

the BEST IRISH BOOKS *of* 2025

100 great reads for ages 0–18



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every child a reader

Children's Books Ireland is the national charity and arts organisation that champions every child's right to develop a love of reading. Our mission at Children's Books Ireland is to inspire a love of reading in children and young people on the island of Ireland, and to champion equitable access for all to excellent books. We share our expertise and enthusiasm with the adults who guide and influence young readers, and encourage schools and early childhood settings to build a positive culture of reading and reading aloud. We support and promote authors and illustrators and connect them with their audiences through our work.

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Is í **Leabhair Pháistí Éireann** an eagraíocht náisiúnta carthanachta agus ealaíne a chosnaíonn agus a chuireann chun cinn an ceart atá ag gach páiste grá don léitheoireacht a fhás agus a fhorbairt. Tá sé mar aidhm againn grá don léitheoireacht a spreagadh i bpáistí agus daoine óga ar oileán na hÉireann agus cáis a dhéanamh maidir le leabhair den scoth a sholáthar go cothrom. Roinnimid ár gcuid saineolais agus ár gcuid díograise leis na daoine fásta a threoraíonn na léitheoirí óga agus a théann i bhfeidhm orthu, agus cuirimid ina luí ar scoileanna agus suíomhanna luath-óige gur fiú cultúr dearfach a chothú maidir leis an léitheoireacht agus an léitheoireacht os ard. Tugaimid tacaíocht d'údair agus do mhaísitheoirí, cuirimid chun cinn iad agus nascaimid iad lena lucht léitheoireachta.



Specially commissioned
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atlanticartstudios.com/about/

Each review in this guide comes with a suggested age range. These are based on the information provided by the publisher as well as our own judgement of the level for which the language and content is most suitable. In some cases you may see two or more age ranges e.g. 12–14, 15+. In these cases, we feel that the book is suitable for a wider age span. These age ranges are a guide only – it is impossible to accurately predict the correct level for every child. If in doubt, parents/carers and teachers are advised to read the book themselves before deciding whether it is suitable for the child or young person.



Denotes Editor's Choice/
Rogha an Eagarthóra



Denotes a début author or illustrator/
Céad saothar le húdar nó maisitheoir

Introduction from Laureate na nÓg/ Réamhna ó Laureate na nÓg

I am so excited to present to you the Children's Books Ireland *The Best Irish Books of 2025* reading guide.

Here is an invitation to discover the best of what is on offer from Irish children's writers and illustrators. Within these pages, you will discover a treasure chest of carefully curated books – stories that span every age group and almost every genre, written in both Irish and English. These books reflect the creativity, heart and cultural depth that define our storytelling tradition.

We have a wealth of variety, from inspiring picturebooks to gripping teen novels, from mad-cap adventures to thought-provoking stories, from laugh-out-loud comic books to stunning graphic novels. Many of these titles are bestsellers written and illustrated by award-winning artists and all are united by a deep passion for writing that puts children at its centre.

Why does it matter that these writers and illustrators are Irish or live here? It matters because stories shape how children see themselves and the world around them. When young readers find their own voices, landscapes, cultures and experiences reflected in the books they read, it fosters a strong sense of identity and belonging. That is why it is vital that children growing up in Ireland have access to books written by Irish authors – stories that speak directly to their lives, rooted in the rhythms, language and spirit of this island.

All books help our children to imagine, to question and to dream. But Irish authored and illustrated books also help them to discover the unique richness of their own culture, while opening their minds to the wider world.

To that end, we are very fortunate to have artists from all over the world now living on this island, calling it home and contributing their creativity to the stories that our children love. The illustrator who designed the beautiful cover for the guide, Linda Färhlin, is herself a Swedish artist who has made Sligo her home. Equally we have Irish artists all over the world that still carry their Irishness through their books.

This guide is a celebration of the incredible talent found in Irish children's literature today.

Inniu, tá an t-ádh orainn go bhfuil leabhair do chuile aoisghrúpa ar fáil as Gaeilge agus gur leabhair den scoth iad. Ó phictiúrleabhair go leabhair do dhéagóirí, is féidir leat léamh as Gaeilge anois más é sin atá uait.

Níl dream ar bith níos tabhachtaí ná na leitheoirí óga atá ag teacht aníos anois. Tá siad ina gconaí i ndomhan atá sách cráite agus mishocair. Is féidir le léitheoireacht suaimhneas intinne a thabhairt dóibh agus comhbhá a fhorbairt ina gcoirthe óga freisin. Tá sé tábhachtach go bhfeiceann siad iad féin agus a sochaí sna leabhair a léann siad.

Iidir na leathanaigh seo, cuirfidh tú aithne ar na cruthaitheoirí atá ag déanamh leabhar do pháistí inár dteanga dhúchais. Ba mhaith linn go léifidh siad gach leabhar le lúcháir agus leabhair Éireannacha agus leabhair scríofa i nGaeilge le bród breise.

Congratulations to Children's Books Ireland on producing such a wonderful resource, and to all the writers and illustrators working in the world of children's books in Ireland.

I am sure that this guide will spark curiosity, conversation and joy in the hands of the next generation. May it inspire all of us to discover new favourites and to share them with our young people, to ensure that every child in Ireland can see themselves – and their possibilities – on the page.

Patricia Forde

Laureate na nÓg 2023–2026



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		Sheena Wilkinson [SW]

About Children's Books Ireland/ Eolas Faoi Leabhair Pháistí Éireann

Children's Books Ireland is the national charity and arts organisation that champions every child's right to develop a love of reading. Our mission is to inspire a love of reading in children and young people on the island of Ireland, and to champion equitable access for all to excellent books. We share our expertise and enthusiasm with the adults who guide and influence young readers, and we encourage schools and early childhood settings to build a positive culture of reading and reading aloud. We support and promote authors and illustrators and connect them with their audiences through our work. The quality and breadth of work from Irish authors and illustrators, and those who have made their home here, is second to none, and this guide is a celebration of all that is excellent in both fiction and non-fiction, from picturebooks to titles for young adult readers aged 15+. This guide is a treasure trove of writing and illustration from Irish authors, illustrators and publishers, with 100 short reviews and a further 100 'read also' recommendations to point young readers in the right direction for their next great book. From débuts to our Laureates na nÓg, there are brilliant books for 0-18-year-olds in English and as Gaeilge.

We could not produce this guide and get it to its readers without the cooperation of our partners in libraries and bookshops across Ireland; the support of the publishers, our partners and funders, especially those who placed adverts; and the time and expertise generously given by our team of 80 reviewers. We are immensely grateful to all of you. We also wish to acknowledge the skill and imagination of both our designer, Fintan Wall, our proofreader, Emma Dunne, and this year's illustrator, Linda Fährlin.

Finally to you, the readers – we hope this guide helps you to choose a brilliant Irish book for the young readers in your life. Whether you find it in the library or your local bookshop, the act of connecting that book with a reader is a hugely impactful one. Our reputation as a nation of storytellers is one to be proud of, and here we hope you'll find some new favourite writers and illustrators. For more recommendations, themed reading guides and recent reviews, or to sign up for our newsletter and stay informed, visit our website: www.childrensbooksireland.ie





Children's Books Ireland Projects

Book Gifting – Schools

At Children's Books Ireland we would like to see school libraries stocked with quality children's books and for teachers to be equipped with the tools to guide young readers. Unfortunately, there is no ongoing government funding for school libraries, leaving many schools without the resources to achieve this. Our book-gifting programmes deliver books into schools, boosting their libraries with contemporary high-quality books. We provide training, support and resources to teachers and school staff. We facilitate visits from authors and illustrators, called Champions of Reading, to schools to further inspire students and encourage reading for joy. Our projects include Every Child A Reader, Everyone A Reader, the Robert Dunbar Memorial Libraries, Bookbag and Free To Be Me Little Libraries, among others. These initiatives are delivered with the support of our funders and partners: KPMG, Aviva, Brown Bag Films, The Toy Show Appeal with the Community Foundation Ireland, The Ireland Funds, Enterprise Holdings ROAD Forward, The Sunflower Charitable Foundation, The Tomar Trust and numerous publishing partners. Find out more about how you can apply for some of these schemes by visiting our website at <https://childrensbooksireland.ie/what-we-do/book-gifting> and signing up to our newsletter.

In 2024, with the generous support of our partners, funders and the Arts Council of Ireland, we gifted over 35,000 books to over 41,000 children all over Ireland. With their

continued support, we hope to gift more books to children in Ireland, encouraging and inspiring children to find the perfect book for them.

Book Gifting – Charities

To further ensure that every child has the opportunity to be a reader, we also donate books throughout the year to charities and other groups. Recently we have donated to charities and children's groups including BUMBLEance, St Vincent de Paul, Jacinta's Smile, Waterford Immigration Network, NOVAS, direct provision centres, Children in Hospital Ireland, Tipperary Rural Traveller Project, West Limerick Resources, COPE, Mosney Village and Focus Ireland. These donations help us to reach the most vulnerable of children with the greatest need of stories that reflect and inspire them.

Book Gifting – Early Years and Hospitals

In 2023 and 2024 we supported the Coombe in hosting their Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) Babies with Books Read-A-Thon. In 2025 we continued to expand our programme with the Arts in Health Team at Children's Health Ireland (CHI). Reads and Rhymes Together is a CHI-wide initiative in partnership with Children's Books Ireland to encourage reading for joy in children and young people. Our partnership project aims to create communities of readers aged between 0 and 16 and their families across CHI's acute hospitals



Tionscadail Leabhair Pháistí Éireann

in Crumlin, Tallaght and Temple Street and the Outpatient Department (OPD) and Urgent Care Centre (UCC)/Emergency Care Units (ECU) at Connolly Hospital and Tallaght Hospital. We know that parent- and guardian-led reading in hospital forms important connections in simple but meaningful ways. Together, we want to inspire a culture of reading for joy across the paediatric healthcare setting, encouraging patients and families to spend time together within the pages of a book.

Children's Books Ireland Book Clinics

Children's Books Ireland Book Clinics are inclusive, free events where all families are welcome. The Book Doctor writes personalised reading 'prescriptions' for children of all ages, abilities and needs, based on their interests and reading preferences. Our Book Doctors have been trained to welcome young readers with Autism, Dyslexia, ADHD or vision impairment. Páistí agus teaghlaigh arb í an Ghaeilge a máthairteanga, freastalaíonn an Dochtúir Leabhar orthu siúd freisin. These clinics are also available online via Zoom. Families can check out our social media and website to see when the next Book Clinic will take place. If you wish to programme a Book Clinic at your festival, library, bookshop or venue, please contact our Programme & Events Manager, Aoife Murray, at aoife@childrensbooksireland.ie



Laureate na nÓg

Laureate na nÓg, Ireland's Children's Literature Laureate, is a unique honour celebrating an artist of exceptional talent and commitment. Siobhán Parkinson was named as the first Laureate na nÓg in May 2010, followed by Niamh Sharkey, Eoin Colfer, P. J. Lynch, Sarah Crossan and Áine Ní Ghlinn. In May 2023, Patricia Forde was announced as the seventh Laureate na nÓg. Patricia's theme as laureate is all about creativity and using imagination to enrich our lives. With her Whole Wild World bus tour, Patricia has brought together the children's writers and illustrators of Ireland with the children of Ireland to create, to inspire each other, to imagine new worlds and, most of all, to have fun along the way. Laureate na nÓg is an initiative of the Arts Council. It is managed and delivered on the council's behalf



by Children's Books Ireland and supported by the Arts Council of Northern Ireland and the Department of Children, Disability and Equality. By honouring an artist of exceptional talent and commitment, Laureate na nÓg champions and celebrates literature for children and young people, inspiring generations of writers, illustrators and readers. To find out more visit www.childrenslaureate.ie

Professional Development

Children's Books Ireland supports authors, illustrators, publishers and event programmers, with the ultimate aim of ensuring that young readers in Ireland can experience the richness and diversity of contemporary Irish society and culture expressed in literature. Our ProperBook training series, devised in partnership with author and programmer Sarah Webb, addresses everything an artist needs to know about writing, illustrating and publishing children's books. Our in-person events foster a sense of community, which is continued online with our monthly Children's Books Ireland Artists' Coffee Mornings. Our website offers a suite of up-to-date resources, assisting artists to negotiate new developments, changes and growth in their careers. In partnership with the Tyrone Guthrie Centre at Annaghmakerrig, we offer several mid-career artist bursaries annually, as well as bursaries as part of the Laureate na nÓg project. In 2022 and 2025 Children's Books Ireland worked with partners Illustrators Ireland, Publishing Ireland, the

Dublin Book Festival and the Tyrone Guthrie Centre on the Raising Voices fellowship, which aims to develop and support aspiring artists from under-represented backgrounds to make work for children and young adults.

Research, Evaluation and Consultation

We are committed to measuring our impact and have implemented a robust impact framework to evaluate our programmes as well as communicate the impact of our work. By evaluating our work and collating a body of relevant Irish and international research, we can make evidence-based decisions. We are also interested in gathering data and research insights into children's reading nationally. To this end, we have engaged Ipsos B&A to conduct research on our behalf with a representative sample, and reports such as 'Children and Young People's Reading in Ireland' (2025) contribute to this goal. We encourage and facilitate important research in our field by partnering with third-level institutions including Trinity College Dublin, Dublin City University, Maynooth University and Mary Immaculate College, Limerick. Consultation is crucial: Children's Books Ireland is always open to feedback and actively seeks the views of children, young people, artists and other stakeholders to inform our planning.



Children's Books Ireland International Conference

Our conference is a celebration of the best in children's books. It is a unique opportunity to critically reflect on the impact and importance of books for young people. Anyone with an interest in and a passion for children's books is welcome to attend and participate in what is always an outward-looking, lively and thought-provoking event. Past speakers include Lauren Child, Shaun Tan, Kate DiCamillo, Jon Klassen, Hervé Tullet, Oliver Jeffers, Louise O'Neill, David Almond, Eoin Colfer, Kwame Alexander, Katherine Rundell and Michael Rosen.

Fundraise for Us

If you, like us, believe in the power of reading to change children's lives for the better, we'd love your support in our mission. You can make a difference by fundraising for us – why not host a fun book-themed event of your own? Together, we can change children's lives one book at a time. Visit our fundraising page for tips and resources: www.childrensbooksireland.ie/support-us/Fundraise-us

Working in Partnership

As a small organisation, we love to partner with others who have similar strategic aims so that we can increase our impact. Our CEO, Elaina Ryan, is co-chair of EURead, a consortium of thirty-eight European reading promotion organisations, of which we are a proud member, and is also a participant in the Shared Island Leadership Forum, which explores cross-border partnerships and collaboration opportunities. We are a member of The Wheel, Charities Institute Ireland and the Children's Rights Alliance, and we are an Arts Affiliate with Business to Arts. We are also grateful for the support of Business in the Community. We represent Ireland at the Bologna Children's Book Fair each year by running the joint stand on behalf of publishers and other organisations. We are a member of Words Ireland, an informal grouping of Irish literature organisations that share a common vision of providing a cohesive and comprehensive literature resource service to the sector and its wider community.



#ReadingHeroes



this could be YOU!

Become a Junior Jury

Register, for free, to become a Junior Jury for the KPMG Children's Books Ireland Awards today. Groups of young readers of any age from across the island of Ireland can read and critique the shortlisted books and vote for the Junior Juries' Award winner.

All groups receive:

Digital resource pack | Posters | Bookmarks
and the chance to meet shortlisted artists and KPMG volunteers and receive free books!

Nominate Your Reading Hero

Every year the KPMG Reading Hero Award recognises an extraordinary young reader. They may be a voracious reader or may have completed their first book, overcoming learning or language difficulties to do so. They may not be the best student or the fastest reader, but we want to hear, and share, the story of their efforts and potential. Nominations open February 2026.



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to sign up



KPMG Children's Books Ireland Awards

These awards are the leading annual children's book awards in Ireland, and 2025 marks thirty-five years of the awards and the sixth year of Children's Books Ireland's partnership with KPMG. The awards are made annually to identify, honour and promote excellence in books for young people by Irish authors and illustrators. The awards are the most prestigious in Ireland and offer one of the few opportunities for national and international recognition of Irish authors and illustrators. Excellence in children's books is the overarching criterion and a total of six awards are made: the Book of the Year Award, Honour Award for Fiction, Honour Award for Illustration, Eilís Dillon Award (for a first children's book), the Judges' Special Award and the Junior Juries' Award. The KPMG Reading Hero Award, launched in 2020, recognises an extraordinary young reader who is nominated by their peers or by an adult in their lives.

KPMG Children's Books Ireland Awards – Junior Juries

The opinions of young readers are a crucial part of our annual book awards, which is why the Junior Juries have been a key component of the awards since 2005. Junior Juries give young people of all ages the opportunity to read and critique the shortlisted books, with the scores submitted by Junior Juries island-wide resulting in the Junior Juries' Award winner. Participation is free of charge and each group receives posters, bookmarks and a specially designed digital resource pack, crammed with quizzes and activities based on the shortlisted books. Reading begins when the shortlist is announced in February each year and groups can sign up at: <https://childrensbooksireland.ie/what-we-do/kpmg-childrens-books-irelandawards/junior-juries-programme>



Download reading inspiration for your classroom here!

For more great resources go to **childrensbooksireland.ie**

Is féidir inspioráid don léitheoireacht a íoslódáil anseo!

Le tuilleadh acmhainní iontacha a aimsiú, téigh chuig **childrensbooksireland.ie**



Le tuilleadh léirmheasanna iontacha a aimsiú téigh chuig/For more great reviews go to **childrensbooksireland.ie & loveleabhargaeilge.ie**

Is comhthogra é seo idir Foras na Gaeilge agus Leabhair Pháistí Éireann, le tacaíocht ó Love Leabhar Gaeilge.
This project is a collaboration between Foras na Gaeilge and Children's Books Ireland, with the support of Love Leabhar Gaeilge.

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LOVE
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Foras na Gaeilge

leabhair
pháistí
éireann
ag cothú léitheoirí

Leabhair Pháistí Éireann agus an Ghaeilge

Tá sé tábhachtach do Leabhair Pháistí Éireann go bhfreastalaímid ar gach páiste in Éirinn, léitheoirí óga na Gaeilge san áireamh. Tá Oifigeach Gaeilge agus Polasaí Gaeilge againn chun an Ghaeilge a chur chun cinn san eagraíocht. Is léir gurb í an fhadhb is mó do léitheoirí óga, a dtuismitheoirí nó caomhnóirí agus a múinteoirí ná easpa feiceálachta na leabhar Gaeilge, agus déanaímidne ár ndícheall chun é sin a athrú. Tá an Treoirleabhar Léitheoireachta curtha le chéile againn ar mhaithe le scoth na leabhar Gaeilge atá ar fáil do léitheoirí óga a léiriú. Tuilleann leabhair den scoth aitheantas, lucht léitheoireachta agus deis léirmheastóireachta, bíonn siad i liostaí agus treoirleabhair agus bíonn siad san iomaíocht do ghradaim, agus tá Leabhair Pháistí Éireann tiomanta do chothrom na Féinne a thabhairt do leabhair agus d'údair Ghaeilge. Más mian leat dul i dteagmháil lenár nOifigeach Gaeilge, is féidir ríomhphost a chur chuig Conall Mac Dhonnagáin ag gaeilge@childrensbooksireland.ie

In the Media

We're grateful to our media partners who help us reach new audiences with our expert advice, reviews and reading recommendations. Look out for our monthly column in the *Irish Examiner*, our regular features in print and online across the *Sunday Independent* and *The Irish Times* as well as our frequent book slots on Ireland AM and RTÉ Radio 1's Oliver Callan show. You can also find our monthly themed Book Club with RTÉ Jr on rte.ie/kids/

Teachers may be particularly interested in our recommended read for primary pupils published in every issue of *InTouch*, the magazine of the Irish National Teachers' Organisation and available to read online at into.ie

Keep Up to Date with Us!

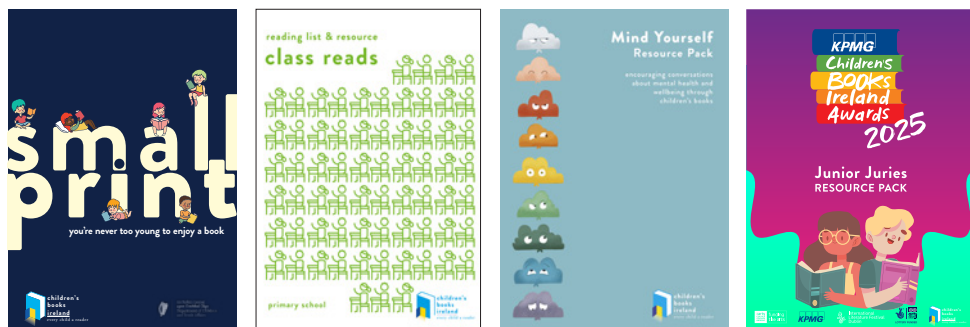
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Education and Advocacy

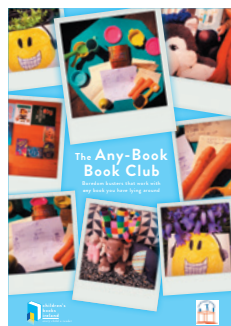


Children's Books Ireland supports primary and secondary school communities to build and sustain cultures of reading for joy for their students. We do this through providing dedicated resources for classrooms, training opportunities for teachers and educators, book-gifting programmes and advocacy. We want the power of reading and the opportunity to read for joy to be embedded in Irish education policy and in schools around the country. The more we know about Irish schools, the better able we are to advocate for more resources and support for them. To tell us your school's story, and to give us an insight into the reading culture in your school community, you can contact our Education Outreach Manager, Becky Long, at becky@childrensbooksireland.ie

Resources

Children's Books Ireland provides resource packs with questions and activities for use in the classroom or by book clubs or for individual use at home.

- *Small Print* – For preschoolers, this guide breaks down ten picturebooks to help teachers to engage with stories in their Aistear classroom.
- *Class Reads* – Recommended books for class novels are broken down by age across six levels – from Junior Infants to Sixth Class for primary schools and packs for First and Fourth years for secondary schools – supported by artist videos. A new Class Reads book list and resource for primary schools is also available.
- *The Junior Juries' Resource Pack* – The 2025 resource pack on shortlisted titles for the KPMG Children's Books Ireland Awards is free to download, with packs dating back to 2009 available in our archive.
- *Mind Yourself: The Mental Health and Wellbeing Reading Guide* – This guide was designed to open up conversations around mental health and wellbeing with primary school children with a resource pack offering artist videos and other resources on twenty-one titles selected from the guide.
- *Free To Be Me: The Diversity, Inclusion and Representation Reading Guide* – This guide celebrates diversity, representation and inclusion in books for children and young people, to ensure equity and visibility in schools, public libraries, bookshops and shelves in the home. The accompanying resource packs are suitable for primary and secondary schools, with recommended books from the guide further explored through questions and activities. This October, an updated list of 100 titles for primary school will be released.

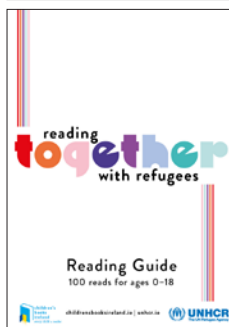
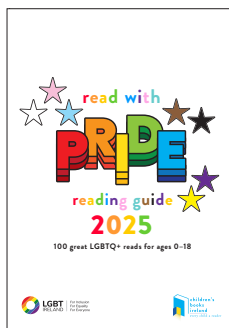
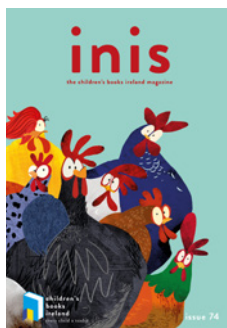


- **The Any-Book Book Club** resource pack is full of fun activities to do with whatever books you have to hand, no printer necessary! This is a book club like no other, utilising any book(s) you have available.
- **Pacáiste Acmhainní** – This resource pack works in tandem with the ten Editor's Choices selected from *Treoirleabhar Léitheoireachta*. These resources have been especially designed for use in the classroom to highlight great books for young readers as Gaeilge.

- **Professional Development** – Resources have been created to guide, support and inspire teachers and educational professionals in primary and secondary settings to create and sustain a culture of reading for their school communities. You'll find advice on and best practice for library management, pupil involvement, event guidelines, author and illustrator engagement, and using and choosing books in the classroom.
- **Advice for Families** – Accessible and practical reading advice for families, focusing on great ways to make books a big part of everyday life for babies, toddlers, older children and teenagers.

Publications

At Children's Books Ireland, reading for joy is one of our priorities. We believe that not only does reading matter, but it can also delight, excite and enhance the lives of young readers. We share our expertise and enthusiasm by championing excellent books through our various publications to ensure that every young reader can find the right book for them. In éineacht leis sin, táimid tiomanta do bheith ag tacú le leabhair Ghaeilge agus iad a chur chun cinn le léirmheasanna Gaeilge agus léirmheasanna dátheangacha inár bhfoilseacháin uilig.

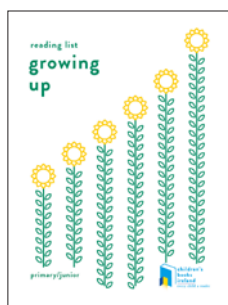
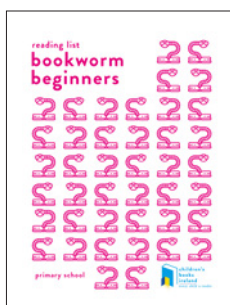
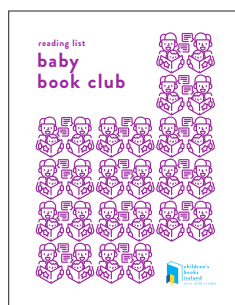


Inis Magazine

Inis magazine is the only publication of its kind in Ireland – a magazine solely devoted to children's books and the wider world of literature for young readers. There are three printed issues annually, in January, April and July, each containing forty-two reviews of current or upcoming titles along with five feature articles. You can purchase *Inis* via our website, childrensbooksireland.ie, or become a member and receive a copy to your door on publication.

100 Great Reads Guides

Children's Books Ireland has four themed 100 great reads guides that are updated and published annually. These are the *Treoirleabhar Léitheoireachta*, showcasing the best of Irish language books, the *Read with Pride* guide, highlighting LGBTQ+ stories, the *Reading Together with Refugees* guide, sharing the stories of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers, produced in partnership with the UNHCR, and this one, the *Best of Irish Books* guide. Often accompanied by a publicity campaign and supported by librarians and booksellers around the island of Ireland, these guides seek to continually highlight excellent books published each year. All guides are available for free download via our website.



Themed Reading Lists

To provide specific reading recommendations for common queries received by our Book Doctors at Children's Books Ireland's Book Clinics, we produce a number of themed recommended reading lists annually containing twenty-four reviews each. To date this year we have published the Baby Book Club list, to inspire a love of reading in toddlers and wobblers, the Class Reads list, aiming to bring reading for joy into primary school classrooms, and a further Grief and Bereavement list will follow this winter. The themed lists can be found in the 'Our Recommendations' section of our website and are free to download.

Online Website Reviews

As well as print reviews, excellent new books are shared on our website with reviews of new publications added every month. Reviews can be filtered by age, genre and category to easily streamline the process of finding a book to match every reader's interest and ability.

Eason Partnership

In January 2025 we were pleased to launch a new partnership with Eason showcasing recommended Irish reads across Eason stores nationwide. Each quarter, Children's Books Ireland will carefully select up to fifteen titles for readers aged 0–18, in English and as Gaeilge. These titles are displayed in Eason stores with co-branded recommendation cards and on the Eason website.

Meet the Artist: Linda Fährlin

Tell us a bit about your journey to becoming an illustrator?

My childhood was filled with weekly visits to the local library and I really liked all the books by Astrid Lindgren with Ilon Wikland's illustrations. I had a really supportive art teacher and when I finished school in Stockholm I went out into the world illustrating everything I could see as a way of reflecting on the world around me. I have kept going since. I think it is important to do other things outside your arts practice too, so you keep on refilling and questioning your own work. So far, I have never had a lack of ideas – just time to do them all!

What are the methods or materials you use to create your illustrations?

When I start a new body of work, I tend to do a lot of research. I read books, go to libraries, research archives and study cultural reference materials. Then I get going illustrating and time magically seems to disappear! First I sketch references with a pencil. I then go on to the roughs, which I sketch first by hand and then on the computer. I tend to create a couple of versions and revise as needed, and thereafter I create the final illustrations. I find having multiple projects in parallel lets me put each project in a wider context so I 'allow' myself to define a world around each work.

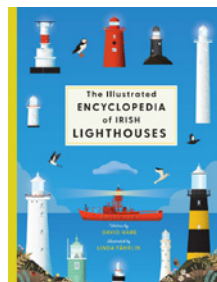
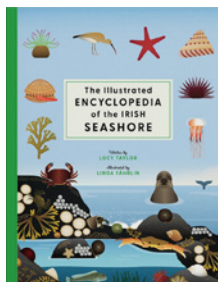
Tell us what inspired the image for this year's cover?

I live and work in Sligo in the north-west of Ireland and we are surrounded by the ocean and enjoy the sea daily. On our wild and rugged coastline, there are stories of shipwrecks and treasures. So this cover is inspired by the sea. I was thinking that Children's Books Ireland has collected a diverse treasure trove of the best titles for children and young people to enjoy. Of course, each animal or character has their own favourite! As a Champion of Reading I have seen the importance of presenting children with a wide range of books to choose from, as they are more motivated to read titles reflecting their own interests.

What is your favourite part about your job as an illustrator?

I find that working as an illustrator you observe our world and all the things in it. You learn about how things and people are connected, about emotions, and you learn a little bit about a lot. You get to create imaginary worlds and art and share the joy of stories and illustration with children of all ages.

 [lindafahrin](https://www.instagram.com/lindafahrin) | www.atlanticartstudios.com





The Latest from the Laureates

Along with current Laureate na nÓg Patricia Forde, the former laureates have been busy with new publications in 2025



PATRICIA FORDE maisithe ag ÚNA WOODS **CITÍ CEARC**

FUTA FATA 2025 (CRUA) 24LCH

€10.95 ISBN 9781915684202

Seo atheagrán ceiliúrtha le

léaráidí nua de scéal a mbeadh

aithne ag a lán daoine air, faoi

Chití Cearc agus an ubh ar

iarraidh. Scéal breá simplí é i

bhfoirm pictiúrleabhar le flapáí.

Tá na léaráidí lán le beocht,

iad ildaite tarraingteach. Tá

súile soiléire ag na carachtair

ar fad agus treoireann siadsan

tríd an scéal muid freisin mar

bíonn siad ag breathnú i dtreo

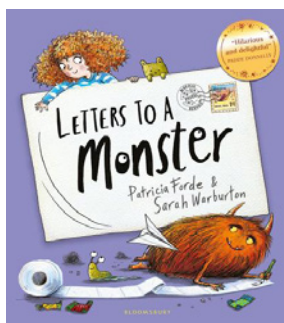
an aicsein. Is léir an scil atá ag

Patricia Forde focail a chur i

mbéal na gearachtar agus beocht

a chur sna focail chéanna.

(Aois 2–4) [GNíM]



PATRICIA FORDE illustrated by SARAH WARBURTON **LETTERS TO A MONSTER**

BLOOMSBURY CHILDREN'S
BOOKS 2025 (PBK) 32PP £7.99

ISBN 9781526615817

What do you do when you

know there is a monster hiding

under your bed? Sophie decides

to write her monster a letter,

telling him that she will call

the Monster Police if he doesn't

leave. When the monster sends

his own letter back it is the

start of a fantastic back and

forth between the two, with

a surprise at the end of the

book. There is a wonderful

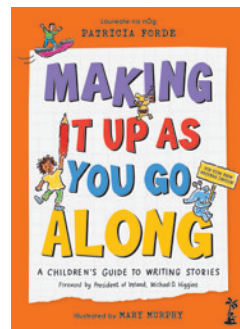
sense of humour both in the

story and in the illustrations,

showcasing the importance of

kindness, understanding and

friendship. (Age 2–4, 5–7) [DS]



PATRICIA FORDE illustrated by MARY MURPHY **MAKING IT UP AS YOU GO ALONG: A CHILDREN'S GUIDE TO WRITING STORIES**

LITTLE ISLAND BOOKS OCT

2025 (HBK) €16.99 272PP

ISBN 9781915071903

With a foreword from President of Ireland Michael D. Higgins, this book shows us from the beginning that it takes children's creativity seriously. A guide for children who are interested in creative writing, featuring great advice and practical exercises to ignite the imagination. Although the tone is light, fun and age-appropriate, the content makes it a truly valuable resource for any young writer harbouring dreams of publishing a novel someday. (Non-fiction, Age 8–10, 10–12) [CC]



SARAH CROSSAN illustrated by **REBECCA COBB**
A TOTALLY BIG UMBRELLA

WALKER BOOKS 2025 (HBK) 40PP £12.99 ISBN 9781529512021

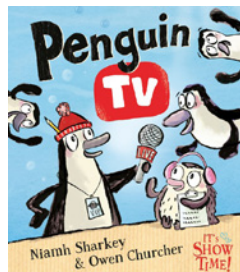
Tallulah is not a fan of the rain – fearful it may return, she wants to be prepared for next time and borrows an umbrella from her grandmother. But Tallulah's umbrella gets in the way of climbing trees, keeps other children from seeing the blackboard in the classroom and is a bit difficult to fit in the tub at bathtime. Can she learn that sometimes messy can be OK, and even fun? A tender and insightful way to approach themes of anxiety and fear of the unknown. (Age 2–4, 5–7) [VL]



EOIN COLFER aistrithe ag **SADHBH DEVLIN**
 maisithe ag **RICHARD WATSON**
GRUAIG ÁINE

FUTA FATA 2025 (BOG) 96LCH €8.95 ISBN 9781915684257

Cuireann cuid gruaige Áine isteach go mór uirthi. Agus í fiosrach i gcónaí, tugann sí bearradh gruaige di féin, rud a chruthaíonn fadhbanna eile di. De ghnáth bíonn ruaille buaille agus spraoi ag baint le leabhair Eoin Colfer, agus tá Gruaig Áine lán leis chomh maith. Tá greann fite fuaite ann agus bíonn rud éigin craiceáilte ag titim amach i ngach caibidil. Cuireann na léaráidí daite go mór le hinsint bheomhar an scéil. Tá Gaeilge shnasta in úsáid san aistriúchán le nathanna cainte agus friotal aoibhinn tríd is tríd. (Aois 5–7, 8–10) [JAdEB]



OWEN CHURCHER illustrated by **NIAMH SHARKEY**
PENGUIN TV

GILL BOOKS 2025 (HBK) 32PP €16.99 ISBN 9781804582503

Have you ever watched an animal live cam and wished it was a bit more exciting? Well, *Penguin TV* has the goods for you! Tune in for some amazing feats of swimming prowess, a raucous feeding time and even some star-studded entertainment. Sharkey's playful illustrations are bold and full of movement and expression, with each of the penguins displaying their own personality. Churcher's text moves along at a ferocious pace, mimicking the frenetic style of a fast-paced live show. A solid bedtime read. (Age 2–4, 5–7) [LG]

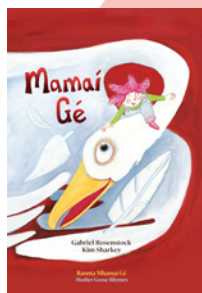


DAVID ALMOND aistrithe ag **TADHG Mac DHONNAGÁIN**
 maisithe ag **P.J. LYNCH**
CAOMHÍN AGUS NA LONTA DUBHA

FUTA FATA OCT 2025 (BOG) 32LCH €10.95 ISBN 9781915684325

Tá luach na timpeallachta agus meas ar an dúlra fite fuaite san athinsint chroíúil seo ar fhinscéal Naomh Caoimhín. Nuair a deir na manaigh gur cheart dó fás suas agus a chuid saoirse a ghéilleadh, éiríonn Caoimhín míshona - go dtí go dtagann dhá lon dubh le nead a thógáil ina lámha. Cruthaíonn na léaráidí atmaisféar álainn agus déanann an téacs an léitheoir a thumadh i stair an scéil in aois na manach. (Aois 5–7) [MV]

Leabhair Ghaeilge do Léitheoirí Óga

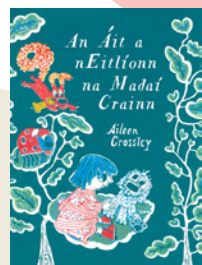


Mamaí Gé
9781914482045
€20.00

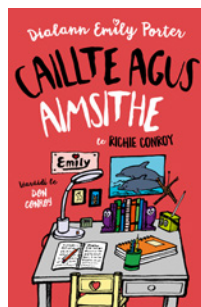


LeabhairCOMHAR

**Katie agus an
Pacáiste Rúnda**
9781739512972
€12.00



**An Áit a nÉitlíonn
na Madaí Crainn**
9781914482267
€14.00



LeabhairCOMHAR

**Dialann Emily Porter:
Cailte agus Aimsithe**
9781739512958
€12.00

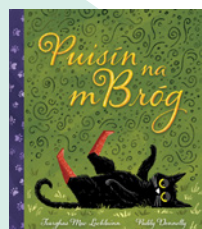


Gruaig Áine
9781915684257
€8.95 / £7.95



MY
IRISH
BOOKS

Suas sa Spéir
9789998778856
€10.99



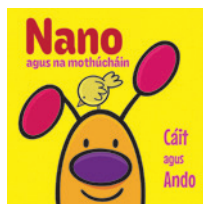
Puisín na mBróg
9781915684226
€14.95 / £13.95



MY
IRISH
BOOKS

Oíche Mhaith, a Ghrá
9789998778832
€12.95

Irish-Language Books for Young Readers



An tSnáthaid Mhór

Nano agus na Mothúcháin
9781912929405
€6.99

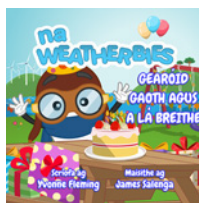


Conn Cloichshneachta agus teach Ósta na Feithidí
9781739092511
€7.99 / £6.99

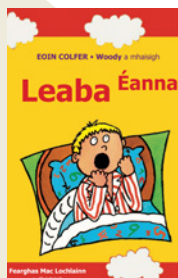


An tSnáthaid Mhór

Nano agus na hUimhreacha
9781912929382
€6.99

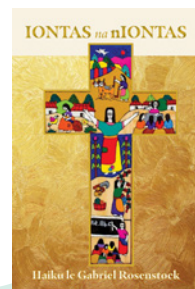


Gearóid Gaoth agus a Lá Breithe
9780995533592
€7.99 / £6.99



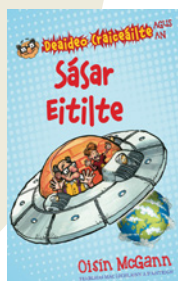
Cló Iar-Chonnacht

Leaba Éanna
9781784442996
€8.00



Bunaithe 1956

Iontas na nIontas
9781906982812
€12.00



Cló Iar-Chonnacht

Deaideo Craiceáilte agus an Sásar Eitilte
9781784442972
€8.00



Oidhreacht Chorca Dhuibhne

Buairtín
9781999892784
€15.00



CLÁR NA
LEABHAR
GAEILGE



Foras na Gaeilge

www.forasnagaeilge.ie/tacaiocht/clar-na-leabhar-gaeilge



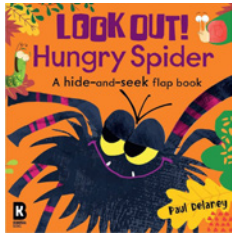
LARA BRYAN illustrated by ALYS PATERSON

MONSTERS LOVE HUGS

USBORNE 2025 (BOARD) 18PP £7.99 ISBN 9781805316510

Cuddle Monster is the go-to monster amongst his friends for hugs and snuggles. On each page, we see a different friend having a hard time, and when we turn the very cleverly shaped flaps, Cuddle Monster is always there to help out and offer a kind hug. The lovely rhyming scheme gently introduces emotions such as sad, scared and calm, making it a great way to discuss feelings and remind little ones that we all need to look after each other from time to time. (Age 0–2) [RTG]

READ ALSO: *Mummies Love Hugs* by Lara Bryan and Åsa Gilland



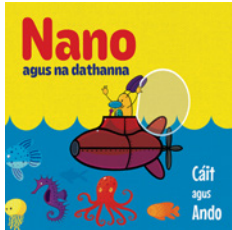
PAUL DELANEY

LOOK OUT! HUNGRY SPIDER

KUMUSHA BOOKS 2025 (BOARD) 12PP £6.99 ISBN 9780008626150

On the prowl for dinner, Hungry Spider searches everywhere – under rocks, behind pumpkins, up in the air, under leaves, even in the dead of night. But Hungry Spider isn't like you and me – dinner doesn't come on a plate: dinner can fly, it can scurry, flutter away and even bite back! Will Hungry Spider catch dinner by the last page? This sturdy, delightful hide-and-seek boardbook is full of engaging, fun illustrations, enhanced by interactive lift-the-flap features, ideal for toddlers' exploring hands. (Age 0–2) [SM]

READ ALSO: *Look Out! Hungry Shark* by Paul Delaney



CÁIT agus ANDO

NANO AGUS NA DATHANNA

AN tSNÁTHAID MHÓR 2025 (CAIRTCHLÁIR) 30LCH €6.95 ISBN 9781912929399

Is leabhar beag simplí é seo ina bhfeicimid Nano ag fágáil slán ag an bhfaoileán cois cuain sula dtéann sé ag taisteal faoin bhfarraige agus é ag féachaint ar na dathanna geala spleodracha atá ar na créatúir áille faoin uisce. Is breá liom an chaoi nach bhfuil ach focal amháin ar an gcuid is mó de na leathanaigh, rud a chiallaíonn go seasann na léaráidí amach don léitheoir óg. Tá simplíocht álainn ag baint leis an leabhar seo agus leis an tsraith ina iomláine. (Aois 0–2) [ANÍG]

LÉIGH FREISIN: *Nano agus na Mothúcháin* le Cáit agus Ando



SAM TAPLIN illustrated by RÓISÍN HAHESSY

PARTY TIME FOR BABY BEARS

USBORNE 2025 (BOARD) 10PP £7.99 ISBN 9781836040378

It's Billy Bear's birthday! On each page, we see the bear family trying to get things ready for Billy's big surprise party, but when we lift the flaps, we can see that things aren't going particularly smoothly! The pages and flaps are filled with colour, and the friendly, slightly mischievous bears are wonderful characters for our smallest readers. The soft flaps are also perfect for little ones – toddlers will delight in lifting the fleecy flaps, which are nicely durable if they happen to get overly excited during storytime! (Age 0–2) [RTG]

READ ALSO: *Bathtime for Baby Bears* by Sam Taplin and Róisín Hahessy

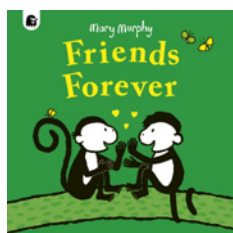


ANNA MCQUINN illustrated by RUTH HEARSON
ZEKI GOES TO THE MARKET

ALANNA MAX 2025 (PBK) 24PP £7.99 ISBN 9781907825613

Zeki and his mum take a meandering trip through the Saturday market stalls, visiting all of the different stall owners throughout their day. This story takes us on a journey through not only the wide variety of foods and products for sale at the market, but also the diverse sellers and the various languages spoken in the market streets. Hearson's fabulous illustrations bring the market to living, breathing life. The latest instalment in the popular Zeki series, this is an ideal story for a young child. (Age 0–2, 2–4) [MMcD]

READ ALSO: *If You're Happy and You Know It!* by Anna McQuinn and Sophie Fatus



MARY MURPHY
FRIENDS FOREVER

HAPPY YAK 2025 (PBK) 32PP £7.99 ISBN 9780711294134

This gloriously bright book is a celebration of friendship and play. One young monkey invites a friend out to play in the jungle, and together they swing through the trees, play hide and seek, snack on coconuts and shelter from the rain. The bold high-contrast illustrations, with black-and-white monkeys playing among bright green and yellow backgrounds, are perfect for even the youngest readers. The story playfully and joyfully demonstrates the value of friendship, as sharing and playing together make everything more fun for these two monkey friends. (Age 0–2, 2–4) [AdaS]

READ ALSO: *Twenty Bears* by Kathryn Simmonds and Alison Brown

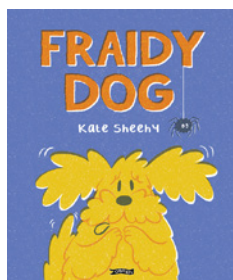


TARSILA KRÜSE
A LITTLE BIRDIE TOLD ME ...

THE O'BRIEN PRESS 2025 (HBK) 32PP €13.99 ISBN 9781788494878

This story centres around a little bird who is excited for an upcoming party, the details of which unfold through his whispered updates to his bird friends, building a sense of anticipation throughout the book. Children will enjoy predicting what happens next as each page builds on the last, creating an interactive experience that will keep them intrigued. This enchanting picturebook will captivate toddlers with its combination of catchy, repetitive text and adorable illustrations, making it an irresistible book for small children and the young-at-heart alike! (Age 2–4) [MS]

READ ALSO: *Spring Chicken* by Paul Nugent



KATE SHEEHY
FRAIDY DOG

THE O'BRIEN PRESS 2025 (PBK) 32PP €10.99 ISBN 9781788495035

Fraidy dog is frightened of spiders, storms and all the unknown corners of his home, but his encounters with a 'furrocious' cat help him find the fun in his surroundings again. The illustrations are the central focus here: the reader is drawn into the movement of each carefully arranged illustration, the chaos adding to the dynamism of the story and the playful characters. This is an enjoyable picturebook for younger children who may find comfort in a character who learns to conquer his fears. (Age 2–4) [FH]

READ ALSO: *Megamess* by Eoin McLaughlin and Julia Christians

We want more torches
under duvets.



an post
**IRISH
BOOK
AWARDS**

#READERSWANTED



KATY ASHWORTH illustrated by COLLEEN LARMOUR
THIS THAT WHAT

PUFFIN 2025 (PBK) 32PP £7.99 ISBN 9780241586068

Kiki Dime has a very busy brain. Every hour of the day it buzzes with thoughts, imaginings, ideas and so much more. Unfortunately, there are times when the busyness tires her out. She sometimes finds finishing tasks difficult, and she's often told to pay attention by her teacher at school. How can Kiki make others understand? This book is a marvel for its use of colour and the positioning of text on the page. Kiki is an inspiring character who will hopefully encourage others to embrace their own hullabaloo. (Age 2–4, 5–7) [LL]

READ ALSO: *Little Arty and the Happy Dance* by Arthur Gourounlian, Erika McGann and Dan Taylor

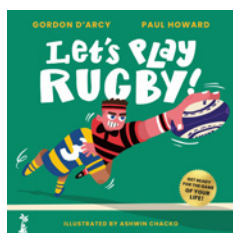


JAMIE CARROLL
MILO AND THE MOUNTAIN

THE O'BRIEN PRESS 2025 (HBK) 32PP €14.99 ISBN 9781788495257

Milo really wants to climb a mountain. The only problem is that when he tries to act, there's always a reason (or a convenient excuse!) that stops him in his tracks. Can Milo achieve his goal and reach the top of the mountain? Milo's mountain is both physical and mental, and procrastinators everywhere will relate to Milo's hesitancy as he learns that we don't have to face our biggest challenges on our own. Carroll's debut picturebook showcases his fresh and playful illustration style, with eclectic characters and humour throughout. (Age 2–4, 5–7) [LL]

READ ALSO: *Stockingopolis* by Tatyana Feeney

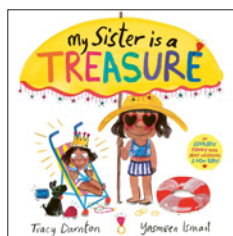


GORDON D'ARCY and PAUL HOWARD
 illustrated by **ASHWIN CHACKO**
LET'S PLAY RUGBY!

LITTLE ISLAND BOOKS 2025 (PBK) 32PP €11.99 ISBN 9781915071774

This interactive book encourages readers to get up and move, as the book becomes the rugby ball! Chacko's distinctive style enlivens the illustrations, which are practically bouncing off the page. The words are interwoven throughout the bright artwork, acting as a support to lend the story pace as the reader turns the pages. All comes together beautifully as the ball (book) spins, is kicked and, at one stage, gets completely lost in a scrum! Most definitely not a suitable choice for a bedtime story! (Age 2–4, 5–7) [AMCD]

READ ALSO: *A Belfast Fairytale* by Mel Carroll



TRACY DARNTON illustrated by YASMEEN ISMAIL
MY SISTER IS A TREASURE

SIMON & SCHUSTER 2025 (PBK) 32PP £7.99 ISBN 9781471187711

After being told that her sister is a treasure, the little girl thinks about all of the wonderful things her sister could be, while also thinking about the harder parts of being an older sibling too. The characters are drawn with a range of expressions and emotions that are easy to relate to for young children going through the same journey. Colourful, imaginative and adventurous, this is the perfect story for children who are adapting to life with a new sibling. (Age 2–4, 5–7) [SL]

READ ALSO: *Amazing Baby* by Alison Brown



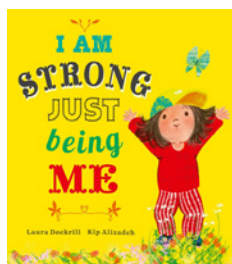
SADHBH DEVLIN maisithe ag BRIAN FITZGERALD

OÍCHE MHAITH, A GHRAÍ! ★

MY IRISH BOOKS 2025 (CRUA) 14LCH €12.95 ISBN 9789998778832

Scéilín gleoite faoin dúshlán a bhaineann le páistí a shocrú síos chun codladh. Aithneoidh gach tuismitheoir an leanbh nach bhfuil réidh, agus a dtagann tart agus uaigneas orthu go tobann nuair atá am leaba tagtha. Leabhar é seo a chuirfeadh go mór le gnátham codlata do pháistí óga. Tá rím álainn simplí sa scéal agus cnaipí fuaime ann le gur féidir éisteacht leis an scéal chomh maith len é a léamh. Mar eolas, is féidir na fuaimeanna a mhúchadh nuair is gá! (Aois 2–4, 5–7) [RNÍE]

LÉIGH FREISIN: *Fuaimeanna na Feirme* le Risteard MacLiam, Anna Shabaltii agus Anna Jordan



LAURA DOCKRILL illustrated by KIP ALIZADEH

I AM STRONG JUST BEING ME 🌍

LITTLE TIGER 2025 (HBK) 32PP £12.99 ISBN 9781838917180

Bean is exploring what it is to be strong and if it is something they want to be. Bean asks their Nanna: ‘Can I be strong if I am so small?’ The prose switches seamlessly to Nanna’s wise voice as she explains how strong can be standing up for yourself but can also be quiet, learning from your mistakes, asking for help, admitting when you are wrong and giving second chances. A joy from start to finish with beautiful artwork, this book is full of wonder and a celebration of intergenerational relationships.

(Age 2–4, 5–7) [SO’H]

READ ALSO: *Big Thoughts* by Laura Dockrill and Ashling Lindsay



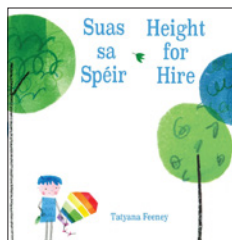
PADDY DONNELLY

BADGER BOOKS ★

THE O’BRIEN PRESS 2025 (HBK) 32PP €14.99 ISBN 9781788494946

Badger always has the book to suit each customer’s needs – that is until Rory from next door appears looking for a very specific story about a jellyfish and the moon. The illustrations bustle with togetherness, are rich with warmth and contain oodles of extra fun details to enjoy, but the pulse of this story is its focus on community and the good that we can do for one another, regardless of age. We all have a lot to learn from the townsfolk of Ballybrush! (Age 2–4, 5–7) [LL]

READ ALSO: *Mummy’s Promise* by Michelle Robinson and Paddy Donnelly



TATYANA FEENEY

SUAS SA SPÉIR/HEIGHT FOR HIRE

MY IRISH BOOKS 2025 (CRUA) 32LCH €10.99 ISBN 9789998778856

Cairdeas neamhghách agus réiteach neamhghnách ar fhadhb curtha in iúl ag léaráidí draíochtúla a osclóidh doras na samhlaíochta do gach léitheoir idir óg agus aosta. Sa phictiúrleabhar gleoite seo gan focail feicimid síoráf ag breathnú go fíorasach amach ón zú. Nuair a théann eitleog i bhfostú i gcrann cé eile a bheadh ard go leor le teacht i gcabhair ar an úineir óg? Tá stíl agus draíocht ar leith ag baint le saothar Tatyana Feeney, saothar a labhraíonn leis an leanbh laistigh – cuma cén aois atá ag an leanbh lasmuigh! A silent book about a giraffe who’s height comes in handy.

(Aois 2–4, 5–7) [ANÍG]

LÉIGH FREISIN: *Crann na nGuíonna* le Tatyana Feeney

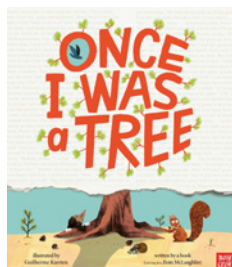


OLIVIA HOPE illustrated by ANNA SÜSSBAUER
THE LONELY ONLY DINOSAUR

GILL BOOKS 2025 (HBK) €16.99 32PP ISBN 9781804581575

Marsha knows every inch of her little island, but when she discovers another dinosaur on her island, she doesn't quite know what to do. She isn't used to company and doesn't know how best to behave; can the pair find common ground? This story is filled with fabulous onomatopoeia that will make it a firm read-aloud favourite. The fluidity of the illustrations are a bit like Marsha herself, a relatable character, learning and growing through each new experience that she has. (Age 2–4, 5–7) [LL]

READ ALSO: *The One and Only You* by Shane Hegarty and Ben Mantle

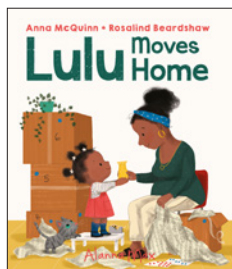


EOIN McLAUGHLIN illustrated by GUILHERME KARSTEN
ONCE I WAS A TREE

NOSY CROW 2025 (PBK) 40PP £7.99 ISBN 9781805137207

Told from the perspective of a wise-cracking seed, this original and beautifully illustrated story is bursting with imagination and humour. The musings of the seed, who grows into a handsome tree, and eventually is made into paper, are observed in several delightful double-spread illustrations that require the book to be rotated to magnify the scale of the tree. It all comes full circle and ends with the reminder that our little seed is now this book we are holding – reminding us that 'books are magic and stories are forever'. (Age 2–4, 5–7) [SO'H]

READ ALSO: *Frank the Pizza* by Eoin McLaughlin and Mike Byrne

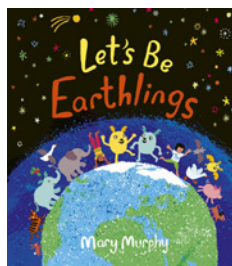


ANNA McQUINN illustrated by ROSALIND BEARDSHAW
LULU MOVES HOME

ALANNA MAX 2025 (HBK) 32PP £12.99 ISBN 9781907825620

With her family expecting a new baby and needing a bit more space at home, Lulu's world is about to change – and change can be both exciting and a little bit scary. *Lulu Moves Home* is a warm, reassuring picturebook, full of empathy and quiet strength, that gently explores the emotional journey of moving house through the familiar and much-loved character of Lulu. Together, McQuinn and Beardshaw offer young readers a beautifully balanced mix of practical reassurance and gentle wonder while adapting to new and big changes. (Age 2–4, 5–7) [ED]

READ ALSO: *Lulu Meets the Bees* by Anna McQuinn and Rosalind Beardshaw

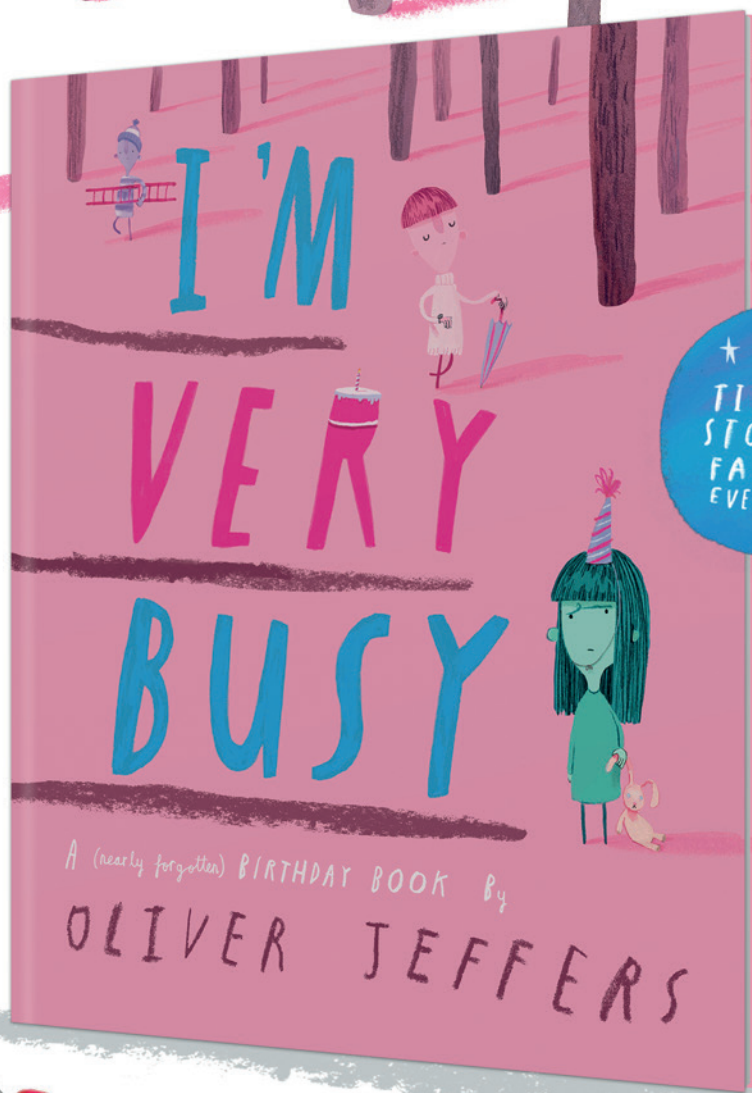


MARY MURPHY
LET'S BE EARTHLINGS

OTTER-BARRY BOOKS 2025 (HBK) 32PP £12.99 ISBN 9781915659620

Arriving on Earth, an alien uses their transformer machine to try out being lots of types of Earthlings, from a bee to a bat and from a panda to a person. As they change, they learn a lot about life on planet Earth. This is a joyful story that explores our planet through surprising observations and wonder, focusing on connection and building relationships through shared experiences. With bright, energetic illustrations and short, snappy text, this engaging read is one that children will enjoy interacting with. (Age 2–4, 5–7) [AdaS]

READ ALSO: *Meep* by Máire Zepf and Paddy Donnelly



From global picture book phenomenon

OLIVER JEFFERS

OUT 9TH OCTOBER





SADHBH ROSENSTOCK maisithe ag **CIARA NÍ DHUINN**
NELL AGUS JOE I DTEACH MHAMÓ ★

PICNIC PRESS 2025 (BOG) 36LCH €12.95 ISBN 9781036913540

Tá Nell agus Joe le fanacht thar oíche i dteach Mhamó ach nuair a fhaigheann siad amach go mbeidh siad ann gan Mamaí, tagann amhras orthu. Is scéal álainn é seo agus tá gach leathanach lán le grá an teaghlaigh. Tá sé scríofa i nGaeilge shoiléir bheacht le léaráidí gleoite - bainfidh páistí óga taitneamh as breathnú ar thithe na gcoiníní a fheiceáil faoin talamh. Tá an ceol lárnach ann: déanann gach carachtar iarracht amhrán codlata Mhamáí a chanadh ar bhealach difriúil, rud an-spraoiúil don léitheoireacht os ard! (Aois 2–4, 5–7) [ÚNíc]

LÉIGH FREISIN: *Teach Teidí* le Sadhbh Rosenstock agus Ciara Ní Dhuinn

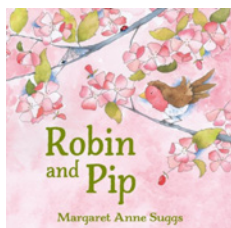


BEX SHERIDAN
WILD EYES

NATURAL WORLD PUBLISHING 2025 (PBK) €10.00 32PP ISBN 9781739813338

Do you ever feel like you're being watched? In *Wild Eyes*, our protagonist is deep in the depths of a hedge watching as a little girl helps the garden around her. Colour is used in an interesting way in this picturebook; here the images are largely black and white and the text, when featuring the watcher's dialogue, mostly appears in earth tones. There's lots to observe and lots to learn from this gentle story for nature lovers about the importance of protecting our planet. (Age 2–4, 5–7) [ABry]

READ ALSO: *Puffling and the Stormy Sea* by Erika McGann and Gerry Daly



MARGARET ANNE SUGGS
ROBIN AND PIP

GRAFFEG 2025 (HBK) 32PP £12.99 ISBN 9781917467483

Robin is a little bird with big worries. Luckily Robin has Pip, a wise apple tree who shares her thoughts about the future and helps to ease Robin's worries. When you are an anxious child, the world can feel full of problems. Suggs takes inspiration from the patterns of the natural world, both for the story of Robin's anxieties and for the illustrations of Pip's support. Aimed at younger children, this story may help them to put their own worries into words. (Age 2–4, 5–7) [DS]

READ ALSO: *Jenny Peckles Lays Eggs with Speckles* by Rachel Emily and Paul Delaney

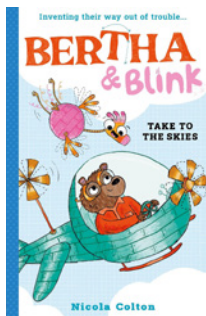


FEARGHAS Mac LOCHLAINN maisithe ag **PADDY DONNELLY**
PUISÍN NA mBRÓG ★

FUTA FATA 2025 (CRUA) 48LCH €14.95 ISBN 9781915684226

Is deacair do bheatha a shaothrú agus tú ag brath ar phuisín - bhuel, mura bhfuil caint, gliceas agus buataisí breátha aige, cosúil le laoch an scéil seo! Cosúil leis na heagráin eile sa tsraith seo, tá ceol agus rithim na filíochta ag croílár an leabhair. Tagann beocht ar na focail nuair a chloistear iad. Beidh tú sáite san áilleacht dhaithe fairsinge a líonann achán spás le carachtair ollmhóra lán d'fhuinneamh. Tá súil agam go mbeidh deis againn dul ar eachtra eile leis an gcat seo. (Aois 2–4, 5–7, 8–10) [JÓ'C]

LÉIGH FREISIN: *Na Trí Mhuicín* le hÁine Ní Ghlinn agus Paddy Donnelly



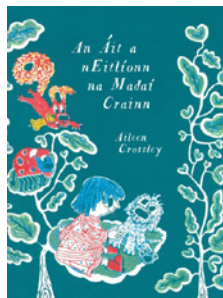
NICOLA COLTON

BERTHA & BLINK: TAKE TO THE SKIES

LITTLE TIGER 2025 (PBK) 96PP £6.99 ISBN 9781788956444

This colourful chapter book follows the chaotic adventures of Bertha and her robo-bird Blink on their adventure to save the forest from Finnius and his smog-producing factory. Bertha and Blink meet lots of interesting personalities on their journey, which adds to the comedy of this story, and there are plenty of surprises along the way as the duo once again invent their way out of trouble. With bright, funny illustrations, this story is a perfect launching point into reading for newer readers. (Age 5–7) [BD]

READ ALSO: *Bertha & Blink: Rumble in the Jungle* by Nicola Colton



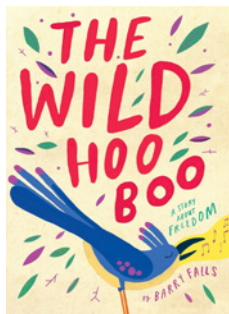
AILEEN CROSSLEY aistrithe ag EOGHAN Mac GIOLLA BHRÍDE

AN ÁIT A nEITLÍONN NA MADAÍ CRAINN ★

ÉABHLÓID 2025 (CRUA) 32LCH €14.00 ISBN 9781914482267

Is pictiúirleabhar álainn draíochtúil é seo, scríofa ar nós litir ón dúlra le grá agus spreagadh a thabhairt do pháiste brónach. Téann Molái agus a madra beag ar aistear agus tugann siad cuairt ar charachtair spráilúla eile ó dhúlra na hÉireann – iad uilig léirithe le cruthanna neamhgnácha atá spreagtha ag a n-ainmneacha Gaelacha. Seasann an leabhar le hathléamh toisc gur féidir aistear na gcarachtar éagsúil ón scéal a leanúint le gach léamh lena scéalta beaga siúd a fheiceáil. Leabhar suaimhneach samhlaíoch i nGaeilge shaibhir Uladh. (Aois 5–7) [SD]

LÉIGH FREISIN: *An Fia sa Choill* le Sadhbh Devlin agus Anastasia Melnykova



BARRY FALLS

THE WILD HOOBOO: A STORY ABOUT FREEDOM

ANDERSEN PRESS 2025 (HBK) 32PP £12.99 ISBN 9781839134586

When an evil king grows jealous of the wishes granted by the Wild HooBoo, he becomes determined to capture the bird and use it to his advantage. This colourful picturebook tells an important cautionary tale for all readers, with the illustrations transporting them to a vibrant world filled with unique, yet familiar, creatures and characters. Freedom is a core element of this story, as readers see what happens when the selfish wishes of one person impact those surrounding them – a timely read for our modern world. (Age 5–7) [ABry]

READ ALSO: *Tír na nÓg* by Erika McGann and Conor Busuttill



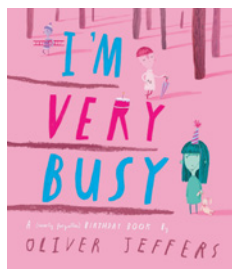
JAKE HOPE illustrated by BRIAN FITZGERALD

TAKING THE LONG WAY HOME

SCALLYWAG PRESS 2025 (HBK) 32PP £12.99 ISBN 9781915252845

Today, Zarah's uncle is in charge of taking the children home from school and chooses to take 'the long way home'. The children are reluctant to stray from their usual path – however, their complaints soon fade as their imaginations are sparked, turning the journey into a thrilling adventure. Hope and Fitzgerald beautifully depict the dynamics of an extended family in this delightful and engaging picturebook, highlighting the joy of play and the power of imagination. (Age 5–7) [COD]

READ ALSO: *Priya Mistry and the Lost Treasure* by Babita Sharma and Ali Pye



OLIVER JEFFERS

I'M VERY BUSY:

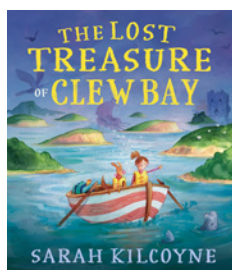
A (NEARLY FORGOTTEN) BIRTHDAY BOOK

HARPERCOLLINS CHILDREN'S BOOKS OCT 2025 (HBK) 32PP £14.99
ISBN 9780008771911

Bridget decides it is a lovely day to spend with friends. But when she asks them if they have any plans, they each reply that they are very busy. Disappointed, Bridget sighs that she'll have to spend her birthday on her own. Thankfully Pearl overhears, and the friends scramble to put together a surprise party. Bridget ends up being right: it was a lovely day to spend with friends! Jeffers is back with another cleverly illustrated picturebook – and who hasn't forgotten a birthday or two through the years?!

(Age 5–7) [AS]

READ ALSO: *The Day the Crayons Made Friends* by Drew Daywalt and Oliver Jeffers



SARAH KILCOYNE

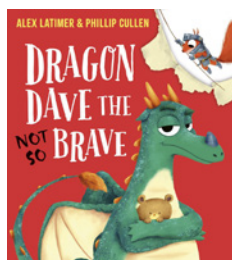
THE LOST TREASURE OF CLEW BAY

GILL BOOKS 2025 (HBK) 32PP €16.99 ISBN 9781804582145

There are places in the world with magic hidden inside them, and this picturebook is one of them. When Saoirse visits her granadad on holiday, she ends up on an enchanting adventure sailing around Clew Bay on the hunt for the mythical lost treasure of the legendary Granuaile. The spreads are rich, and the text happily wanders around the pages. While the story leaves a question mark as to whether there is treasure in Clew Bay, there is no doubt that treasure abounds here in this book.

(Age 5–7) [MMcD]

READ ALSO: *Old Oak and Little Acorn* by Elena Mannion and Erin Brown



ALEX LATIMER illustrated by PHILLIP CULLEN

DRAGON DAVE THE (NOT-SO) BRAVE

SCHOLASTIC 2025 (PBK) 32PP £7.99 ISBN 9780702314858

Dragon Dave the Brave lives in the book *Dragon Soup*. He enjoys fighting Sir George but hates the ending, where he is put into dragon soup. Running away to avoid this nasty end and hiding for a while on the title page, he's eventually found by Sir George, and the pair try to change the story together. In this picturebook within a picturebook, Latimer twists the traditional story of dragon vs knight. Cullen's illustrations are bright and cheerful, with lots of hidden details and jokes for eagle-eyed readers to spot. (Age 5–7) [EB]

READ ALSO: *Jess Finds Her Magic* by Lucy Kennedy and Phillip Cullen



KUSUM MEPANI illustrated by YASMEEN ISMAIL

MEENA'S SATURDAY

PUFFIN 2025 (PBK) 40PP £8.99 ISBN 9780241739877

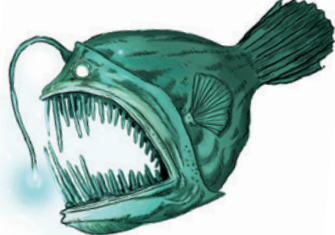
Meena and her family are immigrants in an Anglophone country. The family celebrates their Gujarati Indian culture on Saturdays with lovely rituals that help the whole family feel a sense of belonging. Meena is very ambitious. She believes strongly that girls and boys should be treated the same and questions the social norms of her Indian family, taking small, important steps to bring about change. An exceptional picturebook focusing on celebrating individual cultures and bilingual households.

(Age 5–7) [MO'D]

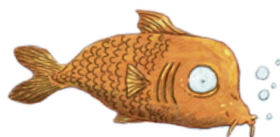
READ ALSO: *Run Home, Little Fox* by Tom McCaughren, Erika McGann and Shannon Bergin



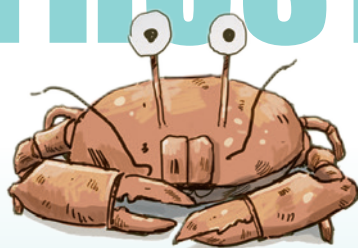
NÍL



ÉISC LE TRUST



NEIL SHARPSON
A SCRÍOBH



DAN SANTAT
A MHAISIGH



Tá go leor éisc san fharraige.
Níl aon cheann acu le trust!

Beir ar do chóip féin sna
siopaí go luath ...

... má bhíonn sé de
mhisneach agat!



€12



 AN GÚM

ISBN 978-1-83720-000-9



NEIL SHARPSON maisithe ag DAN SANTAT **NÍL ÉISC LE TRUST** 🗣️

AN GÚM 2025 (BOG) 40LCH €12.00 ISBN 9781837200009

Ar thug tú riamh faoi deara go raibh rud éigin sleamhain faoi na héisc? Ní raibh dul amú ort! Leabhar grinn é seo, a thosaíonn amach amhail is gur leabhar eolais atá ann. Ach ní fada go dtagann an greann chun tosaigh, agus é go fóill le feiceáil ar chlúdach an leabhair. Tá léaráidí lándaite breátha thíos tríd, go háirithe radharcanna na farraige, na héisc is na siorcanna ina measc. Tá Gaeilge bhinn ann nach mbeadh róchasta do léitheoirí neamhspleácha nó do léitheoirí ní b'óige le cúnamh. This book is also available in the original English as *Don't Trust Fish*. (Aois 5–7) [RNiR]

LÉIGH FREISIN: *Ó Bhó, na Beacha!* le Pauline Devine agus Róisín Curé



SHEENA DEMPSEY

PABLO AND SPLASH: ROMAN HOLIDAY

BLOOMSBURY CHILDREN'S BOOKS 2025 (PBK) 240PP £8.99 ISBN 9781526662859

Striking a bet with fellow penguin Benji, Pablo and Splash are off on a Roman holiday to retrieve a gladiator's helmet as proof of their time-travelling adventures. But with Emperor Cassius having a penchant for exotic birds, the plucky pair find themselves a little too much at the heart of the action – in the centre of the Colosseum no less! The third in this popular series, Dempsey's fusion of bonkers penguin antics and real historic facts are a winning combination. (Age 5–7, 8–10) [TF]

READ ALSO: *Pablo and Splash: Frozen in Time* by Sheena Dempsey



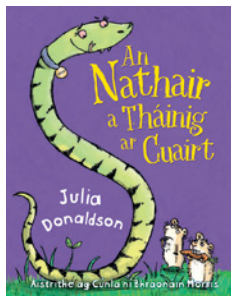
JOHN DEVOLLE

HUMANS

PUSHKIN CHILDREN'S BOOKS NOV 2025 (HBK) 32PP £12.99 ISBN 9781782695318

What does being human mean? This may feel like a big philosophical idea for young readers to grapple with, but this book provides a jumping-off point for curious minds who may already be asking challenging questions. This non-fiction book is filled with quirky, stylish and bright illustrations that pop. Reading this book could inspire some young minds to move forward and keep helping one another as they learn more about what it means to be a human in this world. (Non-fiction, Age 5–7, 8–10) [ABry]

READ ALSO: *Can We Really Help the Tigers?* by Katie Daynes and Róisín Hahessy



JULIA DONALDSON aistrithe ag CÚNLA NÍ BHRAONÁIN MORRIS maisithe ag HANNAH SHAW

AN NATHAIR A THÁINIG AR CUAIRT

FUTA FATA 2025 (BOG) 96LCH €8.95 ISBN 9781915684264

Is scéal greannmhar croíúil agus lán le carachtair spéisiúla é seo. Is cailín óg spraíúil cróga agus lán le craic í Nuala, í ag iarraidh a saol féin a thuiscint agus a tharraingt. Tá na léaráidí teolaí suaimhneach agus cuireann siad atmaisféar deas socair leis an scéal. Tá an t-aistriúchán fíorálainn, le teanga nádúrtha agus soléite do léitheoirí óga. Tá na hainmneacha nua a roghnaíodh sa leagan Gaeilge an-chliste agus oiriúnach, rud a chuireann le firinne agus le barántúlacht an scéil sa Ghaeilge. (Aois 5–7, 8–10) [JC]

LÉIGH FREISIN: *Daideo Craiceáilte agus na Bithiúnaigh* le hOisín McGann agus Fearghas Mac Lochlainn



AOIFE DOOLEY **SQUID SQUAD**

SCHOLASTIC 2025 (PBK) 224PP £10.99 ISBN 9780702337109

Ollie and Zing live together with their pet anemone Barney in a caravan in the town of Nowhere at the bottom of the sea. Surrounded by a quirky cast of sea creatures with unique abilities, they all come together to form the Squid Squad. Bold, defined and brightly coloured, there's so much to enjoy, and even learn, from this bright graphic novel. It's also wonderful to see the theme of being unique and completely yourself, which features in Dooley's other work, carry on in this riot of a read.

(Age 5–7, 8–10) [LM]

READ ALSO: *Dragon Towers: Sports Day* by Pip Bird and David O'Connell



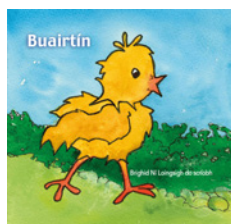
JOHN DOUGHERTY illustrated by THOMAS DOCHERTY **THE BEAR-SHAPED HOLE**

FRANCES LINCOLN CHILDREN'S BOOKS 2025 (PBK) 40PP £7.99 ISBN 9780711296602

Gerda bear is close to her older friend Orlo, but when Orlo gets ill and eventually dies, Gerda must learn to cope with her grief. This story explores the sadness we can feel at the idea of losing someone we love, and it shows how life goes on past losing that person. Grief is a big topic in any child's life and must be handled gently, as it is here. A helpful read for a child who has experienced the loss of a loved one after a long illness.

(Age 5–7, 8–10) [MM]

READ ALSO: *Over the Rainbow Bridge* by Noel Fitzpatrick and Alison Brown



BRIGHID NÍ LOINSIGH maisithe ag SIOBHÁN UÍ BHRAOIN **BUAIRTÍN**

OIDHREACTH CHORCA DHUIBHNE 2025 (CRUA) 32LCH €15.00
ISBN 9781999892784

Ón lá a tháinig sí ar an saol, ba léir gurb í Buairtín an sicín corr san ál. Níl sí chomh láidir ná leath chomh glórach leis na sicíní eile. Is pictiúrleabhar álainn é seo ina bhfoghlaímíonn Buairtín faoi luach agus tábhacht a saoil, agus nach cúis náire í a bheith difriúil. Cuireadh an chéad leagan den leabhar i gcló i gcánúint Uíbh Ráthaigh in 1953, agus tá léaráidí nua iontacha curtha leis an téacs sa leagan seo. (Aois 5–7, 8–10) [SNÍS]

LÉIGH FREISIN: *Draíocht an Dúlra* le Gráinne Holland agus Morgana Weeks



DAVID O'CONNELL **BEASTIE BROS: THE CABBAGE JUICE CRIME**

SCHOLASTIC 2025 (PBK) 160PP £6.99 ISBN 9780702338793

Taking refuge from annoying humans and their enormous feet, firefly Dash and adoptive brother Dribble the snail live in Bugtown, where all kinds of bugs are celebrated in all their brilliance! Here Dribble invents many weird and wonderful creations, often involving cabbage and most certainly involving adventures with Roboslug. Illustrated throughout, this clever and funny tale of creepy-crawly shenanigans will delight fans of minibeasts and unlikely heroes. Perfect for fans of Dav Pilkey and Jamie Smart looking for a longer read.. (Age 5–7, 8–10) [TF]

READ ALSO: *Beastie Bros: Dungeons and Dragonflies* by David O'Connell



SINÉAD O'HART illustrated by ÚNA WOODS 🌟
ELLORA McGEE TRAINEE BANSHEE: THE NEW SCHOOL

GILL BOOKS 2025 (HBK) 128PP €12.99 ISBN 9781804581674

Ellora McGee has just moved to Ballyshee and is starting a new school. As though that isn't stressful enough, she is also just coming to terms with being a trainee banshee! There is a lovely balance between the text and the illustrations by Woods, whose choice of colour palette and rounded drawing style make the book really stand out. O'Hart's use of Irish folk tales gives a fresh twist to some of the common trials of childhood: embarrassing families, making friends and learning to be true to yourself. (Age 5–7, 8–10) [LM]

READ ALSO: *The Wolfing's Bite* by Óisín McGann and Glenn McElhenny



SINÉAD O'HART illustrated by RACHEL SEAGO
LOLA AND LARCH: MEND A MAGIC MESS

NOSY CROW 2025 (PBK) 128PP £7.99 ISBN 9781805133216

The stakes are high when Lola and her fairy friend Larch discover a planned eco-pod resort that threatens the forest and fairy clan magic itself. Jealous fairy Euphorbia Spurge has cast a nasty spell that has given humans the idea for their greedy plan. Can Lola and Larch figure out how to save the day? From the outset, gorgeous, lyrical writing, imbued with magic, draws readers into the story. With lovely, funny details and a believable bond between Lola and Larch, this is an uplifting and positive story. (Age 5–7, 8–10) [AWe]

READ ALSO: *Neon and the Goonicorns* by Sibéal Pounder and Sarah Warburton

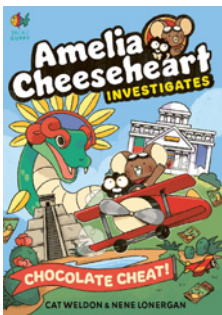


JEN WALLACE illustrated by ALAN O'ROURKE
DINO MODE ACTIVATED!

LITTLE ISLAND BOOKS 2025 (PBK) 176PP €9.99 ISBN 9781915071965

Oleg receives a very unusual camera from his mum: when you take a picture with Dino Mode activated – POOF – suddenly you're a dinosaur! While on a camping trip, Oleg and his friends Rory and Daria have to initiate Operation Hide the Dinosaur when the camera causes some dino-catastrophes. There is a brilliant element of play in Wallace's writing, as well as in the illustrations from O'Rourke. Young readers will surely giggle throughout and always make sure Dino Mode is off before snapping photos! (Age 5–7, 8–10) [PC]

READ ALSO: *Solve It! The Case of the Missing Crown Jewels* by Kieran Fanning and Alan O'Rourke



CAT WELDON illustrated by NENE LONERGAN
AMELIA CHEESEHEART INVESTIGATES: CHOCOLATE CHEAT! 🐱

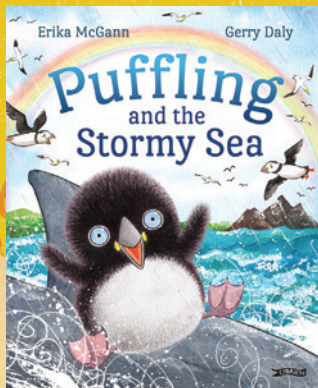
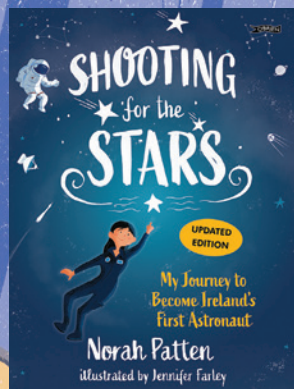
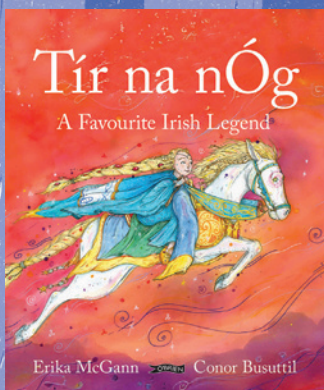
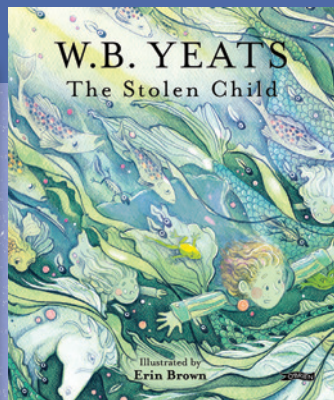
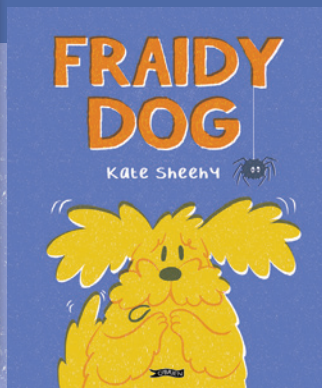
GUPPY BOOKS NOV 2025 (PBK) 128PP €7.99 ISBN 9781916558564

Amelia and Webster are back! Webster is on a quest to collect packs of choco-nana sweets to win a T-shirt. However, the friends soon discover that the choco-nanas have been stolen, along with all the chocolate in the museum. It's now up to Amelia to solve this mystery. Written in accessible and clear language, this story emphasises self-expression, friendship and the importance of making amends. The composition is impressive, with engaging narrative, through captivating illustrated panels and diverse perspectives. (Age 5–7, 8–10) [TK]

READ ALSO: *Amelia Cheeseheart Investigates: Mummy Mayhem!* by Cat Weldon and Nene Lonergan

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O'BRIEN



*Background illustration by Kate Sheehy from **Fraidy Dog***



MÁIRE ZEPF illustrated by ANDREW WHITSON
THE CLOUD KINGDOM

LITTLE ISLAND BOOKS OCT 2025 (HBK) 80PP €18.99 ISBN 9781915071859

In this beautifully illustrated collection of stories, the reader is taken on a journey from a small town with magical hats to a grand kingdom with a Cloud-Maker. Like Alice falling down the rabbit hole into Wonderland, we follow Nancy as she reads stories to the faeries in her garden. Highly illustrated throughout, all of the individual stories are interlinked and bookended by the opening and closing chapters. Zepf's collection of fairy tales and the vividly colourful and detailed hand-drawn illustrations by Whitson transport the reader to enchanting lands. (Age 5–7, 8–10) [ME]

READ ALSO: *How to Love the Whole World: A Story about Artist Agnes Martin* by Henry Martin and Shelley Hope



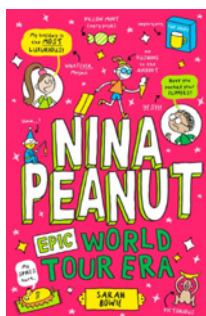
SHANE BERGIN illustrated by SAYANI MUKHERJEE

**THE EXPERIMENTERS:
 LUKE AND RUBY'S SCIENTIFIC SLEEPOVER**

LITTLE ISLAND BOOKS 2025 (HBK) 64PP €16.99 ISBN 9781915071088

Ruby and Luke are spending the midterm break at their nanny and grandad's house, which – given that their grandparents are retired scientists – means a week filled with exploring, experiments and excitement. *The Experimenters*, which features sweet (and helpful!) illustrations of Ruby and Luke's adventures, is perfect for curious minds and budding scientists. Slotted between chapters are sections with Dr Shane, who explains the science in the story and encourages young readers to do their own experimenting. Ideal for bringing science to life. (Non-fiction, Age 5–7, 8–10, 10–12) [MEC]

READ ALSO: *Animalopedia* by Kathi Burke and John Burke



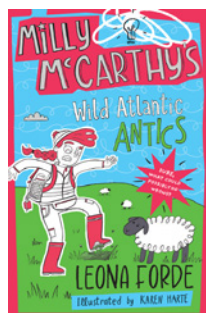
SARAH BOWIE

NINA PEANUT: EPIC WORLD TOUR ERA

SCHOLASTIC 2025 (PBK) 272PP €8.99 ISBN 9780702329890

Inspired by her favourite vlogger, Nina Peanut is determined to make a travel vlog, though her holiday to Sunshiney Island doesn't exactly live up to her high expectations. Nina and her friends find themselves in lots of funny, embarrassing and unexpected situations, forcing Nina to learn to appreciate the good things about her trip, even if it is not exactly what she imagined. Themes of friendships, families and creativity shine in this fun graphic novel, the third instalment in the popular series. (Age 8–10) [KP]

READ ALSO: *Evil Duck and the Nest of Destiny* by Chris Judge



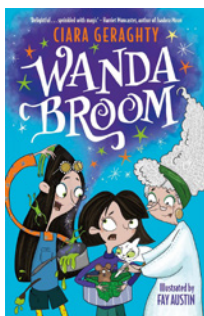
LEONA FORDE illustrated by KAREN HARTE

MILLY MCCARTHY'S WILD ATLANTIC ANTICS

GILL BOOKS 2025 (PBK) 192PP €10.99 ISBN 9781804582428

Another jam-packed adventure featuring Cork schoolgirl Milly McCarthy, complete with an Irish setting, cúpla focal and charming doodle-style line drawings and checklists. This instalment sees Milly and her class head to the Kerry Gaeltacht on a school tour. With a hike, a treasure hunt, a céilí, a rogue wasp, a large cowpat and a late-night game of truth or dare in the mix – what could go wrong in Coláiste Cormac? (Age 8–10) [SO'H]

READ ALSO: *Milly McCarthy and the Haunted House HullaBOOLOO!* by Leona Forde and Karen Harte



CIARA GERAGHTY illustrated by FAY AUSTIN

WANDA BROOM

ERIU 2025 (PBK) 128PP £8.99 ISBN 9781804188552

Wanda Broom has moved to a new town and is starting a new school. What seems straightforward is an impossible task when you are the daughter of a witch and your mother does not behave like a witch should. Will Wanda manage to keep her biggest secret hidden, or will her family soon be packing their bags again? A light-hearted story that bounces the reader between two threads: mother–daughter relationships and new friendships. A delightful, easy-to-read story with more adventures to come. (Age 8–10) [PH]

READ ALSO: *Ivy Newt and the Swamp Dragons* by Derek Keilty and Magda Brol



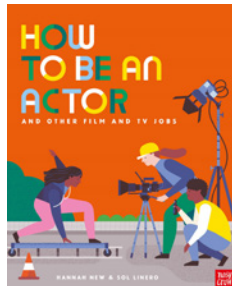
DAGOGO HART illustrated by ANITA SCHMIDT

LANTERN SMOKE

GILL BOOKS 2025 (HBK) 32PP €16.99 ISBN 9780717197552

In this thought-provoking story about immigration and what is left behind, the protagonist is a boy who moves to a new country, separated from his family but holding onto memories of their times together and their advice as he settles in. Smoke as a motif winds its way through this powerful story, a metaphor for the ephemeral nature of even our most precious memories, while the titular lantern serves to transport our protagonist back to his childhood. The whimsical illustrations perfectly reflect the lyrical prose, enriching this beautiful book. (Age 8–10) [MS]

READ ALSO: *A Map for Falasteen* by Maysa Odeh and Aliaa Betawi



HANNAH NEW illustrated by SOL LINERO

HOW TO BE AN ACTOR AND OTHER FILM AND TV JOBS

NOSY CROW 2025 (PBK) 32PP £7.99 ISBN 9781839949654

Taking readers inside the world of film and television production, this book gives an overview of what an actor is and the basic steps involved in becoming one. The second half is dedicated to describing the behind-the-scenes jobs necessary in making a TV show or film. Linero's intricate illustrations give life to a colourful world, serving as an excellent accompaniment to the text and visually communicating unfamiliar jobs and concepts. Brimming with facts, this is the perfect read for future actors, filmmakers and YouTubers. (Non-fiction, Age 8–10) [TF]

READ ALSO: *Six Queens* by Lydia Monks



WILL SLINEY

DRAW WITH WILL

GALLERY KIDS 2025 (PBK) 64PP £7.99 ISBN 97818398534964

From comic-book artist and host of TV's *Draw with Will* and RTÉ's *Storytellers* comes a step-by-step interactive guide to drawing comic-book characters, robots, aliens and much, much more. Clear and well thought out, the art style is gorgeous, and the book offers three levels of difficulty as your confidence grows, guiding young artists from tracing existing sketches to breaking down a drawing to simple shapes and finally offering a blank page to go freestyle. An ideal book for creative superhero- and adventure-comic fans. (Age 8–10) [AO'R]

READ ALSO: *Evil Duck and the Feather of Fortune* by Chris Judge

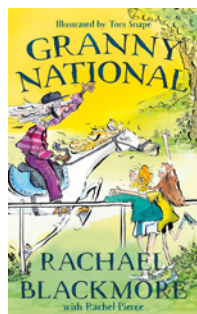


DEE BARRAGRY
THE MOON SEEKER

WALKER BOOKS 2025 (PBK) 224PP £7.99 ISBN 9781529525038

Magic is infused in everyday life in a cosy and familiar way in this fantasy adventure story – so much so that when we discover that the moon is missing from the night sky, we are entirely ready to head out with Lampwick, Humphrey and Bladderwrack to find it. Beneath the delightfully inventive magical world, *The Moon Seeker* is grounded in friendship, self-confidence and community. A well-balanced début with just the right amount of earnestness and humour for a fun read that will warm your heart. (Age 8–10, 10–12) [ME]

READ ALSO: *Chasing the Shy Town* by Erika McGann and Toni Galmés

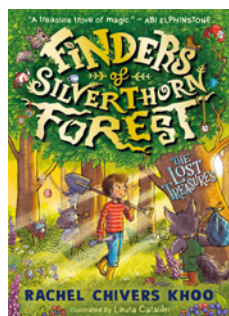


RACHAEL BLACKMORE and RACHEL PIERCE
 illustrated by **TOM SNAPE**
GRANNY NATIONAL

SANDYCOVE 2025 (HBK) 320PP €13.99 ISBN 9781844886456

Befitting an author with such an illustrious racing career, the plot of *Granny National* hinges on a horse race and the title character's desire to become a jockey – even if just for one day! Cousins Rachael and Tom are looking forward to their stay with Granny and Grandad for the Easter holidays. Along with best friend Frankie and American cousin David, Rachael strives to make her beloved Granny's jockey dreams come true. A fast-paced and entirely relatable tale, *Granny National* is a joy from start to finish. (Age 8–10, 10–12) [BF]

READ ALSO: *Rowan Tree Stables: Horse Show Surprise* by Nina Carberry and Nuno Alexandre Vieira



RACHEL CHIVERS KHOO illustrated by LAURA CATALÁN
FINDERS OF SILVERTHORN FOREST:
THE LOST TREASURES

WALKER BOOKS 2025 (PBK) 224PP £7.99 ISBN 9781529523805

Seventy years ago, Max's grandmother buried a memory box on the day of a solar eclipse. However, now she's forgotten where she buried it, so it's up to Max to help track it down. Max's hunt takes him into the forest to the home of the Finders of Silverthorn Forest. The Finders are a curious group of creatures, with a golden rule – finders keepers. This is a lovely book, which ties together a fun adventure with a touching story about family, home and the importance of sharing memories. (Age 8–10, 10–12) [HL]

READ ALSO: *The Magician Next Door* by Rachel Chivers Khoo and Alice McKinley



KIT FROST illustrated by AARON CUSHLEY
WHAT CAME FIRST?

RED SHED 2025 (PBK) 32PP £7.99 ISBN 9780008568153

Interactive history is the order of the day in this lively account of what happened and when. Taking the question posed by the title as its starting point, *What Came First?* invites readers to guess the order in which events fall on the history timeline. Facts, figures, topics and timelines are rendered in stunning illustrations that blend classic colour schemes with a wealth of interesting characters. Inductive in approach and informative in content, this book will help readers understand how time passes and the wonders of history. (Non-fiction, Age 8–10, 10–12) [AR]

READ ALSO: *How to Survive on the Moon* by Joalda Morancy and Aaron Cushley

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STEPHEN MANGAN illustrated by **ANITA MANGAN**
THE FART THAT SAVED THE UNIVERSE

SCHOLASTIC 2025 (PBK) 352PP £7.99 ISBN 9780702330841

Have you ever wondered if farting was a superpower? Wonder no longer – join Perks, Jezza and Leslie as they board a spaceship to rescue their friend Saskia from a life of eating space beans on the Big Boss's spaceship in this slapstick space adventure, navigating villains, betrayal, a universe-altering gadget and its worst ever restaurant. Alongside all the laugh-out-loud moments, we consider real scientific facts with illustrations that complement and emphasise the humour across the variety of situations. A fun adventure written in a light and engaging tone. (Age 8–10, 10–12) [MB]

READ ALSO: *Disaster Dad: Fun Day Fiasco* by Donncha O'Callaghan, Karen Owen and Jenny Taylor



DARA McANULTY illustrated by **BARRY FALLS**
A WILD CHILD'S GUIDE TO NATURE AT NIGHT 🌟

MACMILLAN CHILDREN'S BOOKS 2025 (HBK) 64PP £14.99 ISBN 9781035023028

Readers are led through nature at night by way of the garden, woodland, countryside, heathland and sky. Each chapter is introduced with delightful poetic prose about the environment. This charming writing is peppered with information about active conservation projects and some very real warnings about our dwindling natural world. The beautiful, almost photo-realistic illustrations are paired with earthy, papery textures and eye-catching colour schemes, elevated and modern. Another wonderful book from McAnulty and Falls that will hopefully ignite the same passion for our environment in its readers. (Non-fiction, Age 8–10, 10–12) [AS]

READ ALSO: *Wild Child: A Journey through Nature* by Dara McAnulty and Barry Falls

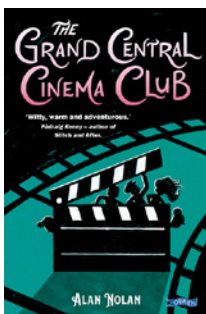


JUDITH McQUOID
GIANT 🌟

LITTLE ISLAND BOOKS 2025 (PBK) 224PP €10.99 ISBN 9781915071828

This lovely historical novel takes place over a period of time in the life of the young C.S. Lewis. This is not, however, a biography of the iconic writer – the story is about Davy Caruth, a young Belfast boy who befriends Lewis, known personally to him as Jacks. Davy and Jacks's friendship helps the boys navigate a transitional period when both are dealing with personal challenges. Equally hopeful, magical and heartbreaking, it is truly a poignant and universal tale of growing up and the beauty of friendship and creativity. (Age 8–10, 10–12) [ME]

READ ALSO: *The Last Boy* by Eve McDonnell

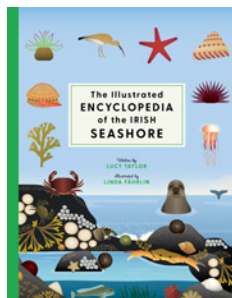


ALAN NOLAN
THE GRAND CENTRAL CINEMA CLUB

THE O'BRIEN PRESS 2025 (PBK) 320PP €9.99 ISBN 9781788496049

In 1937, Sylvie has big plans to make it to the cinemas on Dublin's Northside. At the Grand Central Cinema, she meets a lively group of friends brought together by their love of film. But as the club devises a plan for their very own film, this may just entangle them with the mysterious thief the Magpie ... With clever twists and a cast of unforgettable characters, this is a beautifully woven story of friendship, adventure and the magic of movies. (Age 8–10, 10–12) [EG]

READ ALSO: *The Riddle of the Disappearing Dickens* by Alan Nolan



LUCY TAYLOR illustrated by LINDA FÄHRLIN
**THE ILLUSTRATED ENCYCLOPEDIA
 OF THE IRISH SEASHORE**

GILL BOOKS 2025 (HBK) 64PP €22.99 ISBN 9781804583258

Beautifully illustrated and dense with information, this book combines aesthetics with practicality. The topics are clearly laid out in the contents and span all sea life on the Irish coasts and in our oceans and environmental aspects. Each topic is matched with impeccable illustrations, making it easy to visualise how things are presented in nature. A book to keep on display and explore deeply, this non-fiction read will appeal to any child interested in natural history, but also contains information many adults may not know! (Non-fiction, Age 8–10, 10–12) [GS]

READ ALSO: *The Illustrated Encyclopedia of Irish Lighthouses* by David Hare and Linda Fährlin

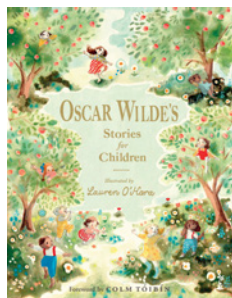


STEVE TOMECEK illustrated by JOHN DEVOLLE
THE GREATEST STUFF ON EARTH

WHAT ON EARTH PUBLISHING 2025 (HBK) 128PP £14.99 ISBN 9781804661413

This quirky book reminds us about how great all the stuff around us truly is – from the air we breathe and the sun in the sky, to fire, smartphones and even our DNA, they all make up this wonderful world! Tomecek's conversational writing makes the facts feel like a friendly chat rather than a dull lesson and Devolle's engaging geometric diagrams and illustrations add that extra layer of charm that will keep any avid reader's attention. Perfect for those curious minds who love asking questions about the world around them. (Non-fiction, Age 8–10, 10–12) [MK]

READ ALSO: *Your Sense-ational Human Body* by Emma Young and John Devolle



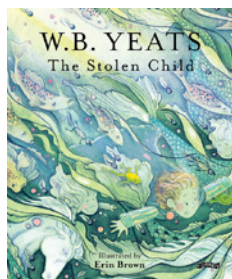
OSCAR WILDE illustrated by LAUREN O'HARA
OSCAR WILDE'S STORIES FOR CHILDREN ★

LITTLE ISLAND BOOKS OCT 2025 (HBK) 96PP €25.00 ISBN 9781915071897

It is over 130 years since Oscar Wilde published his stories for children, brought to life again in this sumptuous volume by Dublin-based O'Hara. Since then, scores of artists have adapted these allegorical tales, though this new edition more than holds its own. O'Hara's visuals depict bygone magical worlds, her vivid and blossoming scenes pairing perfectly with Wilde's romantic and descriptive prose. Throughout the collection, Wilde warns of the peril of choosing style over substance; but with this fresh and sensitively illustrated collection we can emphatically enjoy both.

(Age 8–10, 10–12, 12–14) [HM]

READ ALSO: *At Home in a Book* by Lauren O'Hara

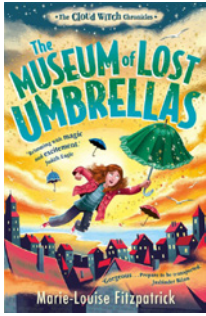


W.B. YEATS illustrated by ERIN BROWN
THE STOLEN CHILD

THE O'BRIEN PRESS OCT 2025 (HBK) 32PP €19.99 ISBN 9781788495172

In *The Stolen Child*, a boy is invited by fairies to forget the sorrows of the human world and to come explore their extraordinary land: with his new companions, the child visits 'the water and the wilds' and dances under the moonlight amongst the forest creatures, never to return home again. Under Brown's pencil imagery, Yeats's well-known poem and the magical inhabitants of Sleuth Wood come alive on the page, creating an immersive reading experience. A magical way to discover or rediscover one of Yeats's most famous poems. (Poetry, Age 8–10, 10–12) [VL]

READ ALSO: *The Moon Spun Round* by W.B. Yeats, Noreen Doody and Shona Shirley Macdonald



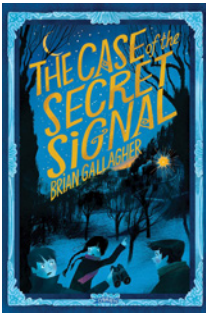
MARIE-LOUISE FITZPATRICK

THE MUSEUM OF LOST UMBRELLAS

FABER 2025 (PBK) 352PP £7.99 ISBN 9780571385720

Following the death of her mother, Dilly moves to the small island of Ollipest to live with her grand-aunt Florence. Ollipest is home to practitioners of magic – or more accurately, former practitioners, the reasons for which are revealed as the story unfurls, along with Dilly's own inheritance of magic. All the hallmarks of Fitzpatrick's work are present: vivid, stylish writing and significant themes are delivered with a freshness of perspective. Any reader would be doing themselves a kindness in opening this wonderful novel and diving in. (Age 10–12) [ADF]

READ ALSO: *Freya's Gold* by Fiona Longmuir



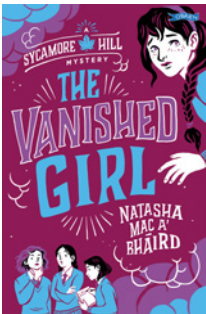
BRIAN GALLAGHER

THE CASE OF THE SECRET SIGNAL

THE O'BRIEN PRESS 2025 (PBK) 256PP €9.99 ISBN 9781788495219

SOS signals at night-time – what could it mean? When twins Tim and Deirdre, along with their friend Joe, notice something suspicious happening while on their holidays, they decide to play detective. What starts as a simple curiosity soon turns into a real-life mystery, with hidden messages, unexpected twists and plenty of surprises along the way. *The Case of the Secret Signal* is an exciting mystery novel for young readers, full of adventure, friendship and clever detective work. Highly recommended for young sleuths. (Age 10–12) [KT]

READ ALSO: *The Case of the Vanishing Painting* by Brian Gallagher



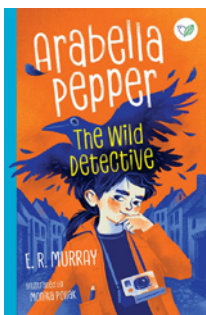
NATASHA Mac a'BHÁIRD

A SYCAMORE HILL MYSTERY: THE VANISHED GIRL

THE O'BRIEN PRESS 2025 (PBK) 256PP €9.99 ISBN 9781788495844

The intrepid trio of Clare, Rose and Molly are back for a new term and with a new mysterious student in their class. Lovers of the traditional boarding-school genre will be delighted by the tried and trusted presence of hockey, prep, prefects, dorms and tuck boxes in this story. Clare, Rose and Molly are well-developed characters, each bringing her own charm and individuality. A great read for those who enjoy adventure, intrigue and a frisson of peril all wrapped up in a good school story. (Age 10–12) [SK-K]

READ ALSO: *The Tower Ghost* by Natasha Mac a'Bháird



E.R. MURRAY illustrated by MONIKA POLLAK

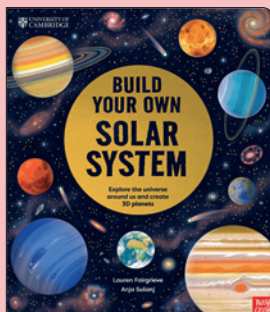
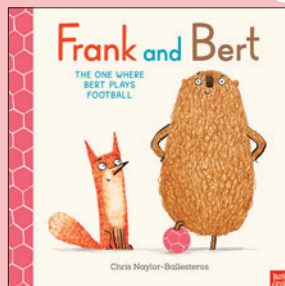
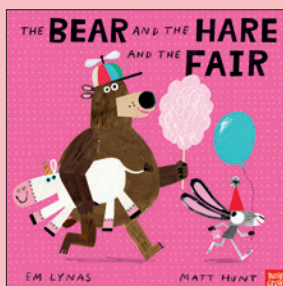
ARBELLA PEPPER: THE WILD DETECTIVE

NATURAL WORLD PUBLISHING 2025 (PBK) 272PP €12.00 ISBN 9781739813345

Arabella, accompanied by her pet crow, Blue, is a successful nature detective. Feeling unhappy following her family's move to Grey Town, Arabella finds a mission when she notices there are lots of missing-pet posters in the town. There is a second mystery, then, along with how to make her family happy once again, and Arabella is the perfect person to solve both. The book is beautifully illustrated in grey-tone images, reflecting the setting of the narrative, and this is a promising story with a likeable heroine. (Age 10–12) [MG]

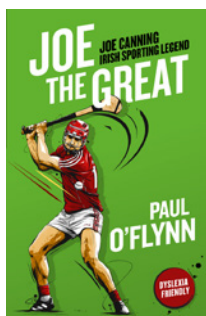
READ ALSO: *The Minute Minds* by Mary Murphy

BRILLIANT BOOKS FOR ALL AGES



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PAUL O'FLYNN

JOE THE GREAT: JOE CANNING IRISH SPORTS LEGEND

GILL BOOKS (HBK) 176PP €12.99 ISBN 9780717185832

This compelling and inspirational biography celebrates the life of one of Ireland's most iconic hurlers, Joe Canning. Readers are drawn into Joe's journey, beginning in County Galway, where his love for hurling first took root. The book vividly captures his early promise and the many challenges he faced. Through it all, Joe's resilience and determination shine, making his story not just about sport, but also about character. Energetic, clear and accessible, this book is produced in a dyslexia-friendly format, making it inclusive for all. (Non-fiction, Age 10–12) [RS]

READ ALSO: *The Friendship Cup* by Winnie Clarke



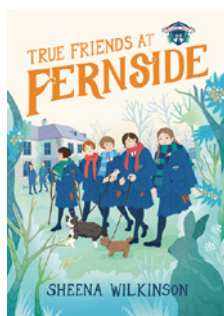
DAVE RUDDEN illustrated by ALI AL AMINE

TALES OF DARKISLE: CONN OF THE DEAD

GILL BOOKS 2025 (PBK) 160PP €10.99 ISBN 9781804582084

Conn has trouble fitting in – he's always been told that he's too much. But when a plan to crash the school talent show somehow leads Conn to the basements of University College Dublin, he accidentally discovers an ancient evil is stirring. Conn's interest in the world around him, his inability to sit still and his frustration when misunderstood will be very relatable to a lot of children. The first in a new series, this book will appeal to readers interested in fantasy, horror or Irish folklore. (Age 10–12) [EB]

READ ALSO: *The Knights of the Borrowed Dark* by Dave Rudden



SHEENA WILKINSON

TRUE FRIENDS AT FERNSIDE

THE O'BRIEN PRESS 2025 (PBK) 272PP €9.99 ISBN 9781788495752

Cousins Robin and Linnet are back at Fernside for the second half of the school term. The lower-fourth girls, having already spent a lot of time at school together, are excited to get back to their routines after their break. This coming-of-age story offers a compelling insight into the personal troubles of each of these characters and accurately displays how issues at home can sometimes have an adverse effect on behaviour at school. Readers will be excited to get straight back into the action as the girls navigate their new responsibilities. (Age 10–12) [ABr]

READ ALSO: *First Term at Fernside* by Sheena Wilkinson



PÁDRAIG KENNY

AFTER ★

WALKER BOOKS 2025 (PBK) 240PP £7.99 ISBN 9781529517804

This gripping and exciting book examines the aftermath of an apocalyptic event involving artificial intelligence and humans, in which the world as we know it has ended. Jen and Father eke out an existence in search of a community that will accept them. From its gripping first line to the final thrilling climax, this book will open young readers' minds to some big philosophical questions about what it means to be human, whether machines can learn to have feelings and how we treat those who are different to us. (Age 10–12, 12–14) [LV]

READ ALSO: *Stitch* by Pádraig Kenny



SOPHIE KIRTLEY

SWANFALL

BLOOMSBURY CHILDREN'S BOOKS NOV 2025 (PBK) 256PP £7.99

ISBN 9781526642820

Pip and his mother are eagerly awaiting 'swanfall', when all the migrating swans come back to the estuary. When Pip and his friend Tommo find a letter with a link to the legend of the Children of Lir and the disappearance of three children, a mystery unfolds, as the middle section of the letter is missing. In this follow-on story from *The Haunting of Fortune Farm*, themes of friendship and jealousy are tightly woven into the narrative. This is an eerie, mesmerising read that will grip the reader's attention. (Age 10–12, 12–14) [NMaca'B]

READ ALSO: *The Haunting of Fortune Farm* by Sophie Kirtley



EMMA LARKIN

FÉILE: A TWIN POWER ADVENTURE

THE O'BRIEN PRESS 2025 (PBK) 208PP €9.99 ISBN 9781788495301

Gaelic football stars and twins Aoife and Aidan Power are back for another sporting adventure. In this latest instalment, the stakes have been raised as the twins' respective teams have the chance to represent their clubs on the national stage and put their skills to the test against what Ireland – and even New York – has to offer at the Féile competition for the best of the best. Throw in a family mystery and you have the recipe for an exciting read for young sports lovers. (Age 10–12, 12–14) [JÓ'C]

READ ALSO: *Twin Power: The Lost Cup* by Emma Larkin



SIOBHÁN McDERMOTT

PAPER DRAGONS: THE RISE OF THE SAND SPIRITS

HODDER CHILDREN'S BOOKS 2025 (PBK) 432PP £7.99 ISBN 9781444970180

This captivating sequel continues the enchanting journey of Zhi Ging in the magical underwater school Hok Woh. Zhi Ging embarks on a perilous mission to rescue her friends and the people of the villages of all six provinces in the realm from a mysterious attack. From the lyrical writing style to the intricately detailed world-building and the suspense of Zhi Ging's mission that mounts throughout the narrative, this is a must-read for fantasy enthusiasts and adventure- or quest-story lovers. (Age 10–12, 12–14) [KSS]

READ ALSO: *Paper Dragons: The Fight for the Hidden Realm* by Siobhán McDermott



KEVIN MORAN

THE DOOMSDAY CLUB

THE O'BRIEN PRESS 2025 (PBK) 272PP €9.99 ISBN 9781788495264

Beginning in an ancient primary-school building, but featuring characters who are bang up to date, this zingy novel borrows from Irish mythology while exploring themes of friendship, bullying, bravery and growing up. Jack, Conan, Yash and Jerry find themselves banding together once they witness a shape-shifting elk/bear/raven emerge from a portal right outside their school yard. Adventure, fantasy and humour mix together playfully in this novel, as do colloquial and inventive use of the English and Irish languages, while landmarks of Dublin city also play a prominent part. (Age 10–12, 12–14) [AM]

READ ALSO: *Sword of the Sun* by Sinéad O'Hart



GERARD SIGGINS **BLOWING THE WHISTLE**

THE O'BRIEN PRESS OCT 2025 (PBK) 256PP €9.99 ISBN 9781788496094

In *Blowing the Whistle*, readers follow a friend group of four pre-teens as they embark on establishing their own rugby club in a friend's field with nothing more than a dream and a can-do attitude. Sport shows us that we can all achieve greatness through cooperation and inclusion. This is the inspiring message of Siggins's latest book, which, apart from a focus on rugby, explores themes of friendship, teamwork and environmentalism. Importantly, this book reminds young readers that with a little grit and organisation anything is possible. (Age 10–12, 12–14) [MJ]

READ ALSO: *Rugby Rookie* by Gerard Siggins



MARILYN TAYLOR adapted by ALAN NOLAN illustrated by JASON BROWNE lettering by PAUL CARROLL **17 MARTIN STREET: A GRAPHIC NOVEL**

THE O'BRIEN PRESS 2025 (PBK) 80PP €14.99 ISBN 9781788495806

Set against the backdrop of northside Dublin at the height of the Emergency, this book explores the friendship between Ben, Hetty, his Jewish neighbour, and Renata, a German refugee who has run away to Dublin. Adapted to graphic novel format, this book brings 1940s Dublin to life, exploring themes of racism, war, censorship and poverty. Marking the eightieth anniversary of the end of World War II, this is a timely reminder of the importance of embracing cultural differences when the world so badly needs friendship and acceptance. (Age 10–12, 12–14) [CP]

READ ALSO: *Tom Crean Antarctic Hero* by Michael Smith, David Butler and Louise McSharry



MEGAN WYNNE **THE SPIRIT OF LOUGHMOE ABBEY**

OUR STREET BOOKS 2025 (PBK) 192PP €12.99 ISBN 9781803419176

Things change dramatically for Gwen when her mother becomes too ill to care for her and she is sent to Loughmoe Abbey, a mysterious boarding school. From the outset, Gwen struggles to fit in, but soon discovers a secret: Loughmoe Abbey is no ordinary school – it is alive with mysteries ... Set in 1986, this moving, magical story, with hope at its heart, handles themes of mental health, loss, navigating friendships and resilience with care, weaving supernatural elements gently throughout. (Age 10–12, 12–14) [AO'L]

READ ALSO: *The House on Hawthorn Road* by Megan Wynne



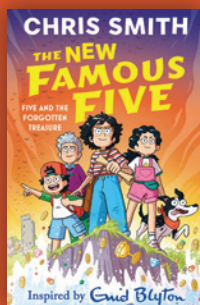
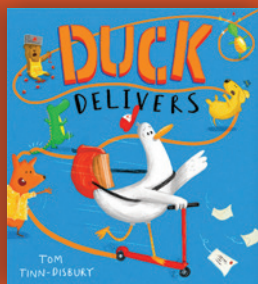
EILISH FISHER illustrated by DAVID ROONEY **THE WATERS AND THE WILD**

PUFFIN 2025 (HBK) 320PP €16.99 ISBN 9780241656433

After Rowan's father dies, she and her mother move from Arizona to the cold, strange Irish town where he grew up. No one will tell Rowan when or why a wall was built around the town, just that no one is allowed to cross it into the woods beyond. Climbing over a crumbling section, she discovers a horse and feels compelled to understand what is beyond the woods. A stunning book that tackles the heavy subjects of death, loss and fear in a graceful and thoughtful manner. (Verse novel, Age 10–12, 12–14, 15+) [AW]

READ ALSO: *Fia and the Last Snow Deer* by Eilish Fisher and Dermot Flynn

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BRIAN CONAGHAN

STEALING HAPPY

BLOOMSBURY YA 2025 (PBK) 304PP £7.99 ISBN 9781526653987

Sonny has a lot to deal with: his dad is suffering from long Covid and he hates having to see his mum struggle to pay the bills. On top of this, having Tourette's syndrome brings its own challenges. When he discovers his mum is in debt to a loan shark, Sonny's fragile world is on the brink of collapse. But Sonny is smart and brave enough to come up with an audacious plan that just might work ... Gritty, warm and hopeful, *Stealing Happy* is Brian Conaghan at his best. (Age 12–14) [SW]

READ ALSO: *Swimming on the Moon* by Brian Conaghan



BRÍAN DUNGAN

WINTOUR'S FATE

LITTLE TIGER 2025 (PBK) 304PP £8.99 ISBN 9781788956710

After surviving the fire that destroyed the Temple, Alex Wintour returns and is unexpectedly reunited with Christine, a mysterious figure from her past who may hold the key to her future and the years she cannot remember. But when Christine is abducted, Alex must descend into the shadows of the temporal underworld to bring her back. With a crescendo blending action and suspense, readers are pulled into a high-intensity plot that unfolds at pace while exploring themes of trust, identity and sacrifice. (Age 12–14) [KSS]

READ ALSO: *Wintour's Game* by Brian Dungan



MEG GREHAN

THE BRIGHTEST STAR

LITTLE ISLAND BOOKS 2025 (PBK) 200PP €10.99 ISBN 9781915071804

Fans of *The Deepest Breath* will delight in an all-new verse novel as a slightly older Stevie, Chloe and Andrew get ready to start secondary school. While there are plenty of opportunities for Stevie and Chloe to explore their identities, Andrew starts to withdraw from their friend group, and Stevie and Chloe have to figure out how to help him find his way back to them. Gorgeous, lyrical, warm and comforting, this novel gently explores the anxieties and excitement that can come with starting secondary school. (Verse novel, Age 12–14) [CS]

READ ALSO: *The Deepest Breath* by Meg Grehan



MEGAN HOPKINS

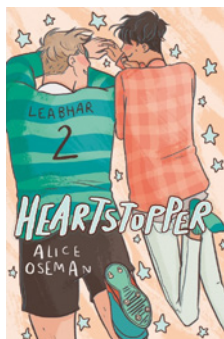
STARMINSTER: THE MONTH OF BIRTHDAYS

HARPERCOLLINS CHILDREN'S BOOKS 2025 (PBK) 288PP £7.99

ISBN 9780008626921

We're back in London Overhead for an action-packed sequel full of twists and turns! It's been a few weeks since Astrid fledged, so why aren't her wings working right? Instead of flying carefree through September's birthday celebrations, Astrid is fighting to make her dreams come true, mixing private flight lessons with sneaky competition in the mysterious 'Party Games' run by the equally mysterious birthday folk. A series for the socially engaged reader about friendship, family and fairness that's equal parts emotional and exciting. (Age 12–14) [HD-G]

READ ALSO: *Felix and the Future Agency* by Rachel Morrisroe and Paddy Donnelly



ALICE OSEMAN aistrithe ag EOIN McEVOY
HEARTSTOPPER 2

FUTA FATA 2025 (BOG) 288LCH €12.95 ISBN 9781915684240

Leanann *Heartstopper 2* ar aghaidh le scéal Nick agus Charlie, lánúin sa mheánscoil agus grúpa cairde aiteacha acu. Is ris lúcháireach é an scéal croíúil seo faoi ghrá, cairdeas agus eispéaras an aosa óig LADTA ar shaol na ndéagóirí agus ar an gcéad chaidrimh. Is comhartha dóchais é *Heartstopper 2* do dhéagóirí aiteacha. Taispeánann an scéal dúinn nach bhfuil duine ar bith ar domhain a mhothaíonn ina aonar i ndáiríre ina aonar ar chor ar bith, agus go bhfuil pobal grámhar agus lách ann dóibh i gcónaí. (Aois 12–14) [SK]

LÉIGH FREISIN: *Heartstopper* le Alice Oseman agus Eoin McEvoy



LEON DIOP

MIXED UP: AN IRISH BOY'S JOURNEY TO BELONGING

LITTLE ISLAND BOOKS OCT 2025 (PBK) 198PP €10.99 ISBN 9781915071880

This heartfelt memoir is a raw and honest insight into the trials and joys of growing up mixed-race in Ireland. Readers are taken on a journey that transcends borders, tracing the author's past and the experiences that have shaped his present. Diop's poignant reflections address the hardships he has faced while also delving into the revelations he has had about his identity and purpose. The themes of self-discovery and acceptance will resonate strongly with many readers, as will the celebration of family, community and solidarity. (Non-fiction, Age 12–14, 15+) [PO]

READ ALSO: *Black & Irish: Legends, Trailblazers and Everyday Heroes* by Leon Diop, Briana Fitzsimons and Jessica Louis

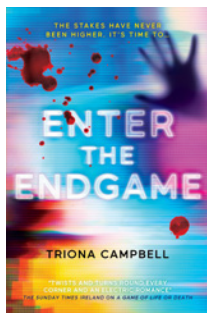


KIERAN FANNING illustrated by JULIA IREDALE
ENCHANTED IRELAND

GILL BOOKS OCT 2025 (HBK) 320PP €24.99 ISBN 9781804582206

Enchanted Ireland is a captivating journey through all thirty-two counties of Ireland, with each story blending rich folklore with real geography. From well-loved legends like Cúchulainn to lesser-known gems, every tale is told in the warm voice of a true seanchaí that brings the magic of Ireland to life. A map lets readers follow their reading adventure, while fascinating facts follow each story. With fairies, pookas, leprechauns and stunning, vivid artwork, this book is a feast for the senses and a celebration of Irish myth and magic. (Age 12–14, 15+) [LR]

READ ALSO: *Haunted Ireland* by Kieran Fanning and Mark Hill



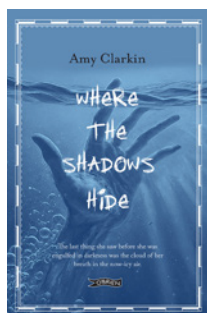
TRIONA CAMPBELL

ENTER THE ENDGAME

SCHOLASTIC 2025 (PBK) 400PP £8.99 ISBN 9780702317903

Asha Kennedy has escaped once more from the grasp of a corrupt tech company CEO, but at a heavy price. After being framed for a crime she did not commit, Asha, aided by unlikely allies, must find a way to save everyone from being enslaved by Rock's corrupt computer code, SHACKLE. The conclusion to this electrifying trilogy tantalises the reader's taste for adventure with an exciting new setting, engaging characters, in-game treachery and romance. An enthralling, fast-paced thriller sure to catch the attention of young gamers. (Age 15+) [JG]

READ ALSO: *The Traitor in the Game* by Triona Campbell



AMY CLARKIN

WHERE THE SHADOWS HIDE

THE O'BRIEN PRESS OCT 2025 (PBK) 352PP €12.99 ISBN 9781788495318

When the PSI team is called aboard a luxury cruise ship to help with seemingly inexplicable yet terrifying incidents, they are hopeful this case won't be as destructive as their last. But with tensions rising, they soon find themselves in deep water. Clarkin has a knack of both terrifying her readers and creating a beautiful sense of belonging, weaving together themes of friendship and found family, with continued important representation of queer and disabled characters, alongside spine-chilling moments. Readers will be gripped. (Age 15+) [SK]

READ ALSO: *Skulduggery Pleasant: A Heart Full of Hatred* by Derek Landy



JENNY IRELAND

MATCHED UP

PENGUIN 2025 (PBK) 304PP £8.99 ISBN 9780241720950

Lexie is seventeen and football is her life. When she meets Shane, she is blown away by his talent at football and his good looks. The connection between them is electric, but tension between Shane and Lexie's twin brother forces Lexie to hide her romance. But Lexie's not the only one keeping secrets ... With all the ingredients for a thrilling teen romance novel, Ireland also tackles issues facing teen girls playing sport while trying to navigate school and societal pressures. (Age 15+) [EL]

READ ALSO: *The Boy Next Door* by Jenny Ireland



CLARA KUMAGAI

SONGS FOR GHOSTS

ZEPHYR 2025 (HBK) 464PP £14.99 ISBN 9781803288086

Adam, a seventeen-year-old Japanese American teenager, is juggling a confusing love life, a strained relationship with his family and uncertainty about his identity. When he discovers a diary hidden in his family's attic, he becomes determined to solve the mystery of the owner's origins. What he does not expect is to be swept into the story of her life – nor to be haunted by her restless ghost ... Spanning multiple generations, with revelations that will leave readers truly gripped, this novel is a beautiful tale of love, family and identity. (Age 15+) [PO]

READ ALSO: *Catfish Rolling* by Clara Kumagai



MÉABH McDONNELL

ANY WAY YOU SLICE IT

THE O'BRIEN PRESS 2025 (PBK) 352PP €12.99 ISBN 9781788495820

Carrie waited years to enter the Castlecreeagh baking competition, earn the title of best young pastry chef and kickstart her dream career ... only to end up disqualified alongside her nemesis, Dara. Now to win that coveted title, they must join forces – could this prove to be another recipe for disaster? The baking competition at the heart of the novel creates a momentous narrative that embodies the thrills of competition, flavoured with mishaps, stern judges and unexpected kinship. (Age 15+) [GP]

READ ALSO: *The Dos and Donuts of Love* by Adiba Jaigirdar

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CYNTHIA MURPHY

KEEP YOUR FRIENDS CLOSE

PENGUIN 2025 (PBK) 384PP £9.99 ISBN 9780241712788

It's 1999, and Chloe is returning to her prestigious school, Morton Academy, for her final year. However, the secret societies and frequent on-campus murders are certainly not what you would expect from your typical last year at school ... Filled with crazy twists and turns, Murphy's writing is engaging and thrilling, making it impossible to know who can be trusted. With a compelling storyline and plenty of nineties pop culture references, this is a perfect read for fans of teen dramas, murder mysteries and suspense. (Age 15+) [EF]

READ ALSO: *The Midnight Game* by Cynthia Murphy



GRÁINNE O'BRIEN

SOLO

LITTLE ISLAND BOOKS 2025 (PBK) 288PP €10.99 ISBN 9781915071798

Music has always been a part of Daisy's life. However, when a shock break-up leaves her reeling, she must come to terms with what it means to be a solo act once again. O'Brien's use of free verse is a creative exploration of the unpredictable and chaotic essence of what it means to be a teenager navigating the tides of love, loss, friendship and anxiety. A powerful message in this novel is that it is never too late to start again. (Verse novel, Age 15+) [AB]

READ ALSO: *The Space Between* by Meg Grehan



CAROLINE O'DONOGHUE

SKIPSHOCK

WALKER BOOKS 2025 (HBK) 400PP £16.99 ISBN 9781529507966

Margo did not expect to fall into a new dimension when she got on the train to her new boarding school. When she finds herself following a travelling salesman called Moon as they disembark into a strange world, Margo soon realises that time is a commodity that she took for granted. *Skipshock* is an addictive reading experience, drawing the reader in with its lyrical prose and keeping them gripped with its fascinating multilayered power dynamics and electrifying romance. (Age 15+) [JG]

READ ALSO: *All Our Hidden Gifts* by Caroline O'Donoghue



EMMA SHEVAH

MY NAME IS JODIE JONES

DAVID FICKLING BOOKS 2025 (PBK) 320PP £8.99 ISBN 9781788453516

Jodie Jones is obsessed with words, with sentences, with everything we say and the spaces left by the things we don't. Struggling to cope with her experience of a terror attack on London Bridge and trying to hold the pieces of her broken family together, Jodie feels utterly powerless. With a neurodivergent narrator and dealing with darker themes of mental illness and abuse with sensitivity and empathy, this book is a celebration of individuality and one that you will not want to put down. (Age 15+) [AB]

READ ALSO: *Braids Take a Day* by Zainab Boladale

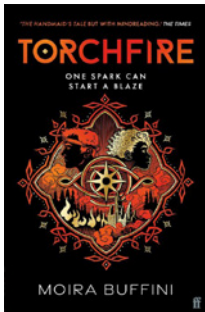


MARY WATSON
STRANGE NATURE

BLOOMSBURY YA 2025 (PBK) 400PP £9.99 ISBN 9781526619372

Jasmin has a troubled family history, so when the close-knit group of college students that she has been watching from afar take her under their wing she feels right at home in their seductive world of mystery. But after a tragedy on campus that the friends grow increasingly embroiled in, the cracks between them begin to show. With intriguing characters and core themes of power, belonging and scientific morality, this is a great read for anyone who enjoys dark academia and mysteries with a more modern YA feel. (Age 15+) [NM]

READ ALSO: *Blood to Poison* by Mary Watson



MOIRA BUFFINI
TORCHFIRE ★

FABER 2025 (PBK) 560PP £8.99 ISBN 9780571385683

In a world shaped by discrimination, greed and a long-standing war, there seems to be little hope of a better one. But for a group of young rebels, a slim chance at a brighter future is worth risking everything. Following on from the events of *Songlight*, this gripping dystopian novel balances the horror that our protagonists face, from high-tension negotiations to brutal murders, with plenty of sweet moments of friendship and love. *Torchfire's* strength lies within its complex world-building and exploration of resistance in a nuanced and compassionate way. (Age 16+) [RW]

READ ALSO: *Songlight* by Moira Buffini



CATHERINE DOYLE
THE CITY OF FANTOME: THE REBEL AND THE ROSE

SIMON & SCHUSTER 2025 (HBK) 512PP £16.99 ISBN 9781398528642

Skipping three months into the future from where *The Dagger and the Flame* left off, Seraphine has left the city of Fantome to start up her own order, the Flames, leaving Ransom behind as leader of the Daggers. Multiple perspectives add to the political intrigue and the tension of the will-they-won't-they romantic subplot, and Seraphine and Ransom's romance does become more explicit. Any fan of the romantic fantasy genre will be left wanting more from this spectacular series. This might just be Catherine Doyle's best YA book yet! (16+) [AD]

READ ALSO: *The Dagger and the Flame* by Catherine Doyle



KEL MENTON
A FIX OF LIGHT 🌟

LITTLE ISLAND BOOKS 2025 (PBK) 288PP €10.99 ISBN 9781915071743

When Hanan took his darkness down to the forest, he didn't expect to return home alive and changed. An ancient magic has resulted in emotions erupting beyond his control. That is, until Hanan meets Pax and finds his curse muted under the boy's touch. But Pax has his own reasons for moving to Skenashogue ... An enlightening excavation of the depths of the human heart, this is a trans romance about trust and survival in the glare of trauma. A strong début for the bookshelves of mature teens. (Age 16+) [NR]

READ ALSO: *Spellbook of the Lost and Found* by Moira Fowley Doyle



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Our corporate and philanthropic partnerships are vital in continuing our mission to make reading a part of every child's life. We are proud to have won the Business to Arts Judges' Special Recognition Award in 2021, supported by Accenture, for our partnerships with An Post, Brown Bag Films, Community Foundation Ireland, Ecclesiastical, KPMG, Rethink Ireland and William Fry. If your company would like to make a donation or explore a partnership, please get in touch with our Development Managers, Aine O'Mahony and Emma Walsh, on development@childrensbooksireland.ie

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We know that not everyone has the capacity to give while living. By leaving a legacy in your will, you can leave your mark by gifting the joy of reading and improving the lives of children and young people now and for generations to come. We will always respect your privacy and confidentiality and will handle your gift with sensitivity and respect at a time that suits you. We are also happy to talk about gifts made in memory of a loved one, a special way to remember and honour friends and family whose lives were enriched by a love of reading.

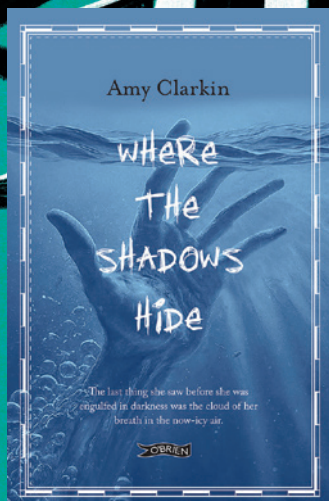
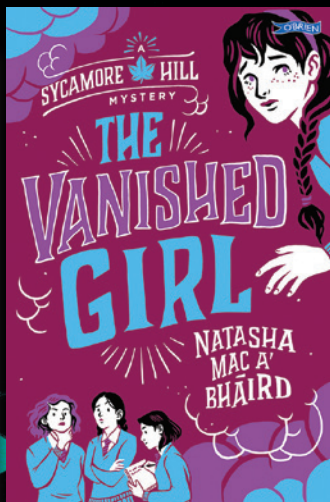
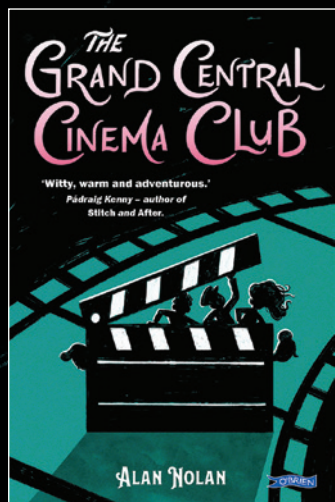
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Arts Office, Waterford City	Féile na Bealtaine	Tomar Trust
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Children's Health Ireland Arts	<i>Irish Examiner</i>	World Book Day UK
in Health	Junior Certificate	Young at Art
Children in Hospital Ireland	School Programme	
ChildVision	Kilkenny Library Service	We wish to thank all of our socially
Clare Arts Office	KPMG Ireland	minded government, corporate,
Cork World Book Fest	Lá Mór na Gaeilge	charity and individual supporters,
Community Foundation Ireland	LGBT Ireland	partners and funders. Particular
Crescent Arts Centre	Libraries Ireland	thanks to our members, whether
Cúirt Festival	Libraries NI	longstanding or new, and to our
Culture Ireland	Lorg	Leading Lights, whose ongoing
Culture Night	Mayo Library Service	support and generosity is essential
Davenham Switchgear	Meath Library Service	to the work we do. Our supporters are
Department of Children,	National Book Tokens	fundamental to our success and play
Disability and Equality	Oide	such an important role in furthering
Department of Rural and	Oifigeach Pleanála Teanga	our goal of making books part of every
Community Development	Inis Oírr	child's life in Ireland. We also wish
and the Gaeltacht	OKC	to thank all the children's publishers
Dublin Book Festival	Póta Cafe	whom we work so closely with on a
Dublin City Arts Office	Respond	weekly basis: we could not carry out
Dublin City University	Rethink Ireland	the work of Children's Books Ireland
Dublin LGBTQ Pride	Roscommon Arts Office	without their support.
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