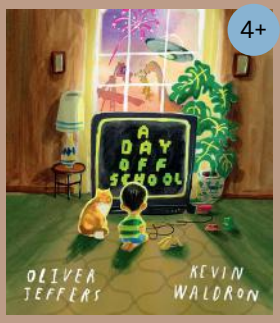
THE SURBITON SCRIBBLER

November 2026

NEW RELEASES

Picture Books



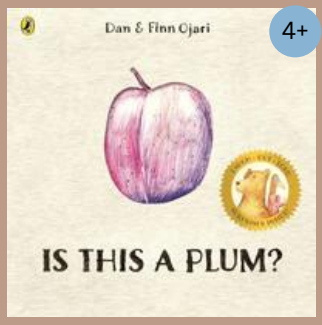
4+

What really happens when you miss school? Pirates and chaos, according to Herbie!



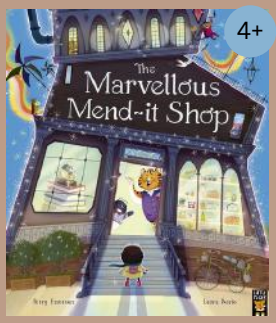
4+

Where will Mouse live after the storm? Perhaps behind the little red door...



4+

Peek through the holes for hilarious surprises—is that a plum or hippo's bum?



4+

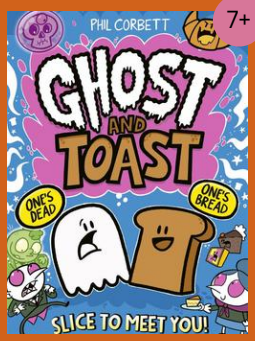
When Max breaks his mum's special charm bracelet, a magical story mends all.



4+

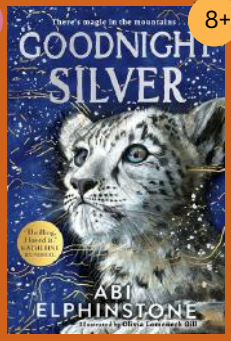
With tiny hooves and secret wings, Luna learns that being different is magical.

Shorter Chapter Books and Graphic Novels



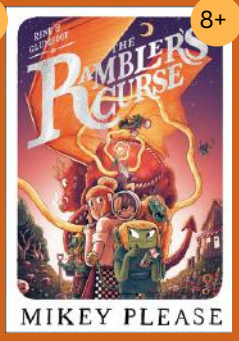
7+

One's dead, one's bread! A laugh-out-loud mystery about battling pastries.



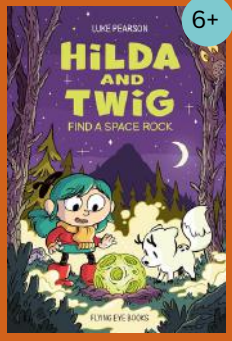
8+

Lost in a blizzard, Emmy must guide a snow leopard cub to safety.



8+

Rene and Glumfoot set off on a mission to protect their woods from humans.



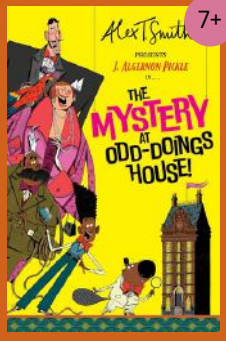
6+

Twig must rescue Hilda from danger after she collects a glowing space rock.



7+

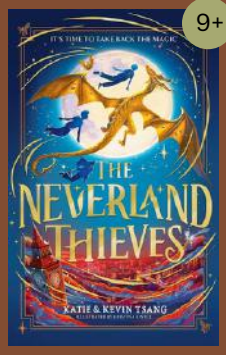
New challenges await high in the forest canopy's latest dungeon.



7+

Who stole the chocolate? Only a sharp-witted beaver detective knows!

Longer Chapter Books



9+

Fly to Neverland, dodge pirates, and stop a villain to reclaim the magic!



8+

Stranded in a ruined city, these intrepid pets must embrace the wild to find safety.



9+

Race across South America with Maggie on a daring mission to find Amelia.



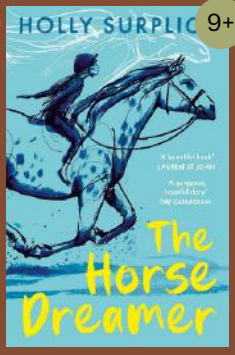
9+

Can Swallow find the legendary jadeite stone in time to save her sister?



10+

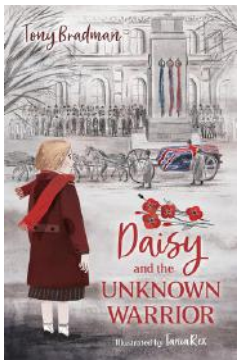
When their father vanishes, two sisters follow hidden clues to find him.



9+

Grieving her father, Merryn befriends a dreamlike horse who helps her family find hope.

STORIES OF REMEMBRANCE



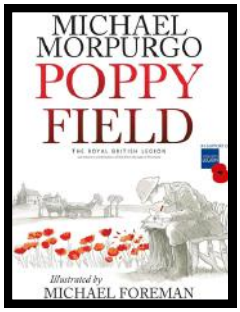
After losing her father in the Great War, young Daisy witnesses history at Westminster Abbey. 8+



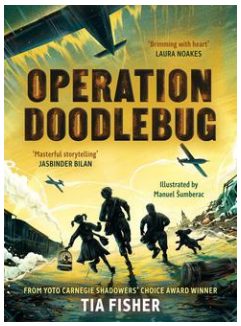
When tragedy strikes in occupied France, can Joelle help a downed pilot escape? 10+



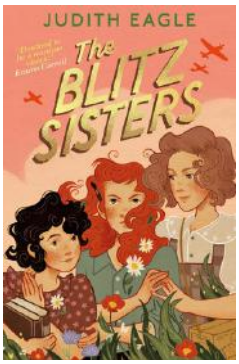
Fleeing to England, Anna risks everything in a web of wartime espionage. 9+



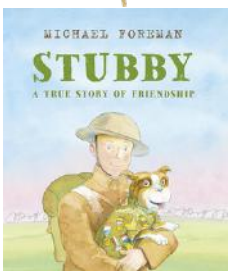
A deeply moving story of family history, sacrifice, and honouring the past. 7+



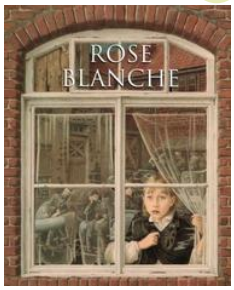
Amidst Croydon's air-raid sirens, Stan and his friends embark on a daring wartime mission. 10+



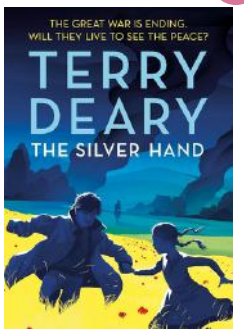
As bombs fall on London, three sisters discover strength, rebellion, and family love. 10+



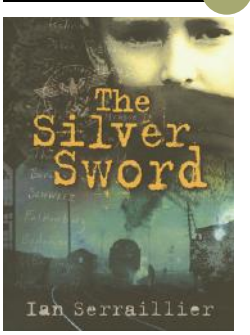
Meet Sergeant Stubby: loyal friend, spy-catcher, and hero of the First World War. 5+



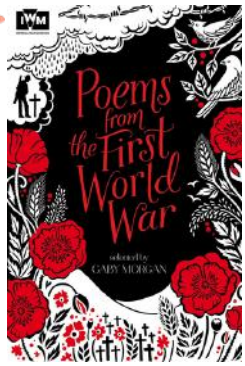
Young Rose secretly smuggles food to starving children behind wire in wartime Germany. 7+

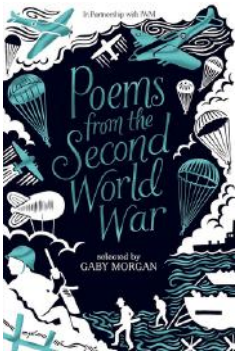


Evading a traitor in 1918 France, Aimee helps a stranded German boy to escape. 9+

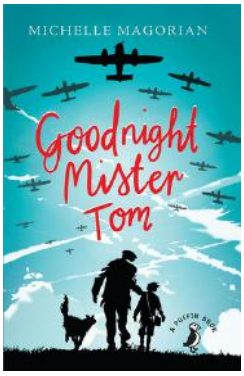


Guided by a tiny silver sword, three children trek from war-torn Poland to Switzerland. 9+

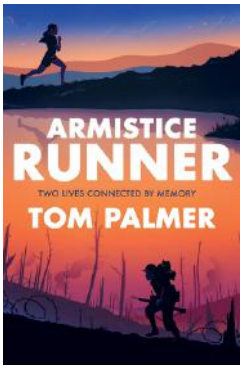




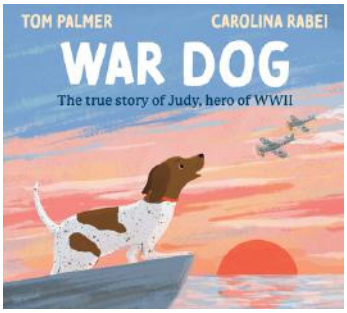
Moving wartime poetry written by soldiers, nurses, and loved ones at home. 9+



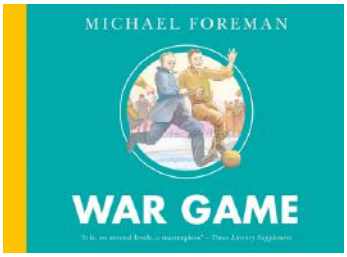
Shy evacuee Willie Beech forms an unbreakable bond with gentle villager Tom Oakley. 10+



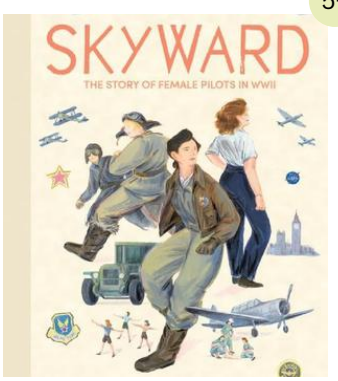
Across generations, two runners share an unforgettable story of bravery, memory, and family love. 9+



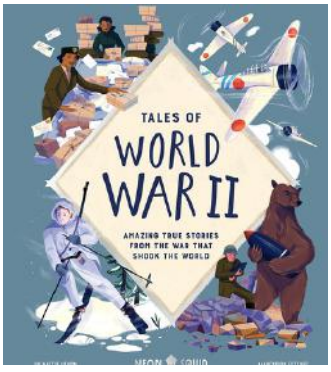
From catching rats aboard HMS Grasshopper to comforting captured soldiers, brave Judy becomes her crew's only hope for survival. 4+



Young soldiers experience the remarkable 1914 Christmas Day football truce before facing the heartbreak of the trenches. 5+

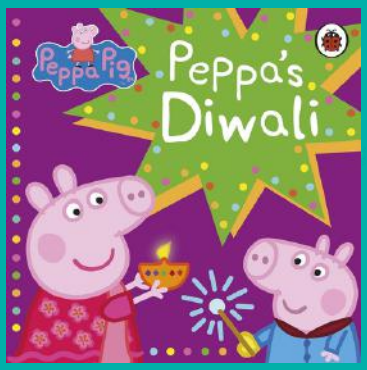


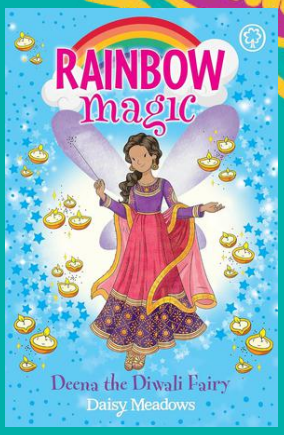
From America, England, and Russia, three ambitious girls defy the odds to become WWII pilots. 8+

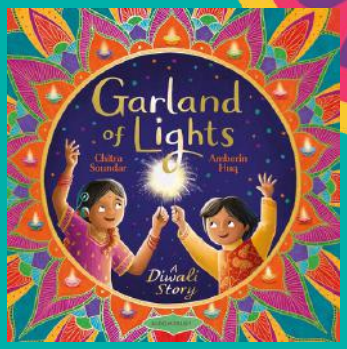


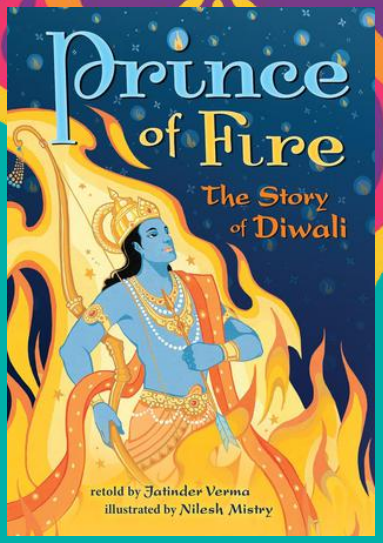
Meet Navajo codebreakers, U-boat-dodging cabin boys, and Blitz rescue dogs in this thrilling collection of true World War II tales. 8+

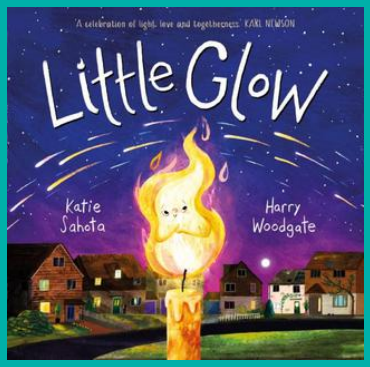
Diwali

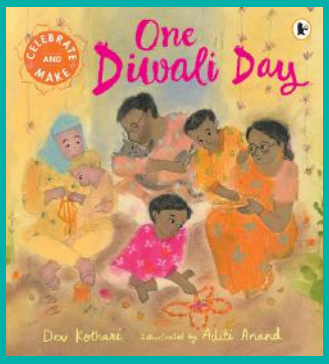

Peppa Pig
Peppa's Diwali

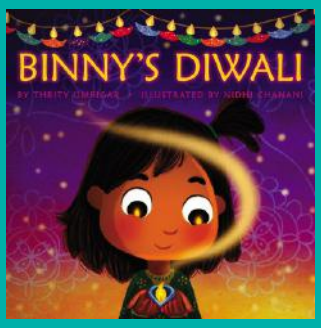

RAINBOW magic
Deena the Diwali Fairy
Daisy Meadows

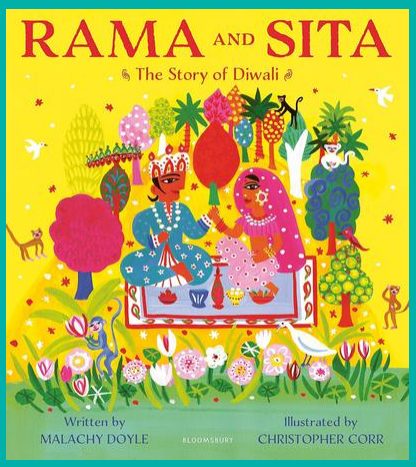

Garland of Lights
Chitra Soundar
Amberin Fiaz
A Diwali Story


Prince of Fire
The Story of Diwali
retold by Jatinder Verma
illustrated by Nilesh Mistry

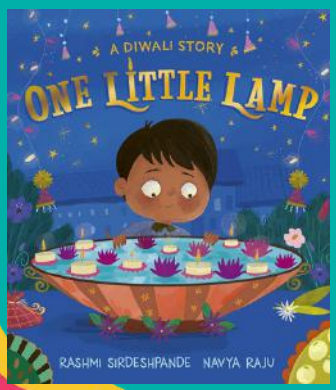

A celebration of light, love and togetherness KARL NEWSON
Little Glow
Katie Sahota
Harry Woodgate

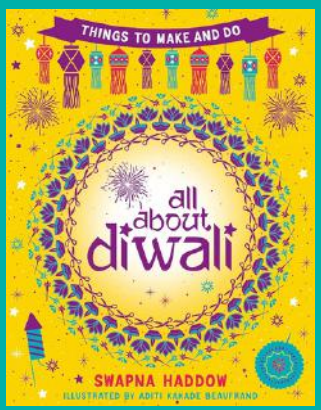

CELEBRATE AND MAKE
One Diwali Day
Dev Kothari
illustrated by Aditi Anand

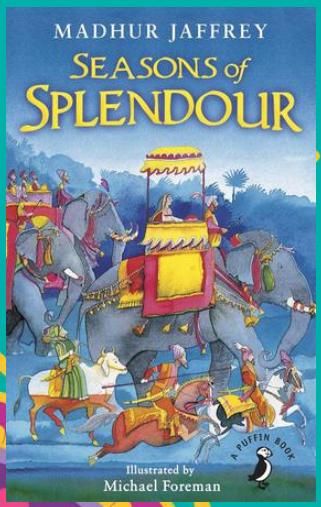

BINNY'S DIWALI

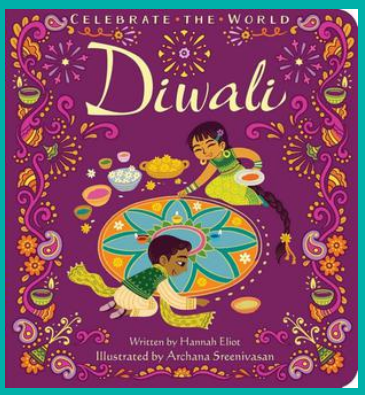

RAMA AND SITA
The Story of Diwali
Written by
MALACHY DOYLE
Illustrated by
CHRISTOPHER CORR

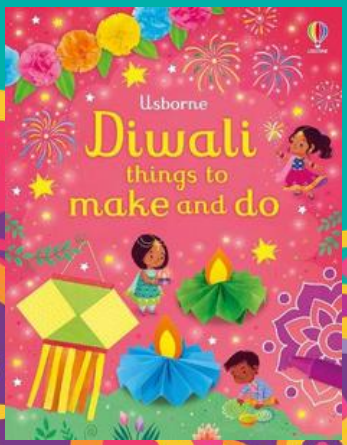

THE BEST DIWALI EVER
SONALI SHAH
CHAITRA PRABHAT

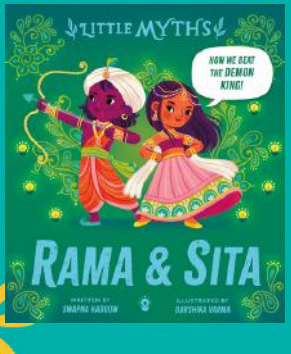

A DIWALI STORY
ONE LITTLE LAMP
RASHMI SIRDESHPANDE
NAVYA RAJU


THINGS TO MAKE AND DO
all about diwali
SWAPNA HADDOW
ILLUSTRATED BY ADITI KARADE BEAUFRAND


MADHUR JAFFREY
SEASONS of SPLENDOUR
A PUFFIN BOOK
Illustrated by
Michael Foreman


CELEBRATE THE WORLD
Diwali
Written by Hannah Eliot
Illustrated by Archana Sreenivasan


Usborne
Diwali
things to
make and do


LITTLE MYTHS
NOW WE BEAT THE DEMON KING!
RAMA & SITA

Reception Writing
The Enormous Turnip







the turnip
the man
the girl

Elaari S, RecB







Small eyes
red Nose
Pink hair
Silver Mouth

Sophie C, RecBN

Max the Brave



Lara the Lorma is fluffy and has a shiny buckle on her belt.

Lara is adventurous and kind because she enjoys saving people she is kind because she thinks about others.

Laura B, 1NB



This is Rainbow Bat. She can read peeps minds and she is magical.

Bat has sparkly wings and can fly high and fast.

Her mask is pink and purple.

Her superpower is ice and time travel back in time.

Iris Z, 1NB





Daisy the Brave has black ears and she has a Scooby logo on her fluffy fur. She is helpful because if Sum Won needs help she runs fast to help them.

Riya K, 1K

Ma the Magnificent has yellow skin with brown patches and a spotty cape. Ma the Magnificent is brave because she might need to fight a ghost. And

Vivian L, 1K



Having read Ed Vere's 'Max the Brave', Year 1 described their own superheroes.



Aurelia, 2E

Under the scorching, golden sun, hungry zebras hunt for food. The tall giraffes stretch their long necks wider to touch the swaying trees. As I begin my exciting adventure in Africa, I explore the thick grasslands. I can feel the hot, burning sun on my face and up above I can see the vast blue sky.

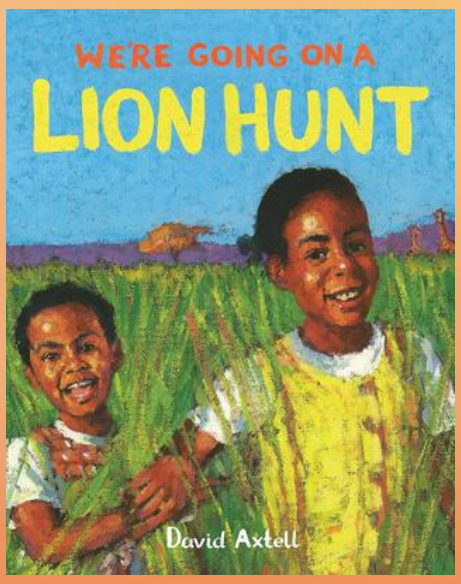
Lilah, 2E

As I walk towards the blue lake, it looks shiny and peaceful in the warm, beaming sunlight. As I step into it, it feels warm and wet. Around me tall reeds tower over me and fish leap gracefully in and out of the rippling water. I scanned the area for the lion, but the lion was nowhere to be seen.

Ariana, 2K

As I begin my long, exciting stroll through Africa, I explore through the grasslands. The grass tickles me on my pale, delicate skin. I see a humungous, massive giraffe, it towers above the long, delicate grass and I was so amazed because I had never seen one before. I can't hear it even though I can see it. The further I get, I see it closer. Soon I am right next to it. As I walk past it, I wish I stayed there much longer.

Iona, 2K





Olivia, 2K



Angela, 2K

Soon I arrive at a peaceful, calm lake. Down at my toes, the dark, muddy lake laps against my sweaty feet. I can hear birds chirping and elephants stomping on the craggy floor. I smell damp, musky mud and I see tall, sharp mountains. I feel scaly fishes swimming in the lake and I see muddy, bumpy hippos.

Zaphia, 2E

As I begin my exciting adventure in Africa, I explore through the grasslands. The grass is lush, vast and delicate. I can feel the hot, blazing sun all around me. I like the big, furry lion even though it keeps roaring at me. But what is that sound? The further I get, the louder the sound gets. Could it be a hippo? But no, I see a sparkly, tranquil lake.

Ada, 2K

The Tin Forest

Year 3 read the story of 'The Tin Forest' by Helen Ward & Wayne Anderson, and imagined what they might wish for in the old man's place...

My wish is...
To see the magnificent capybara and her cute babies,
Lovely pink dolphins splashing in the sparkling sea,
Calm tigers sneaking through the dark, green forest.

My wish is...
To hear noisy owls hooting and calling like people talking,
Leaves whispering as they rustle in the breeze,
Raindrops pattering calmly with almost no sound,
Waterfalls crashing with a big roar.

My wish is...
To feel proud because of the colourful forest that is alive,
To be hopeful that the animals are alive but not metal
and the trees are growing high to the sky,
To be peaceful and quiet,
To have plants that are colourful and animals to cuddle.

My eyes see beautiful.

Emily VF, 3W

I hear waterfalls in the distance and parrots flapping their wings.
I hear snakes hissing - I hope they are not rattlesnakes!
I hear flowers swaying gently in the middle of the forest.
I hear animals, big or small, rushing through the forest.

My wish is...
To feel safe and happy in my forest
I hope it will stay.
I feel proud.

Alexia D, 3W

Cinderella of the Nile



In Beverley Naidoo's retelling of an ancient Cinderella-style myth, we read the story of Rhodopis who was stolen from her home in Greece and sold into slavery in Egypt.

In the early dawn, the vast pyramids stood like proud kings. The rushing River Nile flowed past, pulling the fishermen with their nets. Nearby, a school of small, sparkling salmon wiggled along the pretty river. Rhodopis' ruby red hair swayed in the breeze. "Tweet, tweet," sang a little bird as he fluttered off. It was peaceful.

No one was unhappy in this part of Egypt. No one except a little girl who had red hair and a waterfall of tears that grew and grew until there was no more point in crying.

Tessa, 4V

As Rhodopis crouched by the river, the hot sun reflected on her face. The breeze blew softly on her arm. Under the water, her hippo friend popped out and splashed playfully by her. Rhodopis sang softly. With a smile, she wiped her tears, but her shoe was still missing. Rhodopis smelt something like fragrant perfume coming from the colourful flowers. Her monkey friend started happily dancing around her.

Mehek, 4S

As the flowing, shimmering water was splashing, the lush, lime-green palm trees swayed. Rhodopis was perched on the side of the river bank as she washed a muddy dress in the rushing water. She was entertained by her friends who were dancing - a red-lipped monkey, a cute, cuddly cat and a supportive, vibrant bird. All of the lush plants were growing into lovely, yellow flowers.

Suddenly, a god of the sky swooped down and stole one of her golden-threaded, ruby-red slippers.

"Stop, please!" begged Rhodopis.

Ottilie J, 4V



THE RABBITS

Clang! Swords and axes flashed,
Spears and arrows flew,
Their targets dodged.

The rabbits were evil,
The horses were menacing,
The weapons were murderous.

This. Was. War.
Numbat after numbat fell
Dead.
One rabbit fell,
Another took its place.

The stench of fresh blood
Hung in the air.
Death gobbled up the numbats
One by one.
Still they fought,
And fought,
And fought.

All. Hope. Lost.
Reflections tinted red with blood.
This. Was. War.

Another wave of arrows.
Another wave of spears.
Another wave of death.

Jessica S, 5F

After reading 'The Rabbits', an allegory of the colonisation of Australia by John Marsden and Shaun Tan, Year 5 wrote poems to describe the desolation left by the war between the rabbits and the numbats.

Standing tall and proud,
In a lake painted with rosy water lilies,
The billabongs flood with glossy water.
Splash! A bird takes off, spraying water everywhere,
Drenching everything
The smell of salt, fresh and crisp
Crawls up and down,
Shrouding their wetland home.
Ancestral voices calling out
The ruffling of feathers
In the reflecting water
Sun shines like a golden orb in the sky.
Illuminating the birds in their home,
Free, joyous and beautiful in their habitat.

Abi D, 5S



Staring into the starlight
What did we do to deserve this?
Why did the rabbits do this?
A mirror reflection of what they have done.

Millions of us lie dead beneath the ground
And pollution spirals into the air
Buildings making up for where water is scarce
A mirror reflection of what they have done.

Thousands of discarded parts.
Once where there was a shimmering billabong,
One single puddle sparkling in the starlight,
A reflection of what they have done.

In this eerie silence, we seem to come to an understanding
Beneath the stars, scattered like pebbles across a beach.
Maybe there is hope.

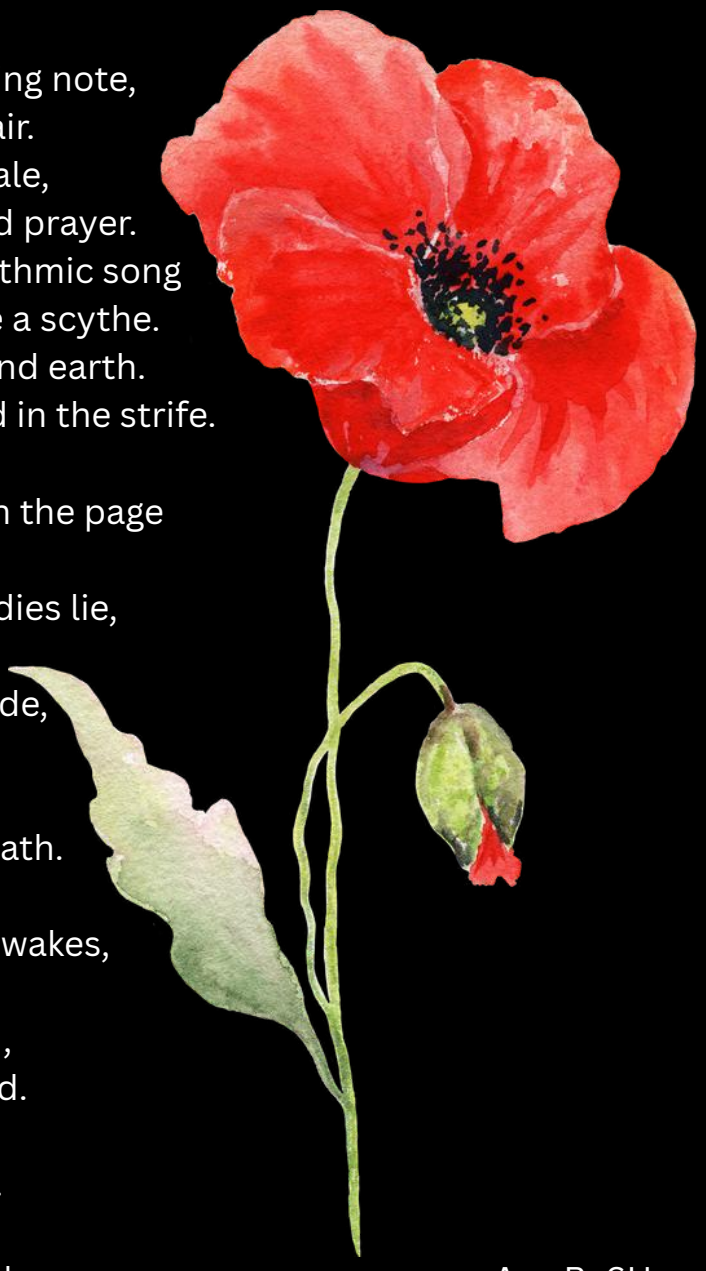
Maybe we can make...this...right.

Abigail F, 5S

The trenches were our cities, our graves,
Dug deep into the flesh of the weeping land.
A labyrinth of chalk, timber and despair,
Where we lived by the ticking clock in a frozen hand.
The rain fell like a heavy, unending curse,
Filling the ditches until the water reached our knees.
And the mud - the thick, grey, gluttonous mud -
Swallowed the boots of men and roots of shattered trees.

The darkness came, but midnight brought no sleep,
Only the silent, creeping terror of the gas.
A choking, yellow fog that drifted over the lip,
Turning the lungs to stone and burning the grass.
Hearing the muffled cries of those who were too slow,
While the flames illuminated the sky with a ghastly light,
Casting long, dancing shadows on the hell below.

At dawn, the whistle blew, a sharp and piercing note,
That called us up the ladders into the open air.
We went over the top into the teeth of the gale,
With no shield but our coats and a whispered prayer.
The machine guns rattle their relentless, rhythmic song
Cutting down rows of boys like wheat before a scythe.
We ran through a storm of splintered steel and earth.
Where the loving and the fallen were tangled in the strife.



Now, the decades pass, and the seasons turn the page
Yet time redeems this melancholy age.
From churned up graves where steel and bodies lie,
The scarlet poppies blossom to the sky.
They do not just ask for vengeance or for pride,
Just memory of the boys who bravely died,
Who left behind the unrun race of breath
And found their youth in fields of sudden death.

At the set of the sun, and when the morning wakes,
As light upon the quiet ocean breaks,
We keep our faith and call their names aloud,
Out from the shadows of the marching crowd.
They shall not age who linger here,
Untouched by time, except from mortal fear.
In every heart where quiet duty calls,
The torch remains alight and never, never falls.

Ava B, 6H



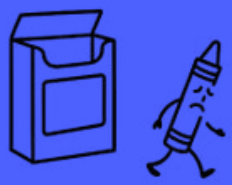
Our Year 5&6 Reading Champions Quiz Team were excited to win the London Regional Final!

We are looking forward to heading to the National Finals in December.

How many of the practice quiz questions do you think you could answer?



1. Which fun picture book is represented here?



2. Fill in the missing word that completes all three titles:

_____ of Glory
_____ of Fire
The Girl Who Grew _____

3. Which author wrote How to Train Your Dragon and has been Children's Laureate?

4. In which country is City of Stolen Magic set?

a) India
b) Thailand
c) Japan

5. True or False?
Zodiac goddess Virgo falls from the sky in Maz Evans's Who Let the Gods Out?

6. Which of these is not the title of a Jeff Kinney book?

- The Last Straw
- The Shallow End
- The Long Haul
- The Ugly Truth

7. In Supertato by Sue Hendra and Paul Linnet, where does the caped potato hero Supertato live?

8. I walked through the deep dark wood and used my cleverness to stay safe. Who am I?

9. What "A" travels on a magic carpet in One Thousand and One Nights?

10. I am a blue cat learning martial arts to survive in the city. Who am I?

11. Which of these is NOT a feature in the Treehouse series?

- A marshmallow shooter
- A baby dinosaur zoo
- A tank of jellyfish
- A giant catapult

12. Which country is the setting for When the Mountains Roared?

13. I am a magical house that moves, filled with spirits and surrounded by bones. What am I?

14. Which author wrote Peter Pan?

(Find the answers on Showbie...)

Bookish Events



National competition celebrating creativity, nature and the wildlife found in wetlands. Children aged 5-11 can write an acrostic poem.
Closes Dec 2026
https://lodge.beavertrust.org/words-of-the-wetlands/



Daunt Books Children's Short Story Competition
Submit a short story up to 1500 words.
Closes 17th Jan
https://dauntbooks.co.uk/short-story-competition/



British Library - 7th Nov
Family Workshop - Little Miss Marple



National Literacy Trust:
Future Voices Challenge
Your opportunity to have your voice heard!
Create a mini-campaign with a poster, poem, speech or recording on an issue you feel strongly about.
Speak to Mrs Goligher or Mrs McNeill in school if you would like to be involved.
Ages 5-11 - Closes 11th December



Luna Loves London Exhibition
Discover Story Centre - Stratford, London
Join Luna and friends for a very special trip to a very big city – in a brand new immersive exhibition.
Until 30th Dec



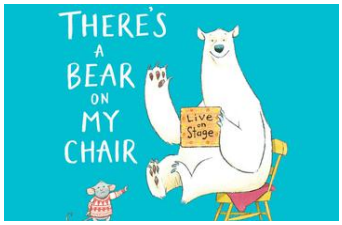
Wind in the Willows
Rose Theatre, Kingston
25th Nov - 3rd Jan



Peter Pan
Polka Theatre, Wimbledon
14th Nov - 24th Jan



Pinocchio
Globe Theatre, London
28th Nov - 3rd Jan



There's a Bear on My Chair
Queen Elizabeth Hall, London
9th Dec - 3rd Jan



Other useful websites:

- https://www.thereaderteacher.com/
- https://www.booktrust.org.uk/books-and-reading/bookfinder/
- https://booksforkeeps.co.uk/
- https://www.lovereading4kids.co.uk/
- https://www.booksfortopics.com/
- https://www.readingzone.com/
- https://schoolreadinglist.co.uk/
- https://clpe.org.uk/books/corebooks
- https://toppsta.com/
- https://empathylab.uk/

