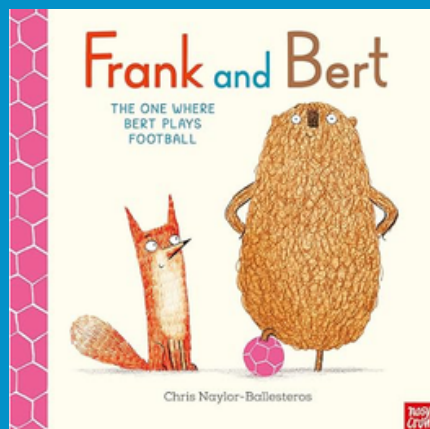


# No Shelf Control

Edition 45: January 2025

## Frank and Bert Chris Naylor-Ballestros

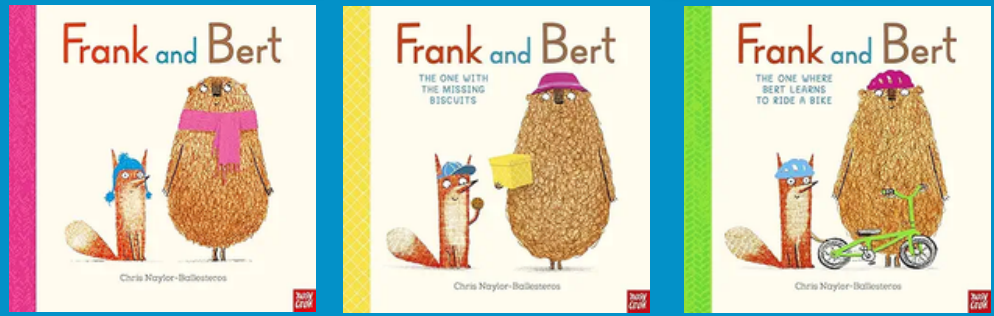
Our first BOOK OF THE MONTH for 2025 is the latest instalment in Chris Naylor-Ballestros' Frank and Bert series.



If you haven't read any of the series yet then you are missing out! *(Is it ok to admit that I've read them multiple times without children around just to make myself smile?)* The series follows two unlikely friends *(The age old secret formula)* through many different situations.

In this story Frank (the fox) and Bert (the bear) turn their attention to Football. Frank is teaching Bert how to play, but things don't go smoothly—Bert's ball bursts, and his kicks cause chaos. Then, Barbara, the local football legend, shows up, and Frank becomes so dazzled by her skills that he forgets all about Bert. But when Frank finds himself in trouble, it's Bert who proves his true friendship by coming to the rescue. It contains a wonderful message about loyalty, this book beautifully shows how true friends stick together through thick and thin.

### Other books in the series



You can't force me to choose a favourite... But I'd love to know which one is yours!

All the Frank and Bert series are available from Nosy Crow and they're perfect for children 0-100!



**Books**



**Reviews**



**Chats**



## The House on the Canal

Thomas Harding & Britta Teckentrup

Walker 7+

This beautifully illustrated book retells 400 years of history at the Anne Frank House. From marshland to its role in hiding Anne Frank's family, explores themes of persecution, resilience, and the passage of time. A gentle introduction to the Holocaust for younger readers

## People Like Stars

Patrice Lawrence

Scholastic 9+

People Like Stars is a gripping mystery about three teenagers uncovering a long-buried secret. Told through the different perspective of the three characters. Patrice Lawrence masterfully explores friendship, identity, and real-life struggles with warmth and humour. A heartfelt, thought-provoking read perfect.



## Hunt for the Golden Scarab

M.G. Leonard & Manuel Sumbarac

Macmillan Children 9+

A thrilling mix of Indiana Jones and Doctor Who. Time-travel, mystery, and adventure collide as Sim uncovers his mum's secret and races to find Nefertiti's lost tomb before a sinister group catches them. Perfect for young explorers with a keen interest in Ancient Egypt. It is the first of a new series, so look out for the following books!

## Murder For Two

Niyla Farook

Piccadilly 9+

Murder for Two is a gripping and funny mystery about twin sisters, Ani and Riri, who couldn't be more different. When their dad is accused of murder, they must set aside their differences to solve the case. A perfect whodunit for those beginning to explore murder mysteries.

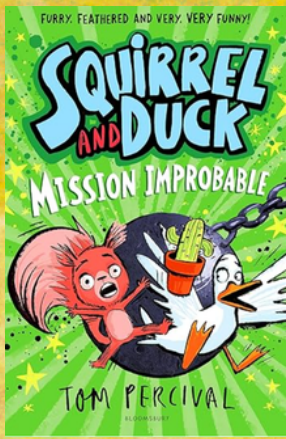


## One To Wait for...

The First Year - Matt Goodfellow

Otter Barry - April 25

It's prequel was our book of the year in 2023, so it's understandable why we're so excited! The final year documented Year 6, whilst this will tackle Year 7. A reminder to read the first if you haven't yet!



# Squirrel and Duck

Tom Percival

Bloomsbury 6+

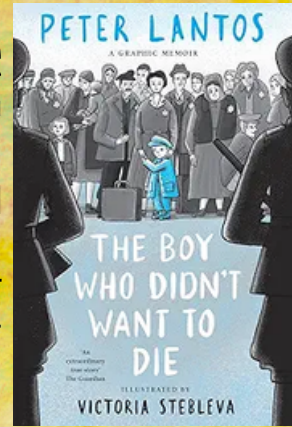
Tom's picture books are instant must-haves for any classroom. His longer books are just as brilliant! Squirrel and Duck is a hilariously quirky adventure about two talking animals on the run from bulldozers, bumbling art thieves, and unhelpful woodland creatures—all while carrying a pet cactus! With Tom's humour and brilliant illustrations what's not to love?

# The Boy Who Didn't Want to Die

Peter Lantos & Victoria Stebleva

Scholastic 10+

Some people think that children's graphic novels are all surreal comedies, The Boy Who Didn't Want To Die will show them how wrong they are. I loved the original novel and this adaptation will no doubt put this harrowing true story of Auschwitz in to new hands. We follow five-year-old Peter's journey through war-torn Europe as his childhood innocence contrasts with the horrors of the war around him.



# The Greedy Wolf

Timothy Knapman & Jean Jullien

Walker 3+

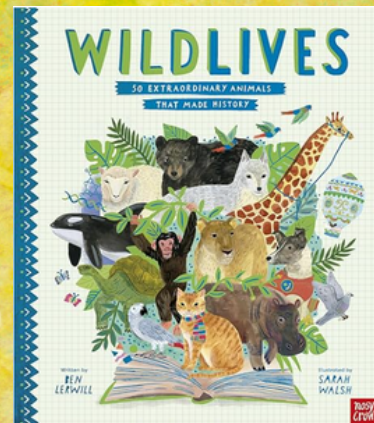
There is something about Jean Jullien's illustrations and front covers that seems to have a magnetising effect on young readers and I can see why. The Greedy Wolf is a hilarious retelling of a classic Grimm fairy tale! This brilliant picture book brings new life to The Wolf and the Seven Young Goats, with laugh-out-loud moments, clever twists, and a satisfying ending. One to read aloud over and over again!

# WildLives

Ben Lerwill & Sarah Walsh

Nosy Crow 8+

Can I admit that I was sceptical that Ben Lerwill could find 50 animals that made history? I thought I could count the candidates on one hand... But WildLives is a fascinating collection of 50 true animal stories, from heroic pigeons to adventurous dogs. Beautifully illustrated, it celebrates the bravery and achievements of remarkable creatures throughout history. I stand corrected!



# One You Might Have Missed

Blitz, One Family's War - Martin Impey

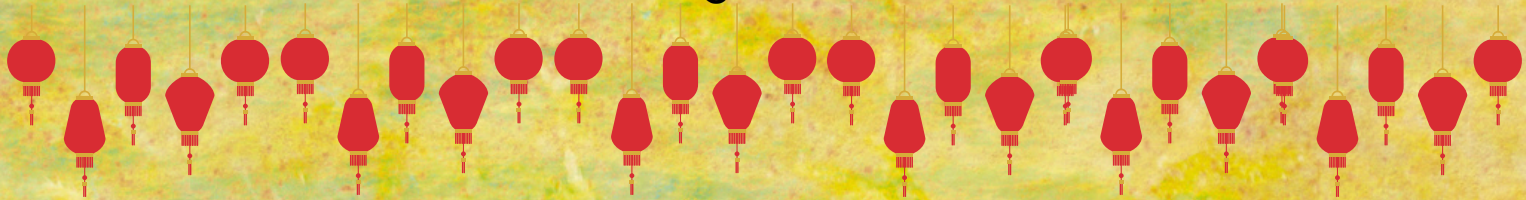
Harbour Moon - 8+ Nov 24

Unfortunately, I read this after the cut off for November's edition but I felt it still needed a shout out! A powerful, illustrated tale of two siblings navigating the hardships of WWII in London's East End. It captures their fear, resilience, and hope as they endure air raids, illustrating the strength of the British spirit during wartime.



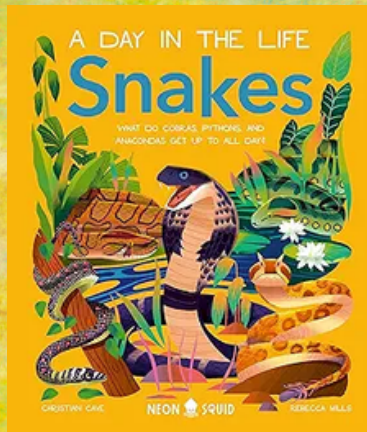
# 9 Books featuring Snakes...

2025 is the Year of the Snake according to the Chinese zodiac. So here are our favourite books with dragons in them.



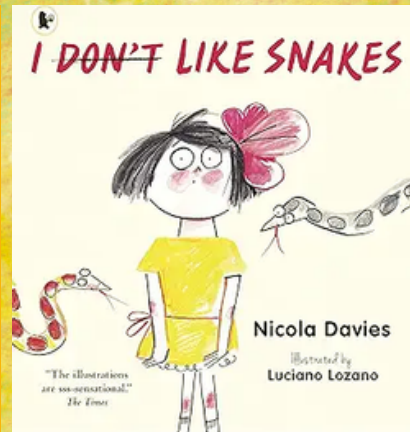
1. A Day in the Life: Snakes

**Christian Cave & Rebecca Mills**



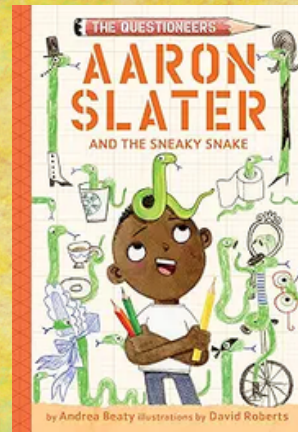
2. I Don't Like Snakes

**Nicola Davies & Luciano Lozano**



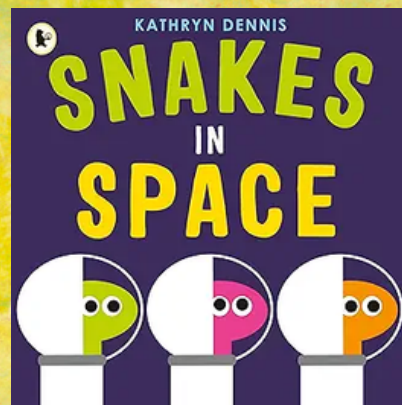
3. Aaron Slater and the Sneaky Snake

**Andrea Beaty & David Robers**



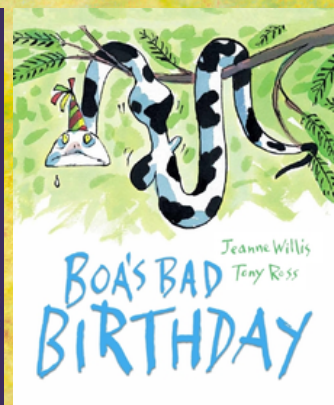
4. Snakes in Space

**Kathryn Dennis**



5. Boa's Bad Birthday

**Jeanne Willis & Tony Ross**



6. Anna and Otis

**Maisie Paradise Shearing**



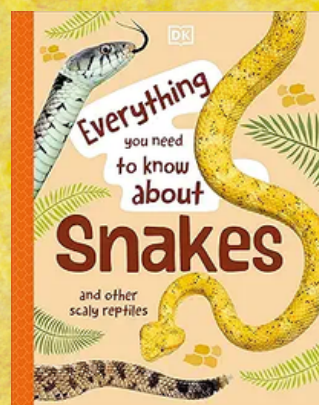
7. Mouse Bird Snake Wolf

**David Almond & Dave McKean**



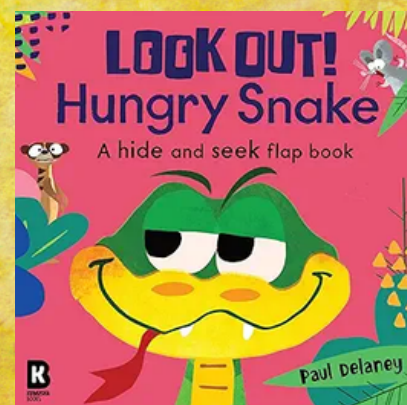
8. Everything you need to know about Snakes

**John Woodward**



9. Look Out!

**Paul Delaney**



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](mailto:MisterBodd@outlook.com)