

## **B is for Baby**

**by Atinuke**

B is for baby, the story begins. We see baby getting some Beads put in her hair and we see a Basket. The Basket is full of Bananas, which are going to be delivered to Baba by the baby's Brother. The basket goes past a Bus and Butterflies and Birds until the bananas are delivered to Baba. But there's something else in the basket, too – baby!

Atinuke's text is a series of simple 'B is for...' phrases that take us on a journey through the African landscape as the boy and his secret stowaway sister deliver the bananas. Angela Brooksbank's vibrant illustrations perfectly capture the beautiful colours and exotic wildlife. The text is simple enough for a very young reader, though there are some words that might need some explanation: Baba for Grandpa and, a real wildcard, Bougainvillea – an ornamental vine

**Reading Age: 4+**

**Interest level: 3+**



## **Circle**

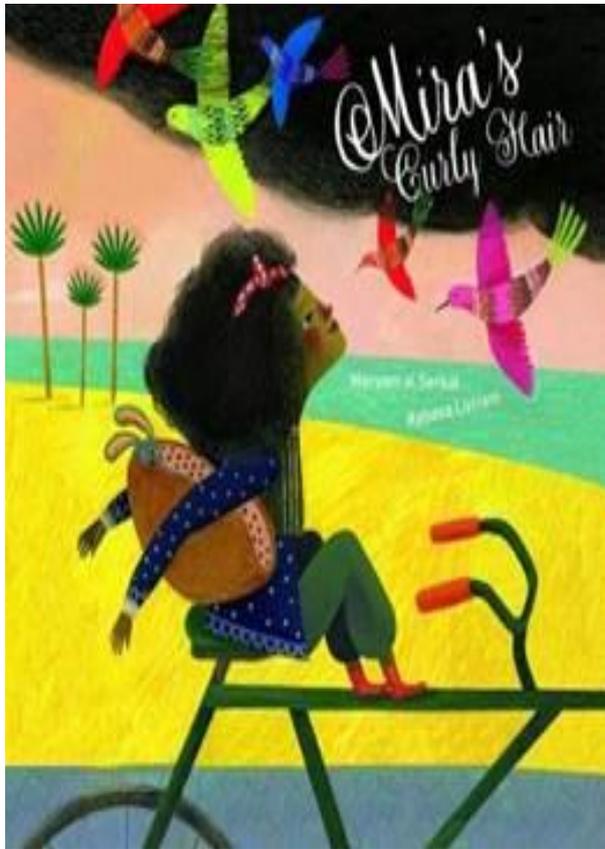
**By Mac Barnett**

Circle, Square and Triangle are friends. When they play a game of hide and seek, Circle's only rule is that nobody hides behind the waterfall, as it is very dark.

While Square accepts this without question, Triangle declares that he is not afraid of the dark and when Circle shuts her eyes and counts to ten, he immediately enters the forbidden territory. With an exasperated sigh, Circle goes to rescue him, but encounters more than she bargains for as she ventures into the inky blackness.

**Reading Age: 3-6**

**Interest level: 3-6**



## Mira's Curly Hair

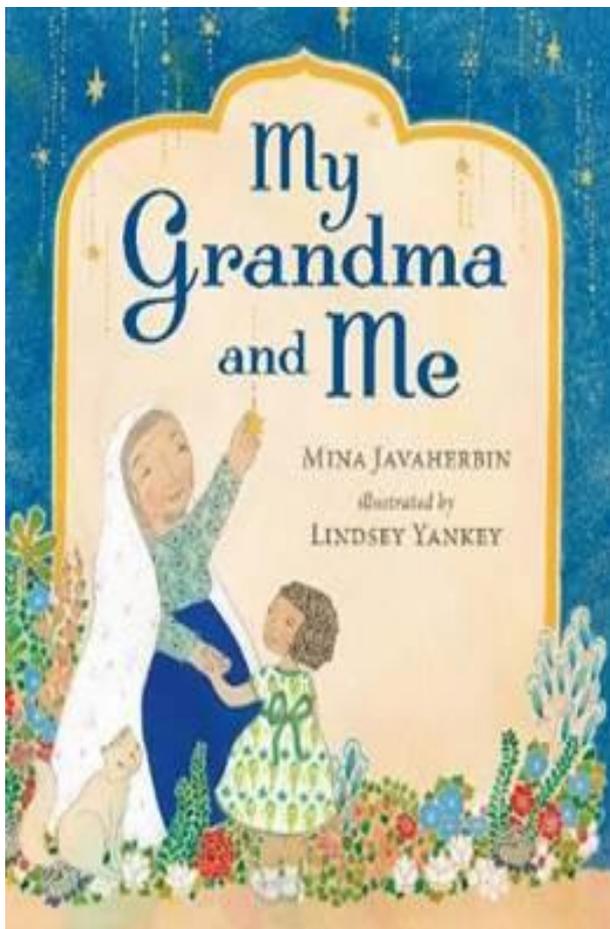
By Maryam al Serkal

Mira wishes she had straight, smooth hair, just like Mama's shiny elegant locks, but instead, she has an abundance of unruly curls. She tries everything she can think of to straighten them, from endless brushing and hair clips to standing on her head, but nothing works and the curls bounce back again. However, when it rains while they are out for a walk one day, Mira discovers a secret about Mama's hair which makes her feel much better.

The little girl's desire to be like her mother is touching and the concept that differences should be celebrated rather than suppressed is an important message to communicate to young children.

**Reading Age: 3-6**

**Interest level: 3-6**



## My Grandma and Me

By Mina Javaherbin

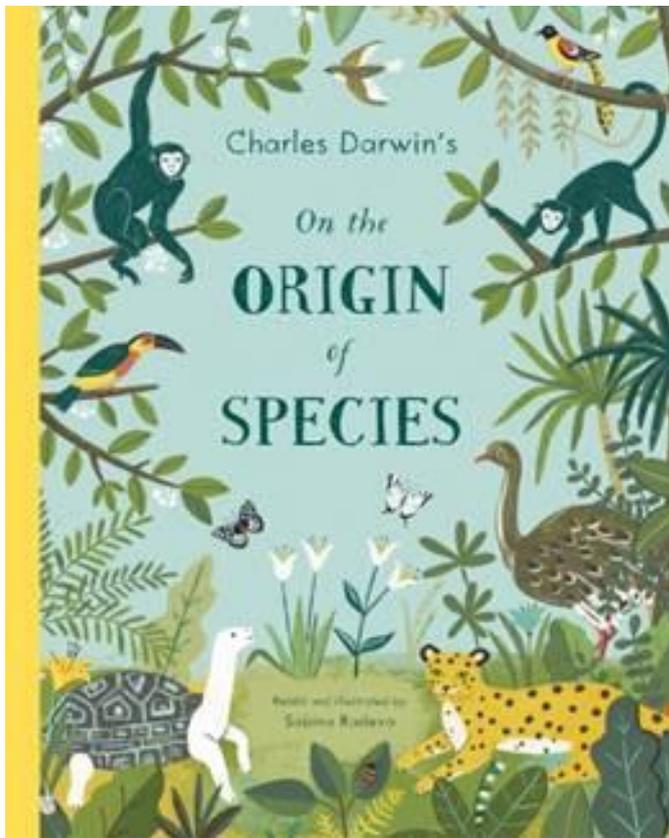
A true tale of a young girl in Iran who idolises and follows her grandmother everywhere, this is a beautiful ode to family and lifelong memories.

The story focuses on Mina's daily life with her grandma: from collecting wonderful fresh bread from the delivery boy to fasting and feasting during Ramadan. This is all observed with simple but affecting detail and the illustrations are just jaw-droppingly gorgeous. Lindsey Yankey draws the situations with glorious colours and intricate patterns that fill the book with a sense of wonder and joy.

There is also a subtly inclusive message to the book, as we see Mina's grandma chatting and laughing with her best friend. Although she goes to church and Mina's grandma goes to a mosque, the book only ever focuses on what unites them: universal, everyday things like knitting, prayers, drinking coffee and watching their grandchildren as they play together.

**Reading Age: 6+**

**Interest level: 4-8**



## On the Origin of Species

By Sabina Radeva

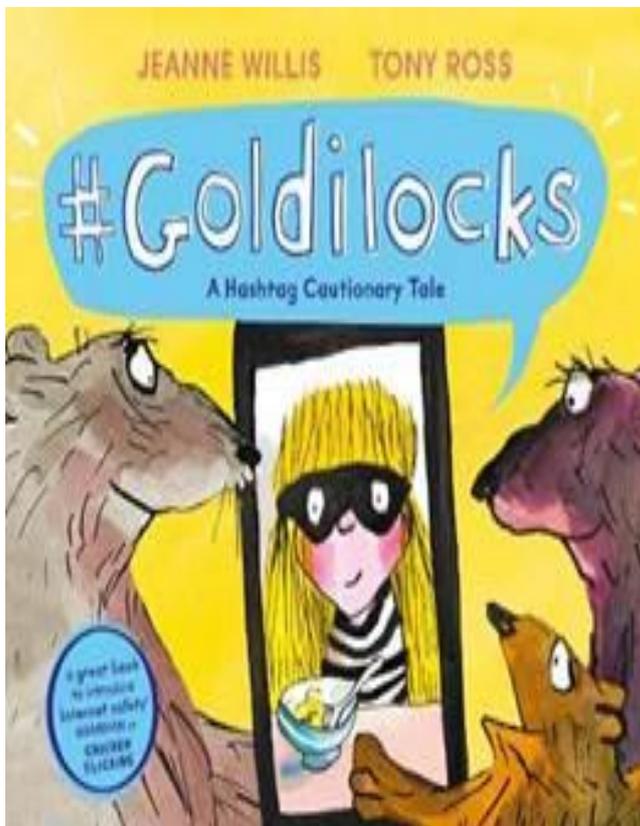
How do we know about the similarities and variations between pigeons, about our relationship to primates, about how species survive in the wild and about the origins of life itself? The answers to all these questions were found by Charles Darwin in his life of scientific research and travel.

Charles Darwin's *On The Origin of Species* is one of science's most important texts, which altered human knowledge of life on Earth. Sabina Radeva, a natural biologist, illustrator and designer, has now retold the book in an accessible picture book form for children, and it's brilliant.

Explaining difficult concepts like natural selection, epigenetics and species differentiation and migration for children isn't easy, but Radeva has made a book that is as beautiful as it is informative, and appropriate for upper primary school children

**Reading Age: 8-11**

**Interest level: 7-11**



## # Goldilocks

### A Hashtag Cautionary Tale

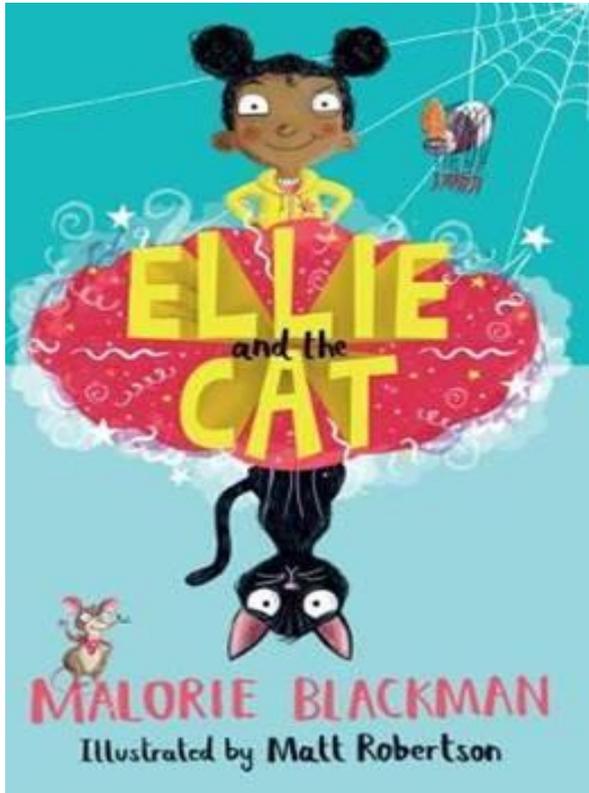
By Emma Yarlett

Jeanne Willis and Tony Ross are picture book royalty, and a new collaboration from them is always something to celebrate.

This cautionary tale about the dangers of oversharing on social media is hilarious and timely. As children become adept at using social media at a younger age, it's important for them to understand the significance their posts can have, but a classroom lecture or a dull pamphlet about safeguarding on the internet is unlikely to be as memorable as this excellent story.

**Reading Age: 5+**

**Interest level: 7+**



## Ellie and the Cat

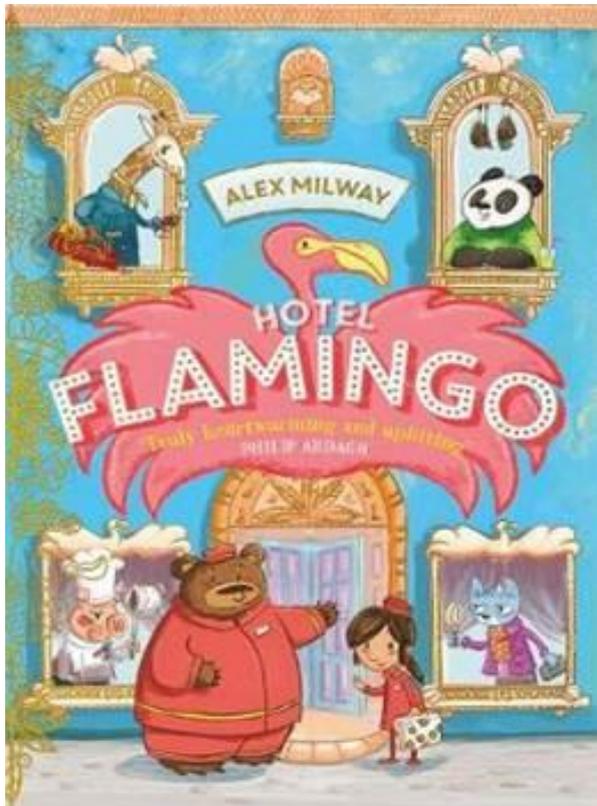
By Malorie Blackman

Ellie is being sent off to stay with yet another relative while her dad is away for business. She's sick of being moved around from person to person whenever he goes away. Now it's her grandmother's turn and Ellie is determined to be as rude and unhappy about the situation as a person can possibly be. But Ellie's grandma has a few tricks of her own up her sleeve – and magically swaps Ellie into the body of her pet cat, Jolly.

In order to become human again, Ellie must complete a special task before sunset the next day – or stay as a cat forever. But how exactly is she going to manage it? Meanwhile, Jolly, who rather likes being a human child, will do anything to stop her from succeeding...

**Reading Age: 7-9**

**Interest level: 7-12**



## Hotel Flamingo

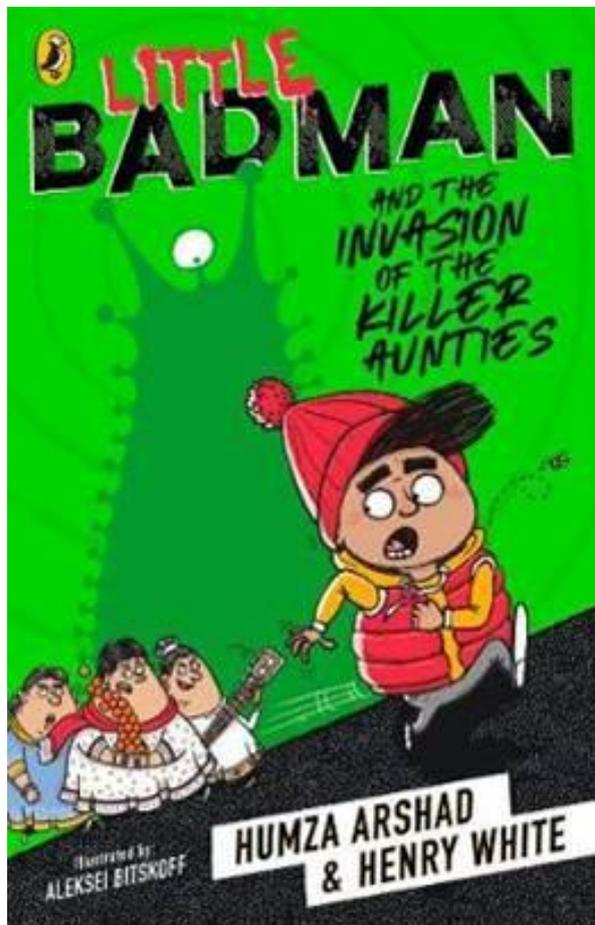
By Alex Milway

A glum bear and a sleepy-looking lemur greet Anna, the new owner of Hotel Flamingo. The new heiress is saddened to find the hotel looking run-down and empty; there have been no guests for years.

Anna is determined to bring back grandeur to Hotel Flamingo so it can once again be full of sunshine and life. She recruits new employees including a handywoman (Stella Giraffe), a feisty chef (Madame le Pig) and a bell boy (Squeak the mouse). The team work day and night until the hotel's shine begins to return, but when a hotel inspector turns up, everything is thrown into doubt.

**Reading Age: 6-9**

**Interest level: 6-9**



## Little Badman and the Invasion of the Killer Aunties

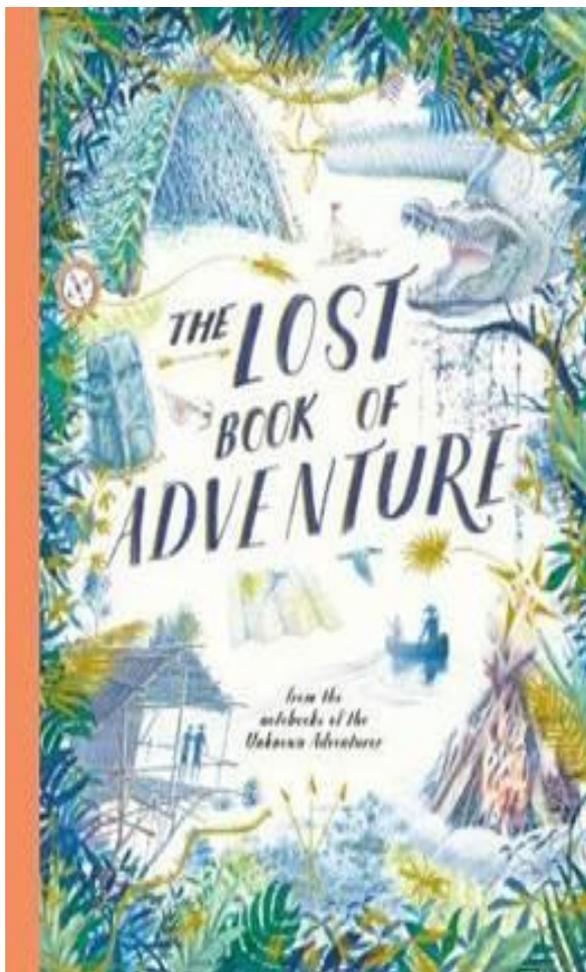
By Humza Arshad & Henry White

Humza Khan is an 11-year-old who devotes most of his energy into trying to be a cool rapper, AKA Little Badman. His style is somewhat cramped by his super embarrassing, super strict and cricket obsessed dad, who calls pants 'knickers'.

Only Humza seems to notice that something isn't right about the teachers in his school dropping like flies and replaced by Pakistani aunties on a mission to fatten everybody up. But can Humza, with help from his best friend Umer, their old class-swot-turned-friend Wendy, and Humza's (slightly reformed) dad, really save the world from this terrifying Invasion of the Body Snatchers-style alien threat?

**Reading Age: 7-11**

**Interest level: 7-11**



## The Lost Book of Adventure

By Unknown Adventurer and Teddy Keen

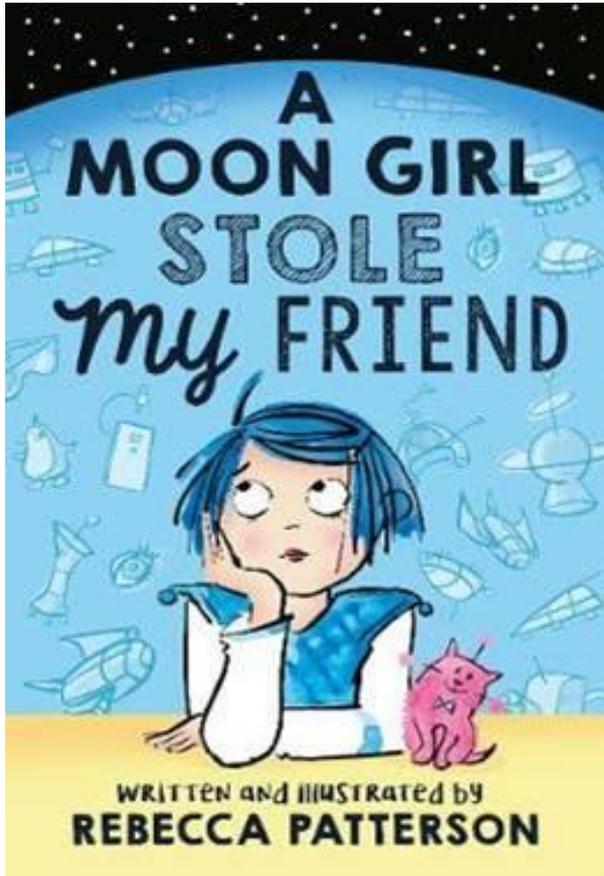
On a recent expedition to the Amazon, outdoor enthusiast Teddy Keen stumbled across a sealed metal container in a remote hut on the banks of the Jari River. Inside the box were tattered sketchbooks and survival notebooks by an unknown adventurer, full of details of their extraordinary adventures and escapes, expedition advice and survival methods.

The sketchbooks are attributed to an "Unknown Adventurer" who appears to have created a guide to adventuring for two young relatives, hoping to inspire them to explore hidden places around the globe. Restored and pieced together, the mysterious Unknown Adventurer's notebooks are now available for everyone to share.

Featuring tales of peril and danger weaved with practical tips, children can discover how to camp in the wild, create their own rafts, make different types of shelters with what the environment provides, first aid and essential supplies in an explorer's kit.

**Reading Age: 8-11**

**Interest level: 8+**



## A Moon Girl Stole my Friend

By Rebecca Patterson

It's 2099. Lyla is excited about the new school year and her best friend Bianca's birthday party. But her morning gets off to a bad start.

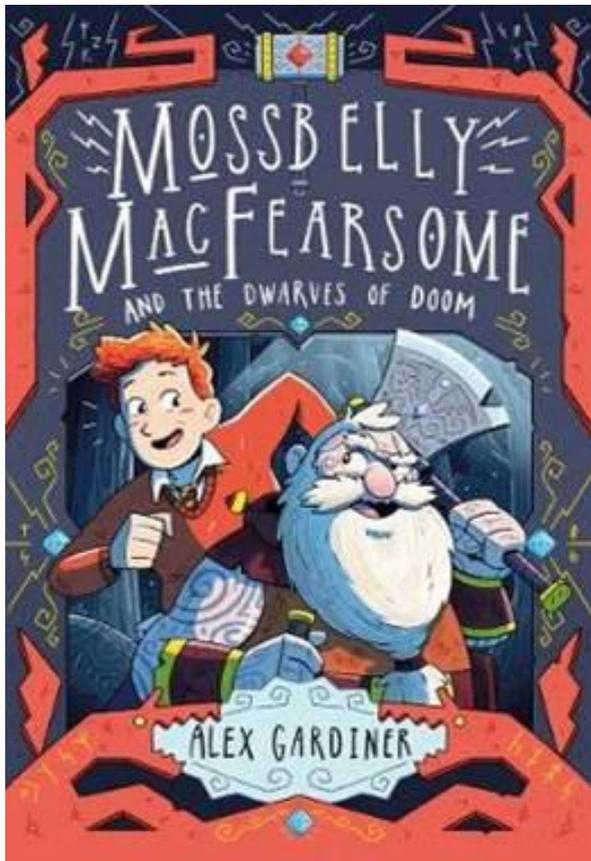
She's running too late to have breakfast so has to chew a Vita-tab instead. She forgot to put Sparks, her cyborg cat, on charge last night so he's lying around looking dead and Mum is yelling from the Launchpad for her to hurry up and get in the skycar. Oh, and she's having a really bad hair day.

As if all that wasn't enough, she gets to school to find that Bianca has invited the super-cool new girl from the Moon Colony to her party instead of inviting Lyla! Could this be the end of their friendship?

Lyla's world is packed with fantastical innovations like flying sweets and expandable breakfast cereal but the fundamentals of human relationships haven't changed in a hundred years. The hurt of losing her best friend is just as real, her little brother is just as annoying and the politics of the playground can be just as complex.

**Reading Age: 8+**

**Interest level: 8-11**



## Mossbelly MacFearsome and the Dwarves of Doom

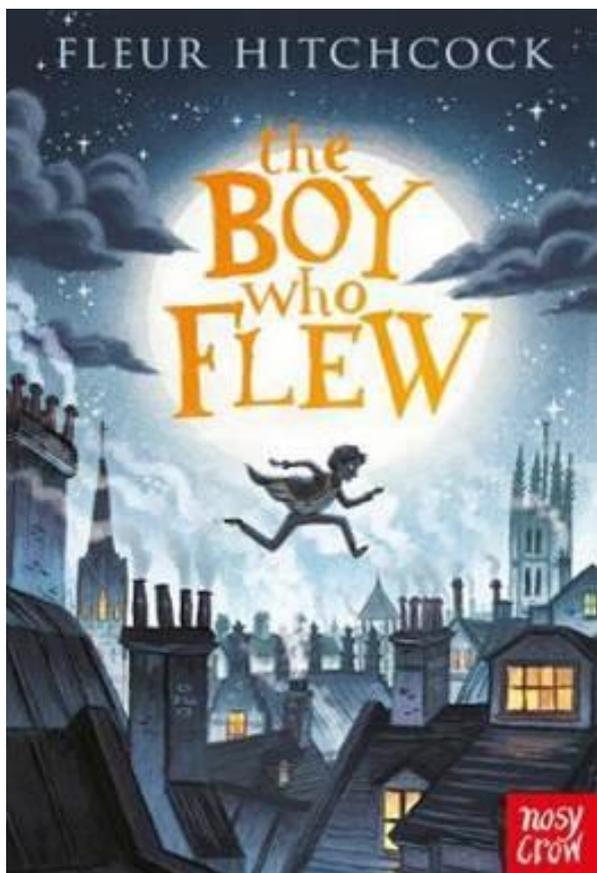
By Alex Gardiner

Formidable dwarf warrior, Mossbelly MacFearsome, is on a quest to save humankind from obliteration. His arch-enemy, Leatherhead Barnstorm, plans to use the almighty Doomstone Sword to release ogres, dragons and other magical creatures into the world, wreaking havoc and destroying the human race. Despite his immense strength and unparalleled bravery, Mossbelly is rendered powerless by the Sword, so requires human assistance to destroy it.

Fortunately, he bumps into ordinary schoolboy Roger, whom he decides looks suitably courageous and heroic. Despite Roger's protestations, Mossbelly declares him the Destroyer and the unlikely duo embark on a frenetic magical journey across the Scottish Highlands, where they are joined by a wacky Witchwatcher and a feisty, trainee witch who's a dab hand at karate. But will this motley crew be a match for ruthless Leatherhead and his fearsome army of revolting gorefiends?

**Reading Age: 7-12**

**Interest level: 8-12**



## The Boy who Flew

By Fleur Hitchcock

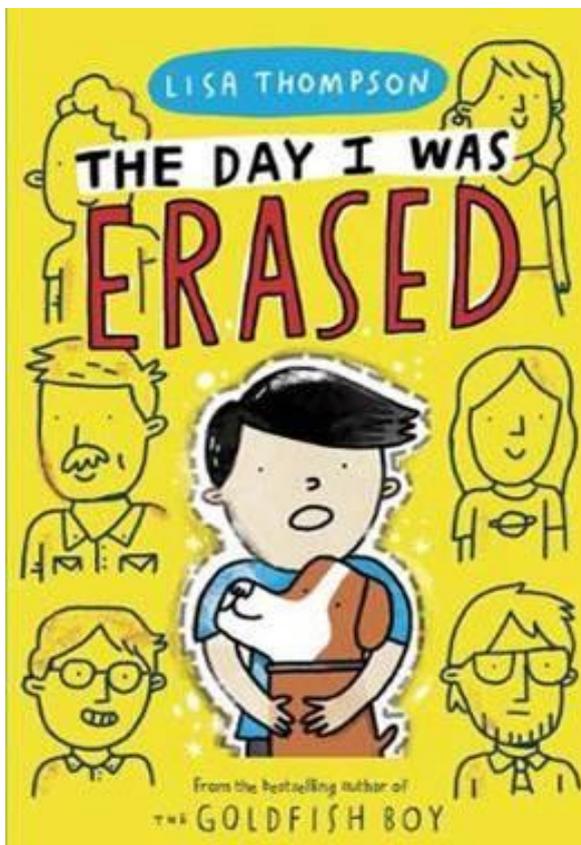
Athan's mother doesn't approve of his association with Mr Chen. She thinks the inventions and experiments the old man works on could be dangerous, perhaps even the work of the devil. What she'd really like is for Athan to become a footman or a carriage boy – someone she can be proud of. Athan can't think of anything worse.

When Mr Chen is found brutally murdered, Athan's priority is to honour his last wish by rescuing the secret plans that should enable the completion of the spectacular flying machine the two of them had been working on. But Athan needs help and he's not sure who to trust.

Athan's story is tense, exciting and marked by both tragedy and triumph. His dogged determination to do justice to the memory of his mentor is matched only by his desire to save his family from poverty and the influence of his evil grandmother.

**Reading Age: 9+**

**Interest level: 9-12**



## The Day I was Erased

By Lisa Thompson

Maxwell is constantly in trouble at school and at home, especially when he is wound up from hearing his parents argue. After hurting his best friend, he is banned from attending the school's Centenary Ball.

Not wanting to miss out, Maxwell sneaks in but ends up in enormous trouble after switching off the electricity! He seeks solace with Reg, his trusted neighbour, but a strange turn of events transports Maxwell to a world where nobody, not even his parents or sister, recognise him. It's as if he never existed.

Maxwell suspects the historical curiosities in Reg's house contain clues to help him return to his old life, but he can't fix this alone. Can he win the affection of his pal again?

**Reading Age: 9-13**

**Interest level: 8-13**



## The Star-Spun Web

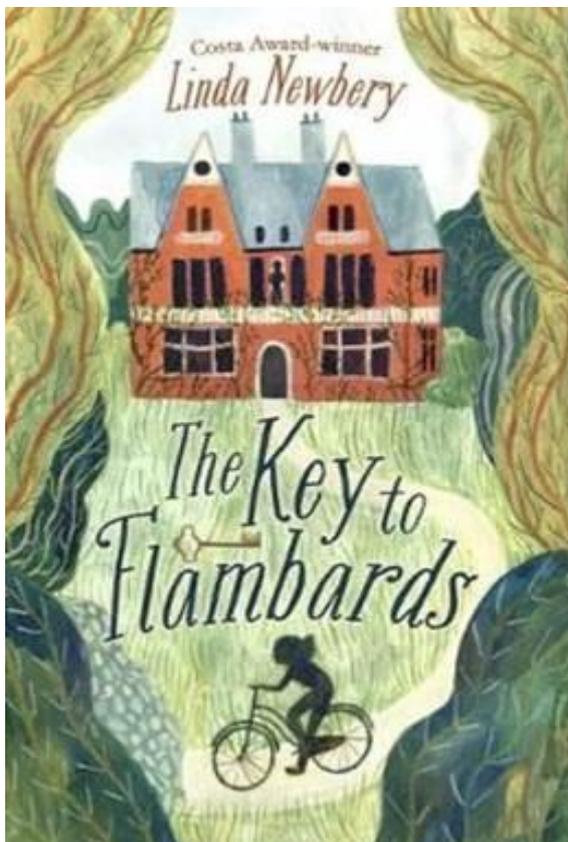
By Sinead O'Hart

Tess de Sousa knows she is an orphan, but she has no idea how much she has lost – not just a family, but a whole world.

The orphanage where she is brought up takes the place of a family, with warmth and affection provided by the women who run it. Then a menacing stranger appears, claiming to be her relative, and Tess finds herself – and her pet tarantula – flung into an adventure through multiple worlds.

**Reading Age: 8+**

**Interest level: 8+**



## The Key to Flambards

By Linda Newbery

It's been a year of dramatic changes for Grace. She must now start to move on, accepting her parents' divorce and adjusting to her life with a prosthetic limb, following a car accident which resulted in a lower leg amputation.

This summer, she's reluctantly left her home and best friend to spend the holidays at Flambards, a quiet countryside arts centre, where her mum is trying to breathe some life into a struggling business.

Flambards is a stately home with some serious history – and Grace's family are direct descendants of the Russell family who used to own it. As she gradually gets to know the locals, she uncovers some mysterious secrets buried in the house's past. It's a summer that will slowly change Grace's feelings about her past, her future and her very place in the world.

**Reading Age: 11+**

**Interest level: 11+**