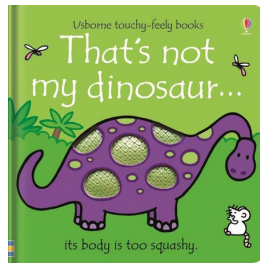


POPULAR BOOKS 0-3

That's Not My... Usborne Publishing

Touchy-feely textured books with lovely, bright illustrations

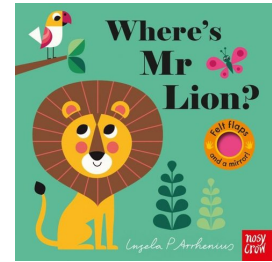


Why are they good?

These books are great for little ones to feel & engage with to develop sensory awareness. They are also great for children with SEND needs as the textures and noises help to connect the children to the story and pictures. With a wide variety of titles you should be able to find one that relates to the child you have in mind.

Where's Mr Lion? Ingela P Arrhenius

Touchy-feely, felt-flap books with bright illustrations

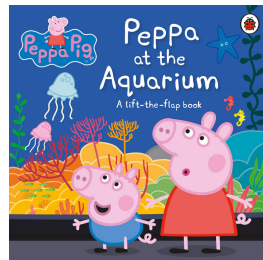


Why are they good?

This series of books is great for little ones to feel & engage with to develop sensory awareness. The felt flaps mean that they are more durable than traditional flaps. Another great option for SEND children.

Peppa Pig Ladybird Books

Books featuring the much loved Peppa Pig and her family



Why are they good?

Most children will recognise Peppa from television, they are an easy sell, especially to children you're not too familiar with.

Noisy Books

Some noisy books have buttons on each page, some have a strip down the side.

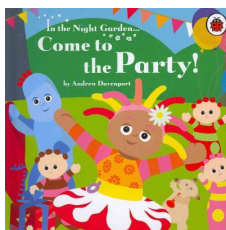


Why are they good?

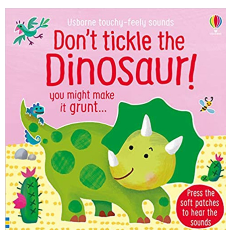
I have never once met a child who didn't love a noisy book. Animals and transport noises seem to go down very well.

Other Popular Characters and Themes to Look out for

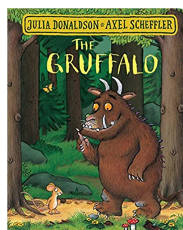
In The Night Garden



anything with dinosaurs!



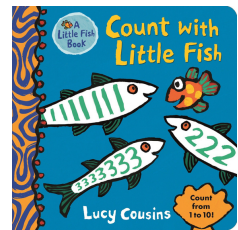
Julia Donaldson board books



black & white books for newborns



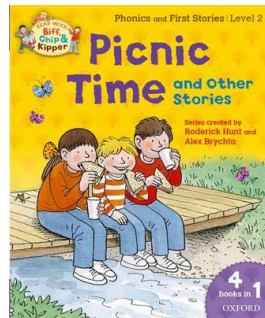
numbers, shapes & colours



POPULAR BOOKS 4-6

Biff, Chip & Kipper Phonics Books Usborne Publishing

Phonics books following 3 friends that grow as the reader grows.

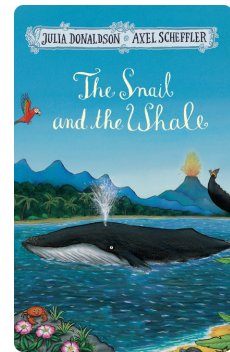


Why are they good?

Some phonics books concentrate on the words without much thought into an engaging storyline. These books seem to be able to engage all different types of children. The early years books have games at the back with comprehension questions, a fun way to engage the children & encourage them to pay attention as they try to read the words.

Julia Donaldson & Axel Scheffler

- The Snail & The Whale
- Room on the Broom
- The Gruffalo
- Zog etc.

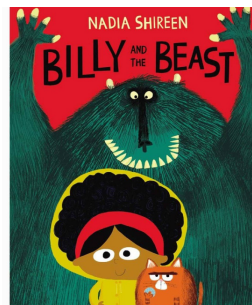


Why are they good?

These books have super storylines and amazing rhyming or repetitive verse for children to join in with. A number of the books have been adapted to TV shows – often when children recognise something they have seen on the screen they are more willing to take it. Popular with all but especially good for the reluctant reader.

Nadia Shireen

- Billy & The Beast
- Bumble Bear
- Good Little Wolf
- Barbara Throws a Wobbler

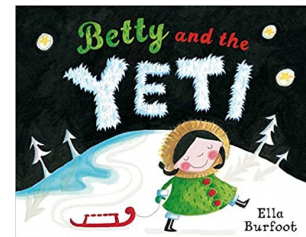


Why are they good?

Funny storylines with just enough text on the page to keep the reader engaged and attempt to read along. Often words mimic their meaning, ie, 'big' is in a larger font and 'small' in a smaller font to engage the younger reader.

Rhyming or Repetitive Books

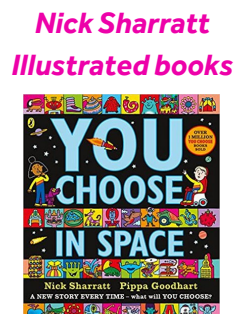
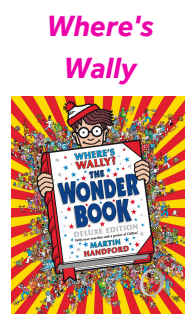
Books where the children can join in and guess what will be next.



Why are they good?

Rhyming verse gives a chance for those who can't yet read whole words to guess along and feel involved in the reading of books. Rhyming words can also help with phonics work by using lots of similar sounding words.

Other Popular Characters and Themes to Look out for



POPULAR BOOKS 5-6

Lego Ninja Books

Adventures with Lego ninjas presented in the style of a graphic novel

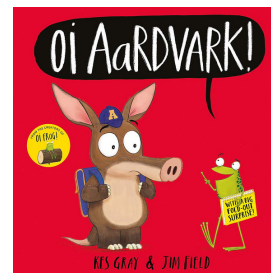


Why are they good?

These books are very popular at the moment. They merge the younger interest in playing with lego with an older interest in graphic novels and adventure stories. Set up like a graphic novel it provides lots of pictures to make them feel less daunting but have some more challenging language.

Kes Gray books

- Oi Frog!
- Oi Aardvark!
- You're Called What? etc.



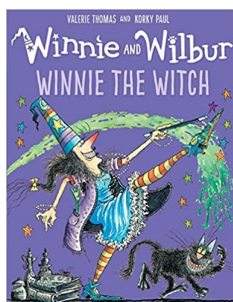
Why are they good?

Fun books with slightly more writing to challenge children to move on from picture books and use expression in their reading. Kes Gray also writes a series called Daisy (illustrated by hugely recognisable Nick Sharratt), so for those more advanced readers this can form a nice transition from picture books onto chapter books when they are ready.

Winnie the Witch

Valerie Thomas

Winnie the Witch and her cat Wilbur go on adventures

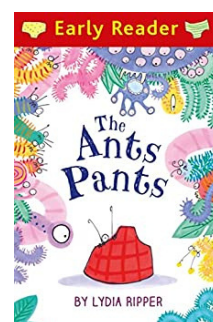


Why are they good?

With slightly more text they can challenge children whose reading is getting more advance. This series also moves onto a more challenging chapter book series for a nice transition from picture books.

Early Readers Books

Like phonics books, early reader books are specifically designed to help progress reading.

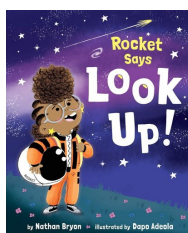


Why are they good?

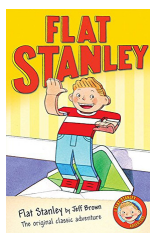
Easily recognisable with a red band at the top. The early reader books take lots of different types of stories and characters so appeal to a wide audience.

Other Popular Characters and Themes to Look out for

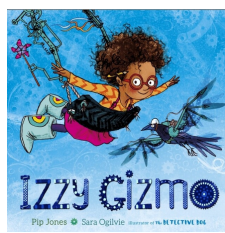
Nathan Bryon books



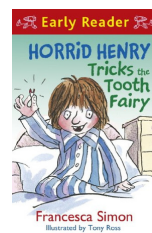
Flat Stanley



Izzy Gizmo



Horrid Henry*



Sophy Williams/ Holly Webb Books



Horrid Henry* Please note that some parents are not keen on this series due to the main character being naughty. Please be mindful of the parent's reaction when offering this book.

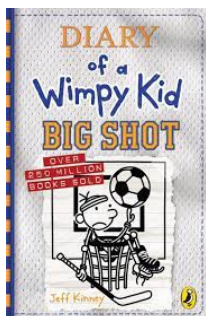


POPULAR BOOKS 7-9

Diary of a Wimpy Kid

Jeff Kinney

Fun, diary style books following ordinary school boy Greg Heffley. 12 in the series.

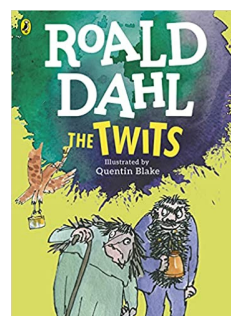


Why are they good?

The Diary of a Wimpy Kid seems to be universally popular - definitely a title to always have in your arsenal. A chapter book with illustrations and lots of humour with good role models. This is a non-intimidating jump into chapter books. This is an ever growing series, and often children don't mind reading older titles again.

Roald Dahl

- George's Marvellous Medicine
- James and the Giant Peach
- Esio Trot



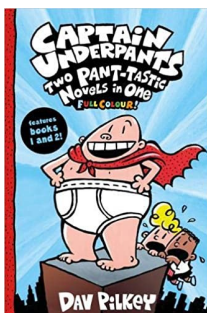
Why are they good?

Believe it or not, Roald Dahl is still going strong! Children like these stories as they recognise them from reading them in school or from film adaptations. There are varying degrees of complexity so as the reader grows they can tackle the longer books. Some of them have gruesome or silly humour with made up words that usually raise a laugh.

Captain Underpants

Dav Pilkey

Fun comic book style, silly humour. 12 in the series.



Why are they good?

A very silly book about two best friends who turn their teacher into a superhero without him knowing. There are cheesy jokes, absurd storylines and illustrations on every page to engage the reluctant reader

Rainbow Magic Books

A series of over 200 stand alone, fairy chapter books.

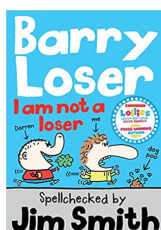


Why are they good?

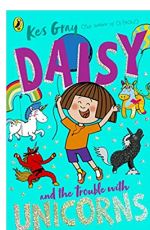
There are so many of these books that if you find a child who likes them you can guarantee a steady flow! Each fairy is themed (ie, gem stones, animals, professions) so lots of varied content in manageable chapters.

Other Popular Characters and Themes to Look out for

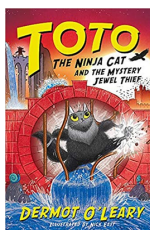
Barry Loser



Daisy



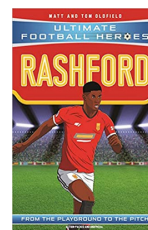
Toto The Ninja Cat



Dog Man



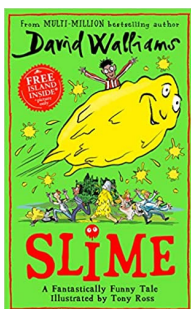
Ultimate Football Heroes



POPULAR BOOKS 9+

David Walliams Books

- Bad Dad
- Awful Auntie
- Demon Dentist
- Slime
- Ratburger
- etc



Why are they good?

David Walliams is akin to a modern day Roald Dahl. Not shying away from the silly and the revolting, these books are funny and speak to children on their level.

They often come with illustrations by well known Tony Ross dispersed throughout.

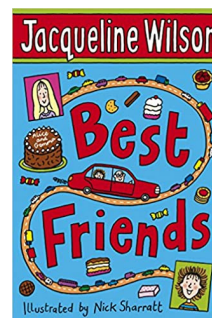
What to watch out for?

David Walliams has received some criticism in the press for not being inclusive in regards to characters in his books.

The Worlds Worst Children 2 has been removed from Doorstep Library stock as this was deemed to contain a harmful racial stereotype which David Walliams has since apologised for. In general, however, the books are received very well with the children that we visit.

Jacqueline Wilson Books

- Double Act
- Tracey Beaker
- Secrets
- The Hetty Feather series etc



Why are they good?

Jacqueline Wilson tackles real subjects that affect children, often covering more difficult topics of friendships, financial struggles and mental health but in an accessible and safe way for children to learn and process.

What to watch out for?

Some of the content of the books might not be appropriate for younger readers (ie, romance, bullying, teen pregnancy etc) and it may be dependent on what you think a parent is comfortable with their child borrowing.

It is always advised that you read the blurb and have a look through these books before taking to a family to make sure it is appropriate.

Tom Gates Liz Pichon

Diary style books from the perspective of ordinary teenage boy Tom Gates.



Why are they good?

These books are set out in a fun way with illustrative text and small doodles to keep the reader engaged. They follow every day events and activities from a young person's life so they provide a lot of material for children to relate to.

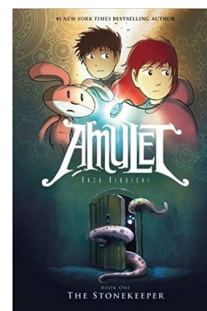
Liz Pichon has recently released a series called 'Shoe Wars' which has a similar look to it.

What to watch out for?

Nothing.

Amulet Kazu Kibuishi

Manga (Japanese comic style illustration) following the adventures of a young girl with a magical amulet.



Why is it good?

Manga is very popular at the moment but it extremely hard to find manga with content appropriate for children as it has a big adult following.

Anime is the animated version of manga and this has a lot of child friendly content which is now seeping through into the manga world.

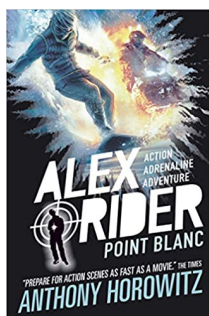
What to watch out for?

Amulet is completely safe to take for children but if branching out into other manga please be extremely careful - there will be an age rating on the back of each book.



POPULAR BOOKS 9+

Alex Rider Anthony Horowitz



Spy novels revolving around teenage spy Alex Rider.

Why is it good?

Spies, Lies and Action! These collection of books are paced well with engaging storylines. It has a more grown up/YA look to it and has more adult themes presented in an appropriate way for children without being patronising.

A good one for challenging good readers whilst being sure that the content is still age-appropriate.

What to watch out for?

There is some violence and gore in these books. As the series goes on the content gets more in depth, so be aware of the maturity of the child you are taking it to.

Raina Telgemeier



Full colour graphic novels including:

- Smile
- Sisters
- Guts
- Ghosts
- Drama

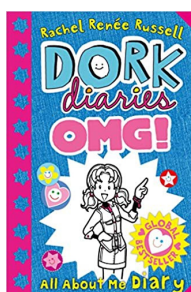
Why is it good?

Graphic novels are extremely popular at the moment. These ones use real life scenarios taking autobiographical inspiration from the author for children to relate to.

What to watch out for?

Drama has more mature themes than the other books so please be aware of this to make sure it is appropriate for the child you are considering lending it to.

Dork Diaries Rachel Renée Russell



Diary book from the perspective of a 14 year old girl. 15 in the series.

Why are they good?

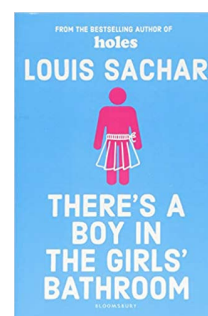
Laid out like diaries with lines pages and some drawings, doodles and coming strips, these books capture the imagination of ordinary children as they relate to the content.

There are lots of them too!

What to watch out for?

Whilst these may look cutesy on the outside and appeal to good readers under 9, the subject matter is strictly for 9+. This involves some romance, bullying and body image discussion.

There's a Boy in the Girls' Bathroom Louis Sachar



Louis Sachar

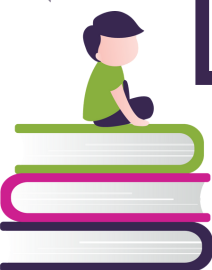
The story of a bully named Bradley whose behavior improves after intervention from a school counselor.

Why is it good?

This book teaches empathy and the importance of understanding and managing emotions. Many of the children we have lent this to have praised it for being a page turner that really tunes into what it's like to be a young person. One child said, "Our parents recently voted on spending money on more computers instead of a counsellor at school and this book shows why that was the wrong decision for our students."

What to watch out for?

The main character is a bully and has some challenging behaviour at the beginning - but this book is about working through that.



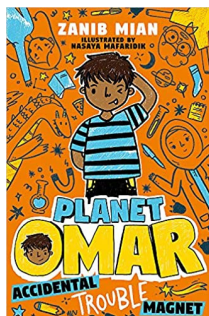
POPULAR BOOKS 9+

Planet Omar

Zanib Mian

Diary style book from the perspective of school boy Omar

3 in the series



Why are they good?

For those children who like Diary of a Wimpy Kid, this is an excellent series with silly humour and great storylines according to children. The main character is Muslim and discusses Eid and what it's like to face ignorant, school bullies. Many books of this nature feature predominantly white characters so this is a more diverse read for all children.

What to watch out for?

There is some bullying and racism covered in these books.

Manga

Manga - comics or graphic novels originating from Japan.



Why are they good?

Manga is hugely popular, especially with the rise in Anime (the animated version) popularity.

Think Pokemon or Dragon Ball Z.

They have lots of action, often magic or fantasy elements and the graphic nature of them appeals to all different levels of reader.

What to watch out for?

Manga has traditionally had an older following, although Manga creators are now catching up with their newer, younger audience, some of the content in Manga novels is completely inappropriate for children. Whilst Doorstep Library vets all books that are donated, sometimes children give back books that are not ours by mistake so please always check the back of a book for a Doorstep Library label and for an age rating which can be found on all Manga Books (as shown below)

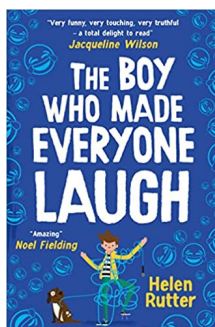


ALL AGES. May be suitable for readers or consumers of any age. For example, may contain mild language and fantasy violence but no swearing or nudity.

The Boy Who Made Everyone Laugh

Helen Rutter

The story of a boy who wants to be a stand up comedian but has a stammer.



Why is it good?

This book came highly recommended by a Doorstep Library child. Well paced, this book has a main character that you want to root for and an inspiring teacher we all wish we could have. Touching on issues of bullying and overcoming individual difficulties whilst maintaining a good level of humour throughout.

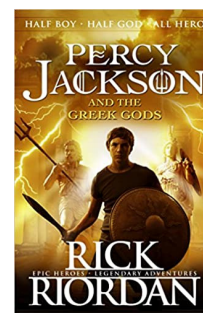
What to watch out for?

This book touches briefly on bereavement.

Percy Jackson

Rick Riordan

A story of a half-boy, half-Greek god.



Why is it good?

Taking an ordinary boy and dropping him in the middle of Greek Mythology...who wouldn't love this?

Especially with the rise in popularity of the Marvel Films, this gives young people heroes they relate to with fantasy, adventure and some humor thrown in for good measure. When reviewed online by children this received 5/5 with the words 'Best Book Ever' being used A LOT.

What to watch out for?

nothing!

