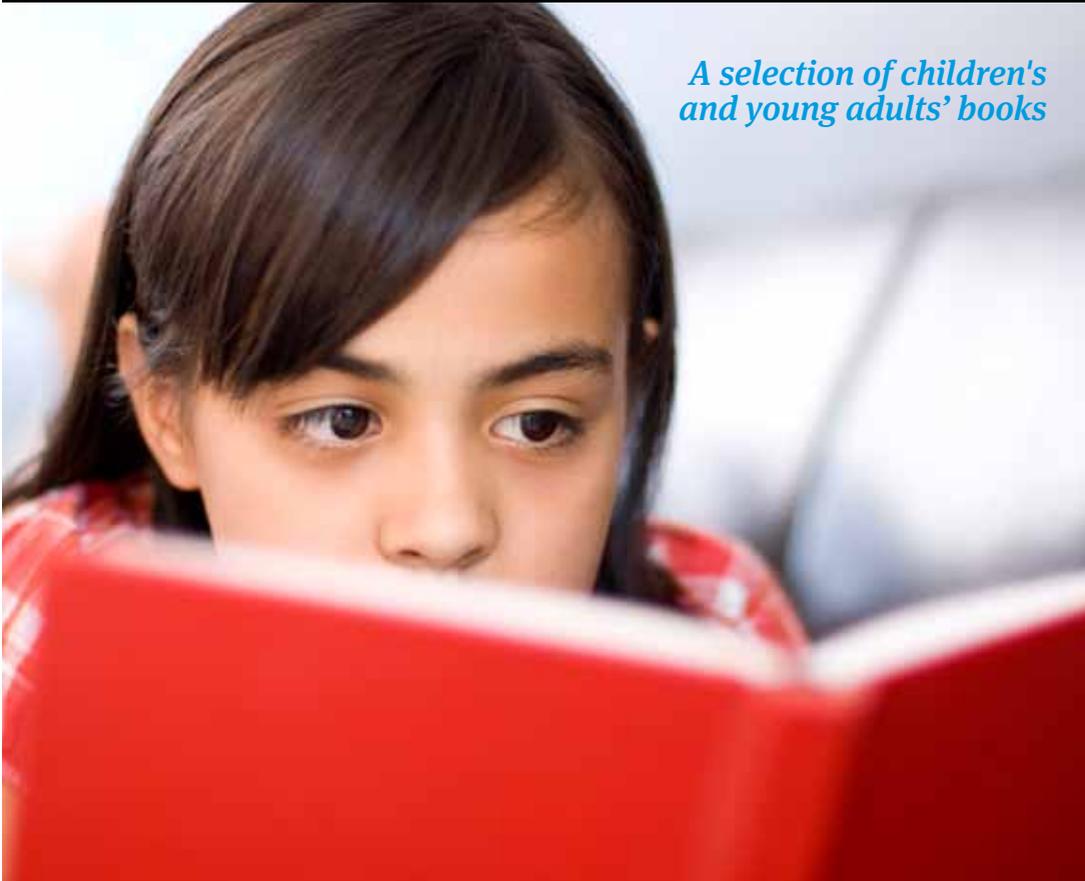


Christchurch City
Libraries
Ngā Kete Wānanga-o-Ōtautahi

Holiday Reading 2010

*A selection of children's
and young adults' books*



Holiday Reading 2010 is only a small selection of the many new titles added to Christchurch City Libraries during the year. We hope you will find something here to excite, enthuse, enthrall and inform you. Any title may be reserved online or at one of our libraries.

You can access the online catalogue from the Library's website at <http://christchurchcitylibraries.com/Catalogue/>

Previous Holiday Reading lists can be found at: <http://christchurchcitylibraries.com/Kids/HolidayReading/>

Keeping up-to-date in 2011

Want to keep up-to-date with new titles added to the Christchurch City Libraries collections each month? You can subscribe to a wide variety of e-newsletters at : <http://christchurchcitylibraries.com/Newsletters/>

Picture Books

Mirror – Jeannie Baker

Page by page, we experience a day in the lives of two boys and their families – one from inner city Sydney, Australia and the other from a small, remote village in Morocco, North Africa.

LMNO peas – Keith Baker

Busy little peas introduce their favourite occupations, from astronaut to zoologist.

Legend of the golden snail – Graeme Base

The Golden Snail has been banished to the ends of the earth and Wilbur sets out on a mission to free it. Along the way he makes friends who save him from rough seas and mazes of madness, returning him safely home.

Angelica Sprocket's pockets – Quentin Blake

Angelica Sprocket lives next door. Her overcoat has pockets galore! And you'll never guess what's in them...Prepare to be surprised, thrilled and tickled pink by Angelica Sprocket's never-ending pockets, and the marvellous things she keeps in them!

Very itchy bear – Nick Bland

There is just one creature bothering him: a persistent flea. Bear tries to get away, but Flea just won't leave him alone. When Bear finally gets rid of Flea, he finds that he misses him - and a new friendship is born.

Me and you – Anthony Browne

An urban retelling of the classic Goldilocks and the three bears story, told from the baby bear's perspective.

Wake up – Katie Cleminson

It's time to dress and time for school ; time to play and time for dinner - there's just so much to do! But before you know it, it's time for bed and for stories and cuddles.

Rain train – Elena De Roo

Join the children for a journey on the Rain Train. Listen to the noises the train makes as it moves through the countryside and into the dark night. The story is told through rhythmic text, which reinforces the sounds of the train, giving the story a momentum of its own.

Cave Baby – Julia Donaldson

A hairy mammoth takes a cheeky little baby on a thrilling ride through a moonlit landscape populated by a sabre-toothed tiger, a leaping hare, a laughing hyena and even, just maybe, by a big brown bear ...But where are they going?

Lots of spots – Lois Ehlert

Introduces the different types of camouflage animals use to help blend in with their surroundings, including spots on flounder, colourful spots on poisonous frogs, and large spots on butterflies.

Baby Wombat's week – Jackie French

The star of the bestseller Diary of a Wombat is back - with a new mouth to feed! Cuter, stroprier and even more determined than her mother - meet Mothball's baby.

Queen Victoria's underpants – Jackie French

Meet Lizzy, whose family are in the clothing industry. Very few people probably know that Queen Victoria made the wearing of underpants popular. At the beginning of her reign very few women wore them. But Queen Victoria made tartans, perambulators and chloroform fashionable. By the time she died just about every woman in Britain wore underpants like hers.

April Underhill, tooth fairy – Bob Graham

High in the sky above Parkville, tooth fairies April and Esme Underhill are on their way to collect their very first tooth. Mum and Dad always do it. But tonight it's their turn. So, equipped with a bag, a coin and a mobile phone, the sisters head for Daniel Dangerfield's house, and a very unusual first tooth visit.

Blue chameleon – Emily Gravett

He can turn himself into anything and appear to fit in anywhere, but it seems that neither the swirly snail, the green grasshopper nor the stripy sock want to be friends. Will he ever find someone to talk to? Someone just like him?

Moon bear – Brenda Guiberson

Follow one moon bear in the wild as she eats, plays, hibernates, and wakes up again in the spring. Illustrated by Ed Young.

Boy and the toy – Sonya Hartnett

One day a man invented the best toy in the world. He gave the toy to his son. The boy thought the toy was marvellous. It could do anything! But as time passed, the boy started to wonder about the toy. Was it really the best toy in the world?

Not me! – Nicola Killen

A group of very young children have been making a mess. But when they are asked who did it they all reply innocently, 'Not me!'

Hugless Douglas – David Melling

Douglas is a big brown, huggable, lovable bear, and he wakes up one morning in need of a hug. He goes to try and find one – but none of them seem quite right. Join Douglas on his search for the perfect bear hug!

Rufus the numbat – David Miller

Rufus the Numbat walks out of the bush at the front of the book back into the bush at the end of the book. Rufus does not care for things of the town like cappuccinos or cream cake, or for the town and its parade and noise. But on his way Rufus startles a cyclist and later a Chinese Dragon creating all sorts of mayhem.

It's a dog's life – Michael Morpurgo

An energetic romp through a dog's busy day on a farm. Russ, the sheepdog, herds sheep and cows and plots against Tigger, the farm cat.

Apple ABC – Alison Murray

A simple story of a small dog with a huge personality pinning for a piece of apple cake. The start of each new line makes up the alphabet.

Red Ted and the lost things – Michael Rosen

With bravery, teamwork and lots of common sense, a forgotten bear finds his way home in this warm, wise, and very funny graphic picture book.

It's a book – Lane Smith

'It's a Book' is a delightful manifesto on behalf of print in the digital age.

Green – Mark Sperring

Clive likes green. Green is what Clive likes. 'Clive, you're a cabbage', his sister laughs. 'You're a sprout, you're a bean, you're a little green pea'. But Clive of course was none of these.

Surprising Silhouettes – Connie Tamaddon

Using her imagination and the properties of light and shadow, photographer Connie Tamaddon creates a playful and unique experience for readers young and old while illustrating that not everything is as it first seems.

I am a seal (NZ) – Barbara Todd

Simple rhyming text, colour photographs and cartoons present the life of seals.

Art & Max – David Wiesner

Max and Arthur are friends who share an interest in painting. Arthur is an accomplished painter; Max is a beginner. Max's first attempt at using a paintbrush sends the two friends on a whirlwind trip through various artistic media, which turn out to have unexpected pitfalls.

Brian Wildsmith's animal gallery – Brian Wildsmith

Through evocative paintings, children are brought face to face with wildlife from around the world.

King of tiny things – Jeanne Willis

When two little girls visit their grandparents, it seems like a brilliant idea to camp outside for the night. But then the dark comes and it doesn't seem such a good idea after all! Until a most unexpected visitor arrives - the King of Tiny Things.

Nanny Goat's kid – Jeanne Willis

There was once a Nanny Goat who wanted kids more than anything in the world, but she couldn't have any of her own. Adopting seems like the perfect solution, but the kid she adopts is different to the others – in fact, he's a tiger cub!

Dog loves books – Louise Yates

Dog loves books! Dog loves books about dinosaurs and Dog loves books about aliens: in fact Dog loves all books! Dog has his very own bookshop, although he doesn't have many customers. But that's all right, because when Dog is surrounded by books, he is never short of friends or fun.

Creature ABC – Andrew Zuckerman

Alphabet book featuring two wildlife photographic portraits for each creature, offering an up-close view of the animal kingdom.

Younger Fiction

The boy who climbed into the moon – David Almond

A magnificent tale of crackpot notions and sky-high courage, with illustrations by Polly Dunbar. Paul believes that the moon is not the moon, but is a great hole in the sky. Helped by a very long ladder, some highly irregular characters, two rather worried parents and a great deal of community spirit, Paul takes to the sky.

Fly guy meets fly girl (Into Reading) – Tedd Arnold

Fly Guy has met his match, and her name is Fly Girl. Fly Guy is totally impressed, and totally smitten. Will Fly Guy and Fly Girl get married and leave Buzz without his dear pet?

Friday surprise – Anne Fine

Bryce is fed up with tests. So far this week he's had a spelling test, a swimming test, and even a test on his bike. So, on Friday, Bryce decides to surprise the adults with his own test.

Sheep with boots – Maritgen Matter

Translated by Bill Nagelkerke. On a cold, dark winter's evening Sheep thinks he has found a friend in Wolf. But can a wolf be anything other than a wolf? Can Sheep escape Wolf's hungry plan?

Boy Zero: petrifying plot of the plummeting pants (NZ) – Peter Millet

Charlie Applejack's career as a superhero might be over before it's even begun. However, when the evil villain and wannabe rock star General Pandemonium captures all of the world's superheroes, and threatens to vaporise every pair of pants on the planet, it's up to Charlie to save the day. Will he be a superhero - or will he be a superzero?

Ice bear – Jackie Morris

Set in the pristine polar regions of the Arctic, Jackie Morris's beautiful story reminds us that we are caretakers of these wild creatures and our actions directly affect their future.

Toppling – Sally Murphy

A moving and triumphant illustrated verse novel about childhood illness and support for friends.

I am going!: an Elephant and Piggie book (Into Reading) – Mo Willems

Piggie ruins a perfectly good day by telling Gerald he is going. But if Piggie goes, who will Gerald play ping-pong and wear silly hats with?

Older Fiction

My name is Mina – David Almond

David Almond revisits Mina before she has met Michael, before she has met Skellig, in what is a thought-provoking and extraordinary prequel to his best-selling debut novel, Skellig.

Noah Barleywater Runs Away – John Boyne

Noah is running away from his problems, or at least that's what he thinks, the day he takes the untrodden path through the forest. When he comes across a very unusual toyshop and meets the even more unusual toymaker he's not sure what to expect. But the toymaker has a story to tell, a story full of adventure, and wonder and broken promises.

Artemis Fowl and the Atlantis complex – Eoin Colfer

Artemis is behaving strangely - he seems different. Something terrible has happened to him...Artemis Fowl has become nice. The fairies diagnose Atlantis Complex. Can Holly get the real Artemis back before robot probes destroy every human and life form?

Unfinished angel – Sharon Creech

In the ancient stone tower of the Casa Rosa, in a tiny village high in the Swiss Alps, life for one angel has been the same, well, for as long as she (or he?) can remember. Until Zola arrives, a determined American girl who wears three skirts all at once.

Alchemy and Meggy Swann – Karen Cushman

In 1573, the crippled, scorned, and destitute Meggy Swann goes to London, where she meets her father, an impoverished alchemist, and eventually discovers that although her legs are bent and weak, she has many other strengths.

Candle man – Glenn Dakin

Theo Wickland lives a life of isolation - he has only ever known three people: his butler, the maid and his guardian. Two societies are hunting for him: one that will protect and help him and one that wants to harness his power for evil.

Rainbow orchid, Vol. 1 – Garen Ewing

In Volume One, follow the story's hero, Julius Chancer, as he embarks on a hazardous quest for the rainbow orchid - a mythical flower last mentioned by the ancient Greek philosopher, Theophrastus, and steeped in legend. His epic journey takes him from 1920s Britain to the Indian subcontinent and its mysterious lost valleys.

Oracle – Jackie French

Nikko lives in a small farming village in Greece near the stronghold of Mycenae in 1200 BC. When his sister Thetis is born, Nikko rescues her from the hillside where she has been abandoned, setting off an unforeseen chain of events.

Now – Morris Gleitzman

Once upon a time there was a boy in a story called Felix. The book was called Once. Then there was another book about him called Then. Now, Morris Gleitzman brings his holocaust trilogy series to an end in an uplifting story called Now.

Very bad book – Andy Griffiths

If you thought 'The Bad Book' was bad, prepare yourself for something so bad - it's VERY BAD!

Crocodile Nest (NZ) – Des Hunt

Luke Evans never knew his father, so when his internet skills track down someone who could be his dad, living at a luxurious resort in Queensland, Australia, his imagination runs wild. But Luke is shocked when they finally meet, and has some hard lessons to learn as he realises that nobody is perfect and nothing can be accepted at face value. How Luke deals with what he finds will change his life, if he can survive.

Ogre of Oglefort – Eva Ibbotson

When a Hag, an orphan boy and a troll called Ulf get sent to rescue a princess from an ogre, they expect it to be a fairly standard magical mission. But the ogre is depressed, the princess doesn't want to be rescued - and the ogre's dead wife is turning in her grave. The Norns who rule their fates decide to take things in hand - will the Ogre meet a bloody end, or will he get a happy ending?

Sable Quean – Brian Jacques

The courageous Redwall creatures band together as Vilaya, the evil Sable Quean, and her horde of vermin attempt to make off with the young animals of the Abbey.

Enchanted glass – Diana Wynne Jones

Aidan Cain has had the worst week of his life. His gran died, he was sent to a foster home, and now malicious beings are stalking him. There is one person Gran told Aidan to go to if he ever got into trouble—a powerful sorcerer who lives at Melstone House.

Viola Vincent reporting – Anna Kenna

The accident that almost killed her mother seals Caitlin's own destiny. Determined to find out why it happened and who's to blame, she sets off on a journey that puts her on the wrong side of her family and the law. Then she meets a kick-butt reporter and a ghost from the past and the fun really begins.

Skulduggery pleasant: mortal coil

– Derek Landy

The fifth instalment of the bestselling Skulduggery Pleasant series – guaranteed to contain at least 40% humour, 50% action, and 100% thrills.

Organ music (NZ) – Margaret Mahy

A tale of danger, ghosts and secret experiments hidden deep in the forest.

Elephant in the garden – Michael Morpurgo

It's 1944. Elizabeth's father is fighting with the German army on the eastern front. Her mother works at Dresden zoo, where her favourite animal is a young elephant named Marlene. When the zoo director tells her the dangerous animals must be shot to prevent them running amok if the town is bombed, Elizabeth's mother moves Marlene into the back garden to save her... and then the bombs start to fall.

Great space race – Joshua Mowll

A crazy world domination conspiracy is uncovered and foiled by the most unlikely family on Earth in this highly entertaining and madcap adventure.

Ghosts of Iron Bottom Sound (NZ)

– Sandy Nelson

Paddy, a young New Zealand schoolboy, becomes so obsessed with a book about the wrecks of warships sunk in World War Two battles at Guadalcanal that he's lucky not to be killed in a traffic accident. His parents ban him from reading the book. But Paddy can still hear the voices of men who died during the Battle of Savo Island, one of the battles depicted in the book. He is horrified and fascinated, whose voices are they and why are they reaching out to him?

Lawn boy returns – Gary Paulsen

Having expanded his summer lawn mowing job into an ever-growing business conglomerate, a twelve-year-old boy gets involved in high finance, thanks to his hippie stockbroker, takes on sponsorship of a boxer, and becomes a media sensation.

I shall wear midnight – Terry Pratchett

As the witch of the Chalk, she performs the bits of witchcraft that aren't sparkly, aren't fun, don't involve any kind of wand, and that people seldom ever hear about: She does the unglamorous work of caring for the needy. But someone--or something--is igniting fear, inculcating dark thoughts and angry murmurs against witches. Aided by her tiny blue allies, the Wee Free Men, Tiffany must find the source of this unrest and defeat the evil at its root--before it takes her life. Because if Tiffany falls, the whole Chalk falls with her.

Red pyramid – Rick Riordan

The first book in the new Kane Chronicles series. Sadie and Carter Kane battle Egyptian gods and monsters.

Conspiracy of kings – Megan Whalen Turner

Kidnapped and sold into slavery, Sophos, an unwilling prince, tries to save his country from being destroyed by rebellion and exploited by the conniving Mede empire.

Little darlings – Jacqueline Wilson

Sunset lives a life of luxury with her beautiful ex-model mum, her world-famous ex-rocker dad and two little celeb siblings. Destiny, on the other hand, is an only child living on a rundown estate with a sickly but devoted mum who constantly tells her that she's really the daughter of a famous former rock star. When the two girls meet in unlikely circumstances, they are surprised to find in each other something they've been missing all their lives.

Young Adults

Wintergirls – Laurie Halse Anderson

Eighteen-year-old Lia comes to terms with her best friend's death from anorexia as she struggles with the same disorder.

End of the alphabet (NZ) – Fleur Beale

Ruby Yarrow is 14 and she's a good girl who helps out a lot around the house with cooking and looking after the little ones. Ruby's best friend Tia tells her to stop being a doormat which gets Ruby thinking. How do you stop being a doormat and start standing up for yourself? Things will never be the same again for Ruby or her family.

Fierce September (NZ) – Fleur Beale

Juno and the Taris inhabitants must leave their dying island to live on the Outside, a seemingly hostile place of pandemics and conflict. Juno enjoys the new freedoms and choices now available to her in a future New Zealand. But Taris doesn't give up its hold so easily, and she is shocked to find the island held more secrets than any of them knew.

White cat – Holly Black

When Cassel Sharpe discovers that his older brothers have used him to carry out their criminal schemes and then stolen his memories, he figures out a way to turn their evil machinations against them.

iBoy – Kevin Brooks

Before the attack, sixteen-year-old Tom Harvey was just an ordinary boy. But now fragments of a shattered iPhone are embedded in his brain and it's having an extraordinary effect ...Because now Tom has powers.

Smiling Jack (NZ) – Ken Catran

When Robert's father and Uncle are killed in a road accident, his comfortable world rapidly begins to unravel. With so much to deal with, he barely thinks about the evil grin on the playing card Jack, found at the site of the accident. Until the second death, and the third, when once again Jack's leering malicious grin is found nearby.

Mockingjay – Suzanne Collins

Against all odds, Katniss Everdeen has survived the Hunger Games twice. But now that she's made it out of the bloody arena alive, she's still not safe. The Capitol is angry. The Capitol wants revenge. Who do they think should pay for the unrest? Katniss. And what's worse, President Snow has made it clear that no one else is safe either.

Gates – John Connolly

Young Samuel Johnson and his dachshund Boswell are trying to show initiative by trick-or-treating a full three days before Halloween. Which is how they come to witness strange goings-on at 666 Crowley Avenue.

Scorch Trials – James Dashner

The Gladers are far from finished with running. Instead of freedom, they find themselves faced with another trial. They must cross the Scorch, the most burned-out section of the world, and arrive at a safe haven in two weeks. And WICKED has made sure to adjust the variables and stack the odds against them.

Annexed – Sharon Dogar

Everyone knows about Anne Frank, and her life hidden in the secret annexe - or do they? Peter van Pels and his family are locked away in there with the Franks, and Peter sees it all differently.

Project (NZ) – Brian Falkner

It all started with a book. The most boring book in the world! So boring that nobody would ever read it. The perfect place to hide a terrible secret. But now the book has emerged from its hiding place and the world may never be the same.

The ultimate teen book guide – Leonie Flynn

Covering everything from classics to newly released titles, graphic novels to cult fiction. Each review is a personal recommendation from top teen and adult authors, including Anthony Horowitz, Meg Cabot, Philip Pullman and Jonathan Coe and is accompanied by a suggestion of what to read next.

Limping Man (NZ) – Maurice Gee

Third instalment of Maurice Gee's Salt Trilogy. When Hana's mam chooses to swallow frogweed poison rather than die in the great witch-burning in People's Square, Hana flees the burrows before she too is taken. Deep in the forest she meets Ben, son of Lo, and the two journey back to the burrows to find a way to destroy the Limping Man before his evil consumes the world. But first they must discover the secret of his strength.

Lies – Michael Grant

As conditions worsen in the FAYZ, where supernatural forces have trapped children under the age of fifteen and resources are running out, it becomes tempting to heed the words of a prophet who says that only death will set them free.

This is shyness – Leanne Hall

In the suburb of Shyness, where the sun doesn't rise and the border crackles with a strange energy, Wolfboy meets a stranger at the Diabetic Hotel. She tells him her name is Wildgirl, and she dares him to be her guide through the endless night.

Dead – Charlie Higson

The second heart-stopping, mind-blowing book in this killer series - the Enemy is back.

Freaks and revelations – Davida Hurwin

Tells, in two voices, of events leading up to a 1980 incident in which fourteen-year-old Jason, a gay youth surviving on the streets as a prostitute, and seventeen-year-old Doug, a hate-filled punk rocker, have a fateful meeting in a Los Angeles alley.

Trash – Andy Mulligan

Fourteen-year-olds Raphael and Gardo team up with a younger boy, Rat, to figure out the mysteries surrounding a bag Raphael finds during their daily life of sorting through trash in a third-world country's dump.

Monsters of men – Patrick Ness

Three armies march on New Prentisstown, each one intent on destroying the others. Todd and Viola are caught in the middle, with no chance of escape. As the battles commence, how can they hope to stop the fighting? The heart-stopping conclusion to the Chaos Walking Trilogy.

Emerald casket – Richard Newsome

Gerald, Sam and Ruby fly to India in Gerald's private jet for a holiday at the home of Alisha Gupta, looking forward to getting away from the exhausting business of stolen gems, jewelled caskets, thieves and bumbling police officers. But their holiday soon turns to a desperate quest to outwit a deadly cult, and to beat Mason Green to the Emerald Casket in a fast-paced race against time and tide.

Cardturner – Louis Sachar

When Alton's ageing, blind uncle asks him to attend bridge games with him, he agrees. After all, it's better than a crappy summer job in the local shopping mall, and Alton's mother thinks it might secure their way to a good inheritance sometime in the future. As his relationship with his uncle develops, and he meets the very attractive Toni, deeply buried secrets are uncovered and a romance that spans decades is finally brought to a conclusion.

Rikers High – Paul Volponi

Arrested on a minor offence, a New York City teenager attends high school in the jail facility on Rikers Island, as he waits for his case to go to court.

Prince of Mist – Carlos Ruiz Zafon

Max Carver's father - a watchmaker and inventor - decides to move his family to a small town on the coast, to an old house that once belonged to a prestigious surgeon, Dr Richard Fleischmann. But the house holds many secrets and stories of its own.

Information Books, poetry and fairytales

All the wild wonders of our earth – Wendy Cooling (Ed)

For this celebration of our Earth, distinguished anthologist Wendy Cooling has chosen poems from around the world to make children look, think, and ask questions. Why are trees so important? How are motorways damaging our countryside? What can we do about rubbish? What can we do to protect our Earth for the future? Includes Elizabeth Honey, John Agard and Tony Bradman.

Jim: who ran away from his nurse and was eaten by a lion – Hilaire Belloc

Award-winning illustrator Mini Grey turns her inimitable hand to Hilaire Belloc's classic cautionary tale of Jim: who ran away from his Nurse and was eaten by a Lion! First published in 1907, Belloc's wickedly funny poem describes the sad end of Jim.

The life cycle of the pūkeko The life cycle of the royal albatross (NZ) – Betty Brownlie

A drove of bullocks : compilation of animal group names.

A filth of starlings : a compilation of bird and aquatic animal group names.

Very clever bright graphics illustrating unusual collective nouns.

The Kiwi fossil hunter's handbook (NZ) – J. S. Crampton

Kids are fascinated by dinosaurs, and love the idea of the fossils they have left behind. New Zealand has a rich fossil record which is accessible to the amateur fossil-hunter in locations around New Zealand, including shells and plant remains as well as the bones, teeth and other remnants of ancient reptiles, birds and fish.

Nubs: the true story of a mutt, a Marine & a miracle – Brian Dennis

The story of a wild dog who befriended Marine Major Brian Dennis in Iraq, and, when they were separated, trekked seventy miles through the desert winter to rejoin his friend.

The reflections of a solitary hamster – Desbordes, Astrid

Hamster can be selfish and narcissistic but his forest animal friends still love him, warts and all. In graphic novel format.

New and collected poems for children – Carol Ann Duffy

This stellar edition of her poems brings together work from Carole Duffy's four award-winning collections for children, and sprinkles in a generous helping of new poems to match.

1001 children's books you must read before you grow up – Julie Eccleshare

Provides an authoritative listing of classic and contemporary children's literature that is categorized by age group and pairs each entry with expert evaluations and reproductions of artwork from the featured titles.

Poetrees – Douglas Florian

This book is ripe with poetrees, They're grown to educate and please. You'll see a cedar. Oak tree too. Birch and banyan, Pine and yew. Palm and gum And willow tree, Plus more you'll love tree-mendously!

The ultimate book guide – Leonie Flynn

From classics to newly released titles. The funny, friendly and frank recommendations have been personally written for children by many of their favourite and best-known authors including Margaret Mahy, Jacqueline Wilson, David Almond, Celia Rees, Darren Shan and Dick King-Smith.

Sparky: the life and art of Charles Schulz – Beverly Gherman

Colourful, fascinating and easily accessible to children. Packed with the art and cartoons of the beloved creator of Snoopy and Charlie Brown.

World of colors : seeing colors in a new way – Marie Houlbon

Translated from French. Explores the relationships between real-world objects and their colours, illustrating that each colour comes in many different shades and that familiar objects sometimes come in unexpected colours, such as green bananas.

Naughty kids book of nature (NZ) – Des Hunt

This is a book about nature for naughty kids. Nice kids learn about the life-cycle of the monarch butterfly and tadpoles turning into frogs. Naughty kids want to know about squashed hedgehogs and dead pukeko. Nice kids like to look at books with pretty pictures of puppy dogs and kittens. Naughty kids would rather see blood and guts and maggots.

Never smile at a monkey: and 17 other important things to remember – Steve Jenkins

Discover how dangerous an animal can be when it feels threatened or trapped.

How to clean a hippopotamus : a look at unusual animal partnerships – Steve Jenkins & Robin Page

Learn about the ingenious lifestyles of some of the world's most unusual animal partners. It includes the tuatara relationship with the petrel.

Ahurewa Kahuhura (NZ)

About twenty simple titles of common everyday things such as 'In the Kitchen' 'Counting birds' and 'Learning colours' that have been translated into Māori, Samoan and Tongan. A very welcome addition

The boy who invented TV: the story of Philo Farnsworth – Kathlee Krull

This picture-book biography explains how Farnsworth held on to his dream to develop television and the scientific concepts behind it.

Everyday words in Māori (NZ) – Jo Litchfield

Sylvia Long's Thumbelina – Sylvia Long

A girl no bigger than a thumb is stolen by a toad and subsequently has many adventures and makes many animal friends, before finding the perfect mate in a warm and beautiful southern land

An ABC of what art can be – Meher McArthur

This delightful book is a colourful reminder of the many things that visual art can be, become, and do. Whether it's weaving or making pottery or working on your computer or turning junk into something unexpected and wonderful, 'An ABC of What Art Can Be' is an invitation to look around and think creatively- outside the boring box.

How many donkeys?: an Arabic counting tale – Margaret Read MacDonald

When Jouha counts the ten donkeys carrying his dates to market, he repeatedly forgets to count the one he is riding on, causing him great consternation. Includes numbers written out in Arabic and in English transliteration,.

Too many fairies: a Celtic Tale – Margaret Read MacDonald

An old woman complains about all the housework she has to do, but when some fairies come to help her she finds that they are more trouble than they are worth.

Counting birds – Alice Melvin

Quite an old fashion feel to the illustrations. Includes real and imaginary birds.

Sensational survivors: an illustrated guide to New Zealand's remarkable wildlife (NZ) – Sandra Morris

An ancient land isolated by vast oceans, New Zealand is home to many fascinating creatures. From a prehistoric reptile to one of the world largest insects.

Mama Miti: Wangari Maathai and the trees of Kenya – Donna Jo Napoli

The story of Wangari Maathai, who in 1977 founded the Green Belt Movement, an African grassroots organization, and in 2004 was the first African woman to be awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

The NZ kids' garden: a kids' guide to growing fruit and vegetables in New Zealand (NZ)

– Diana Noonan

Provides advice on starting a garden and on plants suitable for young readers to cultivate. Includes sections on designing a garden, what tools are needed, how to protect plants from pests and diseases, as well as planting schedules and a calendar.

Michael Rosen's big book of bad things

– Michael Rosen

The arrival of a new poetry collection from one of Britain's greatest children's poets Michael Rosen is always cause for great excitement - and this collection promises to be one of the best.

Truckery rhymes – Jon Scieszka

For generations, Trucks have been sharing these beloved tales, rowdy rhymes, and honk-along songs. Finally these classics have been gathered into one big, noisy, high-octane collection!

What goes on in my head? – Robert Winston

Professor Robert Winston introduces you to the most powerful, complicated computer network that exists - the brain. This book is packed with amazing illustrations and fascinating facts like why bird song is similar to human speech and what makes animals yawn, as well as fun brainteasers to test your child's memory, perception, reasoning and reactions.

Biblioburro: A True Story from Colombia

– Jeanette Winter

Luis loves to read, but soon his house in Colombia is so full of books there's barely room for the family. What to do? Then he comes up with the perfect solution--a travelling library! He buys two donkeys--Alfa and Beto--and travels with them throughout the land, bringing books and reading to the children in faraway villages.

Check out our Christchurch Kids Blog

You can:

- Read book reviews and write your own.
- Watch movie and book trailers.
- Tell us what you think by commenting, writing posts and voting in polls.
- Interact with other children. Interact with authors through our Star Author promotion – we have a Star Author each month who blogs about their books, writing and other things that interest them.

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