



Jonathan Ball *Publishers*
April 2023 Children's *Highlights*



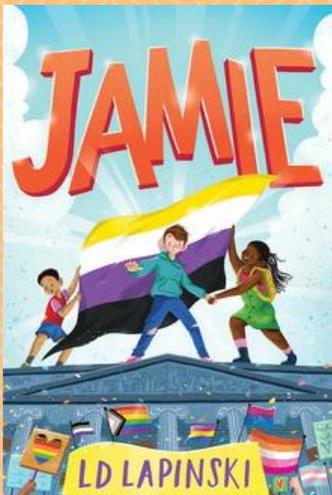
Autumn will be setting in soon. Our days grow shorter and our weather gets colder. This can only mean one thing: it's time to snuggle up with a hot drink and a good book.

Our highlighted book this month, *Jamie* by L. D. Lapinski, is the perfect read to pick up! It highlights the unique struggle non-binary youths face in school and how those challenges can be overcome.

Below you'll also encounter eccentric picture books, action-packed middle grade titles to get any kid excited and some fascinating YA titles for the more adventurous.

All the best,
Mieke Gottsche

April Spotlight



Jamie by L. D. Lapinski

9781510110922 / Orion Books / PB / R190

A beautiful and uplifting story from L.D. Lapinski, author of *The Strangeworlds Travel Agency*, about how to make your own place when the world doesn't think you fit anywhere. For fans of *Me, My Dad* and *The End of The Rainbow*.

Jamie Rambeau is a happy 11-year-old non-binary kid who likes nothing better than hanging out with their two best friends Daisy and Ash. But when the trio find out that in Year Seven they will be separated into one school for boys and another for girls, their friendship suddenly seems at risk. And when Jamie realises no one has thought about where they are going to go, they decide to take matters into their own hands, and sort it all out once and for all.

As the friends' efforts to raise awareness eventually become a rooftop protest against the binary rules for the local schools, Jamie realises that if they don't figure out a way forwards, they might be at risk of losing both their friends forever...



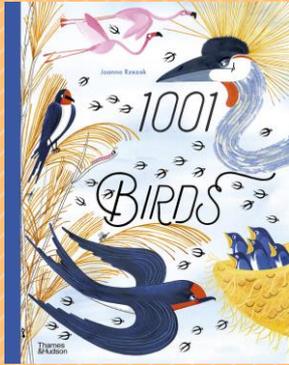


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0 – 5 years



1001 Birds by Joanna Rzezak

9780500653241 / Thames & Hudson / HB / R385

A colourful, fact-filled introduction to the world of birds.

Where are all those swallows going? Let's join them on their long journey south and learn about the world of birds along the way. Swoop in on a tawny owl, soar with a golden eagle and discover where the lovebirds nest. The colourful, musical world of birds is waiting!

Brimming with lively illustrations and full of fascinating facts, this fun narrative-based book is a must for inquisitive children with a love of the natural world.

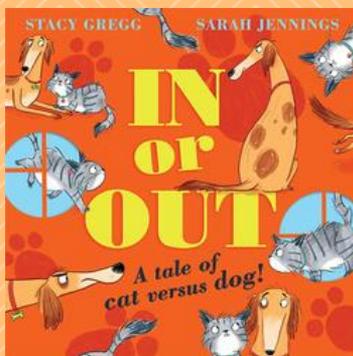


Apple Grumble by Huw Lewis Jones & Ben Sanders

9780500660164 / Thames & Hudson / PB / R240

Bad Apple is back and grumpier than ever after his run-in with Snake, who graciously spat him out with just a warning. Granny Smith and her posse of golden apples step in to teach him a lesson. But Bad Apple stoops to a new low and seals them up in a delicious apple crumble...

In the second instalment of Huw Lewis Jones's hilarious new series of picture books, a truly terrible piece of fruit is once more wreaking havoc far beyond the rim of the fruit bowl. Bad Apple's behaviour is so outrageous, even his own Granny Smith gangs up on him. Illustrated in a deadpan, painterly style by Ben Sanders, Apple Grumble will entertain the entire family.



In or Out by Stacy Gregg & Sarah Jennings

9780008517250 / HarperCollins / PB / R205

Dog wants in. He's trying to build blocks, play with his cars and finish his painting masterpiece. Cat wants in. No, Cat wants out. In. Out. In. Out. It's enough to drive Dog crazy!

Featuring well-known pets and their all-too-familiar characteristics, this fun-filled story is comedically told through the antics of mischievous Cat and increasingly impatient Dog. Can they end the day as friends?

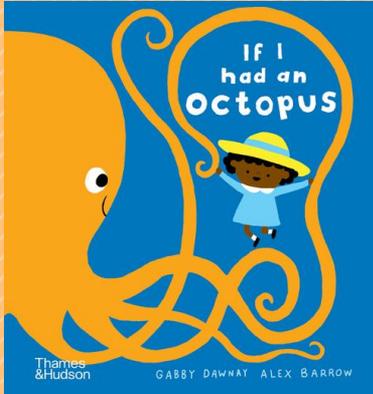
Written by bestselling author Stacy Gregg and brilliantly illustrated by Sarah Jennings, this hilarious tale about patience, friendship and understanding will have kids giggling all the way through!





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If I Had An Octopus by Gabby Dawney & Alex Barrow

9780500653180 / Thames & Hudson / BRD BK / R210

This charming and imaginative story in the bestselling If I had... series imagines life with an octopus as a pet.

I really want a clever pet, a pet with many charms.

The sort of pet with talents, and a large amount of arms

Have you ever thought about what the best aquatic pet would be? It's an octopus, of course! Playing different ball games simultaneously and staying camouflaged when it's bedtime is eight times the fun – just watch out for the ink... With vibrant illustrations and playful rhymes, If I Had an Octopus is a delightful bedtime story that follows a little girl's flight of fancy as she imagines the advantages and disadvantages of having an octopus for a pet.



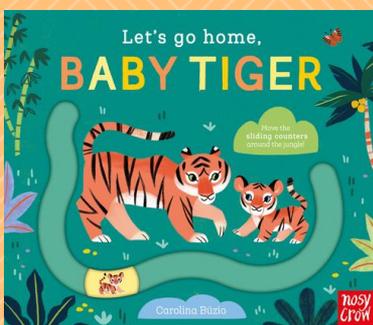
Let's Go Home, Baby Rabbit by Carolina Buzio

9781839947278 / Nosy Crow / BRD BK / R205

Help the baby animals find their way home in this fun new sliding counter series!

Meet rabbit, fox, bear and owl - four adorable baby animals who are lost in the woods! With easy-to-use moving parts and four unique tracks to develop hand-eye coordination and concentration, babies and toddlers will enjoy taking the baby animals home in this robust, satisfying board book.

Scan the Stories Aloud QR code on the back cover the read along with the story!



Let's Go Home Baby Tiger by Carolina Buzio

9781839947261 / Nosy Crow / BRD BK / R205

Help the baby animals find their way home in this fun new sliding counter series!

Meet tiger, parrot, elephant and crocodile - four adorable baby animals who are lost in the jungle! With easy-to-use moving parts and four unique tracks to develop hand-eye coordination and concentration, babies and toddlers will enjoy taking the baby animals home in this robust, satisfying board book.

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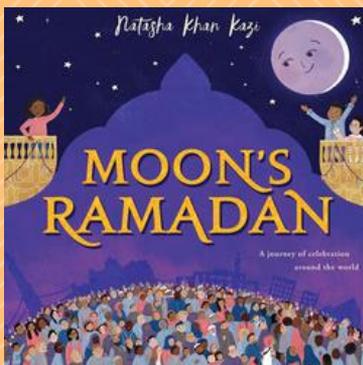
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Little Chicks by Taro Gomi

9781797218748 / Chronicle / BRD BK / R175

Taro Gomi's little chicks are on a big adventure—and when they arrive home again, their loving parents will be waiting to hear all about it! Three little chicks are ready to explore the big, wide world together! Running in sunshine and in the rain, over grassy fields and past friendly neighbors, these chicks are as eager for adventure as they are to run back home into the arms of their caring parents at the end of a long day. Internationally beloved author-illustrator Taro Gomi takes the youngest of readers on a journey of adventure, discovery, and excitement, with a reassuring reminder that no matter how far they may roam, there is always love and support waiting for them back at home.



Moon's Ramadan by Natasha Khan Kazi

9780008587888 / Farshore / PB / R205

Journey across the globe with the Moon during the holy month of Ramadan, and discover how Muslims and non-Muslims alike can celebrate the Islamic month, ending with Eid!

This joyful and welcoming picture book captures the meaning of Ramadan, one of the world's most important celebrations, and explains the cultural differences across different countries by sharing the various practices – from the call to prayer, to sharing home-cooked food, and the art of henna.

With lyrical prose, beautiful illustrations, and a helpful fact page and glossary, this is the perfect gift book or introduction to Ramadan and Eid for all children.

6 – 9 years



Stink by Jenny McLachlan

9780008524272 / Farshore / PB / R205

We all know fairies. They're sweet and sparkly and lovely. Right?

WRONG! Meet Stink. Stink is the rudest, naughtiest fairy there's ever been. Instead of sparkles, Stink makes mess. Instead of being kind, Stink plays pranks. She also eats woodlice and rides on rats.

From the moment Stink flies out of the fairy door and attaches herself to his hair, Danny knows that Stink is trouble. She needs his help to do a good deed and win her silver wings – and Danny will do anything to get Stink to go back to fairyland. But can Stink ever be good?

A laugh out loud adventure featuring the world's worst fairy, multiple multi-coloured foxes and loads of troll poo.



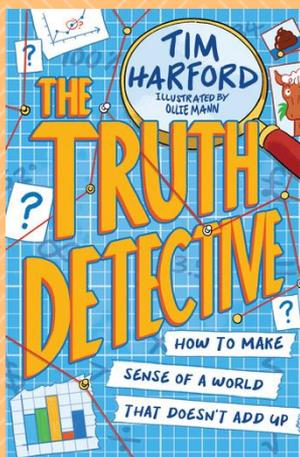


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10 – 12 years



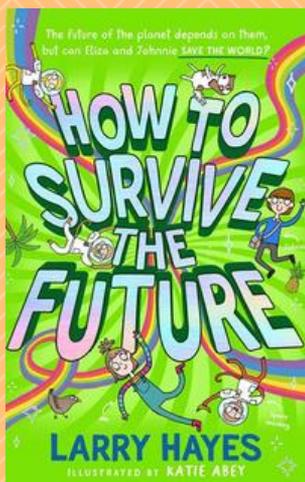
The Truth Detective by Tim Harford

9781526364579 / Wren & Rook / PB / R240

The world is often full of bamboozling headlines and numbers that don't add up. And in a world of rising living costs, climate change, fake news and dodgy data, it's hard to get your head round it all.

But don't panic. Within these pages you will transform into a Truth Detective and be able to hunt down the truth about the world around you. You will meet heroic truth detectives, such as Florence Nightingale who started a revolution with a pie chart. You will encounter dastardly villains who have tried to trip us up with dodgy data and misinformation. And you will learn how being smart and savvy about numbers, will help you be smart and savvy about everything else in life too.

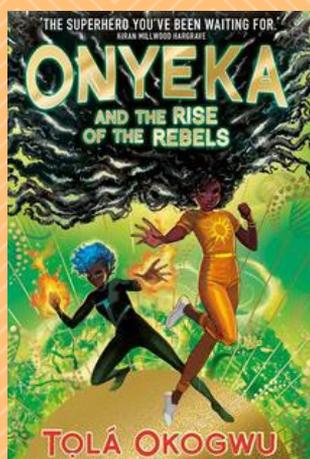
So, grab your detective cap, pick up your magnifying glass and start seeing the world like never before.



How to Survive the Future by Larry Hayes

9781471198380 / Simon & Schuster / PB / PB

It's the year 2525, and things aren't looking great for Planet Earth. An endless night is coming – a super-advanced alien spaceship has stopped the world from turning, threatening the existence of every creature on the planet – and it turns out that ten-year-old Eliza Lemon is the only one who can save them! Will she be able to handle alien overlords, a doughnut-shaped spaceship, monkeys and vampire finches? And, most importantly of all, will she be able to rescue her baby brother, save the world and survive THE FUTURE?



Onyeka and the Rise of the Rebels by Tola Okogwu

9781398505117 / Simon & Schuster / PB / R205

Power bursts through my body, and I gasp as my hair shoots out like an avenging sword. It slashes a line through the wooden decking of the walkway. With a deafening crack, the wood breaks apart, splintering with the force of the impact.

Having uncovered head teacher Dr Dòyìnbó's hidden agenda behind the Academy of the Sun, Onyeka and her friends are on the run. But they've got bigger problems to worry about – they desperately need to find a way to restore Niyi's Ike superpower and they need to locate Onyeka's missing parents.

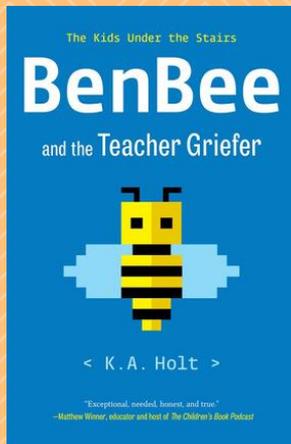
When their last safe house is uncovered, Onyeka turns to the only potential allies they have left; the Rogues, a group of rebels that have been trying to expose Dr Dòyìnbó's lies for years. Joining forces, will the two groups be able to defeat their shared nemesis, or is there a new danger on the horizon for the Solari?





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BenBee and the Teacher Griever by K. A. Holt

9781797219486 / Chronicle / PB / R180

The Kids Under the Stairs: BenBee and the Teacher Griever is a funny, clever novel-in-verse series about Ben Bellows—who failed the Language Arts section of the Florida State test—and three classmates who get stuck in a summer school class.

But these kids aren't dumb—they're divergent thinkers, as Ms. J tells them: they simply approach things in a different way than traditional school demands.

Soon, the kids win over Ms. J with their passion for Sandbox, a Minecraft-type game. The kids make a deal with Ms. J: every minute they spend reading aloud equals one minute they get to play Sandbox in class. But when the administration finds about this unorthodox method of teaching, Ben B. and his buds have to band together to save their teacher's job—and their own academic future.

The first in a series of complementary storylines, this is an honest, heartfelt book about friendship, videogames, and learning to love yourself.



Skandar and the Phantom Rider by A. F. Steadman

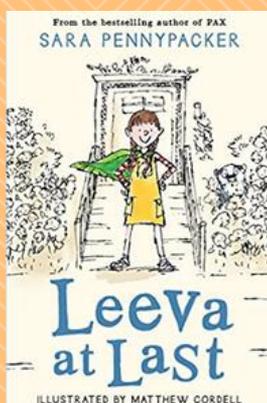
9781398502918 / Simon & Schuster / HB / R255

Skandar Smith has achieved his dream to train as a unicorn rider.

But as Skandar and his friends enter their second year at the Eyrie, a new threat arises. Immortal wild unicorns are somehow being killed, a prophecy warns of terrible danger, and elemental destruction begins to ravage the Island.

Meanwhile, Skandar's sister, Kenna, longs to join him – and Skandar is determined to help her, no matter what. As the storm gathers, can Skandar discover how to stop the Island tearing itself apart – before it's too late for them all?

Get ready for more action, unforgettable characters, and mesmerizing world building.



Leeva at Last by Sara Pennypacker

9780008606190 / HarperCollins / PB / R205

Leeva Thornblossom loves to learn: her local newspaper teaches her a new word every day, and soap operas show her the many shades of human expression. And when she comes across the announcement that all children are required to go to school, Leeva sees an opportunity to do something that newspapers and television alone can't provide: the chance to meet people.

But Leeva's parents, the insufferable mayor and selfish tax collector of their small town, don't want to send her to school, and they certainly don't want her to meet other people. And so, with the help of the town's librarian and her son, Leeva sets out to find answers: what have her parents been hiding from her?

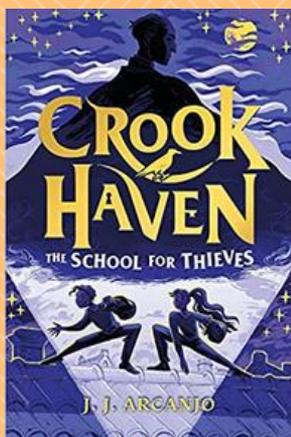
With hilarious writing and an unforgettable hero, Leeva at Last is perfect for fans of Matilda, Flora and Ulysses, and A Series of Unfortunate Events.





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Crookhaven: The School for Thieves by J. J. Arcanjo

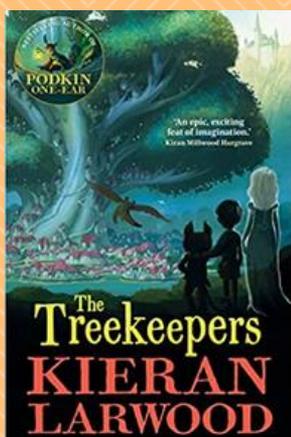
9781444965735 / Hodder / PB / R190

13-year-old Gabriel is a brilliant pickpocket, a skill which he uses to keep his often empty belly not quite so empty. And then one day, he's caught.

But instead of being arrested, he is invited by the mysterious Caspian Crook to attend Crookhaven - a school for thieves. At Crookhaven, students are trained in lock-picking, forgery and 'crim-nastics', all with the intention of doing good out in the world, by conning the bad and giving back to the innocent.

But ... can you ever really trust a thief?

With a school wide competition to be crowned Top Crook and many mysteries to uncover, Gabriel's first year at Crookhaven will be one to remember...



The Treekeepers by Kieran Larwood

9780571364572 / Faber & Faber / PB / R200

Liska lives in Arborven, a city surrounding an extraordinary tree that gives all those living their special powers. As a shapeshifter, Liska is training as a warrior. When she discovers that the Tree is under threat, it is her duty to act - but she can't convince anyone to listen to her. So, with Lug, whose power over earthworms is dismissed as useless, and a ghost-girl, Elowen, she goes on an epic journey to defeat the worst threat their world has ever known.

Illustrated by Chris Wormell this is a richly woven and thrilling fantasy with a wonderful affinity between humankind and nature - a current and vital message for young readers everywhere.

**COVER
COMING
SOON**

The Letter with the Golden Stamp by Onjali Q. Rauf

9781510108929 / Orion / PB / R190

10-year-old Audrey has a secret. A secret she's constantly afraid of social services finding out. So, she has fine-tuned her life into becoming one of the best actresses on the planet. As soon as she steps out of the front door, the show is on, and all the world becomes her stage! No-one would ever guess that she is a nurse and doctor for her mum, the family food shopper (and sometimes shoplifter), a medicines collector, and even bedtime-reader for her younger siblings.

But when Audrey's mum gets sicker, Audrey becomes determined to find a way of getting her to the best doctor in the best hospital in the country so that she can get better and they won't ever need to be apart and she won't have to worry anymore. The only problem is, it's a dream that will cost her thousands.

As Audrey sets about trying to make her dream for her family come true, someone else on the street embarks on a secret mission of their own. One that will alter Audrey's life - and that of her family - forever.





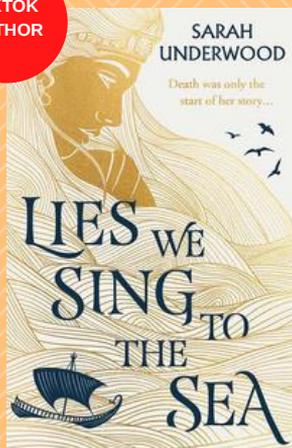
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Young Adult

TIKTOK
AUTHOR



Lies We Sing to the Sea by Sarah Underwood

9780008558550 / Farshore / TPB / R280

In the cursed kingdom of Ithaca, each spring brings the hanging of twelve maidens, a gift to the vengeful Poseidon. But when Leto awakens from her death on the shore of a long-forgotten island, its enigmatic keeper Melantho tells her that there's only one way the curse can be broken. Leto must kill the last prince of Ithaca . . .

In *Lies We Sing to the Sea*, debut author Sarah Underwood delivers a thrilling and breathtaking tale that will enthrall readers from the very first page as they are transported to the cursed shores of Ithaca.

A reclamation of a story from thousands of years ago, *Lies We Sing to the Sea* is about love and fate, grief and sacrifice, and, ultimately, the power we must find within.



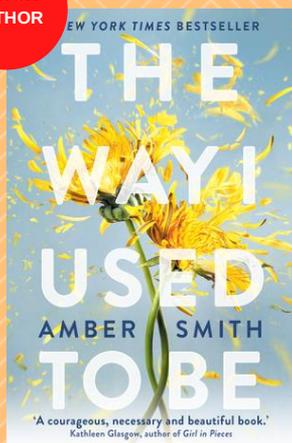
Catfish Rolling by Clara Kumagai

9781804542774 / Head of Zeus / TPB / R285

Sora hates the catfish whose rolling caused an earthquake so powerful it cracked time itself. It destroyed her home and took her mother. Now Sora and her scientist father live close to the zones - the wild and abandoned places where time runs faster or slower than normal. Sora is sensitive to the shifts, and her father recruits her help in exploring these liminal spaces. But it's dangerous there - and as she strays further inside in search of her mother, she finds that time distorts, memories fracture and shadows, a glimmer of things not entirely human, linger. After Sora's father goes missing, she has no choice but to venture into uncharted spaces within the time zones to find him, her mother and perhaps even the catfish itself..

Stylish, accomplished and thought-provoking story-telling explores themes of identity, philosophy, science, ecology, life, loss and love. For 14+

TIKTOK
AUTHOR



The Way I Used to Be by Amber Smith

9780861546732 / OneWorld / PB / R225

All Eden wants is to rewind the clock. To live that day again. She would do everything differently. Not laugh at his jokes or ignore the way he was looking at her that night. And she would definitely lock her bedroom door.

But Eden can't turn back time. So she buries the truth, along with the girl she used to be. She pretends she doesn't need friends, doesn't need love, doesn't need justice. But as her world unravels, one thing becomes clear: the only person who can save Eden ... is Eden.





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NB! Deadline for requests:

Wednesday 15 March 2023.

Click [here](#) to get your wish lists in!

Thank You.

