

The Huddle



A magazine about books for kids and young adults

ISSUE 13

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AUTUMN EDITION



THE ETERNAL ONES

BY

NAMINA FORNA

The dazzling finale to the groundbreaking, *New York Times* bestselling Gilded Ones series.

One girl holds the power to defeat the gods – but can she become one?



Now available at leading bookstores nationwide and online

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Letter from: the editor



Hello Readers

Our first issue of 2024 has arrived! We are so excited to show you what we have in store for you this year. From our big brand authors like Roald Dahl, Jeff Kinney, Rick Riordan, and Karen McManus to our local treasures like Ros Toerien, Fanie Viljoen and Riaan Manser, we really are spoilt for choice.

My favourite read of 2024 so far is *The Eternal Ones* by bestselling author, Namina Forna. This is the final thrilling instalment of the epic fantasy series in which a young heroine fights against a world that would dare tame her. If you liked *Children of Blood and Bone* and *Black Panther*, you're bound to love *The Eternal Ones*.

The next special mention goes to a new debut writer, Jordan Lees, who has written *The Whisperwicks* – a brilliantly spun and wholly original story about eleven-year-old Benjamiah Creek who is led into the impossible (and most definitely magical) world of Wreathenwold, where dark secrets are lost amongst a vast labyrinth of streets.

Another highlight for the first quarter is *Snowglobe* by Soyoung Park. Published in English for the first time from its original

Korean, the critically-acclaimed *Snowglobe* is a page-turning thriller with twists around every corner. Turn to page 14 to read an extract.

We are so excited to be publishing more books by local author, Ros Toerien. *The Forgotten Four* and *The Speedy Six Olympics* will be on shelves in March. Turn to page 6 to learn a little more about this prolific writer.

And if you're wondering about our range of new books for young adults, turn to page 9. From epic fantasies to charming love stories to brilliantly spooky thrillers... these are the books to usher in the Autumn season. Let me know which one is your favourite! Please take a moment to join our book club – all the details are at the bottom of page 9.

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



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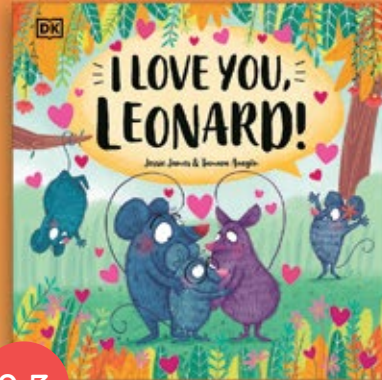
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Fall into

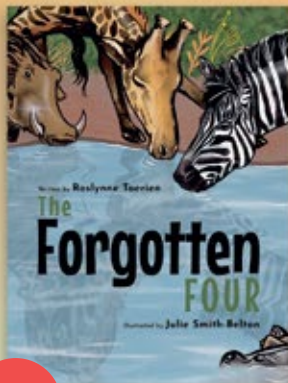
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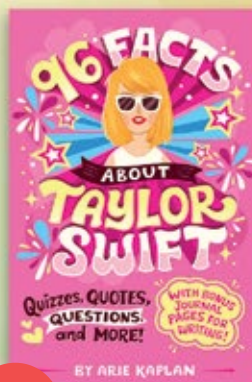
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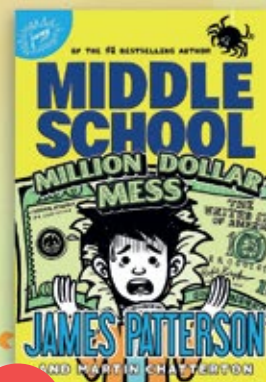
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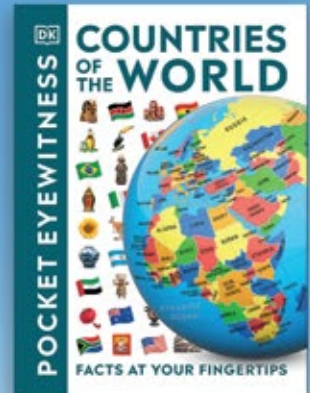
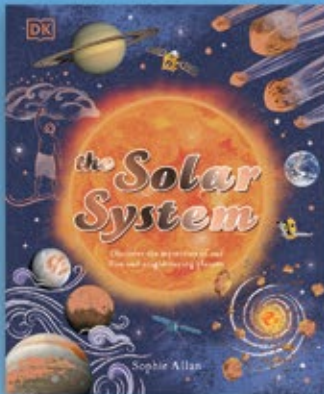
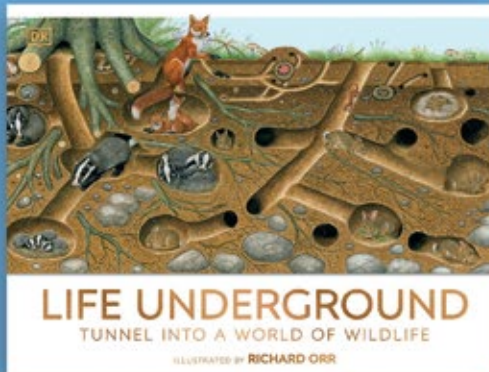
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NEW AND NOTEWORTHY NON-FICTION

Quench your thirst for knowledge!



Also available in
Afrikaans





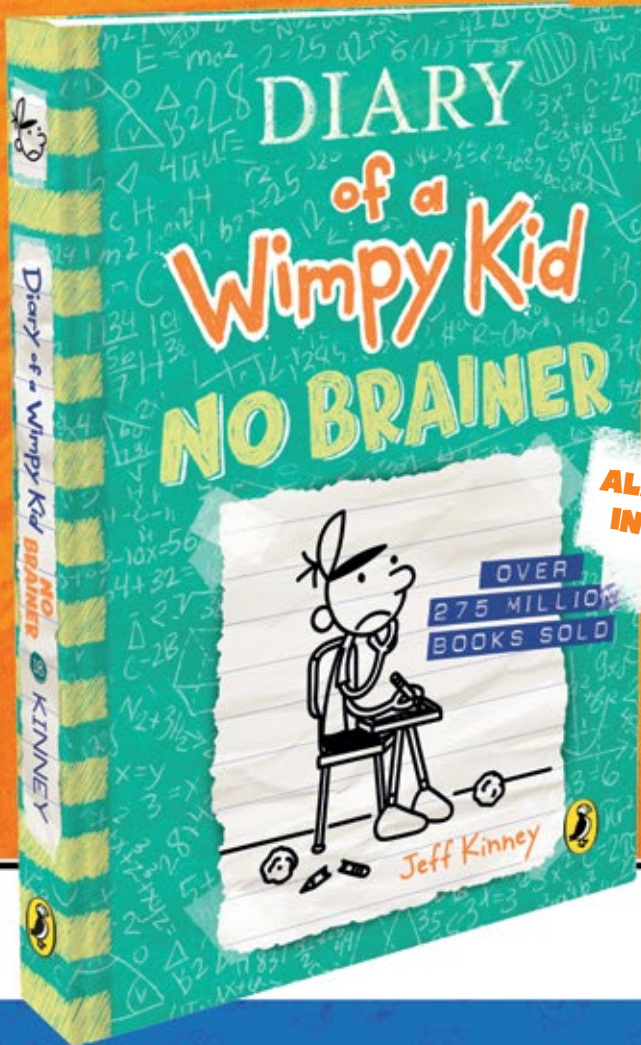
FUN & LAUGHTER GUARANTEED!

It's
a

NO BRAINER

THE BRAND-NEW
Diary of a Wimpy Kid
BOOK

from #1 international
bestselling author
Jeff Kinney



**ALSO AVAILABLE
IN AFRIKAANS!**



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





EASTER EGGS TRAVAGANZA!

Take a look at some of our favourite Easter-themed reads...



Gift and share something less sugary with your little one this Easter



5 minutes with Roslynnne Toerien



We are so proud to be publishing local author, Roslynnne Toerien, a prolific author, and CEO and Founder of the South African Non-Profit Trust, The LEARN Project which stands for 'Let's Educate A Rainbow Nation'. Read on to find out about her brand new books, *The Forgotten Four* and *The Speedy Six Olympics*, plus more!

Tell us about *The Speedy Six Olympics* and *The Forgotten Four*?

The Forgotten Four is a thoughtful adventure story about a family going on their first African Safari. They encounter the famous big five, but it is the lesser mentioned forgotten four that have them captivated. A fun and engaging story for the whole family that will have you ready and eager to book your own African Safari experience. A book based on my own game drive adventures with my children and my youngest, Max who always notices animals that many drive past.

The Speedy Six Olympics is a delightful rhyme based story where imaginations run wild as the animal Olympics unfolds. A fun, quirky story for children and adults alike, with a dose of humour and valuable life lessons. As disaster strikes mid race, the animals start to quarrel until the wise old owl comes forward with a moral. With the 2024 Olympic Games this year, I am so excited to be releasing this book about the 'Animal Olympics' out in the wild, which I thoroughly enjoyed writing and weaving together.

Where do you get your ideas from?

I draw my inspiration from seeing the world through the lenses of my three precious children. As a child, the view is untainted and

wonderous. I love how they notice details and see beauty in the world around them. Imagination is a powerful tool when you let it run wild.

Why do you love to write about animals?

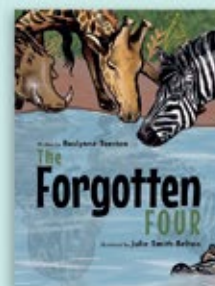
I am proudly South African and love the diversity of nature and our wildlife. Each animal is so unique and many are now endangered. Creating awareness around these animals is so important in the quest to protect them and avoid extinction. I love researching animal characteristics and qualities and then weaving them into a story so that children can get to know interesting facts about them and develop a love for animals and a deeper appreciation for wildlife.

What is your favourite wild animal to give a personality to?

Each animal has amazing features and characteristics. It is hard to choose a favourite. I do love the rhino and my first book *The Rumbling Rhino* highlights the plight of saving the rhino. Giraffe have such beautiful features and expressions and the elephant have such character. *The Speedy Six Olympics* really does highlight the many varied wild animal personalities. Let me know which is your favourite once you have read the book!

Why do you enjoy writing for kids?

As a mom, teacher and founder of The LEARN Project, a South African Non-Profit Trust standing for Let's Educate A Rainbow Nation, now in its 12th year of establishing libraries and book corners in schools, I have always had a love for children and a passion for children's books and writing. I love to write books for children that are fun, adventurous and exciting with an educational element where they learn interesting facts whilst enjoying a story. All four of my children's books are rhyme based stories with a rhythm and flow. I love the power of words and the message they can carry when used meaningfully. I love being a children's book author and sharing my writing and passion for reading books with the world. Visiting schools for author readings is a highlight, as is special visits to book stores and book fairs across SA. With The LEARN Project we have the motto: "Readers make leaders and leaders build nations, it is up to us to equip future generations."

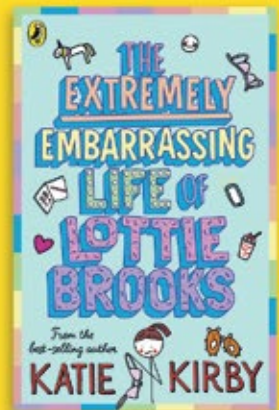
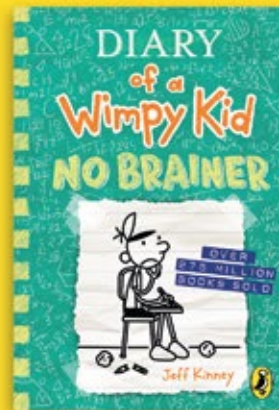


If you liked *How to Lose an Earl in 10 Weeks...*



...then read *The Davenports*

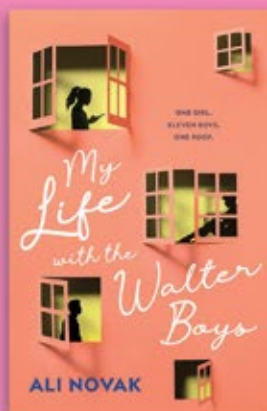
If you liked *Diary of a Wimpy Kid*
Kid 18: No Brainer...



...then read *The Extremely Embarrassing Life of Lottie Brooks*

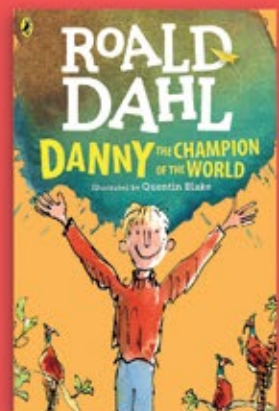
Are you looking for your next

If you liked
The Summer I Turned Pretty...



...then read *My Life with the Walter Boys*

If you liked *Danny the Champion of the World...*



...then read *Billy and the Giant Adventure*

book obsession?

If you liked *Murtagh...*



...then read *Chaos & Flame*

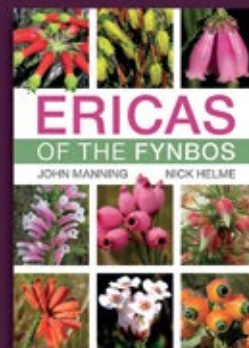
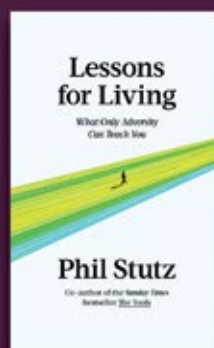
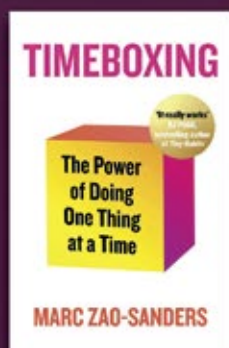
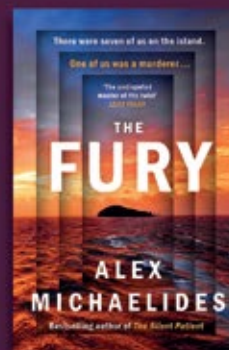
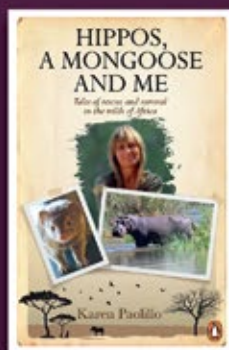
If you liked *Girl, Goddess, Queen...*



...then read *Threads That Bind*

RELEASE RADAR

Fall in love with these brand new books

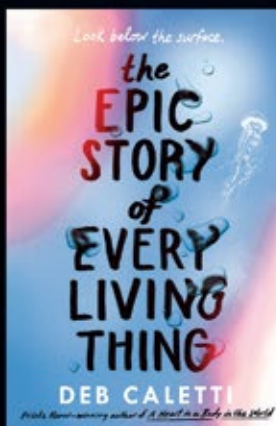
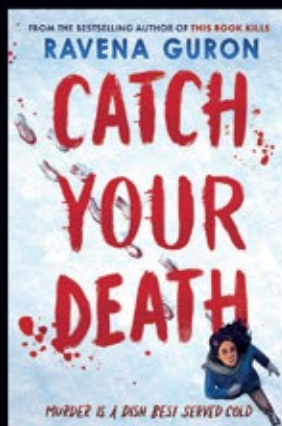


Have you read our magazine?

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

Visit www.penguinrandomhouse.co.za for more

AUTUMN READS



JOIN OUR ONLINE YA BOOKCLUB

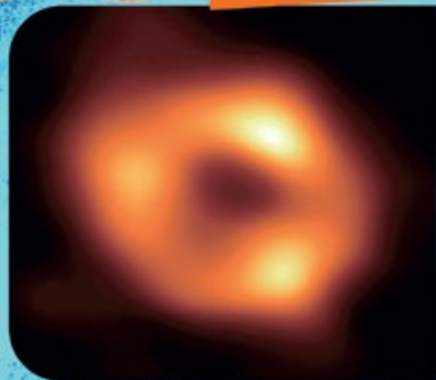
Dive into the world of captivating YA reads with the Penguin YA Book Club on Discord!

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





Discover our expansive solar system in this breathtaking journey into space.



Black hole

In the centre of the Milky Way sits Sagittarius A*, a supermassive black hole. A black hole is an extremely dense place in space, which light cannot escape from. In May 2022, astronomers released the first image of a black hole. It shows the radio waves around Sagittarius A*.



Spiral arms

Our Solar System is inside the Orion arm of the Milky Way. The other arms of our galaxy can sometimes be seen as bands of stars across the sky, like in this picture. They are only visible at certain times of year and on clear nights, far away from city lights.

Our place in space

- ★ Space is unimaginably big. It contains more stars than there are grains of sand on all the beaches on Earth! These stars are not evenly spread out – they clump together in groups of hundreds of billions, called galaxies. Each galaxy is a collection of stars, gas, and dust, held together by a force called gravity. Earth is a small part of our Solar System, which is a tiny part of a huge, spiral-shaped galaxy called the Milky Way.



Planet Earth is here



Extract taken from
The Solar System,
published by
DK, 2024.

Types of galaxies

Galaxies are grouped into three main types: spiral, elliptical, and irregular. Our Universe contains hundreds of billions of them! Astronomers believe that, like the Milky Way, most large galaxies have a black hole at their centre.

Spiral

These galaxies are wide, flat disks with spinning arms of gas, dust, and stars. Barred spiral galaxies like the Milky Way have a bar of stars running through the centre.



Bar of stars

Elliptical

These galaxies are oval-shaped and look fairly uniform, with no spiral arm structure. They are made up of older stars.



Irregular

As the name suggests, these galaxies have no regular shape and often look very chaotic! They tend to be small, with lots of gas, dust, and young stars.



Our galaxy,
the Milky Way

Get smart

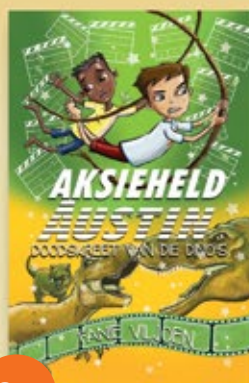
Explore our range of action-filled, inspiring, and, at times, heart-rending titles – perfect for the classroom – or at home!



9+



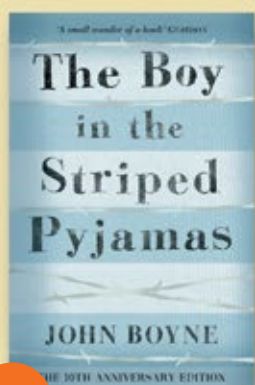
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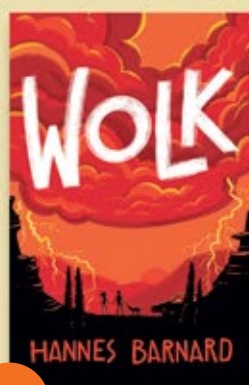
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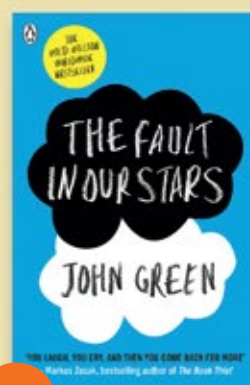
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YA



YA

Plus many more!

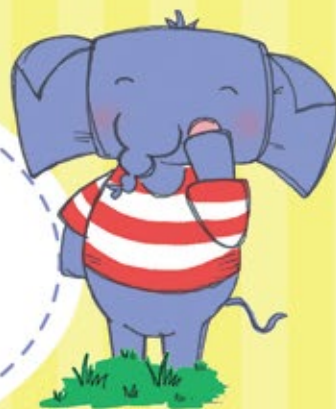
For more information on these titles, or to receive a comprehensive list of all of our prescribed titles, contact Hannes Barnard at hbarnard@penguinrandomhouse.co.za



New from the world of

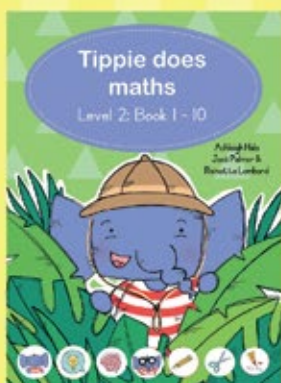
Tippie

the elephant



Available in
English and
Afrikaans!

January



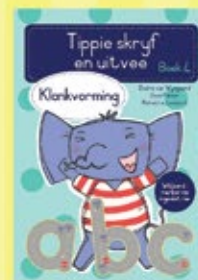
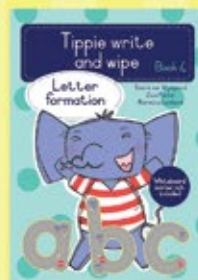
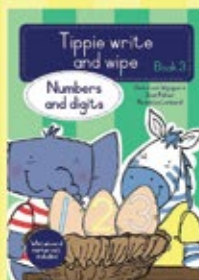
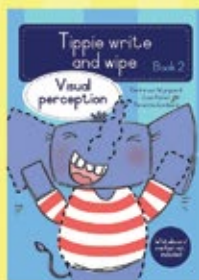
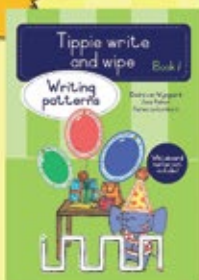
7+

June

Learn to read /
Leer my lees
level 6

February

5+



SNOWGLOBE

A groundbreaking Korean novel translated
into English for the first time!

The Age of Snowglobe

In the living room, Grandma is sunk in her chair in front of her favorite TV show, a heavy quilt draped over her lap. I look down at the weather ticker scrolling away along the bottom of the screen.

–50F

That’s a three-degree drop from yesterday. A snow cloud icon trails the temperature, suggesting flurries throughout the day, and Grandma pushes herself out of the chair, shuffling to the electric space heater with the kettle in hand. My brother, On-gi, appears in the living room, wearing his standard morning look: a toothbrush in his mouth and a scowl on his face.

“I wish I was still in school!” he whines, because schools close in temperatures below –50F.

“Just brush your teeth, please,” I respond flatly, which comes out garbled as I’m still brushing mine, and turn back

to the TV. As usual, Grandma has it on channel 60, the station that airs the Goh Hae-ri Show round-the-clock.

“No! Hear me out,” On-gi persists, stepping in front of me and ratcheting up the grievance in his voice. “I turned sixteen ten months ago when I was in school. I’m still sixteen today, but just because I graduated, I’m now expected to endure this brutal temperature?”

His face is blocking my view of the TV. Plus, what does he want me to do about the weather? “Stop spraying toothpaste all over the floor, would you?” I snap, suddenly irritated.

On-gi is my twin brother born exactly ten minutes before me. He likes to pretend to be older and wiser, which is laughable to no end. He should know well by now that I only came second to make sure he got out safely — kind of like a

captain being the last one off the ship. I’ve been taking care of him since we shared a womb.

Grandma, back in her saggings of a chair, swivels her head in our direction. “On-gi, my sweet,” she calls. “Don’t act like a baby in front of your girlfriend.”

On-gi’s eyes bug out, and her aces to the kitchen sink where he spits out the mouthful of foaming toothpaste with extra force.

“Grandma!” he cries out. “Jeon Cho-bamis *not* my girlfriend!”

Grandma has dementia, and she’s been confusing me for my brother’s non-existent girlfriend for some time now.

I leave On-gi to stew and head back into the bathroom where I turn on the wall-mounted faucet and fill the tin basin under it. When I scoop up the frigid water and rinse my mouth, the cold sends a

*“The Hunger Games meets Squid Game in
Soyoung Park’s dystopian thriller *Snowglobe*.”*

Entertainment Weekly



shocking jolt through my teeth down to my jawbone, which immediately begins to ache. My hair is next. I’m staring in to the basin, steeling myself against the brain-chilling assault to come, when Grandma appears at the door with the kettle in her hand, a plume of steamescaping its spout.

“Watchout, dear,” she says and stoops to carefully tip the kettle over the basin. “I made this hot water for On-gi, but he wants you to have it instead.”

I watch as she sticks her hand in the basin and swishes the water around to even out the temperature. Over the rising steam, her face is aglow with pride and joy that her grandson grew up to be such a considerate young person — a true gentleman who knows how to care for his girlfriend. Meanwhile, said young man is washing his hair at the kitchen sink, howling as he dips his head under the frigid stream. I can’t

help but laugh at his antics as Grandma shuffles back toward the door with the empty kettle.

“Thank you, Grandma,” I say.

She stops in her tracks. Turning around slowly, she searches my face for along moment with her watery eyes.

“You sound just like my granddaughter,” she says in a voice full of IOn-ging. Then she turns back around and heads out the door for her worn sofa chair.

In the mudroom, On-gi and I struggle to pull on our heavy snow boots. It’s made all the more difficult by the layers of insulated clothes — tops, pants, and tights — we have on under our thick snowbibs. Next, come out parkas, expedition-weight mittens, and ski masks. Then, finally, the hoods go up, and we’re ready.

“We’re off, Granny! See you later!” On-gi calls toward the living room in his usual up-beat tone.

But as he turns th doorknob, Grandma’s urgent voice stops us short. “Wait! My goodness, On-gi! Cho-bahm ison TV!” she cries.

On-gi and I exchange a look as she coos at the TV. “Aww... Cho-bahm! My sweet baby girl.”

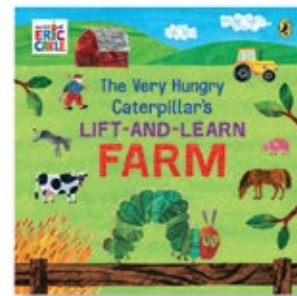
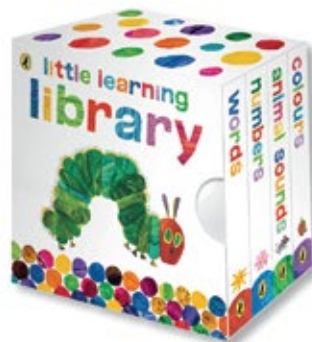
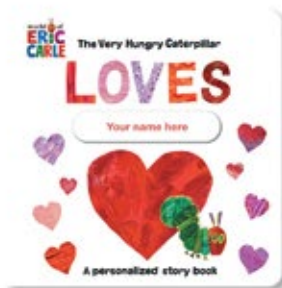
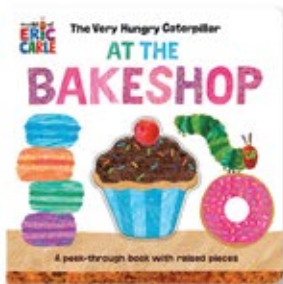
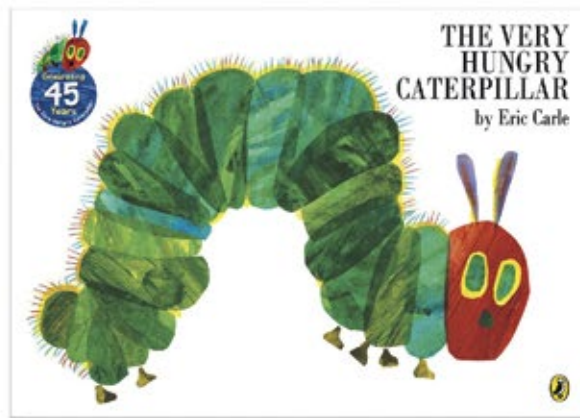
I don’t have to look to know that it’s Goh Hae-ri on the screen. On-gi refuses to acknowledge it, but the beloved actress and I look very much alike. We even share the same birthday, and for what it’s worth, it so happens that we’re both lefties. But no one, except for Grandma, would ever mistake me for her, what with my rough cheeks perpetually inflamed from daily exposure to bone-dry, sub-zero air, and my coarse hair cropped short for quick washing in frigid water. In contrast, Hae-ri’s porcelain skin, rosy cheeks, and trademark long, shiny hair, radiates her Snowglobe pedigree.

Extract taken from *Snowglobe* by Soyoung Park & Jounghmin Lee Comfort,
published by Penguin Random House, 2024



Go on exciting adventures with

The Very Hungry Caterpillar



Which one is your favourite?

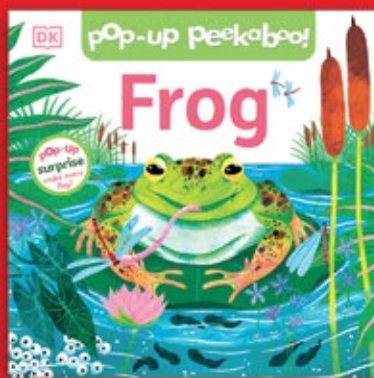
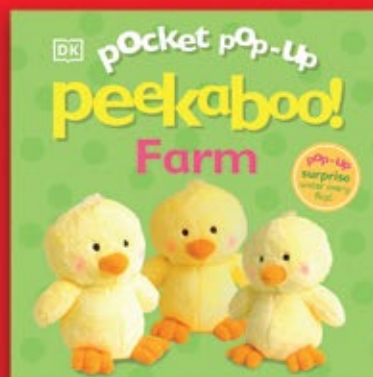
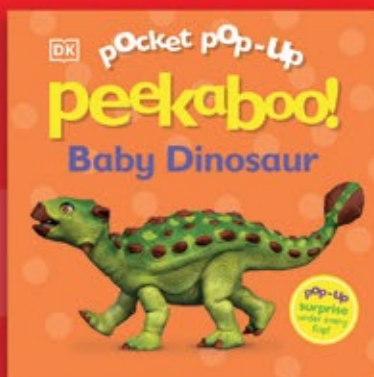
"Gorgeously illustrated, brilliantly innovative..."
– The New York Times



peekaboo!

BY DK

With pop-up surprises under every flap!



Have you read them all?

Reader reviews

This month, Zaharah and Linda,
tell us what they've been reading...



Reviewed by:
**ZAHARAH
MOHIDEEN**

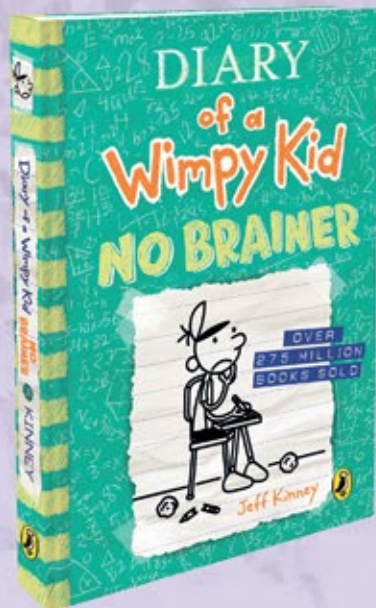
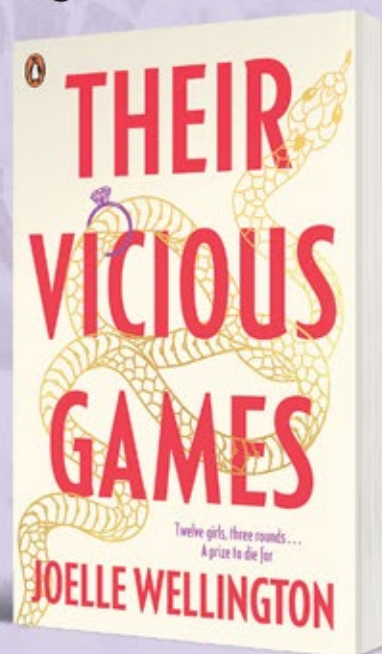
@zaharah.reads

Their Vicious Games ★★★★★ **Joelle Wellington**

This was such an addicting read!

Ready or Not meets *The Selection* series in this thrilling, high stakes, teen scream gem of a book! Action packed meets ballroom high society. Full of strong female characters galore... Masterfully mind altering, gritty and a bit gory! It felt like reading *squid game* if it were all ambitious head strong young women vying for a once in a lifetime opportunity. What's going to stop a girl from getting what she wants? A charming son or two of a billionaire empire?

What a fantastic book with such a unique story line – and it keeps you on your toes until the very end.



Diary of a Wimpy Kid: No Brainer ★★★★★ **Jeff Kinney**

Diary of a Wimpy Kid is about a boy named Greg Heffley and his family and friends. In book number 18, *No Brainer*, Greg and his best friend, Rowley, go to different schools and everything goes wrong. Rowley goes to a good school and Greg goes to a very bad school.

At first, when Greg's school gets shut down, he was happy because he thought he was going to a good school, and then he eventually found out that he was going to a bad one. While the construction workers were breaking down the walls of the school, they found treasure. They showed the principal and then he reopened the school and Greg and his friends were happy.

I like *No Brainer* because it has twists and turns, and I would recommend it to other kids my age and older because it's a nice book and I think it's the best *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* yet (and I've read all of them!).



Reviewed by:
LINDA GAQA,
a Gr 4 pupil at
**King Edward VII
Preparatory School**

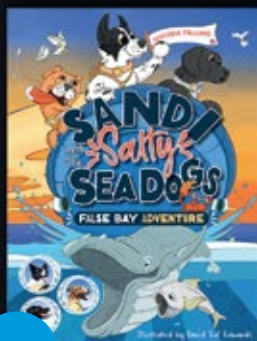


FUTURE SHELF STOPPERS



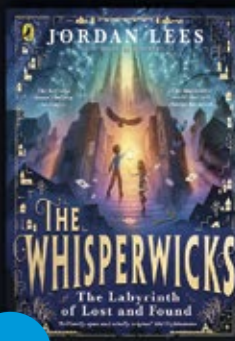
9-12

April



9-12

April



9-12

May



9-12

May



YA

April



YA

May



YA

May

Go on a wild adventure through the African bush!



WARTHOG



ZEBRA



SPOTTED HYAENA



BUSHPIG



GIRAFFE

Species search

Find the names of all the pictured animals in the word puzzle on the opposite page.



SPRINGBOK



BUSH KAROO RAT



VERVET MONKEY



HIPPOPOTAMUS



KLIPSPRINGER



CHEETAH



HONEY BADGER



MEERKAT



ROCK HYRAX

The elephant, rhinoceros, lion, buffalo and leopard are members of the **Big Five**. Long ago, they were seen as the animals most dangerous to hunt on foot. Today, they are the animals most exciting to spot in the wild.





Extract taken from
Mammal Safari Activity Book, published by
 Struik Nature, 2024.
 Also available in Afrikaans!

E	P	G	Q	T	Y	N	M	H	O	N	E	Y	B	A	D	G	E	R
C	W	B	C	H	L	O	E	Z	V	H	B	U	U	I	G	G	Q	R
R	R	U	J	O	R	S	O	N	T	C	K	V	S	R	I	K	H	I
O	O	S	P	R	I	N	G	B	O	K	E	E	H	E	R	L	I	P
C	Y	H	W	O	T	I	Z	U	D	I	N	R	K	D	A	P	P	Y
K	A	P	E	N	E	M	Z	F	D	Z	S	V	A	F	F	O	P	T
H	I	I	C	H	W	A	Y	F	Y	Z	A	E	R	T	F	I	O	R
Y	E	G	E	W	O	T	H	A	H	Y	S	T	O	E	E	Y	P	E
R	L	H	O	P	A	T	E	L	A	Y	I	M	O	W	O	T	O	G
A	R	V	N	O	C	R	L	O	D	E	L	O	R	P	T	R	T	I
X	I	M	E	R	C	T	T	O	N	S	M	N	A	Q	L	R	A	R
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Y	O	L	E	O	P	A	R	D	P	G	I	Y	O	F	A	F	S	N
C	M	T	Z	P	R	C	T	G	Z	P	V	C	E	P	H	S	E	O
H	M	E	Y	S	P	O	T	T	E	D	H	Y	A	E	N	A	V	C
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U	V	Q	O	N	Q	C	T	V	A	C	C	H	E	E	T	A	H	Z



Ages
 6-9

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