

JUNE
2026

SCHOLASTIC

BOOK CLUB

GO
ALL
IN.

National
Year of
Reading
2026

THE READING EDIT

YOUR FREE
INTERACTIVE
MONTHLY
MAGAZINE

Meet
BONE HEAD

The most
bone-shakingly
funny book you'll
read this year!



We chat to
Jamie Gregory – creator of *Bone Head*
about chaos in the underworld – myths, mayhem
and 3 headed-dogs. What could possibly go wrong?

MORE
INSIDE ↓

WHAT'S INSIDE

Includes links
to extracts,
author videos,
activities and
more!

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Q&A WITH JAMIE GREGORY

If you only had 10 seconds to convince someone to read *Bone Head: Guardian of the Underworld*, what would you say?

This book is the funny, chaotic diary of Demise aka Bone Head – a skeleton guard who works on the gates to Hades’ fortress – but the diary has been found by his supervisor, Mort, and he has a lot of snarky things he’d like to say. If you enjoy books like *Loki* and *Bunny vs Monkey*, you’ll enjoy this.



“Tell them it’s about MY rise to FAME and GLORY!”



If your books had a “warning label,” what would it say? (E.g., May cause uncontrollable laughter)

Warning: Contains molten goo vomiting creatures, dragons and a very large three-headed dog.

When you’re drawing a character who is literally made of bones, how do you make them feel alive, expressive, and possibly even a bit mischievous?

This is a good question and is actually one of the main reasons the skellies in *Bone Head* have such large eyes and eyebrows. They don’t have moving mouths, which would normally limit how much expression you can get out of them. By playing around with pupil sizes, their eyelids and eyebrows, they’re able to show a lot of emotion.

How many doodles does it take before one becomes a real character and do any of your doodles ever refuse to behave?

I spend a lot of time on doodles before I settle on a character. The number of doodles varies though.

The golems went through quite a long process because at first I wanted them to be tall and very cool looking, but as the story developed the boulder shape made more sense.

The skellies are quite simple to do, and I play around with combinations of head shapes and eyes until they look right.

Cerberus was hard to get right, and he refused to behave for a long time. I wanted him to be simple to draw. Partly because I knew I’d have to draw his head three times in any picture he’s in, and partly

because I hoped kids would want to draw him and I didn’t want that to feel too complicated.



“What child would want to draw that three-headed abomination?!”



Illustrations from *Bone Head: Guardian of the Underworld* © Jamie Gregory.

What inspired you to create *Bone Head: Guardian of the Underworld* and what was your favourite part of bringing this story to life?

I was inspired by a few things. Firstly, I doodled the main character Demise/Bone Head on a whim, and I thought he was cool and would appeal to kids. I spent a long time figuring out what to do with the character. Secondly, I really wanted as many kids as possible to feel like this book was for them so I created it with lots of visual appeal and two distinct character voices.



Did you ever read a book that made you laugh so much you couldn't stop and did that inspire you to make funny books too?

As a kid, *George's Marvelous Medicine* made me laugh out loud as the granny grew through the ceiling. More recently, I love Neil Cameron's brand of humour in *Donut Squad* as it's very snappy and appeals to both kids and adults. I think that books that make us smile and laugh really stay with us and that did inspire to me to write funny books.

Why do you think illustrated books and manga can be such a brilliant way to get people excited about reading?

Every day we're surrounded by visuals that are trying to appeal to us. This is why books have covers – because appealing pictures make us want to pick things up. To many people, a page of black and white text can feel a little daunting, so by adding illustrations we can make reading feel more enticing, exciting and make you want to pick that book up and read it.

Do you have any advice or tips for kids who love to draw or tell stories, and might like to become an author or illustrator one day, too?

For aspiring illustrators, the first thing is to keep practising. Draw for the love of it and try not to be a perfectionist. I used to be so careful with every line until I realised those little mistakes gave my drawings more personality. Also never stop creating your own characters. One day you might draw the next *Dog Man*.

For storytelling, my personal approach is to create characters and then think of the world that they would inhabit. Once those boundaries are set, it becomes far easier to think of scenarios that would occur. Even better, if you can think of a few characters and personalities within that world. You might start to see links or points of tension between them that you can play around with.

"My mistakes give me personality!"



"No, he said mistakes give drawings personality. Your mistakes just make you a BONE HEAD!"

READ *Bone Head: Guardian of the Underworld!*

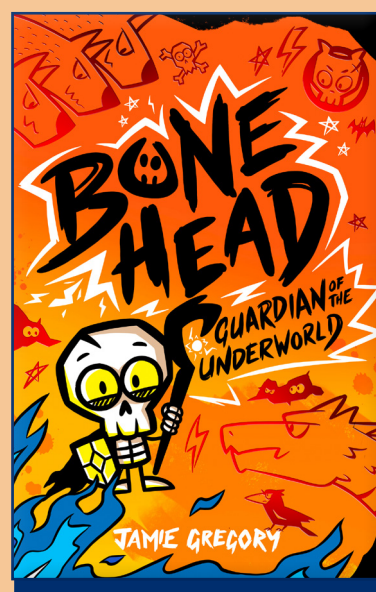
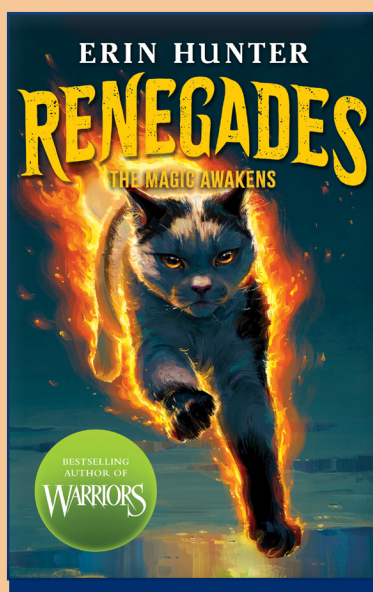
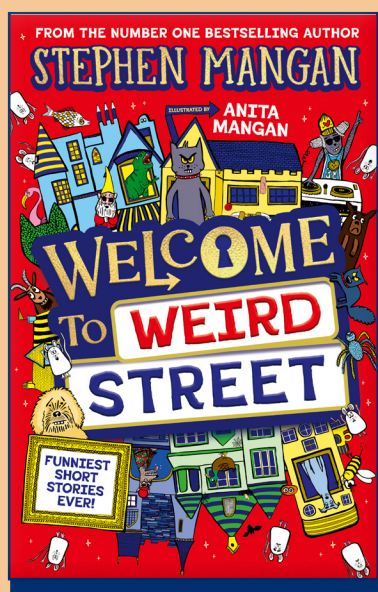
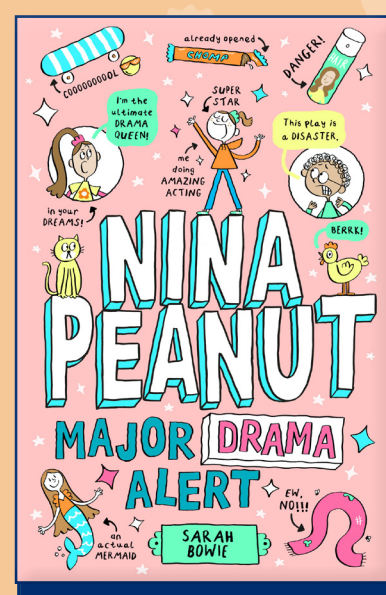
Scan the QR code to read an extract from the book!



Illustrations from *Bone Head: Guardian of the Underworld* © Jamie Gregory.

JUNE TOP PICKS

Select the covers below to learn more



Suitable For Ages: 3-5

THE BEST DOG EVER



Max wishes he was A DIFFERENT DOG. His fur isn't FLUFFY enough to win Best In Show. His bark isn't LOUD enough to scare away danger. He doesn't sit . . . or heel . . . or fetch . . . or come back when you call, either. But Max's owner thinks he's PERFECT! Can Max learn that he's perfect, too?

You'll enjoy this if:

- You love cute animal stories with big feelings
- Funny, relatable moments about pets make you smile
- You enjoy heartwarming stories about being yourself

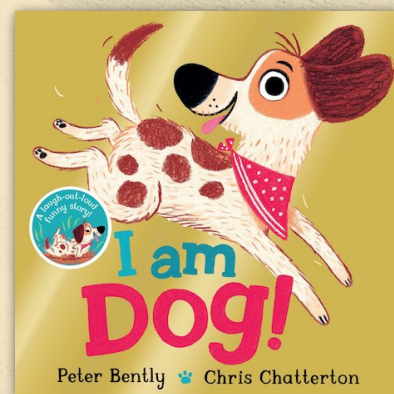
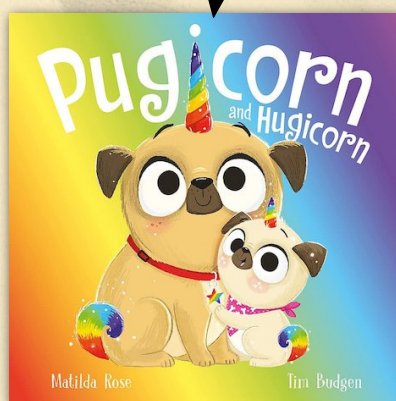
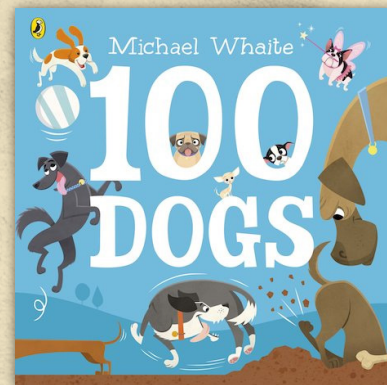
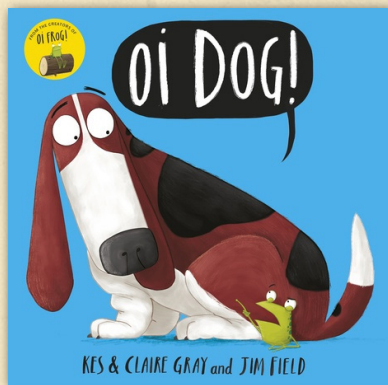
[CLICK HERE TO READ EXTRACT](#)

Free resource:

[DOWNLOAD ACTIVITY SHEETS](#)

WHAT TO READ NEXT

Looking for more cute animal stories with
BIG FEELINGS?



Suitable For Ages: 6+

GOAL SQUAD



[CLICK HERE TO READ EXTRACT](#)

Eight-year-old Leo dreams of playing Premier League football. As TIGERS' star striker, he's got the skills - but not the luck. When their season opener goes wrong, an ankle injury sidelines Leo just when his team needs him most. Can Leo recover before it's too late? Will TIGERS avoid the drop? And is that a talent scout watching from the stands...?

You'll enjoy this if:

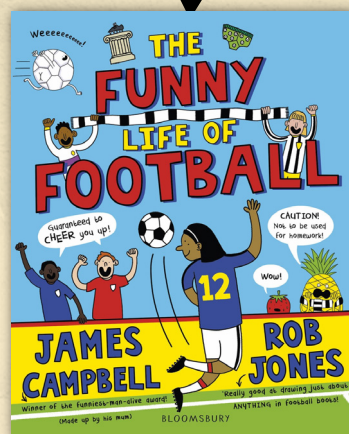
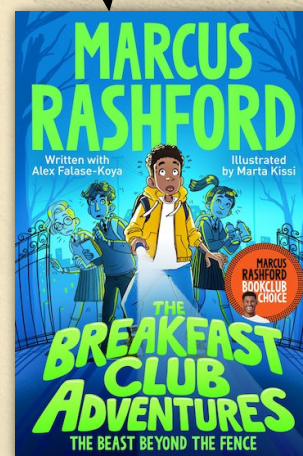
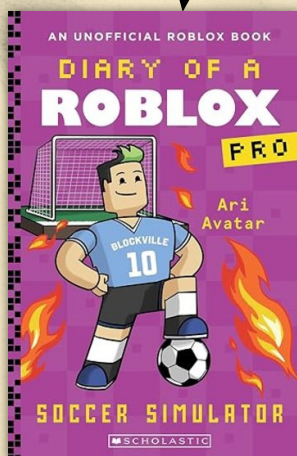
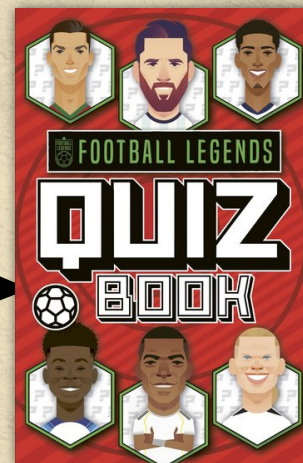
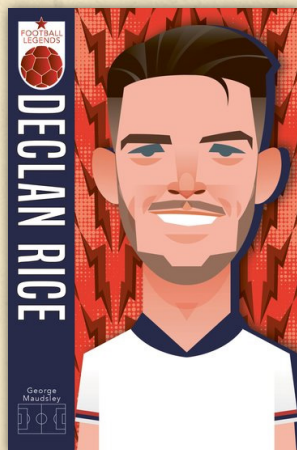
- You're football-mad and dream of scoring the winning goal
- Team spirit, big matches, and underdog stories get you excited
- You like stories about overcoming setbacks and never giving up
- You enjoy fast-paced sports action with a bit of drama off the pitch

SCHOLASTIC
BOOK CLUB LIVE

Celebrate the World Cup with author Scott Allen.
[SIGN UP NOW >](#)

WHAT TO READ NEXT

Want to more read more books with
FAST-PACED sports action?



Scott Allen, football fanatic and author of *Goal Squad: Win the Cup*, is here to help you find out which position YOU should play on the field.

1. You are in a shop buying a new pair of boots. Which ones do you choose?

- A) Ones with lots of flexibility, with plenty of bounce and spring. You'll want to match the colour of the boots with your kit
- B) Solid, tough, black boots. No fuss and nonsense
- C) Ones with lots of grip and control. Lightweight and perfect for lots of running. If you're creative, go for colour, but for hardworking types, stick to black
- D) Fast, sharp boots that make you feel confident, the brighter the colour, the better

2. You are playing football on a freezing cold day. There's snow on the pitch and the ground is rock hard. What do you wear for the match?

- A) A thick pair of tracksuit bottoms. You want to protect your knees
- B) A short sleeve top. You aren't worried about the cold
- C) A long sleeve top and maybe an extra pair of socks. Something to keep you warm without it being too much
- D) Leggings, gloves and lots of layers

3. How do you warm-up for a match?

- A) Stopping shots
- B) Doing headers
- C) Passing and running
- D) Shooting at the goal



4. Which footballer traits fit your personality?

- A) Brave, great reflexes and good at concentrating
- B) Fearless, tough, great awareness and a good talker
- C) Loads of energy, high work rate and quick at decision making
- D) Fast and confident, with great instincts and doesn't panic under pressure

5. What is your go-to move?

- A) The side winder
- B) A keepie uppie
- C) The Cruyff turn
- D) A step over

6. It's the last minute of the match and your team needs a goal. You win a corner. What do you do?

- A) Stand in the area and get in the way of everyone
- B) Get into a position where you can head the ball at goal
- C) Take the corner
- D) Buzz around a lot and make the defenders follow you

Answers:

Mostly As - You are a goalkeeper. Welcome to the Goalkeepers Union.

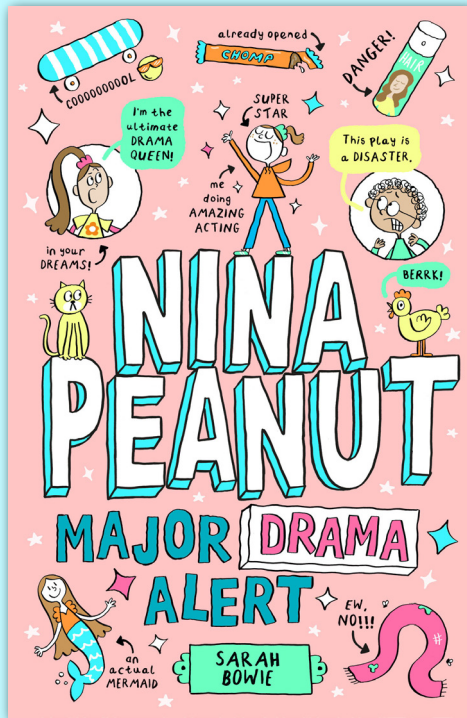
Mostly Bs - You are a defender. Be prepared to run through a brick wall for the team.

Mostly Cs - You are a midfielder. Lots of running, tackling and passing ahead.

Mostly Ds - You are a striker. Get ready for the glory and praise, but don't miss.

Suitable For Ages: 9+

NINA PEANUT: MAJOR DRAMA ALERT



[CLICK HERE TO
READ EXTRACT](#)

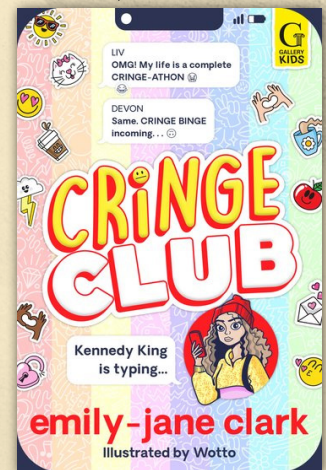
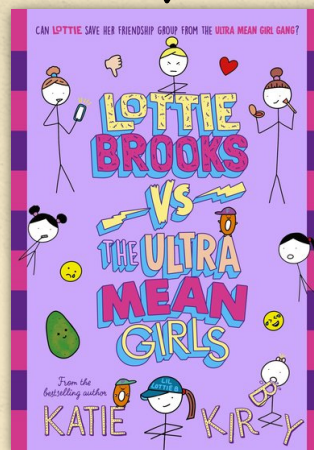
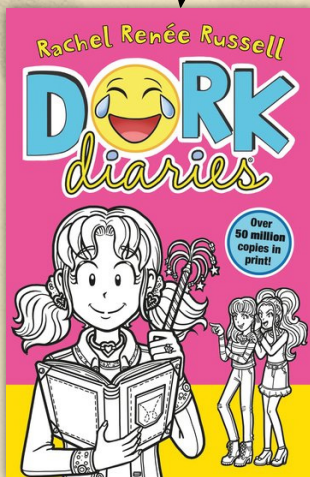
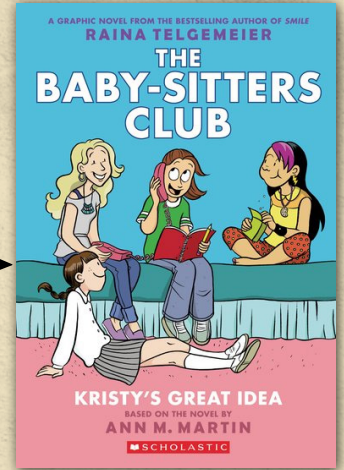
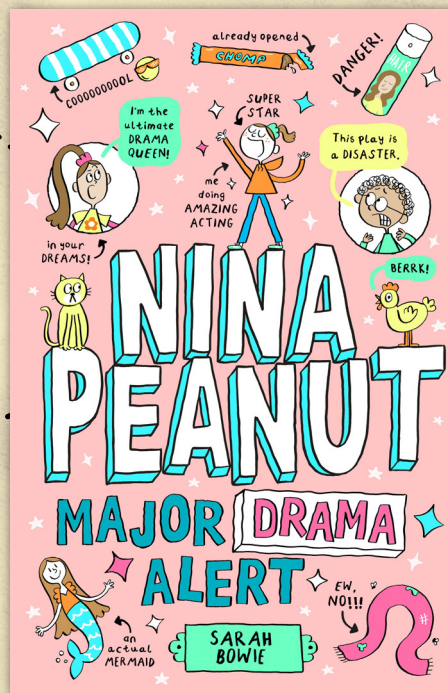
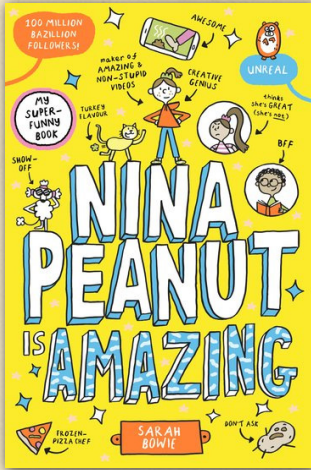
Nina Peanut is back with more hilarious chaos as she's forced to show Ethan—the boy who once humiliated her – around town... only to realise he's suddenly kind of cool. When a school play of Romeo and Juliet sparks a fierce rivalry with her arch-enemy Megan, Nina is determined to land the starring role and prove she's the ultimate drama queen. Packed with humour, friendship drama, and big dreams, it's a bright and funny story full of personality.

You'll enjoy this if:

- You love funny, dramatic characters who say exactly what they think
- School stories with rivalries, crushes, and big performances excite you
- You enjoy diary-style books like *Wimpy Kid* or *Dork Diaries*
- You like colourful illustrations and lots of laugh-out-loud moments

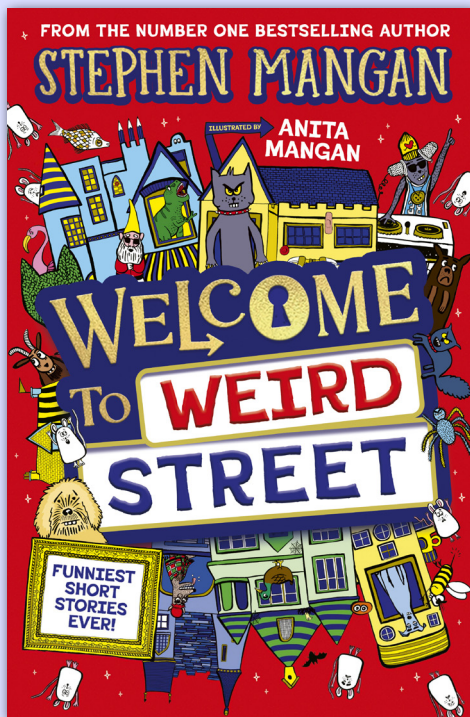
WHAT TO READ NEXT

Couldn't get enough of *Nina Peanut: Major Drama Alert?* You'll love these!



Suitable For Ages: 9+

WELCOME TO WEIRD STREET



[CLICK HERE TO READ EXTRACT](#)

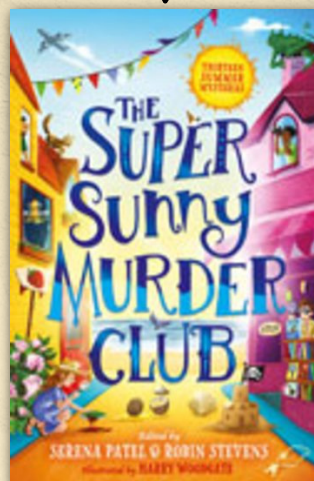
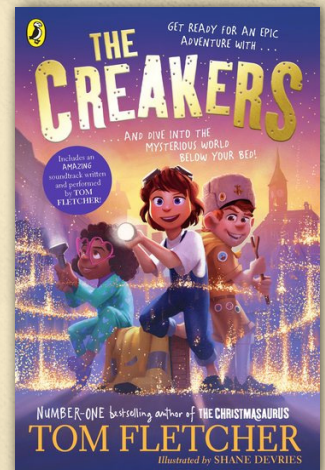
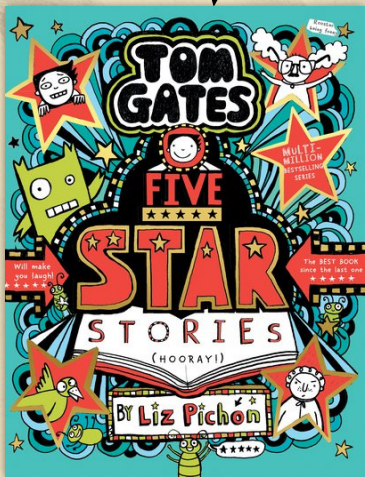
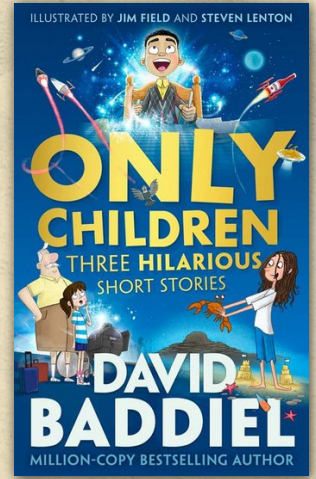
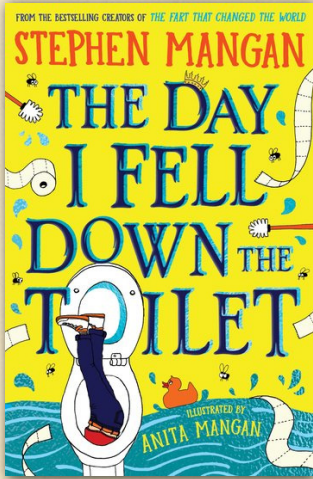
When Sarah moves to a seemingly ordinary street, she quickly discovers it's anything but normal. As she searches for a lost cat's owner, she uncovers a series of strange and hilarious surprises behind every door – from haunted paintings to wild inventions. This collection of short stories is packed with quirky characters and brilliantly bizarre adventures. A collection of short stories by comedy genius Stephen Mangan, set on an EXTRA-ordinary street.

You'll enjoy this if:

- You enjoy short, bite-sized stories you can dip in and out of
- Weird, wacky ideas and unexpected twists make you laugh
- You like exploring strange places full of surprises
- You enjoy silly humour mixed with a little bit of spooky fun

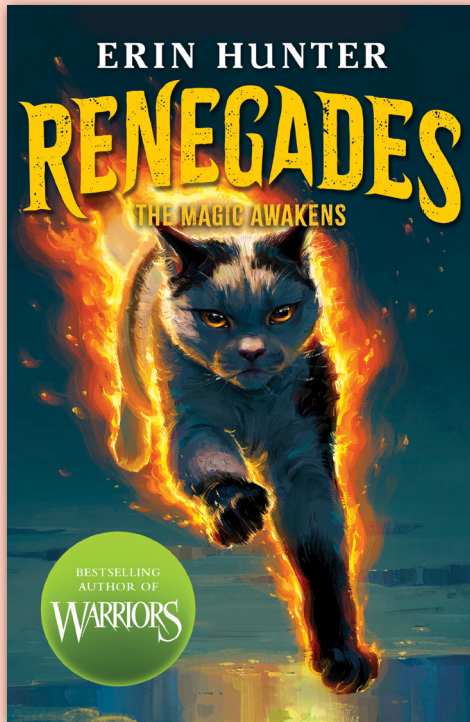
WHAT TO READ NEXT

Searching for more funny
SHORT STORIES you can dip in and out from?



Suitable For Ages: 9+

RENEGADES: THE MAGIC AWAKENS



[CLICK HERE TO
READ EXTRACT](#)

Orphaned sisters Willow and Luna struggle to survive in the city—until a fire forces them into a hidden world of magical animals and dangerous secrets. While Luna embraces her growing powers, Willow resists, leading them down very different paths as humans threaten to control the magic around them. It's an action-packed, emotional story about sisterhood, destiny, and finding where you belong.

You'll enjoy this if:

- You love animal adventures with strong, brave characters
- Magic, secret worlds, and epic battles sound exciting
- Stories about siblings and tough choices interest you
- You enjoyed *Warriors* or other fantasy series

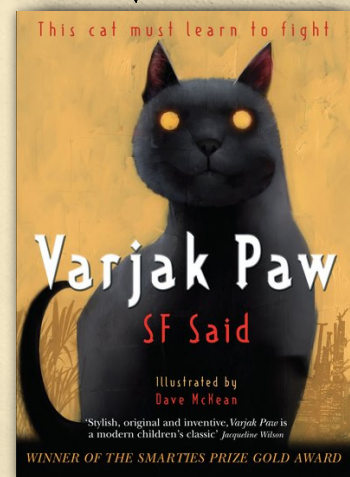
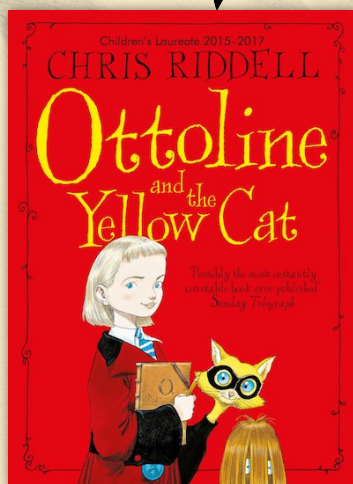
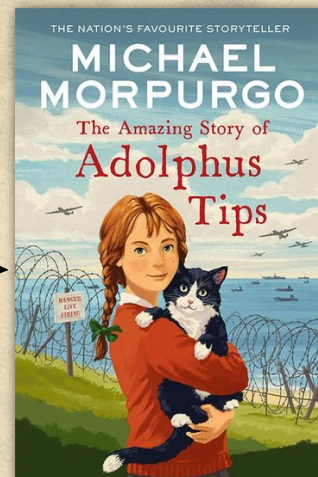
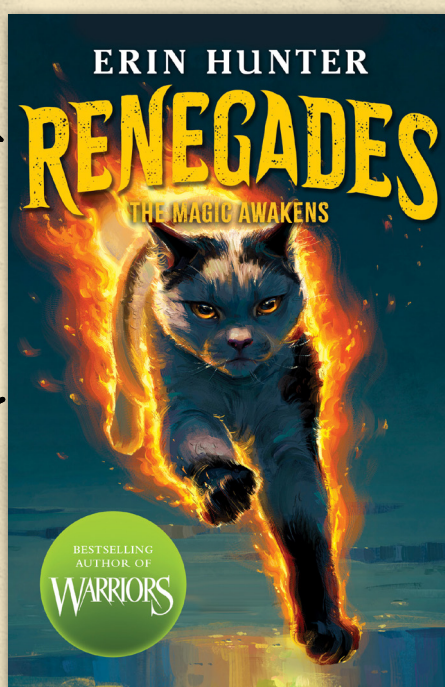
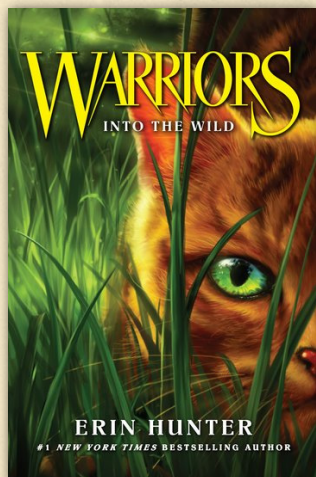
Free resource:

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CHARACTER
CARDS](#)

[READ
AUTHOR
Q&A](#)

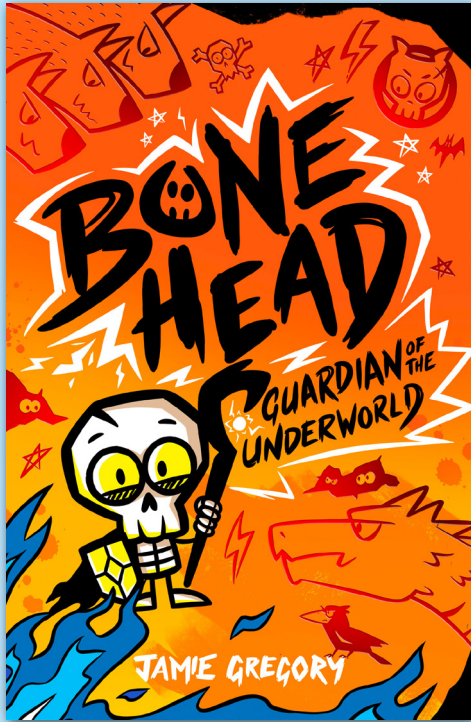
WHAT TO READ NEXT

Discover more animal adventures with
STRONG and **BRAVE** characters



Suitable For Ages: 9+

BONE HEAD: GUARDIAN OF THE UNDERWORLD



[CLICK HERE TO READ EXTRACT](#)

Demise (aka Bone Head) is a skeleton guardian of the underworld who thinks he's the best at his job—unfortunately, he's also a disaster. After a spectacular failure, he's stuck babysitting Cerberus, the terrifying three-headed dog, in a mission that quickly spirals into chaos. Told in a funny, illustrated diary style, it's a fast-paced, joke-filled adventure set in a wild mythological world.

You'll enjoy this if:

- You love silly, chaotic humour and lots of action
- Mythology with a funny twist sounds cool
- You enjoy illustrated books with diary-style storytelling
- Mischievous characters getting into trouble make you laugh

Free resource:

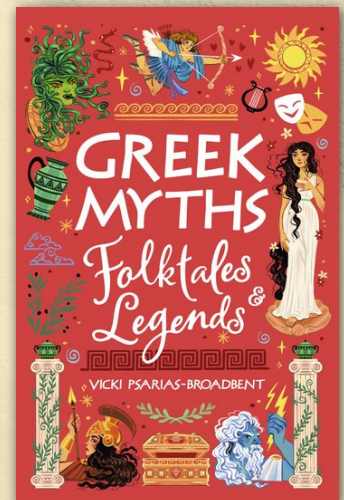
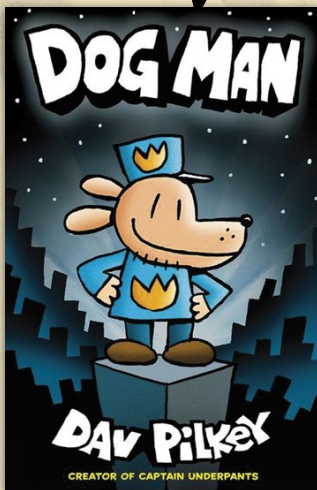
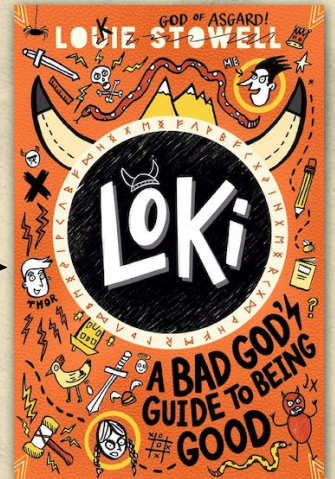
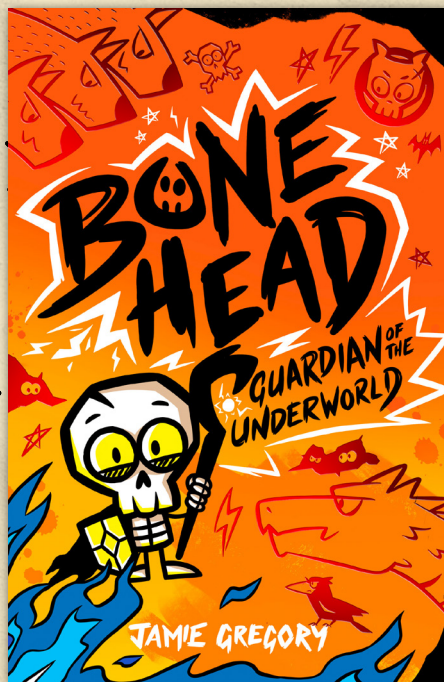
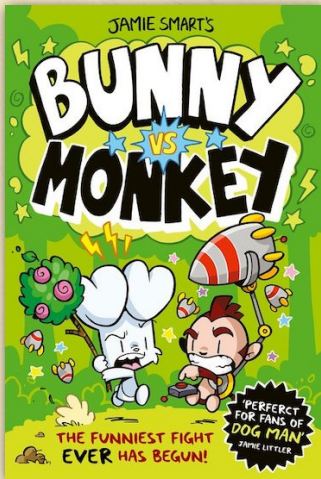
[DOWNLOAD
ACTIVITY
SHEET](#)

SCHOLASTIC
**BOOK
CLUB** LIVE

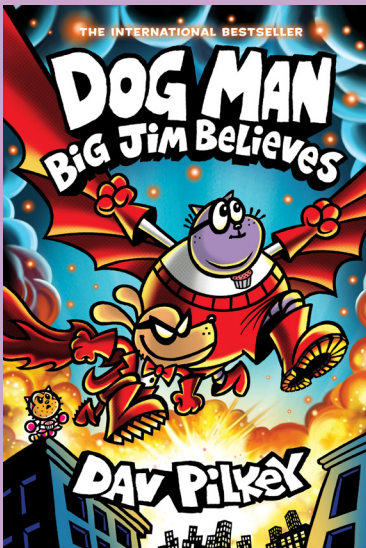
World Exclusive: Introducing *Bone Head*, a new illustrated series by Jamie Gregory
[WATCH NOW >](#)

WHAT TO READ NEXT

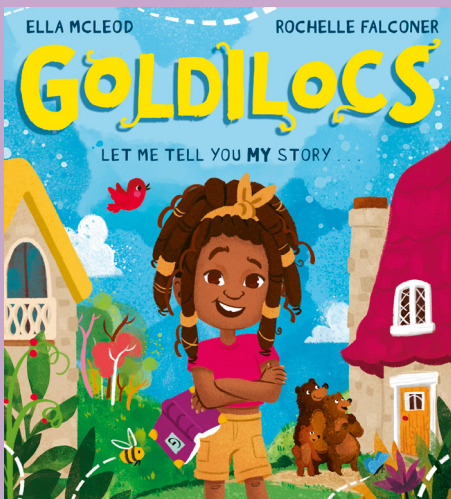
Like the sound of *Bone Head*? We think you'll LOVE these too!



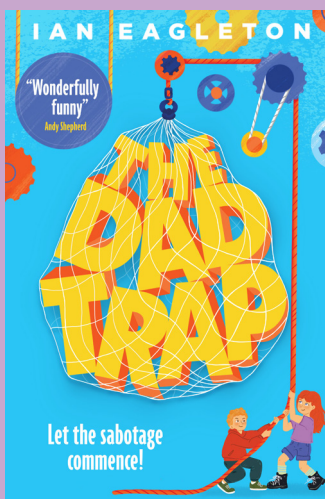
MATCH THE BOOK COVER WITH THE BLURB



This playful, rhyming picture book puts a fresh, empowering spin on classic fairy tales. A girl discovers she doesn't want to be a witch, a queen, or a princess as the rules suggest. With help from unexpected friends, she learns that the best thing she can be is herself.

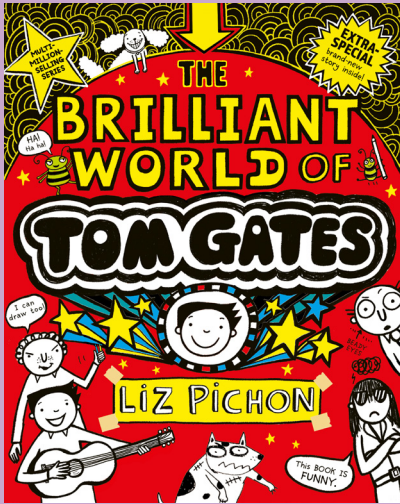


A boy and a girl who are instant enemies are horrified to find out their dads are dating each other – and are forced to work together to try to split them up!

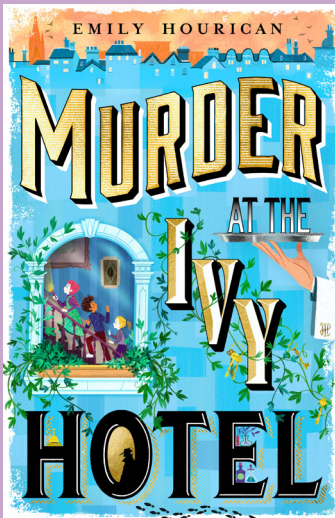


The celebration comes to a halt for our heroes, when the mischievous Space Cuties From Space return. Our caped crusaders along with Mecha Molly discover that the city has changed, and nothing is how it should be. Can positivity and innocence help our heroes? Will they have the courage to trust each other and save the day? How does the past help shape the future? And who is the chosen one?

MATCH THE BOOK COVER WITH THE BLURB



When a mysterious guest dies just as strict new owners arrive, Meredith and Macy must use their insider knowledge of the hotel to investigate what really happened.



When freezing weather sends the ladybirds fluttering indoors, a girl uses her magic magnifying glass to hear their teeny-tiny troubles and springs into action. With her best friend Stan by her side, can she create the perfect bug hotel and save the day once again?



Full of his doodles, cartoons and thoughts, as well as comments from a long-suffering teacher, Mr Fullerton. After gaining five merits for his 'CAMPING SUCKS' holiday story, his work starts to go downhill - which is a pity, as he's desperate to impress Amy Porter, who sits next to him...

WIN a Graphic Novel Book Box for your school!

CREATE YOUR OWN CHARACTER
INSPIRED BY BONE HEAD!



Not sure where to begin? Follow Jamie Gregory's fantastic draw-along through the link below and then **make it your own**. You could change the head shape, experiment with different eyes and expressions, and even give your character a fun name. Will yours be spooky, silly, heroic or totally weird? **The choice is yours!**



Enter before
20th JUNE!

How to enter:

- Entries must be emailed by a teacher or school representative (not individual pupils) to: Funstuff@scholastic.co.uk. Your teacher should include their name and email address as the main contact. Entries should include:
 - First Name
 - Age or School Year
 - School Name
- Unlimited entries per class (the more, the merrier!)
- Only one winning school will be chosen
- By entering, the school confirms we have their consent to use the winning artwork in our marketing if selected
- **Deadline:** 20th June 2026

GOOD LUCK AND HAVE FUN CREATING!

Terms and conditions apply.

Supporting the BIG MOVE to SECONDARY SCHOOL

Starting secondary school is a big step that can come with a mix of excitement, nerves and big questions. New routines. New friendships. New expectations. But with the right support in place, we can make their transition smoother.

Books have the power to reassure, inspire and equip children with the confidence they need to step into this next chapter feeling ready.

Here are the perfect reads to help the transition:

MUST-READS FOR A CONFIDENT START:

Moving Up

A reassuring, practical guide that answers the big questions about secondary school life and helps children feel prepared, calm and excited for what's ahead.

Fearless

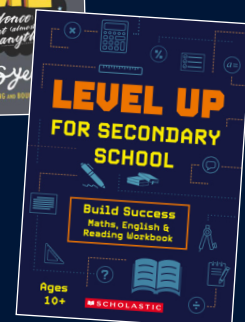
An empowering read packed with encouragement and strategies to face new challenges with courage. Perfect for easing worries and building bravery.

You Are Awesome

A powerful confidence boost in book form. Full of humour and growth mindset thinking to help children believe in themselves from day one.

Level Up For Secondary School

Designed for children aged 10 to 12 who want to feel ready, prepared and positive about starting secondary school. Packed with engaging activities, it helps learners secure key Year 6 skills and take the next step towards Year 7 success.



SCHOLASTIC BOOK CLUB
The No-Panic Parent's Checklist for STARTING SECONDARY SCHOOL

Starting secondary school is a big step, for parents and children alike. This checklist is here to help you feel prepared, without the overwhelm.

Practise the journey together Whether it's walking or public transport, a dry run makes it feel familiar and safe.	Hedge them towards independence Small things like organising their own bag or managing their time build confidence gradually.
Sort the uniform and kit early Go through the school's list together and buy supplies ahead of time to avoid last-minute stress.	Normalise the nerves Remind them (and yourself) that feeling anxious about a big change is completely normal.
Label everything To avoid any hassle with lost property!	Get set up on the school portal So you're in the loop on attendance, homework and messages.
Build a simple evening routine Big packed the night before, a consistent bedtime, and a little screen-free wind-down time goes a long way.	Look over the timetable together Talk through what each day will look like and keep a photo of it handy in case it gets lost.
Talk about who to turn to at school Teachers, form tutors, pastoral staff. Knowing there's support available can be really reassuring.	Keep an eye on how they're doing Changes in mood, energy, or behaviour during the first few weeks are worth noticing and gently talking through.

RECOMMENDED READS
Here are some books well recommended to make the transition to secondary school even smoother.

Go Big: The Secondary School Survival Guide
The bestselling secondary school handbook, from the nation's favourite head teacher, Sir Burnham.

Moving Up
The skills to have for kids transitioning from primary to secondary school.

Level Up for Secondary School
Designed for children aged 10-12 who want to feel ready, prepared and positive about starting secondary school.

Our FREE **'No-Panic Starting Secondary School Checklist'** is designed to support children through the transition with practical, reassuring advice, including:

- Practising the journey to school
- Building routines and organisation
- Supporting confidence and wellbeing
- Recommended books and resources
- Simple tips to help your child walk into Year 7 feeling calm, capable, and prepared.

DOWNLOAD CHECKLIST

BOOK CLUB

LIVE

SUMMER READING WEEK

PRIMARY

22ND - 26TH JUNE



MONDAY 22nd JUNE

11.00AM | AGES 2+
The Sun Thief



SIGN-UP NOW

2:00PM | AGES 9+
Renegades:
The Magic Awakens



SIGN-UP NOW

11.00AM | AGES 9+
Bone Head



SIGN-UP NOW

11.00AM | AGES 2+
I Am a Super Girl



SIGN-UP NOW

2:00PM | AGES 5+
Squid Squad:
Shrimply the Best



SIGN-UP NOW

WEDNESDAY 24th JUNE

11.00AM | AGES 8+
The Game Changers



SIGN-UP NOW

2.00PM | AGES 8+
Nina Peanut:
Major Dama Alert



SIGN-UP NOW

10:00AM | AGES 9+
Welcome to Weird Street



SIGN-UP NOW

11:00 AM | AGES 7+
Galaxy Runners



SIGN-UP NOW

2:00 PM | AGES 10+
Zero Override



SIGN-UP NOW

FRIDAY 26th JUNE

11:00 AM | AGES 8+
Hercules VS
the Minotaur



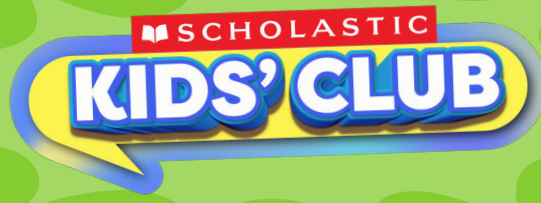
SIGN-UP NOW

2:00 PM | AGES 9+
Murder at the Ivy Hotel



SIGN-UP NOW





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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](#)



**FREE VIRTUAL
BOOK EVENTS**

FOR SCHOOLS



Have suggestions?

We'd love to hear them! Tell us what you'd like to see in upcoming issues, your ideas can help us keep this magazine fun, fresh and relevant for every reader.

[CONTACT US](#)



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