

The Huddle



A magazine about books for kids and young adults

ISSUE 12

your
free
copy

MERRY
CHRISTMAS



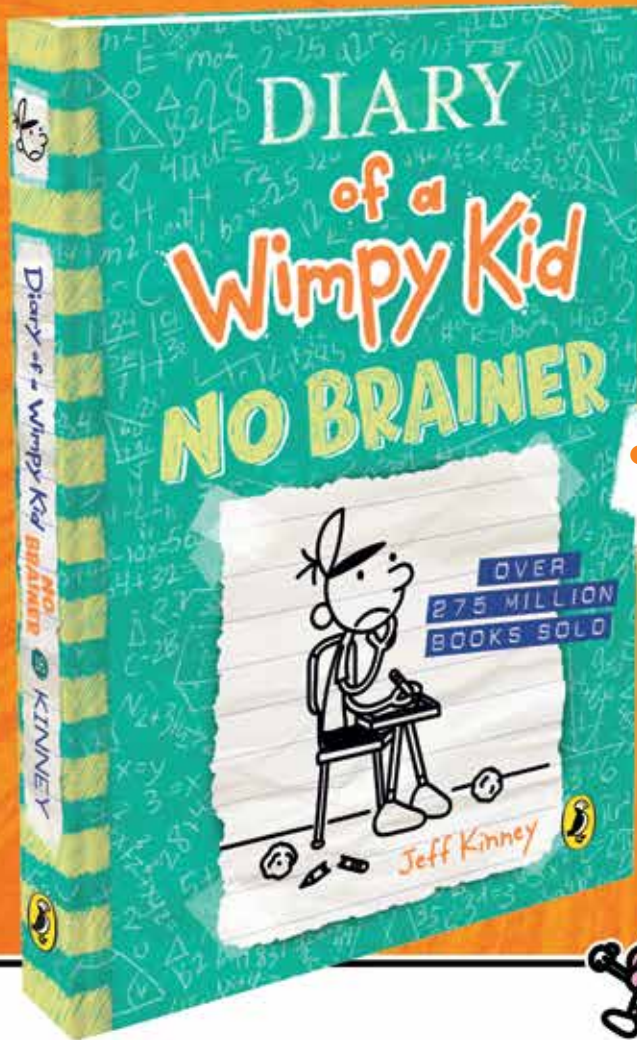
FESTIVE EDITION



LAUGHTER GUARANTEED!

It's
a

NO BRAINER



**OOK BESKIKBAAR
IN AFRIKAANS!**

THE BRAND-NEW
Diary of a Wimpy Kid
BOOK

from #1 international
bestselling author

Jeff Kinney



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



Available now at all good bookstores nationwide and online | www.penguinrandomhouse.co.za

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Letter from: the editor

Hello Readers

As I sit and write this, we are most definitely still on a high after our Springboks won the Rugby World Cup and brought us such tremendous pride. The sheer grit and determination shown from them was awe inspiring – I just hope our younger generation was watching and learning! Success is never guaranteed but it is possible if we work hard and never, ever give up.

We hope you are also inspired by this festive edition of *The Huddle* – it's got a little something for everyone. From brand new books (that would look perfect under that tree), to some marvellously revolting recipes (we're not joking!) to action packed activity books, we're pretty sure you won't be disappointed.

And talking about not being disappointed... the brand-new Diary of a Wimpy Kid is finally on shelves! *No Brainer* is the 18th book in the series and is super funny. Read an extract on page 6! We have been doing some *No Brainer* shows at schools in Johannesburg and the kids have loved them! We have met some incredible Wimpy Kid fans, some awesome friendly librarians, and given away some exclusive merchandise.

If, like me, you are looking for a range of books to keep the kids entertained during the holidays, turn to page 15 to see our selection. My girls are 8 and

10 years-old and they love the Sticker Dolly Dressing and the Magic Painting books – but this selection is perfect for boys and girls from 3 to 12 years-old.

Just a reminder that Wonka, the movie, releases on the 8th of December at cinemas nationwide so save the date! If the trailer is anything to go by, we are in for an absolute treat! Stay tuned to our social channels in order to stand a chance to win amazing prizes.

And then jumping right in to our future shelf stoppers on page 21 to showcase what's in store for you next year. We have a wide range of books from everyone's favourite Blue Heeler, Bluey to another firm favourite, Peppa Pig. And for all the #Swiftie fans out there, we have 96 *Facts about Taylor Swift* which is packed with fun facts, quick quizzes, and bonus pages for journaling.

Here's wishing you all the very best for a wonderful festive season. Spread love, joy and kindness wherever you can. 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

Kim Peters

Get in touch

For any queries, or for more information, contact us at thehuddle@penguinrandomhouse.co.za



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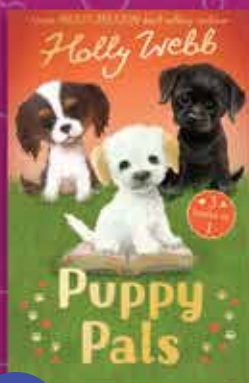
BRAND NEW boredom buster BOOKS



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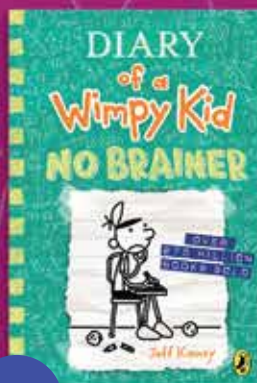
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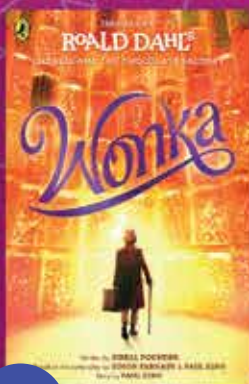
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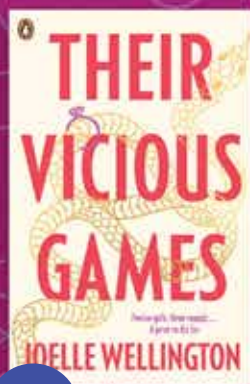
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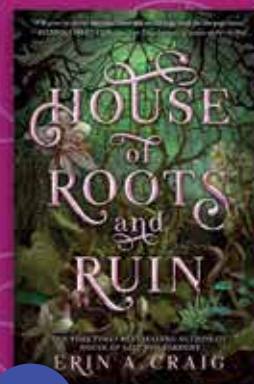
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YA



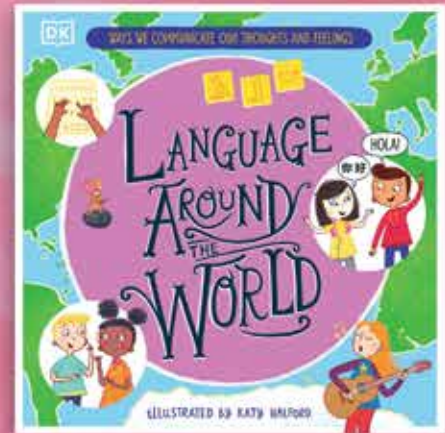
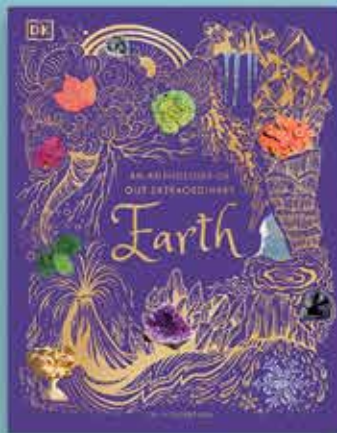
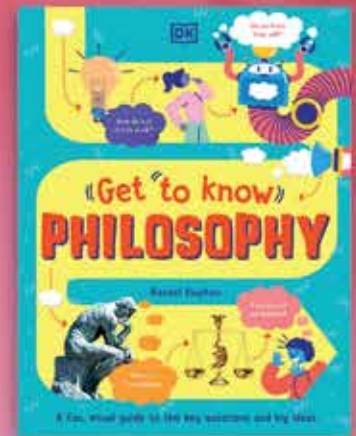
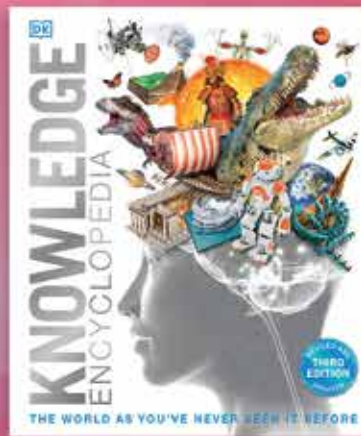
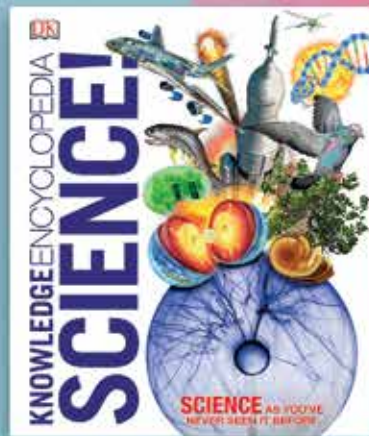
9-12



YA

NEW AND NOTEWORTHY NON-FICTION

Quench your thirst for knowledge!



LAUGHTER GUARANTEED!

It's
a

NO BRAINER

**Can Greg save his crumbling school
before it's shuttered for good?**

What're you gonna do with this thing?

OK, this is your book now, so technically you can
do whatever you want with it.



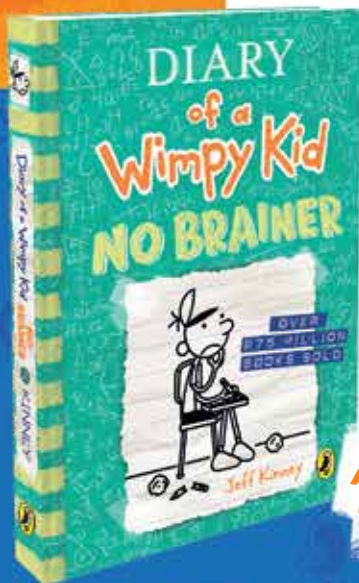
But if you write anything in this journal, make
sure you hold on to it. Because one day you're
gonna want to show people what you were like
back when you were a kid.

WOW, HE WAS
INCREDIBLY SMART AND
WITTY EVEN THEN!

IT'S TRUE!



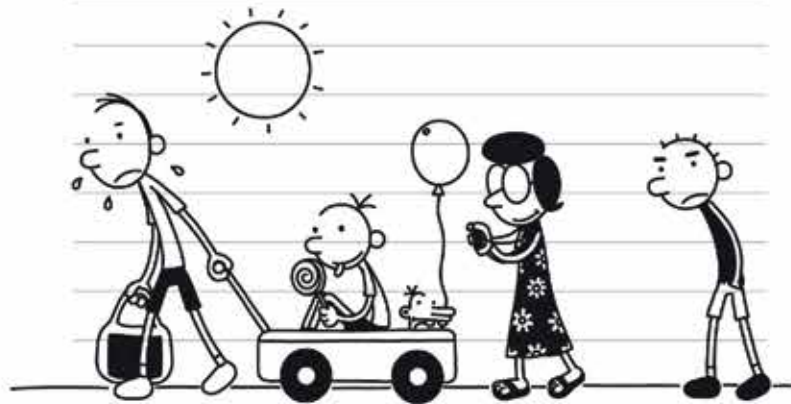
Whatever you do, just make sure you don't write
down your "feelings" in here. Because one thing's
for sure: this is NOT a diary.



**ALSO AVAILABLE
IN AFRIKAANS!**



The BEST VACATION you ever went on



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





HOW TO START MANIFESTING AND MEDITATING for kids

Author Roxie Nafousi began manifesting in her late twenties to improve her life. In this extract from her new book *Manifest for Kids!*, she shares how kids can start to unlock this superpower.

Looking after our bodies helps us to:

- Feel healthier
- Have more energy

Looking after our minds (our thoughts, feelings and emotions) helps us to:

- Feel more confident
- Feel happier day to day
- Cope with challenging times

Here are some ways we can look after our minds and bodies:

- Exercise regularly and drink plenty of water
- Spend time outdoors (preferably in nature)
- Go to bed at the same time each night (and not too late!)
- Eat healthy food (like lots of different fruits and vegetables)
- Write in a journal
- Meditate
- Repeat affirmations
- Practise gratitude

Routines

To see the real benefits of doing any of these things, we have to do them often. One way we can practise doing them more often is to follow a routine.

I want you to make up your own routines, one for the morning and one for the evening. To do this, choose two (or more!) of the above practices to do every day. Here is an example of what a routine could look like.

My routine

DAY 1:

Morning – repeat affirmations, eat a healthy breakfast

Evening – journal, go to bed early

DAY 2:

Morning – affirmations, healthy breakfast

Evening – meditate, journal

DAY 3:

Morning – exercise, practice gratitude

Evening – journal, affirmations

Meditation

Before we go to the next step, I want to talk to you about something called meditation.

Our minds are often very busy. Sometimes the brain is like a monkey, jumping around from one thought to the next. One minute we might be listening to what our teacher is telling us and the next we are thinking about what we want for dinner, and then our mind wanders to what our friend said to us at break time! Some people call this the 'monkey mind'.

One way that we can look after ourselves is to give our busy minds a break – time to rest and recharge. Meditation helps us do this. It is a practice that helps you to quieten that monkey mind by encouraging it to focus on what is happening right now (this is also called 'the present moment'). This means you aren't thinking about what's going to



happen later or what happened in the past. Instead, you are focusing on the present. Remember, manifesting is about living your best life. Regularly practising meditation helps us to do that thanks to its many benefits. Some benefits of meditation are:

- It calms us down when we feel overwhelmed, stressed, sad or angry.
- It makes space in our minds to help us be more creative, come up with new ideas or problem-solve.
- It helps us sleep better and fall asleep more easily.
- It helps us with concentration (which makes this a great tool to use if you're struggling to stay focused at school!).

So how do you do it?

Sometimes people meditate on the floor cross-legged. Or you can also meditate lying down on your back or sat on a chair.

Here are a few other ways to meditate. Can you try one of these now?

1 Listen to a guided meditation.

This is a great option if you are new to meditation. In a guided meditation, a voice will tell you what to do and help lead your

imagination. These are easy to follow and they often play relaxing music in the background too! There are lots of guided meditations on YouTube or different apps. I have also recorded free kids' meditations for you to try, which are available from my website: www.roxienafousi.com

2 Visualize.

Close your eyes and use your imagination to play a calming or happy scene in your mind. For example, you could play one of your favourite memories or imagine yourself in a place where you feel calm, safe and relaxed. When we play happy scenes in our minds, our brains send signals to our bodies that tell it to relax!

3 Teddy/toy meditation.

Lie down on your back. Place your favourite small teddy or toy on your belly and focus your attention on watching it move up and down as you breathe in and out slowly. Remember to inhale through your nose and exhale through your mouth as you do this. You could set a timer before you start so you know when to finish. Try three minutes first, then gradually increase the time each day. I usually like to meditate for ten minutes.



Meditating is about focusing your mind and slowing down your monkey mind! This can be tricky at first, so don't worry if you find it hard to sit still or relax. This is totally normal. It takes practice but keep trying and over time you will find it easier and easier to slow down your mind and relax. This is a skill that will help you throughout your life!

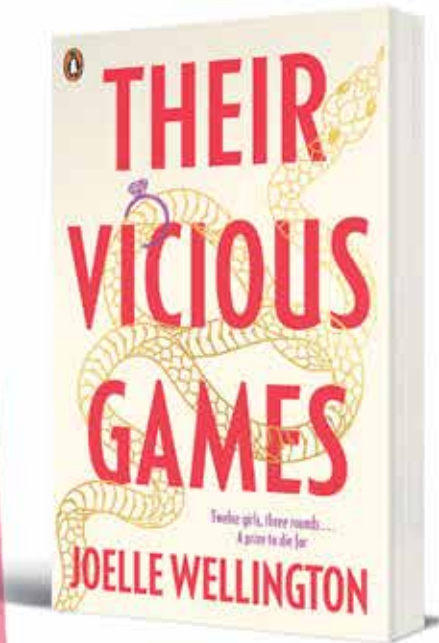
TRY IT WITH YOUR FRIENDS

Find a time to meditate together. Perhaps you could all meditate together at break time? Each day you could challenge yourselves to do one minute longer than the day before!



Books we loved the most this year

In a year filled with a remarkable array of literary gems, the challenge lay in selecting just two standout favourites. In this article, we present Shinola and Prudence's top picks among the year's stellar young adult reads.



Their Vicious Games Joelle Wellington

In this thriller, *Squid Games* meets *Ace of Spaces* meets *The Inheritance Games* and is lightly sprinkled with *The Purge*. Adina Walker has just lost a scholarship to her top choice college and is desperately searching for other options in a world tailored for the upper class. Cue the Remington family. Every year, they host an event called The Finish – annual games where they invite twelve young, ambitious girls to compete in three mysterious events – The Ride, The Raid, and The Royale. The prize? Access to unlimited wealth and power that can open just about any door. But Adina will soon find out that the cost of this life-changing prize might just be her life.



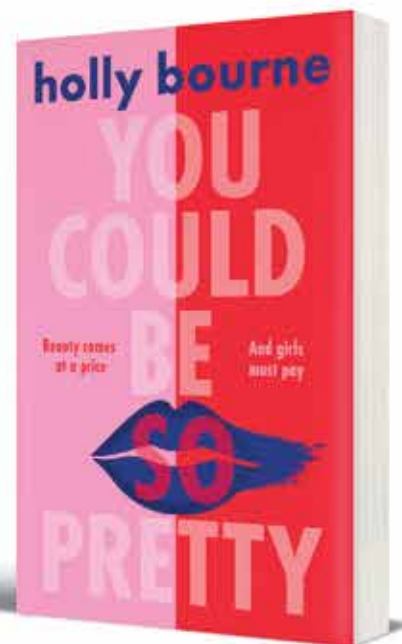
Shinola Govender
Children's Sales Representative



Prudence Makau
Marketing and Publicity Co-ordinator

You Could Be So Pretty Holly Bourne

You Could Be So Pretty is a standout favourite of mine this year, skilfully addressing contemporary feminist issues. It exposes the oppressive societal expectations on women today and the illusion of freedom they're led to believe they have, emphasizing the obsession with appearances. The book artfully explores both sides of this societal coin, revealing the sacrifices of pursuing prettiness and the marginalization of those who reject norms. It highlights the illusion of choice under societal pressures and beautifully portrays the evolving friendship between Belle and Joni. The bittersweet ending complements the message, making this a must-read glimpse into our possible future.





Gifts



FOR THEIR STOCKING

Bring a touch of festive magic with these delightful presents for all ages...



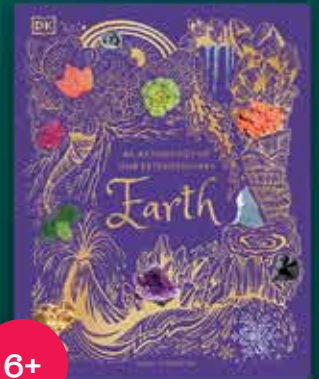
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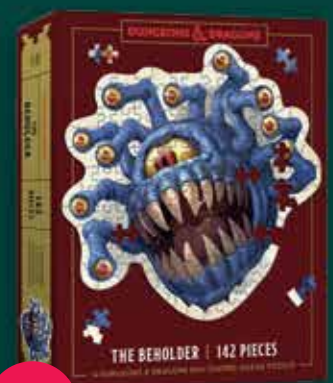
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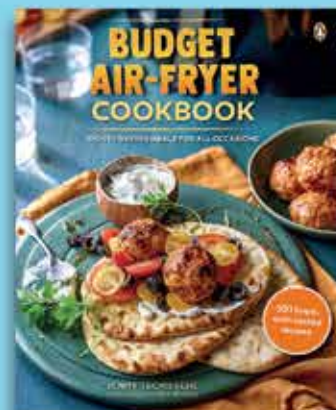
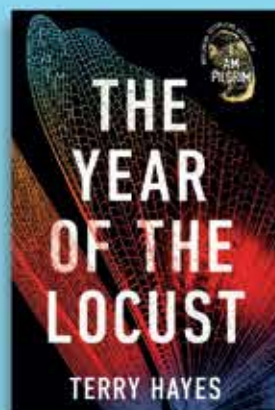
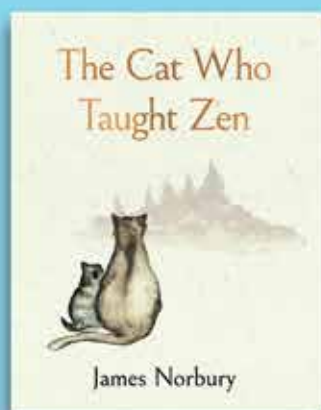
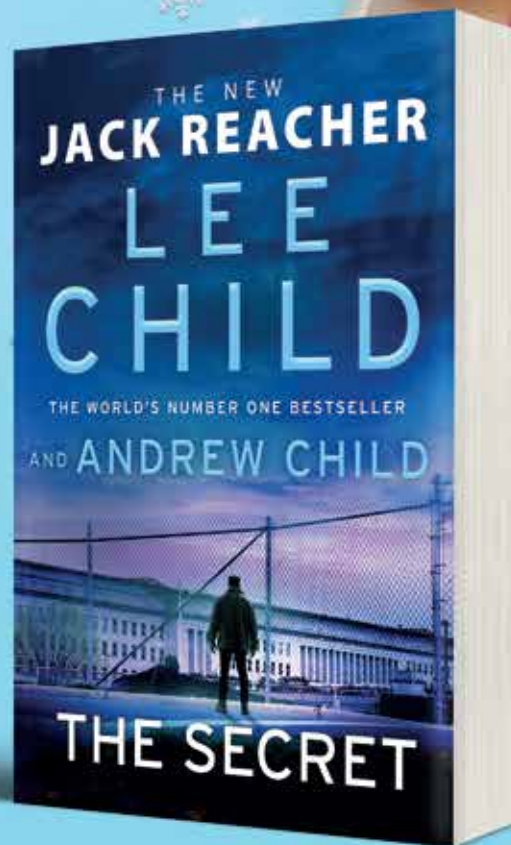
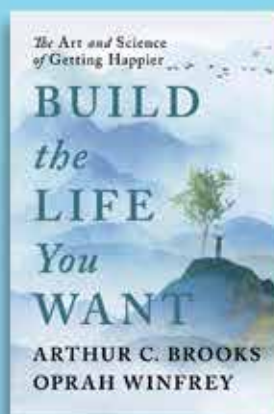
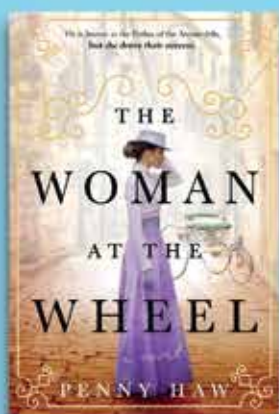
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RELEASE RADAR

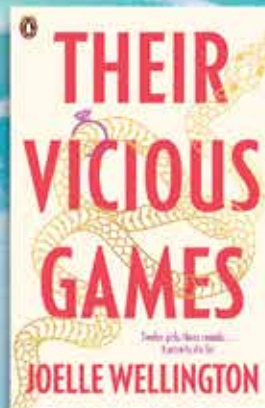
Hang all the mistletoe, deck those halls and bring out the figgy pudding... yes, the festive season is here and we've got just the books for you to welcome in the holiday spirit.



The long-awaited follow-up to the global bestseller, *I Am Pilgrim*

THE BEST OF THE BEST YA BOOKS OF 2023

*In our opinion
anyway!*



Four brothers.
Two missions.
One explosive read.

TOFFEE APPLES

FROM **CHARLIE** AND THE CHOCOLATE
THE FACTORY

ILLUSTRATED BY STEVEN LENTON

MAKES ABOUT 12

YOU WILL NEED

EQUIPMENT

- melon scoop
- cocktail sticks
- small saucepan
- sugar thermometer
- large bowl containing water and ice cubes, kept in fridge

INGREDIENTS

- 4 eating apples
- ½ tbsp water
- 100 g caster sugar
- 25 g butter

WHAT YOU NEED TO DO

- 1** Using the melon scoop, scoop as many balls as possible from three apples. Each apple ball must have some skin on it.
- 2** Place a cocktail stick into the remaining skin left on each ball.
- 3** Get an adult to help you with this next part. Place the other ingredients into a saucepan and heat gently, stirring occasionally. Turn up the heat and boil to 160°C/325°F. The mixture will become a deep chestnut brown. Turn off the heat and allow bubbles to subside.
- 4** Remove the bowl of iced water from the fridge. Working as quickly as possible, dip the apples into the toffee one at a time. Rotate a few times to get an even coating and drop into the iced water for around 30 seconds.
- 5** Now stick the baby toffee apples into the remaining whole apple and continue until all the toffee is used up.





Extract
taken from
*Marvellously
Revolting
Recipes* by
Roald Dahl



Reader reviews

This month, Dominique and Joseph, tell us what they're currently reading...



Girl, Goddess, Queen ★★★★★ Bea Fitzgerald

I love retellings of the story of Hades and Persephone and this was such a unique take. If you're expecting a dark, broody, bad boy Hades then you will be very surprised as the Hades portrayed in this book is gentle, kind and artistic. Of course, I love an enemies to lovers story with a morally grey love interest, but sometimes you just want something that melts your heart and this is exactly how I felt when reading this book. Despite growing up completely sheltered and hidden away from the world, Kore has always had a rebellious nature. Her mother tries to instil the values of what a woman and a wife should be, meek, obedient and submissive. But slowly we learn that our dear goddess of flowers is a lot more than just that. Hades on the other hand has his own secrets that he doesn't want anyone to discover as this could mean his downfall. There are so many lessons in this book that applies to modern society and at times it just broke my heart. I loved the description of the underworld and could picture it so clearly. I did not want this book to end, I just wanted more Hades and Persephone.



Reviewed by:
**DOMINIQUE
FREDERICKS**
[@reading_untamed](#)



Reviewed by:
JOSEPH OHLSON
DE FINE, a Gr 3 pupil
at King Edward VII
Preparatory School

The Sun and the Star ★★★★★ Rick Riordan and Mark Oshiro

The Sun and the Star is a story about the Greek gods. It takes place in current times and is set in the underworld, Tartarus and Camp Half Blood. The main characters in the story are Nico, Will, Nyx, Nemesis, Hypnos and Epiales. Nico is a son of Hades, Will is a son of Apollo, and Nyx is the Primordial Goddess of Night. Nemesis is the Goddess of Revenge and child of Nyx. Hypnos is the God of Sleep and is also a child of Nyx. Lastly is Epiales, Greek Spirit of Nightmares and another child of Nyx. I really liked it when Nico and Nyx fought at Nyx's palace because Nico wanted to leave the underworld and Nyx tried to stop him. I would recommend this book to anyone seven years and older who is interested in learning about Greek mythology.



Action-Packed Activity Books



Take a look at our action-packed selection of books to keep kids of all ages entertained during the holidays!



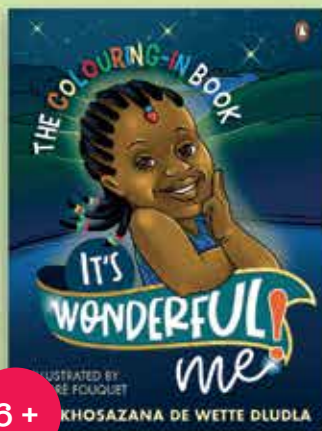
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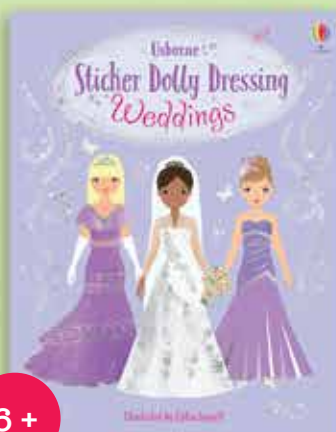
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Insects

Both in terms of species and sheer numbers, insects outnumber all other animals on Earth. They are the most successful creatures on the planet.

More than a million different species of insect have been scientifically named and described, and thousands more are discovered every year. Thanks to their amazing adaptations, they flourish in every land habitat and play a key role in the global ecosystem, recycling dead plants and animals, pollinating flowering plants, and providing food for a host of bigger animals. In fact, insects are so vital to life on Earth that we could not survive without them.



Compound vision

The eyes of adult insects are made up of thousands of tiny lenses, each with its own set of light sensors. Every lens sees a dot of colour, and the dots add up to form a mosaic image. The more lenses, the more detail the insects see. This system is very sensitive to movement.

Sensitive bristles

Many fine, touch-sensitive bristles on the insect's body help to detect air movements.

Antennae

The long antennae are covered in nerve endings that detect chemical signals. Some insects can pick up scents from more than 1.6 km (1 mile) away.

Head

An insect's head is a strong capsule containing its brain and carrying most of its sense organs. It swivels on a very mobile neck joint.

Insect anatomy

Insects are the most numerous of the arthropods – animals with tough external skeletons and jointed legs. The bodies of all adult insects are divided into three sections – the head, thorax, and segmented abdomen. All adult insects have six legs, and most have one or two pairs of wings. But their young, or larvae, are much more variable.



Jaws

This wasp has biting jaws, or mandibles, that pinch together. They have hard, sharp edges that allow the wasp to cut and mash up its prey. Many insects have similar jaws, but the mouthparts of others are highly modified for mopping up liquids, sipping nectar, and even sucking blood.

Claws

Each foot has sharp claws for clinging to surfaces and holding on to prey. Some insects such as blowflies also have sticky foot pads.

Thorax

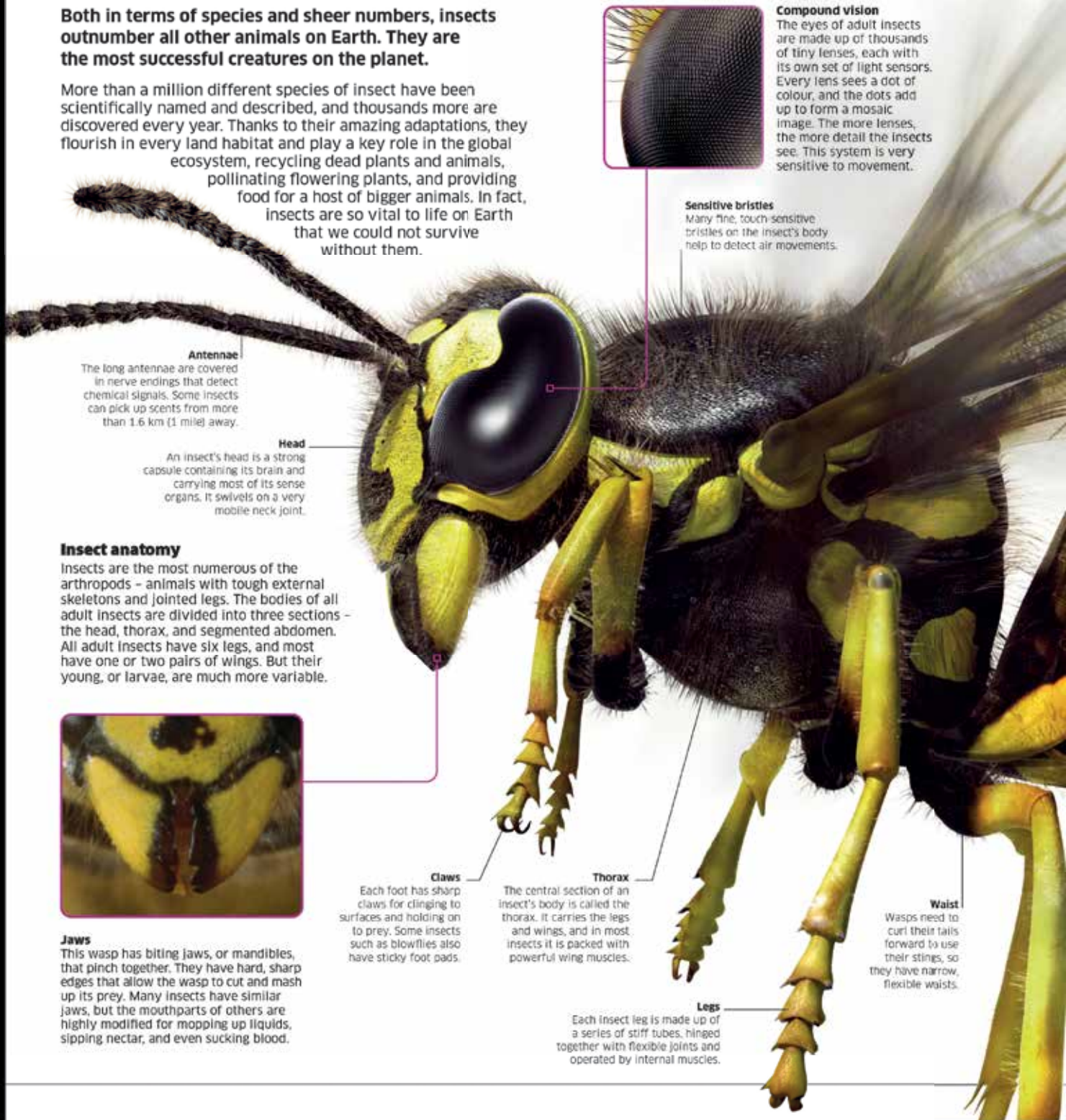
The central section of an insect's body is called the thorax. It carries the legs and wings, and in most insects it is packed with powerful wing muscles.

Legs

Each insect leg is made up of a series of stiff tubes, hinged together with flexible joints and operated by internal muscles.

Waist

Wasps need to curl their tails forward to use their stings, so they have narrow, flexible waists.



Change the way you see the world with a groundbreaking visual approach to the wonders of our planet. From Viking raiders and Samurai warriors to robotics and chemical reactions, amazing animals, the human body, the marvels of history, and more are visualized in incredible detail, inside and out, providing a mind-blowing introduction to every aspect of human knowledge.



The first winged insects appeared more than 350 million years ago.

A big dragonfly may have up to 30,000 tiny lenses in each eye.

1,046 The number of beats a second a midge flaps its wings.

Wings

Most adult insects have wings. These are flat plates of chitin - the tough material that encases the body. They are powered by muscles inside the thorax.

Veins

A network of fine tubes called veins stiffens the wings so they can flex and twist in flight without collapsing under the strain.

Warning pattern

Vivid, contrasting stripes of black and yellow warn birds that this wasp has a sting in its tail, and help the wasp stay out of trouble.

Abdomen

The segmented, flexible abdomen contains most of an insect's vital organs, such as its stomach.

Painful sting

Most insects are harmless, but this wasp has a sting that it uses to kill prey or defend itself and its nest.

Features

Adult insects are very variable in shape and size, but nearly all of them share a few key features.



MOST HAVE WINGS



COMPOUND EYES



EXOSKELETON



THREE BODY SEGMENTS



SIX JOINTED LEGS

Looking at Insects

Insects have been classified into about 29 orders, and within each order the insects share the same features. Shown below are some of the major orders.



Dragonflies and damselflies
5,600 species
Large eyes and wings, and slender bodies.



Beetles
370,000 species
Toughened front wings that help protect the hind wings.



Butterflies and moths
165,000 species
Nectar-feeding mouthparts, and overlapping scales on their bodies and wings.



True bugs
88,000 species
Two pairs of wings and long mouthparts that pierce and suck.



Flies
150,000 species
Single pair of functional wings, with small balancing organs called halteres.



Crickets and grasshoppers
25,000 species
Powerful hind legs and chewing mouthparts.



Ants, bees, and wasps
198,000 species
Have narrow waists and many live in colonies.

73 The percentage of all known animal species that are insects - and almost half of them are beetles.

FOR EVERY HUMAN BEING ON THE PLANET THERE ARE 200 MILLION INSECTS.

DO YOU BELIEVE IN BOOK FAIRIES?

The idea of The Book Fairies is simple. There are people who like to read, and to share the books they've read. And guess what – everyone loves a nice surprise! These two things come together with The Book Fairies – giving people a chance to pop a sticker and some ribbon on a book, make it a little surprise gift for someone, and leave it somewhere to be discovered!

The Book Fairies can be anywhere and could be anyone you know. The Book Fairies are not restricted by countries, transport or anything else. If you want to share books, you can get stickers and be a book fairy. If you are a book lover, keep your eye out for a book hiding near you!

The Book Fairies launched in March 2017, and are very excited to be sharing books worldwide. There are almost 17,000 fairies sharing books in over 100 countries.

Would you like to become a Book Fairy?

It's super easy! Visit www.ibelieveinbookfairies.com to order your stickers. Once you receive them, place them on your book and then hide it for others to discover. You can also order more fun items to add to your drops, like ribbons and buttons.

Be sure to tag [@bookfairiescapetown](#), [@bookfairiessouthafrica](#), and [@bookfairiesworldwide](#) with your book drop and use the hashtag, [#ibelieveinbookfairies](#).



MEET...

LOTTIE BROOKS

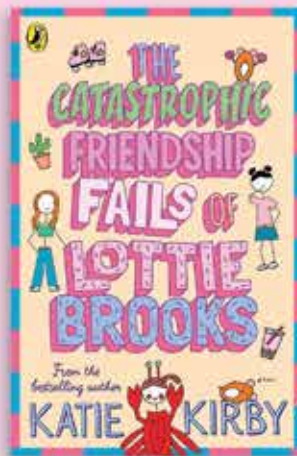
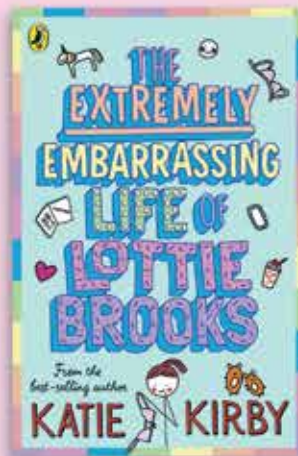


Lottie Brooks is 11 $\frac{3}{4}$ and her life is

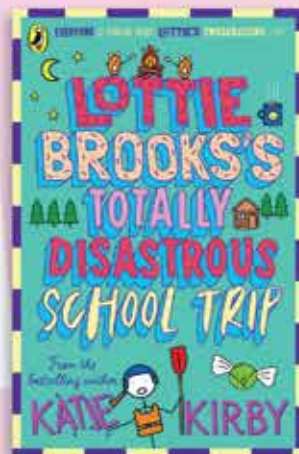
ALREADY

officially over.

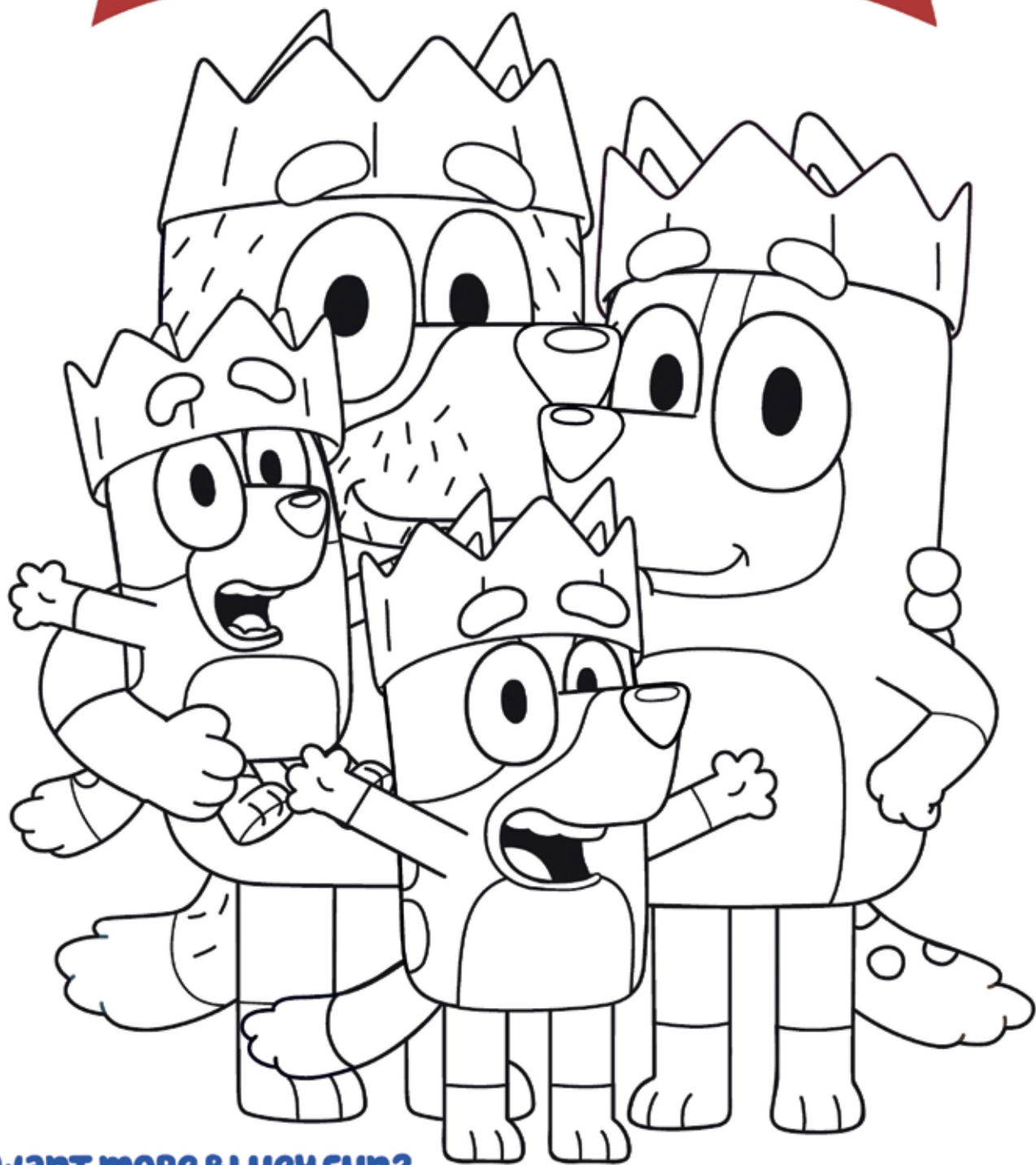
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Ages
9-12



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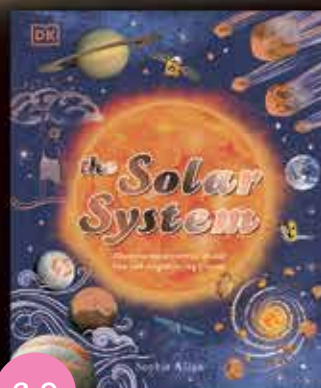
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February



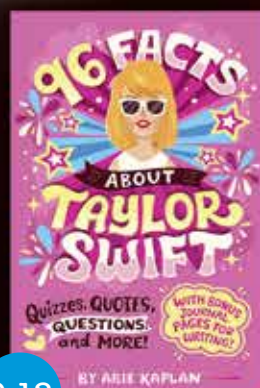
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February



6-9

January



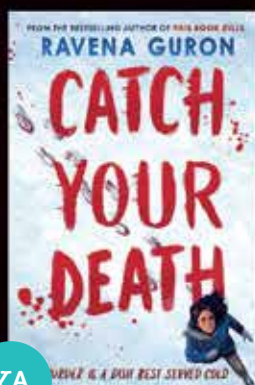
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January



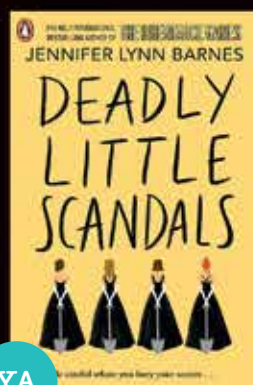
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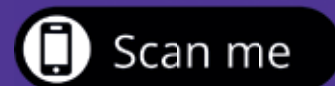
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