

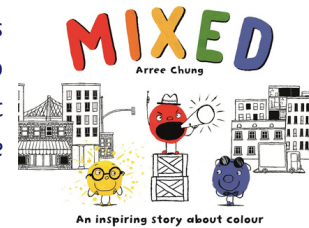


# Reception



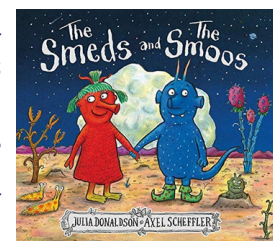
“The Invisible String” by Patrice Karst explores the unbreakable connections of love through the metaphor of an invisible string that binds individuals. This heartwarming picture book, updated with new illustrations, addresses separation anxiety, loss, and grief, offering a timeless message of enduring love that resonates with both children and adults.

“Mixed” by Arree Chung is a beloved picture book that celebrates diversity and inclusion, using a simple and engaging narrative to explore the beauty of coming together despite differences. With vibrant illustrations, it delivers a powerful message about unity and the strength found in embracing our unique qualities.

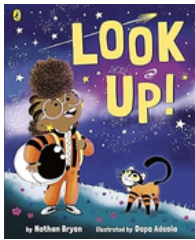


“Here We Are” by Oliver Jeffers is a heartwarming and beautifully illustrated picture book that serves as a gentle guide to the wonders of our planet, offering a thoughtful exploration of its diverse landscapes and the importance of kindness and connection. Jeffers’ enchanting narrative encourages readers, young and old, to cherish the Earth and embrace the shared experience of being part of this vast and extraordinary world.

“The Smeds and the Smoos” by Julia Donaldson is a delightful and whimsical picture book that tells the story of two alien species, the Smeds and the Smoos, who initially see each other as different and incompatible. However, when two young Smoos and Smeds form a friendship, the tale unfolds into a charming narrative about acceptance, understanding, and the beauty of unity among differences.

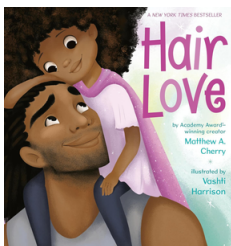


# Reception



"Look Up!" by Nathan Bryon follows the energetic and curious Rocket as she tries to persuade her community to observe a meteor shower. Despite facing challenges and distractions, Rocket's determination and enthusiasm for space exploration ultimately inspire those around her to join in the celestial event, emphasizing themes of curiosity and the wonders of the universe.

"The Storm Whale" by Benji Davies tells the touching story of a young boy named Noi who discovers a stranded whale after a storm. As Noi befriends and cares for the whale in secret, their bond becomes a heartwarming tale of friendship, compassion, and the power of connection between a child and a sea creature.



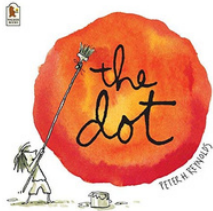
"Hair Love" by Matthew A. Cherry is a heartwarming book that centers on an African American father's attempt to style his daughter Zuri's hair. The story beautifully portrays the father-daughter bond, self-love, and the celebration of natural hair, emphasizing the message that love and perseverance can overcome challenges.

"The Color Monster" by Anna Llenas explores emotions through the character of a monster whose feelings are all mixed up. With the help of a friend, the monster learns to identify and understand each emotion by associating them with different colours, creating a visually engaging and educational journey for young readers about recognising and managing their feelings.



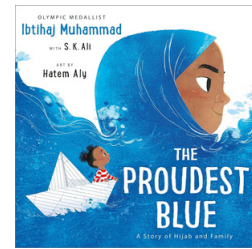


# Year 1



"The Dot" by Peter H. Reynolds is an inspiring picture book about a young girl named Vashti who discovers her artistic abilities when her teacher encourages her to trust in her own creativity. Through Vashti's journey, the story beautifully conveys the empowering message that everyone has the potential to be an artist and make their mark in the world.

"The Proudest Blue" by Ibtihaj Muhammad and S.K. Ali is a powerful picture book that follows the first day of school for a young girl, Faizah, and her older sister Asiya, who wears a hijab of the proudest blue. Through the narrative, the story explores the strength of identity, sisterhood, and resilience in the face of prejudice and ignorance.



"Wisp: A Story of Hope" by Zana Fraillon is a poignant picture book that follows Idris, a child refugee born into a world of tents and fences with no memories of life beyond. When a magical Wisp arrives, reawakening the memories and hopes of those who hold it, Idris faces a unique journey, exploring the transformative power of storytelling, imagination, and the quest for hope in the face of darkness.

"Inside the Villains" by Clotilde Perrin introduces three infamous characters - The Wolf, The Giant, and The Witch - as they proudly declare their attributes and reveal their inner workings through levers, pulleys, springs, and folds. With intricately detailed paper crafting and a unique personality card format, this daring exploration offers both entertainment and significant learning potential, making it a captivating and immersive experience for readers.

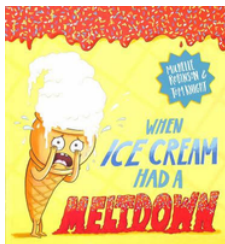


# Year 1



"Julian Is a Mermaid" by Jessica Love is a picture book that follows a young boy named Julian who, after seeing mermaids on the subway, is inspired to express his true self. Encouraged by his abuela (grandmother), Julian creatively transforms himself into a mermaid, embracing individuality, self-acceptance, and the love and support of family.

"Ruby's Worry" by Tom Percival explores the theme of anxiety and worry. It tells the story of a girl named Ruby who discovers a growing worry that follows her everywhere. The book can be used in the classroom to facilitate discussions about emotions, mental well-being, and coping strategies. It is a great book to begin conversations with children about how to recognise and address their own worries.



"When Ice Cream had a Meltdown" by Michelle Robinson follows the story of a plain ice cream inside an ice cream van. Faced with the challenge of not being picked by customers who prefer other more exciting treats, Ice Cream experiences an emotional 'meltdown'. The narrative explores themes of self-discovery, acceptance, emotions and mindset, with the anticipation of a happy ending.

"The Lion Inside" by Rachel Bright tells the story of a small mouse who discovers his inner courage by emulating a lion, teaching valuable lessons about self-esteem, courage and resilience. This engaging narrative serves as a powerful tool for discussions on facing fears and embracing one's unique strengths.





## Year 2



"Tell Me a Dragon" is a stunning picture book by Jackie Morris that invites readers into an enchanting world where dragons come in various shapes, sizes, and colors, each unique and magical. Through lyrical prose and vivid illustrations, the book celebrates the imaginative and diverse qualities of dragons, making it a delightful journey for young readers and dragon enthusiasts alike.

"Eyes That Kiss in the Corners" by Joanna Ho is a heartfelt picture book that embraces the beauty of diversity within an Asian family. Through lyrical prose and tender illustrations by Dung Ho, the story celebrates the unique charm of the protagonist's almond-shaped eyes, connecting generations and instilling a sense of cultural pride.

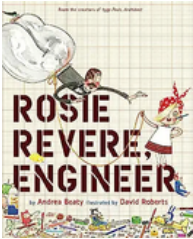


In "The Comet" by Joe Todd-Stanton, Nyla faces the daunting prospect of moving from the countryside to the city, yearning for what she left behind. However, when a glowing comet transforms the city, Nyla discovers that embracing change can lead to unexpected and wonderful experiences, offering a poignant exploration of the challenges and opportunities that come with starting anew.

In Ross Montgomery's poignant debut picture book, "The Building Boy," a young boy copes with the grief of losing his architect grandmother. Refusing to accept her absence, he constructs a monumental structure from her old building materials, leading to a magical and moving adventure where he discovers the enduring power of love and memory.



# Year 2



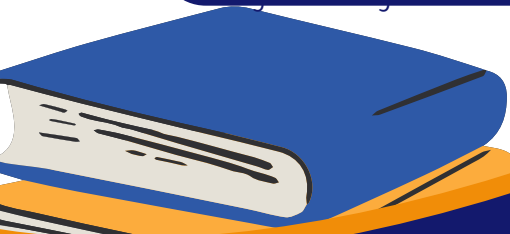
"Rosie Revere, Engineer" by Andrea Beaty is a children's book that follows the story of Rosie, a young girl with a passion for inventing. The book encourages creativity and perseverance as Rosie learns that failure is an essential part of the innovation process and that each mistake brings her closer to success.

"The Bad Seed" by Jory John tells the story of a sunflower seed grappling with a negative self-image. He believes he is inherently bad due to various negative behaviors. The story unfolds as the seed questions his self-image and discovers the possibility of positive change. It offers opportunities for discussions on self-reflection, resilience, and personal growth.



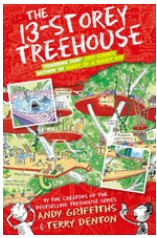
"Our Tower" by Joseph Coelho follows a young girl and her grandfather as they construct a tower of memories using sentimental objects, delving into the grandfather's past and emphasizing the value of cherishing family stories. Through themes of love and connection, the book encourages readers to appreciate the meaningful moments that shape their lives.

"Grandad's Camper" by Harry Woodgate, is a poignant picture book that celebrates love and memories. As Grandad shares tales of his adventures with his late partner Gramps, his granddaughter devises a heartwarming plan to bring joy back into his life and a touching exploration of intergenerational love and grief. It has vivid, colourful illustrations and its ability to convey a sense of remembered joy, managed grief, and renewed



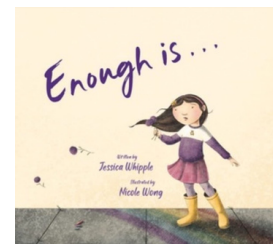


## Year 3



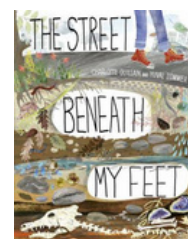
"The 13-Storey Treehouse" by Andy Griffiths is a wildly imaginative children's book that follows the hilarious adventures of Andy and Terry as they navigate their extraordinary treehouse, complete with a bowling alley and a marshmallow machine. Filled with whimsical storytelling and lively illustrations, the book captures the joy of friendship and endless creativity in an ever-expanding treehouse.

"Enough Is..." by Jessica Whipple is a picture book addressing the pressures children face to fit in. The story explores the concept of contentment, emphasizing the difference between wants and needs, with colorful illustrations illustrating the journey to satisfaction and a simple reminder that "Somewhere between a little and a lot, there is Enough."

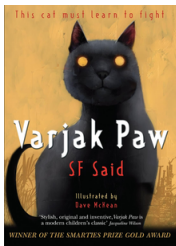


In Jenny Pearson's "The Boy Who Made Monsters," Benji McLaughlin, an imaginative and resilient boy, embarks on a quest to prove the existence of the Loch Lochy monster to save his family's struggling tourist business. Filled with love, loss, and laughter, the story is a one-of-a-kind tale that explores Benji's unwavering belief in the impossible and his journey to confront both real and imagined monsters.

"The Street Beneath My Feet" by Charlotte Guillain is an innovative picture book that takes readers on a journey beneath the surface of the Earth, exploring the layers and environments that exist beneath our feet. Through vivid illustrations and informative text, the book offers a captivating exploration of geology and the hidden world beneath the streets.



# Year 3



"Varjak Paw" by S.F. Said follows the adventures of Varjak, a courageous Mesopotamian Blue cat, as he ventures outside his sheltered home to confront a mysterious and menacing enemy. Along the way, Varjak discovers his own latent martial arts abilities and must use them to protect his family and friends.

"The Iron Man" by Ted Hughes is a classic children's novel that tells the story of a massive iron giant who falls from the sky and is initially feared by the local community. As the giant learns about kindness and the value of peaceful coexistence, he becomes a symbol of hope and protection against a more destructive force, ultimately uniting people in a shared mission to safeguard humanity.



"Leonora Bolt" by Lucy Brandt, features the talented inventor Leonora and her quest to stop her uncle's theft of her creations. Leonora is accompanied by eccentric characters such as a singing sea captain, a furry pet otter named Twitchy Nibbles, the world's worst housekeeper, and a very secret society. With humor, fast-paced plot twists, and charming illustrations by Gladys Jose, this adventure is an ideal read for classes with a passion for science and creativity.

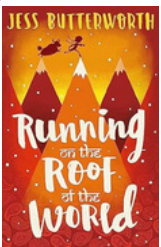
"The Nothing to See Here Hotel" by Steven Butler is a whimsical children's book that follows the adventures of a young boy named Frankie Banister. Frankie discovers a hidden magical hotel where mythical creatures like trolls, mermaids, and vampires come to stay. As the hotel's young owner, Frankie navigates hilarious and chaotic situations, making friends with the unusual guests and managing the hotel's magical mishaps with humor and creativity.







## Year 4



Jess Butterworth's "Running on the Roof of the World" follows the journey of a Tibetan girl, Tash and her best friend Sam on a daring adventure across the breathtaking landscapes of Tibet and India. In "Running on the Roof of the World," they must break rules, outsmart soldiers, and embark on a thrilling journey to save Tash's parents. Filled with courage, friendship, and the excitement of a mountainous quest.

In "Arthur and the Golden Rope" by Joe Todd-Stanton, readers follow the adventurous quest of young Norse boy Arthur as he embarks on a mythical journey. Woven with elements of folklore and bravery, the story introduces Arthur's encounters with mythical creatures and showcases his determination to overcome challenges, making it a captivating tale for young readers exploring themes of courage and adventure.



"The Last Bear" by Hannah Gold tells the poignant story of April, a young girl who befriends a polar bear stranded on Bear Island. Addressing themes of environmental conservation and the unique connection between humans and nature, the book explores April's journey to protect her newfound friend, highlighting the importance of empathy and activism in preserving the natural world.

In "The Great Chocoplot" by Chris Callaghan, readers join Jelly and her friends on a humorous and mysterious adventure to investigate a potential worldwide shortage of chocolate. The story unfolds as they work to uncover the cause of the impending "chococalypse," offering an engaging and delightful tale for young readers.



# Year 4



"The Star Outside My Window" by Onjali Q. Rauf follows Aniyah, a young girl who believes her mother has turned into a star after her mysterious disappearance. Aniyah, along with her brother and a new friend, sets out on a journey to find her mother. The novel explores themes of family, friendship, and resilience, addressing social issues such as homelessness and the importance of empathy. A heartfelt narrative.

"The Wild Way Home" by Sophie Kirtley follows the adventure of a young boy named Charlie Merriam. After discovering a mysterious, ancient bone in a hidden cave, Charlie is unexpectedly transported to the Stone Age. Alone and facing prehistoric challenges, Charlie befriends a girl named Tor, and together, they embark on a thrilling journey to find a way back home. The novel combines elements of time travel, friendship, and survival.



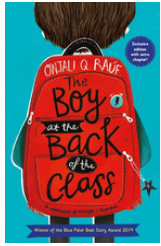
"The Girl Who Stole an Elephant" by Nizrana Farook follows the fearless Chaya, a spirited heroine, and her friends on a daring adventure through the lush jungles of ancient Sri Lanka, as they navigate revolution, dangers, and the audacious theft of the queen's jewels with a majestic elephant by their side. It includes a rich narrative, captivating characters, and cultural richness, making it a compelling and fast-paced adventure for Year 4.

"The Land of Roar" by Jenny McLachlan is a fantasy novel that follows the imaginative journey of Rose and Arthur, siblings who discover a magical world through a mysterious wardrobe. In the Land of Roar, they encounter fantastical creatures, embark on thrilling adventures, and confront their fears, blurring the lines between reality and imagination.





## Year 5



In "The Boy at the Back of the Class" by Onjali Q. Rauf, a group of classmates befriends a Syrian refugee boy who joins their school. Through the perspective of a young narrator, the story explores themes of empathy, friendship, and the power of small acts of kindness, offering a heartwarming and thought-provoking narrative for young readers.

In "The Nowhere Emporium" by Ross Mackenzie, young Daniel Holmes stumbles upon a magical shop that appears out of nowhere. As he becomes entwined with the shop's enigmatic owner, Mr. Silver, Daniel discovers a world of wonder and danger, navigating through time and space in a captivating tale of magic, mystery, and the consequences of extraordinary power.



In "Wider Than the Sea," by Serena Molloy, Ró, a girl who feels broken and struggles at school, discovers solace and strength in her daily visits to the bay, where she befriends a dolphin named Sunny. When Sunny disappears, Ró faces the challenge of overcoming her fears to find him, leading to a powerful story of friendship, hope, and self-discovery beautifully illustrated by George Ermosit. A poignant and relatable read.

In Christopher Edge's "Escape Room," Ami enters what she thinks is the ultimate escape room game, only to discover that it's a high-stakes challenge to save the world. As she & her teammates navigate perilous settings from ancient tombs to a spaceship bound for Mars, the thrilling adventure unfolds with mind-bending puzzles and unexpected twists. Praised for its intensity and unexpected turns, it delivers a rollercoaster of suspense.

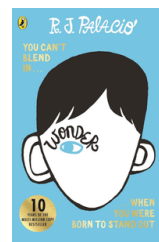


# Year 5



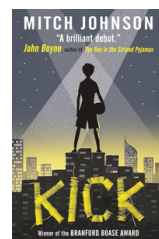
"The Wizards of Once" by Cressida Cowell is a fantasy novel that follows the unlikely alliance between a wizard named Xar and a warrior princess named Wish. In a magical land where wizards and warriors are mortal enemies, Xar and Wish must overcome their differences to confront a common enemy threatening both their worlds. The story is filled with adventure, magic, and themes of friendship and understanding.

"Wonder" by R.J. Palacio is a heartwarming novel that tells the story of August "Auggie" Pullman, a young boy born with a facial abnormality, as he navigates his first year at a mainstream school. The narrative, presented from multiple perspectives, explores themes of kindness, empathy, and acceptance, offering a touching portrayal of Auggie's journey to find his place in a world that can sometimes be unkind.

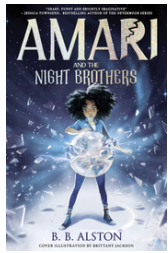


"The House with Chicken Legs" by Sophie Anderson is a fantasy novel that reimagines the Russian folklore character Baba Yaga. The story follows Marinka, a young girl who is destined to become the next Yaga and guide the dead through the afterlife. Marinka dreams of a different life though and embarks on a journey to shape her own destiny, exploring themes of identity, family, and the importance of following one's heart.

"Kick" by Mitch Johnson tells the story of Budi, a young boy living in Jakarta, Indonesia, who dreams of becoming a professional footballer. Circumstances force him into a dangerous job making football boots for little pay and Budi must face tough choices and challenges as he strives to pursue his passion for the sport and improve his life. It explores themes of friendship, resilience, and the pursuit of dreams against the backdrop of social and economic issues.



# Year 6



"Amari and the Night Brothers" by B.B. Alston follows Amari Peters, a young girl who discovers her missing brother's mysterious briefcase and stumbles into a world of magic and mythical creatures. As she trains to become a Junior Agent at the Bureau of Supernatural Affairs to find her brother, Amari confronts challenges, uncovers secrets, and proves herself as a powerful and determined protagonist in this enchanting tale of bravery, friendship, and self-discovery.

"The Final Year" by Joe Todd-Stanton follows Nate Wilder, as he navigates the challenges of his last year in primary school. As he faces the typical transitions to high school, the complexities of changing friendships and the added stress of his youngest brother's illness. Nate discovers solace in his teacher, Mr. Joshua, who helps him channel his love for reading and writing to cope with life's challenges.



"The Arrival" by Shaun Tan is a wordless graphic novel that poignantly depicts the immigrant experience in a fantastical city. Through stunning illustrations, the book explores the challenges and emotions of adapting to a new and unfamiliar environment. It powerfully captures themes of hope, resilience and and the human experience of starting anew in an unfamiliar land.

"The Blue Book of Nebo" is a tender and powerful post-apocalyptic novel set in Wales, following Dylan and his mother as they navigate survival in a world without electricity. Praised for its simplicity and thought-provoking nature, the book explores family, resilience, and the fragile yet enduring spirit of humanity in the face of global catastrophe.



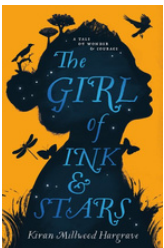


## Year 6



"In *When the Sky Falls*" by Phil Earle, set in 1941 during wartime, Joseph, a young boy sent to live with Mrs. F in the city, discovers profound connections with both her and Adonis, a silverback gorilla in Mrs. F's zoo. The story explores the complexities of love, sacrifice, and the difficult choices forced upon individuals during times of conflict, delivering a narrative inspired by a true story.

"*Letters from the Lighthouse*" is a historical novel by Emma Carroll set during World War II. When Olive and her brother, Cliff, are evacuated to the coast, they discover an abandoned lighthouse that holds secrets. As they uncover mysteries and face challenges, the story unfolds with themes of friendship, bravery, and the impact of war on families, offering a compelling and evocative narrative.



"*The Girl of Ink & Stars*" by Kiran Millwood Hargrave is a fantastical adventure set on the island of Joya. It follows the journey of Isabella, the daughter of a cartographer, as she embarks on a quest to find her missing friend. The narrative weaves together themes of friendship, courage, and the power of storytelling against a backdrop of magical landscapes.

"*Can You See Me?*" by Libby Scott and Rebecca Westcott is a heartfelt novel that delves into the experiences of Tally, an autistic girl. Through Tally's perspective, the story unfolds, exploring her challenges, triumphs, and the significance of understanding and acceptance in friendships, school, and family relationships. The novel aims to foster empathy and awareness about neurodiversity, making it a touching read.

