

No Shelf Control

Edition 20 : December 2022

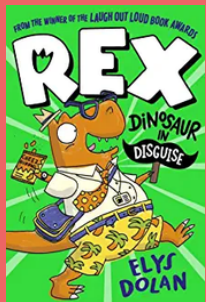
Best Books of the Year! How many have you read?

Inside, we have got a round up of our favourite books of the year! This is a ridiculously impossible task and we hate ourselves for having to choose... But, our job is to point the best books in your direction. If you disagree and feel that we've missed any exceptional books then we'd love to see your own top 5s!



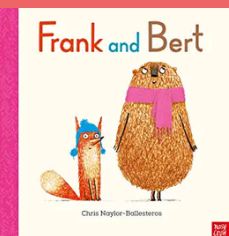
**Best Chapter Book
for Older Readers**

Running Out of Time
Simon Fox



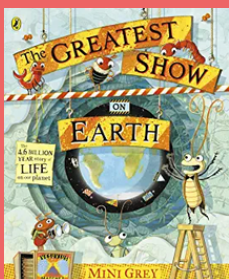
**Best Chapter Book
for Younger Readers**

Rex: Dinosaur in Disguise
Elys Dolan



Best Picture Book

Frank and Bert
Chris Naylor-Ballesteros



Best Non-Fiction

The Greatest Show on Earth
Mini Grey



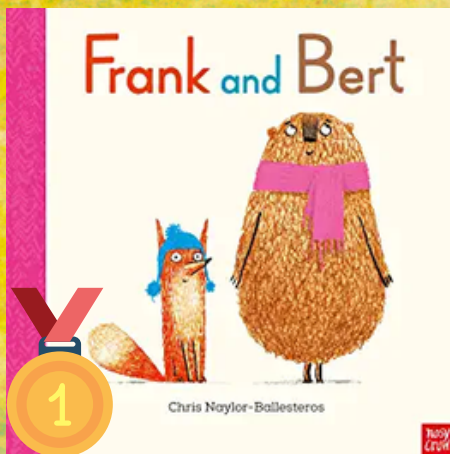
Books



Reviews



Chats



Frank and Bert

Chris Naylor-Ballesteros

Nosy Crow 4+

I found this late so it isn't actually in any edition of the newsletter this year but it still leapfrogs to the top of the pile. A gorgeous story about being a good friend and supporting each other's happiness. Perfect to share with a big group.

Monster! Hungry! Phone!

Sean Taylor & Fred Benaglia

Bloomsbury 4+

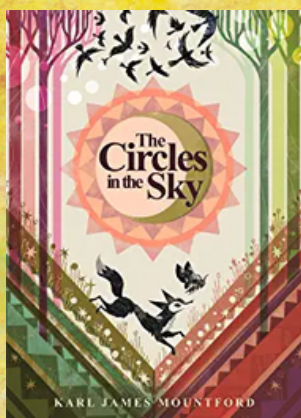
A simple story about being hungry and having access to a phone... Of course Monster is going to order pizza. The illustrations are bold and wacky. You'll definitely be reaching for your phone to order pizza, well once you've finally stopped laughing! Great to share with younger children.



The Circles in the Sky

Karl James Mountford

Walker Books 4+



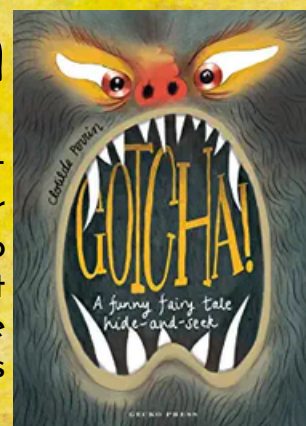
I have long admired Karl's illustrations so I was over the moon to hear that he had written and illustrated a new book. One day fox finds a still bird in the forest and has lots of unknown emotions. Moth comes along and tries to explain what has happened. Grief is tackled very delicately and accessibly for younger children. It is as visually spectacular as you would expect from such a phenomenal artist!

Gotcha

Clotilde Perrin

Gecko Press 3+

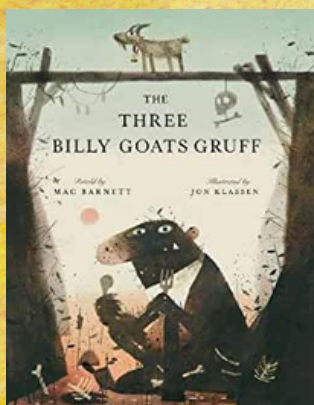
This is a huge picture book that could be explored for weeks! Monsters are coming so it is time to jump in to fairy tales to seek shelter. There are lots of flaps to lift and explore different fairy tale homes from the three little pig's brick house to the Hansel and Gretel's Gingerbread house.



The Three Billy Goats Gruff

Mac Barnett & Jon Klassen

Scholastic 3+



Who doesn't love a reworked classic? Who doesn't love a Barnett and Klassen masterpiece? This doesn't disappoint! With the gorgeous illustrations and humour that you'd expect, this retelling will quickly become a story time favourite for adults and children alike!



Running Out of Time

Simon Fox

Nosy Crow 9+

A book that took my breath away. Alex can see 15 seconds into the future and see the consequences of his decisions, which helps him out of a few tight spots! Fusing science fiction with a story of escaping persecution, Simon Fox has written a truly excellent story that will have you hanging on to your seat.

Like A Charm

Elle McNicoll

Knights Of 10+

Elle has done it again! This time telling the story of Ramya, who is pulled into a world of magic after her grandfather's death. She begins to see the magic and the magical creatures in Edinburgh and tries to uncover the mystery that her grandfather was trying to unravel. His only warning - Beware the sirens. Unputdownable!



Dread Wood

Jennifer Killick

Farshore 10+

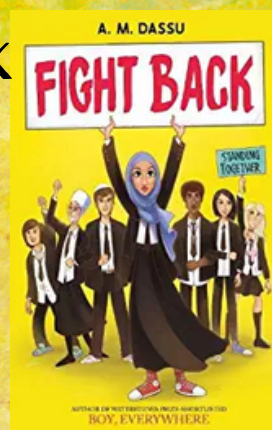
Get ready to be scared senseless! Jennifer has conquered comedy, then with Crater Lake she showed that she was the queen of horror. Now she has exceeded her own expectations and written the perfect scary book for older readers featuring giant spiders and detention! Are you brave enough to read?

Fight Back

A.M. Dassu

Scholastic 10+

A.M. Dassu is back with another must read! This story is all about standing up and fighting for what you believe in! When racial tensions grow in her community Aaliyah decides to wear her hijab to challenge others' perceptions of her. A brilliant story about identity and bravery. Many children (and adults) will benefit from Aaliyah's story!

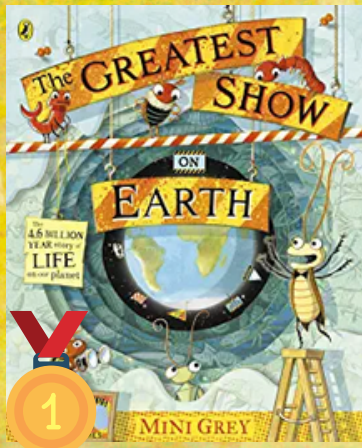


Onyeka

Tola Okogwu

Scholastic 9+

Onyeka is a Nigerian girl who lives in London. One day, she discovers her hair has psychokinetic abilities... Her mother sends her to the Academy of the Sun, a Nigerian school that trains children with superpowers. Quickly she is faced with challenges and lies to untangle. Filled with absolutely spectacular characters.



The Greatest Show on Earth

Mini Grey

Puffin 4+

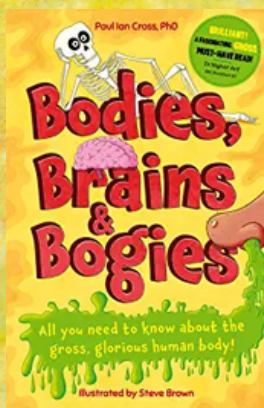
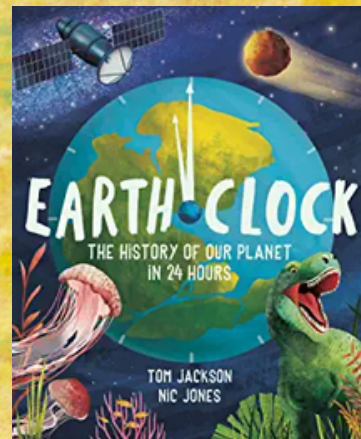
Just Mini Grey's name on the front of a book is enough to convince me that it is worth reading! But this gorgeous book is an amazing look at the history of our planet. 46 Billion years squeezed into 48 pages! You'll be an expert once you've finished it!

Earth Clock

Tom Jackson & Nic Jones

Welbeck 7+

There are many graphics which try to explain the concept of the history of the Earth in 24 hours, but they never quite do it justice. This book is phenomenal and mind blowing. So many facts that you will be unaware of (but you'll be able to share feeling even cleverer!). A must read for all!



Bodies, Brains & Bogies

Paul Ian Cross & Steve Brown

Welbeck 7+

Perfect for fans of Kay's Anatomy. Non-fiction and humour have always gone down well in any classroom I have been in. This is gross but enlightening... A must for any inquisitive readers who are looking to find out more about our bodies!

What Do You See When You Look At A Tree

Emma Carlisle

Big Picture Press 4+

A stunningly illustrated book which urges us to reconnect with the nature around us. What are trees? Shelter? Oxygen providers? Homes? Told through the eyes of a child, this story is great for sharing and will lead to rich discussions.



Talking History

Joan Haig, Joan Lennon & Andre Ducci

Templar 9+

A truly inspiring collection of some of the greatest speeches in history and the stories behind them. From Greta Thunberg to Abraham Lincoln, celebrate those that have made a positive impact on our world with their words. Some of the speeches are so powerful that they can move you to tears or push you into action.



Rex: Dinosaur in Disguise

Elys Dolan

Walker 6+

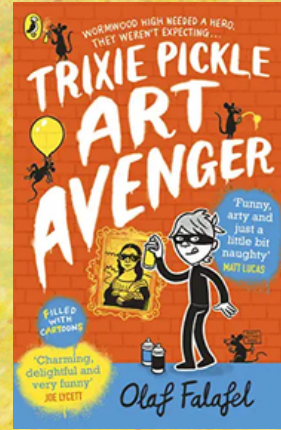
This book has brought so much laughter to our household, it couldn't be any other book!. In Rex, our T-Rex friend awakens from his frozen sleep and realises that the world has changed in the 65 million years that he has been sleeping. Can he get a job and live a normal life, or will he be discovered and put in a zoo or museum?

Trixie Pickle Art Avenger

Olaf Falafel

Puffin 8+

Olaf's picture books have provided plenty of giggles over the last few years so we had high hopes when presented with his first novel. Trixie is a hilarious adventure which inadvertently educates its reader on many famous artists along the way. Budding artists will love this!



Princess Minna

Kirsty Applebaum & Sahar Haghoob

Nosy Crow 6+

I'm delighted that one of my favourite authors has ventured into the younger market. Princess Minna is the princess who is going to sort everything out herself. She is the resilient role model, righting the wrongs in her kingdom! The colourful illustrations are gorgeous and will hook younger readers in. Luckily two books have been released so you can join her on two adventures!

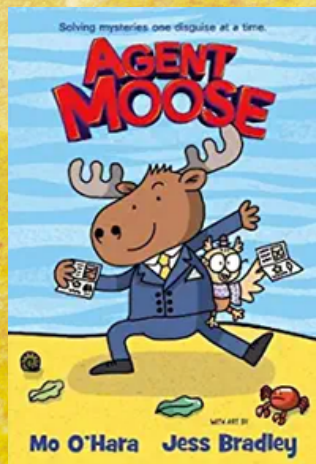
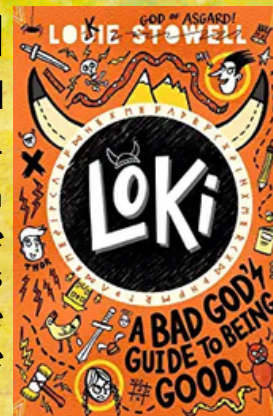


Loki – A Bad God's Guide To Being Good

Louie Stowell

Walker 7+

We all think we know Loki from Norse myths, we even think we know him from the Marvel films... But here Louie gives us the chance to read Loki's own words as he is banished to earth in the body of a young boy to prove that he has the capacity to be good. He makes some VERY bad decisions whilst here...



Agent Moose

Mo O'Hara & Jess Bradley

Scholastic 6+

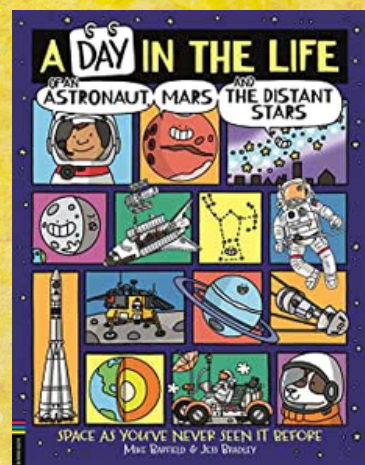
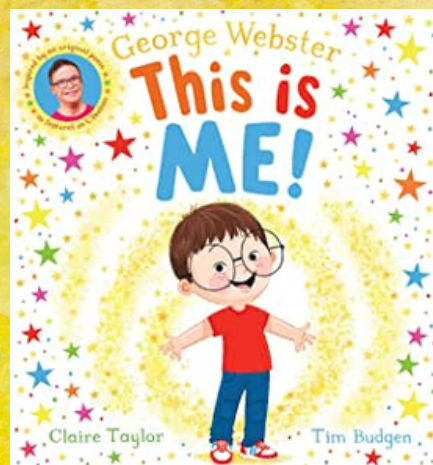
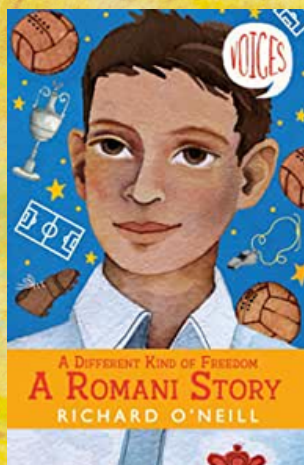
Agent Moose takes on an old but successful recipe. Take someone who is bad at their job and pair them with a sidekick with higher intelligence who does all of the work... Agent Moose is lucky to have Owlfred by his side as they try to find the missing turtle - a key witness. Full of zany characters and superb illustrations. One that will be reread over and over again.

9 Books we're excited about in 2023



So another great year for children's books! The future is bright. Here are our standout books for next year (that we know about!)

1. Saving Neverland
Abi Elphinstone
2. Like a Curse
Elle McNicoll
3. The Kindest Red
Ibtihaj Muhammad, S.K. Ali & Hatem Aly
4. A Romani Story
Richard O'Neill
5. This is Me!
George Webster, Claire Taylor & Tim Budgen
6. The Song Walker
Zillah Bethell
7. The Detention Detectives
Lis Jardine
8. Wildsmith
Liz Flanagan & Joe Todd-Stanton
9. A Day in the Life of an Astronaut, Mars and the Distant Stars
Mike Barfield & Jess Bradley



If you have any questions or have a book being released soon that you feel deserves a place on the newsletter:
Email us - MisterBodd@outlook.com