

## What should I read next?

Recommendations based on the books you already love

Have your children really enjoyed a book or series, but they aren't sure what to read next? We know that building a child's reading identity is a crucial part of developing their reading enjoyment and book choice skills. So, whether they already love the *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* series, the *Match* annuals or Malorie Blackman's *Noughts and Crosses*, we've got some engaging recommendations to help them enjoy exploring their reading preferences.

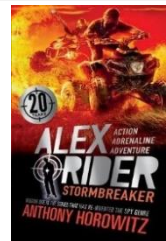
What to read next if you already like:

### The *Alex Rider* books by Anthony Horowitz

RA: 13+ IA: 12+

If your children love the action, adventure and intrigue of Anthony Horowitz's *Alex Rider* books, they should try Robert Muchamore's teen spy thriller series, *Cherub*. For an equally exciting read, but this time set in a dystopian world, they could try Veronica Roth's *Divergent* series.

- The *Cherub* series by Robert Muchamore
- *Artemis Fowl* by Eoin Colfer
- *Silverfin* by Charlie Higson
- *When You Reach Me* by Rebecca Stead
- *Divergent* by Veronica Roth
- PODCAST: The Unexplainable Disappearance of Mars Patel by Gen-Z Media

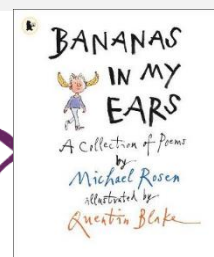


### *Bananas in My Ears* and other books by Michael Rosen

RA: 7+ IA: 4+

Readers who love the humorous nonsense poetry of Michael Rosen should definitely give the anthology *I Bet I Can Make You Laugh* a go. For younger readers, *Derek the Sheep* is a good funny option. *A Kid in My Class* is great for KS2 readers who like some personality in their poetry. For a classic option to challenge KS2 or KS3 readers, T. S. Eliot's *Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats* is a good one to try.

- *How to Write Poems* by Joseph Coelho
- *Derek the Sheep: Let's Bee Friends* by Gary Northfield
- *You're Snug with Me* by Chitra Soundar
- *I Bet I Can Make You Laugh* by Joshua Seigal (ed.)
- *A Kid in My Class* by Rachel Rooney
- *Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats* by T. S. Eliot



## The *Beano* from DC Thomson

RA: 7+ IA: 6+

For another comic full of fun, mischief and activities, *The Phoenix* is a great option for *Beano* fans. For young readers looking for more laughs and big characters, *My Magical Life* and *Claire: Justice Ninja* are great fiction choices in book format. Young readers who just love all things comics could try award-winning *Eco Kids Planet*, or attempt some of their own writing with *Write and Draw Your Own Comics*.

- *The Phoenix* from David Fickling Comics
- The *Eco Kids Planet* magazine from Eco Kids Planet Ltd
- *Claire: Justice Ninja* by Joe Brady
- *Write and Draw Your Own Comics* by Louie Stowell
- *My Magical Life* by Zach King
- *Glitch* by Sarah Graley

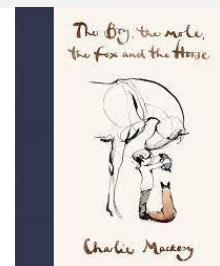


## *The Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse* by Charlie Mackesy

RA: 6+ IA: 6+

*The Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse* is a wonderful, contemplative read for all ages. Older readers looking for something that will make them think could try *I Will Not Be Erased*. Younger readers who enjoy mindful reading could try *Ruby's Worry*, or an option that encourages both reading and writing, like *Your Mood Journal*.

- *Ruby's Worry* by Tom Percival
- *The Book of Hopes* by Katherine Rundell (ed.)
- *Your Mood Journal* by Fearne Cotton
- *Something Bad Happened: A Kid's Guide to Coping with Events in the News* by Dawn Huebner
- *I Will Not Be Erased* by gal-dem
- *The Lost Words* by Robert Macfarlane and Jackie Morris

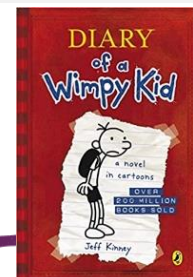


## The *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* series by Jeff Kinney

RA: 8+ IA: 8+

Jeff Kinney's hilarious, awkward and relatable *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* books continue to be immensely popular with young readers. For similar laugh-out-loud silliness, children should try the *Barry Loser* series or the *World of Norm* series. Equally funny but with a different twist are *El Deafo* and *Anisha, Accidental Detective*.

- *Big Nate* by Lincoln Peirce
- The *Barry Loser* series by Jim Smith
- The *World of Norm* series by Jonathan Meres
- *El Deafo* by Cece Bell
- *Anisha, Accidental Detective* by Serena Patel
- *Shona, Word Detective* by John Agard
- *Hilo: The Boy Who Crashed to Earth* by Judd Winick

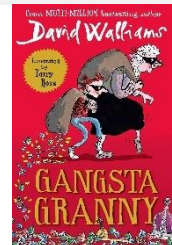


## Gangsta Granny and other books by David Walliams

RA: 8+ IA: 8+

If your young readers love the outrageously silly David Walliams books, full of fart jokes and daft gags, then they should definitely try *Who Let the Gods Out?* and *Little Badman and the Invasion of the Killer Aunties*. For readers who really enjoy the funny characters at the heart of Walliams' books, then *The Racehorse Who Wouldn't Gallop* would be a good one to try. For books with the same chaotic adventures, try *The Parent Agency*.

- *Little Badman and the Invasion of the Killer Aunties* by Henry White and Humza Arshad
- *The Racehorse Who Wouldn't Gallop* by Clare Balding
- *The Parent Agency* by David Baddiel
- *Wed Wabbit* by Lissa Evans
- *Who Let the Gods Out?* by Maz Evans

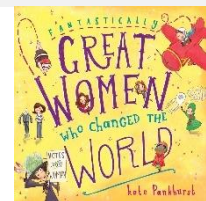


## Great Women Who Changed the World by Kate Pankhurst

RA: 6+ IA: 6+

There is an increasing number of brilliant, inspiring, activist fiction and non-fiction choices for children. For more real-life inspiring figures, try Maria Isabel Sanchez Vegara's collectable *Little People, Big Dreams* series. For powerful role models in a fictional story, try a classic like L. M. Montgomery's *Anne of Green Gables*, or, for a new choice, *Weirdo*.

- *Goodnight Stories for Rebel Girls* by Elena Favilli and Francesca Cavallo (also available as a podcast with the same name)
- The *Little People, Big Dreams* series by Maria Isabel Sanchez Vegara
- *Malala's Magic Pencil* by Malala Yousafzai
- *Anne of Green Gables* by L. M. Montgomery
- *Weirdo* by Zadie Smith and Nick Laird
- *Greta and the Giants* by Zoe Tucker



## The Gruffalo by Julia Donaldson

RA: 6+ IA: 3+

Julia Donaldson's heart-warming tale of *The Gruffalo* has been a favourite among so many young readers. For more charming and amusing stories to read together, try Donaldson's *Zog* books or Maisie Paradise Shearring's *Anna and Otis*. For a similar story that also introduces children to thinking about animals and the environment, try Mini Grey's *The Last Wolf*.

- *The Last Wolf* by Mini Grey
- The *Oi!* series by Kes Gray and Jim Field
- *Going to the Volcano* by Andy Stanton
- *Anna and Otis* by Maisie Paradise Shearring
- The *Zog* books by Julia Donaldson
- PODCAST: *Sleepy Stories* on BBC Sounds
- *Come All You Little Persons* by John Agard

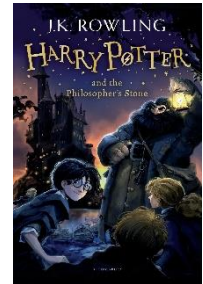


## The *Harry Potter* series by J. K. Rowling

RA: 9+ IA: 9+

The magical world of *Harry Potter* transports children's imaginations as they develop their reading skills. For more magical tales to be entranced by, try Philip Pullman's *Northern Lights* or M. A. Larson's *Pennyroyal Academy* series. For slightly older readers ready for slightly deeper themes, why not try Ursula K. Le Guin's quiet, absorbing *A Wizard of Earthsea*.

- *Keeper of the Lost Cities* by Shannon Messenger
- The *Pennyroyal Academy* series by M. A. Larson
- *Northern Lights* by Philip Pullman
- *A Wizard of Earthsea* by Ursula K. Le Guin
- The *Percy Jackson* books by Rick Riordan
- *Children of Blood and Bone* by Tomi Adeyemi (older readers, 14+)
- The *Amulet* series by Kazu Kibuishi

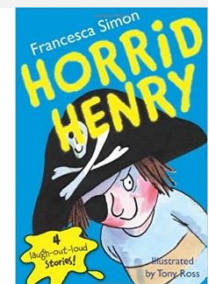


## The *Horrid Henry* books by Francesca Simon

RA: 6+ IA: 4+

If your children love laugh-out-loud, fiendish fun, there are plenty of places to go after the *Horrid Henry* books. *Dirty Bertie*, *Burping Bertha* and *Tom Gates* are all perfect follow-ups for more mischief, while *Two Weeks with the Queen* provides humour in amongst some more touching themes.

- *Diary of a Killer Cat* by Anne Fine
- *Dirty Bertie* by Alan MacDonald
- *Burping Bertha* by Michael Rosen
- The *Tom Gates* books by Liz Pichon
- *Two Weeks with the Queen* by Morris Gleitzman
- *The Thirteen-Storey Treehouse* by Andy Griffiths

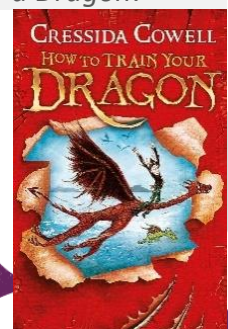


## *How to Train Your Dragon* by Cressida Cowell

RA: 8+ IA: 7+

*How to Train Your Dragon* is a warm, fun fantasy series from Children's Laureate Cressida Cowell. For more magical fantasy, your children could try *Dragon Rider* or *The Wizards of Once*. For a good long series to get stuck into, the *Beast Quest* books are great. For children who just love everything dragons, why not try Douglas Florian's *How to Draw a Dragon*.

- The *Beast Quest* books by Adam Blade
- *Dragon Rider* by Cornelia Funke
- *The Wizards of Once* by Cressida Cowell
- *The Boy Who Grew Dragons* by Andy Shepherd
- *How to Draw a Dragon* by Douglas Florian
- PODCAST: Story Pirates by Gimlet
- *Falling Out the Sky: Poems about Myths and Monsters* by Emma Wright

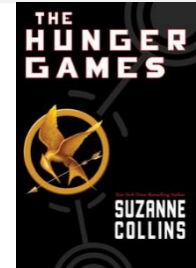


## The Hunger Games by Suzanne Collins

RA: 12+ IA: 12+

If your young readers love the action and adventure of *The Hunger Games*, then *Noughts and Crosses* and *The Explorer* would be great next books to try. For readers who enjoy exploring more thoughtful themes, we recommend *The Girl of Ink & Stars*. You could also suggest they try a piece of classic literature that looks at some of the same themes of identity and growing up, such as *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*.

- *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* by Maya Angelou
- *The Night Diary* by Veera Hiranandani
- *The Explorer* by Katherine Rundell
- *The Girl of Ink & Stars* by Kiran Millwood Hargrave
- *Noughts and Crosses* by Malorie Blackman
- *Heartstopper* by Alice Oseman



## The Match Annuals by Various

RA: 6+ IA: 5+

The *Match Annuals* are fantastic for football fans – and they're a brilliant way to encourage reluctant readers. Superfans of football who aren't yet super keen on reading could try the non-fiction *How to Be a Better Footballer* or *Women in Sport*, or a podcast like BBC Sounds' Sporting Superstars. For a fiction choice, the *Football School* books are great.

- The *Football School* books by Alex Bellos
- *Football Academy: Boys United* by Tom Palmer
- *Women in Sport* by Rachel Ignotofsky
- *How to Be a Better Footballer* by Andrew Henderson
- PODCAST: Sporting Superstars on BBC Sounds

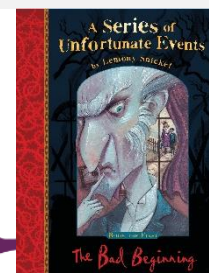


## The Series of Unfortunate Events books by Lemony Snicket

RA: 9+ IA: 9+

Lemony Snicket's witty, alternative and darkly humorous *Series of Unfortunate Events* is an enduringly popular choice among young readers. For more books that capture the same weird and wacky adventures, young readers could try *Malamander* or *Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children*. For readers who especially love the bizarre and clever wordplay running through Snicket's writing, this could be a good chance to try *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*.

- *Malamander* by Thomas Taylor
- *Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children* by Ransom Riggs
- *The Graveyard Book* by Neil Gaiman
- *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* by Lewis Carroll
- *Harley Hitch and the Iron Forest* by Vashti Hardy
- *A Wrinkle in Time* by Madeleine L'Engle (adapted by Hope Larson)

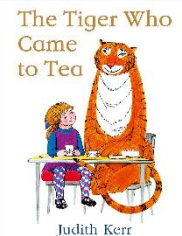


## ***The Tiger Who Came To Tea* by Judith Kerr**

**RA: 6+ IA: 2+**

Judith Kerr's *The Tiger Who Came To Tea* is a longstanding classic for young readers, with its gentle, quirky humour enjoyable for both children and their adults. For more books with memorable characters to make your children chuckle, try *Princess Smartypants* or *The Littlest Yak*. For more animal books with a little bit of chaos thrown in, try *Sadiq and the Pet Problem* or *Room on the Broom*.

- *Princess Smartypants* by Babette Cole
- *My Hair* by Hannah Lee
- *Sadiq and the Pet Problem* by Siman Nuurali
- *The Littlest Yak* by Lu Fraser
- *Room on the Broom* by Julia Donaldson
- *Whatever Next!* by Jill Murphy

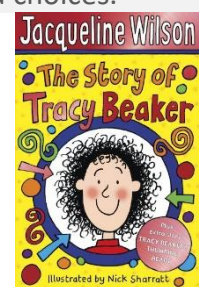


## ***Tracy Beaker and other books* by Jacqueline Wilson**

**RA: 8+ IA: 8+**

Jacqueline Wilson's books offer a mix of heart-warming fun, touching themes and relatable stories for lots of children. Younger fans of Jacqueline Wilson could try *Darcy Burdock* and the *Chocolate Box Girls* series. For older readers who love Wilson for her more serious themes and nuanced protagonists, *Orangeboy* and *Little Women* are both good choices.

- *Darcy Burdock* by Laura Dockrill
- The *Chocolate Box Girls* series by Cathy Cassidy
- *White Dolphin* by Gill Lewis
- *Little Women* by Louisa May Alcott
- *Orangeboy* by Patrice Lawrence (older readers)
- *Rumaysa: A Fairytale* by Radiya Hafiza
- *Roller Girl* by Victoria Jamieson

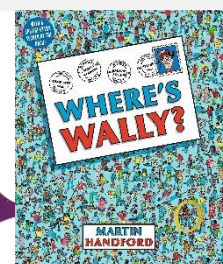


## ***Where's Wally?* by Martin Handford**

**RA: 4+ IA: 3+**

Find-and-discover books like *Where's Wally?* are great for a range of reading ages. For more find-and-discover books, *Find Tom in Time* and *Catch the Creeper!* are great. For young readers who love books that will give them activities to do whilst they read, Andrea Beaty's *Ada Twist's Big Project Book for Stellar Scientists* is fun. Also, for readers who like quick-fire learning without having to sit still, then why not try a podcast like BBC Sounds' Homeschool History.

- *Find Tom in Time* by Nosy Crow
- *Ada Twist's Big Project Book for Stellar Scientists* by Andrea Beaty
- *Catch the Creeper! (Minecraft)* by Stephanie Milton
- *I Spy: A Book of Picture Riddles* by Walter Wick and Jean Marzollo
- PODCAST: Homeschool History on BBC Sounds

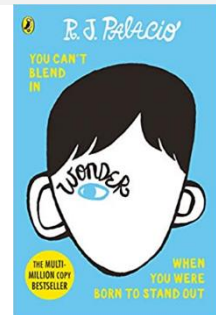


## Wonder by R. J. Palacio

RA: 9+ IA: 9+

For more touching, thoughtful reads that celebrate difference, *The Boy at the Back of the Class* is a fantastic read for reading ages 8+. For superfans of *Wonder* who just want more R. J. Palacio, the short story collection *Auggie and Me* would be a great place to go next. Readers interested in more inspirational figures should try the anthology *The Hero Next Door*.

- *The Boy at the Back of the Class* by Onjali Q. Rauf
- *The Hero Next Door* by Olugbemisola Rhuday-Perkovich (ed.)
- *Auggie and Me: Three Wonder Stories* by R. J. Palacio
- *Merci Suárez Changes Gears* by Meg Medina
- PODCAST: But Why: A Podcast for Curious Kids by Vermont Public Radio
- *New Kid* by Jerry Craft
- *Smile* by Raina Telgemeier

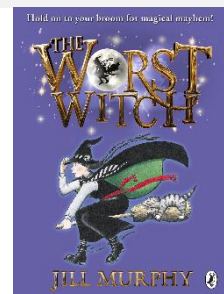


## The Worst Witch by Jill Murphy

RA: 9+ IA: 9+

Young readers who love stories set in a fantasy school with lots of mischief could try *You Can't Make Me Go to Witch School* or *New Class at Malory Towers*, which includes updated content for today's young readers. For more books with super-cool main characters, *Pippi Longstocking* is a great classic, and *Amari and the Night Brothers* is also great. For some fun poetry that still has a magical feel, *Dear Ugly Sisters and Other Poems* is brilliant.

- *New Class at Malory Towers* by Various
- *Witch Wars* by Sibéal Pounder
- *You Can't Make Me Go to Witch School* by Em Lynas
- *Pippi Longstocking* by Astrid Lindgren
- *Amari and the Night Brothers* by B. B. Alston
- *Dear Ugly Sisters and Other Poems* by Laura Mucha



## How to find more books

We keep all our recommendations up to date with the latest books we think children will love. But, if you're looking for even more books to try, or you can't see something your children would like here, here are some tips for finding more books.

In addition to the latest Young Readers Programme book lists, these are some great places to check out:

- Awards shortlists
- Websites
- Twitter handles
- Specialist publishers

### Awards Shortlists



The CILIP Carnegie & Kate Greenaway Children's Book Awards



You can use the latest book award shortlists to find high-quality books for your children. Click on the links to see the shortlists and discover more about the awards.

- [The CILIP Carnegie Award](#): Awarded by children's librarians for an outstanding book written in English for children and young people.
- [The CILIP Kate Greenaway Award](#): Awarded by children's librarians for an outstanding book in terms of illustration for children and young people.
- [The Klaus Flugge Prize](#): Awarded to the most exciting newcomer to picture book illustration.
- [Blue Peter Book Awards](#): Two awards, one for best story and one for best story with facts, managed by the Book Trust.
- [Children's Book Award](#): The only children's book award voted for solely by children.
- [The Branford Boase Award](#): Awarded annually to an outstanding first novel recognising both the author and their editor.





- [The UKLA Book Awards](#): Celebrates children’s books that teachers can use in the classroom.
- [Waterstones Children’s Book Prize](#): Award with three categories – Picture Books, Fiction 5–12, and Teen.
- [Lollies](#): Award for the funniest children’s book.
- [Oscar’s Book Prize](#): Annual prize for the best under-fives book of the year.
- [Sainsbury’s Children’s Book Award](#): Award with seven categories – Activity Book, Baby & Toddler, Favourite Characters, Fiction, Learning and Development, Picture Book, and Children’s Classic.
- [Costa Children’s Book Award](#): Annual prize for a children’s book of the year, selected by a nine-member panel.
- [Jhalak Prize](#): Book of the year from a writer of colour.
- [The People’s Book Prize](#): Award for new and undiscovered writers with the winners chosen by the public.

## Websites



The following websites include reviews and recommendations of children’s books.

- [Toppsta](#): A website dedicated to children’s book reviews by children and their families.
- [Scoop](#): A bi-monthly magazine for children 7+, which aims to inspire a love of reading and includes children’s book reviews.
- [Goodreads](#): Reviews of the latest children’s books.
- [Love Reading – Lovereading4kids and Lovereading4schools](#): Book reviews for children and teachers.
- [Books For Keeps](#): Magazine and website with reviews of the latest children’s books.
- [Reading Zone](#): Children’s books website with news, extracts, and reviews.
- [Book Trust](#): Includes recommendations of the latest children’s books as well as forgotten classics.
- [The School Run](#): Website with primary learning resources, including several book lists based on age ranges and themes.
- [The School Reading List](#): Website containing lots of reading lists based on age and school year.



## Search for genre + age

Rather than searching for specific book titles, try a genre + age search in Google. For example, if your children love *Diary of a Wimpy Kid*, try a search of 'comedy books for 8-year-olds'.

## Twitter

If you use Twitter then these hashtags and handles are useful to follow to keep up to date in the world of children's books:

- [@\\_Reading\\_Rocks\\_](#)
- [#PrimaryRocks](#)
- [#PrimarySchoolBookClub](#)
- [@bookpenpals](#)
- [@FunnyBookChat](#)
- [@KidLitReaders](#)
- [@Literacy\\_Trust](#)
- [#ReadingforPleasure](#)
- [@BookBuddyUK](#)
- [@picturesmeanb](#)
- [#childrensbookday](#)
- [#kidsbooks](#)
- [@WorldBookDayUK](#)
- [@Booktrust](#)

## Specialist Publishers

Finally, the following publishers may be helpful:

- [Mantra Lingua](#): For finding dual-language books.
- [Barrington Stoke](#): For finding dyslexia-friendly books or books for reluctant readers.

