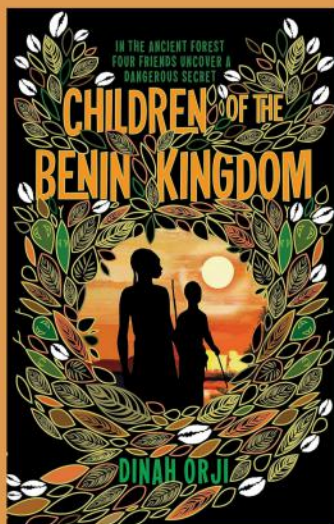


INPREFERS



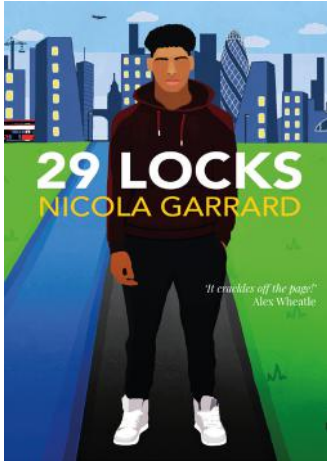
BOOKS

CHILDREN'S BESTSELLERS

29 Locks

Nicola Garrard

A London coming of age novel.



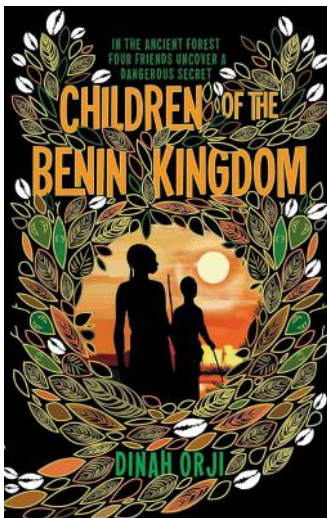
HopeRoad | 9781913109844 |
£8.99 | 30/09/2021 | Paper-
back | 352 pages | YFB

Fifteen-year-old Donald Leroy Samson is the son of an absentee St Lucian father and a drug-addicted English mother. Growing up in dire poverty in Hackney, East London, his life is shaped by casual violence, gang initiation, drug-dealing and knife crime.

When Donny's bored, rich, white girlfriend Zoe is offered a dubious modelling audition, the couple 'borrow' a barge and navigate the 29 locks on the canal system from Hertfordshire down into Kings Cross. When they start out on their journey, the future for both of them looks unpromising, like the fake audition, but as each lock is navigated and conquered, as the waters fall then rise again, their adventure takes on a new dimension. Life will never be the same again. A gritty, urban tale of redemption!

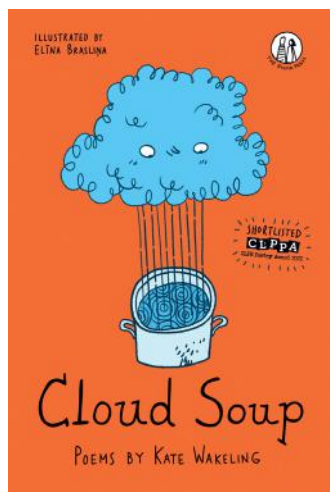
Children of the Benin Kingdom

Dinah Orji, maps by Natalie Cooper



Dinosaur Books |
9781999336332 | £7.99 |
30/08/2020 | Paperback |
pages | YFT

Ada has lived close to the great rainforest for her whole life, helping her beloved Papa Eze to heal fellow villagers when they fall sick. But when Papa Eze himself becomes ill, he knows he must tell Ada the truth about her real identity – something he has kept hidden to protect his daughter from danger. Ada must now travel deep into the forest and discover the ancient Edo kingdom of Benin, connect with her past and to use everything within her power to heal the terrible divisions that are tearing the kingdom apart. Pursued by those who want her dead, Ada sets off on a journey which will test her strength to the limit – with just her friends, the guidance of her ancestors and her own self-belief to help her. Children of the Benin Kingdom is fast paced adventure story, set in one of Africa's most fascinating civilisations, the Edo Kingdom of Benin. Written by British Nigerian author



Cloud Soup

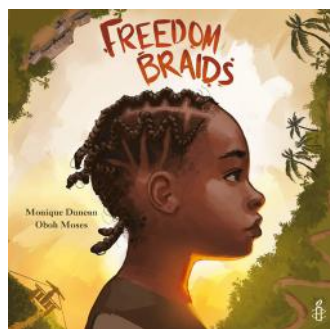
Kate Wakeling, illustrated by Elina Brasliņa

Shortlisted for the 2022 CLIPPA

Bake a weird cake, pay a visit to the Deep, and get some inspiration for your very own word hoard! Anything is possible in the world of Cloud Soup, Kate Wakeling's breathlessly imaginative collection of poems for children.

Quieter poems sit alongside riotously funny ones in this sequel to *Moon Juice*. Readers are encouraged to look more closely at clouds, water, dust and trees, and to reflect on the knottier areas of life.

The Emma Press |
9781912915743 | £8.99 |
15/07/2021 | Paperback | 112
pages | YDP



Freedom Braids

Monique Duncan, illustrated by Oboh Moses

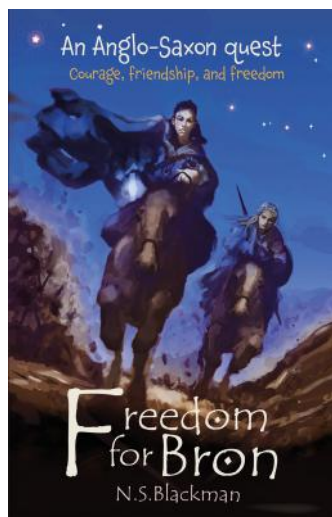
A work of historical fiction inspired by enslaved African women in Colombia who braided maps and seeds into their hair.

Day after day, Nemy is forced to sow seeds in the sugarcane plantation, until one night, she follows a woman called Big Mother to a hidden shack. There, she finds a group of women braiding each other's hair. But these are no ordinary braids.

Hidden in each elaborate pattern is a secret – a message that signals their intent to flee and a map to guide them in their escape. Will the paths these courageous women weave guide Nemy to a new home where she can be free?

Lantana Publishing |
9781836290377 | £7.99 |
21/10/2025 | Paperback | 32
pages | YBC

A picture book of love, liberation and legacy inspired by the true story of enslaved African women in Colombia braiding maps to freedom.



Dinosaur Books |
9780993010576 | £7.99 |
31/07/2016 | Paperback | 170
pages | YFT

Freedom for Bron

N.S. Blackman

A tale of friendship, divided loyalties and the desire to belong, this adventure immerses readers in the Anglo-Saxon era.

Bron is an enslaved Saxon boy. He works hard for his master – the lazy village blacksmith – but he never gets enough food, and cruel jibes from other, non-enslaved children are hard to bear. Hunger and loneliness seem to be all that Bron can expect.

One day, while out collecting firewood, Bron encounters a young warrior – the niece of a local king. She is travelling with a famous warlord, Lord Beogard. Their mission: to bring peace to the Saxons and Jutes – the two tribes are on the brink of war. Bron takes a chance to escape and secretly follows the royal warrior, Sigwyn, and her leader Lord Beogard on their dangerous quest. Can Bron prove his worth amongst trained warriors and those of noble birth?



Papillote Press |
9781838041595 | £7.99 |
04/09/2023 | Paperback | 32
pages | YBCS

Good Night My Sweet Island

Petrea Honychurch Seaman

"A beautifully illustrated poetic depiction of an island I love with all my heart." Trish Cooke

"A feast for the ears and eyes." Margaret Bateson-Hill

"The rhythms, sights and sounds of the Caribbean are beautifully captured. A real joy!" Valerie Bloom

Saying good night "to all things we love": in a homage to a magical Caribbean island, *Good Night Sweet Island* takes the reader through a poetic and visually stimulating journey. Each verse celebrates aspects of tropical island life: birds and animals, dance and music, fruit and food, rivers and forests, sea and beach. As the sun goes down, a child says a dreamy good night to all the rich experiences of the day.

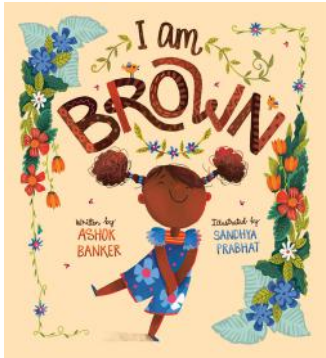
I Am Brown

Ashok Banker, illustrated by Sandhya Prabhat
"A note-perfect hymn about acceptance, pride and belonging." The Observer

I am brown. I am beautiful. I am perfect.

I designed this computer. I ran this race. I won this prize. I wrote this book.

A joyful celebration of the skin you're in - of being brown, of being amazing, of being you!



Lantana Publishing |
9781913747886 | £7.99 |
15/03/2022| Paperback | 32
pages | YBC

If I Were Prime Minister

Trygve Skaug, illustrated by Ella Okstad,
translated by Rosie Hedger

A joyful picture book that puts the child at the very heart of politics and social change.

A young boy gives his perspective on several things the grown-ups running the country could do differently.

How much happier would we be if all the adults went to nursery once a month to remind themselves how to play? How much safer would we be if Christmas lights were left up all year round to light everyone's way home? This hilarious picture book treats profound topics with sensitivity and care.



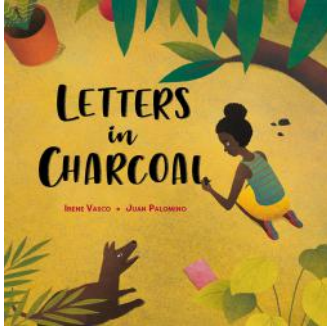
Lantana Publishing |
9781915244994 | £7.99 |
05/03/2024| Paperback | 40
pages | YBC

This is a book for all those children who dare to dream big and for all those adults who want to look on the world with fresh eyes.

Letters in Charcoal

Irene Vasco

When one young girl makes the decision to learn to read, it changes her life forever.



In the pueblo of Palenque in Colombia, hardly anybody knows how to read. Curious about the letters her older sister Gina receives from a young doctor each month — letters that she is sure contain promises of love — one young girl makes a decision that will change her life, and the lives of every child in the pueblo, forever.

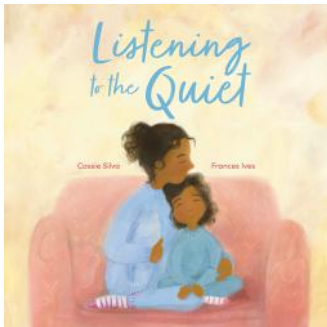
With the help of Señor Velandia, the owner of the village shop, she will slowly unlock the letters of the alphabet and discover the magic of reading. And soon she will make a discovery that is more miraculous still — that letters are literally all around her . . .

Lantana Publishing |
9781915244512 | £12.99 |
21/09/2023 | Hardback | 32
pages | YBC

Listening to the Quiet

Cassie Silva, illustrated by Frances Ives

“Listening to the Quiet ... signals to us ... that loving others is the loudest language of all.” - The New York Times



Jacki's mama has a rare condition. She is slowly losing her hearing. Together, they are learning Sign Language so that they'll always be able to tell each other everything. But as Mama's world becomes quieter, Jacki's remains full of sound, especially on Music Appreciation Fridays. How can Jacki enjoy listening to music when her mama can no longer hear it?

A heartfelt story, inspired by the author's childhood, about a young girl coming to terms with her mother's hearing loss and finding new ways to experience the world together.

Lantana Publishing |
9781836290216 | £7.99 |
01/10/2024 | Paperback | 32
pages | YBC



Lantana Publishing |
9781915244321 | £7.99 |
15/06/2023 | Paperback | 264
pages | YFS

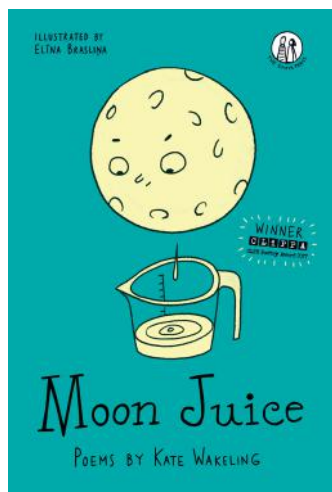
Melody Queen

Puneet Bhandal

Can music-obsessed Simi stand up to a gender-biased industry?

Twelve-year-old Simi's life is set. First: graduate from the Bollywood Academy, school to future stars. Second: become a mega-famous actor, just like her showbiz parents. There's only one problem: Simi would rather make music than act, and music is a profession dominated by men. Can Simi navigate the gender barriers of the industry to prove she has what it takes to become Bollywood's next big music composer?

A story of passion for music and courage in the face of overwhelming odds, this second book in the dazzling world of Bollywood is sure to get your toes tapping and head bopping to Simi's beat.



The Emma Press |
9781910139493 | £8.99 |
15/09/2016 | Paperback | 96
pages | YDP

Moon Juice

Kate Wakeling, illustrated by Elīna Brasliņa

Winner of the 2017 CLIPPA

Meet Skig, who's meant to be a warrior (but is really more of a worrier). Meet a giddy comet, skidding across the sky with her tail on fire. Put a marvellous new machine in your pocket and maybe you'll be able to fix all your life's problems.

Kate Wakeling's first book of poems for children is full of curious characters and strange situations. The poems she writes are always musical, sometimes magical, and full of wonder at the weirdness of the world.

Moon Juice contains 25 poems and features bonus materials, including interviews with the author and the illustrator, and ideas for writing your own poems.

My Must-Have Mum

Maudie Smith, illustrated by Jen Khatun
An upcycling mum and a son who learns he's perfect just the way he is...



Jake's mum is not like most mums. Say there's a skip in the street, most mums will pass right by without a second glance. Not Jake's mum. "Look at this, Jake!" she'll shout. "We must have this! We must have this, too! And we simply must have this!" That's Jake's mum for you. She's a must-have mum.

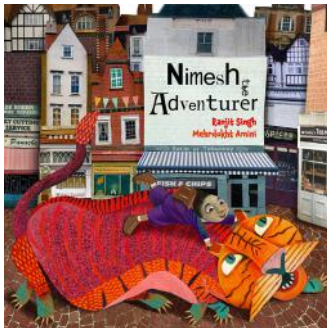
So when Jake's mum upcycles every last thing in the apartment, Jake begins to worry that the only thing left to change is...him! Will Jake's mum try to change him too?

Lantana Publishing |
9781911373148 | £7.99 |
03/10/2023 | Paperback | 32
pages | YBC

A heart-warming story about the unbreakable bond between a mother and her son, and a little boy who learns that he is perfect just the way he is.

Nimesh the Adventurer

Ranjit Singh, Mehrdokht Amini
A celebration of diversity and inclusion in modern Britain.



Nimesh is walking home from school. Except...there happens to be a shark in the corridor. And a dragon in the library! And why would crossing the road lead to the North Pole?

A fun-filled story about a little boy with a BIG imagination, *Nimesh the Adventurer* will surely make even the dulllest journey a dazzling adventure.

Lantana Publishing |
9781911373384 | £7.99 |
20/06/2019 | Paperback | 32
pages | YBC

Rainbow Hands

Mamta Nainy, illustrated by Jo Loring-Fisher
A colour-filled story about a young boy embracing his identity.



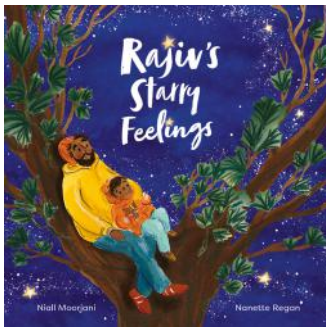
As the long Indian summer days stretch ahead of him, a young boy looks forward to his favourite time – painting-your-nails-time. He knows that when he dips his brush into those magical bottles of nail polish, he will find a colour to express his every mood and feeling. At times, his Papa frowns and says, “What have you done to your nails?” At other times, he says, “Why don’t you paint on paper instead?” But the little boy knows that painting his nails makes his hands look beautiful.

Lantana Publishing |
9781915244277 | £7.99 |
16/04/2024 | Paperback | 32
pages | YBC

This colour-filled story celebrates the joy of finding out who you are and embracing the courage to be yourself.

Rajiv's Starry Feelings

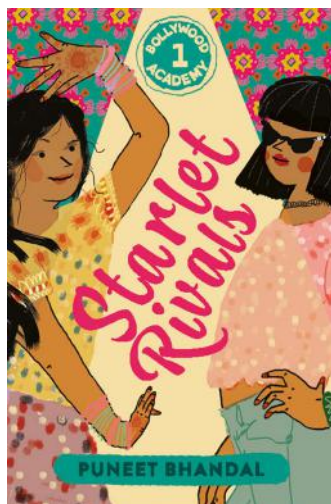
Niall Moorjani, illustrated by Nanette Regan
“A beautiful story that gently helps children understand and navigate a universe of feelings.” – Joseph Coelho, Children's Laureate 2022-2024



“Did you know that constellations are ancient maps that help explorers find their way?” Rajiv has feelings for everything. He can feel confident. He can feel happy. He can feel silly. But today, he feels angry and he doesn’t know why. With the help of his father, he sets out on a journey to make sense of his feelings. It is a journey that will take him to a park, then up into the branches of a tree, and from there all the way to the stars.

Lantana Publishing |
9781836290131 | £7.99 |
01/10/2024 | Paperback | 32
pages | YBC

Beautifully told and stunningly illustrated, this extraordinary story will help children everywhere explore the complex emotions we all feel but cannot always name.



Lantana Publishing |
9781915244000 | £7.99 |
19/07/2022 | Paperback | 264
pages | YFS

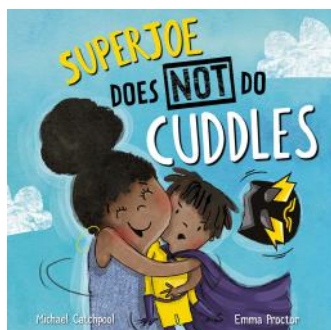
Starlet Rivals

Puneet Bhandal

A middle grade school story set in the glamorous world of Bollywood.

12-year-old Bela has always dreamed about becoming a famous Bollywood star, and now the opportunity might finally be within her grasp. When a reality TV show gives her the chance to dance in front of the nation, she knows that she is performing for a place at the most prestigious stage school in Mumbai.

Can Bela win the Dance Starz competition to bag a place at the Bollywood Academy and move one step closer to her dreams of stardom? And will child star Monica, the most "in" girl at school, see her as a friend or a rival?



Lantana Publishing |
9781913747657 | £11.99 |
23/09/2021 | Hardback | 32
pages | YBC

SuperJoe Does NOT Do Cuddles

Michael Catchpool, illustrated by Emma Proctor

A caped crusader learns that even the mightiest of superheroes sometimes need a cuddle from their mom...

SuperJoe is convinced he doesn't need cuddles from his mum. He flies around the neighbourhood rescuing people from escaped tigers, runaway trains and raging rivers, all while battling his nemesis the Grey Shadow. Naturally, he refuses all cuddles. Until one night, when he can't sleep...



The Emma Press |
 9781912915118 | £8.99 |
 05/03/2021 | Paperback | 86
 pages | YDP

The Bee Is Not Afraid Of Me

Edited by Fran Long, Dr Isabel Galleymore,
 illustrated by Emma Dai'an Wright

A collection for children aged 8+ about the importance of insects to the environment.

Can you imagine a world without bees? Did you know that dung beetles are awesome recyclers? Insects pollinate, recycle and are an important food source for many animals – they're tiny but mighty superheroes of the animal kingdom.

This is an anthology of wild and wonderful children's poems which will educate and excite youngsters about the fascinating world of insects. With factual notes alongside the poems, and black line illustrations.



Lantana Publishing |
 9781836290230 | £7.99 |
 02/09/2025 | Paperback | 32
 pages | YBC

The Great Henna Party

Humera Malik, illustrated by Sonali Zohra

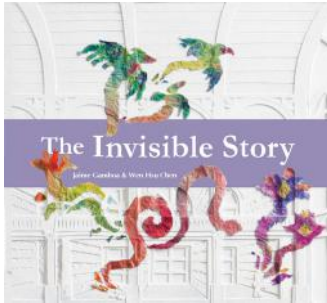
A celebration of the age-old South Asian tradition of painting with henna.

If you were to name the person you loved the most, who would you choose? Noor's cousin is getting married tomorrow, and tonight, her family is throwing her a henna party. They will sing traditional songs, eat delicious treats, and have their hands painted in swirling designs using a dye called henna. Noor is especially excited to play the henna name game. The henna artist will hide the name of the person Noor loves the most in the pattern she paints on Noor's hands. But whose name will Noor choose? As Noor encounters each member of her family, she finds it harder and harder to make her choice. What should she do if she loves them all? A heart-warming story that traces the patterns of family love through the age-old South Asian tradition of painting with henna.

The Invisible Story

Jaime Gamboa, illustrated by Wen Hsu Chen,
translated by Daniel Hahn

**An empowering story about sight-loss and
reading in braille.**



The world is full of stories. Some are as long as lizards, others so short that they never even make it to The End. But the invisible story is unlike any other story because no one has ever read it! It lives hidden in the darkest corner of the library, far from where the famous tales, written in gold letters, shine.

One day, a blind reader approaches the story's trembling pages. This reader is unlike any reader the invisible story has ever encountered. And when she runs her fingertips over the book's white pages, it is astonished by what she finds...

Lantana Publishing |
9781915244765 | £12.99 |
25/04/2024 | Hardback | 32
pages | YBC

The Playdate

Uje Brandelius, illustrated by Clara Dackenberg,
translated by Nichola Smalley

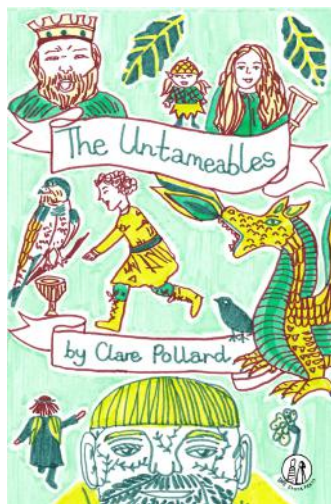
**A powerful story about friendship across
socio-economic divides**



For one little girl, the prospect of a playdate at her friend Henry's house fills her with excitement. It's a long way to Henry's house, but it's worth it because his house has millions of rooms to hide in and hundreds of toys to play with.

But while the text tells one story, the illustrations slowly reveal another. As the kids tear around the house enjoying each other's company, their mums experience the playdate very differently. Soon we find that the little girl and her friend Henry live lives that are poles apart. A powerful story about friendship across economic divides that encourages readers to question why we live in a society where those who have and those who have not live very different lives.

Lantana Publishing |
9781836290179 | £7.99 |
03/04/2025 | Paperback | 32
pages | YBC



The Emma Press |
 9781915628268 | £9.99 |
 21/03/2024 | Paperback | 160
 pages | YFC

The Untameables

Clare Pollard, illustrated by Reena Makwana
**Arthurian legends re-examined and turned
 on their head.**

Under the bloody rule of King Arthur – as the cruel knights of the round table wage wars and hunt magical creatures – the ordinary people of Camelot are getting sick. Really sick. Something is poisoning the land. No one in Arthur's court seems to care, but a spark of hope remains... The Holy Grail could save them all, and two children embark on a quest to find it.

Shy, gentle Roan, a young dog keeper who works for the knights, is desperate to find a cure for his mum. He befriends Elva, a generous and outspoken kitchenhand with her own reasons for seeking the elusive Grail. Together, can they beat the knights to find it? And will drinking from it save Roan's mum?



The Wall and The Wild

Christina Dendy, illustrated by Katie Rewse
**A story about being unafraid to embrace
 biodiversity in all its forms.**

In a plot of land at the edge of town, Ana grows only perfectly-sized plants and perfect-looking flowers, and throws all the irregular shoots and uneven seeds over the wall into the disorderly Wild. But as her garden gets tidier, neater and more constrained, the Wild begins to grow...

At a time of accelerating climate change, an eye-opening story about gardening, rewilding and embracing biodiversity in all its forms.

Lantana Publishing |
 9781915244987 | £7.99 |
 05/03/2024 | Paperback | 32
 pages | YBC

Watch Me Bloom

Krina Patel-Sage

Mindful haiku poems to help us rediscover our natural surroundings, without travelling too far from home.



Some flowers are the subject of nursery rhymes and childhood games while others help us celebrate love, remember our homelands or mark the passing seasons.

These mindful haiku poems invite us to explore twenty-four flower species growing close to home, from wildflower meadows to urban window boxes.

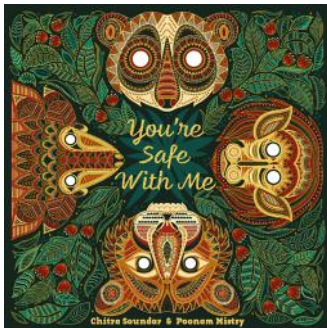
Lantana Publishing |
9781836290254 | £7.99 |
01/04/2025 | Paperback | 32
pages | YBC

The nature-themed follow up to *My Mindful A to Zen*, this gorgeous collection of poems teaches us that treating ourselves and our planet mindfully can also be a treat for the senses.

You're Safe With Me

Chitra Soundar, illustrated by Poonam Mistry

A modern fable about learning not to fear the storm, shortlisted for the Kate Greenaway Medal 2019.



When the moon rises high and the stars twinkle, it is bedtime for the baby animals of the Indian forest.

But tonight, when the skies turn dark and the night grows stormy, the little ones can't sleep. SWISH-SWISH! CRACK-TRACK! FLASH-SNAP! goes the storm.

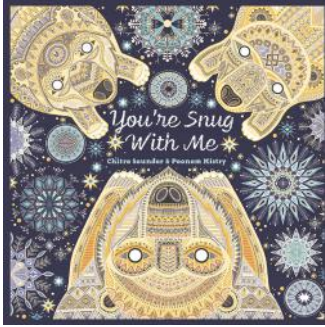
Only Mama Elephant with her words of wisdom can reassure them, "You're safe with me".

Lantana Publishing |
9781915244710 | £7.99 |
17/10/2023 | Paperback | 32
pages | YBC

You're Snug With Me

Chitra Soundar, Poonam Mistry

**"Parental love, sound ecological advice,
and breathtaking illustrations all in one" -
Kirkus Reviews, STARRED**



At the start of winter, two bear cubs are born, deep in their den in the frozen North.

"Mama, what lies beyond here?" they ask. "Above us is a land of ice and snow." "What lies beyond the ice and snow?" they ask.

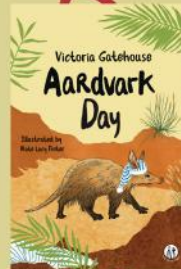
"The ocean, full of ice from long ago." And as they learn the secrets of the Earth and their place in it, Mama Bear whispers, "You're snug with me."

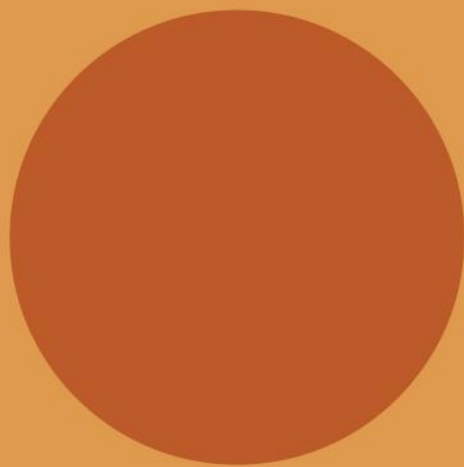
Lantana Publishing |
9781836290124 | £7.99 |
01/10/2024 | Paperback | 32
pages | YBC

SEE OUR 2026 LIST HERE:



2026 Children's Catalogue





**Inpress Books
Percy Building
Newcastle University,
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE1 7RU**

**rebecca@inpressbooks.co.uk
www.inpressbooks.co.uk**



Supported using public funding by

**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**