

## WAKEFIELD'S FINEST

Welcome to the latest edition of Wakefield's Finest. This is Wakefield's Schools Library Service's choice of recommended books published in 2007. We have tried to give you a balanced list with something for every age and ability and a range of themes and genres. If you are interested in reviewing new books and would like to involve your pupils in this, please contact us at SLS to find out how you can participate.

### UNDER 7'S

Andreae, Giles **More Pants** Picture Corgi £5.99  
9780552554954

Even more hilarious underwear in this sequel to the very popular "Pants". Bold, colourful pictures of pants in different shapes and sizes accompany the very funny rhyming text which children love. The book ends with an invitation to make up some of your own.

Great fun!

Bauer, Marion Dane **A Mummy for Owen** Simon and Schuster £6.99 9781847380951

Based on a true story, when Owen, a baby hippo, is orphaned by the Tsunami, he chooses Mzee, a giant male tortoise to look after him.

A heart-warming story about a special friendship resulting from a tragic event. Used carefully, this book will promote discussion about loss, but also a hope for the future.

Bingham, Janet **My Little Star** Scholastic £10.99  
9781407103112

Inquisitive little fox is walking in the woods when he begins to wonder where the top of the sky is. Daddy Fox turns it into a game and soon Little Fox discovers that, just like love, the sky goes on forever.

A lovely warm book for parents to share with their youngsters.

Browne, Anthony **Silly Billy** Walker £5.99  
9781406305760

Billy can't sleep because he worries. He worries about hats and giant birds, but mostly he worries about staying at other people's houses. When he visits his Grandma she helps him overcome his fears. What is Granma's secret?

A book inviting a lot of discussion.

Clark, Emma Chichester **Eliza and the moonchild**  
Andersen Press £10.99 9781842705773

A wild Moonchild, tired of his black and white world, zooms to Earth in search of colours. He meets Eliza, who introduces him to all the colours in nature and she paints him a picture of them. When he returns home to his mum she presents him with the picture and a box of paints.

A heart-warming story about friendship with illustrations showing the contrasting worlds of the Moon and the Earth.

Cowell, Cressida **Emily Brown and the Thing** Orchard  
Books. £10.99 978184616938

Neal Layton has used a mixture of artistic styles to create delightful illustrations in the second book about Emily Brown and her toy rabbit, Stanley.

A charming and witty story, full of adventures, as they try to help a "Thing" who is scared to go to sleep. A role reversal story and a winner.

Duffy, Carol Ann **Lost Happy Endings** Bloomsbury  
£12.99 9780747579229

Shortlisted for the Greenaway Award, this is a powerful story reminiscent of a Grimm's fairytale. Jub is a twelve fingered child, responsible for releasing the happy endings to children's bedtime stories from a sack, into the sky every night. A bark-faced witch steals the sack one night and Jub has to find a way to restore the happy endings for the terrified children.

Jane Ray's rich and dramatic pictures and Carol Ann Duffy's descriptive text combine to produce a book worthy of its place on the shortlist.

Dunbar, Polly **Penguin** Walker Books £10.99  
9781844280650

Ben is given a penguin as a present and tries everything he can to make him speak to him, but Penguin doesn't react. In frustration he shouts at him which results in a lion eating Ben. This prompts Penguin to bite the lion's nose which frees Ben.

Told with few words and simple illustrations, this story is about friendship with a reassuring ending. Shortlisted for Red House and Greenaway Book Awards.

Durant, Alan **Billy Monster's Daymare** OUP £5.99  
9780192726506

Billy Monster can't sleep – he keeps having daymares about children. Daddy Monster tries to reassure him telling him there's nothing to be afraid of because children aren't real, and he then reads him a bedtime story.

Set in a topsy-turvy world, this is a warm and funny story with a great ending.

Foreman, Jack **Say Hello** Walker £10.99  
9781406307245

Based on personal experience, this is a hear-warming book about hope. It started life as a poem and the simple text and stark illustrations convey a powerful message to any child who feels isolated or lonely.

Gravett, Emily **Little Mouse's Big Book of Fears**  
Macmillan £10.99

Follow mouse as he confronts his many fears including Ablutophobia (fear of bathing) and Whereamiphobia (fear of getting lost).

Winner of the prestigious Greenaway Award, this is another brilliant book by the imaginative and innovative Emily Gravett. Lots of fun.

Gravett, Emily **Monkey and Me** Macmillan £9.99  
9781405089494

A little girl and her toy monkey show us the animals they saw at the zoo in their unique and energetic way.  
A wonderful picture book, full of movement and exuberance. The rhyming, almost breathless text matches the illustrations perfectly,  
A real joy

Hutton, Simon **Brilliant Billy's Big Book of Dinosaurs**  
Andersen Press £4.99 9781842705698

Billy is mad about dinosaurs, so when there is a writing competition at school, he decides to write a dinosaur book. Then he'll win the prize and his mum can read about dinosaurs too! He's bound to win because he's brilliant!

An appealing and funny story for children starting to read fluently.

Inkpen, Mick **We are wearing out the naughty step**  
Walker £10.99 9780340959978

This is a hilarious book about a family of three children, a dog and a single mum. The naughtiness of the little "angel" narrating the story will make you laugh and you can't help but find her

innocence endearing. Mum reaches the end of her tether trying to manage her busy household and bursts into tears. Then something amazing happens which brings the family closer together.

Everyone will be able to identify with the situation presented in this book – highly recommended.

King- Smith, Dick **Ninnyhammer** Doubleday £7.99  
0385611879

When Peter rescues his white stick from the stream, Ninnyhammer is so grateful he offers to help Peter. The stick turns out to be a magic wand and Peter's family farm, which was struggling, starts to thrive. In return, Peter's family help Ninnyhammer who has been shunned by the local community who regard him as a simpleton.

This is a gentle, warm family story about inclusion and relationships with the usual, appealing. King-Smith animals and nature setting.

Puttock, Simon **Goat and Donkey in the Great Outdoors**  
OUP £10.99 9780192791948

Goat asks his very patient friend, Donkey, for advice in finding him a holiday in the Great Outdoors. Goat discovers that the best place to erect his tent is not too far away, but with only his teddy for company will it be the perfect holiday?

Goat and Donkey are a delightful double act and very entertaining. A wonderful story about friendship.

Rosen, Michael **Bear in the Cave** Bloomsbury £10.99  
9780747577652

The noise of the city lures Bear away from the peace and quiet of his cave by the sea. The journey is exciting and, to begin with, so is the city, but then he starts to feel sad and alone amongst all the hustle and bustle. He's rescued by four children who lead him back to the comfort of his own home.

From the Children's Laureate and author of "We're going on a Bear Hunt" this is a great book to get toddlers listening and joining in with the playful repetition. Vibrant watercolour illustrations complement the text. A satisfying book with the added bonus of a CD narrated by the author.

Rutt, Preston **Captain Yellowbelly** Meadowside £10.99  
9781845392296

A swashbuckling tale about Captain Yellowbelly who is terrible at being a pirate. After a series of disasters aboard the Yellow Curse he encounters Redbeard, the scariest of all pirates. Will he be able to overcome his cowardice and save his treasure?

A very funny story. Children will be able to join in with the repetition.

Scotton, Rob **Russell's Christmas Magic** Harper Collins  
£5.99 9780007206261

Santa's sleigh breaks and he is worried that Christmas will have to be cancelled. Fortunately, Russell the sheep is at hand to save the day.

The illustrations are magical and the expressions on the animals' faces are wonderful. A fun book, full of humour and an excellent present for Christmas.

Stephenson, Kristina **Sir Charlie Stinky Socks and the Really Big Adventure** Egmont £10.99 9731405228022

Charlie is a bold, brave knight in search of a really big adventure. He meets "slobbery beasties", a witch and a frightful and fearsome fire-breathing dragon on his journey.

With a surprising ending this is a fantastic book for reading aloud. Well recommended.

Umanski, Kaye **I don't like Gloria!** Walker £10.99  
9781844280261

Gloria, a new cat, comes to live at Dog's home. He wasn't even asked. She sleeps in his basket and when he objects to her eating from his dish HE gets into trouble. But when a new rabbit called Jeffrey arrives and both Dog and Gloria are pushed aside, they unite against the new addition to the family, even though they still don't like each other.

Children will be able to empathise with the pets in this book, with its charming illustrations, that tackles the familiar theme of sibling rivalry in a simple but effective way.

Vere, Ed **Banana!** Puffin £5.99 9780141500591

A favourite with children of all ages, this story is about two monkeys, a banana and a magic word. It well deserved its place on the Greenaway Award shortlist.

The relationship between the two monkeys and their emotions are excellently depicted through the bold, vibrant illustrations and the highlighted, minimal text. The monkeys' facial expressions are comical and appealing and the book will promote lots of discussion about feelings and manners.

Wild, Margaret **Lucy Goosey** Little Hare Books £10.99  
9781921049873

It was time for Lucy Goosey to join her mum and the other geese in migrating to another country, but Lucy is scared and storms off. She finds herself all alone and has to make a brave decision – to be alone or face her fear.

This is a heart-warming story about the relationship between a mum and her offspring. Will love conquer all?

Willis, Jeanne **Who's in the Loo?** Andersen Press  
£5.99 9781842706985

We've all experienced being in a queue for the loo, but who could be in there and why is it taking them so long?

A wonderfully cheeky book with vibrant illustrations. Great fun and winner of several awards.

8-12'S

Cassidy, Cathy **Lucky Star** Puffin £8.99  
9780141383262

Mouse's compulsion for graffiti art gets him into real trouble, but it also leads him to meet Cat, a smart, pretty and confident girl from a good part of town. What does she see in him and the run-down housing estate where he lives with his mum and scruffy stray dog, Lucky.

A story of rebellion, friendship and the struggle to keep out of trouble in a tough environment.

Dowswell, Paul **Prison Ship** Bloomsbury 2007 £6.99  
9780747577225

Young Sam fights alongside Nelson in the naval Battle of Copenhagen, but when he is wrongly accused of cowardice he is sentenced to hang. Instead he ends up being transported to Australia, where he tries to survive as a convict and as a runaway in the bush.

This is an action packed historical adventure, a real page turner which leaves you wanting more.

Dunbar, Fiona **Toonhead** Orchard Books £9.99  
9781846162374

Pablo can predict the future through the cartoons he draws, but when he tries to use this gift to win money by gambling, he attracts unwelcome attention.

Kidnap, escape and rescue add to the fun in a light hearted offbeat adventure story.

Fine, Anne **Ivan the Terrible** Egmont £4.99  
9781405233255

Boris acts as interpreter for new boy, Ivan, on his first day at school. But what a day for Boris, as he tries to interpret Ivan's threats and insults in a more positive manner, with hilarious consequences.

A school story with humour and well drawn characters.

Johnson, Pete **How embarrassing is that?** Barrington  
Stoke £4.99 9781842994504

Has Ruby, Callum or Grace got the most embarrassing parents? They are scored to see which parents are the most embarrassing with surprising results.

Readers will relate to this enjoyable, funny, but thoughtful book.

Kaaberbol, Lene **Silverhorse** Macmillan £10.99  
9781405090476

Although Kat will eventually be maestra of Crowfoot Inn and its land, she finds her life there, with her family, very restrictive. After seeing a hellhorse for the first time, Kat wants to become a bredanari, a highly trained peacekeeper and the only people able to ride hellhorses. However, many obstacles stand in the way, particularly the mysterious and dangerous Ermine.

A compelling novel with brilliantly drawn characters.

Kessler, Liz **Philippa Fisher's Fairy Godsister** Orion  
9781842551202

When Philippa is given three wish vouchers by her fairy godsister it couldn't have come at a better time. The fairy godsister could be a bit more helpful and friendly though.

An enjoyable, but thoughtful story of friendship, family and being yourself.

Laird, Elizabeth **Crusade** Macmillan £5.99  
9780330456999

A tale of two boys from opposing sides in the battle for the Holy Land. Their paths cross and they gradually learn respect for each other.

A terrific adventure story with memorable characters and a real insight into the reality of warfare during the Crusades.

Landy, Derek **Skulduggery Pleasant** Harper Collins  
£12.99 139780007241613

When Stephanie's uncle dies and leaves her his house she is launched into an amazing world of magic, where a new battle against evil is to be fought. Stephanie is helped by Skulduggery Pleasant, a skeleton detective as she enters this dangerous world.

This is an exciting fantasy, full of action and humour, with a tough heroine and a hugely entertaining skeleton hero.

Layton, Neal **Mammoth Academy in trouble** Hodder  
£4.99 9780340930304

Arabella and her friends are looking forward to returning to the Mammoth Academy after the holidays. However, when graffiti is found on the school walls it appears that humans are about! Then the pupils are snowed in and the humans become hungry and dangerous.

A lively, funny story, as appealing to children as the fun illustrations which accompany it.

Lennon, Joan **Questors** Puffin £9.99 9780411381510

Three worlds have been kept in perfect balance until now. The Space-Time Continuum is threatened and three heroes, one from each world, must perform a quest, supporting each other, in order to restore the balance.

A complicated, but clever plot, with fantastic creatures, locations and characters. A top fantasy.

McCaughrean, Geraldine **Tamburlaine's Elephants**  
Usborne £10.99 9780746078778

The tale of Rusti, a boy who is a member of the Mongol army, conquering all before it, and his friendship with Kavi, the boy prisoner who shares Rusti's growing passion for the elephants they look after.

A warm, compelling story of friendship, mystery and cruelty.

McKay, Hilary **Charlie and the Great Escape** Scholastic  
£3.99 9780439944298

Charlie attracts trouble. Wherever he is, things are damaged or destroyed and he is fed up of being blamed by his family. He decides he will run away so they will appreciate him more, but for some unknown reason they don't seem to be worried about him or miss him at all – or do they?

An amusing read, and likeable hero for newly independent readers, and their parents who want a longer story to read aloud.

Morpurgo, Michael **Born to Run** Harper Collins £10.99  
139780007230570

Best Mate is a greyhound puppy rescued from the canal by a lonely young boy who gives him a loving home. When he is stolen, a new life starts for Best Mate, followed by more new lives as new relationships and adventures occur.

Another beautifully crafted, moving story by Morpurgo, told from the viewpoints of Best Mate and his human friends. Highly recommended.

Murphy, Jill **The worst Witch to the Rescue** Puffin  
£9.99 9780141383019

The worst witch returns to school with high hopes as she's done the best holiday project ever. Is it all too good to be true or is trusting, good-natured Mildred heading for disaster again?

Worst witch fans won't be disappointed as this new story lives up to the high standards set by the rest of the series.

Nimr, Sonia **Ghaddar the Ghoul** Frances Lincoln £4.99  
9781845075231

A sound, light-hearted collection of short Palestinian stories, ideal for reading aloud.

Rees, Gwyneth **The Mum Mystery** Macmillan £4.99  
0780330442121

Esmie's mum died when Esmie was a baby, so when Nevada, the new girl at school, claims she's psychic, and can help her unravel a secret message from her mum, Esmie is excited, but scared. In between sorting out her family and friends, Esmie throws herself into her "mum mystery".

This is an engaging family story where the reader gets involved with the likeable characters. A very appealing story and satisfying ending.

Roberts, Katherine **I am the Great Horse** Chicken House £6.99 978190529427

This is the story of Bucephalas, Alexander the Great's warhorse, as he carries his king on a mammoth journey, conquering all before him.

The thrills, politics, tragedy and glory of battle and the quest for power are portrayed through the eyes of the horse in an epic historical adventure story.

Shearer, Alex **The Invisible Man's Socks** Macmillan  
£4.99 9780330445030

When Mr. Ellis's class visit the Museum of Little Horrors they are warned not to touch any of the exhibits. Do they take any notice and what will become of them? Even Mr Ellis starts to grow hair and howl at the moon.

Great fun, recommended for reading on school trips!

Spinelli, Jerry **Eggs** £10.99 Orchard 978184616699

Nine year old David has lost his mother and thirteen year old Primrose tries to distance herself from hers. They form an unlikely, and sometimes rocky friendship, but they help each other to come to terms with their lives and relationships.

Once you get used to the American style this becomes an absorbing story with engaging characters.

Walden, Mark **H.I.V.E.** Bloomsbury £6.99  
9780747584230

Otto is kidnapped and sent to attend H.I.V.E., a secret academy for villains. Here, he will train along with other children with "special talents" to become a master criminal. He is determined to escape and the school is determined to stop him.

A lively read for lovers of action stories. There is also lots of humour and the promise of more to come in future books. A good choice for Alex Rider fans.

## OVER 12'S

Doherty, Berlie **Abela** Andersen Press £10.99  
9781842706893

A moving story about Abele, a young African girl brought up in a village stricken by AIDS. She eventually ends up in the U.K.'s care system and her future seems uncertain.

The book also follows Rosa who lives in Sheffield. Her mother wants to adopt an African orphan, although Rosa is unsure about sharing her mother with another child,

This is a sensitively written story with interesting, appealing characters. Abela's life is hard, but her personality shines through.

Keaney, Brian **The Gallow Glass** Orchard £5.99  
9781846160899

This fantasy follows the story told in "The Hollow People" and I wish I'd read that first!

The Pica are fighting the authorities as their country is tightly controlled through drugs into being orderly and obedient. The fight against evil is dangerous and thrilling. The ending promises a third story in the series. I look forward to reading that.

Naidoo, Beverley **Burn my Heart** Puffin £5.99  
9780141321240

Set in Kenya during the 1950's, this is the story of two boys growing up on a farm. One is white, the son of the landowner, and the other is black, and working for the landowner on land which his family feels is rightfully theirs.

This is a moving story, powerfully told, which brings the past to life through the uneasy friendship of the two boys.

Sedgwick, Marcus **Blood Red Snow White** Orion £9.99  
9781842551844

This is the story of the children's author ,Arthur Ransome's time in Russia during the revolution, a time of politics, intrigue and danger.

It is a finely balanced mix of history, romance and folklore. It is definitely a demanding read, even for older readers, but ultimately a rewarding one.

Tracey, Rhian **True Colours** Bloomsbury £5.99  
9780747589419

Rosie is looking forward to the new school year with her group of friend and trying out for Year 8 Captain. However, when she realises she can see auras – colours showing her how people are feeling, school and life become much more complicated than she expected.

A very modern, but thoughtful book for young teenagers.