



“GOING SOLO”

Compiled by Martin and Sinead Kromer for The Federation of Children's Book Groups.

FLAPS AND POP-UPS

Playing with flaps or tabs still involves reading but often without you even realising!

Mixed Up Fairy Tales Hodder Children's Books 9780340875575

Hilary Robinson and Nick Sharratt
You can turn the flaps and create hundreds of different stories, rewriting the traditional fairy tales. Your imagination can run riot! Also try "Spells and Smells" in a similar format, by the same duo.

The Story of Everything Hodder Children's Books 9780340881712

Neal Layton and Corina Fletcher
This non-fiction title, with its eleven pop-up spreads, takes you through the development of the world and evolution from before the Big Bang to the present day. Children will love all the activities and the humorous illustrations whilst developing an insight into the story of their world.

A Home for Hermit Templar Publishing 9781848777187

Ruth Martin and Robin Davies
This is a beautiful book, filled with bright, bold illustrations, which tells the story of Hermit, the crab, as he seeks a new home. Described as a changing-picture book the illustrations slide and change as you open the pages. It tells a delightful story whilst identifying many of the wonderful creatures living beneath the waves.

EASY READS

Limited amounts of large clear text, with plenty of outline drawings to keep children interested, make these books easy reads.

Babymouse: Our Hero Harper Collins Children's Books 9780007224487

Jennifer and Matthew Holm
Babymouse dreams of becoming a famous hero and being awarded The Pink Heart, but will her dreams ever come true? The comic-book style excites children and keeps them reading. The same style will be found in "Babymouse: Queen of the World!" and "Babymouse: Beach Babe!". Visit www.babymouse.com for more information, fun and games

Old Tom's Guide to Being Good Happy Cat Books 9781905117123

Leigh Hobbs
When she receives a royal invitation to tea, Angela Throgmorton has to decide whether or not to take Old Tom with her. Can the naughtiest cat in town really go to visit the Queen? If you like Old Tom you could try "Old Tom", "Old Tom at the Beach" and "Old Tom goes to Mars".

Snakes Alive and other stories Andersen Press 9781842705087

Hazel Townson and Tony Ross
Three hilarious short stories with wizards, witches and ghosts!

The Wildest Day at the Zoo Puffin Books 9780141319339

Alan Rusbridger and Ben Cort
The keepers at Melton Meadow Zoo are bored, so they decide to change animals for a day. The chaos that follows is unexpected but absolutely

hilarious! The wild animals go wild! You may like to read "The Coldest Day in the Zoo" too.

There's a Troll at the Top of our Tip! Happy Cat Books 9781905117161

Ann Jungman and Doffy Weir
Troll loves his job working at the local rubbish tip, so when he is fired he needs his friends to help him. In the same series are "There's a Troll at the Bottom of My Garden!" and "There's a Troll at the Bottom of Our Street!".

Stink and the Incredible Super-Galactic Jawbreaker Walker Books 9780744583694

Megan McDonald and Peter H. Reynolds
Stink, Judy Moody's younger brother, doesn't realise what he has started when he writes a letter to complain that the sweet he buys does not live up to its promises!

LONGER READS

Text slightly smaller, illustrations less evident and stories more complex make these books suitable for the confident independent reader.

I Believe in Unicorns Walker Books 9781844281466

Michael Morpurgo and Gary Blythe
This touching story takes place in war-torn Europe. Thomas hates books and school, but when he discovers a wooden statue of a unicorn in the library and listens to a story of unicorns his life is transformed forever. Do you believe in unicorns? Perhaps you will after reading this book!

Ninnyhammer Doubleday 9780385611879

Dick King-Smith and John Eastwood
All the villagers treat Ninnyhammer as the village idiot, but when Peter finds an ivory wand in the stream he comes to believe that he is really a wonderful magician. Will anyone else agree with him?

Christophe's Story Frances Lincoln 9781847802507

Nicki Cornwell
This is a moving story of a young Rwandan boy settling into school in England after fleeing his war-torn country. He has to make new friends and learn new ways in an unfamiliar school in a strange country whilst coming to terms with his earlier experiences back in Rwanda. Also, look out for the sequel "Armel's Revenge", when Christophe is asked to look after a new boy in his class who has also come from Rwanda. Together they learn how to rebuild their lives, though in very different ways.

Shadows Under the Sea Bloomsbury 9781408819449

Sally Grindley
An exciting adventure story, in an exotic setting, which keeps you reading to the very end. Joe travels with his family to the Philippines to join a project protecting seahorses but unscrupulous criminals have other ideas. It was written with the assistance of London Zoo's conservation team and all the information on marine life is interesting and accurate.

The Legend of Captain Crow's Teeth Puffin 9780141318905

Eoin Colfer and Tony Ross
Is the ghost of Captain Crow really looking for revenge in the holiday village of Duncade, or are they all just silly stories? All is revealed in this very funny tale from the creator of Artemis Fowl.

Daisy and the Trouble with Life Red Fox 9781862301672

Kes Gray and Garry Parsons
The famous picture book hero is now the star of her own comical short novel! Daisy always seems to be in trouble. This time it is serious and she has been grounded. But what did she do? You can play with Daisy at www.daisyclub.co.uk

Watch out for Witches Happy Cat Books 9781905117178

Hilda Offen
A comical tale of princes, fairy godmothers and five witches, which will keep readers engrossed and chuckling to the very end. And it all turns out happily ever after!

Magic Beans: A Handful of Fairy Tales from the Storybag David Fickling 9780857560438

Jacqueline Wilson, Philip Pullman, Michael Morpurgo and many more.
This is a super selection of fourteen fairy tales renewed by tremendous storytellers, each with their own illustrator. For example, Adele Geras' strange and spellbinding *The Six Swan Brothers*, creepily illustrated by Ian Beck, opens the selection, and Anne Fine's *Twelve Dancing Princesses*, has ribbons of dancing shoes by Debi Gliori edging the pages. Great writing from superb modern storytellers which may well encourage readers to explore more of their other books. Great fun!

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The Federation strives to bring children and books together for enjoyment and fun. For more information and copies of our other booklists, contact the Federation at:
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The Federation of Children's Book Groups

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“GOING SOLO”

A selection of books especially chosen for the newly independent reader.



From the book *Delilah Darling is in the Library*
Illustrations by Rosie Reeve
Used with the permission of Puffin Books



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Sharing stories and books is how children begin the new and exciting experience of reading ... sharing with parents and grandparents, with older brothers and sisters, with classmates and teachers. As time goes by the child’s reading develops and the day comes when they just want to curl up in a big armchair, stretch out on a cushion on the floor or snuggle up in bed by themselves reading alone. Here are titles which fit those occasions. There’s something for everyone when they want to go solo!

PICTURE BOOKS

All the picture books which the child has shared and loved over the years can be enjoyed when reading solo. These familiar books and stories make reading alone easier and give each child the confidence they need.

Delilah Darling is in the Library *Puffin Books 9780141381749*

Jeanne Willis and Rosie Reeve
Delilah loves reading books and loves to visit the library. All this reading helps her imagine a world of her own in vivid detail. A bright colourful book with plenty of dynamic text.

Library Lion *Walker Books 9781406305678*

Michelle Knudsen and Kevin Hawkes
There’s a lion in the library and nobody knows what to do! There are rules about shouting and running, but there are no rules about lions. A warm-hearted story with traditional illustrations.

Albert Le Blanc to the Rescue! *Harper Collins Children’s Books 9780007259250*

Nick Butterworth
The action-packed sequel to “Albert Le Blanc”. The cuddly toy polar bear thinks he has to join with the other toys in the shop to save their friend, Sally the hippo, but does she really need rescuing? A story of friendship, bravery and teamwork. Complete with CD, read by David Jason.

Traction Man meets Turbogod *Random House Children’s Books 9780224070485*

Mini Grey
Traction Man is back, together with his faithful pet, Scrubbing Brush, in this sequel to “Traction Man is Here!”. Children love the comic-style layout and the madcap humour.

The Three Billy Goats’ Stuff *Lion Children’s Books 9780745960227*

Bob Hartman and Jacqueline East
Goat starts school and has to suffer the school bully, Troll! But then Goat’s brothers come to the rescue. A hilarious twist to a traditional tale. Complete with CD performed by the author.
Also try “The Wolf who Cried Boy” in a similar style, by the same author.

POETRY

You can dip into a poetry book whenever you choose. You don’t have to start at the beginning; you can flip through the book and stop whenever something catches your eye.

Here’s a Little Poem – A very first book of poetry *Walker Books 9781844287536*

Jane Yolen, Andrew Fusek Peters and Polly Dunbar
A beautifully-presented book with short easy poems surrounded by bright and lively illustrations.

The Selfish Crocodile Book of Nursery Rhymes *Bloomsbury Books 9780747595236*

Faustin Charles and Michael Terry
Traditional well-known and much-loved rhymes are given a new special twist. These humorous animal poems, with the bold cheerful illustrations, will bring a smile to the face of any child. Complete with a CD of the poems read by the author.

Dragon Poems *Oxford University Press 9780192760968*

John Foster and Korky Paul
A picture book brim full of poems about dragons and those zany vivid illustrations so typical of Korky Paul.

Mustard, Custard, Grumble Belly and Gravy *Bloomsbury Books 9780747587392*

Michael Rosen and Quentin Blake
A compilation of two earlier books, “You Can’t Catch Me” and “Don’t Put Mustard in the Custard”. Michael Rosen’s witty poetry is perfectly complemented by Quentin Blake’s wacky drawings. Includes a CD with Michael Rosen readings his poems in his own inimitable style!

Don’t take your Elephant to School *Lion Children’s Books 9780745960203*

Steve Turner and David Mostyn
Several short snappy poems for each letter of the alphabet, some very silly and some to make you think!

SERIES OF STORIES AND BOOKS

Imagine finishing a book and discovering that there are many more just as good and just as enjoyable. That’s the excitement of a series!

Holly Webb has written over sixty books. All her books are ideal for the young child looking for a story to warm the heart. The stories flow along easily and are interspersed with delightful black and white illustrations on almost every page.

Two new series stand out as being particularly suitable.

My Naughty Little Puppy Series *Stripes*

Illustrated by Kate Pankhurst
Ellie’s family have adopted a mischievous Jack Russell puppy, and Ellie calls it Rascal. Appropriately named, Rascal is always getting himself and Ellie into all sorts of Trouble. The series starts with:

A Home for Rascal *9781847151285*

There are many other adventures such as:

Rascal’s Festive Fun! *9781847151988*

Rascal’s Seaside Adventure *9781847151650*

Rascal and the Wedding *9781847152329*

The Puppy & Kitten Titles *Stripes*

Illustrated by Sophy Williams
Each title, all for slightly older children, has a different, but equally cute and cuddly, puppy or kitten, generally lost or homeless, as the main character. All the books are stand-alone titles with different families and characters and a variety of plots and adventures. Here are just four of the many available titles:

Alone in the Night *9781847150943*

Timmy in Trouble *9781847150622*

The Frightened Kitten *9781847152305*

The Secret Puppy *9781847152336*

Astrosaurs *Red Fox*

Steve Cole
As the series title might suggest, these are hilarious, comical stories about dinosaurs in space! You can meet Captain Teggs Stegosaur and his crew, Iggy, Gypsy and Arx, on the fantastic spaceship DSS Sauropod, which travels the galaxy fighting evil. Filled with quirky black and white illustrations by Woody Fox, these books will have the children chuckling and even laughing out loud. The books also have free Collectors cards enclosed, which adds to the fun. With over twenty titles in the series, the books can be read in any order but are far better read from the beginning starting with:

Riddle of the Raptors *9781849411493*

More recent titles include:

The Forest of Evil *9781849413954*

Earth Attack *9781849414005*

The T.Rex Invasion *9781849414036*

Horrid Henry Stories *Orion Children’s Books*

Francesca Simon and Tony Ross
Books from this series are always appearing on the top-sellers list. Henry gets up to all sorts of mischief, but he certainly makes you laugh. Each book is made up of four short amusing stories. Ideal for a quick read. Audiotapes and CDs are available to supplement the books. Here are just a few in the series:

Horrid Henry and the Football Fiend *9781842550717*

Horrid Henry’s Nits *9781858813530*

Horrid Henry’s Stinkbomb *9781842550663*

Winnie the Witch *Oxford University Press*

Laura Owen and Korky Paul
Children love the picture books and now they can read short stories, about the zany witch that is always getting into scrapes. Exciting stories full of spooky spells and magical mayhem that will keep young readers spellbound. Each book has four short stories. Have fun on Winnie’s website:

www.winnie-the-witch.com

Whizz-Bang Winnie *9780192727527*

Winnie the Twit *9780192725769*

Mini Winnie *9780192725776*

Littlenose Stories *Simon and Schuster Children’s Books*

John Grant and Ross Collins
Littlenose is a cave boy who lived long, long ago, when it was very cold and strange animals roamed the land. First published over thirty years ago these reprinted books still enthral young children and keep them reading to the end of the story. Each of the books is a series of short adventures.

Littlenose the Hunter *9781416910909*

Littlenose the Hero *9781416910893*

Littlenose the Explorer *9781416926689*

Dirty Bertie *Stripes Publishing*

Alan MacDonald and David Roberts
Bertie is full of crazy ideas and plans, but he is a magnet for trouble and he does have some disgusting habits. The children revel in his impish behaviour and wicked sense of humour. Disgusting, but loveable, that’s Bertie!

Dirty Bertie Burp! *9781847150233*

Dirty Bertie Yuck! *9781847150394*

Dirty Bertie Crackers! *9781847150486*

Flat Stanley Stories *Egmont Children’s Books*

Jeff Brown and Scott Nash
Stanley Lampchop was an ordinary boy until a noticeboard fell on him whilst he was asleep in bed. Now he is only half an inch thick! Being so flat does have its advantages, but it also has its problems. Stanley was first introduced to us almost forty years ago. With many new stories added over the years, the books have now been updated with new humorous illustrations.

Flat Stanley *9781405204170*

Invisible Stanley *9781405204217*

Stanley in Space *9781405204194*