

With thanks to the Waterstones website for helping with many of the synopses.

Owl Babies by Martin Waddell

A masterpiece of gentle suspense with a beautifully reassuring message, Waddell's celebrated picture book features three baby owls waiting for their mummy to return to their tree.

Three baby owls, Sarah, Percy and Bill, wake up one night in their hole in a tree to find that their mother has gone. So, they sit on a branch and wait... Darkness gathers and the owls grow anxious, wondering when their mother will return. But, at last, she does and they bounce up and down with joy, welcoming her home

Room on the Broom by Julia Donaldson

Donaldson and Scheffler's fantastic rhyming picture book about the inadequate seating arrangements on a kindly witch's broomstick is a marvel of storytelling structure built for reading out loud.

The witch and her cat fly happily over forests, rivers and mountains on their broomstick until a stormy wind blows away the witch's hat, bow and wand. Luckily, they are retrieved by a dog, a bird and a frog, who are all keen for a ride on the broom. It's a case of the more, the merrier, but the broomstick isn't used to such a heavy load and it's not long before . . . SNAP! It breaks in two! And with a greedy dragon looking for a snack, the witch's animal pals better think fast.

Elmer by David McKee

The first book in David McKee's iconic series about a friendly, fun elephant and his adventures, Elmer is a true ambassador of inclusion, acceptance and celebrating difference. Though he might temporarily want to be just like all the other grey elephants, Elmer realises that being his own colourful self is far more enjoyable – and everyone loves him, just the way he is.

Elmer the patchwork elephant is delightfully, colourfully different to all the other elephants and he's usually the one who makes everyone laugh. Yet, one day, Elmer starts to feel like the odd one out and so leaves the elephants to go off on his own. Finding a berry bush, Elmer shakes the berries from the tree and rolls in them until he's covered all over in their purple-grey juice. Now he's elephant colour, Elmer can return to the herd and fit in unnoticed – unfortunately, it's rather boring being like everyone else and Elmer can't help his irrepensible nature getting the better of him.

The Rainbow Fish by Marcus Pfister

The rainbow fish with its iridescent scales is the most beautiful fish in the whole ocean. But since he is also vain and proud, he becomes more and more lonely over time. Then he realises that you can't win friends through beauty. He overcomes his pride and begins to distribute his beautiful scales to the other fish and learns that connecting with others is much more important than being the shiniest fish. .

Eye-catching foil stamping, glittering on every page, offers instant appeal, but it is the universal message at the heart of this simple story about a beautiful fish who learns to make friends by sharing his most prized possessions that gives the book its lasting value.

Peace at Last by Jill Murphy

Jill Murphy's bestselling classic *Peace at Last* has delighted young children for almost forty years, and is equally beloved by tired parents who are all too familiar with the plight of poor Mr Bear.

With a snoring Mrs Bear, an excitable Baby Bear and a house full of tapping and dripping and ticking, peace is hard to come by – will Mr Bear ever get a decent night's sleep? The familiar noises, repetition and beautiful illustrations make Jill Murphy's delightful *Peace at Last* an all-time favourite bedtime story with children and adults everywhere. This is a beautiful refreshed edition of a much-loved picture book classic.

What the Ladybird Heard on Holiday by Julia Donaldson

With a whole host of noisy zoo-animal characters to meet *What the Ladybird Heard on Holiday* is a fantastic rhyming adventure from stellar picture book partnership of Julia Donaldson and Lydia Monks.

Those two bad men, Lanky Len and Hefty Hugh, are back! They may be in the city instead of the farm, but they haven't changed their thieving ways. In fact, they're even more ambitious. They're planning to steal a monkey from the zoo and use him to pinch the crown jewels. Unfortunately for them, they don't know that a certain crime-busting ladybird is holidaying in the very same city . . . and she's got a good idea that will ensure the dastardly pair won't get away with it!

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We're Going on a Bear Hunt by Michael Rosen

A classic picture book detailing a family's outdoors adventure in pursuit of a bear, Rosen and Oxenbury's beloved favourite makes playful use of repetition, rhythm and sound for an unbeatable read-along experience.

Why go on a walk, when you can go on a bear hunt? We're going on a bear hunt. We're going to catch a big one. Will you come too? Follow and join in the family's excitement as they wade through the grass, splash through the river and squelch through the mud in search of a bear. What a surprise awaits them in the cave on the other side of the dark forest! For a quarter of a century, readers have been swishy-swashying and splash-splashing through this award-winning favourite. Michael Rosen's timeless classic, lovingly illustrated by Helen Oxenbury is, in fact, nearing its thirtieth anniversary having first appeared in print in 1989 since when it has become an essential feature on any child's first bookcase.

Shhhhh.... Don't wake the bear!

Winnie the Witch by Valerie Thomas

The first instalment of the enduringly popular series introduces the lovable, madcap Winnie and her long-suffering black cat Wilbur in a story of colour, spells and unexpected transformations.

Winnie shares her big black house with Wilbur her big black cat. So sometimes she accidentally trips over him. Ouch! After some spells that make Wilbur look very silly, Winnie finds just the right magic to make sure she can always see him. It's a colourful Winnie and Wilbur adventure! Korky Paul's intricate artwork is full of madcap humour and crazy details to pore over. The spellbinding new look of this bestselling series celebrates the wonderful relationship that exists between Winnie the Witch and her big black cat, Wilbur.

Bumblebear by Nadia Shireen

There's a new bee at Bee School. But that bee is not a bee... It's a BEAR! Cheeky, sneaky Norman has a cunning plot to trick the bees and steal their honey. In his best bee onesie, Norman makes quite a convincing bee -- but how long will his disguise last? And when the hive is endangered can he finally discover his true destiny and become The Bumblebear?

Alan's Big Scary Teeth by Jarvis

An alligator who *snaps*, becomes an alligator who *th-naps* in this hilarious, heart-warming story of making new friends and discovering who you really are. Meet Alan, an alligator with a secret. Famed for his *big, scary teeth*, he sneaks into the jungle every day to scare the jungle animals ... "I'm big, scary Alan! Fear my razor-sharp teeth!" But after a long day of scaring, Alan likes nothing better than to run a warm mud bath and take out his false teeth, which nobody knows about! That is, until his teeth go missing. What will Alan do now? Scaring is the only thing he knows how to do! Can he still be scary without them? A goofy comedy of self-discovery now in baby-friendly board book format, warm-hearted storytelling and bright graphic art have made *Alan's Big, Scary Teeth* an award-winning children's favourite.

Greta and the Giants by Zoe Tucker by

Greta is a little girl who lives in a beautiful forest threatened by Giants. When the Giants first came to the forest, they chopped down trees to make houses. Then they chopped down more trees and made even bigger homes. The houses grew into towns and the towns grew into cities, until now there is hardly any forest left. Greta knows she has to help the animals who live in the forest, but how? Luckily, Greta has an idea... A section at the back explains that, in reality, the fight against the 'giants' isn't over and explains how you can help Greta in her fight

Finn's Little Fibs by Tom Percival

When Finn accidentally breaks his grandma's precious clock, he tells a teeny tiny little lie - and blames it on his sister instead! Soon, Finn's little fib is OUT OF CONTROL, and it's getting in the way of everything! Can he find a way to tell the truth? This reassuring and humorous book is the perfect springboard for talking to children about the importance of honesty.

Tom Percival's Big Bright Feelings series is the ideal starting point for discussions about mental and emotional health, positive self-image, building self-confidence and managing feelings.

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Animal Pants by Giles Andreae

Have you ever wondered what kind of pants honey bees wear? What about iguanas? Or even piranhas? Find out in this joyous explosion of colour and silliness that will have readers of all ages laughing together - a hilarious rhyming read, from the author of *Giraffes Can't Dance* and the illustrator of *You Choose*

The Odd Fish by Naomi Jones

A warm and funny eco-adventure with a clever message about looking after our blue planet.

When Little Fish and her family encounter an odd new fish bobbing along on its own, they embark on an exciting journey to reunite it with its family. But Odd Fish isn't the only creature who needs Little Fish's help. Turtle has a tummy ache and Octopus's tentacles are tangled. Clever readers will spot the one thing that links them all... plastic. Maybe Odd Fish doesn't belong in the sea after all?

Eight million tonnes of plastic find their way into our oceans and rivers every year. That's equal to dumping one rubbish truck every minute into the sea! This urgent problem is highlighted for the youngest readers with gentle humour and engaging characters, and offers practical ways we can all make a real difference to protect our oceans and the creatures that live in them.

The Leaf Thief by Alice Hemming

A brilliantly funny picture book about seasons.

Squirrel is so cross. Yesterday there were loads of beautiful leaves on his tree, but today? Today some are missing and Squirrel is convinced that someone has stolen them... there's a leaf thief on the loose! Join Squirrel on a mission to find the culprit, and meet so many fun animals on the way, while you find out how the world takes on different colours as the months pass by. A laugh-out-loud book about the changing seasons, with extra information in the back for especially curious minds Perfect as a companion reader to children learning about seasons in school A brilliant picture book that explores feelings, moods and times where we feel out of control

There's a Dragon in Your Book by Tom Fletcher

OH LOOK, there's an EGG in your book!

But this isn't any old egg - there's a dragon in it . . . And pretty soon she has set your book ON FIRE. OH NO! Children will love stroking, poking and flapping the book to make magic happen as they turn the pages. Can they help Little Dragon find a way to stop the fire and fly off on her own adventure?

The Rainbow Flamingo by Catherine Emmett

Adele wants nothing more than to be just like all the other flamingos. But hiding who she really is feels horribly tough. Can Adele find the courage to celebrate her true colours? This thought-provoking and touching story empowers children to embrace their uniqueness and have the courage to stand out.

The Magic Crayon by Amy Sparkes

Jack was seven and Chloe was six. Jack liked his sister, but loved to play tricks . . . So begins this rollicking, rhyming tale that celebrates the power of imagination - with a difference! When Chloe's silvery crayon develops magical powers, it sparks a thrilling chase through a fairytale world - an unbelievable adventure where her drawings spring to life! Can Chloe use all her creativity and inventiveness to rescue her brother and save the day?

Look Up by Nathan Bryon

3 ... 2 ... 1 ... LIFT OFF

Let science-mad chatterbox Rocket launch into your hearts in this inspiring picture book. Rocket's going to be the greatest astronaut, star-catcher, space-traveller that has ever lived! But... First, she needs to convince her big brother Jamal to stop looking down at his phone and start LOOKING UP at the stars. Bursting with energy and passion about space and the natural world, this heart-warming picture book will reignite your desire to turn off those screens and switch on to the outside world.

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My Magic Family by Lotte Jeffs

In this celebratory, reassuring rhyming story a little girl with two mummies shares the magic of her family and discovers how magic all her friends' families are too. This is a warm, funny read-aloud that's perfect for opening up conversations about different families in a playful, creative way