

2023



The Federation of Children's Book Groups

SPORTS AND GAMES

The 2023 Summer Reading Challenge is 'Ready, Set, Read!', celebrating all manner of sports and games. Held annually in the UK by libraries and The Reading Agency, this wonderful challenge started in 1999 and has been encouraging children to keep reading ever since.

This booklist offers a range of fiction and non-fiction titles, loosely based on this theme which might help children discover something new or find out more about their favourite sport or game!

Splash!

Claire Cashmore, illustrated by Sharon Davey



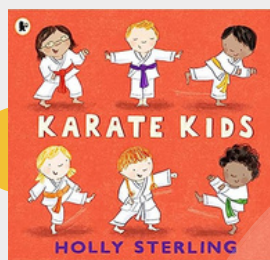
Written by MBE and Paralympic gold medallist, Claire Cashmore and based on her real-life experiences, 'Splash' is a wonderful story about believing in yourself.

Farshore

ISBN: 978-0755502851

Karate Kids

Holly Sterling



Join Maya and her friends as they head to the Dojo for their karate lesson. As a beginner, Maya is a white belt, but is determined to show Sensei what she can do.

Walker Books

ISBN: 978-1406394443

Let's Play Football

Ben Lerwill, illustrated by Marina Ruiz



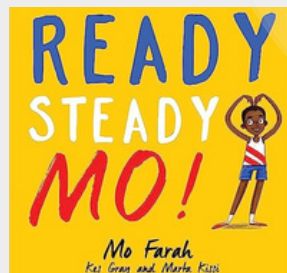
Focusing on the fact that football is an accessible, social game to be enjoyed by everyone, 'Let's Play Football!' is a real celebration of the 'beautiful' game. Another book by this pair is 'Let's Go Outside' (Welbeck ISBN: 978-1913519803)

Welbeck

ISBN: 978-1803380384

Ready, Steady Mo!

Mo Farah and Kes Gray, illustrated by Marta Kissi

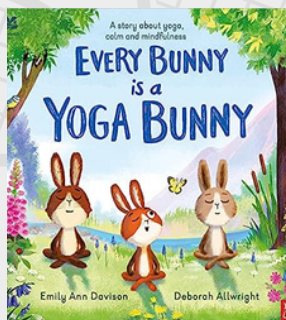


This fun, rhyming text from Olympic gold medal winner, Mo Farah and award winning author, Kes Gray, is sure to inspire! A series from this team for young readers is also available, starting with 'Go Mo, Go! Monster Mountain Chase' (Hodder Children's ISBN: 978-1444934052).

Hodder Children's Books

ISBN: 978-1444934076

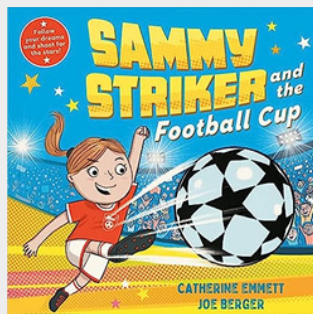
Every Bunny is a Yoga Bunny
Emily Ann Davison, illustrated by Deborah Allwright



Yo-yo is a bunny who cannot sit still, even in Grandpa's yoga classes. However, when she finds herself lost in the forest, maybe these skills will help her find her way home. The book includes three pages of simple step-by-step yoga activities.

Nosy Crow
ISBN: 978-1839940682

Sammy Striker and the Football Cup
Catherine Emmett, illustrated by Joe Berger



Sammy loves football and one day, she is spotted by Melissa McDream who coaches the Under 8s National Team. But Sammy's goal scoring skills are causing her to worry...

Macmillan
ISBN: 978-1509896943

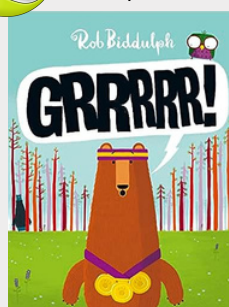
Dance with Oti
Oti Mabuse,
illustrated by Samara Hardy



Written by 'Strictly Come Dancing' star, Oti Mabuse, 'Dance with Oti' is sure to get children dancing! You can watch a step-by-step dance tutorial and listen to "The Bird Jive" when you scan the QR code in the book! Her second book is called 'The Lion Samba' (Walker ISBN: 978-1529500783)

Walker Books
ISBN: 978-1529504415

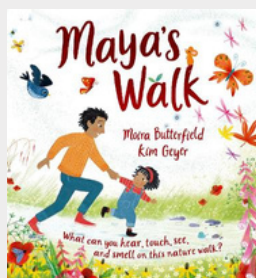
Grrrrr!
Rob Biddulph



Fred is the Best Bear in the Wood until a new bear moves into town...but perhaps there are more important things than winning?

Harper Collins
ISBN: 978-0007594122

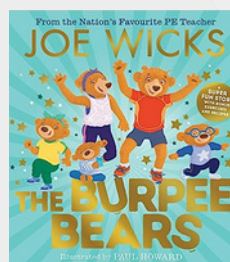
Maya's Walk
Moira Butterfield, illustrated by Kim Geyer



Maya and her dad love to walk together, discovering new things and enjoying the magic of nature. Full of practical and imaginative ideas to encourage children to engage their senses and connect with their local surroundings.

OUP
ISBN: 978-0192778536

The Burpee Bears
Jo Wicks, illustrated by Paul Howard



The first book in this series introduces the Burpee Bears, a family full of fun and action. The book offers recipe and workout suggestions to try.

Harper Collins
ISBN: 978-0008501006

We All Play
Julie Flett



Celebrating playtime and the connection between children and the natural world, this book also includes a glossary of Cree words for wild animals in the book, a pronunciation guide and link to audio pronunciation recordings.

Greystone Kids
ISBN: 978-0008501006

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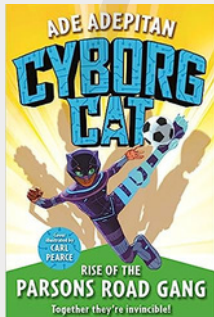
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FICTION

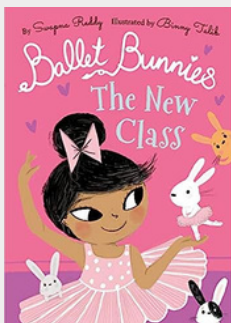
Cyborg Cat: Rise of the Parsons Road Gang
Ade Adepitan, illustrated by Carl Pearce



In this series, Paralympian Ade Adepitan draws on his personal experiences. When Ade moves to London from Nigeria, he knows things will be different. Facing challenges with courage, he soon finds loyal friends.

Piccadilly Press
ISBN: 978-1848128996

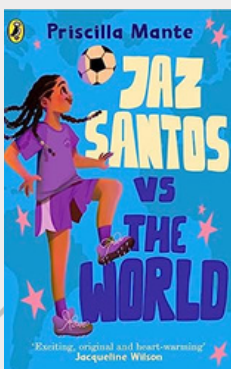
Ballet Bunnies: The New Class
Swapna Haddow, illustrated by Binny Talib



Learning ballet is hard and the other dancers are not as nice as Millie hoped they would be. However, when she meets the Ballet Bunnies, who live hidden in the ballet school, she finds the help she needs. Millie has other adventures in this full colour chapter book series.

OUP
ISBN: 978-0192774859

Jaz Santos vs The World
Priscilla Mante



Jasmina Santos-Campbell (commonly known as Jaz) formed the Bramrock Stars, a football team of seven very different girls who need to work together to be taken seriously and show the world that girls CAN play football!

Puffin
ISBN: 978-0241482001

Flying Fergus: The Best Birthday Bike
Chris Hoy with Joanna Nadin, illustrated by Clare Elsom



This is the first in the series about Fergus Hamilton, a boy with lots of imagination who dreams of becoming the most brilliant boy cyclist in the world. Full of wonderful illustrations, these books are full of humour, magical adventure- and cycling!

Piccadilly Press
ISBN: 978-1471405211

Press Start! Game On, Super Rabbit Boy!
Thomas Flintham



Sunny's favourite computer game is Super Rabbit Boy. To return happiness to Animal Town, he must overcome many challenges before pitting his skills against the Viking King! This is the first in a series of graphic novel gaming adventures for younger children.

Nosy Crow
ISBN: 978-1839949180



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Dick Kerr Girls: Kicking Off!
Eve Ainsworth

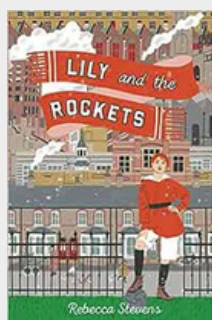


Based on the true tale of the Dick Kerr Ladies' Team, 'Kicking Off!' tells the story of the formation of the famous Preston football team, a significant- and often forgotten- moment in the history of women's football.

UCLan Publishing
ISBN: 978-1912979202



Lily and the Rockets
Rebecca Stevens

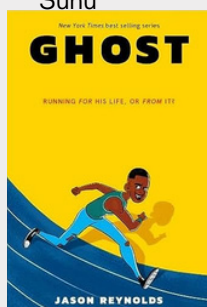


Based on the true story of the original Arsenal Ladies' team, Lily and her mates work in a munitions factory where they play football during their lunch break. They form a team called the Rockets and start to play in a league. But when the war ends, they lose both their jobs and football.

Chicken House
ISBN: 978-1912626120



Ghost
Jason Reynolds, illustrated by Selom Sunu



First of 'The Run' series, 'Ghost' is a real page-turner. Having gained a place on an elite running team, Ghost just needs to stay out of trouble. But that is easier said than done when he's facing challenges from both his past and the present. But Coach, an ex-Olympic Medallist, sees something in him and shows him a new track to run.

Knights Of
ISBN: 978-1999642525



Kick
Mitch Johnson

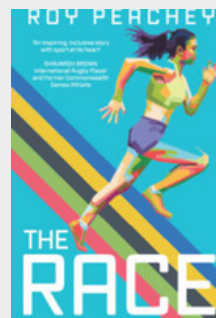


Budi has a plan. He is going to play football for the greatest team on earth and become a star, leaving behind his life in a sweat shop making football boots for others. But an unlucky kick leaves him in debt to the Dragon, the most dangerous man in Jakarta and Budi finds himself in a world of trouble.

Usborne
ISBN: 978-1474928151



The Race
Roy Peachey



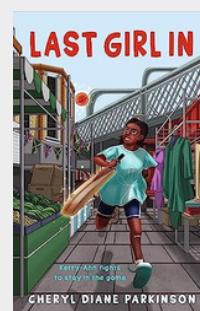
Adopted from China as a baby, 12-year-old Lili is focused on beating her rival in a race in front of the Queen during her school's anniversary celebrations. However, personal events throw her life into turmoil and she must choose between her family and the race.

Meanwhile, in 1944, Eric Liddell, hero of the 1924 Olympics, finds himself in a war zone. Getting ready to run his final race in a prison camp in China, he finds his principles challenged...

Pokey Hat
ISBN: 978-1911279839



Last Girl In
Cheryl Diane Parkinson

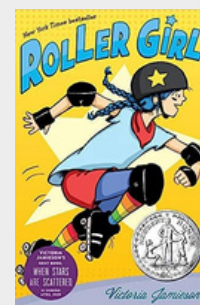


Kerry-Ann loves cricket. Having been taught by her Jamaican grandfather, she spends as much time as she can at the local club, playing with her friends. But some of the club members want to keep Kerry-Ann and her friends out. With some time-slip magic, Kerry-Ann learns about the difficulties her grandparents faced when they arrived in England, inspiring her to fight for fair-play.

Dinosuar Books
ISBN: 978-1999336370



Roller Girl
Victoria Jamieson



Astrid and her best friend, Nicole, have always done everything together so when Astrid signs up for a summer camp of roller derby she is sure Nicole will be with her. But Nicole chooses ballet instead and Astrid faces the hardest summer, learning who she is without Nicole and what it takes to be a roller girl.

Dial
ISBN: 978-0803740167



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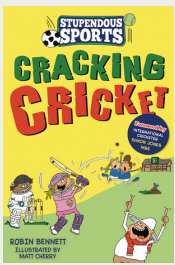
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NON-FICTION

There are so many different sports to try and so many different games to play. Here is a small selection of non-fiction titles to whet the appetite and perhaps lead to a new interest...

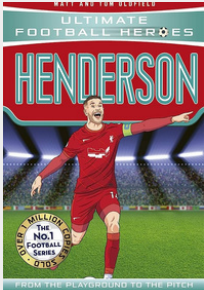
Stupendous Sport: Cracking Cricket
Robin Bennett, illustrated by Matt Cherry



Packed full of jokes, facts, quotes and spotlights on players, this is perfect for fans of cricket and those new to the game. Also available in this series are Fantastic Football (Firefly Press ISBN: 978-1913102913) and Rampaging Rugby (Firefly Press ISBN: 978-1913102609).

Firefly Press
ISBN 978-1915444219

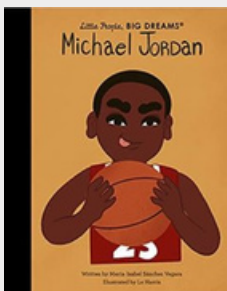
Ultimate Football Heroes: Henderson
Matt and Tom Oldfield



The first in the 'Ultimate Football Heroes' series, this is the story of Jordan Henderson, captain of Liverpool Football Club.

Dino Books
ISBN: 978-1789465242

Little People, Big Dreams: Michael Jordan
Maria Isabel Sanchez Vegara, illustrated by Lo Harris



In this best selling series of biographies for younger readers, children are introduced to many inspirational people, including Michael Jordan, one of the greatest ever basket ball players.

Frances Lincoln Children's Books
ISBN: 978-0711259362

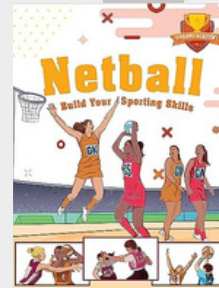
Sports Superstars: Raducanu Rules
Simon Mugford, illustrated by Dan Green



'This is 'Sports Superstar' US-Open champion, Emma Raducanu's story. Packed with facts, this is an inspirational read. Lewis Hamilton (ISBN: 978-1783127603) is another 'Sports Superstars' title and there is a 'Football Superstars' series by the same publisher.

Welbeck
ISBN: 978-1783128839

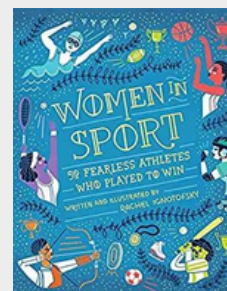
Sports Academy: Netball
Clive Gifford



The 'Sports Academy' series covers rules, equipment and major competitions. Step-by-step illustrations clearly shows skills and techniques needed for playing netball. Other titles include 'Basketball' (ISBN: 978-1445178509).

Franklin Watts
ISBN: 978-1445178462

Women in Sport: Fifty Fearless Athletes who Played to Win
Rachel Ignotofsky



Highlighting pioneering women in sport, this book is both inspiring and attractive, full of beautiful illustrations. The book includes women skilled in different sports from across history, living in various parts of the world.

Wren and Rook
ISBN: 978-1526360922

Chess for Children
Murray Chandler and Helen Milligan



Learn the basics of how to play chess with this book written by a Grandmaster and a World Chess Federation woman master. The lessons are reinforced by creative tales told to George by his pet alligator Kirsty, self-proclaimed Grand Alligator of chess.

Gambit Publications
ISBN: 978-1915650481

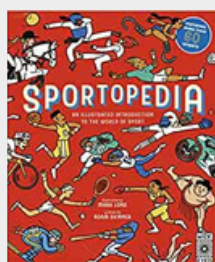
The Young Cyclist's Companion
Peter Drinkell, illustrated by Thomas Slater



A fun and accessible guide to owning a bike and having fun whilst using it, 'The Young Cyclist's Companion' is full of useful information.

Cicada
ISBN: 978-1908714961

Sportopedia: Explore more the 50 Sports from Around the World
Adam Skinner, illustrated by Mark Long



Full of fascinating facts about sports from all around the world, this is the perfect book for learning more about your favourite sports and discovering those you have never heard of before!

Wide Eyed
ISBN: 978-1786030849

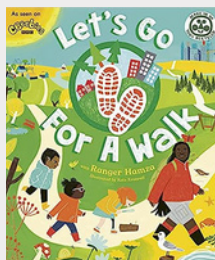
40 Inspiring Icons: Amazing Athletes
Jean-Michel Billioud, illustrated by Gonoh



Each spread in this book focuses attention on a single athlete, shining a light on their career and achievements. Another book in this series is 'Fantastic Footballers' (ISBN: 978-1786031464).

Wide Eyed
ISBN: 978-0711252523

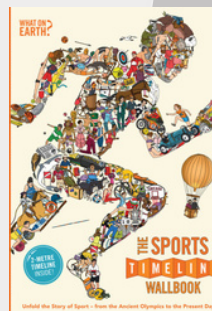
Let's Go for a Walk
Ranger Hamza, illustrated by Kate Kronreif



Full of suggestions for things to look out for, enjoy and explore, 'Let's Go for a Walk' is perfect for encouraging young walkers to enjoy the world around them as they ramble.

Ivy Kids
ISBN: 978-0711264458

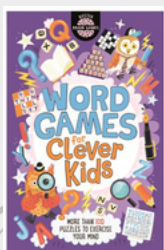
Sports Timeline Wallbook
Christopher Lloyd and Patrick Skipworth, illustrated by Andy Forshaw



Unfold the history of sport in this fully illustrated, two-metre-long timeline. Sure to absorb and engage the whole family in exploring sporting events, this is perfect for sport fans of any age!

What on Earth Books
ISBN: 978-978-0995482005

Word Games for Clever Kids



One of a series of puzzle books for 'Clever Kids', 'Word Games' is great for developing vocabulary and encouraging thinking! Exercise the brain by cracking codes and solving sequences!

Buster Books
ISBN: 978-1780554730



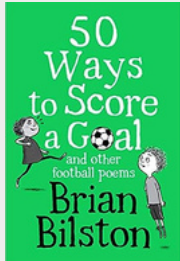
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POETRY

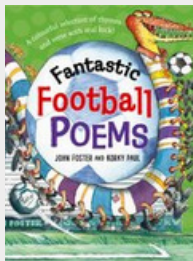
50 Ways to Score a Goal and other football poems
Brian Bilston



Bursting with fun poems about all aspects of 'the beautiful game', 50 Ways to Score a Goal offers a great selection of verse!

Macmillan
ISBN: 978-1529058048

Fantastic Football Poems
John Foster, illustrated by Korky Paul



Brilliantly illustrated by Korky Paul, this is a fabulous collection of poems gathered by John Foster to be enjoyed by everyone!

OUP
ISBN: 978-0192767479

Olympic Poems
Brian Moses and Roger Stevens



Funny and inspiring, this sporty collection of poems from Brain Moses and Roger Stevens has something for everyone!

Macmillan
ISBN: 978-1529043013

Friendly Matches
Allan Ahlberg, illustrated by Fritz Wegner

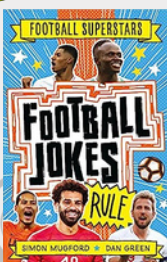


An excellent collection of football poems, covering all aspects of the game.

Penguin Random House
ISBN: 9780141307497

JOKE BOOKS

Football Superstars: Football Jokes
Simon Mugford, illustrated by Dan Green



Written to accompany the 'Football Superstars' series, this is full of footy related jokes!

Welbeck
ISBN: 978-1783126309



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