

Dive In

A guide to choosing children's books for reluctant readers and readers with dyslexia



**Dyslexia
Action**

Taking Action • Changing Lives

Barrington  Stoke
cracking reading

About...

Dyslexia Action

Dyslexia Action is a national charity with over 40 years' experience in providing services and support to children, young people and adults with literacy and numeracy difficulties, dyslexia and other specific learning difficulties. We provide assessments and tuition through our national learning centres and support teachers and educators through the provision of teaching resources and training; we also undertake research and campaigning to improve the lives of those affected by dyslexia.

About...

Barrington Stoke

Barrington Stoke is an award-winning independent publisher dedicated to cracking reading. We know that every parent wants their child to become a reader, and every teacher wants their students to make the jump from learning to read to loving to read. Our books are commissioned, edited and designed to break down the barriers that can stop this happening, from dyslexia and visual stress to reading reluctance.

Front cover image © Quentin Blake, 2007
With kind permission of Quentin Blake and the Roald Dahl Estate.

Welcome

The more you read, the easier it becomes. But for those who struggle with words, reading is not always fun, and it's easy to lose heart and stop trying. That's why Dyslexia Action has teamed up with Barrington Stoke to create this guide. We want to give you ideas for books that might appeal to young people who have dyslexia or are reluctant to read. We hope that this will help you to help them build a love of reading.

We have drawn on our extensive knowledge of teaching people who find reading hard to choose books that are presented in a clear and interesting way. Think of this list as a taster. Your local bookshop will be able to suggest other books too. Remember always to get the reader involved in choosing books – talk about subjects they like and look at fiction and non-fiction. All reading is good reading.

Visit www.dyslexiaaction.org.uk to see a longer list of books. You can also tell us what has worked well for your child. We would love to hear from you.

What is dyslexia?

Dyslexia primarily affects the ability to learn to read and spell and sometimes maths is affected too, but it is not related to general intelligence. It comes from a difficulty in dealing with the sounds of words. People with dyslexia often find it hard to remember lists of things they have heard, or to remember names or facts quickly, although they often have strengths in reasoning, visual and creative fields.

Find out more about dyslexia and how Dyslexia Action can help at www.dyslexiaaction.org.uk

Reading Hints and Tips

1. Read to your child

- It brings stories to life and can help develop memory, vocabulary and listening skills.

2. Shared and supported reading

- Encourage children to make pictures in their heads as they read to help with understanding. Chat about how you both picture the story, characters, setting and so on.

3. Follow the text with your finger as you read, so your child can learn to recognise words too.

- Stop now and then to give your child a chance to read a word or two.
- Chat about the story later.

4. Over learning

- Help reinforce understanding by recapping who the characters are, what's happening and so on. Re-reading important information helps with understanding, word recognition and vocabulary.

5. Silent Reading

- When children move to silent reading, it's important to make sure that they understand what they are reading. Ask them to tell you about their book to check they're getting on OK.



6. Use Audio Books

- You can buy books on CD or as downloads, or borrow them from the library.

7. Choose books with care

Think about:

- What the reader likes – everyone tries harder when a book interests them.
- Level of interest – be careful not to use 'baby' books with older struggling readers. Match the interest age of an older reader with the reading level of a younger one.

8. Make it fun

- Choose a good time of day and a comfy place.
- Make reading part of your routine every day.
- Bring the story to life with different voices for the characters.

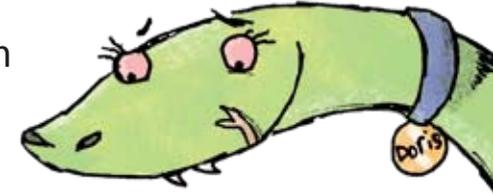


Books for 5–8s

Smooth the start of your child’s solo reading journey with lots of shared book fun.

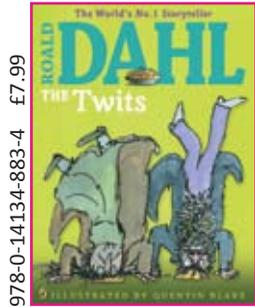
“It’s only by loving stories ourselves and by passing that on that we create readers”

Michael Morpurgo



Rollicking rib-tickers: funny books to read aloud and share

Animal antics: bedtime stories, facts and fun



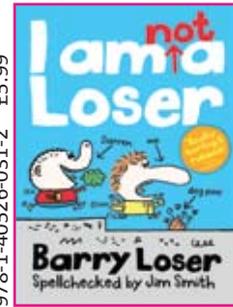
978-0-14134-883-4 £7.99

ROALD DAHL
The Twits



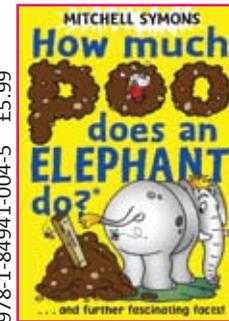
978-1-40527-492-0 £6.99

ANDY STANTON
You’re a Bad Man,
Mr Gum!



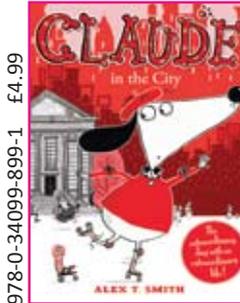
978-1-40526-031-2 £5.99

JIM SMITH
I am Not a Loser
(Barry Loser)



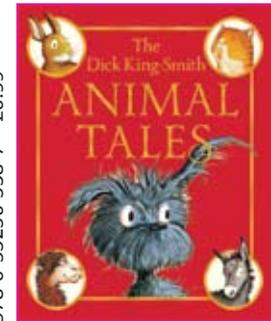
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MITCHELL SYMONS
How Much Poo Does an
Elephant Do?



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ALEX T. SMITH
Claude in the City

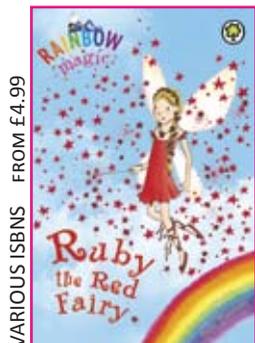


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DICK KING-SMITH
Animal Tales

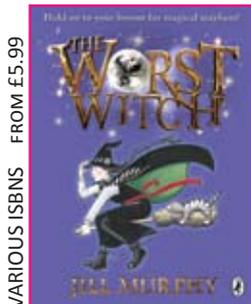
Super series to start building solo reading stamina

Books for 5–8s with specific dyslexia-friendly features



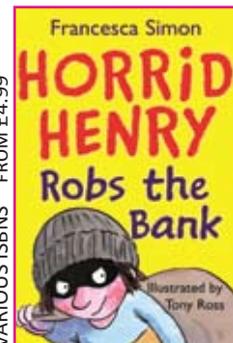
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Ruby the Red Fairy



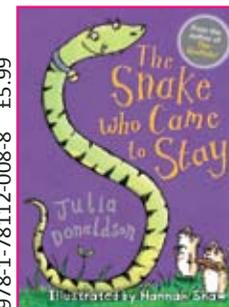
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The Worst Witch



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Horrid Henry



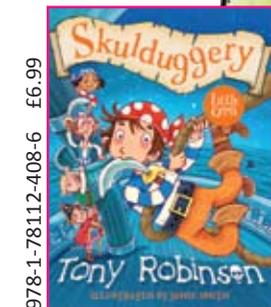
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Came to Stay



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CORNELIA FUNKE
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Dragon



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TONY ROBINSON
Skulduggery

Books for 9–12s

Keep reading together to help your child make the jump to reading solo



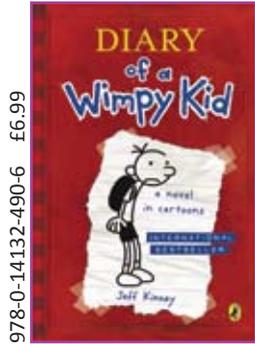
“ Don't worry about whether a book is 'meant for you' or not – try it and find out!”

Andy Stanton



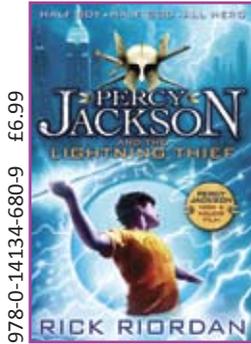
Hopeless heroes – everyone loves an underdog

Big authors, big ideas – and brilliant pictures too



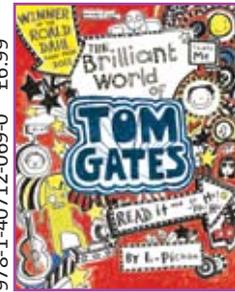
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JEFF KINNEY
Diary of a Wimpy Kid



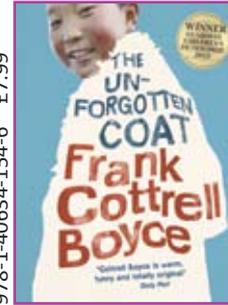
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RICK RIORDAN
Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief



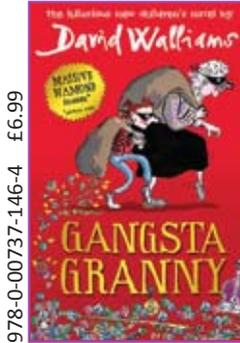
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LIZ PICHON
The Brilliant World of Tom Gates



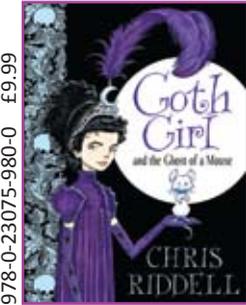
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FRANK COTTRELL-BOYCE
The Unforgotten Coat



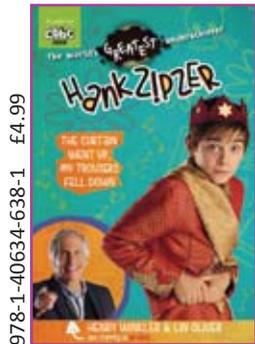
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DAVID WALLIAMS
Gangsta Granny



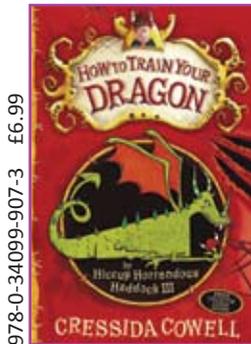
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CHRIS RIDDELL
Goth Girl and the Ghost of a Mouse



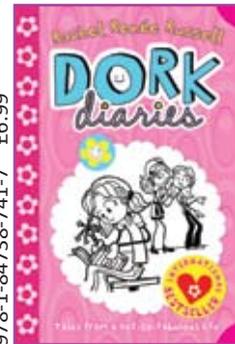
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HENRY WINKLER & LIN OLIVER
Hank Zipzer



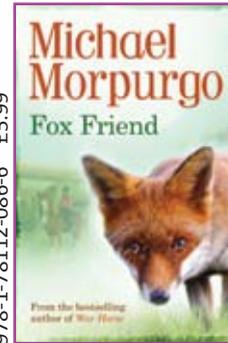
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How to Train Your Dragon



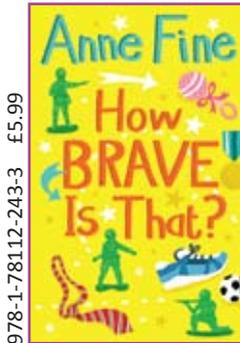
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RACHEL RENEE RUSSELL
Dork Diaries



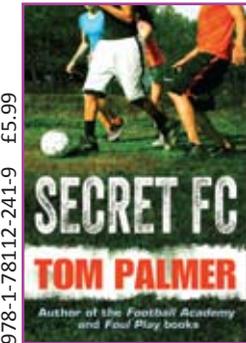
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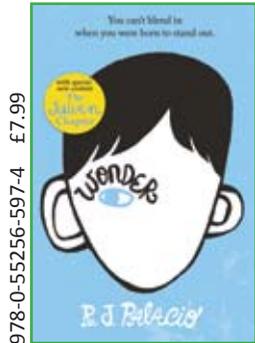
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Books for Teens

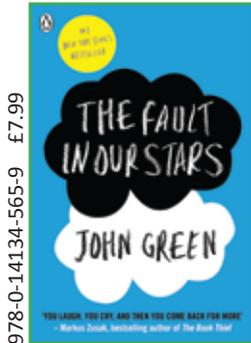
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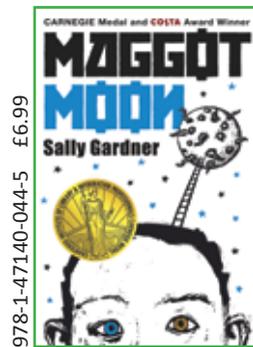
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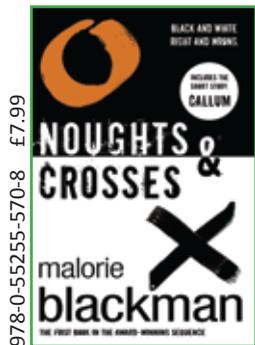
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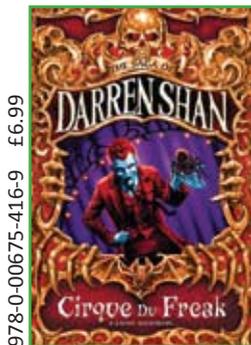
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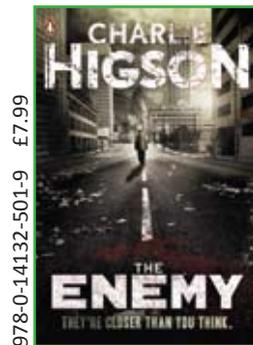
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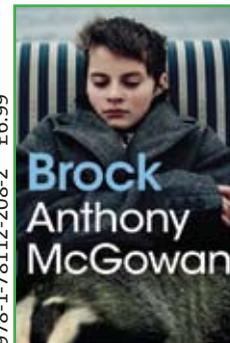
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The Recruit



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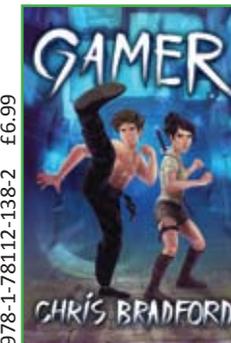
SOPHIE MCKENZIE
Girl, Missing

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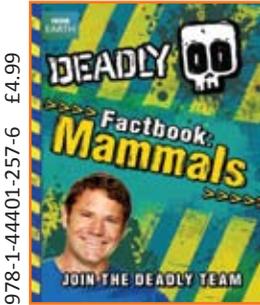
SALLY NICHOLLS
Shadow Girl

“There are books about a thousand things in every library and bookshop. Have a look. Ask the librarian. And, when you find it, enjoy it.”

Tom Palmer

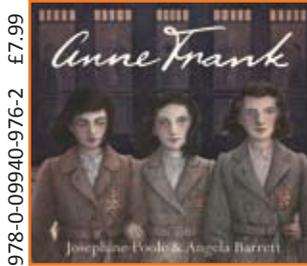
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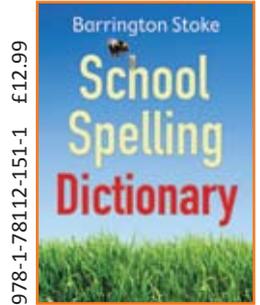
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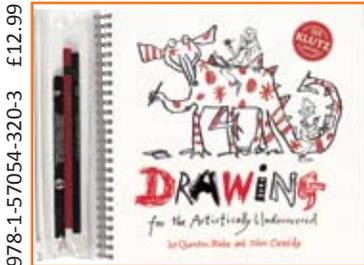
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Find out more about dyslexia and how Dyslexia Action can help at www.dyslexiaaction.org.uk

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