



# 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



#### My Bright Shining Star

**Author:** Fatima Whitbread **Illustrator:** Rhian Wright

Fatima and her foster carer Auntie Rae have fun together, singing to the North Star. A heartwarming and moving story that reflects reality for some children.



#### Ava and the Acorn

**Author:** Lu Fraser **Illustrator:** Paddy Donnelly

Ava and her grandad share happy memories of an old oak tree in this heartfelt exploration of growth, change and loss told through the magic of seasonal changes. A beautiful picture book.



#### My Name is a Gift

**Author:** Zeshan Akhter **Illustrator:** Åsa Gilland

A little girl explains how she got her name, and how it makes her feel when people get her name wrong.

### For ages 4-5 and up



#### The Shy Book

**Author:** Howard Pearlstein **Illustrator:** James Munro

This book will hide away from you, but you can help it become more confident by answering its questions and becoming its friend. A really creative and funny book which teaches readers social skills.



#### Don't Think of Tigers

**Author:** Alex Latimer

The creator of this picture book offers to draw anything the reader wants on the next page... as long as it's not a tiger. Unfortunately, if you try not to think about tigers, that's all that pops into your mind. Funny, colourful and interactive, this story highlights the importance of perseverance.



#### The Other Side of the Valley

**Author:** Ashling Lindsay

This simple and moving picture book tells the story of Pip and his fear of the unknown. After pushing himself beyond his comfort zone, he learns that new experiences can be positive.

## For ages 6-8 and up



### Hardit Singh Malik: World War One Flying Ace

**Author:** Bali Rai

The inspiring story of Hardit Sing Malik, a British Indian, who fought for the right to be able to protect Britain in World War One.



### Midnight Adventures in Primrose Park

**Author:** Helen Peters **Illustrator:** Isobel Lundie

Can Dapple the fawn help his mother? Will Olive the otter find her mother again? Two charming animal stories in one volume, with dyslexia-friendly font and gorgeous, soft illustrations.



### Tosh's Island

**Author:** Linda Sargent & Joe Brady  
**Illustrator:** Leo Marcell

When Tosh meets Louis, they bond over their shared imagining of a magical island. A moving graphic novel about friendship, imagination and chronic illness.

## For ages 9-11 and up



### Birdie

**Author:** J P Rose

In the context of a compelling adventure story, incorporating social history and life-threatening drama, mixed-race Birdie experiences shocking racism but also finds unexpected friendship.



### Cobweb

**Author:** Sir Michael Morpurgo **Illustrator:** Michael Foreman

A dog's-eye view of the world is firmly at the centre of this wonderful, life-affirming tale set in Britain in 1815 at the end of the Napoleonic Wars.



### The Haunting of Fortune Farm

**Author:** Sophie Kirtley **Illustrator:** Ben Mantle

Edie is thrust into a world of restless spirits and fearsome Viking warriors in this chilling ghost story that will send shivers down your spine.