

Reading Rocks

Half-termly newsletter

Spring 2
2023

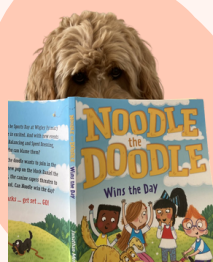


Making Reading Rock for every child!



Heather & Luna

Reading Rocks Founder & the
Reading Rocks Mascot



**Author Jonathan
Meres' dog, Pablo**



**Author Marie Basting's
dog, Miss Woo**



**Author and Illustrator Anna
Terreros-Martin's cat, Boris**



**Author Alex Cotter's
cat, Chomsky**



**Author Lucy Hope's
dog, Bronte**



**Author Michelle
Harrison's cat, Marmite**

Welcome to the Spring 2 newsletter!

Hi Reading Rockers,

Spring is on its way and the days are getting longer. A few more minutes of sunshine each day to read a little longer!

This newsletter I wanted to share with you a picture of me with my furry friend and reading buddy Luna. She's my cuddly, snuggly Cockerdor and she is great company for reading. She makes me feel calm and relaxed. I wonder if you have a pet you share your books with? Or a nice cuddly teddy?

We asked some authors to share their reading buddies with us. I hope you like their piccies!

Heather & Luna x



**Purchase
Before
24th March**

Want to purchase your child a recommended read?

Reading Rocks has all the books contained in this newsletter for sale at a discounted rate. PLUS - for each book sold you'll be investing in your child's school and education as we donate a proportion of the profits back to your child's school - Win Win!

Books will be delivered to your child in school!



Simply scan the QR
code with your
mobile camera or
click from desktop:

tinyurl.com/RR-recommends

Spring 2023

Family price: £6.79

RRP: £7.99



How to make a story
Written by Naomi Jones
Illustrated by Ana Gomez

Stories are amazing aren't they?!!!

But how easy is it to make your own?

Little Milo wants to make a story of his own but is finding it a bit TRICKY!!

Not to worry, with his family to help, some inspiration and A LOT of imagination, Milo gets started on his ideas. But his little brother and sister just seem to be in the way!

But like all good stories, Milo finds an ending and also learns the benefits of sharing it too.



**"I liked the babies being the dribbling monsters
and the cat being the tiger."**

Spencer, age 4

**"We really enjoyed this book. I loved talking to my son about
how the boy used the things around him to create the story.
We then had a go at doing the same with things around us."**

Spencer's Mum

Family price: £6.79

RRP: £7.99



I really really love you so
Written by Karl Newson
Illustrated by Duncan Beedie

Do you like a book that makes you laugh and smile?!

You will love this story with cute and curious Bush Baby.

Bush Baby wants to show you how much he loves you! He'll wrestle a crocodile and climb high mountains and try lots of ways, each ending in a funny scenario. But sometimes the simplest way to show that you care is the best way.

**"I really liked that book. Bush baby is funny.
I liked when he had to dress up funny to hide from the bears."**

Spencer, age 4

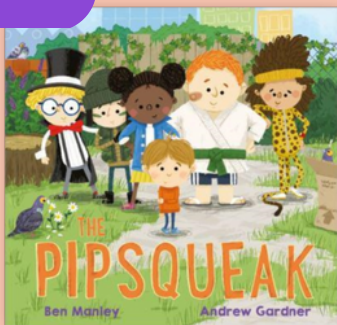
**"This was a lovely book to share together.
It is fun to read aloud and we enjoy seeing what Bush Baby is up to."**

Spencer's Mum

Spring 2023

Family price: £6.79

RRP: £7.99



The Pipsqueak
Written By Ben Manley
Illustrated by Andrew Gardner

What does it take to be a hero?

We are all unique and that's what makes us great!

Join Pip and the gang and find out what it takes to stick up for your friends and not let a bully win. We love the different characters in this gang and their fun names. I wonder if you spot a character just like you?

"I enjoyed this book because it taught me that you can be brave and stand up to bullies. I like the pictures loads, I loved exploring the maps at the beginning and end of the story and exploring the differences."

Samuel, aged 6



I would give this book 10/10

Family price: £5.94

RRP: £6.99



The Cow Calamity
Written By Laura James
Illustrated by Charlie Alder

This is a lovely early chapter book, with lots of colour illustrations throughout. It's great if you are enjoying longer stories and reading a bit more on your own.

Bunty is the farmer's dog at Withy Hook Farm and she has a challenge on her hands. Join her and her friends to see if they can rise to the challenge or will there be a cow calamity?

See an extract of the book!

SCAN ME!



Top 5 tips for story writers

1. Read as much as you can. Read anything and everything - poetry, comics, non fiction, stories...
2. Write lots. Keep a note book for ideas and have a go at writing stories, the more you practice the better you will get
3. Get it written, then get it right. Don't worry about spelling or grammar when you first write your story, just get it down on paper and then you can edit it and tidy it up afterwards
4. Let your imagination go wild! Anything can happen in stories
5. Have lots of fun!

Author Naomi Jones
and her dog, Jack

SCAN ME



Scan or click to try the
'How to make a story'
activity sheet

What stories do you like
to read?

I wonder what stories
you will create!



Spring 2023

How to Draw Bush Baby in six easy steps.

Step 1



Step 2



Step 3



Step 4



Step 5



Step 6



Illustration © Duncan Beedie 2023



SCAN ME

Scan or click to see
a video from the author
and illustrator



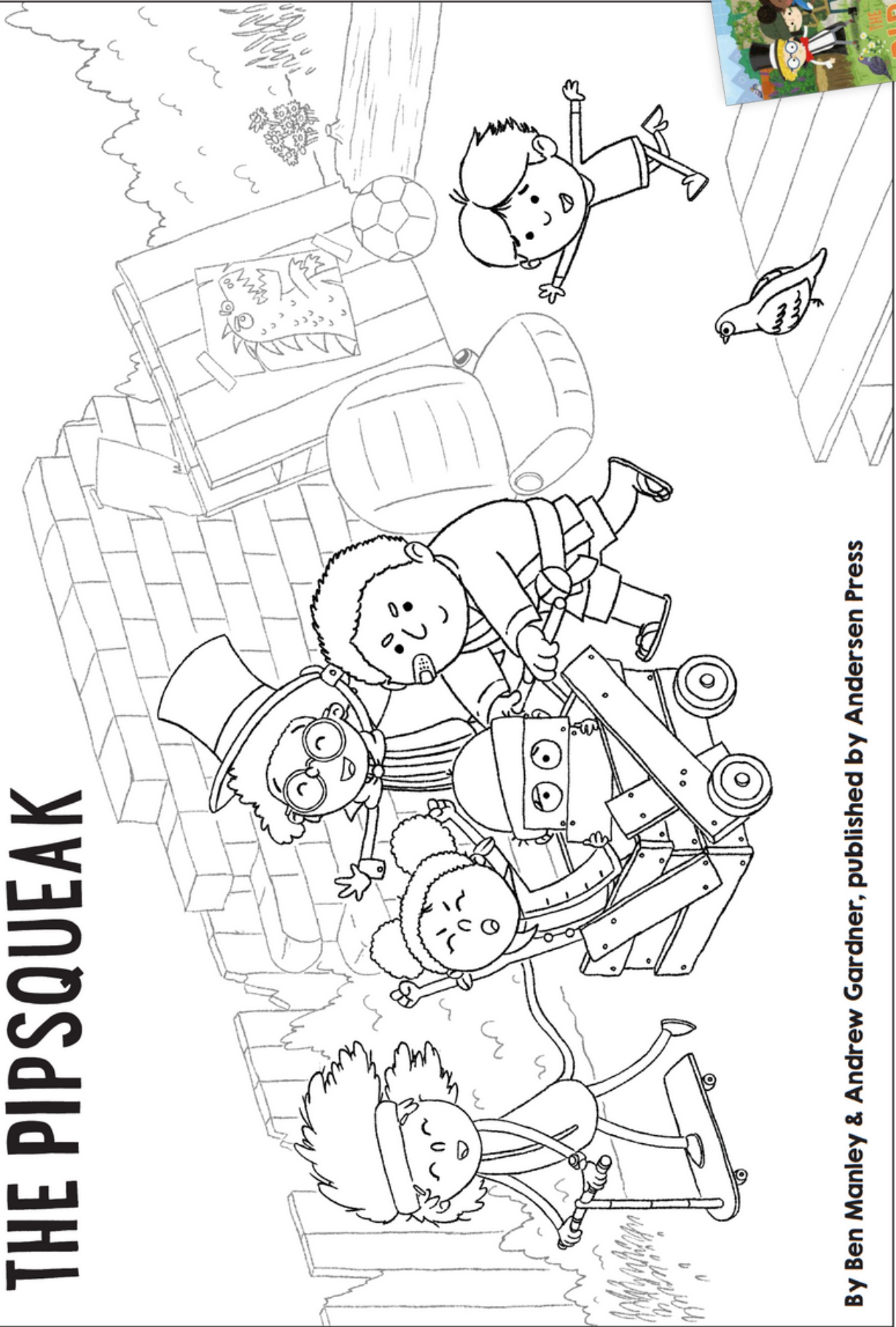
SCAN ME



Scan or click to find more
Bush Baby activities



THE PIPSQUEAK



By Ben Manley & Andrew Gardner, published by Andersen Press

Q&A with Laura James

Why do you like writing about animals?

I think I've always wondered what they're thinking! I love the idea of them having their own lives that we know very little about. What do they think of us, for example?!

Do you have a favourite dog breed?

I now have three - yes, three! - wire-haired dachshunds, Brian, Florence and puppy Trudi, so I suppose I would have to say dachshunds. I can certainly spot a dachshund a mile off and I always go over and chat with fellow owners. But to be honest I love all breeds, and of course, the ones that are their own special blend of breeds, are often the best. We had several dogs when I was growing up and our extended family always seemed to have dogs too. I've known labradors, westies, corgis, papillons, labradoodles, boxers and many more, as canine friends and I've loved them all.

Do you have any animal book recommendations?

There are so many to choose from but I do love the Claude books by Alex T Smith. When I was growing up I read *The One Hundred and One Dalmatians*, by Dodie Smith and desperately wanted a dalmatian. Also, *Charlotte's Web*, by E.B. White, which made me cry, and I remember really enjoying *Saddlebottom* by Dick King-Smith.



Q&A with Laura James

What top tips do you have for young writers?

I always say if you start by creating interesting characters and develop your plot from there, you're onto a winner.

If your characters are interesting your readers are going to want to keep reading but if they're boring they won't care what happens to them, even if you've written a knock-out plot.

What's your favourite thing about being an author?

Meeting readers who have loved the books. It still takes my breath away when someone tells me they've really enjoyed something I've written. You get the chance to communicate with people you've never met. It's a real privilege.



BLOOMSBURY



Author Laura James and her wire-haired dachshunds, Brian and Florence

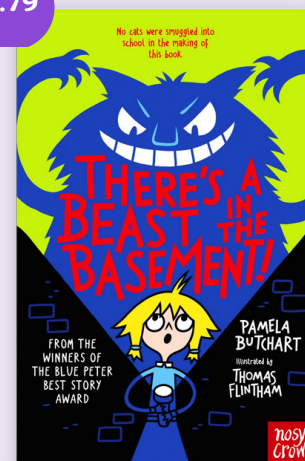
Family price: £6.79

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What would you do if there was treasure to be found in the basement?

Join Izzy and the gang as they go on an hilarious (mis)adventure to find the treasure. But BEWARE..... as you might discover something in the basement. Is it a beast wanting to EAT THEM ALL?

You will laugh and laugh through the chaos and mayhem. The gang send Zach's cat down to the basement with a camera strapped to her head and study the footage carefully. What they see is SHOCKING and CHANGES EVERYTHING. It's not treasure in the basement, it's a BEAST with SHINING EYES and it's coming to get them! RUN!!!



There's a Beast in the Basement!
Written By Pamela Butchart
Illustrated by Thomas Flintham

Elliot



"I give this book 10 out of 10. I really liked it. It is set in a school and is very believable. Although it is part of a series, you can enjoy this book without having read the others. It is an adventure story and they are looking for treasure but it's not exactly what they thought it would be!

I wouldn't want to be friends with the characters - they are a bit too cheeky! My favourite bit was the cat called Cheese and Onion. Very funny and would recommend to 6 plus. I'm going to share it with my friends at school"

Elliot, Year 4

Family price: £5.94

RRP: £6.99



Dragon Storm: Erin and Rockhammer
Written By Alastair Chisholm
Illustrated by Eric Deschamps

Do you love dragons?

Are you looking for a thrilling, magical, and action-packed fantasy read?

This is the series for you!

In the land of Draconis, there are no dragons. Once, there were. Once, humans and dragons were friends, and created the great city of Rivven together.

But then came the Dragon Storm, and the dragons retreated from the world of humans. To the men and women of Draconis, they became legends and myth. When Erin and her dragon Rockhammer get into a fight with another dragonseer, they're sent away to Stillness.

There they discover the Solace Stone, a magical object that creates calm. In the peace of Stillness, Erin almost forgets that she can't summon her dragon Rockhammer. But when mysterious soldiers storm Stillness, destroying her home in the process, Erin must find a way or risk being trapped forever...



THERE'S A BEAST IN THE BASEMENT!



When Izzy and her friends discovered there was a beast in their school basement, they were TERRIFIED and didn't get a good look at it! What do YOU think the creature could look like?

Draw your
BEAST here!

BASEMENT GHOST

WILD BEAST

MASTER OF
DISGUISE

EYES!

Shining Eyes

HORRIBLE BOBBLY
BITS

THREE HEADS



THERE'S A
BEAST IN THE
BASEMENT!

PAMELA
BUTCHART

£7.99 . Paperback



SCAN ME

Scan or click to see
inside the book



Spring 2023



SCAN ME



Scan the QR code
or click the video image
to watch the author
talk about the
Dragon Storm series.

SCAN ME



Scan or click to read an
extract from the book



Are you brave enough to solve the mystery?

Do you ever read the local paper? Do you ever want to find out more about those stories?

Well in this book we meet Pete, Krish and Nancy and they do just that! There is weird gunk found in a field where sheep have gone missing next to Hilltop House! This is a mystery that they want to find the answers to.

Join this brave trio as they investigate the bio-fuel research, which looks like it's gone wrong. There's a storm and something has escaped from the farm. Will this terrifying adventure beat the trio?

You'll have to read to find out more!!



The Terror of Hilltop House
Written By Dan Smith
Illustrated by Chris King

"I thought this book was really good and engaging. At the beginning I wasn't sure as I judged the book by its cover but once I started reading and found out about the mystery of the goo, I wanted to read on to find out how the mystery was solved and where the goo came from.

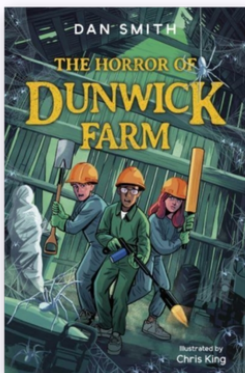
The story is from the mystery genre although it also feels quite thrilling in places as well - I would say it was a proper page turner. I would recommend this book to children who were 10 to 13 because it can be a little scary in places. I loved the book and would love to read more books in this genre!"

Alex, Year 6

Alex



Also in this series...



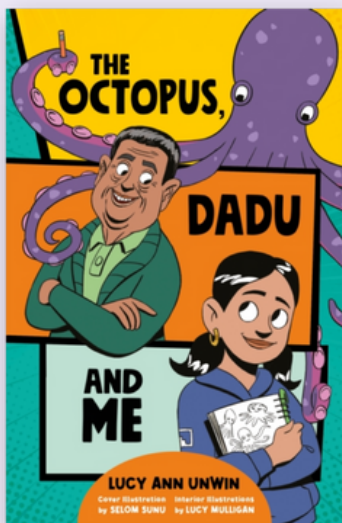
Scan or click to read an extract from the book

SCAN ME



Family price: £6.79

RRP: £7.99



The Octopus, Dadu and Me
Written By Lucy Ann Unwin
Illustrated by Lucy Mulligan

Did you know octopuses have three hearts?!

Sashi feels like her heart is breaking.

This story shares what it's like when you feel like you are losing a family member to dementia. Sashi's beloved Dadu has dementia and her parents don't want her to visit him anymore. She takes solace in the aquarium and that's where she meets Ian.

Ian feels trapped just like Dadu. Ian just happens to be an octopus - an octopus who can communicate with Sashi!

"I enjoyed this book because it has a moral and shows that sometimes you can be trying to do the right thing, but get it wrong, that it's okay to get things wrong, and it's never too late to try to fix things.

The Octopus comics are one of my favourite parts of the book.
Some of them are really funny, whilst a few of the others are sad.
I felt sorry for the Octopus in some of the comics.

Parts of the story are quite sad, and Sashi has good reasons when she cries.
But at the end of the book I felt hopeful for the characters, that they might have a better future. It also made me think about my own grandparents, who I have a strong relationship with, as Sashi and Dadu used to have.

My favourite character is Ian the Octopus, because he is mysterious and looks cool.
I also really liked Sashi because she likes to sketch and so do I.

This book made me want to find some more octopus facts and maybe draw my own octopus comic. I'd also like to see a real octopus - I think they are really cool!

People who like adventure stories, animals and learning facts would like this book.

I give it 8.5 out of 10 stars."

Amara, Year 5

INSIDE THE OCTOPUS BRAIN



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Scan or click to create your own comic page



SCAN ME

Spring 2023

Character Quiz from Laura Ann Unwin

Which character are you most like?

Circle your answers then count up your As Bs Cs and Ds

A

B

C

D

How sociable are you?	Can't I just hang out with my bestie?	I like alone time and I like friends, time for everything.	Yep, bring it on. Happy in crowd.	Hate people.
What's your favourite smoothie flavour?	Something sweet and comforting?	I'll have what you're having!	Fresh and fizzy please!	What's a smoothie?
How do you react in an emergency?	Pretend nothing is wrong?	Fix it!	Check in on your friends.	Get a snack.
Do you believe in the mysterious and unexplained?	I'm open.	Check the facts. EVERYTHING can be explained.	Nope.	I AM unexplained.
Where do you lean?	More arty	More STEM	More sporty	All rounder.
So, fish. For looking at or eating?	I'll just look thanks.	No strong feelings on fish	Looking! Ooh but crispy squid.	Eating. 100%
How important is your appearance to you?	Er... look at me! Not at all.	Neat is good!	yeah, it;s important...gotta look good.	Life or death.
Do you like it warm or cool?	Take it as it comes.	Warm! But I'm always cold	Always cool.	Actually, I like it around 15 to 16 degrees.
How honed are your empathy skills?	I always try to see things from someone else's point of view.	It's possible I may try to fix things a bit too much	I'm learning	I can literally read minds.
What's your comfort TV?	Anime or cartoons.	Old movies	YouTube	I'm more of a people watcher.
Who would you be in a heist?	No idea but count me in!	Logistics and planning	recon.	Contortionist or stealth.

Character Quiz from Laura Ann Unwin

Mostly As?

You're Sashi! The main character. Arty and introverted and always try your best.

Mostly Bs?

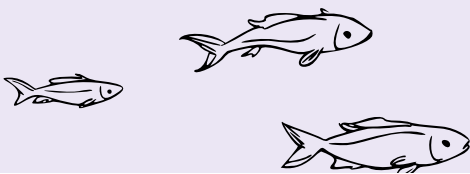
You're Darcie, Sashi's BFF. You're clever and practical and like to fix things, but always be sure to stop and listen.

Mostly Cs

You're Hassan. Cool and sporty and happy in a crowd, but also sensitive and thoughtful and a great friend.

Mostly Ds

You're Ian! The Octopus!! Go and have a fish snack!



Love our recommendations?

**Purchase
Before
24th March**

**Great news!
You can purchase your
child a recommended
read at a discount price!**

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PLUS - for each book sold you'll be investing in your child's school and education as we donate a proportion of the profits back to your child's school - Win Win!

Here's how it works

1. Click or scan the QR code below to go to the service landing page on our website OR go to tinyurl.com/RR-recommends
2. Select the book you want and fill in some simple details on the product page (your child's school, year and name)
3. Add to your cart, then head over to the checkout
4. Fill out the billing details (you can ignore the delivery info section as it will go to your child's school). PS - P&P is FREE!
5. Pay - we accept Card payments or PayPal
6. We'll deliver your child's book to their school. Everyone will receive their books at the same time - how exciting!



**Books
delivered by
30th March**

**Love the service?
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**Making Reading
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