

Be Careful, Barney!

Written and illustrated by Lucy Barnard
QED £10.99 ISBN: 978-1784932435

Barney, the fox, is an adventurous daredevil who never has time to heed his mother's warnings about safety, being much too excited exploring his surroundings. However, this frequently gets him into hot water and, when he falls into the river, some very dangerous cold water too. Beautifully bold pictures complement a story that promotes playing safely and taking care. The text has enough variation in size and style to be engaging but not a distraction. A cleverly thought-out narrative makes this moral story accessible without being preachy and the accompanying illustrations contain both warmth and humour. A simple page of questions at the end of the book will help carers instigate conversations following the story and is a clever supplement to the narrative, helping any child make real-life links to what they have just read.

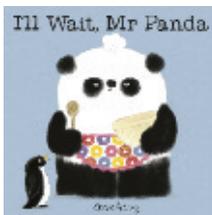
Rebecca Watts

The Very Cold, Freezing, No-Number Day

Written by Ashley N. Sorenson
Illustrated by David Miles
Familius £10.99 ISBN: 978-1942934349

The numbers have been left out in the cold and are freezing and if they are not warmed up time will stop. This quirky, engrossing picture book encourages reader interaction as numbers 1, 2, 3, and 4 are slowly disappearing into blocks of cold blue-green ice. If the reader doesn't work quickly there will be no numbers for birthdays or clocks. The deep blues, purples and white of the initial pages feel cold to the touch but as little fingers are encouraged to trace the shapes and count out loud, the numbers warm up and the rich colours change to greens, yellows and stripes of orange and reds. This unusual book is a fun way to encourage counting and observation and to learn colours, patterns and seasons too.

Louise Stothard



I'll Wait Mr Panda

Written and illustrated by Steve Antony
Hodder £11.99 ISBN: 978-1444916669

As a follow up to his first book featuring Mr Panda and his baking skills, this boldly illustrated story will delight Steve Antony fans. Placed on pages in a range of strategic positions

and dressed in an apron patterned with multi-coloured doughnut shapes, Mr Panda cuts a commanding figure as he adds ingredients to his mixing bowl. Despite their curiosity, none of the animals who make enquiries about what he is making has the patience to "Wait and see. It's a surprise.", apart from the small penguin, the speaker of the title, who increasingly makes his presence felt in amusing ways at each turn of the page. Eventually, his admirable forbearance is rewarded when he takes ownership of a huge circular cookie, highly decorated and looking well worth the wait. This will be a winner of a read, not only for parent and child, but also for Early Years' teachers who can usefully follow up the book's gentle lessons about patience and good manners.

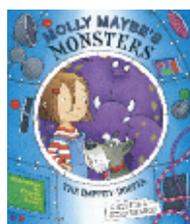
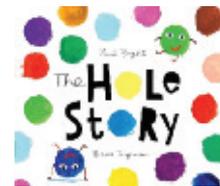
Catriona Nicholson

The Hole Story

Written by Paul Bright
Illustrated by Bruce Ingman
Andersen £11.99 ISBN 978-1783441938

Poor Hamish and Hermione, the two holes, have a bit of a problem. The chunk of Swiss cheese that they live in has been eaten by some mice and they are homeless so they set off around the palace to find a new place to live. They try the king's sock, the queen's knickers, the princess's bike and the prince's boat, but all to no avail. Everyone seems upset that their things have holes in them. Tired out, the two holes rest somewhere dark and quiet for the night. When the royal carpenter picks up a piece of wood in the morning, he is cross that the holes are there until he realises that he has the perfect use for that holey piece of wood. This very original story, builds on children's imagination and creativity through the playful text and the bright, expressive illustrations. Reading the story will certainly spark some inventive ideas of where the holes could be useful.

Nicole Jordan



Molly Maybe's Monsters: The Dappity-Doofer

Written and illustrated by Kristina Stephenson
Simon & Schuster £6.99 ISBN: 978-1471121074

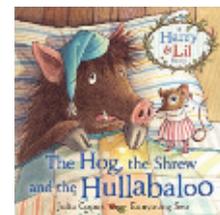
Molly Maybe has an amazing secret. She can travel through a door in the floor of her tree house in her 'mundervator' to the underground world of monsters - Undermunder. In this exciting adventure, Molly and her canine sidekick, Waggy Burns, help the Dappity-Doofer return the Mydol Idol to the Town Square. A delightfully humorous and well-written book, this is such fun to read! The brightly-coloured, lively, comical illustrations are fabulous and really form part of the story as you turn the book this way and that to follow the text on the very busy pages. There is plenty of new and interesting vocabulary to discuss and enjoy and the story has a very satisfying plot. Great for home or school, shared or independent, this will be a real hit whenever and wherever it's read. Wonderful. And if you enjoyed this adventure, watch out for *Molly Maybe and the Ghost Train*, when Molly sorts out another crisis in Undermunder.

Sue Wilsher

The Hog, the Shrew and the Hullabaloo

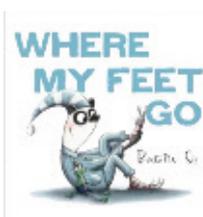
Written by Julia Copus Illustrated by Eunyong Seo
Faber & Faber £12.99 ISBN: 978-0571316960

As Harry the Hog settles down to sleep his dreams are rudely disturbed by a mysterious and frightening noise. So, he gives his much braver friend, Candy Stripe Lil, the tiny shrew, a call and she pops over to see what all the fuss is about. As Lil uncovers the noisy wild animal creating the rumpus outside and begins to get Harry ready for bed once more, he is again disturbed by a scary noise, positive that, this time, a monster is definitely outside. Will Harry and Lil ever get a good night's sleep or will they discover the monster that Harry so fears? Written in endearing rhyming couplets and accompanied by absolutely gorgeous, full-page illustrations, Harry and Lil's tale is a perfect story for bedtime, particularly for children who might be having trouble getting to sleep. The story is one of reassurance - there are in fact no



monsters and everything is well. As Harry and Lil finally get some sleep, the story ends on a funny note that will help to soothe an unsettled child and send them off to sleep. An enjoyable read with plenty of illustrative detail that will reward multiple readings.

Rebecca Watts



Where My Feet Go

Written and illustrated by Birgitta Sif Andersen £6.99 ISBN: 978-1783443635

Little Panda is always ready for adventures. But where do his feet go? They look like they walk a normal walk down a normal street or do normal things in his house. But, in the

world of his imagination, they can go anywhere - they can walk through jungles, across creaking bridges, splash in the sea, shuffle through the desert, go underwater exploring and fly to the moon. A wonderfully entertaining picture book designed to fire up the imagination of a young child. Great for reading aloud and with plenty of potential for discussion around where a child's feet might take them.

Annie Everall

The Jar of Happiness

Written and illustrated by Alisa Burrows
Child's Play £5.99 ISBN: 978-1846437281

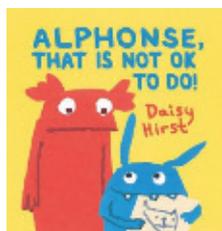
Meg believes that there is just one recipe for happiness. So, she collects all the ingredients and keeps them together in a jar. She keeps them safely in a jar so she can reach for it whenever she wants, and share it with friends and family. However, when the jar goes missing, Meg is very distressed, as she searches high and low for her jar. Will she now be unhappy forever? Without expecting to, she finds new forms of happiness, through the very friends and family with whom she had shared her own happiness before. Charming, and often sensitive, illustrations accompany this gentle tale of uncovering different strategies for when we are feeling low. For children who worry a lot about cheering up others, the book offers a reassuring message that when they feel low they too can turn to others for help.



Benjamin Scott

Alphonse, That is Not OK to Do!

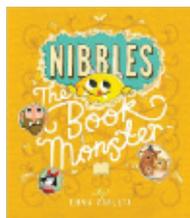
Written and illustrated by Daisy Hirst
Walker £11.99 ISBN: 978-1406354317



Once upon a time, Natalie was an only child, but then her brother, Alphonse, came along. For the most part, the two get along well, enjoying the same games and pastimes, but on a day when nothing seems to be going quite right, Natalie discovers Alphonse eating her favourite book – and that is not OK at all. Natalie imagines bad things happening to Alphonse and refuses to

let him make it up to her, but underneath it all she is a loving big sister and she starts worrying that maybe something bad really has happened to him. Daisy Hirst shows the joys and frustrations of having a younger sibling, and how, despite everything, problems can work out alright in the end. It is notable that the children work all this out for themselves, for Mum is very much in the background. The drawings are bold and uncluttered, in primary colours, and Natalie and Alphonse's drawings are believable. The handwritten text is also very bold and clear. A heart-warming, tender story which will stand up to much re-reading.

Annalise Taylor



Nibbles: The Book Monster

Written and illustrated by Emma Yarlett
Little Tiger £11.99 ISBN 978-1848691933

Nibbles, the book monster is causing havoc in his own book. And, he has also nibbled and munched his way into some very famous fairy tale stories, making a mess of their endings. He breaks Baby

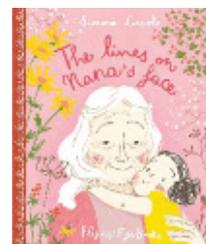
Bear's chair, and eats all the porridge - this time Goldilocks will not get the blame. He nibbles Little Red Riding Hood's basket and ruins the story, turning the wolf into a chicken. Finally, he bites the bottom of the giant who lives at the top of the beanstalk, but, the golden goose flies him out of the story in time for Nibbles to be put back in his own book before he eats himself out again. This is the perfect picture book, with fairy tales, lift the flaps, nibbled and chomped page cut-outs and so much more. It's imaginative, fun and creative with robust production which should withstand numerous children's hands poring over its pages again and again. A must-have for every primary school library and classroom.

Nicole Jordan

The Lines on Nana's Face

Written and illustrated by Simona Ciralo
Flying Eye £11.99 ISBN: 978-1909263987

A little girl is spending time with her Nana and notices all the lines and wrinkles on her face. She asks her Nana if she minds having these. Her Nana tells her that she doesn't because in each line she keeps a memory of days in her childhood - picnics at the beach, meeting her grandpa, making the best present ever for her sister and the sadness of goodbyes. The child then asks if she has a line for the first time her Nana saw her and discovers that this is the best wrinkle of all for her Nana – it is the smile lines around her Nana's mouth. It is a beautiful, gentle and heart-warming story about love, life and family relationships. The illustrations and text work perfectly together adding to the warmth of the story. Each memory unfolds into a glorious double-page spread illustrating the incident that created the memory. This is a picture book that you will keep returning to, just to look at it again, and every time you re-read it, you will discover something more. It is a book that deserves to be shared widely, that will become a family favourite.



Annie Everall



There's a Tiger in the Garden

Written and illustrated by Lizzy Stewart
Frances Lincoln £11.99 ISBN: 978-1847808066

With typical child-like directness, Nora announces to Grandma that she is bored, and so begins an experience both wonderful and extraordinary. Grandma tells Nora that there is a tiger in the garden. Nora does not believe her, thinking she is too old and grown-up for silly games, but has to go out exploring just to make sure. This is a delightful picture book experience which prompts further exploration of the garden, or is it a jungle, and succeeds in developing Nora's imagination and sense of wonder, as well as our own. It just shows us that magic is all around, if we only look hard enough, and that a grandparent's understanding and resourcefulness are second to none. Both Lizzy Stewart's text and complementary illustration are sensitive and lovely.

Gill Roberts