

Windows and Mirrors – see and be seen

A booklist of suggested diverse and inclusive books for children aged 4 to 7. All children see themselves in stories. All children are seen.

Stories help children become empathetic and reflective. Themes on our list include: family and friendship; exploring feelings; kindness and community; our planet; change and bereavement; moving home or country; the power of speaking up.

Most recently added titles are listed first.

Please let us know of titles you would like us to include on this list – diversity@ruthmiskin.com

Title	Author/ Illustrator	Publisher	Summary
This is Who I am	Rashmi Sirdeshpande and Ruchi Mhasane	Anderson Press	A little girl feels connected to two beautiful worlds. India, where her parents were born; a land of sarees, dance, family and history. And England where she lives now. She says, 'this is who I am and I'm proud to be me'.
Children of the Throne	Joseph Coelho and Richard Johnson	Frances Lincoln	Three children meet a magic tree man. He shows them how nature is suffering as our planet heats up. Have the adults forgotten me, he cries? More children join and soon the adults decide to help. Together we can save the world.
The Lost Homework	Richard O'Neill and Kirsty Beautyman	Child's Play	Sonny and his family live in a traveller community. One weekend, there's a wonderful wedding. He's busy and happy until he realises he can't find his homework. Sonny loves school and is worried. What will his teacher say?
Papa's Butter Chicken	Monica Saigal and Abeeha Tariq	Little Tiger	Dad is making butter chicken, everyone's favourite. Monica loves to cook with him and listen to his stories. Soon family and neighbours arrive with all sorts of yummy food. It's a feast! We all have our favourite dishes... what's yours?

When the Stammer Came to Stay	Maggie O'Farrell and Daniela Terrazzini	Walker Books	One day, unexpectedly, Min can't speak as she normally does. Her words stumble and trip. She's scared, sad and confused. It feels like a creature is on her shoulder stealing her words. Her sister Bea is the only one who can help. How might Min's life change with a stammer?
See for Yourself	Jordan Stephens and Beth Suzanna	Bloomsbury	Harry is curious to find out what's at the bottom of the world. His dad trusts him to go on an adventure and Harry travels down, down, down to the dark sea bed. What will he find there? How will he feel?
Olu's Teacher	Jamel C. Campbell and Lydia Mba	Walker Books	It's Olu's first day at nursery and he's nervous. What is a teacher? What do they look like? The classroom feels big and he feels small. By the end of the day, Olu is smiling. His teacher reminds him of someone... who could it be?
The Beautiful Layers of Me	Sophia Payne and Ruchi Mhasane	Walker Books	Ameena has her first salwar kameez for a wedding. But when a friend says they look like pyjamas, she's upset. She wants to feel special. Babu explains that beauty comes in all kinds of clothing. And Ameena feels pride and joy for her whole family.
Robin Hood	Bethan Woollvin	Two Hoots	The man who rules the land is greedy, mean and steals from the people. A girl decides to steal back from him and give back to the people. She is fierce and brave. Her name is Robin Hood.
The Magic of Callaloo	Trish Cooke and Sophie Bass	Walker Books	A magic plant grants a wish to a couple for a daughter but a bad man takes her and forces her to work. A wise woman makes a map in the girl's beautiful hair and she follow it to find her family. They're reunited and full of happiness. (Note: a longer book perfect for KS2 inspired by Rapunzel).

John's Turn	Mac Barnett and Kate Berube	Walker Books	In assembly, it's John's turn to share something he's good at. He feels nervous. His heart is beating fast. He dances and dances in his leotard and black slippers. And suddenly, his friends are clapping. How is he feeling now?
Leave the Trees Please	Benjamin Zephaniah and Melissa Castrillon	Magic Cat Publishing	Trees are a home for animals; they help birds and bees. Trees make oxygen. So, leave the trees please because they work with the breeze to put all living things at ease.
Mauntie and me	Rajani Larocca and Nadia Alam	Walker Books	Priya's favourite aunt, Mauntie, plays games with her and cooks treats. When cousin Aditi comes to stay, Priya feels confused. She isn't used to sharing Mauntie. Will she learn to play with Aditi and her aunt?
Grey	Laura Dockrill and Lauren Child	Walker Books	The child in this story feels grey today. It's okay to feel grey. We can't be bright every day. Sometimes we don't feel sunshine yellow or treetop green. A grey day is a sad or lonely day. But the colours are still inside us. People still love us.

Changing Tides	Julia Moscardo	Little Tiger	Lula and her dad and Theo and his mum are making a new family together. How will things turn out when they go to the seaside? Building a sandcastle is a wonderful way to have fun. But how will they feel when the tide crashes into it?
Two Families to Call My Own	Phil Earle and Jess Rose	Ladybird	Florrie and her brothers live half the week with mum and half with dad. One day, dad tells her he has a girlfriend. Florrie is worried. Will dad still love her? Will she like the girlfriend's children? It's often busy and crowded but it soon becomes... fun.

My Bright Shining Star	Fatima Whitbread and Rhian Wright	Words & Pictures	A little girl whose mummy finds it hard to look after her, moves to a big house with other children. She waits for a new family to take care of her but none 'feel like home'. So, she stays at the children's home where Aunty Rae is her bright, shining star.
Gina Kaminski Saves a Wolf	Craig Barr-Green and Francis Martin	Little Tiger	Often, Gina finds school 1) hot, 2) smelly or 3) loud. (Gina likes things in threes). Sometimes she uses her sticker chart to explain how she feels. Today, she decides to retell the story of Red Riding Hood with her in it. And in her way.
All Are Welcome	Alexandra Penfold and Suzanne Kaufman	Bloomsbury	As they play music, make art and share stories, all children are welcome in this busy, joyful school. 'No matter how you start your day, what you wear when you play, or if you come from far away, ALL ARE WELCOME HERE!'

Halima, Superhero Princess	Emily Hoof and Asa Gilland	Floris Books	When Halima's friends say she can't go to a fancy dress party as her favourite person because she doesn't look like them, she feels sad and small. Her mum reminds her of all the amazing women who look like her. Who will she dress up as? Find out Halima's great idea!
Terrible Horses	Raymond Antrobus and Ken Wilson-Max	Walker Books	A brother and sister do not always get along. In fact, they fight and do not use their words. The boy writes stories about how lonely he feels. His sister reads them and begins to understand her brother. Maybe she feels this way sometimes too?
When You Joined Our Family	Harriet Evans and Nia Tudor	Little Tiger	Sometimes a child joins a new family. The parents celebrate their new child, keep them safe and take care of them. They learn about each others' stories and make new traditions together. After all, <i>'it is the love in our hearts that binds us together'</i> .
Two People Can	Blessing Musariri and Maisie Paradise Shearring	Kumushna Books	Shingai's dad doesn't live with him anymore and he misses him. He feels a jumpiness inside and does wild things. Then, mum starts doing wild things too. They are both sad but begin to realise they can do fun things together. Two people is a good number.
Ava and the Acorn	Lu Fraser and Paddy Donnelly	Hodder Children's Books	Ava and grandad's favourite oak tree changes each season. Buds in spring, bees and beetles in summer. When the oak tree dies, grandad says; 'the acorn was part of that tree in the same way that you're part of me'. A small part of all of us always lives on.

Peace on Earth	Smriti Halls and David Litchfield	Walker Books	When words hurt and sting, peace can be hard to find. But with brave hearts and kind hands, we can change angry words. "Peace will never look away, it lights a candle, here to stay". There is always a way out of darkness to the light. Peace mends hearts and spreads love.
Confetti	Dean Atta and Alea Marley	Orchard	Ari loves the colours of confetti. She sees the colours at Pride, at her mummy's baby shower and at her own birthday party. She throws confetti too when her uncle and his husband get married. There are so many different days and ways to celebrate love, joy and family.
Until You Find the Sun	Maryam Hassan and Anna Wilson	Hodder Children's Books	Aminah loves the golden sunshine and mangoes of home. One day, she has to move to a colder, darker new country. She misses home and her grandpa. One snowy day, dressed in a new sunshine yellow coat, she makes a friend and life begins to feel brighter.
Mama and Mummy and Me in the Middle	Nina LaCour and Kaylani Juanita	Walker Books	When mummy goes away on a work trip, a little girl misses her very much. She and mama keep busy and make a banner to welcome mummy home but the missing is hard. But when she comes home, the little girl feels tearful. They all cuddle together and 'it feels just right'.
Something, Someday	Amanda Gorman and Christian Robinson	Puffin	Sometimes the world can feel broken and we feel alone. If you find a friend, maybe you can fix things together? Maybe you fix something small that changes something big? 'Something that makes you feel hopeful, happy and loved'. With friends, community and hope

			we can make the world a better place.
My Name is a Gift	Zeshan Akhter and Asa Gilland	Templar Books	When Sitara is born, her name is the first present she gets from her mum and dad. It's from Pakistan and means 'shine like a star'. People tumble up her name and say it wrongly. She wishes they would ask her how to say it. When people say her name carefully it lights up her heart.
One Day at a Time	Rachel Ip and Natelle Quek	Hodder Children's Books	When their parents make the painful decision to live in separate houses, Poppy and Robin have mixed-up feelings. Their school and friends stay the same.. But sometimes... it feels like something is missing. It takes time but they know there will always be hugs, laughter and love. Plenty of love.
Dance Just Like So	Annemarie Anang and Natelle Quek	Five Quills	Gran loves to dance the Shooby-Dee Mambo and decides to teach it to the community. She twirls and shimmies and everyone bops, taps, wiggles and shakes along. Gran hurts her knee, ouch. Kwesi has a great idea to keep the joyful dance classes going. Find out how Gran joins in!

I Love You Because I Love You	Muro'n Thi Van and Jessica Love	HarperCollins Children's Books	There are small and big reasons why we love the people we love. Because they care, carry or play with us. Because they cook with care. Because people let us speak or let us make mistakes. Because they know when we're sad or afraid. In the end, we love them because... we love them.
The Little Wooden Robot and the Log Princess	Tom Gauld	Templar Books	In this fairytale, the king and queen have two children; a little wooden robot and a log princess. However, every night the princess turns back into a log. One night, she is taken and her brother sets out on an adventure to find her. Will the robot and princess make it safely home to the king and queen?
Love, the Earth	Frances Stickley and Tim Hopgood	Walker Books	A poem from the Earth to inspire us to love and look after our world. The Earth gives us animals, weather, forests, oceans and plants. 'Please share my food, my lakes, my land, but try to lend a helping hand'. If we take care of the planet, it will take care of us.
All the Ways to be Smart	Davina Bell and Allison Colpoys	Scribble	What does it mean to be smart? It's not just reading and spelling or knowing all the answers. It's building boats from boxes; finding treasures; flower picking; making up new games with teams. In fact, 'nobody will ever do the very same smart things as you'. We are all smart in different ways!

The Bridges	Tom Percival	Simon & Schuster	Mia is a little girl who feels lonely. One day, a book mysteriously appears. The first book she has ever owned and, as she reads it, she begins to cross bridges. Bridges that lead her to new places, new people, new adventures. When she meets a little boy who seems lonely, she knows what to do.
Flower Block	Lanisha Butterfield and Hoang Giang	Puffin	One night, Jeremiah plants tiny seeds and makes a wish. The next day, vines magically sprout through his ceiling and up to the floors of his tower block. As he and his brother explore, they discover more flowers and more new people. How will the community feel about their tower full of flowers?
A Midsummer Night's Dream	Georgia Ellinas and Jane Ray	Candlewick Press	Puck, a cheeky sprite, lives in the fairy kingdom. King Oberon and Queen Titania have a disagreement and ask Puck to help them sort it out. At the same time, there are four young people in love but each with the wrong person. Can Puck sort out the muddles? A retelling of the play by William Shakespeare.
A Child's Garden – a story of hope	Michael Foreman	Walker Books	A little boy lives in a village torn apart by war. He can no longer reach the hills; they are blocked by barbed wire. He finds a little plant that he nurtures. A message of optimism in a world that can seem hopeless. Connection and nature will rise again.

Ada Twist, Scientist	Andrea Beaty and David Roberts	Abrams	Ada's head is full of questions; why, what, how and when? 'How does a nose know there's something to smell? And does it still stink if there's no nose to tell?' This fabulous rhyming story is perfect for Year 1+ to inspire curiosity and perseverance in young, would-be scientists. Follow your passion; and your nose!
Amy Wu and the Patchwork Dragon	Kat Zhang	Simon & Schuster	The class are making dragons. Sadly, none of the ones Amy makes feel right. At home, Amy and her family find a dragon costume in the attic. Teamwork, glue and lots of glitter and... ta da! She has a dragon to proudly show her classmates.
Amy Wu and the Perfect Bao	Kat Zhang	Simon & Schuster	Amy loves to eat bao – yummy Chinese dumplings – but she's not great at making them. Her mum, dad and grandma all try to teach her. Learning to make a bao is not easy! Cooking as a family, sharing food and... patience feature in this story.
And Tango Makes Three	Justin Richardson and Peter Parnell	Simon & Schuster	Roy and Silo are a penguin couple who are both boys. They swim together, walk together and sing together. One day they begin to take care of an egg in their nest and soon have a baby penguin as part of their family. What do you need to make a family? Love.

Astro Girl	Ken Wilson-Max	Otter-Barry	Astrid loves the stars and space. While her mama is away, she finds out all sorts of facts with her papa about being an astronaut. When she gets to pick her mama up, there is a surprise. What will it be and why has mama been away?
Billy and the Dragon	Nadia Shireen	Penguin	Billy and her animal friends are enjoying a party when a dragon swoops down and grabs Fatcat. How will Billy save him? Fortunately, Billy has a great brain and a plan! And maybe the dragon isn't such a baddy after all! A story with a twist.
Chapati Moon	Pippa Goodhart and Lizzie Finlay	Penguin	Mrs Kapoor has just cooked a feast when her freshly baked chapati rolls out the door. There's a lively chase by people and animals as it bumps, jumps and spins. Where will it end up and will anyone get to eat it? A lovely retelling of the runaway pancake tale.
Clean Up!	Nathan Bryon and Dapo Adeola	Penguin	Rocket visits her grandparents and decides to find a way to clean up the plastic spoiling the beauty of the beach. 'It feels as though there is more plastic than sand!' When Rocket decides to do something, she does so... with va-va-voom!

Cloud Babies	Eoin Colfer and Chris Judge	Walker Books	Erin has a wonderful imagination and sees cloud babies in the sky. She becomes ill and spends lots of time in hospital. Her cloud babies help her and other children. Going back to school is hard; she misses her school friends on hospital days and her hospital friends on school ones. What will Erin's parents and teachers do to help her?
Dadaji's Paintbrush	Rashmi Sirdeshpande and Ruchi Mhasane	Anderson Press	A little boy and his grandfather love to paint. When grandfather dies, the boy stops painting. He is just too sad. A little girl asks him to teach her to paint. Together, they discover the joy of colour, of painting and the other village children join in too, 'grandfather will always be with him'.
Dim Sum Palace	X. Fang	Pushkin Children's	Liddy is so excited about her trip to the Dim Sum Palace, she can't sleep. Soon she finds herself in a real palace where chefs are making dumplings. Yum! She slips into the dumpling mix and soon finds she is a Liddy dumpling! What will happen to Liddy? Let's hope nobody eats her...
Do You Remember?	Sydney Smith	Walker Books	A boy and his mum share memories of when they lived with dad in a faraway place. Some are very beautiful; lying on a blue blanket in the sun. Some more painful; a scary rainstorm and leaving their home. They begin to make new memories together. Lyrical and stunningly illustrated for Year 1+.

Eco Girl	Ken Wilson-Max	Otter-Barry Books	Eve loves trees. In fact, she wishes she could talk to them. On a visit to Grandma for her birthday, she gets a magical surprise. A little Baobab tree of her own, just like generations of her family have. Happy Birthday Eco Girl!
Everything Changes	Clare Helen Walsh and Asa Gillard	Little Tiger	Mummy and daddy can't live together anymore; it's confusing and worrying. The family build a new life, do different things and talk about what it feels like. 'Sometimes grown-ups separate, but parents are forever'. What keeps them together even if they are apart? Love.
Extra Yarn	Mac Barnett	Walker Books	A girl finds a box filled with 'yarn of every colour.' She knits a jumper for her dog, her friends, for buildings and trees. The yarn never runs out. A mean person steals the box. Will the magic work for him too? A modern fairy tale about kindness... and baddies!
Eyes that Kiss in the Corners	Joanna Ho	HarperCollins	A young girl notices her eyes look different from her friends. Her eyes 'kiss in the corners and glow like warm tea' like her mama's, her amah's and her baby sister's. They connect her to her family, to her history. A book to help children recognise their own beauty.
Faruq and the Wiri Wiri	Sophia Payne	Templar Books	Faruq's granny loves to cook. He wants to be a chef when he grows up, not a doctor like his dad. 'Why can't boys learn to cook?' he wonders. One day, he prepares a fabulous feast for his family with the wiri wiri pepper. What could be more joyful? For everyone! A true celebration!

Finn's Little Fibs	Tom Percival	Bloomsbury	Finn loves visiting his beloved grandmother more than anything. One day, he finds himself telling her a little fib. The fib grows; he feels sad and his tummy feels strange. In fact, he feels awful. He takes a big step and tells her the truth. And guess what? He feels so much lighter. A book about honesty.
Forever Star	Gareth Peter and Judi Abbot	Puffin	Tim and Tim, the space heroes, would like to be dads and decide to adopt a child who needs a new start. They travel through space and find... Little Jim. 'I think that's our boy! Our very own starlight, our very own joy.' Their very own forever family.
Full, Full, Full of Love	Trish Cooke and Paul Howard	Walker Books	Jay Jay is at his gran's house and asks again and again 'Is dinner ready, Gran?' Her house is full of warmth, love, affection and... food! 'Buttery peas, chicken and yams, macaroni and cheese, potatoes and ham.' A perfect book for children in Nursery and Reception.
Geoffrey Gets the Jitters	Nadia Shireen	Puffin	Geoffrey sometimes worries and feels as if his tummy is full of wiggly worms. He feels so bad in fact, he just wants to hide. How can he stop feeling so jittery? How about a deep breath and a stretch? Yes, that helps! It's normal to worry but we can help ourselves feel better.

Girls on Wheels	Srividhya Venhat and Kate Wadsworth	Kokila	Three girls who love to skate; except one of them is nervous. Her friends practise with her until she is brave and ready to fly. 'Like the cool sea breeze, her friends blow away her doubt.' Hurray for friendship and for the courage to get up again!
Grandad's Camper	Harry Woodgate	Andersen Press	Grandad and Gramps travelled the world in their camper van but sadly Gramps isn't around anymore. The child in this story listens as Grandad remembers their joyful trips. Will Grandad take one more trip to the beach? Stunning illustrations and a powerful story of love and loss.
Hello! A Counting Book of Kindness	Hollis Kurman	Otter-Barry Books	Families running away from war, floods or scary places need a safe place to live. This counting book beautifully illustrates hope, action and the importance of kind gestures. From beds 'to keep us safe and warm' to 'sharing new stories and words'.
Home for Grace	Kathryn White and Rachael Dean	Anderson Press	A little girl and her mum befriend a homeless woman called Grace. They share gifts with her; she shares stories with them. Sometimes they eat soup together. Grace tells them how she had to 'leave her home and cross the sea'. A story to celebrate kindness and connection.

Islandborn	Junot Diaz and Leo Espinosa	Rock the Boat Books	Lola left the Island as a baby. Her teacher asks the class to draw a picture of where they are from, so Lola asks her community for memories. She hears of mangoes, music and dolphins. Also a scary monster; a hurricane. She may have left the island but she still belongs.
I am Nefertiti	Annemarie Anang	Five Quills	Nefertiti's grandma chose her name and she is proud of it. When Nefertiti plays drums with a band, her new music teacher shortens her name to "Nef." Nefertiti feels her body shrink. Will she be able to play the drums when she feels this way? Our names matter.
I Talk Like a River	Jordan Scott	Walker Books	When the boy in this story starts to speak, the words get stuck. On bad speech days, he stays 'quiet as a stone.' His dad helps him see how his voice bubbles and churns like a beautiful river. A book to help children understand stammering.
If all the world were...	Joseph Coelho	Frances Lincoln	A stunningly illustrated book about the love between a little girl and her grandad. When he passes away, she has a 'kaleidoscope of memories' that she writes and draws. A book to explore families, love and loss.
If I Were Prime Minister	Trygve Skaug and Ella Okstad	Lantana	What would you do if you were prime minister? This child would buy ice cream for everyone and have cars powered by legs. Anyone who wanted a dog, could have one. Anyone who wanted a friend could have at least two. A funny, lively tale and a great stimulus for writing in Year 2+.

If I Were the World	Mark Sperring	Natalie Quek	Three children explore what the planet is facing: harmful gases, extinction and floods. They also help us see the action we can take as a community. An uplifting, energetic book, stunningly illustrated about looking after our amazing planet.
It's a No-Money Day	Kate Milner	Barrington Stoke	Sometimes, in this girl's house, it's a no-money day. There are still fun things to do; go to the library or practise your singing. Today, they are going to the food bank. This simple story explores the reality of some children's lives with dignity, positivity and gentleness.
Jabari Jumps	Gaia Cornwall	Walker	'I'm jumping off the diving board today' says Jabari when he visits the swimming pool with his dad and sister. It's a bit high, a bit scary. 'It's OK to feel a little scared,' says his dad. Children will identify with Jabari's fear and bravery in this story.
Jabari Tries	Gaia Cornwall	Walker	One day in the garden with his dad and sister, Jabari decides to make a flying machine. Planning and building can be frustrating. Jabari's dad encourages him to 'blow away all the mixed feelings inside.' The moment of achievement makes Jabari, his family and the reader smile!
Julian at the Wedding	Jessica Love	Walker	Julian and Marisol are all dressed up to go to the wedding of two brides. When Marisol's dress gets dirty, Julian has an idea. Julian is very good at dressing up and the party continues with dancing and joy. A book to celebrate love in all its glory.

Julian is a Mermaid	Jessica Love	Walker	Julian decides he wants to be a mermaid and creates an outfit for himself. How does his nana respond? Why, she takes him to visit other mermaids. 'Like you, honey' she says. 'Let's join them.' A story of love, acceptance and swishy tails that challenges gender stereotypes.
Keep Smiling	Floella Benjamin and Diane Ewen	Macmillan	Vina loves to smile. When she starts school, she feels scared and her usual smile fades. A little boy gives her 'a small nervous smile, as gentle as a mouse'. She collects all the smiles people share with her throughout the day. When she gets home, her smile is back. A smile is a superpower!
Little Red	Bethan Woollvin	Too Hoots	Some little girls are scared of wolves but not this little girl. Little Red is brave. Little Red is clever. Little Red will not be tricked by a silly wolf. A fabulous retelling of Little Red Riding Hood, perfect for Reception and Year 1 children.
Look up!	Nathan Byron and Dapo Adeola	Penguin	Rocket is a little girl with big ambitions; she wants to be an astronaut one day. The story is full of Rocket's fabulous facts and contagious enthusiasm. She is a girl on a mission.
Love Grows Everywhere	Barry Timms	Frances Lincoln	Love grows on the street...and reaches out to those we meet. A neighbour from across the way. A friend from school who'd like to play.' A book that pays homage to the fact that love makes a brighter world. Wonderful illustrations to reflect all children's lives.

Luna Loves Christmas	Joseph Coelho and Fiona Lumbers	Andersen Press	Sometimes Luna spends Christmas at her mum's, sometimes at her dad's. This year, her whole family are doing something special. They are volunteering and making deliveries for the food bank and being part of a Christmas dinner where everyone is welcome.
Malala's Magic Pencil	Malala Yousafzai and Kerascoet	Puffin	When she was young, Malala wished that all girls in her country could go to school like her. When girls were no longer allowed to, she spoke up. And, although people tried to silence her, she continues to help 'make the world a more peaceful place'.
Mama's Sleeping Scarf	Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie and Joelle Avelino	Harper Collins	While she's at work, mama lets Chino play with her special scarf. All day, Chino plays, runs and eats with it. The scarf connects her to mama, papa, her grandparents. It wraps them in love until they all come together for a family dinner. The delight of everyday things!
Max the Tag-along Moon	Floyd Cooper	Bloomsbury	Max loves his granpa. When he leaves his house one night, granpa reminds him that the moon will follow Max home. Once in his dark bedroom, Max misses granpa and the moon. But as granpa says, 'That ol' moon will always shine for me... on and on!' And it does. A reassuring story of family love.

Meesha Makes Friends	Tom Percival	Bloomsbury	Meesha loves making things but finds it difficult to make friends. Hiding in a quiet corner at a noisy party Meesha discovers she is not the only person who finds it tricky. A book to help children recognise their own feelings and how others might be feeling too.
My Beautiful Voice	Joseph Coelho	Frances Lincoln	Miss Flotsam's clothes are 'a flutter of fabric filled with the spice of colour'. She loves poetry. A little girl in her class rarely speaks. Inspired and nurtured by Miss Flotsam, she slowly finds her voice. And when she does... it is beautiful.
My Bindhi	Gita Varadarajan	Orchard Books	It is an important moment in Divya's life; time to wear a bindhi. She is nervous about what her school friends might say and is 'all mixed up.' Is she scared or is she proud? She bravely stands up in class and explains, 'it can see inside me and protect me. It makes me feel like ME.'
My Dad	Susan Quinn and Marina Ruiz	Words and Pictures	A little boy tells us what's so special about his dad: from baking the best cookies to bathtime fun. 'I love the time I spend with Dad – he's the best a dad can be. And every day is special when it's just my Dad and me.'
My Dad is a Grizzly Bear	Swapna Haddow	Macmillan	This dad is a grizzly bear with fur that scratches and scatches and a very loud roar. Sometimes he laughs and teases. Sometimes he's grumpy and sleepy. But he always gives the very best hugs. A fun, lively story for Nursery and Reception.

My Monster and Me	Nadiya Hussain	Hodder	This little boy has a worry monster. 'It was always BIG. When it stood in front of me, I could see nothing but its tummy.' Talking to gran one day, helps the monster get smaller. A book to help children make friends with their monsters.
My Must Have Mum	Maudie Smith and Jen Khatun	Lantana Publishing	Jake's mum can 'make something new out of any old thing.' Their flat is full of things she has tinkered with, mixed or mended. Jake worries she might want to change him too. A heart-warming bond between a mum and her son with an 'upcycling' theme.
My Name is Not Refugee	Kate Milner	Barrington Stoke	What is it like to leave your home, your town and your community? To hear words you don't understand, to taste new food? The child in this story reminds us; 'You'll be called Refugee but remember Refugee is not your name.'
My Nana's Garden	Dawn Casey and Jessica Courtney Tickle	Templar Books	A child explores her nana's garden with her through the seasons. When nana passes away, the little girl and her mum sing nana's songs, remember her words and plant her seeds. In time, the garden is once again 'blooming with life.'
My Two Grannies	Floella Benjamin and Margaret Chamberlain	Frances Lincoln	Alvina's two grannies like different things. One likes rice and peas, the other likes steak and kidney pie. When both look after her, they squabble. Alvina suggests they take turns doing the things they like. Will they get along better? A tale of respect and friendship.

Never Show a T- Rex a Book	Rashmi Sirdeshpande and Diana Ewen	Penguin	A little girl starts to imagine what would happen if she read to a T-Rex; the dinosaur might 'get all excited and want to read even MORE.' A fun celebration of the magic of stories and what might, just might happen to a T- Rex (or you) if you carry on reading and reading!
Now We're Together	Nicola Edwards and Jenny Bloomfield	Little Tiger	This beautiful story encourages us to get off our phones; stop 'tap- tapping away'. And what adventures we can have! 'We dance and we swish and we swirl and we run, and no one's recording, we're just having fun'. We notice colours, light and nature and of course... each other. A book to inspire us all.
One Little Word	Joseph Coelho and Allison Colpoys	Frances Lincoln	Two best friends argue; the argument grows until they feel more like enemies. A rollercoaster of shouting, shoving and tears ensues. What will it take to heal their friendship? Why, one little word of course. Oh, and a hug.
Our Nipa Hut	Rachell Abalos and Gabriela Lario	Barefoot Books	Yelena and papa live in a nipa hut; a Filipino house built on stilts. The hut is part of their family. When a storm comes (and they come more often these days), the hut shudders and flinches. 'The wind is strong, but together, Yelena, papa and the nipa hut are stronger'.

Our Tower	Joseph Coelho and Richard Johnson	Frances Lincoln	Despite the grey, concrete tower the children live in, there is 'a power that resides in the smiles of our neighbours. A magic that seeps out when we swap our home-baked flavours.' A moving and important story to share with children in Key Stage 1 and 2.
Out of the Blue	Robert Tregoning	Bloomsbury	The child in this story feels sad and alone. Everything in the world is the colour blue; including the grass and he loves... yellow. Is it okay to love yellow? Will his dad still love him? 'Life is like a rainbow – we all love different things.' A story to celebrate individuality and diversity.
People Need People	Benjamin Zephaniah and Nila Aye	Orchard	A fabulous poem that bounces along, why not join in as if it's a song? A celebration of connection, family, friendship; 'to make life appealing and give life some meaning, it's useful to have other people'. Oh yes, people will always need people.
Perfectly Norman	Tom Percival	Bloomsbury	Norman suddenly grows a pair of wings. At first he loves them, but fear of standing out makes him hide them under a coat which only makes him miserable. As Norman overcomes his fear, he learns that being different is wonderful.
Princesses Break Free	Timothy Knapman	Walker Books	Princess Tilly is no ordinary princess. She doesn't wait to be rescued and inspires other princesses to do the same. 'For the first time, princesses everywhere were doing exactly what they'd always WANTED to do!' Soon princes, witches and fairy godmothers join in

			the revolution!
Proudest Blue	Ibtihaj Muhammad and S.K. Ali et al	Andersen Press	A younger sister is worried for her older sister on the first day she wears hijab. But she needn't be. Written by the first Muslim American woman to compete for the United States in the Olympics – an empowering, beautiful book.
Ravi's Roar	Tom Percival	Bloomsbury	Like all children, Ravi sometimes feels cross. One day he becomes so furious, he turns into a tiger and ROARS. At first, it feels good. But soon nobody wants to play. A book to help children learn to understand anger – even if they do sometimes still need 'a bit of a growl!'
Ruby's Worry	Tom Percival	Bloomsbury	Ruby has a Worry that stops her doing the things she loves. When Ruby finds a friend and shares her Worry, she feels like herself again. This story helps children name the feeling of 'worry' and understand that other people have worries too. The message? Talking helps.
Saving Mr Hoot	Helen Stephens	Alison Green Books	Mr Hoot, the owl, lives in a tree by Ben's house. Nobody believes that an owl lives there and grown- ups want to chop the tree down. Will Ben manage to stop the tree falling and why is it important to save our trees? A charming book for Reception about nature, family and community.

Small's Big Dream	Manjeet Mann	HarperCollins	Small is... well, small. Her shoes, her bed, her everything. But her dreams are big! She dreams of 'scaling the largest mountain, sailing across the oceans, shooting off into space'. Despite people telling her to keep her head down, she reaches for the sky. Dream big and anything can happen.
So Much	Trish Cooke and Helen Oxenbury	Walker	Everyone who visits, loves the baby. They want to squeeze him, love him, kiss him. The big boy cousins want to wrestle him and laugh with him. A book full of the hustle, bustle and joy of family life with words children can't fail to join in with!
Speak Up!	Nathan Bryon	Puffin	Rocket loves going to the library. When she finds out it will close, she decides to speak up. This little girl has a lot to say. She rallies her friends to have a peaceful protest – 'like Rosa Parks did!' A story full of energy, the power of using our voices and the importance of... books.
Strong Like Me	Kelechi Okafor and Michaela Dias-Hayes	Puffin	Everyone has things that makes them special; Kamara is strong and can run fast. But sometimes being special makes her sad. A boy calls her a show-off; some girls accuse her of always winning. She finds out there are different ways to be strong and that we should all... stay strong!
Sunny and the Birds	Wendy Meddour and Nabila Adani	Oxford University Press	Sunny and his dad have moved to a new country. They miss their old home; particularly the birds. Sometimes they are sad, sometimes they can't sleep. Sunny has an idea. Soon their new garden is full of the things they have missed.

Super Duper You	Sophie Henn	Puffin	A little sister is sometimes silly, sometimes very quiet; sometimes twinkly, sometimes 'fighty'. Her big brother notices and likes all the things she is. A vibrant story about sibling love and a celebration of children's full selves.
Thank you Omu!	Oge Mora	Little, Brown and Company	Omu makes a big pot of thick red stew. Knock, knock! One by one, friends and neighbours follow their noses and Omu shares her dinner. A joyful story of food and community with award-winning illustrations.
That's Not a Daffodil	Elizabeth Honey	Quarto	Mr Yilmaz, a kindly neighbour, brings Tom a daffodil. 'That's not a daffodil' declares Tom when he sees the brown bulb. Together, they water it and protect it from life's knocks and bumps. Both friendship and a beautiful yellow flower blossom.
The Bookworm	Debi Glori	Bloomsbury	Max is determined to have a pet. He chooses, not a kitten, a puppy or a goldfish but a ... worm. He sings it songs, strokes its back and reads it stories. It's a real bookworm! Soon however, his worm begins to grow spikes and breathe fire. Is this the best pet for him?
The Boys	Lauren Ace	Caterpillar Books	Four boys; one makes art, one makes music, one tells stories and one likes to understand how things work. As they grow up and difficulties arise, the friends realise 'the best way to face problems is to talk and listen.' A book to celebrate the value of friendship.

The Boy with Flowers in His Hair	Jarvis	Walker Books	Everybody likes David, the boy with flowers in his hair. He's sweet and gentle. When his petals begin to fall out, his best friend acts with kindness and creativity to help. Beautiful illustrations and perfect to explore inclusivity for Reception and Year 1.
The Can Caravan	Richard O'Neill	Child's Play	Mrs Tolen has a broken hip and worries she will have to move from her caravan into a house. Her young friends decide to help. With hard work and a visit to the recycling plant, her home is safe for her. A story celebrating the traditional Traveller values of community and recycling.
The Comet	Joe Todd-Stanton	Flying Eye Books	Nyla's dad gets a new job and they move from the country to the town. She is used to her dad cooking dinners, reading stories; she is used to seeing the sky. Change is hard but seeing a comet reminds Nyla of what she loves. Can Nyla and her dad make their new house a home?
The Drama Llama	Rachel Morrisroe	Puffin Books	When Alex worries or has a drama, a llama appears and causes mayhem. Alex can't get rid of it. We learn that 'when a fear or worry starts to leave you feeling stressed, find someone to talk to because talking is the BEST.' A book with fabulous rhymes and funny illustrations.
The Ever-Changing Earth	Grahame Baker-Smith	Templar Books	A story that explores our changing planet. Find out how Earth was formed; how an asteroid fell millions of years ago; how dinosaurs once roamed; how the Earth changed from 'a world of fire to a world of oceans'; how our

			planet is evolving, growing and creating new animals and plants. We are all connected; no matter where on earth we live.
The Extraordinary Gardener	Sam Boughton	Tate	Jo lives in a grey world and has a wondrous imagination. One day, he decides to plant a tiny seed. The seed turns into a plant and he decides to grow all sort of other things, in all sorts of new places. Jo turns the ordinary... extraordinary.
The Family Tree	Kate Ferdinand	Puffin	Amongst magical forest families, live Ash, Willow and their dad. Dad introduces them to a new person. The children like her but also miss their mum. What will bring this blended family together? As they bake, they get to know one another and their home starts to glow with love and magic.
The Girls	Lauren Ace and Jenny Lovlie	Caterpillar Books	Four little girls are best friends and 'as different as they are the same'. One is an adventurer, one has good ideas, one is practical and one makes everyone laugh. They stay rooted together as they grow, just like the tree they used to play beneath. A book for children in Year 1 and above.
The Girl Who Planted Trees	Caryl Hart and Anastasia Suvorava	Nosy Crow	A small girl decides she wants to bring the forest back to her mountain. She plants pips and seeds and gives them water and love. Despite storms and the blazing sun, she never gives up. And soon the whole community is involved. A beautiful tale of hope, resilience and connection.

The Great Storm Whale	Benji Davies	Simon & Schuster	Grandma tells Noi a story about a storm that destroyed a little girl's home. And how, bit by bit, things from her old home began to turn up on the beach. Who has been bringing them to her? A tale of family, history and connection to nature.
The Invisible	Tom Percival	Simon & Schuster	When Isabel's family don't have enough money to pay the bills, they move to the other side of the city. In this new part of town, she feels invisible. Isabel begins to build a community. 'The more people came together... the more they could all be seen.' A book about hope and belonging.
The Journey	Francesca Sanna	Flying Eye Books	A family's life changes forever when a war begins. They say goodbye to everyone they know and leave for a new country. When they reach the border, they are told to go back by an angry guard. Finally they take a boat, many trains. What are they looking for? Safety. A home.
The Kindest Red	Ibtihaj Muhammad, S.K. Ali and Hatem Aly	Andersen Press	The children at Faizah's school spend the day deciding the sort of world they would like. Faizah chooses kindness and spends the day being kind to friends. At the end of the day, her friend Sophie shares something precious with her. Kindness can come back to you.
The Many Colours of Harpreet Singh	Supriya Kellar	Union Square Kids	Harpeet loves to wear colourful patkas (turbans); yellow when he feels sunny and red for courage. When he moves schools, he feels shy and wears his white patka. What might make him feel

			colourful again? Making a friend, of course.
The Missing Piece	Jordan Stephens	Bloomsbury	Granny gives Sunny a puzzle to complete. A piece is missing so she sets off to see if neighbours have it. Along the way she gains a window into their homes, gardens and stories and meets new friends. Find stunning, colourful illustrations in this story of community.
The New Small Person	Lauren Child	Penguin	When a new brother arrives, Elmore Green is not pleased. And, even worse, 'one awful day the small person moved its bed into Elmore Green's room'. One night the two brothers connect over 'making long lines of things' and... jelly beans! Many children will relate to this funny story.
The Ocean Gardener	Clara Anganuzzi	Little Tiger	Ayla lives on a tiny island where her mum takes care of the coral reef. Sadly, the sea becomes too warm, the reef starts to fade and the fish disappear. Ayla and her mum decide to grow a coral nursery at home and plant it in the sea. Will the fish return? 'Be patient; change doesn't happen overnight' says mum.
The Pirate Mums	Jodie Lancet-Grant	Oxford University Press	Billy's two mums like sea shanties, dancing jigs and anything to do with the sea. Billy wishes they could be like normal families. One day however, on a school boat trip, his mums save the day and Billy couldn't be prouder of his pirate mums.

The Pirate Tree	Brigita Orel and Jenny Poh	Lantana	Sam loves to play pirate ships on an old, gnarled tree. One day another sailor arrives, a little boy new to the street. 'No one wants to play with him because he's a newcomer.' Will Sam and Agu play on the ship together? A book to celebrate the value of friendship.
The Power of One	Trudy Ludwig and Mike Curato	Knopf	Small acts of kindness make a big difference; a good listener, a shy smile, a caring friend, a sincere apology or a warm hug. 'One thoughtful idea can bring a community together.' It all starts with... one act.
The Queen Next Door	Marcela Ferreira and Sally Agar	Orchard	There was once a queen who was happy and loved. Until... a new queen moves next door. The first queen becomes angry; she wants a throne like the new queen has! Her people try to please her but she remains cross. Will the queen return to her fair, friendly and kind self? A modern day fairy tale; perfect for Reception.
The Secret Elephant	Ellen Rankin	Wren and Rook	During a terrible war, a baby elephant in a zoo became scared of the bangs and flashes. Her keeper sneaks her home at night to comfort her. The elephant gets bigger... and bigger and soon the secret is out. What will become of her? Will she go back to the zoo? Will she be okay without her keeper?
The Smile	Marie Voigt	Oxford University Press	A book that explores the gift a smile can be. 'And if you put a smile on just one face...before long there will be too many to count.' Fabulous illustrations that beautifully show everyday

			situations where smiling makes a difference.
The Tale of the Whale	Karen Swann	Sallywag Press	A whale invites a child to join her in the ocean. They experience things that are funny, beautiful, astonishing. Sadly, they also visit 'a plastic soup sea.' This story shows us the joy of the natural world and how important it is to act to keep it that way. Poetic, accessible, stunningly illustrated.
The Wall and the Wild	Christina Dendy	Lantana	Ana likes her garden tidy and neat. She plants perfect seeds and throws uneven ones over a wall; 'YOU stay out THERE.' Soon she realises that the wilderness is beautiful too. A tale of the beauty of diverse ecosystems; including our human one.
The Word Collector	Peter H Reynolds	Scholastic	People collect all sorts of things: stamps, coins, comic books. Jerome collects words. Short and sweet words and two-syllable treat words. The more words he knows, the more he shares his thoughts and feelings. A book to help talk about the fun, the beauty, the power of words.
Tibble and Grandpa	Wendy Meddour	Oxford University Press	Grandpa is quiet lately and always gardening so Tibble tries playing his favourite game – Top Threes. Finally, Tibble asks, 'What were Granny's Top Three Stars?' The sorrow and love of family life are explored in this gentle, moving book.
To the Other Side	Erika Meza	Holder Children's Books	Two young refugee children leave home in search of safety. The journey is long and tiring and involves lots of waiting. They try and make it fun but sometimes... it isn't. Finally

			they reach a new home where they can grow roots; where they will feel safe.
Town is by the Sea	Joanne Schwartz and Sydney Smith	Walker Books	A little boy lives in a seaside mining town. His father works 'deep down under that sea, digging for coal'. As he works, the boy explores the town, nature, home. A window into the lives of an important community historically.
Two Places to Call Home	Phil Earle	Ladybird	When Florrie's mum and dad separate, she lives in two different houses. She finds it hard. Mum and dad both help her feel brave. And when dad is finding it hard too, Florrie knows what to do. In the end, Florrie loves both her homes. There are lots of ways of being a family.
Valentine's Guest House	Sam Sharland	Child's Play	A tiger comes to stay at the guest house and the humans all leave. The new guests all have differing needs; Elsie and her mum do their best to make it 'just right for anyone who came'. A great starting point to discuss inclusion. After all, some guests like to burrow underground.
Weirdo	Zadie Smith and Nick Laird	Puffin	The animals at Kit's house think the new pet is a weirdo. At first, the new pet thinks about 'ways to make herself more like the others'. She soon realises that being different has its own special joy. Is she a weirdo or is she just... Maud?
We're Going to Find the Monster	Malorie Blackman and Dapo Adeola	Puffin	Eddie and Charlie set off over the ocean, up a mountain and through a jungle to find the monster. And all before breakfast! Who is the monster exactly? A fabulous story for children in Reception to join in

			with.
We Want Our Books	Jake Alexander	Two Hoots Books	When the library closes, Rosa and her sister decide to put on a protest. At first, nobody notices them, nobody listens. But eventually, crowds of book lovers join them and the precious library is saved. A book about the power of using our voices, the power of... community.
When the Storks Came Home	Isabella Tree and Alexandra Finkeldey	Ivy Kids	Beanie loves birds. She finds out that storks used to live near her but were hunted to extinction. She and her neighbours hatch a plan to bring them back. Based on a real project, a book to inspire budding environmentalists.
Whirly Twirly Me	Manjeet Mann and Amanda Quarty	HarperCollins	A girl wakes up feeling whirly and twirly; her stomach in a knot, she's in a strop! Her favourite cereal runs out, a boy takes her favourite pencil. She's angry but doesn't know why. Mum helps her see that sometimes she might be sad, worried or nervous. Being whirly twirly is normal. Some days are like that...
Word Trouble	Vyara Boyadjieva	Walker Books	Ronnie moves to a new country and learns to speak the language. At first, it's hard. Soon, he starts to collect more and more words and more and more friends! A wonderful book for the early years, exploring the delight and challenge of starting school when you're learning English.

You're So Amazing!	James and Lucy Catchpole	Faber	Amazing Joe! Poor Joe! Joe would rather just be... Joe. Is he amazing because he can queue for an ice cream or go down a slide? 'People need to relax' says his friend Simone. An important book: disabled children have their own normal stories.
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