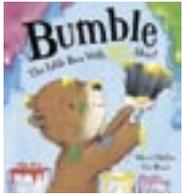


All join in

Bumble - The Little Bear with Big Ideas

Written by Marni McGee Illustrated by Cee Biscoe
Little Tiger Press £10.99 ISBN: 978-1848950252



Bumble the bear finds out that being helpful isn't easy - even with the best of intentions. He wants to do something nice for Grandma after she has a fall so he picks some flowers,

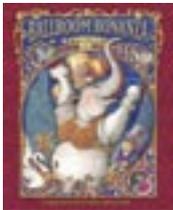
but strips the garden bare! He paints her door in technicolor but breaks her special cup whilst trying to wash it! The forest birds scold him but Grandma forgives him because he's more special than all of those things! Bold, bright illustrations complement the simple story conveying the true feelings of forgiveness and the importance of appreciating people in spite of their faults. The warm, comfortable ending makes this a satisfying read time and time again.

Benjamin Scott

Ballroom Bonanza

Written and illustrated by Nina Rycroft
Abrams £5.99 ISBN: 978-0810988439

Simply the best alphabet book ever! All the animals arrive at Blackpool Tower Ballroom to compete in a dancing competition. Camels conga, donkeys disco, flamingos flamenco, goats go-go, hippos hip-hop and zebras zapateado!

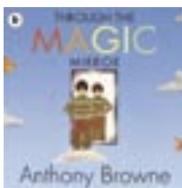


But the naughty monkeys have hidden all the orchestra's instruments! They have been cunningly concealed in the backgrounds of each picture so the reader has to go back and find them. Endpapers show and name each one to help readers to discover their shapes. Showing just as much as the alliterative and rhyming words tell, the witty, stylish portraits are brilliantly imaginative and colourful. The humour is irresistible and fun for all the family - don't miss it!

Tina Massey

Through the Magic Mirror

Written and illustrated by Anthony Browne
Walker (R) £5.99 ISBN: 978-1406326284



Toby is really bored and has no idea what to do with himself. He's fed up with his toys and books and can't find anything to do. Then he walks through a magic mirror and into a topsy-turvy world that he can make no sense of. Life certainly

isn't boring now! Another slightly surreal story from the current Children's Laureate. A simple text accompanied by uncomplicated illustrations which allow us to share Toby's world through his eyes. The book is highly visual, which is typical of Anthony Browne's unique style. An exciting and challenging book for young children to enjoy.

Anna Elliott

Blue Chameleon

Written and illustrated by Emily Gravett
Macmillan £10.99 ISBN: 978-2307042444



This is a refreshingly expressive and insightful introduction to the world of colour and shapes.

Blue Chameleon has a big heart but is very lonely,

and in his willingness to appear to join in with everything he undergoes many remarkable changes. Emily's irrepressible drawing and design skills are underwritten by her infectious humour which helps new messages, stories and meanings to fly off the page with every fresh reading or revisit.

Mike Simkin

Angela Sprocket's Pockets

Written and illustrated by Quentin Blake
Random House £10.99 ISBN: 978-0224083768

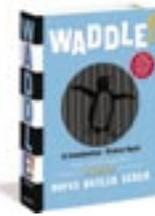
What a treat! Very much in the spirit of classic *Mr Magnolia*, this is a jolly rhyming tale that begins *Angela Sprocket lives next door. Her overcoat has pockets galore.* From the eccentric look of the lady - a smiling grandmotherly figure with wide eyes and springy grey pigtails - one can deduce that her numerous colourful pockets are likely to produce unusual contents. And in a *Mary Poppins* style feat of dimension-defying theatrical extravagance, she pulls out everything from mice and hankies to boats, hats, skateboards, alligators, kitchen implements and *Elephant, green and pink.* Brilliantly captured expressions of joy, surprise, bewilderment, contentment and hilarity adorn the faces of the gang of children for whose benefit Angela empties her pockets. As always, Blake's familiar - but ever fresh - illustrations are packed with energy, humour and detail. You will not mind one bit being asked to share it over and over again.

Rowan Stanfield

Waddle

Written and illustrated by Rufus Butler Seder
Workman £9.99 ISBN: 978-0761157205

Rufus Butler Seder's groundbreaking scanimation is used to full, fantastic effect in his latest book,



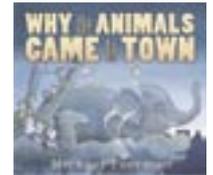
Waddle. Each sturdy page sees a favourite animal realistically come to life as the page is turned. These marvellous images have an electronic look to them, resembling the old black and white television screens, but the book needs no batteries, just enthusiastic young readers. The large and colourful text helps them to appreciate the structure of letters and words, as well as captivating their minds with its alliteration and vivid description. It perfectly complements the moving pictures and children love to join in with the actions - *flip-flopping like a frog or prancing like a pig.* The really snappy ending is great fun!

Jane Hall

Why the Animals Came to Town

Written and illustrated by Michael Foreman
Walker £10.99 ISBN: 978-1406318012

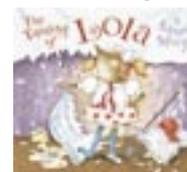
The animals are on the march in this smart picture book, and the boy - watching them from his bedroom window - is amazed at the number and variety of creatures



on parade. He sees apes, bison, ostriches, chimps, wallabies, lions and llamas bounding along his street and singing a *wakey-wakey*, warning song. They know the world is melting, burning and sinking with dry, dusty deserts, shrinking forests and crumbling cliffs, and are determined to shake up the humans who are in control. Because this is Michael Foreman at work we know that there will be outstanding illustrations - engaging, amusing - with one opportunity after another to interest very young children in the easy, rhyming story. It is a simple, environmental story that carries its message strongly and persuasively. An excellent book not exclusively for the under fives.

Jack Ousbey

The Taming of Lola - A Shrew Story



Written by Ellen Weiss
Illustrated by Jerry Smath
Abrams £9.99
ISBN: 978-0810940666

Lola is a shrew, the small furry kind, who really likes her own way. She is stubborn, cantankerous, loud and generally so unbearable that her family tip-toe around her, always giving way. When cousin Lester comes to stay, he is even worse, and the two fight and bawl until they are hoarse. Young readers love the detailed illustrations which add immeasurably to the fun. They enable them to look in on an

interesting, rather cheeky, way of life going on in a hidden world – removed, but not too far – from their own well behaved existence! Fans of horrible food will love the insectivore cuisine, too.

Tina Massey

The Nanny Goat's Kid

Written by Jeanne Willis Illustrated by Tony Ross
Andersen Press £10.99 ISBN: 978-1849390361



Wacky and crazy, this picture book is full of humour, showing cameos of family life – but with a difference. Sadly, Nanny Goat is unable to produce a kid of her own so decides to adopt

one, in spite of her sisters who try to dissuade her. However, the new kid is not the animal she dreamed of as he roars from morning to night, refuses the food she offers and scares all the other children. She still loves him even though the illustrations tell us exactly what he is like. When her sisters' kids go missing Nanny Goat is horrified but stands by her son when he is held responsible and they are kicked out of the herd. A huge tiger becomes involved and it is the new boy who saves the day. This nicely rounded tale will become a favourite – it's just perfect for role play and dramatic productions.

Louise Stothard

George and the Dragonfly

Written by Andy Blackford and Sue Mason
Evans £4.99 ISBN: 978-0237538842

A sweet little tale with a commendable message, *George and the Dragonfly* suggests that there's



'No Place Like Home' by encouraging the reader to appreciate the joys of nature that exist all around them. Told in gently rhyming prose and accompanied by appealing modern illustrations with a touch of collage, the story follows a little boy, George,

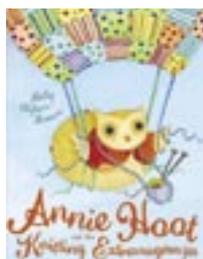
as he sets off intent on living in the jungle with a *boa constrictor and six chimpanzees*. Outside his house, a dragonfly implores George to first stop and explore his own back garden, where he finds all manner of exotic creatures from millipedes to frogs, stick insects, spiders, bees and even a grass snake. George is delighted, crying "I think I'll go home and not live in that tree, why go to the jungle when there's all this to see?" Excellent – for nature-lovers and sceptics alike.

Rowan Stanfield

Annie Hoot and the Knitting Extravaganza

Written and illustrated by Holly Clifton-Brown
Andersen Press £10.99 ISBN: 978-1852709672

Annie Hoot lives in a tree in the woods. She is a scatty little owl who is always full of ideas. Her latest craze is knitting and she's been busy knitting socks, scarves and jumpers for all her friends. However, they are not grateful for Annie's



efforts so she embarks on a journey to find some appreciative recipients. Annie is a lovely character. Any young reader who has received an itchy or ill-fitting gift from a well-meaning knitter will identify with her friends and will hopefully learn to appreciate them as Annie's friends do. The colourful illustrations are a real addition to the book and it's wonderful to see traditional crafts being portrayed in a modern story for young children. Hugely enjoyable.

Anna Elliott

Rumblewick and the Dinner Dragons

Written by Hiawyn Oram
Illustrated by Sarah Warburton
Orchard £10.99 ISBN: 978-1846160646

When his misguided mistress, Haggy Aggy the witch, invited hungry dragons for dinner, poor Rumblewick the cat had to save the day. After serving all the food in the house one sad, homesick soul was still in need of cheering up so a special feast of fun was provided and, eventually, everyone had a good time. The dragons became less scary than Rumblewick had imagined so maybe his mistress was not crazy as he'd thought! Excitement and humour is conveyed by the scrapbook feel as the story is cleverly told through a series of postcards. These add to the dramatic sense of chaos surrounding the dragon's unexpected visit and the added flaps give extra details. Boisterous fun for all.



Benjamin Scott

Listen To A Story

- a round-up of some new audio titles for young children

There was a huge explosion of audio titles some years ago, which seems to have slowed down over the years, However, some classic titles have recently been re-issued giving new life to some wonderful titles. All come in book and CD packs and are ideal for encouraging a new or possible reader; or for simply popping into the suitcase for all the family to share.

Katie Morag and the Tiresome Ted

Read, written and illustrated by Mairi Hedderwick
Red Fox £6.99 ISBN: 978-1862309104



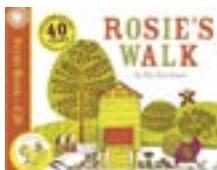
Perhaps the best-loved of all the Katie Morag stories with the added bonus of the author's reading.

Children just love to hear how Katie Morag threw a tantrum, brought on by the arrival of a new baby, by throwing her teddy into the sea. It's a delight.

Rosie's Walk

Written and illustrated by Pat Hutchins
Read by Samantha Bond Red Fox £6.99
ISBN: 978-1862309982

Another classic but one which *must* be accompanied by the book, otherwise children



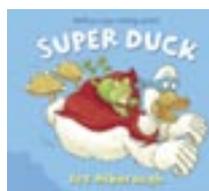
will miss the joke of daft Rosie the Hen walking through the farmyard oblivious of the fox skulking in the background. Plenty of

jolly music, too, plus a prompted version with page turns indicated.

Super Duck

Written and illustrated by Jez Alborough
Read by Harry Enfield
Harper Collins £7.99
ISBN: 978-0007315475

With Harry Enfield's silly voices, a great story of Goat's kite that wouldn't fly until Duck came to the rescue. At least he thought he had, but all goes



wrong when Frog inadvertently grabs the strings and soars into the air! Rhyming text, large colourful pictures and pleasing music – a real winner.

Elmer and Wilbur

Written and illustrated by David McKee
Read by Joss Ackland
Andersen Press £6.99
ISBN: 978-1842709832

An old favourite from 1994, reissued in a large paperback with CD story read by Joss Ackland.

Elmer, the patchwork pachyderm, plays a very silly trick on his cousin Wilbur who is able to turn the tables on Elmer. Great fun, with large type and a second telling which has signals to turn the page.

Valerie Bierman

