

2025 FRONT TO BACK



We've rounded up 20 of the absolute best children's books published in the last year and packed them into an exciting booklist! From thrilling adventures to laugh-out-loud tales, there's something here to ignite every young reader's imagination.

How to dive in:

- Pop into your local library and have a browse
- Reserve your favourites through our online catalogue
- Many titles are also available as free eBooks and eAudiobooks through Richmond Libraries' digital offer —perfect for Storytime on the go!

☀ But wait, there's more! ☀

The fun doesn't stop with books.

Check out our children's events, clubs, and activities to keep those creative minds buzzing.

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SCAN ME

The House at the End of the Sea - Victoria M. Adams

ISBN 9781839134234- Andersen Press - 2024

9+



Welcome to Fortune House—a mansion full of magic, mayhem and mysteries waiting to be solved! This spooky old house has been in the True family forever, but it's definitely not your average B&B. The walls shift colours when you're not looking, portraits disappear, and some mysterious guests only visit after midnight. When Saffi and her brother Milo move in, they're thrown into a wild adventure filled with mischievous sprites, magical riddles, and an ancient deal struck with a powerful faery queen. Mystical and moving, this is a brilliant book for fans of fantasy and folklore.

Harriet Hound - Kate Foster

ISBN 9781529520972- Walker Books - 2025

6+



Meet Harriet, the girl with a big heart—and a super-cool secret! Her family runs Hound's Rescue, a home for dogs and puppies waiting for their forever families. But Harriet's not just helping out... she's a hero in disguise! With her amazing superpower, she can call on rescue dogs to help fix problems around town. Whether it's missing fruits at the market, wild weather, or the case of the disappearing ice cream, Harriet and her furry team are on the job. With fun illustrations and bite-sized stories, this book is paws-itively perfect for young animal lovers and mini detectives alike.

The Boy in the Suit - James Fox

ISBN 9780702333101 - Scholastic - 2024

8+

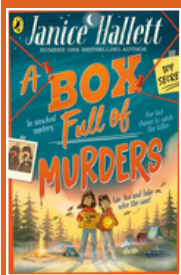


Solo's life is anything but ordinary. He and his mum sneak into funerals for the snacks (he's got a top five list of best funeral food!), but when their secret gets out and Mum suddenly disappears, Solo's left all alone...With no clue what to do next, Solo sets off on a mission to find her. Along the way, he learns that even when life feels upside down, someone out there cares, and that little acts of kindness can change everything. This story is full of laughs, big feelings, and the importance of reaching out when things get tough.

A Box Full of Murders - Janice Hallett

ISBN 9780241636183 - Puffin - 2025

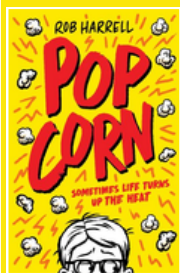
7+



In this book, YOU are tasked with solving a murder! When Luke finds a box labelled 'Top Secret' in his Dad's attic, he texts his sister Ava straight away. The papers inside are all from the summer of 1983 when a dead body was discovered in Chalfont Woods, right next to campsite full of Scouts and Guides! Alongside the siblings you can read through diary entries, newspaper clippings and other clues to try and find out what happened that fateful summer. Who was the killer? And how did the box end up in the attic?! Fresh, fun and full of twists, this book is perfect for all amateur sleuths.

Popcorn - Rob Harrell
ISBN 9781835870884 - Piccadilly Press - 2024

9+



Andrew is having a rough day, and his "noggin ferrets"—his quirky name for his anxiety—aren't making things any easier. A maths test, an explosion in the science lab and, of course, it just has to be school photo day! Can he get through lessons without a full-on Freak-Out-a-Geddon? This funny, feel-good story is like a big hug for anyone who has ever felt like their brain is a trapped badger, and the hilarious illustrations make it a perfect read for fans of The Wimpy Kid series and Tom Gates.

A Skeleton in the Closet - Claire Hatcher-Smith
ISBN 9780008645571 - Farshore - 2025

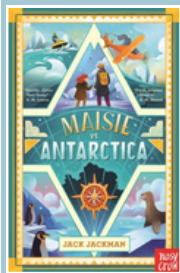
8+



Every summer, Mizzy hangs out with her cousins Niko and Oli—playing games, telling jokes, and going on adventures. They treat her like one of the gang, not some little kid. But this summer is totally different. The boys are suddenly “too old” and way too busy. Left to her own devices, Mizzy stumbles on something incredible: a stack of dusty old diaries hidden in her great-aunt’s attic. They’re filled with secrets, strange clues, and a whiff of something mysterious. Could there be a real-life mystery waiting to be solved?

Maisie vs Antarctica - Jack Jackman
ISBN 9781805132356- Nosy Crow - 2024

7+



Maisie’s dad is definitely not a hero. He writes books that sound thrilling... but are actually super boring. So when their plane crash-lands in the icy wilds of Antarctica, Maisie’s sure they’re doomed. It’s freezing, there are hungry animals lurking about, and rescue seems impossible. But something strange starts to happen—her dad doesn’t seem quite so useless after all. Could he be hiding a secret that’s more exciting than any of his books? Maisie is determined to find out!

The Witch in the Woods - Jennifer Killick
ISBN 9780008720513 - Farshore - 2025

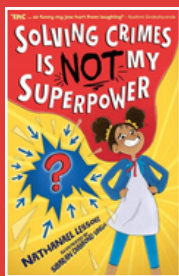
9+



Welcome to the town of Hazard—where strange things happen! Travis and his friends have a school project to do, so they decide to explore the creepy story of Blood-Eyed Mary. Some people say she’s just a legend... but is she? In Hazard, there are weird sinkholes, spooky old mines, and even kids who’ve gone missing! Everyone says, “Stay on the path!” But do you think Travis and his friends listen? They’re off on an adventure that’s full of mystery and a few scary surprises. Perfect for brave readers who love exciting stories, good friends, and just a little bit of fright!

Solving Crimes Is NOT My Superpower - Nathanael Lessore
ISBN 9781788957748 - Little Tiger - 2025

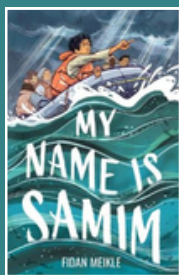
7 +



Get ready for a laugh-out-loud adventure full of friendship, family, and football fun! When Sara's best friend loses his lucky trophy just before the big match, the two of them must solve the mystery and find it—fast! There's only one little problem: everyone in town has cool superpowers ...except Sara. But even without powers (yet!), Sara's not going to let that stop her. She's determined to help her friends, her family, and her hometown—no matter what. And who knows? Maybe this adventure will help her discover her superpower along the way!

My Name is Samim - Fidan Meikle
ISBN 9781782509301 - Kelpies - 2025

9 +



Samim's life is finally starting to feel normal – he has his own room, has joined a chess club and even made some friends. But in order to stay in his new home, he must tell immigration officials the story of how he got there; his journey to from war-torn Afghanistan, through Iran, Turkey, Greece, Italy and Calais, before arriving in the UK on a small boat. With the ghost of his best friend Zayn always around to shout encouragement, Samim bravely retells his harrowing tale in this heart wrenching, yet incredibly hopeful and inspiring, read.

The Edge of the Silver Sea - Alex Mullarky
ISBN 9781782509172- Kelpies - 2024

9 +



Blair never wanted to move to Roscoe; she wants to be back home, fighting for climate justice, not stranded on an island without friends or the internet. But Roscoe is no ordinary place, and when Blair encounters an ancient fey who offers her a way home in exchange for three mysterious favours, she jumps at the chance. But, as she delves deeper into Roscoe's secrets and unravels its magic, the more she questions her bargain, and herself. Mixing Celtic folklore with modern climate concerns, this book is perfect for readers who love nature and the ancient myths inspired by it.

Wildlands- Brogen Murphy
ISBN 9780241728109 - Puffin - 2025

8 +



In the near future, a massive stretch of England and Scotland has been transformed into the Wildlands—a place where nature runs free, and animals rule! The only way through is by high-speed train but, when sisters Astrid and Indie are accidentally stranded after their train malfunctions, they must journey through the untamed wilderness and battle to survive ; facing fierce creatures and the savage landscape to find their way home. This exhilarating and tension-filled tale is perfect for nature-loving readers seeking a high-stake, thrilling adventure.

The Doughnut Club - Kristina Rahim
ISBN 9798887771533 -Nosy Crow - 2025

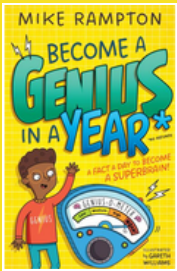
7+



Ready for a family adventure like no other? Meet Quinn and Olly—siblings who are part of the super-secret, extra-awesome Doughnut Club. That means their mums had them with a sperm donor and, while Olly fits in just fine, Quinn's always had this feeling that she doesn't quite belong. Then Quinn stumbles on the wildest news ever: she might have 16 other siblings out there, just waiting to be found! Quinn sets out to find someone more like her but, along the way, she discovers something even bigger than a long-lost brother or sister—the secret superpower of what really makes a family.

Become a Genius in a Year - Mike Rampton
ISBN 9780008756185- HarperCollins - 2025

7+



Get ready to have your brain blasted with 365 fascinating, bizarre, and seriously awesome facts—one for every single day of the year! This isn't just a book... it's your ticket to becoming the most interesting kid on the planet. Ever wondered how long a sloth can hold its breath? (Hint: it's longer than a dolphin!) Did you know that some people have an actual phobia of buttons—it's called koumpounophobia! Want to master the ancient art of making the perfect fart noise? Don't worry- the secret technique is tucked inside these pages. Be ready to amaze your friends, outsmart your family, and maybe even leave your teachers speechless!

Birdie - J. P. Rose
ISBN 9781839132414 - Andersen Press - 2024

9+



Birdie has always lived at Fitzwilliam's Children's Home. It's the only place she's ever known. So when she hears that she's moving to Yorkshire to live with her Great Aunt, Birdie feels a little bit scared. Thing don't go smoothly; the kids aren't exactly friendly, and Birdie feels like she doesn't belong. But everything changes the day she stumbles into an old coal mine... and meets a brave pony working underground! This pony isn't just a friend—he's Birdie's lifeline. When she finds out he's in danger, Birdie knows one thing for sure: she'll do whatever it takes to save him.

Me and my Brian - Helen Rutter
ISBN 9780008672928 - Barrington Stoke - 2024

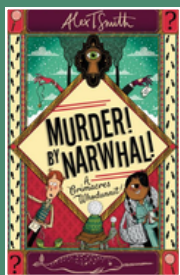
8+



Josh has a name for his brain: Brian. Although they're always together, Brian is not very kind to Josh. Sometimes he makes him worry about things, stops him from sleeping and tries to control what Josh can do. When Josh's anxiety becomes too much, he goes to live with his grandma in the middle of nowhere. At first, Josh finds it hard to adapt to his new surroundings, but slowly he realises that his grandma might be the exact right person to help him and Brian finally get along.

Murder! By Narwhal! - Alex T. Smith
ISBN 9781444970050 - Hodder - 2024

8+



Although her mother would rather she read more “appropriate” books for young ladies, Edna is obsessed with tales of murder. So, when there’s a body discovered in her family mansion, Edna is determined to solve the case! Edna, her friend Archie, and her pet tortoise (Charles Darwin) must figure out who the killer is before they strike again! A very funny murder mystery, perfect for fans of David Walliams and Robin Stevens.

The Boy to Beat the Gods - Ashley Thorpe
ISBN 9781805075639 - Usborne - 2024

9+  



Get ready for an epic adventure! In this magical fantasy story, a brave boy named Kayode faces an incredible challenge—taking on six powerful gods! When the mighty Orishas kidnap his little sister, Kayode is determined to rescue her. He finds a mysterious sacred fruit that gives him amazing new powers, but he can’t do it alone. With a clever trickster god, a wise fisherman, and a bold princess by his side, Kayode sets off on a thrilling quest full of danger and magic.

Supa Nova - Chanté Timothy
ISBN 9781805130666 - Nosy Crow - 2025

7+ 



Get ready for a wild, brainy adventure with Nova—a kid on a mission to prove her genius in a family full of super-scientists. When she creates Chomp, a super-cute, blob-like creature that devours plastic, she thinks she’s made history. But, uh-oh... Chomp’s hunger is out of control! With crazy inventions, big laughs and a giant robot, this graphic novel is a colourful, action-packed ride that’s full of heart and scientific fun. Will Nova save the day, or will Chomp’s growing appetite gobble up everything in sight?!

Shadow Creatures - Chris Vick
ISBN 9781837933167- Zephyr - 2024

9+  



What if your quiet village suddenly filled with enemy soldiers? That’s what happens to sisters Tove and Liva, who live in a little town in Norway. One day, their peaceful life is turned upside down by World War II. Their home becomes a prison camp, and their big brother Haakon sneaks off to join the Resistance—a secret group trying to fight back! But Tove and Liva aren’t alone. Magical creatures from old Scandinavian stories seem to whisper through the trees, helping them find strength and courage when they need it most. This exciting story is full of danger and bravery, and was inspired by the author’s own family history.



Read the entire list!

FRONT TO BACK



1



Tick the box once
you've read or
listened to the book



2



Give it a rating out of five
Five stars is AMAZING!

3



Now
recommend
it to a friend!



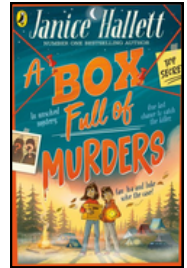
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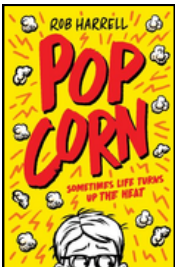
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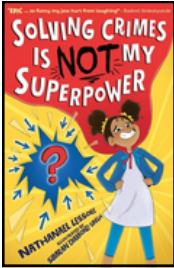
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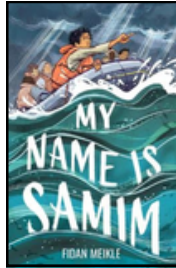


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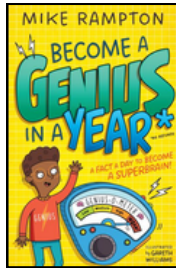
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