



# New children's books we love

## October

Every month, BookTrust review dozens of new books for children and teenagers. Here are the ones they liked best in October: guaranteed to get your child reading...

These are just a few of their suggestions. For the full list have a look at their website

<https://www.booktrust.org.uk/books-and-reading/our-recommendations/best-new-books/>

### For ages 0-3 and up



#### What a Day: A mindful moment for bedtime

**Author:** Emma Ballantine & Mark Strepan

**Illustrator:** Harriet Hobday

Journey through the day to bedtime in this lovely, simple book, which reminds little ones that their adults love to spend time with them, and that they are always safe and loved. With useful sleep guidance at the end, too.



#### Gina Kaminski Saves the Wolf

**Author:** Craig Barr Green **Illustrator:** Francis Martin

Retelling of Little Red Riding Hood with a neurodivergent protagonist.



#### Geoffrey Gets the Jitters

**Author:** Nadia Shireen

Geoffrey's jitters are out of control! How can he get rid of them? Told with humour and great empathy, this picture book from the author-illustrator of *Barbara Throws a Wobbler* is both funny and helpful.

### For ages 4-5 and up



#### The Oak Tree

**Author:** Julia Donaldson **Illustrator:** Victoria Sandøy

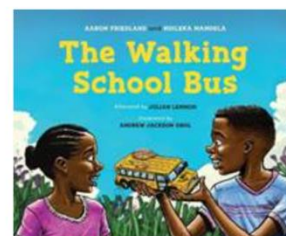
This is the story of an oak tree, told in Julia Donaldson's trademark rich rhyme, with beautiful illustrations showcasing the diversity of life in and around the tree.



#### The Slug and the Snail

**Author:** Oein DeBhairduin **Illustrator:** Olya Anima

A story rooted in the oral tradition of the Irish Traveller community, this lyrical picture book tells the story of two slug brothers and their journey together exploring their identities.

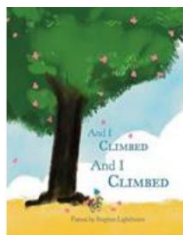


#### The Walking School Bus

**Author:** Aaron Friedland and Ndileka Mandela with an afterword by Julian Lennon  
**Illustrator:** Andrew Jackson Obol

How can Shaka and Nandi walk to school safely? Their ingenuity and hardy spirits will find a way. This gorgeous picture book will spark conversations about other countries and resilience.

## For ages 6-8 and up



### And I Climbed and I Climbed

**Author:** Stephen Lightbown **Illustrator:** Shih-Yu Lin

Eight-year-old Cosmo fell from a tree and is now disabled. He talks to the tree in free-verse poems that are punchy and accessible, honest and thought-provoking. An important and beautifully affecting book.



### Kicked Out

**Author:** A. M. Dassu

Best mates Ali, Sami and Mark organise a fundraising football event to help pay their friend's legal fees when his asylum claim is rejected and he faces deportation to Syria. A powerful and thought-provoking read, with hope and friendship at its heart.



### Suitcase S(witch)

**Author:** Aisha Bushby **Illustrator:** Coralie Muce

When Zahra accidentally swaps suitcases with a witch, she experiences a weekend of magical surprises, helping her to overcome her fears and form new friendships. A humorous, dyslexia-friendly chapter book, with delightful black-and-white illustrations.

## For ages 9-11 and up



### Crossing the Stream

**Author:** Elizabeth-Irene Baitie

An engaging mystery with real heart, set in contemporary Ghana, with themes of grief, superstitions and distinguishing truth from lies.



### Dreamweavers: Night of the Scary Fairies

**Author:** Annabelle Sami **Illustrator:** Forrest Burdett

*Dreamweavers: Night of the Scary Fairies* will take you on the rip-roaring journey of a lifetime! Each night under the cover of darkness Tito and his awe-inspiring new companion embark on a series of adventures, each one more thrilling than the last.



### Impossible Creatures

**Author:** Katherine Rundell **Illustrator:** Tomislav Tomić

Katherine Rundell has created an incredibly real-feeling magical world and story to rival classics like Narnia, with writing that sweeps you up and main characters who are simultaneously humanly flawed yet inherently pure and good.