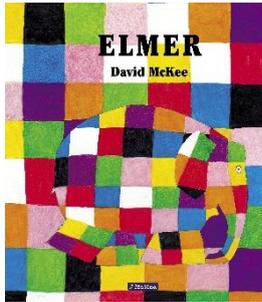


Reading for Empathy: Ages 4-11

Books marked with a * can be found in the library stock

Picture Books and Poetry:

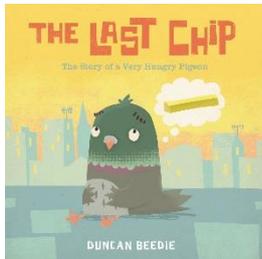
Picture books can powerfully inspire empathy through their special interplay of words and illustrations. This selection is perfect for 4–11 year olds. We believe no child is ever too old for a great picture book.



Title: Elmer*

Author: David McKee

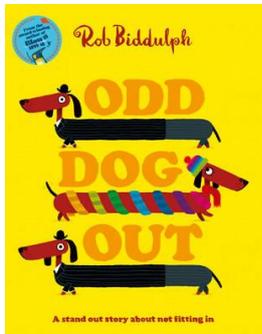
Description: Elmer is struggling to be like all the other elephants, until they show him it's his difference that they love. Great for helping children see how to step into someone else's shoes.



Title: The Last Chip*

Author: Duncan Beedie

Description: A hungry pigeon is denied food by bigger, bullying birds. Lovely, unexpected ending when a homeless person comes to the rescue. A delightful, non-didactic book, great for perspective-taking and insight into others' lives.



Title: Odd Dog Out*

Author: Rob Biddulph

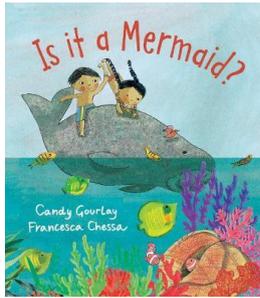
Description: A scarf-wearing dachshund feels uncomfortably different. A fun book for helping children explore the absurdity of 'in' and 'out' groups.



Title: Joy

Author: Corrinne Averiss, Illustrator: Isabelle Follath

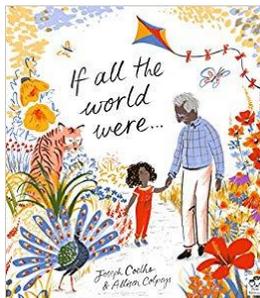
Description: Fern is troubled by how sad her granny seems and is working out how to capture and pass on 'joy'. Great for talking about emotions and really grasping what someone else needs.



Title: Is it a Mermaid?

Author: Candy Gourlay, Illustrator: Francesca Chessa

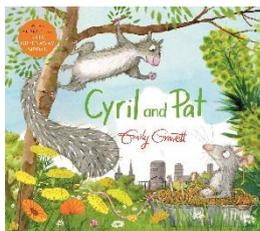
Description: Two children try hard to be tactful when a sea cow becomes convinced it's really a mermaid. Hilarious, tender, deep. Perfect for talking about different perspectives.



Title: If All the World Were...*

Author: Joseph Coelho, Illustrator: Allison Colpoys

Description: A hugely imaginative exploration of a girl's feelings as she comes to terms with her grandad's death. A gentle springboard to help children understand their own and others' experience of loss.



Title: Cyril and Pat*

Author: Emily Gravett

Description: Can a rat and squirrel be friends? The park's creatures think not. Cyril and Pat's closeness wobbles, but connection prevails. Combats divisions caused by prejudice about being different.



Title: The Day War Came

Author: Nicola Davies, Illustrator: Rebecca Cobb

Description: War closes doors to refugee children. Davies's wonderful storytelling opens up powerful insights into how it feels to be escaping from conflict zones. Provokes solidarity, action and tears.



Title: Sweep

Author: Louise Greig, Illustrator: Júlia Sardà

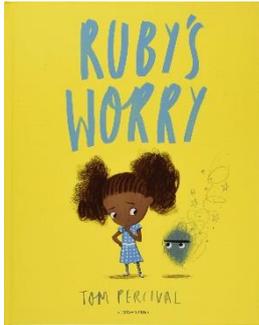
Description: Ed is swept up in a very angry mood and just can't let it go. A creative, playful story encouraging the recognition and processing of emotions.



Title: Along Came a Different

Author: Tom McLaughlin

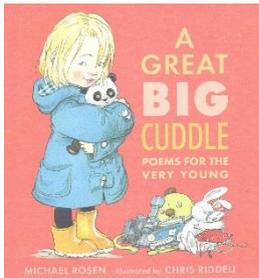
Description: The reds, blues and yellows can't get along. A zany, light-hearted look at how to deal with discrimination. Very cleverly builds children's ability to see different perspectives, a skill fundamental to empathy.



Title: Ruby's Worry

Author: Tom Percival

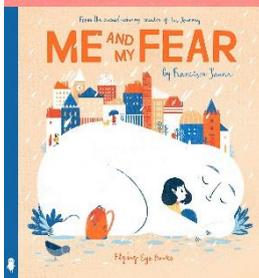
Description: Sensitively illustrated book about untamed worries taking on monstrous proportions. Gives children a language and metaphor to talk about their own and other people's anxieties.



Title: A Great Big Cuddle*

Author: Michael Rosen, Illustrator: Chris Riddell

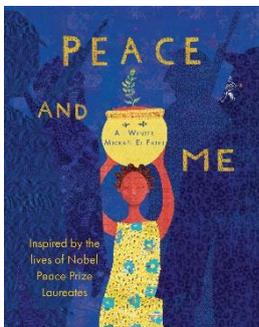
Description: Lovely collection of poems inspiring reflection on emotions and our need for affection, compassion and above all empathic connection.



Title: Me and My Fear

Author: Francesca Sanna

Description: A thought-provoking visual personification of a girl's feeling of fear, which magnifies when she's in a strange country. Helps children understand how profoundly fear can lead to isolation and anger.



Title: Peace and Me

Author: Ali Winter, Illustrator: Mickaël El Fathi

Description: Beautifully illustrated non-fiction book about Nobel Peace Prize Laureates who used empathy to imagine how life could be different in their communities and acted dynamically to improve things.



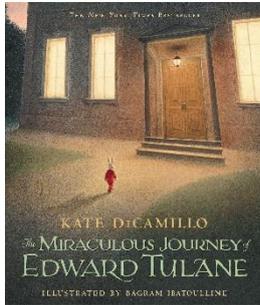
Title: How to be a Lion*

Author: Ed Vere

Description: A gentle lion is friends with a duck, and no one approves. A magical book, delving into how we can all be truly ourselves, and, from that basis, relate well to others.

Novels and Graphic Novels:

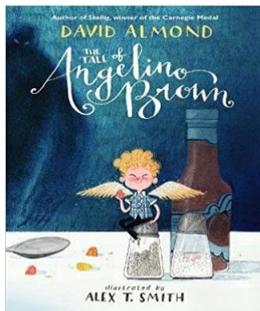
Fourteen superb stories and a graphic novel to help children immerse themselves in other people's lives. Perfect for 7–11 year olds. Please read them to decide which children they are appropriate for.



Title: The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane

Author: Kate DiCamillo

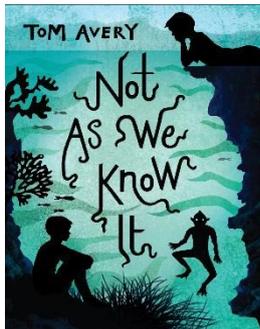
Description: Edward is a rabbit with a cold heart which gradually melts as he experiences the kindness of strangers and realises what it means to feel loved. Extraordinary writing.



Title: The Tale of Angelino Brown*

Author: David Almond

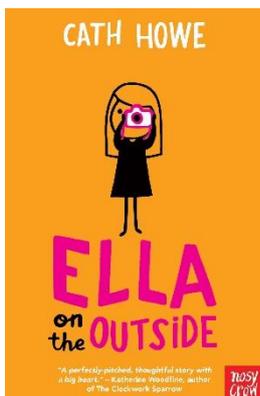
Description: Angelino is a tiny giggling boy angel who overcomes evil plotters. About how caring for each other makes people happy. A deceptively easy read with a heart of gold.



Title: Not As We Know It

Author: Tom Avery

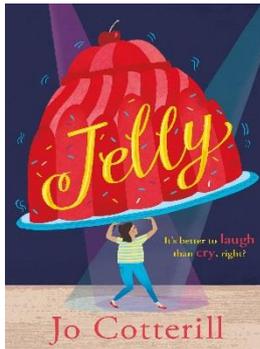
Description: Jamie is facing the loss of Ned, his sick twin, in a whirlwind of love, jealousy, fear, acceptance. Unusual, honest book with magical qualities and a merman playing a starring role.



Title: Ella on the Outside

Author: Cath Howe

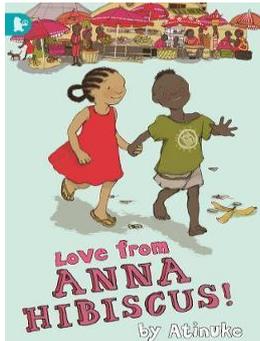
Description: Ella has no friends and her dad is in prison. Gradually, painfully, she finds a friend in Molly. Immensely readable way of understanding the feelings of children in troubled circumstances.



Title: Jelly

Author: Jo Cotterill

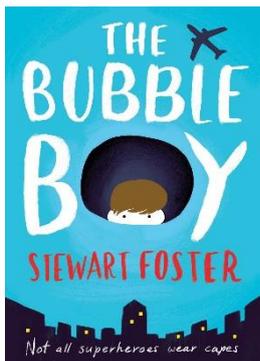
Description: Jelly is funny and loud, but hurting inside, especially about her weight. We see the real person through her poetry, learning and caring as we read.



Title: Love from Anna Hibiscus!*

Author: Atinuke, Illustrator: Lauren Tobia

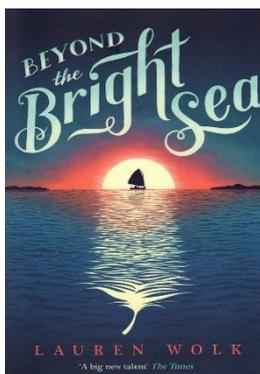
Description: Young Anna is a life force, intent on making a difference in her African community. Sensitive handling of unthinking attitudes to inequality and full of insights into lives lived very differently. Seriously lovely stories.



Title: The Bubble Boy*

Author: Stewart Foster

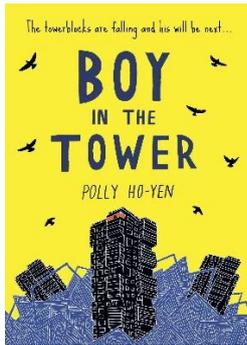
Description: Joe must live in a bubble in hospital; Amir plots to spring him. Illuminating insights into the feelings of children with incurable illnesses, a great cast of characters and hilarious, hopeful moments.



Title: Beyond the Bright Sea

Author: Lauren Wolk

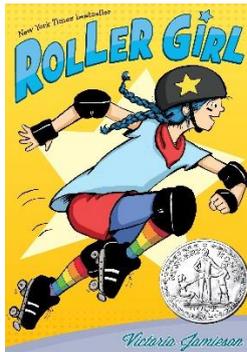
Description: A child rejected by fears of disease, longing to find her family. A man who needs to love. Powerful historical novel, with feisty characters whose clear voices open up our experience of fear and family love.



Title: Boy in the Tower*

Author: Polly Ho-Yen

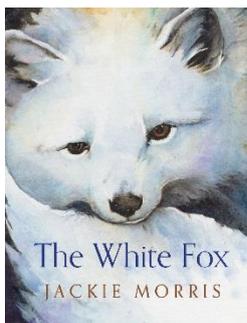
Description: Tough, rollicking sci-fi adventure as a tiny, surviving tower-block community battles the murderous Bluchers. Strong central character who engages and expands the reader's emotions. Really sticks in the mind.



Title: Roller Girl*

Author: Victoria Jamieson

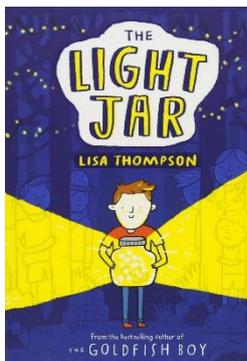
Description: Feelings-packed graphic novel about Astrid taking on the challenge of roller-skate derbys. Fun, easy read as you journey with her through life's mistakes and difficult choices. Great on relationships.



Title: The White Fox*

Author: Jackie Morris

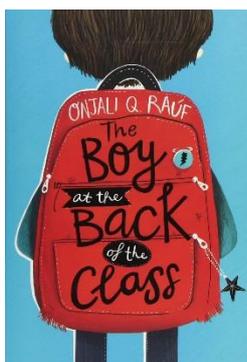
Description: Sol is disconnected from his Inuit roots after his mother dies. Then a white fox is lost in Seattle's dockland, and together they find their way back home. Mysterious, lyrical, with beautifully drawn feelings.



Title: The Light Jar

Author: Lisa Thompson

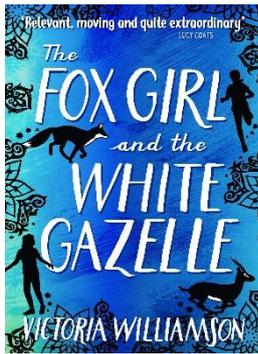
Description: Nate and his mum escape domestic abuse but then she disappears. Exciting story which builds understanding of human psychology as Nate's imaginary friend comes to his aid.



Title: The Boy at the Back of the Class*

Author: Onjali Q. Rauf, Illustrator: Pippa Curnick

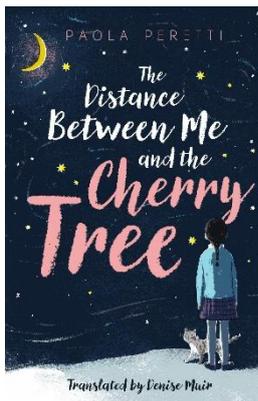
Description: Three charming, warm-hearted children go on a crazy adventure as they try to reunite refugee Ahmet with his family. Powerfully shows how empathy can inspire action.



Title: The Fox Girl and the White Gazelle

Author: Victoria Williamson

Description: Two lonely, alienated girls – a Syrian refugee and an angry young carer – unexpectedly make friends when faced by the challenge of saving local foxes. Lots of emotional insights.



Title: The Distance Between Me and the Cherry Tree*

Author: Paola Peretti, Translator: Denise Muir, Illustrator: Carolina Rabei

Description: A mystical, semi-autobiographical novel about a girl who is going blind. Well developed characters, including the boy who becomes her friend. Poignant, moving.