

The Huddle



A magazine about books for kids and young adults



your
free
copy

COZY *Winter* READS



THE MERCILESS ONES

THE HIGHLY ANTICIPATED SEQUEL TO
THE GILDED ONES

**WILL THEY SEE US
AS WARRIORS...
OR MONSTERS?**

The Merciless Ones is
the second, thrilling
instalment of the epic
fantasy series in which
a young heroine fights
against a world that
would dare tame her.

**COMING
AUGUST
2022**



Letter from: the editor

Hello Readers

I hope you are warm and tucked up tight as you page through our brand new Winter edition! We have so much to share with you – and so much to look forward to in the coming months of 2022.

First up though, we'd like to take a moment to congratulate Fanie Viljoen who recently won the coveted Scheepers Prize for Youth literature for his multi-award-winning title, *Offers vir die vlieë*. The awarding of this prize is considered every three years for a youth book in Afrikaans in any genre. Congratulations, Fanie, we are proud of you!

And while we're talking about big time authors, Riaan Manser has been doing the rounds at schools in Johannesburg and Cape Town recently. How lucky are we to be able to hear all about Riaan's epic journey around Africa on his bicycle... turn to pages 4 and 5 to learn more about Riaan.

Another local author, Owen Hendry, has put together a beautiful safari guide for young explorers, called *The World of African Wildlife*. Have you ever wondered how a gemsbok stays cool in the desert? Or why you

should never pick up a bullfrog? The answers to these and many more can be found in this informative and entertaining book for young nature lovers. Turn to page 8 and 9 for a sneak peek.

On page 10, we have put together a list of books that any young adult is sure to love... we've got everything from historical fiction to graphic novels so be sure to let us know which one is your favourite!

And then we're very excited to bring you an exclusive extract from *The Midnighters* on page 17. Adventures are best served with a drizzle of moonlight and a sprinkle of stars in Hana Tooke's latest offering – for fans of *The Graveyard Book* and *Nevermoor*.

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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In this issue

02 Brand New
New characters. New worlds.
New experiences.

Peppa Pig 03
Join Peppa's reading adventure

04 My First African Adventure
Extract, plus Did you Know?

Warm Wintery Reads 06
For Middle-graders

07 Sizzling South African Stories
The perfect gift for near or far!

08 The World of African Wildlife
A safari guide for young explorers

Release Radar 10
Books for Adults

Our top 10 young adult books of 2022 (so far) 11

12 Ons is jou kameraad in die klaskamer!

New from Tippie the Elephant 13
Learn to Read Level 5 now available

14 Onderhoud met Sunel Combrinck

Nuwe Boeke op die Rak 15

16 Reader Reviews
Our reviewers tell us what they're currently reading

The Midnighters 17
Exclusive extract!

18 Let's cook with Siba
The perfect time of year for mini chicken pies YUM!

Colour in Bluey and Bingo! 20
Catch Bluey on DSTV Disney Junior Channel 309

21 Many bookish reasons to look forward to Spring

BRAND NEW!

New characters. New worlds. New experiences.

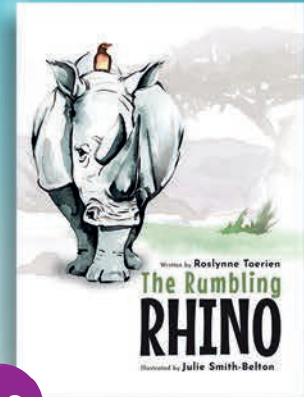


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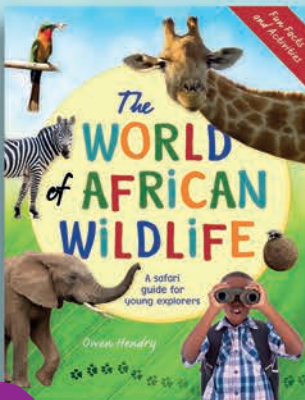


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Available in July

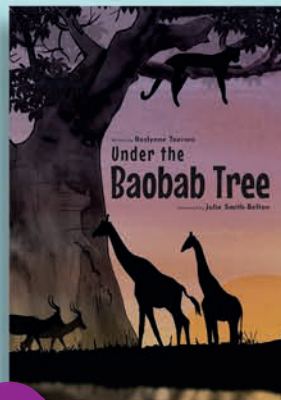


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6-9

Ook beskikbaar in Afrikaans!



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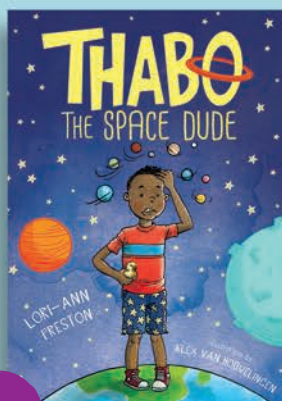
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Available in August



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Available in August



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Available in July



YA

Available in July

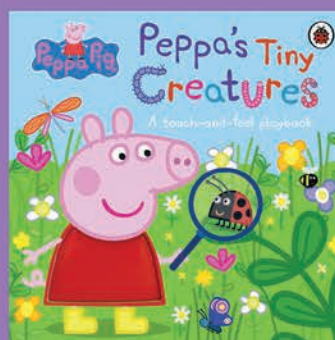
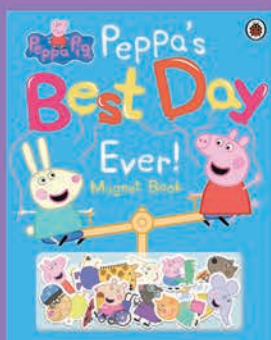
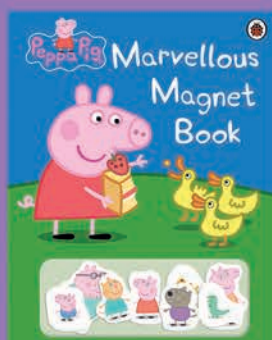
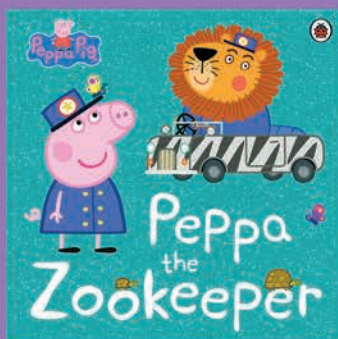


YA

Available in August



Join Peppa and her family on their funny, action-packed adventures!



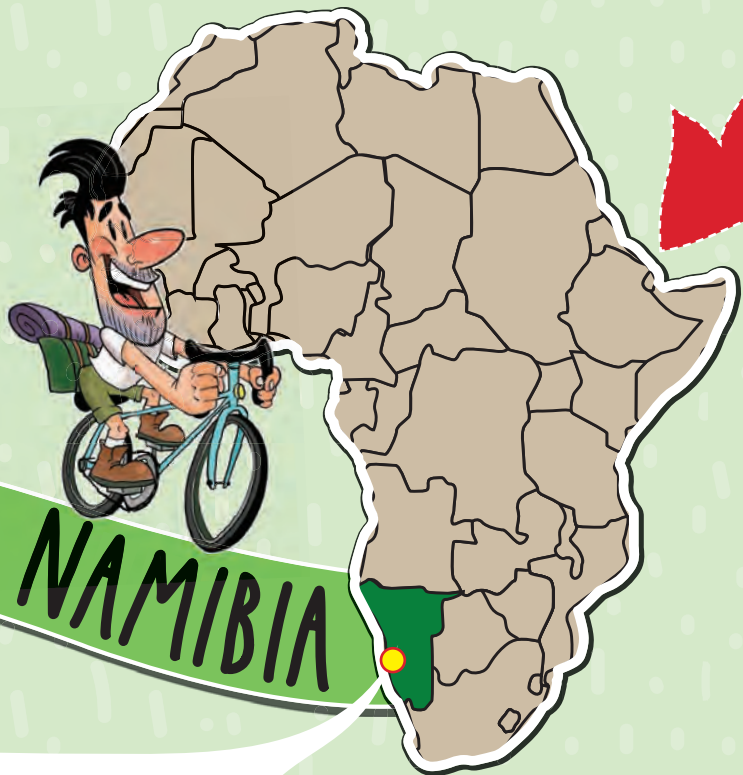
Available in July

Available in July

Available in August

COUNTRY 1 of 34

LANGUAGES: English, Oshiwambo, Khoekhoe, Afrikaans, Herero, Kwangali, German, Portuguese and others.



NAMIBIA



POPULATION: 2,618,733

CAPITAL: Windhoek



CURRENCY:
Namibian Dollar

FLAG:



ADVENTURE ATTRACTIONS:

Kolmanskop's 'ghost town', an abandoned diamond-mining town; view wildlife in the Etosha National Park; canoe and hike in the Fish River Canyon.

FABULOUS FOOD:
OMAGUNGU
Mopane worms,
fried until
crispy.

NATIONAL ANIMAL:

GEMSBOK

An antelope also known as the ORYX.



SPEAK:

'Good morning, are you doing well?'

OSHIWAMBO:

'Mwa lala po, owu li nawa?'

BORDER

KEETMANSHOOP

WINDHOEK

DID YOU KNOW? RIAAN MANSER



1 Riaan Manser was the first man to cycle around the African continent – It took him exactly two years, two months & fifteen days!

2 During Riaan's journey he was imprisoned in Equatorial Guinea & was held captive by drugged teenage rebels in Liberia.

3 Believe it or not, Riaan ate some exotic dishes such as monkey, bat, camel & rat, during his journey.

4 Riaan has also climbed Mt. Kilimanjaro & descended to Lake Assal, the highest & lowest points on the continent.

5 On seeing Riaan's story on television, Nelson Mandela personally requested a meeting with Manser, saying it was "a performance that will inspire the youth of the continent".

6 In July 2009, Manser set another world first when he became the first person to circumnavigate Madagascar, the world's fourth largest island, by kayak.

7 In March 2011, Riaan began his next challenge. This time he took on mystical Iceland & her arctic waters with a handicapped partner who has mild cerebral palsy. "Around Iceland on Inspiration" saw the two paddle 2300km to circumnavigate Iceland in a double sea-kayak over a five month period.

8 In 2013, Riaan took his now-wife Vasti from Africa to North America in a little boat. It was the first row from the African continent to North America, and Vasti became the first woman from Africa to row across any ocean.

9 No Food for Lazy Man™ is a charity organisation set up by Solo Adventurer, Riaan Manser, to provide disadvantaged children with a sporting chance at a brighter future.

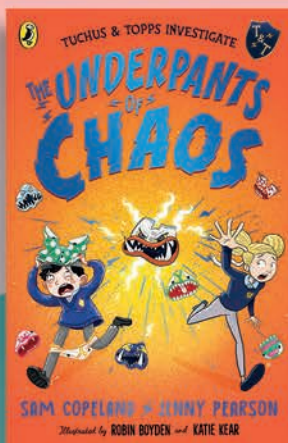
10 *Into the Wild with Riaan Manser* can be seen on Showmax.



WARM WINTER READS...

for
middle
graders

With the days getting shorter and the temperature dropping, many of us are relishing the opportunity to read more. Pull on a dressing gown, make a cup of tea and get cosy with these warm wintery reads...



Sizzling South African Stories

The perfect gift for near or far...

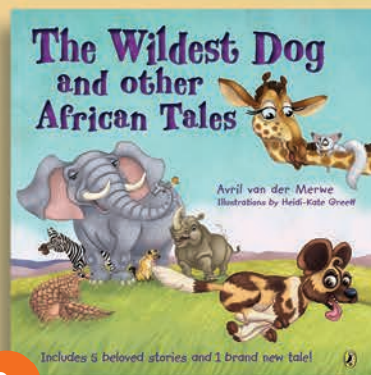


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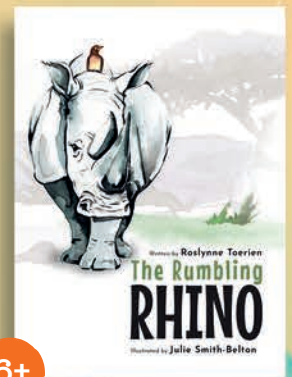
Ook beschikbaar
in Afrikaans!



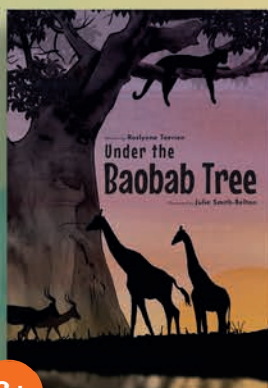
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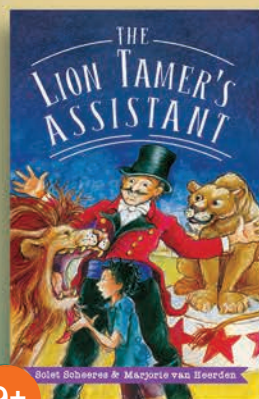
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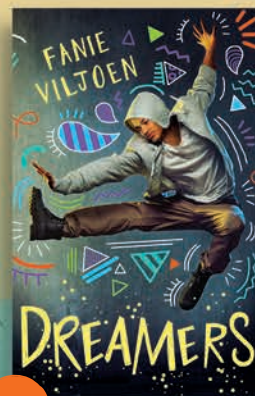
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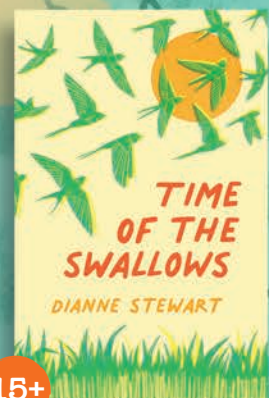
6+



9+



11+



15+

Courting & conflict



Gembok males fight to protect their territories and to mate with females in a herd.

Courtship takes place when adult males want to attract female mates. It can involve elaborate dances and displays by both males and females as they communicate their interest in each other. Male animals often fight to show their strength and to win a female. Some male birds grow bright and beautiful plumage at this time, tempting the females to choose them.

Fighting for rights

Equipped with fearsome weapons – horns, hooves and teeth – male antelope challenge one another for the right to mate with females in a herd. During these displays of strength each shoves and threatens the other until one finally retreats, defeated. Occasionally the fights become more than just noise and threats, and one of those fighting is badly wounded or even killed.



Normally solitary, leopards come together only when breeding.



DID YOU KNOW? Male giraffes 'neck-wrestle' for mating rights by hitting each other with their long necks; they sometimes also fight using their horns. The battle usually ends when one of the males is too tired to continue.

Courting males and females use their necks in a gentler way, rubbing them together as a show of affection.



Giraffe horns are called ossicones.

Courting cranes

Before mating, cranes perform a special kind of courting ritual. They first call to one another, then they dance, flapping their outstretched wings, bobbing their necks up and down, and jumping about excitedly.



Breeding dress

Male birds are often more colourful and striking than the females. This is especially true during the breeding season, when some normally drab males develop very bright colours to attract females. The male red-headed weaver and many bishop birds only acquire their bright colours when breeding.

Some males grow flowing tail feathers or a showy collar or breast feathers, all to impress the females.



Males grow a spectacular tail that is especially attractive in flight.

Male red-headed weaver



Male yellow bishop



Bright and bobbing

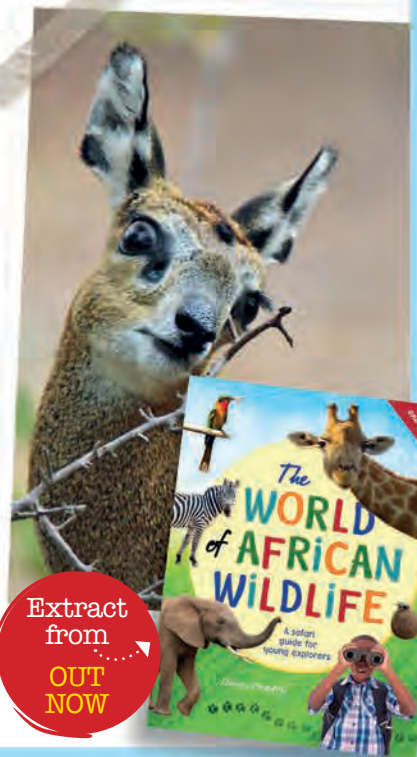
During the breeding season, male tree agamas become a much brighter blue, and display by bobbing their heads up and down, appearing to do push-ups. In this way they attract the attention of females, and also warn competing males to keep their distance.



Scent-marking

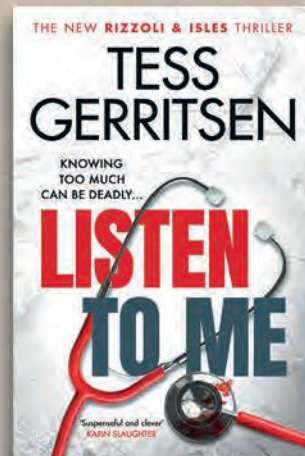
Many small antelope mark out their home territory by rubbing scent, produced by a special gland below the eye, on leaves and branches. They also scent-mark the area with urine and dung, and may scrape the bark of trees with their horns as a marker too. This warns other members of the species to keep away. Territories are where the animals feed, breed and raise their young.

A klipspringer marks its territory using the scent gland below its eye.



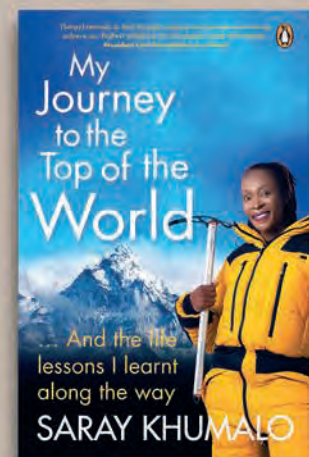
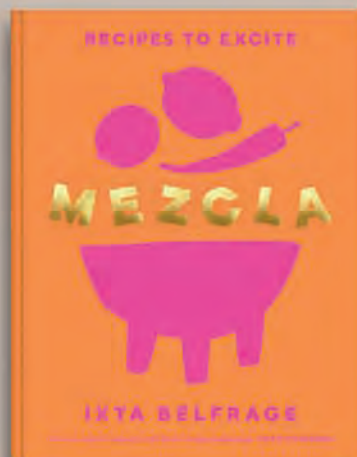
RELEASE RADAR

From the bestselling author of
The Authenticity Project



“Reading is essential for those who seek to rise above the ordinary.”

– JIM ROHN



OUR **TOP 10** YOUNG ADULT BOOKS OF 2022

(go far)

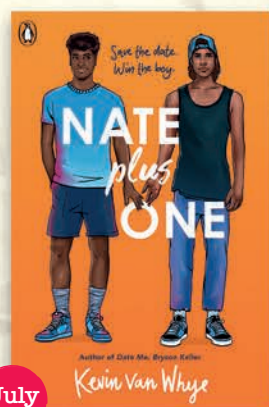
Romance, historical fiction, graphic novels, fantasy, and a local read that any YA fan will love!



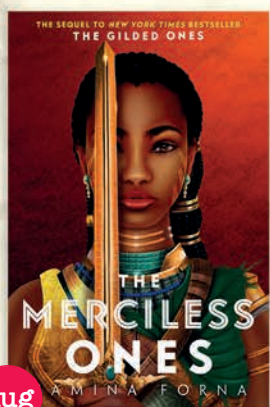
July



July



July



Aug



Aug

Premieres on
Amazon Prime
on June 17th!



Aug



Aug

Ed says:
'For fans of
The Black Flamingo,
*The Stars Were
Burning Brightly*
and *Poet X*.'

The Huddle Winter Edition

11



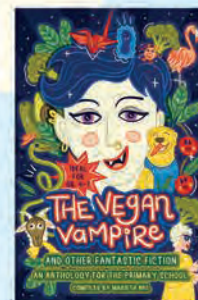
Ons is jou kameraad in die klaskamer!



**Tippie gee
R20 000
se prysgeld
weg!**

LAPA Uitgewers en Afrikaans.com span saam vir 'n wonderlike kompetisie wat in Junie afskop! Laerskoolleerders word aangemoedig om rympies vir Tippie te skryf en die skool met die meeste inskrywings, asook die leerder wat die beste rympie skryf, staan 'n kans om baie geld en lekker boeke te wen! Die reëls en voorwaardes van die kompetisie sal binnekort bekendgemaak word. Hou ons sosialemediabladsye dop!

afrikaans.com



Die skool vir rampspoedige talente en ander stories, Blinkertjies in pa se baard en The Vegan Vampire

Hoekom is die drie versamelbundels perfek vir die klaskamer?

- ✓ Al vier genres wat in die kwartaal 3-projek gebruik moet word, word gedek.
- ✓ Al die tekste is splinternuut en deur van ons land se voorste skrywers geskryf.
- ✓ Daar is onderwysgidse, saamgestel deur van die land se voorste vakadviseurs.
- ✓ 'n QR-kode voor in die boek neem jou na die oudioweergawe van elke teks!
- ✓ Die stories is deur vakadviseurs en leerders gekies – dit is dus perfek vir die teikenmark!

Idees vir jou klas

Is jy verveeld met die boeke wat jy in jou klas gebruik? Ons het 'n paar idees om jou lesse weer op te vrolik!

Vir die heel jongste lesers

5+



Vir die ouer lesers



17+



15+



15+

Vir die avontuurlustiges



11+



7+



9+

Vir die lesers wat aanmoediging nodig het



13+

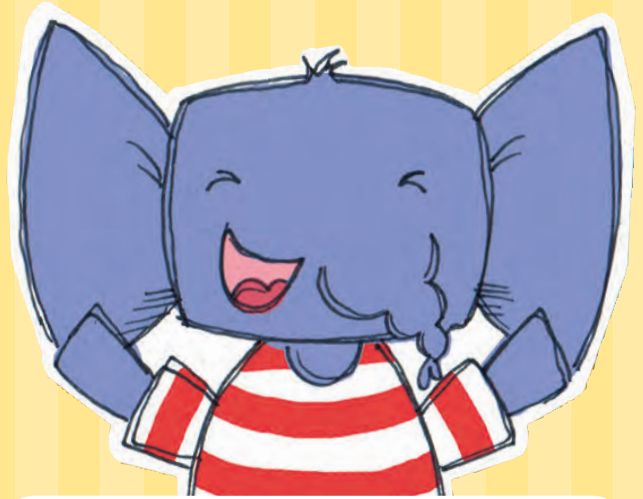


13+

Tippie

Learn to read

is back with **LEVEL 5!**



The next 10 Tippie adventures are proudly South African and build on the skills acquired in level R – level 4.



Level 5 introduces readers to controlled **r** vowels as well as to **final syllables** with a consonant and **-le**.

The level 5 books are progressive and encourage the learning of these two syllable types and the rules surrounding it.



Available in all good bookstores and online: www.lapa.co.za



Tippie is proudly South African and aligned with all the CAPS requirements.





ONDERHOUD MET... **SUNEL COMBRINCK**

Sunel Combrinck is 'n nuwe naam op die kinder- en jeugmark. Ons leer haar ken.



Vertel ons in 'n paar sinne, waarom handel jou debuutboek, Die ontwaking van Winter: Hartklop?

Hartklop volg die storie van Lumi, 'n Demifae (half-mens, half-fae) wat deur rebelle gevolg word. In 'n poging om haar lewe te red, besluit haar peetouers om haar na 'n kosskool vir Wisselfae, oftewel tienerfae, te stuur. Hier ontmoet sy haar peetpa se boetie, ook 16 en sy meisie. Maar dis sy beste vriend Colden wat haar hart vasgevang kry en hoe beter sy hom leer ken, hoe meer vrae het sy. Dan weer, dis nie asof sy nie ook baie geheime wegsteek nie.

Dit klink soos 'n reeks. Het jy alreeds die res van die boeke in jou kop beplan of gaan jy skryf soos die storie jou lei?

Hartklop is die eerste storie in die *Ontwaking van Winter*-reeks. Die hoofstorielyne is fyntjies beplan en in elke storie wat *Hartklop* gaan opvolg, gaan die leser meer leidrade kry wat hierdie raaisel gaan ontrafel.

Die kleiner storielyne is nog nie heeltemal beplan nie. Ek glo skrywers moet hulle karakters die geleentheid gee om ook hul eie storie te vertel.

Hoekom trek die fantasiegenre jou aan?

Fantasie was nog altyd my ontsnapping van realiteit en

soms, veral vir tieners met emosies wat hulle nie kan verstaan nie, is 'n fantasiewêreld daardie een plek waar hulle vir 'n oomblik kan asem skeep, tyd kan neem en hulself kan herontdek.

Wat is jou gunstelingboek van alle tye?

Sjoe, net een?

Ek is 'n reuse Melissa Marr-aanhanger en ek moet bieg dat haar *Wicked Lovely*-reeks my vasgevang het en my liefde vir Fae begin ontwikkel het. My gunstelingboek van haar is wel haar *Untamed City: Carnival of Secrets*, maar dis bietjie donker.

My ander *all-time favourite* is die *Perfected*-reeks deur Kate Jarvick Birch. Sy't 'n wêreld geskep wat jou kort-kort in stilte indompel.

In Afrikaans is dit beslis *Soen* van Jan Vermeulen en *Branderjaer* deur Joha van Dyk (*Vuurvreter* is my skoolvakansie bederf).

Wie was jou gunsteling Game of Thrones-karakter en hoekom?

Arya Stark. Ek is mal oor 'n vrouekarakter wat die stereotipe van vroue in 'n sekere era by die deur uitgooi. Sy's vir my sterk, onvoorspelbaar en vreesloos.

Watter boek wens jy jy het geskryf en hoekom?

Mortal Instruments, meestal

omdat ek hoop dat die wêreld waarin *Hartklop* afspeel ook so 'n suksesvolle verhaal kan word met duisende stories van verskillende karakters.

Jy is 'n onderwyser. Help dit jou om in die kop van kinders te kom en dink jy jy verstaan wat hulle dink en van hou?

Ons as grootmense vergeet hoe onskuldig kinders is, hoe hulle blootgestel word en hoe moeilik sekere situasies vir hulle is wat vir ons eintlik nie so erg is nie. Ons onderskat hulle ook. As dit nie vir my *kids* was nie, sou ek nie wou skryf nie. Hulle inspireer my daaglik.

Benewens skryf, wat doen jy in jou vryetyd?

Tans het ek nie vryetyd nie. Ek's 'n mamma van 'n tweejarige en ek is tans besig om te studeer. Maar ek geniet 'n goeie boek en Netflix wanneer ek bietjie tyd kan maak daarvoor.

Watse raad het jy vir 'n voornemende skrywer?

Moenie opgee nie. Skryf *is tough*. Jy gaan kritiek kry, maar gebruik dit om jouself te verbeter.

Moenie dit waarvoor jy staan, of die storie wat jy wil vertel ooit prysgee nie. Daar's 'n rede waarom jy daardie verhaal moet vertel.

Nuwe boeke OP DIE RAK

In die winter het mens min verskonings
nodig om in die bed te bly met 'n boek
- wat is dan lekkerder as om op te krul
onder 'n warm kombers en snoesig
te kuier tussen die blaai van
'n splinternuwe avontuur!



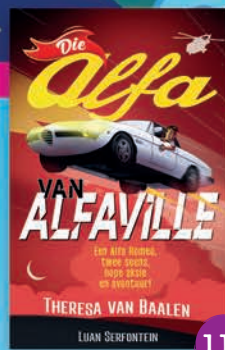
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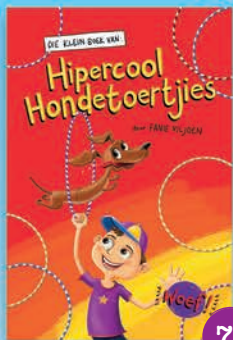
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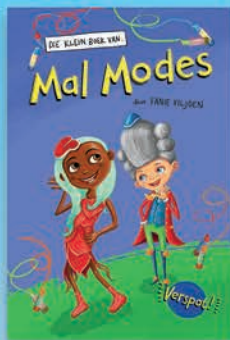
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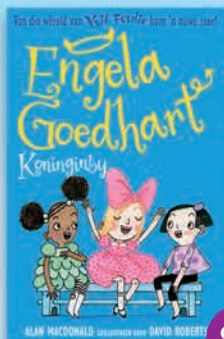
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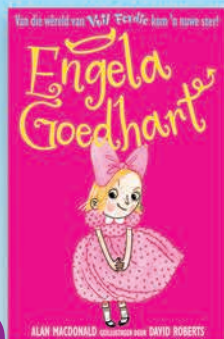
7+



5+



9+



7+



Reader reviews

This month, Sam from The Great Equalizer podcast and Sam from Magic Between Pages, tell us what they're currently reading.



Ook in Afrikaans

Reviewed by Samantha Herbst
The Great Equalizer podcast
www.thegreatequalizer.co.za
[@sam.herbst](https://twitter.com/sam.herbst)
[@thegreatequalizerpodcast](https://www.instagram.com/thegreatequalizerpodcast)

The Bok who Lost his Spring ★★★★★ Marleen Lammers

The first time I read *The Bok who Lost his Spring* to my five-year-old, he sat on my lap, immersed from the get-go, his little brow furrowed with increasing concern.

A young springbok, you see, has lost his spring, the one thing that makes him *him*. There was one line in particular that caught my little one's attention: the fact that when bok had lamented about his lost spring, "the other springboks ignored him". This little line is only the beginning of the poor bok's travails, but it's the one thing that had my son wrapt from beginning to end.

"But what about the bok's other springbok friends?" he asked me. "Did they become his friends again?"

"I don't know, boytjie," was my answer. "Seems to me like he made

some new friends. And maybe even better friends. It also seems like he found a friend in himself, with or without his spring."

Well, that had him thinking. And so we read the book again. And again.

Stories, especially those with animal protagonists, have a unique ability to endear any little reader to the plight of universal characters.

With beautiful illustrations and a uniquely South African spin, *The Bok who Lost his Spring* shares how the bok and his monkey friend embark on a journey to get the spring back. It shares how, together, the two friends solve a seemingly insurmountable problem while having fun. It also shares how the bok is still very much a springbok, even without a spring.



Coming Up for Air ★★★★★ Nicole Tyndall

Coming Up for Air is such a powerful coming of age story. It deals with some difficult topics, addiction, terminal illness of a parent and toxic/abusive relationships. The writing style made this book so easy to digest and relatable. We are taken through the highs of fast love, the emotional struggle of coming to terms with the devastating news of a cancer diagnosis and the struggles of drug addiction.

Hadley, a budding photographer whose mom is diagnosed with breast cancer, struggles to find balance between having a no-nonsense approach to her future

and what she wants to achieve in life and letting go, living life and finding love.

Braden, a competitive swimmer with a bad boy reputation, pressured by his parents to be an all-star athlete. After suffering an injury and pressured to get back in the pool as quickly and by any means possible, succumbs to an Opioid addiction.

Coming Up for Air is a whirlwind journey of love, tragedy, family responsibilities and self-love. This book had me in tears, it had me hopeful, it had me cheering for a happy ending. It's raw, beautiful, heart-wrenching and devastating.



Reviewed by Samantha Paterson
Instagram @maigic.between.pages_ZA
Twitter @magicbetweenpages
Facebook @magicbetweenpages

Exclusive extract

Read on for an exclusive extract from *The Midnighters*...
A ghostly tale about two friends, one murder mystery, and a world of intrigue.



It was a night so dusky the streetlamps looked like fallen stars. A night seized by a fierce frost, which crept up the spires of Prague until they glimmered like diamond stalagmites, then inched across the Vltava River until its entire surface was as smooth as marble.

It was a night that would bear a new small life.

And, alas, a *smidge* of death.

The Vaškov residence stood – tall, wide and regal – on the south-western corner of Big Old Town Square, looming smugly over the ancient, brightly painted zodiacs of the Astronomical Clock just across the street. Despite the late hour, all twelve of its ornate windows were aglow, revealing a well-to-do household abuzz with nervous activity.

On the ground floor, maids raced between rooms with buckets of water and fresh linen.

On the first floor, Karel Vaškov sat in his leather armchair, puffing profusely on a Toscano cigar while the three eldest Vaškov children played cards by his feet.

On the second floor, six younger children were eating a box of Swiss chocolates they'd pilfered.

On the third floor, a tired-looking nursemaid was slumped in the rocking chair, having given up on trying to

get the two smallest, crib-scaling children to sleep.

And on the fourth floor, Milena Vašková lay in bed, surrounded by midwives, wondering what was taking this baby so much longer to appear than all her others had.

The already large Vaškov family was about to grow by one.

Across the frozen river, another residence stood – narrow, crooked and forlorn – at the bottom of a dark street below the lamplit castle. All its weather-beaten windows were dark, except for the round one just below the gabled roof. It glowed like a single golden eye, staring ominously out into the gloomy night.

Beneath the creaking rafters of the attic room, the soon-to-be-born child's grandmother, Liliana, lay in her bed. Yellow candlelight trembled across her age-weathered face, revealing the feverish sweat that glistened on her forehead.

A man wearing oil-spattered overalls sat on the edge of the bed, frowning down at Liliana in concern.

'Milena's new child is on the way,' Josef said, dabbing his mother's brow with the cleanest corner of his handkerchief.

'Isn't that wonderful, *Maminka*?'

'It's terrible,' Liliana muttered.

'Worse than terrible, in fact. Nothing short of *hellish*.'

'That's no way to speak of a new grandchild. The other eleven children all seem perfectly tolerable. I'm sure this one will be too.'

Liliana seemed not to hear him. 'It's bad enough that it's the twelfth child. But born on the *twelfth* day of the *twelfth* month too.'

'A mere coincidence—'

'I caught you eating twelve fruit dumplings this morning.'

'You can hardly blame me. Those things were divine.'

'There were twelve crows circling the Týn spires.'

'You're giving me twelve different headaches right now.'

Liliana's eyelids fluttered weakly; her voice dropped to a raspy whisper. 'This new child . . . I sense—'

'*Maminka*, let's not get into prophecies again; it wears you out—'

'I sense dark shadows. And I see —' she squeezed her eyes closed, then immediately snapped them open again – 'an eyeball.'

Josef let out a long sigh. 'Just the one?'

Liliana's bleary gaze turned to where many ink-smearred words had been scrawled on the wall. 'This new child is the one I've been dreaming about.'

Let's cook with Siba



SIBA'S MINI CHICKEN PIES

Making chicken pie is a family affair we enjoy at home – even with the fuss and mess that comes with it. I do the cooking and the kids help with the shapes and patterns for the pie crust. It's always fun to watch their individual flair and personalities and, as mommy's kitchen fairies, they also help with the cleaning up afterwards!

Preparation time: 20 minutes
Cooking time: 40 minutes
Serves: 4

WHAT YOU NEED

Bacon and chicken

250 g bacon rashers
15 ml (1 tablespoon) olive oil
2 chicken fillets, cut into small strips
5 ml (1 teaspoon) flaked sea salt

Pie filling

30 ml (2 tablespoons) olive oil
1 large white onion, finely diced
4 cloves garlic, crushed
15 ml (1 tablespoon) medium curry powder
20 ml (4 teaspoons) Indian korma or butter chicken paste
5 ml (1 teaspoon) mixed dried herbs
30 ml (2 tablespoons) fresh thyme
1-2 leeks, well rinsed and sliced
20 ml (4 teaspoons) tomato paste
325 ml (1½ cups) chicken stock
250 g (1 stick or tub) cream cheese

Pie crusts

60 ml (4 tablespoons) cake wheat flour, for dusting
2 x 250 g (2 ready rolled sheets) short-crust pastry
1 egg, separated
30 ml (2 tablespoons) full-cream milk

SIBA'S TIPS

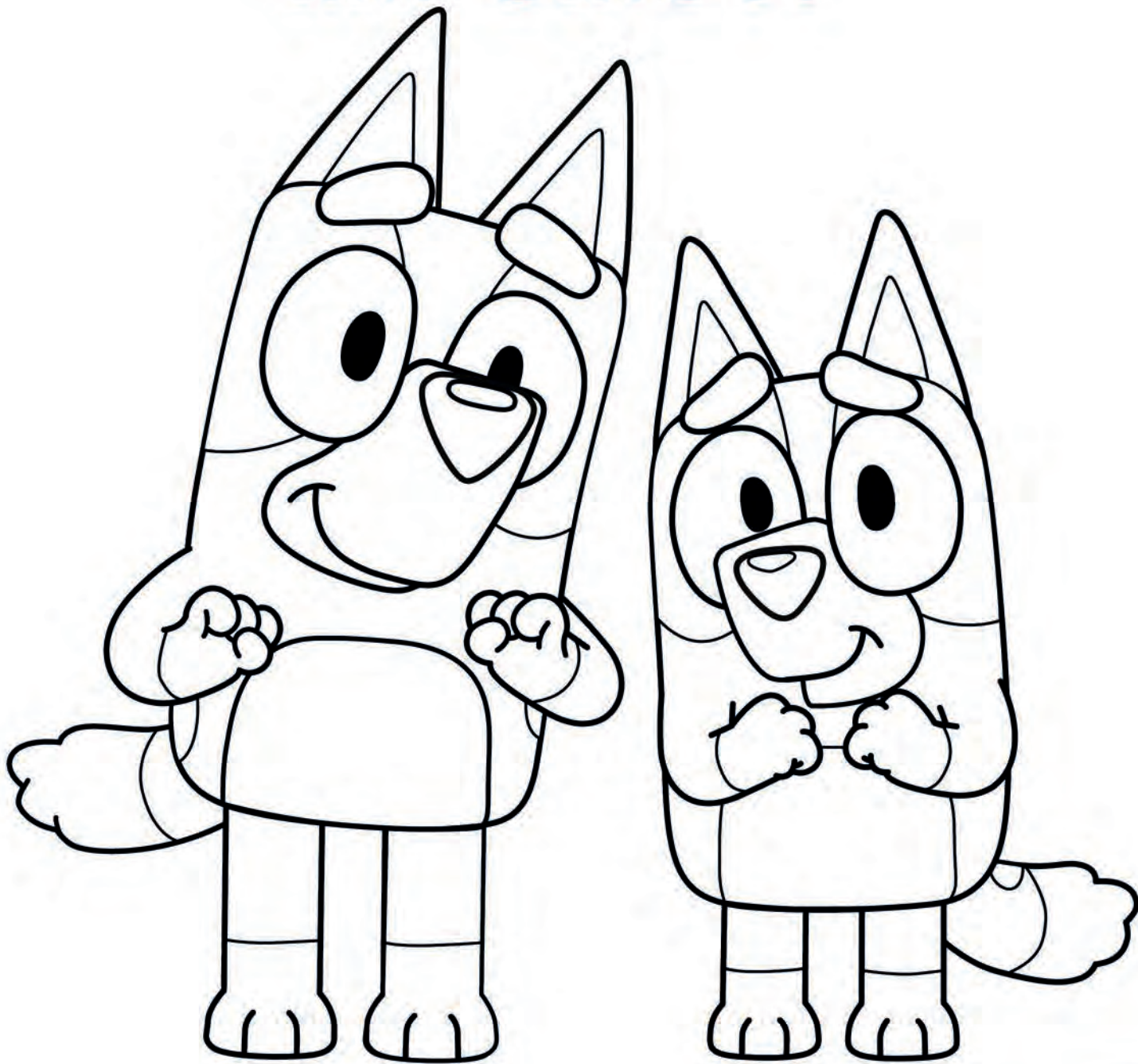
You can replace the bacon rashers with 250 g exotic mushrooms sautéed in oil and garlic until golden, which is a delicious vegetarian dish. If you thaw the pastry only halfway rather than completely, it will be easier to cut and shape without sticking to your hands.

HOW TO DO IT

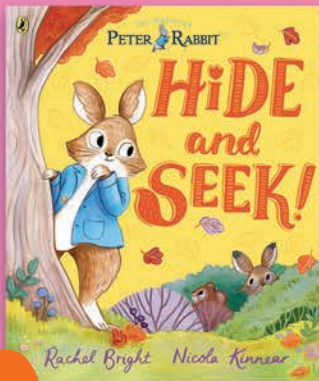
1. Preheat the oven to 190°C and grease a baking tray with oil.
2. Arrange the bacon rashers in one layer and roast for 15 minutes until crispy. Cut or break into small pieces. Set aside.
3. Heat a large saucepan with oil until hot, season the chicken with the salt and add to the pan in two batches. Cook each batch for 3 minutes until cooked through, then remove from the pan and set aside.
4. For the filling, add more oil to the pan and sauté the onion for 4 minutes until translucent and slightly caramelized.
5. Add the garlic, curry powder, korma or butter chicken paste, mixed herbs and half of the fresh thyme, stirring continuously. Stir in the leeks. Add the tomato paste and cook for a minute. Pour in the stock and add the cream cheese and cook, stirring continuously until the cheese has melted. Bring to the boil and simmer for 5 minutes.
6. Add the cooked chicken with its pan juices, along with half the bacon and remaining thyme. Stir and cook for 5 minutes until slightly thickened and the chicken has absorbed the flavours of the sauce. This also ensures that all the chicken strips are cooked through.
7. Tip the pie filling into 4 pie ramekins, sprinkle over the remaining bacon and level it out.
8. To make the pie crusts, lightly flour the work surface and gently roll out one of the pastry sheets and cut out 4 round shapes to cover the top of each individual ramekin. Crimp the sides of the pastry with your fingers to create a pattern around the edges as pictured.
9. To decorate, cut out A-B-C letters and fancy shapes from the second pastry sheet, using cookie cutters or a knife (an adult should do this). Brush one side of each letter and shape with egg white to glue the pattern into position. Stick the letters on top. Mix the egg yolk and milk to make an egg wash and brush it over each pie. Place the ramekins in a baking tray and bake in the oven at 190°C for 10-12 minutes until puffed and golden. Serve with sides salads or side veggies of your choice.



COLOUR IN BLUEY and BINGO!



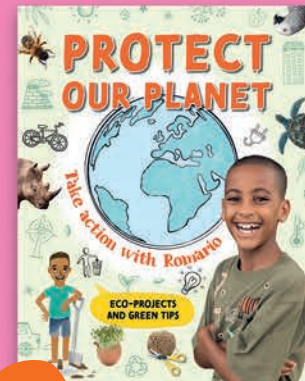
Many bookish reasons to look forward to Spring...



3-6



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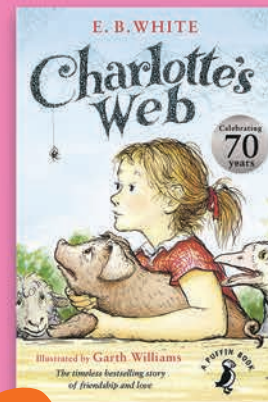
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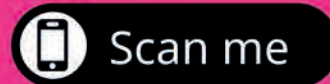
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