

Dive In

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



**Dyslexia
Action**

Taking Action • Changing Lives

Barrington  Stoke
cracking reading

About...

Dyslexia Action

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

About...

Barrington Stoke

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

Front cover image © Quentin Blake, 2007

With kind permission of Quentin Blake and the Roald Dahl Estate.

Welcome

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

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

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

What is dyslexia?

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

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

Reading Hints and Tips



1. Read to your child

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

2. Shared and supported reading

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

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

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

4. Over learning

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

5. Silent Reading

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

6. Use Audio Books

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

7. Choose books with care

Think about:

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

8. Make it fun

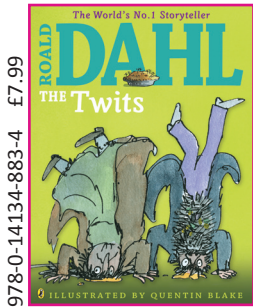
- Choose a good time of day and a comfy place.
- Make reading part of your routine every day.
- Bring the story to life with different voices for the characters.



Books for 5–8s

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

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



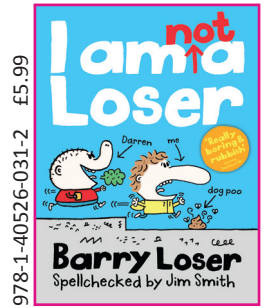
978-0-14134-883-4 £7.99

ROALD DAHL
The Twits



978-1-40527-492-0 £6.99

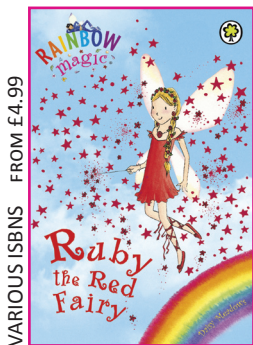
ANDY STANTON
You're a Bad Man,
Mr Gum!



978-1-40526-031-2 £5.99

JIM SMITH
I am Not a Loser
(Barry Loser)

Super series to start building solo reading stamina



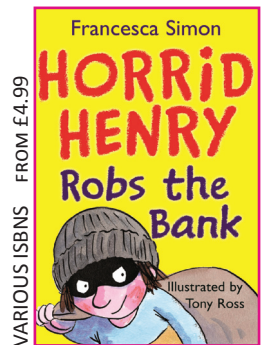
VARIOUS ISBNs FROM £4.99

DAISY MEADOWS
Ruby the Red Fairy



VARIOUS ISBNs FROM £5.99

JILL MURPHY
The Worst Witch



VARIOUS ISBNs FROM £4.99

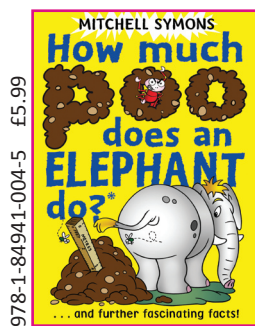
FRANCESCA SIMON
Horrid Henry

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

Michael Morpurgo



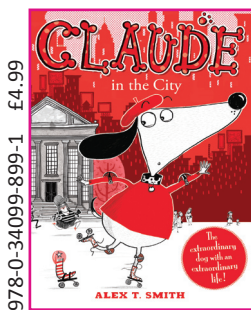
Animal antics: bedtime stories, facts and fun



978-1-84941-004-5 £5.99

MITCHELL SYMONS

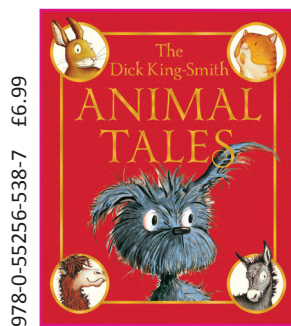
How Much Poo does an Elephant Do?



978-0-34099-899-1 £4.99

ALEX T. SMITH

Claude in the City

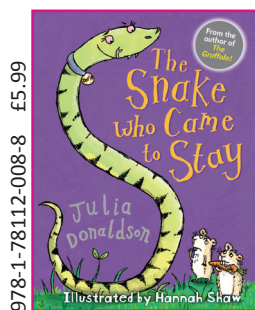


978-0-55256-538-7 £6.99

DICK KING-SMITH

Animal Tales

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



978-1-78112-008-8 £5.99

JULIA DONALDSON

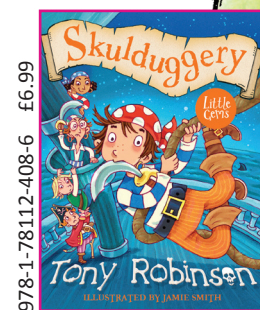
The Snake Who Came to Stay



978-1-78112-353-9 £5.99

CORNELIA FUNKE

The Moonshine Dragon



978-1-78112-408-6 £6.99

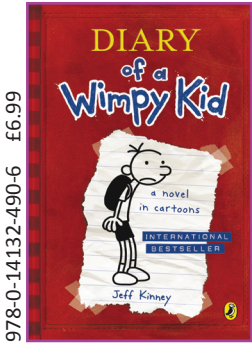
TONY ROBINSON

Skulduggery

Books for 9–12s

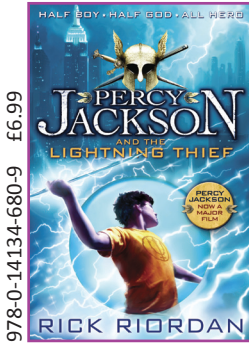
Keep reading together to help your child make the jump to reading solo

Hopeless heroes – everyone loves an underdog



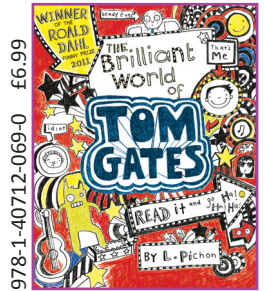
978-0-14132-490-6 £6.99

JEFF KINNEY
Diary of a Wimpy Kid



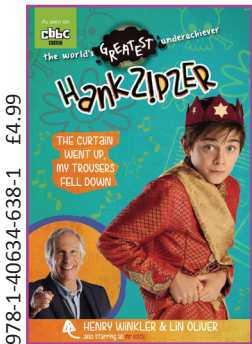
978-0-14134-680-9 £6.99

RICK RIORDAN
Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief



978-1-40712-069-0 £6.99

LIZ PICHON
The Brilliant World of Tom Gates



978-1-40634-638-1 £4.99

HENRY WINKLER & LIN OLIVER
Hank Zipzer



978-0-34099-907-3 £6.99

CRESSIDA COWELL
How to Train Your Dragon



978-1-84738-741-7 £6.99

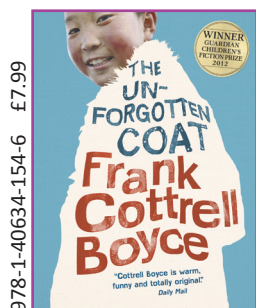
RACHEL RENEE RUSSELL
Dork Diaries

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

Andy Stanton

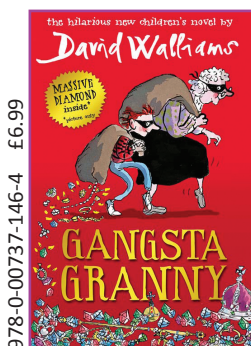


Big authors, big ideas – and brilliant pictures too



978-1-40634-154-6 £7.99

FRANK COTTRELL-BOYCE
The Unforgotten Coat



978-0-00737-146-4 £6.99

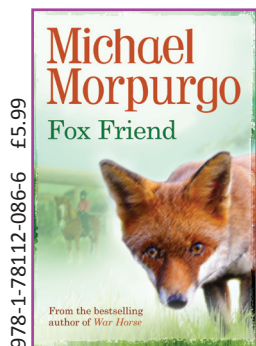
DAVID WALLIAMS
Gangsta Granny



978-0-23075-980-0 £9.99

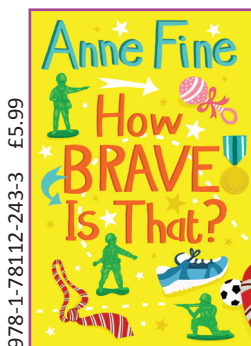
CHRIS RIDDELL
Goth Girl and the Ghost of a Mouse

Books for 9–12s with specific dyslexia-friendly features



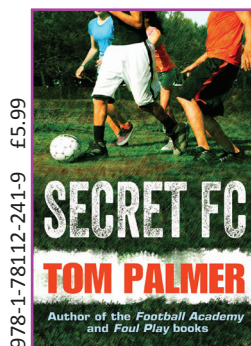
978-1-78112-086-6 £5.99

MICHAEL MORPURGO
Fox Friend



978-1-78112-243-3 £5.99

ANNE FINE
How Brave Is That?



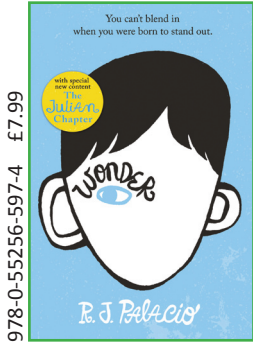
978-1-78112-241-9 £5.99

TOM PALMER
Secret FC

Books for Teens

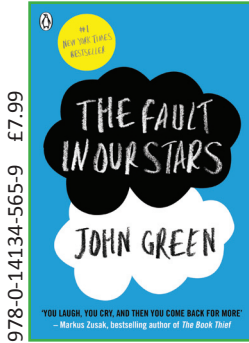
There's never been a better time for teen and young adult fiction

Tearjerkers – because everyone loves a good cry



978-0-55256-597-4 £7.99

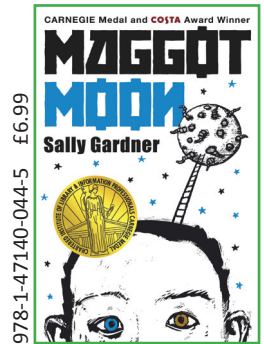
R. J. PALACIO
Wonder



978-0-14134-565-9 £7.99

JOHN GREEN
The Fault in Our Stars

A dyslexic hero to inspire



978-1-47140-044-5 £6.99

SALLY GARDNER
Maggot Moon

Horror and dystopia: brainy thrill rides



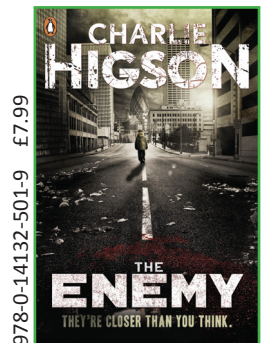
978-0-55255-570-8 £7.99

MALORIE BLACKMAN
Noughts & Crosses



978-0-00675-416-9 £6.99

DARREN SHAN
Cirque Du Freak



978-0-14132-501-9 £7.99

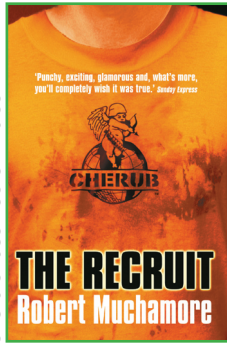
CHARLIE HIGSON
The Enemy

Explosive action to get the heart pumping



978-1-84428-092-6 £6.99

ANTHONY HOROWITZ
Stormbreaker



978-0-34088-153-8 £6.99

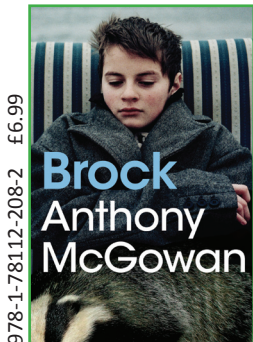
ROBERT MUCHAMORE
The Recruit



978-0-85707-413-3 £6.99

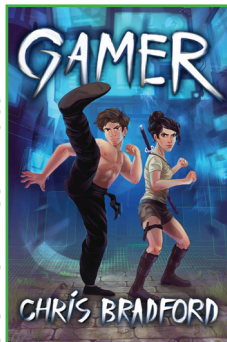
SOPHIE MCKENZIE
Girl, Missing

Books for Teens with specific dyslexia-friendly features



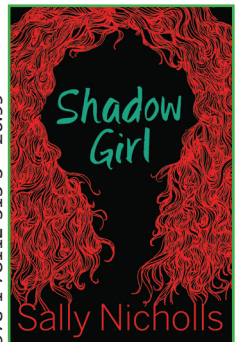
978-1-78112-208-2 £6.99

ANTHONY MCGOWAN
Brock



978-1-78112-138-2 £6.99

CHRIS BRADFORD
Gamer



978-1-78112-313-3 £6.99

SALLY NICHOLLS
Shadow Girl

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

Tom Palmer

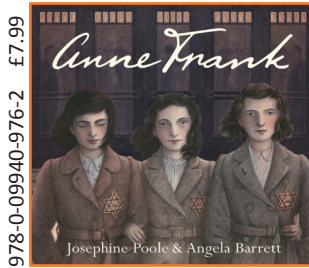
Books for all

Non-fiction books to satisfy a hunger for knowledge



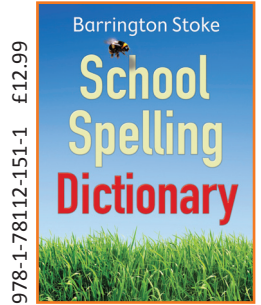
978-1-44401-257-6 £4.99

STEVE BACKSHALL
Deadly Factbook:
Mammals



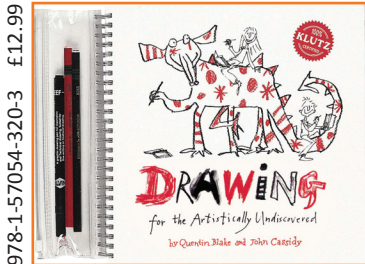
978-0-09940-976-2 £7.99

**JOSEPHINE POOLE &
ANGELA BARRETT**
Anne Frank



978-1-78112-151-1 £12.99

School Spelling
Dictionary



978-1-57054-320-3 £12.99

**QUENTIN BLAKE &
JOHN CASSIDY**
Drawing for
the Artistically
Undiscovered

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

Special thanks is due to KPMG, for their partial funding of this guide.

The information in this leaflet was correct at the time of print (October, 2014)

Registered Office: Dyslexia Action House, 10 High Street, Egham, Surrey, TW20 9EA. Dyslexia Action is the working name for Dyslexia Institute Limited, a charity registered in England and Wales (No. 268502) and Scotland (No. SC039177) and registered in England and Wales as a company (No. 01179975).