

Sharing pictures, sharing words



Superhero Mum

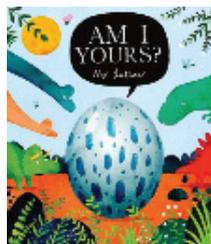
Written by Timothy Knapman
Illustrated by Joe Berger
Nosy Crow £6.99
ISBN: 978-1788001441

With bright, bold, comic book style illustrations, this 'supermum' bursts off the pages. Whether she is making pancakes, running for the bus or finding the lost teddy bear at bedtime, this mum is definitely a superhero in her daughter's eyes – daily acts of mothering become heroic and a cause for celebration. An encouraging reminder for mums to remember that they are all superheroes in their children's eyes! The bouncy rhyming text skips through the pages, with a big hug ending. A joyful story for mums and daughters to share together anytime, but remember, there is *Superhero Dad* in the same series.

Lucy Russell

Am I Yours?

Written and illustrated by Alex Latimer
OUP £6.99
ISBN: 978-0192759467

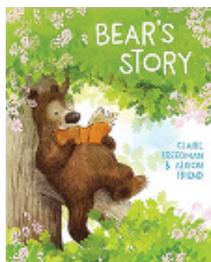


When a parentless egg is blown out of its nest by an icy wind, it soon wonders where its mum and dad are. So begins the egg's journey, questioning lots of different dinosaurs on its way to returning home. A bright, colourful dinosaur book with a lovely rhyme scheme. The attention to detail throughout the book, including the endpapers, makes *Am I Yours?* a beautifully thought-out book with a cute, gentle plot. As always, Alex Latimer's illustrations really bring the story to life, highlighting themes of family and belonging.

Becca Watts

Bear's Story

Written by Claire Freedman
Illustrated by Alison Friend
Templar £6.99
ISBN: 978-1783706440



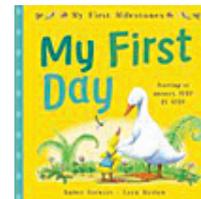
Bear loves reading his storybook but it becomes so worn that the pages come loose and fly away, leaving him nothing to read. So, he sits down to write a story himself. Unable to think of an idea, he goes out for inspiration, for a back-scratch, a swim, and to climb a tree. Nothing works but he meets and helps some of his forest friends. Later back home he remembers them and creates a simple adventure story. An extra leaf unfolds to present

Bear's story which he reads to his friends. They love it, especially the bits where they feature, and decide to go off together and have some more adventures so that Bear can write more stories for them all. Soft watercolour pictures bring this book to life by illustrating each aspect of the story faithfully. There is variety in the page design, with some full-page spreads and small cameos where appropriate. The font is traditional and quite small but always clear and readable. This would make an excellent read-aloud for young children and is just the right length and mood for a bedtime story.

Liz Dubber

My First Day

Written by Amber Stewart
Illustrated by Layn Marlow
OUP £6.99
ISBN: 978- 0192768520

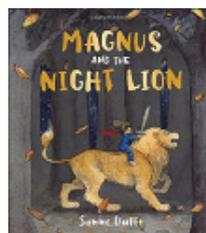


From the time that Puddle, the little duckling, was barely out of his egg, he was desperate to go to school ... until the day actually arrives, that is! Then he really isn't so sure. Still, he has to go, albeit very reluctantly. When he arrives, he finds that his mum has packed his bag with all kinds of things, that will make him feel comfortable. It works, and he can't wait to go back to school the next day. This is a perfect book to share with young children who are anxious about starting school or nursery. It also gives parents some ideas for making that first day less daunting. Part of the *My First Milestones* series, this is a beautifully illustrated book, with large, uncluttered pictures and good clear text - a lovely book that can be thoroughly recommended.

Pat Thompson

Magnus and the Night Lion

Written and illustrated by Sanne Dufft
Floris £7.99
ISBN: 978-1782505228



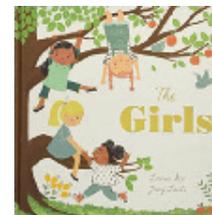
This story, of Magnus and his night fears, is absolutely charming. Magnus likes to pretend to be a knight during the daylight hours. But, at night, he has horrible dreams about the Shadowman. Mum doesn't really understand, but Grandma does and buys him his own toy lion to help him scare away his nocturnal fears.

The illustrations in this book are gorgeous and the fold-out picture in the centre alone, transforming the toy lion to Magnus' fearless ally, is worth the price of the book. Comforting and empowering, this book will be returned to over and over again, as its universal appeal will be enjoyed by children and adults alike.

Julia Wills

The Girls

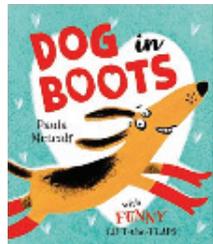
Written by Lauren Ace
Illustrated by Jenny Løvlie
Caterpillar £11.99
ISBN: 978-1848577190



Four little girls playing under an apple tree - they were best friends and each was "as different as they were the same". Lottie was the adventurer, Leela had good ideas, Sasha was the practical one and Alice was a performer who made everyone laugh. Their bonds of friendship grew stronger, they celebrated each other's success and supported each other when things went wrong. As the years passed they grew older and their lives went in different directions, but always found time and ways to celebrate and continue their friendship, knowing that whatever their future held they would always be together as friends. A truly beautiful picture book celebrating the deep and special bonds of female friendships. Jenny Løvlie's illustrations enhance Lauren Ace's warm and gentle text, visually

bringing the friendship to life. Full of emotion and love, this not only celebrates the power of friendships, it also presents a positive image of girls' achievements. This book really resonated with me - we all have friends we can recognise in this story, those who share our hopes, dreams, triumphs and struggles and this book captures it perfectly.

Annie Everall



Dog in Boots

Written and illustrated by Paula Metcalf
OUP £6.99
ISBN: 978-0192758842

What do you do if an attractive dog with a waggy tail moves in next door but you're self-conscious about your short legs? Philip, the dachshund, and his best friend, Ralf, try to come up with a series of ingenious ways to

impress the new neighbour. Lift-the-flaps add extra fun and humour before their plans turn to disaster. When their last plan fails, there is a surprise! Penelope isn't the tall dog that Philip thought all along, in fact, they are the perfect size for each other. Paula Metcalf serves up a charming story with colourful illustrations that bring extra vitality and laughter to this romantic tale. Bound to be a hit with very young readers, who will enjoy the interactivity of the flaps as well as the hit-and-miss plans of Philip and Ralf.

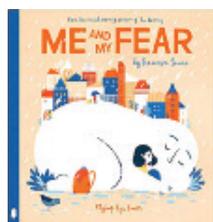
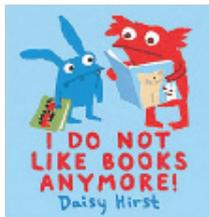
Benjamin Scott

I Do Not Like Books Any More!

Written and illustrated by Daisy Hirst
Walker £11.99
ISBN: 978-1406369137

Natalie and her brother, Alphonse, love making up stories and having stories read to them too. The simple palette of bold blocks of colour in this entertaining story show the family sharing their favourite books. Natalie is looking forward to learning to read at school, so that she will "have all the stories in the world whenever I want them". But her first reading book is a great disappointment as the letters and words look like "prickles or birds' feet" and she declares she will make up her own story with Alphonse instead. So, Dad writes down the words, they draw the pictures and soon Natalie finds she can read their story to Alphonse. As her teacher said, "It just takes practice." A heart-warming tale of the rewards of perseverance and a love of stories.

Louise Stothard



Me and My Fear

Written and illustrated by Francesca Sanna
Flying Eye £12.99
ISBN: 978-1911171539

A young girl has a tiny friend called Fear. Fear has been with her always, looking after her and keeping her safe. When she has to leave her home, move countries, start a new life and a

new school, Fear grows bigger and bigger, holding her back and not letting her do things. Fear tells her to be alone and afraid, as that way she will stay safe - it won't matter that she can't understand people nor they her and so they obviously won't like her. When a boy in her class befriends her, he teaches her that everyone has some kind of fear and that there are ways of making fear grow smaller. As with her award-winning *The Journey*, Sanna has written a clever, thoughtful story with a powerful message about overcoming your fears. The illustrations support the story well, depicting fear as a real beast-like character that can be tamed.

Annie Everall

If all the world were ...

Written by Joseph Coelho
Illustrated by Allison Colpoys
Frances Lincoln £12.99
ISBN: 978-1786030597



This is the story of a young girl and her grandfather who journey through the seasons together, exploring the beauty of the world, playing games, sharing stories, gathering memories and wishes, and recording dreams. The poetry of the text and the soft hues of blues, orange and yellow of the delicate illustrations, combine in a magical story of love, loss and friendship. This is a special book to treasure.

Louise Stothard

The Night Dragon

Written and illustrated Naomi Howarth
Lincoln £11.99
ISBN: 978-1786031037



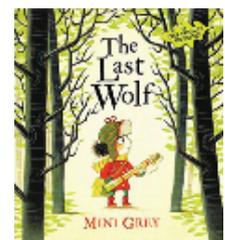
Maud, a beautiful multicoloured dragon, lives on top of a mountain with four other, very different, dragons. They are night dragons and as each day draws to a close they fly into the sky, breathing fire and covering the sun with dark clouds of soot, and so, night falls. Maud can't do any of these things and her companions think she is a bit of a wimp. Then, one day, after a party the night before, the night dragons sleep too long and the sky remains light. It is time for Maud to act, but she is afraid. Her friend the mouse offers encouragement and soon Maud is flying, filling the sky with glorious colours and creating a beautiful sunset. Naomi Howarth's watercolour illustrations steal the show here, for while the story of being yourself and finding your courage is delightful, it is the wonderful celebration of colour that makes this a book that small readers will want to revisit time and time again.

Jan Lennon

The Last Wolf

Written and illustrated by Mini Grey
Jonathan Cape £11.99
ISBN: 978-0857550927

Armed with her trusty pop-gun, Little Red sets off into the woods to catch a wolf. Her mother is not worried, "There hasn't been a wolf around here for at least a hundred years." After several false starts, Little Red finds her wolf and learns a very valuable lesson. Beautifully illustrated from start to finish, Mini Grey has



created a delightful story which is thought-provoking and humorous. It carries a very clear 'green' message about man's impact on the environment in a way which will encourage discussion and action. Little Red and her mother shown planting acorns at the end of the book will hopefully inspire readers to follow suit and have a go at planting some trees of the future. The text is rich with carefully chosen words, matched with some very poignant illustrations, which speak volumes. The tiny wood with many tree stumps surrounded by grey and black box like houses and the final pages are perfect examples of what an amazing artist and story teller Mini Grey is. Brilliant for home and school, *The Last Wolf* is absolutely wonderful.

Sue Wilsher