

Success in your School Library

By Valerie Coghlan

The School Library

School libraries have long been the Cinderella of the education system: dusty, dismal and unappreciated (that is when they exist in a school at all). At least, this is often the perception of

them. In the last few years, however, various national initiatives, including changes in the curriculum, have resulted in libraries in schools at last being recognised as a prime means of encouraging young people to read.

Unfortunately, for many schools and teachers no fairy godmother has arrived to transform unprepossessing library areas into vibrant centres for research and leisure reading, nor have empty shelves, or shelves laden with aged tomes, been magically filled with lively, attractive books which compel young readers to open them. This is unlikely to happen until provision for libraries, along with the proper resources (financial and expertise) to run them, is mandatory for all schools.

In the meantime, there are good libraries in many schools – often set up and run against great odds – which offer examples of how libraries are central to developing language and research skills and fostering a love of reading in students of all ages. There are also excellent public libraries throughout the country, many of which offer helpful facilities to schools and can supplement the work of the school librarian or teacher.

Help for Librarians

The following pages offer suggestions for getting a school library up and running, improving existing libraries and encouraging young people to use their libraries regularly and discover the joys of reading. Many of these ideas are well-tried and tested, others are more recent innovations. In particular, I have placed emphasis on using information technology (IT) to encourage reading: it is important for students to realise that books and computers can complement each other.



Variety within the range of resources provided is essential in any library. It is particularly important, in a rapidly changing Ireland, to stock books which reflect the circumstances of people from different parts of the world, and which describe people with beliefs and ways of life that might be unfamiliar to Irish children. It is also essential that the choice of books and materials takes into account students' differing physical and intellectual abilities.

Book Lists

The lists of books given here were selected with a view to providing a basic collection of books for a school or classroom library. Some are new titles, others are more familiar and have been enjoyed by many young readers. This collection reflects the diversity of books published for young people in Ireland and the many different aspects of Irish life, and of life elsewhere, explored in fact and fiction for children.

The 'Core Reading' titles would usefully form the basis of a new collection or add to an existing one, while the 'Recommended' titles are further worthwhile additions, for consideration either now or at a later

date. In annotating the 'Core Reading' lists, I have been mindful of how books may be integrated into the curriculum at both primary and post-primary levels. However, I am even more mindful of the capacity of books to enrich lives through sheer enjoyment, and every title selected here is a good read in its own right. For further guidance on age range and content the O'Brien Press catalogue should be consulted (e-mail books@obrien.ie for a free copy).

Of course, a collection of this kind is only a beginning. There are many other fine publications available from other publishers and some of these should also be part of any school library collection.

The bibliography of guides and reference works on page 5 will direct you towards additional suggestions for improving your library and enticing your students to read. In particular, *Library File* (sent by the Department of Education and Science to all schools) will help with many of the practical aspects of organising a school library. Children's Books Ireland's *Inis*, along with *Bookfest* and *Books for Keeps*, will help you to select new books for your library and will keep you up-to-date with the world of books for young people.

By providing information about and for school libraries, The O'Brien Press is playing an active role in encouraging reading in schools. I am pleased to assist in such an initiative because I believe that if teachers, librarians and publishers work together, we can create valuable opportunities to promote reading and books among young people.

I hope you will find this booklet useful in getting a school library up and running in your own school, or in improving an existing school or classroom library. Above all, I hope that you and your students will enjoy reading the many wonderful books available for children and young adults, including those discussed in these pages.



Valerie Coghlan

Valerie Coghlan is Librarian at the Church of Ireland College of Education, Dublin. She lectures on the MA degree course in Children's Literature taught in St Patrick's College, DCU and teaches a module on school libraries in UCD. She was awarded the 2003 Children's Books Ireland Summer School Award for outstanding services to children's books.

Valerie is a former editor of *Bookbird: an International Journal of Children's Literature* and of *Inis the Children's Books Ireland Magazine*. She has written articles and edited a number of books about children's books and school libraries, including *Irish children's Writers and Illustrators 1986-2006* with Siobhán Parkinson.

'Books should enrich lives through sheer enjoyment.'

Illustration from *Emma says Boo!* by Woody Fox, text by Anna Donovan.



Getting Started

Developing a good school library takes time, patience and not a small amount of determination. Consider the suggestions below and the ideas contained in the publications listed on page 5. Be prepared to learn more about books and authors in order to put together a library that matches your school's specific needs.

Starting Off

- Read *Library File*. Don't be alarmed by all you have to do! It takes time to build an excellent library.
- Talk to staff and students about what they want from a school library. You won't necessarily be able to, or want to provide everything requested, but it will give you a basis for starting or improving your school library.
- If you are working in a primary school, talk to your School Library Service and ask for help and advice.
- Visit a school in your area that has a good working library. For primary schools, the Schools Library Service will be able to give advice about this. For post-primary schools the local public library or the teachers' unions may be of assistance.
- Check if there are any courses which would provide you with the skills and information you need. Primary teachers may find there are summer courses on offer. Post-primary librarians/teachers can attend the one-day courses in School Library Organisation which are run by ASTI. The School Library Association (SLARI) also holds events, such as conferences and seminars, which are very useful. At these you can meet and share information with others who are developing a school library.
- Join SLARI and get advice from experienced teachers/librarians.
- Draw up a Development Plan for the library. *Library File* will help you to do this. Remember that it is very important to involve other staff and students in drawing up the plan.
- Primary schools might like to choose a theme for the library and furnish and equip it accordingly, eg, the jungle, outer space, a wizard school's library.

- Consider asking your students to design a website for the school library and make sure the library is featured on the school website.
- You may also need to initiate and be involved in fundraising schemes to ensure the success of your school library.

Encouraging Reading

- Involve students and teachers in selecting books and other resources for the library. Provide them with access to the selection resources listed on page 5.
- Encourage reluctant readers to look at the websites listed on page 5 and to choose recommended books for the library. Most publishers have websites promoting their books and these are also worth a look.
- Attend conferences, seminars and talks run by the organisations listed on page 5. Such events will help to increase your knowledge of books.
- Make the library an integral part of the school: put up notices about what's new in the library and signs and arrows directing/inviting people to the library; send reviews and catalogues to staff and students.
- Ask students to download bookplates from www.myhomelibrary.org and encourage them to design their own bookplates for use in the library.

Make an Event of it!

- Invite authors, illustrators and storytellers to the school library, but make sure you and the students are well prepared beforehand. Ask other schools and libraries for advice on pre- and post-visit projects. The excellent Writers-in-Schools scheme will provide you with invaluable support; contact details are provided on page 5.

- Many authors and illustrators, both Irish and international, have their own websites – ask the students to make a list of these. Then they can compile information files about the authors and illustrators whose work they enjoy.
- If authors/illustrators do not have a personal website they may have a dedicated page on their publisher's site which you can check out. *Inis* and *Books for Keeps* carry regular articles about authors and author profiles, which provide a great deal of information about favourite writers. Many publishers also have free activity sheets and other classroom resources which can be downloaded from their websites, eg, see www.obrien.ie/schools. Publishers are usually glad to supply posters, bookmarks and other promotional material to schools.
- If you are in an area that has a good bookshop, it is well worth establishing contact with it. You should get a discount on library purchases and local booksellers can be very helpful with sponsorship, or prizes for library or book-related events. They will also know when visiting authors are in an area and there may be opportunities for your students to attend readings and other author events in the shop.
- Hold library events and mount displays relevant to topical local, national and international issues and events.
- Make the library an enjoyable and friendly place to visit for teachers and students alike. This doesn't mean it isn't also full of useful information and great books! The surroundings should be comfortable and welcoming and, ideally, there should be separate areas for relaxed reading and study/research.

Reading, Reflecting, Reviewing

One of the best ways to encourage reading enjoyment is to provide young readers with the ability and confidence to discuss a book critically, either verbally or on paper. On the other hand, children may be discouraged from reading if told they must write a review of a book as soon as they have read it. This is especially true of children who may have struggled to finish a book.

Before asking students to commit their views about a book to paper, give them:

- A. the tools to discuss what they have read;
 - B. the confidence to do so.
- With younger children introduce and explain relevant 'book' terms, eg, author, illustrator, title, publisher, spine, endpapers.
 - Build on this foundation by introducing more technical terms, such as character, plot, setting and genre (eg, fantasy, historical, humorous, time-slip).
 - Begin by discussing books orally, then ask students to write very short reviews, or even blurbs for the back cover of the book.
 - Make use of the novelty reviewing methods outlined in *Reading Alive!* and *Library Alive!*
 - Make sure you include picturebooks (not just with young children) in books for review and encourage evaluation of how pictures and text interact.
 - Provide young readers with a vocabulary for discussing picturebooks and graphic novels, eg, line, tone, perspective, crosshatching. (For more terms and definitions, see Jane Doonan's *Looking at Pictures in Picturebooks*.)
- Encourage young reviewers to say why they did not like a book (or aspects of a book) as well as why they did like it.
 - Write your own reviews and show them to your students. (You may find reviewing is more difficult than you thought if you haven't done it before!)
 - Encourage students to send reviews to www.cool-reads.co.uk, a website which displays reviews from young readers.
 - Show older students reviews of books they have read, or might like to read, which have appeared in national or local newspapers, in *Inis*, or in *Books for Keeps*.
 - Discuss different reviewing styles with older students.
 - Don't overemphasise spelling, writing, or grammar in book reviews: enthusiasm is the key, the rest can come later.
 - Confidence should follow very quickly when students are prepared in this way.

Book Activities

- Ask a student to give a brief synopsis of the plot of a chosen book to the person next to her (encourage students to pick books with simple storylines). In turn, he tells his neighbour, and so it goes around the class or group. The last person to hear the story then tells it back to the whole group, who can then judge if it has improved or disimproved in the telling.
- Hide books (not very small ones) in the wrong place on the shelves and give a prize to the student who finds the most misplaced books. This game encourages close looking at the books along the shelves.
- Compile a database of the 'most borrowed book of the week or of the month'. Involve students in this exercise and pin up the lists around the school.
- Ask students to write a newspaper article, or make a storyboard for a film or video based on a book they have read recently.
- Consult *Library File*, *Library Alive!* and School Library Association publications for lots more ideas on how to help young people to enjoy books and reading.
- Have an 'author focus' event. Students collect information about favourite authors or illustrators and display it on the school website, or on a wall montage. Author information is available for publishers in *Inis* and in *Books for Keeps*' 'Authorgraph' series, and on some of the websites listed on page 5. In addition, many authors now have their own website and in some cases can be contacted via their website.



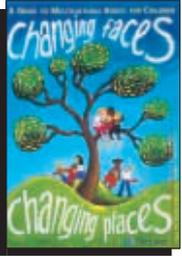
'It's important to get children talking about the books they read!'

Illustration from *Mad Grandad's Robot Garden* by Oisín McGann.

Essential Reading and Organisations

Books

Book Fest. (CBI/YLG, Dublin.)
Produced annually for autumn
Book Festival in October.



Coghlan, Susanna,
Fitzpatrick, Mary &
O'Dea, Lucy (Eds).
*Changing Faces,
Changing Places: a Guide
to Multicultural Books in
Ireland.* (IBBY Ireland,
Dublin, 2001.)

Coghlan, Valerie & Keenan, Celia (Eds).
The Big Guide to Irish Children's Books.
(Irish Children's Book Trust, Dublin,
1996.)

Coghlan, Valerie & Keenan, Celia (Eds).
The Big Guide 2: Irish Children's Books.
(CBI, Dublin, 2000.)

Coghlan, V, Quigley, P, Walton, R (Eds).
*Library File: Making the Most of the School
Library.* (Library Association of Ireland,
Dublin, 1999.)

Coghlan, Valerie & Parkinson, Siobhán,
eds. *Irish Writers and Illustrators:
1986-2006.* CBI/Church of Ireland
College of Education Publications.
Cooling, Wendy. *Books to Enjoy* series for
various age-groups. All available from
School Library Association.

Flynn, E., Hahn, D. & Reuben, S. *The
Ultimate First Book Guide 0-7.* A&C Black
Hahn, Daniel & Flynn, Leonie *The
Ultimate Book Guide (8-12s)* A&C Black
Hahn, Daneil et al. *The Ultimate Teen
Book Guide* A&C Black

Gawith, Gwen. *Library Alive!* (A & C Black,
London, 1987.)

Gawith, Gwen. *Reading Alive!* (A & C
Black, London, 1999.)

Hetherington, R & Ranson, C (Eds). *Book
Choice: Guidelines for Primary Schools.*
(CBI, Dublin, 2001.)

Morris, Liz & Coghlan, Susanna.
*Cross-Currents: a Guide to Multi-Cultural
Books for Young People.* IBBY Ireland.
Ranson, C & Rowan, J (Eds). *Book Choice
for Post-Primary Schools.* (CBI, Dublin,
2002.)

*The School Library in the 21st Century an
Agenda for Change.* Policy Statement.
SLARI.

*What's the Story? The Reading Choices of
Young People in Ireland.* (CBI, Dublin,
2002.)
(*The Thimble Press, Lockwood,
Station Road, Woodchester, Stroud, Glos.
GL5 5EQ)

Note: Lists of recommended titles are
often available from the School Library
Services/Public Libraries

Periodicals

*Bookbird: an international journal of
children's literature.* IBBY (International
Board on Books for Children).

www.ibby.org

Books for Keeps.

www.booksforkeeps.co.uk

Inis: the Children's Books Ireland magazine.
CBI.

www.childrenbooksireland.com

The School Librarian. School Library
Association. www.SLA.org.uk

Organisations

Children's Books Ireland,
17 Lower Camden Street,
Dublin 2
www.childrensbooksireland.com
info@childrensbooksireland.com
€25 individual subscription; €35 school
subscription.

IBBY Ireland,
Ireland Literature Exchange,
19 Parnell Square,
Dublin 1
www.IBBY.org

Poetry Ireland,
120 St Stephen's Green,
Dublin 2
www.poetryireland.ie
poetry@iol.ie
(Organisers of the Writers-in-Schools
scheme.)

Reading Association of Ireland,
St Attracta's Senior
School, Meadowbrook,
Ballinteer,
Dublin 16

€25 individual subscription..

School Library Association Republic of
Ireland (SLARI),
Sutton Park School,
St Fintan's Road,
Dublin 13
School Library Association of Northern
Ireland (SLANI),
Dr Richard Murphy (secretary),
Strangford College,
Abbey Road,
Carrowdore BT22 2GB,
County Down
Tel: 028 (048 from Rol) 91861199
www.sla.org.uk (for both SLARI and
SLANI)

Reviews on Internet

Children's book sites, publishers' sites
and booksellers' sites are a source of
information about books for young
people. Some interesting websites are:

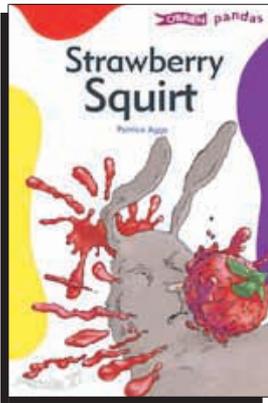
Achuka www.achuka.co.uk
Book Trust (Young People's section)
www.booktrusted.co.uk
Carol Hurst's Children's Literature site
www.carolhurst.com
Children's Books Ireland
www.childrensbooksireland.com
Children's Literature
www.childrenslit.com
Cool-reads www.cool-reads.co.uk
Mrs Mad's Book-a-Rama
www.mrsmad.com
My Home Library
www.myhomelibrary.org
National Centre for Language and
Literacy www.ncll.org.uk
Roald Dahl www.roalddahl.com
Rollercoaster www.rollercoaster.ie
School-Library.Org
www.school-library.org
Stories from the Bog
www.storiesfromtheweb.org

www.obrien.ie

Books for ages 4–7 years

This is the stage at which most children begin primary school and start learning to read in a structured way for the first time. The library should contain lots of books which show how much fun books can be – books with plenty of bright, high-quality illustrations. It is especially important at this stage to pay attention to appropriate levels of language, and this applies to books in both English and Irish. Early independent readers which will engage their audience are essential for the older end of this age-group.

CORE READING



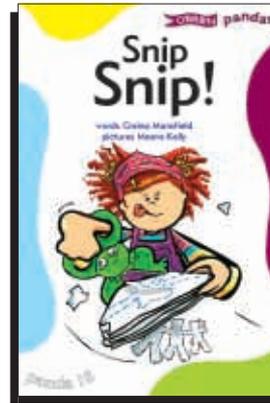
Strawberry Squirt (Panda 27)

Patrice Aggs

Strawberry Squirt is a great game, but the rabbits don't want Short Legs to play. 'Oh dear! What can Short Legs do? A wonderful story for beginner readers.

64 pages

ISBN 978-0-86278-805-6/€5.95 pb



Snip Snip! (Panda 18)

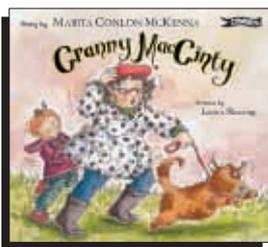
Creina Mansfield

Illus. Maeve Kelly

Erin discovers the delights of scissors and snipping. But then she gets carried away with her new skills, with some unexpected results! An entertaining story for early readers, featuring an over-enthusiastic child and some cross-generational family interaction.

64 pages

ISBN 978-0-86278-722-6/€5.95 pb



Granny MacGinty

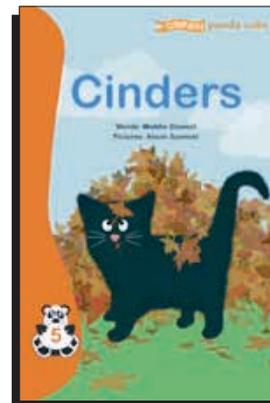
Marita Conlon-McKenna

Illus. Leonie Shearing

Granny MacGinty's family decides she needs a pet to keep her company, but their efforts only complicate her life. At last she finds the pet that suits her best, but chaos reigns at the MacGintys as they cope with a rejected dog, rabbit, parrot and snail. A humorous commentary on independence and old age.

32 pages

ISBN 978-0-86278-628-1/€13.95 hb



Cinders (Panda cubs 5)

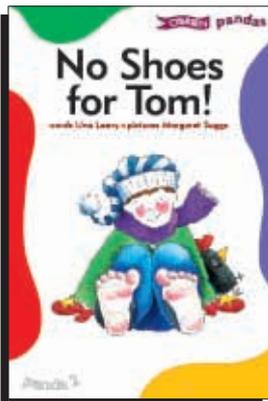
Maddie Stewart

Illus. Alison Spencer

Poor Cinders is all alone. Miss Moll finds a new friend for her. But will Cinders like Tiger? A charming story for beginner readers, fully illustrated in colour.

48 pages

ISBN 978-1-84717-027-9/€5.95 pb



No Shoes for Tom! (Panda 2)

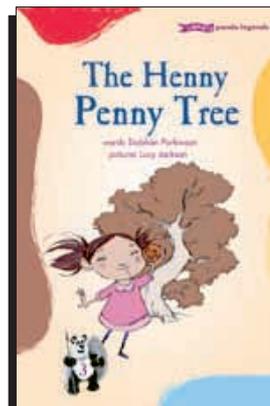
Una Leavy

Illus. Margaret Suggs

Tom loves to go barefoot, but when the snow comes he finds that it isn't so much fun anymore. However, a pair of bright red boots soon makes him feel better. A story for first readers showing how problems can be sorted with a bit of imagination. Charming illustrations.

64 pages

ISBN 978-0-86278-526-0/€5.95 pb



The Henny Penny Tree (Panda legends 3)

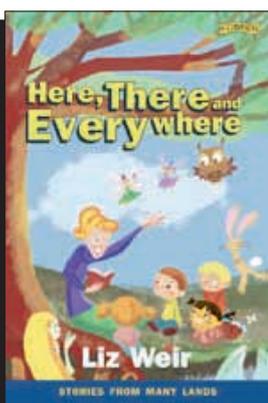
Siobhán Parkinson

Illus. Lisa Jackson

Great Uncle Fergus gives a gold coin, a silver coin and a copper coin to his three nieces, Tall One, Middling and Littlest. Now, you can buy lots of lovely things with gold and silver, but what can the Littlest girl do with her copper coin?

48 pages

ISBN 978-0-86278-966-4/€5.99 pb



Here, There and Everywhere

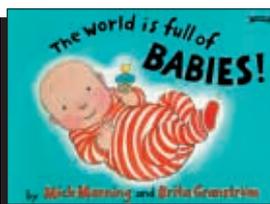
Liz Weir

Illus. Tomm Moore

The birth and growth of babies of all kinds – human, animals, birds – illustrated and described. Both text and illustrations are accessible and engaging, with a matter-of-fact approach. This is an excellent, reassuring introduction to the subject for the young.

32 pages

ISBN 978-0-86278-869-8/€5.95 pb



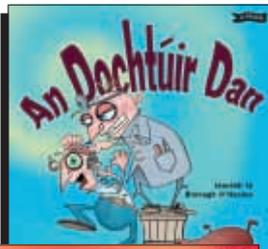
The world is full of Babies!

Manning & Granström

The birth and growth of babies of all kinds – human, animals, birds – illustrated and described. Both text and illustrations are accessible and engaging, with a matter-of-fact approach. This is an excellent, reassuring introduction to the subject for the young.

32 pages

ISBN 978-0-86278-479-9/€7.61 pb

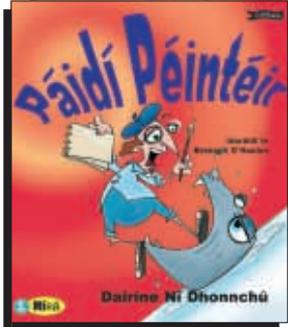


Páidí Péintéir (RíRá 1)

Dairine Ní Dhoonnchú
Illus. Brónagh O'Hanlon
12 pages
ISBN: 978-0-86-278791-2/€4.95 pb

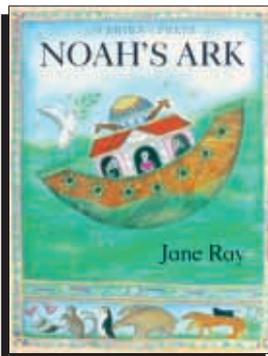
An Dochtúir Dan (RíRá 2)

Dairine Ní Dhoonnchú
Illus. Brónagh O'Hanlon
Scéal álainn simplí le léaráidí áille geala.
Áis iontach don nua-léitheoir!
ISBN 978-0-86-278792-9/€4.95 pb



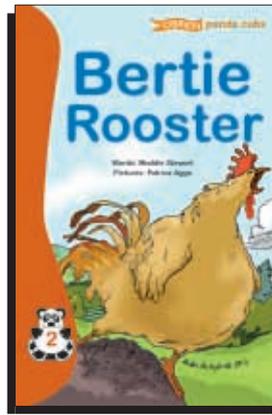
Conor's Concert (Panda 26)

Gillian Perdue/Illus. Michael Connor
Conor starts piano lessons, but he finds the tunes he must practice boring. So he makes up his own very special music. Conor's spirited determination and individuality are wonderfully refreshing and reap rewards for him.
64 pages
ISBN 978-0-86278-847-6/€5.95 pb



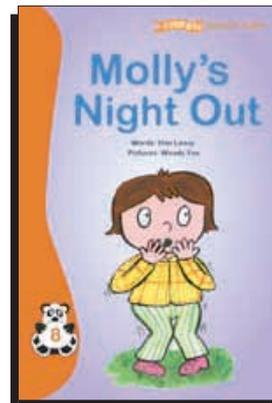
Noah's Ark

Jane Ray
A classically beautiful picturebook that brings an age-old story vividly to life for young readers. Ray's sumptuous visualisation of the Flood sings from the pages and provides young readers with lots to talk about. It will certainly raise visual awareness and might even inspire some creative artwork.
32 pages
ISBN 978-0-86278430-0/€6.34 pb



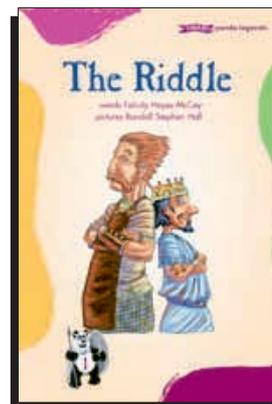
Bertie Rooster (Panda cubs 2)

Maddie Stewart
Illus. Patrice Aggs
Bertie Rooster loses his confidence in a skirmish with a fox. But when Bertie discovers how much he is needed by a little lost hen, he regains his old vigour. A delightful story, with great illustrations, which shows that even the biggest and most confident among us likes to be needed.
48 pages
ISBN 978-0-86278-798-1/€5.95 pb



Molly's Night Out (Panda cubs 8)

Una Leavy
Illus. Woody Fox
Molly is scared of the strange - noises and silence - in the country. She's sure there's a monster out there! She and Granny and Grandad go out to explore the dark night. Expertly designed specifically for very young children, perfect as a lead-up to the Panda series.
48 pages
ISBN 978-1-884717-068-2/€5.99 pb



The Riddle (Panda legends 1)

Felicity Hayes-McCoy
Illus. Randall Stephen Hall
The Gobán Saor is the best craftsman in the whole world. But he is in big trouble. Will his riddle save him from the King of Greece? Panda Legends are ideal for beginner readers with exciting stories and illustrations throughout.
48 pages
ISBN 978-1-84717-0361/€5.99 pb

RECOMMENDED

Art and Craft Adventure 1 & 2

Carroll & Long
ISBN: Book 1: 978-0-86278-683-0 and
Book 2: 978-0-86278-684-7/both €6.34 pb

Mr Bear to the Rescue

Gliori, Debbie
ISBN: 978-0-86278-498-0/€6.98 pb

Mr Bear's Picnic

Gliori, Debbie
ISBN: 978-0-86278-434-8/€6.98 pb

**Alfie Green and the Monkey
Puzzler**

Joe O'Brien
ISBN 978-1-84717-022-4/€7.99 hb

Spotty Sally (Panda 16)

Herron, Anne Marie
ISBN: 978-0-86278-640-3/€5.95 pb

A Garden for Tom (Panda 7)

Leavy, Una
ISBN: 978-0-86278-568-0/€5.95 pb

Mouse TV

Novak, Matt
ISBN: 978-0-86278-699-1/€7.50 pb

Granny's Secret (Panda 21)

Dawson, Brianóg Brady
ISBN: 978-0-86278-726-4/€5.95 pb

The Little Black Sheep (Panda 6)

Shaw, Elizabeth
ISBN: 978-0-86278-463-8/€5.95 pb

The Story of the Creation

Ray, Jane
ISBN: 978-0-86278-483-6/€6.98 pb

Owl Babies

Waddell, Martin
ISBN: 978-0-86278-392-1/€7.95 pb

Snobby Cat

Patrick Deeley
ISBN: 978-0-86278-946-6/€5.95 pb

Emma says Boo! (Panda Cub 3)

Donovan, Anna
ISBN: 978-0-86278-795-0/€5.95 pb

Finn's Thumb

Felicity Hayes-McCoy
ISBN 978-1-84717-0354/€5.99 pb

Books for ages 7–10 years

This is the age by which independent reading may be established, but many children still need support and encouragement. Books in short chapters with a high level of visual content will provide that support. On the other hand, some children in this group will be very fluent readers and will require books which will stimulate and challenge them in terms of both content and language level.

CORE READING



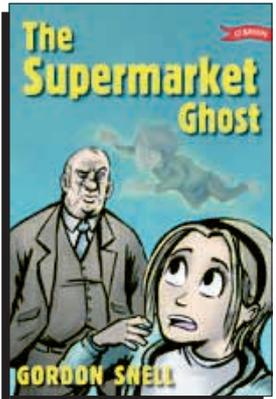
Benny and Omar

Eoin Colfer

Champion hurler and smart aleck Benny Shaw is not pleased when his family moves to Tunisia, North Africa. But matters improve when he meets local boy Omar and opportunities for mischief arise. However, Benny learns that Omar's life has a more serious side, and that not every child has a loving family and a comfortable home. A funny but thoughtful exploration of family life, friendship and learning about new places and cultures. Especially interesting for sports-mad boys.

240 pages

ISBN 978-0-86278-567-3/€7.95 pb



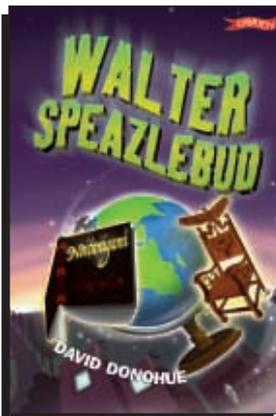
The Supermarket Ghost

Gordon Snell

Maria is shocked to discover that the strange boy in the supermarket is really a ghost called Davy. She agrees to help Davy with his plan of revenge... An exciting and unpredictable ghost story suitable for younger readers

64 pages

ISBN 978-0-86278-650-2/€5.95 pb



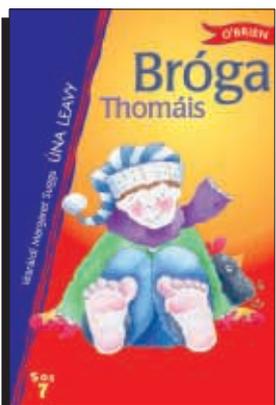
Walter Speazlebud

David Donohue

When Walter discovers he can spell backwards, all sorts of strange things happen, especially to his teacher Mr Gnorts (Mr Strong). A zany story about school, spelling and a bit of magic, which has an underlying, more serious theme related to bullying.

112 pages

ISBN 978-0-86278-762-2/€5.95 pb



Bróga Thomáis (Sos 7)

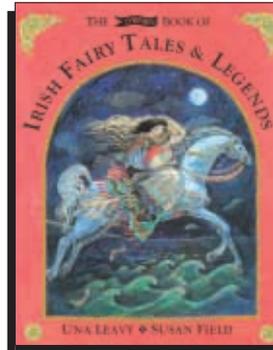
Úna Leavy

Léaráidí Margaret Suggs

Is breá le Tomás siúl cosnoichta go dtí go dtagann an sneachta! Réitíonn buataisí dearga an fhadhb seo dó! Scéal iontach le léaráidí áille don léitheoir óg a léiríonn conas fadhbanna a réiteach le húsáid na samhlaíochta.

64 pages

ISBN 978-0-86278-782-0/€5.95 pb



The O'Brien Book of Irish Fairy Tales and Legends

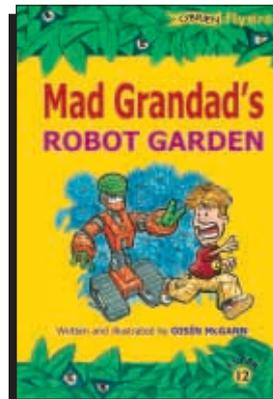
Una Leavy

Illus. Susan Field

An outstanding collection of well-known and well-loved stories, including 'The Children of Lir', 'Tír na nÓg' and 'The King's Secret'. The retellings read aloud beautifully. Illustrations on each page, some full spreads, capture the Celtic theme brilliantly and also give a lot to look at and talk about. A book to treasure.

96 pages

ISBN 0-86278-482-9/€17.95 hb



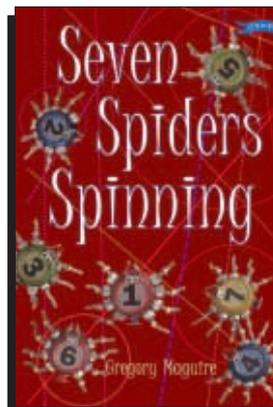
Mad Grandad's Robot Garden (Flyer 12)

Oisín McGann

Lenny's Mad Grandad gets an unusual present of a robot gardener from his even madder brother in Japan. Things start to go awry when the robot plants a crop of nuts and bolts and new machines start to blossom! An inventive, wildly illustrated story with an eccentric grandfather character who children will warm to.

64 pages

ISBN 978-0-86278-821-6/€5.95 pb



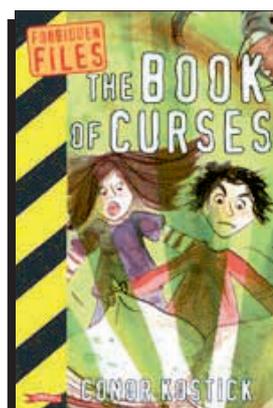
Seven Spiders Spinning

Gregory Maguire

When seven Siberian tarantulas fall in love with the Tattletale girls only chaos can ensue, especially when it also involves the Copycat boys' club and rivalry over the Hallowe'en Pageant of Horrors. A funny, fast-paced story with a twist from a great storyteller.

144 pages

ISBN 978-0-86278-487-4/€6.95 pb



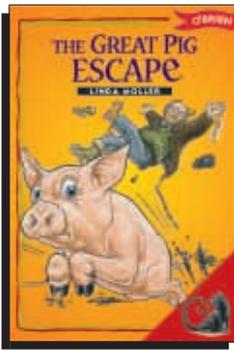
The Book of Curses

Conor Kostick

When Alex Zwick finds a magic book, he just can't stop making wishes - even after they go horribly wrong. Full of giant, venomous spiders, vengeful gnomes and themes from mythology, this is a scary but fun page-turner.

80 pages

ISBN 978-1-84717-055-2/€6.95 pb

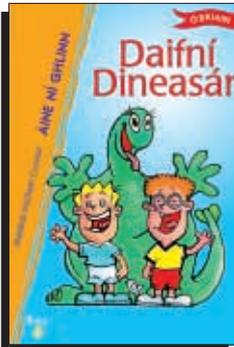


The Great Pig Escape

Linda Moller/Illus. Donald Teskey

Thirteen pigs go on the run to escape their dreadful fate at the market. Their adventures provide plenty of entertainment as they learn the ways of the wild and try to find a new home. The author is a dedicated environmental campaigner, so this is a good read with lots of environmental issues to discuss.

144 pages
ISBN 978-0-86278-667-0/€6.50 pb



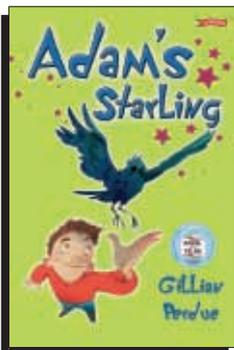
Daifní Dineasár (Sos 4)

Áine Ní Ghlinn

Léaráidi Michael Connor

Is cleasaithe iad Niall agus Conall a chuireann isteach ar Mhamaí go minic. Ach a mhalairt de scéal atá ann nuair a thagann Daifní Dineasár ar cuairt! Scéal spráilúil faoi chleas a théann thar fóir.

64 pages
ISBN 978-0-86278-745-5/€5.95 pb



Adam's Starling

Gillian Perdue

Adam is being bullied at school, but his Mam doesn't want to know about it; she has enough troubles. When a starling Adam has befriended is harmed by the bullies, Adam has had enough. He remembers what his Grandad told him and confronts his tormentors. A well-told story about standing up for yourself, which deals gently with the tough issue of bullying in schools.

160 pages
ISBN 978-0-86278-685-4/€6.95 pb

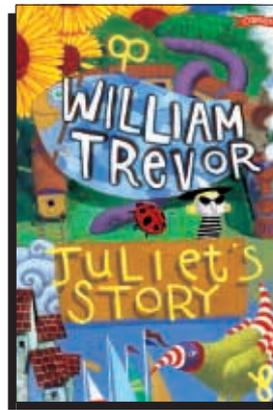


The Twelve Dancing Princesses

Jane Ray

A retelling of the Brothers Grimm story of the twelve princesses who love to dance all night long. The characters are vividly brought to life in stunning illustrations. Each page is more gorgeous than the last in this splendid picturebook from an outstanding artist.

32 pages
ISBN 978-0-86278-476-8/€6.98 pb

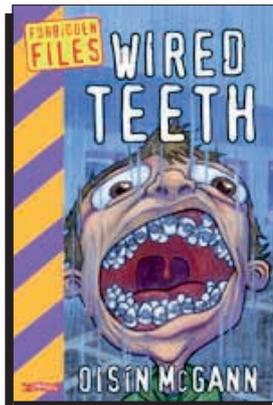


Juliet's Story

William Trevor

The magic of storytelling is wonderfully evoked during Juliet's trip to France with her grandmother, who keeps her granddaughter richly entertained with her tales. But Juliet is distressed to have no story of her own. Then the sight of a trout in a restaurant fish tank sparks her imagination and her ability to create her own stories. A book that provokes questions and could play a role in a creative-writing project.

128 pages
ISBN 978-0-86278-823-0/€6.50 pb

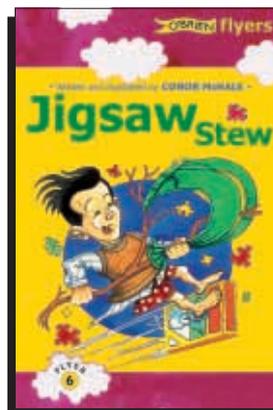


Wired Teeth

Oisín McGann

Crazy dentists, secret agents and remote controlled braces – welcome to Jason's world! Jason McGinty's a bad kid, and his teeth are worse - the maddest crookedest teeth ever.. But it's when Jason gets computer controlled teeth that things get really weird...

96 pages
ISBN 978-1-84717-003-3/€6.95 pb



Jigsaw Stew (Flyer 6)

Conor McHale

When Jack's family turn into jigsaw pieces, he has to come to the rescue. With the aid of Doctor Mulgrew all comes right in the end (except for one surprise!). A lively, imaginative story, in chapters, with strong illustrations.

64 pages
ISBN 978-0-86278-688-5/€5.95 pb

RECOMMENDED

Art and Craft Explorer

Carroll & Long

ISBN: 978-0-86278-614-4 €6.34 pb

Cáitín sa Chistin

Dagg, Stephanie

ISBN: 978-0-86278-712-7/€5.95 pb

Don't Open that Box!

McHale, Conor

ISBN: 978-0-86278-705-9/€5.95 pb

Fishbum and Splat

McHale, Conor

ISBN: 978-0-86278-735-6/€5.95 pb

The Lough Neagh Monster

McBratney, Sam

ISBN: 978-0-86278-375-4/€5.95 pb

The Fight for Plover Hill

Dillon, Eilís

ISBN: 978-0-86278-709-7/€6.34 pb

Deirdre agus an Fear Bréige

Leavy, Úna

ISBN: 978-0-86278-713-4/€5.95 pb

Animals Don't Have Ghosts

Parkinson, Siobhán

ISBN: 978-0-86278-756-1/€6.50 pb

Safe Harbour

Conlon-McKenna, Marita

ISBN: 978-0-86278-422-5/€7.95 pb

Six Haunted Hairdos

Maguire, Gregory

ISBN: 978-0-86278-542-0/€6.34 pb

The Leprechaun Who Wished He Wasn't

Parkinson, Siobhán

ISBN: 978-0-86278-334-1/€5.95 pb

Brian Boru

Llywelyn, Morgan

ISBN: 978-0-86278-230-6/€7.95 pb

Celtic Tales of Enchantment

Mac Uistin, Liam

ISBN: 978-0-86278-692-2/€6.95 pb

The Witch Apprentice

Broderick, Marian

ISBN: 978-1-84717-129-0/€6.95 pb

The Witch in the Woods

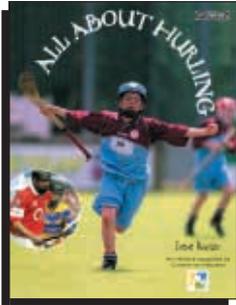
Broderick, Marian

ISBN: 978-1-84717-108-5/€6.95 pb

Books for ages 10–12 years

Children will have clearly defined tastes and reading abilities by this stage. The library collection should reflect this diversity of interests and requirements with a good, well-thought-out mix of titles. It should include books which will be challenging reads alongside books for occasions when some 'downtime' is needed.

CORE READING



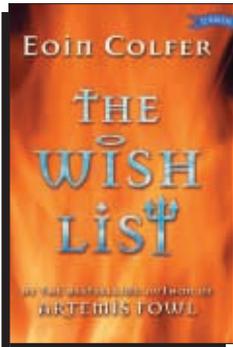
All About Hurling

Irene Barber

Many different aspects of hurling (and camogie) are discussed in this colourful and excellently produced book. It has plenty of fascinating information laid out in a clear, user-friendly manner that suggests links with different subject areas, such as PE and SESE, as well as providing a good read for sports enthusiasts.

32 pages

ISBN 978-0-86278-808-7/€8.95 pb



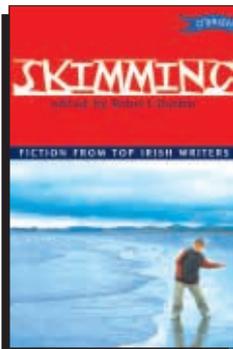
The Wish List

Eoin Colfer

Meg has always been a troublemaker, but her biggest challenge comes when she gets to Heaven's gates and must give an account of herself to St Peter. Now she has just one chance to get inside those gates as rival forces try to claim her soul. An imaginative and lively read.

224 pages

ISBN 978-0-86278-894-0/€7.95 pb



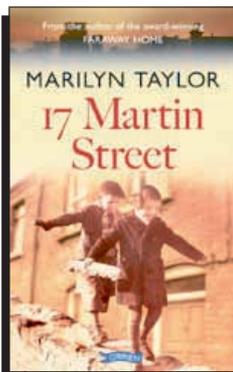
Skimming

Robert Dunbar (Ed.)

An entertaining and varied collection of short stories from some of Ireland's most well-known authors, including Mark O'Sullivan, Eoin Colfer and Siobhán Parkinson. Some are serious, some are funny, but all are suitable for reading aloud or solo reading and may be helpful for those not yet confident enough to tackle a novel.

160 pages

ISBN 978-0-86278-660-1/€6.95 pb



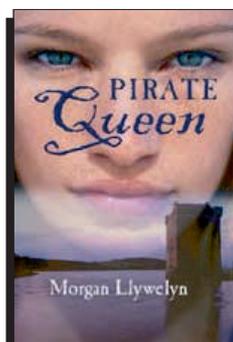
17 Martin Street

Marilyn Taylor

A web of secrets can risk lives... Hetty, living in 'little Jerusalem' at the time of the Second World War, hears that a young girl, a refugee, is hiding from the authorities in Dublin. Can Hetty, her cousin, and her catholic next door neighbour, Ben help, or are they just meddling in things they know too little about? #This novel is based on a true story.

192 pages

ISBN 978-1-84717-125-2/€9.99pb



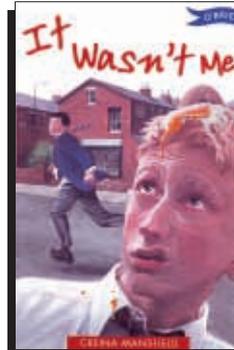
Pirate Queen

Morgan Llywelyn

Grace O'Malley, pirate and trader, is one of Ireland's most infamous figures. A thorn in the side of the English, she lived an extraordinary, adventure-filled life. Plenty of historical interest and colour here to keep the reader interested, in an exciting story with lots of action and a strong heroine.

160 pages

ISBN 978-0-86278-974-9/€7.95 pb



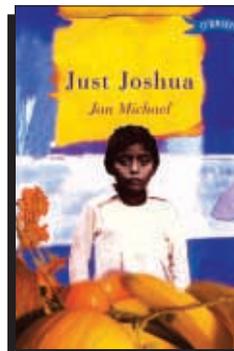
It Wasn't Me

Creina Mansfield

Jack's way of dealing with school bullies is to invent an identical twin brother, Jasper, who can confront Jack's tormentors, but this ingenious plan inevitably leads to complications. Light-hearted and great fun, but will provoke discussions about lying, pretending and how to solve problems.

144 pages

ISBN 978-0-86278-696-0/€6.95 pb



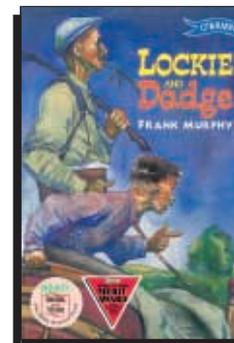
Just Joshua

Jan Michael

Joshua enjoys playing with the other village boys, doing odd jobs at the market and helping his father. But when the villagers refer to his father contemptuously as a 'mountain man', Joshua finds out that being different can cause problems. This thoughtful novel shows Joshua's growing understanding of the significance of cultural differences and the negative effects of suspicion, racism and lack of individual thought.

192 pages

ISBN 978-0-86278-818-6/€6.95 pb

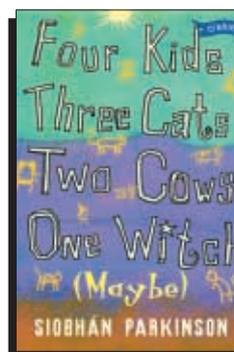


Lockie and Dadge

Frank Murphy

Lockie has been in and out of many foster homes in his short life, until kindly Dadge and his friends take him on. But then the authorities are provoked into taking action to remove him from his new-found security. This is a very readable and thought-provoking novel. It raises questions about families, authority and freedom to choose.

192 pages. ISBN 978-0-86278-424-9/€6.95 pb



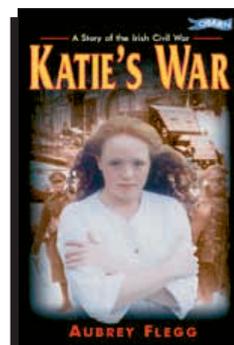
Four Kids, Three Cats, Two Cows, One Witch (maybe)

Siobhán Parkinson

The 'four kids' take a trip to an island where an encounter with a (possible) witch is only one of the strange happenings which take place and which demonstrate the power of stories to change people. Both challenging and entertaining, this intelligently structured novel blurs the reader's perception of fact and fantasy.

192 pages

ISBN 978-0-86278-515-4/€7.95 pb



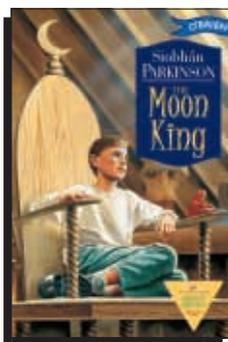
Katie's War

Aubrey Flegg

Katie is worried about her father, who is suffering from shellshock after fighting for the British in the Great War. Her brother has become involved with rebel troops intent on ending British rule in Ireland. Everyone is fighting and no one can see eye to eye. Eventually, Katie must make a brave and difficult decision in this engrossing tale set in the Civil War period in Ireland.

192 pages

ISBN 978-0-86278-525-3/€7.95 pb



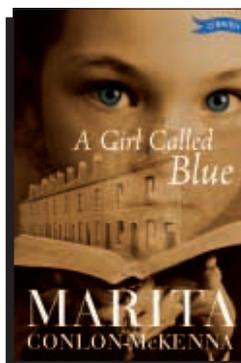
The Moon King

Siobhán Parkinson

Ricky, a shy, quiet boy, is overwhelmed by his new foster family, their big house and all the other children who live there and rush about laughing and shouting. He seeks out a secret place of his own where he can be alone. A sensitive portrayal of a boy who is set apart by his experiences, in an engrossing drama about bullying, family life and friendship.

176 pages

ISBN 978-0-86278-573-4/€6.95 pb



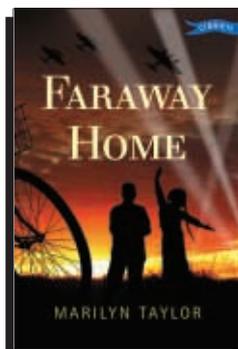
A Girl Called Blue

Marita Conlon-McKenna

Warmly sympathetic account of Blue, who has spent most of her life in an orphanage, and her struggle to find a home of her own. This sensitive novel, which authentically details its setting in 1960s Ireland, will raise questions of identity and belonging.

224 pages

ISBN 978-0-86278-887-2/€7.95



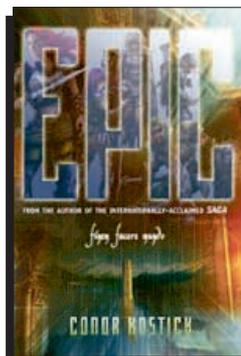
Faraway Home

Marilyn Taylor

Based on true stories, this novel about children sent, for their own safety, from Vienna to Northern Ireland during the Second World War captures the plight of young people caught in a period of turmoil. Their life at the farm refugee centre at Millisle is described with humour and poignancy, and always a lurking sense of danger. An exploration of the effects of war and displacement on the young.

224 pages

ISBN 978-0-86278-643-4/€7.95 pb



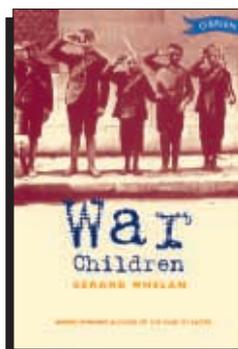
Epic

Conor Kostick

#WELCOME TO EPIC: PRESS START TO PLAY# On New Earth, Erik is drawn into the sinister world of Epic. Epic is not just a computer game, it's a matter of life and death. If you lose, you lose everything; if you win, the world is yours for the taking. This complex book covers themes such as the possible justification of violence.

320 pages

ISBN 978-0-86278-877-3/€7.95



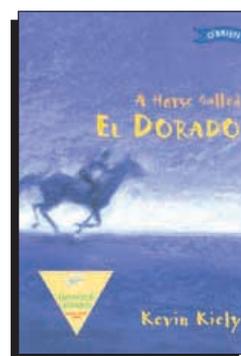
War Children

Gerard Whelan

A powerful collection of six short stories, set during the War of Independence, in which child protagonists face challenging and dangerous situations. The six different lives portrayed encompass a wealth of experience and emotion, depicting children as individuals in their own right, with their own opinions, reactions and feelings.

192 pages

ISBN 978-0-86278-776-9/€7.95 pb



A Horse called El Dorado

Conor Kostick

Pepe loves to gallop across the plains of Colombia on his horse El Dorado. Then the guerrillas come, and he has to move to Ireland to live with his grandparents. Finally another horse called El Dorado makes Pepe's heart soar. This book is full of adventure and action and is beautifully atmospheric.

144 pages

ISBN 978-0-86278-977-7/€6.95

RECOMMENDED

Shakespeare's Scribe

Blackwood, Gary

ISBN: 978-0-86278-706-6 /€6.95 pb

The Shakespeare Stealer

Blackwood, Gary

ISBN: 978-0-86278-634-2 /€7.95 pb

Benny and Babe

Colfer, Eoin

ISBN: 978-0-86278-603-8/€7.95 pb

Under the Hawthorn Tree

Conlon-McKenna, Marita

ISBN: 978-0-86278-206-1/€7.95 pb

Wildflower Girl

Conlon-McKenna, Marita

ISBN: 978-0-86278-283-2/€7.95 pb

Fields of Home

Conlon-McKenna, Marita

ISBN: 978-0-86278-509-3/€7.95 pb

The Island of Ghosts

Dillon, Eilís

ISBN: 978-0-86278-708-0/€6.95 pb

The Vikings in Ireland

Llywelyn, Morgan

ISBN: 978-0-86278-816-2/€9.95 pb

Strongbow

Llywelyn, Morgan

ISBN: 978-0-86278-274-0/€7.95 pb

Five Alien Elves

Maguire, Gregory

ISBN: 978-0-86278-739-4/€6.95 pb

Cherokee

Mansfield, Creina

ISBN: 978-0-86278-368-6/€6.95 pb

Celtic Tales of Enchantment

Mac Uistin, L

ISBN: 978-0-86278-692-2/€6.95 pb

Call of the Whales

Parkinson, Siobhán

ISBN: 978-0-86278-691-5/€6.95 pb

Saint Patrick

Simms, George Otto

ISBN: 978-0-86278-749-3/€9.95 pb

The Guns of Easter

Whelan, Gerard

ISBN: 978-0-86278-449-2/€7.95 pb

A Winter of Spies

Whelan, Gerard

ISBN: 978-0-86278-566-6/€7.95 pb

Little Croker

O'Brien, Joe

ISBN: 978-1-84717-046-0/€7.99 pb

The Silver Notebook

Wyley, Enda

ISBN: 978-1-84717-020-0/€7.95 pb

The Gods and their Machines

McGann, O

ISBN: 978-0-86278-834-6/€7.95 pb

Kate

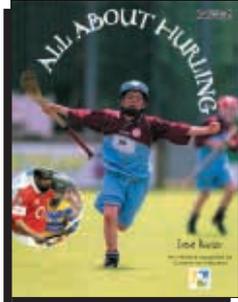
Parkinson, Siobhán

ISBN: 978-0-86278-933-0/€7.95 pb

Books for Post-Primary

The books suggested here cater mainly for the first three years of post-primary school, although some are drawn from the adult list and will also be of interest further up the school. This is a stage when students make the transition from reading books aimed at children to reading young adult and adult titles. It is important to cater for weak readers as well as for those with excellently developed reading skills, so the library collection must be wide-ranging in content and reading levels.

CORE READING

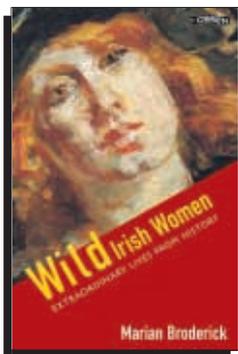


All About Hurling

Irene Barber

Both sports-lovers and armchair-supporters will love this very attractive and clearly written introduction to hurling (and camogie). The information, which is laid out in a clear, user-friendly manner, will provide a good stimulus for project work. The outstanding visual presentation and accessible text will attract those who enjoy sport more than reading.

32 pages ISBN 978-0-86278-808-7/€8.95 pb

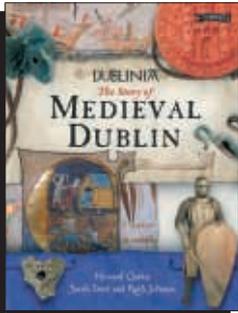


Wild Irish Women

Marian Broderick

An accessible and entertaining collection of biographies of over seventy notable Irish women from Ireland's past who lived lives that set them apart from the norm. Invaluable as a spur to further reading and for reference and research work.

368 pages
ISBN 978-0-86278-780-6/€12.95 pb

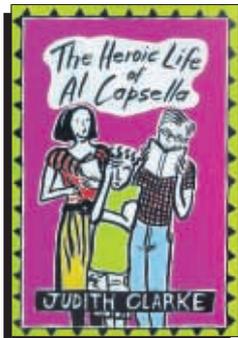


Dublinia, The Story of Medieval Dublin

Howard Clarke, Sarah Dent, Ruth Johnson

An attractively illustrated introduction to life in medieval Ireland, particularly in Dublin. The text, written by experts in the field, is clear and concise, and the whole is well designed. Very useful for both history and art research, and a fascinating read.

128 pages
ISBN 978-0-86278-786-8/€12.95 pb

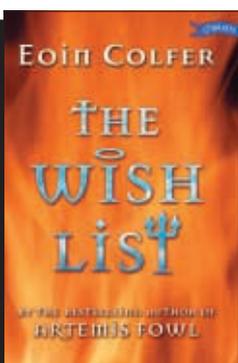


The Heroic Life of Al Capsella

Judith Clarke

Wry look at family life through the eyes of teenager Al, who has parent problems and school problems and all sorts of problems due to the embarrassing behaviour of the occupants of the adult world. A great read and one which shows how laughter can overcome embarrassment.

160 pages
ISBN 978-0-86278-310-5/€6.34 pb

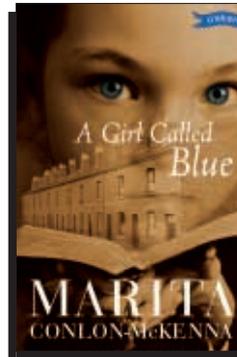


The Wish List

Eoin Colfer

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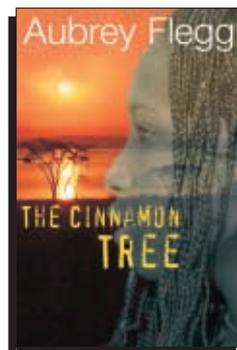


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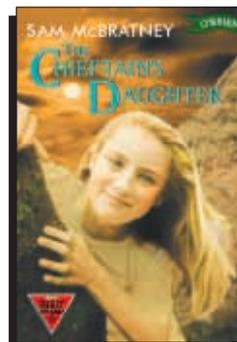


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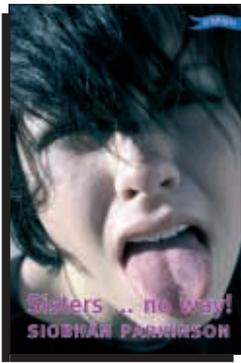


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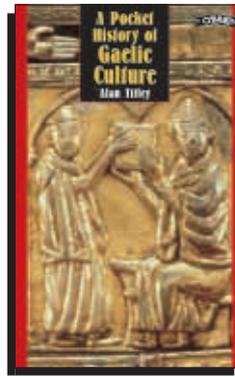


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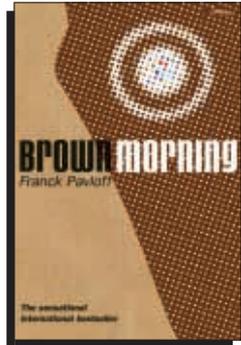


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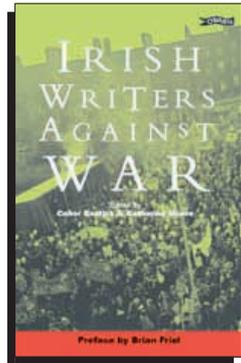


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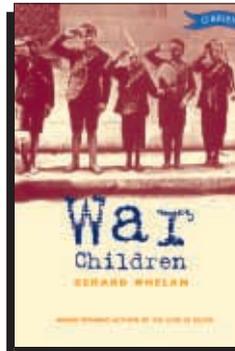


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