AUTUMN 2026

SCHOLASTIC

BOOK FAIRS SPOT LIGHT

GO ALL IN. National Year of Reading 2026

YOUR FREE INTERACTIVE NEWSLETTER

Art © Dav Pilkey. DOG MAN TM/® Dav Pilkey.



DIVE IN TO DISCOVER TOP READING PICKS IN YOUR BOOK CLUB

CELEBRATE DOG MAN'S 10TH BIRTHDAY

WHAT'S INSIDE

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

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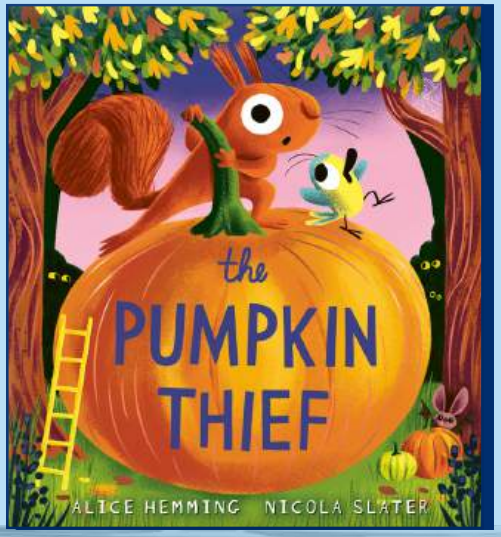
24 **Autumn Wordsearch**
Search and find words themed around the new season!

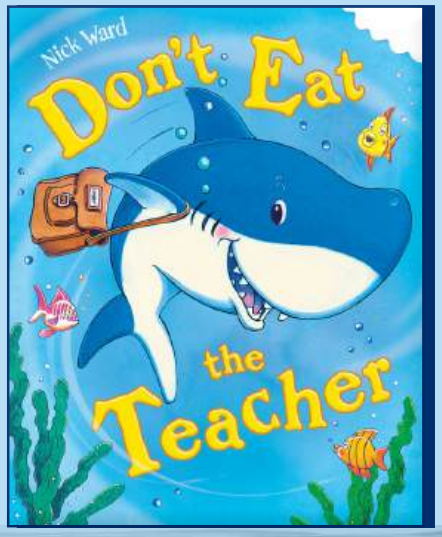
27 **Guess the Book from the Emojis**
Can you guess these popular book titles just from the emojis?

29 **Book Club Live Events**
Check out the exciting line-up of virtual events this month.

AUTUMN'S TOP PICKS

Select the covers below to learn more



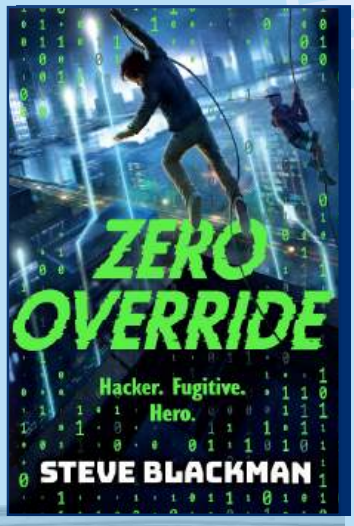








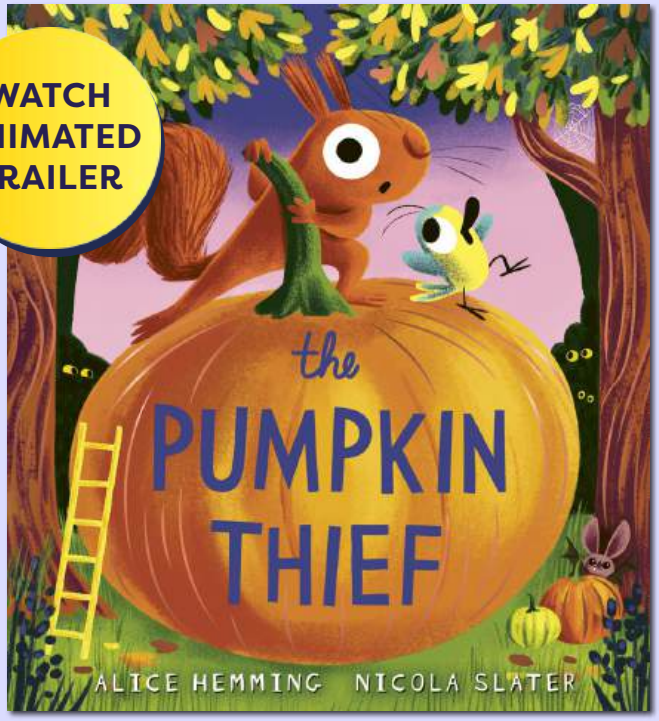




Suitable For Ages: 3+

THE PUMPKIN THIEF

WATCH ANIMATED TRAILER



CLICK HERE TO READ EXTRACT

With just a little help from Bird, Squirrel has grown some lovely pumpkins! He is so pleased with himself. But soon there's a problem... the pumpkins keep disappearing, one by one! Squirrel can't understand it. He's determined to catch the thief before Bird returns...

You'll enjoy this if:

🐿️	You enjoy silly animal characters who get into trouble.
🎃	You love autumn, pumpkins, and outdoor adventures.
😂	You enjoy stories that will make you laugh out loud.
❤️	You like books that explore feelings, moods and times where we feel out of control.
⭐	You love bright, colourful illustrations and playful adventures.

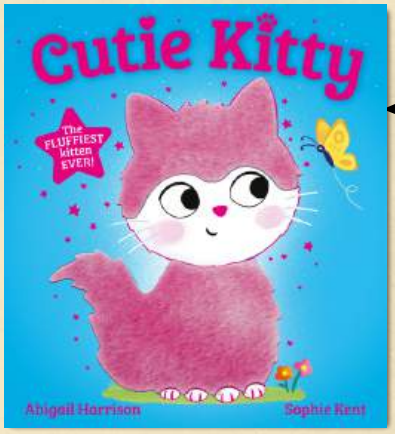
Free resources:

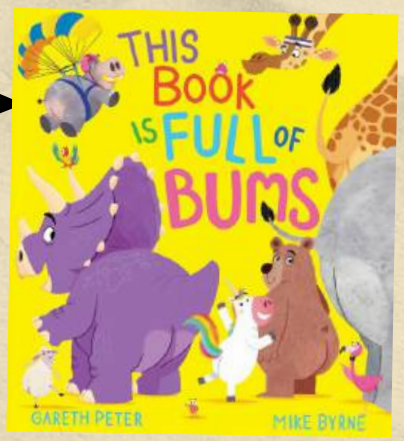
WATCH DRAW-ALONG

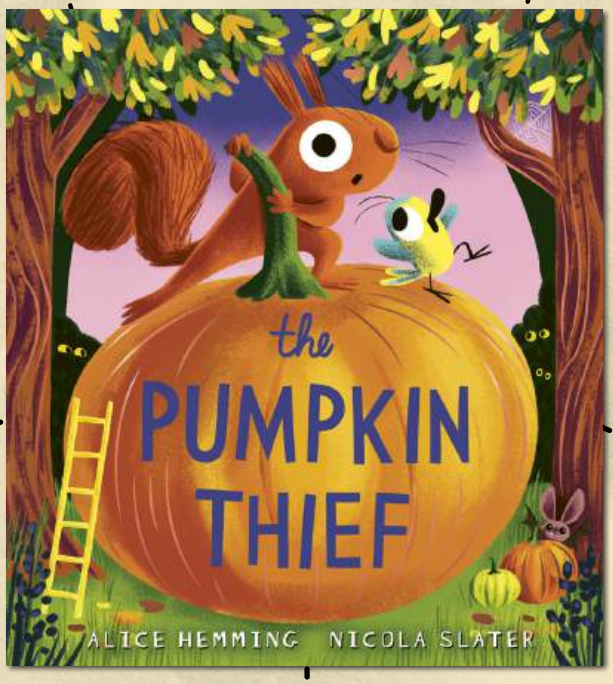
Perfect read for settling into **AUTUMN**

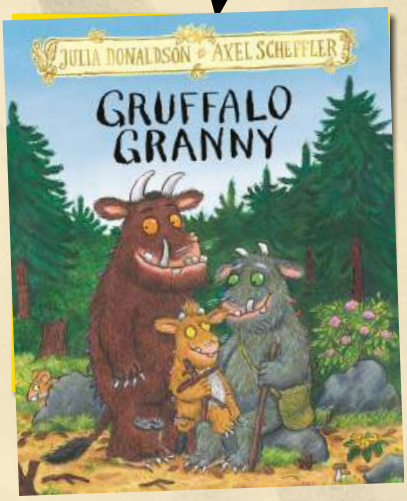
WHAT TO READ NEXT

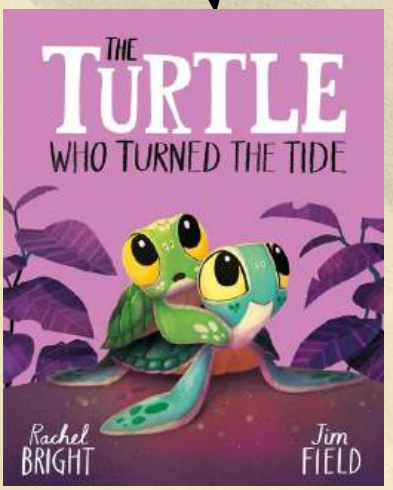
Enjoy more funny adventures with colourful illustrations in these books!

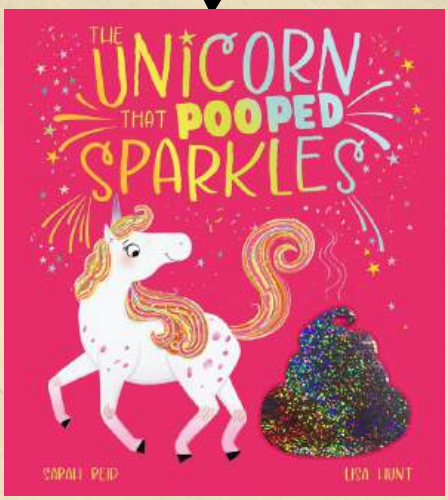






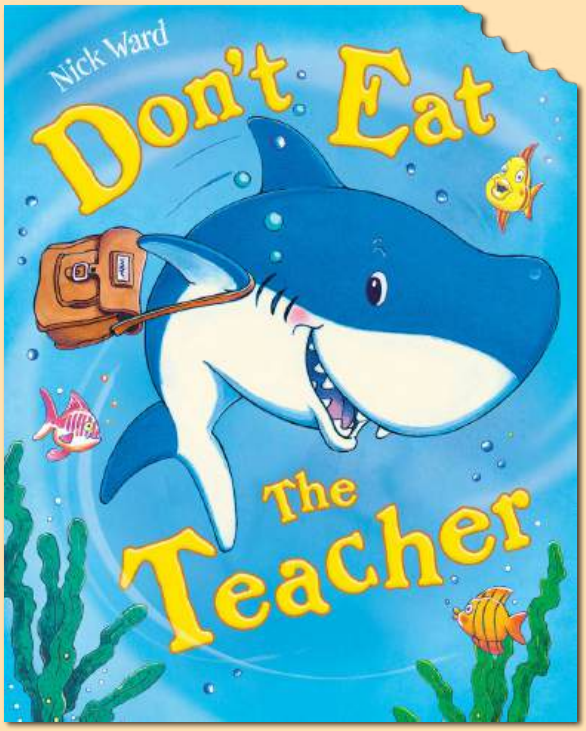






Suitable For Ages: 3+

DON'T EAT THE TEACHER



CLICK HERE TO READ EXTRACT

Free resource:

DOWNLOAD ACTIVITY

It's Sammy the shark's first day at school and he's so excited! But when Sammy gets excited, he can't help but... CRUNCH! So his most important lesson is... 'Don't eat the teacher!" This funny, warm story takes a familiar situation – starting school – and gives it a brilliantly snappy twist!

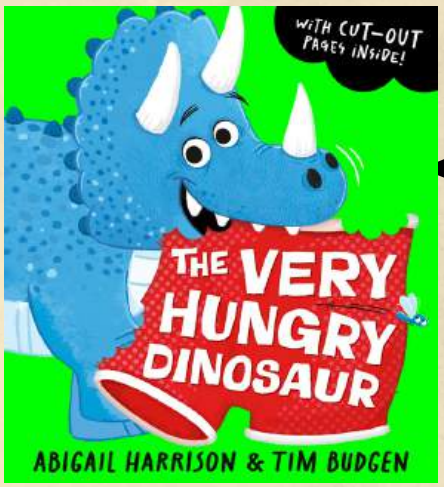
You'll enjoy this if:

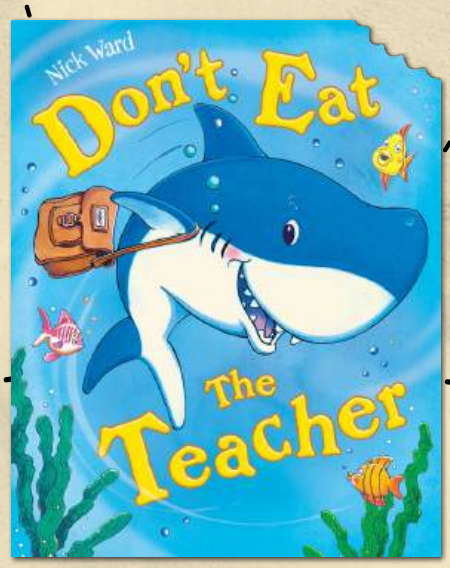
🦈	You love silly stories that make you giggle.
🎒	You're starting school soon.
😂	You enjoy funny characters who get into trouble without meaning to.
📖	You like stories that are fun to read aloud with lots of excitement.
⭐	You love bright, colourful illustrations and playful adventures.

Perfect read for STARTING SCHOOL

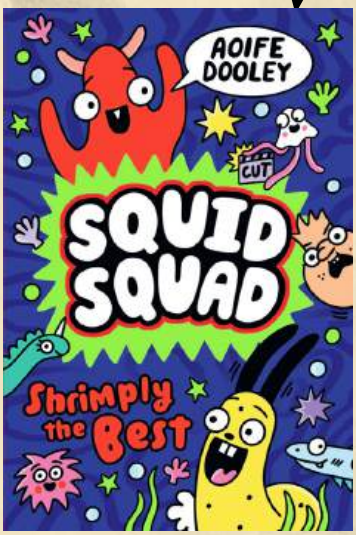
WHAT TO READ NEXT

Explore more books with silly stories that make you giggle











Suitable For Ages: 7+

GALAXY RUNNERS: JELLO BREAKS THE UNIVERSE

WATCH ANIMATED TRAILER



CLICK HERE TO READ EXTRACT

Kas and Fig are twin space couriers who take on a mysterious delivery and discover Jello, a cute shape-shifting alien with incredible powers. Suddenly, they're racing across the galaxy, dodging dangerous villains and trying to keep Jello safe in a fast-paced adventure full of action, laughs, and surprises!

You'll enjoy this if:

🚀	You love exciting space adventures and daring escapes.
👽	You think shape-shifting aliens are awesome (and hilarious!).
💥	You like books that involve action, danger, and outsmarting bad guys.
😂	You enjoy funny moments and silly surprises.
🪐	You want to explore strange planets and travel across the galaxy.

Free resource:

WATCH AUTHOR VIDEO

DOWNLOAD CHARACTER CARDS

READ AUTHOR Q&A

DOWNLOAD ACTIVITY PACK

SCHOLASTIC BOOK CLUB LIVE

Create an alien with James Lancett, author-illustrator of Galaxy Runners
WATCH NOW >

GALAXY RUNNERS

WHAT JELLO ARE YOU TODAY?!



Illustrations © James Lancett, 2025

Suitable For Ages: 7+

THE WILD ONES

WATCH ANIMATED TRAILER



CLICK HERE TO READ EXTRACT

Scamp lives at the pet-care centre. He has friends, food and a warm bed. But one night, the world changes. All that's left are the Things – vicious beasts that roam the ruined city. Forced to leave the centre, Scamp leads his friends on a quest through the dangers outside. To survive, they must grow wilder, letting go of everything they once were.

You'll enjoy this if:

🐾	You love animal heroes going on big adventures.
🌆	You enjoy mysterious worlds filled with danger and surprises.
🦴	You like stories about friendship, teamwork, and sticking together.
💪	You enjoy brave characters who must learn new skills to survive.
🔦	You like exciting journeys where anything could happen next!

Free resources:

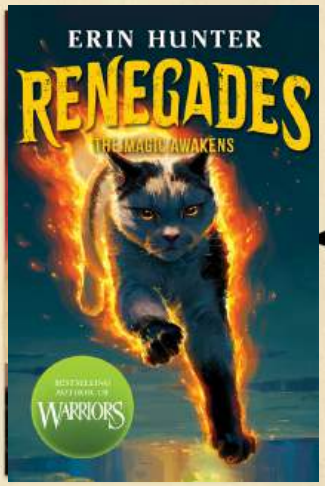
DOWNLOAD CHARACTER PROFILES

WATCH AUTHOR VIDEO

DOWNLOAD TEACHER RESOURCES

WHAT TO READ NEXT

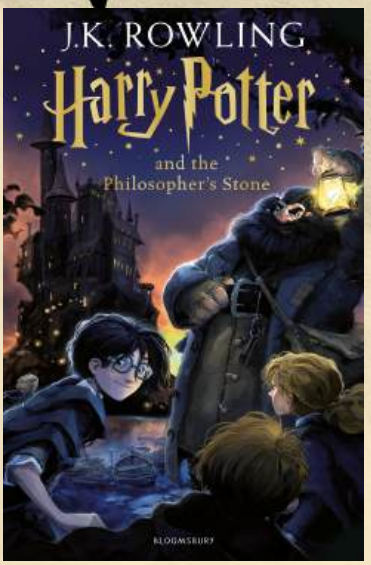
Discover more stories with animal heroes going on big adventures

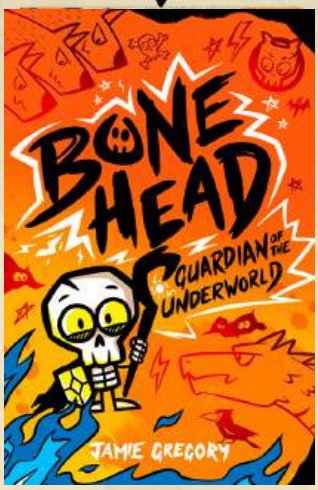












Suitable For Ages: 7+

DOG MAN

10TH BIRTHDAY EDITION



Is he a man? Is he a dog? Nope: he's both! When Greg the police dog and his cop companion are injured on the job, their only option is life-changing surgery. That's how Dog Man is born! With the head of a dog and the body of a human, this crime-biting police hound has a real nose for justice. But will he answer the call of duty – or the call of the wild?

Free resource:

DOWNLOAD ACTIVITY PACK

CLICK HERE TO READ EXTRACT

You'll enjoy this if:

	You LOVE hilarious heroes with unusual superpowers.
	You enjoy action-packed adventures full of chaos and fun.
	You like books that make you laugh on almost every page.
	You enjoy fighting villains and solving crazy crimes.
	You love graphic novels packed with funny illustrations.



Art © Dav Pilkey. DOG MAN TM/® Dav Pilkey.

DOG MAN: 70 EPIC YEARS*!

*IN DOG YEARS

BOOK REVIEW CHECKLIST!

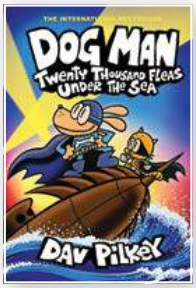
Keep track of which Dog Man books you have read by giving them a star rating. 10 is the highest!



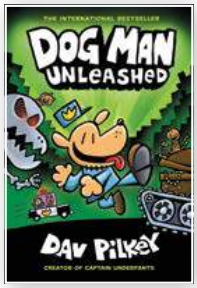
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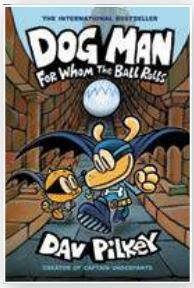
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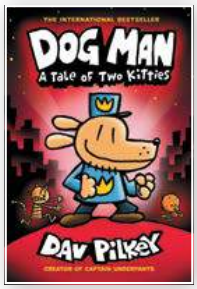
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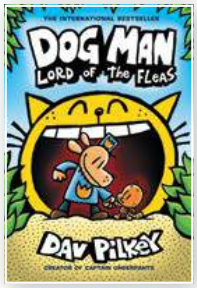
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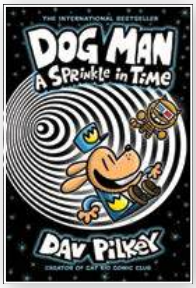
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Coming Nov. 3

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SCHOLASTIC

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DOG MAN © and TM/® Dav Pilkey.

REPRODUCIBLE

DOG MAN: 70 EPIC YEARS*!

*IN DOG YEARS

WORD SEARCH!

Find these 10 Dog Man characters—look forward, backward, up, down, and diagonal!

Dog Man
Petey
Chief
Sarah Hatoff
Lil Petey
Dr Scum
Molly
Mayor
Big Jim
Grampa

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

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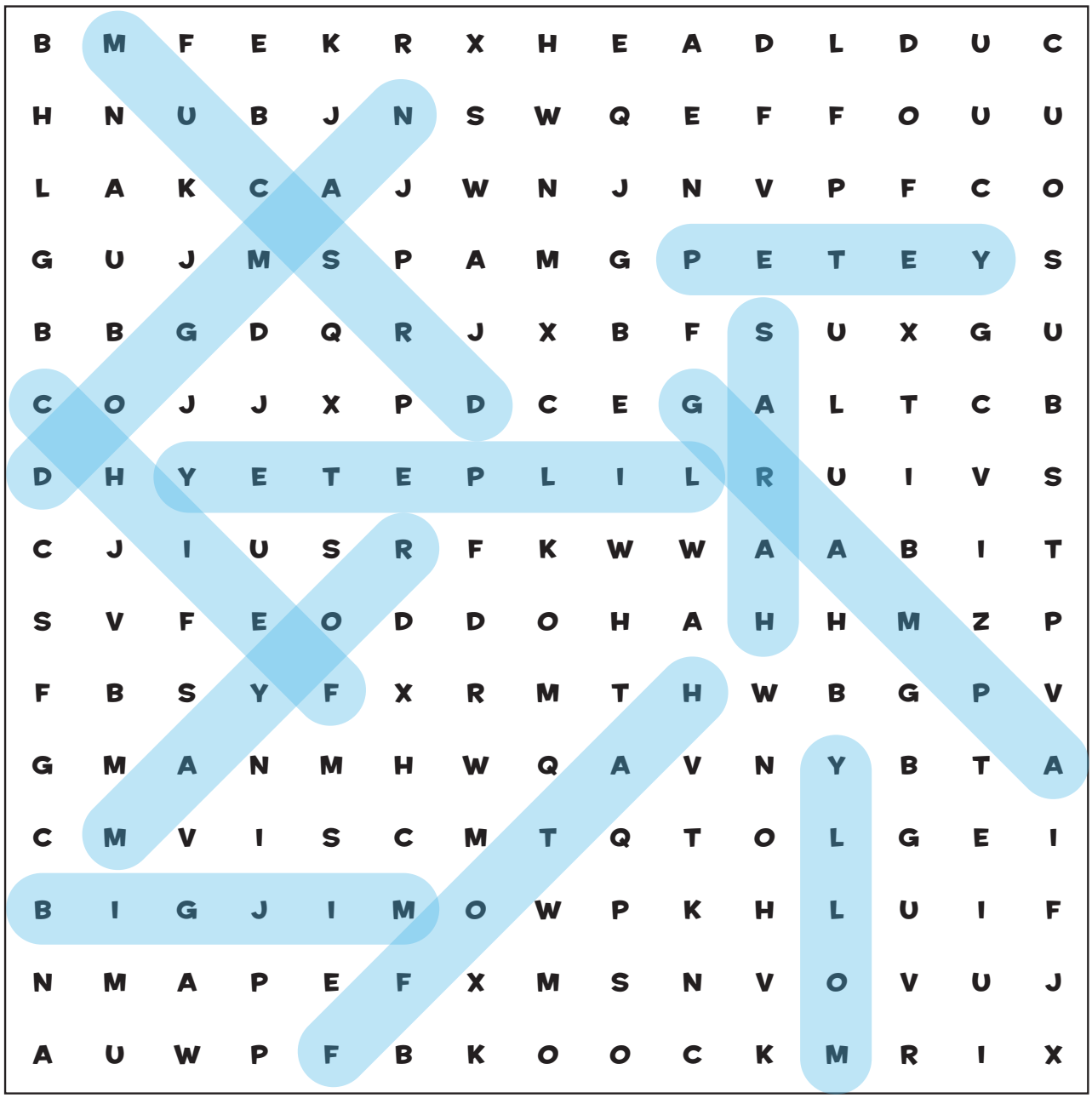
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Big Jim
Grampa



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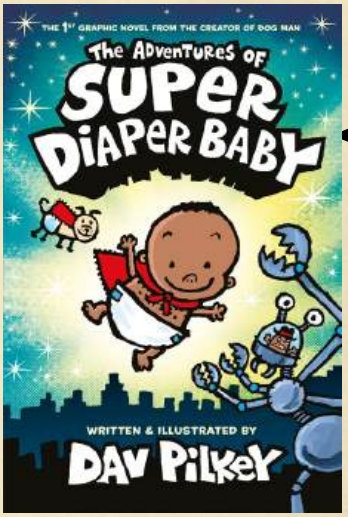
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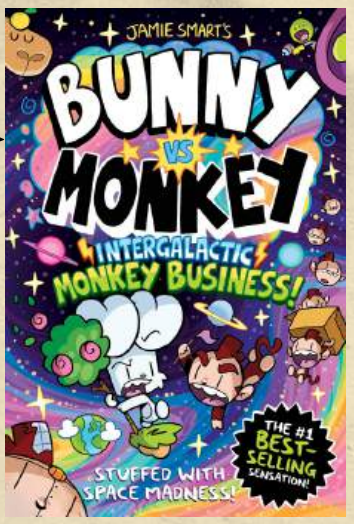
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WHAT TO READ NEXT

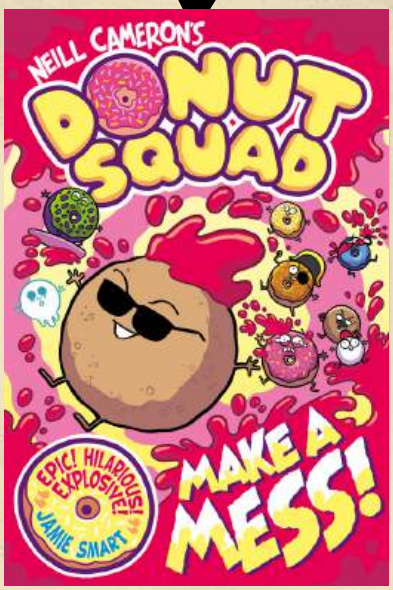
Looking for more action-packed adventures full of chaos and fun?

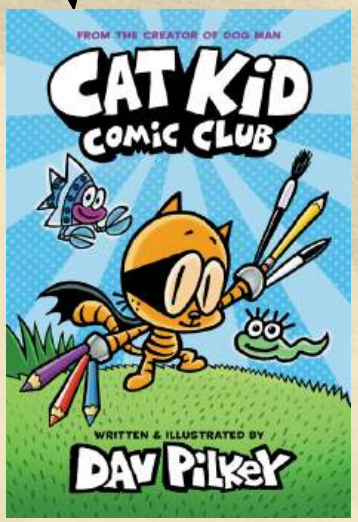






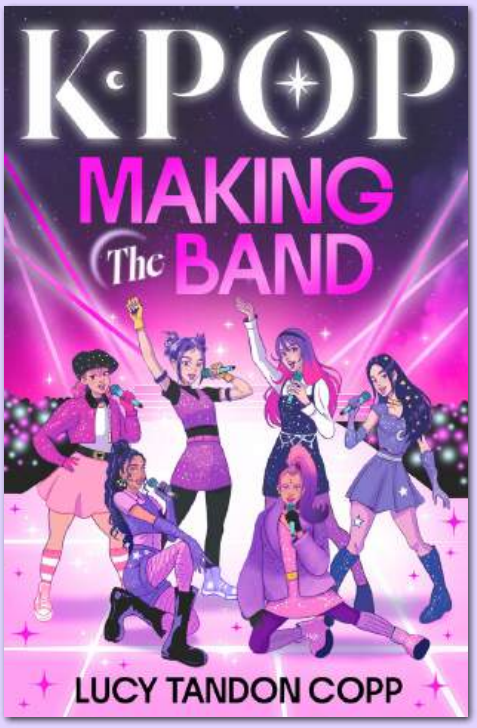






Suitable For Ages: 8+

K-POP: MAKING THE BAND



CLICK HERE TO READ EXTRACT

Sammie can't believe her luck when she wins a place at an elite K-pop training camp in LA, where she'll compete for a spot in the new girl group ECLIPSE. But becoming a star is harder than it looks, with intense training, fierce rivals, friendship drama and personal struggles testing every contestant. Can the girls learn to work together and shine under the spotlight?

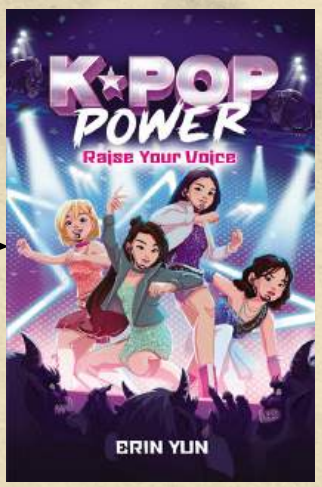
You'll enjoy this if:

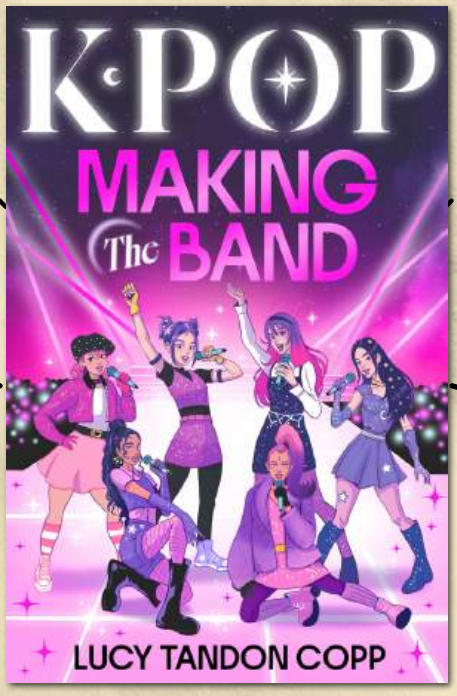
🎤	You love K-pop, music and dreaming of being on stage.
💃	You enjoy stories about dance practice, performances and competition.
🌟	You love characters with different personalities, strengths and dreams.
💖	You enjoy drama, excitement and rooting for your favourite contestants.
🎶	You've ever wondered what it takes to become a K-pop idol!

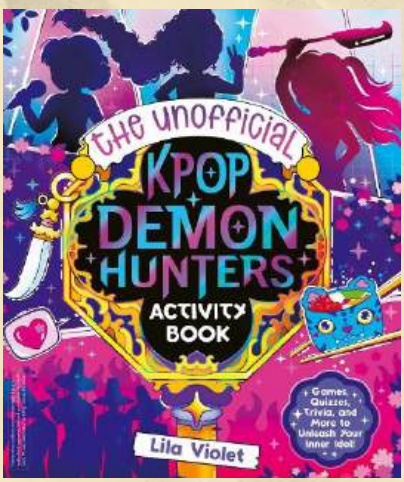
WHAT TO READ NEXT

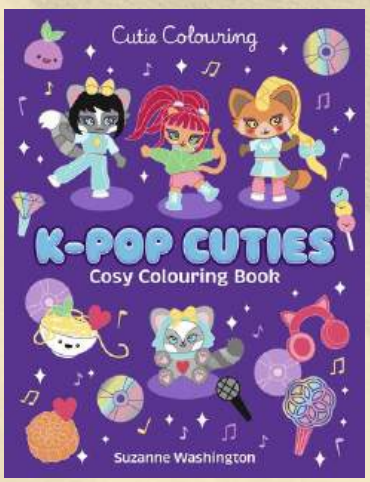
Love all things K-Pop? We've got you covered!





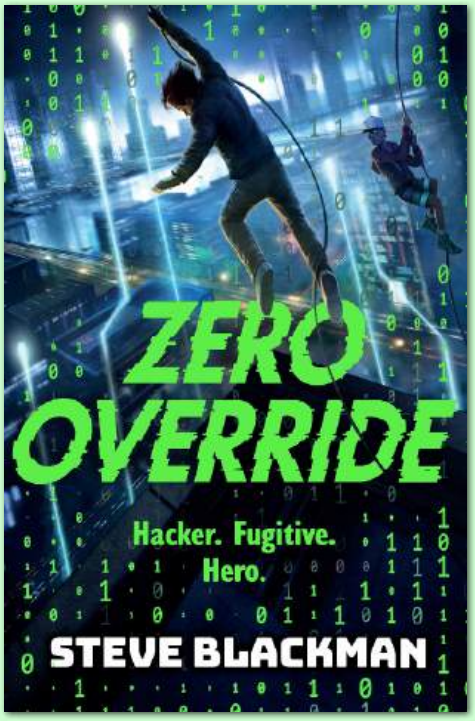






Suitable For Ages: 10+

ZERO OVERRIDE



In a futuristic London, thirteen-year-old hacker Zero must stop a dangerous computer virus that could shut down every intelligent machine in the country. When his sister's life is put at risk, Zero teams up with a mysterious humanoid bot named Andi, leading to a thrilling race against time filled with secrets, action, and unexpected friendships.

CLICK HERE TO READ EXTRACT

You'll enjoy this if:

💻	You love computers, coding, and high-tech gadgets.
⏳	You like fast-paced adventures with a ticking-clock mission.
🕵️	You enjoy uncovering secrets and solving mysteries.
🚁	You like exciting chases, daring break-ins, and action-packed scenes.
❤️	You enjoy stories about family, loyalty, and protecting the people you care about.

Free resource:

DOWNLOAD ACTIVITY PACK

DOWNLOAD CHARACTER CARDS

SCHOLASTIC BOOK CLUB LIVE

Robots, Reading, and Revolution! Introducing Zero Override
WATCH NOW >

WHY READING IS FOR EVERYONE

PLUS: Meet ZERO, the teenage hacker trying to save the future!





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Every year in the UK, around 200,000 new books are published. That includes books for adults and young people, picture books, novels and non-fiction. And of those books, one in every three is sold for children. That's a lot of books to choose from, and it doesn't stop there. These days, reading means much more than books: novels, comics, graphic novels, manga, magazines, newspapers, poetry, audiobooks and fan fiction all count as reading. There's no single way to find a story, no typical reader, and no typical way to read. Everyone has the chance to find a story that speaks to them regardless of their age, background, ability or the stories they enjoy.

Reading is a personal experience. Two people can read the same book and take completely different things from it. Whether we're hoping to find knowledge, escape, entertainment, comfort, curiosity or connection, what matters is finding something that makes us want to keep reading. And that's true if we devour books or if we only read a few pages at a time. Reading really is for everyone – we don't have to be bookworms, we just need to find something we actually want to read.

INSIDE *ZERO OVERRIDE*

1. Can you tell us about your book, *Zero Override*?

Zero Override is about a thirteen-year-old hacker called Zero, who lives with his little sister Grace in a found family of other hackers. Their world is a near-future London where AI has matured, so humans and humanoid robots live side by side. One day, while hacking the government's servers, Zero discovers a virus that will wipe out all the AI in the country, including Grace's artificial heart. Zero must team up with a bot in a white-knuckle race against the clock to evade capture by MI6 and stop the virus.

It's an adventure story first – the technology is there to make the story exciting, not to teach you about technology. It's also about friendship, loyalty and family as much as hackers and robots. I wanted it to be the sort of book that pulls you through the pages, so there's lots of humour and action. Most of all **I wanted to write a book for young people who might not necessarily think of themselves as readers**, but who love stories, games, technology and adventure.

2. How would you describe *Zero Override* in 3 words?

Fast. Funny. Futuristic.

Continued on next page...

INSIDE *ZERO OVERRIDE*
CONTINUED.

3. Can you tell us more about Zero as a character?

Zero's a brilliant hacker, but he's not always so good at making sensible decisions. He loves old-school technology, distrusts robots and can be snarky and overconfident. But underneath all that, he's fiercely loyal, especially to his younger sister Grace, and he has a strong sense of right and wrong – even when his methods are spectacularly misguided.

I didn't want him to be a flawless child genius. He's clever, but impulsive. He gets things wrong, makes bad decisions and has to live with the consequences. I think that makes him relatable. You might not see yourself in his hacking skills, but you might recognise the feeling of being confident in one part of your life and completely out of your depth in another. Zero's like that – **he makes mistakes, but he keeps going**, and that's what makes him a hero.

CHARACTER FILE

ZERO

#103.9754.8012.345.108

AGE **13**

SKILLS
Hacker

STRENGTHS
Loyal, brave, clever

WEAKNESSES
Impulsive, overconfident

MISSION
Save Grace and stop the virus

#103.9754.8012.345.108

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BIG QUESTIONS

> Can we TRUST AI?

> What happens when TECHNOLOGY goes wrong?

> What makes us HUMAN?

4. Why did you want technology to be a big theme in the book?

When I was planning the story, there were lots of conversations happening about AI being bad. A tech company had stolen lots of books to train its AI, which is obviously bad. But I've worked in technology for many years, and **I don't think technology itself is good or bad. It's how we use it that matters.** Technology is just a tool, like a hammer – you can use one to create something beautiful or to destroy it. I wanted to explore that idea, and very quickly realised it would be much more fun if the technology had faces and personalities. Which is why the story is filled with robots.

You're growing up in a world surrounded by AI and intelligent technology, so there are some big questions to explore: Can we trust it? What happens when it goes wrong? And what does it mean to be human in a world filled with intelligent machines? Fiction is a great place to ask those questions in an interesting and fun way.

Continued on next page...

WHY READING MATTERS

5. Why is reading so important? What are some of the benefits?

One of the best things about reading is that **it can take us almost anywhere**. We can visit fantasy worlds, outer space or the past, step into a life completely different from our own and see the world through somebody else's eyes. We meet people we'd never otherwise meet and discover ideas we might never have encountered. Books also give us new words, new ways of thinking and a better understanding of how other people might feel.

A story can make us laugh, frighten us, surprise us or make us see something differently. But I think it's just as important to **remember that reading is fun**. We're often told to read because it's good for us, as though every book must teach us something. Sometimes a book can simply give us a couple of hours of being somewhere else. And that's a pretty good reason to read too.

READING CAN HELP YOU

- ☑ Learn new words
- ☑ Build imagination
- ☑ Explore new places
- ☑ Understand others

YOUR READING CHALLENGE

THIS WEEK:

- ☐ READ FOR 5 MINUTES
- ☐ TRY SOMETHING NEW
- ☐ RECOMMEND A BOOK TO A FRIEND
- ☐ DISCOVER A STORY THAT INTERESTS YOU

REMEMBER:
EVERYONE HAS THE CHANCE TO FIND A STORY THAT SPEAKS TO THEM.

FINDING THE RIGHT BOOK

6. What if I'm not very good at reading? What if I'm a slow reader?

Can I tell you a secret? I'm a slow reader too. Sometimes I need to read a paragraph a couple of times before it sinks in. That doesn't mean I'm bad at reading – sometimes I even notice something new the second time. What really helps me is reading lots of different things until I find something I love and get completely pulled in.

Don't compare your reading speed with anyone else's. Speed isn't the same as understanding, and reading isn't a race – there's no prize for finishing a book fastest. And you don't have to finish every book (unless it's for school or studies). If it isn't working, put it down and try something else. Graphic novels, comics, magazines and audiobooks all count too. I love audiobooks because I can listen while walking or doing chores. Listening to a story is still experiencing a story, after all.

Continued on next page...

FINDING THE RIGHT BOOK
CONTINUED.

7. What if I haven't found the book for me yet?

Keep looking. **Not liking one book doesn't mean you don't like reading.** It probably just means you didn't like *that* book. There are millions of others, so try something completely different. Maybe science fiction, comedy, horror or mystery, or a writer from another country. And **think about what you already love**. If you're mad about football, gaming, space, music or animals, start there. Reading doesn't have to begin with a novel. You could even try reading the screenplay of a film you love – lots are available online. You already know the story, so it can feel like watching the film again, except you get to see what happens behind the scenes, too. You can see the words that were written before the actors, director and music brought them to life. Finding the right writer or kind of story can take time. **The important thing is not to decide you don't like reading.** Keep looking until you find something you do.

8. Can reading help me become better at sports, gaming or my favourite hobby?

Yes, definitely! In fact, if you already love something, reading can be one of the best ways to get better at it. **Whatever you're interested in, there are almost certainly books about it**. Love football? Read about tactics, great players and the history of the game. A gamer? Try strategy guides, game lore or stories set in the worlds you love. If you're interested in science, coding, drawing or making games, you can find out how things work and learn from people who are experts.

Reading also develops skills that are useful in almost anything: concentration, vocabulary, imagination and understanding complicated ideas. And when you're reading about something you already care about, it doesn't feel like learning. You're simply finding out more about something you love. **Reading isn't separate from the things you enjoy. It can take you further into them.**

9. What are some of your top tips for building a reading habit?

Start really small. You don't need to read for an hour every day. Five minutes counts. A few pages count. Even if you only have a couple of minutes, read something. The more you do it, the easier it becomes. If you can, attach reading to something you already do – after breakfast, before bed, on the bus or after school. And always have something to read nearby, so when you have five minutes to spare, you've got something to pick up.

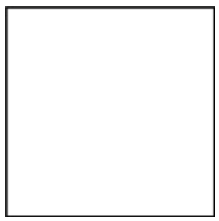
Most importantly, **find things you actually enjoy.** Try different kinds of books, comics or magazines until you find something that clicks. It can also be fun to talk about what you're reading. Ask friends what they're enjoying – you might discover your next favourite that way.

But the biggest tip is simple: **find something you genuinely want to read**. Once a story grabs you, reading stops feeling like something you have to do and becomes something you want to do. And that's how a reading habit starts.

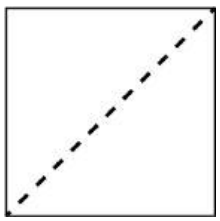
Make Your Very Own Origami Bookmark

Need a bookmark to mark your place in your favourite book? Why not make one with a few simple steps. All you need is a square origami paper (15x15cm is a good size).

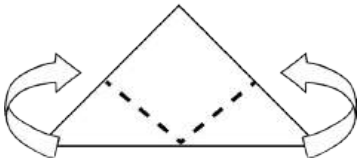
1. Start with a square piece of paper



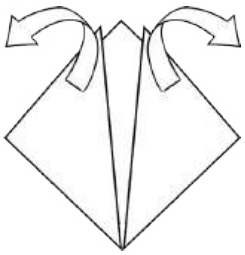
2. Fold the paper in half diagonally



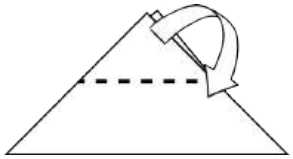
3. Fold the corners up to the top of the paper



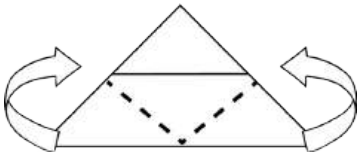
4. Unfold



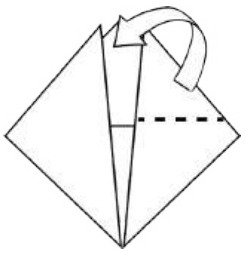
5. Fold the top layer down



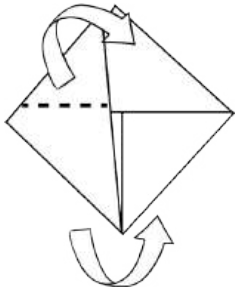
6. Fold the corners back up to the top



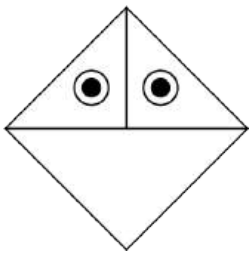
7. Fold one corner behind the pocket



8. Repeat for the other side



8. Decorate!



Autumn Reading Wordsearch

Easy Level

Welcome to our autumn wordsearch adventure! See if you can find all the cosy reading and autumn words hidden in the puzzle. Happy searching!

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



Autumn
Leaf
Tree
Acorn
Hedgehog

Squirrel
Apple
Pumpkin
Conker
Wind
Rain

Story
Book
Read
Page
Library

Autumn Reading Wordsearch

Medium Level

Welcome to our autumn wordsearch adventure! See if you can find all the cosy reading and autumn words hidden in the puzzle. Happy searching!

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



Woodland
Orchard
Rustling
Golden
Scarlet

Amber
Bramble
Woodland
Twig
Burrow
Hibernation

Chapter
Bookmark
Adventure
Mystery
Imagine

Autumn Reading Wordsearch

Challenging Level

Welcome to our autumn wordsearch adventure! See if you can find all the cosy reading and autumn words hidden in the puzzle. Happy searching!



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

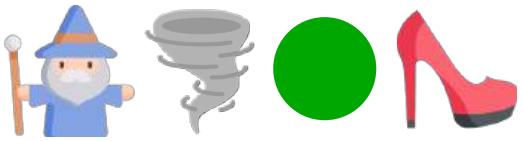


Evergreen	**Preserve**	**Journey**
Abundant	**Fiction**	**Explore**
Harvesting	**Non-fiction**	**Whimsical**
Migration	**Vocabulary**	**Fascinating**
Camouflage	**Curiosity**	**Remarkable**
Habitat	**Discover**	**Tranquil**
Forage	**Enchanted**	**Gleaming**

Guess the Book

**Can you crack the emoji clues and guess the book?
Put on your thinking cap, have fun, and see
how many books you can name!**

 → _

 → _

 → _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

Answer Page

Easy Level

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

Medium Level

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

Challenging Level

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

Guess the Book

 → **The Pumpkin Thief**

 → **The Wizard of Oz**

 → **Don't Eat the Teacher**

 → **The Bad Guys**

 → **Dog Man**

SCHOLASTIC BOOK CLUB LIVE

HALLOWEEN WEEK

19TH - 23RD OCTOBER

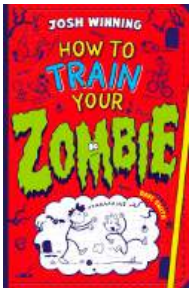
Celebrate reading with your favourite authors and illustrators!

Featuring favourite authors and illustrators for draw-alongs, creative writing workshops, Q&As and more, these sessions are a great way to inspire children and help them discover a love for reading.

Monday 19th October

11:00AM | AGES 9+

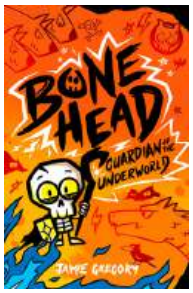
Josh Winning teaches you How to Train Your Zombie



Tuesday 20th October

11:00AM | AGES 9+

Halloween Sketch Fest



Wednesday 21st October

2:00PM | AGES 14+

How to make a graphic novel with Anna Penn



Thursday 22nd October

11:00AM | AGES 2+

Pumpkin storytime and draw-along



Join us for our programme of virtual events for schools.

Browse all upcoming events.