

No Shelf Control

Edition 30: October 2023

Q&A with Sophie Anderson

'The Snow Girl' is our book of the month and luckily we managed to catch Sophie Anderson for a quick chat.

Your books are all based on Folk/fairy tales. Do you pick the ones that were told to you as a child or do you find new, unheard of ones?

The stories my grandmother told me when I was a child are my favourites, so I usually start with one of those. Once I've chosen a tale, I read all the different versions I can find, research the history and interpretations, and seek out related and similar stories. This process always leads me to discover new things about the tale I've chosen.

The House With Chicken Legs was a huge success and was turned into a play. Which of your other books would you like to see adapted and how?

I love stop motion animation and would be thrilled if any of my books were adapted for this medium!

Your books are often set in other countries. The Lake District is one of the most beautiful parts of our country, would you write a book set there?

The Lake District is beautiful and provides endless inspiration for me. It has appeared in some of my books, under different names. All my books are set in a 'Once Upon a Time, Far Away' world, so I don't use real place names.

I do love rooting my stories in the real world though, and look to my own surroundings to help me describe my settings in an authentic way.

The Snow Girl is set in a quiet valley surrounded by mountains, that is in many ways similar to several valleys in The Lake District. Most winters, we have some lovely snow here too - not quite as much as there is in The Snow Girl, but enough to help me write some snowy scenes!

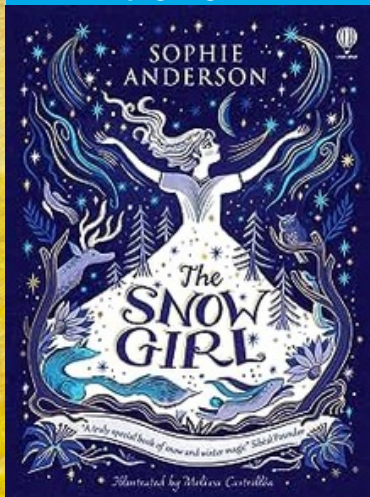
What are your favourite recent books for children?

Man Man and the Tree of Memories by Yaba Badoe & Joelle Avelino is utterly gorgeous, a heart-speeding celebration of carnival, life, love, and freedom.

The Last Storyteller by Donna Barba Higuera is an extraordinary, outstanding blend of science fiction, Mexican folklore, and dystopian fantasy.

Adia Kelbara and the Circle of Shamans by Isi Hendrix is spectacular; a vivid, thrilling, heart-speeding fantasy adventure threaded through with important and powerful truths.

The Snow Girl is out now in hardback from Usborne - £12.99



Books



Reviews



Chats



Christmas Comes Early

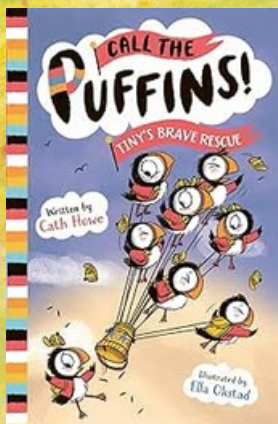
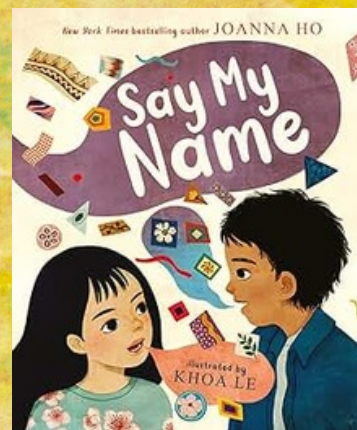
Many Christmas books are released in October but I thought that it would be a little early to include them in this round-up so I'll be putting them into next month's edition as '9 books for Christmas'. I may increase the amount of books if I struggle to narrow it down so keep your eyes peeled for those books next month!

Say My Name

Joanna Ho & Khoa Le

Harper Collins 3+

Our names mean a lot to us, they have reasons, stories and traditions behind them. Pronouncing people's names correctly may seem like a tiny thing to many of us but to others it means the world. This gorgeous story connects three children who want to celebrate their names and heritage.



Call the Puffins: Tiny's Brave Rescue

Cath Howe & Ella Okstad

Welbeck Flame 6+

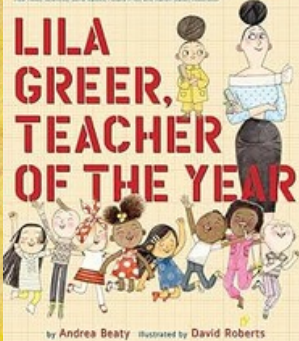
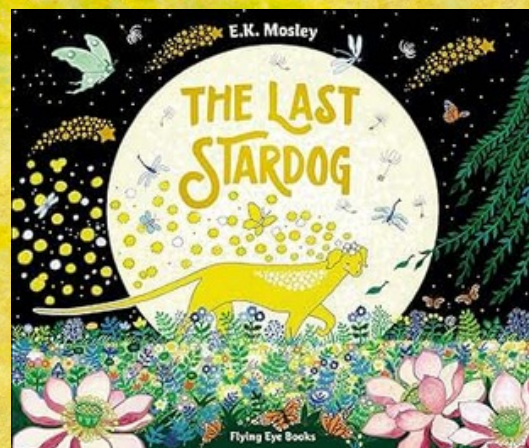
There is always a need for good early chapter books and Cath Howe is delivering them! Tiny wants to join the search and rescue team that his friends are part of but he's worried that he's too small. Luckily, with the help of his friends, he realises that together they can do anything.

The Last Stardog

E.K. Mosley

Flying Eye Books 4+

As the title suggests, Stardog is the last of her kind. She falls to Earth and loses her magic. She must set off on a journey to restore her powers. A story of hope, friendship and dreams. You'll want to rip out the pages and put them in frames around your house!

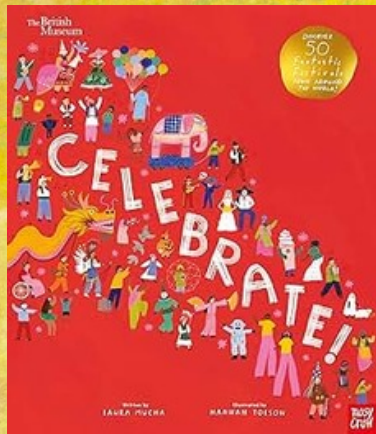


One To Wait for...

Lila Greer, Teacher of the Year

Andrea Beaty & David Roberts- Abrams - Nov 23

Only a little wait for this, but the Questioneer series is an absolute delight and I love sharing them with anyone who'll listen!



Celebrate!

Laura Mucha & Hannah Tolson

Nosy Crow 6+

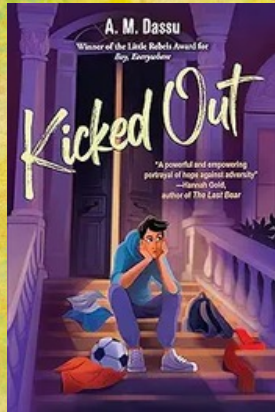
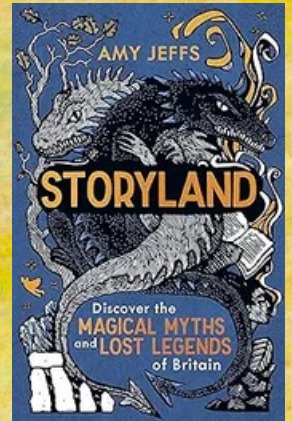
Learning about each others' cultures is such an important thing which helps us to understand that actually we're not that different. 'Celebrate!' shares the ways that different cultures and religions celebrate, showing all the ways that communities come together. Featuring some you'll know but many that you've never heard of.

Storyland

Amy Jeffs

Wren & Rook 10+

An adapted version of her book for adults, 'Storyland' brings the myths and legends that children may not have heard of. We all know the Greek and Norse Myths but what about those from our own country? Travel across Britain discovering new myths, monsters and heroes. Each story will enthrall readers and make them want to travel to new places to find out more!



Kicked Out

A.M. Dassu

Old Barn Books 10+

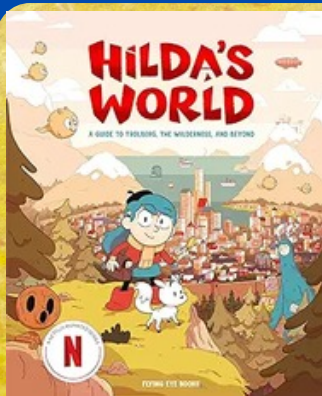
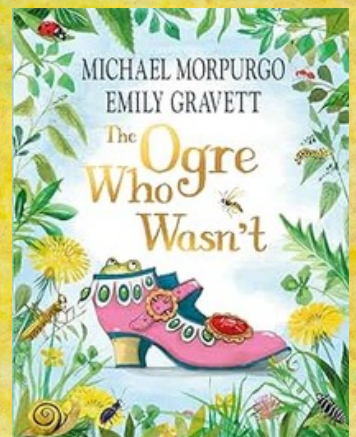
I dubbed September 'Sequel September' but this fantastic sequel had to wait until October. A.M.'s 'Kicked Out' is the sequel to her stunning 'Boy Everywhere'. Since settling in England, Sami is loving life. Everything is going well, he's playing for the school football team and making friends. But when a thief makes an appearance, racism rears its ugly head. Another vital read from A.M. Dassu

The Ogre Who Wasn't

Michael Morpurgo & Emily Gravett

Two Hoots 4+

Two giants in children's books collaborate again and produce more magic! Princess Clara misses her father who is off doing king things. She finds a tiny ogre (a frog) in the garden and befriends him. When all of the palace staff are stopping her fun she enlists the help of her new friend who it turns out is actually King Frog! Eventually her father returns home and the smile returns to their faces

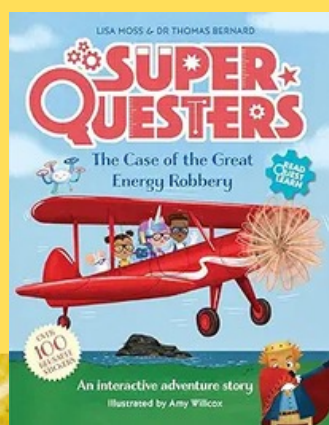


One You Might Have Missed

Hilda's World - Emily Hibbs & Jason Chan

Flying Eye - Oct 2023

I'm kind of cheating here... Hilda's world is a brand new book that is out this month. But you may have missed some of the previous books in the series. If you've never read a Hilda there's so much to choose from - graphic novels, non-fiction and chapter books (even a Netflix show). If you have missed Hilda - jump on in. If you haven't missed out, then you need Hilda's World!



9 Books that encourage STEM

To celebrate the new Super Questers book - The Case of the Great Energy Robbery, we're highlighting 9 amazing books that encourage children with Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths. The Super Questers books are fantastic, interactive stories with challenges for their readers to complete as they go.

1. Harley Hitch

Vashti Hardy & George Ermos

2. Rosie Revere

Andrea Beaty & David Roberts

3. Meet the Planets

Caryl Hart & Bethan Woolvin

4. That's Mathematics

Chris Smith & Elina Braslina

5. Can You Get Rainbows in Space?

Dr Sheila Kanani & Liz Kay

6. Izzy Gizmo

Pip Jones & Sara Ogilvie

7. Pig Heart Boy

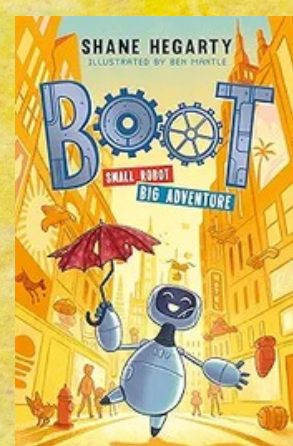
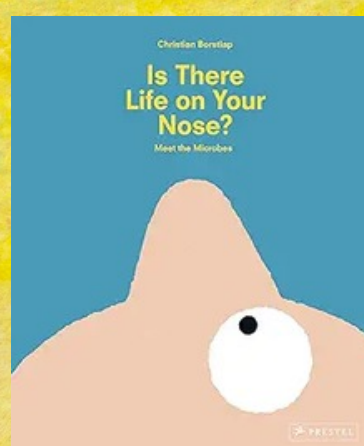
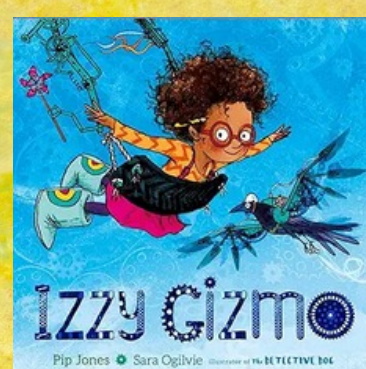
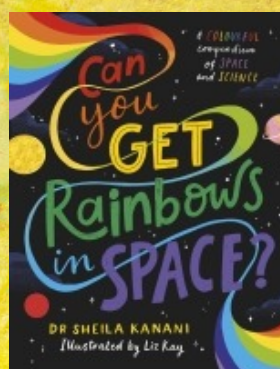
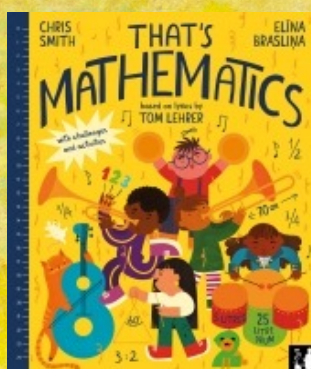
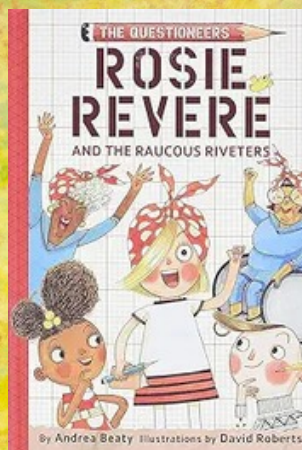
Malorie Blackman

8. Is There Life on Your Nose?

Christian Borstlap

Boot

Shane Hegarty & Ben Mantle



If you have any questions or have a book released soon that you feel deserves a place on the newsletter:
Email us - MisterBodd@outlook.com