

**Scottish  
Book Trust**

inspiring readers and writers

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April 2021**



# **Book Discovery Guide**

Here at Scottish Book Trust, we know how important teachers and school staff are in helping pupils to develop a love of reading, which in turn helps to close the attainment gap and boost pupil wellbeing.

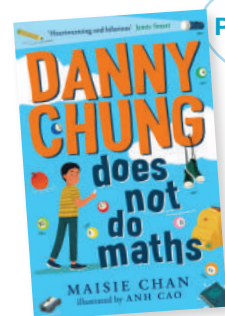
Using contemporary books in the classroom allows the children to see themselves on the page and read about a wide variety of experiences, and research from the Open University has shown how important teacher knowledge of contemporary books is to helping pupils enjoy reading.

This Book Discovery Guide is here to help you find new books for pupils of all ages and reading levels. We've given guidelines of which year groups might enjoy each book, but these are only guidelines and each reader will have their own reading level.

From staff picks and themed booklists to guest recommendations and responses to the book suggestions we are often asked for, we hope you find books in here that pique your learners' interest.



## New from Scottish publishers and authors



P4-7

### **Danny Chung Does Not Do Maths** by Maisie Chan

PICCADILLY PRESS

We loved reading an early copy of Maisie Chan's debut, coming out in June 2021!

Danny Chung loves drawing, and he does not like maths. His life is turned upside down when his little, wrinkly, ex-maths champion grandmother from China comes to visit. This is a delightfully heart-warming read!

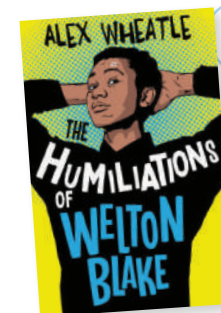


S1+

### **Robyn** by Simon Birks, illustrated by Ege Acvi, lettered by Lyndon White

BLUE FOX COMICS

A brilliant story complete with stunning art, *Robyn* is an exciting introduction to a version of Robin Hood you've never seen before. Robyn had to raise herself after being abandoned as a child. Trouble is on the horizon, and she needs to make some unlikely allies if she's going to survive.



S1+

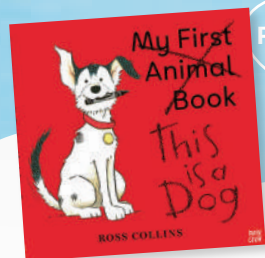
### **The Humiliations of Welton Blake** by Alex Wheatle

BARRINGTON STOKES

A hilarious, charming story from the award-winning Alex Wheatle about the trials and tribulations of teenage life, from crushes to school bullies. Peppered with Star Wars references and laugh out loud, cringeworthy moments that every awkward teen will relate to, this is the perfect read to lighten your mood.

# First Minister's Reading Challenge Celebration Festival

To celebrate the schools, libraries and community groups that have taken part in the First Minister's Reading Challenge this year, we've planned a very exciting week-long online celebration festival, beginning on Monday 14 June! There will be six brilliant events to watch, one from each of the authors on these two pages, and they'll be available to watch on demand all summer too.



P1-3

**This is a Dog**  
by Ross Collins  
NOSY CROW

*This is a Dog* is a colourful and entertaining take on the traditional My First Animal Book. A loveable but mischievous pup decides to steal the limelight – outsmarting all the other animals to make this story all about him!

Winner of **The Bookbug Picture Book Prize 2021**, voted for by children and families across Scotland.



P1-3

**Let's Go For a Walk**  
by Ranger Hamza  
IVY KIDS

This colourful walking guide is written by CBeebies' Ranger Hamza from the hit TV show 'Let's Go For a Walk'.

Perfect for exploring outdoors whatever the location or weather, it's full of suggestions for things to spot with fascinating facts on every page.



P4-7

**Kicking Off!**  
by Eve Ainsworth  
UCLAN PUBLISHING

It's 1917, and shy teenager Hettie wants to help the war effort. She signs up to work in the local Dick, Kerr & Co. munitions factory, but has no idea she's about to make sporting history and change her life forever.

This is the remarkable story of the Dick, Kerr Ladies team – football's forgotten legends – brought to life for young readers.

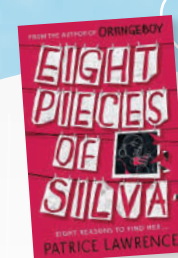


P4-7

**Jungledrop**  
by Abi Elphinstone  
SIMON & SCHUSTER  
CHILDREN'S UK

Eleven-year-old twins, Fox and Fibber, have been rivals for as long as they can remember. When the twins are whisked off to Jungledrop, a magical Unmapped Kingdom that conjures the weather, things get wildly out of hand...

This magical adventure is the second book in the Unmapped Chronicles series, from middle grade favourite Abi Elphinstone.



S3+

**Eight Pieces of Silva**  
by Patrice Lawrence  
HODDER CHILDREN'S BOOKS

When Becks' mum and stepdad go on their honeymoon to Japan, Becks and Silva are left alone. Until Silva disappears. Can Becks piece together the clues her stepsister had left behind and bring her home?

An addictive and gripping mystery from the award-winning author of *Orangeboy*.



P6-S3

**Evernight**  
by Ross MacKenzie  
ANDERSEN PRESS

Thousands of years ago, the Evernight came to the Silver Kingdom and turned everything to darkness and chaos. It was defeated by the skill and bravery of the Witches. But now the Evernight is about to return...

*Evernight* is a rich fantasy full of dark magic, and was shortlisted for the **Scottish Teenage Book Prize 2021** – the winner will be announced soon!





# Scottish Book Trust staff picks

## Picked by Ella McLellan

P3+

**Gender Swapped Fairy Tales**  
by Karrie Fransman  
and Jonathan Plackett

FABER & FABER

Classic fairy tales with one change – the genders are swapped. Jacqueline climbs the beanstalk and Rapunzel lets down his beard.

P5-S1

**Show Us Who You Are**  
by Elle McNicoll

KNIGHTS OF

A powerful and moving sci-fi story about being true to yourself and not letting others define your worth.

P4-S1

**How to Change the World**  
by Rashmi Sirdeshpande  
and Annabel Tempest

PUFFIN

A wonderful non-fiction book about coming together to change the world, with topics like environmentalism and equal rights.

## Picked by Thomas Jefferson

P1+

**The Duck Who Didn't Like Water**  
by Steve Small

SIMON & SCHUSTER  
CHILDREN'S UK

Duck thinks he has everything he needs indoors, until a lost frog hops into his life during a storm and he discovers what's missing from his life.

P4-P7

**When the Sky Falls**  
by Phil Earle

ANDERSEN PRESS

*When the Sky Falls* throws you headfirst into the Blitz with emotional twists and turns and a small cast of characters bound together by the trials of war, anger and loss.

S4+

**We Hunt the Flame**  
by Hafsa Faizal

MACMILLAN CHILDREN'S  
BOOKS

World-building at its finest, weaving vivid descriptions through a rich and absorbing tale, placing the reader at heart of a mysterious world of magic.

## Picked by Signe Rudoviča

P6+

**The Missing**  
by Michael Rosen

WALKER BOOKS

Michael Rosen recalls his family's history from World War II, and searches through personal recollections and archives for his missing relatives.

P4-7

**The Secret Garden**  
retold by Claire Freedman,  
illustrated by Shaw Davidson

PUFFIN

An atmospheric re-telling of a childhood classic with beautiful illustrations that invite the reader to look for the secrets of the garden.

P5-S1

**Vi Spy: Licence to Chill**  
by Maz Evans,  
illustrated by Jez Tuya

CHICKEN HOUSE

This book reads like a fun, fast-paced spy action movie, while also talking about a child's place in-between separated parents.

Whether a pupil always has their nose in a book or hasn't picked one up for a while, our **Bookzilla** app is here to help them find their next great read. Bookzilla is now available for upper primary pupils as well as secondary school pupils!



Bookzilla helps pupils to:

- track their reading
- find personalised recommendations
- see what's been rated by their peers
- take on reading dares
- set themselves reading challenges
- find bookshops and libraries

Find out more at [scottishbooktrust.com/bookzilla](https://scottishbooktrust.com/bookzilla), or search for Bookzilla on the App Store or Google Play



# Books about LGBTQ+ characters and history

If you're looking to talk about LGBTQ+ rights and history in class, or need some recommendations to help boost the LGBTQ+ representation in your bookshelves, these books are a great place to start. You can find more in our booklists at [scottishbooktrust.com/topics/lgbtq](https://scottishbooktrust.com/topics/lgbtq)



P1+

**Julian at the Wedding**  
by Jessica Love  
WALKER BOOKS

'A wedding is a party for love' explains Julian in this vibrant, celebratory story, taking place at a same-sex wedding, which is refreshingly incidental to the story. This is a book about playfulness, imagination, friendship...and a dog with very muddy footprints!

A magical tale to share with children of any age.



P1-3

**The Girl With Two Dads**  
by Mel Elliott  
EGMONT

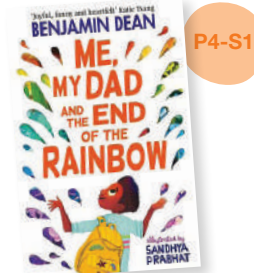
'How cool!' thinks Pearl, when she discovers that the new girl in her class has an extra dad instead of a mum. She can't wait to go round to Matilda's to find out what life must be like without a boring mum who makes you eat your veggies! But she soon discovers that maybe life isn't that different with two dads after all...



P4+

**Rainbow Revolutionaries**  
by Sarah Papworth,  
illustrated by Sarah Prager  
HARPERCOLLINS

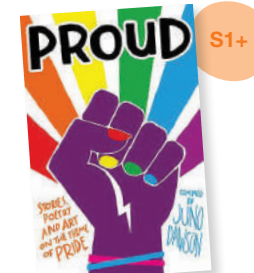
Take a journey through the lives of fifty revolutionary LGBTQ+ figures who made history in this illustrated book. *Rainbow Revolutionaries* celebrates members of the LGBTQ+ community who have shaped the world and our everyday lives.



P4-S1

**Me, My Dad and the End of the Rainbow**  
by Benjamin Dean,  
illustrated by Sandhya Prabhat  
SIMON & SCHUSTER  
CHILDREN'S UK

When Archie can't understand why his parents have separated, he sets out on a quest with his two best friends to find a way to bring this family back together. This touching debut novel explores the complexity of family, gender and sexuality with kindness and humour.



S1+

**Proud**  
compiled by Juno Dawson  
STRIPES PUBLISHING

Brilliant, inclusive, hilarious and heart-breaking – this collection of short stories and poetry from LGBTQ+ writers is full of fantastic reads to dip into, each a unique response to the broad theme of pride.

*Proud* includes contributions from Alice Oseman, Dean Atta, Saffa Khan and many more.



S3+

**I Wish You All The Best**  
by Mason Deaver  
PUSH

Featuring a non-binary main character, this book tackles themes such as coming out, family, friendship and romance with compassion and heart.

*I Wish You All The Best* is a shining example of how hope can triumph in the face of adversity.



## Recommendations from Moira Foster

Moira Foster is an Education Support Officer in Dundee City Council. She promotes reading for pleasure through projects like the Two Moons Festival and Dundee Wishing Tree.



P4-7

**The Wild Way Home**  
by Sophie Kirtley  
McCaughrean  
BLOOMSBURY CHILDREN'S BOOKS

When Charlie's wee brother is born with a heart problem, Charlie feels overwhelmed and seeks refuge in the woods where he loves to play. But something has changed. He's been transported back to the Stone Age!

This is a beautifully written book and a wonderful story where courage, kindness and hope ooze out of the pages.

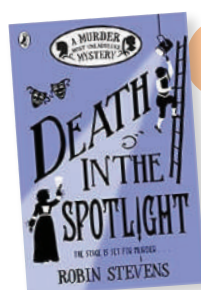


S3+

**Clap When You Land**  
by Elizabeth Acevedo  
HOT KEY BOOKS

Camino, in the Dominican Republic, is devastated by the loss of her father in a plane crash. Yahaira, in the US, is devastated by the loss of her father in the same accident. Neither expect their tragedy will result in the discovery of a secret sister.

Written in blank verse for young adults, this is a clever, intense, and thought-provoking read.



P4-7

**Death in the Spotlight**  
by Robin Stevens  
PUFFIN

If Hazel Wong and Daisy Wells are in the area then murder can't be far behind. Set in the Rue Theatre in London, clues and red herrings abound. Our intrepid young detectives play their part (quite literally) to perfection in order to solve the crime.

Smart, exciting and jolly good fun!



P4-7

**Kidnap on the California Comet**  
by MG Leonard  
MACMILLAN CHILDREN'S BOOKS

Harrison Beck is invited, along with his Uncle Nat to experience an amazing three-day journey from Chicago to San Francisco. But when the daughter of billionaire August Reza goes missing en route, Hal finds himself with another mystery to solve.

The perfect, classic mystery on the coolest train with lots of twists and turns to keep you guessing.



P4-7

**The Explorer**  
by Katherine Rundell  
BLOOMSBURY CHILDREN'S BOOKS

This story follows four children, lost in the Amazon rainforest after a plane crash. With suspense and drama at every turn, the children meet many dangers as they try to survive in this beautiful yet hostile environment. So vivid are the descriptions that you cannot help but fall in love with their surroundings.

This is a great read for the brave explorers, big and small, in us all.



P4-7

**Wave Me Goodbye**  
by Jacqueline Wilson  
YEARLING

World War II has begun and 10-year-old Shirley finds herself on a train with her classmates, heading into the countryside. She arrives at a strange half empty house, owned by the equally strange and reclusive Mrs Waverley. Thrown together by the upheavals of war, they have to adjust quickly to separation from family and friends.

A lovely story of friendship, loss and the impact of war.

## Recommendations from Elaine Hallyburton

Elaine Hallyburton is a Library Service Manager for Leisure and Culture Dundee. She works in schools and libraries delivering Bookbug Sessions, the Dundee Picture Book Award and lots more.



# Frequently asked recommendations

We often get asked for recommendations from teachers, whether they're looking for a new class read or something for a particular pupil. Here are some brilliant suggestions to some of our frequently asked questions.

## Non-fiction recommendations

### Amazing Treasures

by David Long and Muti

WHAT ON EARTH BOOKS

Written in a narrative style and full of fun facts to dip in and out of, this is a perfect book to try with reluctant readers. The treasures are sure to spark discussion.



### My Greatest Football Team Ever

by Tom Fordyce

WREN & ROOK

A brilliant, active book with comic book style illustrations and biographies. It also includes female footballers from national teams.



### The Worry (Less) Book

by Rachel Brian

WREN & ROOK

Great for helping children explore and understand their big feelings and emotions. It's full of tips to empower young readers and adults alike!



## What to read after David Walliams?

### The Worst Class in the World

by Joanna Nadin and Rikin Parekh

BLOOMSBURY CHILDREN'S BOOKS

With two hilarious and crazy class adventures in one book, this series is perfect for pupils beginning to explore chapter books.



### Baby Aliens Got My Teacher!

by Pamela Butchart

NOSY CROW

A laugh-out-loud novel that captures all fun of primary school, perfect for any pupils with lively imaginations!



### Mark Anchovy: Pizza Detective

by William Goldsmith

PICCADILLY PRESS

With pizza delivery as a perfect disguise, Colin – codename Mark Anchovy – must track down a stolen painting. A hilarious and entertaining story.



## Find out more

Head to [scottishbooktrust.com/learning](https://scottishbooktrust.com/learning) to find out more about our schools programmes, including the Scottish Teenage Book Prize and The Bookbug Picture Book Prize. You'll also find lots of brilliant free CfE-linked resources, upcoming CLPL sessions, Authors Live events to watch on demand, and opportunities to apply for author events and funding.

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