# Introduction to Children's Literature

## 0 - 2 years

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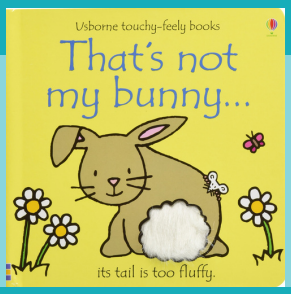
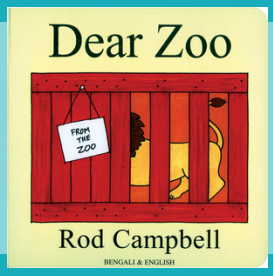
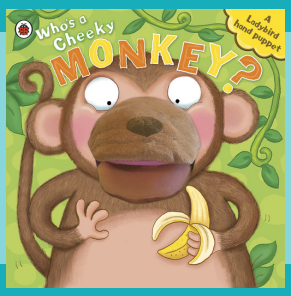



**That's not my...**
A fantastic series of touch and feel books, that cover almost every conceivable interest, from princesses to robots, to hedgehogs and dinosaurs! With their bright colours, sturdy tactile elements, and simple structure this series is wonderful for babies and younger children.

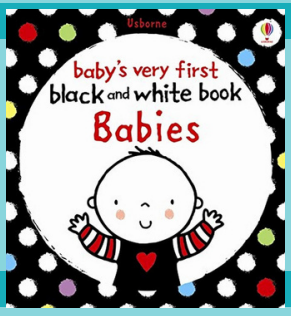
**Lift the Flap books**
**Dear Zoo** is a constant favourite but any book with flaps and eye-catching pictures is a fantastic choice for babies and younger readers. Encourage children to lift the flaps themselves and try guessing together (maybe with helpful animal noises!) what they might find lurking underneath...




**Puppet books**
These eye-catching books are always popular with younger children for their interactive elements. They also provide a great opportunity to practice your silly voices which little ones adore!

**Nursery rhymes**
Babies and young children respond particularly well to familiarity and to the rhythm. For this reason, nursery rhymes are often a good way to interest a young child in books. Rhymes can be sung or spoken whilst you draw attention to the illustrations.




**Black and white picture books**
Black and white books with bold patterns and simple lines are really appealing to youngest readers whose eyesight is still developing. Black and white are the easiest colours for them to see and, as such, these books are sure to grab their attention.

**Noisy Books**
Any book with a sound element is always a big hit and encouraging children to find the right button for a particular part of the story guarantees their engagement.

# Introduction to Children's Literature

## 3 - 4 years

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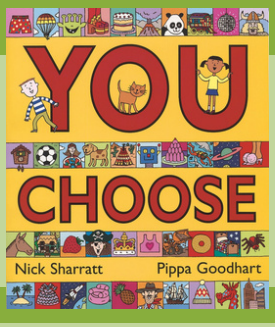
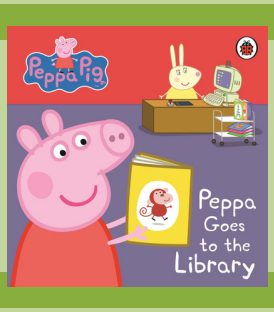


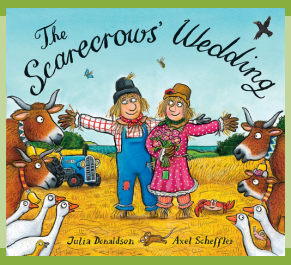

**Nick Sharratt**

Nick Sharratt's distinctive drawings are a perennial of children's literature. His range of interactive books are particularly great for sharing when reading together with your child. The You Choose books invite imaginative discussion and his Mixed Up series promise gales of laughter!

**Peppa Pig**

Lots of children love this popular piggy! Peppa Pig books cover a wide range of age-relevant everyday topics, from trips to the park to swimming, to bedtimes – so there's normally a Peppa book to chime with familiar activities for younger readers.



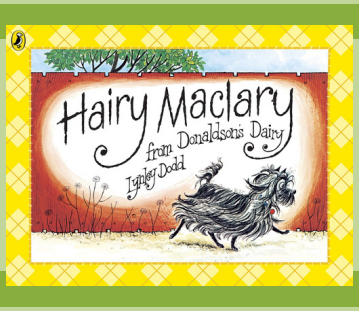



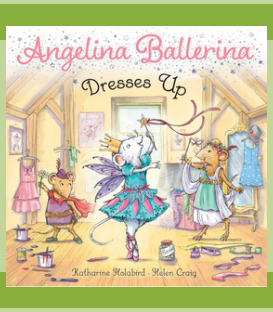

**Julia Donaldson**

A prolific writer, Julia has penned multiple classics from The Gruffalo to Zog, to Room on the Broom. Her books are rhythmic, rhyming and usually very funny – perfect for capturing the ears and imaginations of little readers!

**The Hairy Maclary series by Lynley Dodd**

The antics of Hairy Maclary and his amusingly named friends such as dalmatian Bottomley Potts) are designed to be shared by adults and children together. Simple plots, rhythmic verse and repeating events make all make for an engaging time spent reading with pre-reading aged children.



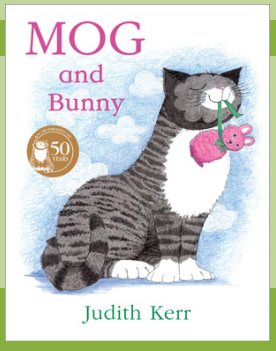




**Angelina Ballerina series by Katharine Holabird**

Angelina, the little mouse who is desperate to become a dancer, is a big hit amongst younger children. These charming books are great to share and the detailed illustrations are fun to explore together.

**Familiar classics**

Your own enthusiasm can play a huge part in interesting your child in a book and many old favourites remain popular. Look out for familiar faces such as Mog, Thomas the Tank Engine, and The Tiger Who Came to Tea, as well as the grumpy bear from the classic We're Going on a Bear Hunt!



# Introduction to Children's Literature

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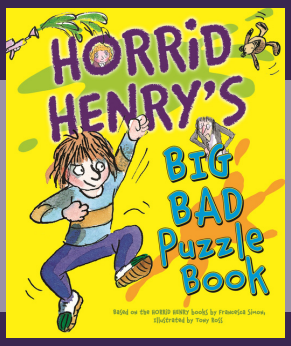
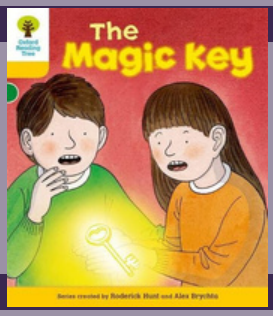
## 5 - 7 years



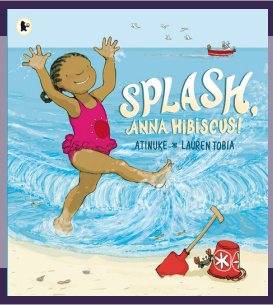

**Horrid Henry series by Francesca Simon**
These early chapter books follow naughty prankster Henry as he breaks rules and plays tricks (usually on his younger brother, Perfect Peter) with hilarious results. The series covers many topics including bullying, homework, and family life.

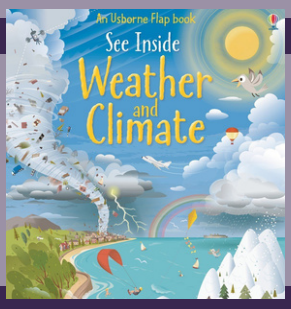
**The Magic Key series by The Oxford Reading Tree**
This excellent adventure series is fantastic for early readers: split into reading levels, the series is designed to support children's literacy through phonics. The children are whisked away on thrilling adventures by the magic key on their dog's collar whenever it starts to glow...



**The Rainbow Magic Fairy series by Daisy Meadows**
This series aimed primarily at children aged 5+ is enormously popular and can be read in any order. With 200+ books, this series is great for getting young readers hooked on borrowing books! Magic Animal Friends are also by Meadows.

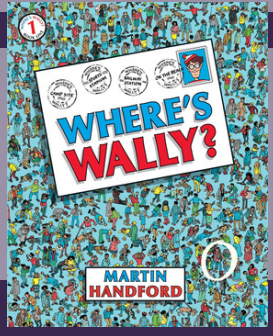
**Anna Hibiscus series by Atinuke**
This lively series set in Africa follows the life of Anna Hibiscus and family, including her twin baby brothers Double and Trouble. Anna's world is vividly described and illustrated throughout. The series also features three picture books for younger Anna-fans to advance from.




**Usborne See Inside... series**
This wonderful factual series covers a huge range of topics and presents information in an engaging and interactive way. The illustrations are beautifully detailed, with interesting facts hidden under flaps – this is a great series to engage readers who are less interested in fiction.

**Where's Wally? By Martin Handford**
These detailed search-and-seek books are great to share with children who are feeling reluctant to read. The intricate pictures can be explored alone or together as you race to find the illusive Wally. A brilliant, low-pressure series for families to share and enjoy.



# Introduction to Children's Literature

## 7 - 9 years

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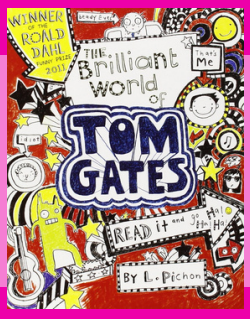
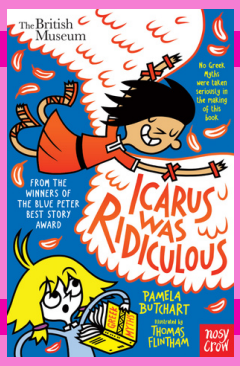


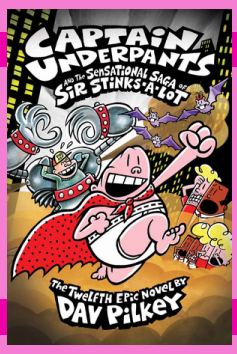

**Tom Gates series by Liz Pichon**
Tom Gates is hugely popular with children aged 7+ as every page of Tom's diaries is chock full of amusing doodles and expressive font. Kids can't seem to get enough of these funny books. Similar in style and popularity is the other big diaryformat series Diary of a Wimpy Kid (aimed at 9+).

**Pamela Butchart**
With titles like My Head-teacher is a Vampire Rat!, and The Baby Brother from Outerspace!, you know you're in for a laugh with Pamela Butchart's zany illustrated tales. To Wee or Not To Wee won the Blue Peter Best Story Award for its humorous retelling of four Shakespeare plays.



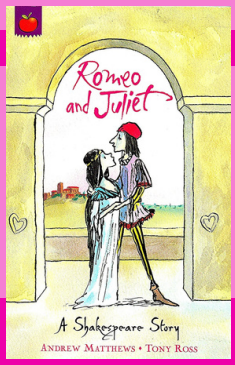
**The Horrible series...**
Horrible Histories is likely the most familiar of the Horrible books but the range also covers the more gruesome and exciting sides of science, geography, and maths. With facts presented in funny, bite-sized chunks there's normally something for all in these funny and informative books.

**The Captain Underpants series by Dav Pilkey**
Packed with cartoon illustrations, these books are a hit with children who enjoy a little toilet humour (expect lots of boogers' and 'farts'). Some books in the series even feature a dancing 'flip-o-rama'. The Super Diaper Baby, and Dog Man series are by the same author.



**The Beast Quest series by Adam Blade**
This series can be read in any order and is great for computer game fans. There are well over 100 books in the series plus the accompanying Sea Quest series. The Star Fighters, and the Astrosaurs series are both similar in style and content.

**Orchard Shakespeare Stories**
Packed full of characterful illustrations, these books are accessible abridged retellings of Shakespeare's most popular plays and are a great introduction to his work. There is also a partner series of Greek Myths retold available.



# Introduction to Children's Literature

## 9+ years

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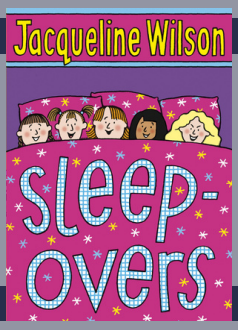
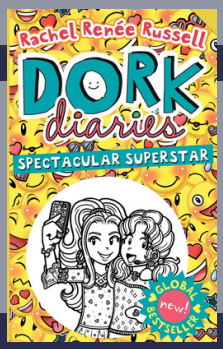
**David Walliams**
Walliams is possibly one of most requested authors at Doorstep Library as children just adore Walliams' brand of silly, tongue-in-cheek humour. The children in Walliams' stories always emerge victorious as they battle against adversity, bullies, and stuffy adults.

**Michael Morpurgo**
Morpurgo's heart-warming and sensitive books focus on the beauty to be found even in the direst circumstances. His work will particularly appeal to animal fans and those interested in war experiences. Lauren St. John's The White Giraffe series will likewise appeal to animal lovers.

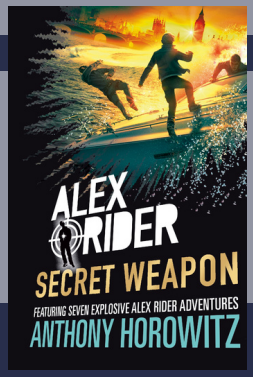



**Jacqueline Wilson**
Former Children's Laureate Wilson often tackles more challenging subjects such as adoption and divorce but does so with sensitivity and vibrant humour. With over 100 published books, there are plenty for avid Wilson fans to content themselves with.

**Older Non-Fiction**
As children near secondary school, factual books prove increasingly popular and can be a great way to keep reluctant fiction readers engaging with books. Anthologies, such as the beautifully illustrated Goodnight Stories for Rebel Girls, are really engaging to dip in and out of.




**Dork Diaries series by Rachel Renee Russell**
This diary format series, filled with doodles and sketches, is a big hit amongst older children. Charting the teenage life of total dork' Nikki as she joins a new school, the books are a light introduction to topics such as crushes, parties, 'BFFs' (best friends forever), and 'frenemies' (friend-enemies)!




**Alex Rider series by Anthony Horowitz**
This series has been called James Bond for kids and with good reason - these action-packed books follow teenage spy Alex Rider as he saves the day - and the world! Expect action, heroics, and thrilling villains. See also Ali Sparkes for more espionage adventures (with added magic).