

# The Huddle

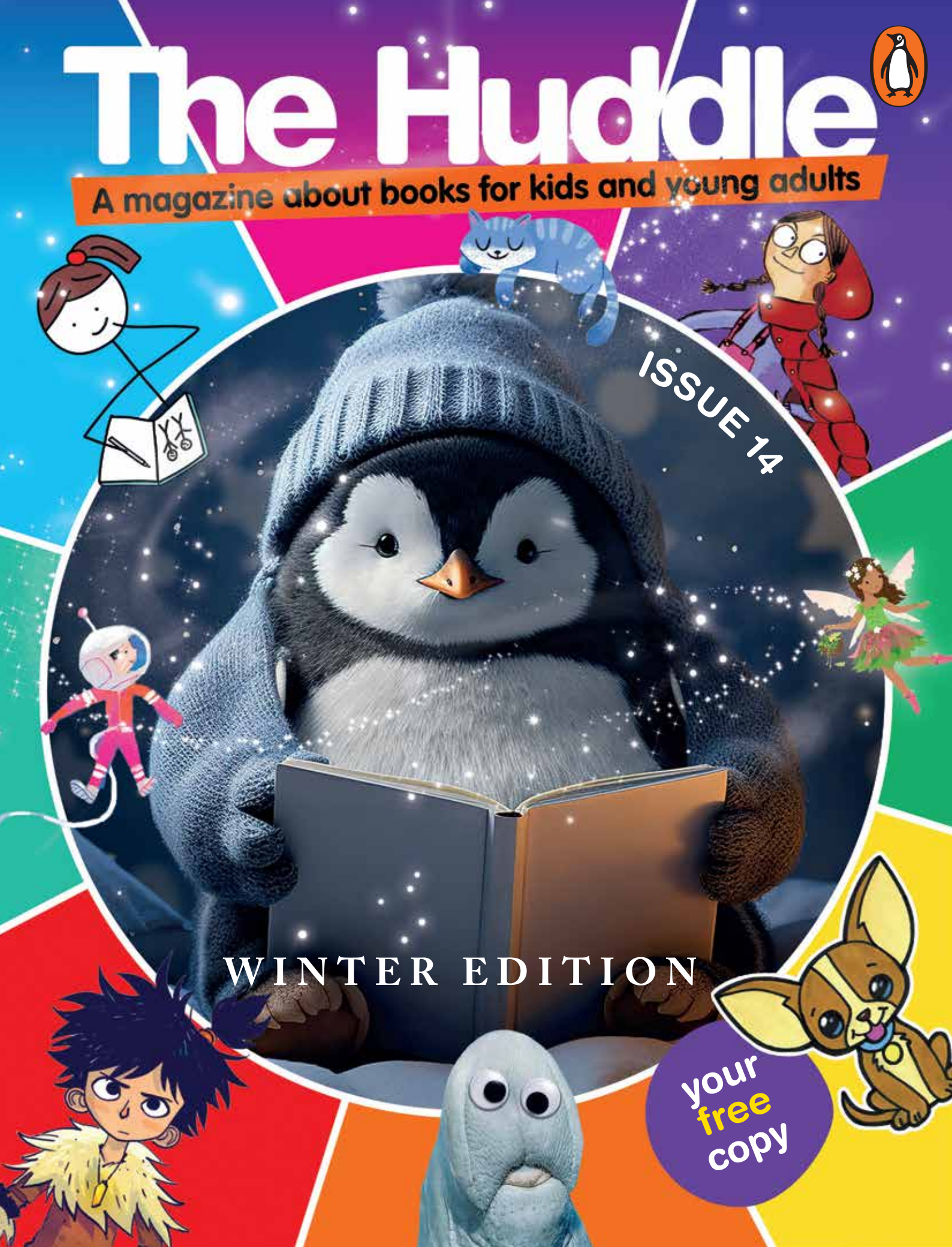


A magazine about books for kids and young adults

ISSUE 14

WINTER EDITION

your  
free  
copy

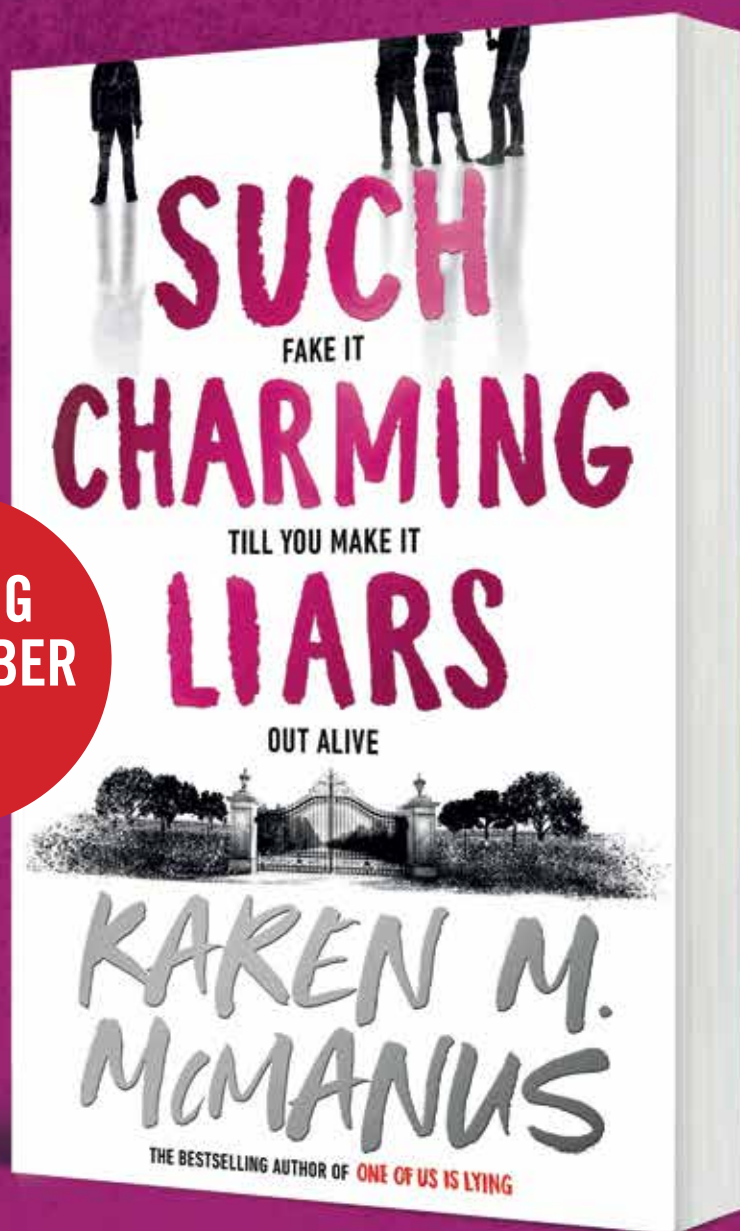






The newest mystery from the author  
of **ONE OF US IS LYING**, the Queen of  
thrillers, Karen M. McManus!

COMING  
SEPTEMBER  
2024



WHEN MOTHER-DAUGHTER GRIFTERS SET OUT ON THEIR FINAL JOB,  
THE HEIST GETS DEADLY AND DANGEROUSLY PERSONAL.

# Letter from: the editor



## Hello Readers

And just like that, winter is here. We can't complain too much though as it gives us a chance to snuggle up with our favourite books and go on adventures with our favourite authors and characters. And speaking of favourites, I cannot contain my excitement any longer for the brand new Lottie Brooks book, hitting the shelves in July! This series by bestselling author, Katie Kirby, really is the new book obsession for 9-12-year-olds and I can't wait to share them with you. Turn to page 6 for a Q&A with Katie.

And for all those literature lovers, we have some exciting new collector's editions available – turn to pages 4 & 5 to check these out – from Peter Rabbit to Roald Dahl to Puffin Classics, there really is something for everyone.

We haven't forgotten about all of our Young Adult readers! Page 9 is dedicated to you guys and the selection of titles is really something to be marvelled at... From Jennifer Lynn Barnes to Karen M. McManus and a brand new one from Tessa Gratton

& Justina Ireland, I'm not really sure how you're going to choose which one to read first! Please take a moment to join our YA book club – all the details are at the bottom of page 9.

We have loads more for you to check out in this issue so I hope you are warm and tucked up tight! You can keep the kids busy with an activity from *Draw with Art for Kids Hub: Animals* on page 20 while you browse. And it feels like this year is gearing up a few notches as we prepare for the second half of the year with even bigger and more exciting releases! Stay tuned to our social media channels for updates.

And lastly, as always, if there's anything you'd like to know, please contact us, we'd love to hear from you.

**Happy reading!**

**Kim Peters**



## Get in touch

For any queries, or for more information, contact us at [thehuddle@penguinrandomhouse.co.za](mailto:thehuddle@penguinrandomhouse.co.za)

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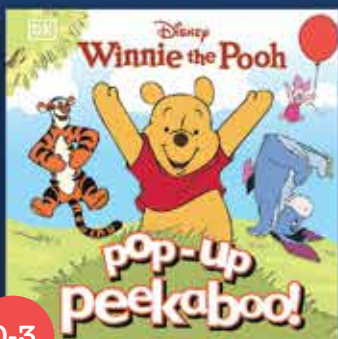
**19 Future Shelf Stoppers**

**It's a Draw with Art for Kids Hub: Animals Activity!** 20  
**back page Win!**





# Snuggle up and Read



0-3



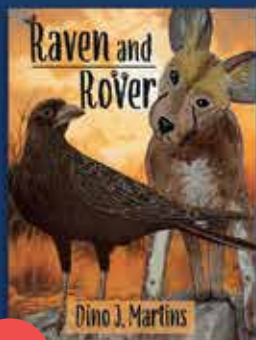
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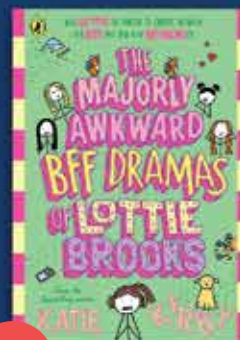
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9-12



9-12

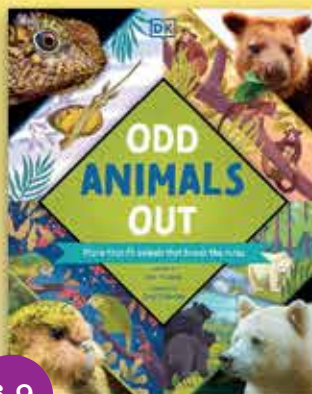


# NEW AND NOTEWORTHY NON-FICTION

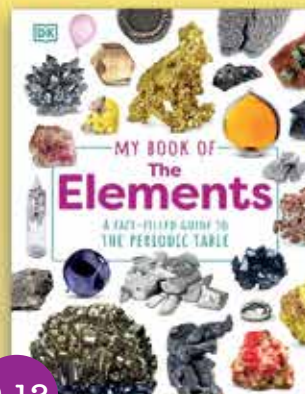
Quench your thirst for knowledge!



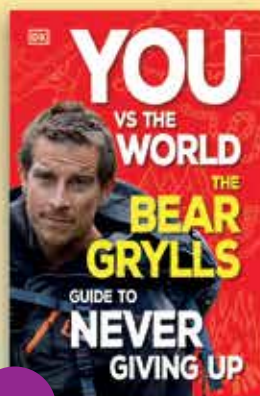
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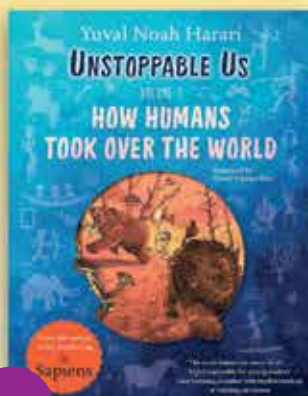
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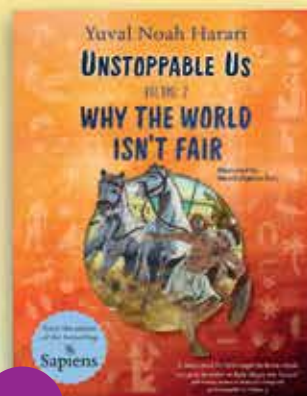
9-12



9-12



9-12



9-12



Introducing...

# THE ROALD DAHL CLASSIC COLLECTION

Enter a world where invention and mischief can be found on every page  
and where magic might be at the very tips of your fingers...



"If my books can help children become readers, then I feel I have accomplished something important."

– ROALD DAHL



# COLLECTOR'S EDITIONS!

Admired by literature-lovers everywhere...



# Q&A for KATIE KIRBY

## FROM HER BIGGEST FANS IN SOUTH AFRICA



**1 From Emily, aged 10 ¾**  
**How many Lottie books are you planning to write? I hope there are lots more to come!**

The 6th book is out in July and don't worry there will definitely be more! I will happily keep writing them as long as people want to keep reading them.

**2 From Caitlin, aged 8 ¾**  
**Is Lottie based on your childhood experiences?**

She is a bit, yes. I used to love writing diaries when I was a teenager, so I've looked back over all of my old entries whilst writing about Lottie which has been fun (and cringeworthy). Although most of the actual things that happen to Lottie aren't things that happened to me, a lot of her thoughts, feelings and worries are based on my own memories of being her age.

**3 From Sadie, aged 10 ¾**  
**Are all of Lottie's nicknames real? Or did you make some of them up?**

Ha! Well, they are real to Lottie! I have a lot of fun thinking up new nicknames for her though, it's a running theme throughout the books so hopefully there will be more to come. I think my favourite is Cucumber Girl.

**4 From Abigail, aged 9**  
**Where is your favourite place to write?**

I have a little office at home where I do most of my writing, my dog Sasha usually sits under my desk by my feet to keep me company. Sometimes if I get a bit bored of being at home, I go out and find a nice café to work in. A change of scene often helps bring fresh ideas too.

**5 From Moani-Li, aged 10**  
**Where did you come up with all the names in the book?**

I get asked this a lot and I'm not exactly sure as they are not people I know in real life; I guess I just pictured all of the characters and imagined what they might be called. In terms of Lottie's name, I thought it seemed like a nice, friendly name and I think it suits her well.

**6 From Isabelle, aged 10**  
**If you could die your hair any colour, what would it be?**

Well, I'm quite fair skinned and have freckles so if I was ever to change from being blonde I think I'd go for a lovely copper colour. I don't think dark hair would suit me!

**7 From Eva, aged 10**  
**How long does it take you to write and illustrate each book?**

I've got quicker the more Lottie books I have written. The first one took a couple of years getting the format and tone right. Now I'd say it takes around 6 months from start to finish – if I work quite hard and don't procrastinate too much.

**8 From Nina, aged 11**  
**You write all about Lottie's embarrassing moments... What is your most embarrassing moment?**

When I was around Lottie's age, I went to a sleepover at my friend's house, and we were all talking about which boys we liked at school. I told everyone I had a crush on a boy called Duncan and I swore them to secrecy. The next day one of my friends told Duncan that I fancied him – I was mortified and blushed to Lottie level proportions!





# LOTTIE BROOKS

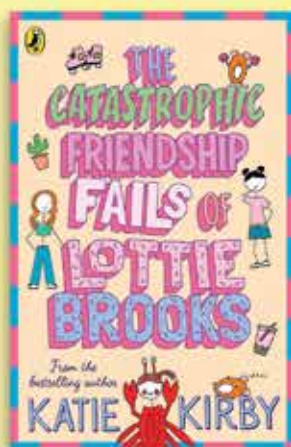
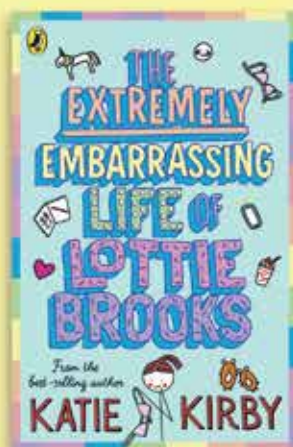
EVERYONE'S READING LOTTIE'S EMBARRASSING DIARIES.



## TOTAL NIGHTMARE!



READ ALL OF LOTTIE'S DISASTROUS MOMENTS!



OMG!



BRAND NEW!

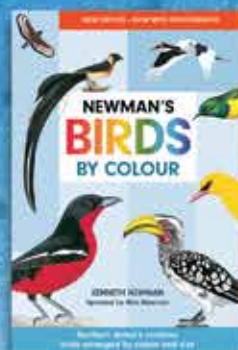
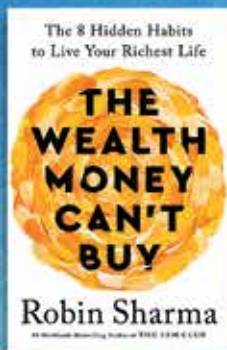
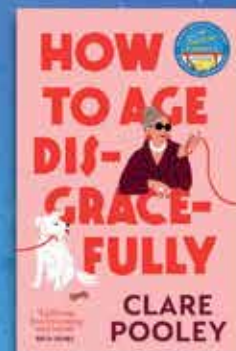
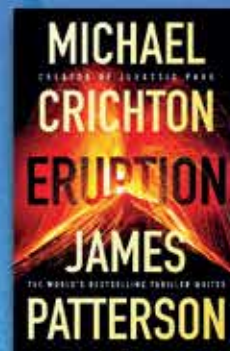
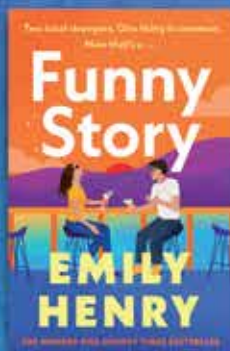




# RELEASE RADAR

"In the winter she curls up around a good book and dreams away the cold."

– Ben Aaronovitch



## Have you read our magazine?

Bursting with light-hearted and informative features centred around our latest and greatest titles, there's something for everyone.

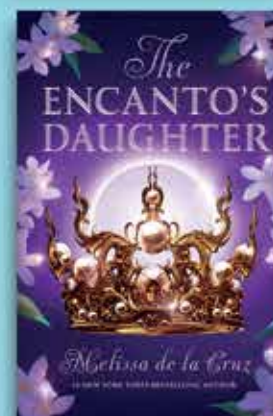
Visit [www.penguinrandomhouse.co.za](http://www.penguinrandomhouse.co.za) for more



WINTER YA READS  
@penguinbooksyasa

# NOW TRENDING

Winter was made for warm blankets and big books



## JOIN OUR ONLINE YA BOOK CLUB

Dive into the world of captivating YA reads with the Penguin YA Book Club on Discord!

Join us for monthly readalongs and lively discussions about the hottest releases. Let's chat about the stories that will have everyone talking!







## TOTALLY TROPICAL

Only five species of penguin actually breed in Antarctica. The rest live on coasts around the southern half of the world, where the ocean is still quite cold. However, there's one that swims through dazzling blue seas under a tropical Sun! The Galápagos penguin takes its name from a group of Pacific islands at the Equator, which it shares with giant tortoises, seaweed-munching lizards, flamingos, and many other extraordinary animals.

**Most types of animals are similar to their close relatives, but what about the rebels and the rule-breakers of the animal kingdom? Discover more than 75 creatures that truly stand out from the crowd!**



## KEEPING IT COOL

Whereas most penguins face a constant battle to stay warm, the Galápagos penguin has the opposite problem: how to stop itself from overheating. So, it has fewer feathers and much less insulating fat than other penguins do. Panting like a dog is another of its tricks to cool down!

# PECULIAR PENGUINS

Among the world's toughest birds, most penguins have to cope with freezing conditions and snowstorms that rage for days. Most, but not all...



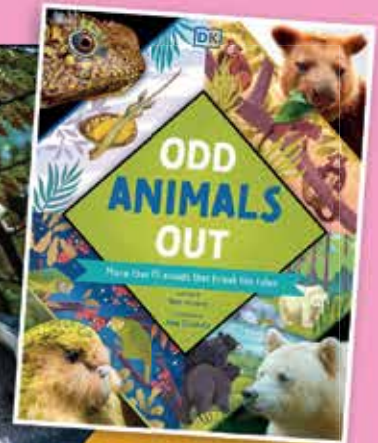
GALÁPAGOS  
PENGUIN



## RAINFOREST PENGUINS

Penguins waddling through a rainforest? Sounds impossible, but it's true! The tawaki, or Fiordland crested penguin, nests among the tangled roots of huge old trees on the shores of New Zealand's South Island. This precious habitat is called temperate rainforest. It's extremely wet, but much cooler than any rainforest in the tropics.

The tawaki is one of the rarest penguins. Scientists think only 2,500–3,000 breeding pairs survive, but it's hard to be sure – their rainforests are so remote!



Extract taken from  
*Odd Animals Out*,  
published by DK,  
2024.

TAWAKI  
PENGUIN

## CHILLED OUT

You can often smell and hear penguin breeding colonies long before you reach them. They are stinky places, packed with birds squabbling, honking, or braying like donkeys. The tawaki is different. It's quiet and shy, and each pair prefers to nest well away from their neighbours.

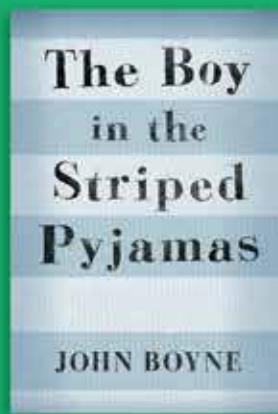


If you liked *Frostheart*...



...then read *Billy and the Epic Escape*

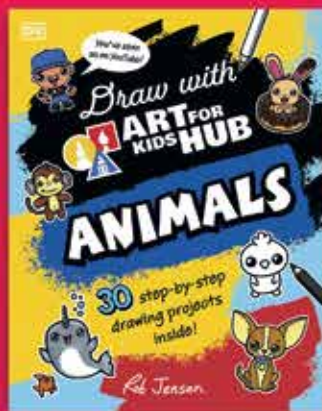
If you liked *The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas*...



...then read *Goodnight Mister Tom*

Are you looking for your next

If you like watching *Art for Kids Hub* on YouTube...



...then read *Draw with Art for Kids Hub: Animals*

If you liked *Royal Blood*



...then read *Royal Scandal* (book 2 in the series!)

book obsession?

If you liked *If He Had Been with Me*...



...then read *If Only I Had Told Her*

If you liked *Then There Was One*...



...then read *One of Us is Back*



New from the world of

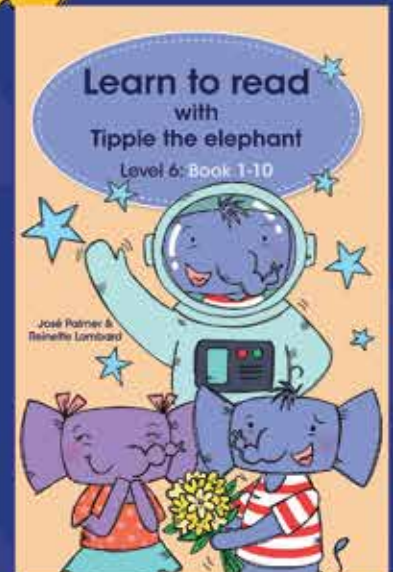
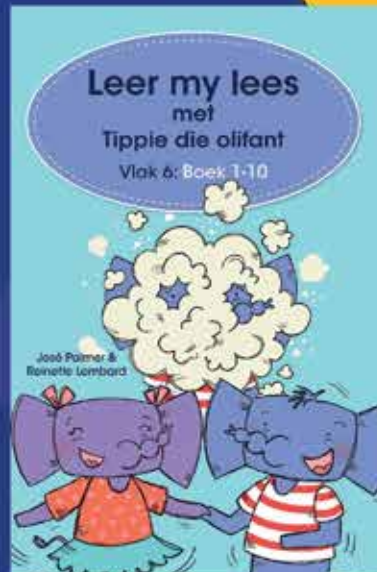
# Tippie

the elephant



May

June



# THE MAJORLY AWKWARD BFF DRAMAS OF LOTTIE BROOKS

Lottie Brooks is **BACK** and she's as **BRILLIANT** as ever!



## NEW YEAR'S DAY

9.04 a.m.

New year, new diary, new multipack of KitKat Chunkys and a new BOYFRIEND!!!! Could life get **ANY** better?!?!?!?

I'm so blissfully happy right now that when Toby farted in my left nostril, I could barely even smell it. And when Bella ate my favourite tinted lip balm and stuck her fingers into my favourite bronzer, I... well, TBH that was actually pretty annoying... but I slammed my bedroom door shut much more gently than I usually would have! At the end of a day, it's just a tinted lip balm and bronzer, and I'm not the one who is angrily trying to get the stains out of the carpet with Vanish, am I?

Who cares about tinted lip balms and bronzers when you are in luuuurrrrrrrve?!

Not me! **NOOOOOO** siree!

I just know that this year is going to be **INCREDIBLE**. I can feel it in my eyelids.



OMG!

10.02 a.m.

Got started on my NYD resolutions. So far I have...

### Lottie's New Year's Resolutions

- ① Try not to be quite so obsessed with KitKat Chunkys.
- ② Pay someone a compliment every day!
- ③ Convince Mum and Dad to increase my pocket money by 50%.
- ④ Get eyebrow hair to grow more symmetrically.
- ⑤ Stop saying OMG (as much).
- ⑥ Get up at 7 a.m. on the weekends and do some yoga/meditation.
- ⑦ Develop my own unique sense of style.
- ⑧ Be more tolerant of my very intolerable siblings.
- ⑨ Try not to be quite so weird.
- ⑩ Meet Taylor Swift.

Number 1 is not going too well because I ate two KitKat Chunkys while writing the list, but I'm going to put the packet away now and not have another for at least two hours.







'Katie has managed to capture the essence of what this group think and feel in a positive, life-affirming fashion.'



10.45 a.m.

I keep daydreaming about last night. So many high points: the dancing, the red cups, the public declaration of love (well, maybe not 'love' but 'like' or whatever) . . . and the KISS!!!

I have been filling in the hammies, in minute detail – they are utterly enthralled!



10.56 a.m.

I think the kiss was the best kiss of my life. OK, I know I've only had two, but I think it was better than the first one. Not by much though . . . maybe like 15% better.

I wonder if Daniel thought it was better?

10.59 a.m.

OMG, what if Daniel thought the kiss was worse?! What if he thought it was 15% worse than last time . . . or 52% worse! OR 78.9% worse?!

EEEEEE! THIS SOUNDS LIKE A TRICKY MATHS QUESTION!!

Q4. If Daniel rated his first kiss with Lottie 9/10 and his second kiss with Lottie 2.5/10, by what percentage has the quality of Lottie's kisses decreased?

I'm not actually going to work that out because:

- (A) I don't want to know.
- (B) I'm not the kind of gal that does maths for fun.

BUT what if every time I kiss Daniel it gets worse and worse and worse until it's 10,000 times worse? Is that even scientifically possible?!

AHHHH! What if it's scientifically impossible to kiss someone who is a worse kisser than me, because I have become the WORST KISSER IN THE ENTIRE WORLD?!

STOP.

This daydream has turned bad. Must go and do something to end this worry spiral. Perhaps I need some more snacks . . .



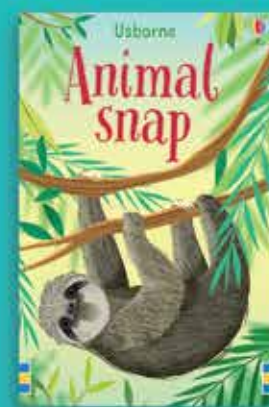
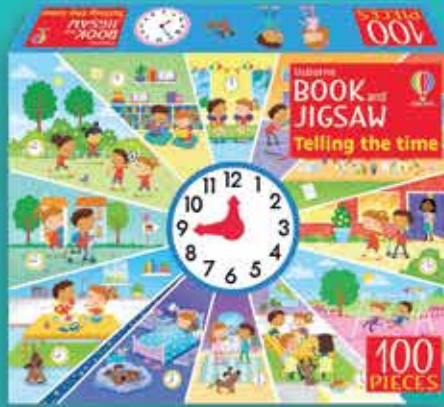
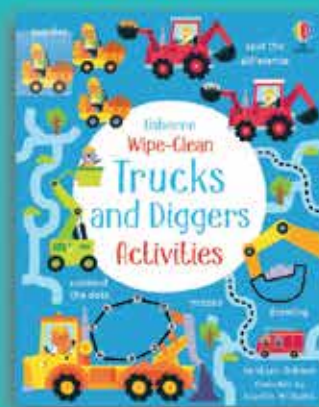
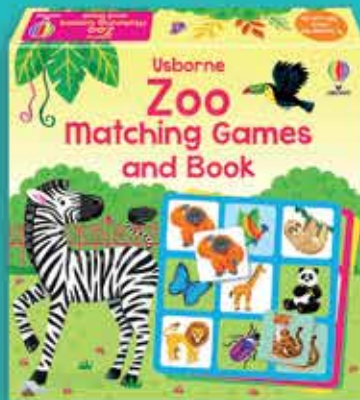
Extract taken from *The Majorly Awkward BFF Dramas of Lottie Brooks* by Katie Kirby, published by Puffin, 2024



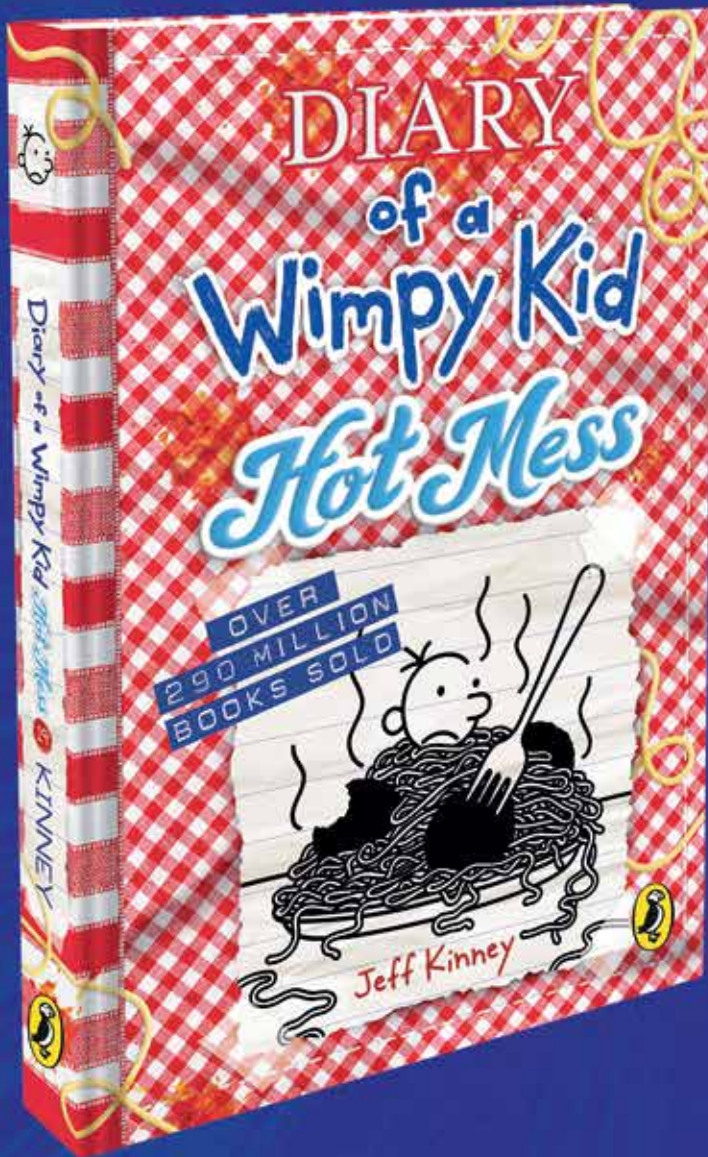
# LEARNING THROUGH



Learn through play with Usborne's range of activity books and games – perfect for all ages and stages!







**GET READY  
FOR THE MOST  
HILARIOUS  
*Diary of a Wimpy Kid*  
BOOK YET!**

**Greg Heffley is caught  
in the middle as the two  
halves of his extended  
family come together  
in a sidesplittingly  
relatable summer story!**

**OUT  
OCTOBER  
2024!**

**Read all the *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* and *Awesome Friendly* books!**






# Reader reviews

This month, Rozanne and Amy tell us what they're currently reading...

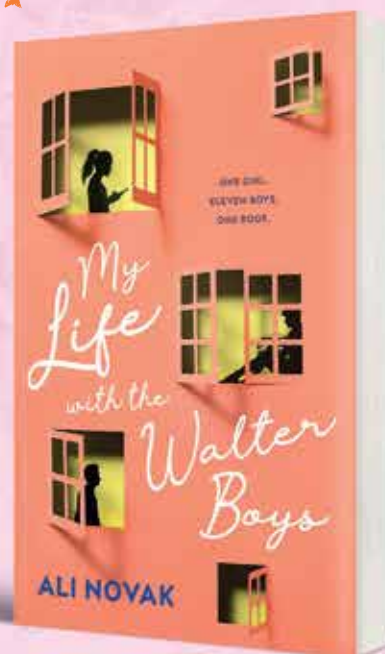
## **My Life with the Walter Boys** ★★★★★ Ali Novak



Reviewed by:  
ROZANNE VISAGIE

 @rozanne\_  
visagie

*My Life with the Walter Boys* is a mix of boys, broken hearts and swoony moments. Jackie lost her family to a tragic accident and was forced to move to a small town, but no one mentioned that her new home would be filled with 12 kids – 11 of whom are boys! This story is more emotional than I expected, as Jackie is dealing with grief and dealing with her new surroundings. Cole and Alex are both dealing with their drama as well as competing for Jackie's attention. Friendship plays an important role in this book as well as finding yourself amidst the chaos. Jackie is such a brilliant lead and I loved her character from the start. I recommend this book to readers 16 years and older, who want to experience butterflies in the stomach caused by young love, the challenges of a new beginning but also forming lasting friendships.



## **Fab Farm** ★★★★★ Lori-Ann Preston



I enjoyed *Fab Farm* because it was funny, I found myself laughing out loud a lot! Deedee loves animals and had tried to persuade her parents to let her have a pet, but she couldn't because they were scared of animals, big or small. It all started on a normal day at school, Deedee saw that there were a lot of people gathered around a tree. Bongani was holding a box and when Deedee peeped inside she saw eight silkworms! All the other children were disgusted except Deedee. Bongani didn't want them so he gave them to her and that was how her Fab Farm started. Before long she gets more pets, from mice to a pig and even an alpaca. Her parents don't believe her pets are real, but the whole neighbourhood enjoys helping the farm.



Reviewed by:  
AMY TROLLIP

 @lisatrollip

# FUTURE SHELF STOPPERS

August



3-6

August



3-6

September



6-9

August



9-12

September



9-12

August



YA

September



YA

September



YA



# Lil' Baby ELEPHANT

DID YOU KNOW?

A baby elephant can weigh 140 kilograms at birth and can weigh 7,000 kilograms when it's fully grown!

Great job, Austin!  
Those colours are splendid!

Learn to draw with  
Art for Kids  
Hub – As  
seen on  
YouTube!

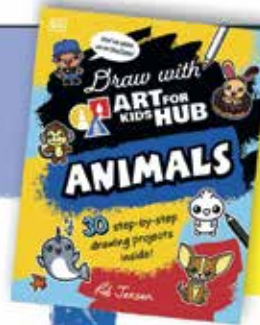


Drawing the trunk  
was a little tricky,  
but I like the way  
it turned out.





Begin with the eyes, trunk, eyebrows, and face.



Extract taken from  
*Draw with Art for  
Kids Hub: Animals*,  
published by DK,  
2024.

1



2



3



Complete the head, body, and ears.  
(Don't forget the tuft of hair!)

4



5



6



Follow the steps in red to  
add the details.

7



8



**Try This!**

There are a lot of shapes and  
lines in this drawing. Just  
take it one step at a time!



Ages  
6-9



# WIN!



## For the ultimate booklover...



Win your choice  
of any six books  
featured in the  
magazine  
**AND** a Penguin  
Random House  
branded book cozi!

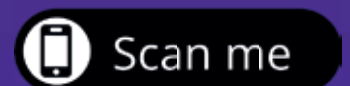
**HOW TO  
ENTER**

Scan the QR code using your  
phone camera to enter the competition  
**OR**

Visit our website: [www.penguinrandomhouse.co.za/  
competitions/huddle-magazine](http://www.penguinrandomhouse.co.za/competitions/huddle-magazine)

Competition dates: 1 June 2024 – 31 August 2024.

T's & C's apply.



Penguin  
Random House  
South Africa