



WE LOVE BOOKS



In a previous newsletter, I spoke about how graphic novels can be a great way to get reluctant readers interested in books.

Another way to get children motivated to read is with **POETRY**. The fact that poems are often only a few lines can make them less daunting to read, but can still make children learn key skills, without them even realising this.



Younger children are often exposed to more poetry, from picture books written in verse to collections of (often very funny) poems. As children get older they read less poems and seem to move away from this type of writing. But did you know that there are books written in verse for older children, too? The format of these can make them quicker reads for children, but still make them feel a range of emotions, help them widen their vocabulary and grammar and transport them to new worlds. And, for children moving to secondary school, there are books written in verse for Young Adults too.

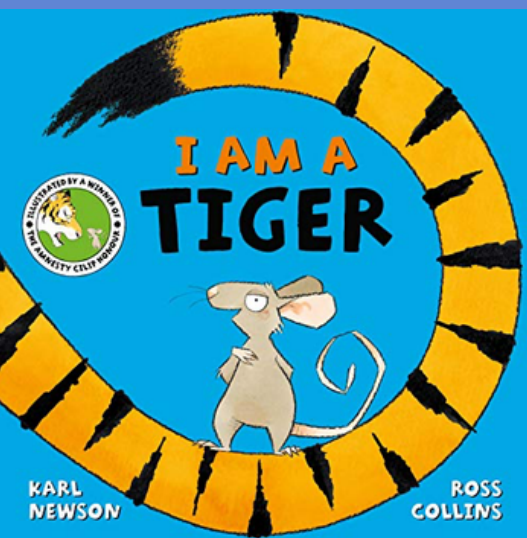
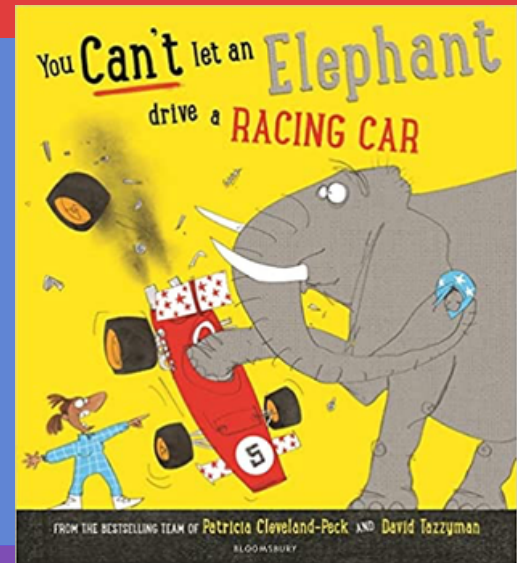
Rhyming poems can help children explore patterns in words, and therefore help them with spelling as well as phonemic sounds.

Poets often need to play around with words to make them fit, and this teaches children not only the fun they themselves can have with words and sounds, but also introduces them to new vocabulary that the poet has used to fit the rhythm of their work.

The shortness of poems means that children need to learn to infer more from what they have read or listened to, as well as to think about why the poet has used particular words and what effect these have. This will lead children to think about the importance of the words they are using, too, in their own writing.

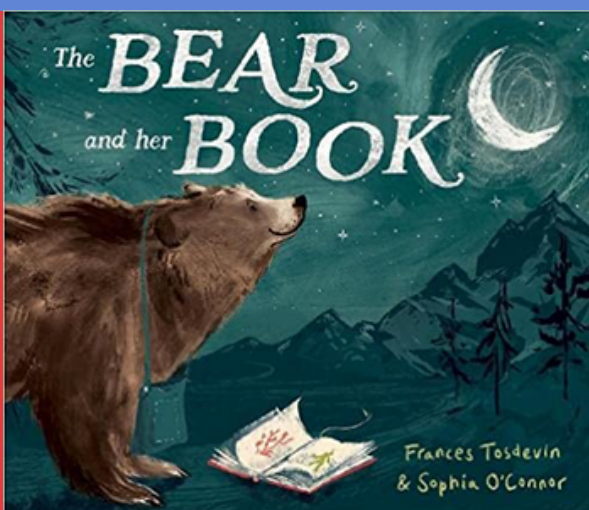
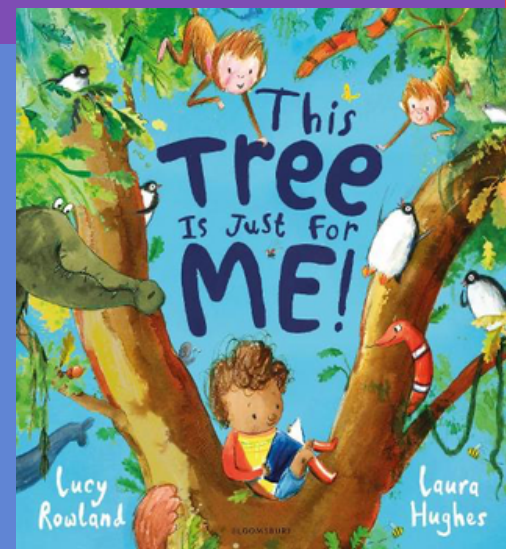
PICTURE BOOKS

This is a great addition to the "You Can't Take an Elephant" series. The book is filled with animals trying out different, seemingly unsuitable, sports. From a walrus riding a mountain bike to an octopus playing table tennis, there is much to enjoy and giggle at. And does it matter that these animals most likely won't be winning any medals? No! The book shows us that taking part and having fun is what it is all about. [Told in rhyme]



Mouse believes he is a tiger, and sets about persuading Raccoon, Fox, Snake and Parrot that this is the case, by demonstrating his tiger skills. When a real tiger turns up, Mouse manages to make Tiger believe he is actually a mouse, and renames all the other animals too. But when Mouse catches a glimpse of himself in the water, will he still believe he is a tiger?

Jack is looking forward to enjoying his new book in the peace and quiet of his tree. But animals keep trying to join him: a lion, a sloth, even an elephant. Eventually he gets so cross that he shouts at them all, and they disappear. You'd think this would finally make him happy. But suddenly, it seems a little *too* quiet. Perhaps Jack will realise that books can be much more fun when they are shared. [Told in rhyme]

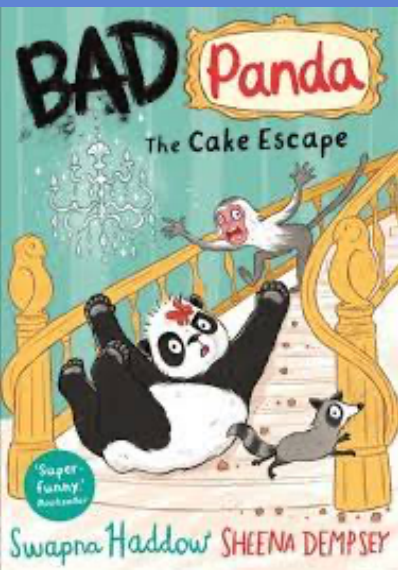


Mrs Levin recommends...

I fell in love with this beautiful, gentle book about a kindly, restless bear who goes on an adventure to find new, exciting places. Along the way, the bear uses her book of wise words to help each creature she meets. Eventually, she finds her way to the most magical world of all. I can't give it away here but I will say that it is also one of my most magical places to go to. A wonderful rhyming picture book and the perfect bedside story. Enjoy!

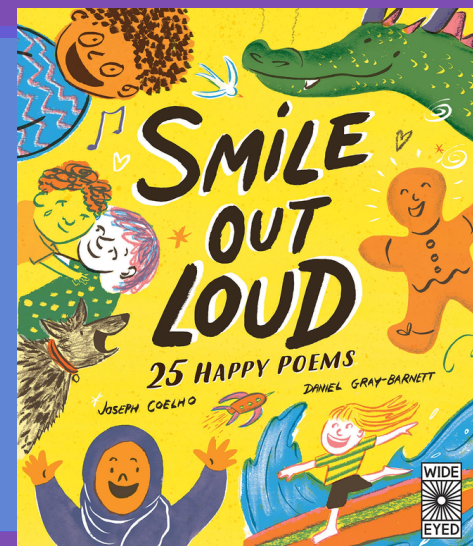
CHAPTER BOOKS FOR YOUNGER READERS

Pugly wants to be the most loved pet in his household and decides that, to do this, he needs to bake a cake. Unfortunately, Clem the cat has other plans and encourages Pugly to add all kinds of ingredients that really shouldn't be in a cake. Clive the goldfish tries to help, but can't stop the chaos that ensues. This is a very funny book that will have everyone giggling, and has a sweet, happy ending for all the pets.



Lin's best friend has gone missing. After a bit of confusion with a small raccoon, she discovers he has been taken by a not-very-nice boy who wants to stuff him! She will need the help of all her friends and a cake trail, to find him and rescue him in time. There is a lot to laugh about in this book, and it has beautiful illustrations throughout.

This is a great book of poems to make you laugh out loud. Each poem is introduced with tips on how to read it, and suggested activities to go along with it, like walking in a funny way, making faces and using your imagination. The poems will have everyone giggling, and this colourfully illustrated book is a great way to encourage a love of poetry as well as a love of books. [poems]

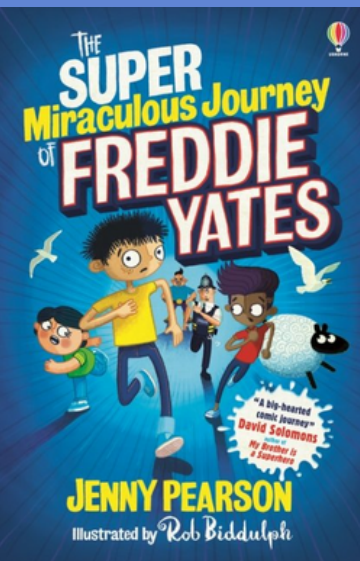
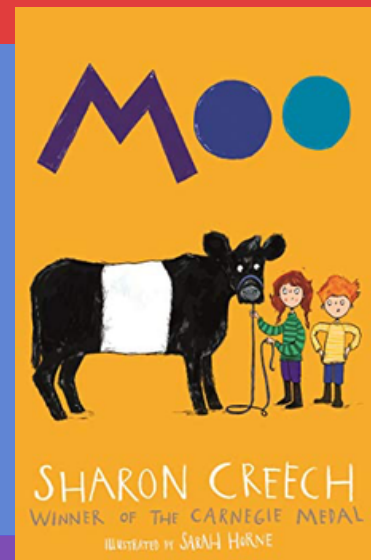


Miss Fraser recommends...

If you enjoy mystery, you will love these Agent Zaiba books. This is the first in the series about intriguing celebrities and missing dogs and diamonds. Zaiba, her best friend and little brother are celebrating her cousin's Mehndi party when they get drawn into a wonderful mystery plot that they are determined to uncover. With lots of dog chaos, twists and turns, this is a great book to keep the reader engaged.

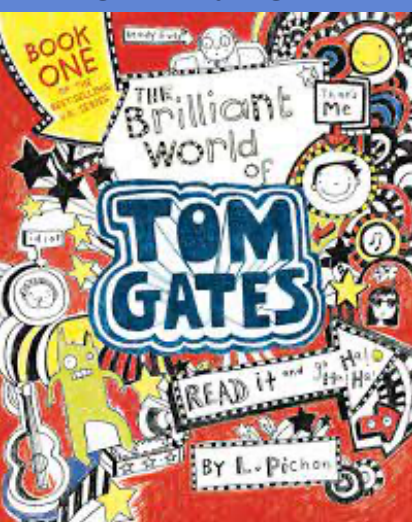
CHAPTER BOOKS FOR OLDER READERS

Reena thinks that moving to Maine will be all about lobsters and spending time on the beach. She doesn't expect to be landed with a job looking after an unfriendly cow belonging to an eccentric older neighbour. Told in a mixture of verse and prose, this is a heartwarming story that teaches us about finding connections with others in unexpected places. [Told in verse and prose.]



When Freddie's grandma dies, he learns that his biological father appears to be living in Wales. A boy that loves facts, he decides to follow the information he has and sets off on a mission to find him, along with his best friends. What follows is a host of very funny adventures, including an onion eating contest, superheroes and some antique thieves. Alongside the comedy, this is a touching book about the true meaning of family, and what is important in life.

This is an amazing book for upper key stage 2. Jude and her mother move to the safety of America, away from the dangers they were facing in Syria, leaving Jude's father and brother behind. Jude struggles to settle in at first, coming up against a very different way of life and unexpected prejudices. But there is a lot of hope in this story, as Jude begins to settle in and make friends. A great book to teach children about the difficulties faced by refugees trying to make a new home. [Told in verse]



Mrs Mudher recommends...

This is a brilliantly funny book written in diary form, making it accessible to a wide range of abilities. Tom is a funny, cheerful and optimistic boy who has a great list of excuses to cover any situation he finds himself in. I'm reading this with my children at the moment. We love reading it together, and I like that both my children are capable of reading it. We have also really enjoyed the illustrations in the book and all the different fonts used.