred Hubble embarked on life at Miss Cackle's Academy for Witches... Loveable but accident-prone Mildred is probably the worst witch ever to attend Miss Cackle's Academy: her spells go wrong; she can't even put her witch's hat on the right way round! But when Mildred discovers a plot against the school, can she save the day? Newly confident readers will love reading this light-hearted and humorous story; it remains a firm favourite.





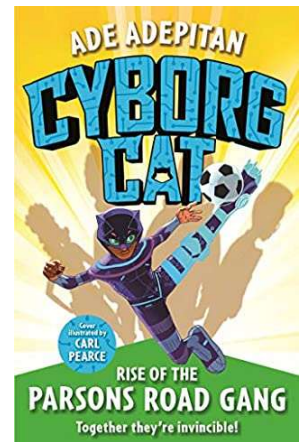
**The Suitcase Kid**  
*Jacqueline Wilson*

Distraught at her parents' divorce, Andy cannot decide who she wants to live with. She spends one week at Mum's house, the next at Dad's, but never really feels that she belongs anywhere. This difficult situation, which is worsened by animosity between Andy and her new stepfamilies, has no simple solution. Approached with humour and understanding, this is a very readable tale of confusion, guilt and ultimately optimism, with which many children (and adults) may identify.



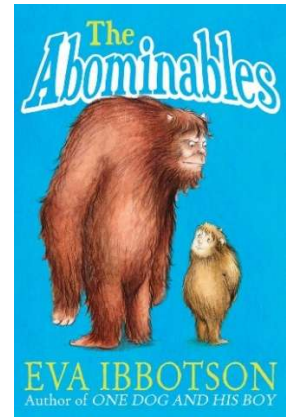
**Cyborg Cat!**  
*Ade Adepitan*

When Ade moves to London from Nigeria, he knows things will be different, but nothing can prepare him for the ups and downs of his Parson's Road adventures. Ade doesn't always feel welcome in his new community; fitting in is hard, especially as he looks different to everyone else. But Ade is brave and takes on the school bullies, surprising himself and the kids on his new street. His heroic acts and super football skills quickly help him make new friends who will always be there for him. Entertaining and accessible, this is a great new book to get stuck into!



**The Abominables**  
*Eva Ibbotson*

Award-winning Eva Ibbotson's charming 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! The Times newspaper described it as 'An adventure to rival 101 Dalmatians'!



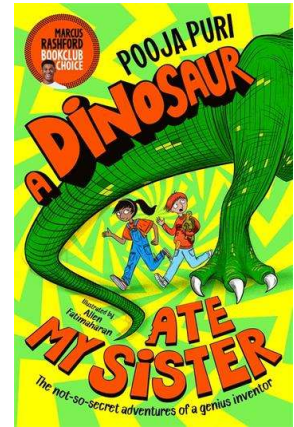




## A Dinosaur Ate My Sister

*Pooja Puri*

This brilliantly illustrated, laugh-out-loud, wacky adventure through time by Pooja Puri is the perfect blend of *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* and *Jurassic Park*! This romp through space and time will have readers who love series such as *The Thirteen Storey Treehouse* and *Anisha, Accidental Detective* laughing aloud. Every page is decorated with vivid cartoon illustrations and there is a lot for the reader to pay attention to visually in this fast-moving story.



## The Accidental Prime Minister

*Tom McLaughlin*

A strong friendship runs through the core of this funny story that is perfect for fans of David Walliams. Completely accidental political success puts a strain on Joe's friendship with best pal, Ajay and whilst his intentions at the start were pure, he loses sight of his original plight for the park and the safety of his mum's job. There is heart and warmth in between the dastardly villains (the other politicians, obviously) and slapstick jokes. McLaughlin's writing is perfectly pitched, with an ending that no one will see coming! Good, silly fun all round - just the way Joe would want it.



## The House with Chicken Legs

*Sophie Anderson*

Marinka lives in a house with chicken legs that moves around the world. She longs for a normal life, but her destiny is to guide the dead to the afterlife. This beautifully written story is filled with folklore, magic, and self-discovery. Marinka's journey is not only about guiding spirits but also about finding her own place in the world. The story beautifully blends magic and reality, making it a poignant tale of self-discovery and belonging.

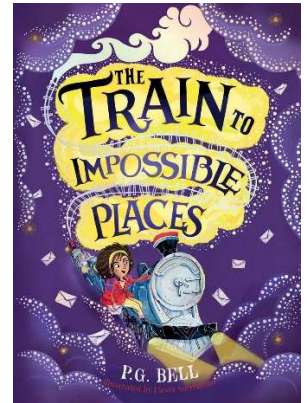




## The Train to Impossible Places

*P.G. Bell*

Suzy Smith's life changes when a magical train crashes into her house. She becomes the train's newest postal worker, delivering packages to impossible places. This imaginative and whimsical adventure is perfect for young readers who love fantasy. As Suzy travels through the impossible places, she learns valuable lessons about courage and friendship. The book's whimsical and imaginative narrative keeps readers engaged and eager to see where the train will take them next.



## The Breakfast Club Adventures

*Marcus Rashford & Alex Falase-Koya*

When twelve-year-old Marcus kicks his favourite football over the school fence, he knows he's never getting it back. But during Breakfast Club, he receives a mysterious note inviting him to join the Breakfast Club Investigators. This exciting and adventurous story is perfect for young readers who love mystery and friendship. As Marcus and his new friends uncover the secrets beyond the fence, they learn valuable lessons about teamwork and bravery. The book's engaging narrative and delightful illustrations keep readers hooked from start to finish. Suitable for Year 4.

