

FEBRUARY
2026

 Setanta

BOOK CLUB

YOUR FREE
INTERACTIVE
MONTHLY
MAGAZINE

THE READING EDIT



Ready,
Set,
School!

Books
to Boost
Confidence
for Early
Years
Transitions

 SCHOLASTIC

 **BOOK
CLUB**  LIVE

Celebrate 15 Funny
Years of Tom Gates
with Liz Pichon



Tom Gates illustration © Liz Pichon

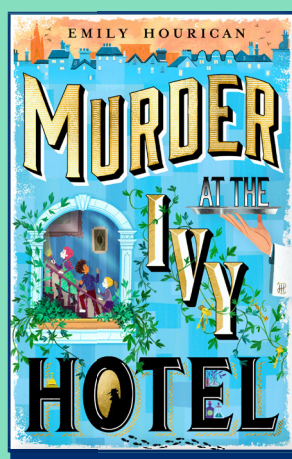
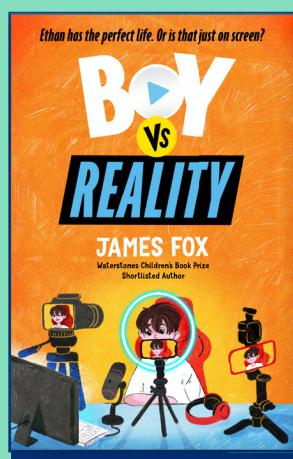
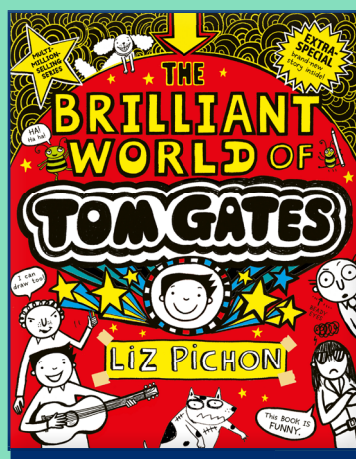
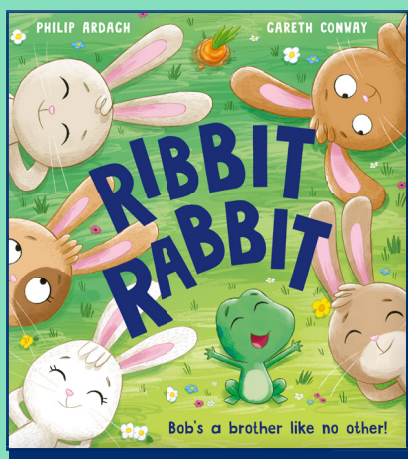
MORE
INSIDE ↓



FEBRUARY TOP PICKS

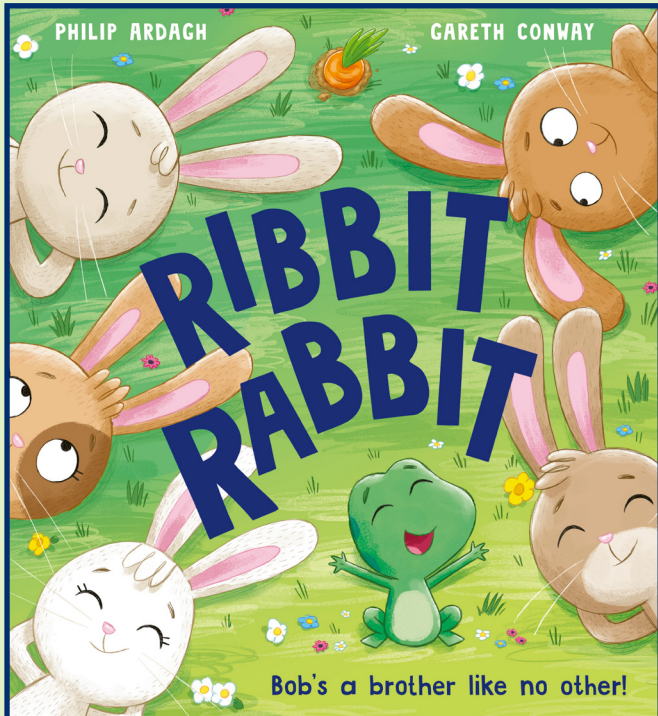


Select the covers below to learn more



Suitable For Ages: 3-5

RIBBIT RABBIT



Bob is a frog growing up in a family of rabbits, which means he looks different, eats different things and moves in ways his siblings can't always match. Despite this, his rabbit family love him fiercely and stand up for him whenever anyone is unkind. Funny, gentle and heart-warming, this is a joyful celebration of belonging, kindness and families that don't all look the same.

You'll enjoy this if:

- You enjoy funny animal characters with lots of personality.
- You've ever felt a little bit different from everyone else.
- You like warm, comforting books with a happy ending.
- You enjoy sweet, expressive illustrations that help tell the story.

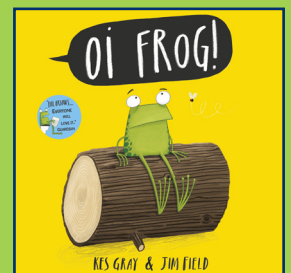
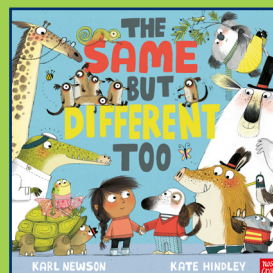
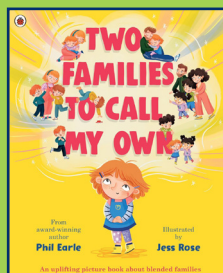
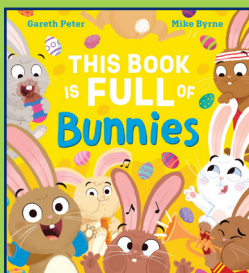
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Free resources:

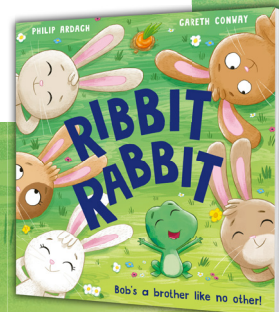
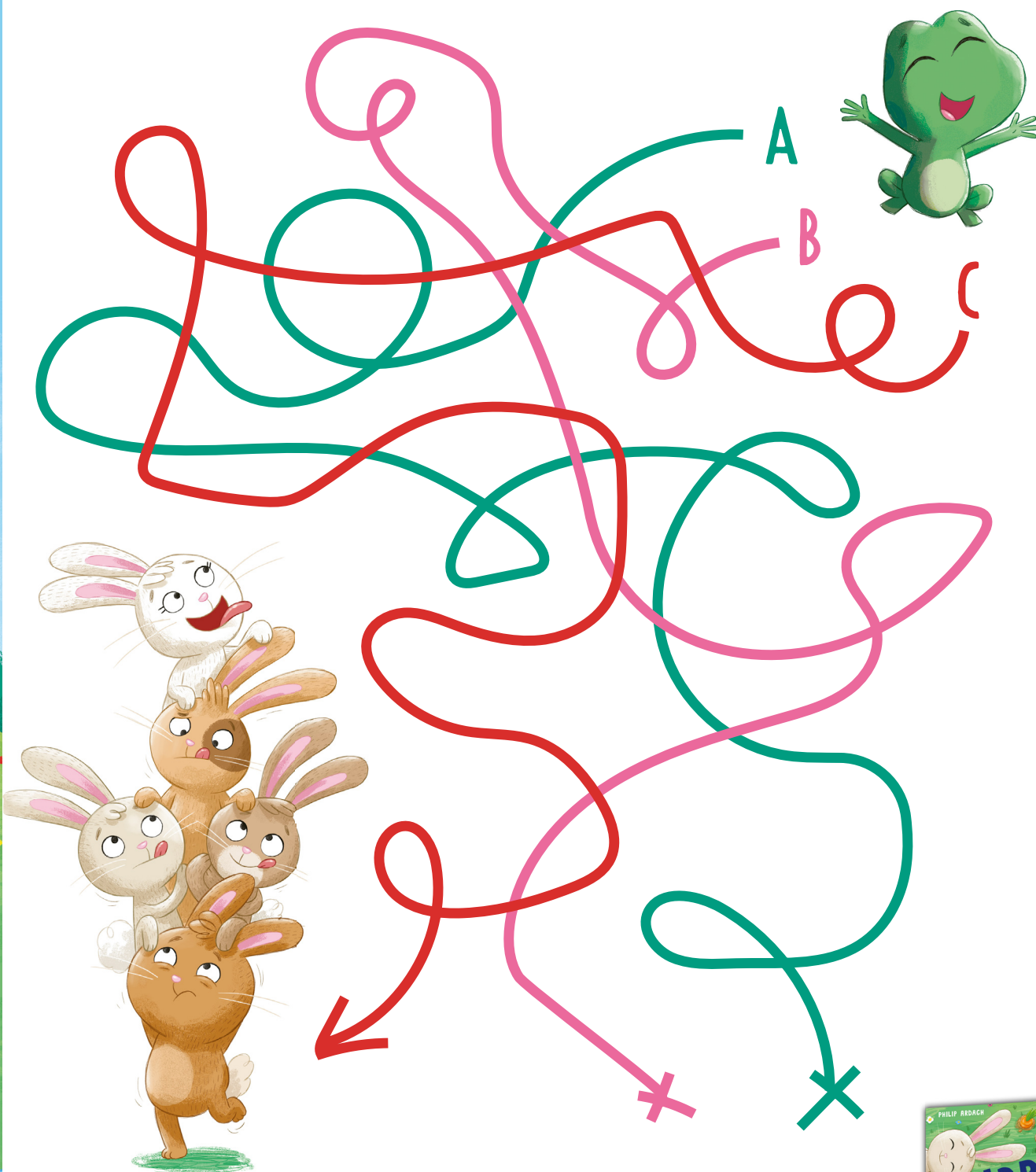
[DOWNLOAD COLOURING SHEET](#)

[DOWNLOAD FLOWER COUNTING SHEET](#)

You might also like



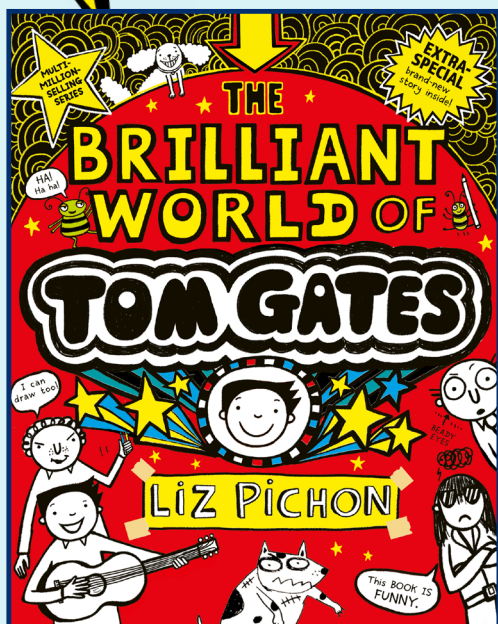
Which path should Bob
take to get him back
to his family?



celebrating
15 years of
TOM GATES

Suitable For Ages: **9-10**

TOM GATES 1: THE BRILLIANT WORLD OF TOM GATES



Tom Gates's school diary bursts with hilarious doodles, cheeky thoughts, and wildly creative excuses for late homework – from dog attacks to lightning strikes. When Tom earns five merits for his “CAMPING SUCKS” story, he’s thrilled, but keeping up the good work proves tricky, especially as he’s trying to impress Amy Porter, who sits next to him. Told in fun diary style and packed with cartoons, this laugh-out-loud book is the brilliant start of Liz Pichon’s award-winning series.

You'll enjoy this if:

- You enjoy funny school stories with cheeky characters.
- You love comics, doodles and illustrated diaries.
- You enjoy reading about awkward, relatable kids getting into scrapes.
- You love to laugh yourself silly.

[CLICK HERE TO READ EXTRACT](#)

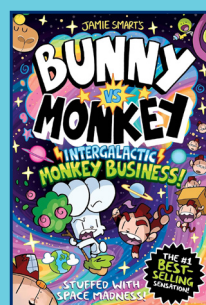
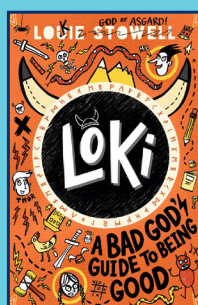
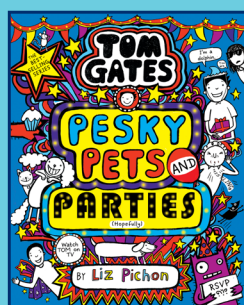
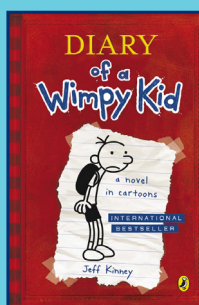
Free resource:

[WATCH A SHORT READING FROM THE BOOK](#)

SCHOLASTIC
BOOK CLUB **LIVE**

Celebrate 15 Funny Years of Tom Gates with Liz Pichon
[REGISTER NOW >](#)

You might also like



Suitable For Ages: **6-7**

BEASTIE BROS 3: THE CURSE OF CAPTAIN SLUGBEARD



Inventor snail Dribble and his speedy firefly brother Dash head to Bogbrush-on-Sea to collect seaweed for their fizzy new Bubbler machine – but stumble straight into the legend of fearsome pirate Captain Slugbeard and his cursed treasure. With the naughty Dung Heap Gang hot on their trail, the bros must use their wits, their gadgets and their teamwork to avoid bad luck, beetles and buccaneers.

You'll enjoy this if:

- You love silly, laugh-out-loud stories about quirky animals and insects.
- Pirate adventures and buried treasure get you excited.
- You're a fan of chaotic, high-energy stories with plenty of mischief and mayhem.
- You like heroes who mess up, try again, and still save the day.

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Free resources:

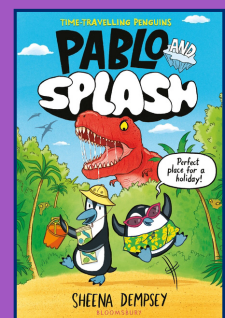
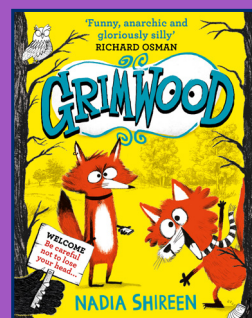
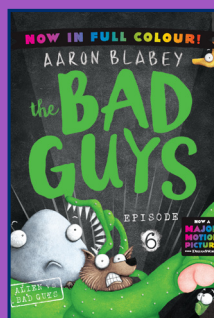
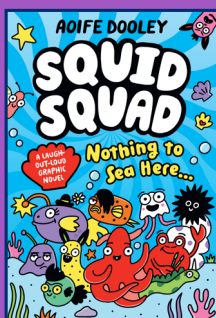
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[DOWNLOAD PIRATE NAME SHEET](#)

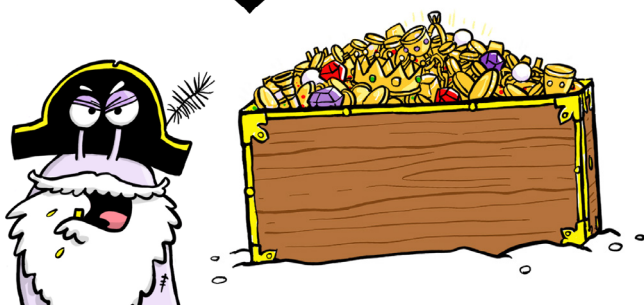
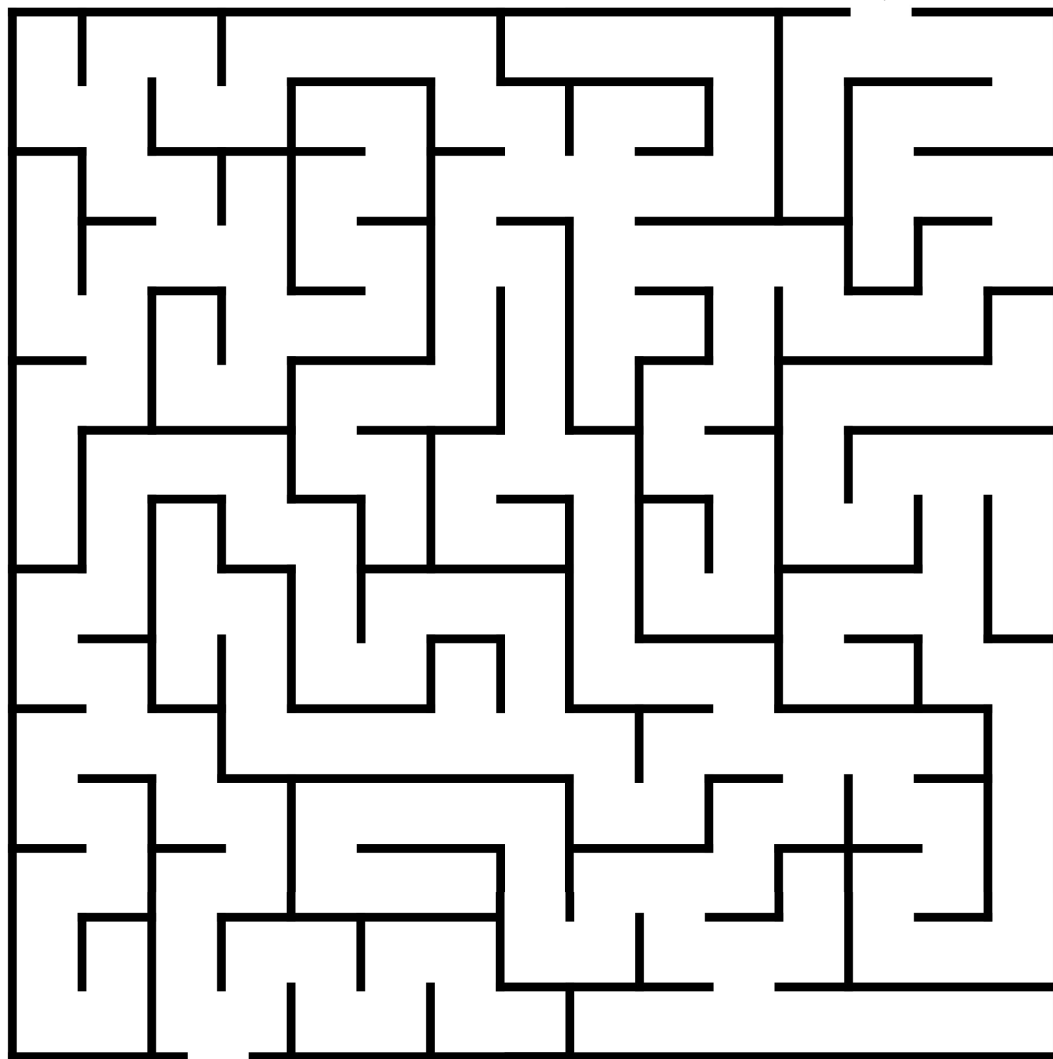
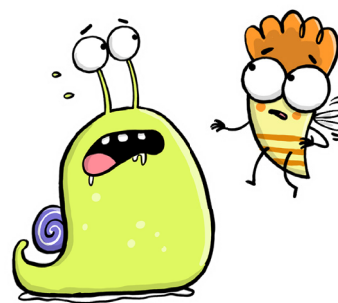
SCHOLASTIC
BOOK CLUB LIVE

A slug-tastic time with the creator of *Beastie Bros*
[WATCH NOW >](#)

You might also like



**Help Dash and Dribble
Find Captain Slugbeard's
TREASURE!**

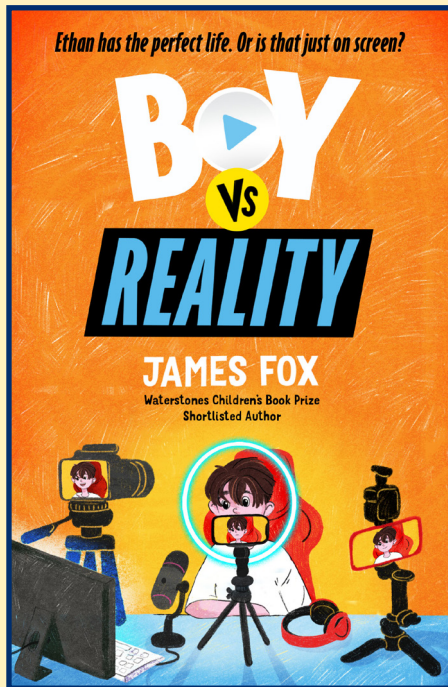


 **SCHOLASTIC**



Suitable For Ages: 9-12

BOY VS REALITY



Ethan Lacey seems to live a dream life as part of a famous family vlog watched by a million subscribers – full of pranks, perks, and picture-perfect moments. But behind the camera, things are falling apart: his parents are arguing, his brother is being mean, and the “perfect family” isn’t so perfect after all. Funny, moving and heartfelt, this story follows Ethan as he tries to help his family focus on what matters in real life, not just for the internet.

You'll enjoy this if:

- You like books that are funny and emotional.
- You enjoy relatable school and family drama with lots of heart.
- You're interested in what life can really be like behind shiny social media posts.
- You enjoy reading about big feelings, family and growing up.

[CLICK HERE TO READ EXTRACT](#)

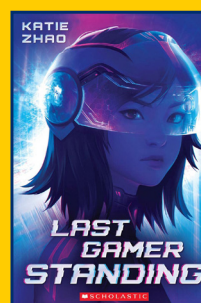
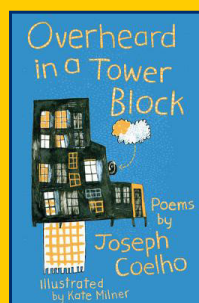
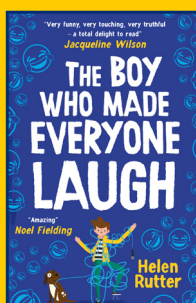
Free resource:

[DOWNLOAD SCREEN TIME CHALLENGE](#)

SCHOLASTIC
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Meet rising star of children's fiction - James Fox
[SAVE MY SPOT >](#)

You might also like



Plan a day out in the real world

Circle your choices to help you plan your day.

Morning

Go for a bike ride Tidy your room

Write in a journal Cook breakfast Plan your outfit

Watch the sunrise Read a book

Afternoon

Go to the park Go shopping Listen to music

Go to a museum Play a sport

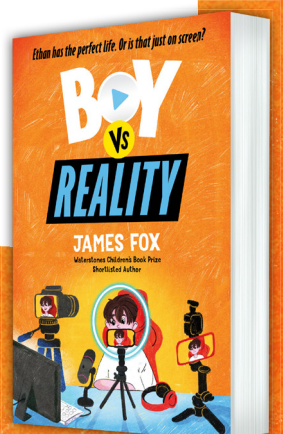
Draw a picture Do some gardening

Evening

Watch the sunset Go to the cinema Meditate

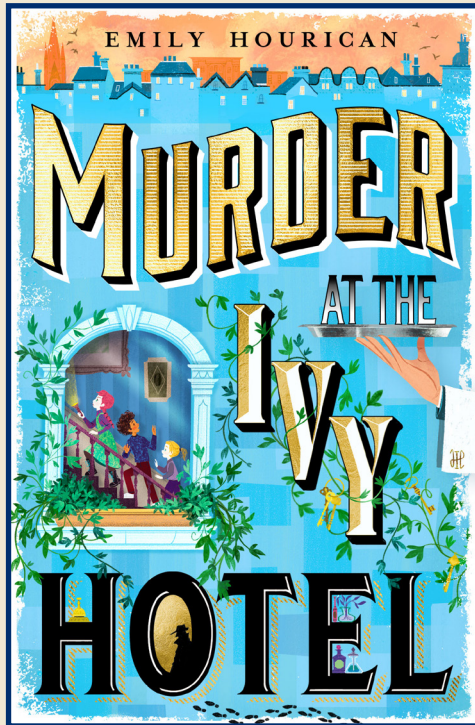
Cook a meal Write a list of goals Sing a song

Spend time with a pet Drink a herbal tea



Suitable For Ages: **9-12**

MURDER AT THE IVY HOTEL



[CLICK HERE TO READ EXTRACT](#)

Meredith and Macy live behind the scenes of the grand Ivy Hotel in Dublin, where hidden staircases, friendly staff and colourful long-term guests make every day feel like an adventure. When a mysterious guest dies just as strict new owners arrive, the sisters must use their insider knowledge of the hotel to investigate what really happened. Told from both girls' perspectives, this is a cosy, suspenseful mystery filled with clever clues, twists and heart.

You'll enjoy this if:

- You love stories with secret passages, hidden rooms and behind-the-scenes places.
- You like solving mysteries alongside clever kid detectives.
- You enjoy cosy, slightly spooky settings like old hotels or big mansions.

Free resources:

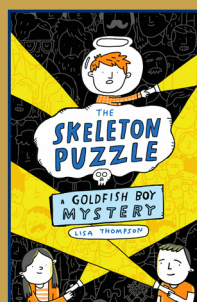
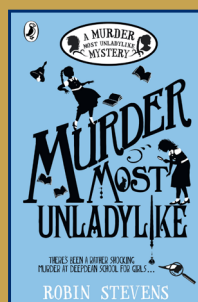
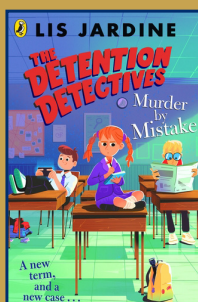
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[WATCH A SHORT READING FROM THE BOOK](#)

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Solve a mystery at the Ivy Hotel with Emily Hourican!
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You might also like



Suitable For Ages: **9-12**

MURDER AT THE IVY HOTEL

Find out what your fellow readers think about the book!



IVY HOTEL

GUEST BOOK

“The book is for anyone who loves mystery. I rate it as a definite, well-deserved 5 stars.”

- Andrea, aged 9

“The mystery was fun to solve and I liked that the characters were kids like me solving the murder.”

- Hussain

“I really enjoyed Murder At The Ivy Hotel because you never know what happens next.”

- Violet, aged 10

“A compelling story full of high stakes and intrigue.”

- Kiera

“I really enjoyed it!”

- James

More resources:

DOWNLOAD
CHARACTER
CARDS

WATCH VIDEO ON
HOW TO WRITE A
MYSTERY BOOK

TAKE QUIZ



SOLVE THE RIDDLES

On duty day or night,
I help hide guests away.
I say "shh" without a
sound and keep the
knocks at bay.

What am I? _____

A: A 'Do Not Disturb' sign

I move from place to place
with clothes tucked neat inside.
Rolling along beside you
as you travel far and wide.

What am I? _____

A: A suitcase

FIND THE HIDDEN CLUES

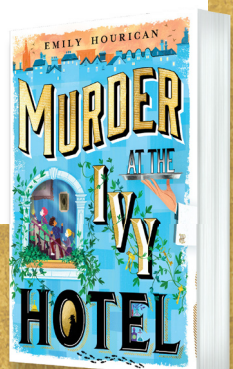
G E O I P E R X K T H O H A C
M R J I O L U N H X M M K I P
I M A X F O X G L O V E S E B
D H F P D F O P C P H S M N I
U A T R E A F O R T O B M V K
T L U K N F N N T B G H K E D
A K J F Z Z R D S U G F R L X
Y F A D V G W U M F H G U O C
J E O M G I R U I O Z P Q P A
I H U D N C G L Z T G F B E C

FOXGLOVE

GRAPEFRUIT

POND

ENVELOPE



Help your child feel **CONFIDENT** and **READY** for **SCHOOL**

Starting school is a big milestone. Alongside uniforms and lunchboxes, it's just as important that children feel secure, capable and confident.

School readiness isn't just about letters and numbers, it's about independence, routines and emotional wellbeing. With the right books to support learning, you can help your child step into school feeling ready and prepared.



LEARNING INDEPENDENCE

Stories are a brilliant way to explore 'doing it myself.'

I Can Do It Myself! celebrates children's determination to master new skills and shows that learning takes practice.

Let's Get Ready turns morning routines into a fun adventure, helping school days start calmer and happier.

RECOGNISING THEIR OWN NAME & EARLY WRITING

Being able to spot their name is a key confidence boost.

Learn with Peppa: Pen Control is a wipe-clean activity book that helps children practice early pencil skills through fun tracing activities they can repeat again and again.



Help your child feel **CONFIDENT** and **READY** for **SCHOOL**

EMOTIONAL LITERACY: TALKING ABOUT FEELINGS

Starting school can bring big emotions like excitement, nerves, curiosity and sometimes worry. Talking openly about feelings helps children feel understood and less alone.

HELPFUL BOOKS FOR EMOTIONAL SUPPORT:

Sammy Feels Shy

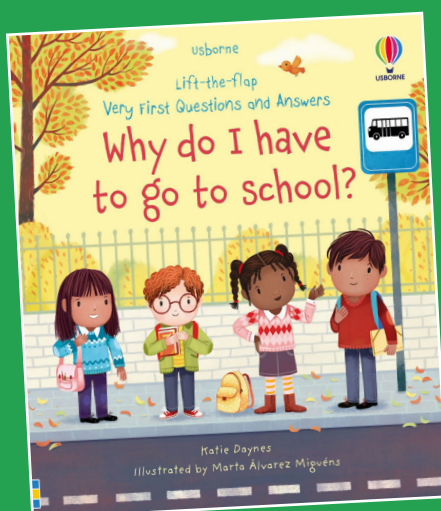
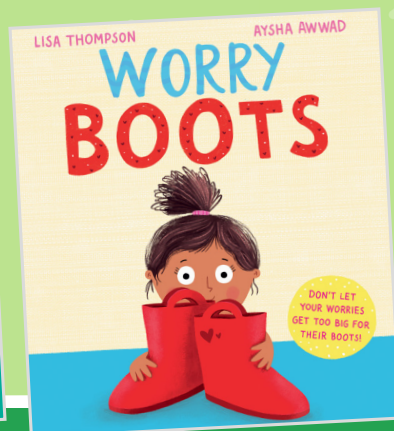
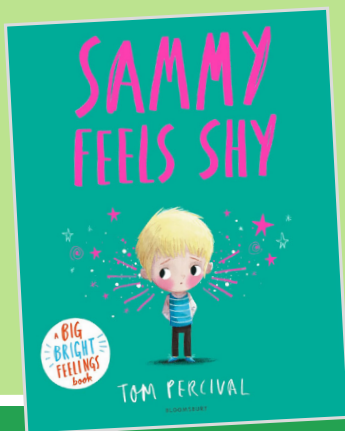
A relatable tale for children who feel nervous in new situations, showing that shyness is normal and manageable.

Worry Boots

A warm story that helps children understand that worries can be shared, and that grown-ups will listen and help.

Tilda Tries Again

A beautiful story about perseverance, self-belief and the power of 'having another go.'



VERY FIRST QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS: **WHY DO I HAVE TO GO TO SCHOOL?**

Does your child have questions about school?

This gentle and reassuring book explains school in a clear and child-friendly way, perfect for answering those tricky 'why?' questions.



READING FUN BEYOND THE PAGES

Our Kids' Club is packed with activities and videos that bring your pupils' favourite books to life, keeping the joy of reading flowing long after the pages.

www.shop.scholastic.ie/clubs/kids



SCHOLASTIC

BOOK CLUB **LIVE**

CELEBRATE READING WITH YOUR FAVOURITE AUTHORS AND ILLUSTRATORS!

Join us for our programme of virtual events for schools. Featuring writing workshops, drawalongs and more, there are regular events running for all ages throughout the school term.

Each event is completely free to attend, and if you can't join us at the advertised time, a recording will be available afterwards for registered attendees.

[Browse all upcoming events](#)



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BOOK EVENTS**

▶ **FOR SCHOOLS**



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**SIGN UP
HERE**



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