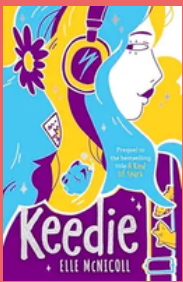


# No Shelf Control

Edition 44 : December 2024

## 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

**Keedie**  
Elle McNicoll



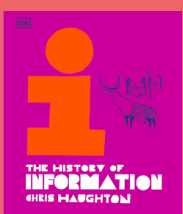
### Best Book for Younger Readers

**Marnie Midnight  
and the Moon Mystery**  
Laura Ellen Anderson



### Best Picture Book

**The Dictionary Story**  
Oliver Jeffers &  
Sam Winston



**Best Non-Fiction**  
**The History of Information**  
Chris Haughton



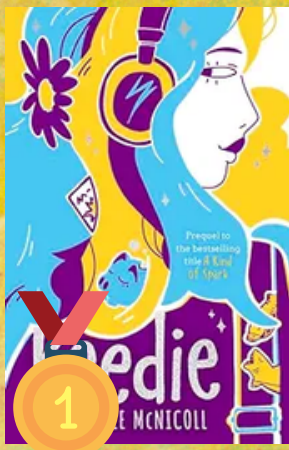
**Books**



**Reviews**



**Chats**



## Keedie

Elle McNicoll

Knights of 10+

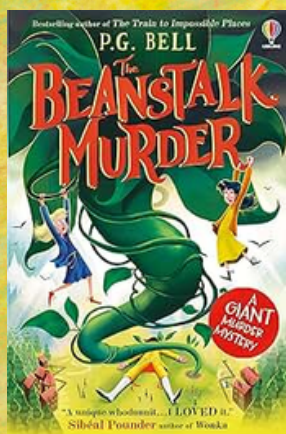
Rather than a book about autism, Keedie is an inclusive book about kindness and standing up for what is right. Although, Keedie is an absolute kick-ass heroine who teaches us more about understanding how neurodiverse people have to navigate a world made harder by neurotypical people. I couldn't put it down!

## The Boy in the Suit

James Fox

Scholastic 10+

Solo Walker just wants a normal life. Life with his mum, Morag, is far from ordinary. When they crash the funeral of a famous footballer and go viral, Solo's world changes overnight. This heartfelt debut balances humour with poignant themes of child poverty, mental health, and resilience, making it an unforgettable read.



## The Beanstalk Murder

P.G. Bell

Usborne 9+

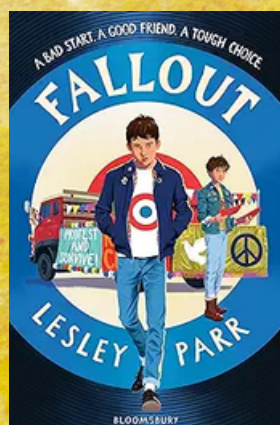
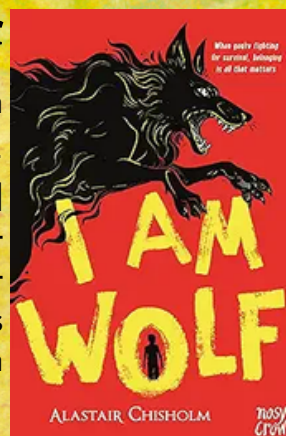
When a murdered giant falls from the sky and destroys her village, trainee meadow witch Anwen teams up with her rival, Cerys, to uncover the killer. Swept into the giants' royal palace, they must use their magic and wit to solve the case before becoming the next victims—while dodging the giant suspects' stomping feet.

## I am Wolf

Alastair Chisholm

Nosy Crow 9+

Coll lives for Wolf, his clan's colossal technological "creature" powered by collective will. But when a violent attack leaves him stranded on the ground, Coll must survive in an unfamiliar world and find a way back to his clan. Along the way, Coll uncovers truths about his clan and himself are shattering.



## Fallout

Lesley Parr

Bloomsbury 9+

Fallout follows Marcus, who dreams of escaping his family's criminal legacy. When blamed for an accident, he teams up with activist Emma to clear his name and chart his own path. This gripping tale of friendship, self-discovery, and resilience is perfect for readers aged 10 and over, addressing contemporary issues with depth and authenticity.



1

# The Dictionary Story

Oliver Jeffers & Sam Winston

Walker Books 3+

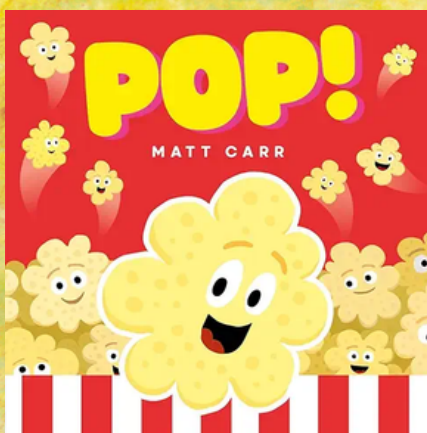
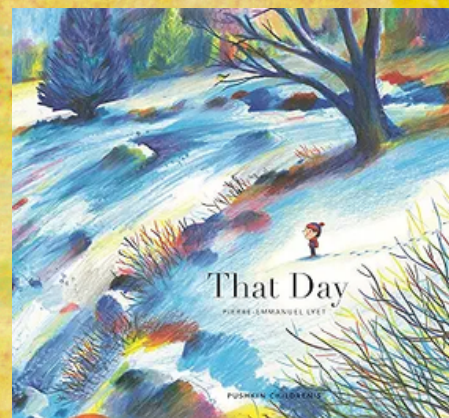
This book is a creative celebration of words & stories that will capture the hearts of both kids and adults. Dictionary is tired of just being a list of words and wants a story of her own. But when the words start to mix up and characters clash, she quickly realizes that storytelling isn't as easy as it looks!

# That Day

Pierre Emmanuel Lyet

Pushkin 5+

A heart-warming story that will resonate deeply with anyone who has experienced loss. Through the eyes of a young boy, the book gently celebrates the love and memories left behind by a beloved grandmother. Perfect to share and reflect.



# Pop!

Matt Carr

Scholastic 3+

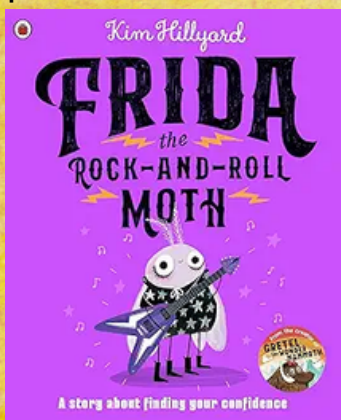
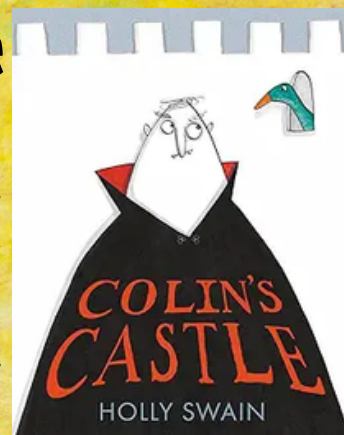
Join Dave and pals as they embark on a hilarious journey from kernel to popping glory. Matt Carr's vibrant illustrations and rollicking rhymes bring this explosive tale to life. But as they pop into the world, is reality as tasty as they imagined?

# Colin's Castle

Holly Swain

Farshore 3+

As Colin moves into a new castle, the last thing he expected is that a duck already lives there... The duck appears everywhere: in the bath, in front of the TV, even during Colin's most private moments. Its constant QUACK is enough to drive him batty. Determined to reclaim his peace, Colin hatches a plan to evict the bothersome bird.

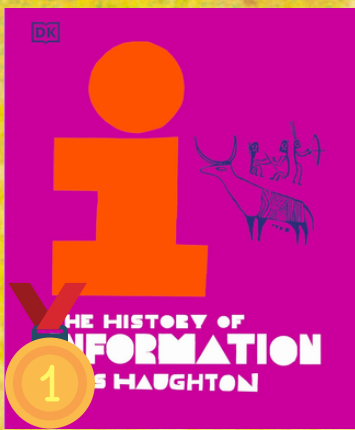


# Frida the Rock and Roll Moth

Kim Hillyard

Ladybird 4+

Frida, a rock-and-roll moth, loves playing her purple guitar, but when other moth musicians appear, she starts to doubt herself. With help from her supportive Auntie Edna, Frida learns to stay true to herself and shine in her own way. Frida inspires self-expression and encourages readers to embrace their individuality with confidence.



# The History of Information

Chris Haughton

DK 9+

In his debut non-fiction book, Chris Haughton explores the history of communication, from ancient languages to modern social media. With DK's signature vibrant visuals and timelines, this engaging book covers everything from the invention of writing to the rise of artificial intelligence. Perfect for curious readers.

# Tasty Tales

Anna Lena Feunekes

UCLan 6+

Tasty Tales takes young readers on a delectable journey around the world, exploring the fascinating stories behind some of the most beloved foods. This beautifully illustrated book blends history, lore, and vibrant art to reveal how dishes and ingredients have travelled across cultures and connected us all.



# There's No Such Thing as a Silly Question

Mike Rampton & Guilherme Karsten

Nosy Crow 6+

There's No Such Thing as a Silly Question is an absolute delight! Packed with 213 fascinating and unusual questions. What makes it truly special is how the authors balance fun with facts—each answer is fact-checked by world-leading experts from the University of Cambridge so you don't need to worry about the accuracy of your facts!

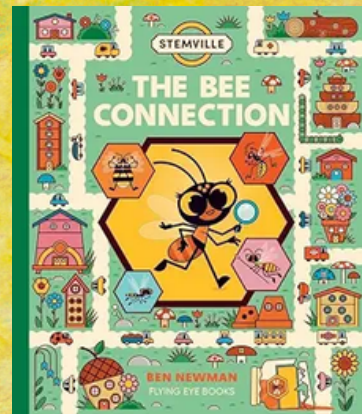


# The Bee Connection

Ben Newman

Flying Eye Books 6+

Follow the clues to find out EVERYTHING that you need to know about bees. Why they're important, what they do and most importantly, how to look after them. Perfect for any curious nature lovers. A really fun non-fiction treat.



# Beasts from the Deep

Matt Ralphs & Kaley McKean

Nosy Crow 7+

A mesmerising journey into the ocean's depths, revealing awe-inspiring creatures like anglerfish and goblin sharks. The vibrant illustrations make this book a treasure. A perfect gift for young marine enthusiasts, it is full of wonder on each and every page.





# Marnie Midnight

Laura Ellen Anderson

Farshore 7+

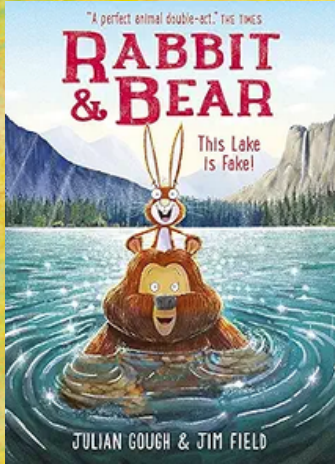
Embark on a magical journey with Marnie Midnight as she uncovers the disappearing moon magic. Determined to solve the mystery, Marnie and her minibeast friends face rebellious rats and terrifying adventures. This series promises charming characters and exciting escapades, perfect for young independent readers.

# Hilda and Twig

Luke Pearson

Flying Eye Books 6+

Hilda and Twig are back in a brand new graphic novel. When hiding from the rain, it is easy for the scary noises and shadows to play havoc with your imagination! When Hilda is in trouble, she needs Twig to step up and rescue her. Can he summon the bravery to rise to the challenge?



# Rabbit & Bear

Julian Gough & Jim Field

Hodder 5+

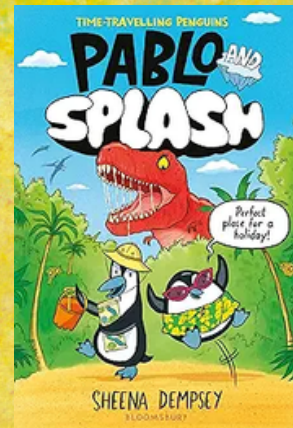
Another amazing chapter in the Rabbit and Bear series. When Bear sees their imperfect world, she believes in hard work to improve it, Rabbit decides to chase his dream of a perfect world instead. Together, they set off across the lake, embarking on an adventure full of surprises and lessons.

# Pablo and Splash

Sheena Dempsey

Bloomsbury 6+

Time travelling penguins... Those three words should convince you to buy it! Pablo and Splash are chalk and cheese, but the best of friends. When they end up going on a time travelling holiday and end up in the age of the dinosaurs... Will they survive their break? Can they make it home in one piece?



# Dungeon Runners

Kieran Larwood & Joe Todd-Stanton

Nosy Crow 7+

A brilliant new fantasy adventure series from two absolute heroes! Follow Kit, a determined gnorf (part gnome, part dwarf), and his quirky friends Sandy and Thorn, as they tackle mazes, monsters, and puzzles. Filled with humour, action, and a strong message about overcoming obstacles and friendship, this book is sure to captivate young readers.

Our Top Five Books for Younger Readers

@MisterBodd

# 9 Books we're excited about in 2025



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. Hunt for the Golden Scarab

**M.G Leonard & Manuel Sumberac**

2. After

**Padraig Kenny**

3. Riders of Roar

**Jenny McLachlan**

4. The Cartoonists Club

**Raina Telgemeier & Scott McCloud**

5. Diary of a Future Billionaire

**Pamela Butchart & Wotto**

6. Serial Chillers

**Jennifer Killick**

7. Squirrel and Duck

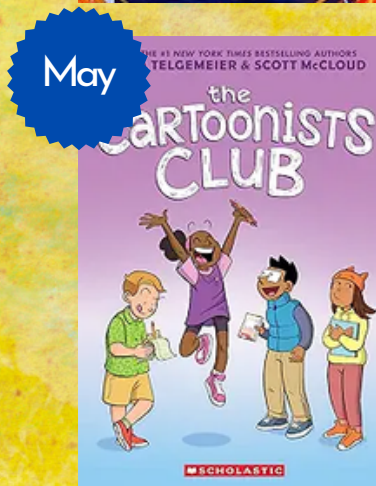
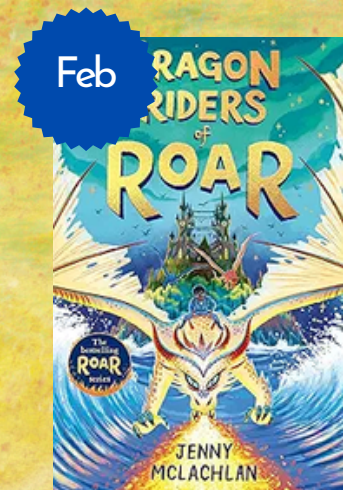
**Tom Percival**

8. People like Stars

**Patrice Lawrence**

9. Wildlands

**Brogen Murphy**



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](mailto:MisterBodd@outlook.com)