

# No Shelf Control

Edition 29: September 2024

## Book of the Month The Boy in the Suit James Fox

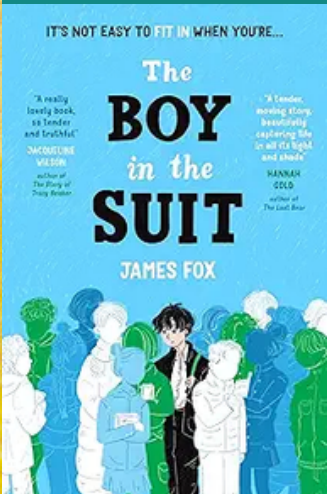
James Fox's debut novel, *The Boy in the Suit* is our book of the month!

Get ready to meet Solo, a ten-year-old boy with a big heart and some tough challenges. James Fox's debut novel, *The Boy in the Suit*, is an awesome story that shows us what it's like to feel different and out of place. It's perfect for kids in Year 6 or older.

Solo's life isn't easy—his family doesn't have a lot of money, and he wears a suit that doesn't quite fit, from a charity shop. This suit isn't just about clothes; it shows how Solo feels about himself, like he's carrying a heavy load. But even when things are hard, Solo keeps going and tries to find his place in a world that can sometimes feel tough.

The story is set in the current cost-of-living crisis, and it tackles important topics like money problems, mental health, and fitting in. But even though it touches on some serious stuff, Fox adds plenty of humour and warmth, making it both funny and heartfelt. One funny, yet touching, moment happens right at the start when Solo and his mum, Morag, sneak into funerals to get free food! It sounds wild, but it sets the stage for a story that's full of surprises.

One cool thing about the book is how real it feels. Fox shows how hard life can be, but also how brave Solo is as he deals with things like bullying, feeling different, and his mum's struggles with her mental health (which they call the "Big Bad Reds"). Morag is a loving mum, but she's also fighting her own battles, and that's what makes her so interesting. She's strong but also vulnerable, which makes her and Solo's relationship super touching.

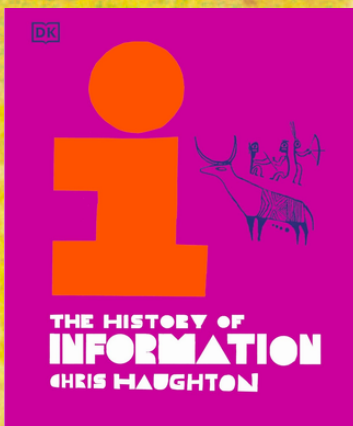


You'll feel all kinds of emotions reading this—happy, sad, and everything in between. At first it will break you but then slowly it will start to fill you with optimism as Solo begins to find the things that he is searching for.

If you like books that are honest, funny, and moving all at once, *The Boy in the Suit* is one you won't want to miss!

*The Boy in the Suit* is out now £7.99 from Scholastic.





## 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.

## The Dinosaur Next Door

David Litchfield

Nosy Crow 6+

This charming tale follows Liz, who suspects her neighbour is a dinosaur. When scientists take Mr. Wilson away, Liz learns a beautiful lesson about acceptance and the importance of letting people live their lives freely. David Litchfield's storytelling once again shines with warmth and wonder!



## Evenfall

Alexander Armstrong

Farshore 9+

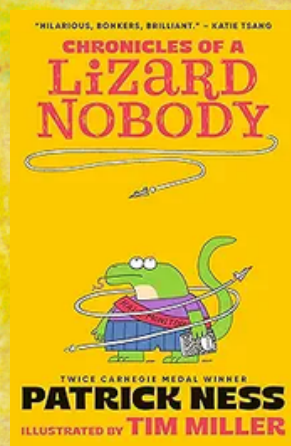
Evenfall is a thrilling debut from Alexander Armstrong, packed with ancient magic, secret societies, and gripping adventures. Whilst I would usually steer away from celebrity authors, I did enjoy this adventure and I can't wait for the next instalment to continue the adventure.

## Chronicles of a Lizard Nobody

Patrick Ness & Tim Miller

Bloomsbury 9+

Zeke, Daniel, and Alicia, all monitor lizards, are hilariously made hall monitors by Principal Wombat. Together, they must keep order among a chaotic mix of lions, seals, and chill pandas. But their biggest challenge? The over-the-top villain, Pelicarnassus—a pelican with a major grudge. With the help of a blind red-tailed hawk, this mismatched group faces off against absurd threats in their school.



## One To Wait for...

Witchspark- Dominique Valente  
Usborne - Oct 24

I know that Dominique's Starfell books are well loved by many children so this should be great too. My daughter devoured my proof copy and is already excited for the sequel.



# Heartseer

Rowan Foxwood

Usborne 8+

Rowan Foxwood has crafted a truly enchanting tale. If you're a fan of folk or fairy tales, this is one you won't want to miss. Anise's journey as a heartseer is both heartwarming and heart-wrenching, and you'll find yourself deeply invested in her struggle to protect what she holds dearest. The story feels timeless, it has all the makings of a modern classic.

# The Great Phoenix of London

Lindsay Galvin

Chicken House 9+



Set during the Great Fire of London in 1666, this thrilling mix of history and mythology will have you hooked from the start. Gil and his friend Jennet's race to survive the chaos, all while protecting a legendary phoenix, is packed with tension and heart. The vivid imagery of the phoenix hatching and growing into a fiery creature is unforgettable! Galvin's ability to weave historical fact with mythical fantasy is pure magic.



# The Girl at the Front of the Class

Onjali Q. Rauf & Pippa Curnick

Hodder Childrens 4+

Following the success of The Boy at the Back of the Class, this story introduces a new girl who's struggling to adjust after leaving everything behind. Our narrator hatches a plan to make her feel welcome, and the result is sheer joy. Pippa Curnick's stunning illustrations bring the story to life beautifully. It's perfect for teaching children about kindness, empathy, and helping others.

# The Land of Lost Things

Andy Griffiths & Bill Hope

Otter-Barry Books 9+

If you're a fan of The Treehouse series, you're in for a treat! The Land of Lost Things is packed with crazy fun, action, and laughs. Go on a wild journey to find a lucky rabbit's foot, meeting zany characters like pirate rabbits and talking books along the way. With tons of hilarious illustrations, maps, and comic-style moments, it's perfect for newly fluent readers who love nonsense and adventure.



# One You Might Have Missed

The Wild Robot - Peter Brown

Piccadilly- 7+ Jan 2018

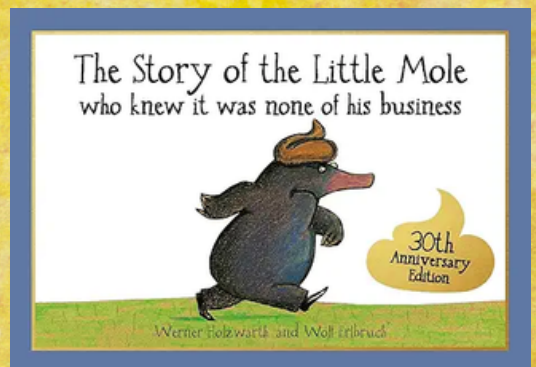
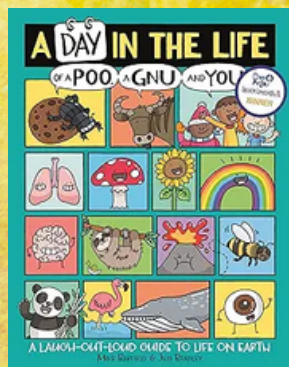
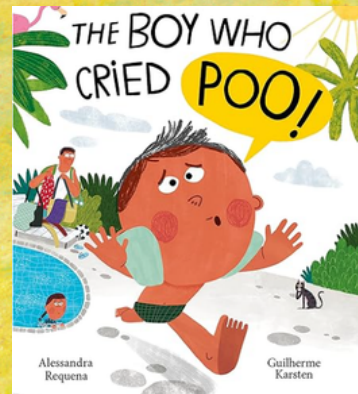
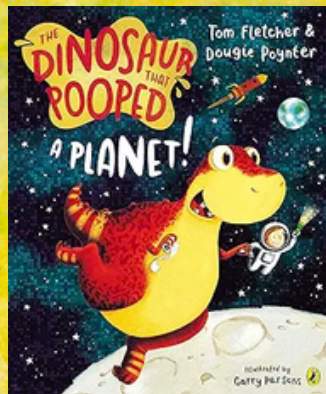
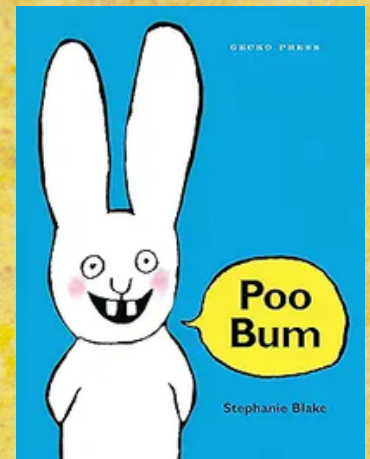
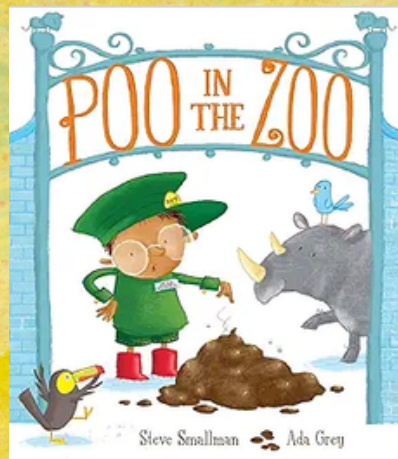
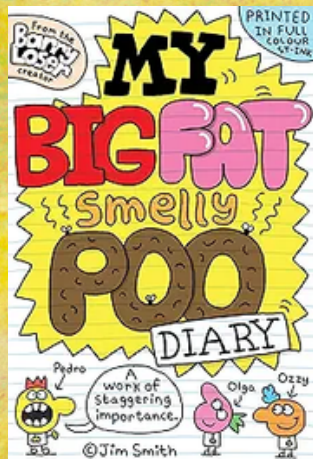
I am seriously hoping that there isn't a person left on the planet who hasn't read this... But with the new film coming out in October and a special 'film tie in' edition released, it seems like the perfect time to remind you about the most perfect book ever written! The Wild Robot is everything a story should be!

# 9 books about Poo



Recently I have heard people claiming that there are too many books about poo and how it is not funny... I think they are, so enjoy these 9 books about that thing that we all do...

1. My Big Fat Smelly Poo Diary  
**Jim Smith**
2. Poo in the Zoo  
**Steve Smallman & Ada Grey**
3. Poo Bum  
**Stephanie Blake**
4. The Dinosaur That Pooped A Planet  
**Tom Fletcher, Dougie Pointer & Garry Parsons**
5. The Boy Who Cried Poo  
**Alessandra Requena & Guilherme Karsten**
6. Poo! Is That You?  
**Clare Helen Welsh & Nicola O'Byrne**
7. A Day in the Life  
**Mark Barfield & Jess Bradley**
8. The Clue is in the Poo  
**Andy Seed & Claire Almon**
9. The Story of the Mole Who Knew it was None of His Business  
**Werner Holzwarth & Wolf Erlbruch**



Just a small advertisement here for the next few months. In April, No Shelf Control is running the London Marathon for charity. So if you enjoy the newsletter, we'd love a donation for such a great cause. Check out the QR code for more information.