



# 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 authors

P1-3



### Peep! by Meg McLaren

ANDERSEN PRESS

*Peep!* is a beautifully illustrated story about facing your fears by The Bookbug Picture Book Prize winner Meg McLaren.

Adorable puppy Dot is afraid of going outside until her favourite toy Peep goes missing and Dot has to venture out on a rescue mission. Maybe the world won't be as scary as she thought?

P4-7



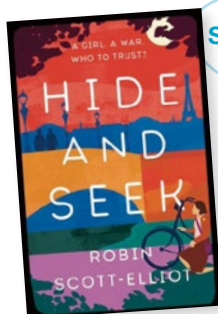
### Adam-2 by Alastair Chisholm

NOSY CROW

Full of twists and turns, *Adam-2* is a sci-fi novel set in a futuristic, post-apocalyptic Edinburgh.

Linden and Runa discover a robot called Adam, who has been trapped in a basement for years. Both exciting and thought provoking, this fantastic adventure asks fascinating questions about human nature and the future of AI.

S1+



### Hide and Seek by Robin Scott-Elliott

EVERYTHING WITH WORDS

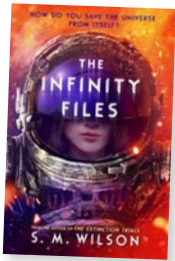
Robin Scott-Elliott returns with another brilliant historical fiction novel. Set in Paris in 1942, Amelie Dreyfus joins the French resistance after her parents are taken by Nazis.

Thrumming with tension and suspense, *Hide and Seek* is a thrilling story about survival and trust inspired by real-life resistance fighters.



# Scottish Teenage Book Prize

Every year, we choose the best new books from Scottish authors and publishers for the Scottish Teenage Book Prize shortlist. Teenagers all over Scotland can read the three books on the shortlist and vote for their favourite, either through their class or book group or individually. Make sure your votes are in by **Friday 25 March 2022!**



## **The Infinity Files** by S M Wilson

USBORNE

Ash Yang dreamed of being a starfighter pilot. But when she crashes out of her final test – literally – she somehow lands the most powerful job in the universe. She must secretly planet-hop across the galaxies, stealing or returning treasures that have the power to stop wars – or start them.

But when her home planet is the one at war, can she use her new skills to save it?



## **Fin & Rye & Fireflies** by Harry Cook

INK ROAD

After Fin is cruelly outed, his parents move him across the country in search of a ‘fresh start’. A fresh start won’t change who Fin is, but it does introduce him to the best squad in town – including the super cute Rye.

When Fin’s parents send him to conversion therapy, an outrageous plan is needed to give Fin and Rye a chance at the happy-ever-after their story deserves.



## **The Infinite** by Patience Agbabi

CANONGATE BOOKS

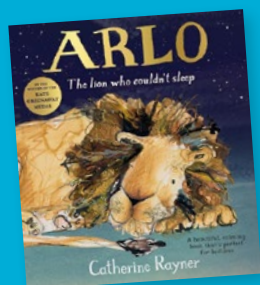
Leaplings, born on 29 February, are very rare. Rarer still are Leaplings with The Gift – the ability to leap through time. Elle Bibi-Imbelé Ifiè has The Gift, but she’s never used it. Until now.

Elle has received a mysterious warning from the future and Leaplings are disappearing in time. Soon Elle’s adventure becomes more than a race through time. It’s a race *against* time.

# The Bookbug Picture Book Prize



The Bookbug Picture Book Prize celebrates the best Scottish picture books. The three shortlisted books are gifted in the Bookbug P1 Family Bag to all P1 pupils, and pupils of all ages can get involved in reading the stories and voting for their favourite. Voting closes on **Friday 10 December 2021!**

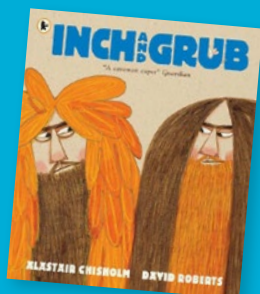


## Arlo: The Lion Who Couldn't Sleep

by Catherine Rayner  
MACMILLAN CHILDREN'S BOOKS

Arlo is exhausted. He just can't get to sleep, however hard he tries. But then he meets Owl, who might have helpful tricks for him.

A beautifully illustrated story with a gentle mindfulness message, perfect for wee ones who have trouble getting to sleep.



## Inch and Grub

by Alastair Chisholm and David Roberts  
WALKER BOOKS

Inch and Grub are cave-men, and they're both determined to have the best cave! The contest spirals and spirals, until they each have a HUGE wobbling pile of stuff. But what happens when the piles collapse?

A funny story about being competitive and what really matters in life.



## My First Book of Woodland Animals

illustrated by Zoë Ingram  
WALKER BOOKS

The perfect book for any young animal lover, this beautiful spotter guide is an ideal introduction to wild woodland animals.

Illustrated in a bright, contemporary style, the book is full of information, fun facts and tips to help you spot the animals in the natural world.

# Scottish Book Trust staff picks

Picked by Marianne Doherty

P3-6



**Bumble & Snug and the Angry Pirates**  
by Mark Bradley

HODDER CHILDREN'S BOOKS

Bumble, Snug and their Bugbop friends are a fantastic introduction to graphic novels for emerging readers and tremendous fun for all comic fans.

P3-6



**Mr Penguin and the Lost Treasure**  
by Alex T Smith

HODDER CHILDREN'S BOOKS

Mr Penguin and his sidekick begin a new career as professional adventurers. Hilarious antics, terrifying dangers and the odd fish finger sandwich lie ahead!

P6-S2



**When Stars are Scattered**  
by Victoria Jamieson and Omar Mohamed

FABER & FABER

Heart-breaking and heart-warming in equal measure, this stunning depiction of life in a refugee camp brings an incredible story to life.

Picked by Megan Graham

P1-3



**What is Racism?**  
by Katie Danes, Jordan Akpojaro and Sandhya Prabhat

USBORNE

Usborne has a reputation for excellent non-fiction books, and this book is no different. It gently explains what racism is, how it happens and why it is never acceptable.

P4-7



**The Crackledawn Dragon**  
by Abi Elphinstone

SIMON & SCHUSTER  
CHILDREN'S UK

This magical adventure includes fire krakens, underwater palaces and a talking chameleon. Don't miss Abi's fantastic Authors Live event, now available on demand.

S2-5



**All Our Hidden Gifts**  
by Caroline O'Donoghue

WALKER BOOKS

When Maeve discovers a talent for tarot reading, she doesn't expect her gift to lead to the disappearance of her ex-best friend. A wonderfully witchy YA adventure for autumn.



## Picked by Christian Ritchie

P3-5

### Blow, Wind, Blow

by Dom Conlon and Anastasia Islesov

GRAFFEG

A beautifully illustrated book, which poetically describes the journey of the wind as it travels across the Earth in its many natural forms.



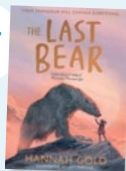
P4-7

### The Last Bear

by Hannah Gold

HARPERCOLLINS

A moving adventure of the unusual bond between April, a determined young girl, and a lonely, forgotten polar bear battling against climate change in the Arctic.



S1-4

### The Outlaws Scarlett & Browne

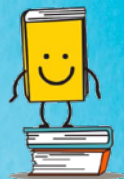
by Jonathan Stroud

WALKER BOOKS

Set in a lawless, futuristic England, an encounter between two contrasting characters who are both being pursued leads to an audacious adventure of survival against all odds.



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 (without collecting any personal data).



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 local 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 disability and neurodiversity

It's important for children and teens to see themselves represented in the books available to them, and stories can be a great way to build empathy and understanding too. You can find more books featuring disabled and neurodiverse people at [scottishbooktrust.com/book-lists](https://scottishbooktrust.com/book-lists).



P4-7

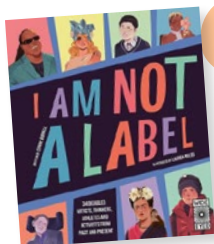
## **The Space We're In**

by Katya Balen and Laura Carlin

BLOOMSBURY

Frank knows his brother Max is different. He only eats quavers, he doesn't talk, and he can have big meltdowns. Sometimes Frank wishes mum could do all the things she did before Max was born. But when tragedy strikes, Frank begins to understand Max more.

A story of empathy and understanding, this book will break your heart and put it back together.



P4-7

## **I Am Not a Label**

by Cerrie Burnell and Lauren Mark Baldo

WIDE EYED EDITIONS

Meet 34 disabled artists, activists, athletes, thinkers and individuals who changed the world. Find out how these people overcame obstacles, owned their differences and paved the way for others.

Perfect for dipping in and out of, this is a non-fiction title you will return to again and again.



P4-7

## **A Storm of Strawberries**

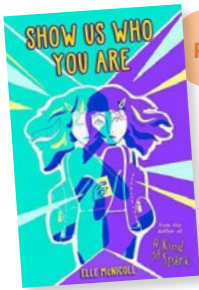
by Jo Cotterill

PICCADILLY PRESS

The yearly chocolate egg hunt is one of Darby's favourite things. But when her big sister Kaydee brings an unkind friend home and a tornado hits the family farm, this weekend might not turn out as planned.

This warm, empathetic and thoughtful story about a young person with Down's Syndrome is a must-read.





P7+

### Show Us Who You Are

by Elle McNicoll

KNIGHTS OF

12-year-old Cora is invited to help develop interactive holograms that will allow people to visit their loved ones after they die. Cora is autistic, and there aren't many holograms like her just yet. But Cora is about to find out that dangerous secrets lie at the heart of the project.

A gripping science-fiction story about being true to yourself and not letting others define your worth.



S1+

### The Last Hawk

by Elizabeth Wein

BARRINGTON STOKE

Nazi Germany is a dangerous place for a girl with a stammer. Ingrid knows this. But when she glides through the air, she feels free.

When Ingrid joins a propaganda tour, it's her last chance to prove her dedication to her homeland. Will it be her escape or her undoing? A thrilling read, this is a complex and gripping story by Elizabeth Wein.



S1+

### Unbroken

edited by Marieke Nijkamp

FARRAR, STRAUS & GIROUX

This collection of short stories by disabled writers puts young disabled protagonists front and centre.

From love stories to sci-fi, fantasy, horror and adventure, there is sure to be a story in this collection to suit every reader.



# Recommendations from Angie Crawford at Waterstones

We asked Angie Crawford, Waterstones' Scottish and non-fiction buyer, to tell us about some of the best children's books she's read this year.



P1-3

## **Margaret's Unicorn** by Briony May Smith

WALKER BOOKS

This is a gorgeously illustrated book that's perfect for reading out loud or indeed for developing readers. Margaret's mum and dad have decided to move to a new home by the sea so that they can be closer to her Gran. One evening she finds a baby unicorn who needs looking after.

It's such a lovely story of caring and friendship – lots to talk about!



P4-7

## **By Ash, Oak and Thorn** by Melissa Harrison

CHICKEN HOUSE

Inspired by the classic *The Little Grey Men*, this is a beautifully written story that feels both nostalgic and whimsical. It weaves together the story of three ancient beings of the Hidden Folk who secretly look after the natural world. It brims full of folklore and nature and is a really lovely starting point for garnering more interest in the world around us.



S3-6

## **Witch** by Finbar Hawkins

HEAD OF ZEUS

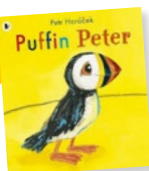
This is quite a dark novel for older readers rooted in myth and folklore and set during the 17th century witch trials. It tells the story of Evey and her sister Dill who witness the brutal murder of their mother and embark on a perilous journey to avenge her. It's very atmospheric, explores sibling rivalry to a certain degree but overall is a really compulsive read especially in these autumnal evenings.

# 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.

## Recommendations for whole class reads

P1-3



**Puffin Peter**  
by Petr  
Horáček

WALKER BOOKS

A kind whale helps Peter look for his lost best friend Paul. They find lots of funny and noisy birds, but are any of them Paul?

P5-7

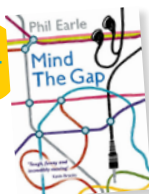


**Little Light**  
by Coral  
Rumble

TROIKA BOOKS

Ava's life is darkened by bullies and everything seems lost when they end up homeless. This poetic narrative shines light on a young girl's misfortunes.

S1-4



**Mind the Gap**  
by Phil Earle

BARRINGTON STOKE

This heart-warming story deals beautifully with male friendship, boys' relationships with dads and loss in a believable and honest world.

## What to read after Roald Dahl

P4-7



**Zombierella: Fairy Tales Gone Bad**  
by Joseph Coelho

WALKER BOOKS

This twisted version of a classic tale has hardship, magic, dark humour and all the suspense needed to keep you rooting for the heroine.

P4-7



**Gargantis**  
by Thomas  
Taylor

WALKER BOOKS

Herbie Lemon and Violet Parma must act fast to save Eerie-on-Sea from total destruction with just an ancient bottle to help them. A thrilling tale!

P4-7



**The Cure for a Crime**  
by Roopa  
Farooki

OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS

Detective work is electrifying fun for the twins and their mysterious nan in her flash wheelchair; especially as the prime suspect is a brain surgeon.



## 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.

To hear first about upcoming opportunities, sign up to receive our schools and libraries newsletter at [scottishbooktrust.com/e-updates](https://scottishbooktrust.com/e-updates)

Find more book recommendations at [scottishbooktrust.com/book-lists](https://scottishbooktrust.com/book-lists)



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