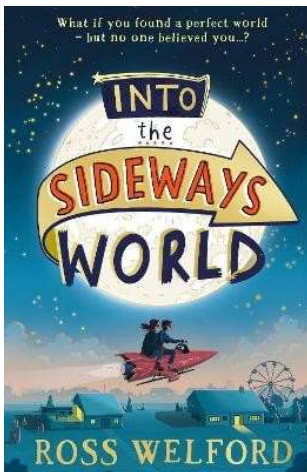


**A selection of books especially selected for children in Year 5.**

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.

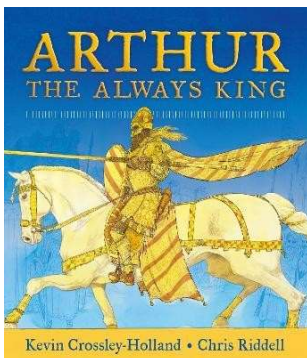
If your child is a very competent reader or has read all of these titles, then try the books from the Year 6 list.



**Into the Sideways World**

**Author:** Ross Welford **Release Date:** 20/01/2022

A moving, funny, thrilling and adventured-filled novel. When twelve-year-olds Willa and Manny hear of a mysterious animal prowling their town, they are determined to prove it is real. Following the creature into a cave one full moon, they are swept into an alternate, ideal, world - one where pollution and conflict have been conquered decades ago and even their own families seem happier. But when they return, no one believes them. So, with a global war looming in their own world, their quest for proof of the Sideways World becomes ever-more urgent, in a nail-biting race against time.



**Arthur: The Always King**

**Author:** Kevin Crossley-Holland **Release Date:** 04/11/2021

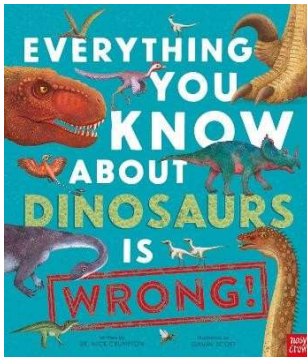
Be enthralled by the world of Arthurian legend in this lavishly illustrated, masterful retelling. From King Arthur's childhood to his final battle, the timeless tales of the sword in the stone, the quests of the Knights of the Round Table and the wizardry of Merlin are woven together into a breathtaking feat of storytelling. This is a beautiful edition to be treasured by all ages.



**The Lion Above the Door**

**Author:** Onjali Q. Rauf **Release Date:** 14/10/2021

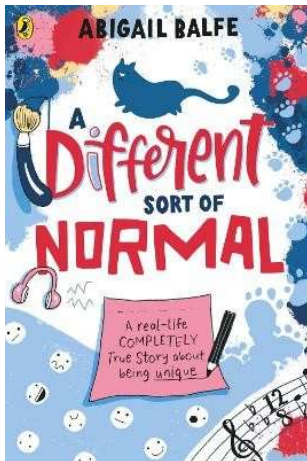
On a school trip to Rochester Cathedral, Leo is astonished to see a World War II memorial to a man with exactly the same name as him, Leo Kai Lim. Who was the Leo commemorated with a golden lion in the cathedral, and could there be a family connection? Determined to find out more, Leo suggests forgotten heroes as the theme for the class project on WWII and it's chosen alongside family histories. In his endeavour to find out more about his namesake, Leo is helped by his best friend Sangeeta, who is tracking down information on the part played by Indian soldiers in the war and is thrilled to discover more about the role played by women too. This story will intrigue and entertain young readers while also helping them understand racism, past and present.



## Everything You Know About Dinosaurs is Wrong!

Author: Dr Nick Crumpton Release Date: 16/09/2021

This fascinating, easy-to-understand text by zoologist, researcher and writer, Dr Nick Crumpton is complemented by amazingly detailed dinosaur artwork on every spread. It features jaw-dropping research that will debunk many myths about all kinds of prehistoric creatures - you'll never look at a pigeon in the same way again!



## A Different Sort of Normal

Author: Abigail Balfe Release Date: 22/07/2021

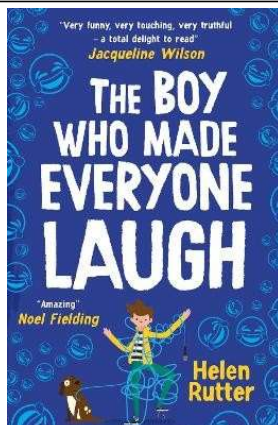
Abigail Balfe is autistic and has written this honest, amusing and very useful book about some of the things she was aware of as she was growing up. Balfe knew she was different all the way through her childhood and youth - and this book is full of observations on how she navigated her younger years. It was not until she was an adult that her diagnosis of autism was delivered - which suddenly explained a great deal of confusing issues from her youth. Written with an honesty and openness that is refreshing - and full of quirky illustrations by the author- this is an information book one can sit and read like a novel, as well as using it to dip into for information on all sorts of topics to do with neurodiversity.



## Twitch

Author: M.G. Leonard Release Date: 03/06/2021

Can a birdwatcher outwit an escaped convict? Twitch has three pet chickens, four pigeons, swallows nesting in his bedroom and a passion for birdwatching. On the first day of the summer holidays, he arrives at his secret hide to find police everywhere: a convicted robber has broken out of prison and is hiding in Aves Wood. Can Twitch use his talents for birdwatching to hunt for the dangerous prisoner and find the missing loot?

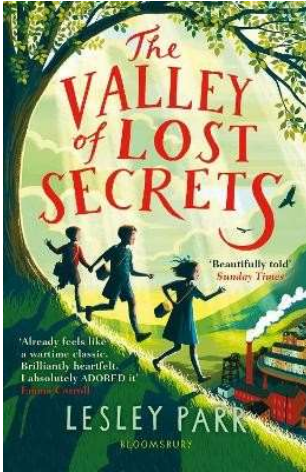


## The Boy Who Made Everyone Laugh

Author: Helen Rutter Release Date: 04/02/2021

Billy likes nothing more than making and performing jokes and dreams that one day he will be a famous stand-up comedian. But Billy has a stammer and it can be hard for him even to get a joke out quickly enough. Both touching and funny this is a brilliant story about being brave, being different and learning that being you is what really matters.





## The Valley of Lost Secrets

Author: Lesley Parr Release Date: 07/01/2021

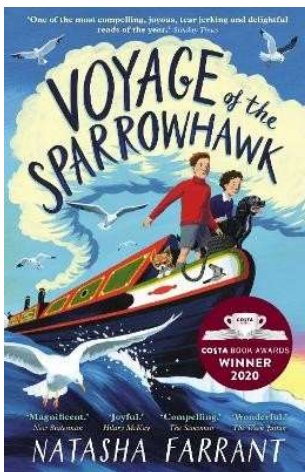
This story of evacuees is rich in atmosphere and a sense of place and uses its wartime setting to explore themes of community, understanding and self-forgiveness. When Jimmy is evacuated to a small village in Wales, it couldn't be more different from London. Green, quiet and full of strangers, he instantly feels out of place. But then he finds a skull hidden in a tree, and suddenly the valley is more frightening than the war. Who can Jimmy trust? His brother is too little; his best friend has changed. Finding an ally in someone he never expects, they set out together to uncover the secrets that lie with the skull. What they discover will change Jimmy - and the village - forever. A mesmerising mystery about bravery and brotherhood.



## The Midnight Guardians

Author: Ross Montgomery Release Date: 05/11/2020

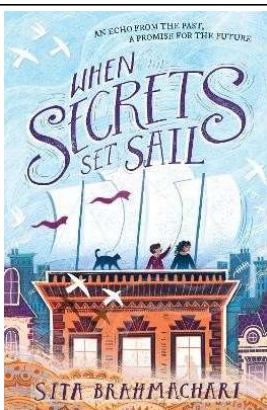
When Col's childhood imaginary friends come to life, he discovers a world where myths and legends are real. Accompanied by his guardians - a six-foot tiger, a badger in a waistcoat and a miniature knight - Col must race to Blitz-bombed London to save his sister. But there are darker forces at work, even than the Nazi bombings. Soon Col is pursued by the terrifying Midwinter King, who is determined to bring an eternal darkness down over everything.



## Voyage of the Sparrowhawk

Author: Natasha Farrant Release Date: 03/09/2020

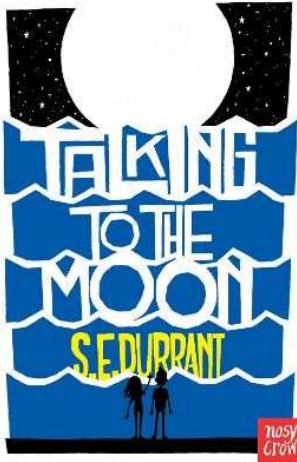
In the aftermath of World War One, everyone is trying to rebuild their lives. If Ben is to avoid being sent back to the orphanage, he needs to find his brother Sam, wounded in action and is now missing. Lotti's horrible aunt and uncle want to send her away to boarding-school (when she has just so successfully managed to get expelled from her last one!) And Clara, their young teacher, is waiting for news of her missing fiancé. Just as they think they've found their feet in the new order, disaster strikes, and Lotti and Ben must get away. And so they hatch a plan - to cross the Channel on Ben's narrowboat and find Sam. Buffeted by storms, chased by the police, Lotti, Ben, Clara and a growing number of dogs set out on an epic journey, on the search for lost loved ones and a place to call home.



## When Secrets Set Sail

Author: Sita Brahmachari Release Date: 20/08/2020

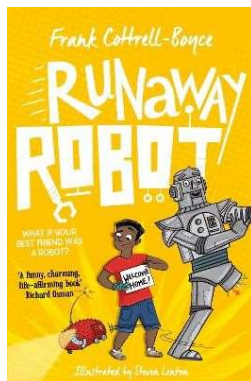
Usha is devastated when her grandmother Kali Ma passes away. Then her new adoptive sister Imtiaz arrives and the two girls clash instantly. That is until Kali Ma's ghost appears with a task for them. Immy's and Usha's home is full of history and secrets. Many years ago it was The House of the Ayahs - for those nannies who couldn't return to their Indian homeland. Today, their over-worked parents run the house as a home for refugees but eviction threatens. The precious documents that could save them are lost. If Usha and Imtiaz can set the secrets of generations free, will they be in time to save their home?



## Talking to the Moon

Author: S. E. Durrant Release Date: 05/03/2020

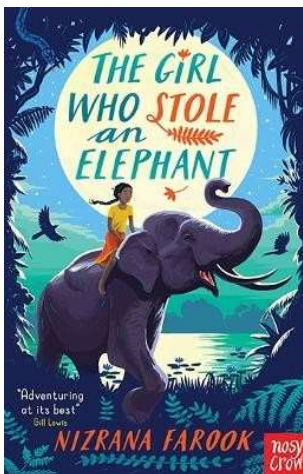
Iris takes refuge with her grandma, Mimi, to escape the chaos at home caused by her two-year old twin siblings and her dad's DIY repairs. There's a different kind of disorder in Mimi's house which is chock full of items collected over the years, chiefly boxes of photos she's taken and developed. Among the photographs of other people's weddings are family portraits and its one of these that sets Iris on a hunt to unravel an old mystery, even as Mimi's memories are fading. The story is beautifully told, as much about Iris and her search for order and happiness as it is about Mimi and her struggle with dementia. A poignant, thoughtful examination of family relationships, memory and loss, that ends on a note of hope and renewal.



## Runaway Robot

Author: Frank Cottrell Boyce Release Date: 06/02/2020

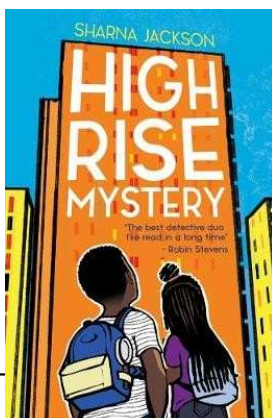
Alfie 'swerves' both school and the Limb Lab, where he should be going to learn how to control his state-of-the-art new hand, by hanging out at the airport. But everything changes when, through various happy accidents, he finds an enormous robot called Eric in Lost Property. Eric holds the Allen key to the book's mysteries, both a generations-old legend and the secrets that Archie is keeping from the reader and himself. Beautifully told and full of characters readers will love.



## The Girl Who Stole an Elephant

Author: Nizrana Farook Release Date: 09/01/2020

The story is set on the island of Serendib, now known as Sri Lanka, and transports readers to a vivid, larger-than-life world where young people can be bold, true and have some extraordinary adventures. Twelve-year old Chaya is a thief with a heart of gold, stealing from the king's palace to help those in her village. She makes a mistake when she takes jewels from the queen's bedroom though, triggering a series of events that leads to Chaya and two friends fleeing into the rainforest on the king's elephant.

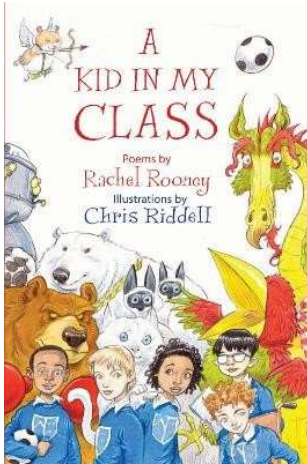


## High-Rise Mystery

Author: Sharna Jackson Release Date: 04/04/2019

Sisters Nik and Norva would agree that they are slightly obsessed with murder mystery series on the television so, when a body is discovered in their block of flats, they are sure they are the right people to discover the truth. Balancing jokey dialogue and insights into the reality of city life, this is a very likeable and fast-paced book.

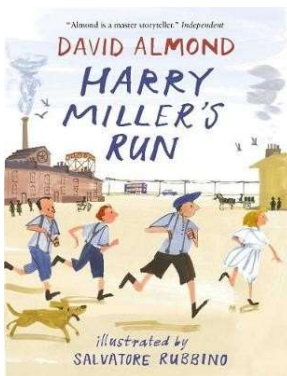




## A Kid in My Class

Author: Rachel Rooney Release Date: 02/08/2018

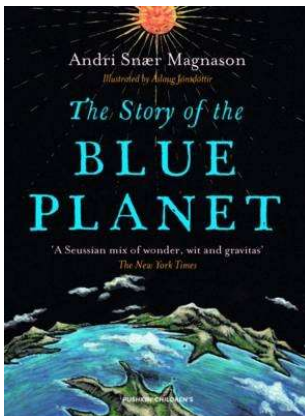
Rachel Rooney brings a class to life with poems for all the different characters. They're all here: the pushy one, the shy one. The whizz kid and the daydreamer. The best friender and the kid who runs in his wheelchair. The tough kid, the poet. And not forgetting the class hamster. Children will delight in the ways in which the styles and patterns of the poems enhance the exploration of each child. The wonderful illustrations draw readers into this magical anthology.



## Harry Miller's Run

Author: David Almond Release Date: 01/09/2016

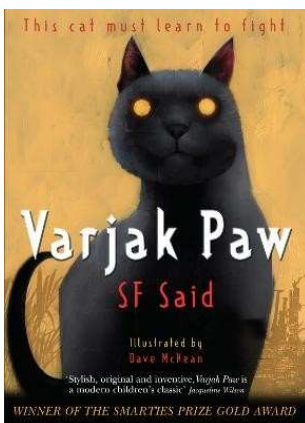
A lively story which captures the exuberance of a trio of lads and one girl who set off one hot summer morning to run from their homes in Newcastle to South Shields. There's no training, no special kit, no crowds - just the gang enjoying the freedom to run and the kindness of many who keep them fed and watered along the way.



## The Story of the Blue Planet

Author: Andri Snaer Magnason Release Date: 07/05/2015

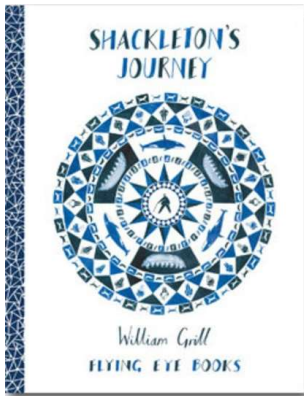
A whimsical fairy tale, The Story of the Blue Planet is the story of two children who live on a planet inhabited only by children who never grow old. There's a powerful underlying message about caring for our environment whilst at the same time telling a wonderfully entertaining story that is combined with bright, magical illustrations.



## Varjak Paw

Author: S. F. Said Release Date: 13/03/2014

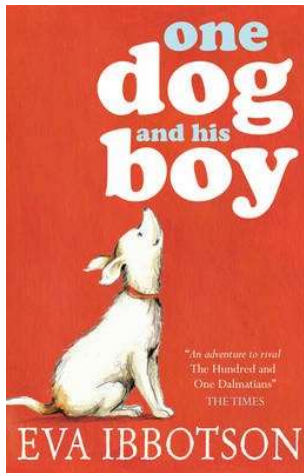
Varjak Paw is a Mesopotamian Blue kitten. He lives high up in an old house on a hill. He's never left home, but then his grandfather tells him about the Way - a secret martial art for cats. Now Varjak must use the Way to survive in a city full of dangerous dogs, cat gangs and, strangest of all, the mysterious Vanishings. Beguiling and mysterious, thought provoking and as wise as the feline hero, this is becoming a modern classic.



## Shackleton's Journey

Author: William Grill Release Date: 02/01/2014

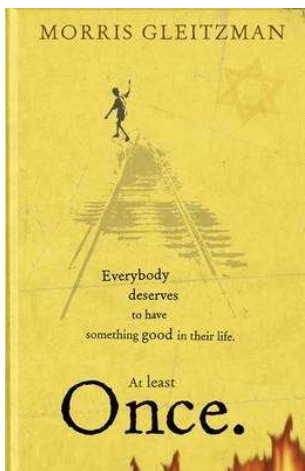
A detailed visual narrative of Shackleton's epic journey to Antarctica. Children will love examining the exploded diagrams of the now peculiar provisions taken and the individual drawings of each sled dog and pack horse. This book takes the academic and historical information surrounding the expedition and reinterprets it for a young audience in a way that will capture their imaginations.



## One Dog and His Boy

Author: Eva Ibbotson Release Date: 01/03/2012

All Hal has ever wanted is a dog but his parents refuse to contemplate the idea. A dog would mess up their beautiful house and disturb their busy routine. When they discover East Pets, they hire Hal a dog for a weekend thinking that will do the trick. But they don't know Hal! Hal takes matters into his own hands. Soon Hal and all the dogs he has released from Easy Pets are out on the road. How Hal makes his escape is both thrilling and moving as it marks his growth from sadness to great happiness.



## Once.

Author: Morris Gleitzman Release Date: 23/02/2006

A moving and convincing child-eye view of what happened to the children of Poland after the Germans invaded. Felix has been placed by his parents in an orphanage for safe-keeping but, when the Germans come and burn the books in the orphanage library, Felix knows he must set out to return to his parents who are booksellers and make sure they are safe. Felix's journey is dangerous and desperate but also full of courage and hope in a world where friendships and loyalty are the glue that hold things together.