



“There are many little ways to enlarge your child’s world. Love of books is the best of all.” – Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis

## WELCOME

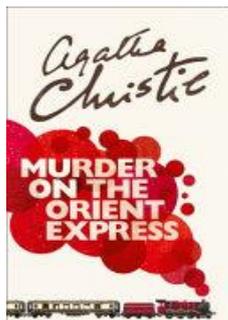
I love the way books can transport you to another world and how easy it is to become so absorbed in a story that time and life outside the book is totally forgotten. That is what happened to me when I picked up a copy of *Rooftoppers* by Katherine Rundell. Within a few lines, I was hooked. It is a beautifully written story about a child (Sophie) rescued from a ship wreck at the age of one, brought up by a wonderfully intelligent and slightly eccentric gentleman, who end up running from the authorities to France to track down Sophie’s mother, accompanied by Matteo, a boy who walks tightropes. Racing across the rooftops of Paris, Sophie is determined to find her mother before it is too late.

Having enjoyed this story so much, I ordered a number of Katherine Rundell titles this month, all of which were borrowed the same day they arrived. It seems I am not the only one to be enchanted by Rundell’s writing.

However, not all children find fiction as absorbing and it is really important that all children are encouraged to explore the fantastic choice of non-fiction books that is available to them. If your child is more interested in non-fiction, it might be worth looking up author and publisher **Christopher Lloyd** for his ideas and books. He is also an historian and educationalist.

## LET’S KEEP READING!

New books in the Library



10+

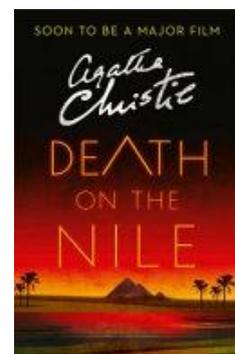
**Murder on the Orient Express** by Agatha Christie

Poirot is on his way home to London on the famous Simplon Orient Express when a murder is committed. It is clear that no one entered or left the train, which means one of Poirot’s fellow passengers must be guilty – but which one? And why would they have murdered a man they didn’t know?

10+

**Death on the Nile** by Agatha Christie

The tranquillity of a cruise along the Nile is shattered by the discovery that Linnet Ridgeway has been shot through the head. She was young, stylish and beautiful, a girl who had everything – until she lost her life. Hercule Poirot recalls an earlier outburst by a fellow passenger: ‘I’d like to put my dear little pistol against her head and just press the trigger.’ Yet in this exotic setting nothing is ever quite what it seems...



12+

**Catching Teller Crow**

by Ambelin & Ezekiel Kwaymullina

An extraordinary thriller, told from the perspective of two Aboriginal protagonists, which weaves together themes of grief, colonial history, violence, love and family.

Nothing’s been the same for Beth Teller since she died. Her dad, a detective, is the only one who can see and hear her, and he’s drowning in grief. Only a suspected murder, and a mystery to solve, might save them both.

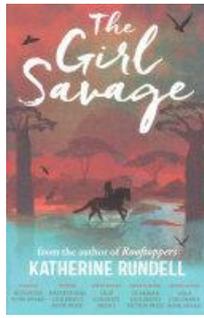




8+  
**Rory Branagan Detective-The Dog Squad** by Andrew Clover

Hello. I am Rory Branagan. I am ACTUALLY a detective. One day, I will be the biggest detective in the world! And I will find out what happened to my Dad...But today, a CRIME has been committed on my OWN road. Someone is stealing dogs! What if they try to take Wilkins Welkin – my best friend who is also a sausage dog?

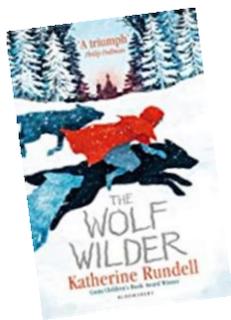
I need to find these stinking baddies and I need to stop them! *And that is what Rory does, with the help of his accomplice, Cassidy, in a boomtastic adventure involving dogs, cats, a wheelie bin chariot, a brave and daring rescue and Mrs Welkin, who fights crime in quite a surprising way.*



9+  
**The Girl Savage** by Katherine Rundell  
 Wilhelmina Silver's world is golden. Living half-wild on an African farm with her horse, her monkey and her best friend, every day is beautiful. But when her home is sold and Will is sent away to boarding school in England, the world becomes impossibly difficult. For lions and hyenas are nothing compared to packs of schoolgirls. Where can a girl run to in London? And will she have the courage to survive?



9+  
**Rooftoppers** by Katherine Rundell  
 Everyone thinks that Sophie is an orphan. True, there were no other recorded female survivors from the shipwreck which left baby Sophie floating in the English Channel in a cello case, but Sophie remembers seeing her mother wave for help. Her eccentric guardian tells her it is almost impossible that her mother is still alive, but that means still possible. So when the Welfare Agency writes to her guardian threatening to send Sophie to an orphanage, she flees to Paris to look for her mother, starting with the only clue she has - the address of the cello maker. Evading the French authorities, she meets Matteo and his network of rooftoppers - urchins who live in the sky. Together they scour the city for Sophie's mother before she is caught and sent back to London, and most importantly before she loses hope.



9+  
**The Wolf Wilder** by Katherine Rundell

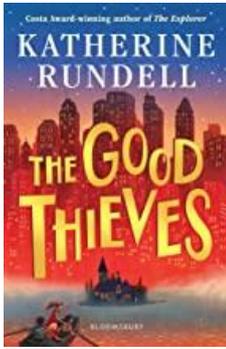
Feodora and her mother live in the snowbound woods of Russia, in a house full of food and fireplaces. Ten minutes away, in a ruined chapel, lives a pack of wolves. Feodora's mother is a wolf wilder, and Feo is a wolf wilder in training. A wolf wilder is the opposite of an animal tamer: it is a person who teaches tamed animals to fend for themselves, and to fight and to run, and to be wary of humans.

When the murderous hostility of the Russian Army threatens her very existence, Feo is left with no option but to go on the run. What follows is a story of revolution and adventure, about standing up for the things you love and fighting back. And, of course, wolves.



9+  
**The Explorer** by Katherine Rundell

From his seat in the tiny aeroplane, Fred watches as the Amazon jungle passes by below him. He has always dreamed of becoming an explorer, of making history and of reading his name amongst the lists of great discoveries. If only he could land and look about him. As the plane crashes into the canopy, Fred is suddenly left without a choice. He and the three other children may be alive, but the jungle is a vast, untamed place. With no hope of rescue, the chance of getting home feels impossibly small. Except, it seems, someone has been there before them .



9+

### The Good Thieves by Katherine Rundell

Fresh off the boat from England, Vita Marlowe has a job to do. Her beloved grandfather Jack has been cheated out of his home and possessions by a notorious conman with Mafia connections. Seeing Jack's spirit is broken, Vita is desperate to make him happy again, so she devises a plan to outwit his enemies and recover his home. She finds a young pickpocket, working the streets of the city. And, nearby, two boys with highly unusual skills and secrets of their own are about to be pulled into her lawless, death-defying plan.

### 9+ Malamander by Thomas Taylor

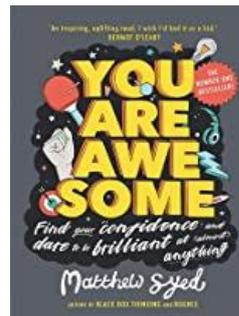
Herbert Lemon, Lost-and-Founder at the Grand Nautilus Hotel, knows that returning lost things to their rightful owners is not easy – especially when the lost thing is not a thing at all, but a girl. No one knows what happened to Violet Parma's parents twelve years ago, and when she engages Herbie to help her find them, the pair discover that their disappearance might have something to do with the legendary sea-monster, the Malamander. Eerie-on-Sea has always been a mysteriously chilling place, where strange stories seem to wash up. And it just got stranger...



9+

### Gargantis by Thomas Taylor

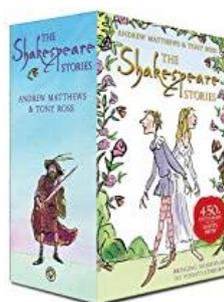
When an ancient bottle is found washed up on the beach after a ferocious electrical storm, all the residents of Eerie-on-Sea seem to want it ... but should they in fact *fear* it? Legend has it that the bottle contains an extraordinary secret that spells doom for the whole of Eerie-on-Sea. Could it be true that the vast sea creature Gargantis has awoken from her slumbers, and is causing the large cracks that are appearing all across the town? Finding themselves entrusted with the bottle, Herbie and Violet discover they will need to ride the terrible storm and pacify the creature if they want to save Eerie-on-Sea from sliding into the ocean and being lost for ever.



8+

### You Are Awesome by Matthew Syed

Table tennis champion Matthew Syed offers his very best advice on how all children can help themselves to become better at anything they put their hand to. Divided up into stories, visuals, charts and brief inspirational messages, Matthew Syed is inspiring and uplifting as he addresses his readers. He stresses the importance of creating a confident mindset and argues that, armed with self-belief, anyone can achieve amazing things both mentally and physically. A book to browse and revisit again and again for the useful ways it exhorts and coaxes all readers to make the best of themselves.



7+

### Shakespeare Stories

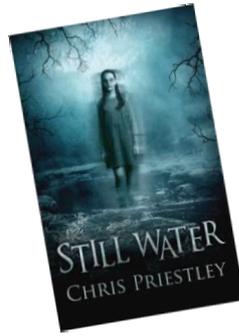
by Andrew Matthews and Tony Ross  
Discover the world of Shakespeare with these brilliantly-told retellings of 16 of the Bard's best loved plays. A perfect introduction for younger readers.



8+

**Run Wild** by Gill Lewis

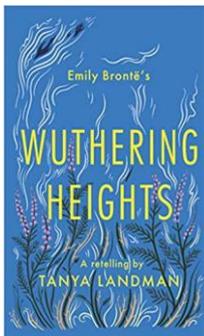
Izzy and Asha need a space to call their own, away from difficult families, the Skull brothers and the trouble they bring. But the derelict building site where they stake their claim already belongs to something else, a wilderness they never expected and an injured wolf that desperately needs their help. Can they reconnect to the wild and save the wolf? Or is their pack too weak to fight much stronger powers? A stunning tale of our lost connection to nature and the wild that hides in us all, from renowned storyteller Gill Lewis. Particularly suitable for struggling, reluctant or dyslexic readers aged 8+.



8+

**Still Water** by Chris Priestley

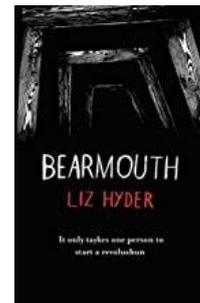
Evacuated from London at the outbreak of war, Rosie is taken in by kind Mrs Taylor and her daughter Mary. But all is not as it seems. Mary resents and bullies Rosie, and Mrs Taylor is hiding a dark secret. When Rosie comes across a strange girl swimming in a local pond, she hopes they will become friends. But instead her appearance leads to a horrifying revelation that will have terrifying consequences... This book has a dyslexia-friendly layout, typeface and paperstock so that even more readers can enjoy it. It has been edited to a reading age of 8+.



9+

**Wuthering Heights** *A retelling* by Tanya Landman

The night that Heathcliff, an unkempt orphan, arrives at the Heights, Cathy's life will change for ever, but theirs will not be a happy love story. From a harsh childhood to a foolish marriage, a troubled path of pain and punishment lies ahead. Yet no matter how they suffer, they cannot stay apart for whatever souls are made of, Cathy's and Heathcliff's are the same. After all these years, will Cathy's ghost find the peace that life denied her? This book has a dyslexia-friendly layout, typeface and paperstock so that even more readers can enjoy it. It has been edited to a reading age of 9.



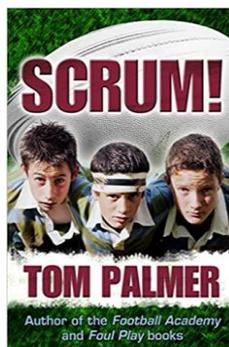
13+

**Bournemouth**  
by Liz Hyder

Life in Bournemouth is one of hard labour, the sunlit world above the mine a distant memory. Reward will come in the next life with the benevolence of the Mayker. Newt accepts everything - that is, until the mysterious Devlin arrives. Suddenly, Newt starts to look at Bournemouth with a fresh perspective, questioning the system, and setting in motion a chain of events that could destroy their entire world.

9+ **Scrum** by Tom Palmer

One boy, two codes - How will he decide? When Steven's mother remarries and moves down south, Steven is torn between loyalty to his dad and a relationship with his mum's new husband. Maybe even worse, he might have to leave his beloved Rugby League behind for a new Rugby Union team. This book is dyslexia friendly.



## WORTH A LOOK...

*Ruby's Worry* by Tom Percival 5+. Everyone could learn from Ruby. She's a perfectly happy little girl, until she discovers a worry. The worry – depicted as a scribbly yellow shape – is hardly noticeable at first, but starts to grow and soon it's with her all the time, stopping her from doing the things she loves. Readers will recognise Ruby's problems and see their own lives reflected in hers. Sensitive and very reassuring this clever book raises lots of opportunities for children to talk about their worries.

*Fearless! How to be your true, confident self* by Liam Hackett 10+

*Fearless* explores how stereotypes influence *everything* – from how you feel about your body, to your interests and career aspirations. It includes: interviews with and quotes from inspirational people who defy stereotypes, such as female politicians and male dancers; games and activities to get you thinking outside the box.

*As October is Black History Month, you may like to have a look at some of these titles:*

*Henry's Freedom Box: A True Story from the Underground Railroad* by Ellen Levine 6+

This is the incredible story of Henry "Box" Brown escaping slavery by shipping himself to the north in a wooden crate. We learn that as a boy, Henry doesn't know his age because nobody keeps records of slaves' birthdays. As an adult working in a warehouse, he decides to take a major risk and mail himself in a box — to a world where he can have a "birthday" (his first day of freedom).

*Heart and Soul: The Story of America and African-Americans* by Kadir Nelson 8+

This richly illustrated 108-page book chronicles the immense challenges and important societal contributions of African-Americans throughout history. It's told from the unique perspective of a wise, old African-American "Everywoman" narrator whose ancestors arrived on slave ships and who lives to proudly cast a vote for the nation's first black president.

*The Kidnapped Prince: The Life of Olaudah Equiano* Adapted by Ann Cameron 9+

This is the true biography of Olaudah Equiano, an African prince who was kidnapped at age 11 and sold into slavery in England, the U.S., and the West Indies, until he was able to buy his freedom more than a decade later. His best-selling autobiography was first published in 1789 and has been shortened and modernized in Cameron's version, which remains true to the gripping original script.

*Nightjohn* by Gary Paulsen 12+

This brutally accurate account of slavery in the 1850s centers around an unforgettable character named Nightjohn. He is a former slave who escapes to freedom in the north, but returns to the south to teach others how to read. At the Waller plantation, the punishment for slaves who read is dismemberment, but Nightjohn and his brave 12-year-old student named Sarny take enormous risks in order to expand their minds.

*Readers might also like to take a look at:*

*How to Be a Lion* by Ed Vere 5+

Leonard is a gentle lion – a dreamer rather than a chomper – and, most importantly, a good friend to Marianne the duck. Just because you're a lion doesn't mean that you have to roar, and, in fact, perhaps if the other lions spent more time on Leonard's thinking hill, they would be better lions altogether. When the roary lions insist that Leonard should chomp Marianne, the friends come up with a plan together. Perhaps the best thing is for everyone to be themselves and not worry about roaring at other animals. A book about ignoring the aggressive voices in our society and lending an ear to our own, quieter thoughts.

### ***Clifftoppers: The Frost Castle Adventure* by Fleur Hitchcock 7+**

For Aiden, Chloe, Ava and Josh, holidays at their grandparents' cottage mean wild beaches, no curfew, Bella the dog, and most of all - adventure! The lead actress in Frost Castle's winter play is sure she's cursed! A break-in, a car accident, and now her precious locket is missing. But the cousins suspect a ruthless thief. With a blizzard raging outside and a legendary ghost in the castle corridors, unmasking this villain will take all their bravery and skill..

### ***Mickey and the Animal Spies* by Anne Miller 9+**

Mickey is the type of kid who's always on the lookout for a code to crack. So it's her lucky day when she spots a strange poster on the bus home from school written completely in code. Within the strange jumble of letters is a curious message, one that leads to an exciting adventure-with diamond thieves, dog-nappers, and an extraordinary group of animal spies! This book contains real coded messages. Can you crack the codes before Mickey does?

### ***The Last Spell Breather* by Julie Pike 9+**

Spell breathing does not come naturally to Rayne - she loathes the hours of practice, the stacks of scrolls, and the snapping mud devils that cover her mother's precious spell book. But it is spell breathing that keeps her village safe from the dreaded monster curse that plagues their world. It is ancient powerful magic, but as Rayne learns to her horror . . . it is also fragile. In one clumsy move, the magic that keeps them safe is broken, her village is plunged into danger, and an incredible adventure begins . . .

### ***All Fall Down* by Sally Nicholls 12+**

A deadly contagion races through England...Isabel and her family have nowhere to run from a disease that has killed half of Europe. When the world she knows and loves ends for ever, her only weapon is courage. The Black Death of 1349 was the deadliest plague in human history. *All Fall Down* is a powerful and inspiring story of survival in the face of real-life horror.

### ***White Eagles* by Elizabeth Wein 13+**

Summer 1939. With Europe on the brink of war, eighteen-year-old Kristina Tomiak has been called up to join the White Eagles, Poland's valiant air force. When the Nazis reach the town where she is based, Kristina makes a daring escape, but she doesn't realise that she's carrying a stowaway in her plane. Will Kristina be able to navigate the most challenging flight of her life and reach safety amid the turmoil of war? Particularly suitable for struggling, reluctant or dyslexic readers aged 13+.

## LITERARY EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN

There is still time for children to enter the Pearsons writing competition – a possible activity for half term: 'My Twist on a Tale', (run by Pearsons) is a writing competition for 4 – 19-year olds and now in its second year! This year's theme is: **Everyday Heroes**. It can be a true story - about someone in the children's local community perhaps, or a family member or friend that they find totally inspirational - or it can be based on a purely imaginative character. Entries will need to be submitted online by 17:00 on Friday 27 November 2020. This year's winning tales will be illustrated and published for all to enjoy. Parents will need to register their child's entry at:

[https://www.pearson.com/uk/educators/schools/subject-area/literacy-and-english/EngagingReadersandInspiringWriters/my-twist-on-a-tale-competition.html?utm\\_source=partner&utm\\_medium=social&utm\\_campaign=GBSEEN0620TWIST](https://www.pearson.com/uk/educators/schools/subject-area/literacy-and-english/EngagingReadersandInspiringWriters/my-twist-on-a-tale-competition.html?utm_source=partner&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=GBSEEN0620TWIST)

### **World Book Day £1 books for 2021 revealed**

As usual, the WBD tokens will be distributed to all our children in school on World Book Day 2021 (Thursday, March 4<sup>th</sup> 2021). Check out the books available on the WBD website here:

<https://www.worldbookday.com/>

**For children who like non-fiction, they may be interested in entering these competitions:**

National Non-Fiction November Competitions 2020: The Planet We Share

Key Stage 1

This competition takes its inspiration from M G Leonard and Daniel Rieley's colourful eco-story *The Tale of a Toothbrush*. Children in KS1 (approx. ages 5-7) are invited to draw or paint a picture of their own toothbrush and suggest one or more ways to reuse/recycle old toothbrushes. Entries should be submitted by Friday 4th December. For more information and details about how to enter see here <https://bit.ly/2S61Is0>

Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 3

Children in this age group (approx. ages 7-14) are invited to write a poem based on any aspect of the theme of The Planet We Share. Again, entries should be submitted by Friday 4th December. For more information and details about how to enter see here. <https://bit.ly/3mVz9ot>

**Charlie Mackesy narrates own audiobook**



I was delighted to discover this information following the recommendation to read this in the September issue of *Talking Books with Mrs Garrett*. Charlie Mackesy will narrate the audiobook of his bestseller *The Boy, The Mole, The Fox and The Horse*, with a musical score and real wildlife sounds helping bring it to life. Penguin Random House is releasing the edition on 12th November 2020 in physical CD and digital download ahead of World Kindness Day on 13th November.

Fans of the Happy Meal may like to know that the McDonald's Happy Readers scheme encourages families to read together by giving away free books with Happy Meals and this year's Happy Readers author is best-selling children's author and McFly front man Tom Fletcher. Tom has created eight brand new stories in partnership with the National Literacy Trust and McDonald's as part of the ongoing Book or Toy initiative, which allows families to choose between a book or a toy with every Happy Meal. The first four titles are now available: *The Land of the Dinosaurs*, *No Grown-Ups Allowed*, *Ancient Egypt* and *The Magical North Pole*. Tom will also host a 'Happy Readers' Holiday Story Club' during October Half Term on the McDonald's UK Hub from Monday 26 October.

**The BookTrust's Great Books Guide 2020**

A round-up of some of the great new children's books from the last year (2020). Including both fiction and non-fiction the books are collated by interest age. You can download the full list as a pdf here <https://bit.ly/3noeWrA>

**The Reading Agency** has produced a list of 65 books for children and young people by black authors and illustrators. It is divided into 3 categories: picture books, middle grade and YA and includes fiction, nonfiction, poetry and graphic novels. View here <https://readingagency.org.uk/resources/4679/>

**WRITE A BOOK REVIEW**



Perhaps during half term, some of the children would like to have a go at writing a book review for a book they have read. Please send reviews to me so that I can publish them in this newsletter. Send to: [regarrett@standrewsprep.co.uk](mailto:regarrett@standrewsprep.co.uk) Points to include: a brief outline of the story or topic of the book, what the genre is (action, thriller, mystery, romance, ghost, fantasy, science fiction, comedy), who the main characters are and which is your favourite and why, how many stars out of five would you give this book? For non-fiction books you could include the topic of the book, why it is interesting, how useful it is and why you would recommend it.