

PICK OF THE YEAR FOR YOUNGER CHILDREN

BAD CAT!

Written and illustrated by Nicola O'Byrne
Published by Nosy Crow
ISBN 9781788008860

Meet Fluffykins – he wouldn't do anything naughty, would he? Mischief follows this furball at every turn, can he resist? Watch his cheeky face and chuckle! A playful read you'll return to time and again.

HOW CAN YOU LOSE AN ELEPHANT?

Written and illustrated by Jan Fearnley
Published by Simon & Schuster
ISBN 9781471191688

Oscar has a tendency to lose things. This humorous, tender story tells how he befriends a helpful elephant with an excellent memory. Delightful details in the illustrations add another dimension to this tale of how to tackle the fall-out from tantrums and make amends.

I'M STICKING WITH YOU

Written by Smriti Halls and illustrated by Steve Small
Published by Simon & Schuster
ISBN 9781471182815

A rhyming story about the unlikely friendship between a bear and a squirrel. Clever illustrations enhance the text giving opportunities for discussion. Like all friendships there are ups and downs, but ultimately the title of the book says it all.

MEESHA MAKES FRIENDS

Written and illustrated by Tom Percival
Published by Bloomsbury
ISBN 9781526612953

Meesha loves making things but she finds making friends difficult. So she literally makes herself some friends. When her parents encourage her to go to a party, she finds her talent for making things helps her to make friends after all. A comforting, thought-provoking read, celebrating the individual and inspiring empathy.

MY DAD IS A GRIZZLY BEAR

Written by Swapna Haddow and illustrated by Dapo Adeola
Published by Macmillan Children's Books
ISBN 9781529013979

A little boy contemplates his father and concludes that he is a grizzly bear. All the evidence points to this being

the case. But when needed most, his dad gives the best bear hugs ever! This story is destined to become a firm favourite for sharing!

OLD MACDONALD HAD A PHONE

Written by Jeanne Willis and illustrated by Tony Ross
Published by Andersen Press
ISBN 9781728424125

Phones are very useful. Old MacDonald couldn't do without his to organise his farm. But when the animals get their own, chaos follows. A hugely entertaining, interactive story which can be sung along to the tune of Old MacDonald Had a Farm.

PIP AND EGG

Written by Alex Latimer and illustrated by David Litchfield
Published by Scholastic
ISBN 9781407193687

Join Pip and Egg as they navigate their unique friendship through life, forging roots and growing wings. Like the perfect cup of tea, their story will warm you through from your heart to your fingertips! A smile for miles.

POO! IS THAT YOU?

Written by Clare Helen Welsh and illustrated by Nicola O'Byrne
Published by Macmillan Children's Books
ISBN 9781529030471

Lenny can't escape the pungent pong lingering in his sunny sleeping spot and sets about sniffing all of his stinky neighbours! The perfect combination of education and humour, this book will delight on every page. All together now, "POOOOOOOO!"

SPLASH

Written by Claire Cashmore and illustrated by Sharon Davey
Published by Farshore
ISBN 9780755502851

A stunning portrayal of determination, love, and sibling support. Join Claire and her "I can do it!" attitude as she overcomes her fear and finds a lifelong passion. Made all the more poignant by the personal and encouraging messages from the author. A must read!

SUPERKITTY VERSUS MOUSEZILLA

Written by Hannah Whitty and illustrated by Paula Bowles
Published by Simon & Schuster
ISBN 9781471175121

An imaginative first person read that sees Superkitty and the gang

investigating the mystery of the missing food! Superbly silly and delightfully dramatic with sensational illustrations to keep your eyes busy on each page. Jump right into the adventure!

THE BOOKSHOP CAT

Written and illustrated by Cindy Wume
Published by Macmillan Children's Books
ISBN 9781529041279

A book-loving cat finds the perfect job in a children's bookshop with Violet, knowing just how to match readers with the ideal book. But when the bookshop floods, the children stop visiting. With help, Violet and the Bookshop Cat finds a way to entice the children back.

THE WITCHLING'S WISH

Written by Lu Fraser and illustrated by Sarah Massini
Published by Bloomsbury
ISBN 9781408899953

A magical rhyming story about a lonely little witch who tries a spell to create a friend. The last ingredient is fur from Lily's one-eyed teddy. The meeting of the two girls results in a friendship based on kindness and understanding.

THERE'S A MOUSE IN MY HOUSE

Written and illustrated by Ross Collins
Published by Nosy Crow
ISBN 9781788008259

In this sequel to There's a Bear on My Chair the tables have turned. This time, it's Bear who has an unwelcome guest, and that cheeky mouse just won't leave. But when there's an unexpected knock at the door, Bear decides that perhaps mice are actually rather nice!

THERE IS NO BIG BAD WOLF IN THIS STORY

Written by Lou Carter and illustrated by Deborah Allwright
Published by Bloomsbury
ISBN 9781526608178

Have fun finding familiar fairy tale characters as you follow the progress of a worn-out wolf who is running late and decides to give it all up. But fairy tales just won't work without a Big Bad Wolf, so how will the characters win him round?

PICK OF THE YEAR FOR YOUNGER READERS

CLAUDE AT THE PALACE

Written and illustrated by Alex T Smith
Published by Hodder
ISBN 9781444932003

Despite the rain, Claude decides that he wants to go out and when he hears a cry for help from a very 'fancy building', Claude just can't stop himself. Chaos follows as Claude volunteers himself as a Royal nanny. Beautifully illustrated throughout, Claude's fans will love this latest instalment.

CRATER LAKE

Written by Jennifer Killick
Published by Firefly
ISBN 9781913102203

On a Year 6 residential trip to Crater Lake, Lance and his friends discover an alien plot to take over the world by entering human hosts whilst they sleep. Gripping and funny, a good introduction to Sci-Fi and mystery.

EATING CHIPS WITH MONKEY

Written by Mark Lowery
Published by Piccadilly
ISBN 9781848127371

Daniel loves nothing more than eating chips. When he is knocked down by a car and retreats into himself, his family are desperate to get their bright boy back and travel around the country looking for the best chip shop. Can the trip help Daniel to remember his life before the accident?

FIRE BOY

Written by J M Joseph
Published by Hodder
ISBN 9781444954685

Aidan receives a mysterious parcel from Peru marked "Top Secret". Inside he and his friends discover an unusual jar of sweets. Tempted to try them they discover they have amazing superpowers. A laugh out loud comedy with short punchy chapters. But beware...

PIZAZZ

Written and illustrated by Sophy Henn
Published by Simon & Schuster
ISBN 9781471193989

It's not easy being a superhero - particularly when your superpower is SO embarrassing. Moving to a new school Pizazz is given the role of eco-monitor. When the local park is threatened, Pizazz has a chance to be super... even if it means everyone

finding out about her embarrassing superpower!

THE BOY WHO MADE EVERYONE LAUGH

Written by Helen Rutter and illustrated by Andrew Banneker
Published by Scholastic
ISBN 9780702300851

Billy's dream is to be a stand-up comedian. But there is one problem - he has a stammer. He is determined to overcome it and his first hurdle is 'Show and Tell' at his new school. Perseverance and the kindness of others help him to succeed.

THE DANGER GANG

Written by Tom Fletcher and illustrated by Shane Devries
Published by Puffin
ISBN 9780241407462

Apart from missing his best friend, Franky is delighted when his family moves to a new town. All is well until a strange storm hits the town. Even more weird, his new friends start to change. Can Franky and his Danger Gang get to the bottom of the mystery?

THE GIRL WHO STOLE AN ELEPHANT

Written by Nizrana Farook
Published by Nosy Crow
ISBN 9781788006347

Chaya usually has an answer for everything, but stealing the Queen's jewels and a gorgeous elephant might take a lot of explaining... A mystery story packed with plenty of action and jeopardy, but with friendship and loyalty at its heart.

THE STORY PUPPY

Written by Holly Webb and illustrated by Sophy Williams
Published by Little Tiger
ISBN 9781788952200

The heart-warming story of Jack, who has difficulty reading, and Daisy, an anxious puppy at an animal shelter. On his visits, Jack reads aloud to her, developing Daisy's confidence alongside his own. When Jack realizes that she is ready for adoption, he dreads losing Daisy to another family.

THE SUMMER I ROBBED A BANK

Written by David O'Doherty
Published by Puffin
ISBN 9780241362235

Rex's Uncle Dern wants one last adventure and when the local care home is under threat what better way

to save it than rob a bank to fund the repairs? But nothing ever goes to plan, does it? Join the madcap pair as they carry out their daring plan.

SUPER SIDE KICKS: NO ADULTS ALLOWED

Written and illustrated by Than Gavin Aung
Published by Puffin
ISBN 9780241434857

A comic strip roller coaster ride set in Australia with superhero assistants known as sidekicks in revolt against their own super demanding masters. They band together to defeat the evil Dr Enok but will they succeed?

WIGGLESBOTTOM PRIMARY: BREAK-TIME BUNNIES

Written by Pamela Butchart and illustrated by Becka Moor
Published by Nosy Crow
ISBN 9781788001236

Everything is suspicious at Wigglesbottom Primary! From bunnies to violins, the children at this school always have something to analyse. Part of a series, the three stories in this book are laugh out loud funny and provide an excellent engaging step up from picture books.

PICK OF THE YEAR FOR OLDER READERS

A SPRINKLE OF SORCERY

Written by Michelle Harrison
Published by Simon & Schuster
ISBN 9781471183867

In the second Pinch of Magic book, the Widdershins sisters Betty, Fliss and Charlie find themselves in the thick of a new adventure, helping a mysterious girl try to free her father, imprisoned for a crime he did not commit. And then Charlie disappears...

AFTER THE WAR: FROM AUSCHWITZ TO AMBLESIDE

Written by Tom Palmer
Published by Barrington Stoke
ISBN 9781781129487

A very touching story based on the true experiences of Jewish children brought over to the Lake District after the end of the Second World War. The central friendship between the three boys is very moving, sensitively told and with a lasting message of hope.

CROWFALL

Written by Vashti Hardy
Published by Scholastic
ISBN 9781407197272

Orin Crowfall is a young servant on an island which is geared to prosperity based on industry, but it is doomed unless he and his robot companion Cody can persuade those in authority of the dangers from without. An exciting fantasy, threaded through with very real environmental concerns.

DEATH SETS SAIL

Written by Robin Stevens
Published by Puffin
ISBN 9780241419809

In this final instalment of A Murder Most Unladylike series, Daisy and Hazel take a cruise on the Nile and investigate the murder of a fellow passenger, the leader of the mysterious Breath of Life Society, whose followers believe themselves to be incarnations of the pharaohs.

SWAN SONG

Written by Gill Lewis
Published by Barrington Stoke
ISBN 9781781129548

When Dylan is expelled from school, he and his mum move to Wales to stay with his estranged Grandad. He introduces Dylan to the water, his motorboat and the whooper swans, and slowly his life turns around with the community too healing his anxieties.

THE GHOST OF GOSSWATER

Written by Lucy Strange
Published by Chicken House
ISBN 9781911077848

After the death of her father, twelve-year-old Lady Agatha is thrown out of Gosswater Hall. She must come to terms with the fact that she is illegitimate and will be living with a man who claims to be her father. Stripped of everything she knows, Agatha is determined to find out who she really is...

CINDERELLA IS DEAD

Written by Kalyann Bayron
Published by Bloomsbury
ISBN 9781526621979

Sophia is not only headstrong in a rigidly male dominated society, but also gay, and is desperate for her own personal freedom. Prince Charming is a tyrant who has no interest in a



The Federation of
Children's Book Groups

Registered Charity No. 268289

AND FOR MORE MATURE READERS

BURN

Written by Patrick Ness
Published by Walker
ISBN 9781406375503

In 1957, Sarah Dewhurst and her father hire a dragon to help on the farm. The dragon knows something she doesn't. He has a prophecy on his mind. A prophecy that involves a deadly assassin, a cult of dragon worshippers, two FBI agents in hot pursuit - and Sarah herself.

CINDERELLA IS DEAD

Written by Kalyann Bayron
Published by Bloomsbury
ISBN 9781526621979

Sophia is not only headstrong in a rigidly male dominated society, but also gay, and is desperate for her own personal freedom. Prince Charming is a tyrant who has no interest in a

The Federation of
Children's Book Groups

Registered Charity No. 268289

Registered Charity No. 268289

Registered Charity No. 268289

Registered Charity No. 268289

'happy ever after', and Sophia must risk everything to overthrow him. A fantasy thriller which explores the effect the fairy tale has had on generations on girls.

CONCRETE ROSE

Written by Angie Thomas
Published by Walker
ISBN 9781406384444

With his dad in prison and his mother working two jobs, Maverick helps the only way he knows how: dealing drugs. Life's not perfect, but he's got everything under control. Until he finds out he's a father. Offered the chance to go straight, he takes it, but finds it isn't easy to walk away.

EIGHT PIECES OF SILVA

Written by Patrice Lawrence
Published by Hodder
ISBN 9781444954746

After seeing Becks' mum and her dad off on their honeymoon, Silva fails to return home. Becks starts to worry about her sister and sets about building a picture of Silva's life from the eight pieces of evidence she finds in Silva's room. A book with no easy answers.

LAST ONE TO DIE

Written by Cynthia Murphy
Published by Scholastic
ISBN 9780702304934

Sixteen-year-old Irish girl Niamh is on her first visit to London. She has timed it badly because there is a vicious attacker on the loose, whose prey is young brunettes... If you like gore (and giggling) and then more gore this is for you.

ONE OF US IS NEXT

Written by Karen M McManus
Published by Penguin
ISBN 9780241376928

A year has passed since 'One of us is Lying' but nothing has settled for the residents of Bayview, particularly as a sinister game of Truth or Dare has been started. Someone is determined to keep Simon's legacy alive and things take a dark turn as the dares become deadly...

The Federation of
Children's Book Groups

Registered Charity No. 268289

Registered Charity No. 268289

Registered Charity No. 268289

Registered Charity No. 268289



Children's Book Award

Owned and Coordinated by the
Federation of Children's Book Groups
Registered Charity No. 268289

PICK OF THE YEAR
WINNERS 2022



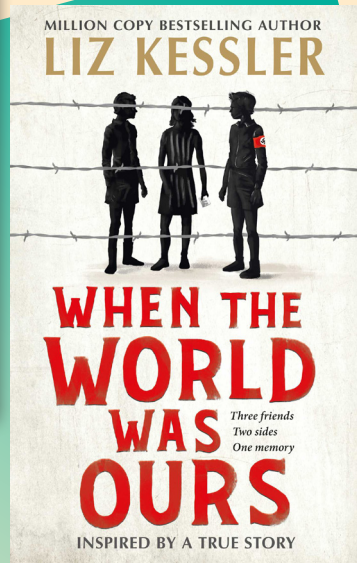
The Federation of
Children's Book Groups

Registered Charity No. 268289

Registered Charity No. 268289

Registered Charity No. 268289

Registered Charity No. 268289





Children's Book Award

The Federation of Children's Book Groups
Registered Charity 268289

The Children's Book Award is the only national book prize given in the UK that is decided by the readers from start to finish – the children themselves. The award is given annually to the best work of children's fiction, after over 700 books have been read and voted for by young readers and young adults.

During the pandemic the Federation of Children's Book Groups was unable to run the book award, so the 2022 award celebrates books published in 2020 and 2021. During the voting period over 50,000 votes were cast in the process to create the Top 50 Pick of the Year, all by young members of ten Testing Groups from the FCBG.

A further 30,000 votes were cast by children all over the country to pick their favourite books from the shortlist to pick out the winners in:

- BOOKS FOR YOUNGER CHILDREN
- BOOKS FOR YOUNGER READERS
- BOOKS FOR OLDER READERS

Visit the award page on the Federation of Children's Book Group <https://fcbg.org.uk/cba-home/> to read more about the Pick of the Year and the award in general.

All the books in the Pick of the Year were read, tested and voted for by children and

are their favourite books from all those published in 2020 and 2021. From picture books to books for sharing, from books for early readers to the more confident, and for longer novels for teenagers and young adults, the Pick of the Year gives ideas for libraries, for gifts and for sharing with your own children. You will find some great suggestions for new authors as well as firm favourites!

If you, your school or your family would like to take part in the only national award where only the children's vote counts and only their vote matters, contact childrensbookaward@fcbg.org.uk. Be part of an award that is recognised for picking the stars of the future.

The Children's Book Award is owned and coordinated by the Federation of Children's Book Groups, a voluntary organisation that coordinates national activity for local children's book groups around the UK. Volunteers run the Award working with local schools, libraries, families and children's organisations and children from ten Testing Groups place their votes throughout the year, resulting in the Top Ten shortlist and the Pick of the Year. Visit www.fcbg.org.uk to learn more about the charity and how you can get involved.

The reviews for the Pick of the Year titles were written by members of the Federation of Children's Book Groups and are listed in alphabetical order of title in each age range.

SHORTLISTED BOOKS FOR YOUNGER CHILDREN

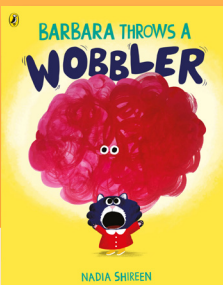


OVERALL WINNER

OCTOPUS SHOCKTOPUS!

Written by Peter Bently and illustrated by Steven Lenton
Published by Nosy Crow ISBN 978-1788002684

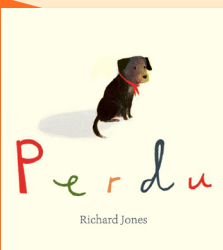
Octopus decides to live on the top of a house. At first quiet and nervous, he then befriends the children and plays games with them. He is also helpful in doing jobs in the garden such as acting as a washing line. The story is told in rhyme (whoever thought of rhyming the name Antrobus with octopus?) The pictures are vibrant with a fluorescent octopus. A story about finding friendship and empathy in unexpected ways, with a humorous twist at the end.



BARBARA THROWS A WOBBLER

Written and illustrated by Nadia Shireen
Published by Penguin ISBN 978-1780081366

We've all met a Wobbler! This excellent book uses the experiences of Barbara to identify a Wobbler and provides good advice on how to deal with it when it's in full flight. The amusing illustrations and clever text chart Barbara's day, starting with minor irritations and building into a huge Wobbler. Friends try to help Barbara manage the Wobbler until she realises that only she can make it disappear (for now). A helpful way to encourage children to manage their anger effectively. A joy from start to finish.



PERDU

Written and illustrated by Richard Jones
Published by Simon & Schuster ISBN 978-1471181269

Small and vulnerable, Perdu instantly inspires empathy as he makes his solitary way first through the countryside and then through the city. His sense of isolation is emphasised by the stunning artwork, but the sharp eyed will notice that someone is paying attention to Perdu. A little girl in a red bobble hat has spotted him and keeps trying to draw her mother's attention to him. She shows patience and kindness, returning his lost red scarf when he is distressed and at last, Perdu has found his safe place.



STELLA AND THE SEAGULL

Written by Georgina Stevens and illustrated by Izzy Burton
Published by OUP ISBN 978-0192774682

When a friendly seagull becomes ill after eating plastic, Stella decides that something needs to be done about the pollution on the beach. With the help of Granny Maggie, she organises a beach clean party and asks her favourite chocolate company for help. This gets local businesses thinking about the changes they could make to reduce plastic use. The book includes facts and true stories about young people raising awareness of plastic. A beautifully illustrated, inspirational ecological story which shows that you're never too small to make a big difference.

SHORTLISTED BOOKS FOR YOUNGER READERS

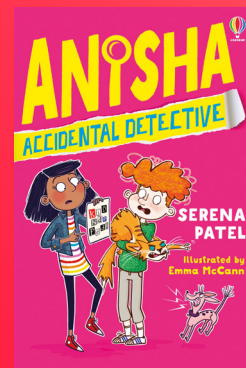


CATEGORY WINNER

THE HIGHLAND FALCON THIEF

Written by M G Leonard & Sam Sedgman and illustrated by Elisa Paganelli
Published by Macmillan
ISBN 978-1529013061

Hal is on a train journey with his Uncle Nat. He meets a stowaway, Lenny, the engine driver's daughter, and they become embroiled in exciting intrigue as a jewel thief is on board. The children solve the mystery and expose the criminals. The story follows the classic line of children/amateurs being more competent than the police. The steam train setting is glorious, with wonderfully atmospheric and accurate descriptions of the train. It is a rollicking read; the denouement does not disappoint.



ANISHA ACCIDENTAL DETECTIVE

Written by Serena Patel and illustrated by Emma McCann
Published by Usborne
ISBN 978-1474959520

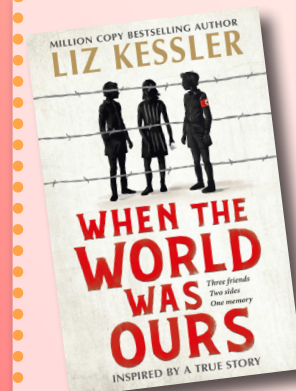
Anisha's Aunt Bindi is getting ready for her wedding and amid all the chaos and drama this involves, Anisha finds a ransom note pushed through the door. Uncle Tony - the groom-to-be - has been kidnapped, and will only be released if the wedding is cancelled. It is up to Anisha and her best friend Milo to solve the mystery and save the wedding. Family, friendship and oodles of humour make this a fantastic read!



THE GRIFFIN GATE

Written by Vashti Hardy and illustrated by Natalie Smillie
Published by Barrington Stoke
ISBN 978-1781129432

The Griffin family are the wardens of the Griffin map, invented to keep the Moreland country safe. If someone needs help their gate flashes on the map and a warden can teleport to the location. One day, Grace is the only one able to take a distress call even though she is too young to be a warden. But it's a trap, set by Mayor Pick who wants to take over responsibility for map. There follows an exciting and daring plan to stop him but who will win?



CATEGORY WINNER

WHEN THE WORLD WAS OURS

Written by Liz Kessler
Published by Simon & Schuster
ISBN 978-1471196805

A powerfully written story of three friends growing up during the rise of Nazism in Vienna. Leo, Elsa and Max are enjoying an idyllic childhood in 1936, but their lives are to take very different paths because Leo and Elsa are Jewish. Told through the three children's points of view, we see their bewilderment as the regime tears them apart and each must find a way to try to survive the horrors of the Second World War. Can their friendship survive?



THE MIDNIGHT GUARDIANS

Written by Ross Montgomery
Published by Walker
ISBN 978-1406391183

Set against the backdrop of WW2, this is a thrilling blend of fantasy and historical realism. Col is evacuated to Derbyshire where he is reunited with three imaginary friends who warn him of impending danger. Together with a Kindertransportee, they set out on a race against time to defeat the forces of darkness and rescue Col's sister from the Blitz, pursued by the monstrous Midwinter King across the war torn countryside. This multi-layered exploration of loss, separation, family and friendship echoes with ancient myths and classic children's stories.



THE OUTLAWS SCARLETT AND BROWNE

Written by Jonathan Stroud
Published by Walker
ISBN 978-1406394818

Set in a dystopian England, where most of the country is wilderness, animals have mutated into monsters and our intrepid heroine, Scarlett O'Hare, has to rely on her cunning to survive. When she encounters an apparently helpless Arthur Browne, she is persuaded to escort him to safety. But is Arthur as innocent as he seems? When the pair are pursued and strange things seem to happen around Arthur, Scarlett wonders what she has let herself in for. An action-packed adventure, full of humour and a fair smattering of gore!

SHORTLISTED BOOKS FOR OLDER READERS

You can follow the Award on Twitter @FCBGNews using #FCBGCBA22, and through the FCBG Facebook and Instagram pages