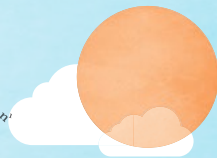


Issue #5
May 2023

**Scottish
Book Trust**

inspiring readers and writers



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 help 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 book lists 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.

Find out more

Head to scottishbooktrust.com/learning to find out more about our schools programmes, including Reading Schools. 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/newsletters

Find more book recommendations at: scottishbooktrust.com/book-lists



New from Scottish publishers and authors



Haarville
by Justin Davies
FLORIS BOOKS

Join in on this fun, mysterious adventure with a lot of heart.

Shrouded in fishy fog and surrounded by razor-sharp reefs, Haarville isn't the kind of place you'd find on a map – but it's Manx's home. So when two sinister strangers arrive, claiming to be his long-lost relatives, Manx has some serious sleuthing to do.



Like a Curse
by Elle McNicoll
KNIGHTS OF MEDIA

The second book in the *Like a Charm* duology sees Ramya and her powers tested to new limits.

Meet new creatures, witness the return of frightening sirens, and watch Ramya try and take it all on from her family's hideout at Loch Ness. An intoxicating read with own-voice representations of neurodiversity.



Looking for Emily
by Fiona Longmuir
NOSY CROW

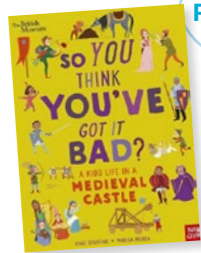
When Lily moves to strange new town, she finds a secret, mysterious museum full of Emily's belongings. But who is Emily, and where has she gone?

Lily and her friends are determined to solve the mystery – but someone else may be just as determined to stop them.

A fantastically quirky, fast-paced middle-grade romp.

Top picks from Authors Live and the Scottish Friendly Children's Book Tour

Through our school programmes like **Authors Live** and the **Scottish Friendly Children's Book Tour** we get to share the work of the most exciting writing talent across the country. We've compiled some of the latest releases from recent guest authors all guaranteed to excite and engage your readers.



P3-6

So You Think You've Got it Bad? A Kid's Life in a Medieval Castle

by Chae Strathie and Marisa Morea

NOSY CROW

Cool battles and massive feasts might sound fun, but it turns out that life as a kid in a medieval castle was not easy.

In the latest from this funny illustrated non-fiction series, readers will be enthralled by tales of dung-filled moats, sieges, live blackbird pies and more!



P5+

While the Storm Rages

by Phil Earle

ANDERSEN PRESS LTD

When World War Two breaks out and British people are advised to euthanise their family pets, Noah knows he can't just stand by and watch.

Noah makes a pledge to get as many animals to safety as he can, no matter what, in an adventure that is moving, tense and heart-warming all at once.



P5+

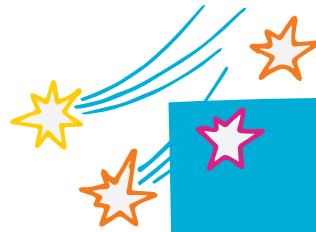
Hedgewitch

by Skye McKenna

WELBECK FLAME

Magic is everywhere in this enchanting fantasy adventure. Cassie Morgan escapes her dreary boarding school to seek her mother, who has been missing for seven years.

Befriending a talking cat and a flying broom, she discovers the enchanted village of Hedgely, and begins her training in the practical skills of witchcraft.



S1+

The Colour of Hope

by Ross MacKenzie

ANDERSEN PRESS LTD

A powerful adventure story set in a world robbed of colour by an evil emperor and the extraordinary girl who just might be able to restore light and brightness.

But can she survive long enough to save the world with the emperor's terrifying Ripper Dogs and Black Coats in pursuit?



P2-6

Courage Out Loud: 25 Poems of Power

by Joesph Coelho and Daniel Gray-Barnett

WIDE EYED EDITIONS

The vividly illustrated latest collection from the Waterstones Children's Laureate invites young readers to find their courage through poetry.

For each poem there is a thoughtful introduction to the form and how it might relate to a emotion or idea. Children will love this encouraging introduction to the world of poetry that will also foster self-confidence!



P4-7

Corpse Talk: Groundbreaking Women

by Adam and Lisa Murphy

DK PUBLISHING

Bold illustrations and humour make learning history fun in this graphic novel series by sensational YouTube duo *Corpse Talk*.

In the latest instalment, learn about the incredible lives of the most famous women in history, from Jane Austen to Harriet Tubman in an quirky interview format.

Find out more about upcoming school tours and events at:
scottishbooktrust.com/school-opportunities



Catch up on Authors Live on demand:
scottishbooktrust.com/authors-live-on-demand

Scottish Book Trust staff picks

Picked by Clara Owen

P6+



The False Rose
by Jakob Wegelius

PUSHKIN CHILDREN'S BOOKS

Join gorilla Sally Jones in a rich and immersive sequel, now finding herself in Scotland with a mystery to solve.

P7+



When I See Blue
by Lily Bailey

HACHETTE CHILDREN'S GROUP

Joyful and sobering in equal measure, Ben's heart-warming tale of navigating OCD and forming friendships is a moving, empathetic read.

S2+



Needle by Patrice Lawrence

BARRINGTON STOKE

Short and powerful, tackling themes of foster care and juvenile criminal justice, *Needle* teaches that everyone can learn from mistakes.

P1-4



The Swing
by Britta Teckentrup

PRESTEL

Both adults and children alike will be absorbed in this beautiful crossover picture book. Touching and beautiful, Teckentrup explores the construct of a shared sense of place across the passage of time.

P5+



The Night Animals
by Sarah Ann Jukes

SIMON AND SCHUSTER

A touching, hope-filled adventure of nature and healing.

Through the guidance of animal spectres, the transformative power of asking for help is slowly revealed.

S2+



Oxygen Mask: A Graphic Novel
by Jason Reynolds and Jason Griffin

FABER AND FABER

Heartbreaking yet hopeful. An important artefact from 2020, this mixed-media reflection reminds us to seek solace in the everyday.

Picked by Helen Symington

P2-4



Around the World in 80 Festivals

by Nancy Dickman and Lucy Banaji

WELBECK

A beautifully illustrated tour of festivals held around the world highlighting their history and cultural significance.

P2-4



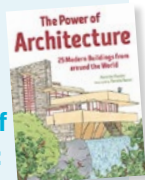
Carnival of the Clocks

by Nick Sharratt

BARRINGTON STOKE LTD

Learn about time and clocks with this boldly illustrated book that includes a fantastic celebration of the winter solstice.

P4-S1



The Power of Architecture: 25 Modern Buildings from around the World

by Annette Roeder and Pamela Baron

PRESTEL

Get inspired by our built environment as Roeder shows that buildings can be much more than just concrete and bricks.

Picked by Pauline Bird

Packed with the latest book recommendations for upper primary and early secondary, both pupils and teachers can use our **Bookzilla** app to discover their next great read.



With **Bookzilla**, you can:

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



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#ReadScottishTeenBooks

Perfect for teen readers, this collection is full of adventure and self-discovery as each protagonist learns about themselves and the world around them.

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Share your favourite Teen reads with us on Twitter using **#ReadScottishTeenBooks**



P5+

Keep Dancing, Lizzie Chu

by Maisie Chan

BONNIER BOOKS

Follow 12-year-old Lizzie and her quest to get her beloved Grandad from their Glasgow home to the Tower Ballroom in Blackpool.

Join Lizzie's adventure alongside a makeshift goddess, an unconventional motorcycle gang, and some fabulous costumes!



P6+

Cardboard Cowboys

by Brian Conaghan

BLOOMSBURY

Lenny spends his days plonked down on a bench by the canal, where he can think in peace, instead of going to school.

An Irn Bru can, flung into the canal, sparks a peculiar friendship between Lenny and Bruce – a man who lives in a cardboard shelter – culminating in a genuine story of human connection.



P5+

The Rewilders

by Lindsay Littleton

CRANACHAN

Esme's 'boring' trip to her nan's house in the Highlands turns into a dangerous mission to reintroduce a wild lynx kitten to its natural habitat.

Accompanied only by her sworn enemy and the sound of howling wolves outside their tent, can Esme play her part in rewilding Scotland?

A gripping and thoughtful tale from start to end.



S1+

Only On the Weekends

by Dean Atta

HODDER CHILDREN'S BOOKS

Hopeless romantic Mack is struggling with the fact his boyfriend isn't ready to come out. He is taken aback when he moves to Scotland and meets Fin – who is outspoken about his sexuality and being transgender. Written in verse, this lyrical exploration of the self exemplifies the highs and lows of LGBTQ+ first love.



S2+

Know My Place

by Eve Ainsworth

BARRINGTON STOKE

Amy has been in foster care since she was six. She's lived with multiple families before ending up with the Dawsons. Amy can't understand the point of 'settling in' when there's every chance she'll have to move again.

Will they ever be able to earn her trust? This dyslexia-friendly read is heartfelt and ultimately uplifting.



S2+

The Summer We Turned Green

by William Sutcliffe

BLOOMSBURY

The hilarious tale of a family split down the middle by a commune of environmental protesters moving in across the road.

When Luke's older sister joins the protestors, the rest of the family has a decision to make! Their lives following the status quo might be about to get turned on their heads. . .



Recommendations from the 2023 Learning Professional Award winners

Julie Paterson and Gail Abraham won the Learning Professional Award 2023. Together they lead the implementation of Dolly Parton's Imagination Library in Renfrewshire. Their passion and dedication to the work has seen over 33,000 books gifted to children in Renfrewshire since March 2021.

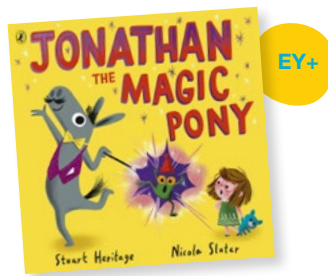


Little People, Big Dreams: Dolly Parton
by Maria Isabel Sanchez Vegara and Daria Solak

LINCOLN CHILDREN'S BOOKS

The inspiring story of singer-superstar Dolly's life. Learn how this country legend uses her wealth to give back to others.

This book shows that anyone can achieve incredible things – you just need a dream!

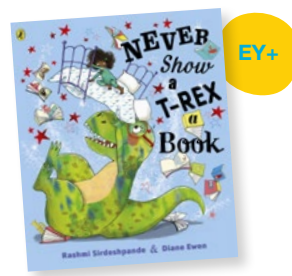


Jonathan the Magic Pony
by Stuart Heritage and Nicola Slater

PUFFIN

The story of a very silly pony and friends. We'd recommend this book to younger children (and adults with a silly sense of humour) who love laugh-out-loud stories and fun illustrations.

A great story with opportunities to join in and perform some magic – but will it work?



Never Show a T-Rex a Book
by Rashmi Sirdeshpande and Diane Ewen

PUFFIN

With dynamic illustrations full of fun, this is a story that celebrates the amazing power of books.

Completely full of imagination, mayhem and lots of hilarious laugh-out-loud moments, young ones will love learning about why you really should never show a T-Rex a book!



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.

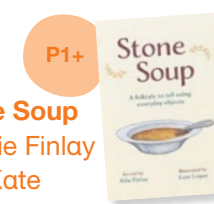
Picture books for sensory storytelling



Dig, Dig, Digger
by Morag Hood

PAN MACMILLAN

With bright distinct illustrations, this fun story of the rebellious digger has lots of repetition and great positional language.



Stone Soup
by Ailie Finlay and Kate Leiper

MY KIND OF BOOK

Bringing together a list of recommended props and a comfortingly familiar folktale, it's an excellent book for sharing a sensory story.



Ready for Spaghetti
by Michael Rosen and Polly Dunbar

WALTER BOOKS

The ultimate book of poems to use for your sensory storytelling – you'll have so much fun with the rhyme, rhythm and play with words.

What to read after Julia Donaldson?



I Send You a Hug
by Anne Booth

PENGUIN RANDOM HOUSE CHILDREN'S

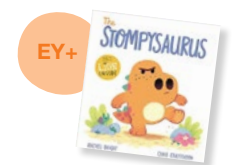
Join Little Bear in this uplifting adventure as he discovers all the many different ways to feel a hug from a loved one, even when apart.



The Littlest Yak: The New Arrival
by Lu Fraser

SIMON AND SCHUSTER

This latest family adventure reassures with warmth and humour as the little yak learns that, with a new arrival, she's loved a whole heartfelt more!




The Stompysaurus
by Rachel Bright

HACHETTE

This follow up to *The Worrysaurus* is a comforting tale about coping with overwhelming feelings and frustration when it seems like everything is going wrong.

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Reading Schools offers three accreditation levels designed to champion your efforts as you build and sustain a reading culture, as well as practical resources and friendly support to guide you on your journey.



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