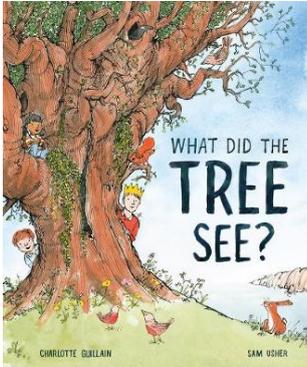


**This section includes books on rivers, mountains, volcanoes, earthquakes, the rainforests, deserts, our frozen worlds and continents including Africa and Antarctica.**



## What Did the Tree See?

**Author:** Charlotte Guillain **Format:** Hardback **Release Date:** 18/02/2021 **Year Groups:** Key Stage 1, Key Stage 2

**March 2021 Book of the Month | A Julia Eccleshare Pick of the Month February 2021** A wonderful introduction to how a modern place somewhere in the UK will have been created over the centuries, this beautiful picture book cleverly records the history of a place as it would look from the perspective of an oak tree. Oaks are famous for the exceptional number of years that they live and their permanence makes an interesting contrast to how frequently humans change the landscape. "I first was an acorn, so tiny and round,/I fell from a branch and sank into the ground./ Then as I grew up, I turned into a tree.../ over hundreds of years! So, what did I see?" Taken together, the simple rhyming text matched by beautiful and carefully detailed illustrations offer a delightful history lesson. The book ends with a useful timeline: "What was happening in the world while the oak tree grew?". It comes right up to the present with the spreading of the Covid-19 virus!

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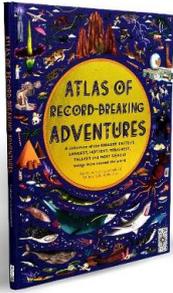


## Blue Planet II

**Author:** Leisa Stewart-Sharpe **Format:** Hardback **Release Date:** 05/11/2020 **Year Groups:** Key Stage 2

Discover all there is to love about our Blue Planet, the stories of its inhabitants, and realise how you can help protect this wilderness beneath the waves. In collaboration with BBC Earth, this illustrated non-fiction book captures the wonder, beauty, and emotion of the landmark Blue Planet II TV series. Find out more about Blue Planet II in this interview with Leisa Stewart-Sharpe and Emily Dove

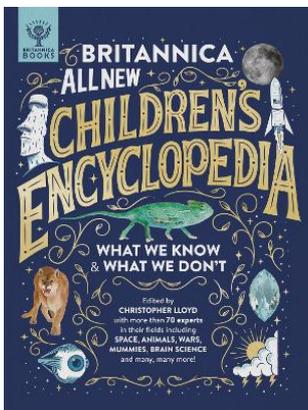
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## Atlas of Record-Breaking Adventures

**Author:** Emily Hawkins **Format:** Hardback **Release Date:** 06/10/2020  
**Year Groups:** Key Stage 2

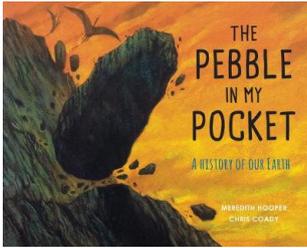
**A Julia Eccleshare Pick of the Month November 2020** Nature is full of record-breaking adventures which are brought to life in the detailed and dramatic illustrations that fill every inch of the large scale book. Global in its reach, it is a gold mine of information as it takes readers on a world tour of astonishing achievements. There's the fastest land animal - the cheetah from Botswana, the hottest place on Earth - Ethiopia, The Longest-erupting Volcano - Italy and many more. Across thirty gloriously bold spreads readers will discover wonderful and surprising facts about all kinds of aspects of the planet.



## Britannica All New Children's Encyclopedia

**Author:** Christopher Lloyd **Format:** Hardback **Release Date:** 01/10/2020  
**Year Groups:** Key Stage 2

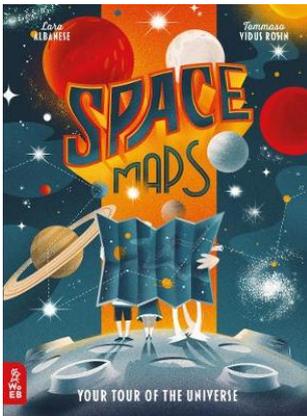
**What We Know & What We Don't** If ever there was a book to inspire curiosity and the joy of learning, it is this sparkling new edition of that old stalwart, the Encyclopedia Britannica. Thoroughly updated for the 21st century and making a welcome return to print, it has been edited by Christopher Lloyd of What On Earth Wallbooks fame and his delight in discovery and knowledge infuses every one of its 400+ pages. It is divided into eight sections covering life on earth, from the formation of the universe to the development of man through to peeks into our future, and each of these sections includes hundreds of different topics, the information carefully and thoughtfully presented through clear text panels supported by colour images, photos and diagrams. All of the information comes from named experts, who are not above confessing when they're not sure of something or acknowledging 'known unknowns', and in another clever touch, there are Q&A features with some of these at the end of each section, where they explain how their passion for their subjects began. The book is fabulous to look at and, whether you are dipping in to follow a particular thread or reading through it from beginning to end, it will answer thousands of questions while sparking thousands more, just as the very best sources of information always do. Highly recommended.



## The Pebble in My Pocket A History of Our Earth

**Author:** Meredith Hooper **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 12/09/2020 **Year Groups:** Key Stage 1, Key Stage 2

Where do pebbles come from? How were they made? This book tells the story of a pebble, from its origins in a fiery volcano 480 million years ago to a busy, modern landscape. Readers follow the processes of rock formation and erosion that create new pebbles all over the world.

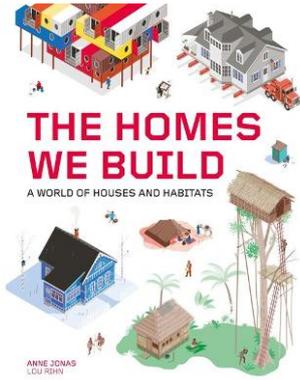


## Space Maps

**Author:** Lara Albanese **Format:** Hardback **Release Date:** 03/09/2020 **Year Groups:** Key Stage 2, Key Stage 3

**Your Tour of the Universe** Armed with the maps in this large-format, attractively illustrated book, young readers can embark on a tour of our solar system, discovering a wealth of information along the way. It opens with a series of maps of the night skies, demonstrating how their appearance differs depending on where the viewer is, and at what time. It also provides an equatorial map of the sky and illustrates the way different cultures mapped what they could see, comparing the outline created by the ancient Greeks with that drawn up by those in ancient China and the San in South Africa too. Thoroughly inspired, their interest piqued, readers can then explore the Milky Way, the sun and the planets in our solar system and even go beyond that, with the help of the Hubble Space Telescope. Some of the most fascinating and beautiful pages provide close ups of the Large Magellanic Cloud and the Crab Nebula, Tommaso Vidus Rosin's illustrations photographic in their detail but rich too with a sense of awe and wonder. It concludes with a section on humans in space, from first steps on the moon to the International Space Station. Perhaps some of the young people who will read and be inspired by this mind-expanding book will be travellers in space one day too.

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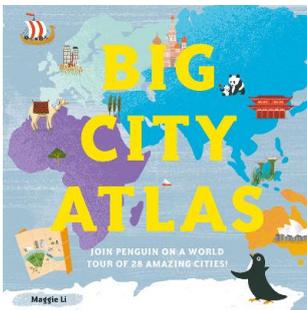


## The Homes We Build

**Author:** Anne Jonas **Format:** Hardback **Release Date:** 10/08/2020  
**Year Groups:** Key Stage 2

**A World of Houses and Habitats** Learn how humans have built dwellings to suit all kinds of habitats. Adapting themselves to all kinds of landscapes and climates, over the centuries humans have used their architectural ingeniousness to build amazing dwellings: find them here, from houses on stilts and igloos to tree houses and skyscrapers. Fully illustrated with clear, engaging artwork and intelligent, simple and original text presented in a clean, appealing design.

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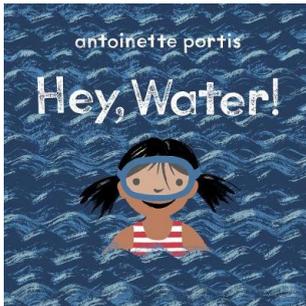


## Big City Atlas

**Author:** Maggie Li **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 11/06/2020  
**Year Groups:** Key Stage 1, Key Stage 2

A globetrotting Penguin is the young reader's tour guide as they explore the world and broadening a child's horizons has never seemed more meaningful or relevant. 28 cities are explored within these pages- each city having its own double page spread. There has been a commendable effort too, to ensure a good global spread of locations and cultures. Children will love pouring over the detail of the map and images of famous landmarks, museums and galleries and examples of food and culture which really bring the city alive and give a flavour of its history and development. The pages are colourful, but the soft tones mean that the pages do not appear too busy and the clever design and judicious use of text boxes does not overwhelm the reader. Each city has a basic fact box detailing the country, language, currency and population which makes for interesting comparisons. Young readers will also particularly enjoy the fun quizzes and games to test their knowledge and understanding. A valuable addition to classroom collections.

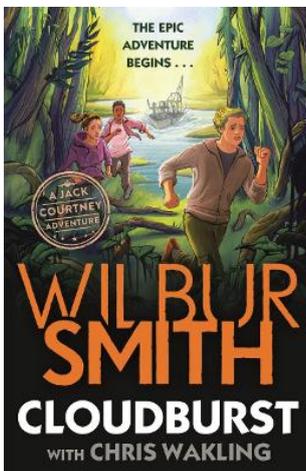
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## Hey, Water!

**Author:** Antoinette Portis **Format:** Hardback **Release Date:** 02/04/2020 **Year Groups:** Early Years, Key Stage 1

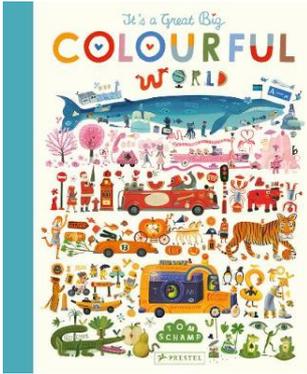
**Longlisted for the UKLA Book Awards 2021** This is a superb example of an information text, ostensibly for younger children, but with multi-age and multi-curriculum uses. It is also a thing of beauty, printed on high quality paper doing full justice to the stunning illustrations, with the author's expressive brush work, clever layout and a palette filled with watery blues and greens and the white and grey of rain, fog and snow. A little girl notices the role of water all around her—a sprinkler, a tap, a stream, a lake. She also notices that water sometimes tries to hide, or change state, and that water is part of every living thing including her. The book concludes with four pages of beautifully clear explanations of water forms (liquid, solid and gas), the water cycle and the all-important conservation of water. There are some excellent suggestions of how to play and learn about water and true or false questions to check understanding. These are very well suited to older children too, as indeed the book is, as a model of writing and the effective use of figurative language. Poetic descriptions make this an enjoyable read-aloud and the larger font labels that identify the source of the water on each page (including Zoe the narrator) are perfect for vocabulary building for the youngest child. A really well thought out and brilliantly executed early science picture book that deserves a place in every school.



## Cloudburst

**Author:** Wilbur Smith **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 19/03/2020 **Year Groups:** Key Stage 2

**A Jack Courtney Adventure : with Chris Wakling** Young readers who want to be gripped, challenged, informed and entertained – this exciting new adventure series is just what you've been waiting for. Fourteen-year-old Jack is on a safari holiday in the Democratic Republic of the Congo with his parents, the wealthy founders of a conservation charity. His friends Amelia and Xander are on the trip too – so far, so idyllic (though he could do without his arrogant cousin Caleb), but then his parents are kidnapped by mercenaries. Jack has already experienced one family tragedy, he's determined he'll prevent another. This is a taut, tightly plotted thriller which puts young people firmly in the driving seat, but there's lots about family and relationships too. Moreover, the authors will inspire a fascination about the wildlife of the region in readers, and alert them to the threats facing it. Fast-moving adventure with heart and a message. Jack is as appealing a hero as Anthony Horowitz's Alex Rider, but the books will also appeal to fans of Gill Lewis' animal adventures, Gorilla Dawn and The Scarlet Ibis. \*\*\*\*Read a Q&A with Wilbur Smith on his inspiration behind Cloudburst and the different challenges of writing fiction for children.



## It's a Great, Big Colourful World

**Author:** Tom Schamp **Format:** Hardback **Release Date:** 01/03/2020  
**Year Groups:** Key Stage 1

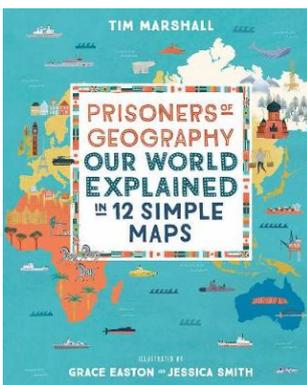
**March 2020 Book of the Month** 'Colours are great, let's celebrate!' is the message of this big, quirky and really rather gorgeous book. Otto a little cat and his friend Leon the chameleon guide us through colour themed pages – grey, black, yellow, orange, red, pink, blue, green and brown – all of which are packed with objects and characters, all in the relevant shade. You'd be hard pushed to find more eclectic collections: yellow submarines juxtaposed with cheese, emojis, pots of Tandoori and fishermen in yellow oilskins. Everywhere you look there's something unusual and surprising, as well as intriguing facts and lots of jokes too. Children will spend hours poring over the pages and still find something new, while grown ups will be fascinated too.



## Pop-Up Volcano

**Author:** Fleur Daugey, Bernard Duisit **Format:** Hardback **Release Date:** 07/11/2019 **Year Groups:** Early Years, Key Stage 1

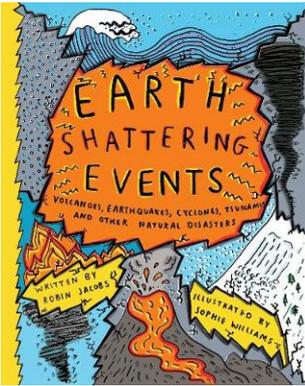
Open this book and step into the fiery world of volcanoes! Find out why they erupt, what scientists can learn from them and which animals call them home. Explore volcanoes at the bottom of the sea, gaze upon the volcanoes of Mars, and travel back in time to find out what happened to the city of Pompeii...



## Prisoners of Geography

**Author:** Tim Marshall **Format:** Hardback **Release Date:** 31/10/2019  
**Year Groups:** Key Stage 2, Key Stage 3

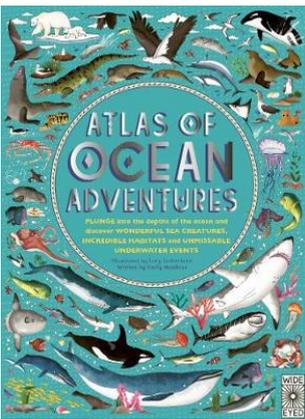
**Longlisted for the UKLA Book Awards 2021** Maps are endlessly fascinating to children but this book will really open up the world to them. In Prisoners of Geography Tim Marshall reveals how geography has affected civilisations and how countries' histories – and the lives of their people – have been shaped by the position of mountain ranges, valleys, rivers and coastlines. Take Russia for example: even as it grew bigger and more powerful over the centuries, it's always been exposed to attack from the west because of the North European Plain, and still is. In another chapter he explains why it's so important to China that it controls Tibet, and the islands in the South China Seas. By showing the ways geography, history and politics converge he makes complicated stuff – the situation in the Middle East for example – accessible and fascinating. It's a book to get readers of any age thinking and seeing things differently.



## Earthshattering Events! The Science Behind Natural Disasters

**Author:** Sophie Williams, Robin Jacobs **Format:** Hardback **Release Date:** 24/10/2019 **Year Groups:** Key Stage 2

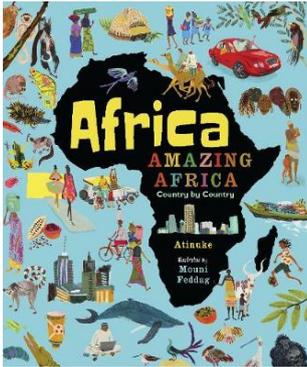
We humans take our domination of the planet for granted, but sometimes nature reminds us that this is an illusion. Tectonics rip open the earth, vast waves sweep away coastal towns, magma spews from volcanoes and hurricanes lay waste to entire countries. This book explores nature at its most destructive. Clear, coherent explanations break down the science behind phenomena including hurricanes, tornadoes, avalanches, earthquakes, tsunamis and volcanoes, alongside fascinating facts about the biggest and the worst. Informative, accessible illustrations by Sophie Williams make this so much more than your standard geography book.



## Atlas of Ocean Adventures

**Author:** Emily Hawkins **Format:** Hardback **Release Date:** 22/10/2019 **Year Groups:** Key Stage 2

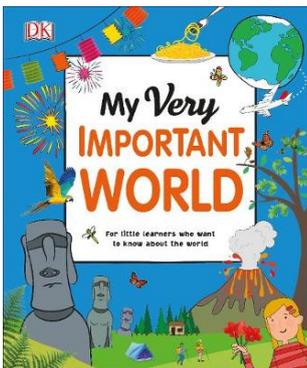
**A Collection of Natural Wonders, Marine Marvels and Undersea Antics from Across the Globe** The 5th title in the best-selling Atlas of Adventures series, that has now been translated into 31 languages, is a highly topical guided tour of marine wonders from each of the world's five oceans, taking the reader from the depths of the Marianas Trench to colourful reefs, kelp forests, tropical beaches and to seabird's rocky nesting sites. Each featured animal (and often these are often the fascinatingly less familiar examples) is given a double-page spread with a full-colour backdrop illustrating the habitat with illuminating snippets of text invitingly laid out, including useful maps that show the locations of the animals. A stand-out feature of this series is the humorous writing which instantly engages young readers and makes the books accessible to a wide age group. The beautiful illustrations include some fun oddities too- an octopus playing the violin or a penguin with a bucket and spade, and these are listed at the back for readers to search for throughout the book. A recurrent theme is the dangers of floating plastic and other pollution which comes together at the end in a spread titled "Oceans in Danger." With an excellent index this is another great example from this team of an invaluable information resource that is an entertaining and absorbing book which can be dipped in and out of and read with great pleasure. A recommended addition to any school library.



## Africa, Amazing Africa: Country by Country

**Author:** Atinuke **Format:** Hardback **Release Date:** 01/10/2019 **Year Groups:** Key Stage 2

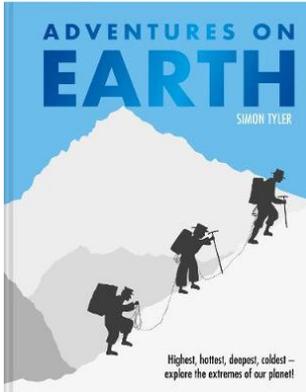
**Longlisted for the UKLA Book Awards 2021** Discover the amazing diversity of the African continent in this beautiful book, with words by Atinuke and lively illustrations from Mouni Feddag. Atinuke's first non-fiction title is a major publishing event: a celebration of all 55 countries on the African continent! Her beautifully-written text captures Africa's unique mix of the modern and the traditional, as she explores its geography, its peoples, its animals, its history, its resources and its cultural diversity. The book divides Africa into five sections: South, East, West, Central and North, each with its own introduction. This is followed by a page per country, containing a delightful mix of friendly, informative text and colourful illustrations. The richest king, the tallest sand dunes and the biggest waterfall on the planet are all here, alongside drummers, cocoa growers, inventors, balancing stones, salt lakes, high-tech cities and nomads who use GPS! This is non-fiction at its most exciting, exhilarating and energetic, illustrated with passion and commitment by a great new talent, Mouni Feddag.



## My Very Important World

**Author:** DK **Format:** Hardback **Release Date:** 03/09/2019 **Year Groups:** Key Stage 1, Key Stage 2

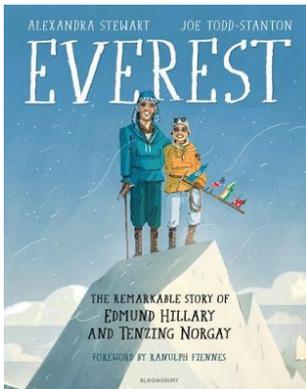
This children's encyclopedia of discovery will inspire little learners to wonder about the world around them. Our world is an amazing place. It's full of rivers, mountains, forests, and too many other amazing places to count - but that's not all. There's also families, friends, animals, music, technology, language, games, and all other things that make life wonderful.



## Adventures on Earth

**Author:** Simon Tyler **Format:** Hardback **Release Date:** 02/09/2019  
**Year Groups:** Key Stage 2, Key Stage 3

**December 2019 Book of the Month** Handsomely illustrated this information book is full of stories of adventure and exploration and takes readers to some of the wildest, most distant places on the planet, from the polar regions to the deepest underground caves. Each location is brought to life through maps and the geographical vital statistics but most vividly through the stories of the men and women who were among the first to explore them. Expect to get up close to the Matterhorn, the Arabian Desert and both poles while learning too about the threats to these beautiful places from climate change. Tyler's striking graphic illustrations make the information even more memorable and there's a useful glossary too.

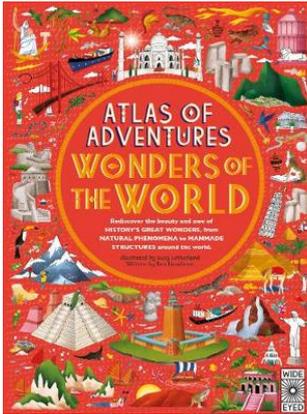


## Everest: The Remarkable Story of Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay

**Author:** Alexandra Stewart **Format:** Hardback **Release Date:** 02/05/2019  
**Year Groups:** Key Stage 2

**May 2019 Non-Fiction Book of the Month | A Julia Eccleshare Pick of the Month May 2019** Enduringly fascinating and inspiring, the story of Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay's ascent of Everest is always worth re-visiting. This strong narrative biography matched with atmospheric illustrations brings the two men to life from their childhoods in New Zealand and Nepal respectively to their amazing feat of climbing the world's highest mountain. Alexandra Stewart and Joe Todd-Stanton capture something about the personalities of the two and the reasons that they felt the need to take on this great challenge. Most successfully, in words and pictures they describe the extraordinary landscape of Everest and the surrounding mountains and in particular the enormous dangers and the unique magic of mountaineering - especially when you take on the challenge of the highest mountain in the world.



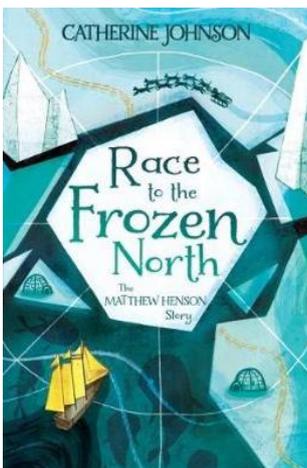


## Atlas of Adventures: Wonders of the World

**Author:** Ben Handicott **Format:** Hardback **Release Date:** 04/10/2018  
**Year Groups:** Key Stage 2

**A Julia Eccleshare Pick of the Month November 2018** Stunning, large scale illustrations capture some of the most thrilling places to visit in the world. Broad in its vision and range, this incredible Atlas includes both natural and man made places. The juxtaposition of the two is an excellent way of celebrating both. Readers can be amazed by Pantanal, the astonishing tropical Brazilian wetland with its vibrant and original wildlife. And they can be equally impressed by the Great Wall of China or Machu Picchu, two man made structures that have survived over hundreds of years. Examples of Wonders of the World are taken from all around the world making this an exceptional journey of exploration and adventure in a visual format that makes it fun to visit and re-visit looking for cleverly illustrated details on every spread.

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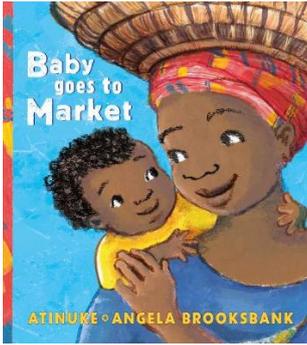


## Race to the Frozen North The Matthew Henson Story

**Author:** Catherine Johnson **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 15/09/2018  
**Year Groups:** Key Stage 2

**Shortlisted for the UKLA Book Awards 2020 | A Julia Eccleshare Pick of the Month October 2018** | Catherine Johnson celebrates a hero of Arctic discovery whose story had been forgotten for many years largely because of the colour of his skin in this exciting telling of an important true story. Matthew Henson's life at home was so hard that at eleven years old he ran away to make a new life for himself in New York. Always attracted by the sea he finds himself drawn into the world of the seafarers who are determined to find a route to the North Pole. Matt joins an expedition and, through a combination of his hard work, his commitment and some lucky breaks he travels across the frozen wastes. His sensitive building of relationships with the Inuit community plays a strong part in his success and in his ultimate and extraordinary achievement: to be the first man to reach the North Pole.

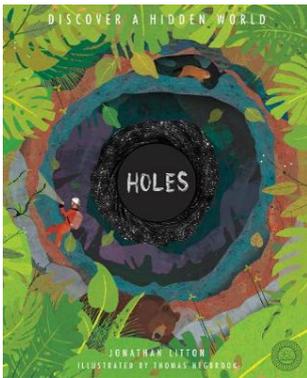
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## Baby Goes to Market

**Author:** Atinuke **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 05/07/2018 **Year Groups:** Early Years

**UKLA Longlist Book Awards - 2019** You can feel the love that the author and illustrator of *Baby Goes to Market* have for West Africa, both of whom grew up there. The vibrant market place leaps out of the page, you can almost smell the fruit for sale and hear the shouts from the market traders. Baby is snugly wrapped in a papoose on Mama's back and is enjoying the trip to the market, especially when the market traders start giving Baby presents. First bananas, then juicy oranges, then biscuits. Baby eats a little of each and adds the remainder to the shopping basket that Mama carries on her head. Mama must be very strong! After all those treats Baby has a nap and Mama gets a well-deserved taxi ride home. Each page is gloriously filled with tantalising pictures of delicious things to eat and colourful things to buy, and there's a gentle introduction to simple counting too.

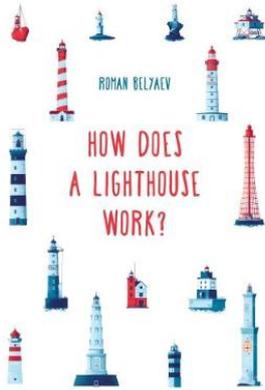


## Holes: Discover a Hidden World

**Author:** Jonathan Litton **Format:** Hardback **Release Date:** 14/06/2018 **Year Groups:** Key Stage 2

**July 2018 Book of the Month** This clearly written visually stunning book will have children jumping in to learn all about a wide variety of topics - history, nature, science, medicine, even philosophy: who'd have thought that holes could contain so much? They are a passion of the author and his enthusiasm spills onto the pages. Whether he's looking at natural holes, manmade holes, holes in humans (mouth, nose, eyes, bottom), or the ways holes have been described in maths and philosophy, the information presented is fascinating and often dramatic. The painterly illustrations match the text for depth, and are often quite beautiful to look at. Like the best non-fiction, this is full of answers but will leave readers ready to ask more questions.

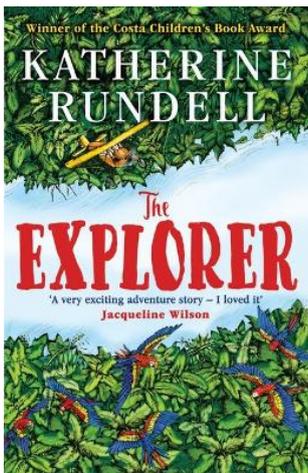
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## How Does a Lighthouse Work?

**Author:** Roman Belyaev **Format:** Hardback **Release Date:** 01/03/2018 **Year Groups:** Key Stage 2

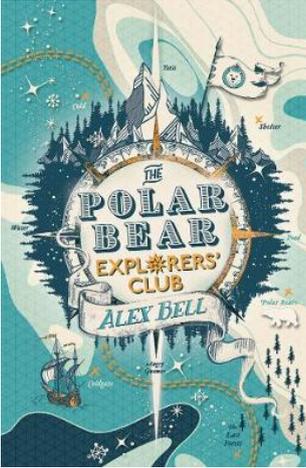
Join a group of school children on this voyage of discovery and discover the answers to lots of questions as well as fascinating facts about lighthouses and how they work. *How Does a Lighthouse Work?* provides a fascinating journey through the science and history of lighthouses around the world. Through history a lighthouse has been an important, in fact essential tool for sailors to navigate safely and this remains so today in order to protect all sailors from the dangerous coastlines and rocky outcrops out to sea that are found all over the world. Modern technology may have changed the way that lighthouses work but still their USP remains the same: to deliver a light as far as possible to forewarn sailors of potential dangers. This a terrific book to share with inquisitive children and the combination of stunning illustrations and interesting text makes this a well worthwhile read both at home and to use in the classroom.



## The Explorer

**Author:** Katherine Rundell **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 02/01/2018 **Year Groups:** Key Stage 2

**Winner of the UKLA Book Awards 2019 | Winner of The Costa Children's Book Award 2017** After crashing hundreds of miles from civilisation in the Amazon rainforest, Fred, Con, Lila and Max are utterly alone and in grave danger. They have no food, no water and no chance of being rescued. But they are alive and they have hope. As they negotiate the wild jungle they begin to find signs that someone - someone - has been there before them. Could there possibly be a way out after all?

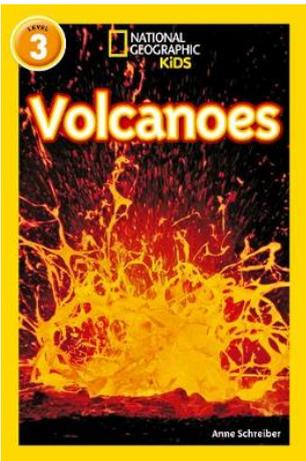


## The Polar Bear Explorers' Club

**Author:** Alex Bell **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 02/11/2017

**Year Groups:** Key Stage 2

**In a nutshell: magic, friendship, adventure** Like a crisp layer of new snow in sunshine, Alex Bell's novel sparkles with excitement and adventure. In the tradition of fairytale heroes Stella is an orphan, brought up by the explorer who discovered her abandoned as a baby. Though she looks like a snow queen with her white hair and blue eyes, Felix and his relaxed, happy upbringing have given her a warm heart, something that turns out to be very important. Stella longs to be an explorer too and, against the strict rules of the Explorers Club, Felix takes her on a trip to the Icelands; but it's when she and three other children are separated from the grown-ups that the adventure really begins. Can Stella, Shay, Beanie and awful Ethan make discoveries, and make it home? The setting is magical, the cast of characters hugely appealing and the chain of adventures that befall them thrilling. This well-written, charming and imaginative adventure story is highly recommended.

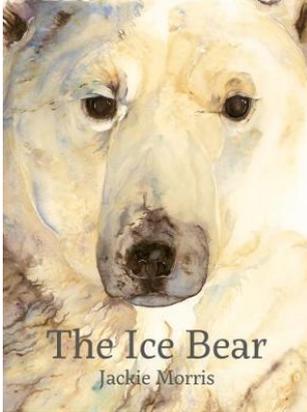


## Volcanoes

**Author:** Anna Schreiber **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:**

02/10/2017 **Year Groups:** Key Stage 1

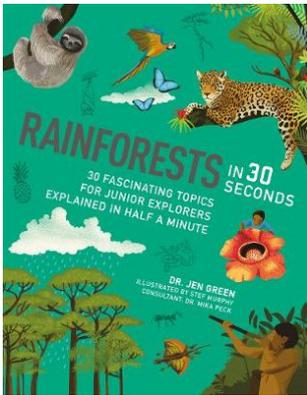
**Level 3 - National Geographic Kids Reader** Published in the UK by Collins, the National Geographic Kids Readers are a valuable resource for classroom and library collections. Beautifully designed and produced, with clear text boxes and layout, interactive features such as quizzes and benefiting, of course, from the superb photography that the parent magazine is renowned for. Each book has been carefully levelled against Book Bands and all have the key information text features such as index, contents and glossary, making them very useful for guided reading. But their main appeal is in the genuinely engaging writing and the sound research behind every title. Many children prefer to read information books about the real world and with attractive, appealing texts like these it is no wonder!



## The Ice Bear

**Author:** Jackie Morris **Format:** Hardback **Release Date:** 01/09/2017  
**Year Groups:** Key Stage 1

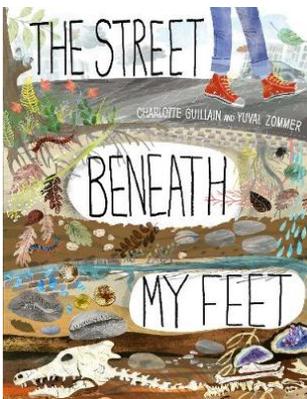
Stunning illustrations capture the warm emotions of this magical story and juxtaposes them perfectly with the winter landscape of the white bears and the hunters who live in it. When Raven steals a white bear cub and delivers him to the hunter and his family as the human baby they long for, he sets up a future conflict between man and the bears. The child loves his life with his family but, when Raven leads him back to his bear brother, he falls in love with him too. How the bears and the humans learn to live together through their mutual love of the child tells a story which gently conveys some important messages about tolerance and understanding. ~ Julia Eccleshare



## Rainforests in 30 Seconds

**Author:** Jen Green, Stephanie Murphy **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 23/08/2017 **Year Groups:** Key Stage 2

This striking, energetic series of which this is one of the titles, takes a rapid-fire 'look and learn' approach to subjects suitable for children aged 8 and over and each title makes the learning experience really fun. With fascinating topics ranging from Dinosaurs to Art, from Myths to Science, each of these books presents a key subject in a fresh and fascinating format. The subjects in each title are explained in 30-second sound-bites, supported by 3-second flash summaries. And if all that isn't stimulating enough, the 3-minute mini-missions included will further challenge lively young minds. With colourful, original explanatory artwork on every page and text from a range of expert authors, these books are loaded with fun information and fast-track facts.

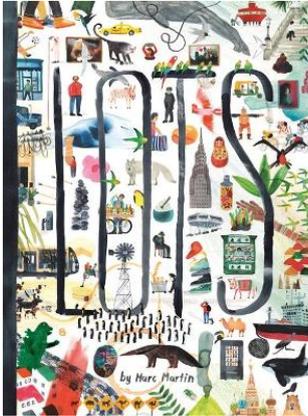


## The Street Beneath My Feet

**Author:** Charlotte Guillain **Format:** Hardback **Release Date:** 21/03/2017 **Year Groups:** Key Stage 2

**Shortlisted for the UKLA 2018 Book Award** Detailed, ingenious and graphically beautiful this information book opens, as the best do, with an invitation to young readers to stop and wonder as they're asked to think about what is going on beneath their feet. No ordinary book but a fold-out poster in book form, opening out the pages reveals a huge vertical panorama that takes us down through the different layers and right into the very core of the Earth. Friendly but information-rich text explains the features of the different layers, from the pipes and wires that support our civilisation to old bones, underground rivers, coal mines. The reverse side of the poster takes up back up through the

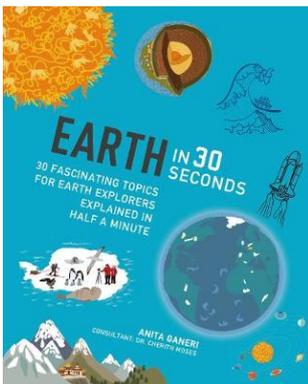
magma, then seams of minerals, limestone, fossils and finally back into the light, this time countryside rather than city street. This beautiful book will expand readers' knowledge and understanding and inspire them to think more about our planet.



## Lots

**Author:** Marc Martin **Format:** Hardback **Release Date:** 23/02/2017  
**Year Groups:** Key Stage 1, Key Stage 2

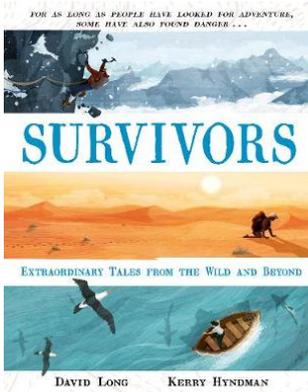
A stunning big format hardback picture book which takes you on an incredible journey around the world. The book is a gathering of beautiful illustrations, facts and observations of places right across our Earth - cities, forests, deserts and oceans. Each double page spread celebrates a different place across the globe, celebrating what makes them different, what makes it special, and with lots of new words and fascinating facts, that will enthral the most curious of children. You can't help but pore over the pictures and dive right in, noticing something different on every single read.



## Earth in 30 Seconds

**Author:** Anita Ganeri, Dr. Cherith Moses **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 03/11/2016 **Year Groups:** Key Stage 2

This striking, energetic series of which this is one of the titles, takes a rapid-fire 'look and learn' approach to subjects suitable for children aged 8 and over and each title makes the learning experience really fun. With fascinating topics ranging from Dinosaurs to Art, from Myths to Science, each of these books presents a key subject in a fresh and fascinating format. The subjects in each title are explained in 30-second sound-bites, supported by 3-second flash summaries. And if all that isn't stimulating enough, the 3-minute mini-missions included will further challenge lively young minds. With colourful, original explanatory artwork on every page and text from a range of expert authors, these books are loaded with fun information and fast-track facts.

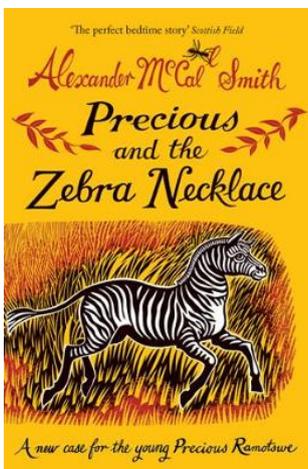


## Survivors

**Author:** David Long **Format:** Hardback **Release Date:** 20/10/2016

**Year Groups:** Key Stage 3

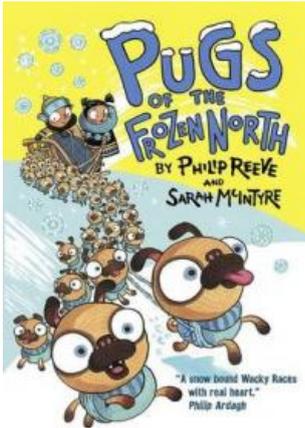
Winner of the Blue Peter Book Award 2017 - Best Books with Facts In a nutshell: jaw-dropping true stories; survival against the odds | Proof that true stories can be every bit as remarkable as the most fantastic fiction, David Long recounts twenty plus astonishing true life adventures; from different times, starring different types of people, and set in different parts of the world, they are all stories of incredible bravery, resilience and the strength of the human spirit. Those who managed to survive against the odds include Antarctic explorers, including Shackleton; people shipwrecked or stranded during the second World War; individuals caught in natural disasters; plus the remarkable girl who survived falling from a plane two miles high. Both terrifying and inspiring, the stories make compulsive reading and will leave young readers gasping. Kerry Hyndman's colour illustrations make this handsome to look at too. ~ Andrea Reece On his Blue Peter win David Long said: he was "overjoyed" not least because he too grew up watching Blue Peter. "My sons never missed an episode, and now I'm going to visit the studio and meet the team. It's fantastic news," he said.



## Precious and the Zebra Necklace

**Author:** Alexander McCall Smith **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 22/09/2016 **Year Groups:** Key Stage 2

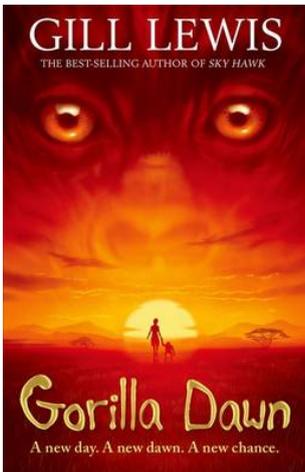
Precious Ramotswe's career as a detective began when she was just nine, long before she set up the Number 1 Ladies Detective Agency. Her early adventures are described in this lovely series for young readers. Precious really likes the new girl in her class but realises there's some mystery in her life. She's correct: Nancy has lost her mother. Precious agrees to help find her, though she knows that's a big responsibility. Following clues takes the two little girls out into the countryside and some scary adventures before Nancy is successfully reunited with her family. Imbued with the warmth and charm that characterise McCall Smith's writing this is perfectly pitched for young readers. The story is irresistible and McCall's descriptions of Botswana so vivid that readers will feel they've been there. ~ Andrea Reece One of our Books of the Year 2015



## Pugs of the Frozen North

**Author:** Philip Reeve **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 01/09/2016  
**Year Groups:** Key Stage 2

**Shortlisted for the UKLA 2017 Book Award** Award winning author partners Philip Reeve and Sarah McIntyre head north for their latest adventure. When the cabin boy is abandoned by his shipmates when their ship is stranded in the ice. He's completely alone, except for 64 little pugs, part of the ship's cargo! He soon teams up with Shika, a girl desperately seeking dogs to pull her grandpa's sled in the Race to the Top of the World, a once in a lifetime contest to win your heart's desire. The eccentric competitors mean there's something of the Wacky Races about all of this, but amongst the crazy - and very entertaining - scenes there are surprising notes of poignancy, as well as some lovely descriptions of the True Winter, fifty types of snow and all.



## Gorilla Dawn

**Author:** Gill Lewis **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 07/04/2016  
**Year Groups:** Key Stage 2

Shortlisted for the UKLA 2017 Book Award Gill Lewis writes outstanding animal stories, and Gorilla Dawn is very good indeed. The setting is the forests of the Congo, home to the great lowland gorilla but also to rebel soldiers, who hide out there after attacks on local villages. Imara is just a child, but regarded as a talisman by the Black Mambas, one of the rebel groups. Their leader believes her to be a Spirit Child with magical powers to protect his men. It's a frightening life and Imara has withdrawn into herself for protection. The arrival in camp of a baby gorilla taken to be sold into captivity breaks down her defences and she determines to save it. Imara's story is terrible and Lewis chooses to reveal it in full only when Imara is safe. She allows us to feel hope for the gorillas too while explaining to her readers all the dangers they face. Above all, this story tells children that we all share the world, that if we lose our love of it, we lose our souls. A thrilling story which will sweep readers along, this is one of the best books of the year. ~ Andrea Reece  
A note from Gill Lewis: "The world is at our fingertips...or so it seems. We use our mobile phones and computers to connect with people far across the globe. And yet, they also connect our fate to that of the gorilla. The electronic devices we use every day contain rare minerals, many of which are sourced within the forests of the war-torn Democratic Republic of Congo, home of the eastern lowland gorilla. I wanted to tell a story, through the eyes of two children who have been swept into the conflict, that questions our responsibility as consumers of electronic goods; responsibility to insist on fair trade and conflict free minerals, and to actively protect our natural world."



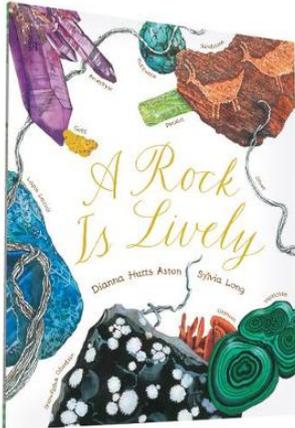
## Under Earth, Under Water

**Author:** Aleksandra Mizieliński, Daniel Mizieliński **Format:** Hardback

**Release Date:** 01/09/2015 **Year Groups:** Key Stage 2

Longlisted for the UKLA 2017 Book Award

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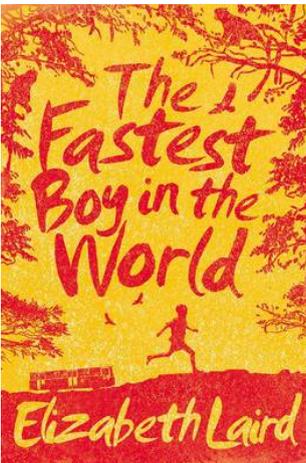
## A Rock Is Lively

**Author:** Dianna Hutts Aston **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:**

14/07/2015 **Year Groups:** Key Stage 1

A visual feast of a book that deserves to be on every bookshelf. From the creators of the award-winning *An Egg Is Quiet*, *A Seed Is Sleepy*, *A Butterfly Is Patient* and *A Nest Is Noisy* comes this gorgeous and informative introduction to the fascinating world of rocks. From dazzling blue Lapis Lazuli to volcanic Snowflake Obsidian, an incredible variety of rocks are showcased in all their splendour. Poetic in voice and elegant in design, this book introduces an array of facts, making it equally perfect for classroom sharing and family reading.

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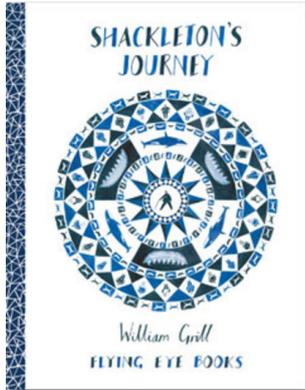
## The Fastest Boy in the World

**Author:** Elizabeth Laird **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:**

05/06/2014 **Year Groups:** Key Stage 2

**Shortlisted for the 2015 CILIP Carnegie Medal - Shortlisted for the Scottish Children's Book Awards 2015 8-11 age category** In a beautifully told story packed with emotion and action, Elizabeth Laird tells how eleven-year-old Solomon turns his dreams of becoming an International runner into reality. Solomon runs everywhere – and always especially fast to school. He knows he is good and is convinced that he could join the roster of the great Ethiopian runners but he also knows that growing up in a small village, he'll never have the chance to train as an elite athlete. When Solomon's grandfather insists that he accompanies him on a trip to Addis Ababa, everything in his life changes. Solomon's story is funny, touching and inspiring.

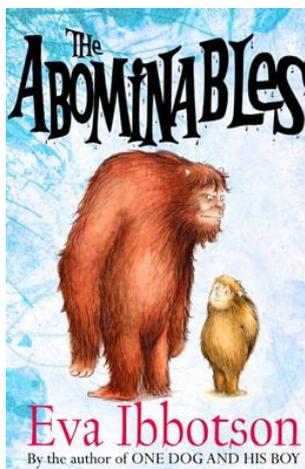
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## Shackleton's Journey

**Author:** William Grill **Format:** Hardback **Release Date:** 02/01/2014  
**Year Groups:** Key Stage 2

**Winner of the Kate Greenaway Medal 2015** Greenaway Medal winning debut from William Grill whose images range from tiny vignettes to sweeping frozen vistas which, together with an absorbing narrative, tells the powerful story of the ill fated voyage.

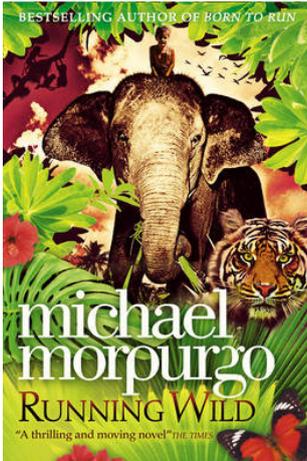


## The Abominables

**Author:** Eva Ibbotson **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 05/07/2012  
**Year Groups:** Key Stage 2

**Shortlisted for the 2012 Guardian children's fiction prize and One of Julia Eccleshare's Stand-out Children's Book of the Year 2012. July 2012 Book of the Month.** Award-winning Eva Ibbotson's charming fantasy about the rescue of an entertaining family group of Yeti and their transportation from the Himalayan Mountains to England in a frozen food lorry is touching, tender and very funny. It also carries a strong message about the need for humans to leave nature alone and especially to protect the survival of all kinds of endangered species – real and imaginary! The manuscript of *The Abominables* was discovered among Eva Ibbotson's papers by her son after her death aged 85 in 2010. It's an early novel written well over 10 years ago that was never submitted for publication. However, it contains all the trademark qualities that made Eva's subsequent books including *Journey to the River Sea* and *One Dog and his Boy* so successful; comedy, loveable and eccentric characters, perfectly-crafted plotting, and inspiring themes of tolerance, kindness to animals, and the defeat of cruelty. Sharon Rentta, who drew the superb dog characters for *One Dog and his Boy* has illustrated it. It's a wonderful story and a classic in the making.

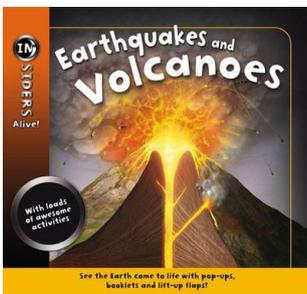
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## Running Wild

**Author:** Michael Morpurgo **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 27/05/2010 **Year Groups:** Key Stage 2

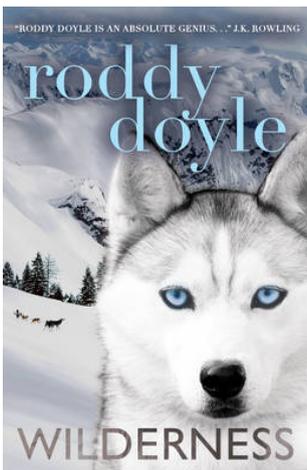
Winner of the Independent Booksellers' Prize 2010. Prize-winning author Michael Morpurgo's new novel is a towering adventure and emotional roller coaster set at the time of a great tsunami. Trying to get over his father's death, Will and his mother travel to Indonesia for a trip of a life time. For his Christmas present, Will is given a ride on an elephant. Elephants are his favourite animals and when Will sets off on Oona's back he feels like a king. But then Oona begins to act strangely and soon she and Will are fighting for their lives as the great tsunami comes crashing in. ~ Julia Eccleshare



## Insiders Alive: Earthquakes and Volcanoes

**Author:** Anita Ganeri **Format:** Hardback **Release Date:** 01/04/2010 **Year Groups:** Key Stage 2

This is a really stunning book which gives a fabulous pop-up introduction to the ever present danger of volcanoes and earthquakes. There are masses of facts about the structure of the earth and the unpredictable ways in which it behaves. Pulling tabs, turning wheels and opening out the spectacular whoosh of a volcano, this book will make all readers aware of the fragility of the world we live in.



## Wilderness

**Author:** Roddy Doyle **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 01/09/2008 **Year Groups:** Key Stage 3

This is a stunning piece of writing for young teenagers. Part-action, part family drama the plot cleverly interweaves two stories. The first is of two brothers who with their mother are on a trip of a lifetime in the frozen arctic north. The second is the story of their older teenage stepsister who is coming to terms with the reappearance of her mother in her life. Doyle weaves a brilliant portrait of family life, love and loss. It's Doyle at his exciting best.

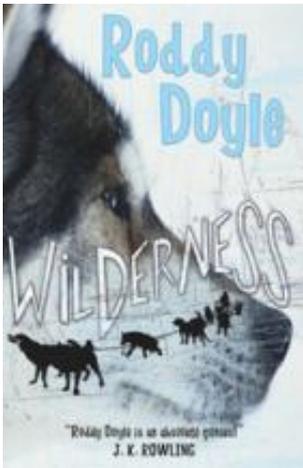


## Journey To Jo'burg

**Author:** Beverley Naidoo **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 03/03/2008 **Year Groups:** Key Stage 2

When it was originally published in 1985 Beverley Naidoo's classic was a contemporary story; now it's a piece of history but no less powerful or important. It's the story of two black children who set off from their remote village to search for their mother and bring her home after their baby sister falls desperately ill. Setting off on foot on the long hot road to Jo'burg, Naledi and Tiro have no idea what's in store for them as they cross the dangerous landscape of Apartheid. Written simply, to be accessible to those as young as 8, this universal story of children whose spirit won't let injustice crush them continues to move all who read it. ~ Andrea Reece

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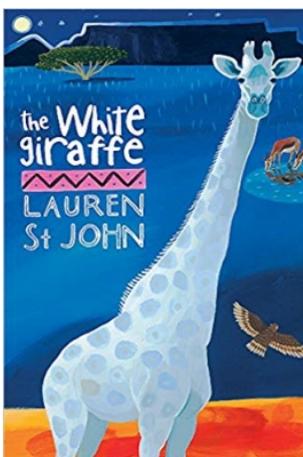


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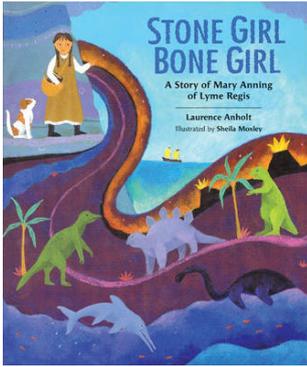


## The White Giraffe

**Author:** Lauren St. John **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 05/07/2007 **Year Groups:** Key Stage 2

The White Giraffe is Lauren St John's stunning debut novel about a young English orphan, Martine, sent to live on a South African game reserve with a grandmother she never knew existed. Rich with the scents, sounds and intoxicating magic of Africa, it follows the magical story of 11 year old Martine as she meets her soulmate, a young white giraffe named Jemmy. When Martine's parents are killed, she is sent to live in Africa with her grandmother who seems to be hiding something from her....A wonderful adventure ensues. We have a pre-pub extract of the sequel Dolphin Song, which is equally atmospheric of time and place. This book is also available as an audio CD - [click here to find out more](#)

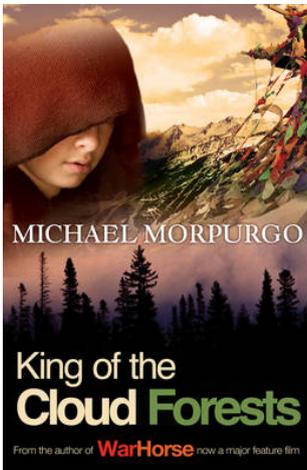
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## Stone Girl Bone Girl

**Author:** Laurence Anholt **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 01/10/2006 **Year Groups:** Key Stage 1

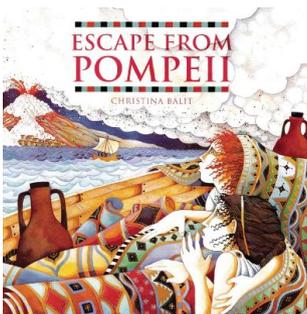
The fascination of fossils and what they tell of a world long gone by is beautifully portrayed in this biography of Mary Anning, the best known fossil hunter. Brought up in Lyme Regis where fossils abound, from childhood on Mary was skilled at searching out prized finds such as fossilised sea monsters and an Ichthyosaurus, one of the most important finds of her day. If you enjoyed this then try some other titles by the author including A Kiss Like This and Happy Birthday Chimp and Zee.



## King of the Cloud Forests

**Author:** Michael Morpurgo **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 01/09/2006 **Year Groups:** Key Stage 2

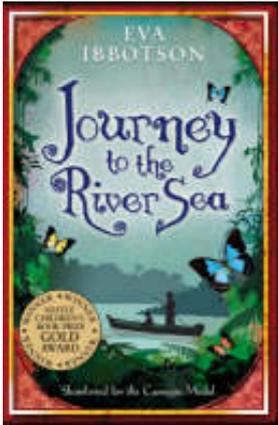
Such an accurate portrayal of the Himalayas would be hard to find in fiction. This wonderful mythical story, epic in scale sees a lost boy befriended and saved by yetis. Incredible emotions are evoked between them as they are each reliant on communication by gesture rather than spoken word. It's a gem of a book and one that like Escape from Shangri-La will appeal equally to someone of 10 or 110.



## Escape from Pompeii

**Author:** Christina Balit **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 01/04/2005 **Year Groups:** Key Stage 1, Key Stage 2

Join Tranio, the son of an actor, and his friend Livia, the baker's daughter, in witnessing the eruption of Mount Vesuvius in AD79.

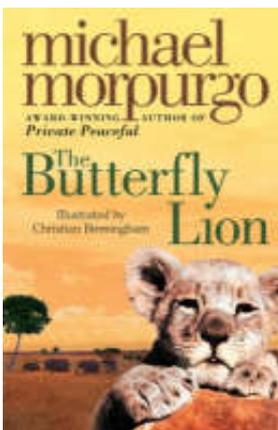


## Journey to the River Sea

**Author:** Eva Ibbotson **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 10/05/2002  
**Year Groups:** Key Stage 3

Chosen by Anne Fine. A charming and magical adventure story that is full of wisdom, warmth and understanding. Orphaned Maia is sent off to stay with her relatives far, far away in the heart of the Amazon jungle. She's excited by the prospect of living such an inspiring place but soon finds that life with her twin cousins Gwendolyn and Beatrice is torture. How Maia escapes and thrives with the help of her redoubtable governess is a glorious drama against a magical background. JOURNEY TO THE RIVER SEA won the Smarties Book Prize Gold Award, was runner-up for the Whitbread Children's Book of the Year and the Guardian Fiction Award, and was also shortlisted for the Carnegie Medal. Perfect for Reluctant Readers as well as keen readers. To view other titles we think are suitable for reluctant readers please [click here](#).

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## The Butterfly Lion

**Author:** Michael Morpurgo **Format:** Paperback (b Format) **Release Date:** 07/05/1996 **Year Groups:** Key Stage 2

The inspiring magic of a white lion brings friendship and hope to a lonely ten year old. Miserable at his boarding school, Bertie runs away. He is rescued by a kind old lady who tells him of how another Bertie, a little boy from a long time before, saved an orphaned lion cub in Africa. The symbol of the white lion becomes an emblem of hope as well as a link across generations. Michael Morpurgo is skilful in weaving together magical and real stories. ~ Julia Eccleshare The Lovereading view: One of our 'Must Reads'. We're told by the author that The Butterfly Lion grew from several magical roots: the memories of a small boy who tried to run away from school a long time ago; a book about a pride of white lions discovered by Chris McBride; a chance meeting in a lift with Virginia McKenna, actress and champion of lions and all creatures born free; a true story of a soldier of the First World War who rescued some circus animals in France from certain death; and the sighting from a train of a white horse carved out on a chalky hillside near Westbury in Wiltshire. A book to savour and to read and re-read time and time again. The whole family will be enthralled by its powerful and gripping story and will weep and cheer by turns.

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