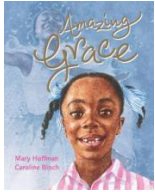
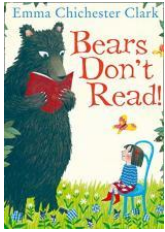
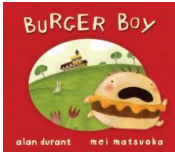
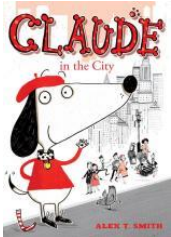
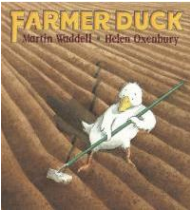
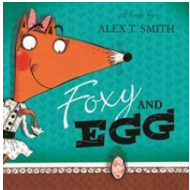
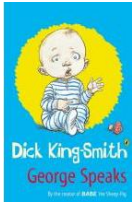
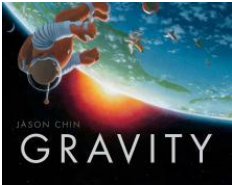
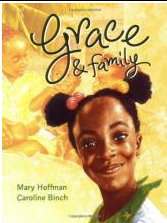
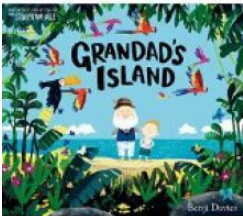
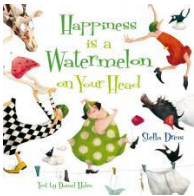
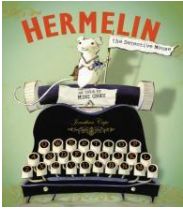
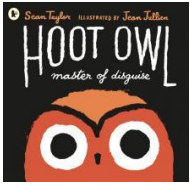
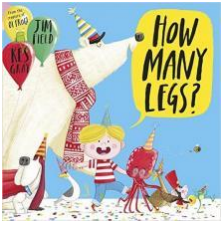
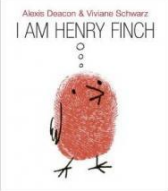
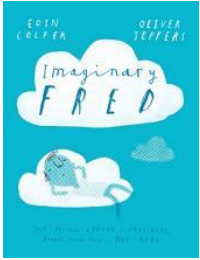
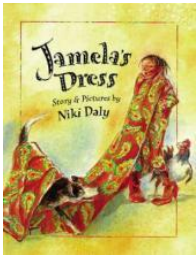
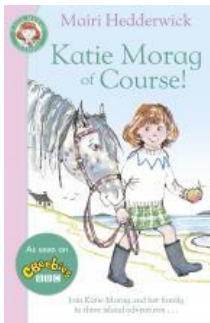
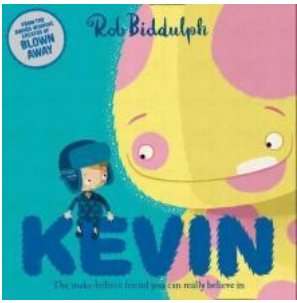
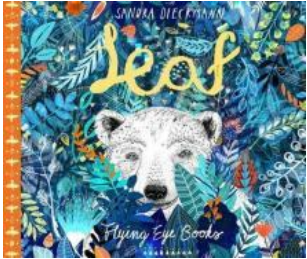
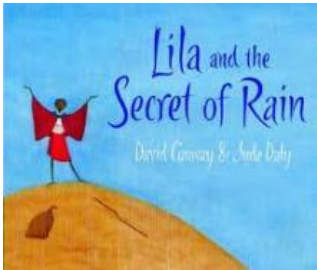
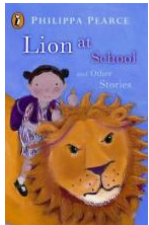
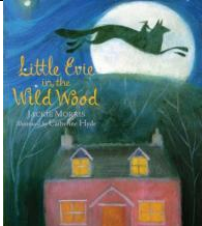
	A First Book of Animals By Nicola Davies	Nicola Davies offers scientific observations about animals within a poetic text and uses a well-chosen blend of descriptive and technical vocabulary that both delights and astounds. Her poems demand to be read aloud, lifting the language and meaning off the page; each one celebrating the dazzling variety of wildlife with whom we share the planet.
	Amazing Grace By Mary Hoffman	A wonderfully affirmative story. Grace 'a girl who loved stories' is told that she cannot play Peter Pan in the school pantomime because she is black and female. With the help and support of her grandmother she comes to believe that she can be anything she wants.
	Bears Don't Read By Emma Chichester Clark	Bears don't read but George is a bear who desperately desires to do so. Finding a book beneath a tree in the forest, he heads for the town, determined to find someone who will teach him. At first he encounters fear and prejudice, but eventually he finds the perfect person.
	Burger Boy By Alan Durant	Benny hates vegetables and loves burgers. So much so, that his mum tells him he will turn into a burger and – lo and behold! – he does! He is chased, Gingerbread Man style, by dogs, cows and hungry boys who want to eat him.
	Charlie Cook's Favourite Book By Julia Donaldson	A love song to the enjoyment of reading and a feast full of intertextual links. Charlie Cook has a favourite book – in fact he has a whole shelf of them – and the characters within also love to read. Goldilocks is snuggled in Baby Bear's bed with his favourite book, a bold and fearless knight fends off a dragon by reading aloud jokes to him. The design of each spread mimics the opening of a different kind of book reflected in small details such as water stains on the pages of a story about a pirate.

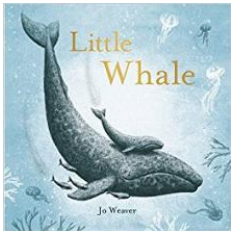
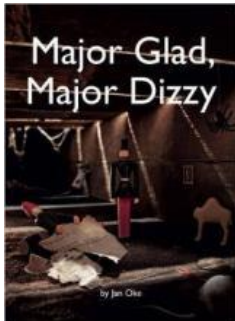
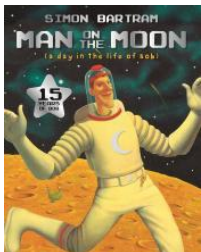
	Charlie & Lola: One Thing By Lauren Child	An outing to the shops provides Charlie and his little sister Lola with lots of opportunities to explore numbers in the context of their everyday environment. In addition to counting a range of things, including the different birds wading in the water meadow and singing on the wire, they encounter many other aspects of maths such as: estimating the number of leaves on a tree, telling the time and fractions. However, no matter how you divide things up, sharing is central to this warm sibling relationship.
	Claude in the City By Alex T Smith	Claude is a small plump dog with a penchant for snazzy berets and a bent for problem solving. Accompanied by his sidekick Sir Bobblysock, he ventures into the city in the first of two episodes, followed by a second involving a visit to the hospital.
	Farmer Duck By Martin Waddell	Whilst the lazy farmer stays in bed, little Farmer Duck does all the work in the house and on the farm. “How goes the work?” “Quack” is the only dialogue apart from Moo, Baa and Cluck when the animals have united to evict the farmer and help Farmer Duck with the work.
	Flat Stanley By Jeff Brown	At first it seems a disaster when Stanley Lambchop is flattened by an ‘enormous bulletin board’. However, he soon finds that his new proportions can be useful: he can retrieve his mother’s ring from a drain, be posted to his friend (thus saving the air fare) and play an important part in foiling a robbery.
	Foxy and Egg By Alex T Smith	Egg rolls up at Foxy DuBois’ door and she anticipates a feast in store. First she tries to fatten him up but what finally hatches out of the egg is no chickenfeed!
	George Speaks By Dick King-Smith	Some young children seem wise beyond their years, but none has ever been as advanced as this. Meet George, the four week old baby who can talk although he hasn’t learned to control his body very well yet!

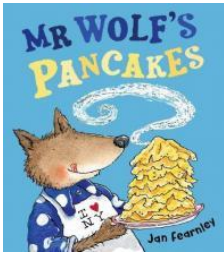
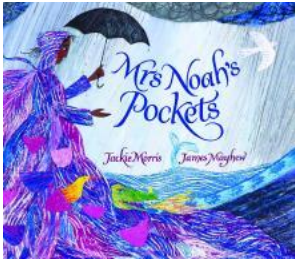
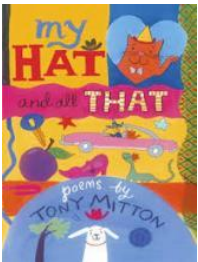
	Gravity By Jason Chin	With a minimal text and imaginative illustrations eyeing the earth and the solar system from a variety of angles, this picture book explores the role and essentiality of gravity graphically. A double page spread at the end expands the concepts in more detail.
	One Bear By Leigh Hodgkinson	A solitary bear stumbles into the city and is as lost as a little girl might be in the woods. He enters a flat in a tower block where he finds food that's just right after tasting some that's all wrong, breaks a bean bag after trying some less pleasant places to sit and falls asleep in a comfy bed. When the family finally return the bear and the mummy person feel that the situation and each other seem somehow familiar...
	Grace & Family By Mary Hoffman	In this sequel to <i>Amazing Grace</i>, Grace travels to the Gambia to visit her father and has to adjust to new relationships with his new wife and family. Her love of books and stories always sustains and enriches her life.
	Grandad's Island By Benji Davies	Syd has a very close relationship with his Grandad, whose house and garden back onto his own. On one of his regular visits, he finds Grandad in the attic. Grandad appears to be ready to make a journey and the pair set out on a voyage, entering onto the deck of a ship by passing through a large metal door that Syd has never noticed before. They spend a wonderful time together on a beautiful tropical island before Grandad reveals that he will be staying there and Syd has to make the journey home alone.
	Watermelon on Your Head By Daniel Hahn	Three very grumpy women are determined to find out why their neighbour Miss Jolly is always so happy. Is the secret in her bizarre headgear? Or having a pet?
	Here Comes Frankie By Tim Hopgood	Frankie decides that the extremely quiet life he leads with his parents needs livening up and he acquires a trumpet. As he learns to play, he discovers that he can see and smell sounds conjured by the music as well as hear them and this awakening of the senses extends to his parents and neighbours too.

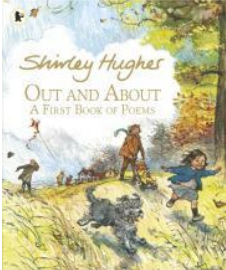
	Hermelin By Mini Grey	Print of all kinds finds its way into the story – a newspaper report, an invitation, and a reference book in which Hermelin discovers to his chagrin why the Offley Street residents react as they do when they find out who has been helping them. However, there is one person who has understood his true worth ...
	Hoot Owl, Master of Disguise By Sean Taylor	Hoot Owl is no ordinary owl. He is a master of disguise! In the blackness of night, he is preparing to swoop on his prey before it can realise his dastardly tricks.
	Hortense and the Shadow By Natalia and Lauren O'Hara	Hortense has an intense hatred for her shadow and the way in which it shifts and changes. She takes action to rid herself of its presence but, when danger threatens, finds out in an unexpected way how vital it is.
	How Many Legs? By Kes Gray	Maths in the surreal world. On each page, a question is posed in rhyming text about how many legs would be present if an increasing number of creatures joined in with a tea party. A comical picture book which encourages counting and addition and consideration of animal variety.
	I Am Henry Finch By Alexis Deacon	
	If all the world were ... By Joseph Coelho	A child describes her relationship with her Indian grandfather – the activities they share, the stories he tells her and the way he encourages her to write and draw by giving her a notebook he has made himself. When he dies she finds a new notebook on his empty chair that she can use to record her memories of him and feel that he remains with her as she cultivates her own creativity.
	Imaginary Fred By Eoin Colfer	Fred is an imaginary friend, poised in the ether, waiting for the magic moment when a lonely child will need him. Eventually, though, each child makes a real friend and Fred finds himself fading. When Fred meets Sam and they discover how much they have in common,

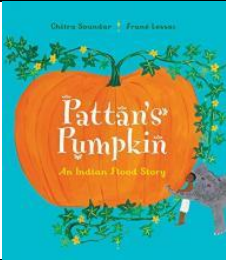
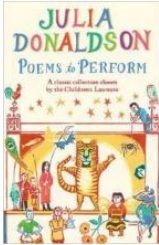
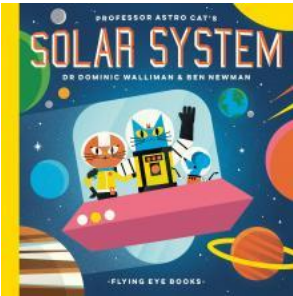
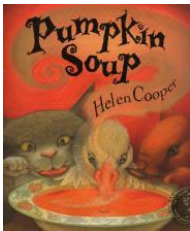
		everything seems perfect. What will happen when Sam makes a real friend?
	It Starts with a Seed By Laura Knowles	A rhyming text beautifully describes the growth and life of a sycamore tree from its start as a seed to its eventual emergence as a 'leaf-laden, bark-bound arboreal home' for many living creatures. The delicate illustrations on the opposite page echo the text as well as complementing and extending it with further detail.
	Jamela's Dress By Niki Daly	Jamela so loves the beautiful material that her mother has bought to make a dress to attend a wedding that she wraps it around herself and, oblivious to how dirty and torn it is becoming, she parades around the South African township where she lives. It could be a disaster but rescue comes in the shape of prize money won by a neighbour who takes a photograph of the incident and so turns it into a triumph. A warm and humorous story with universal appeal which has a clearly specific cultural and geographical setting.
	Katie Morag, Of Course! By Mairi Hedderwick	A short chapter book containing three episodes in the lives of Katie Morag and her family and friends who live on the Scottish island of Struay. First Katie and her brother decide what to give their Granny for her birthday. Then she learns to look after and ride a pony that was neglected by his previous owners. Finally, Katie embarks on a camping trip that nearly ends in disaster. Many readers may already be familiar with Katie Morag from the picture books and the TV series about her.

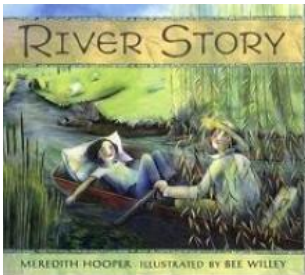
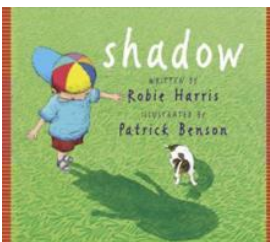
	Kevin By Rob Biddulph	Sid Gibbons is always blaming his friend Kevin for messes of his own making. His mum is fed up because Kevin is only make-believe as far as she is aware. Is Sid just making excuses or does Kevin really exist? His discoveries about Kevin, the world he inhabits and his own behaviour lead Sid to mend his ways in a story told in rhyming couplets which has a moral conveyed in a way that does not seem didactic and encourages empathy. A tribute to imaginary friends everywhere.
	Leaf By Sandra Dieckmann	One day a large white creature floats to shore and tries to find shelter and safety in an old cave. The animals of the Wild Wood fear him at first and name him Leaf because they observe him gathering leaves and because they want him to leave. They are divided by what they regard as Leaf's strange behaviour but gradually come to understand that this bewildered polar bear (for that is what he is although this is not stated until the story nears its close) just wants to get home.
	Lila and the Secret of Rain By David Conway	There has been no rain in Lila's Kenyan village for many weeks and "Without water there can be no life", her mother says. Lila's grandfather reveals to her the secret of rain and she climbs the mountain to tell the sky the saddest thing she knows. Will the sky listen to her plea? Beautiful language – 'the sky was ebony with emotion' – accompanies delicate illustrations that convey the sparseness of life and landscape.
	Lion at School and other stories By Philippa Pearce	A rich mixture of tales for reading aloud or for confident new readers to read for themselves. Some are fantasy – such as the title story in which a lion puts paid to bullying in the school playground. Some are everyday such as 'The Executioner' in which a boy saves a mouse from the trap – and there is a humorous animal story for good measure.
	Little Evie in the Wild Wood By Jackie Morris	A story with strong echoes of Red Riding Hood. Little Evie meets a wolf in the wood, a she wolf with 'Great eyes, the better to see her with. Great ears, the better to hear her call. Sharp teeth like dagger, nose black as coal.' The poetic

		text integrated within exquisite paintings celebrate the wildness of the wood and how humans can share this with the creatures who dwell within it.
	Little Whale By Jo Weaver	The story of a Grey Whale migrating with her calf through the oceans from breeding to feeding ground. Jo Weaver uses charcoal as her medium for the illustrations, tinged with blue to conjure the vast oceans and the whales' underwater journey 'Through seas that shimmered and danced.'
	Major Glad, Major Dizzy By Jan Oke	An innovative book to share with children which will help them gain a conceptual understanding of history. More than a hundred years go by (marked by a timeline), seen through the eyes of two wooden toy soldiers buried beneath the floorboards. Their story is told in imaginatively constructed photographs in which details need to be read alongside a dialogue between the soldiers, occasionally interspersed by the words of children who inhabit the house.
	Man on the Moon (a day in the life of Bob) By Simon Bartram	It's Bob's job to keep the Moon clean and tidy. He also welcomes tourist spaceships and gives guided tours. Bob's daily routine is described in a matter of fact tone, and his disbelief in aliens is frequently referred to. However, the detailed, period pictures, tell a different story and readers will soon spot the little green men lurking in the background.
	Meerkat Mail By Emily Gravett	Sunny finds life with his typically close meerkat family somewhat claustrophobic and sets off to see the world, staying with various mongoose relatives along the way. However, nowhere feels quite right and eventually he returns home wearily to his loving family in the Kalahari Desert. The lift-the-flap postcards he sends home during his travels provide ideas for children's own writing.

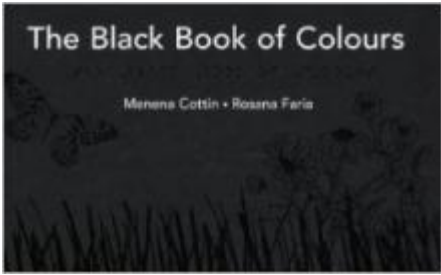
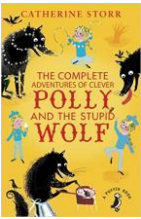
	Mr Wolf's Pancakes By Jan Fearnley	Hungry Mr Wolf fancies some pancakes. He tries to enlist the help of other fairytale characters such as Chicken Licken, the Gingerbread Man, Little Red Riding Hood and the Three Little Pigs with various aspects of this task. Like the Little Red Hen's companions, they all refuse but, once they smell the delicious aroma of the cooked pancakes, they all come running to eat them. What will Mr Wolf do?
	Mrs Noah's Pockets By Jackie Morris	As the rain falls with increasing intensity and the water rises, Mr Noah makes a list of all the animals he believes should sail in the ark he is building. He also has another list of all those creatures he thinks are troublesome and not worth saving. Mrs Noah watches what is happening and pursues her own agenda as poetic language and mixed media illustrations work together to create understanding in this new slant on a very old tale.
	My Hat and All That By Tony Mitton	A poetry collection for younger children, featuring everyday things written about in everyday language, used in inventive ways, and illustrated by humorous black and white line drawings. 'At My Fingertips' is an innovative section of action poems, something usually only found in collections for the very young. Many others can be acted out.
	My First Book of Garden Bugs By Mike Unwin	A guide which encourages close looking at insects by showing a partial or disguised view of one in an illustration which has a photographic quality, then asking 'Who is it?'. Turning the page reveals the answer and some interesting facts about the creature concerned.
	Olga da Polga By Michael Bond	Life from a guinea pig's viewpoint. These stories are charming but also enable deeper thinking and enquiry, for example the chapter 'Olga Starts a Rumour' encourages questioning about science and the environment. Olga is an imaginative storyteller – she has a tale about why guinea pigs have no tails.

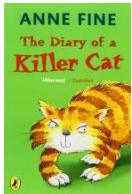
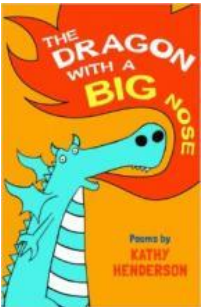
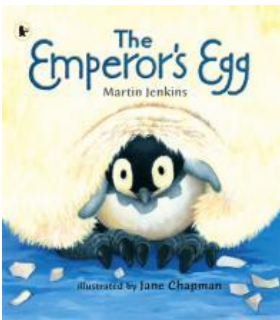
	On a Magical Do-Nothing Day By Beatrice Alemagna	During a stay in the countryside, a girl is bored without her computer game. However, when she ventures outdoors she makes discoveries in the rainsoaked natural landscape that appeal to all her senses. The illustrations are imbued with an earthy colour palette with strong orange splashes highlighting the girl's hooded coat, echoed in the shape of the mushrooms which remind her of a cave of treasures experienced in her early childhood.
	Orion and the Dark By Emma Yarlett	Orion has a whole list of things he is scared of which are comically mapped out on the page. But the one thing that scares him more than anything else is ... the Dark! Then, one night, the Dark drops arrives in person for a visit and takes Orion on a journey which enables him to see the sources of his fears and conquer them. The layout of this picture book including the use of lists, labels and speech balloons add to the interest and enjoyment of the storytelling.
	Ossiri and the Bala Mengro By Richard O'Neill and Katharine Quarmby	Ossiri's family is adept at recycling to support themselves. Her love of music leads her to fashion her own instrument using these skills and she creates what she calls a Tattin Django. The sounds she makes with it are not pleasing to the ears of her community at first but Ossiri perseveres and her music awakes the ogre known as the Bala Mengro, with unexpected consequences.
	Out and About. A First Book of Poems By Shirley Hughes	In this book of poetry the seasons are seen from a child's eye view. Each section opens with a glorious double page spread showing families engaged in a range of seasonally specific activities such as playing on the sand in summer and sledging and snowballing in winter. The language of the poems is simple yet evocative and each is given its own page where it is complemented by illustrations of children enjoying life and nature.

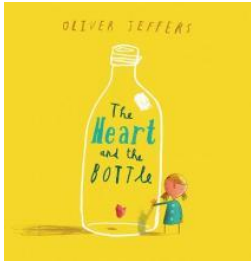
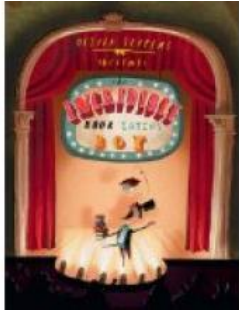
	Pattan's Pumpkin By Chitra Soundar	Pattan and his wife Kanni grow food which they share with all living creatures. An ailing plant that he nurtures becomes a huge and splendid pumpkin which provides rescue and shelter when dark clouds gather and a flood threatens human, animal and plant life.
	Poems to Perform By Julia Donaldson	A careful selection of poems both familiar and new, edited by the former Children's Laureate, that lend themselves to being performed in a range of collaborative ways – by two voices, by groups or by a whole class. Progress through the book is subtly themed: gliding through poems about school, football, food and many other matters.
	Professor Astro Cat's Solar System By Dominic Walliman	Professor Astro Cat takes us on a tour of the solar system, highlighting features of each planet. This book has been produced as a junior edition of <i>Professor Astro Cat's Frontiers of Space</i> which was written for an older child audience. The information is deliberately limited to facts contained in three speech bubbles per spread so as not to overwhelm younger readers with information. This element of interaction with the professor and his friends is inviting and accessible and the selection of intriguing facts
	Pumpkin Soup By Helen Cooper	A cat, a squirrel and a duck live together in an old white cabin deep in the woods. Each has his own job to do, including during the making of pumpkin soup. One day, Duck decides he wants to stir the soup instead of Squirrel. Following the resulting quarrel, Duck runs off and his friends search for him. All the while, their imaginations are running riot at what may have happened to him.
	Rabbit & Bear: Rabbit's Bad Habits By Julian Gough	Bear wakes up from her hibernation early to find snow on the ground and meets the grumpy and rather self-important although apparently very knowledgeable Rabbit. Bear soon starts to learn about gravity, avalanches, why rabbits eat their own poo... Rabbit has surreptitiously stolen Bear's winter food hoard but his survival instincts don't extend to easy escape when a wolf appears. Bear's

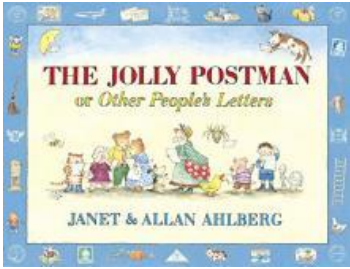
		intervention and generous nature lead to a lasting friendship between the pair as they contemplate the snowy landscape from the mouth of a cave and consider creating a companion for their Snow Man.
	River Story By Meredith Hooper	The author and illustrator have created the journey of a river from its source in the mountains to its merger with the open sea compositing knowledge, experience and memories of rivers they have known. The poetic text travels with the river through a variety of landscapes both rural and urban. The blues, greens and mauves Bee Willey uses display the changing moods and phases of the river. The illustrations work very effectively together with the words to portray it as something living and organic.
	Rapunzel By Bethan Woollvin	A pared back and twisted take on the traditional tale told with humour to be gleaned from reading the pictures. It begins with Rapunzel, here portrayed as a child, already encased in the tower without the back story explaining how she came to be there and reaches a conclusion in which she makes a joyful escape without the aid of a prince.
	Shadow By Robie H Harris	Scientific observation of the very best kind. A small boy is fascinated by his own shadow, watching how it moves with him – ‘It’s twirling with me. It’s swirling with me.’ The boy and his dog are firmly foregrounded in Patrick Benson’s illustrations which depict how their shadows grow and diminish depending on the time of day and whether the sun is covered by clouds.

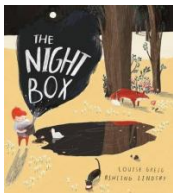
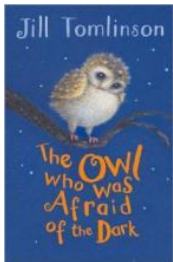
	Stardust By Jeanne Willis	This picture book may appear at first glance to be about sibling rivalry but it's really about gaining self-esteem as a girl is encouraged to believe in herself by her grandfather when her sister seems to be getting all the plaudits and consistently called a 'star'. This use of language is a clue to what the girl eventually becomes and this is also signalled in the details in the warm pictures which convey excitement and wonder at this world and others beyond.
	The Adventures of Egg Box Dragon By Richard Adams	Arts and crafts literally come to life when Emma brings home a dragon she has constructed from a range of materials – shiny bicycle reflectors, black bin liners, thick wire and, predominantly, cut up egg boxes. A night under the moon awakens the Egg Box Dragon who quickly becomes famous for his ability to find lost objects, eventually coming to the notice of the Queen.
	The Bee Who Spoke By Al MacCuish	Parisian Belle holidays with her family in the countryside, which she explores on the bicycle that belonged to her mother when she was a girl. Following a minor accident, she feels lost as she realises that she doesn't know the countryside the way she does her home in the city. She is rescued by a talking bee. The two share a remarkable adventure discovering the plants and animals that surround them, and Belle is amazed to learn just how nature works in harmony, whether in the countryside or the city.
	The Big Book of Bugs By Yuval Zommer	This large beautiful book encourages children's engagement with the small creatures in our environment and is great for children to share and explore. Readers are asked to search for details in the illustrations and this questioning approach extends to observing bugs in real life. Following a general introduction to bugs and spotting them, each carefully designed spread is devoted to a different creature, beginning with beetles and ending with spiders.

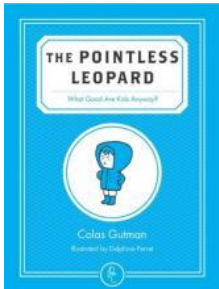
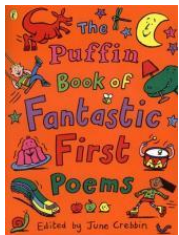
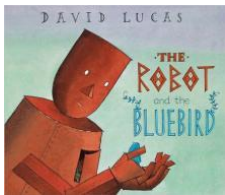
	The Black Book of Colours By Menena Cottin	This unusual and imaginative tactile book poetically describes colours using senses other than sight. For example, 'yellow tastes like mustard, but is as soft as baby chick's feathers.' The text, in white typeface on otherwise totally black pages, is also written in Braille. The black illustrations are raised line drawings representing each colour: feathers are yellow, strawberries evoke red, Autumn leaves are brown.
	The Boy Who Climbed into the Moon By David Almond	When Paul, the boy from the basement, ascends to floor 29 in the tower block where he lives, the friends he encounters there encourage and enable him to climb a ladder into the moon. A surreal story in which Paul discovers that 'sausages are better than war'. Polly Dunbar's imaginative illustrations are shown off to beautiful effect in colour in the larger format edition which is to be preferred to the smaller edition with black and white illustrations.
	The Colour of Home By Mary Hoffman	This picture book lets us into the world of Hassan, a young boy who has just arrived in Britain from Somalia. He expresses his feelings about the terrors he has witnessed through making paintings. His teacher finds a way, with the help of an interpreter, to help him settle into his new home.
	The Complete Adventures of Clever Polly and the Stupid Wolf By Catherine Storr	Polly is visited over and over again by the Wolf, who is always plotting to eat her, but she is always just able to outwit him. The witty dialogue makes these short stories a pleasure to read aloud. Many intertextual links can be made with well known fairy tales especially, of course, Red Riding Hood.
	The Dark By Lemony Snicket	Laszlo is afraid of the dark. The dark lives in the same house as Laszlo but mostly it spends its time in the basement. It doesn't visit Laszlo in his room. Until one night it does. With emotional insight and poetic economy, Lemony Snicket and Jon Klassen bring to light a universal and empowering story about conquering fear. Join a brave boy on his journey to meet the dark, and see why it will never bother him again.

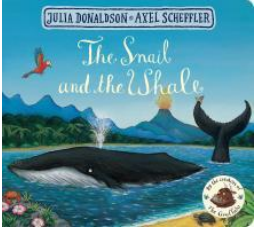
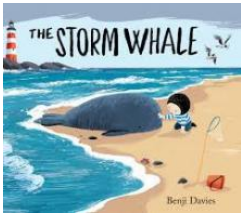
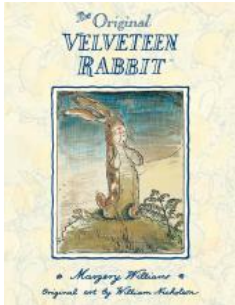
	The Day the Crayons Quit By Drew Daywalt	Duncan's crayons desperately want to communicate with him so each of them writes him a letter. Most of them have grievances, whether it's about the amount they have to work (too much or too little) or the restricted range of objects for which they are used. They have internecine squabbles, such as whether orange or yellow is the true colour of the sun. Each crayon has its own distinct character, highlighted by the fact that the letters are written in a variety of handwriting styles on different kinds of paper.
	The Diary of a Killer Cat By Anne Fine	A cat's eye view of a week in which his family fail to appreciate the results of his hunting - and blame him for killing next door's rabbit when all he has done is to dig up the corpse. Hilarious human consequences result. An entertaining read-alone for the unsqueamish.
	The Dragon with a Big Nose By Kathy Henderson	These are odes to the urban environment - its buildings, its transport, the people and creatures that inhabit it and the effects of weather on it. The dragon on the cover disguises the contents although fantasy and reality converge in poems like 'Under the Stairs' and many of them describe wonder in the apparently ordinary. The child's eye viewpoint is foremost and this contributes to this being that rare commodity - a single poet collection for younger children.
	The Emperor's Egg By Martin Jenkins	A description of how the male Emperor penguin protects and cares for his young both before and after it is hatched, related in a personalised manner. The colours of the illustrations reflect the blues and mauves of Antarctica, and the penguins are endearing without being overly cute. Interesting use is made of typeface in the design of the pages, an italic font being used to relate interesting facts which do not form part of the main narrative, and a larger size font being used for appropriate emphasis.

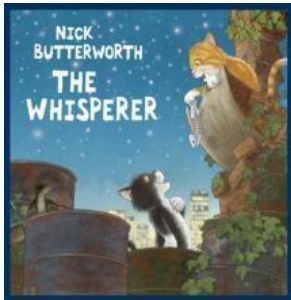
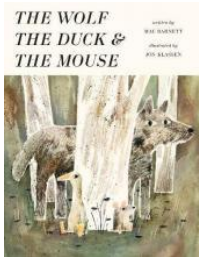
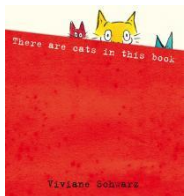
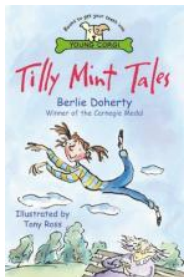
	The Fox and the Star By Coralie Bickford-Smith	A fox lives in a deep, dense forest depicted in stylised pictures which are strikingly and strongly patterned while evoking fresh sensations on every spread, using a predominantly blue, white and grey colour palette. The permanent bright splash of colour in the forest is Fox with his yellow-speckled orange coat. Fox's only friend is Star who lights his way through life. Then one night, Star does not appear.
	The Giant Jam Sandwich By John Vernon Lord	The story, told in rhyming couplets, of how the resourceful villagers of Itching Down hatch an ingenious plan to rid their community of a plague of wasps. Try reading it aloud to a rap rhythm!
	The Great Big Book of Families By Mary Hoffman	A picture book which challenges stereotypes and celebrates the diversity of family life, from who might form a family to the many activities they engage in, separately and together. Ros Asquith's comic illustrations complement and extend the text, providing lots to talk about.
	The Heart and the Bottle By Oliver Jeffers	A curious child, saddened by loss, shuts away her heart in a bottle and seals off her wonderment at the world. It takes the intervention of another child, smaller and still curious, to find the way to restore her heart to its rightful place and reopen her mind. The graphic representation of the story with the characters' imaginative ideas appearing in bubbles above their heads combined with an uncluttered text give this moving picture book a special magic.
	The Incredible Book Eating Boy By Oliver Jeffers	Henry loves to consume books, quite literally. By an amazing quirk of his digestive system, he absorbs the information from them into his brain. Ultimately, however, the number and speed with which he scoffs the books, leads to indigestion and Henry needs to change his culinary habits. The innovative illustrations incorporate different kinds of print and paper into their design.

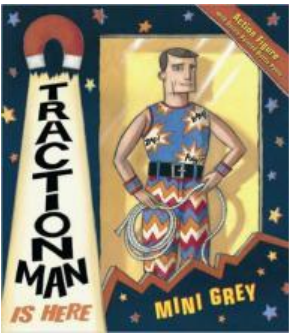
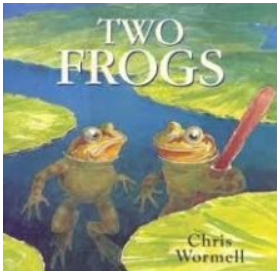
	The Jolly Postman By Janet & Allan Ahlberg	Sub-titled 'Other People's Letters', this is a stupendous and original picture book. As the Postman delivers his letters to the Wicked Witch, the giant (Mr. V. Bigg in Beanstalk Gardens) and B(ig) B(ad) Wolf, Esq., c/o Grandma's Cottage, Horner's Corner, the child reader can actually open the envelopes, take out the letters or cards and read them. The rhyming text, the witty pictures, the references to nursery rhymes and stories make this picture book a treasure trove.
	The Journey Home By Frann Preston-Gannon	A polar bear realises that he needs to leave his Arctic home as the ice melts and his food supply dwindles. So he climbs into a little boat and sets sail. Along the way he is joined by other animals whose habitat is threatened. The story ends on a note that combines a mixture of hope and uncertainty about whether they will ever be able to return to their original home.
	The Julian Stories By Ann Cameron	Emotionally warm stories about an African-American family told in the first person by Julian, the elder of two young brothers. Eating a pudding meant for Mum, losing a first tooth, having a girl for a friend – all these are traumas for Julian; but his father understands childhood and has a welcome sense of humour.
	The Magic Bojabi Tree By Dianne Hofmeyr	There is a drought on the plains of Africa and the animals are hungry. A tempting tree is covered in red, ripe fruit but it is closely guarded by a large python who will only uncoil to release it if they can remember its true name. Many try and fail until Tiny Tortoise enters the frame. Piet Grobler's distinctively drawn animals and stylishly patterned lettering for the various names suggested are incorporated into a beautifully designed book.
	The Magic Finger By Roald Dahl	The narrator of this tale is a young girl whose finger has magic powers which become active when she is angry. She causes her hunt-loving neighbours to change places with the ducks they have been shooting at and as a result they mend their ways. The magic of this story lies in the power of a child to right wrongs perpetrated by adults. For many

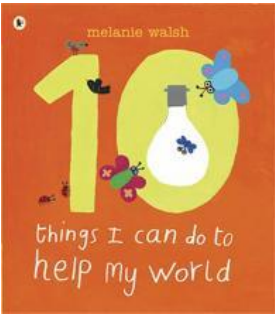
		children, it has been the first short novel that they read for themselves.
	The Man Who Wore All His Clothes By Allan Ahlberg	In a book which crosses the divide between picture books and first chapter books, readers are introduced to the Gaskitt family. There is a storyline for each member of the family: Mr Gaskitt in his car with an eccentric radio, Mrs Gaskitt answering a mysterious call to her taxi service, the children on the school bus, until all become intertwined in a twisting and turning car chase. In the penultimate chapter, the reason for Mr Gaskitt wearing so many clothes is finally revealed.
	The New Neighbours By Sarah McIntyre	Some rats have moved into one of the flats in a tower block at Pickle Rye. What will the neighbours think and what will they do? Will they welcome the new inhabitants or will they cling to prejudices about what they will be like? Returning to the environment of <i>Vern and Lettuce</i> , Sarah McIntyre uses humour to challenge a serious subject in this picture book aimed at a younger audience than her earlier comic strip.
	The Night Box By Louise Greig	Ashling Lindsay's pictures complement and extend the words in Louise Greig's poetic text which contrasts the day and night time worlds surrounding the boy Max. The image of the night box being opened by Max marks the passing from day to night and back again.
	The Owl Who Was Afraid of the Dark By Jill Tomlinson	A cunning story that will help children who are afraid of the dark to appreciate it and be unafraid. Plop the owlet is a special case, of course, because he is a nightbird but even he has to be persuaded by a boy with fireworks, an old woman with memories, an astronomer with a telescope among others that dark is exciting, dark is kind, dark is wonderful.

		A witty, easy-to-read text with a splendid ending.
	The Pirates Next Door By Jonny Duddle	Matilda is delighted when her new neighbours turn out to be a pirate family, the Jolley-Rogers. The rest of the inhabitants of the dull seaside town where she lives are less than thrilled and band together to have the pirates removed. However, the pirates never planned a permanent stay anyhow... This picture book has humorous rhyming text and pictures that combine the real and the fantastical, and could be an interesting way to explore ideas about prejudice.
	The Pointless Leopard By Colas Gutman	All children love going to the countryside, don't they? Not Leonard, whose parents assume he must appreciate its splendour. The boy comes face to face with a sheep who questions what Leonard is and what he is for. He is hard pressed to answer these questions in a way that the sheep finds satisfactory. The cow and the hen he meets subsequently take much the same tack. The trio take him to meet another animal familiar in storybooks and a scene with a fairy tale twist follows.
	The Puffin Book of Fantastic First Poems By June Crebbin	A lively collection of poems which are excellent to read aloud. It is arranged in seven thematic sections, illustrated by different illustrators including Tony Ross, Nick Sharratt and Emma Chichester Clark. Most of the poems are modern, although some classic and traditional material is also included. A poetry collection with lots of variety.
	The Robot and the Bluebird By David Lucas	A broken-hearted robot is left on the scrapheap. Day turns into night, Autumn into Winter, as he lies there, and this is beautifully and simply portrayed in four consecutive pictures. It seems he will never move again until a Bluebird arrives who needs help to get to a warmer place.

	The Shrimp By Emily Smith	When his new teacher asks her class to do a wildlife project over the summer holidays, Ben Shrimpton takes the opportunity to expand his knowledge of seashells and enthusiastically build his own collection. In the process, his shyness fades and he becomes more confident. When he returns to school, he wins the respect of his classmates and a visiting TV naturalist.
	The Snail and the Whale By Julia Donaldson	A tiny sea snail 'with an itchy foot' has a great desire to see the world and hitches a ride on the tail of a humpback whale. They travel the seas together and see many wonderful sights, until one day the whale is 'beached in a bay', and the snail finds her own special way of saving her companion.
	The Storm Whale By Benji Davies	Noi lives a self-sufficient life with his dad by the sea in an isolated home reminiscent of the fishing huts at Hastings. One day he finds a little whale washed up on the sand and takes tender care of it until his dad persuades him that they need to return it to its aquatic home.
	The Story Machine By Tom McLaughlin	Elliott is a curious boy who finds a mysterious machine. He can't figure out what to do with it. Then one day he makes it work by accident and discovers that it is a story machine with letters that make words. However, Elliott finds letters hard to contend with until, the aid of his imagination and a magnifying glass, he notices a picture amongst them. This sets him off on the path to a world of his own storymaking. His enthusiasm means that the machine eventually 'malfunctions'. Initially made despondent by this, Elliott soon realises that he is the true creator of his stories not the machine.
	The Velveteen Rabbit By Margery Williams	A classic story, first published in 1922, about a toy rabbit who longs to become Real. His companion in the nursery, the Skin Horse, advises him that only the love of a child can make this happen. At one level, the story describes the journey of a toy, at first splendid and shiny, to shabbiness and the way he goes in and out of favour with the child who owns

		him. However, there is a deeper philosophical layer too about the meaning of being Real - accepted for who you are and able to lead your own life.
	The Whisperer By Nick Butterworth	A story in the tradition of <i>Romeo and Juliet</i> and <i>West Side Story</i> – Monty and Amber fall in love despite the fact that their families form rival gangs. However, the differences are that the lovers are cats – one ginger and one black and white, and that this tale has a much happier ending, pointing out the futility of prejudice. The narrator is a rat, the ‘whisperer’ of the title, who has his own agenda as an agent provocateur.
	The Wolf, the Duck and the Mouse By Mac Barnett	A mouse and a wolf have an inauspicious encounter in the woods and it's not giving away the plot to reveal that the mouse gets gobbled up. However, once inside the wolf's belly, the mouse soon discovers that he is not alone. Will the mouse and his new companion be able to escape? Do they want to?
	There Are Cats in This Book By Viviane Schwarz	An inventive interactive book in which three playful cats directly address the readers, imploring them to keep turning the pages to make new discoveries, winding them in like a strand of a ball of wool which is a strong motif in the book
	Tilly Mint Tales By Berlie Doherty	Like a modern day Mary Poppins, whenever Mrs Hardcastle looks after Tilly Mint magical adventures always happen. Each of the stories in the first part of this book has a similar pattern, enabling readers to become familiar with how stories can take shape. Mrs Hardcastle reminisces, falls asleep, and then Tilly's adventures begin, dancing with the leaf lords in Autumn or riding on a lion's back.

	Toys in Space By Mini Grey	Seven toys are left out in the garden one summer night and WonderDoll tells them a story to help the hours of darkness pass. In her tale, they are taken up into a spaceship where they meet an alien who has been scooping up toys from gardens in search of his own lost toy. WonderDoll and her companions help him return the toys to their true owners but will the Hootopize get his Cuddles back?
	Traction Man is Here! By Mini Grey	A boy receives an action figure as a Christmas present and the first half of this inventive picture book shows Traction Man's exciting adventures in house and garden, sink and bath. Then comes the visit to Granny who has knitted a green romper suit with matching bonnet for our hero. Will Traction Man be able to overcome the embarrassment of this inappropriate costume and put it to good use with the aid of his trusty pet, Scrubbing Brush?
	Two Frogs By Chris Wormell	Two frogs sit on a lily pad in a blue and green watery environment that seems to stretch to infinity but is in fact a large pond. One of them clutches a stick, the other questions its purpose. What follows is an amusing fable which is seemingly about the necessity or otherwise of being prepared for danger.
	We Travel So Far By Laura Knowles	Animals and birds from around the world briefly describe their migratory journeys in economical and poetic language which weaves and wends across the page, the text pointedly placed to suit each spread. 'We are the Ruby-throated Hummingbirds, tiny bundles of nectar-fuelled energy.' 'We are the Fruit Bats. We are the night-time flappers, the sweet-treat snackers!' Each journey is different in terms of length, seasons, terrains travelled.

	William & the Missing Masterpiece By Helen Hancocks	William is a cat with an international reputation for solving mysteries. Disaster strikes when the famous painting, the Mona Cheesa, is stolen from a gallery in Paris just when it was due to be the centrepiece of an exhibition celebrating National Cheese Week. Cue for lots of cheesy jokes – ‘No Roquefort will be left unturned’ as William employs all his knowledge and skills to catch the culprit. He collects clues, links up with artist acquaintances and visits an ‘Homage to Fromage’ art gala in his quest to recover the painting.
	Winter's Child By Angela McAllister	Tom shares his snowy playground with another boy who appears mysteriously. The winter goes on and on and Tom's Nana cannot keep warm. Can she stay alive if spring never comes? A picture book that celebrates the beauty of winter landscapes while showing why survival depends on the seasons shifting and changing.
	10 Things I Can Do to Help My World By Melanie Walsh	This book raises important matters for this generation in a simple and unpreachy way. As the pages are turned, they transform to reveal ten things that everyone can easily do at least one of so as to help conserve the world. Many of them, such as turning off the television properly, walking to school and turning off lights when leaving a room, are about conserving energy. Others, such as feeding the birds in winter and growing plants from seed, encourage an understanding of nature and conservation.