

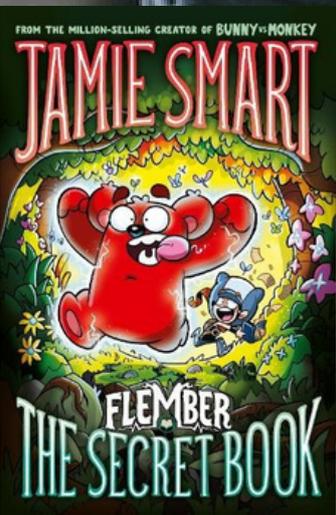
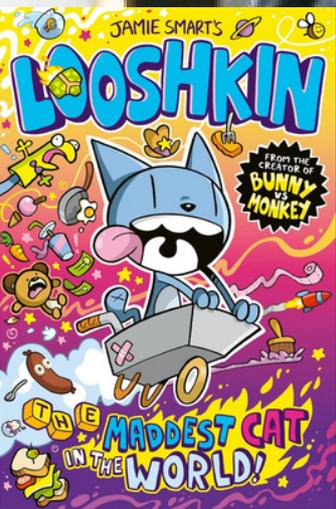
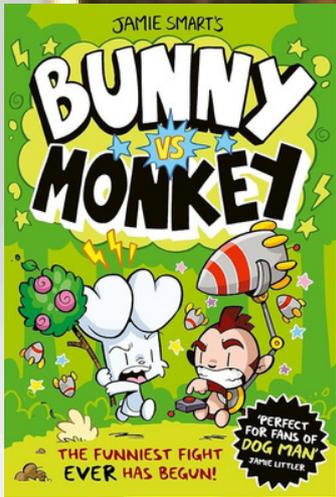
A free children's book newsletter by **authorfy.**

# BOOKDROP

Featuring

# JAMIE SMART

Creator of **Bunny vs Monkey**



**Jamie's new book!**

PHOTOGRAPH © CHARLOTTE KNEE PHOTOGRAPHY

Also featuring: **Sophy Henn** **Jack Noel** **Ash Bond** **David Solomons** **Sam Sedgman** and more

# Q&A

WITH JAMIE SMART



PHOTOGRAPH © FISHER STUDIOS



Bobbetown is under attack - from the cutest, silliest and zaniest alien invasion EVER! The super-powered Megalomaniacs have crash-landed, and they're going to do their very best to take over planet Earth! That is, if they don't get in each other's way first . . .

**This BRAND-NEW series from Bunny vs Monkey creator Jamie Smart is jam packed with exuberant humour and artwork. You've never read ANYTHING like this before!**

'But what are Megalomaniacs?' we hear you cry. Well, there are three things you need to know about Megalomaniacs. They are TERRORS from outer space! There are LOADS of them! And they are absolutely TINY!



**Q** **What is Megalomaniacs about?**

Megalomaniacs is about a whole host of tiny cute aliens who crash land in a town called Bobbetown, and all start trying to take over! But each of the Megalomaniacs has their own special powers, and they usually end up fighting each other instead. It's funny, exciting, and very very silly!

**Q** **Have you always enjoyed reading and creating comics?**

Ever since I can remember! My dad used to drive me to the newsagent at 7am on a Sunday morning and I'd buy all the weekly comics on the shelves, then spend the day reading them. They inspired me to start making my own comics too, and now it's my full time job!

**Q** **What's the best thing about being a comic book creator?**

I love telling stories, particularly funny ones, and comics were the perfect way for me to do that as it's such a visual and expressive medium. I also get to meet lots and lots of my readers, and see the comics they've made, and I even get to travel to other countries to do that too! It's the best job in the world!

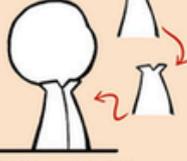
HI! I'M JAMIE SMART, CREATOR OF MEGALOMANIACS! I'M SO EXCITED TO SHARE HOW I MAKE COMICS WITH YOU, SO WELCOME TO...



# THE PHOENIX COMIC CLUB

FIRST, I CAN SHOW YOU HOW TO DRAW...

## LORD SKULL

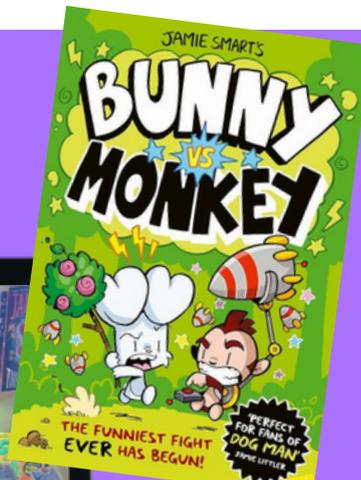
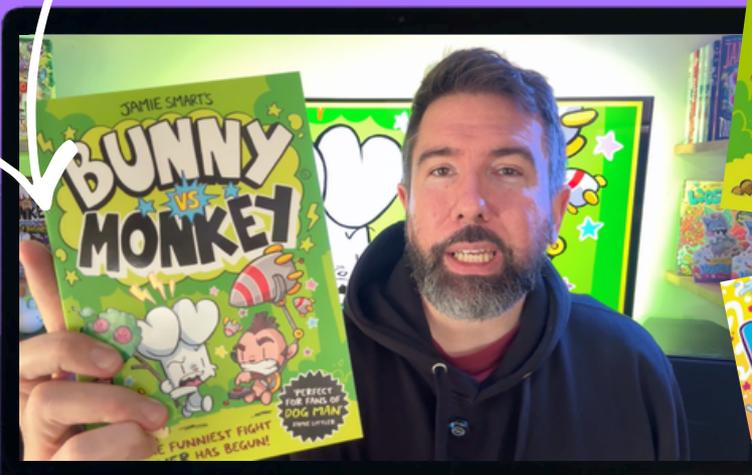
- 1  LET'S START WITH A CIRCLE FOR THEIR HEAD...
- 2  ADD A SMALL DENT ON THE RIGHT!  
...THEN DRAW THE COLLAR AND CLOAK IN A TENT-LIKE SHAPE.
- 3  ADD IN THE ARMS OF THE CLOAK FANNING UPWARDS.
- 4  TWO CLENCHED HANDS.

LET'S GIVE LORD SKULL A FACE AND STAFF!



- 5  NOW LET'S GIVE HIM HIS SIGNATURE DEVILISH HORNS!
- 6  ADD HIS CHEEKY TAIL AND SKULL PIN ON HIS CLOAK.
- 7  GIVE HIM A HUMONGOUS, EVIL LAUGH, WITH A LONG, SNAKE-LIKE TONGUE!
- 8  DRAW HIS UNIQUE BIG EYES, A BEAN-SHAPED NOSE, AND TEARDROP EYEBROWS...
- 9  GIVE HIM HIS MAGICAL, CRESCENT-MOON STAFF.
- 10  FINISH WITH SOME COLOUR AND YOU'VE GOT YOUR OWN VILLAINOUS LORD SKULL!

Watch Jamie's videos at [authorfy.com](http://authorfy.com)

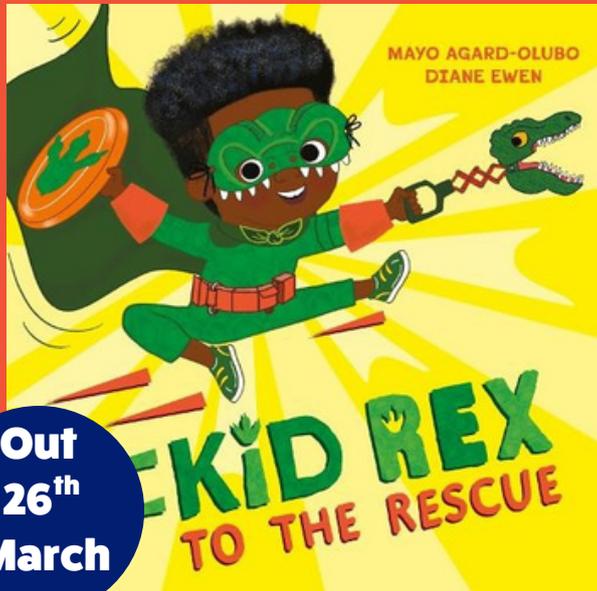


Click here for comic-creating tips with The Phoenix Comic Club

JOIN THE PHOENIX COMIC CLUB

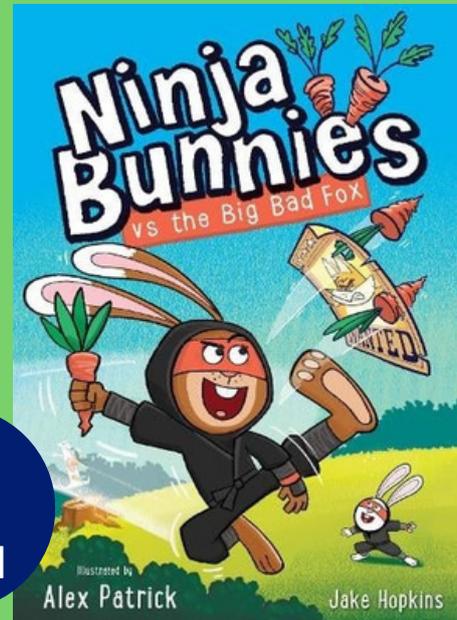
# NEW CHILDREN'S BOOKS:

## Picture Books & Early Readers



Out  
26<sup>th</sup>  
March

A celebration of the imagination, Kid Rex brings adventure and magic to the mundane, making everyday tasks exciting and fun.



Out  
23<sup>rd</sup>  
April

Super cute, super deadly and SUPER FUN! This hilarious, action-packed series - full of high kicks and hijinks - is perfect for newly independent readers.



Out  
23<sup>rd</sup>  
April

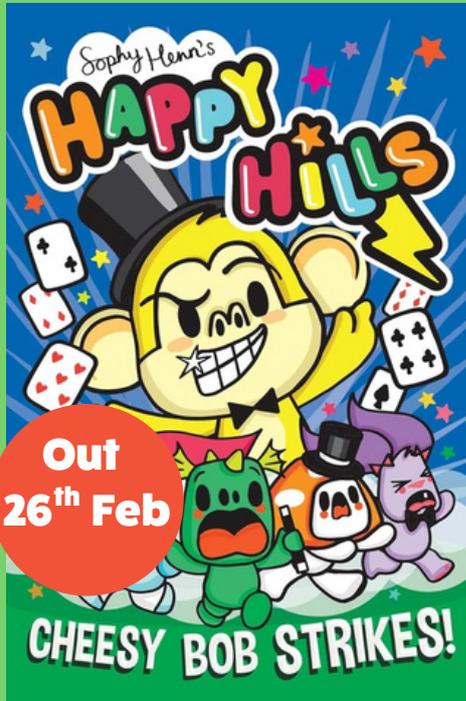
Bear has woken up to find a storm cloud above his head and he just can't get rid of it. Can his friends help him to find his way through the storm to discover the brightest of rainbows?



CLICK HERE TO  
READ EXTRACTS  
FROM THESE BOOKS

# NEW CHILDREN'S BOOKS:

Middle Grade: ages 7+



Out  
26<sup>th</sup> Feb

Welcome to HAPPY HILLS, where you'll find epic LOLS, dramatic ACTION scenes, a scattering of MILD PERIL, and MUCH MORE!

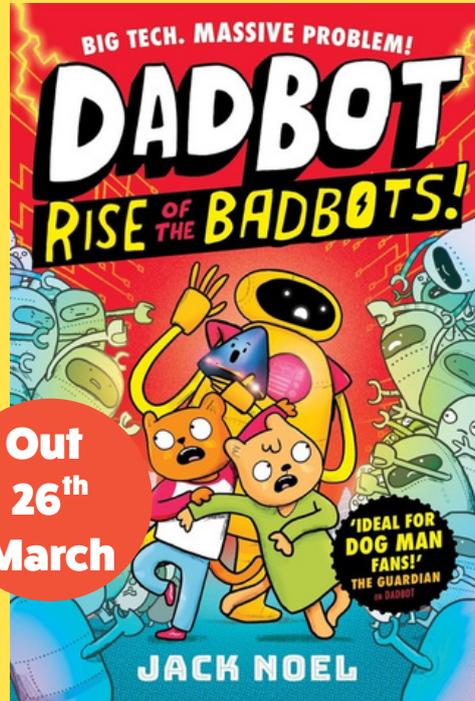
**'You won't be able to contain your giggles!'**

Harriet Muncaster,  
author and illustrator  
of Isadora Moon

**Hilariously funny**

**A full-colour graphic  
novel series**

[CLICK HERE TO  
READ EXTRACT](#)



Out  
26<sup>th</sup>  
March

Full of robots, puns and dastardly dad-napping, this hilarious series is perfect for fans of BUNNY VS MONKEY and DOG MAN!

**A brand-new graphic  
novel series in a riot  
of colour**

**Dadbot isn't your  
average robot!**

**Sit your bot down  
and read it!**

[CLICK HERE TO  
READ EXTRACT](#)



Out  
9<sup>th</sup> April

A page-turning story of two children whose lives collide when they find an ancient treasure with the power to return to them the most precious thing they have ever lost.

**A rip-roaring plot,  
spine-tingling twists  
and an unforgettable  
cast of characters**

**Full of magic & wonder**

**Perfect for readers  
aged 8+**

[CLICK HERE TO  
READ EXTRACT](#)

# NEW CHILDREN'S BOOKS:

## Middle Grade: ages 9+



Enter the portal to the incredible cosmic realm in this epic fantasy adventure, perfect for fans of 'Skandar' and 'Percy Jackson'.

**Book 3 in a fast-paced, funny adventure trilogy**

**An edge-of-your-seat race between worlds**

**'Mythology with a modern makeover'**  
- Maz Evans, author of *Who Let The Gods Out?*

[CLICK HERE TO READ EXTRACT](#)



When Adam and his friends accidentally reveal the secret location of ex-MI6 quatermaster, Professor Goodspeed, they don't expect supervillains to turn up on their doorstep!

**Like James Bond with a dash of Johnny English**

**A laugh-out-loud new series**

**Action-packed spy adventures**

[CLICK HERE TO READ EXTRACT](#)



Isaac's summer in Italy goes horribly wrong when he becomes embroiled in a heist to clear his grandfather's name. Can Isaac shine a light on the truth in time?

**Chase scenes, codes & mindbending science**

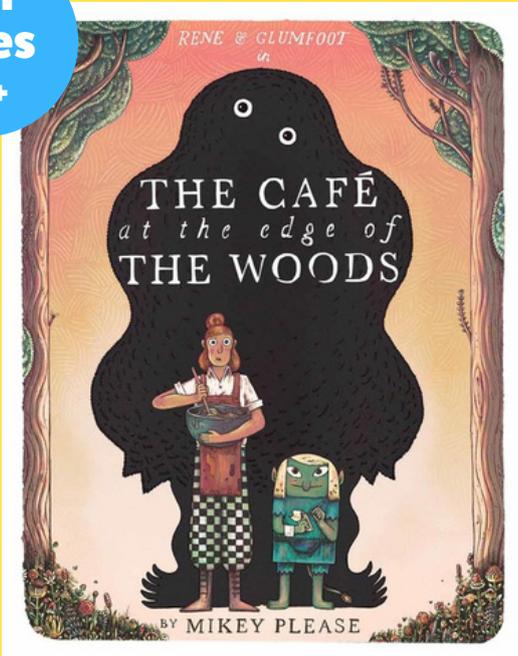
**A daring heist during a solar eclipse**

**The third adventure in the thrilling 'Isaac Turner Investigates' series**

[WATCH AUTHOR VIDEO & READ EXTRACT](#)

# BOOK REVIEWS & RECOMMENDATIONS

For  
ages  
5+

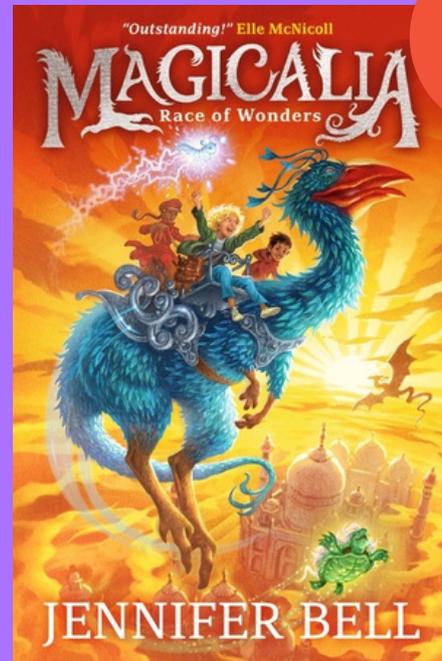


We are always looking for gorgeous new picture books and when this one arrived, we were immediately in love. Written by Mikey Please, this story follows Renee who dreams of opening a café. When she does, things don't go to plan. Let's just say her customers are very interesting! This is a favourite at home with my two year old but it was also a real hit at school – especially in assembly where children of all ages sat absolutely captured by the gorgeous rhymes and stunning illustrations.



**Miss Cotton,  
Carter & Ella  
Russell Scott  
Primary School**

For  
ages  
9+



This book follows Bitsy and Kosh on a magical adventure which starts when Bitsy's dad gets kidnapped and magical creatures start to appear out of thin air. The illustrations of the weird and wonderful creatures are real treats at the start of each chapter (we had a lot of fun thinking about which 'Magicores' we would like to conjure). The book reminds us a little bit of Pokémon and Harry Potter only with lots more twists and turns. Some of us have already nearly finished the sequel!



**Book Council at  
Russell Scott  
Primary School**

# Reading for Pleasure

## Tips from the Open University team

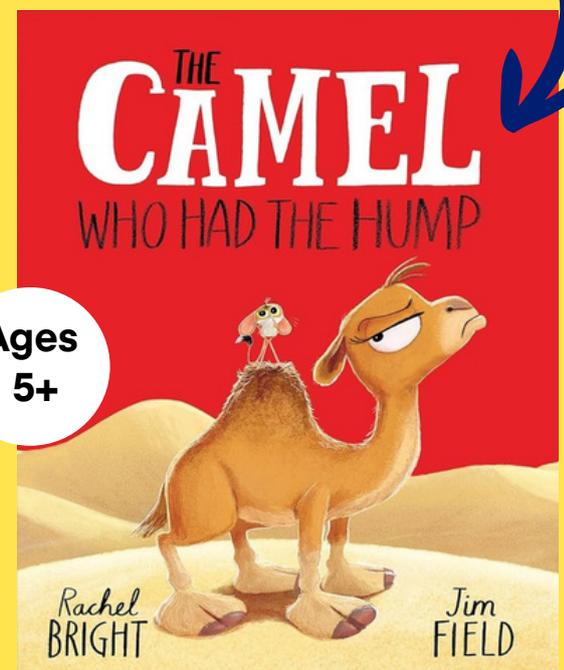
### Book chat made easy

Sharing thoughts together, reader to reader, can be simple and enjoyable. You and your child might start with:

- I noticed...
- I wonder why...
- That made me feel...
- I keep thinking about...
- This reminds me of...

A few relaxed minutes of book chat can help build confidence, connection and enjoyment. For more ideas, visit [Book Chat: Reading with your child - Videos and guide - Reading for Pleasure](#)

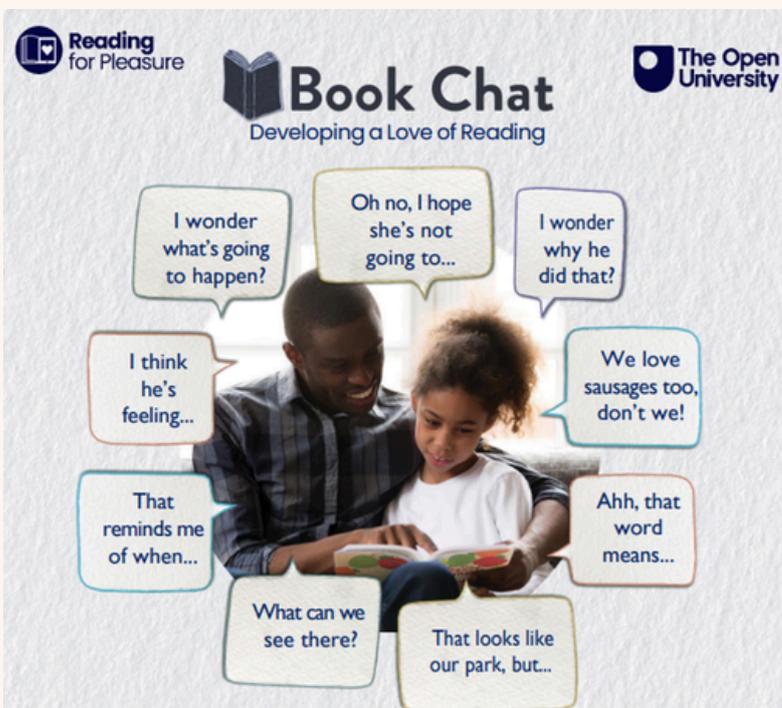
The Reading for Pleasure team recommend...



**Bold & funny**

**Relates to children's feelings**

**Perfect for pausing & chatting together**



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Proud to support  
The National Year  
of Reading 2026.

**GO  
ALL  
IN.**

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AUTHORFY.COM**

## Authorfy Books of the Month: March



Watch all of these authors introduce their books and read excerpts at [authorfy.com](https://authorfy.com): Michael Rosen, Nat Harrison, Love Ssega, Harriet Muncaster, Amelia Giudici, Elissa Elwick, Luke Palmer



# The Children's Book Award 2026



THE FEDERATION OF CHILDREN'S  
BOOK GROUPS

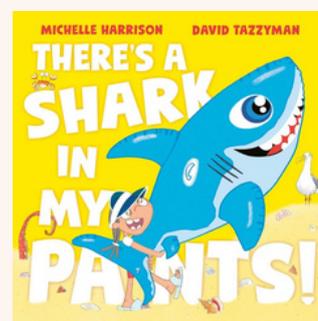
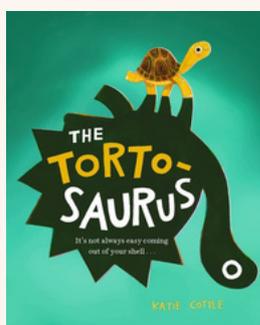


Children's  
Book Award

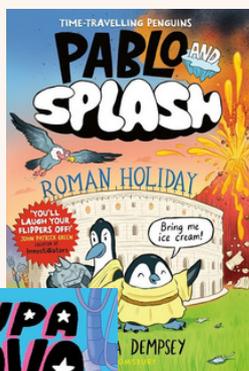
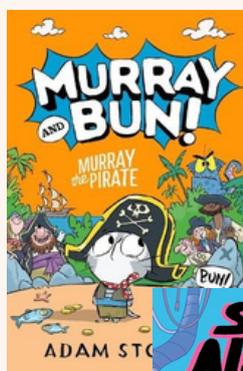
The Federation of Children's Book Groups  
Registered Charity 268289

The 2026 shortlist for the Children's Book Award was announced on 2nd March. Run by the Federation of Children's Book Groups, this award is the only national award voted for entirely by children. Votes from around 500 books submitted by publishers each year are counted up and the most popular make up the Top Ten. This year's titles are:

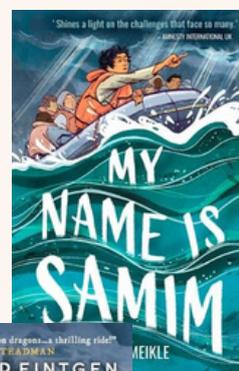
## Books for Younger Children



## Books for Younger Readers



## Books for Older Readers



**CAST  
YOUR  
VOTE!**

Any child can vote at the shortlist stage. You need to read all the books in any of the categories and then rank them in order of your favourites. Online voting opens on Monday 23rd March and the form can be found at <https://fcbg.org.uk/childrens-book-award-2026> where you will also find resources to make more of the books and background information about the award.

# BOOKDROP!

In partnership with the UK's publishing industry...



Change your story

