



AUTHOR & ILLUSTRATOR

Julia Donaldson is a prolific author of children's books, probably best known for the picture books illustrated by Axel Scheffler. Julia was Children's Laureate from 2011-13 and awarded the MBE for services to literature in 2011. She was promoted to CBE in 2019. Married with three sons, she divides her time between Edinburgh and West Sussex.

Sara Ogilvie was born in Edinburgh where she went on to study illustration and printmaking and now lives in Newcastle upon Tyne. She has illustrated a wide range of children's picture books and novels including *The Detective Dog* (Macmillan Children's, 2017) and *The Hospital Dog* (Macmillan Children's, 2021) for Julia Donaldson.

WEBSITES

<https://www.juliadonaldson.co.uk/>

<https://www.lovereadings4kids.co.uk/illustrator/2487/Sara-Ogilvie.html>

LINKS

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mW1KBHNQhiU> A reading of *Gozzle*.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KQNTI9fhQ7o> 5 minutes film about a man who raises an orphaned gosling.



GOZZLE

Younger Children Shortlist 2026

INTRODUCTION

When *Gozzle* hatches out of her egg, the first thing she sees is Bear who has just woken up from his winter sleep. Bear reluctantly takes on the role of *Gozzle*'s Daddy through Spring and Summer until the Autumn when it's time for him to get ready to **hibernate** and for *Gozzle* to **migrate**, helped by her new found friend, Gus. A few years later, when the geese become parents themselves, Bear takes on the new title of Grandad!

A funny and heartwarming story about **family**, bought to life by gorgeous illustrations full of details to spot and talk about (*Gozzle*'s identifying 'top-knot' feather, wildlife through the **seasons**, and what we think the animal characters might be thinking or **feeling**).

ACTIVITIES

Read *Lifesize Baby Animals* and talk about the names we give to animal babies and the words we use to describe groups of different animals. If you have access to a dictionary or dictionaries, get your child or children to look up more names and collective nouns.

Write and illustrate a simple life cycle for a Canada Goose. Start by looking at the endpapers of *Gozzle*. Research to find out more.

Create an 'easy' (though quite fiddly) origami **goose**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FITsk32Qc3o>

Or for younger children, watch and follow 'How to draw a **gosling**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=COY4IS-bfG4>

NOW READ ON

Follow the Flyaway: The Marvel of Bird Migration by Sarah Nelson & Maya Hanisch (Barefoot Books, 2023) Beautifully illustrated lyrical text with additional facts about four North American flyaways.

Lifesize Baby Animals by Sophie Henn (Red Shed, 2022) See the actual size of some other baby animals!

Borka: The Adventures of a Goose With No Feathers by John Burningham (Red Fox, 1999) A timeless classic.

Grotti by Leonie Lord ((Walker, 2024) Last year's winner of the CBA's Younger Children category is also about the love that can grow between an unconventional pairing of carer and cared-for.