

## RECOMMENDED PICTURE BOOKS FOR YOUNG CHILDREN

Dear parents / carers,

Welcome to a list of high quality picture books suitable for children from the age of 3 years for you to refer to when buying, borrowing or suggesting as a present for your child.

This list has been compiled by the Centre for Literacy in Primary Education and is used by both Reception and Nursery staff when planning learning around story. These books have been chosen for the quality of their writing and illustration and are a joy to read, to look at and to share!

We recommend that you share a picture book every day with your child and preferably re-read a story several times to help them learn rhyme and refrain (repetition of a phrase).

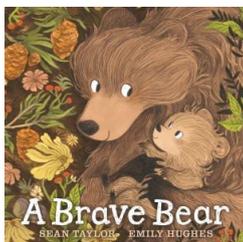
These stories are a great way to talk about characters' emotions and motives – how they are feeling and why they behave in certain ways – to help your child really understand the events on the page. Remember to talk also about 'What might have happened if ... and what might happen next – for example, Going on a Bear Hunt, 'What do you think might have happened if they didn't shut the door in time? What do you think the bear did next?'

As well as the books in this list, we also recommend the following authors: Nick Sharratt (especially You Choose), Ed Vere (Mr Big, Banana), Martin Waddell (Farmer Duck), Jez Alborough (Where's My Teddy), Jill Murphy (Peace At Last, Whatever Next!)

Traditional tales: 3 Billy Goats Gruff, 3 Little Pigs, The Gingerbread Man, Jack and the Beanstalk, The Big Enormous Turnip, The Little Red Hen, Goldilocks and the 3 Bears

Non-fiction books on: transport, dinosaurs, families, animals, insects, space, under the sea, farms, cities, seaside, seasons, plants, food.

And finally, it is better to have 10 terrific picture books than 30 mediocre ones!



**A Brave Bear**  
By **Sean Taylor**

A small bear leads the way having suggested to dad that it would be a good idea to go to the river on a very hot day.



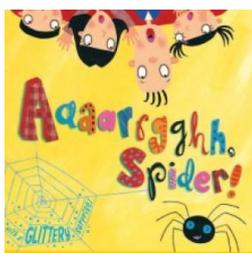
**A Great Big Cuddle**  
By **Michael Rosen**

Subtitled 'Poems for the Very Young' this is a collection children can have fun and identify with, enabling them to see the point of poetry.



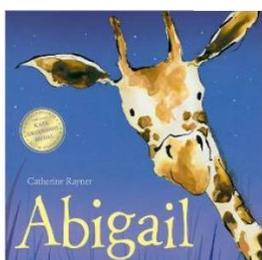
**A Splendid Friend, Indeed**  
By **Suzanne Bloom**

An ebullient goose makes energetic efforts to get the attention of a stolid polar bear who prefers reading, writing and thinking in a solitary fashion.



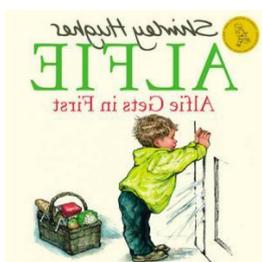
**Aaaarrgghh, Spider!**  
By **Lydia Monks**

A friendly spider is keen to ingratiate herself as a potential pet for a family she has selected.



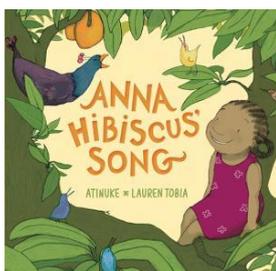
**Abigail**  
By **Catherine Rayner**

A beautifully illustrated animal adventure with a subtle lesson about patience, perseverance and friendship.



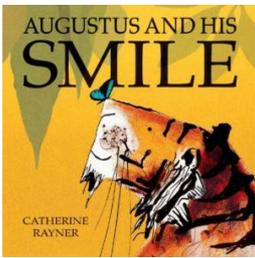
**Alfie Gets in First**  
By **Shirley Hughes**

When Alfie's mum opens the front door, puts her basket with the key in it in the hall, and goes back to the street to collect the baby from the buggy, Alfie 'gets in first' - and slams the door.



**Anna Hibiscus' Song**  
By **Atinuke**

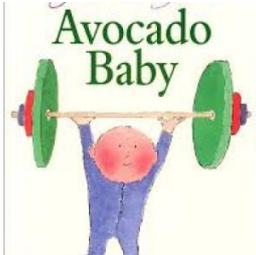
Anna Hibiscus is a small girl of dual heritage with a happy heart living with a large and loving family in Africa.



### **Augustus and his Smile**

By **Catherine Rayner**

Augustus the tiger believes he has lost his smile so he sets off to find it. His search takes him to 'the tops of the tallest trees', over mountains and to the bottom of the ocean.



### **Avocado Baby**

By **John Burningham**

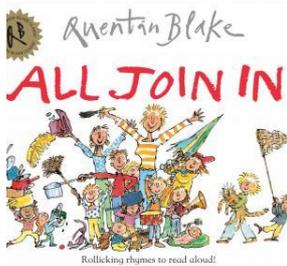
Baby power is something that exerts itself in all families - but in this picture book Burningham has used exaggeration to make his point with humorous effect.



### **Bedtime for Monsters**

By **Ed Vere**

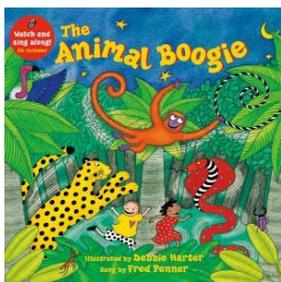
Do you ever wonder if somewhere, not too far away, there might be monsters? What if this monster wanted to eat you and was making his way from his home in the hills towards you in your cosy home?



### **All Join In**

By **Quentin Blake**

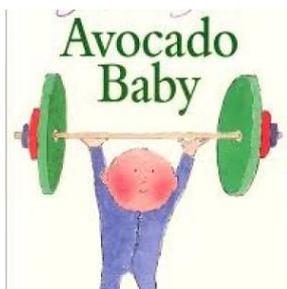
This zany collection of noisy verse for the nursery is a let-off-steam poetry picture book.



### **Animal Boogie**

By **Debbie Harter**

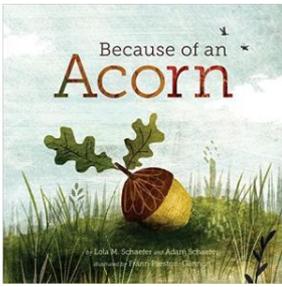
To illustrate this popular song, a succession of children is each shown boogie



### **Avocado Baby**

By **John Burningham**

Baby power is something that exerts itself in all families - but in this picture book Burningham has used exaggeration to make his point with humorous effect.



### Because of an Acorn

By [Lola M and Adam Schaefer](#)

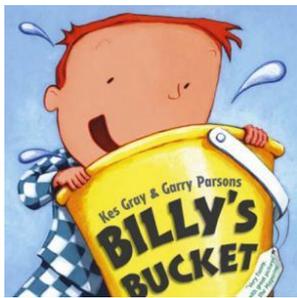
A natural game of consequences is described in a brief patterned text which encourages prediction.



### Big Box Little Box

By [Caryl Hart](#)

The story of a cat's encounter with a mouse is built into the depiction of its playful experiences with an assorted collection of boxes.

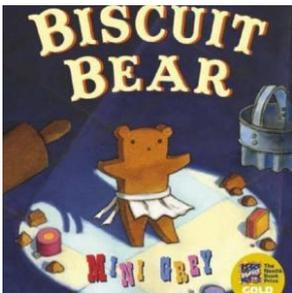


### Billy's Bucket

By [Kes Gray](#)

Billy wants a bucket for his birthday. At first, his parents try and persuade him to have a more conventional present but eventually they take him to Buckets

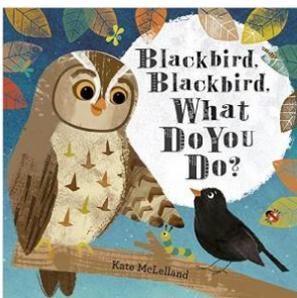
“R” Us to select his gift from a huge array.



### Biscuit Bear

By [Mini Grey](#)

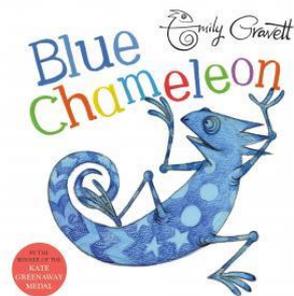
A night-time adventure as a gang of biscuit bears create a wild circus in the kitchen.



### Blackbird, Blackbird, What Do You Do?

By [Kate McLelland](#)

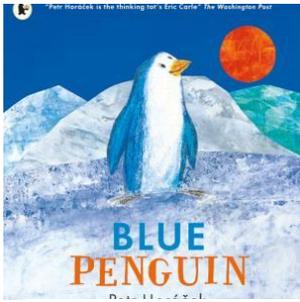
Pip is a cheerful and curious young blackbird who leaves the nest to go out into the world and find out what birds of his ilk do best.



### Blue Chameleon

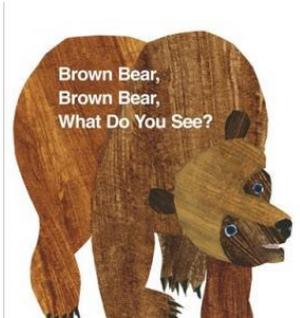
By [Emily Gravett](#)

A lonely blue chameleon adapts himself to the colours and shapes of several creatures and objects in a vain effort to make friends.



## Blue Penguin

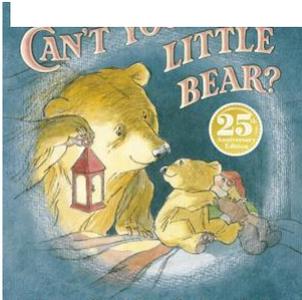
By Petr Horáček's most philosophical picture book yet, focusing on themes around identity and belonging. Blue Penguin is not accepted by his community because he looks different from them.



## Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?

By **Bill Jnr Martin**

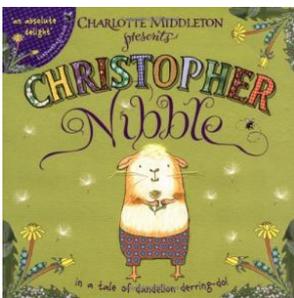
A series of bright and decorative illustrations of animals, each of which is being asked in turn 'What do you see?'.



## Can't You Sleep, Little Bear?

By **Martin Waddell**

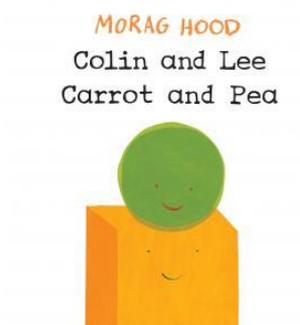
A perfectly modulated story and picture exploration of Little Bear's fear of the dark and Big Bear's frustration when Little Bear keeps disturbing him.



## Christopher Nibble

By **Charlotte Middleton**

The whole guinea pig fraternity in Dandeville so love to eat dandelions, causing a severe shortage, so Christopher sets out to find a sustainable solution.

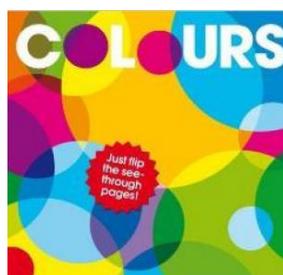


## Colin and Lee Carrot and Pea

By **Morag Hood**

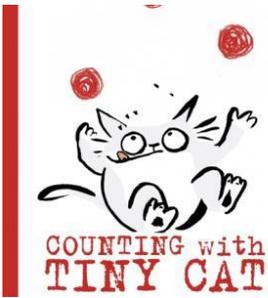
Lee the pea and Colin the carrot are the best of friends although they are completely unlike in appearance and talents.

## Colours



By **Patrick George**

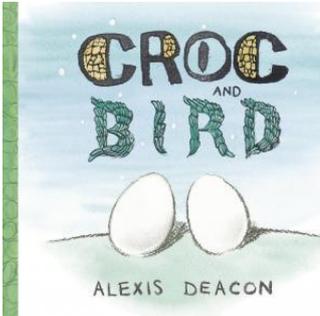
Magic is made through the use of colour and shape on acetate sheets



## Counting with Tiny Cat

By **Viviane Schwarz**

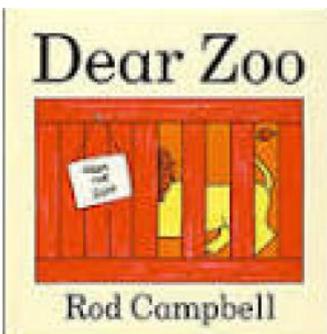
From the opening spread you can sense that this is not a conventional counting book.



## Croc and Bird

By **Alexis Deacon**

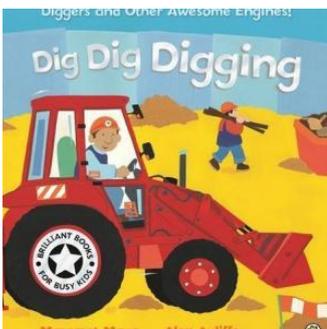
Croc and Bird hatch out from eggs lying side by side on the sand and assume that they are brothers.



## Dear Zoo

By **Rod Campbell**

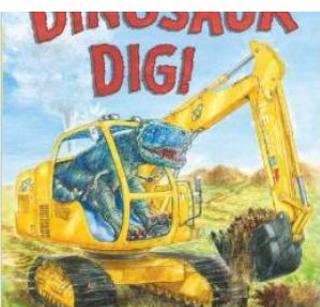
A child writes to the zoo to ask for a pet and is sent all sorts of unsuitable animals until finally a 'perfect' puppy arrives.



## Dig Dig Digging

By **Margaret Mayo**

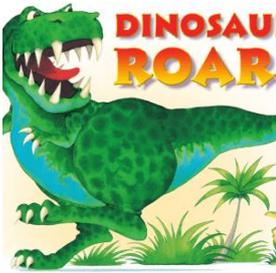
Lively verses about machines and the work they do.



## Dinosaur Dig!

By **Penny Dale**

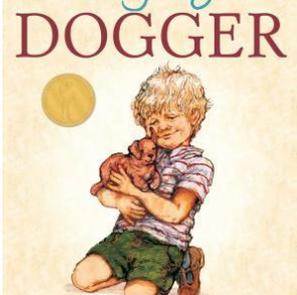
Ten dinosaurs, all pictured and labelled at the beginning of the book construct their own swimming pool, using ten different trucks and machines, similarly named in the final endpapers.



## Dinosaur Roar

By **Paul & Henrietta Stickland**

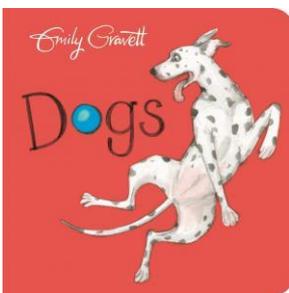
The prehistoric creatures which fascinate children so much loom large in these pages.



## Dogger

By **Shirley Hughes**

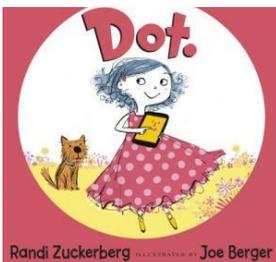
Young Dave is in despair when he discovers that his favourite soft toy, Dogger has got lost.



## Dogs

By **Emily Gravett**

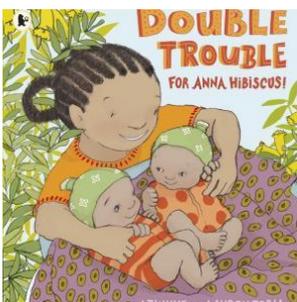
The narrator of this tail of opposites declares that s/he loves dogs and then goes on to describe them in all their canine variety



## Dot.

By **Randi Zuckerberg**

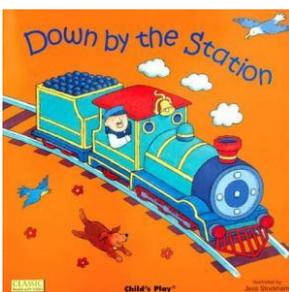
Dot is a child who knows all about communicating through modern media. She can tap, touch, tweet and tag, surf, swipe, share and search.



## Double Trouble for Anna Hibiscus

By **Atinuke**

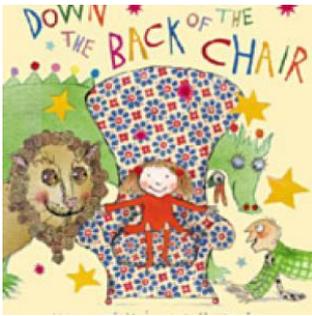
This third picture book about Anna Hibiscus and her family in Africa begins with a picture showing someone arriving at a house during the night with a bag. What is happening?



## Down by the Station

By **Jess Stockham**

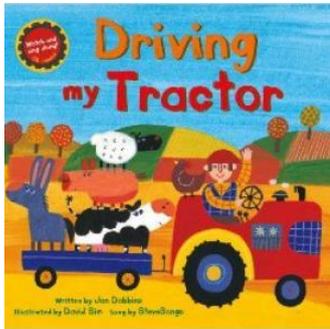
A rhythmic, repetitive and highly patterned text which begins with the noise of the trains in the station



## Down the Back of the Chair

By **Margaret Mahy**

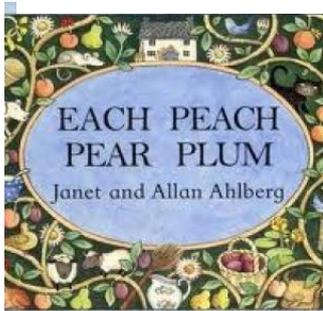
A hilarious rambling rhyming read, full of surprises. When Dad loses the car keys, his two year old daughter Mary suggests that he looks down the back of the chair.



## Driving My Tractor

By **Jan Dobbins**

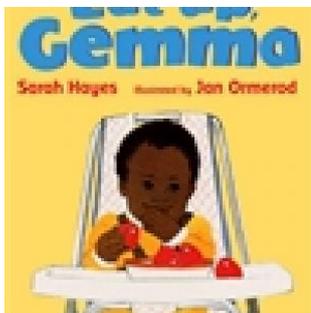
Farm life through the seasons is depicted in bright pictures while a jolly repetitive song introduces farm animals and counting from one to five.



## Each Peach Pear Plum

By **Janet & Allan Ahlberg**

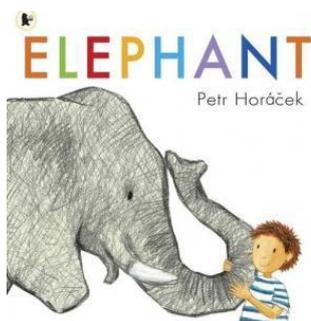
A simple and memorable rhyme, closely integrated with the illustrations.



## Eat Up, Gemma

By **Sarah Hayes**

Baby Gemma eats nothing, instead she plays with her food - to her family's despair.

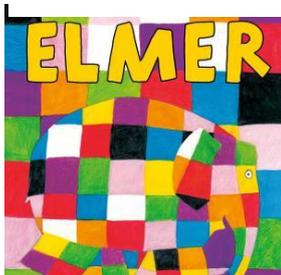


## Elephant

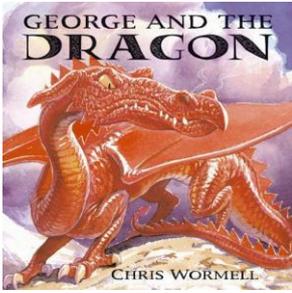
By **Petr Horáček**

exists...

His grandparents are too busy to play with him, so a boy finds fun and adventures with his elephant instead. However, the elephant makes a mess and the serenely smiling grandparents don't seem to believe he



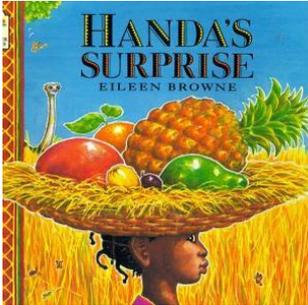
**Elmer** By **David McKee** Elmer the patchwork elephant rolls in berry juice to make himself grey like all the other elephants. However, it doesn't take long for his sense of fun and his 'true colours' to emerge



## George and the Dragon

By **Chris Wormell**

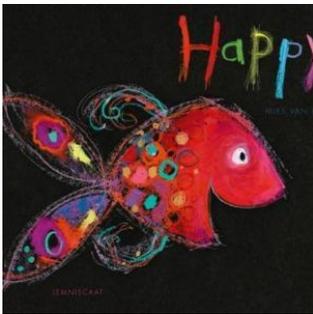
'Far, far away in the high, high mountains in a deep, deep valley in a dark, dark cave... there lived a mighty dragon.'



## Handa's Surprise

By **Eileen Browne**

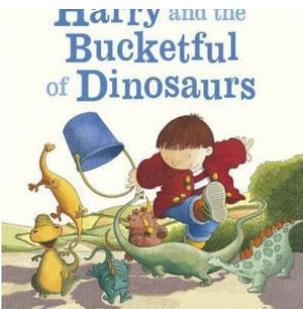
Handa sets off to visit her friend Akeyo with a wonderful array of fruit in a basket on her head.



## Happy

By **Mies Van Hout**

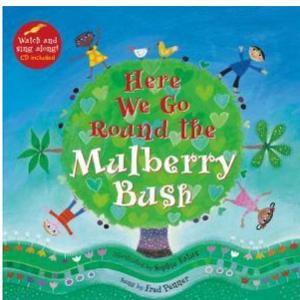
A variety of feelings are humorously portrayed by the way a range of fish are drawn and echoed by the way the words naming the emotions are written.



## Harry and the Bucketful of Dinosaurs

By **Ian Whybrow**

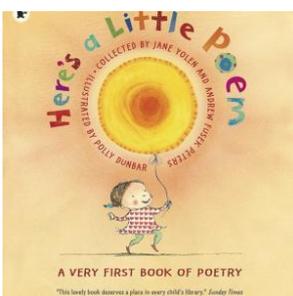
The magic starts when Harry discovers a collection of toy dinosaurs in his Nan's attic.



## Here We Go Round the Mulberry Bush

By **Sophie Fatus**

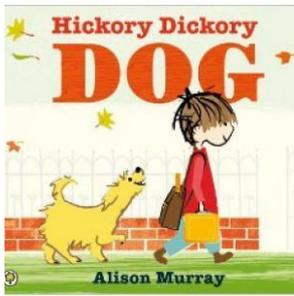
The traditional song is here extended by several verses, to include putting on clothes, washing bowls and, finally, waving goodbye



## Here's a Little Poem

By **Various**

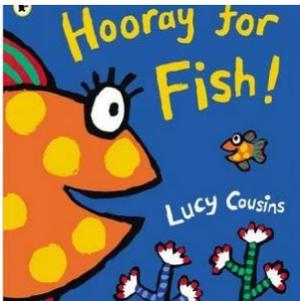
Apart from nursery rhyme collections, it is rare to find an anthology of poetry for very young children and this one is a real treasure chest that will be returned to many times.



## Hickory Dickory Dog

By **Alison Murray**

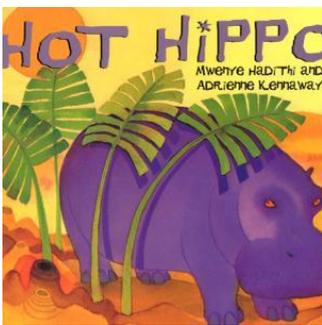
This rhyming text describes a child's day from morning to night, punctuated by the striking clock as he goes to playschool, has fun with friends and eats his meals.



## Hooray for Fish!

By **Lucy Cousins**

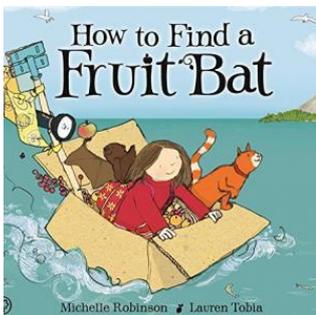
An exuberant riot of colour, language and rhyme that will seize children's imagination and quickly sweep them along with it.



## Hot Hippo

By **Mwenye Hadithi**

Pictures and prose are both rich and resonant in this deceptively simple African story.



## How to Find a Fruit Bat

By **Michelle Robinson**

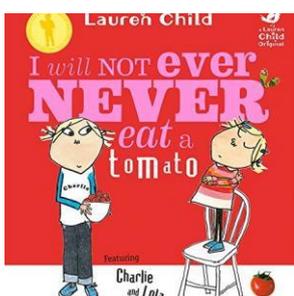
What do you do if you're not too keen on eating fruit? An amiable voice suggests a solution – go and find a fruit bat!



## I Love You, Blue Kangaroo!

By **Emma Chichester Clark**

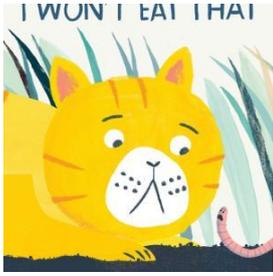
Lily's favourite toy is Blue Kangaroo and she takes him to bed every night. Friends and relatives keep adding to her collection of cuddly toys until gradually Blue Kangaroo is ousted.



## I will not ever NEVER eat a tomato

By **Lauren Child**

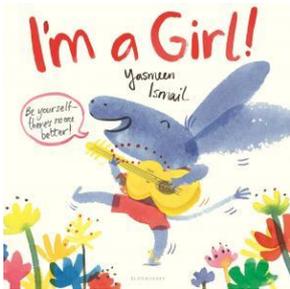
Charlie's little sister Lola is a very fussy eater. She has a long list of foods she will not entertain passing her lips.



## **I Won't Eat That!**

By **Christopher Silas Neal**

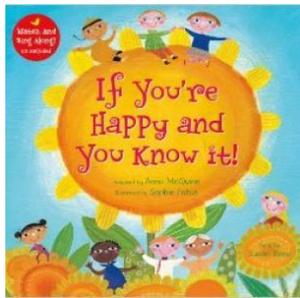
A hungry cat turns up his nose at the food in his bowl and goes off in search of more tasty alternatives.



## **I'm a Girl!**

By **Yasmeen Ismail**

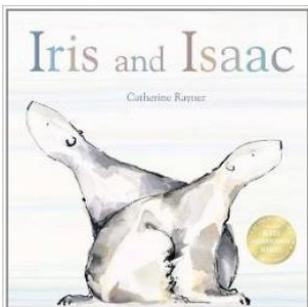
A rabbit rushes through life, confounding gender stereotypes with her boisterous behaviour. When people assume she's a boy, she repeatedly declares 'I'm a girl!'.



## **If You're Happy and You Know It!**

By **Anna McQuinn**

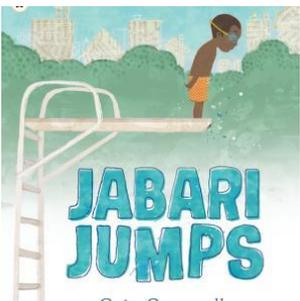
The well known action song is supplemented by several additional verses which can also be heard on the accompanying CD.



## **Iris and Isaac**

By **Catherine Rayner**

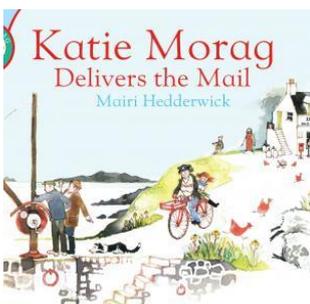
The protagonists are two polar bears who fall out over a squashed snow nest and stride away from each other across the snowy landscape.



## **Jabari Jumps**

By **Gaia Cornwall**

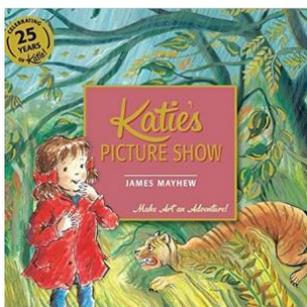
Jabari is going to the swimming pool with his dad and little sister. He has decided that today he will jump from the diving board for the first time.



## **Katie Morag Delivers the Mail**

By **Mairi Hedderwick**

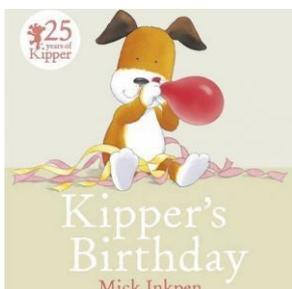
Katie Morag lives on the fictional Isle of Struay, off the Scottish coast and there are a number of stories about her family and community.



### **Katie's Picture Show**

**By James Mayhew**

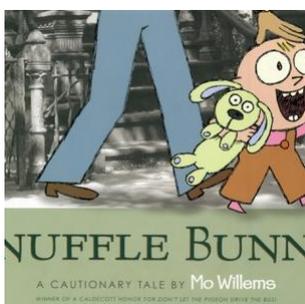
The picture books about Katie, who visits art galleries with her grandma and steps into the paintings, are great for sharing either before or after a gallery visit.



### **Kipper's Birthday**

**By Mick Inkpen**

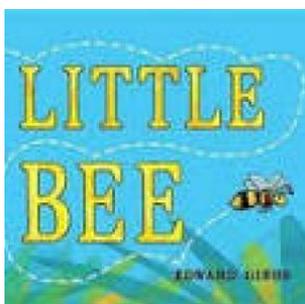
Kipper is no better at understanding exactly how long it will be until his birthday than are most puppies or young children - which leads to a confusion about the right day for his birthday party.



### **Knuffle Bunny**

**By Mo Willems**

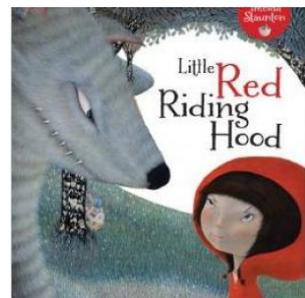
Trixie goes with her dad to the Laundromat but on the way home – crisis strikes! What is wrong with Trixie?



### **Little Bee**

**By Edward Gibbs**

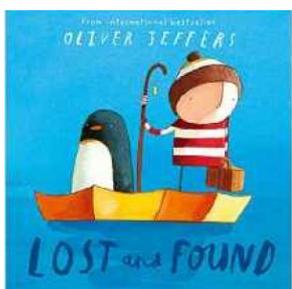
With a rhythm and pattern similar to Brown Bear Brown Bear, What Do You See? beginning by posing the question 'Little bee, little bee why do you flee?' this picture book portrays the food chain from bee to big human hunter.



### **Little Red Riding Hood**

**By Lari Don**

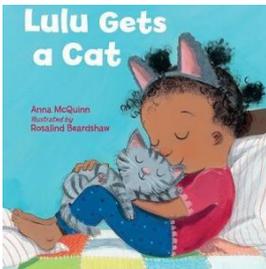
Célia Chauffrey uses a predominantly red, pink and grey-green palette to illustrate this fresh retelling of the famous fairy tale.



### **Lost and Found**

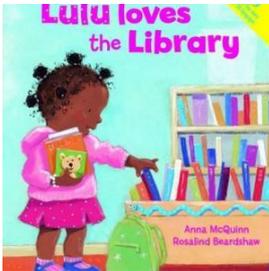
**By Oliver Jeffers**

This endearing picture book begins with the simple statement 'Once there was a boy and one day he found a penguin at his door.'



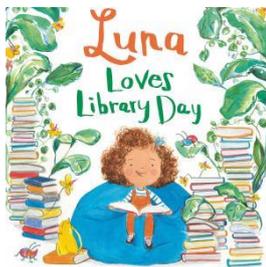
**Lulu Gets a Cat**  
By **Anna McQuinn**

In the fifth book about Lulu, she and her family adopt a cat from the cat shelter.



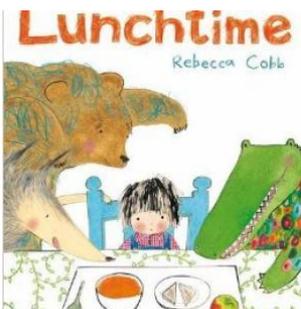
**Lulu Loves the Library**  
By **Anna McQuinn**

A simple story featuring a small black girl which celebrates adults and children sharing books together.



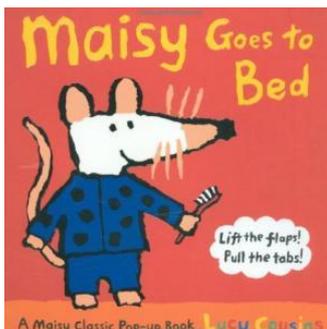
**Luna Loves Library Day**  
By **Joseph Coelho**

Luna loves visiting the library. She and her dad enjoy browsing and choosing a variety of books and checking them out.



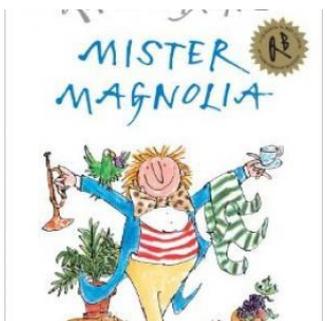
**Lunchtime**  
By **Rebecca Cobb**

A little girl is much too preoccupied with other interesting activities to want to eat her lunch. Luckily the visiting crocodile, bear and wolf prefer what's on her plate to eating children!



**Maisy Goes to Bed**  
By **Lucy Cousins**

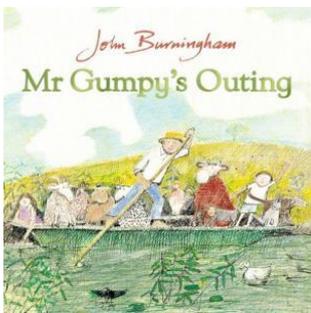
One of a series of lift-the-flap books about Maisy the mouse. Maisy's bedtime routine is described in a predictable story.



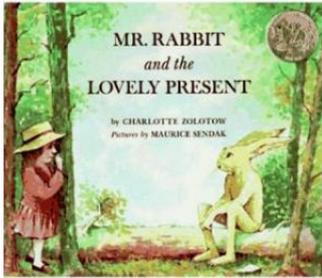
**Mister Magnolia**  
By **Quentin Blake**

A picture book classic. The illustrations are a wonderful introduction to Quentin Blake's lively and humorous style which children will always recognise.

**Mr Gumpy's Outing**  
By **John Burningham**



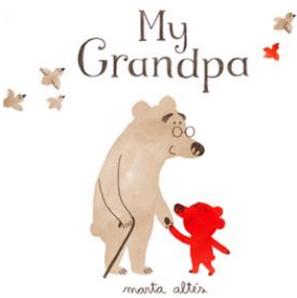
Two children and a variety of animals insist on accompanying Mr. Gumpy on a boat trip - each request is a differently worded variation on the same basic theme.



### Mr Rabbit and the Lovely Present

By **Charlotte Zolotow**

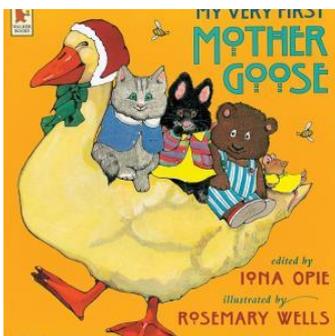
This simple and yet perfectly satisfying picture book tells how a little girl seeks help from a rabbit (is he real or a figment of her imagination?) on what to give her mother for her birthday.



### My Grandpa

By **Marta Altés**

The loving and sharing relationship between a child and his or her grandfather, who is becoming very forgetful, is tenderly & simply described by the former, in no more than one line per page.



### My Very First Mother Goose

By **Iona Opie**

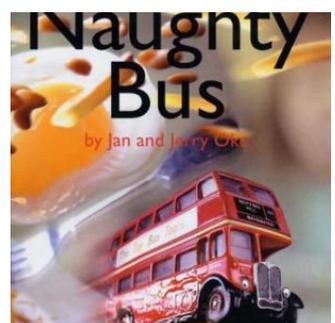
The rhymes in this collection were chosen by a foremost chronicler of the oral lore of children. The large pages and generously sized typeface make it perfect for sharing with small groups.



### My Very Own Space

By **Pippa Goodhart**

A young rabbit just wants peace and quiet to look at his book and draws a line around the space he regards as his.



### Naughty Bus

By **Jan and Jerry Oke**

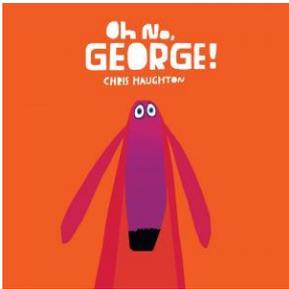
An eye-catching picture book using photographs to depict a child's imaginative game as he plays with the present of a toy London bus.



## No Dinner!

By [Jessica Souhami](#)

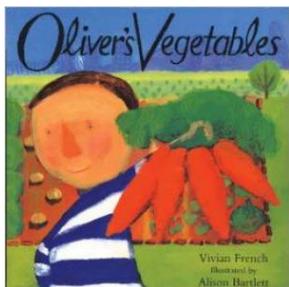
This version of the story of the old woman and the pumpkin, a traditional tale told across the Indian sub-continent, is recounted in simple patterned and repetitive language.



## Oh No, George!

By [Chris Haughton](#)

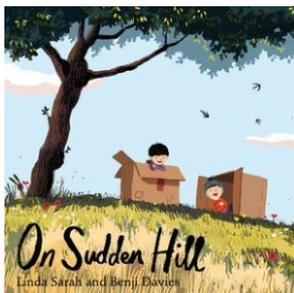
Harris is going out and leaving George the dog at home alone. Can he be trusted to behave himself? Can George trust himself?



## Oliver's Vegetables

By [Vivian French](#)

Oliver goes to stay with his grandfather who grows his own vegetables. Oliver insists that he only eats chips, so his grandfather tells him to find the potatoes to make these.



## On Sudden Hill

By [Linda Sarah](#)

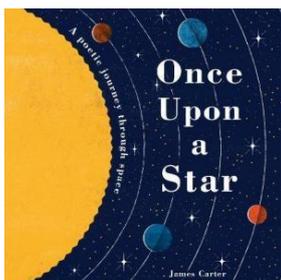
A box is a wonderful thing. Of course, it's useful for transporting things, but its most charming uses are when it's a robot, house or a spaceship, really anything your imagination wants.



## Once Upon a Jungle

By [Laura Knowles](#)

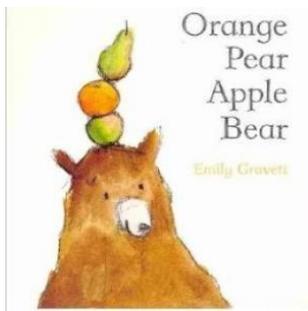
A picture of a jungle is built up using brief repetitive and memorable language in a large typeface set against strong vibrant illustrations that bear close examination and interpretation.



## Once Upon a Star

By [James Carter](#)

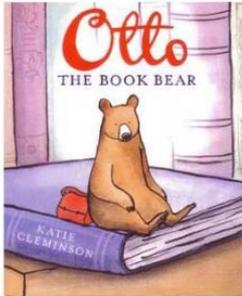
Subtitled 'A poetic journey through space' the poem in this picture book takes readers through aeons of time as well as the expanse of space, encouraging them to look up at the sky and imagine the



## **Orange Pear Apple Bear**

By **Emily Gravett**

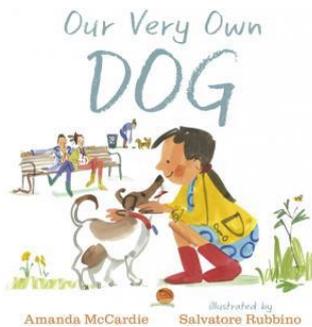
This inventive book contains just the four words in the title, continually rearranged in a variety of combinations.



## **Otto the Book Bear**

By **Katie Cleminson**

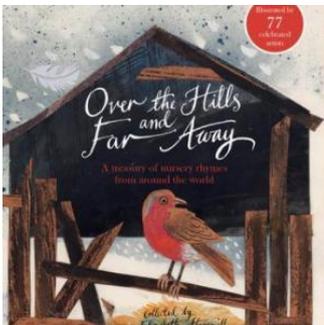
Otto's secret is shared with his readers. He can step out of the story book in which he lives and explore the house around him.



## **Our Very Own Dog**

By **Amanda McCardie**

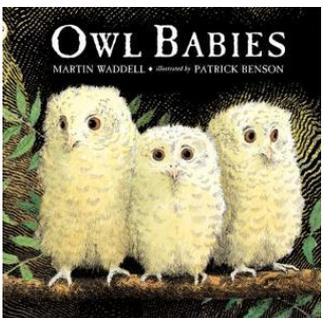
A child describes life with Sophie, the friendly dog who joined her family when the girl was four.



## **Over the Hills and Far Away**

By **Elizabeth Hammill**

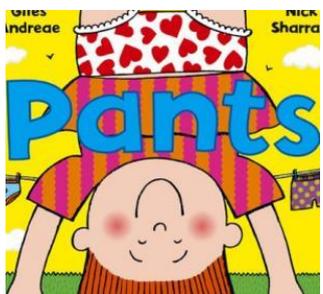
This exquisite collection of nursery rhymes from around the world has been illustrated by an international group of 77 artists.



## **Owl Babies**

By **Martin Waddell**

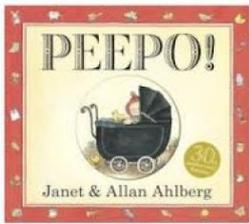
Separation is one of the big traumas of childhood. In this utterly simple yet deeply moving picture book all that happens is that three owlets are left alone whilst their mother goes off into the night to hunt for food.



## **Pants**

By **Giles Andreae**

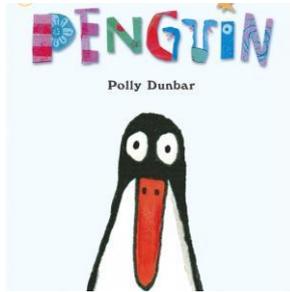
A joyful rhyme extolling the virtues of all the different kinds of pants there could be, well-matched by hilarious illustrations.



## Peepo!

By **Janet & Allan Ahlberg**

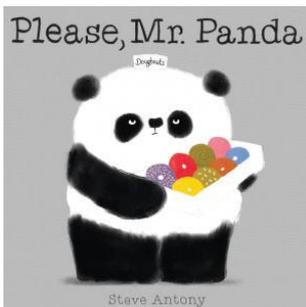
A wonderfully entertaining picture book which uses the peephole in the page to take the reader both on to the next opening and back to the one before.



## Penguin

By **Polly Dunbar**

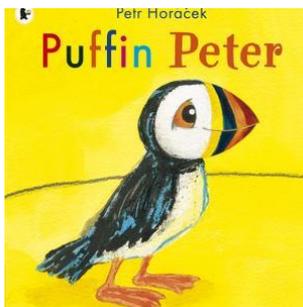
Ben receives a penguin as a present. He tries every way he can think of to make the penguin respond to him.



## Please Mr Panda

By **Steve Antony**

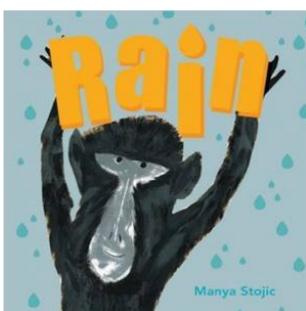
A sleepy-eyed panda bearing a tray of doughnuts offers them to a variety of animals. However, their eager replies elicit a negative response from Mr Panda. Why should this be?



## Puffin Peter

By **Petr Horáček**

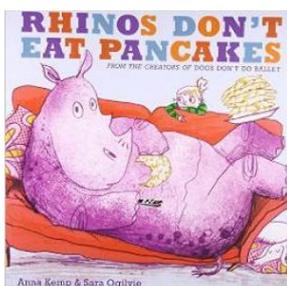
'Two little dicky birds' Peter and Paul are separated during a big storm.



## Rain

By **Manya Stojic**

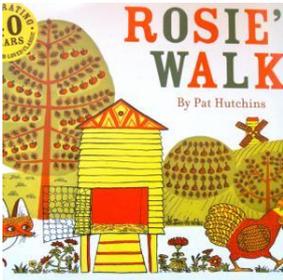
Bold textured illustrations introduce the animals of the African savannah as they await the arrival of the storm that will refresh their environment.



## Rhinos Don't Eat Pancakes

By **Anna Kemp**

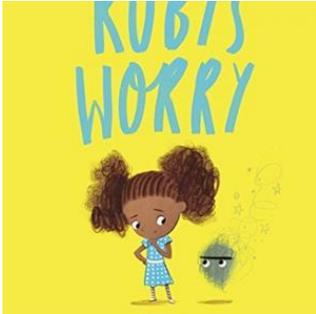
Daisy's parents just don't listen to her so when she tells them that a purple rhino has taken up residence and is eating up the pancakes, they just humour her and take her to the zoo to see a 'real' rhino.



## **Rosie's Walk**

By **Pat Hutchins**

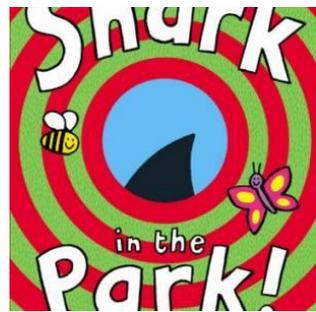
Rosie takes a walk round the farmyard, completely oblivious (or is she?) to the fact that she is being followed by a fox.



## **Ruby's Worry**

By **Tom Percival**

Ruby is a happy little girl, content with exploring the world around her, until one day she discovers a Worry.



## **Shark in the Park**

By **Nick Sharratt**

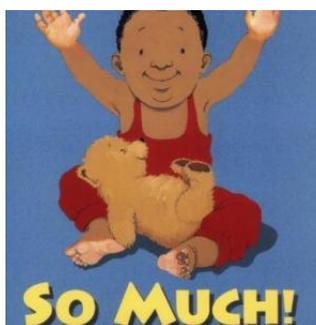
In this inventive hole in the page book, Timothy Pope takes his new telescope to the park and seems to see sharks everywhere.



## **Shh! We Have a Plan**

By **Chris Haughton**

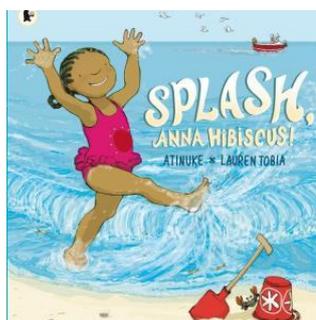
Chris Haughton uses a distinctive colour palette in each of his books. Here he utilises many shades of blue to depict the nocturnal wanderings of four bird hunters.



## **So Much**

By **Trish Cooke**

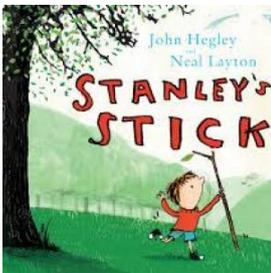
A large and loving picture book in which aunts, uncles, cousins and grandparents come to the baby's house for a surprise birthday party for his Dad.



## **Splash, Anna Hibiscus!**

By **Atinuke**

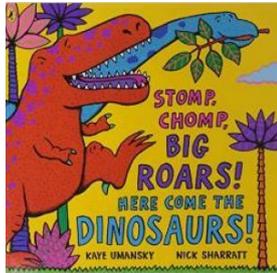
This is the second picture book about Anna Hibiscus, a child of dual heritage, who lives in Africa with her extended family.



## Stanley's Stick

By **John Hegley**

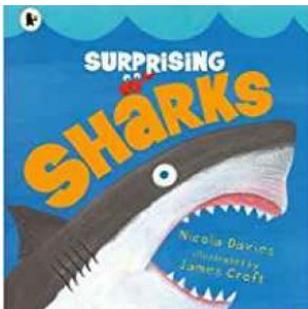
Stanley's stick is his constant companion, a toy with which he creates 'game after sticky game.'



## Stomp, Chomp, Big Roars! Here Come the Dinosaurs

By **Kaye Umansky**

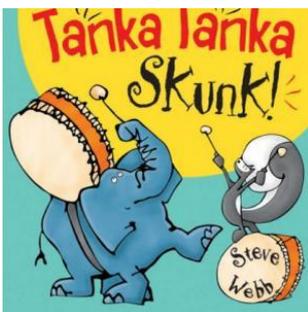
Huge dinosaurs in luminous colours stomp, chomp and romp across the pages of this picture book of poems which can quickly be memorised.



## Surprising Sharks

By **Nicola Davies**

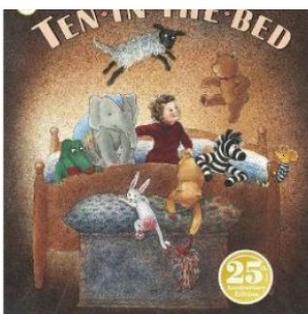
An excellent introduction to sharks which will ignite interest in what lurks beneath the sea.



## Tanka Tanka Skunk!

By **Steve Webb**

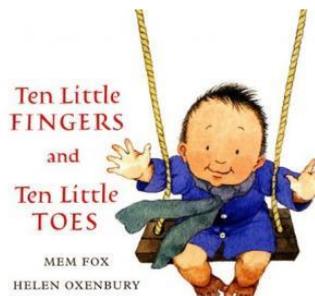
An elephant and a skunk set up a rhythmic repetitive drumbeat with which readers are encouraged to join in.



## Ten in the Bed

By **Penny Dale**

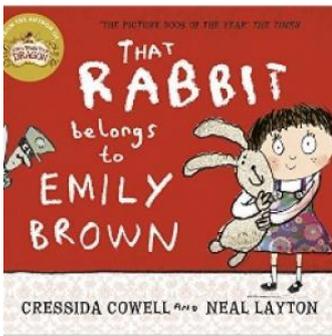
The traditional rhyme, except that each of the ten that falls out of bed is a cuddly toy.



## Ten Little Fingers and Ten Little Toes

By **Mem Fox**

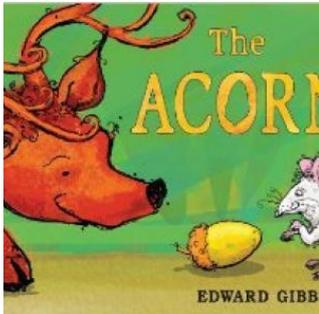
A charming celebration of babies from around the world who tumble across the pages.



**That Rabbit Belongs to Emily Brown**

By **Cressida Cowell**

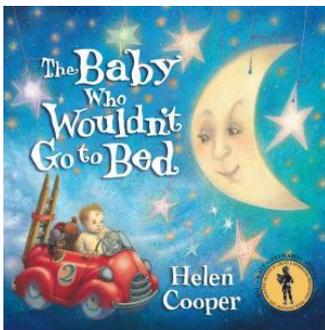
The Queen is determined to have Emily Brown's toy rabbit at any price and when Emily refuses to give in, she has him kidnapped.



**The Acorn**

By **Edward Gibbs**

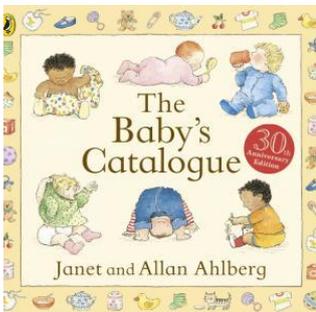
An acorn falls to the ground and convinces all the creatures (a white mouse, an orange squirrel etc) who want to eat it that it will 'be even tastier later.'



**The Baby Who Wouldn't Go to Bed**

By **Helen Cooper**

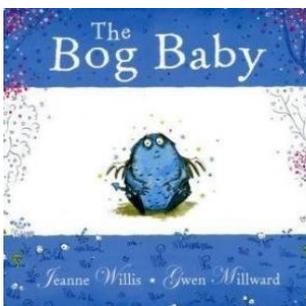
A baby does not want to go to bed on a light summer night and drives away from his mother in his little car.



**The Baby's Catalogue**

By **Allan Ahlberg**

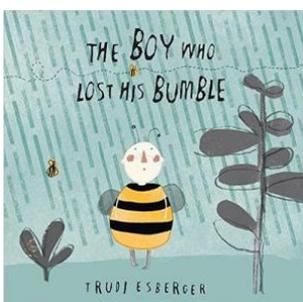
Inspired by children's fascination with mail order catalogues, this book contains a gallimaufry of babies, their families, their daily doings and the objects that surround them.



**The Bog Baby**

By **Jeanne Willis**

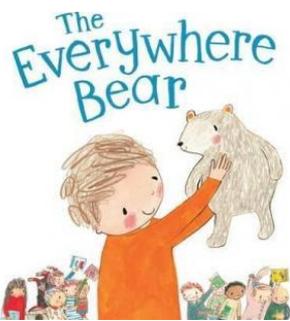
A magical tale of loving and learning to let go. One Spring, two girls find a creature in a pond.



**The Boy Who Lost His Bumble**

By **Trudi Esberger**

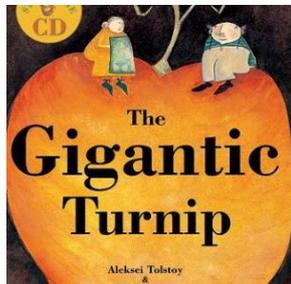
A boy tends his garden lovingly but what he cares about most are the bees. When they disappear, he is devastated and wonders if they will ever return.



### **The Everywhere Bear**

By **Julia Donaldson**

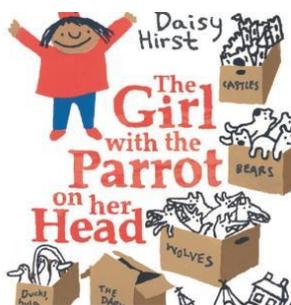
The Everywhere Bear belongs to Class One and the children take it in turns to take him home for the weekend.



### **The Gigantic Turnip**

By **Aleksei Tolstoy**

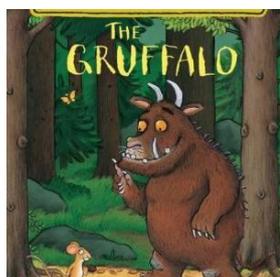
Niamh Sharkey's highly original illustrations, with their use of angles and circles, make this an exciting new interpretation of a well-known story.



### **The Girl with the Parrot on her Head**

By **Daisy Hirst**

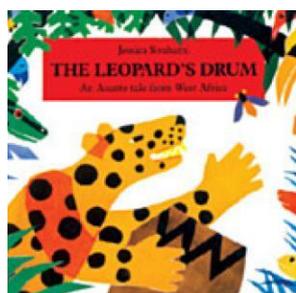
A picture book about friendship and fears that demonstrates subtle psychological awareness. Left bereft when her friend moves away, Isabel organises her life in boxes.



### **The Gruffalo**

By **Julia Donaldson**

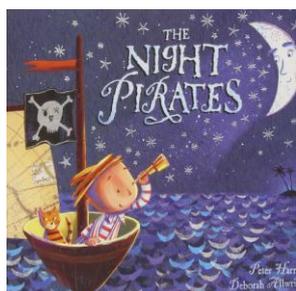
A quick-thinking mouse manages to bluff his way out of being eaten by a series of creatures including the eponymous Gruffalo.



### **The Leopard's Drum**

By **Jessica Souhami**

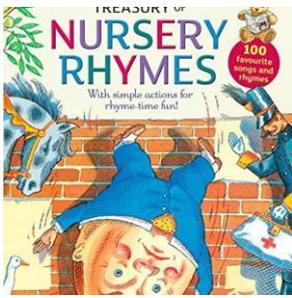
Bright paper-cut pictures of forest animals illustrate this traditional West African folk tale.



### **The Night Pirates**

By **Peter Harris**

The adventure begins and ends with memorable patterned language as a band of rough, tough little girl pirates adopt Tom as their shipmate and sail to an island where they get the better of a group



### The Oxford Treasury of Nursery Rhymes

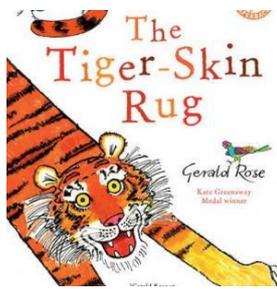
This collection is a candy-coloured cornucopia of nursery rhymes, compiled from four books originally published as separate volumes.



### The Tiger Who Came to Tea

By **Judith Kerr**

If you let a Tiger into the house and invite him to stay for tea – as Sophie did – what is more natural than that he will eat you out of house and home and in addition drink all the water from the tap?

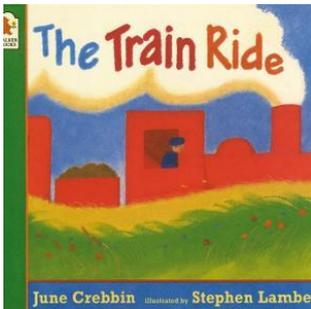


### The Tiger-Skin Rug

By **Gerald Rose**

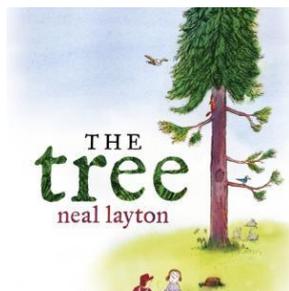
A thin old tiger longs for the company and food that living in the Rajah's palace would provide and worms his way in by posing as a tiger-skin rug.

### The Train Ride



By **June Crebbin**

A child and her mother travel by train from the town to the seaside to visit her grandmother.



### The Tree

By **Neal Layton**

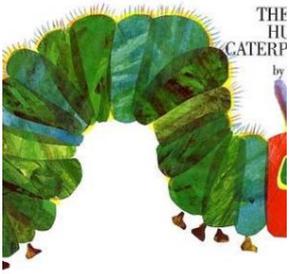
The importance of inference in reading a picture book is superbly demonstrated here. The written text is minimal.



### The Very Busy Spider

By **Eric Carle**

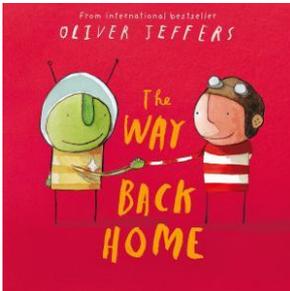
This tactile book enables children to feel the spider's gradually growing web and discover the pattern she weaves in order to achieve the final flycatching result.



## The Very Hungry Caterpillar

By **Eric Carle**

In this picture book classic, an increasingly portly caterpillar chomps his way through an astonishing diet of fruit, cheese, cake, pie and other assorted food, his progress tracked for the reader by a series of holes.



## The Way Back Home

By **Oliver Jeffers**

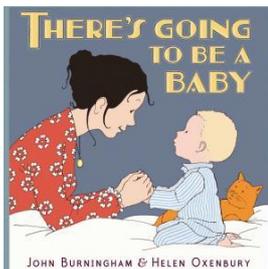
A delightful story about an Earth boy and a Martian who both crash land on the moon. They co-operate to find solutions so that they can both return to their homes in their respective craft.



## There's a Tiger in the Garden

By **Lizzy Stewart**

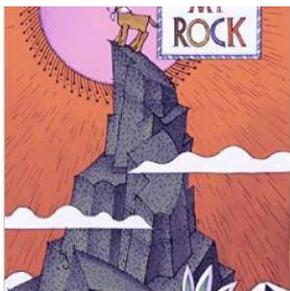
Children seeing animals or imaginary friends that are invisible to adults is a recurrent theme in children's literature.



## There's Going To Be a Baby

By **John Burningham**

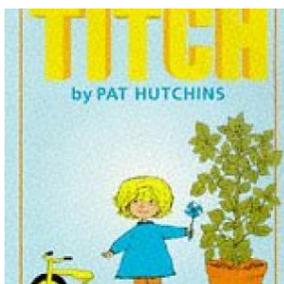
In this first collaboration between two well-loved author/illustrators, a child and his mother speculate about the future life of his yet unborn sibling.



## This Is My Rock

By **David Lucas**

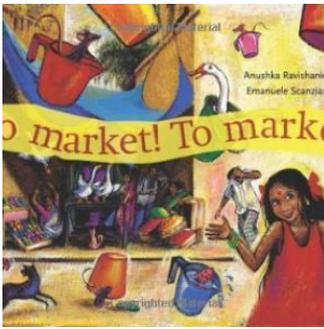
A goat takes possession of a rock and from his lofty position fends off all comers, both the fearsome and the friendly. Even a bird with a cheerful chirp is sent on his way.



## Titch

By **Pat Hutchins**

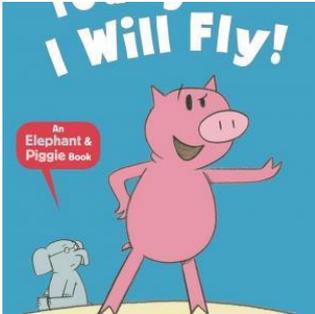
Titch's older brother and sister have bigger bikes, louder musical instruments and larger kites.



### To Market! To Market!

By **Anushka Ravishankar**

In this eye-catching unusually shaped picture book, a small Indian girl explores her vibrant local market deciding what to buy with the money her mother has given her.



### Today I Will Fly!

By **Mo Willems**

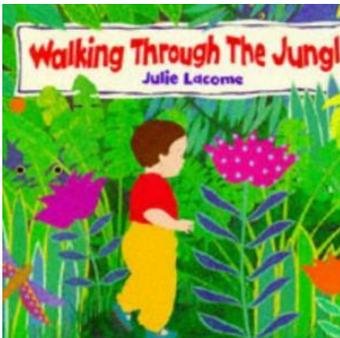
Piggie insists he will fly. Elephant disagrees. Eventually Piggie gets help to achieve his ambition but recognises that it is not quite as he imagined.



### Trees

By **Lemniscates**

A brief poetic text gradually builds information about trees, beginning with seasonal changes and progressing to their important role in our world.



### Walking through the Jungle

By **Julie Lacombe**

A simple rhyming verse is repeated throughout this book with only the verb - walking, creeping, running - describing a child's movement through the jungle changing each time.

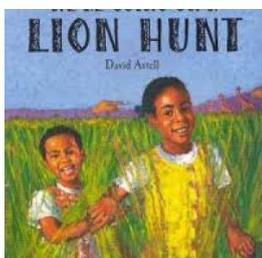
*We're Going on a Bear Hunt*  
Michael Rosen Helen Oxenbury



### We're Going on a Bear Hunt

By **Michael Rosen**

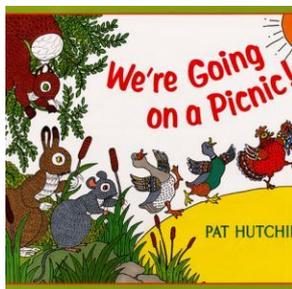
This classic book follows the tale of a family on an expedition to find a bear...



### We're Going on a Lion Hunt

By **David Axtell**

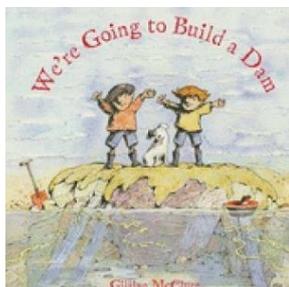
A variation on the traditional rhyme We're Going on a Bear Hunt, familiar through the picture book by Michael Rosen and Helen Oxenbury.



### **We're Going on a Picnic!**

By **Pat Hutchins**

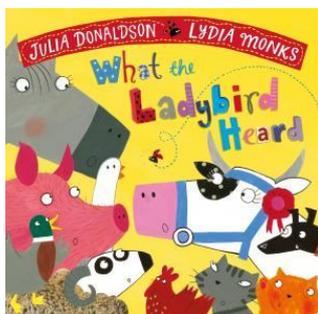
Hen, Duck and Goose decide to go for a picnic. Hen likes berries, Goose likes apples and Duck likes pears...



### **We're Going to Build a Dam**

By **Gillian McClure**

Two boys go to the beach determined to dam a stream that flows to the sea. They select a suitable spot, gather materials to make their construction then wait to discover whether it works.



### **What the Ladybird Heard**

By **Julia Donaldson**

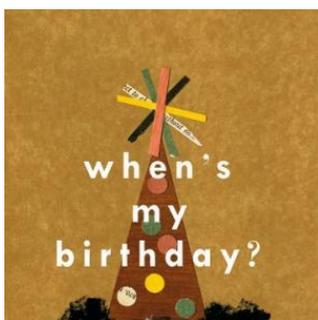
In this clever plotted rhyming tale, a ladybird overhears a secret plan to steal the prize cow.



### **When I Grow Up...**

By **Patrick George**

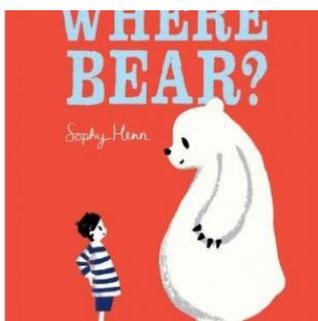
This inventive publisher has produced a distinctive set of picture books for young children making creative and often humorous use of acetate overlays.



### **When's My Birthday?**

By **Julie Fogliano**

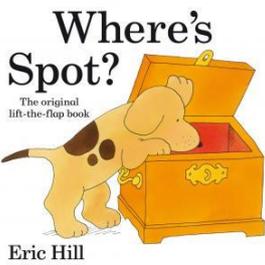
A repetitive text with a bouncy rhythm in the voice of a child who just can't wait for their birthday to which we are all enthusiastically invited.



### **Where Bear?**

By **Sophy Henn**

A boy and a bear cub grow up together. Eventually the boy realises that his friend has become 'just too big and bearish to be living in a house'.



## Where's Spot?

By **Eric Hill**

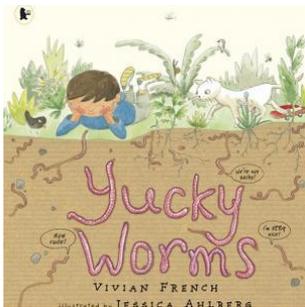
The world's best-known lift-the-flap book with many sequels and associated games and toys.



## Who's Like Me?

By **Nicola Davies**

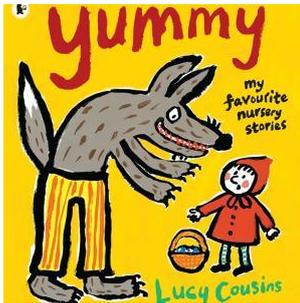
A guessing game that makes children consider ways various animals are both alike and different.



## Yucky Worms

By **Vivian French**

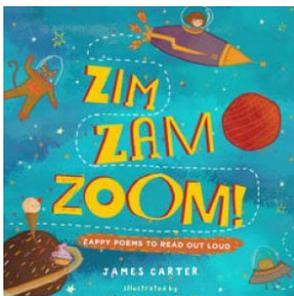
A boy learns from observing worms in the garden alongside his grandmother that they are not so yucky after all.



## Yummy: My Favourite Nursery Stories

By **Lucy Cousins**

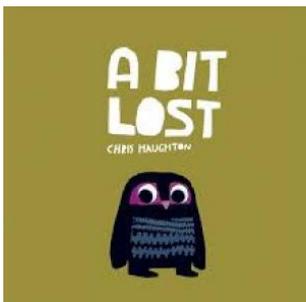
Moving on from Maisy mouse, this must surely be Lucy Cousins' masterpiece.



## Zim Zam Zoom!

By **James Carter**

This poetry picture book is perfectly pitched for the young listener or early reader.



## A Bit Lost

By **Chris Haughton**

A baby owl falls from the nest and begins a quest to find his mummy. Squirrel tries to help, but the characteristics described by baby owl lead to all the wrong creatures.

### **Other suggested 'good reads'**

- Almost Anything – Sophie Henn – PSED
- The Invisible String – separation and bereavement
- In the Attic – imagination (author of Angry Arthur)
- Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus – Mo Williams (Knuffle Bunny) – humour
- Number: 1 Bear at Bedtime, Pete the Cat and his 4 Groovy Buttons (Eric Litwin), Press Here (Henri Tallert)