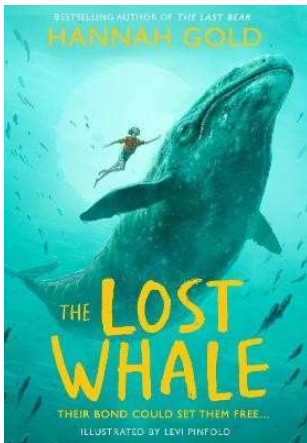


**A selection of books especially selected for children in Year 4.**

At Ferncumbe, our mission is to promote reading for pleasure and for children to develop a lifelong love of reading. Pupils are encouraged to read and explore a wide range of books in addition to the texts used in class. In this list, we have particularly avoided blockbusters and classics, so that we can include poetry, information texts and inspirational books in which all children can find themselves reflected.

If your child is a very competent reader or has read all of these titles, then try the books from the Year 5 list.



**The Lost Whale**

**Author:** Hannah Gold **Release Date:** 31/03/2022

Rio has been sent to live with a grandmother he barely knows in California, while his mum is in hospital back home. Alone and adrift, the only thing that makes him smile is joining his new friend Marina on her dad's whale watching trips. That is until an incredible encounter with White Beak, a gentle giant of the sea changes everything. But when White Beak goes missing, Rio must set out on a desperate quest to find his whale and somehow save his mum.

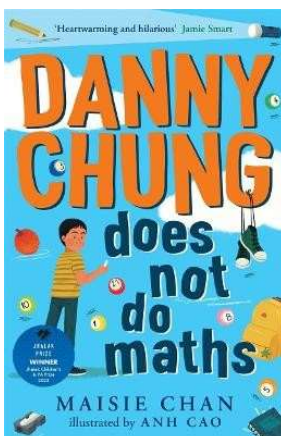
Dive into this incredible story about the connection between a boy and a whale and the bond that sets them both free.



**Peanut Jones and the Illustrated City**

**Author:** Rob Biddulph **Release Date:** 02/09/2021

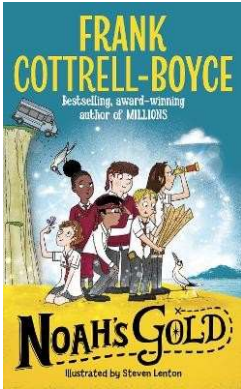
Drawing feels like magic to Peanut Jones. But art can't fix her problems. Her dad has gone missing, and she's stuck in a boring new school. Until the day she finds a unique pencil turbo-charged with special powers. Suddenly she's pulled into a world packed with more colour, creativity, excitement and danger than she could ever have imagined. And maybe, just maybe, she might find out what happened to her dad.



**Danny Chung Does Not Do Maths**

**Author:** Maisie Chan **Release Date:** 10/06/2021

Danny Chung loves art. Unfortunately, everyone else - parents and schoolfriends alike - thinks he should love maths. Then his grandmother arrives from China, and she and Danny have to share a bedroom. It feels like a catastrophe, but could funny, intelligent Nai Nai turn out to be his best friend?

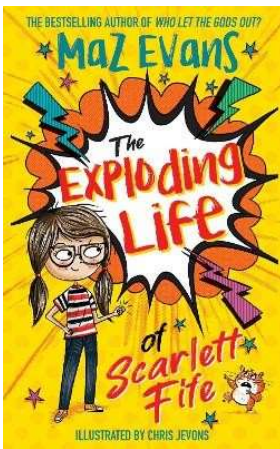


## Noah's Gold

Author: Frank Cottrell Boyce Release Date:13/05/2021

Eleven-year old Noah sneaks along on his big sister's geography field trip. Everything goes wrong! Six kids are marooned on an uninhabited island. Their teacher has vanished. They're hungry. Their phones don't work and Noah has broken the internet. There's no way of contacting home ... Disaster!

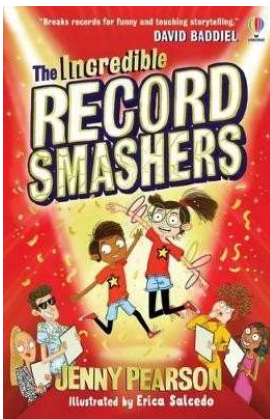
Until Noah discovers a treasure map and the gang goes in search of gold.



## The Exploding Life of Scarlett Fife Book 1

Author: Maz Evans Release Date: 13/05/2021

Scarlett Fife has BIG feelings. And she's about to get into BIG trouble. When she has BIG FEELINGS, they explode out of her like an over-squeezed stress ball. Scarlett's in big trouble after a BIG FEELINGS episode leads to a runaway hamster getting into the vicar's trousers at her aunt's engagement party. And very soon, Scarlett notices that every time she pushes her feelings down, something explodes. Like ... really, properly explodes. It might be her teacher's slimy green smoothie or a huge pot of purple paint. Laugh-out-loud action for every child and parent who has ever lost control of their feelings.



## The Incredible Record Smashers

Author: Jenny Pearson Release Date: 29/04/2021

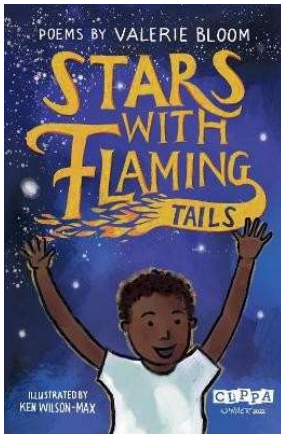
Lucy is a fixer of broken things. But there's one thing she can't fix and that's her unhappy mum. Until she comes up with an INCREDIBLE plan. Along with her best friend, Lucy is going to SMASH a world record. Because she's convinced that starry Paul Castellini - Record Smashers TV host and singing legend - is the answer to her mum's problems. But breaking a world RECORD when watermelons, kumquats, two baddies and a 30 cm shatter-resistant school ruler are involved isn't quite as easy as Lucy thought. Can she learn that sometimes happiness doesn't come with a plan?



## A Girl Called Joy

Author: Jenny Valentine Release Date:29/04/2021

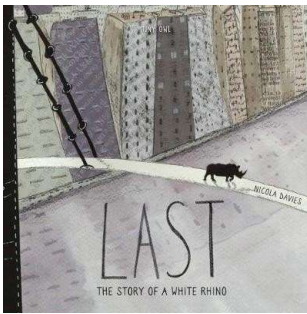
Joy's family have always travelled the world - Mum working as a nurse, Dad as a chef with Claude and Joy - sisters but totally different characters - until now. They have returned to the UK and are all crammed into Grandad's house where normality reigns supreme! Both girls have to go to school - for the first time ever - and find it difficult to settle and find life as engaging as it used to be. Joy has always looked for silver-linings but at the moment she finds it incredibly hard to find any, until she meets Benny who becomes a firm friend.



## Stars With Flaming Tails

Author: Valerie Bloom Release Date: 07/01/2021

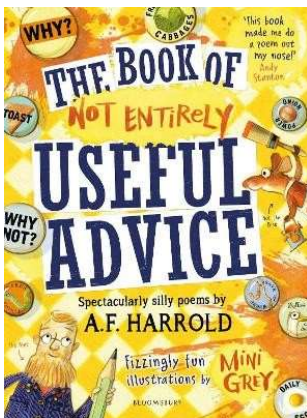
Stars with Flaming Tails is like a passport to the whole world and beyond. This is poetry that can go anywhere, from the personal to the planetary, the surreal to the scientific, with its invitation to us all to look and to laugh, to listen to our feelings and to think. And meanwhile, almost without noticing it, we're being handed the keys to the craft of writing for ourselves.



## Last

Author: Nicola Davies Release Date: 24/09/2020

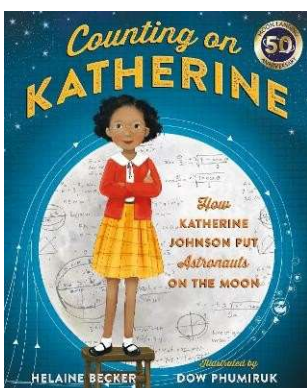
Last evokes a longing for home from the reader and a sense of hope for the future upon its ending. In her debut as an illustrator, Nicole Davies effectively and beautifully portrays the differences in mood and surroundings between the rhinoceros' life before and during captivity through her effective use of colour.



## The Book of Not Entirely Useful Advice

Author: A. F. Harrold Release Date: 03/09/2020

A glorious collection of poems offering unforgettable advice on an extraordinary range of subjects. Scanning through the index will give you an idea of the topics covered and how: there are three entries for tiger, referring you to very useful poems, including the one that explains just how many tigers it takes to spoil a picnic. Harrold is a master of the absurd, taking ideas or phrases and turning them quite round about and Mini Grey illustrates his poems with an equal delight in the possibilities he conjures up. Most of the poems are wonderfully comic but there's space for quiet, thoughtful verse too. It's a book to fire the imagination and to make you see things in a whole new way.



## Counting on Katherine

Author: Helaine Becker Release Date: 16/05/2019

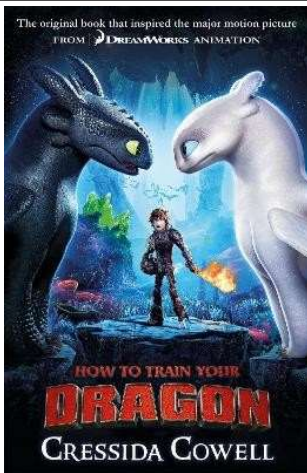
Meet Katherine Johnson, the mathematical genius who helped make the historic Apollo 11 moon landings possible and made sure that Apollo 13 returned home safely when the mission was in critical danger. As a child, Katherine loved to count. Boundless, curious, and excited by calculations, young Katherine longed to know as much as she could about maths, about the universe... From Katherine's early beginnings as a gifted student to her heroic accomplishments as a prominent mathematician at NASA, this is the true story of a groundbreaking African-American woman who went above and beyond what was expected of her in the 1960s, saving lives and making enormous contributions to history.



## Asha & the Spirit Bird

Author: Jasbinder Bilan Release Date: 07/02/2019

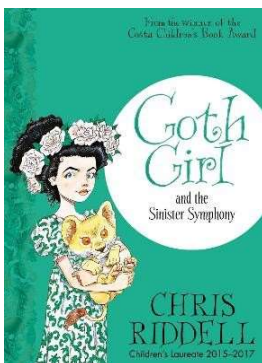
Asha lives in the foothills of the Himalayas. Money is tight and she misses her papa who works in the city. When he suddenly stops sending his wages, a ruthless moneylender ransacks their home and her mother talks of leaving. From her den in the mango tree, Asha makes a pact with her best friend, Jeevan, to find her father and make things right. But the journey is dangerous: they must cross the world's highest mountains and face hunger, tiredness - even snow leopards. And yet, Asha has the unshakeable sense that the spirit bird of her grandmother will be watching over her.



## How to Train Your Dragon

Author: Cressida Cowell Release Date: 10/01/2019

Hiccup Horrendous Haddock grew up at a time of dragons but he was not always a hero. He had to learn to fight them. To do so he had to pass the Dragon Initiation Programme, an awesome schedule run by Gobber the Belch, idiot in charge of initiation on the Isle of Berk. Hiccup was by no means a natural high achiever when it came to dragon training but after many hilarious mishaps, he soon got the hang of it and was on the way to becoming a Hero.



## Goth Girl and the Sinister Symphony

Author: Chris Riddell Release Date: 20/09/2018

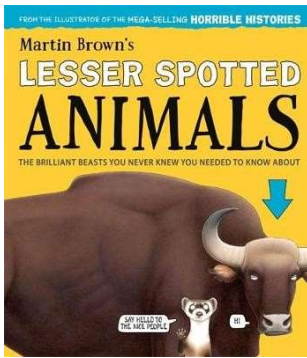
Lord Goth is turning Ghastly-Gorm Hall into the venue for Gothstock, a sensational music festival that will match his home. Naturally, Ada Goth is thrilled at the thought but will it all go to plan? In both words and pictures Chris Riddell creates an amazing cast of characters and the most original escapades in which they are all entangled.



## Fire, Bed and Bone

Author: Henrietta Branford Release Date: 06/09/2018 (reissue)

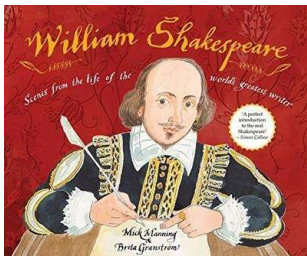
A moving narrative about injustice, upheaval and survival in fourteenth century Britain told from the point of view of a devoted and sought-after hunting dog. The story focuses on the societal tension and oppression that lead to her beloved masters Rufus and Comfort being arrested for heresy during the Peasants' Revolt and how she must then struggle to raise her puppy Fleabane and forge a life away from the cruel landlord and violence happening all around her. Ultimately an uplifting story about loyalty and hope.



## Lesser Spotted Animals

Author: Martin Brown Release Date: 06/04/2017

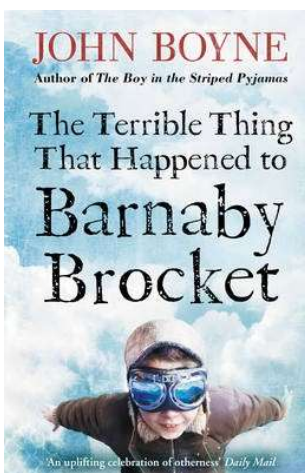
This is no ordinary animal book, you won't find the usual suspects in its page, no tigers, pandas, bears here. Instead be prepared to be amazed by animals you've never heard of, from the Cuban solenodon (one of the few mammals with a poisonous bite) to the stinky but useful zorilla, aka Africa's pongiest predator. Each page is packed with fascinating information, cleverly laid out with frequent jokes and cartoon asides adding to the fun. At the same time, there's a serious message about the threat to these creatures from humans, and habitat loss.



## William Shakespeare Scenes from the Life of the World's Greatest Writer

Author: Mick Manning Release Date: 03/03/2016

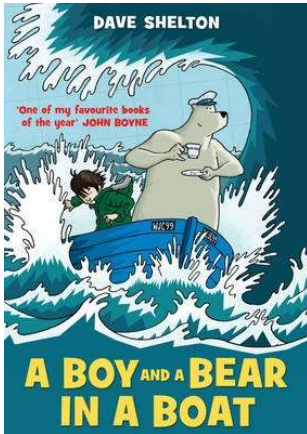
Beautifully illustrated throughout this is beautiful to look at and packed with information. There is lots on Shakespeare's childhood and the book provides a very clear impression of Tudor life. It explains the 'lost years', when no-one really knows what Shakespeare was up to, and cleverly puts the plays in the context of Shakespeare's life and times. There are retellings of some of the most important plays - Hamlet, Macbeth, A Midsummer Night's Dream and Romeo and Juliet - while comic-strip style speech bubbles throughout let readers hear Shakespeare's words and world.



## The Terrible Thing That Happened to Barnaby Brocket

Author: John Boyne Release Date: 28/03/2013

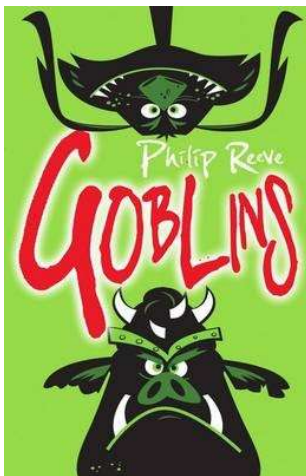
Barnaby Brocket's parents want only thing - to lead an utterly normal life. But when Barnaby, their third child is born, they know at once that he is very far from normal. The problem is, Barnaby cannot stay on the ground; he floats ever upwards unless weighted down or restrained. Embarrassed by their problem son and the attention he may attract, Barnaby's parents let him go... Now a free spirit and travelling in many different ways, Barnaby's adventures take him across the world.



## A Boy and a Bear in a Boat

Author: Dave Shelton Release Date: 14/03/2013

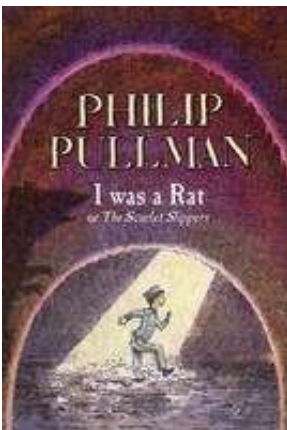
An amazing adventure follows when a boy takes what he thinks will be a short ride in a boat with a bear. But the ride is not a short one... Soon, the boat is in the middle of an empty sea and the bear is struggling with a map and searching the horizon with a telescope. Luckily the boy has brought some food with him as together, the boy and the bear deal with impenetrable mist, a terrifying sea monster and even the remains of a disgusting sandwich in this humorous and gentle journey of survival and self-discovery.



## Goblins

Author: Philip Reeve Release Date: 05/04/2012

A wild world of magical creatures and heroic adventure. The squabbling goblins who live in the great towers of Clovenstone spend their time fighting and looting. Only clever young Skarper understands that dark magic created by a vanquished sorcerer is rising again. From the lands of men come fortune-seekers - and trolls, giants, cloud-maidens, boglins, swamp monsters, tree-warriors and bloodthirsty goblins are swept into a fabulous magical conflict to thrill all fantasy fans.



## I Was A Rat!

Author: Philip Pullman Release Date: 04/11/2004

Who is Roger? He says he was a rat - and some of the time he behaves like a rat. But, he is also a small boy. Or, he could be the Monster of the sewers...Everyone has a view - including The Daily Scourge - who tells their own version in screaming newspaper headlines. There is just one person who really knows who Roger is. And she's the princess...Cleverly, Pullman weaves together strands of story from different sources creating a fast-paced and multi-layered adventure.