Recommended Reading List

Year 1

Contemporary Fiction



Traction Man Is Here Mini Grey

Mini Grey's story in words and pictures is an irresistible invitation to the private world of a child's play. Traction Man comes in a box, but very quickly finds the way into the imagination of his lucky boy owner. Amongst other adventures, this superhero searches for the Lost Wreck of the Sieve as the boy makes a game of doing the dishes.



The Bear and the Piano
David Litchfield

One day, a young bear stumbles upon something he has never seen before in the forest. As time passes, he teaches himself how to play the strange instrument, and eventually the beautiful sounds are heard by a father and son who are picnicking in the woods. The bear goes with them on an incredible journey to New York, where his piano playing makes him a huge star. A moving tale of exploration and belonging from an exciting debut author-illustrator.



The DotPeter Reynolds

In this engaging, inspiring tale, Reynolds (illustrator of the Judy Moody series) demonstrates the power of a little encouragement. Reynolds pulls off exactly what his young heroine does, creating an impressive work from deceptively simple beginnings.



We're All Wonders
RJ Palacio

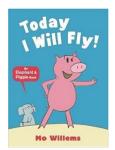
Wonder is the unforgettable story of August Pullman, an ordinary boy with an extraordinary face. Now younger readers can discover the Wonder message with this gorgeous picture book, starring Auggie and his dog Daisy on an original adventure, written and illustrated by R.J. Palacio.



Stick Man Julia Donaldson

"Stick Man lives in the family tree With his Stick Lady Love and their stick children three."

But it's dangerous being a Stick Man. A dog wants to play with him, a swan builds her nest with him. He even ends up on a fire! Will he ever get back to the family tree?

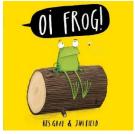


Today I Will Fly!
(An Elephant and Piggy book)
Mo Willems

Gerald is careful. Piggie is not.
Piggie cannot help smiling. Gerald can.
Gerald worries so that Piggie does not have to.

Gerald and Piggie are best friends.

Today, I Will Fly! is the funny introduction to the characters. Piggie is determined to fly. But Gerald the elephant knows that's impossible--isn't it?



Oi Frog! Kes Gray and Jim Field

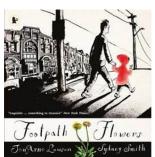
Cats sit on mats, hares sit on chairs, mules sit on stools and gofers sit on sofas, but Frog does not want to sit on a log! Jam-packed with animals and silliness, this original rhyming story will have young children in fits of laughter.



I Want My Hat Back Jon Klassen

A bear sets out in search of his missing hat. Along the way, he asks all the animals he meets if any of them have seen his hat. They all say no... but one of them is lying. Told in a refreshingly deadpan manner, this quirky and distinctive picture book from US author and illustrator Jon Klassen will delight young readers.

Beautiful and stylish illustrations, in a palette of muted colours, provide the perfect complement to the understated text. A future classic.



Footpath Flowers
JonArno Lawson
and Sydney Smith

In this wordless picture book, a little girl collects wildflowers while her distracted father pays her little attention. Each flower becomes a gift, and whether the gift is noticed or ignored, both giver and recipient are transformed by their encounter.

"Written" by award-winning poet JonArno Lawson and brought to life by illustrator Sydney Smith, Sidewalk Flowers is an ode to the importance of small things, small people, and small gestures.



Leon and the Place Between Angela McAllister

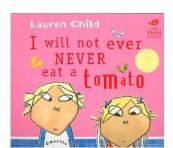
Wanting to prove to his brothers and sister that magic really exists, Leon volunteers to be in Abdul Kazam's magic show and gets transported to a mysterious world. Filled with rabbits, doves, playing cards and magician's assistants - among other things - if a magician can make it disappear, it will end up in the Place Between! When Leon returns, not only do his brothers and sister believe, but we do too. With diecut holes into and out of the Place Between, the reader takes a journey right through the pages of the book.



Meercat Mail Emily Gravett

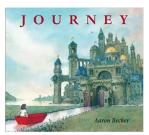
Sunny the meerkat lives with his enormous family in the Kalahari desert. They are all very close . . . so close, in fact, that one day Sunny decides he's had enough and packs his bags. He's off to visit his mongoose cousins. But from the watery world of the Marsh Mongoose to the nocturnal lifestyle of the Malagasy Mongoose, Sunny just doesn't fit in. And who's that shadowy figure who seems to be following him around?

A brilliant picture book.



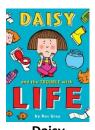
I Will Never, Not Ever, Eat a Tomato Lauren Child

Lola will not eat peas. In fact she won't eat carrots, potatoes, mushrooms, cabbage or baked beans. And she will absolutely not ever NEVER eat a tomato. But when Charlie explains that peas are actually green drops from Greenland, and carrots are really orange twiglets from Jupiter, even Lola is tempted to clear her plate. Told with true Lauren Child style, this warm and funny picture book will make dinner time fun for even the fussiest of eaters!



Journey Aaron Becker

Be swept away on an elaborate flight of fancy in this Caldecott award-winning, wondrously illustrated picture book about self-determination and unexpected friendship. This follows a little girl who draws a magic door on her bedroom wall. Through it she escapes into a world where wonder, adventure and danger abound.



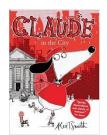
Kes Gray

The trouble with life is it's SOOOOOOOO unfair. Daisy's been grounded. No HOPPING or SKIPPING, FLYING or PARACHUTING. She's lucky she's even been allowed out of her bedroom after what she's done. But what HAS she done that is SOOOOOOOOOO naughty? You'll have to read the book to find out!



Oliver and the Seawigs
Philip Reeve
and Sarah McIntyre

Along with his new friends, a grumpy old albatross, a short-sighted mermaid, and a friendly island called Cliff, Oliver goes off in search of his missing parents. But before he can put his rescue plan into action there's the evil Stacey de Lacey and an army of greasy, green sea monkeys to contend with...



Claude in the City Alex T Smith

Claude is no ordinary dog - he leads an extraordinary life!

When Mr and Mrs Shinyshoes set off for work, Claude decides what adventure he wants to have that day. Today he and Sir Bobblysock go to the city for the very first time. The have tea in a cafe, go shopping and visit a museum. It is all very normal until... Claude accidentally foils a robbery and becomes the local hero!



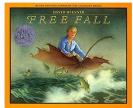
Anna Hibiscus

Anna Hibiscus lives in amazing Africa with her mother, her father, her baby twin brothers, and lots and lots of her family. Join her as she splashes in the sea, prepares for a party, sells oranges, and hopes to see sweet, sweet snow!



Bog BabyJeanne Willis

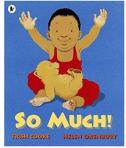
The Bog Baby is a magical story by Jeanne Willis and Gwen Millward. When two small sisters go fishing to the magic pond, they find something much better than a frog or a newt. They find a bog baby. Small and blue with wings like a dragon, the girls decide to make him their secret. I won't tell if you won't. But the bog baby is a wild thing, and when he becomes poorly, the girls decide they must tell their mum. And she tells them the greatest lesson: if you really love something, you have to let it go.



Freefall David Weisner

When he falls asleep with a book in his arms, a young boy dreams an amazing dream-about dragons, about castles, and about an unchartered, faraway land.

And you can come along. A stunning wordless picture book.



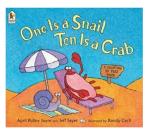
So Much Trish Cook

Celebrate the warmth of Afro-Caribbean family life in this multiple award-winning picture book. Mum and baby are home alone when Auntie and then Uncle and Nannie and Gran-Gran and the cousins come to visit. And they all want to hug and kiss and squeeze and eat the baby right up – because everybody loves the baby SO MUCH! This rhythmic, cumulative story captures the joy of being the baby in a large extended family – a baby who knows that he is absolutely, utterly adored.



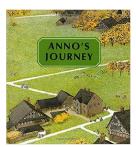
Missing Mittens Stuart J. Murphy

Every animal on Farmer Bill's farm is missing one mitten. Readers can investigate odd and even numbers as they unravel this mitten mystery!



One is a Snail

If one is a snail, and two is a person ... we must be counting by feet! Children will love this hilariously illustrated introduction to simple counting and multiplication with big feet and small – on people and spiders, dogs and insects, snails and crabs – from one to one hundred!



Anno's Journey Mitsumaso Anno

A pictorial journey through the traditional countryside, farms, and towns of northern Europe takes readers past familiar storybook characters, visual jokes and puzzles, tricks of perspective, and other surprises.

With paintings, visual puzzles and tricks of perception, Anno introduces geography and science by focusing on children and adults at work and play, as well as on art, architecture, composers, and painters, as he conducts an imaginary tour of England. An exceptional book.



A Dark, Dark Tale Ruth Brown

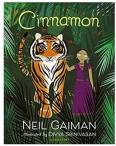
Children will delight in following the black cat's progress through the dark wood, into the dark house, and eventually to the surprise discovery at the back of the toy cupboard, in this mysterious, beautifully illustrated picture book.



The Emperor of Absurdia Chris Riddell

Welcome to Absurdia: a strange and wonderful land where nothing is quite what it seems. Trees are birds, umbrellas are trees, and the sky is thick with snoring fish. Join one small boy as he tumbles out of bed into a crazy dreamland of wardrobe monsters, dragons - and amazing adventure.

With a story to enchant the youngest reader, and pictures to gasp and pore over whatever your age, *The Emperor of Absurdia* is an extraordinary achievement and one to savour.



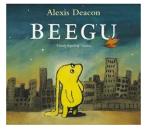
Cinnamon Neil Gaimon

In a hot, hot country, ringed with mountains on one side and jungle on the other, lives a princess called Cinnamon. Her eyes are made of pearls, which means that she is blind. And, for reasons her parents the Rajah and Rani cannot fathom, she will not talk. So they offer a reward to anyone who can teach Cinnamon to speak. People travel from far and wide to attempt it, but nothing works. Until a mighty tiger, huge and fierce, prowls into their palace and announces that he is here to teach the girl-cub to talk ...



Float Daniel Miyares

A little boy takes a boat made of newspaper out for a rainy-day adventure. The boy and his boat dance in the downpour and play in the puddles, but when the boy sends his boat floating down a gutter stream, it quickly gets away from him. This seemingly simply story from Daniel Miyares is enriched with incredible depth and texture that transcend words.



Beegu Alexis Deacon

Beegu is not supposed to be on Earth. She is lost. She is a friendly little creature, but the Earth People don't seem very welcoming at all. However, so far she has only met the BIG ones. The little ones are a different matter . . .



A River Marc Martin

There is a river outside my window. Where will it take me? So begins an imaginary journey from the city to the sea. From factories to farmlands, freeways to forest, each new landscape is explored through stunning illustrations and poetic text from this award-winning picture-book creator.



Home Carson Ellis

This is a gorgeous, imaginative celebration of the many possibilities of home. Home might be a house in the country, a flat in the city, or even a shoe. There are clean homes, messy homes, sea homes and bee homes. Home resides on the road or the sea, in the realm of myth, or in the artist's own studio. This loving look at the places where people live brims with intriguing characters and is a visual treat that demands many a return visit.



Little Red Riding Hood Ed Bryan

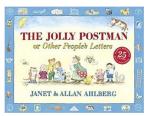
Little Red Riding Hood sets out into the forest to take a basket of goodies to her poorly grandma. Along the way, she adds to her stores, picking beautiful flowers, gathering fallen acorns and receiving a gift of some nice, sticky honey. She thinks these treats will cheer up her grandma. But little does she know that they could just save her from the Big Bad Wolf . . .



Knuffle Bunny Mo Willems

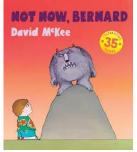
Merging expressive cartoon-esque illustrations with beautiful black-and-white photographs of New York, the visually striking story follows Daddy, Trixie and Knuffle Bunny on their trip to the neighbourhood Laundromat. But their adventure takes a dramatic turn when Trixie realizes somebunny's been left behind... And no matter how hard she tries to tell dad, he just doesn't understand!

Literary Heritage Grandpa describes the very special relationship between a little girl and her grandfather. Together they share some precious moments and adventures together. John Burningham When Sally and her brother are left alone, they think they're in for a dull day – until the Cat in the Hat steps in on the mat, bringing with him mayhem and madness! This is the classic book that every child should have the joy of reading. Cat in the Hat **Dr Seuss** The Tiger Who This picture book is perfect for reading aloud, or for small children to read to Came themselves time and again. First published in 1968 and never out of print, it has to Tea become a timeless classic enjoyed and beloved by generations of children. The magic begins at teatime! The Tiger Who Came to Tea Judith Kerr If you've ever wondered what happened after "Happily ever after," then The Jolly



Jolly Postman Allan Ahlberg

If you've ever wondered what happened after "Happily ever after," then The Jolly Postman or Other People's Letters is just what you've been looking for. He spends his day delivering letters, postcards, and flyers to a variety of familiar fairy tale characters. Each letter is tucked inside an envelope cleverly addressed and illustrated, to be pulled out and read.



Not Now Bernard
David McKee

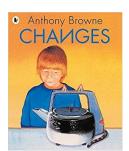
Bernard's parents are so busy doing their own thing, that the monster can eat Bernard's dinner, break his toys, and even eat Bernard, without being noticed!

WHERE THE WILD THINGS ARE



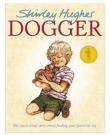
STORY AND PICTURES BY MAURICE SENDAK

Where the Wild Things Are Maurice Senak Young Max is naughty, ignoring rules and chasing the dog with his fork, and when he is cheeky to his mother, she calls him a "wild thing" and sends him to bed with no supper to learn his lesson. Dressed in his favourite wolf suit, Max is in such a rage that as his bedroom starts to turn into a jungle and the walls dissolve, he makes for a sailing boat on the edge of the ocean. We follow his adventure through the pages.



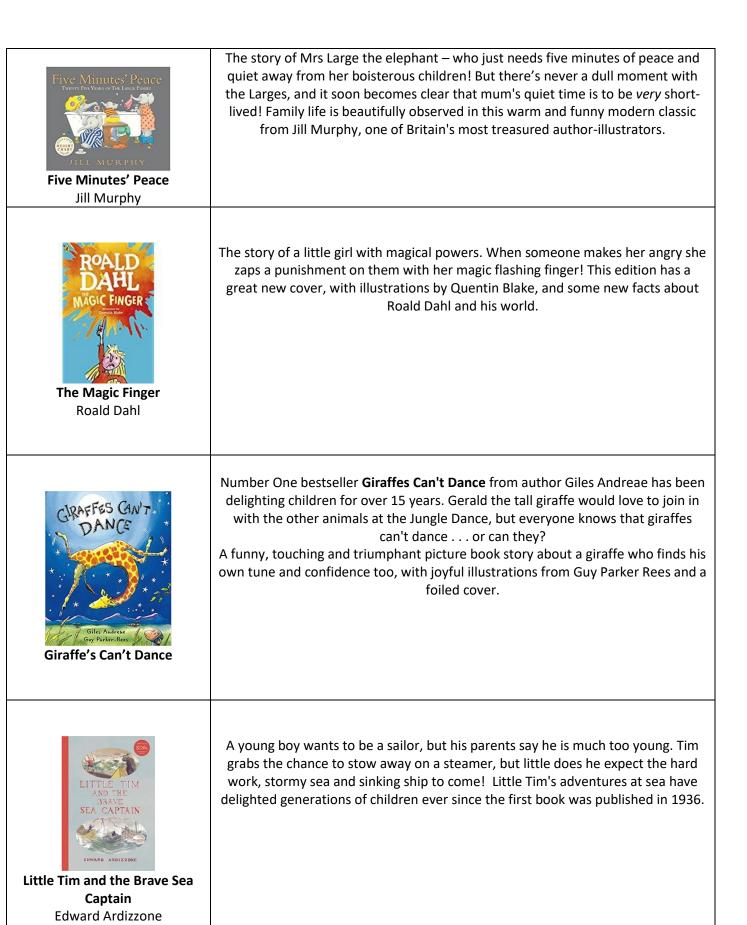
ChangesAnthony Browne

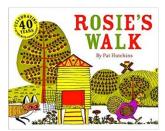
On Thursday morning at a quarter past ten, Joseph Kaye notices something odd about the kettle... Thus begins a remarkable day in which everything seems to change in the most peculiar of ways. The washbasin grows feet, the armchair becomes a gorilla, his bicycle wheel turns into an apple ... Joseph's father had said when he'd left that morning that everything was going to change. But what had he meant? The book explores the boy's state of mind as he prepares for the return of his parents with his new baby sister.



Dogger Shirley Hughes

When Dave loses his favourite toy, Dogger, he is desolate. But then Dogger turns up at the school summer fair, and everything seems all right - until someone else buys him before Dave can get the money!





Rosies' Walk
Pat Hutchins

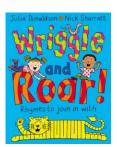
The Fox is after Rosie, but Rosie doesn't know it. Unwittingly, she leads him into one disaster after the other, each funnier than the last. To enjoy Rosie's walk as much as Rosie does, just look inside!



Alice in Wonderland Lewis Carroll Eric Puybaret

Award-winning, bestselling artist Eric Puybaret creates an enchanting and magical Wonderland that looks like no other interpretation. Every spread in this magnificently produced volume is rich in charm, gloriously colorful, yet fresh and modern. From the extraordinary White Rabbit in his brilliantly red suit to the timelessly graceful young heroine, this is the Alice today's young children can relate to. It's the perfect, glorious introduction to a classic, a taste of what magic awaits them in the future.

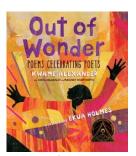
Poetry



Wriggle and Roar Julia Donaldson and Nick Sharratt

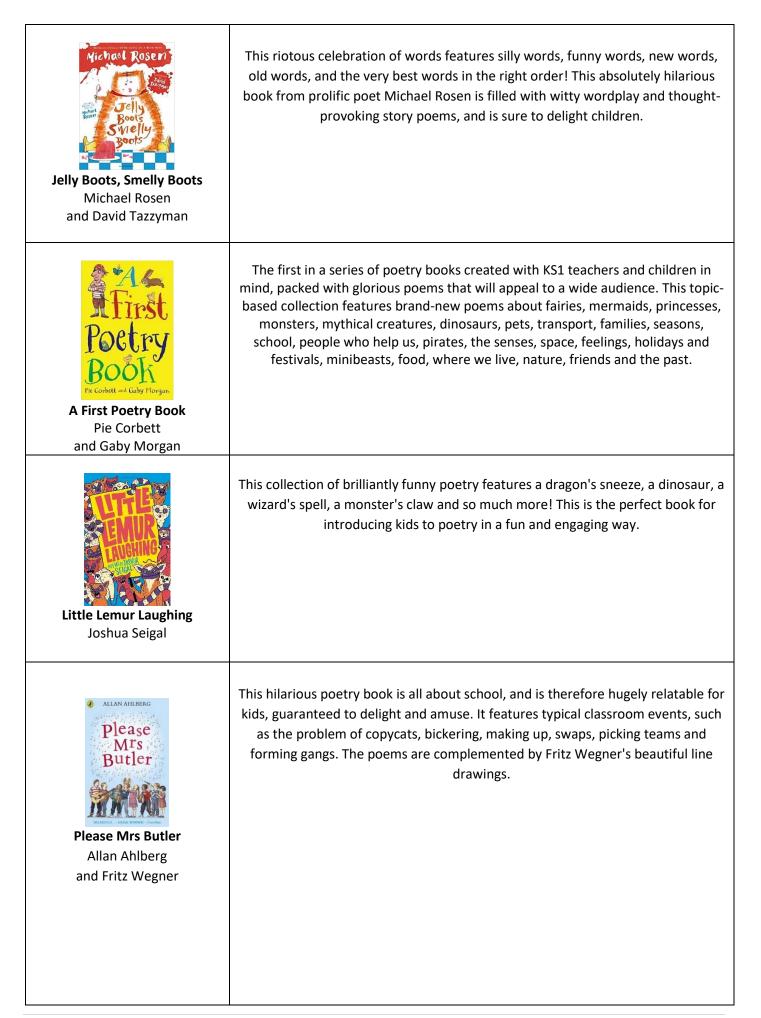
Whenever I'm tired of being me I swing around like a chimpanzee.

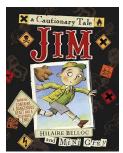
Are you tired of being you? Here's a whole bookful of things you can do! There are rhymes to make you wriggle and giggle, shrug and sigh, snap like a crocodile and slither like a snake. Julia Donaldson's verse jumps off the page and Nick Sharratt's snazzy illustrations add to the fun of *Wriggle and Roar!*.



Out of Wonder Kwame Alexander

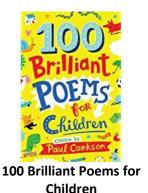
A glorious and uplifting collection of original poems celebrating inspiring poets from Maya Angelou to Robert Frost to Rumi. This book truly has something for everyone and every age.





Jim- A Cautionary Tale Hilaire Belloc And Mini Grey

First published in 1907, Belloc's wickedly funny poem describing the sad end of Jim is now fabulously illustrated by Mini Grey for this extra-special new edition. A perfect gift with much to explore...



Paul Cookson

From Paul Cookson comes 100 Brilliant Poems For Children, featuring the best of the absolute best. The essential poems for every child to read and enjoy.

Non-Fiction



Here We Are Oliver Jeffers

The exquisite and thought-provoking new book from the multi award-winning, internationally best-selling picture book creator of Lost and Found, Oliver Jeffers. Written for and to his son, it explains how our world can be a bewildering yet extremely beautiful place, especially if you've only just got here. This book is a celebration of life on Earth and contains lots of factual content which is beautifully illustrated.



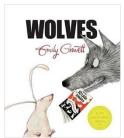
One Day on our Blue Planet Ella Bailey

From breakfast to dinner, dusk to dawn, children will love spending the day with this curious lion cub. A new series of children's books focused on the way our young animal friends spend a day begins with a curious lion cub. Minding his mother and playing with his father, this little lion can't help chasing trouble and fun as he explores the little corner of that big blue planet he shares with us.



Axel Scheffler

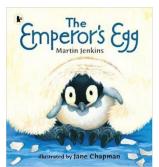
What do you get if you cross a squid with a fish? It's a squish, of course! And how about a shark and a turtle? Why, that's a shurtle! With a hilarious rhyming text and brilliant illustrations from Axel Scheffler, simply flip the pages to create some seriously silly animals that live under the ocean.



Wolves

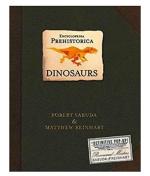
Emily Gravett

Rabbit borrows a book about wolves from the library. He can't put it down! But soon a sinister figure with sharp claws and a bushy tail starts to creep right off the pages. You won't believe your eyes - but if you're a rabbit, you probably should. Brilliantly witty, ingeniously constructed, and with amazing artwork throughout, Wolves has thrilled critics and booksellers alike.



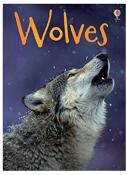
The Emperor's Egg Martin Jenkins

The Emperor penguin is the only large animal to remain on the Antarctic mainland throughout its bitterly inhospitable winter. Once the female has laid her egg, she heads back to the sea, leaving the male to incubate it. He then spends two months standing on the freezing cold ice with the egg on his feet! This is his story.



Encyclopaedia Prehistorica; Dinosaurs Robert Sabuda

Featuring more than 35 stunning pop-ups and fascinating, up-to-the-minute information about popular dinosaurs as well as many lesser-known varieties, this is an awe-inspiring tribute to the world's most celebrated extinct animals and their 180-million-year reign of our planet.



WolvesJames Maclaine

Part of the Usborne Beginners series, this title presents the real facts about wolves and how they live.



The Coral Kingdom
Jenny Webber

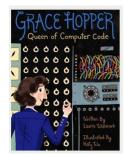
rom brightly coloured corals to shimmering shoals of fish, the diversity of life on a coral reef is celebrated in this visually stunning picture book with a strong ecological message about the need to protect this most precious of environments. Through gentle rhyme and intricately etched artwork, it explores the life cycle, diversity and colour of the coral reef ecosystem, as well as the threats the reef faces and what we can do to save it.



Lots Marc Martin

In this wonderfully illustrated celebration of the world we travel far and wide - to Hong Kong, the Amazon, Antarctica, India - from the villages, towns and cities where most people live, to the deserts and vast oceans that cover the surface of the planet.

There is so much to discover - lots of people, lots of places, lots of different landscapes and cultures.



Grace Hopper: Queen of Computer Code Laurie Wallmark

Meet Grace Hopper: the woman who revolutionized computer coding. She coined the term computer bug and taught computers to speak English. An ace inventor and ground breaker, Grace Hopper transformed the world of computer science. This book tells the inspirational story of this amazing woman with a passion for maths, an insatiable curiosity and the firm belief that it is easier to ask for forgiveness than . . . to get permission.