

# 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

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## 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](http://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](http://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

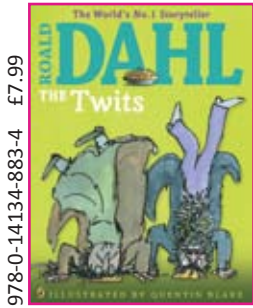
- Choose a good time of day and a comfy place.
- Make reading part of your routine every day.
- Bring the story to life with different voices for the characters.



# Books for 5–8s

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

## Rollicking rib-tickers: funny books to read aloud and share



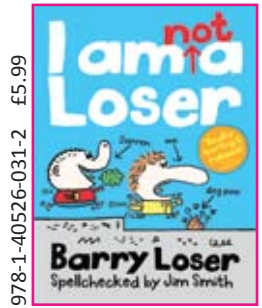
978-0-14134-883-4 £7.99

**ROALD DAHL**  
The Twits



978-1-40527-492-0 £6.99

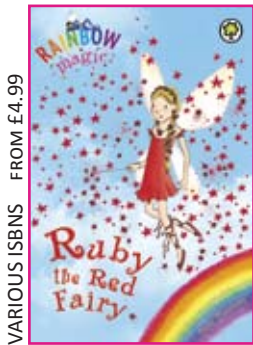
**ANDY STANTON**  
You're a Bad Man,  
Mr Gum!



978-1-40526-031-2 £5.99

**JIM SMITH**  
I am Not a Loser  
(Barry Loser)

## Super series to start building solo reading stamina



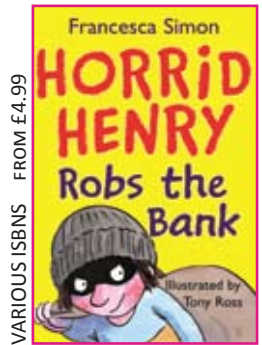
VARIOUS ISBNS FROM £4.99

**DAISY MEADOWS**  
Ruby the Red Fairy



VARIOUS ISBNS FROM £5.99

**JILL MURPHY**  
The Worst Witch

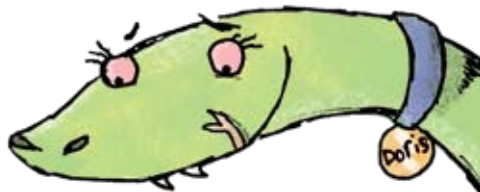


VARIOUS ISBNS FROM £4.99

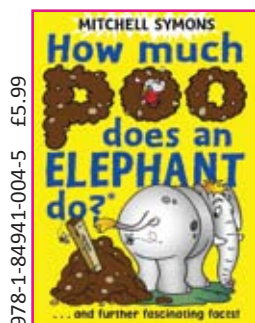
**FRANCESCA SIMON**  
Horrid Henry

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

Michael Morpurgo



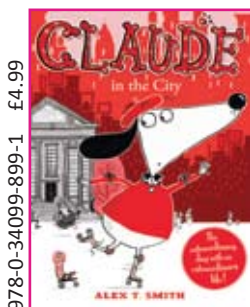
## Animal antics: bedtime stories, facts and fun



978-1-84941-004-5 £5.99

**MITCHELL SYMONS**

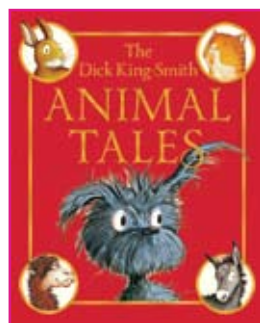
How Much Poo Does an Elephant Do?



978-0-34099-899-1 £4.99

**ALEX T. SMITH**

Claude in the City

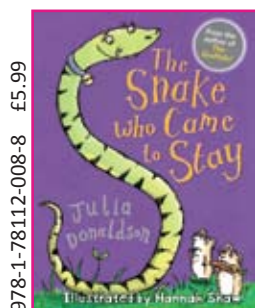


978-0-55256-538-7 £6.99

**DICK KING-SMITH**

Animal Tales

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



978-1-78112-008-8 £5.99

**JULIA DONALDSON**

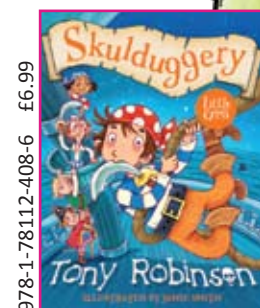
The Snake Who Came to Stay



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

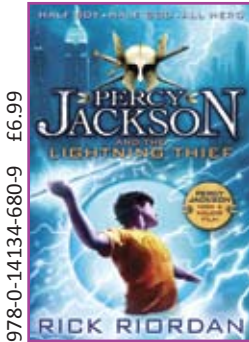
Keep reading together to help your child make the jump to reading solo

## Hopeless heroes – everyone loves an underdog



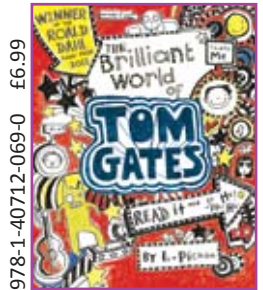
978-0-14132-490-6 £6.99

**JEFF KINNEY**  
Diary of a Wimpy Kid



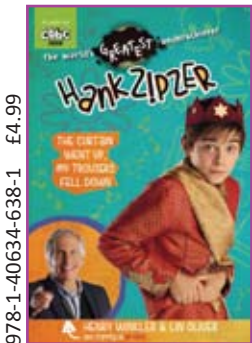
978-0-14134-680-9 £6.99

**RICK RIORDAN**  
Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief



978-1-40712-069-0 £6.99

**LIZ PICHON**  
The Brilliant World of Tom Gates



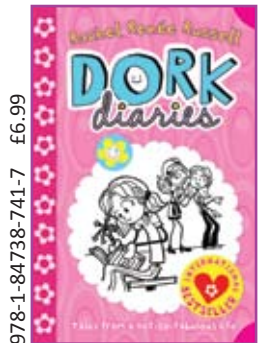
978-1-40634-638-1 £4.99

**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

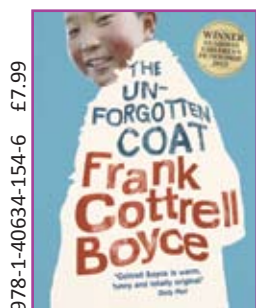


“ Don't worry about whether a book is 'meant for you' or not – try it and find out!”

Andy Stanton

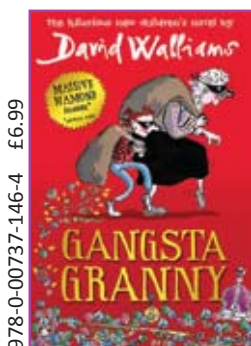


## Big authors, big ideas – and brilliant pictures too



978-1-40634-154-6 £7.99

**FRANK COTTRELL-BOYCE**  
The Unforgotten Coat



978-0-00737-146-4 £6.99

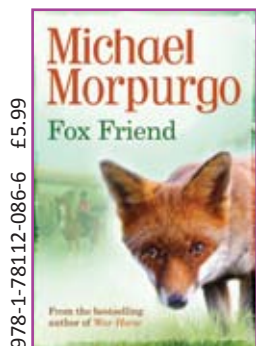
**DAVID WALLIAMS**  
Gangsta Granny



978-0-23075-980-0 £9.99

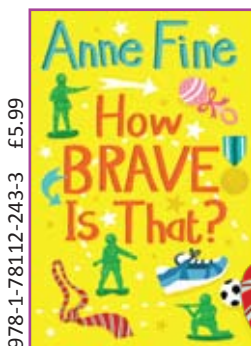
**CHRIS RIDDELL**  
Goth Girl and the Ghost of a Mouse

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



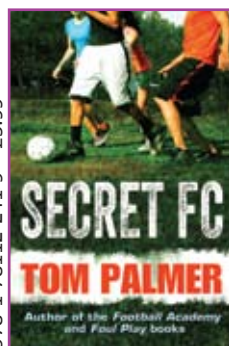
978-1-78112-086-6 £5.99

**MICHAEL MORPURGO**  
Fox Friend



978-1-78112-243-3 £5.99

**ANNE FINE**  
How Brave Is That?



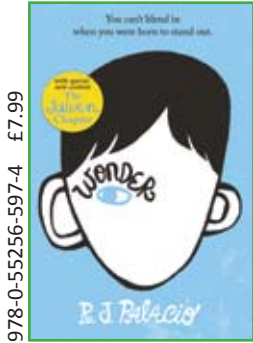
978-1-78112-241-9 £5.99

**TOM PALMER**  
Secret FC

# Books for Teens

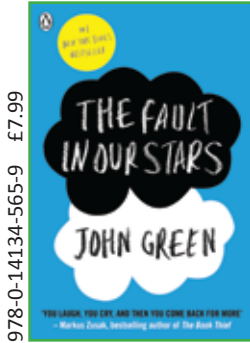
There's never been a better time for teen and young adult fiction

## Tearjerkers – because everyone loves a good cry



978-0-55256-597-4 £7.99

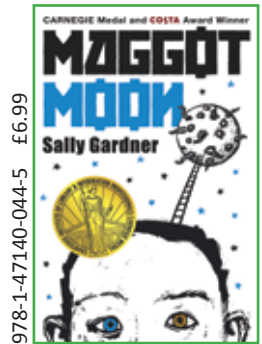
**R. J. PALACIO**  
Wonder



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

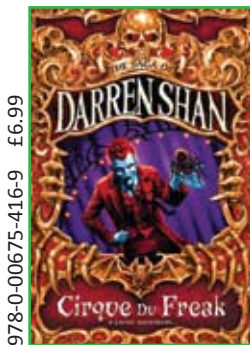
**SALLY GARDNER**  
Maggot Moon

## Horror and dystopia: brainy thrill rides



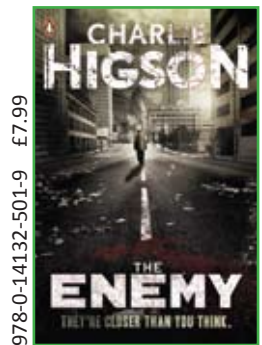
978-0-55255-570-8 £7.99

**MALORIE BLACKMAN**  
Noughts & Crosses



978-0-00675-416-9 £6.99

**DARREN SHAN**  
Cirque Du Freak



978-0-14132-501-9 £7.99

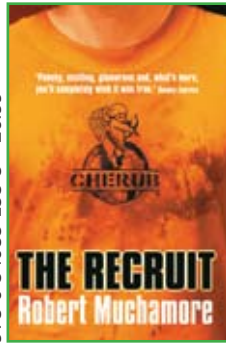
**CHARLIE HIGSON**  
The Enemy

## 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



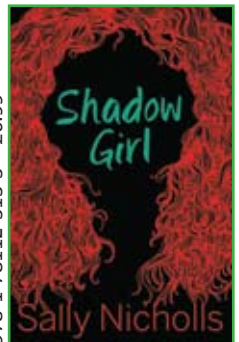
978-1-78112-208-2 £6.99

**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

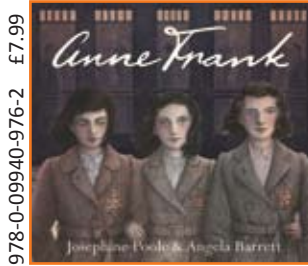
# Books for all

Non-fiction books to satisfy a hunger for knowledge



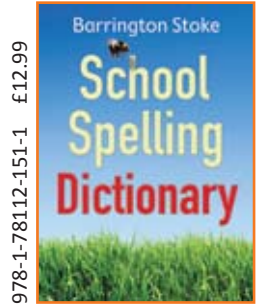
978-1-44401-257-6 £4.99

**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](http://www.dyslexiaaction.org.uk)

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