

St Mary's CE Primary School

List of Recommended Books for Nursery and Year R to Read



Giles Andreae (Illus. Nick Sharratt), *Pants*

Corgi Books, 9780552548335

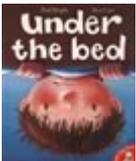
Pants. Whatever the size, colour or shape, they delight children of all ages. In just a few bubbly words, different kinds of pants are celebrated and applauded with exuberance and without a hint of anything salacious about them.



Stan Berenstain and Jan Berenstain, *Bears in the Night*

HarperCollins, 9780001712713

Daringly, the brave but foolhardy bears sneak out of bed to take a night-time trip up Spook Hill. Out of bed, down the stairs, out of the window, under the bridge, around the lake, through the woods and up Spook Hill. What do they find there? It's so spooky that they are soon down, around, under, in and finally back up the stairs and into bed in double quick time. Cleverly paced, the whole drama is told in only 24 often-repeated words, with pictures that carry the frequently changing emotions of the cheeky bears.



Paul Bright (Illus. Ben Cort), *Under the Bed*

Little Tiger Press, 9781854308641

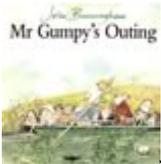
A witty inversion of a familiar anxiety, this will help to allay all bedtime fears. There is something under the bed ... It's a huge and hairy something with warts on its nose and big scary paws. And it's scared too! All the under-the-bed monster wants is for its mummy and daddy to come and rescue it before the little boy above it in the bed scares it half to death.



Ruth Brown, *Imagine*

Andersen Press, 9781842705643

Ruth Brown's painterly illustrations offer a feast for the imagination. Conjuring up opposites, she contrasts hot and cold, old and new, flat and round. In only a few words, this book quietly but purposefully stimulates thinking.



John Burningham, *Mr Gumpy's Outing*

Red Fox, 9780099408796

Everyone wants to join Mr Gumpy on his boat. As he lets each person or animal aboard, Mr Gumpy asks them not to indulge in their usual habits. He asks the children not to squabble, the rabbit not to hop about, the dog not to tease the cat, the pig not to muck about. And so on. But once safely aboard, they all forget their agreement. SPLASH! Soaking but unharmed, all return to a handsome tea. A wonderful story that builds up and has a delightfully predictable and reassuring ending.



Nick Butterworth, *Tiger in the Snow!*

HarperCollins, 9780007119691

When thick snow covers the ground, Tiger the Kitten can't get any of his friends to come out and play. It's too cold! But when Tiger makes himself an amazing sledge there's no stopping him - or them. Careering down the hill, Tiger rounds up his friends in an unusual way and soon all of them are enjoying the wonders of a snowy day. Their adventure opens out into a long picture which records the ups - and downs - of that whizz down the hill!



Helen Cooper, *The Baby Who Wouldn't Go to Bed*

Corgi Children's, 9780552528382

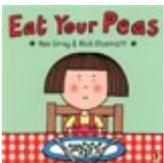
Refusing his mother's efforts to get him to go to bed, the baby revs up his toy car and speeds off to have an adventure, but everywhere he goes he finds a sleepy world. Tiger sees night as a time for snoring not roaring, the soldiers he longs to play with are resting not fighting, the train doesn't want to race as it trundles back to its depot. Even the moon is drowsy. Soon the baby is all alone. Luckily, someone is still awake to tuck him into bed. Full of nursery detail, each beautiful spread is a richly imagined night-time world.



Emma Dodd, *What Pet to Get?*

Templar, 9781840115475

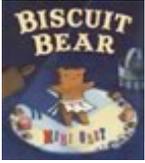
Jack thinks very hard about what kind of pet he'd like to have. An elephant would be nice - but too big to take on holiday; a lion could be fun - but they do eat an awful lot; a polar bear would be good to play with - but might not like the central heating ... Can Jack find a sensible pet? Vibrant illustrations capture the classic pet dilemma in this attractive introduction to different animals.



Kes Gray (Illus. Nick Sharratt), *Eat Your Peas*

Red Fox, 9780099404675

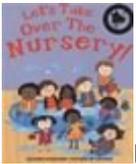
Mum tries everything she can think of to get Daisy to eat her peas. She'll give her extra pudding, let her off having a bath, buy her a bicycle. The offers get more and more ridiculous but still Daisy won't eat her peas. And Daisy has a way of making sure she never has to, when she discovers that Mum has a similar weakness over Brussels sprouts ... The clever twist at the end makes this a nicely balanced story about allowing children freedom of choice.



Mini Grey, *Biscuit Bear*

Red Fox, 9780099451082

The freshly baked Biscuit Bear creates a wonderful night-time rumpus when he bakes himself a team of friends to play with. Dressed in all kinds of sugary finery, they create a thrilling circus among the kitchen utensils, including weightlifting the rolling pin and juggling with peas. Their excitement is short lived. All too soon a shadow appears and with one SNAP, the biscuits are gone. All except one. Biscuit Bear has survival on the brain and, quick as a flash, he saves himself. This is a feast of the imagination full of wit and vigour.



Richard Hamilton (Illus. Sue Heap), *Let's Take Over the Nursery!*

Bloomsbury, 9780747573036

How the nursery class runs riot when the teacher gets stuck in the climbing frame is an exuberant and anarchic story but with a very reassuring ending for teachers everywhere. While splashing water and glooping glue is fun at first, things quickly get out of hand. Soon there's a riot - with children pushing, pinching, punching and not sharing. And, most important of all, who will read the story? With its rollicking rhyming text and bright, realistic illustrations this is a highly entertaining 'cautionary' tale.

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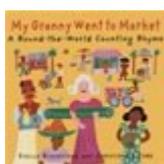
List of Recommended Books for Year 1 to Read



Allan Ahlberg (Illus. Joe Wright), *Mrs Plug the Plumber*

Puffin, 9780140312386

Mrs Plug is a resourceful woman. Not only is she a plumber which is useful in itself, she also manages to see off robbers and, when rewarded by a trip on a cruise liner, she saves the ship when it develops a leak. With Mr Plug as her plumber's mate and the little Plug children as her assistants, it is quite a team. A 'real' book but one that is easy to read with hilarious illustrations, this is just one in the fabulous 'Happy Families' series.



Stella Blackstone (Illus. Christopher Corr), *My Granny Went to Market*

Barefoot Books, 9781905236381

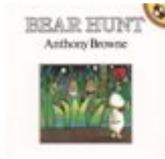
Take a fabulous trip with this remarkable granny as she goes on a round the world shopping spree. It all begins with just one flying carpet but then there are two temple cats in Thailand, three masks, and so on until ten black llamas in the mountains of Peru. Glorious illustrations show the different locations that Granny visits and the whole is told in a delightful rhyming text.



Raymond Briggs, *Ug*

Red Fox, 9780099417897

Stone Age boy Ug longs for a better way of life, and in particular for a pair of soft trousers. But the poor boy is ahead of his time. Everyone scoffs at his notions. His mother thinks that he's a softy when he brings her flowers; his friends think he's mad to want something other than a stone to play football with ... but Ug persists. A book full of jokes and questions showing how questioning the norm (which is what all children do) may have some sense to it. After all, most of the things that Ug was asking for have come about.



Anthony Browne, *Bear Hunt*

Walker Books, 9780140553567

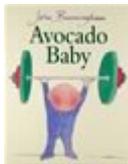
Bear sets out for a walk. All he has with him is a pencil. And it is all he needs as, with it, he can draw his way out of trouble when the hunters turn up. The cool story told in the sparsest of texts is made rich by the riot of visual invention that fills the illustrations.



Eileen Browne, *Handa's Surprise*

Walker Books, 9780744536348

Handa carefully packs seven different delicious fruits into her basket and, carrying it on her head, sets off to give them to her friend Akeyo. As she goes, her basket is emptied by greedy animals sneaking up behind her and taking their favourite fruit. With just a minimal text, the story is wittily told through the pictures which allow readers to know what has happened even though Handa does not.



John Burningham, *Avocado Baby*

Red Fox, 9780099200611

Mr and Mrs Hargreaves want their baby to be big and strong but there is nothing he likes to eat, until they tempt him with a bit of avocado pear. After that, some strange things happen. Still in his babygro and remaining baby size, the Avocado Baby develops the most amazing strength. First he can break out of the straps of his high chair, soon he sees off a burglar, moves the grand piano and throws some bullies into the pond. Now the Hargreaves have a sign saying 'Beware of the Baby' on their gate, but sometimes the baby is just like any other baby - peacefully asleep in his carrycot. An entertaining story about what a baby might get up to.



Helen Cooper, *Pumpkin Soup*

Corgi Children's, 9780552545105

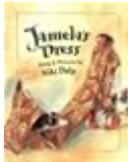
This classic picture book is imbued with the warm colours of pumpkin. Cat, Squirrel and Duck live in perfect harmony. Every day, each with their own job to do, they make rich pumpkin soup. One fateful day, Duck wants to take a different job. When the others refuse and Duck storms off, the three find out that it is their friendship that really matters. With their strong personalities and gutsy interaction, the three characters are pleasingly toddler-like.



June Crebbin, *The Puffin Book of Fantastic First Poems*

Puffin, 9780141308982

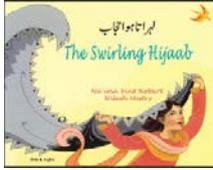
A wonderful collection of poems to 'sing, shout, whisper, chant - maybe learn by heart!' There's certainly something for everyone in this bumper collection of mostly modern but some contemporary poems, which have been divided into sections to make the collection easy to use. Poems about food appear in 'Slurpy Spaghetti' while 'Daddy Fell in the Pond' rounds up stories about mothers, fathers, brothers and sisters. Each section has a different illustrator giving it a particular identity and character.



Niki Daly, *Jamela's Dress*

Frances Lincoln, 9780711214491

This wonderful story set in South Africa tells how Jamela gets carried away by the gorgeous material her mother buys to make a dress to wear at Thelma's wedding. Wrapping it around herself, she shows it off to all her friends. How beautiful it is and how beautiful she is in it. But parading the material around in front of her friends gets it damaged and Jamela feels terrible when she realises what she's done. Luckily, there's a happy ending for all in this warm-hearted story about a special occasion within a community.



Na'ima bint Robert (Illus. Nilesch Mistry), *The Swirling Hijaab*

Mantra Lingua,

Dual language. Available in 20 languages

A little girl can recreate herself in many different roles and in many different places with a swirl of her mother's hijaab. Dressed in this, she can be a warrior queen or a beautiful princess; it can be a Bedouin tent or a cloth for a tea party. So many different ways to play and, best of all, she can always be comforted by it at the end of a busy day. The illustrations convey the imaginative play that lies at the heart of this story.

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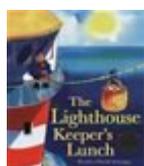
List of Recommended Books for Year 2 to Read



Nicholas Allan, *The Queen's Knickers*

Red Fox, 9780099413141

Have you ever thought what kind of knickers the Queen might be wearing underneath all that finery? This is an affectionate and delightful exposé of the not often explored subject of the Queen and her underwear. After considering the many different and very special kinds of knickers the Queen has - including ones with real holly in them which she wears while giving her Christmas speech, which explains why it is so short - this looks in particular at what kind of knickers the Queen should wear on a school visit.



Ronda Armitage and David Armitage, *The Lighthouse Keeper's Lunch*

Scholastic, 9781407103150

Every day Mr Grinling is out at work making sure that his lighthouse is shining bright across the sea, keeping the ships safe. And, every day, Mrs Grinling cooks him a delicious lunch which she packs in a basket and sends across to the lighthouse on a wire suspended high above the sea. But one day something dreadful happens. Three scavenging seagulls attack the basket and enjoy all the delicious food. How on earth can they be stopped? The details that make a lighthouse keeper's life so different and special give this book an original and fascinating setting. Attempts to outwit the seagulls - whose greedy comments are fun to read in speech bubbles - are hilarious.



Antonia Barber (Illus. Nicola Bayley), *The Mousehole Cat*

Walker Books, 9780744523539

Mowzer the cat and Old Tom the fisherman fight the Great Storm-Cat as she tries to sweep into the Cornish village of Mousehole one dark and very stormy night. Bravely they sail out into the heaving sea where they must tame the cat into gentle, purring submission. A long, flowing story full of beauty is perfectly matched by illustrations that capture the moods and allure of the sea.



Michael Bond (Illus. Peggy Fortnum), *A Bear Called Paddington*

HarperCollins, 9780007174164

Paddington Bear has travelled alone all the way from Darkest Peru with only a single suitcase containing a jar of marmalade, and turns up unexpectedly on Paddington Station. Luckily, a label on the suitcase says, 'PLEASE LOOK AFTER THIS BEAR. THANK YOU', and kind Mrs Brown decides to do just that. Full of domestic details to which Paddington adds a touch of the exotic, the adventures this small bear has as he does - and doesn't! - adapt to his new life are touching and funny.



Tony Bradman (Illus. Martin Chatterton), *The Mummy Family Find Fame*

Egmont, 9781405218771

The Mummy Family are broke. None of the ways they can think of making money are very attractive until they hit on the idea of entering a family TV show. Trying to be good and nice all the time turns out to be very hard indeed. Luckily, the producers want something completely different so when the family let themselves go and behave as they normally do everyone is happy. Busy illustrations capture the quirky Mummy Family perfectly while the simple text tells a more straightforward story.



Anthony Browne, *Gorilla*

Walker Books, 9780744594393

Hannah loves gorillas. She longs to go to the zoo to see a real one but her father is always too busy to take her. One amazing night, a gorilla arrives to see her. Together they have a perfect night out and end up dancing together in the moonlight. The backgrounds of Anthony Browne's illustrations are packed full of visual jokes which add an extra dimension to the touching story he tells.

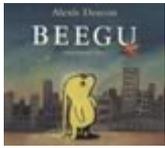


Roald Dahl, *The Enormous Crocodile*

Puffin, 9780140568226

This story about how the Enormous Crocodile with his hundreds of sharp teeth sets about trying to trick the children into becoming a nice juicy morsel for his lunch is delightfully scary. Singing his greedy song, the Enormous Crocodile rampages through the jungle hatching his 'secret plans and clever tricks'. These include

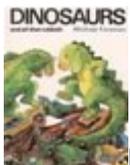
pretending to be a coconut tree, stretching himself out to become a see-saw in the playground, and disguising himself as a bench in the picnic area. Luckily, the animals in the jungle do everything in their power to stop him including, finally, hurling him into space where he meets a satisfyingly revolting end.



Alexis Deacon, *Beegu*

Red Fox, 9780099417446

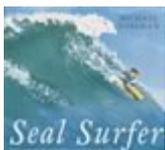
Full of pathos and charm, *Beegu* is a moving story about a small space creature who arrives on Earth. Beegu is lost but she is a friendly creature so she determines to try to make friends. At first, she can't find anyone who can understand her, but when she spies some children playing at school she's sure that that is the perfect place for her. And it is. At last Beegu is made to feel welcome. When she finally gets home safely she remembers the love the children gave her and hopes that they will remember her with affection, too.



Michael Foreman, *Dinosaurs and All That Rubbish*

Puffin, 9780140552607

Published ahead of its time, the conservation message of this book is now highly topical. Man looks at a distant star and thinks it seems a lot more attractive than the Earth he is about to leave. But why is the Earth unattractive? Because Man has spoilt it. Built over and rubbish strewn, it is a mess. Man can only return if he promises to clear up the mess and share the Earth in future. Brilliant illustrations convey an important message without preaching.



Michael Foreman, *Seal Surfer*

Andersen Press, 9781842705780

This is a lyrical story beautifully illustrated with pictures that capture the watery Cornish landscape. It tells of the growing relationship between a boy and the seal he watches from the moment of its birth. Through the spring and summer, the boy observes the seal pup grow from his vantage point on the rocks. In winter he fears for its safety but when spring returns, the seal cub reappears. Together the boy and his seal friends surf the roaring waves. Only clues in the pictures show that the boy walks with crutches.