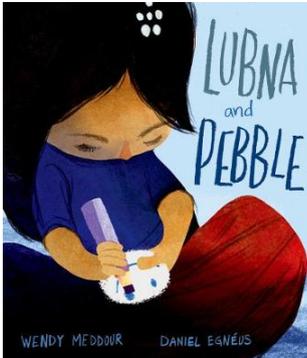


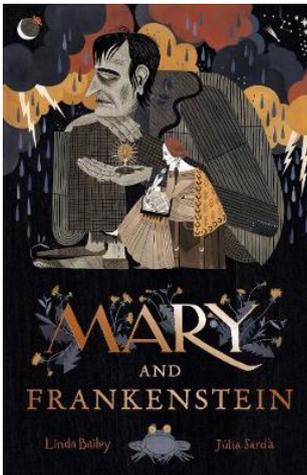
Find out which books teachers think are the best! Below are all the winning books from each category plus the shortlist - all highly recommended. The UKLA 2020 Awards are sponsored by LoveReading4Kids, LoveReading4Schools and MLS.



## Lubna and Pebble

**Author:** Wendy Meddour **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 20/02/2020 **Year Groups:** Early Years

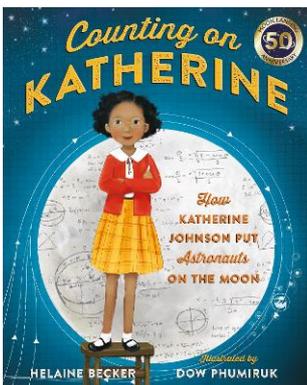
**Shortlisted for the UKLA Book Awards 2020** Lubna found the pebble on the beach the night she and her father arrived on a boat. Now Pebble is her only friend in the tent city where she lives. When Amir arrives, Lubna and Pebble befriend him and help him to talk again. This is a wise, gentle story about the possibility of kindness in even the bleakest situations.



## Mary and Frankenstein The true story of Mary Shelley

**Author:** Linda Bailey **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 01/09/2019 **Year Groups:** Key Stage 2, Key Stage 3

**Shortlisted for the UKLA Book Awards 2020 | Shortlisted for the Kate Greenaway Medal 2020** This is the story of eighteen-year-old Mary Shelley and the inspirations that led her to create Frankenstein, one of the most famous fictional monsters of all time. This is a wonderfully original book, with a strong narrative thread, gloriously illustrated, and populated with unforgettable characters.

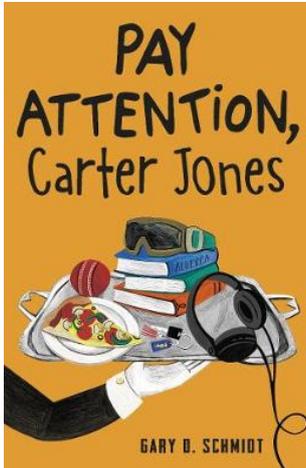


## Counting on Katherine

**Author:** Helaine Becker **Format:** Hardback **Release Date:** 16/05/2019 **Year Groups:** Key Stage 1, Key Stage 2

**Winner of the UKLA Book Awards 2020** Told with crystalline clarity and verve, and fabulously enhanced by the stylish illustrations, this tells the remarkable against-the-odds tale of Katherine Johnson from her days as an exceptional African American schoolgirl whose “boundless curiosity turned her into a star student”. But despite her brightness, ten-year-old Katherine faced the terrible restraints of segregation – as an African American she wasn’t permitted to study at her local high school. As she “burned with fury”, her family determined to get Katherine the education she deserved and so they moved to a town with a high school for black students. Her path to working on Project Apollo required incredible perseverance, but thanks to that, and to her outstanding mathematical skills, the world could count on Katherine to set the moon landings back on course. Shot-through with a rousing sense of

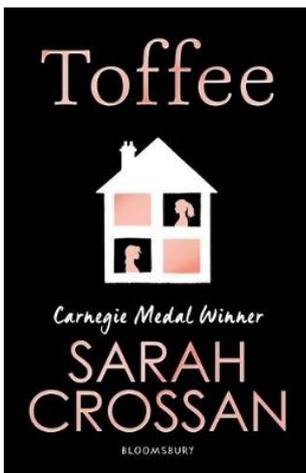
Katherine's determination and dedication to her work, and with her shining mathematical brilliance, this beautiful book deserves to be on the shelves of every space-loving child.



## Pay Attention, Carter Jones

**Author:** Gary D. Schmidt **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 02/05/2019 **Year Groups:** Key Stage 3

**Shortlisted for the UKLA Book Awards 2020 | May 2019 Book of the Month** Like all classics of American middle grade fiction - as this may well be esteemed in future - this is radiant with humour, heart and a whole lot of indelibly authentic child-centred observations and emotions. With his dad away on army service, and faced with being plunged into the jungle of middle school, Carter already has plenty on his plate when his family inherits the services of an eccentric British butler. While Carter is quick to revolt against the butler's rigorous regime of tea-drinking, homework and housekeeping (including folding underwear, can you believe it?!), the butler's ways, wisdom and polite-but-firm guidance (AKA being "a pain in the glutes") casts a healing spell over the family's soul, exactly when they need it most. Then, as the butler shares his love of "the most lovely and sportsmanly game that mankind has yet conceived" (AKA cricket) with Carter's schoolmates, Carter himself comes to share his troubles and release his anger and grief so he can keep the metaphoric "bails from coming down". Suffused with the same warmth, compassion and originality of the author's stunning debut, *Orbiting Jupiter*, this funny, moving middle grade novel is a true treasure with broad appeal and rich rewards.

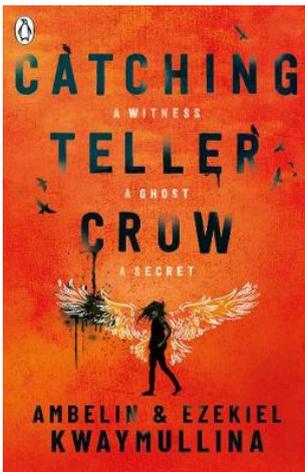


## Toffee

**Author:** Sarah Crossan **Format:** Hardback **Release Date:** 02/05/2019 **Year Groups:** Key Stage 4

**Shortlisted for the UKLA Book Awards 2020 | May 2019 Book of the Month** Another insightful and compassionate free verse novel from the queen of this increasingly admired form, this time exploring the transformative relationship between an abused runaway teenager and an elderly lady with dementia. Allison has grown up "stepping on eggshells" to circumvent her father's violence. While she often wonders whether his behaviour was "all my fault", one of his outbursts compels her to run away. With nowhere to go, she finds sanctuary in the house of an elderly woman called Marla. Marla has dementia and thinks Allison is Toffee, her best friend from childhood. After spending some time in Marla's company, Allison decides to "stop correcting her... I like the idea of being sweet and hard, a girl with a name for people to chew on." Moreover, in meeting Marla, Allison has found an unlikely kindred spirit: "I am not who I say I am. Marla isn't who she thinks she is... Here, in this house, I am so much happier than I have ever been". Returning the favour, Allison enriches Marla's life - she listens, she indulges Marla's

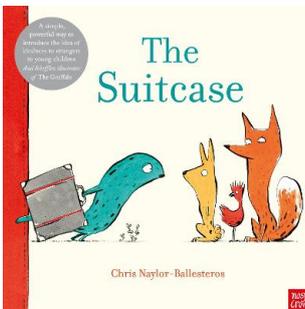
desire to dance - while Marla's carer and son show no real regard for her happiness, as if she's beyond life, which makes Allison's attentiveness all the more heart warming. Both vulnerable, they find strength through each other. With incredibly moving insight, Marla says of Allison's dad, "none of it was about you. It was about him. It's always about him. Surely you know that." The writing is compellingly fluid, flowing freely between Allison's precarious present and the tragic, abusive circumstances that sent her careering down this path. While fleeting, the impact of their time together is monumental, and I felt privileged to have spent time in their company.



## Catching Teller Crow

**Author:** Ambelin Kwaymullina, Ezekiel Kwaymullina **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 02/05/2019 **Year Groups:** Key Stage 4

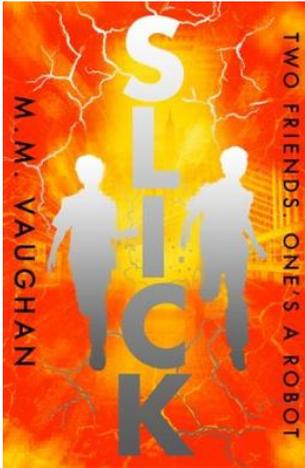
**Shortlisted for the UKLA Book Awards 2020 | Winner of the Victorian Premier YA Prize for Literature, and Best Young Adult Novel at the Aurealis Awards - two of Australia's most prestigious writing awards** As he is still vulnerable following his daughter, Beth's death, detective Michael Teller is sent to investigate the seemingly simple case of a fire at a Children's Home. Beth narrated most of the book which takes us to very dark places. Brilliantly structured, informed and passionate, this is a thought-provoking consideration of issues relevant to all young adult readers.



## The Suitcase

**Author:** Chris Naylor-Ballesteros **Format:** Hardback **Release Date:** 02/05/2019 **Year Groups:** Early Years

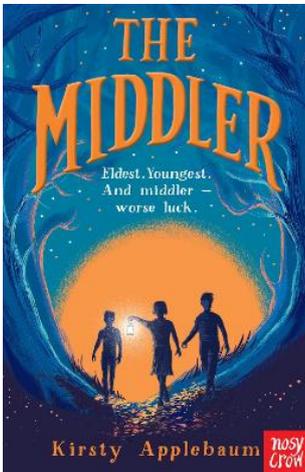
**Shortlisted for the UKLA Book Awards 2020 | May 2019 Book of the Month | Shortlisted for the CILIP Kate Greenaway Medal 2020** Starring four little animals that children will be quick to identify with, The Suitcase is a touching story about friendship and an excellent way to start conversations about how we respond to people we don't know and the importance of kindness. A stranger arrives pulling a suitcase and tells the other animals that inside is his home. Curious - and suspicious too - they force it open while he's asleep and dreaming of his long journey. Inside the animals find a teacup - now broken - and a photo of a small house. The image of the broken teacup is upsetting and young readers will be happy to see the animals' response and how they find ways to make the stranger their friend. The message here is powerful and profound and beautifully served by the simplicity of the telling.



## Slick

**Author:** Monica Meira Vaughan **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 01/05/2019 **Year Groups:** Key Stage 3

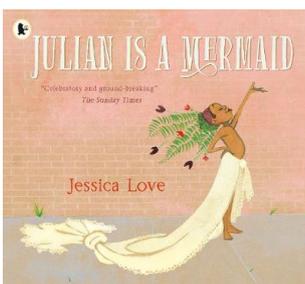
**Shortlisted for the UKLA Book Awards 2020** Danny is sure that the new boy in his class won't want to become his friend: nobody else does. When they discover they both love the same computer game, Danny becomes more and more confused by Eric's strange family life and the gaps in his knowledge. The truth takes him to some strange, dark places. Unique, relevant and wonderful.



## The Middler

**Author:** Kirsty Applebaum **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 28/03/2019 **Year Groups:** Key Stage 2

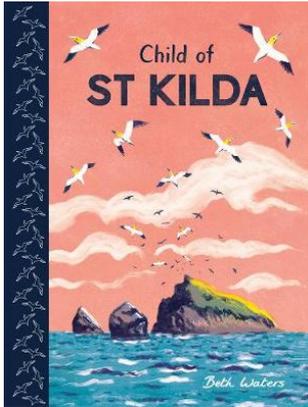
**October 2019 Debut of the Month | Shortlisted for the UKLA Book Awards 2020 | Longlisted for the Branford Boase Award 2020** Maggie's village is safe but she knows a war is raging beyond its boundaries. Then she meets a girl from outside and begins to wonder whether the politicians are telling the truth. Set in a completely believable near future, this gripping story has much to say and does it with a delicate touch which offers readers opportunities to think rather than imposing ideas.



## Julian Is a Mermaid

**Author:** Jessica Love **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 07/02/2019 **Year Groups:** Key Stage 1

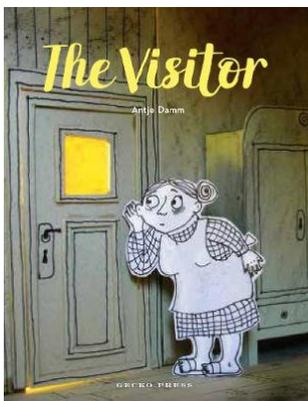
**Shortlisted for the UKLA Book Awards 2020 | April 2019 Debut Picture Book of the Month | Winner of the 2019 Klaus Flugge Prize | Shortlisted for the CILIP Kate Greenaway Medal 2019** Already shortlisted for the Kate Greenaway Medal, Julian is a Mermaid is an outstanding picture book, surely destined to become a classic. Julian is out with Nana when he notices three women dressed as mermaids. In his heart of hearts - we see it described over three fabulous wordless spreads - Julian knows he is a mermaid too and while Nana takes a bath he sets out to transform himself into one. Nana's response is life-affirming and the two head out to join the mermaid party. The illustrations dazzle and as a celebration of individuality, the imagination, freedom and love, it can't be beaten.



## Child of St Kilda

**Author:** Beth Waters **Format:** Hardback **Release Date:** 05/02/2019  
**Year Groups:** Key Stage 1

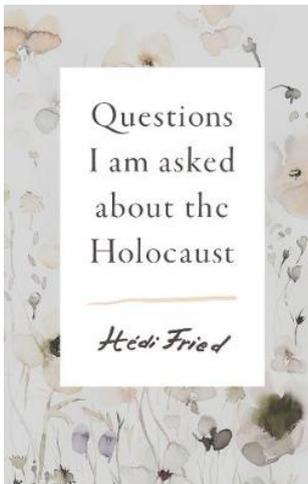
**Highly Commended for the UKLA Book Awards 2020 | Shortlisted for the CILIP Kate Greenaway Medal 2020** Norman John Gillies was one of the last children born on the remote Scottish island of St Kilda and is the subject of this emotionally compelling story of a community relocated to the mainland in 1930. This is a beautiful, moving evocation of place and connection written and illustrated with a simplicity that speaks to young and old alike.



## The Visitor

**Author:** Antje Damm **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 01/02/2019  
**Year Groups:** Early Years

**Shortlisted for the UKLA Book Awards 2020** Elise lives alone in her grey house, afraid of everything and never going out. Then a paper plane flies in through the window and a little boy wants it back. As a friendship develops, colour and happiness come back to Elise. This compassionate, charming story will bring insights into the lives of older people isolated in their communities.



## Questions I Am Asked About the Holocaust

**Author:** Hedi Fried **Format:** Hardback **Release Date:** 27/01/2019  
**Year Groups:** Key Stage 3, Key Stage 4

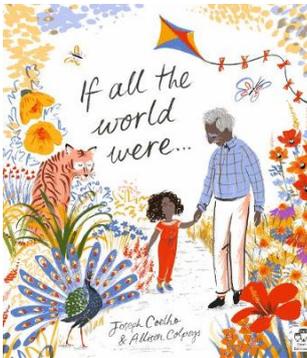
**Shortlisted for the UKLA Book Awards 2020** "There are no stupid questions nor any forbidden ones, but there are some questions that have no answers." So writes Heidi Fried, an Auschwitz survivor, in this wise, personal and deeply humane reflection on one of human history's most troubling periods. It is marked out by the respect and empathy she shows in her responses to the questions young people ask her. An important book-her message could well help navigate the challenging time we are living through.



## Lenny's Book of Everything

**Author:** Karen Foxlee **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 24/01/2019  
**Year Groups:** Key Stage 4

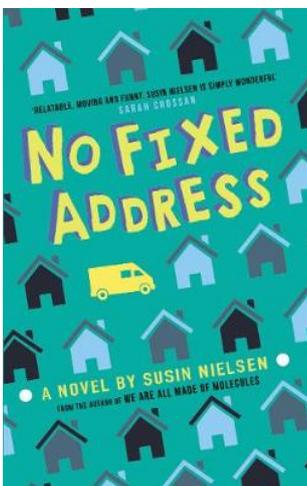
**Shortlisted for the UKLA Book Awards 2020** When Lenny's mother wins an instalment encyclopaedia, she and her younger brother Davey are drawn into the wonderful things they find there. They need an escape from home life in 1970s USA particularly as Davey is facing a huge problem. This complex endearing book twists readers through many emotions with warmth and honesty.



## If All the World Were...

**Author:** Joseph Coelho **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 03/01/2019  
**Year Groups:** Key Stage 1

**Shortlisted for the UKLA Book Awards 2020** Joseph Coelho dedicates this lovely picture book to 'everyone who misses someone' and it's particularly apposite for any child who has recently lost a grandparent. The story is narrated by a little girl who describes happy times with her grandad, ordinary everyday experiences interspersed with vivid metaphor, 'if all the world were deep space, I'd orbit my grandad like the moon and our laughs would be shooting stars'. As the story continues, it's clear Grandad has died, but writing down her memories ensures he will always be with her. Joseph Coelho is a fine poet and this is a joy to read aloud; Allison Colpo's illustrations make it beautiful to look at too and it deserves a place in every child's collection.

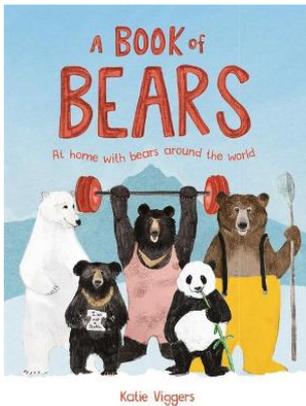


## No Fixed Address

**Author:** Susin Nielsen **Format:** Hardback **Release Date:** 04/10/2018  
**Year Groups:** Key Stage 3, Key Stage 4

**Shortlisted for the UKLA Book Awards 2020 | October 2018 Book of the Month** | Susin Nielsen's new novel features unforgettable central characters, and is beautifully written; her ear for dialogue – young teen to teen, young teen to parent, young teen to emergency services – pitch perfect. Despite being a story of homelessness and poverty, it will leave readers cheered and thoroughly reassured about the strength and resilience of the human spirit. Twelve-year old Felix lives with his mother Astrid, only rarely seeing his dad. Astrid has a flexible attitude to truth and Felix has developed a chart to measure the lies she tells as they navigate their lives. These range from 'the invisible lie', through the 'no-one gets hurt' to the biggest, the 'someone might

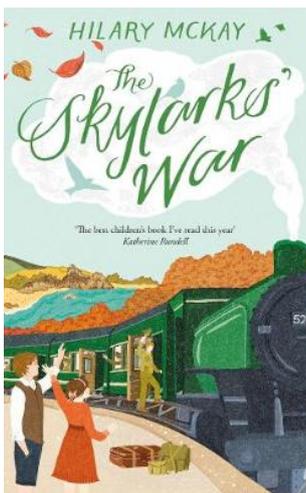
lose an eye' lie. As they struggle to cope living in a (stolen) camper van, Astrid uses her panoply of lies to the full and Felix reluctantly goes along with it, ready to support his mother even when it's really difficult. Nielsen gives him good friends, and a talent for memorising facts, both of which help to set up a better future for him. Both painful and funny, this is a book that will have readers alternatively shouting at its central characters, and cheering them on.



## A Book of Bears At Home with Bears Around the World

**Author:** Katie Viggers **Format:** Hardback **Release Date:** 01/10/2018  
**Year Groups:** Key Stage 1

**Shortlisted for the UKLA Book Awards 2020** A fascinating guidebook to bears large and less large, this quirky book is packed with information but full of humour too. It introduces readers to the eight different species of bears living in the world, and there's a section on each one, with a very useful illustrated panel showing 'how they size up'. This is followed by pages on things all or most bears do, from eating and swimming (all) to hibernating (not all). There's a mix of text and Katie Viggers' characterful illustrations and alongside the facts, she has lots of fun – sloth bears for example, whose long, shaggy coats mean they often look untidy, are depicted at the bear hair salon. It's comic but memorable too. Even if you didn't love bears at the beginning of the book, you will by the end and either way you'll have learned a great deal.

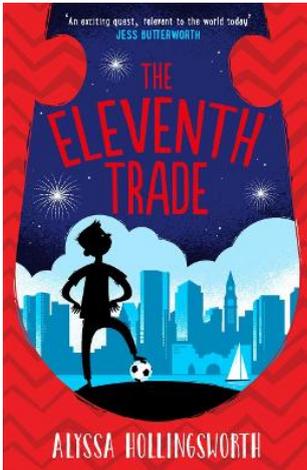


## The Skylarks' War

**Author:** Hilary McKay **Format:** Hardback **Release Date:** 20/09/2018  
**Year Groups:** Key Stage 3

**Winner of the Costa Children's Book Award 2018 | A Julia Eccleshare Pick of the Month October 2018 | One of our 2018 Books of the Year** Award winning Hilary McKay tells a captivating and deeply moving story of three young people growing up in the years before and during World War One. How their lives were totally changed by the War, how what really happened to the soldiers could never be talked about and how a girl like Clarry suddenly had opportunities because of the war are all touched on in a story that is also about universal adolescent relationships and the timeless concerns of being a teenager. Following their mother's death at her birth, Clarry and her older brother Peter live a joyless life with their gloomy father. The pair live for their summer holidays in Cornwall with their grandparents which they share with their older cousin Rupert. Here, the trio are free to be themselves and to begin to break away from the constraints of family expectations. When war is declared Rupert enlists: his family is horrified and Clarry and Peter are left trying to work out where he might be, how

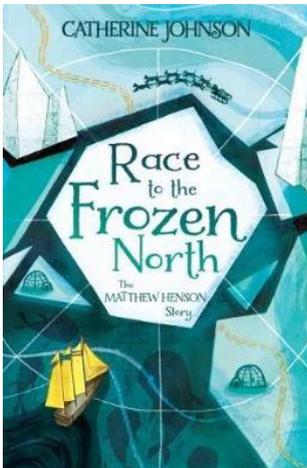
they themselves should react to the war and, above all, whether Rupert is safe. Hilary McKay has a rare gift for novels about families and their interplay. Here, she weaves her story round one of the most powerful backdrops in history. And she does so with the lightest of touch which makes her history come alive. The Costa Judges said: 'Chime, resonance and sparkle - a truly great read.'



## The Eleventh Trade

**Author:** Alyssa Hollingsworth **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 18/09/2018 **Year Groups:** Key Stage 3

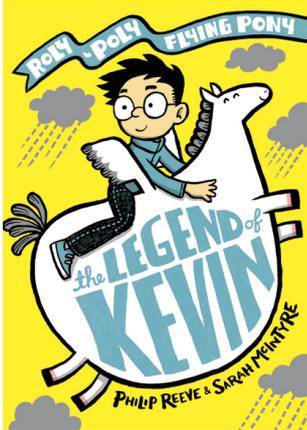
**Winner of the UKLA Book Awards 2020** Sami gets by in Boston on the money his grandfather makes on the street playing his rehab. When the instrument is stolen, Sami needs to find \$700 to get it back. All he has is a man United key ring. It's only going to be possible if Sami is prepared to accept help. This is a great book for readers not quite ready for YA fiction. It is raw, relevant but full of hope.



## Race to the Frozen North The Matthew Henson Story

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

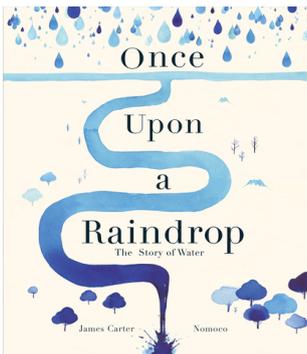
**Shortlisted for the UKLA Book Awards 2020 | A Julia Eccleshare Pick of the Month October 2018** | Catherine Johnson celebrates a hero of Arctic discovery whose story had been forgotten for many years largely because of the colour of his skin in this exciting telling of an important true story. Matthew 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.



## The Legend of Kevin: A Roly-Poly Flying Pony Adventure

**Author:** Philip Reeve **Format:** Hardback **Release Date:** 06/09/2018  
**Year Groups:** Key Stage 2

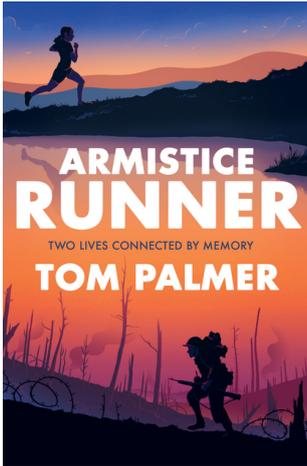
**Longlisted for the UKLA Book Awards 2020 | September 2018 Book of the Month | A Julia Eccleshare Pick of the Month September 2018** | A deliciously dotty fantasy in which almost anything becomes believable. Max longs for a pet but even in his wildest dreams he had never thought that the pet might be a flying pony. But, one stormy night and with a loud Doof!, Kevin turns up on Max's balcony. Kevin is a flying horse who can also talk. He has few demands except that he needs a constant supply of biscuits – especially custard creams. Soon Max and Kevin are an unstoppable duo putting right all the things that are going wrong in a town surrounded by storm water and besieged by naughty sea-monkeys. It's all pell-mell action and madcap fun.



## Once Upon a Raindrop

**Author:** James Carter **Format:** Hardback **Release Date:** 06/09/2018  
**Year Groups:** Key Stage 1

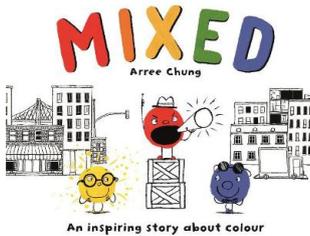
**Shortlisted for the UKLA Book Awards 2020** Via simple but elegant illustrations, and a gentle sometimes playful rhyming text, this picture book passes on all sorts of information about water and its importance, while never losing the sense of the beauty of this essential element. Words and illustrations take us back in time to the beginning of life on Earth, up hills and deep below the surface to explain that “clouds, rain, river, sea, water cycles endlessly”. Carefully placed splashes of colour underscore pages of different blues, the tinkling rhythm of the text bringing a sense of calm. It all concludes with five fascinating facts about the “world wide wet” and this is a book to savour on lots of different levels.



## Armistice Runner

**Author:** Tom Palmer **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 06/09/2018  
**Year Groups:** Key Stage 3

**Shortlisted for the UKLA Book Awards 2020 | Shortlisted for the Children's Book Awards 2019, Books for Older Readers Category** Interest Age 8-10 Reading Age 8 | World War One remains a subject of fascination for readers of all ages, but Tom Palmer finds an original way in to the topic in this poignant new story. Lily is a keen fell runner, though she's fed up of coming in as runner up in races. A visit to her grandparents reveals a surprise: her great-grandfather ran on the fells too. His experiences are recounted vividly in his diary, both his runs in his beloved Cumbria and his experiences as a soldier, recruited to run between positions on the front line, carrying crucial information to the allies. Their shared experiences form a powerful connection, and help Lily to understand herself better, and also to help her grandma when she needs it most. Today and yesterday are seamlessly woven together in a story that will move readers in lots of different ways.



## Mixed

**Author:** Arree Chung **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 14/06/2018  
**Year Groups:** Early Years

**Winner of the UKLA Book Awards 2020 | Shortlisted for the Children's Book Awards 2019, Books for Younger Children Category** The primary colours have got everything sorted out in the city so they live in separate areas and never mix. But, when a Blue and a Yellow fall in love and marry, baby Green is soon born and everyone realises that mixing together makes everyone much happier. A love story in a paint box with an important message for all young readers.