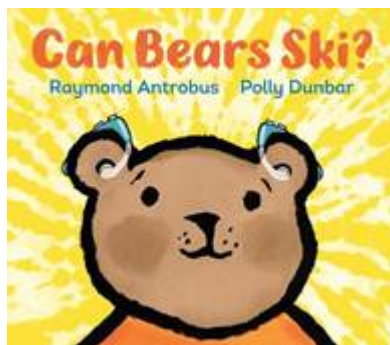
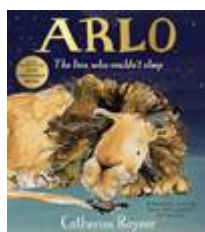


Great Books Guide 2021: for 4 to 5 year olds



Here's a round-up of new children's books from the last year (2021), which we think any child aged 4 to 5 will love.



Arlo, The Lion Who Couldn't Sleep

Author: Catherine Rayner

Publisher: Macmillan

Interest age: 2-4

A perfect bedtime book, *Arlo, The Lion Who Couldn't Sleep* is tenderly illustrated in watercolour as always by Rayner, giving readers gentle pages to fall into and inspire soft, reassuring dreams.



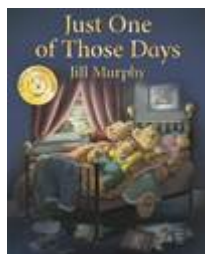
Meet the Oceans

Author: Caryl Hart **Illustrator:** Bethan Woollvin

Publisher: Bloomsbury

Interest age: 4-8

A vibrant picture book all about the incredible bodies of water which make up most of our planet, providing young readers with a lively introduction to the importance of looking after the world's oceans.



Just One of Those Days

Author: Jill Murphy

Publisher: Macmillan

Interest age: 2-5

Everyone in the Bear household is having a difficult day - even Baby Bear! Luckily, it's nothing a pair of cosy pyjamas and pizza for tea can't solve.



Pirate Stew

Author: Neil Gaiman **Illustrator:** Chris Riddell

Publisher: Bloomsbury

Interest age: 4-8

A little boy and his sister are surprised to say the least when their babysitter turns out to be a huge, bearded pirate - and he's invited all his friends round for stew! A great book for storytime with brilliant illustration by former Children's Laureate Chris Riddell.



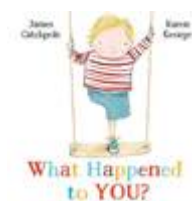
I Say Boo, You Say Hoo

Author: John Kane

Publisher: Templar Books

Interest age: 4-8

The rules are simple: if you see the colour blue, you must shout out *Stinky Poo!* If you see a tree, you have to shout *ME!* Sounds easy enough - but things get sillier and sillier in this hilarious call and response book.



What Happened To You?

Author: James Catchpole **Illustrator:** Karen George

Publisher: Faber

Interest age: 4-8

Joe just wants to play pirates, but the other children notice that he only has one leg and start asking him a barrage of questions. A stunningly clever book with a clear message that someone who happens to be disabled is not a teaching tool, with practical advice for parents on handling questions about this.



I Really Really Need A Wee

Author: Karl Newson **Illustrator:** Duncan Beedie

Publisher: Little Tiger

Interest age: 2-3

Whilst she's out and about, little Bush Baby suddenly really, REALLY needs a wee! A funny book that relates the universal experience of needing a wee and not being able to find anywhere to go, *I Really Really Need a Wee* reminds readers of the importance of going before you leave the house.



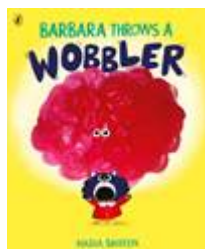
Spaghetti Hunters

Author: Morag Hood

Publisher: Two Hoots

Interest age: 2-5

Duck is looking for his spaghetti, but he can't find it anywhere! Fortunately, Tiny Horse, self-proclaimed spaghetti hunter, has all the kit to help them find the elusive pasta.



Barbara Throws A Wobbler

Author: Nadia Shireen

Publisher: Puffin

Interest age: 3-5

Nadia Shireen's brilliant book about temper tantrums is a definite must-have for any parents of 3-5 year olds who may have had a wobbler or two. As ever, Shireen's humour and empathy with little ones shines through.



Dog Gone

Author: Rob Biddulph

Publisher: HarperCollins

Interest age: 4-5

When Edward Pugglesworth loses his owner, Dave, in the woods, he's sure he's done for - but maybe his dog walk hasn't gone as wrong as he thinks?



The Hospital Dog

Author: Julia Donaldson **Illustrator:** Sara Ogilvie

Publisher: Macmillan

Interest age: 2-5

This is the charming story of Dot the dalmatian, a very special dog indeed, who finds out just how important her hospital visits are. The story is told in rhyming couplets which are delicious to read aloud and share with children, and the bright, inclusive illustrations are full of life, warmth and expression.



Ned and the Great Garden Hamster Race

Author: Kim Hillyard

Publisher: Ladybird

Interest age: 3-6

There's only one thing on Ned's mind today and that's winning. A funny, heartwarming story about a little hamster, a big race and the value of kindness.



Not That Pet!

Author: Smriti Halls **Illustrator:** Rosalind Beardshaw

Publisher: Walker Books

Interest age: 3-5

An enjoyable rhyming book with wholesome illustrations, *Not That Pet!* is perfect for young families considering bring an animal into their lives, and a lovely story about an everyday family and their dynamics.



I Am Every Good Thing

Author: Derrick Barnes **Illustrator:** Gordon C. James

Publisher: Farshore

Interest age: 4-8

Reading age: 7+

The little boy depicted in this gorgeous book is a ball of energy; a gentleman and a scholar; a hilarious friend and a good brother. But, sometimes, he is afraid of the world around him. A stunning visual poem dedicated to supporting and loving black boys.



Octopus Shocktopus!

Author: Peter Bently **Illustrator:** Steven Lenton

Publisher: Nosy Crow

Interest age: 3-5

One day, a huge pink octopus appears on the roof of Mrs Antrobus' house, and despite the fire brigade's best efforts, it seems that it's there to stay! Peter Bently's wonderfully crafted rhyming story is brilliant to read aloud.



Coming to England

Author: Floella Benjamin **Illustrator:** Diane Ewen

Publisher: Macmillan Children's Books

Interest age: 4-5

This picture book autobiography explores the early life of Floella Benjamin, celebrated writer, actress and television presenter. It begins in her childhood home of Trinidad and charts her move to England in 1960 as part of the Windrush generation.



The Pirate Mums

Author: Jodie Lancet-Grant **Illustrator:** Lydia Corry

Publisher: Oxford University Press

Interest age: 4-5

This brilliantly fun story about a day out gone awry - and two seriously committed pirate mums - is a lovely book to read aloud, with a heart-warming message.



It's Only Stanley

Author: Jon Agee

Publisher: Scallywag Press

Interest age: 3-6

The Wimbledon family keep getting woken up by their dog, Stanley - what could he possibly be up to in the middle of the night? Find out in this brilliantly inventive and funny picture book.



Can Bears Ski?

Author: Raymond Antrobus **Illustrator:** Polly Dunbar

Publisher: Walker Books

Interest age: 3-6

Why do people keep asking Little Bear "Can bears ski?" A lovely and authentic picture book about hearing loss, inspired by the author's earliest memory of being read to as a child.



The Runaway Pea Washed Away

Author: Kjartan Poskitt **Illustrator:** Alex Willmore

Publisher: Simon and Schuster

Interest age: 4-5

The Runaway Pea returns in this madcap adventure which sees him washed down the plughole and on his way to the big wide world!