

UKLA BOOK AWARDS 2021

ALSO LOVED LISTS

Recommended Books that in the difficult longlisting decision-making process only just missed out on selection!

3-6+

The Bunnies on the Bus. Philip Ardagh and Ben Mantle. Walker. ISBN: 978-1406394016

An anarchic bunch of bunnies cause havoc in town when they hijack a bus. The story is told in rollicking, fast-paced, rhyming text, with a join in chorus. And at the end of the story, the fun continues when the naughty bunnies are spotted boarding a train....

Show and Tell. Rob Biddulph. HarperCollins. ISBN: 978-0008318031

Great excitement, Class 2L are invited by their teacher, Mr Lumseden, to a 'Show and Tell Day'. "The child that impresses me most wins a prize". A funny, wittily illustrated picture book with a poignant message. By the author/illustrator of the hugely popular 'Blown Away' and 'Odd dog Out'.

The Inner Child. Henry Bradshaw. Cicada Books ISBN: 978-1908714817

A remarkable picturebook; simple enough for children to enjoy, and profound enough to use as a thesis for a PhD. It cleverly demonstrates how childhood experiences influence what kind of adult we will become. None of us escape our 'inner child', and as it points out: 'When you are old, you will still have a child inside you.' This is a book to share with any group of primary children (and older students, too). Lots to laugh over, to discuss and think about.

Once Upon A Dragon's Fire. Beatrice Blue. Frances Lincoln. ISBN: 978-1786035530

Beautiful illustrations enhance this version of the classic tale of a mythical monster that is in some way causing trouble for the people of the town. In the classic spin on the classic tale, there is more to the rumours than Freya and Sylas expected, and they change their views. Their warmth towards the dragon then sets in motion a number of changes. A lovely gentle story just right for curling up with on a early winter's evening.

Bob Goes Pop. Marion Deuchars. Laurence King. ISBN: 978-1786274908

Bob is an artist. Following Bob's Blue Period, a very popular book in the 3- 6 category of the UKLA Book Award in 2019, this next book continues his development in an amusing and very colourful way. It could encourage challenging questions, such as: 'What is art?' 'What is art for?' 'Who decides what is good art?' If you are interested in discussing controversial modern art with youngsters of any age, this book would make a good starting point.

Waiting for Wolf. Sandra Dieckmann. Hodder. ISBN: 978-1444946598

This a simply told story of two friends, fox and wolf, who spend a last glorious day together. Fox cannot understand why wolf doesn't return the following day and searches for him. The

illustrations of a frosty, northern landscape and its star-filled skies help the young reader to engage with the deeper meaning of the text, which deals with loss, grief and memory.

The Peddler and the Baker. Yael Molchadsky. Liora Grossman. Translated by Annette Appel. Green Bean Books. ISBN: 978-1784384814

A folk tale from the Jewish tradition, which inspires readers to think of all the good things we have in the world that are free: pleasing sounds, sights and scents. A baker complains that the poor peddler is stealing the gorgeous smell of newly cooked bread. How mean and unfair! But their Rabbi solves the problem. This simple tale is beautifully illustrated, and written in a way that begs to be read aloud. Its timeless message could encourage discussion, storytelling and creative response in any primary classroom.

Mrs Noah's Garden. Jackie Morris and James Mayhew. OtterBarry Books ISBN: 978-1910959466

Following on from Mrs Noah's Pockets comes Mrs Noah's Garden, which continues Mrs Noah's version of the biblical flood from the point at which the water retreated and the Ark was left high and dry. At that time, 'it was the garden she missed most'. Every creature sets about helping to create a flourishing garden for Mrs Noah. James Mayhew's illustrations add an original perspective to the familiar tale, as the mythical beasts (smuggled aboard by Mrs N.) join forces with the children and other creatures to complete the task.

Ravi's Roar. Tom Percival. Bloomsbury. ISBN: 978-1408892183

Another great book in Tom Percival's 'Big Bright Feelings' series, which focuses on helping children to understand their emotions, Ravi's Roar explores Ravi's place within his family and how different factors build up to Ravi fully losing his temper and becoming very angry indeed! If you like the sound of this, definitely check out the other books in the series: 'Perfectly Norman', 'Ruby's Worry' and 'Meesha Makes Friends' – you won't be disappointed!

The Little Island. Smriti Prasad-Halls and Robert Starling. Andersen Press. ISBN: 978-1783449101

There was once a farm where all the animals were friends. Together they looked after the farm and each other. It wasn't perfect and they didn't always agree (animals almost never do). But the Geese have hatched a plan to leave the farm... will life be perfect for them now? A modern fable for our Brexit times that wittily and succinctly makes the case that we are all better off when working together

There's a Lion in the Library Dave Skinner and Aurélie Guillerey. Orchard Books. ISBN: 978-1408353523

Little Lucy Lupin is sweet and dimpled - and a dreadful LIAR. Not once, not twice, but three times the library is evacuated when Lucy says there's a terrifying lion on the loose. But what will happen when Lucy's lie comes true . . .? Delightfully dark reworking of The Boy Who Cried Wolf with a wicked little girl getting her come-uppance in a laugh out loud denouement.

1-20 Animals a Plenty . Katie Viggers. Laurence King. ISBN: 978-1786275660

A witty, beautifully illustrated counting book by the author/illustrator of 'A Book of Bears', shortlisted for the UKLA Information Book Award 2020. 1 to 20 Animals Aplenty is rhythmic, it rhymes and above all, it's fun! Who can forget the glorious illustrations for '7 pigs in 7 wigs' or for '9cats in matching hats' ?

100 Cats. Michael Whaite. Puffi. ISBN: 978-0241347836

This is a delightful celebration of cats, with a bouncing, rhyming text and hilarious illustrations. It will be a joy to use in the classroom, both as a joyful read aloud and a resource to discover some new vocabulary.

7-10+

You Must be Layla Yassmin Abdel-Magied. Puffin. ISBN: 978-0241440490

This is the story of Layla, a bright, confident girl, full of fun and energy, who is delighted to have been offered a scholarship to a private school, despite the fact she is black and will be the only pupil in a hijab. She meets prejudice straight away, stands up to the bully and is (unjustly) suspended. Layla bounces back and perseveres, knowing that if she helps the school team engaged in an interstate competition, then she stands a good chance of being re-instated. Layla is engaging, fun, a life force. Look out for more from this Sudanese-born Australian writer.

The Last Human. Lee Bacon. Piccadilly Press. ISBN: 978-1848128248

Humans have thoroughly messed up the world, so robots have eliminated them. The robots live comfortable, uneventful lives, and are all programmed to do specific jobs. All is well until one day XR discovers something impossible, a human girl! 'The Last Human' is a funny, engaging read, of real interest to children thinking about ways in which humans are destroying the world in which we live.

Harriet versus the Galaxy. Samantha Baines and Jessica Flores. Knights Of. ISBN: 978-1913311018

Refreshingly inclusive sci fi adventure where the heroine's hearing aids become the key to saving the planet from alien invaders because she alone can understand their language. Both funny and heart-warming with a great positive messages about deafness and getting girls into STEM subjects

Refugees. Brian Bilston and José Sanabria. Palazzo Editions. ISBN: José Sanabria

Cleverly capturing two opposing views and voices, Refugees is an illustrated version of Brian Bilston's poem certain to stimulate deep reflection, enquiring minds and rich discussion.

The Moose of Ewenki Gerelchimeg Blackcrane (Author), Jiu Er (Illustrator), Helen Mixer (Translator) Greystone Mids. ISBN: 978-1771645386

*It is not often, in the UK, that we see a children's book that originated in Inner Mongolia, but such is *The Moose of Ewenki*, a beautiful and moving picturebook. The story involves the accidental shooting of a mother moose that, unbeknownst to the hunter Gree Shek, had been shielding her calf. He takes the little moose back with him to the campsite, where it thrives. This heart-warming story is stunningly illustrated with Jiu's nostalgic watercolour paintings of the Ewenki way of life.*

Where the River Runs Gold. Sita Brahmachari. Orion ISBN: 978-1510105416

Set in a post-apocalyptic world where children are contracted to take the role of bees and work to pollinate plants by hand, the plot was engaging and page-turning throughout. Shifa was an excellent narrator and the reader is really encouraged to care about her and the other characters around her. The imagery and use of language in particular was excellent.

Max Kowalski Didn't Mean It. Susie Day. Puffin. ISBN: 978-0241351390

Max is such an endearingly fallible hero struggling to do the right thing and protecting his sisters when it's about time somebody took care of him. The reader's sympathies are engaged in equal measure as they are frustrated at the wrong turns Max makes. The strength of the characterisation as well as the increasingly tense plot and the moments of laugh out loud humour make this a very satisfying read.

The 13th Home of Noah Bradley. Amber Lee Dodd. Scholastic. ISBN: 978-1407189444

Home is not a place, it's a feeling ... but what does home feel like when a curse has already forced you and your family to move thirteen times? Absolutely unique storytelling from Amber Lee Dodd!

The Pear Affair. Judith Eagle and Kim Heyer. Faber. ISBN: 978-0571346851

*Highly recommended and particularly perfect for fans of Katherine Rundell's *Roofoppers*, who will love adventuring under the streets of Paris in search of a missing person as much as they loved bounding across the rooftops!*

Cure for a Crime(A Double Detectives Medical Mystery). Roopa Farooki. Oxford. ISBN: 978-0192773593

This new addition to the detective genre has a very different medical twist given authenticity by the authors background in medicine. The Double Detectives, twins Ali and Tulip, also have acquired a good level of medical knowledge from their doctor Mum enabling them to pinpoint the guilt of their Mum's new boyfriend. With a great multi-ethnic cast of characters and strongly showcasing the practical applications of science as well as overflowing with useful facts, this a fast paced and exciting read.

Lost. Ele Fountain. Pushkin. ISBN: 978-1782692553

Definitely at the 10+ end of the category, this was a captivating and heart-breaking story of an accidental slide into homelessness that was entirely breathless from start to finish. Lola was an excellent voice throughout and her journey across the book and her changing attitudes were skilfully portrayed. There were certainly some dark themes alluded to

throughout, and the book might need some careful supportive discussions with 10/11 year olds.

The Stone Giant. Anna Höglund Translated by Julia Marshall. Gecko Press. ISBN: 978-1776572731

A really unusual illustrated story by Swedish author Anna Hoglund. When her father leaves home to fight a giant, the girl in the red dress is left alone. After days of waiting she sets out to find her father, with just her mirror and the beginning of a plan.... In this contemporary fairy tale the girl in the red dress cunningly defeats the giant. The illustrations are dark and haunting, the story measured, paced and satisfying.

Cookie and the Most Annoying Boy in the World. Konnie Huq. Piccadilly Press. ISBN:

Love love love this - so sparky and funny! Cookie is an excellent character who leaps off the page and the book really does have laughs throughout. Absolutely captures the essence of her feelings of jealousy and this is well balanced with your feelings as a reader that her jealousy is often misplaced. Cookie is a science fanatic and the school science competition is a plot high point and so this is the perfect STEM read to encourage girls into science.

The Secret of the Tattered Shoes. Jackie Morris and Ehsan Abdollahi Tiny Owl. ISBN: 978-1910328378

This beautifully illustrated version of the Grimm's Twelve Dancing Princesses has been reinterpreted by Jackie Morris, giving the story a richer, more thoughtful meaning, with gender roles having equal agency. Although suitable for sharing with younger children, it has great potential for older primary pupils – especially as a means of exploring the important role played by traditional tales in all cultures.

Orphans of the Tide. Struan Murray and Manuel Sumberac. ISBN: 978-0241384435

This post-apocalyptic and mythological UKS2 book has been getting a LOT of love and it is easy to see why! It. Is. Stunning. Pullman-esque, and filled with darkness, danger, excitement, mystery and love, it is the start of a brilliant new series. From the first page to the last, it was utterly captivating.

The Lost Homework. Richard O'Neill and Kirsty Beautyman. Child's Play. ISBN: 978-1786283450

This is the story of a big family event in Sonny's community. His cousin is getting married and, on Friday, everything has to be ready for the journey to the wedding. Next day after the church ceremony, all Sonny's family have a big party with dancing, singing and storytelling. He has had such a busy weekend that he has lost his homework. A very simple tale but there are not many picture books set in a traveller community, so it is pleasing to see a little of a traveller child's experience through the pages of this book.

Anisha Accidental Detective Serena Patel and Emma McCann. Usborne. ISBN: 978-1474959520

Delightfully funny and engaging this debut bursts with life and a real sense of community. Anisha is all set to be a (reluctant) bridesmaid at Auntie Bindi's wedding...until a secret ransom note arrives. it's up to Anisha Mistry to find her uncle, before the big family wedding of the year becomes a big disaster.

My Footprints . Bao Phi and Basia Tran. Raintree. ISBN: 978-1474762434

A stunning picture book debut by award winning poet and author Bao Phi and Polish - Vietnamese illustrator Basi Tran.

The girl stomps away from the kids bullying her, following her own footprints in the deep snow, making pretend footprints for the birds and deer hoping they will then be her friends. Home at last she shouts at her two mummies who, together, help the girl recognise her inner strength, and to find her Phoenix locked inside. An important story about being brave, recognising inner strength and standing up to difference.

The Tzar's Curious Runaways. Robin Scott-Elliott. Everything With Words. ISBN: 978-1911427131

A book which takes us on an action-packed journey through a very cold and very vast imperial Russia. Led by Katinka, a talented dancer who has been ridiculed throughout her life because of her disability, and her best friends Alexei the Giant and Nikolai the dwarf, this story teaches us that friendship and bravery are the key to achieving your dreams. You'll be on the edge of your seat as you follow these characters trying to escape from the shackles of their past and secure their freedom in the future. A thrilling, heart-warming and engaging read indeed!

Storm. Nicola Skinner and Flavia Sorrentino. HarperCollins. ISBN: 978-0008295325

Born in a storm, killed in a tidal wave along with all her town and waking up 100 years later as part of a tourist attraction, Frankie has lots to be angry about. Multi-layered, thought provoking and as often humorous as it is moving and emotional, this is a book which tackles big themes with a light touch. Beautifully written and rewarding

The Boy Who Fooled the World. Lisa Thompson. Scholastic. ISBN: 978-1407185132

Declared by one of the widest, most vicarious readers in my class to be 'one of the best books I have ever read, ever!', which speaks for itself! Another firm favourite from Lisa Thompson that children couldn't wait to lay their hands on.

The Magic Place. Chris Wormell. David Fickling Books. ISBN: 978-1788450157

A thrilling and moving adventure with a real Dickensian feel. It is stunningly illustrated by the author in his first full length novel. From her cellar bedroom, Clementine dreams of a magic place. And she's determined to find it one day. But first she must escape from her wicked aunt and uncle and from the Great Black City. With the help of her best friend, Gilbert, a very clever cat, she sets off on an epic journey that just might make her dreams come true.

Shadow. Lucy Christopher and Anastasia Suvorova. Lantana. ISBN: 978-1911373834

This is a dark and slightly unusual picture book that would be great to explore with older readers. The young girl and her mother move to a new house, where the girl finds a shadow to play with which her mother cannot see. The book's particular use of colour is very interesting, and the text and illustrations invite discussion about what they are representing. This is potentially challenging book that has lots of room for discussion and interpretation throughout, including how the girl may be experiencing her mother's possible depression throughout the story.

The Lost Tide Warriors. Catherine Doyle. Bloomsbury. ISBN: 978-1408896907

This is the follow up to the excellent 'The Storm Keeper's Island' and certainly doesn't disappoint. It's full of the same wild magic and rising darkness, and we continue to learn more about Fionn and his character development. The writing sparkles and fizzes with energy throughout and the final two instalments of the quartet can't come soon enough!

Crater Lake. Jennifer Killick. Firefly Press. ISBN: 978-1913102203

A perfectly pitched sci-fi horror book for UKS2 that also packs lots of laughs and excellent explorations of friendships along the way. The dialogue is spot on for the age of the children and the whole story and the ways the characters react throughout feel entirely relatable for children of similar ages. The scare factor is just right – not too scary and not too much building of unbearable tension but some good nervous moments followed by satisfying conclusions.

Bright Bursts of Colour. Matt Goodfellow and Aleksei Bitskoff. Bloomsbury. ISBN: 978-1472963543

At times funny, sweet, serious and downright silly, this is an excellent collection of poems that has a little something for everyone.

11-14+

The Places I've Cried in Public. Holly Bourne. Usborne. ISBN: 978-1474949521

Holly Bourne's novel certainly isn't an easy read, but it's perhaps one of the most important books I've read this year. Within its pages you'll follow Amelie's search for herself, or at least a part of herself lost through an abusive relationship; her journey back to confidence and mental wellness is explored in a way that shouldn't, but will, resonate with so many young people. Bourne describes the struggle to comprehend the levels of control and manipulation in an unhealthy relationship and this narrative, in my opinion, offers such an important reminder that not all abuse is physical and mental health problems are something we can overcome together.

Chinglish. Sue Cheung. Andersen Press. ISBN: 978-1783448395

This is an engaging, and sometimes horrifying, first person account of a Chinese girl who has moved to Coventry with her family, to run a takeaway restaurant. The tone is light, with amusing, interspersed black and white illustrations. The subject matter, however, is increasingly dark. The children of the family have to balance cultural and family expectations against the pressures of school and their peers, while their own family structure disintegrates around them. It is a very absorbing read, which deals very frankly with issues of both racism and hidden domestic violence.

Orion Lost. Alistair Chisholm. Nosy Crow. ISBN: 978-1788005920

Orion Lost is an unapologetic, out and out sci-fi romp that kids will love. It's based around a young band of astral voyagers who have, due to an on-board emergency, become the sole crew of the Spacecraft Orion. It's hard to think of a recent sci-fi book that was so engrossing. The book is pacey, packed with memorable characters, and features a handful of twists that readers will love. A highly recommended book perfect for Year 6, 7 or 8 readers.

Chessboxer Sue Cheung. Andersen Press. ISBN: 978-1783448395

Leah Baxter is a chess prodigy, well on her way to becoming a Grand Master. However, at the age of 17, tired of constant tournaments and wracked with grief about her father's death, she throws in the towel and gets a job at the local donut bar. Here she is recognised, lured into chess in the park, and from there into the incredible world of Chessboxing.

This is a real page turner, with an incredibly slick and tense ending.

The Good Hawk. Joseph Elliott. Walker. ISBN: 978-1406385854

By debut author Joseph Elliot, the Good Hawk is narrated in turn by two very different characters: Agatha, who probably has Downs Syndrome (though this is never named) and by Jamie. What a joy to see the world from these two very different perspectives, and to treasure Agatha's important contribution to this imagined world.

The two children live with their clan on the isle of Sky. Jamie's one disappointment is that he has been given a job he hates, as an angler; Agatha, that she has been removed from her clan for inadvertently causing a shipwreck. Then, a marriage is arranged for 15 year old Jamie to a young girl on the next island. During the ceremony the community is invaded and Jamie, his young bride and Agatha are the only ones to escape.

Historical fantasy rich with gothic-inspired language, this is a huge, page-turning adventure.

Unstoppable Dan Freedman. David Fickling Books. ISBN: 978-1788450508

Kaine and Roxy are 14-year-old twins. Both excel at sports, Roxy at tennis, Kaine at football. However, there is huge rivalry between the two. Kaine is hurting from the death of his mamma and hitting out at the world, especially at his sister who seems to get all the attention from Dad, as he obsessively coaches his daughter. Kaine becomes involved in a local gang and bullies, relentlessly. Roxy sabotages Kain's chances of being talent spotted, but then develops a terrible brain tumour.

An engrossing, fast-paced read, about sibling rivalry, friendship and resilience.

Deeplight. Frances Hardinge. Macmillan. ISBN: 978-1509897568

A stunning fantasy full of the vibrant language and vivid imagery of a master storyteller. Myriad is an island surrounded by an ocean adrift with the relics of the gods who destroyed themselves in battle and Hark is a scavenger scraping a living from selling the relic scraps they find. But a dangerous discovery threatens to overwhelm the community and destroy his best friend.

Viper's Daughter. Michelle Paver. Zephyr. ISBN: 978-1789542394

An immersive return to the Stone Age world of Torak, Renn and Wolf; now adults faced with battling old enemies, demons and the physical dangers at the very edge of the world. Full of incredibly well researched details and within a brilliantly evocative landscape this gripping adventure will intoxicate readers

Marisi Red Mantle. Maria Turtschaninoff. Pushkin. ISBN: 978-1782690955

Marisi Red Mantle is the final instalment in the Red Abbey Chronicle series. This story stands alone, though new readers will be tempted to go back to the earlier stories. After a childhood spent at the Abbey away, far away from a world ruled by brutal men, Maresei returns to her village, hoping to share all she has learnt and to start a school for girls. However, she is expected to pick up the threads of the life of a woman in her poverty stricken, remote village. How will she ever start her school, when the village is taxed so fiercely by the cruel governor?

Maresei finds her magic. She stands up to the Governor's soldiers, finds ways of making the village safe, and leads her people to a just world. A stunning, feminist read.

Hope Against Hope Sheena Wilkinson. Little Island. ISBN: 978-1912417421

Vividly recreating the society of Belfast in 1921 and the fight for female suffrage alongside WW1 and the fight for Irish independence, this is a gripping, nuanced historical novel full of brilliantly evoked characters struggling with their identity and the limitations that society imposes.

Jemima Small vs the Universe. Tamsin Winter. Usborne. ISBN: 978-1474927284

This book is such a brilliant and inspiring read. 'Jemima Small' as a character, offers an important voice on the subject of body image and bullying in a way which resonates with the reader regardless of their experience. Her sense of humour and courage are both inspiring and moving as we follow her on her own journey towards facing her fears. As a practitioner I found this book quite a 'healthy' narrative in a world that is dominated by unrealistic expectations of what to look like, who to be and how to act and I will be recommending it to our KS3 cohort.

Song Beneath the Tide. Beverley Birch. Guppy Books. ISBN: 978-1913101077

Beverley Birch is a rather underrated writer, I think - but just read Song beneath the Tides and you'll see very clearly what she can do. It's a love story and a sort of mystery, both of them expertly handled, against a really richly evoked backdrop in a fictitious part of the east

African coastline. And there's so much to talk about – issues of politics and history and the environment – all carefully woven through it, too.

Rose Interrupted Patrice Lawrence. Hodder. ISBN: 978-1444940657

With Orangeboy, back in 2016, Patrice Lawrence showed she could write a really great book. Then came Indigo Donut and now Rose, Interrupted, and I'm starting to feel she actually couldn't write a bad one if she tried. This latest, totally engrossing story is about consequences and responsibility, about freedom and self-knowledge, and about two characters – Rose and Rudder – you will love as much as I did.

Information 3- 14+

Invisible nature – A Secret World Beyond our Senses. Catherine Barr and Ann Wilson. Otter-Barry Books. ISBN: 978-1910959671

A completely fascinating guide to the invisible forces that impact us all – microwaves; ultra-violet and infra-red light; electromagnetic waves; ultrasound and infrasound and scents and smells beyond human detection. Both accessible and impactful this explains difficult concepts in a very visual and lucid way

On Wings of Words: The Extraordinary Life of Emily Dickinson Jennifer Berne and Becca Stadtlander, Chronicle Books. ISBN: 978-1452142975

Beautifully evocative of the life of the poet who taught us to focus on the small and everyday marvels of life. Both lyrical and lovely, weaving her own words into the biography and setting the poems in the context of her life makes this a very valuable addition to the classroom.

Take the Lead: How to Care for Your Dog – A Fun & Practical Guide Elena Browne and Jennifer Farley. The O'Brien Press. ISBN: 978-1788490818

A well-presented and informative guide to caring for a dog. Filled with plenty of useful advice, alongside dynamic photos and vivid illustrations, this book is perfect for any child looking to take on the responsibility of being a dog owner.

Every Child a Song Nicola Davies and Marc Martin. Wren & Rook, ISBN: 978-1526361431

This delightful book celebrates the love, care and compassion needed in order to nurture the song within every child. Embedded in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), Nicola Davis expertly awakens the reader to the plight of some children in the world and shows how, together, we can raise our voices for the rights of every child.

The Chimpanzee and Me Ben Garrod. Zephyr. ISBN: 978-1788547611

What makes this an engrossing and important book is the deep knowledge the author shows of the character and behavior of chimpanzees and his determination to expose their exploitation and abuse by humans.

Brain-fizzing Facts: Awesome Science Questions Answered Emily Grossman and Alice Bowsher. Bloomsbury. ISBN: 978-1408899175

Written by an expert with a passion for science this book does indeed 'fizz' with information and had me hooked. With the look of Diary of a Wimpy Kid and packed full of fascinating topics, facts and quizzes, I can imagine this little book of knowledge engaging confident and more reluctant readers alike.

Human Rights (I'm a Global Citizen) Alice Harman and David Broadbent. Franklin Watts. ISBN: 978-1445164038

This important book informs the reader about Human Rights and the basic rights and freedoms which belong to everyone. With interactive games and questions, it not only informs the reader but challenges us also to spread awareness.

Underground: Subway Systems Around the World Uijung Kim. Cicada Books. ISBN: 978-1908714831

Underground takes the reader on a journey around the wonderful world of subways and metro systems around the globe. Lift-the-flap opportunities reveal interesting facts about each city that is visited. The illustrations are fresh and exciting, with lots to look at. A must for all fans of travel and transport.

RSPB Birds: Explore their extraordinary world Miranda Krestovnikoff and Angela Harding. Bloomsbury. ISBN: 978-1408893913

A passionate and scholarly exploration into the life of Birds. Miranda Krestovnikoff gets under the feathers of our avian friends, filling each page with interesting facts and knowledge. Angela Harding's artwork leaves an indelible mark on the reader; each sumptuous print sings off the page.

Survival in Space: The Apollo 13 Mission David Long and Stefano Tambellini. Barrington Stoke. ISBN: 978-1781129388

A rare excursion into non-fiction from Barrington Stoke, the leader in accessible texts, this is gripping, succinct and vivid. This is a story that will be told for centuries, never losing its power to demonstrate the best that the human race can achieve against the odds. This version does the story justice and more.

Stephen Hawking (Little Guides to Great Lives) Isabel Thomas Laurence King. ISBN 978-1786275158

This very informative and beautifully illustrated brief biography details his life from his childhood inspired by Albert Einstein to fame as a physicist working out models of the Universe. He did not let Motor Neurone Disease stop him. Every library should have a collection of biographies in this fantastic series of Little Guides to Great Lives.

The Wordsworths Mick Manning and Brita Granström. Franklin Watts. ISBN: 978-1445168623

A wonderful book which takes the reader to the beautiful Lake District where Dorothy Wordsworth tells us of the life she shared with her brother, William Wordsworth. The text, interspersed with extracts from poems and journals, is a warming introduction to their life at Dove Cottage.

Real-life Disasters: Investigate what really happened! Susan Martineau and Vicky Barker. b small publishing. ISBN: 978-1912909278

The format used follows that of the first in the series 'Real Life Mysteries'. Each disaster has a two page description followed by another two pages examining the explanations and the reliability of the evidence; an extremely useful approach in these times of 'fake news'.

Work It, Girl: Mae Jemison Caroline Moss and Sinem Erkas, Frances Lincoln. ISBN: 978-0711245143

One of an impressive series of empowering biographies of women who broke the mould. With stylish illustration and design ensuring great shelf appeal this is a hugely impressive story of a role model who was not only black, but gifted in the arts as well as STEM

Shooting for the Stars: My Journey to Become Ireland's First Astronaut Dr Norah Patten and Jennifer Farley. The O'Brien Press. ISBN: 978-1788491006

This true story of an Irish girl wanting to become an astronaut, is exciting and inspiring. She gives a vivid account of her many steps along the way to being part of a training programme to go into space. It is a way of understanding the vast support teams that back up space travel, and what you could do to become part of it.

Anatomicum (Welcome to the Museum) Jennifer Z Paxton and Katy Wiedemann. Big Picture Press. ISBN: 978-1787414921

Anatomicum (Welcome To The Museum) is an excellent book which combines beautiful anatomical illustrations with interesting facts about the human body. It would be a worthy addition to any secondary school library, biology class and art lesson. There is much to look at and would certainly give older children a lot to discuss.

Black History Matters Robin Walker. Franklin Watts. ISBN: 978-1445166896

A book of only 64 pages can do no more than briefly highlight areas to explore in depth but as an overview of a crucial topic this is an excellent starting point. Clear and lucid explanations and judicious use of illustrative material and an excellent source of references for further reading add to the value

Can you Hear the Trees talking? Peter Wohlleben. Greystone Kids. ISBN: 978-1771644341

An illustrated version of an adult bestseller, this is an intoxicating book that draws the reader in and does not let them go. The illustrations are stunning and the simple ideas and activities to help the reader discover more about the complex lives of these organisms that are so crucial to the health of the planet, are absolutely fascinating.