

No Shelf Control

Edition 28: August 2023

Q&A with Jennifer Killick



This month's BOOK OF THE MONTH is a hauntingly terrifying book of short stories curated by the wonderfully talented Jennifer Killick. I was lucky enough to get the chance to ask Jennifer a few questions about the book and her writing.

Engaging reluctant readers can be a challenge. How do you think these spooky tales can captivate the attention of children who might not typically be drawn to reading?

I think lots of people are drawn to creepy things, and for many children, the thrill of a jump scare brings the same sort of adrenaline rush that they get from gaming. There's something addictive about the rush and relief of being scared and then being able to return to the safety of daily life.

How do you make sure that the stories are scary enough for children but not scary enough to give readers nightmares?

I use humour to balance the scares, because that's exactly what I do in real life when I come up against something frightening or upsetting. Being able to laugh makes everything feel better. I also have a brilliant editor who tells me to tone things down when I get a bit carried away with the creepy stuff.

You have some phenomenal talent in the book, how did you choose the authors?

When I came up with the idea for Read Scream Repeat, several authors instantly jumped into my head because they already write brilliant creepy stories. Then I thought about authors who aren't known for horror but who write in ways that are really fresh and unique - people whose stories stand out to me. There are so many talented writers creating amazing stories for children. I was surprised and over the moon that so many of the authors I approached agreed to sign on. If there was to be a sequel, I already have a list of people I'd love to be involved.



What other great books have you read recently?

The fourth book in the Sticky Pines series by Dash Roberts has just been published - it's called The Wrath of the Blob. I love this series so much, so if you haven't tried it yet, I highly recommend it. A brilliant mix of sci-fi scares, humour and endearing characters.

Surely you need to share your other new book? Deadly Deep is also out now and is the 4th book in the Dreadwood series!

Read Scream Repeat is out now from Farshore



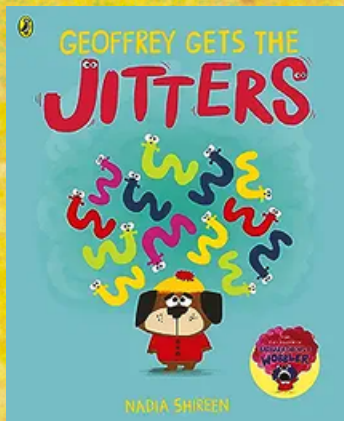
Books



Reviews



Chats



Geoffrey Gets the Jitters

Nadia Shireen

Puffin 4+

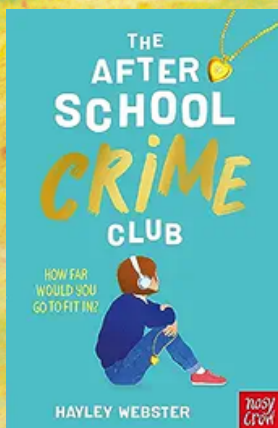
Another amazing book about feelings. Getting children to recognise their 'jitters' and giving them strategies to regulate and feel better. I particularly enjoyed the 'Useful Guide to Worries' on the back pages, it started a great conversation with my children about their worries.

Peril on the Atlantic

A.M. Howell

Usborne 8+

A.M Howell is an absolute powerhouse in historical fiction so you always know that her books are going to grip you. This mystery is set in 1936 as the Queen Mary crosses the Atlantic - Alice and Sonny uncover a sinister plot and race to solve the mysteries that they're uncovering. Unputdownable!



The After School Crime Club

Hayley Webster

Nosy Crow 9+

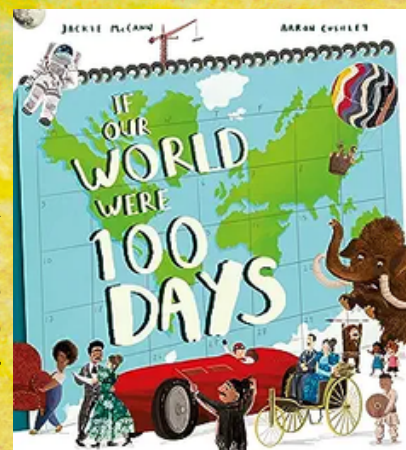
I think this is going to be a very important book, showing how those who feel like outsiders can get caught up in bad situations. Willow makes some new friends who give her dares in exchange for friendship, but soon she starts to wonder if things are going a little too far.

If Our World Were 100 Days

Jackie McCann & Aaron Cushley

Red Shed 5+

If the World Were 100 People is a fantastic look at the world and its inhabitants but this sequel takes a simplified look into history. It gives readers a great snapshot and puts lengths of time into much more understandable chunks. I hope that this becomes just as popular as its predecessor.



One To Wait for...

The Snow Girl - Sophie Anderson

Usborne - Oct 23

Just seeing Sophie Anderson's name on the front of a book is enough to excite most readers, but paired with this gorgeous front cover you know you're in for something special!



Meesh the Bad Demon

Michelle Lam

Nosy Crow 8+

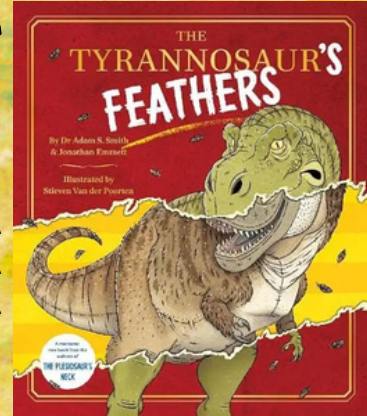
We love a graphic novel, but we love chunky ones even more. At 304 pages, this is a superb longer book that won't be over too soon. Meesh is a demon but she is in love with the whole fairy realm. She secretly tries to meet a fairy princess but it is quickly revealed that she is in fact a demon... What follows is an adventure where Meesh realises that it's not all that bad being a demon!

The Tyrannosaur's Feather

Jonathan Emmett, Dr Adam S. Smith & Stieven Van der Poorten

UCLan 5+

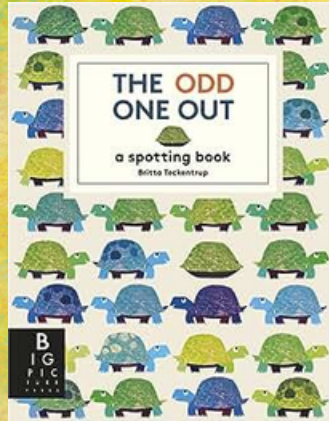
If you wanted a perfect example of a non-fiction picture book, I'd point you in the direction of this! Gradually pointing out the scientific/historical inaccuracies with most people's mental picture and perception of the T-Rex and correcting them. Humour, science and amazing illustrations equate to this for any dino lovers! I fell in love upon my first read and I'm sure that it will enchant you too!



The Odd One Out

Britta Teckentrup

Big Picture Press 3+



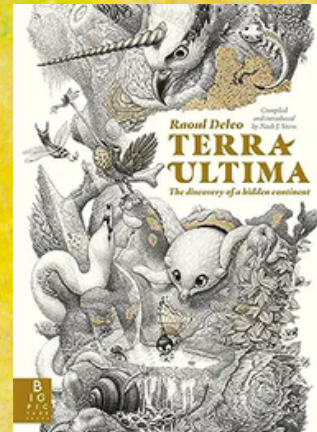
Some picture books deserve to be put in frames in art galleries. If this one was, then more children would want to go! Children must scour the pages looking for the odd animal out. Some differences jump out at you whilst others take a little more attention. Sometimes you can't stop staring even once you've completed your spotting task. This is aimed at younger readers but everyone will enjoy!

Terra Ultima

Raoul Deleo & Noah J. Stern

Big Picture Press 8+

I'm afraid that my words cannot do this book justice! An astoundingly illustrated journal from an exhibition to the hidden continent so breath taking that readers will be unsure as to whether it is factual or fiction... I know what my brain says, but my heart would love to see some of these creatures with my own eyes. I think you need to march to your local bookshop just to see how spectacular it really is!



One You Might Have Missed

A Place Called Perfect - Helena Duggan

Usborne - 9+ Aug 2017



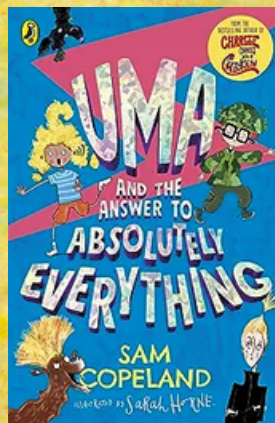
A book that I had nearly forgotten about until my daughter recently discovered it on my bookcase. A dystopian town called 'Perfect' is literally perfect, except all residents quickly require glasses... Could the lenses be hiding something sinister or is it just a price to pay for perfection?

9 Books that will... make you laugh

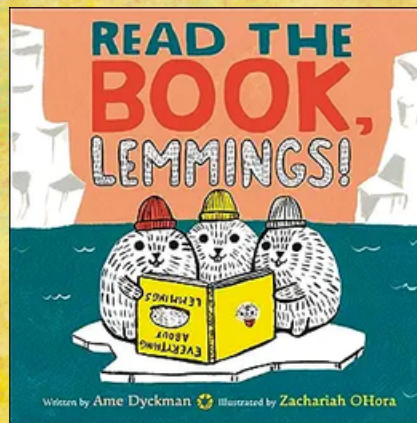


Books are amazing at so many things, but making us laugh is up there as one of the best. These books have got giggles for all ages! Be careful not to read them when you need to be quiet, these will have you laughing a little too loudly!

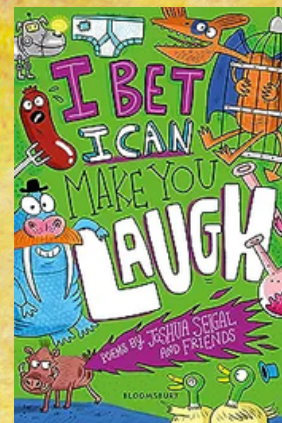
1. Uma and the Answer to Absolutely Everything
Sam Copeland & Sarah Horne



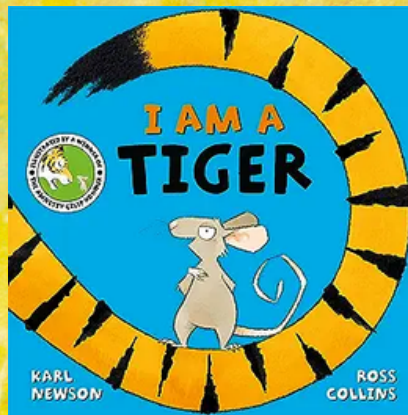
2. Read the Book Lemmings
Ame Dyckman & Zachariah O'Hora



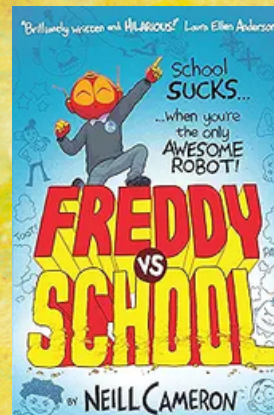
3. I Bet I Can Make You Laugh
Joshua Seigal



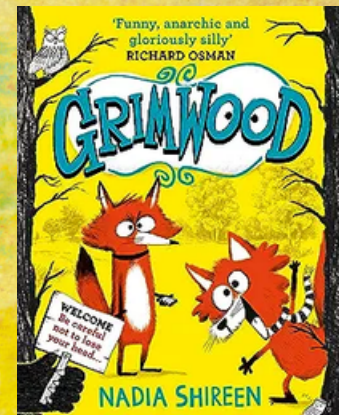
4. I am a Tiger
Karl Newson & Ross Collins



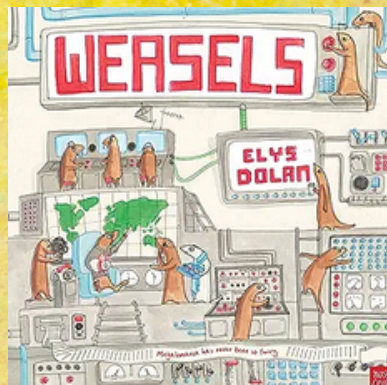
5. Freddy Vs School
Neill Cameron



6. Grimwood
Nadia Shireen



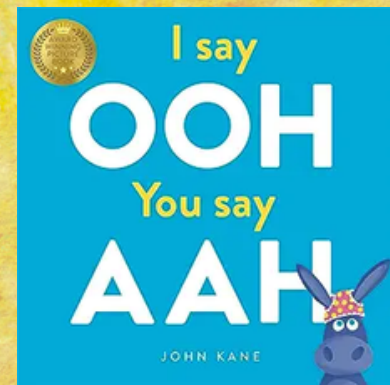
7. Weasels
Elys Dolan



8. The Incredible Record Smashers
Jenny Pearson & Erica Salcedo



9. I Say Ooh, You Say Aah
John Kane



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