



Shark in the Park on a Windy Day!

Written and illustrated by Nick Sharratt
Corgi £6.99 ISBN: 978-0552573108

This delightful storybook will be enjoyed by all young devotees of Nick Sharratt's previous shark books. It is a very windy day and so Timothy Pope and his dad decide to fly their kite in the park. But Timothy, looking through his telescope, thinks he can spot a shark in the park. The illustrations are bold, the rhyming text is repetitive and the story is very amusing. Another certain success from an award-winning author/illustrator. Young children will enjoy joining in with the refrain "shark in the park" and guessing the outcome.

Ingrid Fox

Alfie in the Bath

Written and Illustrated by Debi Gliori
Bloomsbury £6.99
ISBN: 978-1408853528

Alfie Rabbit is splashing around in the bath. His real world becomes his imaginary world as the reader unfolds the gatefold spread. Suddenly, Alfie is on an amazing deep sea adventure as a little pink crab waving his claws, a whale spouting water high into the air and a deep sea monster waving his tentacles. But, he has to make sure he gets back in time to help Daddy mop up the bathroom. Delightful pastel hued illustrations add to the fun of the stories and combine with the text to create a book that encourages the imagination of young children to run riot. This is Debi Gliori's second book about Alfie – the first in the series *Alfie in the Garden* was shortlisted for Best Picture Book of the Year, the Junior Design Awards and awarded Silver in the Prima Baby Awards.

Annie Everall



Patch's Grand Dog Show

Written and illustrated by Sally Muir and Joanna Osborne
Pavilion £9.99 ISBN: 978-1843652984

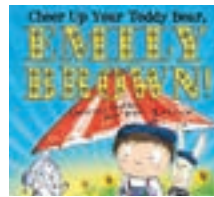
Complete with knitting patterns to re-create the illustrated doggy characters, this is truly a heart-warming book about a mongrel who just longs to feel special. Unlike Dash, the Dachshund, Yvonne, the Yorkie, Jack, the Jack Russell, Gus, the Golden Retriever, Pearl, the Poodle, Dorothy, the Dalmatian, Wags, the Westie or Alice, the Afghan, Patch is "an odd looking dog who lives all on his own" and all the other dogs make fun of him when he turns up at the local dog show. This book teaches courage, determination, humility and sensitivity and Patch's own special qualities do not go unnoticed. A work of art in more ways than one! Children will love it and talk much about different dog breeds as well as behaviour and belonging.

Gill Roberts

Cheer up Your Teddy Bear, Emily Brown!

Written by Cressida Cowell Illustrated by Neal Layton
Hodder £6.99 ISBN: 978-1444923421

This reprint from the delightful 'Emily Brown' picture book series is bright and breezy, warming and witty, from the very start. When Emily, and her



rabbit called Stanley, finds a sad lonely bear, sitting under its own raincloud, they decide he needs cheering up. Thus follows journeys across the outback in Australia, through wild woods and into French sunflower fields, until Emily and Stanley eventually find a way to cheer up the sad, lonely bear. This talented author is able

to bring Emily to life with a few well-chosen words revealing a character who will appeal to adults and children alike. The delightfully childlike mixed media illustrations spread across the pages and Emily's concern for the lonely teddy is apparent in her face. This gifted author/illustrator partnership has produced a fantastic picture book for children to enjoy.

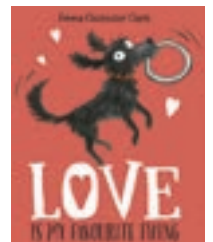
Lucy Russell

Love Is My Favourite Thing

Written and illustrated by Emma Chichester Clark
Jonathan Cape £11.99 ISBN: 978-0857551214

Plummie, the dog, loves so much: treats, sticks, weather, neighbours, the park, grass, trees...as well as water, tug of war and ice cream to disastrous effect. Above all, of course, she loves to be loved and has to learn the hard way which antics make her less lovable. This is a hugely endearing story of the exuberant spontaneity of a family puppy with much to learn and a huge personality. The first person voice maximises reader empathy and a disgraced Plummie sitting alone and wide-eyed in her basket, when her whole world is literally and metaphorically 'black', will challenge the hardest of hearts! Highly entertaining, brilliantly illustrated and a real reminder of being reprimanded.

Gill Roberts



Zippo the Super Hippo

Written by Kes Gray Illustrated by Nikki Dyson
Macmillan £5.99 ISBN: 978-1447279914

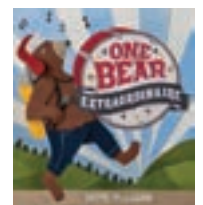
Zippo the Hippo longs to be super and to have a superpower like his friend Roxi who can fly because she's a bird. But hippos don't have superpowers, just big bottoms. Roxi helps Zippo discover that hippos' big bottoms have superpowers all of their own. Full of life and humour, this is a great story that children will love. Text and illustrations work really well together and in a number of instances, the illustrations really enhance the story because they provide additional visual clues not reflected in the text. A lovely underpinning message for children – that everyone has some quality that makes them a super hero.

Annie Everall

One Bear Extraordinaire

Written and illustrated by Jayme McGowan
Abrams £10.99 ISBN: 978-1419716546

Bear is a one-man band wandering through the wilderness playing his music. One day the music just doesn't sound right and he decides to find out what is missing. He meets various other musically gifted animals and gradually the one-man band becomes a travelling quartet. Then, the wolf cub wants to join them, but what instrument can he play? This is Jayme McGowan's first book and it is beautiful. The colourful, whole page illustrations are created from paper cuts, which are assembled and then photographed. The results have an intriguing 3D effect and are utterly captivating. The simple story shows that music, like



many things in life, is better when shared with friends and that everyone has something to contribute, even though, in some cases, it might take a while to work out what that something might be.

Jan Lennon



Rosie's Special Present

Written by Myfanwy Millard Illustrated by Gwen Millard
Jonathan Cape £6.99 ISBN: 978-1780080376

It's Rosie's birthday and waiting on the sofa is her most special present. But unlike most presents, this present is very worried. What will its new owner be like? What will her new home be like? Will the present be exciting enough for the birthday girl? This funny story of a kitten about to meet its new owner touches on the anxiety many children feel before new encounters and on special occasions – and deals with it in a sensitive but light-hearted manner. The bright, busy pictures are full of action and comedy and a sense of anticipation builds nicely throughout the book before culminating in a reassuringly happy ending.

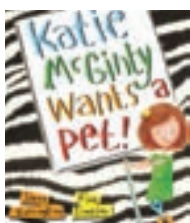
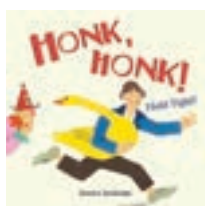
Megan Stanfield

Honk, Honk! Hold Tight!

Written and illustrated by Jessica Souhami
Frances Lincoln £11.99 ISBN: 978-1847805409

The king is desperate for someone to make his daughter laugh. Along comes Peter with a golden goose, given to him by an old woman as a reward for his generosity. There's a catch of course – everyone who touches the goose is joined to it. It's an old tale told in lively straight forward sentences and given a modern look with illustrations surely inspired by Matisse cut-outs. They are simple, bold and cheerful like our hero. Before long the princess is laughing and even proposing to our hero. A clever feminist twist to an old tale.

Julia Jarman



Katie McGinty Wants a Pet

Written by Jenna Harrington Illustrated by Finn Sampson
Little Tiger £6.99 ISBN: 978-1848691407

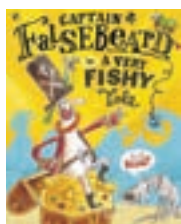
Katie McGinty desperately wants a pet but her dad tells her she has to wait until she is 'a big girl'. Everyday she measures herself until she is finally big enough. She then drags her dad off to the pet shop. Her dad tries to guess what pet she is going to choose and is completely thrown, when she declares she has chosen a zebra. He desperately tries to convince her that a zebra as a family pet is not a good idea and thinks he has won the argument when he insists that she just cannot have one and Katie agrees. But, believe it or not, he then discovers that the pet shop has a buy-one-get-one-free offer on zebras. The illustrations are full of life and humour and complement the text well. The book offers lots of opportunities for discussion with children. This really funny story is destined to become a firm favourite in classrooms, libraries and homes.

Annie Everall

Captain Falsebeard: A Very Fishy Tale

Written and illustrated by Fred Blunt
Puffin £6.99 ISBN: 978-0723292135

Captain Falsebeard and Admiral Swinetoos are bitter enemies. When Captain Falsebeard finds the legendary Crossbones Treasure, Admiral Swinetoos must have it for himself. Then follows a cunning plan involving a mermaid, a disguise, a party, and a very messy cunning counter-plan involving parrots, which will delight young readers with its disgusting outcome. Pirates are always popular and this book will be no exception. Funny throughout and



with plenty of slapstick and interest in the text and pictures, young readers will enjoy sharing the tale of the pirate enemies and their ridiculous plans. Pages are full of colour and Fred Blunt's childlike sketchy illustrations are full of movement and expression. Text is imaginatively presented in a variety of ways, including speech bubbles, and changes in size and font mean the text and pictures are as one.

Lucy Russell

Land Shark

Written by Beth Ferry Illustrated by Ben Mantle
Chronicle £10.99 ISBN: 978-1452124582

As Bobby's birthday approaches he drops enormous hints that he wants a pet as a present. However, he forgets to mention that the pet he is hoping for is a shark – not a puppy. He is, therefore, very disappointed when his new pet arrives. The puppy is cuddly and cute but sharks are definitely not cuddly or cute and Bobby thinks that shark-lovers can never become dog-lovers. He is surprised and very pleased when, after a while, the puppy seems to develop some remarkably shark-like characteristics. This highly entertaining book is a fun and affectionate look at family life, with all members of the family being enchanted and then exasperated by the antics of the small dog. The illustrations are full of wonderful details like Bobby's shark-fin hairstyle and his marine themed bedroom. The language has repetition and a great rhythm, making this an excellent book for sharing with small book lovers.

Jan Lennon



Mr Hare's Big Secret

Written and illustrated by Hannah Dale
Words and Pictures £11.99 ISBN: 978-1910277119

A very hungry hare thinks up a very clever plan to get some of his favourite food. He needs the help of the other animals, but doesn't tell them what his plan is. Instead, he tricks them into helping him by telling them that he has a secret and if they want to know what his secret is, they must dance with him first. The animals are very curious indeed and want to find out his secret, so they do just what he asks. The minimal, often repetitive, text is almost poetic and flows wonderfully. The illustrations are so vividly drawn, very detailed and very beautiful. The reader will love trying to guess the secret – although the clues are all there! This delightful book, about curiosity, has a very satisfying conclusion.

Patricia Thompson

We're in the wrong book!

Written and illustrated by Richard Byrne
OUP £11.99 ISBN: 978-0192743176

We first met Ben and Bella, together with Bella's dog, in *This book just ate my dog!* Here they are again in another hilarious story from the same very talented author/illustrator. Ben and Bella are playing on the street when Bella's dog joins in and bumps them off the page and into another book. Lost, they experience many exciting adventures whilst they travel through numerous different books anxiously searching for their own – a counting book, a comic book, a history book on Egyptology, a puzzle book, an electronic fairy-tale book, a craft book, a sticker book, a spot-the-difference book and a scary book. Will they ever manage to get back to their own picture book? The differing formats on every page, the bold, clear block text, the colourful, eye-catching illustrations and the comical quirkiness of the plot will make this title a definite favourite to be returned to again and again.

Sinead Kromer

