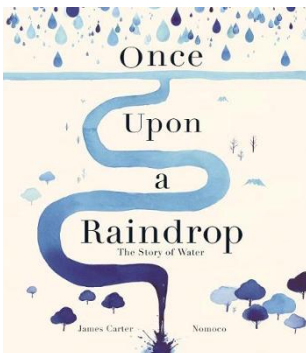


Sofia the Dreamer and her Magical Afro

Author: Jessica Wilson **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 01/06/2020
Year Groups: Key Stage 1, Key Stage 2

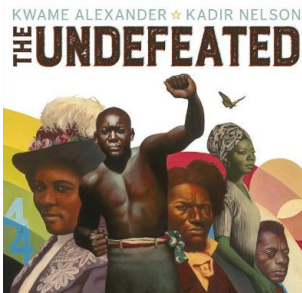
This is a poetic look at the history of natural hairstyles – and, through Sofia, we see children encouraged not to be afraid to be themselves. Every Sunday Sofia dreams as her Mum washes and styles her hair – and every style has a period and a cultural figure as an example of how styles and history sit together. Whilst feeling sleepy as her hair is done Sofia dream-travels to visit a Jamaican Rastafarian, an African ancestor and a Black Panther in Los Angeles. The poem takes on this journey through history and also beyond our world to the realisation that love of one another is the basis of all. The illustrations are bold and the fact that Tom Rawles is best known for album cover shows through his bold contemporary style. The publisher is a British Jamaican independent company – set up to bring to light some of the stories from the Caribbean and its peoples. It was founded in response to the need for diversity in publishing. I hope we see more from these publishers!



Once Upon a Raindrop

Author: James Carter **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 05/03/2020
Year Groups: Key Stage 1

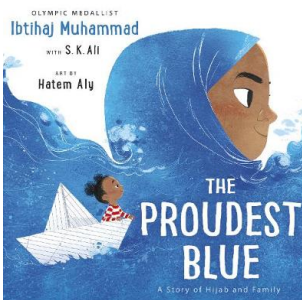
Shortlisted for the UKLA Book Awards 2020 Via simple but elegant illustrations, and a gentle sometimes playful rhyming text, this picture book passes on all sorts of information about water and its importance, while never losing the sense of the beauty of this essential element. Words and illustrations 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.



The Undefeated

Author: Kwame Alexander **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 20/02/2020 **Year Groups:** Key Stage 1, Key Stage 2

Longlisted for the UKLA Book Awards 2021 | Shortlisted for the CILIP Kate Greenaway Medal 2020 Written for and about “the swift and sweet ones/who hurdled history and opened a world of possible”, for those who “survived America by any means necessary. And the ones who didn’t,” this is an inspiring ode to the author’s forebears and to the world-changing feats of unforgettable Black American figures. Author Kwame Alexander’s initial inspiration for this book came in the year his second daughter was born, the same year Barack Obama became the first African American president of the USA. As a result, Alexander wanted his daughters “to know how we got to this historic moment”, which is exactly what this stirring book does. The chained slaves who kept faith, the elite Olympians, the innovative musicians, the seminal scientists, the courageous activists - people from all walks of life are celebrated in Alexander’s poetically poised words, and gloriously illustrated by Kadir Nelson, with much for young children to ponder and ask questions about. As well as being a wonderful way for parents to explore Black American history with their little ones on a one-to-one basis, this will also work well with older children in a classroom context. Indeed, this is one of those rare and wonderful picture books that defies age boundaries - a radiant, resonant unforgettable tour de force, as befits its theme.

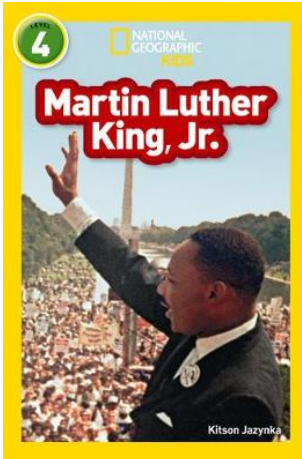


The Proudest Blue

Author: Ibtihaj Muhammad, S. K. Ali **Format:** Hardback **Release Date:** 02/01/2020 **Year Groups:** Key Stage 1, Key Stage 2

This collaboration, between the first American Olympic medallist to compete wearing a hijab and an award-winning Muslim YA author, is a beautiful story of sisterly love as well as a thoughtful depiction of the significance of wearing the hijab. Expressed in terms of family pride and self determination rather than in terms of faith, makes the message particularly accessible to all young readers regardless of their background. Faizah is excited for her first day of school, with her light up shoes and new backpack, but even more excited for her older sister, Asiya with her brand-new blue hijab. As Faizah walks to the school she admires her sister who looks like ‘a princess’ in her blue head scarf. Their mother has prepared the girls with wise words, which they remember as they encounter different reactions, and these are shown on dreamy spreads of Faiza’s thoughts and their mother’s words. When the kids in the school bully Asiya, she remembers her mother’s advice to not carry hurtful words as “they are not yours to keep. They belong only to those who said them” The bullies are cleverly depicted as faceless, raceless, anonymous shadows thus avoiding apportioning blame to any one sector. The vivid colour and expressive illustration are just as powerful as words in conveying the passionate message of how

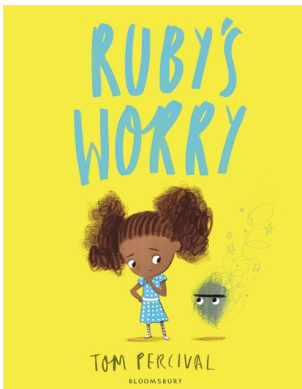
to be proud of one's culture, individuality, and religion and how to stay strong protected by the armour of family love. This is an excellent book about identity and self-confidence for young readers who can see themselves in Asiya or know someone like her and essential for Empathy collections.



Martin Luther King, Jr

Author: Kitson Jazynka, National Geographic Kids **Format:** Paperback
Release Date: 03/09/2018 **Year Groups:** Key Stage 1, Key Stage 2

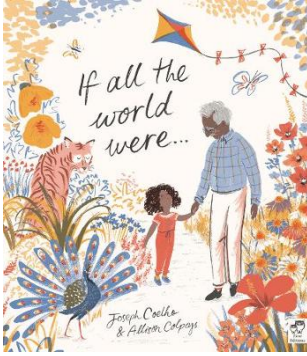
Level 4 - National Geographic Kids Reader Published in the UK by Collins, the National Geographic Kids Readers are a valuable resource for classroom and library collections. Beautifully designed and produced, with clear text boxes and layout, interactive features such as quizzes and benefiting, of course, 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!



Ruby's Worry

Author: Tom Percival **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 12/07/2018
Year Groups: Early Years

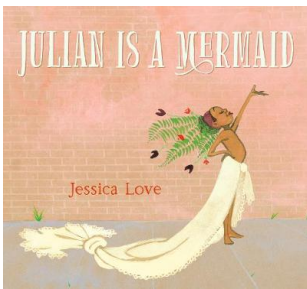
Everyone could learn from Ruby. She's a perfectly happy little girl, until she discovers a worry. The worry – depicted as a scribbly yellow shape – is hardly noticeable at first, but starts to grow and soon it's with her all the time, stopping her from doing the things she loved. As Ruby worries about her worry – the worst thing you can do – it gets bigger still until it takes up the whole row at the cinema. The problem is solved when Ruby finds someone else with a worry; as they talk about them, something amazing happens – their worries disappear. Readers will recognise Ruby's problems and see their own lives reflected in hers. Sensitive and very reassuring this clever book raises lots of opportunities for children to talk about their worries.



If All the World Were...

Author: Joseph Coelho **Format:** Hardback **Release Date:** 07/06/2018
Year Groups: Key Stage 1

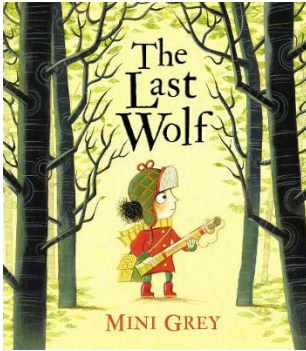
Longlisted for the UKLA Book Awards 2020 June 2018 Debut of the Month | Joseph Coelho dedicates this lovely picture book to 'everyone who misses someone' and it's particularly apposite for any child who has recently lost a grandparent. The story is narrated by a little girl who describes happy times 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 Colpoys's illustrations make it beautiful to look at too and it deserves a place in every child's collection.



Julian Is a Mermaid

Author: Jessica Love **Format:** Hardback **Release Date:** 01/06/2018
Year Groups: Key Stage 1

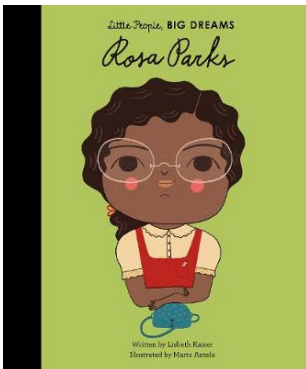
Winner of the Klaus Flugge Prize 2019 | Shortlisted for the CILIP Kate Greenaway Medal 2019 Already shortlisted for the Kate Greenaway Medal, Julian is a Mermaid is an outstanding picture book, surely destined to become a classic. Julian is out with Nana when he notices three women dressed as mermaids. 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. The Klaus Flugge judges said: it reminded me of Sendak, it's hard to believe it's a debut; the illustrations say things that words would struggle to express; delivers an important message without feeling didactic.



The Last Wolf

Author: Mini Grey **Format:** Hardback **Release Date:** 01/03/2018
Year Groups: Key Stage 1

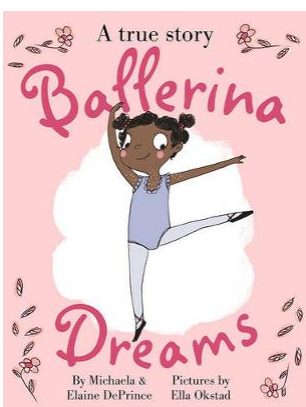
Shortlisted for the UKLA Shortlist Book Awards 2019 This empowering tale of a little girl who is nobody's victim has a surprising environmental twist in its tail. Award winning Mini Grey triumphs again!



Rosa Parks

Author: Lisbeth Kaiser **Format:** Hardback **Release Date:** 23/08/2017
Year Groups: Key Stage 1

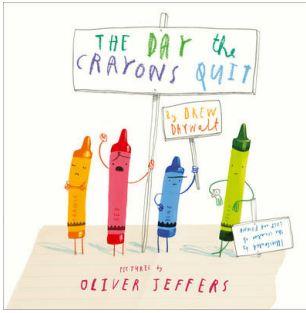
Discover the life of Rosa Parks in this inspiring story of her life. With stylish and quirky illustrations and extra facts at the back, this empowering series celebrates the important life stories of wonderful people of the world. From designers and artists to scientists, all of them went on to achieve incredible things, yet all of them began life as a little child with a dream. These books make the lives of these role models accessible for children, providing a powerful message to inspire the next generation of outstanding people who will change the world! Little People, Big Dreams series include: Ada Lovelace Agatha Christie Amelia Earhart Anne Frank Audrey Hepburn Coco Chanel Ella Fitzgerald Emmeline Pankhurst Frida Kahlo Georgia O'Keeffe Harriet Tubman Jane Austen Jane Goodall Josephine Baker Lucy Maud Montgomery Maria Montessori Marie Curie Maya Angelou Mother Teresa Muhammed Ali Rosa Parks Simone de Beauvoir Stephen Hawking Vivienne Westwood We have a special category for the Little People, Big Dreams series. [Click here to view them all.](#)



Ballerina Dreams

Author: Michaela DePrince, Elaine DePrince **Format:** Paperback
Release Date: 06/04/2017 **Year Groups:** Key Stage 1

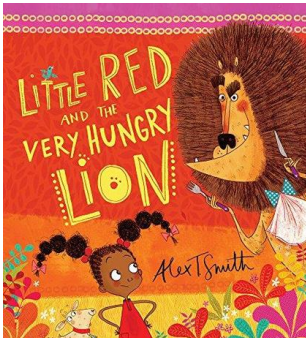
This charming little book opens with a scene any young dancer dreams of: a girl peeking through the curtains before flying onto the stage, a ballerina. The journey taken by that young ballerina to make that entrance is particularly inspiring however: she is Michaela DePrince, and the book describes simply and without embellishment how she came from an orphanage in Sierra Leone to become one of the world's best dancers. It's a story of hope, courage, love and persistence, filled with enough dance detail to satisfy tutu-wearing youngsters while gently reminding them anyone's dreams can come true with hard work and practice. Ella Okstad's illustrations of Michaela and her fellow little dancers are absolutely gorgeous.



The Day the Crayons Quit

Author: Drew Daywalt **Format:** Board book **Release Date:** 25/02/2016 **Year Groups:** Early Years, Key Stage 1

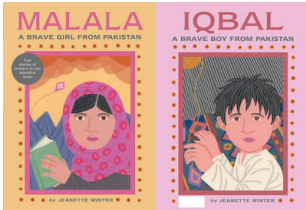
Winner of the UKLA Award 2015 in the 3-6 years category. Winner of the Red House Children's Book of 2015. Shortlisted for the Kate Greenaway Medal 2014 - One of our Books of the Year 2013. Award-winning Oliver Jeffers and Drew Daywalt's highly-entertaining book is now available in board book form. Colouring will never be the same again! When Duncan goes to take out his crayons one day he finds a stack of letters inside. Every crayon has something to say. The red crayon complains he is used too much - too many things such as fire engines and strawberries are red; the purple crayon is a neat minded soul and hates it that so much of Duncan's drawing goes outside the lines; the black crayon hates just to be used for outlines - and so on! Saddest of all, the peach crayon has lost his wrapping - how can he come out of the box naked? In an attempt to satisfy them all, Duncan does a final drawing. Overall, a brilliant book for every age to enjoy.



Little Red and the Very Hungry Lion

Author: Alex T. Smith **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 07/05/2015 **Year Groups:** Early Years, Key Stage 1

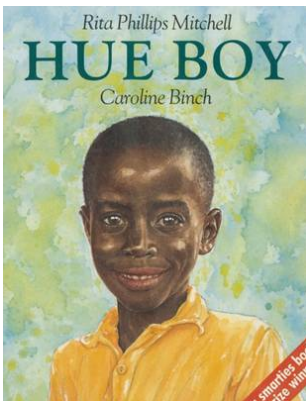
Winner of the UKLA 2016 Book Award in the 3 - 6 year old category. Little Red Riding Hood transposed to an African town setting where a lion is really no match for a clever small girl. The inventive layout of the text and its relationship to the witty, beautifully coloured illustrations really enhance the child friendly storytelling. The empowering portrayal of different cultures and a heroine who is not a naive victim ensure that this will become a classic for the classroom and the nursery. A wonderfully engaging classic fairy tale with a twist by the bestselling Alex T. Smith.



Malala a Brave Girl from Pakistan / Iqbal a Brave Boy from Pakistan

Author: Jeanette Winter **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 23/04/2015 **Year Groups:** Key Stage 1

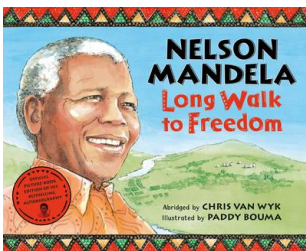
Meet two brave young heroes of Pakistan, Malala and Iqbal, each unafraid to speak out, each a victim of unspeakable violence, each an inspiration to the world as they stood up for the right to freedom and education. This non-fiction picture book is an inspiration to all from acclaimed author-illustrator Jeanette Winter. Ingrid Selberg, Managing Director, Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing Division says, 'I am so proud to be publishing this extraordinary picture book, which tells the inspirational stories of two amazingly brave young people, which should be shared with children everywhere.'



Hue Boy

Author: Rita Phillips Mitchell **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 01/11/2012 **Year Groups:** Key Stage 1

A very big welcome to this beautiful new edition of an award-winning title which tells exactly what very special ingredient is needed to make Hue Boy grow. Smaller than all his friends, Hue Boy just doesn't seem to grow despite everything that his mother does to help him. She feeds him well, encourages him to exercise, and even takes him to both the doctor and the Wise Man of the village to see if either can be of help. But then Hue's dad comes home. Is that what is needed to make Hue grow?



Nelson Mandela's Long Walk to Freedom

Author: Nelson Mandela, Chris van Wyk **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 03/09/2010 **Year Groups:** Key Stage 1

Nelson Mandela's inspirational life story has been adapted into a wonderfully child-friendly version. It tells of his childhood as an ordinary boy in a village and how his belief in democracy was already strongly developed while a student. Mandela's fight against the government and the oppression that was apartheid, how it led to his imprisonment and how he survived the long, long days in his cell is a story all should know. Paddy Bouma's illustrations give a strong sense of the time and place.



Leon and Bob

Author: Simon James **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 01/09/2008

Year Groups: Key Stage 1

An urban tale about a boy and his imaginary friend. Bob is Leon's best friend. He shares Leon's room. Everywhere Leon goes, Bob goes too. Then one day a boy moves in next door. But when Leon goes to ask his new neighbour to go to the park with him, he discovers Bob has gone.