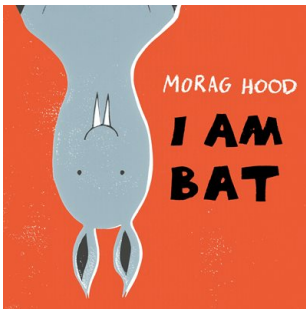


**A selection of books especially selected for children in Reception classes (4-5 year olds) of average reading ability for the 2023/24 academic year.**

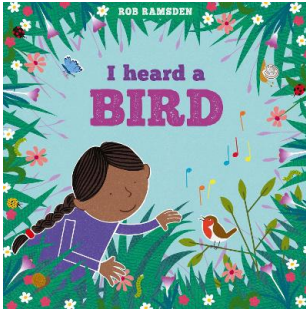
If your child is a competent reader or has read all these titles then try the books from the Year 1 list. Our overall mission is to promote reading for pleasure with quality texts that are perfectly pitched for the age group and the curriculum. We have particularly avoided blockbusters, classic or set texts, known to everyone, so that we can include poetry, stunning information texts and inspirational books in which all children and young people can find themselves reflected.

**The Big Bad Bug****Author:** Kate Read **Format:** Hardback **Release Date:** 09/03/2023

A richly colourful minibeast drama from the multi-award-winning creator of *One Fox: A Counting Book Thriller*. *The Big Bad Bug*, a self-proclaimed 'very rare species' is used to getting his own way, but claiming a giant berry all for himself is a step too far . . . Will he ever learn to share, and mend his bullying ways? This bug's eye view from the bottom of the garden will entrance any young child and show them the value of kindness and community. *The Big Bad Bug* is the perfect picture book for minibeast fans.

**I Am Bat****Author:** Morag Hood **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 06/09/2018

**Winner of the UKLA Book Awards 2019 | One of Our Books of the Year 2017** This must be one of the brightest and best picture books of the year. With minimalist illustrations – simple shapes against blocks of Day-Glo colour – and short lines of text, Morag Hood tells a story that will dazzle and entertain all readers. Cherries, Bat tells us, 'are my favourite things', following this up with a fiercely delivered threat: 'Do not take my cherries.' In later pages though we see the cherries being stolen. Bat is inconsolable until one of the thieves leaves a pear in their place. Bat's emotions – joy, anger, confusion, despair, surprise and joy again – are rendered brilliantly in the tilt of an eyebrow and the angle of the head while the intensity of those emotions will be hilarious yet recognisable to child and parent alike. Superb!



## I heard a Bird

**Author:** Rob Ramsden **Format:** Hardback **Release Date:** 06/04/2023

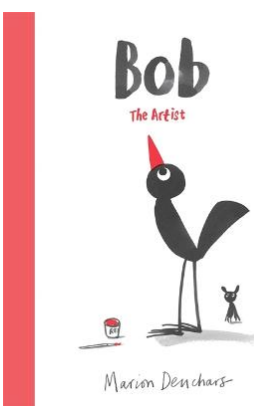
Dedicated to 'those who make friends with the birds', this delightful picture book stars a little girl who hears a robin singing in a tree. Two cats arrive and scare the bird away, so she looks for it, discovering woodlice, caterpillars and more – a burrowing beetle, a scurrying mouse, even a toad! Sitting down she closes her eyes to concentrate on the sounds around her, listening to her own breathing and the beating of her heart. It's a lovely demonstration of mindfulness, and how the natural world can help us find peace and calm. The poetic text draws readers in and gives them a real sense of the wonderful world of nature that surrounds us, as do the bold, simple illustrations.



## Hello, Friend!

**Author:** Rebecca Cobb **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 20/08/2020

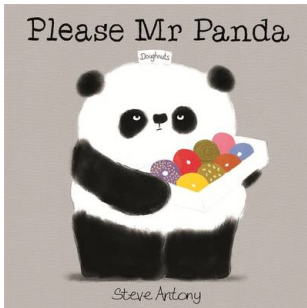
**Longlisted for the UKLA Book Awards 2021** Rebecca Cobb's warm and uncluttered illustrations capture the importance of friendships and how they can best be made. Here, an eager little girl expresses her delightful enthusiasm for sharing everything including indoor and outdoor play, packed lunch and more while in pleasing contrast the boy who is the focus of her attentions shows that friendship can also take longer to develop. A sweet story which also provides a lot of scope for thoughtful conversation and reflection.



## Bob the Artist

**Author:** Marion Deuchars **Format:** Hardback **Release Date:** 24/03/2016

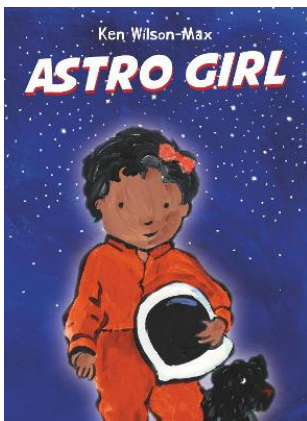
From an award winning graphic artist, Bob the Artist shows us that we can all be proud of our differences as well as celebrating creativity.



## Please Mr Panda

**Author:** Steve Antony **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 03/09/2015

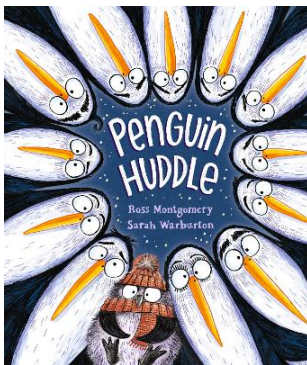
A humorous lesson in manners from the most endearingly grumpy panda. Likely to become a class catchphrase!



## Astro Girl

**Author:** Ken Wilson-Max **Format:** Hardback **Release Date:** 06/06/2019

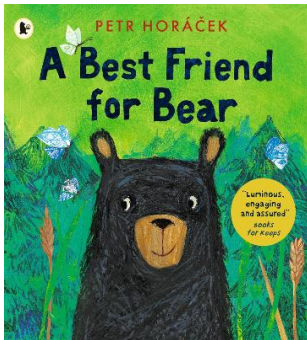
Astrid has always loved the stars and space. I want to be an astronaut! she says. While Mama is away, Papa and Astrid have fun acting out the challenges an astronaut faces on a space mission - eating food from a tube, doing science experiments, living and sleeping in near-zero gravity. Astrid can do it all! Then it's time to meet Mama at the airbase. But where has Mama been?



## Penguin Huddle

**Author:** Ross Montgomery **Format:** Hardback **Release Date:** 03/11/2022

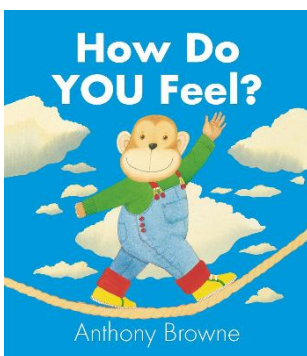
A charming and playful picture book told with humour and heart from the brilliant team behind Ten Delicious Teachers. The penguin pack play all day long. And when the sun goes down, and the night grows cold and dark... PENGUIN HUDDLE! The penguins squeeze and squish together to stay warm and cosy. But one night, there is a freezing gale. And the next morning ... the penguins are stuck! They are frozen together like a giant penguin ice pop. What a penguin MUDDLE! Nobody in the Antarctic can figure out how to unstuck them. But Pipsqueak, the smallest penguin of them all, has a brilliant idea... They must adventure out of their snowy home to a vibrant city across the great, gleaming ocean to solve their penguin puzzle. This light-hearted tale of jolly penguins big and small is a celebration of friendship, community spirit and helping those in trouble.



## A Best Friend for Bear

**Author:** Petr Horacek **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 06/04/2023

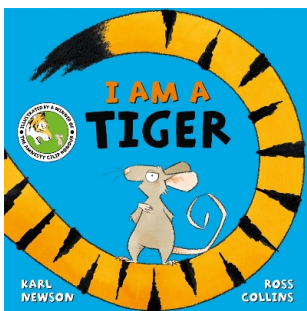
A heart-warming picture book about a charming bear duo on an adventure to find a best friend. Black Bear is feeling lonely, so he decides to look for a friend. Luckily, he meets Brown Bear, who is in the same situation! The bears decide to search for a friend together. They search everywhere, but their elusive friend is nowhere to be found. Or have they been right there all along? With stunning artwork and heart-warming text, this is a beautiful picture book from the Kate Greenaway Medal-shortlisted Petr Horacek.



## How Do You Feel?

**Author:** Anthony Browne **Format:** Board book **Release Date:** 01/05/2013

A wonderful introduction to the art of Anthony Browne and in capturing some complex emotions also has great topic uses for Foundation stage.



## I am a Tiger

**Author:** Karl Newson **Format:** Hardback **Release Date:** 16/05/2019

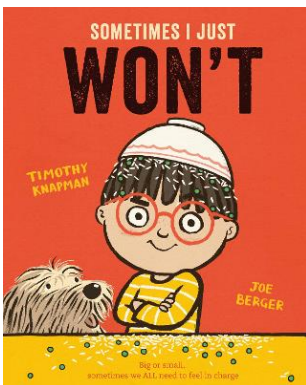
**Longlisted for the UKLA Book Awards 2020 | A Julia Eccleshare Pick of the Month May 2019** A deliciously playful fantasy tells how an audacious and ebullient mouse identifies himself as being something very much more than he is. Especially he dreams of being a tiger! But can he convince anyone else? Sadly for mouse, his lack of stripes, size and GRRR! make it pretty clear that he is certainly not a tiger. And, when a real tiger turns up, Mouse knows for sure that he won't ever be a tiger. Can he be something else? Karl Newson and Ross Collins capture imaginative play perfectly.



## Octopus Shocktopus!

**Author:** Peter Bently **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 02/07/2020

Shortlisted for the Books for Younger Children category, Children's Book Awards 2022 'One day, we found an octopus had come to live on top of us.' Those are the opening lines of this glorious picture book – how could you not want to know what happens next? The octopus itself is unmissable – huge and an eye-catching fluorescent orange colour – slightly non-plussed looking perched atop of a very neat little house. Some of the neighbours are not too welcoming, calling the fire brigade to try and force it off, fortunately with little success because once the children of the house and their friends start playing with the octopus, barriers are broken and the advantages of having an eight-legged chum become clear. Illustrator Steven Lenton rises brilliantly to all the challenges set by Peter Bently's ingenious rhymes depicting the various ways in which the octopus helps around the house – often eight different activities at a time, plus one very special octo-tastic Christmas tree. Making friends has never been so much fun and it all comes to a wonderfully octopussy conclusion too. Fabulous!

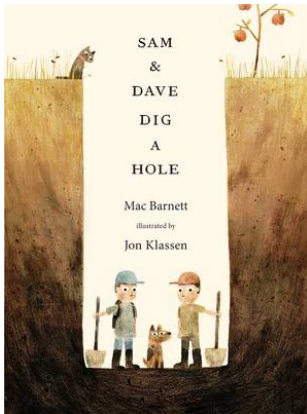


## Sometimes I Just WON'T

**Author:** Timothy Knapman **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 18/08/2022

Sometimes I Just WON'T is a hilarious and helpful book about the ever-changing moods of small children, from top picture book pairing, Timothy Knapman and Joe Berger. Being a toddler is an emotional rollercoaster. Some days you want to put your coat on, you don't mind sharing and you can't wait to have your bath. There are days when you're the first to slide down the biggest slide, or join in with everyone else. But some days, you just WON'T! And sometimes that's OK. But, with a little kindness and encouragement, you might find that something you don't want to do can become something you love to do! A comic look at child autonomy and how to navigate strong emotions. An essential read for all young children - and their adults because, big or small, sometimes we ALL need to feel in charge. With bouncing rhythmic text and lively, graphic illustrations this is a brilliant follow up to Sometimes I am Furious, a Sunday Times Book of the Year 2021!

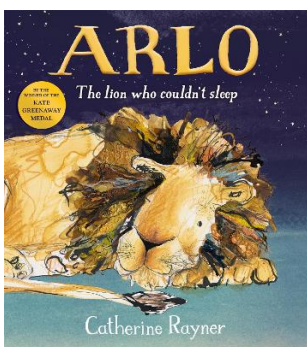




## Sam & Dave Dig a Hole

**Author:** Mac Barnett **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 03/09/2015

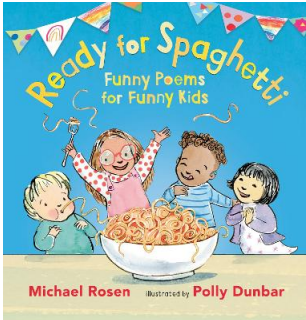
**Shortlisted for the CILIP Kate Greenaway Medal 2016.** Award-winning illustrator Jon Klassen has created a second delightful and surprising picture book with Mac Barnett, author of *The Dark*. Here two boys dig a hole. It doesn't seem to take them far so they try digging a bit on their own. They still make little progress. So they take a rest...What happens while they are asleep turns out to be most surprising of all! In simple illustrations, *Sam & Dave Dig a Hole* gives a host of opportunities for imagining and dreaming.



## Arlo The Lion Who Couldn't Sleep

**Author:** Catherine Rayner **Format:** Hardback **Release Date:** 20/08/2020

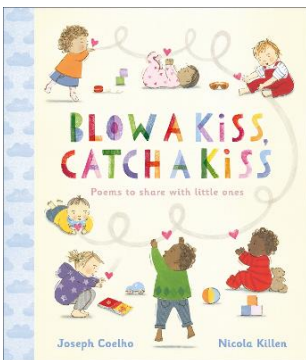
**Shortlisted for CILIP Kate Greenaway Medal 2021** Having suffered heatwaves and COVID anxiety, we can all empathise with the tired and grumpy Arlo who just cannot sleep. The hero of the Greenaway medal winner's new book speaks to us all, but particularly to over-tired and over excited small children who do not know how to let go of the day. Luckily for Arlo, and for children, Owl is to hand with some useful advice on how he manages to sleep when everyone is awake during the day. The logic of receiving advice from a nocturnal animal will really register with this audience. "Have a good stretch from your nose to your toes/ Do a little wriggle, let your eyes gently close/Relax your whole body, slow your breathing right down/ Imagine you're sinking into the soft ground". The gentle refrain that Owl teaches Arlo is the perfect antidote for us all- a little bit of mindfulness that would also be a lovely calm down routine in the classroom! Not only are the illustrations a visual feast, with a stunning colour palette marking the transitions between night and day, but Arlo and Owl are beautifully characterised. Another trademark from this hugely talented author is the warm humour. Arlo is so excited by his long and restful sleep that he must tell Owl- and wakes him up! The song is reciprocated with success and their joint celebrations at dusk wake the rest of the neighbourhood and a duet is required to restore calm. The repeated refrain will be one that is copied in homes and classrooms everywhere. Useful for mindfulness and as an introduction to Night and Day topics, this stunning book is a real triumph of beautiful words and images working in absolute harmony.



## Ready for Spaghetti: Funny Poems for Funny Kids

**Author:** Michael Rosen **Format:** Hardback **Release Date:** 02/06/2022

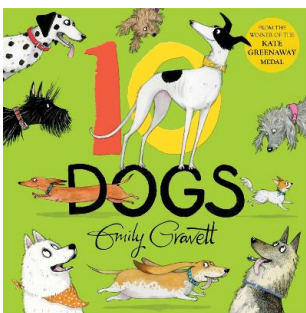
From two of the biggest names in children's publishing, this is an inspiring guide to wordplay for young readers, their parents and teachers. I'm ready for spaghetti Will you getti the spaghetti? Don't say, Not yetti spaghetti! 'cos I'm all setti for spaghetti. Fizzing with rhythm, energy and laughter, the 30 poems in Ready for Spaghetti delight in the details of children's daily routines. Up, up, uppity-up! , the first poem announces, while the artwork shows a child leaping out of bed, ready to begin their morning; Hush and a hush, soft and low , chants the final poem, as children snuggle under their blankets after their day's adventures. Full of affectionate observations of young children, which are beautifully continued in Polly Dunbar's warm-hearted pictures, Michael Rosen's poems are ideal for reading aloud with toddlers ... and many grown-ups will soon know them by heart!



## Blow a Kiss, Catch a Kiss

**Author:** Joseph Coelho **Format:** Hardback **Release Date:** 06/10/2022

**Shortlisted for the CLIPPA 2023 Children's Laureate** Joseph Coelho's warm, elegant and meaningful poems capture both how pre-schoolers experience everyday things like going shopping and the complexities of feelings as they are felt and expressed by the very youngest listeners. Carefully grouped under headings including All About Me, What do I Feel, and At Home these poems highlight moments familiar to all children and extend them in eloquent words that make them exciting and also safe. Nicola Killen's illustrations match the words perfectly.

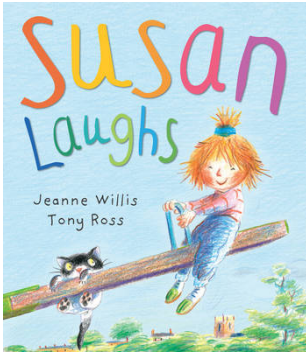


## 10 Dogs

**Author:** Emily Gravett **Format:** Hardback **Release Date:** 11/05/2023

As with every book produced by the multi-award-winning Gravett, every detail has been carefully considered. From the ten juicy and appetising sausages depicted on the front endpapers to the greasy smears and crumbs that are left on the closing endpapers, to the ten delightfully expressive dogs who all want those sausages and eventually learn to share, this is a masterclass in invisible learning. The playful text teaches young readers as much about the language of numeracy as it does about the numbers one to ten, as the concepts of subtraction, addition and even division are introduced while the dogs share (or not) the sausages. All, none, half, less, more, a couple, are all ways of talking about numbers and when numbers relate to yummy sausages it all makes sense. Room too for discussing the sizes of dogs and further

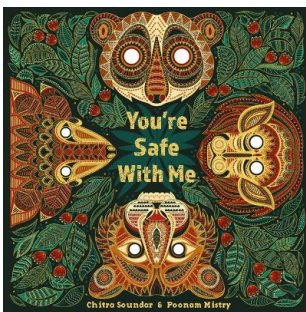
wondering if the sharing is really equal when one tiny dog gets the same size sausage as the biggest? The white space on each spread allows the dogs to really pop in all their joyous movement and the deceptively simple rhythmic text makes for a wonderful read aloud. Another excellent early years triumph.



## Susan Laughs

**Author:** Jeanne Willis **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 03/02/2011

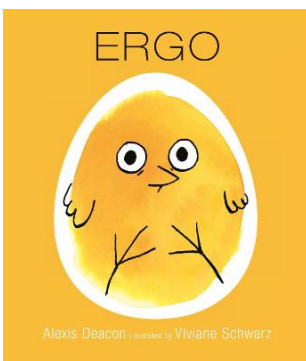
A prize winning title, this introduces Susan who loves to swing, dance, swim, ride do all the things other children do. In fact, she's no different from any other little girl except that, as the final spread shows, she gets about in a wheel chair. The vigour and active text is perfectly supported by Tony Ross's warm hearted illustrations.



## You're Safe With Me

**Author:** Chitra Soundar **Format:** Hardback **Release Date:** 01/04/2018

**Shortlisted for the CILIP Kate Greenaway Medal 2018** A wonderfully lyrical call and response text and an intricate, beautifully detailed and different illustrative style combine to great effect in this reassuring tale.



## Ergo

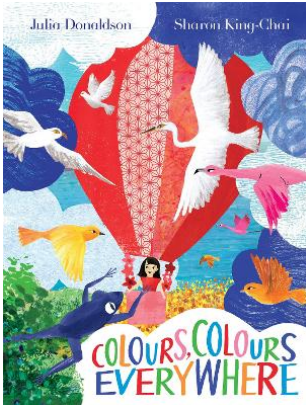
**Author:** Alexis Deacon **Format:** Hardback **Release Date:** 05/08/2021

**Longlisted for the UKLA Book Award 2023 ages 3-6** All brilliant picturebooks rely upon the interplay between words and pictures and this partnership of author and illustrator has very good form. Indeed, the acclaimed A Place to Call Home has a similar theme about discovering the world beyond, but in Ergo Deacon and Schwarz have produced a sublime and joyful mix of text, art and clever typography, which will stimulate endless discussion and read aloud requests. While not being at all a book about the COVID crisis, I think that this adds additional resonance for children (and adults) who can easily recall the time when they were literally shut inside. It also speaks to the universal self-absorption of young children and babies. Like them, the first discoveries Ergo makes are of herself. Her feet! Her wings! A demonstration of the principle that consciousness defines existence - I think therefore I am, as Descartes told us. But then Ergo discovers the boundaries of her world and enjoys pushing against these and making her world move and then her astonishment is unbound when she feels movement and noise



from outside! The recognition that there may be other creatures like her and the sad thought that they might be forever separated is what spurs her determination to break out and achieve the joyful meeting with fellow fledgelings. What a perfect allegory for recognising that we all need other people and that there is a wonderful world out there if you are brave enough to explore. A perfect introduction to philosophy with the most apposite title ever- not only a word that means therefore, but one which sounds perfectly eggy too! An absolute must have for classrooms and homes.

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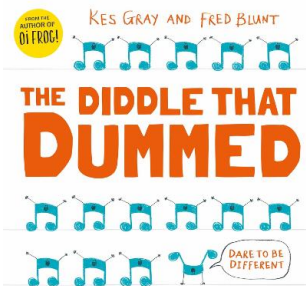


## Colours, Colours Everywhere

**Author:** Julia Donaldson **Format:** Hardback **Release Date:** 13/10/2022

Wow, just wow. This is a stunning journey through the rainbow of colours, brought to life by the talented Sharon King-Chai, winner of the 2021 Kate Greenaway Shadowers' Choice Award. With cut outs to peer through and flaps to lift galore, it's an interactive masterpiece. Following a little artist wondering what to paint today, we journey with the little girl through a series of lush landscapes and the breathtaking illustrations accompany Julia Donaldson's witty rhyming story. Children and adults alike will delight in the rhyming text and vibrant artwork while learning about different colours. Absolutely gorgeous.

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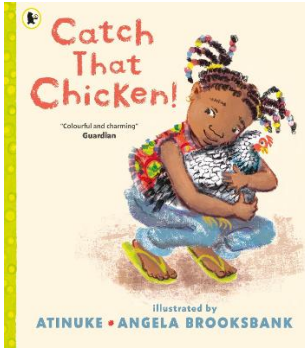


## The Diddle That Dumbled

**Author:** Kes Gray **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 25/06/2020

The Diddle that Dumbled is like your favourite pantomime distilled into 32 pages. Fiddler Flinty Bo Diddle is writing a tune for his fiddle – diddle diddle diddle diddle ... all is going well until – dum! Which diddle went dum? The culprit steps forward, shrugging: ‘I’m not like the other diddles. Sometimes I like to go dum.’ Flinty is beside himself, he wants all his diddles to diddle. They try again, and again – they try with the defiant diddle at the beginning and at the end, but every time the diddle goes dum. They swap things round, and try a dum dum dum sequence for Flinty’s drum – you can probably guess what happens. By this point, everyone will be laughing out loud at the sheer silliness of it all, at the diddle’s cheekiness, at Flinty’s furious indignation – and then it gets sillier and more comic still. What seems a simple idea is full of surprises and cleverness and every one of us knows a diddle that dums. Sheer picture book brilliance.

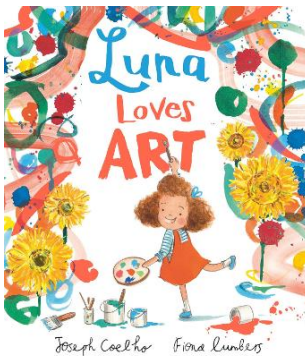
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## Catch That Chicken!

**Author:** Atinuke **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 01/07/2021

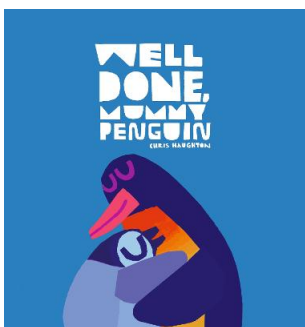
Told with great humour by Nigerian storyteller, Atinuke, this story of the headstrong, impetuous Lami will strike a chord with all children. The gentle message - to use quick thinking not just quick running - gives an incredibly satisfying ending, while Angela Brooksbank's beautiful artwork captures the energy and the beauty of the West African setting perfectly.



## Luna Loves Art

**Author:** Joseph Coelho **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 01/04/2021

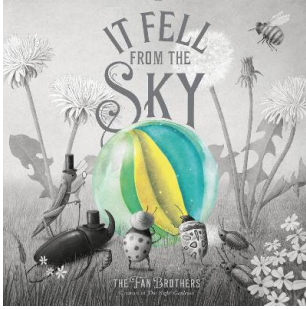
Longlisted for the UKLA Book Award 2022 ages 3-6 | A Julia Eccleshare Pick of the Month July 2020 A class trip to the art gallery inspires Luna and her friends in all kinds of ways. Seeing the amazing pictures by Cezanne, Matisse, Van Gogh and many more they are transported into other worlds and given the opportunity to savour the colours and textures of some of the world's greatest paintings. They are also encouraged to create their own pictures inspired by the range of images they see and the stories they tell. Luna loves the art - and loves sharing it with her mum who is a helper on the trip. But for some, the experience is more challenging. Can Luna help Finn engage with what he sees and find a way of expressing his feelings? She can and the day ends happily for all. Readers will love this introduction to art as enjoyed by Luna and her classmates.



## Well Done, Mummy Penguin

**Author:** Chris Haughton **Format:** Hardback **Release Date:** 06/10/2022

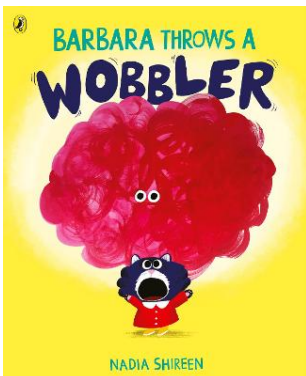
Award-winning artist/author Chris Haughton perfectly captures the anxiety Little Penguin feels when mum goes off fishing for his dinner. And the pride he feels when she bravely comes back having overcome all kinds of obstacles with a big fish for the family to share. Chris Haughton's strikingly coloured and delightfully boldly drawn Little Penguin is a character that appeals to all readers and his plight - anxiety about his mum being away even though he is being safely looked after by his dad - will touch a chord with everyone. A book to love on every level - and it may be helpful, too.



## It Fell From The Sky

**Author:** The Fan Brothers **Format:** Hardback **Release Date:** 01/02/2022

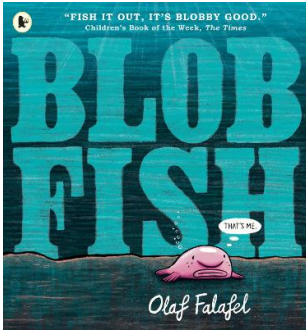
**Longlisted for the UKLA Book Award 2023 ages 3-6** One day a very colourful object fell from the sky – and all the insects are filled with awe and wonder as to what it might be, and how it came to be there. All of the different insects have their own ideas of what it could be – and readers will get their own ideas too! Is it an egg? Is it a flower? Could it have grown? But it is spider who realises there is an opportunity to make a profit from it – and it is he who sets up a viewing system with queues and payment (in leaves) for all the other insects. As the wonder and queues grew, spider put up the prices and started hurrying the others along! Spider became very wealthy – but all the other insects lost interest and no longer came to see the marvel from the sky. Then disaster struck – and a bigger creature took the marvel and spider was all alone, with nothing... What a delightful, innovative picture book. Mostly drawn in greyscale in sumptuous detail with splashes of colour that stand out from the pages and create a wonderful contrast to the surrounding shades. There is so much to see in every picture – and this will be a wonderful book for children to predict outcomes and see the moral of the tale, which is so lightly told. The glorious full colour spread towards the end of the book has so much to see and point out! I think this will be a family and class favourite for many years to come!



## Barbara Throws a Wobler

**Author:** Nadia Shireen **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 15/04/2021

**Shortlisted for the Books for Younger Children category, Children's Book Awards 2022 | Shortlisted for the UKLA Book Award ages 3-6** A brilliantly funny and sensitive way to understand and deal with tantrums.



## Blobfish

**Author:** Olaf Falafel **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 01/06/2023

A heartfelt and humorous adventure from the bottom of the sea and beyond, following one fish on an epic journey. Deep, deep, deep under the sea ... lives Blobfish! Blobfish loves telling jokes, although he has no one to share them with, so he sets off on an adventure to find a friend. But sometimes friends turn up in the most unexpected places, even at the bottom of the ocean. This heartfelt and humorous story gently introduces children to themes of friendship, belonging and the issue of plastics in our oceans.



## Lost

**Author:** Mariajo Ilustrajo **Format:** Hardback **Release Date:** 07/02/2023

What do you do if you are a large polar bear lost in a city? Very sensibly you try to find someone to help you get back to the North Pole. All the city inhabitants are much too busy to answer a question - rushing about all over. So, you join a queue and wait for your turn - unfortunately this is for coffee! Bear is not a fan of the takeaway soy latte he gets handed (the expression on his face is a delight!) Next, he finds a less than helpful 'help desk' which hands him a tube map. Unfortunately, the North Pole is not on the map! But whilst he is on the tube he is greeted by a small girl - finally a friendly face in the big city. Through a mixture of amusing encounters with life in a house with the girl and her family, they eventually manage to get Bear home to the North Pole. Friendship and understanding have won out in the end. What a delightful book illustrating just how important friendship is in making anyone feel safe. Humour and laugh out loud moments in the story will engage children and adults as they read it together. Bright illustrations using the page in a variety of ways make this a visual delight from start to finish. Don't forget to look at the end papers too - a lovely record of the friendship in colourful vignettes.