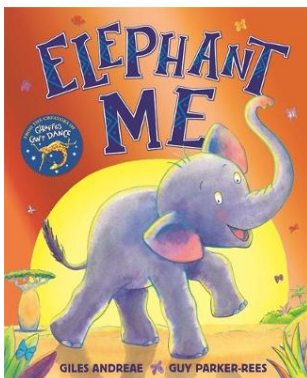


Sofia the Dreamer and her Magical Afro

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

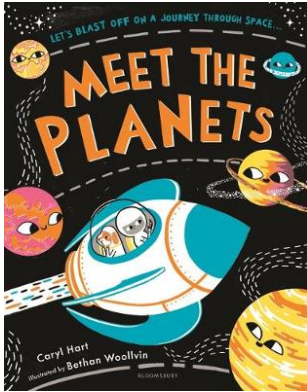
This is a poetic look at the history of natural hairstyles – and, through Sofia, we see children encouraged not to be afraid to be themselves. Every Sunday Sofia dreams as her Mum washes and styles her hair – and every style has a period and a cultural figure as an example of how styles and history sit 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!



Elephant Me

Author: Giles Andreae **Format:** Hardback **Release Date:** 14/05/2020
Year Groups: Key Stage 1

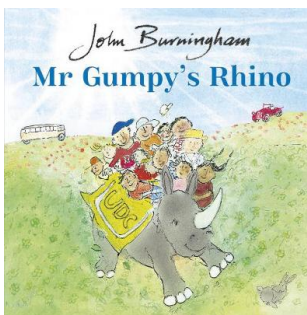
Twenty years after the publication of the book that must be in every nursery and primary school library, we have another vividly colourful jungle tale filled with a perfectly judged rhyming text that is a joy to read aloud and sharing a really positive message about being true to yourself and celebrating all sorts of achievements. Guy Parker-Rees has a very distinctive technicolour palette and has talked about his love of drawing elephants, which really shows in the endearing cast of characters here. It is time for the all-important Elephant games when, one by one, the young elephants compete to impress King Elephant Mighty and earn their Elephant Name. So the loudest becomes Elephant Noisy and the strongest Elephant Strong and so on, but right at the end is little Num-Num who did not know what his talent was and whatever he tried, failed to impress the king. He gets called Elephant Nothing at All and sadly Num-Num decides to leave. But the animal friends he gains at his new watering hole convince him of his own worth and he returns to put the king right. This positive message of affirmation is a really timely one and I can see that this text will be as universally popular as its predecessor and a classic in its own right. Indispensable for every library.



Meet the Planets

Author: Caryl Hart **Format:** Hardback **Release Date:** 06/02/2020
Year Groups: Key Stage 1

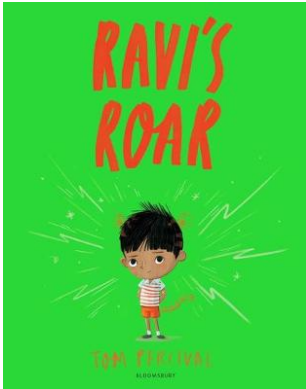
Zoooooooooom! We're off on an exciting space adventure in our rocket to meet all the planets of the solar system. Join in with the rhymes and spot all the smiley-faced, friendly planets, from shimmering Saturn to mighty Mars. Little ones will have a blast (and be back in time for bed!) in this striking, read-aloud, story-led picture book. It's perfect for all would-be astronauts!



Mr Gumpy's Rhino

Author: John Burningham **Format:** Hardback **Release Date:** 05/09/2019 **Year Groups:** Key Stage 1

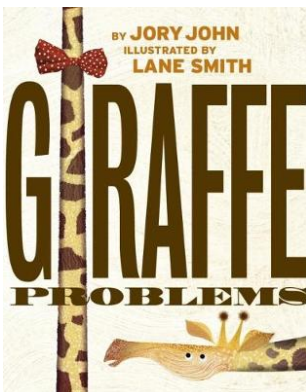
Longlisted for the UKLA Book Awards 2021 John Burningham won his record breaking second Kate Greenaway medal for Mr Gumpy's Outing in 1970, which was the first we saw of the character that John claimed was a 'prophetic caricature' because he grew to look more like him throughout his life! So, it seems entirely appropriate that the very last book written by John features his alter ego. We last saw him in the equally popular Mr Gumpy's Motor Car in 1973 so where has he been since? Travelling in Africa it seems, where he rescues a baby rhino who has lost his parents, killed by poachers who had stolen their horns. Kind Mr Gumpy goes in search of milk from friendly Bedouin tribesmen, decides to call his rhino Charlie and takes him on the ship home with him. He struggles to find enough food for the rapidly growing Charlie and local schoolchildren suggest he could work for the council keeping the grass down on the roadside verges. His specially made high-vis jacket and rhino at work sign are a real hit with Charlie! He repays this kindness by rescuing the school outing; taking the children on his back to the beach and then out to sea to catch the boat they had just missed- a thrilling ride for everyone! With the classic mix of soft sepia line drawings and beautifully textured full colour images this is Burningham at his best, vividly capturing landscapes and the tiny, exquisitely drawn details that bring every character to life. A real celebration of kindness and community that offers a gentle introduction for small children to discussion about conservation and endangered species. A real classic that will be as timeless, popular and hopefully award -winning, as its predecessors.



Ravi's Roar

Author: Tom Percival **Format:** Hardback **Release Date:** 08/08/2019
Year Groups: Key Stage 1

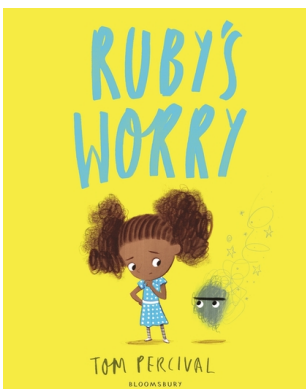
A Julia Eccleshare Pick of the Month August 2019 Temper tantrums are brilliantly visualised in this witty story about how Ravi deals with his. Poor Ravi! The youngest and smallest in the family he is always the slowest and the shortest and the last one to get what he wants. It makes him feel terrible! And when Ravi feels terrible he ROARS. His face goes red, he grows two furry ears, sharp teeth and a stripey tail. Now he can get what he wants but there is a price to pay: will anyone want to play with him? Tom Percival's illustrations keep the message light hearted without trivialising it.



Giraffe Problems

Author: Jory John **Format:** Hardback **Release Date:** 01/10/2018 **Year Groups:** Early Years, Key Stage 1

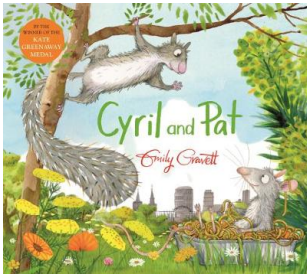
One of our 2018 Books of the Year Witty, a bit silly, with irresistible characters, fabulous illustrations and a serious point to make, Giraffe Problems is an outstanding picture book, one that will easily stand repeat readings. Edward the giraffe stresses about his neck, a lot. He compares it unfavourably to all the other necks around and does his best to disguise it (most memorably with a mountain of scarves and bow ties). Only when he meets Cyrus, a creature also frustrated by the size of his neck, does he come to terms with it, making a special friend in the process. Lane Smith's textured, brushy artwork is a perfect match for Jory John's sharp and very funny text, and this is a picture book to entertain and amuse readers of all ages.



Ruby's Worry

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

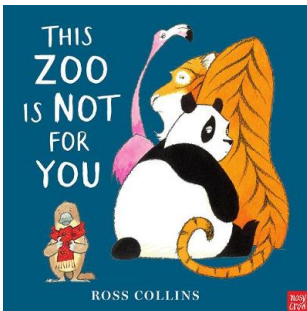
Everyone could learn from Ruby. She's a perfectly happy little girl, until she discovers a worry. The worry – depicted as a scribbly yellow shape – is hardly noticeable at first, but starts to grow and soon it's with her all the time, stopping her from doing the things she loved. As Ruby worries about 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.



Cyril and Pat

Author: Emily Gravett **Format:** Hardback **Release Date:** 10/07/2018
Year Groups: Key Stage 1

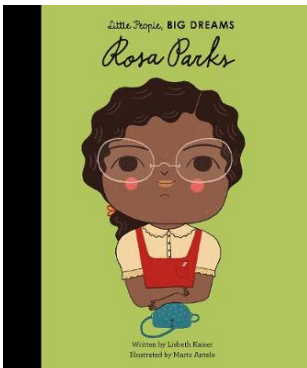
Witty and characterful illustrations and a clever rhyming text tell an inspiring tale of friendship against all odds.



This Zoo is Not for You

Author: Ross Collins **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 03/05/2018
Year Groups: Key Stage 1

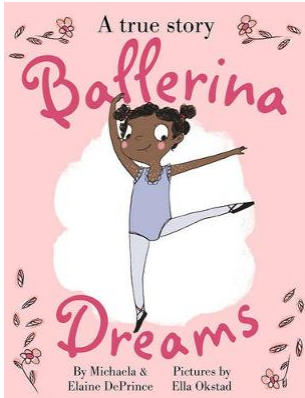
UKLA Longlist Book Awards - 2019 Wonderfully amusing animals get their comeuppance in this artful tale of acceptance and the need to be kind.



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.](#)

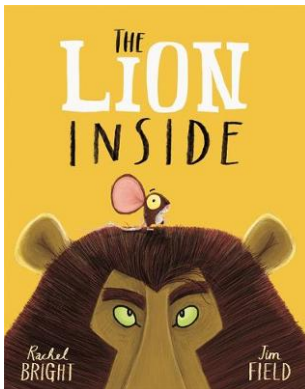


Ballerina Dreams

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.

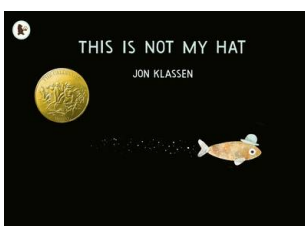


The Lion Inside

Author: Rachel Bright **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 10/03/2016

Year Groups: Early Years, Key Stage 1

Shortlisted for the UKLA 2017 Book Award Fans of The Gruffalo and Giraffes Can't Dance will love this feelgood rhyming story portraying a positive message about overcoming your fears.



This is Not My Hat

Author: Jon Klassen **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 16/06/2014

Year Groups: Early Years, Key Stage 1

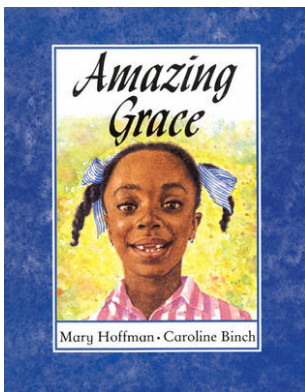
Winner of the Kate Greenaway Medal 2014 - Winner of the UKLA Book Awards 3-6yrs 2014 - Winner of the 2013 Caldecott Medal. One of Julia Eccleshare's Stand-out Children's Book of the Year 2012 Best-selling illustrator Jon Klassen follows up his successful I Want My Hat Back in this witty, almost wordless picture book about a tiny fish who steals a hat from a very big fish – and hopes to get away with it. The eloquent but simple illustrations show the audacious behaviour of a hapless fish heading for disaster. Young children will love the joke...and the fact that they know what the little fish doesn't.



Leon and Bob

Author: Simon James **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 01/09/2008
Year Groups: Key Stage 1

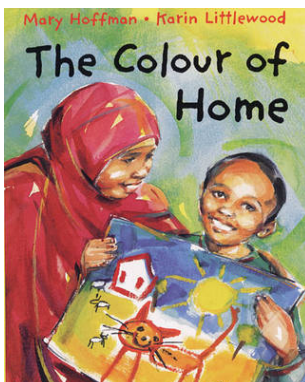
An urban tale about a boy and his imaginary friend. Bob is Leon's best friend. He shares Leon's room. Everywhere Leon goes, Bob goes too. Then one day a boy moves in next door. But when Leon goes to ask his new neighbour to go to the park with him, he discovers Bob has gone.



Amazing Grace

Author: Mary Hoffman **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 16/10/2007
Year Groups: Early Years

Grace loves to act out stories. Sometimes she plays the leading part, sometimes she is 'a cast of thousands.' When her school decides to perform Peter Pan, Grace is longing to play Peter, but her classmates say that Peter was a boy, and besides, he wasn't black...But Grace's Ma and Nana tell her she can be anything she wants if she puts her mind to it...



The Colour of Home

Author: Mary Hoffman **Format:** Paperback **Release Date:** 01/03/2003
Year Groups: Key Stage 1

Selected by a distinguished independent panel of experts including our editorial expert, Julia Eccleshare, for Diverse Voices - 50 of the best Children's Books celebrating cultural diversity in the UK.