

## CHAPTER BOOKS WITH SPARKY ILLUSTRATIONS

**'Flotsam and Jetsam' Series by Tanya Landman**-two little characters living beneath an upturned cove at the seaside who make amazing things out of 'found materials' and have a crab friend called Sainsbury.

**'Oliver and the Seawigs' by Philip Reeve and Sarah McIntyre**-A little boy who would really love just to settle down and have his own bedroom + go to school ends up following his adventuring parents towards some islands which appear to have floated away. He discovers they are all after the title of best 'sea wig' to win authority over the other floating islands. There is also a short sighted mermaid too who I have every sympathy with! (not that I can swim like a mermaid at all).

**'A boy and a Bear in a Boat' by Dave Shelton**

**'Good dog, Bad dog' Book 1 by Dave Shelton**-graphic novel, great way to entice reluctant readers especially those who are phased by a wall of text.

**'Agatha Parrot' by Kjartan Poskitt** is a very popular series in Storyshack and was recommended by a Storyshacker, aged 8, named Ellie. It's a funny read, a good chapter book to entice readers in with a likeable, bouncy character who gets up to some very funny things.

**'The Daisy Series' by Kes Gray** is another lovely set about Daisy of course! Another pesky character who tries to smuggles penguins back from her school trip to the zoo and all sorts of other things you probably wish you could do too. Another great chapter book.

**'The Worst Witch' by Jill Murphy** is a set of lovely stories about Mildred Hubble trying to become a witch at witch school. Fantastic read-way before another very famous book about a similar school-and currently there is a CBBC series too so it's a way in to encourage reading.

**'The Tales of Olga de Polga' by Michael Bond** is a book about a guinea pig who is set free from her pet shop into plenty of new adventures. **'Arabel's Raven' by Joan Aiken** is another lovely book about an interesting pet belonging to a little girl. Both books have lasted the course as they were around when I was at primary school but that longevity means they're just a fab read ALONG with **'The Owl who was Afraid of the Dark' by Jill Tomlinson** which is a must read chapter book. I always class this is one of my favourite EVER books and sometimes can be heard saying 'Dark is Exciting' on Fireworks night!

**'The Invisible Boy' by Sally Gardner** **'Bewilderwood series' by Tom Blofeld**

**'Fortunately the Milk' by Neil Gaiman**-Dad goes out to retrieve forgotten milk for cereal and has adventures with pirates, dinosaurs, a volcano and an alien amongst others but 'fortunately the milk' is always OK!



**'Dixie O'Day in the Fast Lane' by Shirley Hughes and Clara Vulliamy**

**'The Charlie Small Journals'** are in same vein as popular Wimpy Kid and Tom Gates in the sketchy/journal layout which appeals to everybody BUT these ones are not about school. There's a bit of a small Indiana Jones feel as there are adventures and missions a plenty.

**'Ally's World' series by Karen McCrombie** will probably be more for girls 9+ but popular, quick reads.

### **FANTASY:**

Don't dismiss **'Harry Potter' by JK Rowling** even if you've seen the films...books are worth reading as there's a lot more in them. Would suggest 1st 2 'The Philosopher's Stone' and 'The chamber of secrets' before 9 as it gets a bit darker with 'The Prisoner of Azkaban'.

**'Warrior Cats' by Erin Hunter** are a great series about cat clans. Book shops are stocking these because they're asked to by children themselves. Worth a look at, again 9+ as some scary and sad bits in there so be warned if you're an animal lover.

**'The Edge Chronicles' by Paul Stewart and Chris Riddell** will appeal to anybody who likes reading about different worlds but they also have those wonderful illustrations by Chris Riddell just like the map header on this blog page!

**'The Demon's Watch' and 'The Goblin's Gift' by Conrad Mason**-heard Conrad speak last year...would be lovely for all children to hear more writers speak. These are both fantasy adventure focussing on Port Fayt and the main characters who are in the watch-on a mission to protect the Port and whoever lives there whether human or NOT.

**'Silo the Seer' by V. Peyton** is a really great first book about a boy with special powers who has to make his own way to discover them because he has no family. He makes some friends and some enemies and discovers that he might have a family after all.

**'Spooks' series by Joseph Delaney**-starts with a boy apprentice learning to rid villages of spooks. There's enough scariness in it but it's OK for readers to be scared I think...that's imagination for YOU!

**'Spiderwick chronicles'** for all those fantastical creatures with a great story to go with it. Watch out for those hag stones....

**'His Dark Materials' trilogy; 'Northern Lights', 'The Subtle Knife' and 'The Amber Spyglass'** by Philip Pullman are one of my favourite sets of books. EVEN if you've seen the Golden Compass. don't be lulled into not reading it because it's not a patch on the books. Think 11+ for these.



**'Mortal Engines' by Philip Reeve** is a challenge for some I think-who certainly has proved so in my experience so far but I loved it. It's probably suitable for 10+ and the premise behind it is very steam punkish I think. It's about a world full of traction engines that roam across the surface of the land swallowing up smaller 'worlds' of traction engines. Not many people live on the earth any more-they're all in this kind of traction 'bubble', some better off than others, and fighting for survival. Fantastic set of books and if you read it now you'll be in time for the Peter Jackson FILM!!

**'The History Keepers' by Damian Dibben** for great adventures going back in time if you like history-I don't know many children who don't!

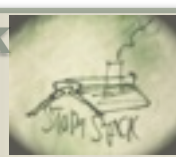
**'Strong Winds Trilogy' by Julia Jones** - Julia is a local author and these books are set on the River Orwell+surrounding areas. Don't let the sailing put you off. You don't need to sail to enjoy the story-part adventure but also with a hard hitting social care story which makes it very much NOT 'Swallows and Amazons' in that sense.

**'The Boy who Swam with Piranhas' by David Almond** is a delightful and quirky must read about a boy who runs away to the circus from his canning obsessed Uncle. The warmth and the colour of the people he meets is, as always by David Almond, expressed in a spot on way for young readers + there's great humour there too.

**'Stay where you are and then leave' by John Boyne** is a powerful book for 10+ I would say, about a young man looking for his Dad during the WW1. In order to survive he takes a job as a shoe shiner at Kings Cross and then eventually locates his Dad, who is suffering from shell shock, in a hospital in Ipswich. It's a beautifully written book which will probably make you cry. John Boyne has such a great style of writing-it's a must read. It also has a really interesting slant on being a conscientious objector which is another aspect to make you think as this aspect isn't always raised.

**'Journey to the River Sea' by Eva Ibbotson,'The star of Kazan'+ 'The Dragonfly pool'** are great stories, all very different. The reason I have been carrying 'Journey' around is it's set in the Amazon and Manaus which I thought to be topical with the Olympics. Just great, good 'from the heart' STORIES. I don't want to say too much- I wish I'd come across her when I was at primary school but it's OK...found her now.

**'The Laura Marlin Mysteries' by Lauren. St. John** You can't get much better than buying it as a leaving present for Yr4 then their class teacher had to read the next one and, when she left they made their next teacher promise that their class book would be the third! Good girl role model, good role model characters in a detective/mystery solver role.



**'Jamie Johnson' series by Dan Freedman** with the latest WORLD CUP read for interested football fans be the third! Good girl role model, good role model characters in a detective/mystery solver role.

**'The Imaginary' by A. F Harrold and Emily Gravett** is fantastic for 8+, it has an element of scariness in it but that's what gives it suspense, it's touching and thoughtful and a must READ with exquisite illustrations.

**'Itch' by Simon Mayo** (yes the Simon Mayo) about a secondary school child who's nuts about chemistry. Refreshing change from all action heroes because Itch is a science y geek for want of a better word-a good twist on adventure action with use of chemical elements in there too.

**'The Mysterious Benedict Society' by Trenton Lee Stewart** is a set of books about remarkable children who come together to solve a mystery on an island. They have to use their special powers to get to the bottom of the mystery when they find themselves in an institution on said island. The revealing of their powers is a gradual process as they begin to understand each other and work as a team (9+)

**'Knightley and Son' by Rohan Gavin** is a set of detective books again about a very clever young chap who wants to help his father in his detective agency hence the title. There's some modern family unit stuff here too and it makes for a good read in a family that isn't straightforward in its set up (9+)

**'Wonder' by R. J Palacio** is a 'must read' for 10+ I think...really great for transition. It's set in USA so concerns middle school but that doesn't matter. What does matter is the way it's written so you can see what it is like not only for August himself (who was born with a severe facial disfigurement) but also for his friend, sister etc. Really moving and thought provoking.

**'The Giver' by Lois Lowry** is another book to make you think-pre runner of the many dystopian novels for young adults around at the minute and another about to be turned into a film BUT please read this first as the film looks quite different and the book is a really though provoking read in itself...for 11+ I think, worth reading at same time for some interesting discussions. Also for a thought provoking, emotionally scarring read so 11+

**'Looking for the Stars' by Jo Cotterill.** It's worth reading yourself but just to tell you that there is a very upsetting scene at the beginning which leaves 2 sisters being separated from their mum+other sister trying to find their way to a refugee camp. This is there books play such a powerful part in widening children's minds and experiences in without (we hope) actually facing such difficulties in reality.



**'Ruby Redfort' by Lauren Child** is about a very clever, sassy teenager who gets recruited into a secret underground child spy network. She uses her intelligence to crack codes. There is a bit illustrating how bright she is when she is a toddler and is watching out of the window. She sees a robbery but her parents just ignore her messages-she writes using her playing blocks and spells everything correctly!

If you've grown up with Charlie and Lola, progressed to Clarice Bean then this is for you because Lauren Child's fans asked to know more about the Ruby Redfort they saw on Clarice's book shelves-9+

**'Frost Hollow Hall' by Emma Carroll** is set in Victorian times and I think for 10+. There's some mystery and some ghost elements...it's a really good spine tingler but also gives great insight into Victorian life, very atmospheric.

**'Hilde series' by Luke Pearson** again is refreshing to have a girl comic strip adventurer. Hilde's life isn't all cosy and straightforward. She's used to being in the open but we first meet her when she has to move into the city with her mum for her mum to work. Illustrations are really special too....definitely must have for antidote to those male characters we mostly see in Tin Tin, Asterix etc

**'The Man who walked between the Towers' by Mordecai Gerstein**

about just that, very distinctive illustrations, lots of line, all the more poignant as New York skyline changed since...KS2 in terms of content as probably mean more in terms of the feat itself.



## PICTURE BOOKS FOR EVERY AGE

**'Hermelin the Mouse Detective' by Mini Grey** is a wonderful book to inspire writing and also the purchase of a lovely old fashioned typewriter to write messages. It's about a detective mouse who successfully solves a whole street's 'mysteries' by writing little messages to them about what has happened....perfect for a whole set of messages being left around your classroom or school.

**'Space Dog' by Mini Grey** would also inspire writing about your own solar systems inventing planets and is a wonderful way into a science topic of space as it features an astronaut dog, cat and house.

**'I am Henry Finch' by Alexis Deacon and Viviane Schwarz** has so much potential for all ages in so many areas including philosophy, science, art. It's a book with so many layers I can't stop reading it AND it has wonderful ways into thumb print making with your own characters.

**'The Arrival' and ANYTHING by Shaun Tan** I feel that all schools should have a copy of this book - there are no words, it's a powerful book about what it is like to leave your family and seek work in a completely different one. I don't need to say any more-every picture, big or small makes you think and gives a class something to discuss, perhaps might even offer a different perspective too.

**'Frog Belly Rat Bone' by Timothy Basil Ering** captures the preciousness of planting seeds and working together to make something better-very sketchy illustrations make it even more interesting.

**'Stanley's Stick' by John Hegley** Read aloud and find a stick.....

**'Harris Burdick' by Chris Van Allsburg, 'Quest/Journey/Return' by Aaron Becker, 'Flotsam/Tuesday/FreeFall' by David Wiesner** -pictures to inspire talk + writing + IMAGINATION

*If these titles prove a bit tricky then read them to your child or share the reading instead—better than not at all. I think we maybe get 'hung up' on ensuring children are actually physically reading which can sometimes become a battle and is more and more away from the purpose of reading fiction which is to widen our imagination and open doors into other worlds. Don't panic if*

*you're doing the reading....that means doors are opening and dreams are evolving*

**PS**