

KS2 fiction hot reads, May 2025

There are around 10,000 new children's books published every year, we read and review as many new titles as possible to bring you a selection of the very best for each Key Stage.

	<p>Puloma and the Bear by Jasbinder Bilan</p> <p>9780008698096 £7.99</p> <p>To escape her unhappy life with her unkind Aunt, Puloma runs away with the circus. But when she sees the mistreatment of Nyla the dancing sloth bear by the circus workers she decides to take matters into her own hands.</p>
	<p>Diary of a Future Billionaire by Pamela Butchart</p> <p>9780702333200 £7.99</p> <p>Just how far will one boy go to become a billionaire? This tale of money struggles shows the importance of friends, asking for and offering help, and being open with those in our lives.</p>
	<p>Leo and Ralph by Peter Carnavas</p> <p>9781408366417 £8.99</p> <p>Leo and Ralph have been best friends ever since Ralph flew down from one of Jupiter's moons. But now Leo's older, and Mum and Dad think it's time to say goodbye to Ralph. A charming story with a big heart that looks at friendships, difference and families.</p>
	<p>Hunt for the Golden Scarab by M G Leonard</p> <p>9781035005963 £7.99</p> <p>Running for their lives, Sim and his friends are determined to outwit the sinister Council of Keys and be the first to find Nefertiti's lost tomb and a powerful door to Ancient Egypt. They must piece together long-hidden clues if they are to solve the mystery of her golden heart scarab. An exciting and intriguing time-travel story</p>
	<p>Wildlands by Brogen Murphy</p> <p>9780241728109 £7.99</p> <p>Two girls have to find a way to safety after an accident leaves them stranded in the middle of a vast rewilding reserve. With a beautifully described setting, this adventure will keep you gripped until the end.</p>
	<p>Bigfoot and the Wild Boys by Jenny Pearson</p> <p>9780008698102 £7.99 AR: 3.7 MY</p> <p>With no real plan or survival skills, Joe and his best friend Tiago set off on what turns out to be an unforgettably hilarious quest to track down Bigfoot.</p>
	<p>The Wrong Shoes by Tom Percival</p> <p>9781398527140 £7.99 AR: 4.9 MY</p> <p>Will has the wrong shoes - he's always known it but doesn't know how to change it. Navigating the difficulties of home and school when you feel you stick out is tough, but finding confidence with the help and empathy of friends can be all you need to see the way. Highly-readable story of resilience.</p>

	<p>Birdie by J P Rose 9781839132414 £7.99 AR 5.1 MY</p> <p>Incorporates themes of racism, neglect, friendship and kindness. Birdie's unbreakable bond with Mr. Duke is deeply moving and their bravery together is wonderful. Authentic and an emotional roller-coaster, good for empathy, a fantastic read</p>
	<p>Murder! by Narwhal by Alex T Smith 9781444970050 £8.99</p> <p>When Sir Ignatious Gristle is murdered on his 90th birthday his granddaughter, Edna, has to find out what has happened..</p>
	<p>The Boy at the Window by Lucy Strange 9780008712785 £7.99 AR: 4.2 MY</p> <p>Hugo is convinced the ghost he has seen at the window is no trick of the fog. The boy's hollow eyes are haunting him. What would happen if Hugo were to open the door and let him in? Brace yourselves for a chilling, wintery ghost story</p>
	<p>Witchspark by Dominique Valente 9781805314998 £8.99</p> <p>Eglantine Bury can't find her Witchspark. But if her magic doesn't appear, her family and their magical house will fall into the terrifying clutches of the evil Whistlewitch. Endearing read with strong female character.</p>
	<p>Bravepaw by L M Wilkinson 9781761180552 £7.99</p> <p>Titch and her best-friend Huckleberry set out on a dangerous quest when their peaceful life on the Plateau is threatened. A fully illustrated and brilliantly readable adventure full of magic and prophecy, quests, heroism and loyal friendship</p>