

This Orq

Written by David Elliott Illustrated by Lori Nichols
Troika £6.99 ISBN: 978-1909991200

Orq is a cheerful, fun-loving cave boy whose very best friend is, Woma, his woolly mammoth. In appealing, amusing illustrations we come to see why Orq's mum is not so keen on having a mammoth in the cave. Loving or not, he's growing massively, sheds heaps of woolly hair, smells monstrous and is definitely *not* house trained, plopping steamy monster droppings everywhere. Orq tries so hard to teach Woma to do tricks to please his mum, all of which end in lumbering disasters. He wrecks Mum's garden, knocks her over and grabs her up in his trunk rather than the stick he was meant to fetch! Banished from the cave, all seems lost until Orq is in mortal danger from a very suave tiger. Can Woma save the day? A lovely, cheerful tale of loyalty and friendship, told in simple cave-speak, in the shortest of sentences with pictures to reinforce meaning and enhance humour.

Tina Massey

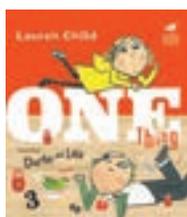
The Burp That Saved the World

Written by Mark Griffiths Illustrated by Maxine Lee-Mackie
Simon & Schuster £6.99 ISBN: 978-1471124792

Aliens have invaded earth and are stealing toys. The army is helpless and the only people who can save the world are the Mustard twins, with their particular, highly developed skill – the clue is in the title. The illustrations are bright, and very funny. The text is lively and rhyming. This is a brilliant book, and will be so appealing to children of all ages. Homes and classrooms could become very noisy places after children have read this book! What a wonderful excuse to burp at any time and in any place. Wonderful, really good fun.



Patricia Thompson



One Thing

Written and illustrated by Lauren Child
Orchard £11.99 ISBN: 978-1408339008

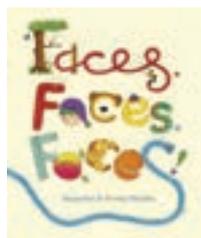
Mum tells Charlie and Lola that they are allowed to choose one thing at the shops and that they will be leaving in ten minutes. But life is never so simple. First Lola needs to count the dots on her dress and then there are the ladybirds, twenty-seventeen of them. The question is, how many shoes do they need? Vivid images and text make this eye-catching picture book a sure winner with young readers, especially those who are beginning to enjoy the challenge of numbers. The book also explores the big brother/little sister dynamic with great charm.

Marianne Adey

Faces, Faces, Faces

Written by Jeremy Sinclair
Illustrated by Jacqueline Sinclair
Doubleday £12.99 ISBN: 978-0857534668

A lovely opportunity to book share. Hundreds of faces are blended into the illustrations, thus stimulating concentration, scrutiny, counting and language skills. How many faces are there? Where? How many eyes etc.? And there is the lesson of respect, the naming of objects and the discussion about their appropriate usage. "You see, balls love to be kicked...but teddies hate it." Invaluable at home and



in the primary school, this book will help to embed vocabulary, develop language and understanding as well as encourage interactive book sharing.

Gill Roberts

Jacqueline: The Singing Crow

Written by Mandi Kujawa Illustrated by Claude St. Aubin
Renegade Arts Entertainment £10.99 ISBN: 978-0992150877



Jacqueline, the crow, is dismayed when she hears humans saying that crows are disgusting and boring. She decides to go as far away from people as possible, flying south from Canada until she reaches the Amazonian jungle. She feels out of place there, but she is too exhausted to go further. When two bird-watchers spot her, they are amazed to find a crow in the jungle, and admire her glossy plumage and her smart intelligence. Jacqueline is delighted and proudly flies back to her family in Canada. This is a colourful, engaging picture book, celebrating a bird which is often dismissed as dull in real life. The cartoon-style illustrations are bright, clear, and very expressive. There is enough detail to support discussion of the different environments: northern forests, cities, hot and humid jungle, and the creatures living in them. The text is broken up into short sections, with some words in speech bubbles for variety and impact.

Liz Dubber

The Moon Dragons

Written by Dyan Sheldon Illustrated by Gary Blythe
Andersen £6.99 ISBN: 978-1783441716

Stunning illustrations wonderfully complement a timelessly magical tale of greed and purity. Once the greedy king is told that moon dragons still exist he has to have one! When his servants fail to capture one his obsession escalates and he pledges a room full of gold to whoever can find one. But moon dragons are only visible to the purest of heart and Alina knows better than to compromise their future. Some ten-year-olds, ready to question the existence of dragons, were left quietened and wondering. A simply beautiful and very memorable book.



Gill Roberts



Interstellar Cinderella

Written by Deborah Underwood Illustrated by Meg Hunt
Chronicle £10.99 ISBN: 978-1452125329

Based on the traditional tale, this is a quirky retelling for the modern age. Reversing the passivity of the original heroine, the fairy god-robot transforms Cinderella into a pro-active heroine with a tool box. When she mends the prince's spaceship he invites her to the gravity-free ball. Of course, she goes, leaving her socket wrench behind when the clock strikes midnight. Told in witty rhyme, the story moves along at a rollicking pace. There's also a touch of Manga about the bold, sophisticated illustrations as the palette is quite dark.

Julia Jarman

Super Happy Magic Forest

Written and illustrated by Matty Long OUP £11.99 ISBN: 978-0192742957

Five eager heroes are on a quest to find the Mystical Crystals of Life which have gone missing, leaving them in danger of losing their home. The main