

WAKEFIELD'S FINEST

Welcome to Wakefield School Library Service's choice of the best children's fiction published in 2006. We've tried to include something for everyone and hope you get as much pleasure reading them as we did!

Under 7's

Beake, Lesley *Home Now*

Frances Lincoln 1845071050 £11.99

The moving story of Sieta, a South African girl who goes to live with her Aunty when she is orphaned. She is very sad until she makes friends with Satara, an orphaned elephant who helps her to accept her new life and makes her smile again.

A beautifully told story with a hopeful ending and lots of discussion points for older children. Recommended.

Catchpole, Michael *Howling at the Moon*

Gullane Children's Books 1862335753 £10.99

All the animals can hear a terrible howling coming from the top of the hill. They advise the youngsters to keep away from the wolf, who is howling at the moon, because he is angry and hungry. However, a little mouse is curious and innocently goes to investigate the noise.

A good story to read aloud, with some repetition and a happy ending.

Cowell, Cressida *That rabbit belongs to Emily Brown*

Orchard Books 1843624516 £10.99

Emily Brown will not swap her beloved rabbit, Stanley, for anything, not even "all the toys she could ever desire", so Queen

Gloriana steals him. Emily sets out to get him back and show the Queen how to have her very own toy to love.

Both the text and the illustrations are full of humour and fun. Neal Layton has used a variety of media to add interest to this delightful story.

Cronin, Doreen Dooby Dooby Moo

Simon and Schuster 0689837267 £10.99

Farmer Brown takes his animals to the county fair where there is a talent show offering a trampoline as first prize. The pigs want to dance, the cows and sheep sing, but Duck really wants to win. His only problem is Farmer Brown.

A very funny book. Everyone can enjoy joining in with the various noises the animals make.

Daly, Niki Pretty Salma

Frances Lincoln 1845074777 £10.99

A funny West African version of “Little Red Riding Hood” with Mr. Dog taking the place of the big bad wolf. Salma’s grandfather is Anansi the storyteller and there’s a crazy-eyed rooster.

Lots of action and fun in this cautionary tale about talking to strangers.

Emmett, Jonathan She’ll be coming round the mountain

Egmont 1405226498

Based on the song with the same title, Bonnie Bandit comes to town.

A great sing-along Wild West adventure with lots of repetitive noises and actions for joining in. Lots of fun.

Emmett, Jonathan This way Ruby

Macmillan 1405051905 £9.99

Ruby is inquisitive about her surroundings and keeps getting left behind when her sibling ducklings rush off in search of adventure.

Her inquisitiveness pays off when the ducklings get lost in a storm, only Ruby can find the way home.

A warm-hearted and reassuring story complimented by soft, appealing illustrations.

Gormley, Greg Rocky and the Lamb

Gullane Children's Books 1862335982 £10.99

Rocky the wolf is a mean coward who steals from everyone who passes his mountain home. One day, he meets an innocent little lamb on her way to deliver a crown to the King, but his plan to steal the crown has an unexpected outcome.

A hilarious tale about a bully who learns the error of his ways.

Gravett, Emily Orange Pear Apple Bear

Macmillan 1405090223 £4.99

A deliciously simple book to share with young children, and older children can appreciate the play on the five words in the text. With amusing watercolour illustrations, this is yet another winner from Emily Gravett, a previous recipient of the Greenaway Award.

Gray, Kes 006 and a bit

Red Fox 9780099488033 £5.99

Daisy is on a mission – to be the best spy in the world. She has the disguise and the gadgets, but gets frustrated when she cannot find anyone who understands her secret code. Then she meets a mysterious stranger with a purple moustache and dangly earrings.

Another winner from Kes Gray and Nick Sharratt. This is a fun book exploring imaginative play and comes complete with a Daisy spy kit. Great for reading aloud.

Grey, Mini The adventures of the Dish and the Spoon

Jonathan Cape 02240070371 £10.99

Did you ever wonder what happened to the Dish and the Spoon when they ran off together in the famous nursery rhyme? Find out

in this exuberant tale of fame in America and a disastrous bank robbery.

Mini Grey is deservedly building up a reputation as an outstanding talent. This is fun with lots to discover and discuss in the illustrations.

Harvey, Damien Robin and the Silver Arrow

Frankin Watts 978079666897 £8.99

Robin tries to win the archery competition without being caught by the Sheriff of Nottingham.

A simple but attractive adventure story which will appeal to boys starting to read independently.

Heap, Sue & Sharratt, Nick Alphabet Ice Cream

Puffin 0141382325 £10.99

Nursery aged children will love this rhyming alphabet book with its bright and bold illustrations. A great book to read aloud with some refreshingly different entries – “x can mean kiss”. Great fun

Henderson, John & Donaldson, Julia Fly Pigeon, Fly

Little Tiger Press 1845061861 £10.99

An engaging picture book for older children about a boy's friendship with a pigeon he finds in a derelict warehouse in Glasgow. He looks after the pigeon and teaches it to fly, but when it comes to the time to set it free he finds it difficult to let go. The book also explores the relationship between the boy and his father who loses his job at the Clyde side docks.

An atmospheric book with a difference.

Kelly, John Scoop!

Templar 1840111771 £10.99

Monty, ace reporter, is desperate to find out about the secret F.P club, but cannot get into the hotel where the mysterious club is held. After several hilarious but unsuccessful attempts he accidentally gets his exclusive story.

A visual delight and very funny, this has quickly become a firm favourite with older children.

Knudsen, Michelle **Library Lion**

Walker Books 0744598591 £10.99

Libraries have rules but nowhere does it say that lions can't enjoy the library unless, of course, he breaks one of the rules.

Set in a stereotypical library, this is a warm, gentle story with a message. I loved the old-fashioned illustrations with their touch of humour. A great book to read for library skills training.

Oram, Hiawyn **Rumblewick Letters**

Orchard Books 1846160634 £10.99

Rumblewick, the witch's cat, writes to his Uncle Sherbert for advice on how to help Haggy Aggy who prefers to shop and watch TV, and wants to be a princess and marry a prince instead of being a witch.

A book full of magic with lots of detail and humour in the fantastic illustrations. It is very funny (and useful for letter writing).

Rayner, Catherine **Augustus and his smile**

Little Tiger Press 1845062825 £10.99

A simple story about a tiger that is sad because he has lost his smile. He searches everywhere until he finds it and realises he didn't need to travel across deserts and mountains after all.

Shortlisted for the Greenaway Award this is a lovely story and Augustus is very lovable. The text and illustrations work very well together and the colours used add to the atmosphere. An engaging book.

Stewart, Amber **Rabbit ears**

Bloomsbury 9780747589662 £5.99

Hopscotch is a rabbit who knows what he likes and dislikes. He hates having his ears washed until his older cousin comes to stay and he learns that growing up can be fun.

A good story for children who hate having their hair washed reinforcing the value of sharing experiences and learning from others.

Wilcox, Leah *Falling for Rapunzel*

GP Putnam's Sons 0399237941 £9.99

In a retelling of the fairytale, a modern Rapunzel cannot hear the Prince properly from the tower and throws down what she thinks he wants. The Prince still thinks he can save her in the traditional way until she throws her maid down to him!

A highly amusing retelling in rhyme, this picture book is ideal for reading out loud. The illustrations are appealing and cheerful.

Willis, Jeanne *Daft Bat*

Anderson Press 1842704761 £10.99

All the wild, young animals think Bat is mad when she tells them that her ears will get wet if it rains very hard and makes the river rise and other such nonsense. But if they tried to look at the world from Bat's angle they might just see things differently.

Another winner from Jeanne Willis with great fun illustrations by Tony Ross. A book to help young children think about the world in another way.

8 to 12 years

Buckley-Archer, Linda *Gideon the Cutpurse*

Simon and Schuster 1416916555 £12.99

Peter and Kate find themselves thrown back in time to 1763! The detail of what they find there and the people they meet are

fascinating. The plot moves along quickly and is very exciting. Throughout the story are glimpses of what their parents and the police are doing to try and find them back in the 21st century.

This is a thrilling story. Will Peter and Kate make it home? The ending will surprise you! There is going to be a sequel. I can't wait.

Carpenter, Humphrey Mr Majeika Joins the Circus

Puffin 014131982 £4.99

Mr Majeika used to be a wizard before he became a teacher, and when he takes Class Three to the circus, he finds that the circus badly needs his magical help.

Another enjoyable tale from the popular series, perfect for confident younger readers.

Coleman, Michael The Howling tower

Orchard 1843629380 £4.99

What if bears ruled the world and humans were treated like animals? This is the story of Benjamin Wildfire who escapes from his bear owner and begins a terrifying adventure. He joins forces with a girl called Mops, and they are captured and imprisoned in the Howling Tower, a dreadful place run by the evil bear, Inspector Dictatum. Only just managing to escape with their lives, Benjamin and Mops go in search of the mythical place known as Hyde-Park, where it is said that humans roam free.

This exciting story is the first one in the Bear Kingdom trilogy. What would a world ruled by bears be like? Read this and find out.

Colfer, Eoin Artemis Fowl and the lost colony

Penguin 0141382686 £12.99

Artemis is a brilliant child prodigy, master criminal and friend of the technologically advanced fairy civilisation. He needs to transcend time and dimension in order to save the demon colony from their evil leader and their disintegrating world.

Another wonderful, exciting, inventive adventure full of magic, action and surprises. It is very clever and above all supremely entertaining.

Colfer, Eoin Half Moon Investigations

Puffin 0141382708 £12.99

Fletcher Moon, a qualified detective at 12, investigates several strange crimes, which have taken place in the town of Lock. He finds an unlikely ally in the form of Red Sharkey, whose family is well known for their criminal activities.

What follows is a highly entertaining tale of clues, suspects and escapades. Colfer's tongue-in-cheek "crime genre" style of writing adds to the enjoyment.

Collins, Suzanne Gregor and the rats of Underland

Chicken House 1904442420 £6.99

Underland is an amazing, exciting and very dangerous world that exists deep underground.

One day Gregor and his sister are sucked down the air duct of their New York apartment and find themselves in Underland. Together with the people and the other creatures that live there they must go on a quest to fulfil a prophecy.

This is a brilliant and very exciting story. I loved it! Look out for Book 2 of the Underland Chronicles – "Gregor and the Prophecy of Bane"

Gardner, Lyn Into the woods

David Fickling Books 9780385610353 £12.99

Did you ever wonder what became of the magical pipe from the Pied Piper story? Read this thrilling story and find out. Storm Eden and her sisters do battle with the evil Dr. DeWide and the Rats and have the most amazing adventures.

It's brilliant, it's fun, it's quite scary and it's very funny as well.

Gleitzman, Morris Once

Puffin 014132063x £5.99

Felix is left at an orphanage whilst his parents try to save their bookshop business. Or so he thinks, until he runs away and

discovers that Poland is full of Nazis trying to round up Jews and send them to the Death Camps.

This is a moving story about a caring, innocent Jewish boy trying to survive the violent hatred of the times with dignity, courage and imagination.

Hill, Stuart **Blade of Fire**

Chicken House 1904442889 £12.99

Twenty years after the last war, the Empire has invaded Icemark again, this time stronger and technologically advanced. Queen Thirrin's disabled youngest son has been sent to safety along with the civilian population. Can he form an allied army and return in time to save his family and homeland? Will his magically gifted sister, Medea, succumb to the dark?

Fast, exciting, often violent and bloodthirsty, this book shows the horror of war and the strength to be gained from tolerance and friendship.

Jarman, Julia **Peace Weavers**

Andersen Press 1842702955 £9.99

Hilde and her brother, Tom, go to stay with their father on an American air base in England, while her mother is in Baghdad protesting against the impending Iraq war. Hilde volunteers to help on an archaeological dig where Anglo Saxon Peace Weaver skeletons are found and she begins to dream about their lives.

This is an intelligent and arresting story examining the issues of modern warfare and how to promote peace, starting with your own relationships.

Kemp, Gene **Nothing Scares Me**

Faber & Faber 0571228232 £5.99

Petra is a seer – she can see things which are going to happen, can sense things through a person's aura and can see ghosts warning her of events to come. Petra doesn't like her gift as people think she's weird and she longs to be normal and ordinary.

Life for Petra is tense and uncomfortable in an intriguing, thoughtful chiller thriller.

Kilworth, Garry Attica

Atom 1904233554 £12.99

Jordy, Chloe and Alex go up into their attic one day and find themselves lost in an attic that goes on forever. It is a strange and terrifying place, another world, connected to ours, but very different.

As they travel across the dusty boards they meet some of the people and things that inhabit Attica, not all of which are friendly.

This is a really exciting and sometimes scary story. I couldn't put it down. If you had the chance to go to Attica, would you dare to go there? I'm not sure that I would.

Naidoo, Beverley The Great Tug of War

Frances Lincoln 9781845070557 £4.99

A collection of stories about a very tricky hare who outwits both animals and humans in the African wild.

This is a skilful retelling of the African origins of the Brer Rabbit stories. Ideal to read aloud and great fun.

Nicholson, William Jango

Egmont Press 0781405224222 £12.99

Seeker, Morning Star and the Wildman are Nomana novices, learning how to become noble warriors. When the Nomana's existence is threatened on several fronts, the three friends leave and separate to fight the threats in their different ways.

This wonderful, exciting story, full of memorable characters, races along and leaves the reader eagerly anticipating the final book of the trilogy.

Park, Linda Sue A single Shard

Oxford University Press 0192719580 £5.99

Tree-ear is an orphan and lives under a bridge with his friend, Crane-man. They just about manage to get enough to eat and are

good and honourable people. You like them as soon as you meet them. Set in Korea in the 12th century, this is the story of Tree-ear's dream of becoming a potter and of his adventures along the way.

It is a fascinating and very moving story, sometimes sad, but very joyful. A really lovely book.

Reeve, Philip *A Darkling Plain*

Scholastic 9780439949972 £12.99

The final part of the Mortal Engines quartet begins with a fragile truce in the war between the Green Storm and the Traction Cities. Can Wren and her father find the answers they seek in the ruins of London, can Theo and Hester return Lady Naga to her husband in time to save the truce and what is the powerful and dangerous Stalker Fang planning to do?

This is a thrilling adventure set in a futuristic world of moving cities, violence and destruction.

Sedgwick, Marcus *My swordhand is singing*

Orion 9781842555583 £6.99

Peter and his father are woodcutters in the frozen, miserable village of Chust in a time and place where the dead come back to make you one of them. Can Peter help fight and give peace to the dead and safety to the living.

Chilling, violent and horrific, if this doesn't scare you, nothing will.

Sivers, Bowering *Jammy Dodgers get filthy rich*

Macmillan 1405088923 £9.99

In this hilarious new adventure Billy gets adopted by a posh family, gets lots of lovely grub to eat, but has to get washed and wear a dress! Meanwhile, his brothers, Jem and Ned, are on the trail of a master criminal.

A great read. It really shows what everyday life was like in Victorian London for lots of poor families. Billy and all the other brilliant characters in this book just get on with life. It's fascinating, very funny and moves along at a break-neck speed.

Voake, Steve Web of fire

Faber 9780571223497 £6.99

Sam and Skipper are back in another truly terrifying adventure. Four years have passed since the events of the first book "Dreamwalker's child" and the evil emperor, Odoursin, now rules Aurobon. This time he is more determined than ever to destroy all life on earth. Can his plan be foiled in time?

This is an absolutely thrilling story. You'll be sitting on the edge of your seat when you read this one.

Webb, Beth Star Dancer

Macmillan 1405091754

Tegan's destiny is to become the Star Dancer, a druid with special powers. Only she can save her village from a mysterious and terrible danger that is to come. However, not everyone wants her to succeed and she faces great danger from her enemies. Will Tegen beat the evil powers and win through in the end? What will it cost her?

This is a great story with lots of fascinating detail about life in prehistoric Britain.

12 +

Bowler, Tim Frozen Fire

Oxford University Press 9780192719790 £12.99

Dusty's family has been nearly destroyed by the disappearance two years ago of her brother, Josh. When she gets a strange phone call on a freezing winter's night from a boy who knows things no-one else could know, she is convinced he can help her find Josh. The boy has dangerous enemies, but is Dusty in more danger than the boy?

Weird and compelling, this novel is just as chilling as its setting.

Brooks, Kevin The Road of the Dead

Chicken House. 9781905204268 £6.99

When their sister, Rachel, is murdered, Cole and Reuben travel to the scene of her murder to discover answers. They get caught up in a frightening and violent investigation in an exciting, tense and original thriller.

Not for the faint hearted!

Dowd, Siobhan *A Swift Pure Sigh*

Definitions 9780099488163 £5.99

Set in Ireland, Shell finds life hard after her mum's death, trying to look after her younger brother and sister and coping with a drunken father. Life gets tougher as she tries to cover up a pregnancy and becomes the centre of a scandal in the small Irish community.

Moving and gripping, this is a thoughtful read for older girls.

Kennen, Ally *Beast*

Scholastic 9780439951043 £6.99

Stephen lives with a foster family who is scared of him. He has had a terrible childhood and no wish to see his remaining family now that he is nearing the time to leave foster care and fend for himself. However, he has a secret. For the last four years he has hidden a terrifying creature, which is getting bigger and more dangerous. How can he rid himself of the Beast without endangering others or getting into trouble?

An exciting tale with unusual characters and situations.

Morpurgo, Michael *Alone on a wide, wide sea*

HarperCollins 130780007230563 £12.99

Six-year-old orphan Arthur, separated from his sister, Kitty, is sent to Australia after the Second World War to start a new life. He endures enormous hardships before he finds a loving home and a new career as a boat builder.

His daughter, Alice, is the one who sets out on a solo yacht journey back to England on a mission to find Arthur's Kitty.

This is an emotional roller coaster of a journey, a rewarding read for young and old. You will be hooked from beginning to end!

Reinhardt, Dana *A brief chapter in my impossible life*

Walker 9781406301007 £5.99

Simone is a happy American teenage girl with good friends, a loving family, a comfortable home and she's doing fine at school. She hasn't a boyfriend, but she's working at it and even though she knows she's adopted it's never really bothered her until now. Her birth mother wants to meet her and her adoptive parents are pushing her to agree. Why is it important and why now?

Simone comes to terms with this new part of her life in a moving story. We're given a fascinating glimpse of American teenage culture in a well off suburb of Boston.

Rosoff, Meg *Just in Case*

Penguin 0141380780 £10.99

When David decides to evade fate by changing his identity, life becomes increasingly dramatic. His fear of future random accidents lead to him reinventing himself, but will it stop bad things happening to him?

An inventive, memorable and beautifully written novel for teenagers.

Sachar, Louis *Small Steps*

Bloomsbury 0775808308 £12.99

Armpit has plans for his future, a steady job and is keeping out of trouble after his release from the detention centre (where we first met him in the highly successful "Holes"). However, he gets caught up in a ticket scam, which threatens to ruin everything.

A funny and engaging story with a central character you really care about.

Wooding, Chris **Storm thief**
Scholastic 0439959578 £5.99

Moa and Rail are trying to survive in the ghetto of the island city of Orokos. Probability storms change people's lives and buildings by chance and result in Revenants whose invisible touch possesses humans and creates no-go areas.

Moa and Rail steal an amazing artefact and are on the run, with Vago, a golem searching for his maker, from the Protectorate who strictly control the city.

This is a relentlessly intense fantasy set in a strange, frightening world and a very different read.