



Woooo!

Written and illustrated by Gerry Turley
Hutchinson £11.99 ISBN: 978-0857540225

In this picture book, alliterative and rhyming sounds are grouped together to tell the story of three little owls learning to fly for the first time. Of course, the only way to learn is by doing, and, encouraged by their father, the two eldest chicks launch off into the world, leaving their nervous younger sibling behind. But his father comes back for him and he is able to join the rest of his family. Refreshingly, this is a picture book featuring a father rather than a mother. The simple illustrations and colour schemes make the owls stand out from their forest environment. Enjoyment of this story will be found in the reading and the rhyming and it could become a favourite, with the young child soon learning and joining in.

Annalise Taylor

Little Frog's Tadpole Trouble

Written and illustrated by Tatyana Feeny
OUP (eB) £6.99 ISBN: 978-0192735553

When there is to be a new baby brother or sister in the family, the idea can take some getting used to, but when there are to be nine new arrivals, it can be overwhelming. Little Frog was far from impressed. As far as he was concerned tadpoles didn't do anything "except take all of Mummy's and Daddy's time." But, as his parents explain, very soon the tadpoles will grow into little frogs and he will be the big brother little frog and have nine new playmates ... which is exactly what happens. The bold green text and the red and green unsophisticated illustrations, all on a clear white background, make this a book to stand out on the bookshelf! This is a lovely, fun story, which will be sure to help any youngster come to terms with a new sibling...or even nine!

Gill Roberts



The Otter Who Loved to Hold Hands

Written by Heide Howarth Illustrated by Daniel Howarth
QED £4.99 ISBN: 978-1781711286

Otto wants to join in with the other cubs' games but he is too scared to let go of Mum's hand to swim alone. So he stays on the edge, longing for independence but too fearful to take it. Finally, the discovery of a beautiful pearl in an oyster shell distracts him into accidentally letting go of Mum, and he discovers he *can* let go without something terrible happening. It is a simple storyline, gently unrolled, and it deals with an anxiety that sits at the heart of so many families with tiny children – the scary, momentous journey away from the protecting hand of a parent. The illustrations are vivid and appealing – you feel you could reach into the page and stroke the entire otter family as they settle down for the night, holding hands. And, before you scoff at this flight of fancy, sea otters do link paws when they sleep, and there are pictures and information about this on the web. So you can extend your storytime with some fascinating wildlife investigation.

Yvonne Coppard

Don't Call Me Sweet!

Written by Smriti Prasad-Halls Illustrated by Angela Rozelaar
Bloomsbury £6.99 ISBN: 978-1408838822

Rhyming text, brilliant illustrations and a theme to attract all little monsters. This little monster is stinky, slimy, messy and scary, but



definitely not sweet – or is he? He also claims to be very brave and not scared of anything, not even big hairy ogres! This is a great book to read aloud to young children who will love the cheeky illustrations, with messy and scribbled monsters, and enjoy the humour and predictive text.

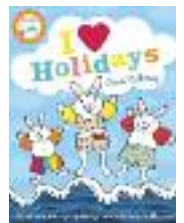
Ingrid Fox

I Love Holidays

Written and illustrated by Clara Vulliamy
HarperCollins (eB) £6.99 ISBN: 978-0007419210

Third in the *Martha and the Bunny Brothers* series, this story celebrates all aspects of a seaside holiday. Martha, a big sister rabbit, is an exuberant, positive character and the bold brightly-coloured, detailed illustrations convey this clearly. She likes stuff and the stuff is all here: bucket, spade, sunglasses, *everything*, with a shiny red suitcase to put it all in. But most of all Martha likes her family, even her little brothers, one of whom is surely going through the 'Terrible Twos'. She is an ideal big sister – a big help to her Mum and Dad – and such good fun, that some of her appealing positivity may rub off on your family. You might also want to try *I Love School* and *I Love Bedtime*.

Julia Jarman



The Mouse Who Ate the Moon

Written and illustrated by Petr Horáček
Walker £ 9.99 ISBN: 978-1406348620

Little Mouse finds a strange shaped object outside her house – it is yellow and looks like a piece of the moon. It smells wonderful so she starts to eat it. After enjoying half of it, she suddenly believes she is eating the moon and eating it means that it will never be the same shape in the sky again. Her friends try and convince her that no-one can eat the moon but she doesn't believe them – until night falls. This is a lovely story; the reader will become fully involved with Little Mouse's unhappiness even if they know that you cannot eat the moon. The illustrations are beautifully clear and unfussy and the text is well laid out with some repetition. It is a very attractive book, with an appealing heroine and a happy ending, of course!

Patricia Thompson

Mine!

Written by Jerome Keane Illustrated by Susana de Dios
Orchard Books (eB) £11.99 ISBN 978-1408331361

A bright and breezy tale of a problem familiar to most young readers – how to share. Horse and Fox are bored, until a mystery object appears from nowhere, prompting a quarrel over who gets to play with it first. Meanwhile, keen-eyed readers will spot a thief in the background, and Fox and Horse deal with disappointment as their *treasure* is taken away while they squabble. Sadness follows, until another surprise falls out of the sky, but, this time, Horse and Fox try a very different approach. A wonderful message of how sharing can be much more fun, and a subtle, but realistic, hint of how hard it is to share adds extra depth for the astute reader on the final page. Bright illustrations tell the story with simplicity and expressive eyes. A wonderful read for any youngster.

Lucy Russell

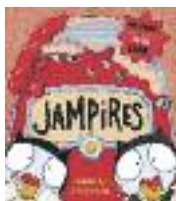


Jampires

Written by David O'Connell Illustrated by Sarah McIntyre
David Fickling £6.99 ISBN: 978-1910200124

If you have ever wondered where the jam went when your doughnut sadly lacks its red gooey middle, then this wonderfully rollicking story has the answer.

Young Sam lays a trap to discover the jam-stealing thief and is surprised when he catches some strange little characters with fangs and bright red mouths. But they are not as threatening as they look when they take him on a wonderful adventure to the land of Jampires. David O'Connell's rhyming story is delightful and full of playful ideas. Sarah McIntyre has had great fun illustrating fields of jam tarts, skyberry orchards and an ice-cream moon, using a muted palette of blues and pinks and, of course, bright splashes of red jam. The fun rhymes will soon be memorised and repeated with the detailed, quirky illustrations returned to time and time again as this book becomes a family favourite.



Louise Stothard



Doughnuts for a Dragon

Written by Adam and Charlotte Guillain
Illustrated by Lee Wildish
Egmont £6.99 ISBN: 978-1405270540

A story packed full of bright and detailed illustrations. Lee Wildish has complemented the appealing, rhyming text, which in itself is dramatic, and filled each page with wonderful images to tell the story. George builds a time machine so he can go and find a dragon, but, on the way, he meets a cheeky princess who decides she wants to be part of this adventure too, so follows at a distance. The reader is then entertained by exploring each page to see where the princess is hiding. Young children will enjoy this involvement and appreciate the tension as George gets nearer and nearer to finding the dragon.

Ingrid Fox

Where is Rusty?

Written and illustrated by Sieb Posthuma
Translated by Bill Nagelkerke
Gecko (eB) £10.99 ISBN: 978-1927271452

When Rusty and his family go shopping, his mother tries to ensure that her young puppies understand the importance of sticking together to avoid getting lost. However, Rusty soon loses concentration. He follows his nose through the department store and finds himself in front of a seriously interesting biscuit-making machine. But his mother and siblings are nowhere to be seen. Rusty then embarks on an adventure to avoid being caught by the store's fierce watchdogs. He escapes down ventilation pipes and into the basement. Eventually he hides amongst the shop displays until he is found. Home safe, but he is still dreaming of that wonderful biscuit-making machine. This is a simple, yet delightful, story that will entertain young children. They will readily identify with the daydreaming Rusty, and will have fun finding him as "Where is Rusty?" is repeated in the text while the hunt for him intensifies. The illustrations are absorbing, conveying the busy atmosphere of the store, and the confusion of the pipes, parcels and various departments that Rusty encounters. The text is easily legible, set against pale colours at the bottom of each page, and with its secure and peaceful ending this will make an ideal bedtime story.

Liz Dubber

Best Friends

Written by Mara Bergman Illustrated by Nicola Slater
Hodder £11.99 ISBN: 978-1444914191

Dexter, Daisy and Lily are three very different dogs, but they are all doing what dogs love to do – chasing their balls in the park. They are having great fun, crashing through picnics, scattering things and people in all

directions as they go. Meanwhile, William, Jack and Maddie are looking and calling for their lost pets. All three dogs and all three children come together just as the dogs splash into the stream and everybody gets soaked. The happy result of this soggy encounter is that all the dogs and all the children become best friends. Making friends is an important part of young children's lives and this animated and engaging story shows that this can happen in surprising ways. The book is full of fun and energy and is perfect for reading aloud. The rhyming text has a great rhythm and the illustrations have a retro, yet thoroughly modern, style.



Jan Lennon



Once Tashi Met a Dragon

Written by Anna & Barbara Fienberg
Illustrated by Kim Gamble
Allen & Unwin £10.99 ISBN: 978-1743361368

Kim Gamble's wonderful, wistful watercolours invite you into a softly misted China, where willow pattern bridges cross meandering rivers, to forests, waterfalls and sugar cone mountains wherein dragons and demons dwell. Little Tashi fears the dragons of his grandmother's stories, but dragons *do* bring the rain – "big, lashing, whooping, roaring rains that wash away all the dirt and dullness of the year and make the air sparkle like a million diamonds". One year, the rains don't come, causing the crops to sicken and die, and leaving the whole village at risk. Will brave, little Tashi be able to restore the rains and save the village? He is a kind, polite, curious and unflappable hero who brings fun to his tasks. A really lovable picture book for young children and anyone else who would like to ride a tiger!

Tina Massey

Is There a Dog in This Book?

Written and illustrated by Viviane Schwarz
Walker £11.99 ISBN: 978-1406345612

Two large cats, Moonpie and Andre, and a kitten called Tiny live inside this handsome flap book. But there is a problem! They are sure there is a dog in the book as well because someone has drunk all their milk and chewed Tiny's toy. They hate scary dogs, as they are snappy and yappy, smelly and noisy, and so they must find somewhere to hide. But Tiny begins to wonder if dogs are really so bad after all, and the story takes a happy turn. The stylish, quirky illustrations make this book excellent for sharing with older children, and its thought provoking story will stay with them long after the last flap has been opened.

Marianne Adey

Nanny Fox and the Three Little Pigs



Written by Georgie Adams Illustrated by Selina Young
Orion (R) (eB) £9.99 ISBN: 978-1444012118

Nanny Fox is the only fox that Mrs Buff Orpington can trust to help her with her six chicks. It's Christmas Eve and Nanny Fox is helping the chicks to wrap Christmas presents for the other farmyard animals. After delivering the gifts, they all play a game of Big Bad Wolf. When other foxes come along in the night to steal a chicken for their Christmas dinner, Nanny Fox comes to the rescue in a wolf mask. Children will love and learn from the sentiments in this story – being yourself, defying convention, and standing up to bullies, for Nanny Fox's real name is Arnold! The story is told with well chosen and economic vocabulary, and is entirely positive and uplifting. The design works well, with speech text standing out to emphasise the tone of the dialogue, and with big bold illustrations, full of character, colour and humour, to reflect and enliven the story, working alongside the text brilliantly. Great for sharing.

Liz Dubber