

# Waterstones Recommends For Picture Books

## **Meerkat Mail – Emily Gravett**

Sunny is looking for somewhere to belong, so he goes off around the world visiting different countries. Where will he end up? A story about finding yourself at home, and loving your family for who they are!

## **Rabbityness – Jo Empson**

Rabbit is loved for being himself; being different, and generous to those around him. When he has to leave them, the others are sad. But they learn to take what he gave them, and through memories of him, be happy once more. A tale of loss and learning to be happy again.

## **Blown Away – Rob Biddulph**

'A windy day. A brand new kite. For Penguin Blue a maiden flight.' Penguin Blue goes on an impromptu trip away from home, while his friends try to help him. It takes some smart thinking and some new friends to get them all home again. A beautiful story with stunning illustrations. Winner of the Waterstones Children's Book Prize 2015.

## **Oi Frog! - Kes Gray & Jim Field**

A rhyming conversation between a frog and a cat to find out who sits where...because cats sit on mats, and frogs sit on logs, don't they? A hilarious and silly story with a fun twist.

## **Funnybones – Janet & Allan Ahlberg**

A big skeleton, a little skeleton, and a dog skeleton go for a night time wander looking for someone to frighten. After several funny adventures they end up frightening themselves! A wonderful classic children will always remember... 'On a dark, dark night...'

## **The Ice Bear – Jackie Morris**

Long, long ago, in the icy lands of the far north, Raven the mischief-maker takes a bear-child from his mother. A hunter and his wife find the child and, wrapping him in sealskin, they sing him songs of the ice, the wind and the great white bears. A breathtakingly illustrated story filled with mystical delight that parents will love reading to their children.

# **Waterstones Recommends For**

## **5-8 Fiction**

### ***Ottoline at Sea – Chris Riddell***

Ottoline goes searching for her friend Mr Monroe, on a ship, a submarine, and a raft, via the Polar Bear Shoe Company, all the way to Norway. Ottoline is a feisty, resourceful young lady, whose friendship with Mr Monroe, her guardian, is central to the Ottoline stories. Riddell's flamboyant and clever stories with delightfully mischievous characters.

### ***Fortunately The Milk – Neil Gaiman***

When Dad needs to get some more milk for the morning cereal, he seems to take a long time in coming back. When he does, he has an interesting story to tell explaining why he is so late...involving pirates, a spaceship, vampires, and dinosaurs. Will his children believe him? A genius story from the brilliant mind of Gaiman. Utterly unique and mad.

### ***Jolly Rogers and Ghostly Galleon – Johnny Duddle***

Every full moon, a mysterious ship is seen off the coast of Dull-on-Sea. Then, the day after, gold and jewellery are missing from the town. Can Matilda and Jim Lad retrieve the stolen booty from the mysterious ship before the moon fades? A great book to encourage reading chapter books. Taking the characters from his much loved picture books *The Pirates Next Door* into a new adventure.

### ***Beast Keeper – Lucy Coats***

When his long-lost father appears and takes him to the kingdom of the gods to look after their mythical beasts, Demon is in for a shock. A great new series based in Ancient Greek myth from an author with a devilish sense of humour that children won't be able to resist.

### ***Butterfly Lion – Michael Morpurgo***

Bertie rescues an orphaned white lion cub from the African veld. They are inseparable until Bertie is sent to boarding school far away in England and the lion is sold to a circus. Will they see each other again? A moving tale from an absolute master story teller, a firm favourite with all who read it.

### ***Bad Cat, Good Cat – Lynne Reid Banks***

Cats aren't there for people, people are there for cats. At least that's how Turk believes things should be. A hilarious tale of what cats get up to when their humans are away. One which will be adored by both parent and child.

# Waterstones Recommends For 9-12 Fiction

## ***The Book of Storms – Ruth Hatfield***

A story about standing by what you believe, when the talents that you have are not known or understood by anyone else. The Book of Storms takes Danny on a tumultuous journey to find his parents that appear to have been whisked away by a storm that Danny needs to find the power to overcome. A gripping, magical book that shows us fear and that you can rise above it.

## ***Murder Most Unladylike – Robin Stevens***

In a wonderfully British fashion, two boarding school girls rise to the challenge, in the face of adult opposition, to solve the murder of their Science teacher in this feisty mystery. Daisy Wells and Hazel Wong work their way systematically through all the clues that they find and come to a conclusion that may have serious consequences... A witty and clever whodunit that will keep you guessing till the very end.

## ***Swallows and Amazons – Arthur Ransome***

Summer fun on the lake: sailing, pirates, charcoal burners, and getting lost up the Amazon River in a scheme to find out who should be flagship. A tale that shows the importance of imagination and will transport even the most reluctant passenger off on an unforgettable adventure.

## ***The Girl Who Circumnavigated Fairyland in a Ship of Her Own Making –Catherynne Valente***

September, Somewhat Grown and Somewhat Heartless, dreams of adventure and is swept off to Fairyland by the Green Wind. A land ruled by a villainous Marquess, September alone holds the key to Fairyland's salvation. The most wonderful book that we at Cribbs have read since we were children. Beautiful and unique, it will capture your heart!

## ***Hollow Earth – John & Carol Barrowman***

Lots of twins have a special connection but Matt and Emily together can bring paintings to life or enter paintings at will. Hunted by villains the twins flee to a Scottish Island where their Grandfather has certain protective powers of his own. A well-researched book that teaches you about real works of art while taking you on a fabulous adventure.

## ***Stich Head - Guy Bass***

Stich Head is the forgotten creation of a mad inventor steps out of the shadows to save Arabella from the orphanage and the monsters that await. A quirky book filled with gothic illustrations and a very different kind of hero.