

No Shelf Control

Edition 4: August 2021

Q&A with Alastair Chisholm

Your first book was highly acclaimed and won awards, did you feel any pressure writing this in its shadow?

It can take a while to go from writing to release, so I actually wrote this before Orion Lost came out! The characters of Adam, Runa and Linden were so clear in my head that sometimes it felt like I just had to let them tell me what they would do next. And setting it in my home city of Edinburgh was really fun!

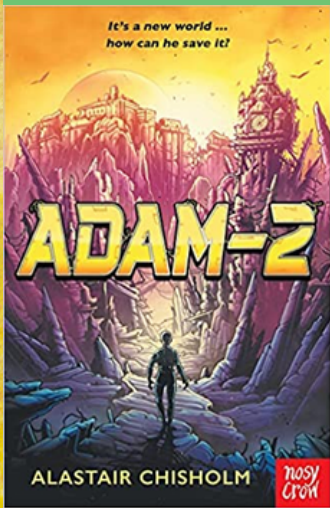
You write amazing sci-fi stories, what are your favourite sci-fi worlds/stories?

I've always loved the kind of sci-fi that's really about people, like Star Trek or Doctor Who. They have lots of great sci-fi ideas, but they're really there to set up people problems - social issues, how we treat each other, that kind of thing. But I'm quite geeky, so things like the old Asimov robot stories are great, too - they're like little logic puzzles!

I love how in Adam-2 there is a message about the need to collaborate with those different to us. If you could collaborate with someone else, who would it be?

I'm very lucky - as a picture book writer, I've already worked with great illustrators like Jez Tuya and David Roberts, and it was brilliant seeing how they created whole worlds out of my text. I reckon James Gunn (Guardians of the Galaxy) could do a good job directing a movie of Orion Lost! (And I always imagined that Ship would be played by Karen Gillen, aka Nebula / Amy Pond 😊).

What are the best books that you have read this year?



Elle McNicoll's A Kind of Spark did a superb job of showing a different perspective on the world, in a warm story. When Life Gives You Mangoes by Kereen Getten is wonderful (and tricky!), and Kirsty Applebaum's TrooFriend is another, really interesting, take on robots and AI. Damien Love's Monstrous Devices is huge fun, too, and my to-be-read pile is teetering with stuff from Gemma Fowler, Alex Cotter, Louie Stowell, Darren Simpson, Fleur Hitchcock... it's a good time to be reading middle grade!



Books



Reviews



chats



Tilda Tries Again

Tom Percival

Bloomsbury 4+

This is the fifth book in Tom's Big Bright Feelings books. The series is essential for every school as each book deals with a different emotion. Tilda looks at resilience and how sometimes we just need to pick ourselves up and try again! This will be used in classrooms up and down the country this year!

A Bad King is a Sad Thing

Julian Gough & Jim Field

Hodder 5+

This is the first series that I recommend to KS1 teachers looking for a class read aloud or for KS2 children who are just starting to read independently. I'm over the moon that there is a fifth book. As always, the book is full of humour and important life lessons! Have I mentioned how much I love these books?



Myths, Monsters and Mayhem

James Davies

Big Picture Press 7+

A brilliant non-fiction book - graphic novel cross over. Myths are retold and additional details on Ancient Greek life are given. Both my daughter and I are studying Ancient Greece this year and we've already been fighting over this awesome book!

The Wild Before

Piers Torday

Quercus 9+

The Last Wild trilogy is a fantastic set of books. This is the prequel. A lot shorter than the other books in the series but it is the perfect introduction to the series, explaining everything that comes before. Beautifully told from the perspective of a little hare who becomes the hare of hope. Piers' writing is always stunningly beautiful!



One To Wait for...

There's a Ghost in this House - Oliver Jeffers
Macmillan Children - Sept 21

The man can do no wrong in my eyes, so I'm ridiculously excited to get my hands on a copy of this. The fact that it apparently has transparent pages makes me even more excited!



Lightning Falls

Amy Wilson

Macmillan Children 9+

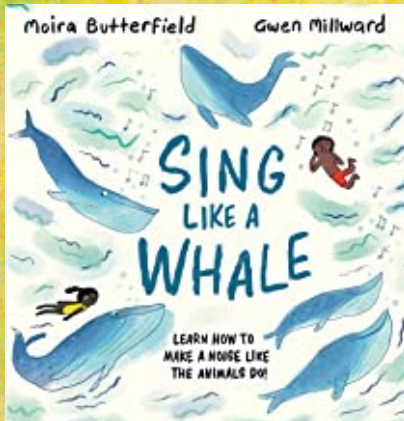
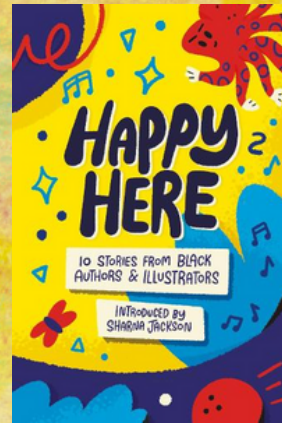
It is hard to describe this beautiful book without giving away too much. Valerie has been living at Lightning Falls with the other ghosts since she was a young child. But she's not like the other ghosts and she's not entirely sure why. But then a mysterious sparkling boy turns up and offers some insight to her true heritage!

Happy Here

Various Authors/Illustrators

Knights Of 10+

Knights Of have been amplifying the voices of minority writers and they're one of the most important publishers out there right now. This book of short stories is superb and has a wide spectrum of brilliance that will allow children to dip in and out of it as they please. I'd love to know which story is your favourite!



Sing Like A Whale

Moira Butterfield & Gwen Millward

Welbeck Children's 3+

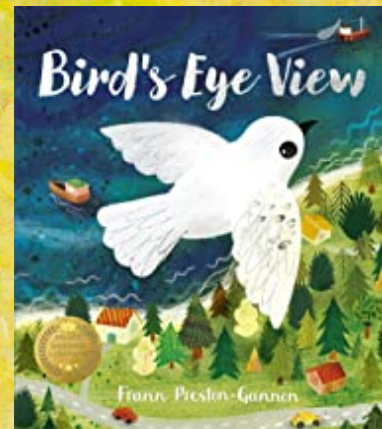
A brilliant interactive book where children are encouraged to imitate sounds so that they can communicate like a variety of different animals. It's a raucous read that will lead to some giggles but also helps to understand how animals communicate and what their sounds actually mean.

Bird's Eye View

Frann Preston-Gannon

Templar 3+

It is time for Little Bird to leave the nest but her mother warns her about humans. As she flies, she sees the good and bad things that humans do. Destruction from war and deforestation, as well as pollution in the cities. But ultimately she sees their kindness when a family look after her when she injures herself. A reminder that if you can choose to be anything - Be Kind



One You Might Have Missed

Song For a Whale - Lynne Kelly

Piccadilly - 9+ Feb 2019

A gorgeous story about a deaf girl who learns about a whale that is unable to communicate with other whales. Spurred on by her own loneliness, she sets off on a journey to make sure the whale knows that he's not alone.



9 Books about... Sport

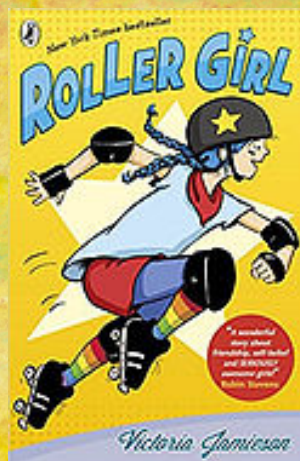


It has been a great few months for sport with the Euros and the Olympics in quick succession. If you love sports, check out some of these recommendations.

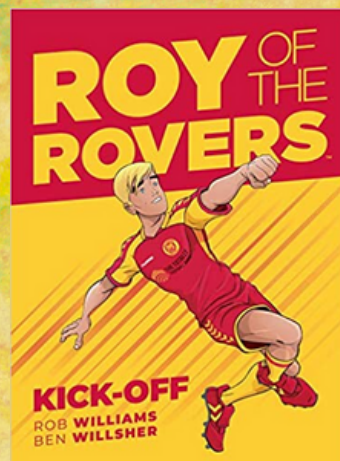
1. Women in Sport
Rachel Iqnotofsky



2. Roller Girl
Victoria Jamieson



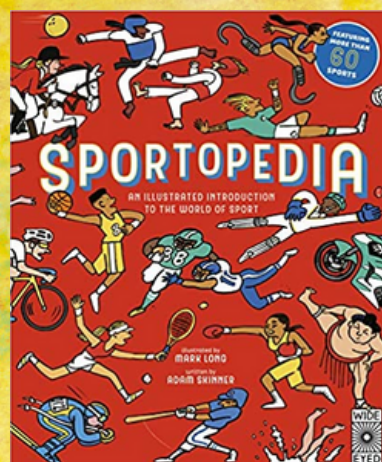
3. Roy of the Rovers
Rob Williams & Ben Willsher



4. Salah Rules
Simon Mugford & Dan Green



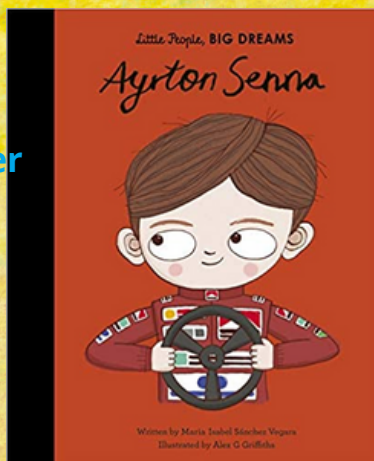
5. Sportopedia
Adam Skinner & Mark Long



6. Jaz Santos Vs The World
Priscilla Mante



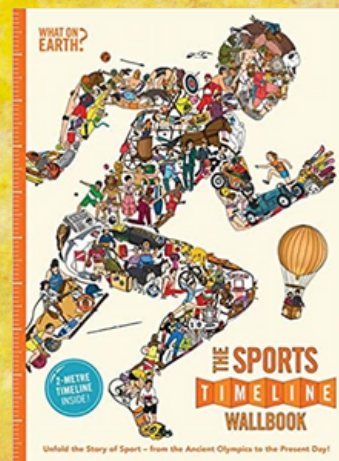
7. Ayrton Senna
Maria Isabel Sanchez Vegara & Alex G Griffiths



8. Olympic Poems
Brian Moses & Roger Stevens



9. The Sports Timeline Wallbook
Christopher Lloyd, Brian Oliver & Andy Forshaw



If you have any questions or have a book released in September that you feel deserves a place on the newsletter: Email us - MisterBodd@outlook.com