

No Shelf Control

Edition 9: January 2022

Q&A with Sam Copeland



Greta and the Ghost Hunters is our **BOOK OF THE MONTH!** It is simply superb and we know that you'll all love it!

In **Greta**, her house is haunted by 3 very different ghosts. If you could be haunted by any of your book characters, who would it be?

I do have one ghost that I am very attached to - but I think if I said which one, I'd be giving away the surprise. The third ghost is all I will say!

You've been lucky enough to have all of your books illustrated by the fantastic Sarah Horne. Do you have an idea of the scenes that she's going to illustrate and what you want or is it a fun surprise?

It's mostly a fun surprise. I have total trust in Sarah that she will nail it every time - and she does. She's brilliant. There might be one scene per book I will say 'I want this' but really that's it.

Are the ghosts in the story based on anyone or just fragments of your imagination?

The ghosts are totally made up. The main girl is partially based on my daughter who had an accident similar to the one that precipitates the story.

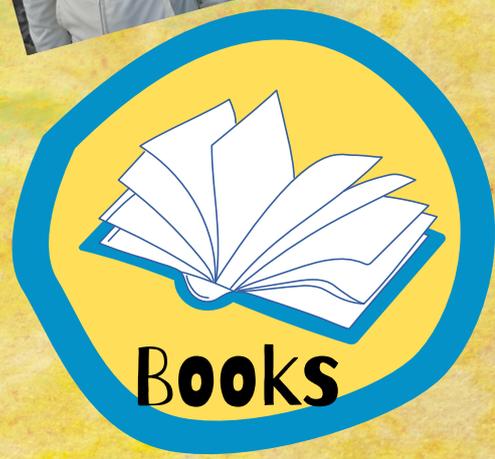
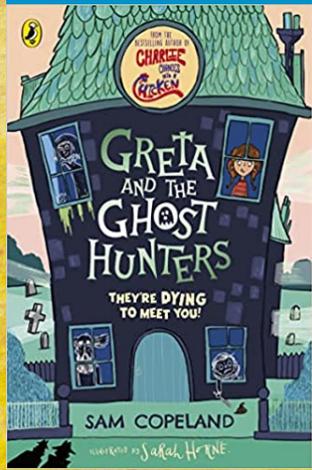
If you could change into any animal (like Charlie), what would you (try to) change into and what would you do?

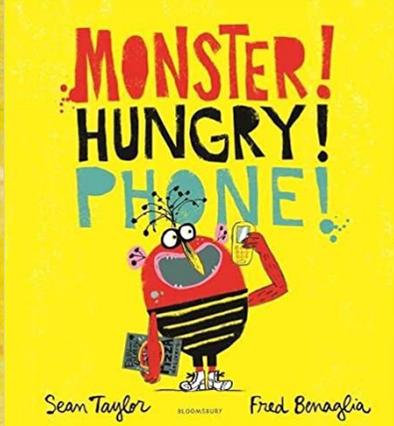
It's a difficult one. My favourite animals are wolves, monkeys and owls. I think on balance, I'd probably want to turn into an owl. Silent flight, 270 degree head rotation AND pellet poos. Definitely the winner.

What are the best books that you've read lately? I'm guessing you'll mention Jenny Pearson (Sam is Jenny's Agent)

Of course, I'm going to say Jenny Pearson. I honestly believe she is the best children's writer out there at the moment. So much humour and heart. She's a genius. And then.. Ross Montgomery (Chime Seekers) and Phil Earle (When The Sky Falls) are both genuine stars.

Greta and the Ghost Hunters is out now £7.99 from Puffin





Monster! Hungry! Phone!

Sean Taylor & Fred Benaglia

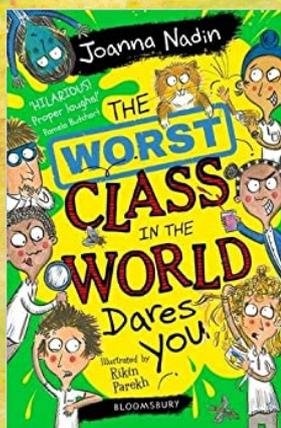
A simple story about being hungry and having access to a phone... Of course Monster is going to order pizza. The illustrations are bold and wacky. You'll definitely be reaching for your phone to order pizza, well once you've finally stopped laughing! Great to share with younger children.

Bunny Vs Monkey

Jamie Smart

David Fickling 7+

Jamie Smart has got more children in my class reading than ANY other author in our class library. I'm delighted that the newest edition of Bunny Vs Monkey is out. This graphic novel will be read time and time again. It is equally as bonkers as the previous books in the series.



The Worst Class in the World

Joanna Nadin & Rikin Parekh

Bloomsbury 5+

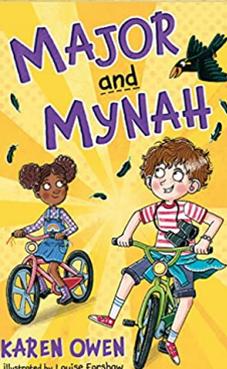
Brilliant for younger readers looking for a fun chapter book to start their reading journey. Perfectly silly and as part of a series, if you like it there are two other books to jump straight into. There's also going to be a World Book Day £1 book based on the series! Are 4B worse than your class?

Dragon Storm

Alastair Chisholm

Nosy Crow 7+

Alastair Chisholm's previous two books have both been absolutely splendid, so you know you're in for a treat. Dragon Storm is a brilliant early fantasy story for younger readers who are looking for excitement as dragons return to the land of Draconis. There are two books that have been released at the same time following a different character and their dragon.

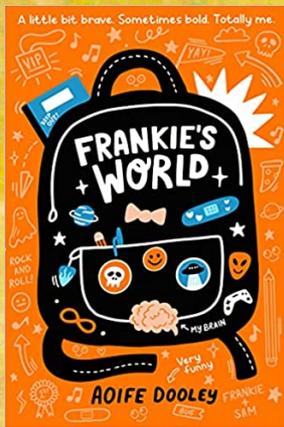


One To Wait for...

Major and Mynah - Karen Owen

Firefly - May 21

Friendship, solving mysteries, talking to animals and hearing aids. Major and Mynah sounds like it's going to be a brilliant adventure. I can't wait to read it.



Frankie's World

Aoife Dooley

Scholastic 7+

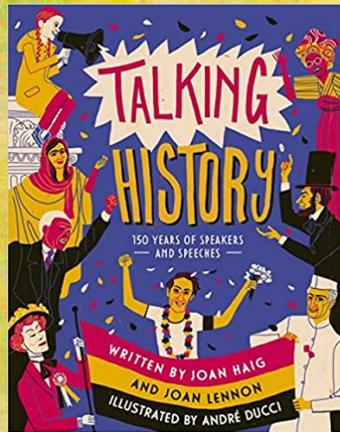
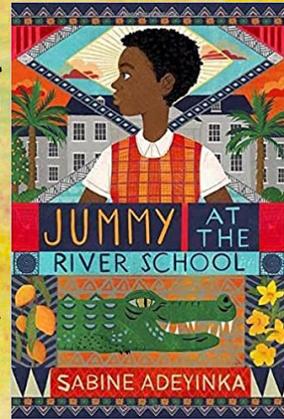
Frankie feels different. She's not sure why she's different but she doesn't feel like she belongs. Frankie sets off on an adventure to find her father (who left when she was a baby) to see if he has the answers. Frankie discovers that she is Autistic and begins to understand herself a little better. Great for children who want to understand and celebrate each others' differences.

Jummy at the River School

Sabine Adeyinka

Chicken House 9+

Set in Nigeria, Jummy really wants to go to the River School (a boarding school) to continue her education once primary school finishes. Will the school meet her expectations? As the story and her friendships develop Jummy realises that you have to stand up for what you believe in. She and her friends may have some investigating to do...



Talking History

Joan Haig, Joan Lennon & Andre Ducci

Templar 9+

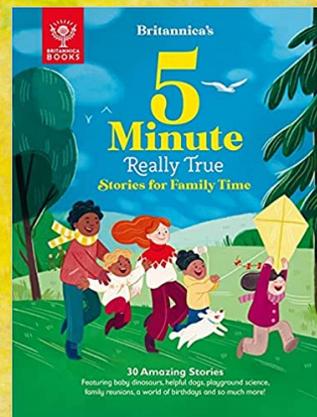
A truly inspiring collection of some of the greatest speeches in history and the stories behind them. From Greta Thunberg to Abraham Lincoln, celebrate those that have made a positive impact on our world with their words. Some of the speeches are so powerful that they can move you to tears or push you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

5 Minute Really True Stories

Britannica Group

Britannica 6+

A collection of 30 short stories that are completely true and fact checked. Each story teaches us and also prompts family discussions. A book that is best shared, whether that is as a class or as a family. Find out what families all over the world eat for breakfast or how dinosaurs looked after their babies. You may even want to write your own stories afterwards.



One You Might Have Missed

The House of One Hundred Clocks - A.M. Howell

Usborne - 9+ Feb 2020

The best mysteries keep you guessing constantly and A.M. Howell keeps you on your toes the whole time.

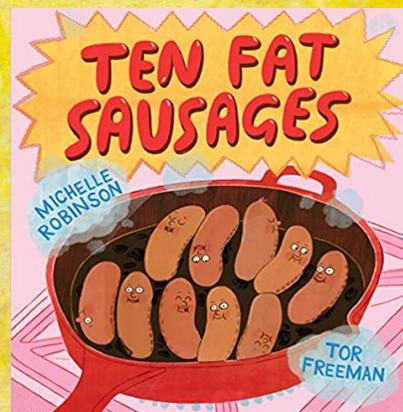
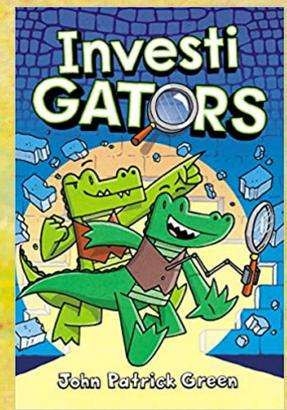
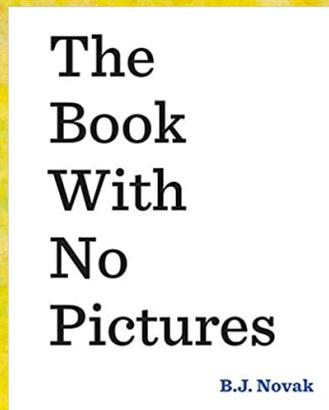
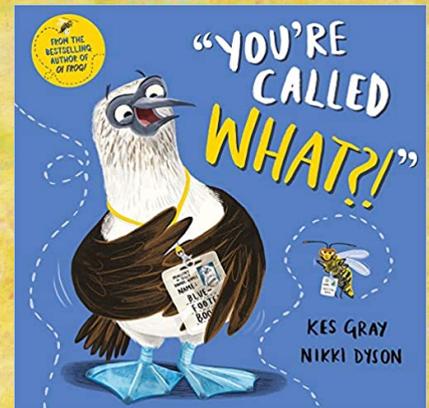
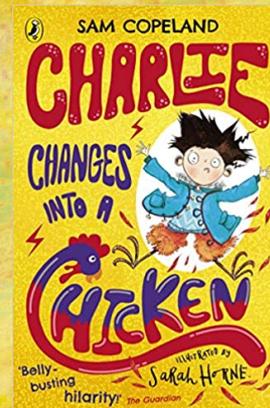
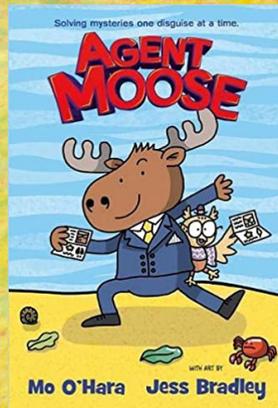
A father and daughter move to a new house in Cambridge with one job. To keep the owner's hundred clocks ticking... Surely an easy task... not if someone is working against you.

9 Books that will make you laugh out loud



Laughter is the best medicine and these books will definitely have you rolling around in laughter. Start the year with a funny book!

1. Agent Moose
Mo O'Hara & Jess Bradley
2. Charlie Changes into a Chicken
Sam Copeland
3. You're Called What?
Kes Gray & Nikki Dyson
4. The Book With No Pictures
B.J. Novak
5. Welcome to my Crazy Life
Joshua Seigal
6. InvestiGators
John Patrick Green
7. Monster Hunting for Beginners
Ian Mark
8. Ten Fat Sausages
Michelle Robinson & Tor Freeman
9. The Caravan at the Edge of Doom
Jim Beckett



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