

Seirbhís Leabharlainne Chomhairle Chontae na Mí
Meath County Council Library Service

Úrscéalta don Rang
Class Novels

Treoir do Mhúinteoirí Bunscoile
A Guide for Primary School Teachers



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Úrscéalta Ranga

Tá bailiúchán úrscéalta ranga forbartha ag Seirbhís Leabharlainne Chomhairle Chontae na Mí mar chuid dá raon seirbhísí ar fáil do bhunscoileanna an chontae. Tá os cionn céad úrscéalta atá molta go hard sa bhailiúchán, le oiread is tríocha cóip de gach úrscéal ann.

Cuirtear na teidil in eagar anseo de réir aicme. Tá innéacs aibítreach na teideal agus na n-údar iniata chomh maith.

Tugtar catagóiriú de réir aicme mar threoir ghinearálta.

Aibhsítear le asterisk na teidil a dhéanann taca leis na Deich mBliana na gCuimhneachán 2012-2023

D'fhéadfadh a bheith comhathrú ó bhliain go bliain maidir leis na teidil atá ar fáil.

Coinníollacha Úsáide

- Is féidir le scoileanna dá theidil a fháil ar iasacht ag an am céanna, ag brath ar an soláthar.
- Is é sé seachtaine oibre tréimhse na hiasachta. Caithfear leabhair a fhilleadh go pras agus i ndea-chaoi.
- Is do úsáid ranga amháin atá na leabhair.
- Is féidir leabhair a bhailiú agus iad a thabhairt ar ais do bhainse leabharlainne áitiúil.
- Is féidir teidil a iarraidh trí r-phost, trí fhón, nó tríd an bpost.
- Is féidir iarraitais a dhéanamh téarma amháin roimh ré.

*Roinn na mBunscoileanna, Seirbhís Leabharlainne Chomhairle Chontae na Mí,
Sráid an Iarraid, An Uaimh, Co. Na Mi
primaryschools@meathcoco.ie; 046-9097370*

Classroom Novels

Meath County Council Library Service has developed a classroom novel collection as part of its range of services to primary schools in the county. There are over 100 highly recommended titles in the collection with up to 30 copies in each set of novels.

Titles are arranged by class. An index of authors and a list of titles are also included.

The class allocation is a general guide.

Titles which support the decade of commemoration 2012–2023 are marked with an asterisk.

There may be some variation from year to year in the titles available.

Conditions of Use

- Schools may borrow two titles at a time, subject to availability.
- The loan period is six working weeks. Books must be returned promptly and in good condition.
- Books are for classroom use only.
- Books may be collected from and returned to a local branch library.
- Titles may be requested by e-mail, telephone or by post.
- Requests may be made one term in advance.

*Primary Schools Department, Meath County Council Library Service,
Railway Street, Navan, Co Meath.
primaryschools@meathcoco.ie
046-9097370*

Réamhrá

Is réamhrá é *Class Novels: A Guide for Primary School Teachers* ar bhailiúcháin thar cionn 100 leabhar atá ar fáil d'iasacht do gach bunscoil sa Chontae. Is togra é an treoir den tseirbhís leabharlainne poiblí an Chontae agus cuireann sé go mór le clár Deich mBliana na gCuimhneachán Chontae na Mí.

Léiríonn an treoir an chuid is fearr den scríbhneoireacht páistí comhaimseartha, mórán teidil éagsúla an áireamh a leanann Éirí Amach na Cásca agus an tréimhse réabhlóideach.

Tá súil againn tríd an treoir seo go bhfaighidh múinteoirí rogha leabhar níos éasca agus go gcuirfidh páistí aithne ar leabhair a mbainfidh siad sult agus tairbhe astu.



Cllr Seán Drew,
Cathaoirleach,
Comhairle Chontae na Mí



Jackie Maguire,
Príomhfheidhmeannach,
Comhairle Chontae na Mí

Preface

Class Novels: A Guide for Primary School Teachers is an introduction to a collection of over 100 books which are available for loan to all primary schools in the county. The guide is an initiative of the Council's Public Library Service and it is a welcome addition to the County Meath Decade of Centenaries Programme.

The guide highlights the very best of contemporary children's writing, including a wide range of titles which explore the Easter Rising and the revolutionary period.

We hope that through this guide teachers will find book selection easier and that children will be introduced to books that they will enjoy and value.



Cllr Sean Drew,
Cathaoirleach,
Meath County Council



Jackie Maguire,
Chief Executive,
Meath County Council

Foreword

I've been thinking about those special places we all had as children; you know the places that have the power to transport you to another world? My special place was a lime tree on my grandparents' farm. In 1903, a violent storm brought it crashing down, but unlike many of its comrades mowed down that night, its deep root system kept it alive. It's still alive today. Lying along the ground, sometimes our tree was a rocket, sometimes it was a grand house. But my fondest memory is of our tree being a ship. Of course, once it was a ship, how we moved, the characters we played, the stories we acted out were true to being on a ship.

And this world of the imagination that we associate with places – for me, that's very much like reading fiction. When you choose a book, you choose a particular world to step into – to lose yourself in. It could be a story rooted in the past or one through which you can join a time-traveller. It might involve mystery or horror. It might take place in a world of fantasy, but you trust and believe in that world while you read because of the skilful storytelling.

By gathering this collection of stories, Meath County Library invites the county's young people to choose the world they want to visit through fiction. They are invited to escape, to be nourished, to be entertained, to deepen their understanding of other people's lives as well as their own. We are marking the years of the Decade of Centenaries at the moment, a decade that had its roots in an awakening about what it means to be Irish. Storytelling is part of that legacy; Irish people are known worldwide for their love of writing and reading stories. The schools' collection, carefully curated to cater for today's children, is a fitting commemoration of that decade. May this tribute to the past enrich the readers of the present and those of the future!

Ann Murtagh



Care of Henry

Anne Fine

With his mother about to have a baby, Hugo must decide whom to live with while she is in hospital. Granny? Mrs. Mariposa next door? Uncle Jack? Never good at making decisions, Hugo adopts a new method to figure out who will offer him, and his dog Henry, the best care.

This gentle and heartwarming story about the friendship between a boy and his dog suggests that sometimes your heart has to overrule your head.

“Engaging...young readers are too rarely offered treats of this calibre.” **Books for Keeps**

“Rounded characters, revealing dialogue and stories, and mother’s help in resolving Hugo’s problem make this one of those stories which transform familiar sights into insights.” **Times Educational Supplement**

Online resources available

Walker Books, 2005, 1996



The Diary of a Killer Cat

Anne Fine

First a bird, then a mouse, Tuffy shows no remorse as he drags dead creatures through the cat flap much to the horror of his owner Ellie and her family. While soft-hearted Ellie beseeches her beloved pet to change his wild, wild ways, this cheeky feline cannot understand what all the fuss is about. Things take on a more serious tone when the next-door neighbour’s rabbit arrives on the doormat.

Littered with lighthearted illustrations, readers experience a wonderfully sharp and hilarious view of the world through a cat’s eyes.

“Okay, okay. So hang me. I killed the bird. For pity’s sake, I’m a cat.....”

“Funny throughout. . . the black-and-white sketches, some full page, bring movement and personality to the characters.” **School Library Journal**

Anne Fine is a distinguished prize-winning writer for children of all ages.

Online resources available

Teacher resource book available

Puffin, 2004



Flat Stanley

Jeff Brown

Amazing things can happen when you are flat!

When the large bulletin board that hung above his bed falls off the wall one night, Stanley Lambchop emerges unharmed but flat as a pancake. The 9-year-old initially enjoys the advantages his altered shape affords him. His younger brother Arthur watches on with jealousy as Stanley slides under doorways, avoids walking by being entirely rolled up and carried, and gets to fly like a kite. One particularly special perk is that Stanley can now travel by post to America to visit his friends. In another adventure, Stanley helps capture some dangerous art thieves by posing as a painting on the museum wall. Eventually, however, the paper-thin hero tires of being different and confides in Arthur of his wish to return to his former round self. A compassionate Arthur springs to his aid with an inventive use for a bicycle pump!

This simple, humorous tale illustrates the ebb and flow of sibling dynamics and highlights some important lessons on the issues of manners, fame, and discrimination.

Online resources available

Methuen & Co., 1968, 2003



Gulliver

Jonathan Swift

Retold by Mary Webb

Illustrated by Lauren O’Neill

Based on Gulliver’s Travels, a classic of English Literature, first published in 1726. The two best known stories are retold for a younger audience.

Lemeul Gulliver was a surgeon who took to the sea in search of adventure. Shipwrecked after a storm, he wakes to find himself bound by innumerable tiny threads and surrounded by tiny captors. Gulliver is perceived as a giant by them. Through Gulliver’s experiences in the Kingdom we see how petty and silly the little people of Lilliput are.

On his next expedition the reverse occurs. In Brobdingnag, Gulliver finds himself in a country of giants. Here, when one is small and powerless, life is full of danger.

Children’s Book of the Year (senior) Irish Book Award, 2018 & Winner of the Children’s Books Ireland Merit Award for Illustration

“...modern retelling, with exciting new illustrations... this book would appeal to all ages.” **School Librarian Magazine**

“An engaging read-aloud for junior classes”

Children’s Books Ireland

Online resources available

The O’Brien Press, 2015



The Hodgeheg

Dick King-Smith

Victor Maximilian St George, or Max for short, has a dream that will benefit the whole of hedgehogkind. He wants to uncover how humans cross the road safely. Spurred by the recent loss of close relatives, this brighter-than-average hedgehog is determined to discover how he can safely cross the dangerous road that lies between his family home and the enticing park. His pioneering research is not without its perils however, and, along the way he encounters many challenges that not only test his perseverance but temporarily scramble his brains!

This endearing and humorous little story told from Max's perspective will amuse readers young and old and highlight some valuable life lessons.

“A writer with every kind of surprise in his bag.”

Sunday Telegraph

Readers Comments

“I liked it when Max muddled up his words (after a bump on the head). I liked trying to work out what he was trying to say. It was fun to find out more about hedgehogs.....” Matthew, aged 7, **Goodreads**

“The Hodgeheg has everything – humour, adventure, inspiration and plenty of advice for youngsters on the issue of safety when crossing roads!”

LoveReading4Kids

Online resources available

Teacher resource book available

Puffin, 2010



The Legend of Captain Crow's Teeth

Eoin Colfer

“I didn't believe in ghosts, certainly not ones with gold teeth hunting for nine-year-old cabin boys. All the same, I wished I was ten, or even eight. Anything but nine...”

Ten-year-old Marty likes nothing better than to terrorise his four younger brothers with bedtime stories of the cut-throat pirate Captain Augustine Crow. He is said to haunt the seaside town where the Woodman family take holidays. Legend has it that when the sea glows at night, Captain Crow roams the shore seeking revenge on the cabin boy who got the better of him hundreds of years ago. Marty, an expert at scaring people, notes that the restless spirit will settle for ANY nine-year-old boy.

Bolstered by science nine-year-old Will dismisses the bloodcurdling tale as hogwash, but it is easy to be brave in the daylight. Forced by his trickster brother to walk back alone after the junior disco across the haunted rocks, he hears a ghostly voice calling....

In this vivid and witty story Colfer displays an understanding of childhood fears, sibling antics, and some of the challenges of coming of age. The book blends hilarity with just the right amount of apprehension and chills to produce an engaging read for the 7–9 age group.

Online resources available

Puffin, 2006



The Legend of the Worst Boy in the World

Eoin Colfer

“What's the matter, Marty?” asked Mum who knew Marty's guilty face when she saw it. *“Marty! What have you done? Where's your little brother?”*

Growing up with four complaining brothers affords Will Woodman little occasion to air his problems. The younger two siblings keep Mum busy and older brother Marty has the monopoly on Dad's limited time. Looking elsewhere for a confidant Will turns to his Granddad, who agrees to hear Will's tales of woe as they work together at the lighthouse. However, their Saturday morning sessions are a two-way exchange, and Granddad's stories always seem more shocking than those of his second in command. It is not until Will finally has a chance to spend some time alone with his father that he learns of an incident involving his two-year-old self that is sure to trump any of the incredible tales his grandfather will be able to recollect.

This humorous tale accurately captures the dynamics and scheming that can arise in a household of five boys. Its conclusion also offers a nice moral about perspective in that Granddad's big tribulations always made Will's problems seem smaller.

“a sparky and witty read.” **Inis Magazine**

In 2014 Colfer was named Ireland's third Laureate na nÓg for children's literature.

Online resources available

Puffin, 2008



Mad Grandad and the Kleptoos

Oisín McGann

Mad Grandad Series

Things keep disappearing in Grandad's house – who, or what, has taken them?

When Lenny visits his Grandad one Saturday morning he has to get in the dog-flap. Grandad is fast asleep and claims that his alarm clock has gone missing – again! It's not the only thing that can't be found. When Grandad dozes off again Lenny gets a terrible fright when a small thin hand reaches out from under the cushions of the sofa.

And so Lenny and Grandad discover the creepy Kleptoos and their vast hideout, at the back of the sofa.

As well as stealing stuff Kleptoos, it turns out, are very nasty, especially Old Mother Klepto who wants to keep Lenny and Grandad as pets! They have to make a run for it, using all of Grandad's missing alarm clocks as weapons.

“With his big square glasses, bulbous nose and free-flying eyebrows, McGann's Grandad is a truly original creation. The illustrations, drawn from interesting perspectives, are imaginative and full of detail”

Books Ireland

Egmont Books, 2004



Mr Tiger, Betsy and The Blue Moon

Sally Gardner

Illustrated by Nick Maland

Betsy Glory lives with her father Alfonso on an island that has been left off the map of the world. Her mother is a mermaid who often comes to visit them. Mr Glory is known for making the most wonderful ice cream that “tastes of wishes”. When Betsy meets the well dressed and mysterious Mr Tiger and his troupe of circus acrobats a magical adventure unfolds. Together they must all travel to Gongalong island which is as “far away as Sunday” if they are to break an evil spell that turned the princess Albee into a toad. Ice cream made from island berries that ripen once in a blue moon holds the key.

A modern day fairytale with a host of interesting characters, such as “Ivan The Timid” giant, later to be known as “Ivan the Bold”, the nasty giantess, Princess Olaf, the little Gongalong islanders and a talking moon.

A read-aloud fun story

Beautiful one-color illustrations throughout

Dyslexia Friendly

Times Book of the Year, 2018

Zephyr, 2018



The Owl who was Afraid of the Dark

Jill Tomlinson

‘You *can’t* be afraid of the dark’ said his mummy. ‘Owls are never afraid of the dark.’ ‘This one is’ Plop said. ‘I don’t want to be a night bird’, he mumbled. ‘I want to be a day bird.’

Plop is like every other baby barn owl there ever was, except for one thing – he is afraid of the dark. Indeed, he does not like the dark AT ALL and so refuses to go hunting with his parents. This is quite a problem for a nocturnal animal, but his mother has an idea. She explains that he is only afraid of the dark because he does not know about it, and so she sends him down from his nest-hole to gather some information. On his research trips Plop meets a little boy waiting for the fireworks to begin as well as an old lady and a boy scout out camping. He also meets a girl who tells him about Father Christmas, a man with a telescope and a black cat who takes him exploring. Through these encounters Plop discovers the wonders of the dark and all the benefits it offers.

The language is suitably concise, rhythmic and repetitive for young readers. Wry humour is used superbly to deal with a typical childhood fear.

The Owl who was Afraid of the Dark is a classic in children’s literature.

Online resources available

Teacher resource book and CD available

Egmont Books, 2004



Rabbit & Bear: A Bite in the Night

Julian Gough

Illustrated by Jim Fields

Rabbit & Bear: book 4

There’s a new creature in Rabbit and Bear’s valley, and he’s trying to change everything.

Rabbit is very alarmed and wakes his friend Bear. It appears that the trees in the valley are flying south for the winter. Bear is sure that trees can’t fly. But his favourite scratching tree has been reduced to a stump and the Honey Bee tree is gone! They check on their friend Woodpecker who is also having a strange morning. A loud crunch from nearby sounds like a monster rabbit.

It is in fact *Castor Canadensis*, a beaver, who is the cause of all the trouble. In the name of “progress” he has been chomping down trees and moving the stream. The smaller animals are losing their homes and are not happy with Castor. Bear comes up with a plan though. He gets all the animals working together and they have fun. Even Castor is smiling for once.

The text and illustrations work wonderfully together to bring out a story about friendship, our environment and real happiness in a very humorous way.

“A perfect animal double-act.” **The Times**

“...there’s as much insight as humour, and it’s a superb read aloud story” **LoveReading 4 Kids**

Hodder Children’s Books, 2019



Rover Saves Christmas

Roddy Doyle

Struck by the flu and something of a mid-life crisis, Rudolph calls in sick on Christmas Eve, so Santa turns to Rover to pull his sleigh and secure the future of Christmas. The canine mastermind of the “poo-for-cash” scheme in Doyle’s *The Giggler Treatment* reluctantly accepts the challenge but insists on bringing a four-strong juvenile crew: Rover always brings a child in case of an emergency, and this was a big emergency! A mad dash ensues around the world to deliver presents before dawn so that children everywhere will still believe in Santa and the magic won’t disappear.

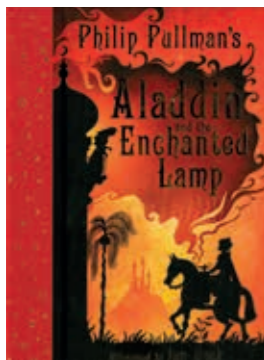
This wacky escapade boasts witty chapter progressions and dedications, random interruptions, peculiar tangents, quirky supporting characters and multiple endings to satisfy various tastes.

“A tickle-me-funny tale that not only speaks but screams to young readers, engaging their attention every step of the way.” **Associated Press**

“Fans of Dav Pilkey, Jon Scieszka, and Lemony Snicket will appreciate this zany, irreverent story... Don’t expect a straightforward, traditional, linear narrative. The wordplay and the gags are the important things here.” **School Library Journal**

“Roddy Doyle is an absolute genius!” **J.K. Rowling**

Scholastic, 2002



Aladdin and the Enchanted Lamp

Philip Pullman

This is a story that has everything – comedy, drama, fantasy, magic, fear, excitement and a terrific plot.

The story of Aladdin has delighted young and old for centuries and this vivid retelling by one of the greatest children's authors of our time will not disappoint. Pullman, known for his ability to create worlds full of drama, excitement, and dark battles of good versus evil, employs a mild tone in this rendition of the classic tale of the mischievous boy who becomes heir to a magical lamp. His fast-paced, lively account is set in the story's original location, China. With skilled use of contemporary language he still maintains the tale's mystical, long-ago quality, while Ian Beck's beautiful rich illustrations capture the Arabian Nights mood beautifully. With magic and mischief in equal measure, this sumptuous edition is sure to captivate a new generation of young readers.

"Written with masterly ease and wit...from the reigning master of children's literature." **The Times**

"A perfect match of new author to old tale." **Guardian**

Online resources available

Teacher resource book available

Puffin, 1995, 2011



The Bookshop Girl

Sylvia Bishop

Illustrated by Ashley King

Abandoned as a child, Property Jones – so called because she was left in the lost property cupboard of a bookshop – is now eleven and living in a bookshop with the owner, Netty, and her son Michael. Property fits perfectly into the family of booksellers, apart from one major thing: she can't read! Nobody knows her secret and, too ashamed to admit the truth, Property invents clever methods to conceal it.

Things get tricky however when Netty wins a famous bookshop, the Montgomery Book Emporium, the biggest and most magical bookshop in the world. Soon after settling into their new home, the Joneses receive an unpleasant visit from a Mr. Pink, threatening their business and also Property's precious secret. But Property won't give up easily and with the help of a new furry friend, the bad tempered cat, Gunther, she resolves to challenge Mr. Pink and save her family from ruin.

A gripping and entertaining read with plenty of light humour and with likeable and interesting characters. The black and white illustrations bring the story to life.

Property's secret problem gives an opportunity to raise awareness of reading difficulties among the very young.

Online resources available

Scholastic, 2017



Chop-Chop, Mad Cap!

Juliette Saumande

Illustrated by Sadie Cramer

Madgie M. Cappock, or Mad Cap for short, sets up a Rent-a-Hero agency to solve all problems and mysteries, with her best friend, Norbert Soup.

Mad Cap is a messy tomboy of a girl, with a weakness for chocolate buttons. Norbert is 'officially a genius', whose plans are occasionally stymied by his oversize cat, Scrum.

They discover a lot of mysteries close to home that they must solve. Mad Cap's mother is behaving oddly, the butcher has disappeared, there are unexplained flashing lights across the street, an evil cat and strange tapping noises in the pipes next to Norbert's.

Can the young superheroes figure out what's going on before it's too late?

A funny and gentle tale, with many of the elements of a traditional mystery adventure.

"Chop-Chop, Mad Cap! is the first book in the Mad Cap series...the plot is fun, silly and hilarious. ... It is a book that will appeal equally to boys and girls ..."

The School Librarian

Author video presentation available

Online resources available

Little Island, 2012



The Evil Hairdo

Oisín McGann

Deep in the cellars of The O'Brien Press is a safe that contained stories too horrible to be read. But somebody has broken into that safe and the stories have been released. This is one of those forbidden files...

"I just want to begin by saying that none of this was my fault." So begins the peculiar story of ten-year-old Melanie. It all started with her favourite girl band *WitchCraft*. They were her idols. They were beautiful, they could sing and dance and, above all, they were cool. She wanted the *WitchCraft* hairdo more than anything else in the world; she even went behind her mother's back to get the cool look at a new salon that had just opened down the road from their house. That's when the trouble started. Although initially thrilled with her new style, she soon realises that her hair is evil and has a mind of its own. From cutting up all her Mum's clothes to summoning a plague of rats, Melanie's hair tries to destroy her entire life.

"Thrilling plotlines and peculiar characters ... An amusing read for more advanced readers in search of some revolting fun." **Katelyn Romano, Bookfest Ireland**

The O'Brien Press, 2006



Fantastic Mr Fox

Roald Dahl

“..... they’ve concocted a cunning plan to dig him out of his hole once and for all. But it never occurs to them that Mr Fox has a fantastic plan of his own.....”

This funny and imaginative tale centres on the clever Mr. Fox who feeds his wife and four children from the spoils of his nightly raids on neighbouring poultry farms. Tired of being robbed, the three nasty, dim witted farmers named Boggis, Bunce, and Bean formulate a plan to ambush Mr. Fox as he leaves his lair, but they succeed only in shooting off his tail. When their efforts to dig the burrow out fail, the trio of farmers enlist the workers from their farms to surround the area and wait until hunger forces Mr. Fox to emerge. The Foxes and all the other families of underground creatures of the wood are cornered. For three days and nights the stalemate continues until Mr. Fox has a fantastic plan that will allow him and all the underground residents of the hill to safely stay below the surface and feast like royalty courtesy of the clueless Boggis, Bunce, and Bean.

“Whether you’re looking for a good book for a literature focus unit, a fascinating read-aloud for your students, or just a good read for your child (or yourself!), this book will be a hit!” **Amazon**

Online resources available

Puffin, 1970, 2004



The Giggler Treatment

Roddy Doyle

Little did Mister Mack realise as he set off one sunny morning to catch his train to work at the biscuit factory that he was about to get The Giggler Treatment! Since time began, tiny fairy-like creatures known as Gigglers have been bringing adults to justice for the maltreatment of children with a particular method of punishment: Poo on the shoe. So when they overheard Mister Mack send his children to bed without any supper the night before, their course of action seemed clear. The Gigglers prepared to have this unsuspecting biscuit taster step in a huge pile of fresh dog poo. But maybe these mischievous guardians of children are mistaken this time; after all, they had left before they heard Mister Mack call his boys back downstairs for a supper of their choice. Can Rover, an essential supplier in the Giggler treatment chain, and Mister Mack’s family help avert a super-poo disaster?

“Riotously funny.” **The Times**

“The award-winning adult novelist offers a delightfully funny and gross book that should appeal to the many fans of Dav Pilkey’s “Captain Underpants” series (Scholastic) . . .” **School Library Journal**

Online resources available

Scholastic, 2007



The Girl with the Broken Wing

Heather Dyer

She could be their guardian angel, but would an angel have filthy feet and snore?

One rainy night a winged girl named Hillary crash-lands on the roof of the Mulroneys' house much to the astonishment of resident twins Amanda and James. Unbeknownst to their parents, the twins allow the injured creature in through the skylight and agree to let her recover in their attic bedroom. Imaginative Amanda is certain that they have discovered an angel, but her logical brother is sceptical.

Fortified by sleep and chocolate buttons, Hillary is eager to explore. After all, her home is boring what with all the hymn singing, demure dancing, and expectations of do-gooding. Hiding her wings under Amanda's old brown duffle coat, the impulsive, energetic Hillary makes quite an impression wherever she goes. She brings a family picnic to a subdued, premature end; causes a commotion on a class field trip; and, in the story's most comical scenario, steals the spotlight at James's school nativity play with her *authentic* portrayal of the angel Gabriel. Even her efforts to make up for her escapades present further problems and surprises.

“Dyer writes in accessible, rhythmic language, and the story is perfect to read aloud.” **Child Education**

“A substantial story but easy to read and full of fun.”

Carousel

Online resources available

Chicken House, 2006



Good Dog McTavish

Meg Rosoff

Illustrated by Grace Eason

McTavish is a rescue dog with a difference.

The Peachey family is in chaos. Ma Peachey decides to resign from her duties as Mom. She's tired of cleaning, cooking and managing everything, without any appreciation. So, she goes on strike and takes up yoga.

Soon enough the house is a mess. The laundry piles up, no one cooks dinner, the children are always late for school, and there's a lot of squabbling.

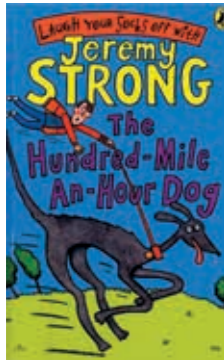
Betty, the youngest Peachey, decides that what the family needs is a dog. Enter McTavish, a rescue dog who, true to his mission, is ready to teach this family some new tricks. Getting the Peachey's to behave will take work, but if anyone can do it, McTavish can.

Featuring Meg Rosoff's wry humour and witty observations, children will enjoy the role reversal of this story.

Dyslexia friendly

Online resources available

Barrington Stoke, 2017



The Hundred-Mile-An-Hour Dog

Jeremy Strong

Streaker is no ordinary dog. She's a rocket on four legs with a woof attached.

No one likes walking Streaker, but Trevor just cannot resist Mam's offer of £30 to walk the mixed-up canine every day over the Easter holidays. In reality, Streaker does not do walks; it's more like a series of gigantic jerks. She can run at breakneck speed, and unfortunately she does not respond to even the simplest of commands like "Sit" or, more importantly, "Stop!" To add to his troubles, Trevor accepts a bet from the nasty Charlie Smugg that he and his best friend Tina cannot successfully train Streaker in two weeks. The forfeit is a dip in a putrid sludge.

Trevor and Tina first try simple bribery but then advance to some more unorthodox and comical methods to gain control of Streaker, including roller skates, a mobile phone and a bicycle. The madcap schemes that they pursue see the duo lurch from one disastrous scrape to another, often ending with a trip to the local police station.

Winner of the 1997 Children's Book of the Year Award

"Comic energy and general fizz are Jeremy Strong's trademark." **Independent (UK)**

Online resources available

Puffin, 2007



My Secret Dragon

Debbie Thomas

Aidan has spent most of his life keeping a low profile because his mum has a terrible secret. She is part-dragon. She has scales and claws and can breathe fire and is terrified of anyone finding out.

When she suddenly disappears, Aidan and his friend Charlotte set out on a dangerous adventure to find her. They track her down to a murky research laboratory where they find several other mythic creatures. There's an evil scientist too, intent on stealing their special powers.

Aidan and Charlotte have to find a way to rescue Dr Krinsky's victims from the horrors of his lab and bring his mum home safely.

As well as being a magical and funny adventure story, this is a book about difference, family and friendship. There are fun recipes to enjoy too.

"A fun-filled mystery adventure" **Children's Books Ireland**

"This novel, packed with white-knuckle action and strong characters, will keep kids completely in its thrall" **The Meath Chronicle**

"Exploring themes of anxiety, acceptance, isolation and loyalty, with just the right amount of humour thrown in for good measure..." **RTÉ Junior**

Online resources available

Little Island, 2018



The Poison Factory

Oisín McGann

Deep in the cellars of the O'Brien Press is a safe that contained stories too horrible to be read. But somebody has broken into that safe and the stories have been released.

When the Root Street Gang loses a football in the Kanker & Byle Chemical Factory Gaz Flynn sends his little brother Joey to retrieve it. After all, he was the one who kicked it over the wall. As the others wait outside the perimeter of the "fart factory," so-called for obvious reasons, they hear a series of chilling screams from Joey, followed by an eerie silence. Going home without his brother and facing his Mam's wrath is not an option, so Gaz leads his friends Hayley and Damo into the factory to find Joey and their football. However, this is no ordinary factory and, in no time at all, they meet with decaying zombies, a kitchen run by giant insects, taste-testing cybercritters, and a man with the most disgusting job in the world. Little do they know an even worse fate awaits them at the end of their search!

"Thrilling plotlines and peculiar characters... An amusing read for more advanced readers in search of some revolting fun." **Katelyn Romano – Bookfest**

The O'Brien Press, 2006



The Racehorse Who Wouldn't Gallop

Clare Balding

Illustrated by Tony Ross

Charlie Bass is a horse-mad ten-year-old who dreams of owning her own pony. So when she accidentally manages to buy a racehorse, Charlie is thrilled.

The horse she buys, Noble Warrior, looks the part: strong, fit and healthy. There's just one problem – he won't gallop. In fact, he won't even leave his stable without his best friend, a naughty palomino pony called Percy.

Charlie is convinced that Noble Warrior has what it takes to be a champion. But can she prove it? Derby Day is fast approaching and only a win can save the family farm from being repossessed.

The stakes couldn't be higher for the Basses. Can Charlie turn her chaotic family into a top training team? Can Noble Warrior overcome his nerves and save them all?

A feel good, funny animal story

"A heart-warming story with a great girl-power message" **Jacqueline Wilson**

Online resources available

Penguin Random House, 2017



The 13-Storey Treehouse

Andy Griffiths & Terry Denton

Andy and Terry live in a treehouse. But it's not just any old treehouse, it's the most amazing treehouse in the world!

This is a magical 13-storey treehouse with something crazier on every level. There's a giant catapult, a tank full of man-eating sharks, a lemonade fountain, a secret underground laboratory, self-making beds, vines you can swing on, and a marshmallow machine that automatically shoots your favourite marshmallows into your mouth!

Life would be perfect for Andy and Terry if it wasn't for the fact that they are due to finish their latest book, but all sorts of bizarre things keep happening to prevent them from writing anything.

There are just so many distractions, including thirteen flying cats, giant bananas, mermaids, sea monsters pretending to be mermaids, enormous gorillas, and dangerous burp gas-bubblegum bubbles!

This is the first book in the best selling Treehouse series from Australia's most popular children's writer. The laugh-out-loud story is told through a combination of text and fantastic cartoon-style illustrations designed to engage the most reluctant reader.

"Fans of Jeff Kinney's Diary of a Wimpy Kid and Lincoln Peirce's Big Nate series will be drawn to this book, while parents will enjoy the absence of snarky humor." **School Library Journal**

"Silly, ridiculous fun. Kids will love it." –

Children's Literature

Online resources available

Macmillan Children's Books, 2015



The Worst Witch

Jill Murphy

She didn't exactly mean to break rules and annoy the teachers, but things just seemed to *happen* whenever she was around.

The accident-prone but likeable Mildred Hubble is starting her first year at Miss Cackle's Academy for Witches — and making a mess of it! She can't ride her broomstick without crashing, she's always getting her spells mixed up, and now the teacher's pet, Ethel Hallow, has just become her sworn enemy.

When the class performs a flying display for this year's Halloween celebrations, Mildred finds herself wrongfully blamed when their broomstick formation ends in disaster. No-one would believe her that Ethel had enchanted the broom that caused all the mayhem and Mildred decides to run away. On her way she stumbles upon a coven of evil witches plotting to invade her school and turn its inhabitants into frogs. Can Mildred save the day and redeem herself at the Academy?

This first in Murphy's Worst Witch series is a light-hearted, easy to read book with charming black and white illustrations throughout. The magic and mayhem woven through this funny story are sure to appeal to newly confident readers.

"Millions of young readers have fallen under the spell of Jill Murphy's Worst Witch." **Sunday Express**

Online resources available

Teacher resource book and CD available

Puffin, 1978, 2001



The Worst Witch to the Rescue

Jill Murphy

Since 1974 millions of readers have enjoyed Mildred Hubble's exploits, and now she's back to cast her spell on a new generation of readers. How will the good-hearted but bungling young witch-in-training fare in this sixth instalment of the Worst Witch series?

Mildred's track record at Miss Cackle's Academy has not been great. No matter how hard she tries things always seem to go wrong, but the summer term of her third year is going to be different. Mildred cannot wait to reveal her holiday project! It's an entirely original spell that can make animals no bigger than 25 squared centimetres speak for the limited period of two weeks. Even her form mistress, the fearsome Miss Hardbroom, is bound to be impressed. Unfortunately for the lovable and accident-prone Mildred, her arch-nemesis Ethel Hallow has other plans. Ethel steals Mildred's brilliant project and passes it off as her own. The only one who can corroborate Mildred's story is her enchanted pet tortoise Einstein and someone has hidden him. How will Mildred manage the perilous rescue mission and can she do it before Einstein forever loses the ability to talk?

"Brilliant." **Sunday Express**

"Jill Murphy is one of the most engaging writers and illustrators for children." **Observer Review**

Online resources available

Puffin, 2008



Bill's New Frock

Anne Fine

"When Bill woke up on Monday morning, he found he was a girl."

Sent off to school in a frilly pink dress, Bill Simpson realises one of the worst days in his life is about to unfold. Throughout the course of this nightmarish day Bill experiences firsthand how differently girls are treated. Bewildered and frustrated by these differences, Bill falls headlong into trouble as he encounters gender discrimination on the way to school, in the playground and in the classroom.

Anne Fine highlights the gender stereotyping evident in society's expectations regarding appearances, interests, and behaviour. This unique and stimulating story will prompt discussion among young readers on gender inequality.

Fine's fun school stories have been delighting children for over 20 years, gaining her awards such as the Smarties Book Award and Carnegie Medal along the way.

"Stylishly written and thought-provoking."

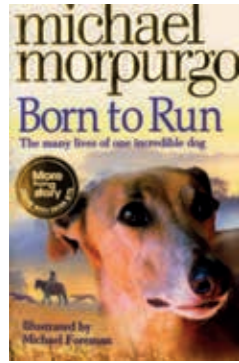
The Guardian

"A gloriously feminist romp ... the result is a gem. Don't miss it." **Chris Powling, The Times Educational Supplement**

Online resources available

Teacher resource book available

Egmont UK, 2007



Born to Run

Michael Morpurgo

“There was something inside the bag, squeaking and squealing in terror, Patrick didn’t think about it. He leaped into the canal.”

For Best Mate, being rescued from drowning as a young puppy is only the beginning of his adventures. From discarded burden to treasured friend, and from loyal pet to champion race dog, this extraordinary greyhound proves that it is not just cats who have more than one life. Cast aside, kidnapped, adopted or living rough on the streets, Best Mate can always find a way to survive. But will he ever find a real home?

Joy and heartbreak merge in this bittersweet tale of a champion greyhound’s journey through life and from owner to owner. The human characters are vivid and engaging so it is hard to remain unmoved by their plights, and the addition of the dog’s perspective only adds to the magic of the story.

Michael Morpurgo is a former Children’s Laureate and has won many prizes, including the Smarties Prize and the Whitbread Prize.

“Morpurgo writes with a fine mixture of clarity, depth and feeling.” **Sunday Times**

Online resources available

HarperCollins Children’s Books, 2007



The Boy at the Back of the Class

Onjali Q. Rauf

Illustrated by Pippa Curnick

A new boy sits in a vacant chair at the back of the class. A strange, quiet boy who never talks or smiles and who disappears at break and lunch times.

The boy’s name is Ahmet and he’s a refugee from Syria. A group of classmates, lead by the narrator, decide to make friends with him. The gang get to know him and they play and work together. But not everyone is friendly as prejudice and racism are revealed among both children and adults.

Finding out that his family are lost somewhere in Europe, the group hatch a madcap plan to help, but they have no idea how much trouble and excitement it’s going to cause.

The plotline is very lively, and includes some excellent comic scenes. The author succeeds in keeping the story positive and uplifting while still illustrating the cruelty and bigotry that refugees face. This is an important story.

Winner of the Blue Peter Best Story Award, 2019

“Onjali Q Rauf presents the issues around refugee... through a warm, charming story...” **Children’s Books Ireland**

“A celebration of courage” **Guardian**

Online resources available

Orion, 2018



The Butterfly Lion

Michael Morpurgo

“All my life I’ll think of you, I promise I will. I won’t ever forget you.”

An unhappy schoolboy runs away from boarding school in Wiltshire, England, and encounters an old lady, Millie. She introduces him to the butterfly lion carved in the hillside behind her house and relays the remarkable story behind it. The fascinating tale revolves around her late husband Bertie and his unique relationship with a white lion whom he rescued as a cub from the African veldt. When Bertie was separated from his beloved pet and forced to attend boarding school in England the lion was sold to a circus in France. The heartbroken Bertie vowed to be reunited with his lion and, aided by his friend Millie, succeeded in that years later as a wounded soldier in France during the First World War.

This engaging tale of friendship and loyalty highlights loneliness, love, courage and success against all the odds. Morpurgo also conveys some of the hardships and terrors of the Great War in an age-appropriate manner. His story of perseverance never wallows in sentimentality but rather inspires a range of emotions from sadness to joy and awe.

Winner of the Smarties Prize and the Writers Guild Award

“This beautiful story of love and war has everything—even a great twist.” **Young Telegraph**

Online resources available

Teacher resource book available

HarperCollins Children’s Books, 1996, 2009



Charlotte’s Web

E.B. White

This classic novel tells the endearing story of a pig named Wilbur and his friendship with a barn spider named Charlotte. As the runt of the litter, Wilbur’s survival was always in danger until Fern Arable persuaded her father to allow her to nurse him to health and then sell him to her Uncle Homer down the road.

Installed in the manure pile in the cellar of Zuckerman’s barn, Wilbur meets up with and befriends a wise grey spider Charlotte. As Wilbur is made aware of his unpalatable fate, Charlotte promises to help her friend avoid the butcher’s block. Through Charlotte’s terrific web skills and the efforts of other residents of the farmyard, Wilbur eventually becomes the prize-winning pig of the County Fair and secures his place in the barn for all his natural days.

E.B. White’s Newbery Honor Book is a tender tale of friendship, love, life, and death that will continue to be enjoyed by future generations young and old. White also articulates the often overlooked magic and mystery of the natural world.

“An outstanding book for young children.” **The Times Literary Supplement**

Ranked one of the “Top 100 Chapter Books” of all time in a 2012 poll by **School Library Journal**.

Online resources available

Teacher resource book available

Hamish Hamilton, 1952, 2003



Cool!

Michael Morpurgo

“Nothing seemed to work. I couldn’t move anything, not my fingers, not my legs. But *inside* my head I had woken up. Inside I was wide awake.”

Cool! tells the story of Robbie Ainsley, a 10-year-old boy who dashed out on the road to save his dog and was knocked unconscious by an oncoming car. Locked inside his head, Robbie is unable to speak, move or eat but he is aware of what is going on around him in his hospital room, and he can remember the accident. As the story unfolds, Robbie describes the sounds, smells, and voices that fill his new world. We also hear Robbie’s thoughts on the hospital staff and the family and friends that visit. Despite a visit from his football hero Robbie remains unconscious and the doctors begin to wonder if he will ever wake up. Then one day, against hospital rules, Dad brings a four-legged visitor into the hospital. Will this bring Robbie back?

Through Robbie’s thoughts and emotions, Morpurgo offers a child’s perspective on family and friendship, touching on the sensitive issues of parental separation, guilt, death and grief.

Winner of the Portsmouth Book Award

“Absorbing and satisfying with a real story at its heart.”

Guardian

Online resources available

HarperCollins Children’s Books, 2003



Dialann Dúradáin

Jeff Kinney

Máirín Ní Mháirta a rinne an leagan Gaeilge

Beidh me cailiúil lá éigin, ach go dtí sin tá mé sáinnithe sa mheánscoil le paca amadán

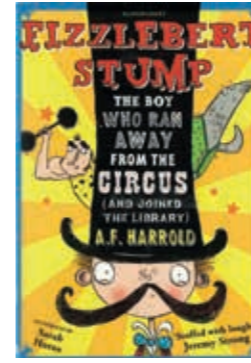
Níl sé éasca bheith óg agus beag agus is maith a thuigeann Greg Heffley an méid sin. Tá seisean caite isteach sa mheánscoil le daltaí atá níos airde, níos scannúla agus níos fiáine ná é féin. Tá cuid acu á mbearradh féin, fiú!

Ceapann Mama gur cheart do Ghreg dialann a choinneáil agus cur síos a dhéanamh ann ar a shaol. Ach ní aontaíonn Greg léi. Mar a deir sé féin: Ná bí ag súil go mbeidh mé ag scríobh síos mo chuid “mothúchán” anseo. Ach ní mar sin a tharlaíonn.

The first in the series of *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* - brilliantly translated to Irish and features all of the humour of the original English edition by Jeff Kinney

Diary of a Wimpy Kid has been named Blue Peters best children’s book for 10 years

Futa Fata, 2016



Fizzlebert Stump: The Boy who Ran Away From The Circus

A.J. Harrold

Illustrated by Sarah Horne

Fizzlebert Stump or Fizz as he is usually called - his name can cause him embarrassment - lives in a travelling circus. His mother is a clown and his father is the circus strongman. He hangs around with acrobats, conjurers and fire-eaters. He puts his head in a lion’s mouth every night to loud applause. It all seems very exciting but Fizzlebert isn’t happy. He is the only kid in the circus and never gets a chance to make friends.

When Fizz visits a library one day, without his parent’s permission, it is a totally new experience for him. He is disappointed at first that he cannot join, but when an elderly couple offer to help he foolishly accepts. Mr and Mrs Stinkthrottle, who are as strange as their name, kidnap poor Fizzlebert and he’s not the only one they have taken. An escape plan has to be hatched. It isn’t easy to get away from the crazy pensioners however and the circus performers have to come to the rescue.

“This fun adventure makes a fantastic read for the classroom. Full of comical characters and disastrous situations, it will keep children entertained from beginning to end” **BookTrust**

Online resources available

Bloomsbury Publishing, 2012



The Girl with the Lost Smile

Miranda Hart

Illustrations by Kate Hindley

Chloe Long has lost her smile. She’s looked everywhere for it – under her pillow, under her bed, with her friends and parents, in the mirror and obviously under her nose!

She’s tried everything to bring it back – her favourite cake, her favourite granny, her favourite joke of course. But nothing seems to be working.

Things are a bit difficult at home for Chloe at this time. The more her smile stays gone, the more Chloe finds her life falling apart. Until one night, a giant and a fairy arrive at Chloe’s window and tell her they know where her smile is, and they can help her get it back. Chloe finds herself on an adventure that is out of this world.

An action-packed, magical story that celebrates the power of the imagination and a useful story for discussions on children’s emotions.

The first children’s book from award-winning, bestselling author and comedian Miranda Hart

Online resources available

Hodder Children’s Books, 2017



The House on Hawthorn Road

Megan Wynn

Beth is very shy and often feels invisible. Her world is turned upside down when her beloved grandmother dies and her family move from their home in London to Dublin. Everything is different and she misses her best friend. At school, life is made very difficult by the school bully.

To make things worse, somebody is messing up her bedroom. At first Beth blames her annoying brother, Cormac. When she discovers the culprit is a boy called Robbie from the 1950s, and how exactly he came to be in her room, an incredible adventure begins.

At first the pair have a love-hate relationship. Robbie is a mischievous boy, not at all like Beth. But as they travel through each other's time zones, their friendship develops. The plot continuously twists and turns and by the end of the story everyone's life has changed.

"...a wonderful addition to a school library" **InTouch Magazine**

"...a truly compelling read" **Irish Times**

"...deals positively with difficult issues. A thought-provoking book, that promotes understanding and acceptance, and of being true to yourself. A good read for 9-12 year olds" **Children's Books Ireland**

Online resources available

The O'Brien Press, 2019



I Believe in Unicorns

Michael Morpurgo

Set against the backdrop of war-torn Europe, this book centres on eight-year-old Tomas Porec, an only child who has no interest in school, books or stories and far prefers to be roaming the mountains and forests around his home. One day his mother insists he visit the town library to hear the stories told by the new librarian lady. Tomas is very reluctant at first but he eventually gives in and, just like all the other children who attend, is quickly captivated by the magical tales that the Unicorn Lady spins. Indeed, the stories he hears draw him in, make themselves part of him and change the course of his life forever.

Morpurgo's enchanting story is an eloquent reminder of the power of storytelling to change our lives. Simple sentences and a captivating storyline make this a great book for early readers. An accompanying CD offers a magical telling of the story by the author himself.

"As usual Michael Morpurgo has managed, in this attractive little book, to interweave several strands – his recurrent children in war motif, the redemptive power of storytelling and an original take on one of the oldest, best loved and most familiar of myths . . . it's vintage Morpurgo, sensitively told and full of interesting ideas..." **School Librarian** (Spring 2006)

Online resources available

Walker Books, 2006



Independence*

Jim Eldridge

"Stay Down!" I ordered Rory, holding him firmly so he wouldn't get up. It was a terrible thing to do, to hide among the injured.

1920. Ireland is in the middle of a war for independence. One Sunday in November 1920 events come to a head.

Liam can't wait to see the football match at Croke Park, despite the recent troubles. But the game has barely begun before the first shot rings out and his excitement turns to terror. Soldiers shooting, machine guns firing, people screaming...

How will Liam make it out of the stadium alive? And if he does, is there anywhere safe left to go?

A fictional account of one of Ireland's most troubled times by an award winning author.

Brief historical notes are included.

Scholastic, 2017



Lily at Lissadell*

Judi Curtin

It's 1913 and young Lily must leave school and her dreams of becoming a teacher herself to work as a housemaid at Lissadell House. Lily is a long way from home and misses her mother and her little sisters and brothers.

Lily's employers, the Gore-Booth family, are kind, but life as a young housemaid can be hard. Lily works long days, she has to learn to get along with the staff, particularly her roommate, the very sullen Nellie.

But when Maeve, the daughter of Constance Markievicz and niece of the Gore-Booths, comes to visit and decides to paint a portrait of Lily, an unusual friendship begins between the two girls from such different worlds. It's clear that Lily is living in an age on the brink of huge change.

"A beautifully written book ... this fiction book would lend itself well to use in the classroom both for literacy and history lessons alike ... instantly appealing ..."

InTouch

Shortlisted for The Children's Book of the Year Award 2019

Author video presentation available

Online resource available

The O'Brien Press, 2020



The London Eye Mystery

Siobhan Dowd

“This is how having a funny brain that runs on a different operating system from other people’s helped me to figure out what had happened.”

The London Eye Mystery is a children’s mystery novel by the late author Siobhan Dowd. Ted and his older sister Kat arrange to take their cousin Salim on the London Eye, but although they watch him board a pod of the giant Ferris wheel and track his half-hour journey he never comes down again. The police are brought in to investigate, but the 12-year-old Ted and his sister also try to solve Salim’s mysterious disappearance from a sealed capsule of the famous city attraction. Despite their prickly relationship the siblings overcome their differences to follow a trail of clues across London in a desperate attempt to find their cousin. Ultimately it comes down to Ted, whose analytical mind struggles with reading body language and emotions but whose thinking proves a real asset in unravelling the mystery.

Bisto Book of the Year 2008

“This is a wonderfully written mystery. It is funny, nerve-racking and tender by turns, with plenty of pace and excitement as well as some moments for serious reflection.” **The School Librarian** (Autumn 2007)

Online resources available

Random House Children’s Books, 2008



Race to the Frozen North

Catherine Johnson

Matthew Henson was an orphan with a violent stepmother.

When he ran away to find a new life in a big city, no one would have expected him to become the first man to reach the North Pole. Matthew’s life changed when Commander Robert E. Peary entered his life and offered him a chance of true adventure. Defying the odds and the many prejudices that faced him, Matthew Henson became a true pioneer.

On a treacherous journey to the North Pole Matthew would become navigator, craftsman, translator and the right-hand man. But back home in America his achievements were ignored due to the colour of his skin.

This is his incredible and often untold story.

An extraordinary true story, told simply with empathy and sensitivity

Online resources available

Barrington Stoke, 2018

Dyslexia friendly



Shadow Forest

Matt Haig

Samuel and Martha Blink struggle to come to terms with the sudden death of their parents in a freak traffic accident. The bereaved siblings are forced to relocate to Norway to live with their distant Aunt Eda, a former Olympic javelin thrower who lives with an elkhound Ibsen right beside the dreaded Shadow Forest. Martha—who has not spoken since she witnessed her parents’ deaths shows little emotion over her new surroundings, but Samuel is determined not to like anything about his new life. When they get to Aunt Eda’s house Samuel has a feeling he has been there before. Indeed, he witnesses some very strange sights that have haunted him in dreams for years. Aunt Eda subsequently reveals to him the secret of Shadow Forest, of how Uncle Henrik entered 10 years ago and never returned. Little does Samuel know he is about to experience the mysterious world firsthand as he tries to rescue Martha, who disappears into the sinister forest the very next day.

As they voyage through the enchanted world ruled over by the evil Changemaker, the siblings encounter an intriguing mix of fantastic original and mythical creatures. The strength of this story as a whole is its ability to lead Samuel on a journey through the sadness and anger of losing his parents, to a place of new hope.

Winner of the Nestle Children’s Book Prize Gold Award and shortlisted for the Carnegie Medal

“A fascinating and magical tale. This is an outstanding piece of literature.” **The Times**

Online resources available

Bodley Head, 2007



Sky Hawk

Gill Lewis

“She turned her head, and fixed me with her brilliant yellow eyes. She looked right into me. And suddenly I knew then, in that one moment, I was as much part of her world as she was of mine.”

Deep in the Scottish highlands, eleven-year-old Callum McGregor lives with his parents and brother on his family farm. Cycling in the glen one day with his friends, Callum meets Iona, granddaughter of the local recluse. Callum is intrigued by this strange, wise girl who confides in him that his farm is home to an osprey, a very rare and endangered bird of prey. She shows him where the osprey is nesting, and only when an emergency arises is a ranger from a local nature reserve allowed to share the secret. Later, when a female osprey (Iris) arrives, the ranger fits her with a tiny transmitter so that her migration to Africa can be tracked by computer. Callum and Iona go to great lengths to protect the rare bird at all costs. In a tragic twist, Iona dies suddenly of meningitis, and Callum is left to cope with her loss and honour his last promise to her to keep Iris safe.

From the glittering lochs of Scotland to the mangrove swamps of the Gambia, *Sky Hawk* is an enthralling tale about a promise between two friends that will change lives forever, and the power of friendship, loyalty, and hope. Rich in atmosphere and full of heart, Lewis’s award-winning debut is a book to treasure.

Online resources available

Oxford University Press, 2011



Stig of the Dump

Clive King

Nobody believes Barney when he says he's discovered a boy living wild in the dump. But for Barney, Stig is totally real.

One day Barney is lying on the edge of a disused chalk-pit near his grandmother's house when the ground gives way and he lands in a sort of cave. Here he encounters "Something, or Somebody" with a lot of shaggy hair and two bright, black eyes wearing a rabbit skin and speaking in grunts. He names him Stig. Of course nobody believes Barney. Despite the linguistic and cultural barriers that separate them, the two become great friends. They learn each other's ways and embark on a series of unforgettable adventures. In the final chapter, they enter Stig's prehistoric world to help his tribe erect a set of standing stones that Barney recognises as a weathered landmark from his own modern home. The central theme of the book is a wonderful story of friendship and trust between Barney and Stig, despite the vast differences that separate them. Clive King's imaginative writing from a child's perspective not only allows children to identify and engage with the story but also offers various outlets for young readers to develop their reading, writing and even numeracy skills.

"This story has wonderful appeal." **Guardian**

Online resources available

Teacher resource book and CD available

Puffin, 1963



The Storm Keeper's Island

Catherine Doyle

When Fionn Boyle sets foot on Arranmore Island, it begins to stir beneath his feet...

Fionn Boyle and his older sister Tara are about to spend their summer on the remote island of Arranmore, off the coast of Ireland, staying with their grandfather. Tara has been there before, has friends and knows more than she tells Fionn on his first visit.

Left with his grandfather Fionn learns about the island, its history and secrets. More importantly he learns who his grandfather really is – the Storm Keeper whose role is to protect the island from a dark magic buried centuries ago. He is a secretive and eccentric man and getting weaker in his old age.

Once in a generation, Arranmore Island chooses a new Storm Keeper to wield its power and keep its magic safe from enemies. The time has come now for a new Storm Keeper to tackle the storm brewing at its core.

Deep underground someone has been waiting for Fionn. As the battle to become the island's next champion rages, a more sinister magic is waking up, intent on rekindling an ancient war.

Winner of the Independent Bookshop Week Book Award, 2019

"Magical in every way" **Eoin Colfer**

Online resources available

Bloomsbury Children's Books, 2018



Thar an Trasnán

Áine Ní Ghlinn

Is é Eoghan an príomhcharachtar agus is iontach an t-iontas atá air nuair a thagann sé ar ghinid i seanchrúscá atá i gcupard a sheanmháthar. Bronnann an ghinid trí mhian air, céard a dhéanfaidh sé leo? Toisc gur chaill sé an seisiún traenála le haghaidh an chluiche idir buachaillí agus cailíní rang a sé, tá imní ar Eoghan nach roghnófar don fhoireann é. Caitheann sé mian ag iarraidh a bheith ar an imreoir is fearr ionas gurb eisean an duine a chuirfidh na cúil uile isteach agus go mbeidh meas mór ag gach mac máthar air. An mbainfidh sé amach an clú agus an cháil lena bhfuil sé ag súil, áfach?

Tá sé suimiúil carachtar Eoghain a leanúint de réir mar a athraíonn iarmhairtí a chuid gníomhartha é féin, ó dhuine leithleach ar dtús ina dhuine brónach faoi dheireadh. De bharr go mbogann an scéal ar aghaidh go sciobtha agus go ndírítear isteach ar a dtiteann amach ar an bpáirc imeartha, beidh an léitheoir gafa ag an scéal seo ón gcéad leathanach go dtí an leathanach deireanach.

Cé go bhfuil baint ag an draíocht leis an scéal, tá na heachtraí a tharlaíonn ann réaláíoch, tá na carachtair inchreidte agus tá sé éasca dáimh a bheith agat leo.

Bheadh an cineál teanga oiriúnach do leanáí 12 bhliain d'aois agus os a choinn sin a fhreastalaíonn ar Ghaelscoil, ach d'fhéadfaí go mbeadh an teanga ródheacair d'fhoghlaimoirí níos óige.

The O'Brien Press, 2011



Tom Crean: Ice Man

Michael Smith

An inspiring tale of an ordinary man who rose from humble beginnings on an Irish farm to become a legendary figure of Antarctic exploration.

Tom Crean was no ordinary man, and his adventures in the Antarctic are sure to thrill readers in this stirring story of survival in extraordinary conditions. The Kerry-born hero saved comrades from drowning in frozen waters and rescued others from freezing snow whilst following his leaders Captain Robert Scott and Sir Ernest Shackleton, the famous Polar explorers. Indeed, Crean was awarded the Albert Medal, the highest recognition for gallantry, for his efforts during the 1910 expedition with Scott to the South Pole. Written by Crean's biographer who wrote the best-selling *An Unsung Hero*, this story describes the courage, strength and determination that enabled Tom, the "iron man", to overcome the odds and successfully explore the then unknown frozen land.

"Fascinating true story of an Irish adventurer." **Books Ireland**

"An exciting story that's all the more powerful for being true." **Sunday Tribune**

"Succeeds admirably, an ideal book for children." **Inis**

Online resources available

The Collins Press, 2003



When Hitler Stole Pink Rabbit

Judith Kerr

This is the semi-autobiographical story of a young Jewish girl who is forced to flee her home in Germany to escape the Nazis against whom her father had campaigned. The story begins with the relatively comfortable and uncomplicated life of nine-year-old Anna in Berlin in 1933. This is one of the country's most troubled eras but Anna is too busy with her schoolwork and her friends to dwell on Adolf Hitler's rising prominence or the implications of her Jewish background. Then, one day, she awakens to find her father, a well-respected Jewish author, suddenly gone. Soon after, she and her brother Max are hurried by their mother with alarming secrecy away from everything they know – home, school, friends and well-loved toys.

They are refugees and Anna soon discovers that it requires special skills to stay a few steps ahead of the Nazis.

This award-winning story gives a distinctive, child's perspective on the rise of Nazism in 1930s Germany and the experience of being a refugee in Europe at that time. *When Hitler Stole Pink Rabbit* is the first part of Judith Kerr's "Out of Hitler Time" trilogy. It avoids most of the details of the actual Holocaust but rather provides young readers with a gentle, yet important, introduction to a devastating chapter in world history.

"An engrossing autobiographical novel." **School Library Journal**

Online resources available

Collins, 2002



Young Fionn: Small Kid, Big Legend

Ronan Moore

Illustrated by Alexandra Colombo

A modern retelling of an ancient tale.

The most famous tales from ancient Ireland are those of Fionn MacCumhaill and the Fianna. But who was Fionn Mac Cumhaill? What was he like as a child?

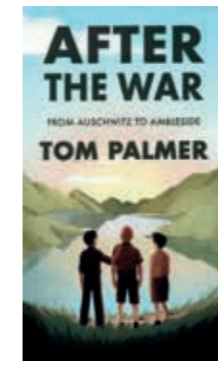
The Fianna were a band of warriors that fought on behalf of the High King, who was responsible for protecting the people of Ireland. Fionn became the leader of the most famous band of Fianna ever known.

Inspired by a 12th century Irish manuscript, the author brings Fionn Mac Cumhaill's childhood to life in a series of wild adventures. Meet young Fionn on his travels through the ancient land of Druids, Celts, High Kings and warriors. He battles to outwit father's enemies, who want him dead. There are stories of the clans that fought with and battled against him and his men; stories of love and loss, revenge and friendship.

With great illustrations, *Young Fionn* introduces a new audience of young readers to the epic adventures of Fionn Mac Cumhaill.

The book ends fittingly with the legend of The Dragon of Tara.

Gill Books, 2020



After the War

Tom Palmer

Based on the true story of children rescued from concentration camps at the end of the Second World War

The story is told from the perspective of 15 year old Yossie who, along with his two friends, is among three hundred children who arrive in the English Lake District. Having survived the horror of the Nazi camps they have reached a place of safety and peace where they are well treated.

But it isn't that simple. Yossie experiences harrowing flashbacks of the horrors of the camp and is constantly troubled by fears for his missing father.

In the easy to read style of Barrington Stoke publications this is a clear and accessible account of a very difficult subject. Tom Palmer uses Yossi's memories to tell the story of appalling events, enabling young readers to understand and empathise with people and situations outside their own experience.

This is also, however, a story of great humanity, hope, love and the power of friendship

"An exceptional telling of exceptional true events"

Love Reading 4 kids

Dyslexia friendly

Author video presentation available

Online resources available

Barrington Stoke, 2020



The Amazing Story of Adolphus Tips

Michael Morpurgo

It's 1943, and Lily Tregenza lives on a farm in the idyllic Devon seaside village of Slapton Sands. The war has taken her father away from the farm and brought "townie" evacuees to her school, but now the entire village is being ordered to move out of their homes to clear the way for dangerous military exercises. Soon, the whole area is out of bounds as the Allied forces practice their landings for D-day in preparation for the invasion of France. However, on the day they are to vacate their farm Lily's beloved cat Tips is missing. Frantic to find her Lily decides to enter the forbidden zone to look for Tips herself.

The story opens with 12-year-old Michael describing his close relationship with his Grandma Lily and his concern at her sudden departure after the funeral of his Grandpa. To help explain her strange disappearance, his grandma sends him excerpts from her childhood diary written during World War II. During this unsettled period, Lily's comforts are her cat and the friendship she forges with a black American soldier, Adolphus T. Madison, better known as 'Adie.'

"A succinctly engaging tear-jerker, it is also full of happiness and affection and has a joyful ending... It is also about people who care enough to look after each other, offering a lesson in life as well as history."

Sunday Times, Children's Book of the Week

"Put this book at the top of your 'Must Buy' list"

Books for Keeps

Online resources available

HarperCollins, 2005



Artemis Fowl

Eoin Colfer

The first of 8 books in the famous science fiction series

Artemis Fowl is a 12 year old genius, born into the criminal Fowl dynasty. He has just discovered that fairies are real – and rich! With Butler, his loyal and unstoppable bodyguard, Artemis proceeds in his plan to get Fairy gold, lots of it.

But these fairies are not the cuddly creatures of bedtime stories. They are armed, they are dangerous and when Artemis captures Captain Holly Short, he takes on the wrong fairy! Holly is incredibly dangerous, and very, very annoyed. Artemis Fowl finds out that fairies fight back . .

A fast-paced fantastical story with lots of humour, gadgets and thrills

A modern day classic

“This hilarious and exciting adventure story is a deserving favourite with young readers.” **Booktrust**

Bisto Merit Award, 2002

Teacher resource book available

Online resources available

Viking, 2001, 2019



Benny and Babe

Eoin Colfer

Internationally acclaimed author Eoin Colfer delights in this hilarious and heartwarming story about the ever-incorrigible Benny Shaw. First introduced in Benny and Omar, the now 13-year-old Benny Shaw is spending his summer holidays in the small fishing village of Duncade with his lighthouse-keeper Granda. This hurling-obsessed, carefree kid is confident he can take on the world until he meets resident tomboy and all-around tough-girl Babe Meara. Benny may be a wise guy, but Babe is at least three steps ahead of him, and now he’s on her territory. As a visiting “townie,” Benny is the object of much teasing from the natives, yet a prickly friendship evolves between the two. Babe even takes Benny on as a partner in her thriving business retrieving the lost lures and flies of visiting fishermen and selling them at a tidy profit. However, things become very complicated and dangerous when local bad boy Furty Howlin wants a slice of the action. What’s more, Benny has to navigate uncharted territory when a disco reveals a transformed Babe- can they still be friends now that she is a real girl?

Shortlisted for the Reading Association of Ireland Award 2001

“Humour, sensitivity and candour underscore this coming-of-age story that features incredibly well-drawn characters ... This book has it all.” **School Library Journal**

Online resources available

The O’Brien Press, 1999



Benny and Omar

Eoin Colfer

For Benny Shaw, his family’s relocation to Tunisia for his father’s new job is catastrophic. The young sports fanatic must deal with not only missing his home team of Wexford playing in the All-Ireland hurling final but also the scorching heat, the deadly wildlife, and a new school run by two ex-hippies. Struggling to adapt to his new life, Benny scales the wall of the company’s gated compound one day and meets Omar, a wild and resourceful orphan scrabbling for survival on the streets. Benny and Omar establish a friendship based on Omar’s small knowledge of English gleaned entirely from television catchphrases. A madcap friendship develops between the two boys that leads to trouble, escapades, a unique way of communicating and ultimately, a heartbreaking challenge. The two bounce from one scrape to the next, and Benny learns a lesson about family loyalty when his friend’s dedication to his institutionalized sister sparks a climactic finale, with the two on the run from the law. Benny is exposed to real life in Tunisia, actual pain and suffering bigger than losing a sports match, and realizes just how lucky he is.

The internationally acclaimed and award-winning author offers a funny, insightful, sad, exciting, scary, and very thought-provoking tale.

“Hilarious – there is hardly a page which will not have a reader laughing aloud.” **The Irish Times**

Online resources available

The O’Brien Press, 1998



The Black Book of Secrets

F.E. Higgins

“When I opened my eyes I knew that nothing in my miserable life prior to that moment could possibly be as bad as what was about to happen.....”

When Ludlow Fitch’s parents cruelly betray him he steals away on the back of a carriage and leaves behind the stinking City. He arrives in the dead of night at a remote village where he crosses paths with the tall and limping figure of Joe Zabbidou – a mysterious pawnbroker. Rather than goods, Joe trades in secrets, paying troubled souls to unburden themselves of their ruinous guilt.

Employed as Joe’s assistant, Ludlow records the villagers’ fiendish confessions in an ancient leather-bound volume: The Black Book of Secrets. In the course of his duties he takes dictation from many. The people of Pagus Parvus have much to hide. Joe refuses to disclose any details of his past experiences or future intentions, and Ludlow Fitch himself has his own, very dark, secrets.

Framing her book as texts discovered in a hollowed wooden leg, Higgins expertly sustains the audience’s curiosity, revealing just enough information to keep readers engrossed. For all the grisly details, the novel still manages to highlight important themes about self-determination and trust.

“Terrific.....an excellent debut.” **The Times**

“Children will love this book. How could they not?” **Guardian**

Online resources available

Macmillan Children’s Books, 2007



Blood Brother Swan Sister

Eithne Massey

This is the story of the Battle of Clontarf, through the eyes of four young people- Dara, Skari, Elva, Arna and their parents.

Vikings have been in Dublin at this time for over two hundred years. Elva and her sister Arna have Viking and Irish heritage, their Norse father is a blacksmith while their Irish mother is a healer and baker.

The country has been relatively peaceful since Brian Boru became the leader of the most powerful army in the land. Until now he has been successful in keeping the Irish kings and chieftains united under his rule. But, as the story begins, King Sitric and the Dublin Norsemen have invited their allies from Scandinavian to help them end the power of the Munstermen.

Skari sails from the Orkneys to fight with Sitric while Dara marches towards the city as part of Brian Boru's army.

Elva, Arna, Skari and Dara are caught up in the complicated world of adult rivalries, hostilities and kingly disputes that led to this last great battle.

Literacy Association of Ireland Book Award – 2015 joint winner

“...treats the reader to an excellent mix of fact and folklore... the atmosphere of Viking Dublin is brilliantly delineated” **Irish Examiner**

“...very interesting, well written and exciting... ideal for the senior classes in a primary school” **InTouch**

Author video presentation available

Online resources available

The O'Brien Press, 2014



Bridge to Terabithia

Katherine Paterson

‘We **need** a place,’ Leslie called to him, ‘...just for **US.**’

Set in the mid-1970s, shortly after the conclusion of the Vietnam War, most of the action in this novel occurs in rural Virginia.

Jess Aarons has been practicing all summer so he can be the fastest runner in the fifth grade at Lark Creek Elementary and he nearly is until new girl Leslie Burke outpaces him. Despite their dissimilar backgrounds, he and his new neighbour become firm friends, and the worlds of imagination and learning that she opens to him change him forever. It was Leslie's idea to create Terabithia, their imaginary country in the woods beyond the dry creek bed. Accessed by a swinging rope, this clandestine kingdom offers them refuge from the burdens of their everyday life, a space to reveal their pain and express their dreams. On their adventures in Terabithia they learn much about each other while plotting to vanquish their foes both real and imagined. Their magical friendship allows both characters, particularly Jess, to find their true selves. One morning, Leslie goes to Terabithia without Jess and a tragedy occurs. Jess's days of absolute, carefree, childish happiness in Terabithia are over, but he passes Leslie's legacy on by building the bridge to Terabithia.

1978 Newbery Medal Winner

“Jess and Leslie are so effectively developed as characters many young readers might feel that they were their classmates.” **School Library Journal**

Online resources available

Puffin, 1980



The Eighteenth Emergency

Betsy Byars

‘Some boys are going to kill me...’

When Benjie “Mouse” Fawley and Ezzie were younger they used to enjoy inventing solutions to jungle emergencies, but their plans to handle such dilemmas as lion attacks, charging bulls, and quicksand never envisaged dealing with Marv Hammerman. Hammerman, the toughest bully in their middle school, is after Mouse for writing his name under a picture of Neanderthal man. Left to prepare for this crisis alone, Mouse recalls that most of the 17 emergency measures they previously devised amounted to doing whatever was hardest. In his current predicament, the unforeseen 18th emergency, the hardest thing of all for Mouse is not to flee, and so after days of avoiding Hammerman he decides to seek him out. Without managing to land any hits in return, Mouse accepts the five powerful blows that he knows are necessary to redeem Hammerman's honour.

Newbery Medal winner Betsy Byars presents a timeless, poignant and humorous account of surviving the school bully.

“The best bullying story ever, Betsy Byars's *The Eighteenth Emergency* manages to be very funny indeed without for a moment under-estimating its horrors or significance of the victim's feelings as he struggles for survival.” **Books for Keeps**

Online resources available

Red Fox, 2000



The Elephant Thief

Jane Kerr

Based loosely on the real-life journey of Maharajah the elephant from Edinburgh to Manchester in 1872. The elephant's skeleton is on display at the Manchester Museum.

The story begins in Edinburgh, with “Boy”, a mute street urchin who picks pockets to stay alive. When he accidentally bids for Maharajah the elephant at an auction, he is suddenly swept up on an unlikely and unforgettable adventure.

He becomes known as Danny and is offered a job by a zoo owner who transforms him into a bejewelled Indian prince. All Danny has to do is ride Maharajah from Edinburgh to Manchester in one week. It is a thrilling journey. Everyone is watching, even Queen Victoria. But a rival zookeeper bets on the journey's failure, and soon Danny's shady past connections threaten his success.

But Danny's mission has changed him; he turns out to be loyal and kind, with a wonderful connection to the animal in his care.

A story about a boy who is given a second chance in life, and about friendship, both between humans and between humans and animals.

Online resources available

Chicken House Books, 2017



The Explorer

Katherine Rundell

Illustrated by Hannah Horn

Fred, Con, Lila, and Max are on their way home when the plane they are on crashes into the Amazon jungle. Injured, frightened and alone, with no hope of being found they go in search of food and shelter. Before long they discover something that suggests they're not actually alone in the jungle.

Learning to survive, they try to get home by strapping a raft together. The river carries them to The Explorer, a man with no name and a mysterious past. He is very irritated to have these children turn up in his space. But when young Max becomes gravely ill, he finally helps the children, by showing Fred how to fly a plane he has stored.

The vivid descriptions carry the reader into the world of the Amazon.

An old fashioned adventure story that combines issues of friendship, trust and topical environmental concerns.

The Sunday Times Children's Book of Year, 2017

Costa Children's Book Award, 2017

"Katherine Rundell cannot put a foot wrong...The Explorer may go down as her best yet" **Sunday Telegraph**

Online resources available

Bloomsbury, 2017



Fish Boy

Chloe Daykin

Illustrated by Richard Jones

People call me Fish Boy. My skin goes up and down like the waves. My mind goes in and out like the sea. They say I've always got my mouth open, that I ask too many questions. But what's wrong with that?

Billy is a lonely boy with a lot on his mind. His mum has a mystery illness and his dad has to work extra hours to make ends meet. Billy is obsessed with the sea where he goes to wash his problems far away. It is where he feels most alive. He loses himself too in David Attenborough films and ponders the magic of nature.

Meanwhile at school, Billy has no friends and is called "Fish Boy" by the bullies. Little do they know that fish have started talking to him in the deep ocean. It is not until a new boy, Patrick, moves to his town that he finds someone with whom he can share this strange experience. Patrick listens to Billy and fights the bullies with his bear-like strength.

As the tale unfolds, Patrick helps Billy come to terms with himself and his mum's condition and shows him how to enjoy the world he lives in.

"At heart, it's a story about friendship in the face of adversity, and Chloe Daykin's writing is clear, poetic and grips you from the start" **Booktrust**

Online resources available

Faber & Faber, 2017



The Guns of Easter*

Gerard Whelan

It is 1916 and Europe is at war. To twelve-year-old Jimmy Conway in the Dublin slums, it all appears as glorious. Jimmy loves the British Army for which his father is fighting, but his loyalties are divided when war erupts on the streets of his home city. The rebels occupy the General Post Office and other parts of the city, and Jimmy's uncle Mick is among them. Dublin's streets are ravaged, business grinds to a halt, and looting ensues.

In a bid to find food for his struggling family Jimmy crosses the city, dodging the shooting, weaving through the army patrols, hoping to make it home before curfew. His daring mission is fraught as danger looms at every corner. Before our eyes Jimmy changes from a trusting child, gaining insight into the horrors of war and the complexity of the Ireland of this time. *The Guns of Easter* is a gripping tale of suspense and terror, firmly grounded in the life of an ordinary boy at an extraordinary stage of the country's history.

Bisto Book of the Year Award 1997,
Historical Novel Category Winner

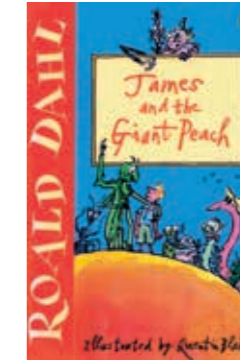
Bisto Book of the Year Award 1997,
Eilís Dillon Award Winner

"An exciting and well-told story. Easter 1916 vividly described." **The Irish Times**

"A fine, humane anti-war novel which young people will relish." **Books Ireland**

Online resources available

The O'Brien Press, 1996



James and the Giant Peach

Roald Dahl

Four-year-old orphan James Henry Trotter is forced to live with his wretched aunts, Sponge and Spiker. He has to endure cruel treatment from them, until a mysterious man offers him a sack of tiny luminous crocodile tongues to make a happiness potion. A slip sees the magic contents spill out onto the ground beneath a barren peach tree, which almost immediately begins to bear a rapidly growing peach. This enchanted fruit grows to the size of a house, and once James steps inside he begins a wild and surreal adventure with six magically-altered garden bugs.

James and his unusual travel companions journey by sea and air across the Atlantic Ocean, meeting with hungry sharks and malevolent Cloud-Men along the way. When the strange craft is finally impaled on the tip of New York City's Empire State Building, the arrivals are believed to be monsters or Martians. Once James clears up the confusion, they are given a hero's welcome, and James is free to enjoy millions of potential new playmates.

A 20th century fantasy classic. An original cast of characters and magical, funny and scary situations makes this a terrific read-aloud book.

Online resources available

Teacher resource book and DVD available

Puffin, 1973, colour edition 2016



Kensuke's Kingdom

Michael Morpurgo

"I heard the wind above me in the sails. I remember thinking, this is silly, you haven't got your safety harness on, you haven't got your lifejacket on. You shouldn't be doing this . . . I was in the cold of the sea before I could even open my mouth to scream."

When Michael is washed up on an island in the Pacific after a sudden swell hurls him from his parent's yacht, the Peggy Sue, he struggles to survive with his dog Stella Artois. Although unable to find food and water himself, the 12-year-old soon realises there is someone watching over him and helping him to stay alive. Initially, his interactions with his mysterious fellow-castaway, Kensuke, are tense and distant, but their relationship changes dramatically when Michael suffers an almost fatal sting from a poisonous jellyfish. His aged Japanese host patiently and tenderly nurses Michael back to health, and the pair forge a close bond, sharing knowledge and stories with each other, until the inevitable day of separation.

The former Children's Laureate spins a yarn that gently encapsulates the adventurous elements one would expect from a desert-island tale, but the story's real potency lies in the poignant and subtle observations of friendship, trust and, ultimately, humanity.

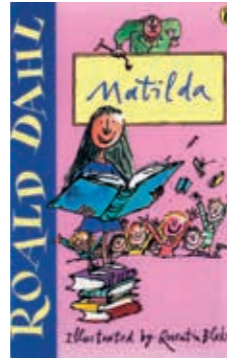
Shortlisted for the Whitbread Prize

"A dazzling adventure." **The Times**

Online resources available

Teacher resource book and CD available

Egmont Books, 1999, 2005



Matilda

Roald Dahl

"I know you are only a tiny little girl, but there is some kind of magic in there somewhere."

Matilda Wormwood is a sweet, exceptional young girl, but her idiotic parents dismiss her talents and view her as just a nuisance. The gifted five year old is often ill-treated by her dishonest father and routinely neglected by her self-centred mother. Then at school, Matilda has to contend with the spiteful headmistress Miss Trunchbull, a former hammer-throwing champion given to flinging pupils at will. Fortunately for Matilda, she has the inner resources to deal with such annoyances.

She warms up with some practical jokes aimed at her hapless parents, but the true test comes when she rallies against the diabolical Trunchbull in defence of her teacher, the sweet Miss Honey, who consistently recognises and encourages Matilda's talents. Along the way, Matilda discovers she has a mysterious magical power with which to fight back.

Although Matilda's eventual triumph is never in any doubt, this wonderful story is far from predictable.

Winner of the Children's Book Award (1988)

"This may not be a teacher's or principal's first choice as a classroom read-aloud, but children will be waiting in line to read it." **School Library Journal**

Online resources available

Teacher resource book and CD available

Puffin, 2007



Michael Collins: Hero and Rebel*

Eithne Massey

Michael Collins spent his childhood in County Cork but at sixteen years old had to follow his siblings to London to find work. He had a close relationship with his sister Hannie, but still missed Ireland. His political beliefs developed and despite Hannie's opposition Michael left his job and returned to Ireland to fight in the 1916 Rising.

After the ill-fated rising Michael is sent to prison in England. When he finally made it back to Ireland he became a prominent figure in the renewed fight for Irish freedom.

Michael is sent to London to negotiate the future of Ireland with the British. He returns to Ireland with a result many are unhappy about. The Treaty agreement leads to a split in Parliament and the country is plunged into a bloody civil war.

A balanced portrayal of a complex character during a turbulent time in Irish history

"...a perfect novel to accompany the teaching of topics in Irish history, especially in senior classes" **InTouch**

"...rewarding ... the narrative and the dialogue especially gives us unfettered access to the mind of one of our greatest heroes" **Irish Examiner**

Author video presentation available

Online resources available

The O'Brien Press, 2020



A Place Called Perfect

Helena Duggan

The mysterious *Watchers* are guarding a perfectly creepy secret!

Violet never wanted to move to Perfect and she hates living there. Who wants to live in a town where everyone has to wear glasses to stop them going blind? And who wants to be neat and tidy and perfectly behaved all the time?

Violet quickly discovers there's something weird going on there. She keeps hearing noises in the night. Her mum is acting very strangely and now, worst of all, her dad has disappeared.

When Violet meets Boy she realizes that her dad is not the only person to have been stolen away. With his help Violet is determined to uncover the mystery. But returning normality to Perfect is a battle they never imagined.

"A creepy adventure story full of twists and turns that will hook you in from the start and keep you guessing into the final pages" **Scoop Magazine**

Shortlisted for the Waterstones Children's Book Prize 2018

Online resources available

Usborne Publishing, 2017



Rugby Runner

Gerard Siggins

The fifth in this highly popular series about schools rugby.

Schools rugby star Eoin Madden has never been busier. He's captain of the Junior Cup team, he's training with Leinster and hoping to be chosen for the Ireland team, for the first ever Under 16 World Cup. But it's not all fun and games. Eoin also has to deal with grumpy friends, teachers piling on the homework – and a ghost on a mission, that goes back to the very origins of the game of rugby. But what does the restless spirit need, and can Eoin help him?

Books, crooks and rucks – it's all to play for this term!

*“Thrilling rugby action plus ghosts plus mystery ... rugby action so vividly described that you feel you're there on the pitch ... the mix of on-pitch and off-pitch action with mystery and history is well handled and there's lots to appeal to all readers, but particularly young rugby fans” **lovereading4kids***

Online resources available

The O'Brien Press, 2017



Running on the Roof of the World

Jess Butterworth

“I focus on my beating heart. I know Mum and Dad are still alive. My heart would feel different if they weren't, wouldn't it?”...

A story of adventure, survival, courage and hope, set in the vivid Himalayan landscape of Tibet and India.

Tash is a practicing Buddhist in Tibet. She and her family must follow many rules to avoid the wrath of the occupying Chinese soldiers. When her parents are seized, she and her best friend Sam resolve to free them. But to do so, they must escape Tibet and seek help from the Dalai Lama in India.

With a backpack of mysterious papers belonging to Tash's father and two trusty yaks by their side, their extraordinary journey across the mountains begins. They face blizzards, hunger, a treacherous landscape and the constant threat of capture.

A thrilling adventure story, inspired by real life events, filled with friendship, love and courage.

Online resources available

Orion Children's Books, 2017



Safe Harbour

Marita Conlon-McKenna

Sophie hated the war! It had changed everything, turned her world topsy turvey, upside down, like sand shifting beneath your feet.

As the Blitz engulfs the city of London, 12-year-old Sophie and her brother Hugh are no longer safe in their own home. With their house bombed, their mother seriously injured, and their father away fighting in the war, it is decided that they should be evacuated to Ireland to live with their paternal grandfather. They know very little about him only that his occasional letters used to enrage their father greatly. Despite their misgivings they must leave all they know and love and go to Greystones, Co. Wicklow.

Although now safe from the dangers of war, the children must become accustomed to their brusque and somewhat cold grandfather and the new way of life they encounter at the seaside town. As time passes, various incidents yield more understanding between the generations and start to heal the rift that has divided their family for years.

Award-winning Irish author Marita Conlon-McKenna presents a moving story of children facing the horrors of war and the heartbreak of a family feud.

Shortlisted for the Bisto Book of the Year award

*“Great Reading.” **The Irish Times***

Online resources available

The O'Brien Press, 1995



Scoil an Chnoic

Jacqueline de Brún

Agus shíl tusa ar feadh an ama gurb'in í an fíor Mhona Lisa a bhí ar crochadh ar bhalla ard i seomra de chuid an Louvre i bPáras? Ceann bréagach atá ag na Francaigh ina músaem ardghradaim lárchathrach. Is i scoil Bhaile an Chnoic, gráig aduain iargúlta áit éigin i dtuaisceart na hÉireann a chaith La Giaconda cheart a cuid ama ó 'fuarthas ar ais í' sa bhliain 1913 (tar éis a goidte ón Louvre dhá bhliain roimhe sin).

In airde ar bhalla Halla na Scoile a bhí mórshaothar Leonardo le beagnach céad bliain – a bhuíochas ar ghaol aisteach idir clann Victor Perugia (an té a ghoid an pictiúr i dtosach) agus scoil atá níos aistí fós. Ar ndóigh, ní fhaighimid an méid seo amach gur dtí go ngoidtear an saothar in athuair (ó Halla na Scoile féin an uair seo). Nuair a bheartáinn beirt daltaí, Seán agus Éimear, a fháil amach cad a d'imigh ar chailín an leamhgháire cháiliúil, de thimpiste, scaoileann siad rún dorcha na scoile – agus go deimhin an bhaile féin. Agus éiríonn leo an mallacht rúndiamhair – a bhí ag luí ar mhuintir an bhaile mar a bheadh scamall dubh – a chloí san am gcéanna.

As Béal Feirste do Jacqueline de Brún agus is é seo a céad saothar nuascríofa, cé go bhfuil saothair eile asitrithe go Gaeilge aici. Tá maisiú an-chliste déanta ag Jean-Baptiste Vendamme ón Cartoon Saloon.

*“Seo an chéad leabhar ó Jacqueline de Brún... Agus is seoid é.” **Inis***

An Gúm, 2007



The Sound of Freedom*

Ann Murtagh

Set in 1919, Ireland's War of Independence has just begun. In a cottage in County Westmeath, thirteen year old Colm Conneely wants to join the local Volunteers in their fight for an independent Ireland. Caught up in republican fever, he smuggles guns, stands up to the RIC during a raid and raises the tricolour on a lake island.

But Colm is also chasing another dream - a life in America working as a fiddle player. When Belfast girl Alice McCluskey arrives in the area, Colm's dreams take a new turn. She is an Irish speaker and shares his love of Irish music. Alice is also committed to "the cause".

Will Colm stay in Ireland and join the Volunteers? Will he fulfil his dream and play music in America? And how will a long-held family secret shape his future?

"...Ann Murtagh's terrific historical novel paints a vivid picture of a young man fully committed to the politics of a free Ireland whilst also coming to terms with entering adulthood and finding his way in life."

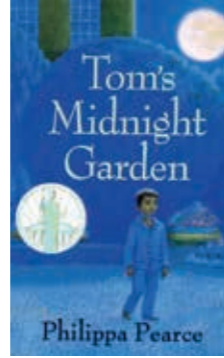
Children's Books Ireland

"...The book strikes the right balance of humour, suspense, intrigue and poignancy, while also providing us with important historical insights, making it a highly entertaining read for children in the middle to senior classes in primary school." **InTouch**

Author video presentation available

Online resources available

The O'Brien Press, 2020



Tom's Midnight Garden

Philippa Pearce

Tom Long is reluctantly staying with his Aunt and Uncle while his brother recovers from the measles at home. There is no garden to play in and he's not allowed to play with other children.

Lonely and restless, Tom is awoken one night when the grandfather clock strikes 13! Slipping downstairs, he discovers that the back door now opens onto a large sunlit garden. It is home to a Victorian child Hatty, who is also lonely and glad of a playmate. Each night Tom returns there, where he is visible only to Hatty and the gardener. On the final night before Tom is due to return home, he is shocked to find the garden has disappeared. In a frenzy to find his magical garden he crashes into a set of bins in the courtyard waking up several residents. He shouts Hatty's name in distress, before Uncle Alan finds him and thinks that he is sleepwalking. The following morning, the reclusive landlady who lives in the attic summons a crestfallen Tom to apologise for the disturbance, only to reveal herself as Hatty.

Winner of the Carnegie Medal in 1958

"This is a rare, moving story, beautifully written..."

The Guardian

"...a story that came to be loved by children, parents and teachers..." **The Times**

"Masterpiece of English children's literature."

The Independent

Online resources available

Teacher resource book available

Oxford University Press, 1958, 2008



Treasure Island

Robert Louis Stevenson

Set in the eighteenth century, *Treasure Island* spins an exhilarating tale of piracy, a mysterious treasure map, and a multitude of sinister characters charged with diabolical motives. Seen through the eyes of the young protagonist Jim Hawkins, the rollicking adventure tells of a perilous sea voyage across the Spanish Main, a mutiny led by the charming villain Long John Silver, and a lethal scramble for buried pirate booty on an exotic island.

The unexpected and complex relationship that develops between Silver and Jim helps transform what appears at first to be a simple, swashbuckling adventure story into a deeply moving study of a boy's growth into manhood, as he learns hard lessons about friendship, loyalty, courage and honour, as well as the uncertain meanings of good and evil. With its swiftly moving plot and memorably drawn characters Stevenson's tale of pirates, treachery and heroism was an immediate success when first published in 1883 and has retained its place as one of the greatest of all adventure stories.

This edition has an introduction from award-winning writer Eoin Colfer and concludes with some interesting facts and suggestions for activities.

"Treasure Island has become a classic because of its essential human appeal: it makes adventurers of us all." **Morton Cohen (The Guardian archive)**

Online resources available

Puffin, 1946, 2015



WarHorse

Michael Morpurgo

This poignant story recounts the heroism of Joey a horse purchased by the British Army for service in France during the First World War, and the relentless efforts of young Albert Narracott, his previous owner, to bring him safely home.

Joey was bought at auction by Albert's father during one of his drunken bouts. He arrives unexpectedly at the family farm in Devon and is left to the tender care of 13-year-old Albert. Albert is instantly in awe of this bay-red foal whom he later describes as the only creature on this earth that he felt any kinship for. So deep is the bond between the boy and animal that when Albert's father sells Joey to a British cavalry unit in 1914, Albert solemnly vows to find him again. Joey confronts firsthand the horrors of the conflict when he is thrust into the midst of the war on the Western Front. Yet, even in the desolation of the trenches, Joey's courage endures and touches the soldiers around him. However, there is a long and harrowing journey ahead before he is reunited with his one true master.

War Horse highlights the cruelty of war for both animals and people while also highlighting just how powerful love and courage can be.

Runner up for the Whitbread Award

"Superb . . ." **The New York Times Book Review**

"An excellent choice for fans of historical fiction."
School Library Journal

Online resources available

Teacher resource book available

Dean, 2012



The War of Independence 1920–22 Dan's Diary*

Patricia Murphy

Hands on History series

It's 1920 and the War of Independence rages in Ireland

Twelve-year-old talented footballer, Dan O'Donovan, is a trusted messenger for Ireland's rebel leader, Michael Collins. He promises his cousin Molly never to fire a gun, but after the dramatic events of 'Bloody Sunday' in Croke Park, he is pulled deeper into the struggle. Dan's activities draw the attention of a sinister British spy and Molly and Dan are forced to flee Dublin.

On the run, they meet Flying Columns and narrowly escape death as Cork burns. When a plot is discovered to de-rail the Treaty negotiations, Dan is sent with a vital message to London. Talent spotted by a famous English coach, he is offered a football contract that would take his family out of poverty. But as the rebel Irish leaders try to reach a deal with the British government, Dan is forced into dangerous play with his deadly enemy.

Will Dan and Molly save the day and can the leaders bring peace to Ireland?

"Meticulously researched...the plot is played out against real events, bringing this era vividly to life"
Inis Magazine

"Gripping to the last page" **The Historical
Novels Review**

Poolbeg Press, 2016



Wilderness

Roddy Doyle

While Johnny and Tom are in the snowy wilderness of Finland on a husky-sledging holiday with their mother Sandra, their teenage half-sister, Gráinne, is back home with their dad in a wilderness of her own as she prepares to meet with her birth mother for the first time since she walked out on them about 13 years ago. The snow safari expedition was triggered by Sandra's wish to avoid this prickly reunion, but when her sled fails to meet with the group at the end of a day's run, a concurrent drama unfolds. Despite the dangers, her 12 and 10-year-old sons somehow know it was up to them to save her life.

In the stories of both Gráinne and the boys, finding your mother is a simultaneously painful and deeply rewarding process. Doyle displays amazing skill in seamlessly bringing these two intense storylines together and uses alternate chapters to keep both stories moving apace. The rough-and-tumble nature of siblings, with all the love and casual cruelty, rings through loud and clear in Doyle's crisp prose. As well as explorations of feelings and self, the story also offers plenty of action and excitement.

Winner of the Irish Book Awards 2008 Children's Book of the Year

"The outstanding feature of this novel is the quality of the dialogue – often sparse but brilliantly captured for a story that will linger with readers both young and old."
Inis

Online resources available

Scholastic, 2005



Airman

Eoin Colfer

From his legendary birth in a hot air balloon to his heroic feat saving Princess Isabella from a deadly fire by turning a flag into a parachute, Conor Broekhart has always looked to the skies for inspiration. However, 14-year-old Conor's idyllic life takes a brutal turn when the island's Marshall Hugo Bonvilain secretly throws him into the diamond mines as part of a murderous plot to overthrow the progressive government of King Nicholas. Aided by the advice of his cellmate Linus Wynter, an American musician and spy, Conor adapts to prison life and manages to survive the inhuman conditions of the diamond mines. Aged 16, he executes an elaborate aerial escape that leads him to safety. However, his plans for a new life in America are thwarted by his discovery that Bonvilain intends to overthrow the monarchy again by poisoning Isabella and her greatest supports, Conor's mother and father. Conor must now decide if he will turn his back on those whom he feels abandoned him or stand against the evils that threaten the freedom of his nation.

Shortlisted for Bisto Book of the Year Award 2009 and Carnegie Medal 2009

"Laced with explosions and sudden violence, well-stocked with ugly customers and replete with cliffhangers, this high-flying page-turner will keep readers riveted to their seats from opening gunshot to final sword thrust." **Kirkus**

Online resources available

Puffin, 2008



Alone on a Wide Wide Sea

Michael Morpurgo

When 6-year-old orphan Arthur Hobhouse is deported to Australia after WW II he loses his sister Kitty, his country and everything he knows. With nothing but a treasured "lucky key" given to him by Kitty prior to departure, the coming years will test him to his limits. He endures years of cruel, forced labour on a sheep station before managing to escape to the contrasting kindness of another farm until finally undertaking a boat-building apprenticeship and developing an enduring love of the sea. While recovering from a nervous breakdown, Arthur finds love with Zita, with whom he has a daughter Allie. His last project before his early death was building a yacht with Allie, whose love of the sea is as strong and as vital as her father's. Together they were to sail to England in search of his long-lost older sister. Determined to complete her father's story, Allie undertakes the perilous journey alone. Will the threads of Arthur's life finally come together?

Morpurgo's roller-coaster novel highlights slavery, oppression and death, but also speaks of courage and determination, self-belief, loyalty and devotion.

"Executed with Morpurgo's distinctive flair. His language remains beautifully clean and clear."

Waterstone's Books Quarterly

"A powerful story." **The Guardian Children's
Books Supplement**

Online resources available

HarperCollins Children's Books, 2006



Anne Frank – The Diary of a Young Girl

Fleeing the horrors of Nazi occupation, Anne Frank and her family hid in the back of an Amsterdam warehouse. Between June 12, 1942 and August 1, 1944, Anne records adolescent preoccupations and emotions alongside the upheaval of the political climate to yield a compelling, poignant insight into family life under Nazi rule. The diary entries depict life for this 13-year-old Jewish girl in the Secret Annex, which her family shared with 4 others. Cut off from the outside world except for the help of a few of her father's trusted colleagues, the occupants faced hunger, boredom, the cruelties of living in confined quarters, and the constant risk of discovery and death. In August 1944, the family was betrayed, arrested, and deported to various concentration camps. Anne died in Bergen-Belsen shortly before her sixteenth birthday.

Published after the war by her father Otto H. Frank, the only surviving member of the family, the diary has become a worldwide classic: an extraordinary account of a girl's emotional transformation from childhood to adolescence and a stark reminder of the horror of prejudice and persecution.

“A modern classic . . . Anne's diary tells a story that is true, memorable, important and strongly personalized . . . compelling reading.” **The Times**

Online resources available

Teacher resource book available

Puffin, 2002



Blood Upon the Rose: Easter 1916*

Gerry Hunt

Blood upon the Rose tells the complex story of the 1916 Rising, an attempt by a small group of militant Irish republicans to win independence from Britain. Hunt's book spans the revolt from its early planning to the final defeat and executions of the leaders. For dramatic effect, the story opens with the wedding of rebel leader Joseph Plunkett and Grace Gifford in Kilmainham Gaol just prior to Plunkett's execution by a British firing squad. The story then moves back in time to portray the internal divisions within the Volunteers about whether the rebellion should proceed as planned following the British interception of the German arms shipment.

Graphic illustration of the initial storming and defence of the GPO, of the occupation of other public buildings, and finally of the successful British counterattacks is an imaginative way of retelling these events. While all aspects of the rebellion cannot be covered in detail, the novel does not shy away from more sensitive topics such as looting and civilian loss and brings to life the tension and atmosphere of fear that must have surrounded the city in those days.

“a landmark Irish graphic novel.” **Irish Times**

“a fantastic way of digesting a bit of history in a fun and vivid format . . . Hunt's graphics bring the story of their struggle for Irish freedom to life in a way that sterile prose in a school history book never could.”

Books Ireland

The O'Brien Press, 2010



The Boldness of Betty*

Anna Carey

It's the summer of 1913 in Dublin and Betty Rafferty is fed up. Forced to leave school aged 14, Betty is considered lucky to get a job in a sweet shop. After all, her Da and her older brother Eddie are both working hard on the docks, in all weathers. But Betty is bored and looks enviously at the well off girls who attend school. But life in Dublin becomes anything but boring when industrial unrest brings the city to a halt.

Betty's is shocked when her brother Eddie is badly injured by a police charge. Employers start locking out workers who refuse to abandon the trade union. The city becomes increasingly violent and hungry. Tragedy strikes the tenement houses in Church Street and the Church is sometimes at odds with the people.

Betty wants to help and is soon meeting other union activists. When she hears about a soup kitchen organised by the Irish Women Workers' Union at Liberty Hall, she's determined to help out. There, she meets other union activists, Countess Markievicz, and sympathetic suffragettes.

Can she really make a difference?

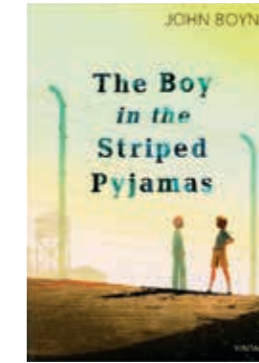
“This is an inspiring book, reminding the reader that we all have a voice and that those voices matter. A charming, insightful read for historical fiction fans”

Children's Books Ireland

Author video presentation available

Online resources available

The O'Brien Press, 2020



The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas

John Boyne

Nine-year-old Bruno knows nothing of the Final Solution and the Holocaust and is blissfully ignorant of the appalling cruelties being inflicted on the people of Europe by his country. All he knows is that his father's promotion to Commandant has seen his family abruptly uprooted from their comfortable home in Berlin and relocated to a house in a desolate area where there is nothing to do and no one to play with. Then he meets Shmuel, a 9-year-old Jewish boy of radically different circumstances, who lives on the other side of the adjoining wire fence and who, like the other people there, wears a uniform of striped pyjamas. The boys meet regularly, and conversations with Shmuel provide much of the information about life on the other side of the fence as well as shedding light on Bruno's life here and in Berlin. Bruno's friendship with Shmuel highlights his innocence and in exploring what he is unwittingly a part of, he will inevitably become subsumed by the terrible process.

This award-winning fictional tale explores the themes of innocence, friendship, and human nature. The powerful and complex issues are sensitively highlighted by Irish author John Boyne.

The Bisto Book of the Year award and others

“An extraordinary tale of friendship and the horrors of war seen through the eyes of two young boys, it is stirring stuff. Raw literary talent at its best.” **Irish Independent**

Online resources available

Teacher resource book and CD available

David Fickling Books, 2006, 2010



Brian Boru: Emperor of the Irish

Morgan Llywelyn

Illustrated by Donald Teskey

Brian Boru (c.941 –1014) was High King of Ireland from 1002 to 1014.

One thousand years ago, during the Viking Age, an extraordinary person was born in Co. Clare. Born at a time of brutal Viking raids along the coast and continuous warring among local chieftains, he became known as Brian Boru, a fearless fighter and leader.

From the beginning of his reign Brian vigorously pursued his ambition to become the over-king of Munster. Having succeeded in that, he then sought to extend his power. In 997 Maelsechlainn, the Uí Néill over-king of Mide (Meath), was forced to concede to Brian's authority. This all but ended the domination of the High Kingship of Ireland by the Uí Néill.

Brian led a series of campaigns aimed at getting his authority recognised across the whole of Ireland. He had barely achieved this aim when the forces of Dublin and Leinster renewed their war against him.

A large military encounter ensued. Known as The Battle of Clontarf, it was a key event in the history of the Vikings in Ireland, as well as the final chapter in the dramatic career of Brian Boru.

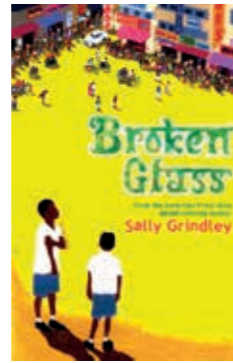
A compelling historical novel, simply told.

"A life full of battles, intrigues, alliances and betrayals, which make a stirring tale told in realistic detail."

The Irish Times

Online resources available

The O'Brien Press, 2012



Broken Glass

Sally Grindley

"It was as if we inhabited a shadow world, hidden away like some guilty secret behind the acceptable face of the city."

The formerly comfortable lives of nine year old Sandeep and twelve year old Suresh are turned upside down when their recently bereaved father loses his office job with the Indian Railways. Struggling with the loss of his mother and his job, their father turns to alcohol and becomes abusive toward his family. Convinced their mum would be safer from their angry father without two extra mouths to feed, Suresh persuades Sandeep to run away to the city with him. Their dreams of getting jobs with their reading and writing skills are soon shattered by the harsh reality of living on the streets. Penniless, homeless, and starving, they are forced to become rag pickers, scrabbling through allotted rubbish heaps in search of broken glass to sell to an unscrupulous dealer.

Through Suresh's eyes, Sally Grindley offers a vivid portrayal of life as a street kid in an Indian city – the grinding hardships, the rivalries and brutal squalor.

Children's Book of the Week by The Sunday Times, February 2008

Teachers Comment

"Broken Glass indeed proves the strength of Sally Grindley's handling of the "big issues" of today."

Bloomsbury, 2008



Chasing Ghosts

Nicola Pierce

Two stories based on real events, one of a family in 19th century Derry, the other aboard the Arctic bound ships HMS Erebus and Terror

The two intertwining stories unfold thousands of miles apart yet are inextricably linked. In 1845 two ships leave London in a search for the Northwest Passage, through the frozen wastes of the North Atlantic. Commander John Franklin and his second-in-command Francis Crozier hope to return within two years, but nobody knows if or when they will return. It all depends on the ice.

In Derry, little Louisa (Weesy) Coppin dies of a fever but, as far as her sister Ann and brother William are concerned, her spirit returns to haunt them. While an anxious world waits for news of the Arctic explorers, the Coppin family try to understand what is going on in their home. But then, one night, all is revealed when the truth literally steps out of the shadows.

"Through her portrayal of complex themes such as grief, family, love and friendship, Pierce brings new life to the story of Ann Coppins and the Franklin expedition" **Inis Magazine**

Author video presentation available

Online resources available

The O'Brien Press, 2020



Check Mates

Stewart Foster

"Some people think that I'm a problem child, that I'm lazy and never pay attention in lessons. But the thing is I'm not a problem child at all. I'm just a child with a problem"

Felix has ADHD and finds it hard to sit still or concentrate and is always getting into trouble at school. Things are complicated at home too. His Grandmother, whom he was very close to, has died. Added to that, his father has lost his job, forcing his mother to do extra shifts at a factory. Felix is left a lot in the care of his grandfather. He too is struggling with grief and doesn't always understand Felix.

The grandfather is quite a mysterious character. Often grumpy he never opens his curtains or answers the phone, and rips his letters and bills into tiny pieces. Felix stumbles across a box of old German identity papers. Who was his grandfather?

At first Felix resists his grandfather's attempts to teach him *boring* chess. But he learns to be patient and meticulous and is soon hooked on the game. When Felix beats the school champion it is the start of a new life for him. It is not all smooth going however, there are many hitches along the way.

A cunning twist in the story makes this a thrilling read.

Mystery, humour, friendship, fitting in and family relationships are all explored in this inspirational underdog story.

UKLA book awards longlist 2021

Online resources available

Simon & Schuster, 2019



Darkmouth

Shane Hegarty

Illustrated by James de la Rue

The first in a series full of madcap adventure and mythological creatures

There are places where the border between our world and the world of monsters – properly called Legends – is thin. One of those places is Darkmouth town. For generations, Finn's family has protected the town from fierce magical creatures. Our hero Finn is the son of the last remaining Legend Hunter. Now the Legends are plotting a major attack on earth, starting in Dartmouth. Finn's time has come – so it's too bad he's the worst Legend Hunter in history!

But there is, of course, more to Finn than meets the eye.

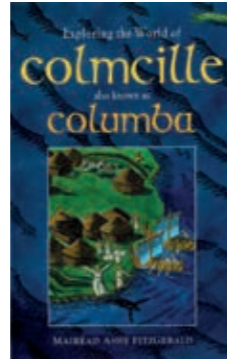
One night, Finn sees someone communicating through the portal. Who is this traitor? Could it really be Mr Glad the fixer who swears he is loyal to the end? Or is it Finn's best friend Emmie's mysterious dad? Can he survive a succession of near death experiences, avoid getting drowned and defeat a Minotaur? Or will he fail and plunge to his doom?

"Brilliant book... it is so full of twists and turns. The writing is witty and sophisticated. . .richly illustrated"

The Guardian

Online resources available

Harper Collins Children's Books, 2015, 2017



Exploring the World of Colmcille

Mairéad Ashe Fitzgerald

Illustrated by Stephen Hall

This remarkable man from the 6th century was known as Colmcille in his native Ireland and as Columba in Scotland and the wider world

A towering figure in early Christian times, Colmcille/ Columba played a central role in the political and religious events of sixth-century Ireland and Scotland. From the warrior aristocracy of Ireland, he acted as an advisor to kings and chieftains. He furthered the influence of Gaelic culture in Scotland and founded the famous monastery of Iona. As a scholar and scribe, he played an important part in the development of early Christian art which was to reach its greatest expression in the Book of Kells.

Drawing on the history, art, literature and archaeology of the time, the author provides a beautifully simple, accessible account of the world of Saint Colmcille/ Columba, who's legacy lives on in history and legend.

"An attractive and very readable account of Colmcille and his world" **Archaeology Ireland**

"Well-researched and plentifully illustrated" **Books Ireland**

"Beautifully produced and written. This is a book to keep, and one which will be enjoyed by readers young and old; a nice reminder of the glory of our early church, and of the life of a remarkable man." **Leinster Leader**

The O'Brien Press, 2000



Faraway Home

Marilyn Taylor

As the horror of the Nazi take-over of Austria becomes apparent to the Muller family in Vienna, Karl and Rosa's parents decide to send the children out of the country on a *Kindertransport*, one of the many ships carrying refugee children away from Nazi danger. Isolated and homesick, Karl ends up in a Jewish refugee centre at Millisle Farm in County Down, while Rosa is fostered by a couple in Belfast. Here, the refugees must adapt to a new life, all the time living with the fear of never seeing their loved ones again. Karl makes friends with fellow refugees, locals Peewee and Wee Billy, and also with the volunteers from neutral Dublin who come to help on the farm, especially Judy. However, Northern Ireland does not escape the terror of the Second World War, with rationing and air-raid warnings, and the destruction wrought by the Belfast Blitz all bringing the reality of war right to their doorstep. Nevertheless Karl learns that extraordinary friendships can grow out of the conflict and despair.

Winner of the Bisto Book of the Year Award 2000

"by far the most successful fictional interpretation of the kindertransports. A very well constructed and beautifully written narrative." **The School Librarian**

"an absorbing new book from Marilyn Taylor ... a remarkable blend of fiction and historical fact, which also reveals a relatively unknown facet of World War Two." **The Irish Times**

Online resources available

The O'Brien Press, 1999



Fields of Home

Marita Conlon-McKenna

Illustrated by Donal Teskey and PJ Lynch

The final book in the famine trilogy

Set in the second half of the nineteenth century Ireland is in turmoil, with evictions, burnings, secret meetings and fights over land.

The O'Driscoll children, Eily, Michael and Peggy, have grown from the hungry children readers got to know in *Under the Hawthorn Tree* to young adults, but memories of the famine are still strong.

Eily is now married and has two children. In common with many others the possession of their farm is not secure depending on the whims of successive landlords and often corrupt agents. Michael's promising career as stable boy comes to an abrupt end when Castletaggart House is burnt to the ground. Meanwhile Peggy, who emigrated to America, feels trapped in her role as a maid.

While the story has heartbreak and struggle, hope is strong and the siblings show their resilience and loyalty again.

"Brings to a satisfying conclusion one of the undoubted achievements of contemporary Irish children's literature." **Children's Books in Ireland**

"A very rich and appropriate end to the trilogy" **The Big Guide to Irish Children's Books**

Online resources available

The O'Brien Press, 1996



Friend or Foe: Which Side Are You On?*

Brian Gallagher

As the Great War rages on in Europe, nationalist fervour swells to a bloody climax in Ireland with the revolution of Easter 1916 in Dublin. The conflict divides the city and her people, setting friends and family against each other. However, some bonds refuse to be severed.

When Emer Davey saves her neighbour Jack Madigan from drowning, it seems they'll be friends forever, nevertheless just eight months later they find themselves on opposite sides in the city's violent struggle. In this story of division, parents attempt to draw the friends apart but loyalty between the pair holds steadfast. Like her father, who is a part-time officer in the Irish Volunteers, Emer believes that armed revolution is the only way to gain independence from Britain. Jack, meanwhile, follows the rule of law like his father in the Dublin Metropolitan Police. So the two young friends find their loyalties tested as the Easter Rising hits closer to home than either could have imagined. Their firsthand experience of the anguish and destruction inflicted by the rebellion reveals to them that warfare is anything but glamorous.

"This is an exciting, well written adventure story, which captures the atmosphere of revolutionary Dublin and the misery and chaos of war. This book is a good addition to any school library and complements conventional school history texts." **Children's Books Ireland**

Author video presentation available

Online resources available

The O'Brien Press, 2015



Goodnight Mister Tom

Michelle Magorian

It is September 1939 and William Beech has been evacuated from London to the countryside, fleeing from the threat of World War II. His mother's instructions that he be housed with someone religious or near a church see the eight-year-old paired with the reclusive Tom Oakley, whose small cottage lies next to the village Church. Cowering from the emotional and physical abuse he has experienced, William arrives in Little Weirwold a timid and sickly specimen. When the middle-aged Tom reluctantly agrees to take William in neither of them realise how this small act of 'national duty' was going to change their lives forever. With Tom's patience and kindness, William overcomes the memories of his troubled childhood to enjoy a life filled with love, friendship, and the pursuit of his artistic passions. Tom is likewise changed, pulled out of the years of reclusive grief triggered by the tragic loss of his wife and newborn child.

Michelle Magorian's powerful yet gentle writing delicately handles the themes of loss and bereavement, to produce a touching and powerful story.

Winner of the Guardian Children's Fiction Award

"A marvellous story that knows just how to grab the emotions." **The Guardian**

Online resources available

Teacher resource book available

Puffin, 2014



Holes

Louis Sachar

Stanley Yelnats IV is a teenage boy from a poor family dogged by a curse dating back to his no-good-dirty-rotten-pig-stealing-great-great-grandfather. This evil hex has brought misery and financial ruin to the Yelnats clan for generations. Stanley's latest misfortune is to be wrongly accused of stealing a pair of shoes donated to a children's orphanage by the baseball player Clyde "Sweet Feet" Livingston.

As punishment, Stanley is sent to Camp Green Lake, a juvenile detention and correctional facility located in the middle of a barren Texan desert. Here, Warden Walker insists the boys "build character" by digging holes five feet wide and five feet deep every day. However, it doesn't take long for Stanley to realise that there is more behind the warden's endeavours than character improvement: She is looking for something. Stanley sets about digging up the truth.

Ultimately, fate conspires to resolve it all. The great wheel of justice has turned slowly for generations, but now it is about to issue its verdict.

Winner of the 1998 U.S. National Book Award for Young People's Literature and the 1999 Newbery Medal

"An exceptionally funny and generous book that is also a tightly plotted detective novel." **The Guardian**

"A multitude of colorful characters coupled with the skillful braiding of ethnic folklore, American legend, and contemporary issues is a brilliant achievement. There is no question, kids will love Holes."

School Library Journal

Online resources available

Teacher resource book available

Bloomsbury, 2000



The Kidds of Summerhill

Ann Murtagh

The Kidd family live in the Summerhill tenements. The sudden death of their mother throws the family into disarray, leaving the children teetering on the edge of destitution.

Nancy, the eldest, lives in fear of the family being split up. The "Cruelty Men" (NSPCC) could send them to the dreaded industrial schools. One of the state's spies lives in the same tenement building as the Kidds and he holds a mysterious grudge against the family.

Nancy struggles to look after everyone and leaves school to get a job. She accidentally gets her friend's brother Charlie into trouble. He is selling newspapers without a licence and is sent to Artane Industrial School. A visit to Charlie convinces Nancy that she must help him to escape. As her plan takes shape, the secret behind her neighbour's grudge is revealed.

It is when Nancy meets Karla, a Jewish refugee, who is separated from her family that a possible solution to Nancy's problems is found.

A useful novel for exploring Ireland's history in the early years of the new state

"... Ann is a local historian and her research is always meticulous" **Sarah Webb**

"...Filled with accurate historical detail, full of life... a simply marvellous story!" **Fallen Star Stories**

Author video presentation available

Online resources available

The O'Brien Press, 2021



Kings of the Boyne 1690

Nicola Pierce

War is in the air as two armies make their way to the Boyne. The Sherrard brothers Daniel and Robert, along with their friend Henry Campsie, have come from Derry to join forces with King William. Gerald O'Connor rides north in King James's cavalry, determined to defend the family honour. After years of conflict the coming battle will decide who rules the lands of England, Scotland and Ireland.

The course of the battle is remorseless, as the kings throw their armies against each other. James's strategy of forcing William to engage across the Boyne seems masterly at first. However, when William manages to wrong-foot him and seize the tactical advantage, James abandons the field. The remnants of his army are forced to retreat.

As the surge of battle subsides Robert is left to guard the lifeless remains of his brother Daniel. Men from both sides are exhausted and haunted by the horror of war.

The repercussions from the Battle of the Boyne have shaped the history of Ireland and resonate still.

"...should be required reading for school students everywhere" **County Derry Post**

"...moving and wonderfully..." **irishtimes.com**

"... succeeds in looking at war from the inside and perhaps more importantly, from both sides of the conflict ... ideal for the senior classes..." **InTouch**

Author video presentation available

Online resources available

The O'Brien Press, 2016



17 Martin Street

Marilyn Taylor

A dramatic wartime story covering issues of race and prejudice and the rights of refugees.

Set in an area of Dublin which came to be known as Little Jerusalem, the action takes place over a twelve-month period from winter 1940. Marilyn Taylor explores the lives of Jews in Ireland at this time. She displays a comprehensive knowledge of the historical context, lovingly recreating the period detail and sense of place to offer entirely authentic accounts of the customs, food and family dynamics.

Twelve-year-old Hetty Golden and her Jewish family move into number 17 Martin Street in inner city Dublin, just two doors away from Ben Byrne's family home. Jews and Christians live side by side and the novel shows how the native and immigrant communities co-existed in an atmosphere of prejudice and suspicion but also in a spirit of co-operation for the common good. Central to the plot are rumours of a Jewish refugee girl who is at large in Dublin and deemed to be an "enemy alien" by the state. Hetty decides that she should be the one to find this refugee girl and save her from detention or deportation. She enlists the help of her cousin and Ben in this plan, which proves instrumental in ensuring that the young girl, Renata, is eventually able to stay in Ireland.

"Taylor deftly weaves a tale of misunderstandings, secrets, anxiety and mistaken identity . . . evokes the period with carefully chosen detail." **The Irish Times**

Online resources available

The O'Brien Press, 2008.



Michael Collins Most Wanted Man*

Vincent McDonnell

"...Michael Collins was no ordinary man. He was an extraordinary man who did extraordinary things during an extraordinary time in Ireland's troubled history."

Award-winning author Vincent McDonnell reflects on the life and times of Michael Collins to reveal why the revolutionary figure has come to be regarded as "one of the greatest Irishmen of the twentieth century." The story outlines how a farmer's son became the most wanted man in the British Empire, a minister in the first Irish government and Commander-in-Chief of the Irish army. Action-packed and highly informative, this new biography for young readers follows 'the Big Fellow' as he takes part in the 1916 Easter Rising, plans and directs a guerrilla war against the British and helps to negotiate the treaty that led to the Irish Civil War. The story closes with the August 1922 ambush at Béal na mBláth in Collins's home county, where the leader was shot dead.

"Presents a rounded appraisal for both Collins and de Valera." **Irish Examiner**

"McDonnell writes well in a way that conveys a lot but will not lose a young reader's interest." **Books Ireland**

The Collins Press, 2008



Mollie on the March*

Anna Carey

It is the summer of 1912 in Dublin. Mollie and Nora have lots of exciting plans for the suffragette movement, although no one seems to notice. Political campaigning has to fit in with school and housework.

Mollie writes to her friend Frances who is on holiday in America with lively tales about family members and even the neighbour's annoying dog. Early scenes of domestic life soon move to more dramatic events.

Prime Minister Asquith is visiting Dublin for discussions on Home Rule. It is an opportunity for the suffragettes to protest. Mollie and Nora are determined to express their opinions even if it means disguising themselves to look older. The situation however turns more dangerous than they expected.

"Brilliantly portrays the Irish suffragette movement at the height of its activity in 1912" **Irish Times**

"Best suited to a sixth class... this is an engaging story that raises important equality issues for all. It manages to do so while being entertaining and well-written"

InTouch

Online resources available

The O'Brien Press, 2018



The New Policeman

Kate Thompson

The first of Kate Thompson's fantasy trilogy, sometimes referred to as the Liddy series, *The New Policeman* is set in Kinvara, Ireland where there never seems to be enough time anymore. The main protagonist, 15 year old J.J. Liddy, is steeped in his family's musical traditions which take on new meaning when he seeks to fulfil his mother's birthday wish for more hours in her day. Charged with the seemingly impossible task, J.J. is shown a portal to the world where time stands still or at least is supposed to.

Bravely venturing into this alternate fairy world via a souterrain, J.J. takes on a thrilling, epic quest in which he confronts dark family rumours and tries to repair a time leak between his world and "the land of eternal youth" or Tír na nÓg.

The book is suffused with the lure of Irish music and each chapter relates to a tune, printed out so that the reader can also become a performer. As for the village's new policeman, Larry O'Dwyer, he is an enigmatic figure who has a significant bearing on the plot but whose identity is kept a superbly guarded secret to the very last surprising moment.

The CBI Bisto Book of the Year Award (2005) and other awards

"Charming, seductive and completely enthralling."

Eoin Colfer

"A storyteller of genius." **Irish Times**

The Bodley Head, 2005



Race the Atlantic Wind: The Flight of Alcock and Brown

Oisín McGann

The first nonstop flight across the Atlantic was made in 1919 by Alcock and Brown.

In the spring of 1919, after the end of the First World War, teams of pilots and navigators begin to gather on the North American island of Newfoundland. They are attempting what many believe to be impossible – to fly non-stop across the Atlantic Ocean. Equipped with machines made mostly from wood, fabric and wire, they intend to fly the 1,800 miles to Ireland, in the face of the merciless North Atlantic weather.

16-year-old local Maggie McRory is captured by all the planes and pilots. This may be a chance to escape her narrow existence. She wants to get as close as she can to the mesmerizing aircrafts but her uncle Patrick views them as a threat. When war veterans John Alcock and Arthur Whitten Brown arrive at the island, Maggie makes friends with the interesting pair.

Once the men have set out on their journey for Ireland they will have to face strong winds, freezing weather and overheating engines. Can the two men make it in time to win the £10,000 prize?

This absurdly dangerous contest is going to change the world . . .

An insightful, well researched and gripping story

Online resources available

Author video presentation available

The O'Brien Press, 2019



Spilled Water

Sally Grindley

"Today is a big day for you. From today, you must learn to find your own way in the muddy whirlpool of life."

Lu Si-yan's happy home life in the Chinese countryside is shattered by the sudden death of her father. On the day her uncle dispassionately sells her into domestic servitude to help repay the family's debts, our 11-year-old heroine learns what it really means to be born a girl in her culture. Likened to worthless "spilled water," Lu Si-yan seems destined to serve at the home of a wealthy couple in the city until she is old enough to marry their brain-damaged son. However, in her determination to be reunited with her mother and younger brother, Lu Si-yan seizes an unexpected chance to flee her master's miserable household. Unfortunately her freedom is short-lived as she falls foul of another economic trap as an exploited factory worker.

With a brilliant first-person narrative and a powerful description of time and place, this novel is captivating, heart-wrenching and completely mesmerising.

Smarties Gold Award Winner 2004

"This is a powerful, emotional story . . . With strong characters and simple but effective writing, this is a captivating book." **Waterstone's Guide to Kid's Books**

Online resources available

Bloomsbury, 2005



The Titanic

Ellen Emerson White

"I felt a shiver of excitement each time the steam whistles blew, trumpeting our departure. The air seemed filled with a sense of tremendous anticipation."

Titanic is the thrilling story of a young orphan on board the most famous sinking ship. Margaret Anne, who dreams of leaving the orphanage behind and joining her brother William in Boston, can hardly believe her luck when she is chosen to accompany wealthy Mrs Carstairs aboard the great RMS Titanic. However, on a freezing night in April 1912 her journey on the finest ocean liner in the world turns into an unimaginable nightmare and ultimately a fight for survival.

This creative account of an Edwardian girl's experience on board the doomed vessel brings this piece of history to life for younger readers. Emerson White captures the initial excitement and then the fear as she presents Margaret Anne's detailed diary entries. The inclusion of a Timeline and Historical Note greatly enriches the story's historical context, and the many photographs will really inspire readers' imaginations.

The **My Story** series provides vividly imagined accounts of life in the past.

Scholastic, 2012



Under the Hawthorn Tree

Marita Conlon-McKenna

In this first instalment of her *Children of the Famine* trilogy, Marita Conlon-McKenna presents the story of three children's struggle for survival in the Great Famine of 1840s Ireland. Eily, Michael and Peggy O'Driscoll are left to fend for themselves when both parents are gone in search of food. The reality of eviction and the dreaded workhouse loom over them. With nothing left in the world only their courage and each other, they begin a long, desperate journey to the town of Castletaggart to reach their great aunts Nano and Lena whom they have only heard of in their mother's stories. Their journey across a country ravaged by starvation will test their courage, resourcefulness, and loyalty to the limits.

This award-winning depiction of the Irish famine has been described as the biggest success story in children's historical literature.

Winner of the International Reading Association Award and the Reading Association of Ireland Award 1991

"Beautiful and moving ... historically true and fictionally vivid." **The Sunday Times**

"The horrors of the potato famine in Ireland leap vividly from the pages of this first novel."

School Library Journal

Online resources available

Teacher resource book and DVD available

The O'Brien Press, 1990



War Children*

Gerard Whelan

Award-winning author Gerard Whelan presents six stories about children who get caught up in the War of Independence and endure dire consequences. The young protagonists in these stories, one set in Dublin and the rest in the countryside, become sometimes willing and sometimes reluctant participants in situations they only vaguely understand. The stark intrusion of war on their familiar lives and the poignant loss of childhood innocence unite all the stories. Among the other themes highlighted by the accounts are death and loss, conflict, family life, prejudice, betrayal, revenge, friendships, selfishness, and influence of memories and childhood experiences on later life. This compelling and powerful collection brings to life one of the most dramatic periods in Irish history.

Winner of the Bisto Book of the Year Merit Award 2003 and the Reading Association of Ireland Award 2003

"Excellent collection ... They will impel their readers towards new questioning as to what "war" actually is."

The Irish Times

"Roller-coasters of emotion ... A riveting read."

Inis Magazine

Online resources available

The O'Brien Press, 2002



Wildflower Girl

Marita Conlon-McKenna

Illustrated by Donald Teskey and by PJ Lynch

The second book in the famine trilogy

At seven, the youngest of the O'Driscoll children, Peggy, made a terrifying journey through famine-stricken Ireland with her brother and sister. Now aged thirteen, Peggy sees no future for herself in impoverished post-famine Ireland. When a passage to America is offered only young Peggy is free to go. Despite opposition, she is determined to avail of this opportunity

It is a gruelling sea voyage from Queenstown (Cobh) to Boston. With the help of other immigrants Peggy finds work but it is hard and she is lonely. Will she ever see her beloved aunt, brother and sister again?

But Peggy is a survivor and her hard work, courage and resilience impress those around her.

An extraordinary story of courage, independence and adventure

Winner of the Bisto Book of the Year Historical Novel 1992

"...the authenticity, together with a lively story, makes the book a pleasure to read." **Historical Novel Society**

The other books in the Famine trilogy are *Under the Hawthorn Tree* and *Fields of Home*

Online resources available

The O'Brien Press, 1991



A Winter of Spies*

Gerard Whelan

The winter of 1920 sees Dublin caught in the violent grip of the War of Independence. Sarah refused to be intimidated by the terror: British soldiers, checkpoints, even the dreaded Black and Tans hold no fear for this spirited 11-year-old, who wants to be 'a rebel for Ireland'. However, her thinking is less clear cut when she is exposed to the secret deadly war being waged behind closed doors. Contrary to their apparent neutrality towards the war, the Conway family is embroiled in this covert battle of spies and counter-spies, of whispers and assassinations, all played out under the watchful eye of Michael Collins. Indeed, now Sarah herself knows things that could cost her her life.

In this historical novel, award-winning author Gerard Whelan highlights how Sarah's initial excitement with the times evolves into a more astute understanding. The young protagonist raises some thought-provoking questions about this troubled time.

Sequel to the award-winning *The Guns of Easter*

"thrilling... adventures set against a completely realised period city, and Sarah is a terrific heroine." **RTE Guide**

"The picture of a city and a period characterised by duplicity and deception is excellently portrayed, as is Sarah herself, a remarkable feisty creation."

The Irish Times

Online resources available

The O'Brien Press, 1998



Wonder

R.J. Palacio

“I wish every day could be Halloween. We could all wear masks all the time. Then we could walk around and get to know each other before we got to see what we looked like under the masks.”

Auggie was born with a terrible facial abnormality and has been home-schooled by his mother in a bid to shield him from the cruelty of the outside world, where he is met with stares, sometimes screams, and embarrassed withdrawals. Now his parents suggest he go to a real school, a departure that both terrifies and excites him. All he wants is to be accepted. He wants to be seen as “ordinary” which is how he feels he is inside but can he convince his new classmates that he is just like them, underneath it all?

The story is told partly from Auggie’s perspective, and partly from the other kids in his life. These include his sister Via, her oldest friend Miranda, Via’s boyfriend Justin, and Jack and Summer, Auggie’s new friends at Beecher Prep. Palacio writes with just the right balance of humour and pathos rendering each character both flawed and sympathetic.

“Palacio has an exceptional knack for writing realistic conversation and describing the thoughts and emotions of the characters.... This is a fast read and would be a great discussion starter about love, support, and judging people on their appearance. A well-written, thought-provoking book.” **School Library Journal**

“... powerful and heartbreaking but never sentimental.”

The School Librarian

Online resources available

Black Swan, 2013



The Young Rebels*

Morgan Llywelyn

With a feckless, brutal father and a loving but sickly mother, 12-year-old John Joe is dispatched to board at St. Enda’s. The school in Rathfarnham, County Dublin is run by Pádraic Pearse and the pupils are inspired by their headmaster’s vision of freedom and an Irish Republic. John Joe readily absorbs the charismatic Ardmháistir’s teachings on Irish nationalism and the injustice of British rule in Ireland. As members of the St. Enda’s company of Na Fianna Éireann John Joe and his friend Roger are eager to support the cause of Irish nationalism. Adamant not to miss out on the action, the young rebels disobey orders to stay away from the city centre and so become caught up in the dramatic events of the Easter Rising.

The book is written in a first person narrative, as if it was a diary of events. The timeframe spans from the Dublin Lockout in 1913 to the Easter Rising of 1916 and the ensuing executions and eventual closing of the school. Although we know there can be no happy ending, it is the young narrator’s hope in the future and his capacity for love and understanding in the face of intense human suffering.

“A readable, exciting history that introduces the young reader to historic events and those who made them.” **Books Ireland**

“An informative and thought provoking read, bringing 1916 alive for a new generation of children.” **The Irish Independent**

Online resources available

The O’Brien Press, 2006

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