

Birney, Betty G **Holidays according to Humphrey**

Faber	Pbk	£5.99	9780571250905
Interest age:	8+		Reading age: 9+

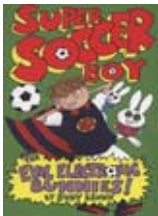
The fifth story in the series, but not necessary to have read in order. Humphrey is worried as school is closing for the summer and he wonders what will happen to him and Og (the frog). Mrs. Mac has arranged for Humphrey and Og to go with her to summer camp. Here, Humphrey helps children come to term with problems as only Humphrey can.



Broach, Elise **Masterpiece**

Walker	Pbk	£5.99	9781406321838
Interest age:	8+		Reading age: 10+

James is lonely and becomes good friends with Marvin, a beetle. Marvin loves art and produces a very skilled drawing which others think was drawn by James. This results in Marvin and James uncovering the perpetrator of a series of art thefts. James develops drawing great strength from their friendship. An unlikely premise, but very well done.



Brown, Judy **Super Soccer Boy and the evil electric bunnies**

Piccidilly	Pbk	£4.99	9781848120532
Interest age:	7+		Reading age: 8+

The second in the series. Super Soccer Boy, Harry Gibble, uses his football skills to solve a spate of robberies. Harry's little sister gets an electronic bunny, which moves by remote control. There is something about these bunnies that Harry doesn't like. Harry works out that the burglaries and the electronic bunnies are connected. An amusing style with black and white line drawings throughout, however, little mention of football.



Cattell, Bob **Shine on, Butter-Finger**

F. Lincoln	Pbk	£4.99	9781845076269
Interest age:	9+		Reading age: 10+

Riccardo, the cricket and calypso enthusiast whose clumsiness has led to the nickname Butter-Finger, finds that during Carnival, his passions clash. He is in the final of the Calypso competition which is on at the same time as the cricket final. With the support of his elderly mentor Crawfish, he manages to deal with his stage fright and support the cricket team when he is not performing. Again there is a great sense of place.



Creech, Sharon **The Unfinished angel**

Andersen	Pbk	£5.99	9781849390835
Interest age:	10+		Reading age: 10+

New in paperback. An angel lives in a tower in a small village in Switzerland. He/she has been there for hundreds of years, unsure of what to do, but generally helping the 'peoples' below. Zola arrives and recognises the angel for who he/she is and life changes. Filled with warmth and humour, it explores the complexities of life and human nature. The angel is a triumph - a mix of kindness, insecurity and vanity.



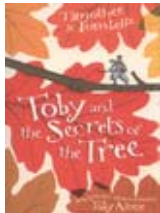
D'Lacey, Chris

Gauge

Orchard Pbk £4.99 9781846166105 Dragons of Wayward Crescent

Interest age: 7+ Reading age: 8+

New in paperback. The second in the series of "The dragons of Wayward crescent" about the dragons made by Elizabeth Pennykettle. Gauge, the newly made dragon, helps Lucy's mother save the town's old clock by means of his special powers and resolves the whole situation. An easy to read magical story for young readers.



Fombelle, Timothee
De

Toby and the secrets of the tree

Walker Pbk £6.99 9781406325454
Interest age: 10+ Reading age: 10+

New in paperback. The sequel to Toby Alone. Toby returns to the tree to find his parents and Elisha. Toby has grown up since his escape from the tree and has befriended the grass people of whom the people of the tree were so afraid. Can Toby and the people of the tree win out against their oppressors?



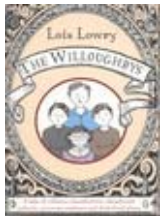
Jenkinson, Ceci

Mirror mischief

Faber Pbk £5.99 9780571249695 Oli and Skipjack's tales of trouble

Interest age: 8+ Reading age: 9+

The fourth title in the series. Oli is sent a magical mirror and turns two of his enemies into animals. Maths teacher Vernon Surd punishes anyone who can't do fractions. Oli and Skipjack learn what they have to do to return everything back to normal but this doesn't quite work as they had planned. An easy to read story with lots of humour.

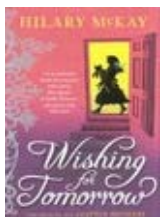


Lowry, Lois

The Willoughbys

Boxer Pbk £5.99 9781907152405
Interest age: 8+ Reading age: 9+

This is "a tale of villains, benefactors, abandoned infants, winsome orphans and diabolical plans". Well written, with a subtle sense of humour, reminiscent of the Lemony Snicket books. The Willoughby children feel that they would be better off as orphans and concoct a plan, little realising that their parents are also planning to get rid of their children.



McKay, Hilary

Wishing for tomorrow

Hodder Pbk £5.99 9780340956540
Interest age: 8+ Reading age: 10+

New in paperback. Sequel to 'A little princess', with Ermengarde, Sara's rather dull best friend, as the central character. The story is well written and faithful to the original, yet with a general softening of characters finding out why the horrible ones are horrible and some change considerably. There is a happy ending for all.

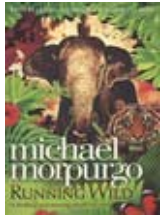


Maryon, Kate

Shine

HarperCollins Pbk £6.99 9780007326273
Interest age: 9+ Reading age: 9+

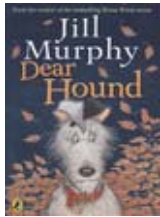
Twelve year old Tiff lives with her mother in a London flat, full of things, most of which have been stolen by her mother. When her mother is sent to prison, Tiff has to go stay and with her mother's family on the island of Sark. Tiff finds it hard to adjust, but eventually begins to like her new life, and hopes her mother will join her when she is released. The novel is touching and lighthearted yet the happy ending is a little contrived.



Morpurgo, Michael **Running wild**

HarperCollins Pbk £6.99 9780007267026
Interest age: 10+ Reading age: 10+

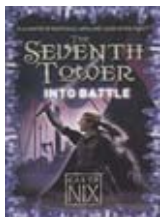
After the death of his father, who is killed in military action in Iraq, Will's mother takes him on a trip to Indonesia. Whilst on an elephant ride, the tsunami comes and Oona the elephant runs. When the tsunami is gone, Oona keeps on running. With a shirt, shorts and a bottle of water, Will must learn to survive in the jungle. Oona becomes a friend and totally reliable. He encounters hunters who are killing tigers and orangutans and destroying the jungle to produce palm oil. A compelling and easy to read, linking the strands of bereavement, conservation and environment.



Murphy, Jill **Dear Hound**

Puffin Pbk £4.99 9780141323459
Interest age: 8+ Reading age: 8+

New in paperback. A warm story about a loveable deerhound puppy called Alfie who gets separated from Charlie, his young owner. Charlie never gives up hope and keeps looking for Alfie for months. Two foxes take pity on Alfie, helping him to survive and eventually find his way back home. At one point he is taken by a couple of men who are lampers - people who hunt animals such as rabbits and foxes by blinding them with very bright lights then using dogs and guns to kill them. Alfie manages to escape, but gets shot in the process. Thankfully his owners turn up in the nick of time, and he is reunited with Charlie.



Nix, Garth **Into battle**

HarperCollins Pbk £5.99 9780007261239 Seventh Tower
Interest age: 10+ Reading age: 10+

Fifth in the "Seventh Tower" series. Tal begins to realise the true extent of his powers as he discovers he can produce the purest most powerful violet light from his sunstone when he is tested in Aenir. Milla meanwhile is leading the Icecarls in an attack on the castle. Tal discovers the Empress is no more than a controlled figurehead but as he attempts to rescue his mother his old enemy Sushin appears. Fast moving addition to the series to be concluded in the next book.



Offen, Hilda **Knee-high to a knight**

Catnip Pbk £4.99 9781846470851
Interest age: 6+ Reading age: 7+

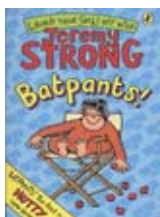
When Prince Pom's father breaks his leg and can't enter the jousting competition, he tells Pom that he must enter instead. Fortunately, Pom's friend Laura is on hand yet again to keep him out of trouble. A humorous story with black and white line drawings.



Osman, Sam **Quicksilver**

M. Lloyd Pbk £7.99 9781407105734
Interest age: 10+ Reading age: 10+

Three children, Wolfie, Zi'ib and Tala, are brought together in a London suburb to fulfill a prophecy written hundreds of years earlier. They need to work together to find their parents, who are believed to be trapped in a wilderness between worlds. A gripping story, reminiscent of Susan Cooper and Alan Garner, full of interesting characters.



Strong, Jeremy **Batpants!**

Puffin Pbk £4.99 9780141327969
Interest age: 7+ Reading age: 8+

Batpants, an orangutan, lives with Tilly and her family. Dad trains animals for films and Mrs Lovehart is a stuntwoman. The whole family is watching her in her latest film. A rival stuntwoman has an evil plan to hurt Mum. Typical Jeremy Strong humour throughout.



Taylor, A.G.

Meteorite strike

Usborne	Pbk	£5.99	9781409508571
Interest age:	10+		Reading age: 10+

All action science fiction adventure. A meteorite-borne virus gives a few children special powers. HIDRA, set up to research a cure, has been hijacked by a rogue military unit which wants to develop the children's powers as weapons. Gripping from the start, but characters tend to be defined by their powers. First of a series.

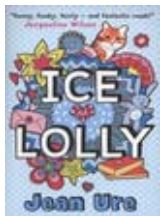


Umansky, Kaye

Clover Twig and the perilous path

Bloomsbury	Pbk	£5.99	9781408801871
Interest age:	8+		Reading age: 9+

Further adventures for Clover Twig and her friend Wilf as they look for her baby brother who has gone missing. Action and humour in this entertaining and undemanding read.



Ure, Jean

Ice Lolly

HarperCollins	Pbk	£5.99	9780007281732
Interest age:	10+		Reading age: 9+

Laurel is twelve when her mum dies and she is sent to live with her uncle. She is allowed to bring her old cat, but her aunt doesn't like him in her house. Laurel tries to hide the fact that he is not well. A friend of her mothers comes to her rescue. Told from Laurel's point of view in a chatty light style. Should be enjoyed by Jacqueline Wilson fans.

Purchasing these books

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