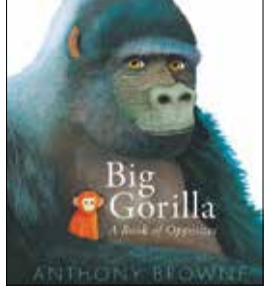


# Telling TALES

Scorpio Children's Books

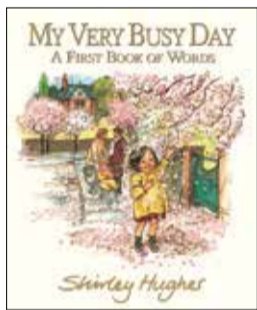


## PICTURE BOOKS



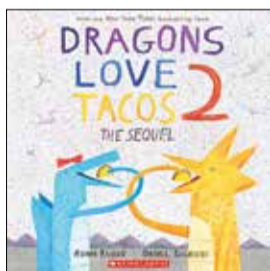
**Big Gorilla: A Book of Opposites**  
ANTHONY BROWNE (WALKER)  
**HB \$29.99**

What's the opposite of old? Young! What's the opposite of sad? Happy! But what's the opposite of opposite? Featuring a range of exquisite primates, from gorillas to chimpanzees, white-faced capuchins to orangutans, Anthony Browne has created a wonderfully unique first book of opposites, with his striking palette and quirky flair for facial expressions sure to charm readers of all ages. 2+



**My Very Busy Day: A First Book of Words**  
SHIRLEY HUGHES (WALKER)  
**HB \$29.99**

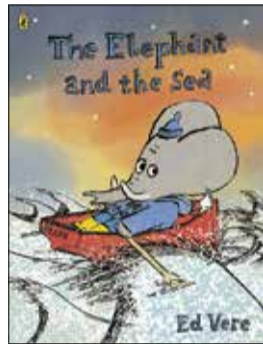
In this beautiful book for first readers, little ones can find out about Olly and Katie's very busy day, learning new words and improving their vocabulary along the way. From getting dressed in the morning, heading out for a walk in the park or having a story before bath and bedtime, this simple, joyful book takes the reader through a toddler's day, with plenty of objects to spot and recognise in Shirley Hughes' reassuring and charming illustrations. 2+



**Dragons Love Tacos 2**  
ADAM RUBIN, DANIEL SALMIERI (ILLUS.) (SCHOLASTIC)  
**HB \$24.99**

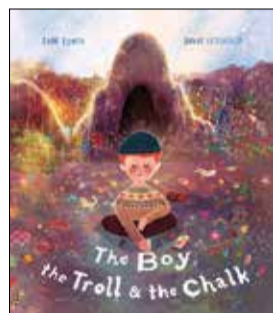
The hilarious sequel to *Dragons Love Tacos*. Oh no! The world has run out of tacos! What should we do? A. Check emergency taco supplies B. Eat emergency taco supplies C. Panic D. Fire up that time machine in the ▶

garage E. All of the above. We've got to save the tacos! And the dragons are here to help. Just don't let them go near the spicy salsa. You remember what happened last time... 2+



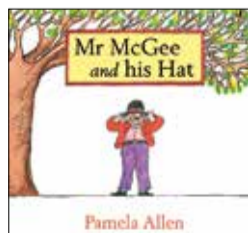
**The Elephant and the Sea**  
ED VERE (PUFFIN)  
**PB \$21.00**

In a village by the sea, where the waves are wild and tumbling, lives an old elephant. Once he was a young elephant – with a dream of joining the lifeboat crew. Only elephants don't fit in lifeboats. But Gabriel is determined, ingenious and brave. So much so that one stormy day he might be the only one who can save the day. From author-illustrator Ed Vere comes a lyrical tale celebrating bravery and quiet determination. 3+



**The Boy, the Troll and the Chalk**  
ANNE BOOTH, DAVID LITCHFIELD (ILLUS.) (TEMPLAR)  
**HB \$27.99 OUT IN JUL**

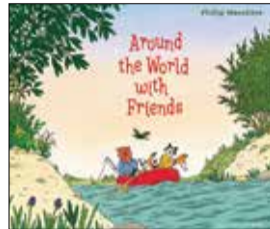
One child cannot turn their back on the troll at the edge of the playground. One day, outside the cave, he draws a flower with every petal coloured in but one, and leaves the chalk behind. The next day, the flower has been completed. The boy and the troll wordlessly draw together and soon all the children join in. Everyone forgets that there was a troll inside the cave. Because outside the cave, there is so much to draw. 3+



**Mr McGee and his Hat**  
PAMELA ALLEN (PUFFIN)  
**HB NZ TITLE \$30.00 OUT IN JUL**

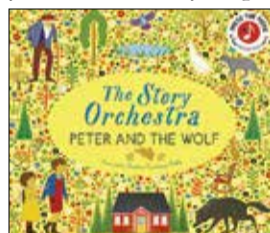
An exciting new Mr McGee adventure, published in Pamela Allen's 90th year! In a return ▶

to this classic picture book series, Mr McGee is getting ready to go and play when a strong wind blows him, his hat, his cat and his bed high up in the air. When they finally come down again, Mr McGee's hat is mysteriously missing... 3+



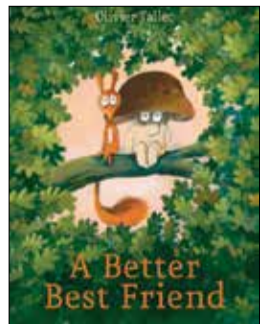
**Around the World with Friends**  
PHILIP WAECHTER (GECKO PRESS)  
**HB \$29.99 OUT IN JUL**

Raccoon is ready for an adventure – thrills, excitement, to cross the ocean! He borrows everything he needs from his friends, who insist on coming along. They sail through rapids, collect blackberries, chase away bees, and play soccer, until a little rain and thoughts of home bring their excursion to an end. That, thinks Raccoon, was the most thrilling magnificent adventure ever. This heartwarming follow-up to *A Perfect Wonderful Day with Friends* shows how life is better when you take what the day brings. 4+



**The Story Orchestra: Peter and the Wolf**  
JESSICA COURTNEY TICKLE (FRANCES LINCOLN)  
**HB \$39.99**

Introduce little ones to the magic of classical music with the latest in the Story Orchestra series – a reimagining of one of Prokofiev's most famous suites. Explore the woods with Peter, and follow his quest to save his animal friends from the wolf. Vivid sound clips of orchestras playing excerpts from the score on each page are perfectly complemented by lush illustrations, information about the instruments and musical techniques, and details of Prokofiev's life and career. 4+



**A Better Best Friend**  
OLIVIER TALLEC (GECKO PRESS)  
**HB \$29.99**

In this feel-good and dryly funny picture book exploring ▶

an enduring childhood question about friendship, a squirrel and a mushroom explore the forest through the seasons, show each other special trees, build snow mushrooms, share the good times and bad – which become good bad times alongside a friend. Then spring arrives, and so does a new friend. And then another. This raises a profound question for an overthinking squirrel: should we have just one best friend? 4+



**The Garden of Broken Things**  
FREYA BLACKWOOD (HARPERCOLLINS)  
**HB \$29.99**

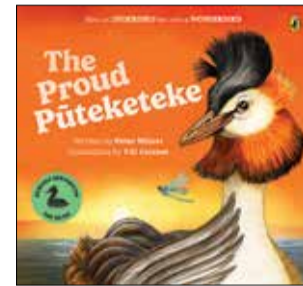
One day, curious Sadie follows a cat into the tangled vines behind the lonely house at Number 9, Ardent Street. Deep in the undergrowth, past all the twisted, rusted things, Sadie finds the cat sitting on the lap of a woman, bent with time and weariness. Sadie has found the Garden of Broken Things. From award-winning creator Freya Blackwood comes a beautifully tender story about curiosity and the joy of listening. 4+



**Ariā and the Kūmara God**  
WITI IHIMAERA, ISOBEL JOY TE AHO-WHITE (ILLUS.) (PUFFIN)  
**HB NZ TITLE \$25.00**

The future is looking bleak: not only is the Astromancer held captive by wicked Ruatapu, but the kūmara crops are dying. Ariā and her fellow apprentices – and Kurī – must climb up into the heavens to ask the star Whānui for help. And they have to act quickly because Matariki is drawing close. This exciting return to the world of the astromancer is also available in te reo Māori: *A Ariā me te Atua o te Kūmara*. 5+ ▶

## NON-FICTION



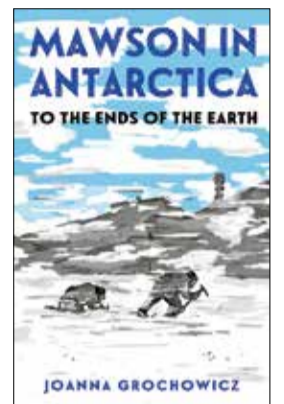
**The Proud Pūteketeke: How an Underbird Became a Wonderbird**  
PETER MILLETT, FIFI COLSTON (ILLUS.) (PUFFIN)  
**PB NZ TITLE \$21.00 OUT IN JUL**

Māmā Duck's seventh chick is a little different – he has the habit of puking up! The other ducklings think he's ridiculous but perhaps this little underbird will find a friend who'll love him in spite of his quirks. This New Zealand-flavoured tale of an ugly duckling includes facts about what makes the pūteketeke (or grebe) so special and precious, as well as the real-life tale of how it found fame as the Bird of the Century! 4+



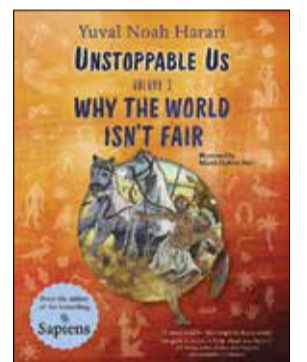
**After Dark**  
JULIA CROUTH (SCHOLASTIC NZ)  
**PB NZ TITLE \$29.99 OUT IN JUL**

'Our forests are a sight to be seen, by daytime's warm, clear light. But when the sun sets, and the daylight dims, and colours are no longer bright...' This refreshed edition of a much-loved book spotlights nocturnal wildlife indigenous to Aotearoa. Julia Crouth has cleverly constructed a rhyming description of an animal, then the page is turned to reveal its identity. Animals featured include the kiwi, morepork, tuatara, kauri snail and tiny Archey's frog. 5+



**Mawson in Antarctica: TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH**  
JOANNA GROCHOWICZ (ALLEN & UNWIN)  
**PB NZ TITLE \$22.99**

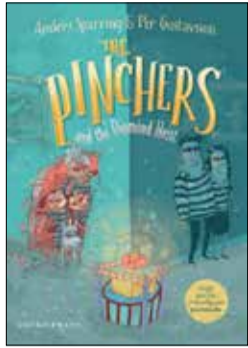
Antarctica. Winter 1912. Hunkering down in the windiest place on earth, 18 Australians await a chance to prove themselves as explorers and scientists. The spring sledging season will bring adventure, danger and the discovery of new lands under the command of Douglas Mawson. But tragedy also lies in wait. Mawson's legendary story of self-belief and hope in the face of the polar environment's worst conditions, is brought vividly to life in this compelling narrative non-fiction. 8+



**Unstoppable Us Volume 2: Why the World Isn't Fair**  
YUVAL NOAH HARARI, RICARD ZAPLANA RUIZ (ILLUS.) (PUFFIN)  
**PB \$36.00**

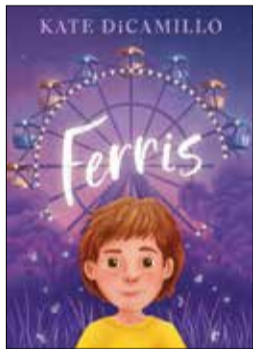
Something strange happened 10,000 years ago, and it changed everything. Why did millions of people agree to obey a few leaders? Where did kings and kingdoms come from? In Volume 1 of Harari's series, we learned how humans told stories to become rulers of the world – for good and bad. In this next fully-illustrated chapter, we find out how humans learned to control animals like dogs, chickens and cows... And how a handful of humans learned to control everyone else. 9+ ▶

## CHILDREN'S FICTION



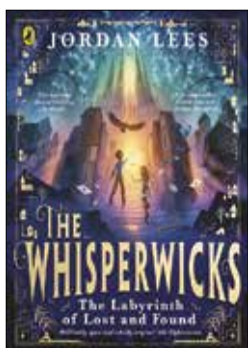
The Pinchers and the Diamond Heist  
ANDERS SPARRING, PER GUSTAVSSON (ILLUS.) (GECKO)  
**PB \$19.99**

Theo is good at most things. He can almost count to a thousand and operate the washing machine. But he can't lie or steal. The first in a crime series about a well-behaved child who doesn't fit into his family of criminals – featuring a prison break, a diamond heist and a lie that saves the day. A brightly illustrated mix of adventure, silliness and family life, this is a perfect chapter book for beginning and reluctant readers. 5+



Ferris  
KATE DICAMILLO (WALKER)  
**HB \$24.99**

Ferris Wilkey's little sister has vowed to become an outlaw. Her Uncle Ted has left Aunt Shirley and is holed up in the Wilkey basement. And Charisse, Ferris's grandmother, has started seeing a ghost. But the ghost is not there to usher Charisse to the Great Beyond. Rather, she has other plans – wild, impractical plans. It's shaping up to be a summer of pandemonium! Kate DiCamillo is back with a hilarious, healing and emotionally resonant tale. 7+



The Whisperwicks: The Labyrinth of Lost and Found  
JORDAN LEES (PUFFIN)  
**PB \$21.00**

11-year-old Benjamiyah believes in science and logic. Definitely not magic. But when he receives a mysterious gift in the post, he is led into the impossible, magical world of Wreathenwold, where dark secrets are lost in a labyrinth of streets. Benjamiyah soon finds himself in a dangerous quest led by the fierce and brilliant Elizabella, to solve the disappearance of her missing ►

brother. Will Benjamiyah ever find his way home and discover his puzzling connection with this strange, enchanted world? 9+



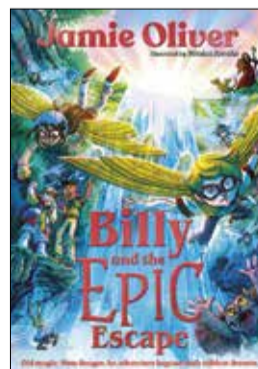
Pirates of Darksea  
CATHERINE DOYLE (BLOOMSBURY)  
**PB \$18.99**

Deep in the Atlantic Ocean lies a secret kingdom called Darksea. Ruled by the pirate Captain O'Malley, its waters are being haunted by an invisible monster. Meanwhile, in Galway, Max's big brother is getting sicker. Then, one night, a parrot taps on Max's bedroom window; Captain O'Malley needs a crew member for a quest. But when the Captain's secret threatens to destroy Max's chance to help his family, Max realises he's going to have to navigate much more than he bargained for... 8+



The Dark Times (Lightfall Book 3)  
TIM PROBERT (HARPERALLEY)  
**PB \$24.99**

The Lights have gone dark in Irpa. Danger lurks as the air grows colder and threats lie in the shadows. While the rest of their fellowship seeks safety, Bea and Cad team up with a group of survivors to travel to the Citadel of Knowledge, pursuing answers to their world's darkest mysteries. But their journey reveals more secrets, until an unexpected ally shines a light in the darkness, providing a clue... and a beacon of hope for the future. 8+



Billy and the Epic Escape  
JAMIE OLIVER (PUFFIN)  
**PB \$17.99**

Billy and his friends are looking forward to a summer exploring Waterfall Woods, discovering more about the magical creatures who live there and the Rhythm of nature that keeps their world in balance. When ►

the woods come under attack from a mysterious red lady, the gang rush to the rescue, but who is she exactly, and will they be able to thwart her plans before the Rhythm is put in danger once again? 8+



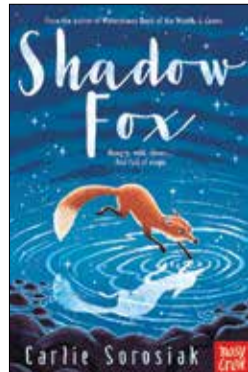
The Apprentice Witness  
BREN MACDIBBLE (ALLEN & UNWIN)  
**PB NZ TITLE \$19.99**

Bastienne Scull is nearly 12 years old and lives a simple life as an apprentice to the Witness of Miracles in a small village mostly populated by women and girls. Basti knows that miracle-hunting is a lot like mystery-solving, and her little world is full of wonder, intrigue and unexpected adventure. Set in a post-apocalyptic world, this novel is filled to the brim with hope, courage, resilience and family, from the multi award-winning master storyteller Bren MacDibble. 9+



I Am Rebel  
ROSS MONTGOMERY (WALKER)  
**PB \$19.99**

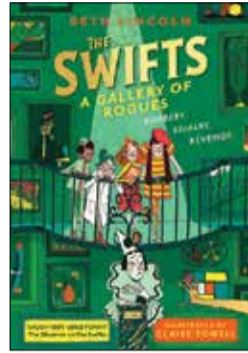
Rebel is a good dog, and he loves his simple life on the farm with his owner Tom – until one day the war comes too close. Now Tom is determined to join the rebellion to defeat the king's men. But Rebel knows war is dangerous, and he will stop at nothing to save the human he loves. Rebel must bring Tom home before it's too late. A heart-warming adventure about the unbreakable bond between a dog and his human. 8+



Shadow Fox  
CARLISLE SOROSIAK (NOSY CROW)  
**PB \$18.99 OUT IN JUL**

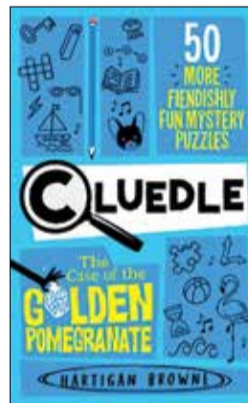
Bee's family runs a lakeside inn, offering rest and sustenance to weary travellers. Bee's Nan has gone missing, possibly drowned, but Bee knows ►

that can't be true. And so does the hungry fox that her grandmother was feeding. A beautiful story of loss and belonging, all told through the eyes of a wild, affectionate, prickly fox who has a love of collecting shoes and not a small amount of magic. 8+



A Gallery of Rogues (The Swifts Book 2)  
BETH LINCOLN, CLAIRE POWELL (ILLUS.) (PUFFIN)  
**PB \$28.00 OUT IN JUL**

When robbers target Swift House, Shenanigan Swift's sleuthing skills are once again tested. The trail leads Shenanigan and her sisters to Paris and the Hotel Martinet, home of the estranged French branch of the Swift family. But what links Ouvolpo, the daring gang of thieves who design each of their crimes as audacious pieces of art, and the Swifts? All will be revealed in this second, gleefully gothic adventure for Shenanigan and Co. 9+



Cluedle: The Case of the Golden Pomegranate  
HARTIGAN BROWNE (MACMILLAN)  
**PB \$24.99 OUT IN JUL**

Set sail with famous private investigator Hartigan Browne and crack the case of the Golden Pomegranate by solving 50 brain-busting puzzles. An intriguing mystery story set on a superyacht where detectives need to discover: Who broke into Alota Vibratto's safe? How was the professor's milkshake poisoned? What's hidden in an ancient maze? And who's gone overboard? Packed full of codes to crack, evidence to evaluate, clues to unravel and maps to navigate, this is puzzling fun for the whole family. 8+



The Island Heist (Crookhaven Book 3)  
J.J. ARCANJO (HODDER)  
**PB \$19.99**

It's Gabriel's third year at Crookhaven School for Thieves. Along with the usual Break-In challenge and classes like Signs & Signals, Gabriel and his friends have another goal: taking down the Nameless – criminals who steal, trick and kidnap for their own benefit. But what can a group of underage school children do compared to this powerful underworld crew? The third book in the irresistible series about chosen family, high stakes thievery, and what it really means to do good. 8+



The Raven's Eye Runaways  
CLAIRE MABEY (ALLEN & UNWIN)  
**PB NZ TITLE \$24.99 OUT IN JUL**

Three friends and a one-eyed raven find themselves up against the rulers who restrict the gifts of writing and reading to an elite few. They must go on a wild and unpredictable rescue mission. Who and what will they meet along their way? And what is the terrible truth behind everything they think they know about their world? A gripping, beautifully-told fantasy quest set in a parallel medieval world. 9+ ►

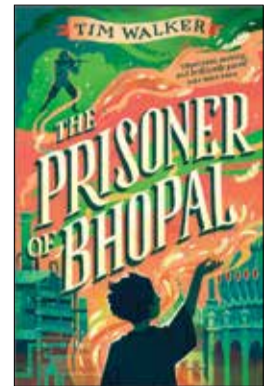
## YOUNG TEEN



Skandar and the Chaos Trials (Book 3)  
A.F. STEADMAN (SIMON & SCHUSTER)  
**PB \$20.99**

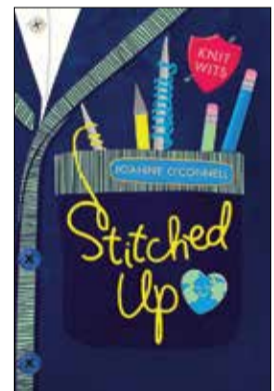
Skandar and his sister Kenna are finally both at the Eyrie, but tensions are high. To survive their third year of training, Skandar and his friends must complete a series of terrifying ►

trials across the Island's elemental zones. Meanwhile Kenna's bond to a wild unicorn has left her alienated and alone. And when a terrible discovery puts the future of the Island in peril, Skandar must decide how far he is willing to go – for Kenna, and for the Eyrie. 10+



The Prisoner of Bhopal  
TIM WALKER (ANDERSEN PRESS UK)  
**PB \$19.99**

On Amil's tenth birthday, he is taken from his family to work for cruel Mr Kumar in his dilapidated printing factory. There, he finds an old journal, which reveals not only why Amil is there, but that he and the journal's author – his great-grandfather – share a gift: they can read the wind. Its purpose remains a mystery until, one terrible night, the local pesticide plant leaks poison gas into the air above his home town of Bhopal... 10+



Stitched Up  
JOANNE O'CONNELL (MACMILLAN)  
**PB \$19.99**

Cassie is thrilled when the opportunity to redesign her school uniform comes up. The only problem? She's stuck between eco-conscious Fern and label-loving Azra. As the competition heats up, Cassie joins The KnitWits – a local knitting group that immediately makes Cassie feel at home, especially once she sees that it's secretly attended by the coolest girl at school. Can Cassie balance Azra's obsession with trends with her own love of sustainable fashion? Or will the pressure cause the ultimate bestie break-up? 10+ ►