

Windows and Mirrors – see and be seen

A booklist of suggested diverse and inclusive books for children aged 4 to 7.

All children see themselves in stories. All children are seen.

Books listed in alphabetical order by title.

BOOK NUMBER	TITLE	AUTHOR/ILLUSTRATOR	PUBLISHER	SUMMARY
1.	<i>A Child's Garden – a story of hope</i> New to list November '23	Michael Foreman	Walker Books	A little boy lives in a village torn apart by war. He can no longer reach the hills; they are blocked by barbed wire. He finds a little plant that he nurtures. A message of optimism in a world that can seem hopeless. Connection and nature will rise again.
2.	<i>Amy Wu and the Patchwork Dragon</i>	Kat Zhang	Simon & Schuster	The class are making dragons. Sadly, none of the ones Amy makes feel right. At home, Amy and her family find a dragon costume in the attic. Teamwork, glue and lots of glitter and... ta da! She has a dragon to proudly show her classmates.
3.	<i>Amy Wu and the Perfect Bao</i>	Kat Zhang	Simon & Schuster	Amy loves to eat bao – yummy Chinese dumplings – but she's not great at making them. Her mum, dad and grandma all try to teach her. Learning to make a bao is not easy! Cooking as a family, sharing food and... patience feature in this story.
4.	<i>And Tango Makes Three</i>	Justin Richardson and Peter Parnell	Simon & Schuster	Roy and Silo are a penguin couple who are both boys. They swim together, walk together and sing together. One day they begin to take care of an egg in their nest and soon have a baby penguin as part of their family. What do you need to make a family? Love.

5.	<i>Astro Girl</i>	Ken Wilson-Max	Otter-Barry	Astrid loves the stars and space. While her mama is away, she finds out all sorts of facts with her papa about being an astronaut. When she gets to pick her mama up, there is a surprise. What will it be and why has mama been away?
6.	<i>Billy and the Dragon</i>	Nadia Shireen	Penguin	Billy and her animal friends are enjoying a party when a dragon swoops down and grabs Fatcat. How will Billy save him? Fortunately, Billy has a great brain and a plan! And maybe the dragon isn't such a baddy after all! A story with a twist.
7.	<i>Chapati Moon</i>	Pippa Goodhart and Lizzie Finlay	Penguin	Mrs Kapoor has just cooked a feast when her freshly baked chapati rolls out the door. There's a lively chase by people and animals as it bumps, jumps and spins. Where will it end up and will anyone get to eat it? A lovely retelling of the runaway pancake tale.
8.	<i>Clean Up!</i>	Nathan Bryon and Dapo Adeola	Penguin	Rocket visits her grandparents and decides to find a way to clean up the plastic spoiling the beauty of the beach. 'It feels as though there is more plastic than sand!' When Rocket decides to do something, she does so... with va-va-voom!
9.	<i>Eco Girl</i>	Ken Wilson-Max	Otter-Barry Books	Eve loves trees. In fact, she wishes she could talk to them. On a visit to Grandma for her birthday, she gets a magical surprise. A little Baobab tree of her own, just like generations of her family have. Happy Birthday Eco Girl!
10.	<i>Extra Yarn</i>	Mac Barnett	Walker Books	A girl finds a box filled with 'yarn of every colour.' She knits a jumper for her dog, her friends, for buildings and trees. The yarn never runs out. A mean person steals the box. Will the magic work for him too? A modern fairy tale about kindness... and baddies!

11.	<i>Eyes that Kiss in the Corners</i>	Joanna Ho	HarperCollins	A young girl notices her eyes look different from her friends. Her eyes 'kiss in the corners and glow like warm tea' like her mama's, her amah's and her baby sister's. They connect her to her family, to her history. A book to help children recognise their own beauty.
12.	<i>Faruq and the Wiri Wiri</i>	Sophia Payne	Templar Books	Faruq's granny loves to cook. He wants to be a chef when he grows up, not a doctor like his dad. 'Why can't boys learn to cook?' he wonders. One day, he prepares a fabulous feast for his family with the wiri wiri pepper. What could be more joyful? For everyone! A true celebration!
13.	<i>Finn's Little Fibs</i>	Tom Percival	Bloomsbury	Finn loves visiting his beloved grandmother more than anything. One day, he finds himself telling her a little fib. The fib grows; he feels sad and his tummy feels strange. In fact, he feels awful. He takes a big step and tells her the truth. And guess what? He feels so much lighter. A book about honesty.
14.	<i>Forever Star</i>	Gareth Peter and Judi Abbot	Puffin	Tim and Tim, the space heroes, would like to be dads and decide to adopt a child who needs a new start. They travel through space and find... Little Jim. 'I think that's our boy! Our very own starlight, our very own joy.' Their very own forever family.
15.	<i>Full, Full, Full of Love</i>	Trish Cooke and Paul Howard	Walker Books	Jay Jay is at his gran's house and asks again and again 'Is dinner ready, Gran?' Her house is full of warmth, love, affection and... food! 'Buttery peas, chicken and yams, macaroni and cheese, potatoes and ham.' A perfect book for children in Nursery and Reception.
16.	<i>Grandad's Camper</i>	Harry Woodgate	Andersen Press	Grandad and Gramps travelled the world in their camper van but sadly Gramps isn't around

				anymore. The child in this story listens as Grandad remembers their joyful trips. Will Grandad take one more trip to the beach? Stunning illustrations and a powerful story of love and loss.
17.	<i>Hello! A Counting Book of Kindness</i>	Hollis Kurman	Otter-Barry Books	Families running away from war, floods or scary places need a safe place to live. This counting book beautifully illustrates hope, action and the importance of kind gestures. From beds 'to keep us safe and warm' to 'sharing new stories and words'.
18.	<i>I am Nefertiti</i>	Annemarie Anang	Five Quills	Nefertiti's grandma chose her name and she is proud of it. When Nefertiti plays drums with a band, her new music teacher shortens her name to "Nef." Nefertiti feels her body shrink. Will she be able to play the drums when she feels this way? Our names matter.
19.	<i>I Talk Like a River</i>	Jordan Scott	Walker Books	When the boy in this story starts to speak, the words get stuck. On bad speech days, he stays 'quiet as a stone.' His dad helps him see how his voice bubbles and churns like a beautiful river. A book to help children understand stammering.
20.	<i>If all the world were...</i>	Joseph Coelho	Frances Lincoln	A stunningly illustrated book about the love between a little girl and her grandad. When he passes away, she has a 'kaleidoscope of memories' that she writes and draws. A book to explore families, love and loss.
21.	<i>If I Were the World</i>	Mark Sperring	Natalie Quek	Three children explore what the planet is facing: harmful gases, extinction and floods. They also help us see the action we can take as a community. An uplifting, energetic book, stunningly illustrated about looking after our amazing planet.
22.	<i>It's a No-Money Day</i>	Kate Milner	Barrington Stoke	Sometimes, in this girl's house, it's a no-money day. There are still fun things to do; go to the

				library or practise your singing. Today, they are going to the food bank. This simple story explores the reality of some children's lives with dignity, positivity and gentleness.
23.	<i>Jabari Jumps</i>	Gaia Cornwall	Walker	'I'm jumping off the diving board today' says Jabari when he visits the swimming pool with his dad and sister. It's a bit high, a bit scary. 'It's OK to feel a little scared,' says his dad. Children will identify with Jabari's fear and bravery in this story.
24.	<i>Jabari Tries</i>	Gaia Cornwall	Walker	One day in the garden with his dad and sister, Jabari decides to make a flying machine. Planning and building can be frustrating. Jabari's dad encourages him to 'blow away all the mixed feelings inside.' The moment of achievement makes Jabari, his family and the reader smile!
25.	<i>Julian at the Wedding</i>	Jessica Love	Walker	Julian and Marisol are all dressed up to go to the wedding of two brides. When Marisol's dress gets dirty, Julian has an idea. Julian is very good at dressing up and the party continues with dancing and joy. A book to celebrate love in all its glory.
26.	<i>Julian is a Mermaid</i>	Jessica Love	Walker	Julian decides he wants to be a mermaid and creates an outfit for himself. How does his nana respond? Why, she takes him to visit other mermaids. 'Like you, honey' she says. 'Let's join them.' A story of love, acceptance and swishy tails that challenges gender stereotypes.
27.	<i>Little Red</i>	Bethan Woollvin	Too Hoots	Some little girls are scared of wolves but not this little girl. Little Red is brave. Little Red is clever. Little Red will not be tricked by a silly wolf. A fabulous retelling of Little Red Riding Hood, perfect for Reception and Year 1 children.

28.	<i>Look up!</i>	Nathan Byron and Dapo Adeola	Penguin	Rocket is a little girl with big ambitions; she wants to be an astronaut one day. The story is full of Rocket's fabulous facts and contagious enthusiasm. She is a girl on a mission.
29.	<i>Love Grows Everywhere</i>	Barry Timms	Frances Lincoln	Love grows on the street...and reaches out to those we meet. A neighbour from across the way. A friend from school who'd like to play.' A book that pays homage to the fact that love makes a brighter world. Wonderful illustrations to reflect all children's lives.
30.	<i>Mama's Sleeping Scarf</i> New to list November '23	Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie and Joelle Avelino	Harper Collins	While she's at work, mama lets Chino play with her special scarf. All day, Chino plays, runs and eats with it. The scarf connects her to mama, papa, her grandparents. It wraps them in love until they all come together for a family dinner. The delight of everyday things!
31.	<i>Max the Tag-along Moon</i>	Tom Percival	Bloomsbury	Max loves his granpa. When he leaves his house one night, granpa reminds him that the moon will follow Max home. Once in his dark bedroom, Max misses granpa and the moon. But as granpa says, 'That ol' moon will always shine for me... on and on!' And it does. A reassuring story of family love.
32.	<i>Meesha Makes Friends</i>	Tom Percival	Bloomsbury	Meesha loves making things but finds it difficult to make friends. Hiding in a quiet corner at a noisy party Meesha discovers she is not the only person who finds it tricky. A book to help children recognise their own feelings and how others might be feeling too.
33.	<i>My Beautiful Voice</i>	Joseph Coelho	Frances Lincoln	Miss Flotsam's clothes are 'a flutter of fabric filled with the spice of colour'. She loves poetry. A little girl in her class rarely speaks. Inspired and

				nurtured by Miss Flotsam, she slowly finds her voice. And when she does... it is beautiful.
34.	<i>My Bindhi</i>	Gita Varadarajan	Orchard Books	It is an important moment in Divya's life; time to wear a bindhi. She is nervous about what her school friends might say and is 'all mixed up.' Is she scared or is she proud? She bravely stands up in class and explains, 'it can see inside me and protect me. It makes me feel like ME.'
35.	<i>My Dad is a Grizzly Bear</i>	Swapna Haddow	Macmillan	This dad is a grizzly bear with fur that scratches and scritchies and a very loud roar. Sometimes he laughs and teases. Sometimes he's grumpy and sleepy. But he always gives the very best hugs. A fun, lively story for Nursery and Reception.
36.	<i>My Monster and Me</i>	Nadiya Hussain	Hodder	This little boy has a worry monster. 'It was always BIG. When it stood in front of me, I could see nothing but its tummy.' Talking to gran one day, helps the monster get smaller. A book to help children make friends with their monsters.
37.	<i>My Must Have Mum</i>	Maudie Smith and Jen Khatun	Lantana Publishing	Jake's mum can 'make something new out of any old thing.' Their flat is full of things she has tinkered with, mixed or mended. Jake worries she might want to change him too. A heart-warming bond between a mum and her son with an 'upcycling' theme.
38.	<i>My Name is Not Refugee</i>	Kate Milner	Barrington Stoke	What is it like to leave your home, your town and your community? To hear words you don't understand, to taste new food? The child in this story reminds us; 'You'll be called Refugee but remember Refugee is not your name.'
39.	<i>My Nana's Garden</i>	Dawn Casey and Jessica Courtney Tickle	Templar Books	A child explores her nana's garden with her through the seasons. When nana passes

				away, the little girl and her mum sing nana's songs, remember her words and plant her seeds. In time, the garden is once again 'blooming with life.'
40.	<i>My Two Grannies</i>	Floella Benjamin and Margaret Chamberlain	Frances Lincoln	Alvina's two grannies like different things. One likes rice and peas, the other likes steak and kidney pie. When both look after her, they squabble. Alvina suggests they take turns doing the things they like. Will they get along better? A tale of respect and friendship.
41.	<i>Never Show a T-Rex a Book</i>	Rashmi Sirdeshpande and Diana Ewen	Penguin	A little girl starts to imagine what would happen if she read to a T-Rex; the dinosaur might 'get all excited and want to read even MORE.' A fun celebration of the magic of stories and what might, just might happen to a T-Rex (or you) if you carry on reading and reading!
42.	<i>Our Tower</i>	Joseph Coelho and Richard Johnson	Frances Lincoln	Despite the grey, concrete tower the children live in, there is 'a power that resides in the smiles of our neighbours. A magic that seeps out when we swap our home-baked flavours.' A moving and important story to share with children in Key Stage 1 and 2.
43.	<i>Out of the Blue</i>	Robert Tregoning	Bloomsbury	The child in this story feels sad and alone. Everything in the world is the colour blue; including the grass and he loves... yellow. Is it okay to love yellow? Will his dad still love him? 'Life is like a rainbow – we all love different things.' A story to celebrate individuality and diversity.
44.	<i>Princesses Break Free</i>	Timothy Knapman	Walker Books	Princess Tilly is no ordinary princess. She doesn't wait to be rescued and inspires other princesses to do the same. 'For the first time, princesses everywhere were doing exactly what they'd always WANTED to do!' Soon princes, witches and

				fairy godmothers join in the revolution!
45.	<i>Proudest Blue</i>	Ibtihaj Muhammad and S.K. Ali et al	Andersen Press	A younger sister is worried for her older sister on the first day she wears hijab. But she needn't be. Written by the first Muslim American woman to compete for the United States in the Olympics – an empowering, beautiful book.
46.	<i>Ravi's Roar</i>	Tom Percival	Bloomsbury	Like all children, Ravi sometimes feels cross. One day he becomes so furious, he turns into a tiger and ROARS. At first, it feels good. But soon nobody wants to play. A book to help children learn to understand anger – even if they do sometimes still need 'a bit of a growl!'
47.	<i>Ruby's Worry</i>	Tom Percival	Bloomsbury	Ruby has a Worry that stops her doing the things she loves. When Ruby finds a friend and shares her Worry, she feels like herself again. This story helps children name the feeling of 'worry' and understand that other people have worries too. The message? Talking helps.
48.	<i>Saving Mr Hoot</i>	Helen Stephens	Alison Green Books	Mr Hoot, the owl, lives in a tree by Ben's house. Nobody believes that an owl lives there and grown-ups want to chop the tree down. Will Ben manage to stop the tree falling and why is it important to save our trees? A charming book for Reception about nature, family and community.
49.	<i>Small's Big Dream</i>	Manjeet Mann	HarperCollins	Small is... well, small. Her shoes, her bed, her everything. But her dreams are big! She dreams of 'scaling the largest mountain, sailing across the oceans, shooting off into space'. Despite people telling her to keep her head down, she reaches for the sky. Dream big and anything can happen.

50.	<i>So Much</i>	Trish Cooke and Helen Oxenbury	Walker	Everyone who visits, loves the baby. They want to squeeze him, love him, kiss him. The big boy cousins want to wrestle him and laugh with him. A book full of the hustle, bustle and joy of family life with words children can't fail to join in with!
51.	<i>Speak Up!</i>	Nathan Bryon	Puffin	Rocket loves going to the library. When she finds out it will close, she decides to speak up. This little girl has a lot to say. She rallies her friends to have a peaceful protest – 'like Rosa Parks did!' A story full of energy, the power of using our voices and the importance of... books.
52.	<i>Sunny and the Birds</i> New to list November '23	Wendy Meddour and Nabila Adani	Oxford University Press	Sunny and his dad have moved to a new country. They miss their old home; particularly the birds. Sometimes they are sad, sometimes they can't sleep. Sunny has an idea. Soon their new garden is full of the things they have missed.
53.	<i>Super Duper You</i>	Sophie Henn	Puffin	A little sister is sometimes silly, sometimes very quiet; sometimes twinkly, sometimes 'fighty'. Her big brother notices and likes all the things she is. A vibrant story about sibling love and a celebration of children's full selves.
54.	<i>Thank you Omu!</i>	Oge Mora	Little, Brown and Company	Omu makes a big pot of thick red stew. Knock, knock! One by one, friends and neighbours follow their noses and Omu shares her dinner. A joyful story of food and community with award-winning illustrations.
55.	<i>That's Not a Daffodil</i>	Elizabeth Honey	Quarto	Mr Yilmaz, a kindly neighbour, brings Tom a daffodil. 'That's not a daffodil' declares Tom when he sees the brown bulb. Together, they water it and protect it from life's knocks and bumps. Both friendship and a beautiful yellow flower blossom.

56.	<i>The Bookworm</i>	Debi Glori	Bloomsbury	Max is determined to have a pet. He chooses, not a kitten, a puppy or a goldfish but a ... worm. He sings it songs, strokes its back and reads it stories. It's a real bookworm! Soon however, his worm begins to grow spikes and breathe fire. Is this the best pet for him?
57.	<i>The Boys</i>	Lauren Ace	Caterpillar Books	Four boys; one makes art, one makes music, one tells stories and one likes to understand how things work. As they grow up and difficulties arise, the friends realise 'the best way to face problems is to talk and listen.' A book to celebrate the value of friendship.
58.	<i>The Boy with Flowers in His Hair</i> New to list November '23	Jarvis	Walker Books	Everybody likes David, the boy with flowers in his hair. He's sweet and gentle. When his petals begin to fall out, his best friend acts with kindness and creativity to help. Beautiful illustrations and perfect to explore inclusivity for Reception and Year 1.
59.	<i>The Can Caravan</i>	Richard O'Neill	Child's Play	Mrs Tolen has a broken hip and worries she will have to move from her caravan into a house. Her young friends decide to help. With hard work and a visit to the recycling plant, her home is safe for her. A story celebrating the traditional Traveller values of community and recycling.
60.	<i>The Comet</i>	Joe Todd-Stanton	Flying Eye Books	Nyla's dad gets a new job and they move from the country to the town. She is used to her dad cooking dinners, reading stories; she is used to seeing the sky. Change is hard but seeing a comet reminds Nyla of what she loves. Can Nyla and her dad make their new house a home?
61.	<i>The Drama Llama</i>	Rachel Morrisroe	Puffin Books	When Alex worries or has a drama, a llama appears and

				causes mayhem. Alex can't get rid of it. We learn that 'when a fear or worry starts to leave you feeling stressed, find someone to talk to because talking is the BEST.' A book with fabulous rhymes and funny illustrations.
62.	<i>The Extraordinary Gardener</i>	Sam Boughton	Tate	Jo lives in a grey world and has a wondrous imagination. One day, he decides to plant a tiny seed. The seed turns into a plant and he decides to grow all sort of other things, in all sorts of new places. Jo turns the ordinary... extraordinary.
63.	<i>The Girls</i>	Lauren Ace and Jenny Lovlie	Caterpillar Books	Four little girls are best friends and 'as different as they are the same'. One is an adventurer, one has good ideas, one is practical and one makes everyone laugh. They stay rooted together as they grow, just like the tree they used to play beneath. A book for children in Year 1 and above.
64.	<i>The Invisible</i>	Tom Percival	Simon & Schuster	When Isabel's family don't have enough money to pay the bills, they move to the other side of the city. In this new part of town, she feels invisible. Isabel begins to build a community. 'The more people came together... the more they could all be seen.' A book about hope and belonging.
65.	<i>The Kindest Red</i>	Ibtihaj Muhammad, S.K. Ali and Hatem Aly	Andersen Press	The children at Faizah's school spend the day deciding the sort of world they would like. Faizah chooses kindness and spends the day being kind to friends. At the end of the day, her friend Sophie shares something precious with her. Kindness can come back to you.
66.	<i>The Many Colours of Harpreet Singh</i>	Supriya Kelar	Union Square Kids	Harpeet loves to wear colourful patkas (turbans); yellow when he feels sunny and red for courage. When he moves schools, he feels shy and wears his white patka. What might

				make him feel colourful again? Making a friend, of course.
67.	<i>The Missing Piece</i>	Jordan Stephens	Bloomsbury	Granny gives Sunny a puzzle to complete. A piece is missing so she sets off to see if neighbours have it. Along the way she gains a window into their homes, gardens and stories and meets new friends. Find stunning, colourful illustrations in this story of community.
68.	<i>The New Small Person</i>	Lauren Child	Penguin	When a new brother arrives, Elmore Green is not pleased. And, even worse, 'one awful day the small person moved its bed into Elmore Green's room'. One night the two brothers connect over 'making long lines of things' and... jelly beans! Many children will relate to this funny story.
69.	<i>The Pirate Mums</i>	Jodie Lancet-Grant	Oxford University Press	Billy's two mums like sea shanties, dancing jigs and anything to do with the sea. Billy wishes they could be like normal families. One day however, on a school boat trip, his mums save the day and Billy couldn't be prouder of his pirate mums.
70.	<i>The Pirate Tree</i>	Brigita Orel and Jenny Poh	Lantana	Sam loves to play pirate ships on an old, gnarled tree. One day another sailor arrives, a little boy new to the street. 'No one wants to play with him because he's a newcomer.' Will Sam and Agu play on the ship together? A book to celebrate the value of friendship.
71.	<i>The Smile</i>	Marie Voigt	Oxford University Press	A book that explores the gift a smile can be. 'And if you put a smile on just one face...before long there will be too many to count.' Fabulous illustrations that beautifully show everyday situations where smiling makes a difference.
72.	<i>The Tale of the Whale</i>	Karen Swann	Scallywag Press	A whale invites a child to join her in the ocean. They experience things that are funny, beautiful, astonishing. Sadly, they also visit

				'a plastic soup sea.' This story shows us the joy of the natural world and how important it is to act to keep it that way. Poetic, accessible, stunningly illustrated.
73.	<i>The Wall and the Wild</i>	Christina Dendy	Lantana	Ana likes her garden tidy and neat. She plants perfect seeds and throws uneven ones over a wall; 'YOU stay out THERE.' Soon she realises that the wilderness is beautiful too. A tale of the beauty of diverse ecosystems; including our human one.
74.	<i>The Word Collector</i>	Peter H Reynolds	Scholastic	People collect all sorts of things: stamps, coins, comic books. Jerome collects words. Short and sweet words and two-syllable treat words. The more words he knows, the more he shares his thoughts and feelings. A book to help talk about the fun, the beauty, the power of words.
75.	<i>Tibble and Grandpa</i>	Wendy Meddour	Oxford University Press	Grandpa is quiet lately and always gardening so Tibble tries playing his favourite game – Top Threes. Finally, Tibble asks, 'What were Granny's Top Three Stars?' The sorrow and love of family life are explored in this gentle, moving book.
76.	<i>Town is by the Sea</i> New to list November '23	Joanne Schwartz and Sydney Smith	Walker Books	A little boy lives in a seaside mining town. His father works 'deep down under that sea, digging for coal'. As he works, the boy explores the town, nature, home. A window into the lives of an important community historically.
77.	<i>Two Places to Call Home</i>	Phil Earle	Ladybird	When Florrie's mum and dad separate, she lives in two different houses. She finds it hard. Mum and dad both help her feel brave. And when dad is finding it hard too, Florrie knows what to do. In the end, Florrie loves both her homes. There are lots of ways of being a family.

78.	<i>We're Going to Find the Monster</i>	Malorie Blackman and Dapo Adeola	Puffin	Eddie and Charlie set off over the ocean, up a mountain and through a jungle to find the monster. And all before breakfast! Who is the monster exactly? A fabulous story for children in Reception to join in with.
79.	<i>We Want Our Books</i>	Jake Alexander	Two Hoots Books	When the library closes, Rosa and her sister decide to put on a protest. At first, nobody notices them, nobody listens. But eventually, crowds of book lovers join them and the precious library is saved. A book about the power of using our voices, the power of... community.
80.	<i>You're So Amazing!</i>	James and Lucy Catchpole	Faber	Amazing Joe! Poor Joe! Joe would rather just be... Joe. Is he amazing because he can queue for an ice cream or go down a slide? 'People need to relax' says his friend Simone. An important book: disabled children have their own normal stories.

Please let us know of titles you would like us to include on this list – diversity@ruthmiskin.com