

No Shelf Control

Edition 10: February 2022

Q&A with Elle McNicoll



The wonderful Elle McNicoll and her magical new book 'Like a Charm' take the 'Book of the Month' title for February and I was lucky enough to chat to Elle.

Getting children to see themselves in books is so important. When did you first see yourself reflected in a book?

I never saw myself reflected in a book. It's the reason I wrote A Kind of Spark. Addie, and Keedie, were characters that I was always looking for, but never found.

I loved imagining Edinburgh with a secret magical underworld. Which Magical creature would you most like to meet?

I wish Murrey (the Vampire librarian from Like A Charm) was real. I would also love to meet the Kelpies.

Chapter 13 is gaining notoriety among readers of 'Show Us Who You Are'. How does it feel to have so much attention for one chapter?

I love it! I think it's so funny. It's like a shared moment of release and fun between the readers and me, after quite an intense moment. I also love talking about it during school visits.

You've tackled different genres with your first three books. What are your favourite genres? (and which one are you going to tackle next?)

I love fantasy, and will obviously be staying there for the sequel to Like A Charm. But I'd love to do a Western! I'm super serious, people always think I'm kidding, but I would! Or a fairytale retelling.

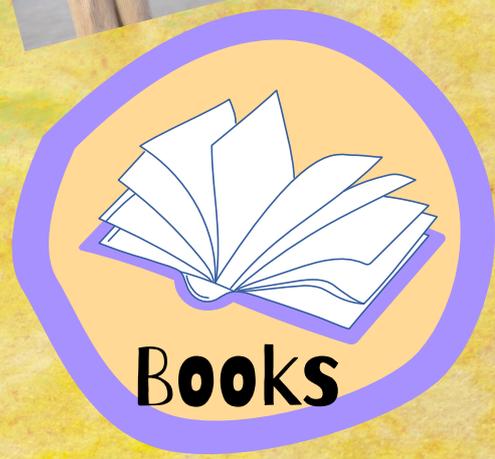


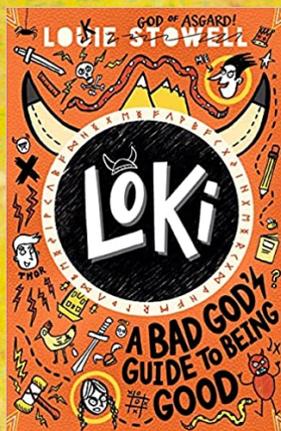
What are the best children's books that you've read recently?

I love Ben Dean's books, the Adventures on Trains series by MG Leonard and Sam Sedgeman, and I cannot wait for Legendarium by Jennifer Bell!

Like a Charm is out now for £6.99 from Knights Of.

You should also definitely check out 'Kind of Spark' and 'Show Us Who You Are' too!





Loki – A Bad God's Guide To Being Good

Louie Stowell

Walker 7+

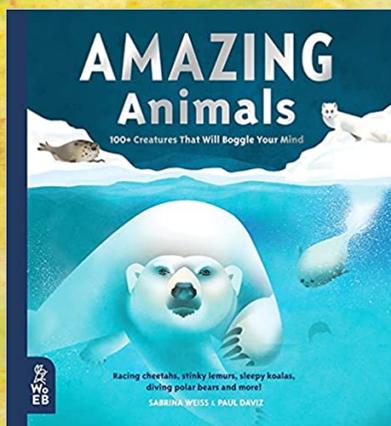
We all think we know Loki from Norse myths, we even think we know him from the Marvel films... But here Louie gives us the chance to read Loki's own words as he is banished to earth in the body of a young boy to prove that he has the capacity to be good. He makes some VERY bad decisions whilst here...

Escape Room

Christopher Edge

Nosy Crow 9+

Christopher's books are always completely breathtaking. Escape Room is no exception. 'Find the answer, save the world' is the advice our characters are given as they tackle an extreme escape room. Surely it's just a fun game? Slowly, the stakes rise and you'll be desperately cheering them on and wanting to help them to escape!



Amazing Animals

Sabrina Weiss & Paul Daviz

Where on Earth Books 5+

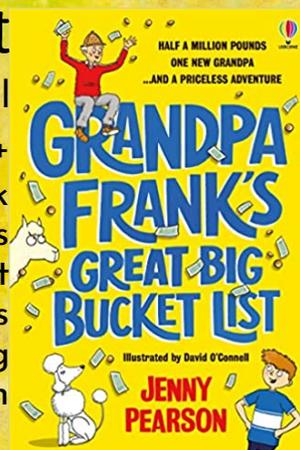
Animals definitely are amazing. This book looks at over a hundred animals and lets us know just how amazing they are! Is your favourite animal included? The illustrations are beautiful and you'll be admiring the pages for hours!

Grandpa Frank's Great Big Bucket List

Jenny Pearson & David O'Connell

Usborne 8+

Every child dreams of getting their hands on a big stack of cash! But when the money comes with the instructions to make sure you look after the Grandpa that you don't really know... Will Frank Jr spend wisely and make his Grandpa (and himself) happy? This is an outstanding book that will have you laughing out loud and then with a tear running down your cheek! Don't miss this one!

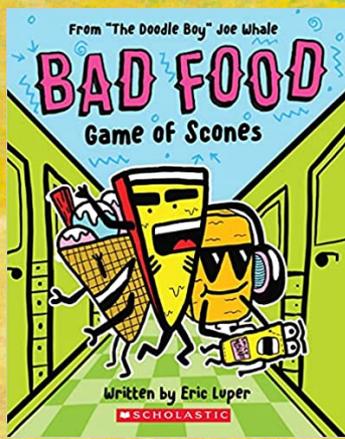


One To Wait for...

Onyeka and the Academy of the Sun

Tola Okogwu - Simon & Schuster - May 21

This superhero story looks absolutely mesmerising. I simply cannot wait to jump in and join the adventure. A big hit is coming surely!



Bad Food – Game of Scones

Eric Luper & Joe Whale

Scholastic 6+

I'm glad that the pun in this book requires the 'correct' pronunciation of scones, that already makes it a winner in my eyes. A fun story of the battle between the beige school food and the school supplies (which is puntastically ruled by Baron von Lineal, a literal ruler...) Packed with laughs and excellent illustrations, readers will love this!

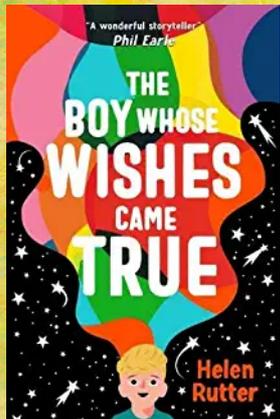
Spark

Mitch Johnson

Orion 9+



Set far in the future where all resources are sparse. Ash wakes up the day after a stranger visits his village to find that everyone except himself and the visitor has disappeared. Together they travel north in search of food, water and their neighbours. After a treacherous journey filled with danger, they find where all the resources and people are...



The Boy Whose Wishes Came True

Helen Rutter

Scholastic 9+

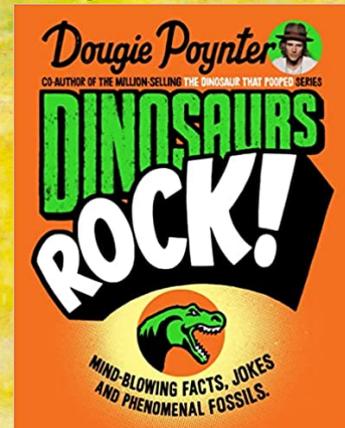
Archie Crumb is struggling. Ever since his Dad left things have been hard, at school and home. He is taking on many battles all by himself. One day he falls off his bike and in his daze he sees his favourite football player who offers him 9 wishes. Surely 9 wishes will be enough to turn his life back around? The wishes don't all go to plan but Archie realises that there are some things that wishes can't change.

Dinosaurs Rock

Dougie Poynter

Macmillan Children 5+

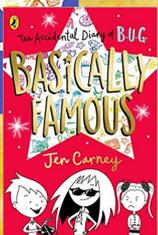
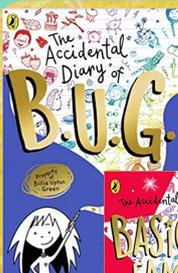
Dinosaurs obviously do rock! This is a great book filled with facts and jokes about dinosaurs. Many dinosaur books are aimed at younger children but this has the look and feel of a maturer book that will ensure that any dinosaur fans feel grown up. Fun non-fiction that will be popular in any classroom or home bookshelf!



One You Might Have Missed

B.U.G series Jen Carney

Penguin - 7+



The first in the series came out last April but the newest came out this month. A brilliantly funny series that is completely unputdownable (shh that is a word). Perfect for reluctant readers, expert readers and even reading animals!*

*Please let us know if you have an animal that can read because we'd be really impressed!



9 Books by World Book Day Authors

WORLD
**BOOK
DAY**

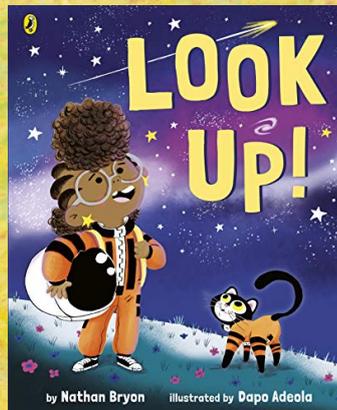
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25 YEARS

The World Book Day £1 books are brilliant as always. We wanted to show you what other amazing books some of the authors have already written so that you know where to go next once you've read them!

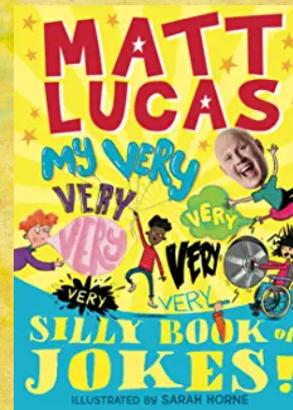
1. Look Up

**Nathan Bryon &
Dapo Adeola**



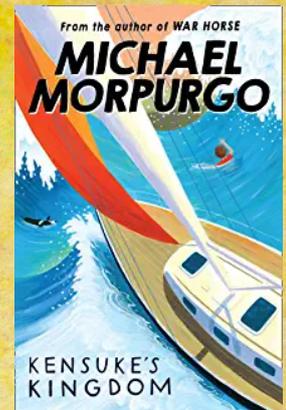
2. My Very Silly Book of Jokes

**Matt Lucas &
Sarah Horne**



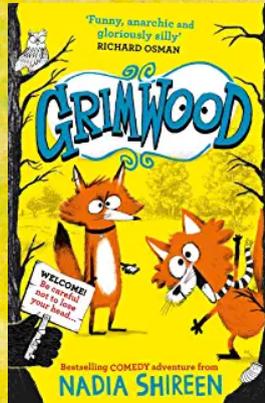
3. Kensuke's Kingdom

Michael Morpurgo



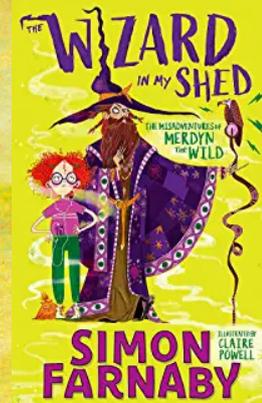
4. Grimwood

Nadia Shireen



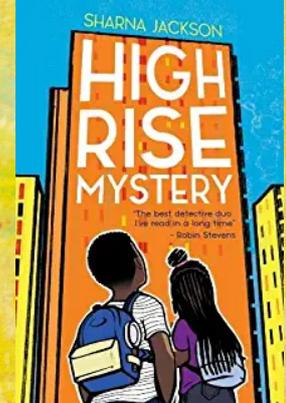
5. Wizard in my Shed

**Simon Farnaby &
Claire Powell**



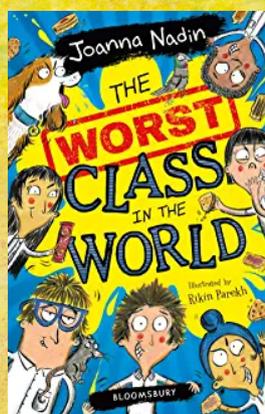
6. High Rise Mystery

Sharna Jackson



7. The Worst Class in the World

**Joanna Nadin &
Rikin Parekh**



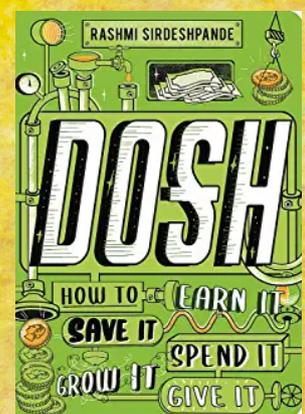
8. Something I Said

Ben Bailey Smith



9. Dosh

**Rashmi Sirdeshpande &
Adam Hayes**



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