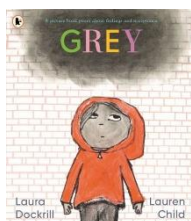


## New releases!

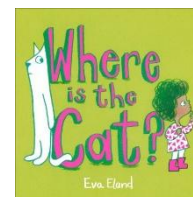


### *Grey* Laura Dockrill (author), Lauren Child (illustrator)

Beautifully crafted compositions together with simple die-cut design, reveal the story of a child who feels as though all their colours have disappeared. Despite the joyful orange balloon, the huge yellow sun and the bright green trees, the child still feels grey. That is until a reassuring hand reaches out and shares words of kindness. Soon the child begins to see the warmth of colour again, and understands that their colours will always be there and that they will always be loved, whether they feel grey or sunshine yellow. Laura and Lauren have created a beautiful book full of empathy and understanding. Suitable for pre-school and Key Stage one children.

### *Where Is the Cat?* Eva Eland (author / illustrator)

Where is Cat? Where indeed! Cat's quiet, ordered life is disrupted when little Suzy comes to stay, eager to play and determined to find Cat, whatever the hiding place. The pages become a wonderful game of hide and seek for Suzy and the reader, until at last she collapses in tears and Cat leads her for a cosy lie down. Depicted in neon-pinks, green and yellow, Klaus Flugge Prize winner Eva Eland's comic story is full of life and will be instantly recognisable to anyone who has a toddler or a cat. Bold, bright, unmissable and lots of fun! Suitable for children in Nursery, Reception and Key Stage One.



### *Don't Trust Fish!* Neil Sharpson (author), Dan Santat (illustrator)

Have you ever noticed that fish spend all of their time under water? What are they plotting down there? And did you know that a group of fish is called a 'school'? Exactly what are they learning in these 'schools'? We must find answers. But one thing's for sure. Whatever you do: Don't. Trust. Fish. Laugh along as you learn lots of fishy facts from a very suspicious narrator, who believes that there's something more than a bit fishy about fish... Prepare to laugh, learn, and maybe even look at your pet goldfish a little differently! Perfect for children in Reception and up.

### *The Day My School Got Famous* Jen Carney (author / illustrator)

a WWII bomb is discovered at school, Nile is thrilled, and even Ferris gets caught up in the excitement as a design competition is launched to replace the soon-to-be-demolished car park. But as detonation day nears, both boys face growing pressures and must work together to make sure things go off with the right kind of bang. With lively illustrations and plenty of humour, this standalone story also offers a warm, insightful look at the realities of fostering. 'A genuinely uplifting, heartfelt, inclusive and moving story, fizzing with mischief and humour' - Ian Eagleton, author of Glitter Boy. Suitable for children in Years 2, 3 and 4.



### *Dragonborn* Struan Murray (author)

Struan Murray, award-winning author of *Orphans of the Tide*, returns with *Dragonborn*—a thrilling new fantasy set in a world of secrets, danger, and dragons. Alex, kept under close watch by her mother since her father's death, discovers she can breathe fire and is whisked away to a hidden school for human dragons. As she learns to control her powers, she uncovers a looming conflict between humans and dragons, and only she and her new friends can stop the ruthless Drak Midna. With vivid world-building, fiery transformations, and heart-pounding twists, this is the scorching start to an exciting new series. Perfect for Years 5 and 6.

### *Shrapnel Boys* Jenny Pearson (author)

From award-winning author Jenny Pearson comes a gripping new novel that brings the Second World War vividly to life for today's readers. For Ronnie Smith, 1939 is full of battles—at school, at home, and now in the skies above London. As bombs fall and danger becomes routine, Ronnie's younger brother starts acting strangely, and Ronnie suspects he's mixed up with a dangerous gang. But when he tries to help, Ronnie uncovers secrets that could change the course of the war itself. Published to mark the 80th anniversary of WWII's end, this is a powerful, page-turning story of courage, family, and unexpected heroism. Suitable for children in Years 5 and 6.



| Local Authors   | Recommend a book!   |                                |                              |   |  |
|---|---|--------------------------------|------------------------------|---|--|
| <p><b>Casey Bailey</b><br/>Casey Bailey is a poet, playwright, and educator from Birmingham, and served as the city's Poet Laureate from 2020 to 2022. His work explores themes of identity, inequality, and community, often drawing on his experiences growing up in Nechells. His poetry collection <i>Adjusted</i> was widely praised for its emotional honesty and lyrical power. Bailey is also known for his work in schools and prisons, using poetry to inspire and empower young people.</p>   | <p>Have you or your child read a book which you'd like to recommend!? Scan the QR code (or click the link below) and your book recommendation may appear next month in the Reading Newsletter!</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="794 342 1145 376">Children's book recommendation</th><th data-bbox="1153 342 1503 376">Grown-up book recommendation</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="794 376 1145 611"> <br/> <a href="https://forms.office.com/e/TmHxPx756v">https://forms.office.com/e/TmHxPx756v</a> </td><td data-bbox="1153 376 1503 611"> <br/> <a href="https://forms.office.com/e/sanb04eP05">https://forms.office.com/e/sanb04eP05</a> </td></tr> </tbody> </table> | Children's book recommendation | Grown-up book recommendation | <br><a href="https://forms.office.com/e/TmHxPx756v">https://forms.office.com/e/TmHxPx756v</a> | <br><a href="https://forms.office.com/e/sanb04eP05">https://forms.office.com/e/sanb04eP05</a> |
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| An author you might not know....  | Book Brag!  |                                |                              |   |  |
| <p><b>Polly Ho-Yen</b><br/>Polly's first fiction book was <i>Boy in the Tower</i> is about a boy called Ade who lives in a tower block when a building near him randomly falls... Luckily, no one is hurt but all the buildings around him keep on falling! The book was shortlisted for the Waterstones Children's Book Prize and the Blue Peter Book Award! Her latest book, <i>'The Last Dragon'</i> was released this year and is a moving story of bravery, self-belief and our responsibility to the natural world! Her first adult novel, <i>Dark Lullaby</i>, was published in 2021!</p>   | <p><b>Star Outside My Window</b> by Onjali Q. Raúf<br/>A powerful, heartwarming story of hope, courage, and finding light in the darkest of times. From the award-winning author of <i>The Boy at the Back of the Class</i>, this moving tale is perfect for fans of emotional storytelling and heartfelt adventure. Aniyah on a journey that blends mystery and resilience as she searches the skies for a star that might just change everything...<br/> <i>"It's a brilliant book which teaches you all about perseverance, and we believe in perseverence at our school! It's a beautiful and moving book which I'd recommend to anyone in Years 5 and 6."</i><br/> <i>Recommended by Shradhaa (Year 5 pupil)</i></p>    |                                |                              |   |  |
| Staff recommendation (for Children)   | Staff recommendation (for Parents/Carers)   |                                |                              |   |  |
| <p><b>Pirate Academy – New Kid on Deck</b> by Justin Somper<br/> <i>"Welcome to Pirate Academy – once you step through the door you won't ever want to leave!"</i> A thrilling, high-seas adventure packed with mystery, danger, and daring! From the bestselling author of the Vampirates series comes a swashbuckling new tale perfect for fans of Rick Riordan's Percy Jackson. Get ready to set sail on a gripping journey where loyalty is tested, secrets are uncovered, and a new recruit must prove they've got what it takes to survive the Pirate Academy.<br/> <i>"A great book! I really enjoyed the simple story and interesting characters. It gave me quite Hogwarts vibes in terms of the school where the children are based. Suitable for children in Years 5 and 6."</i> Recommended by Mr. Cochrane</p>  | <p><b>The Silence of the Girls</b> by Pat Barker<br/>Pat Barker's electrifying revision of The Iliad reframes the story through the voiceless women of war in a startlingly vivid novel with a powerful message about who tells stories and why it matters. Wrestling the epic drama of the Trojan War away from its usual male-centric gaze, <i>The Silence of the Girls</i> seeks out the other story, the women's story, charting the journey of a sometime-queen across the chaos of history, seeking freedom and the right to be author of her own story.<br/> <i>"Pat Barker has a gift with words. I'd definitely recommend it to anyone interested in Greek Mythology!"</i> Recommended by Mrs. Saunders</p>   |                                |                              |   |  |
| Future Writers Competition!   |   |                                |                              |   |  |
| <p>Children in Years 3–6 can enter the <b>Benjamin Zephaniah Future Writers</b> competition by writing and submitting a poem inspired by the theme of nature and caring for the planet! This year's theme is based on Zephaniah's poem <i>Nature Trail</i>, encouraging young writers to think creatively about the environment and their role in protecting it. To take part, children should write an original poem and submit it with the help of a parent or guardian via the official BCU Future Writers website here: <a href="https://tinyurl.com/2zhcd4k8">https://tinyurl.com/2zhcd4k8</a> Winners in the primary school categories (Years 3–4 and Years 5–6) will receive exciting prizes, such as a brand-new Kindle Paperwhite and £25 voucher, and have their work published in a special anthology. Enter now!</p>  |   |                                |                              |   |  |

