

December 2019

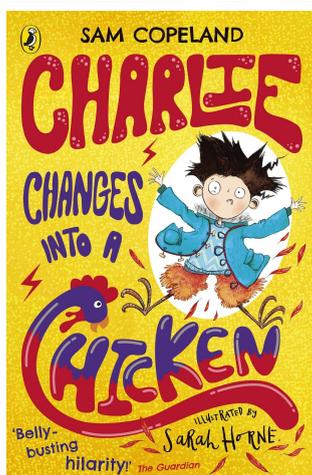
Author Spotlight: Sam Copeland



Sam Copeland has written THREE books! His debut novel, 'Charlie Changes into a Chicken' introduces us Charlie McGuffin who we also follow through each of the sequels: Charlie Changes into a T-Rex and (coming next month!) Charlie Morphs into a Mammoth.

We can EXCLUSIVELY reveal Sam will be visiting Tadpole Farm as part of our Book Festival in June! He is extremely funny (and his books are too!) so we can't wait for him to give an author talk at our school.

☐ *Charlie McGuffin really tries to be optimistic but he is actually worried about quite a lot! His brother is in the hospital, he gets unwanted attention from the school bully...and...he turns into animals! Even though every child might want a superpower, Charlie can think of better ones to have than turning into a pigeon during the school play!*



Local Library opening hours

North Swindon

Monday: 2pm - 6pm
Wednesday: 10am - 2pm
Friday: 12pm - 4pm
Saturday: 1pm - 4pm

West Swindon

Monday: 1pm - 5pm
Tuesday: 10am - 6pm
Wednesday: 1pm - 5pm
Thursday: 1pm - 5pm
Friday: 10am - 6pm
Saturday: 10am - 1pm

Book shops in Swindon

Waterstones

The Brunel Centre, 25/26
Farnsby St, Swindon.
01793 436465

WH Smith

10/12 Regent Street, Swindon
01793 531342

Independent: Bassett Books

34 High Street, Royal Wootton
Bassett
01793 855166

Have you been to...?

Octavia's Bookshop.

01285 650677- 24 Black Jack Street, Cirencester, GL7 2AA.

With more than half the shop dedicated to children's books, Octavia's Bookshop is the perfect place to visit for some expert advice to help you select your next exciting read! With a knowledgeable staff and space to browse, you will be enchanted by the choices.

If you look at her website (www.octaviasbookshop.co.uk) you will also find details of author events! Recently, Ben Miller signed his books there.

Alongside all this, book groups for children are run throughout the year; there are groups from age 6 to teens reading a range of exciting books like Pages & Co, Umbrella Mouse and Pinch of Magic.

Fiction: What's New...

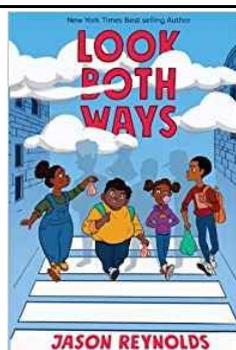
Our monthly reading recommendations: newly published books for you to find your new favourite!



Snow Foal by **Susanna Bailey** (aimed at ages 8 – 12)

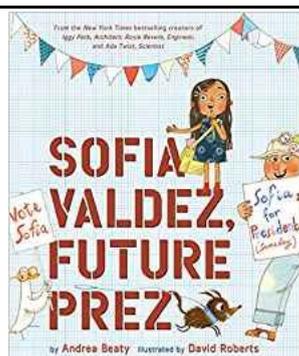
When eleven-year-old Addie goes to stay with a foster-care family on a remote Exmoor farm in the midst of a very cold winter, she is full of hurt, anger and a deep mistrust of everyone around her. Until one day, when she rescues a tiny wild foal from the moorland snow and Addie discovers that perhaps she's not so alone after all.

And as adventure and unexpected friendship blossom, Addie is determined that both of them will know what is to be home again soon . . .



Look Both Ways by **Jason Reynolds** (aimed at ages 10 – 14)

When the bell rings and school is finished for the day, the walkers are finally set free. For ten blocks they have no-one telling them what to do; they can talk about bogies, skateboard, plan dramatic escapes, make jokes, face bullies, and hear about the school bus that fell from the sky... In ten stories (one per block), find out what really happens on the walk home from school, when there are no parents or teachers to supervise (or stop the fun!). From hilarious escapades to brave challenges, join the walkers for one journey and many, many detours...



Sofia Valdez, Future Prez by **Andrea Beaty** (aimed at ages 5 – 7)

Every morning, Abuelo walks Sofia to school . . . until one day, when Abuelo hurts his ankle at a local landfill and he can no longer do so. Sofia (aka Sofi) misses her Abuelo and wonders what she can do about the dangerous Mount Trashmore. Then she gets an idea the town can turn the slimy mess into a park! She brainstorms and plans and finally works up the courage to go to City Hall only to be told by a clerk that she can't build a park because she's just a kid! Sofia is down but not out, and she sets out to prove what one kid can do.



Greta and the Giants by **Zoe Tucker** (aimed at ages 4 – 7)

Greta is a little girl who lives in a beautiful forest threatened by Giants. When the Giants first came to the forest, they chopped down trees to make houses. Then they chopped down more trees and made even bigger homes. The houses grew into towns and the towns grew into cities, until now there is hardly any forest left. Greta knows she has to help the animals who live in the forest, but how? **Luckily, Greta has an idea...**

A section at the back explains that, in reality, the fight against the 'giants' isn't over and explains **how you can help Greta in her fight.**

Have you tried...?

How to Bewitch a Wolf - (Ruby, Year 4)

A witch is using dark magic and needs to be stopped! She is being helped by a wolf who the good witches need to bewitch in order to win. Can they do it?

Gangsta Granny - (Ibrahim, Year 5)

This is a really good book to get you started on longer novels. It's quite funny and keeps you guessing what will happen next!

Ink Heart - (Deborah, Year 6)

This book is about a girl who loves reading with her Dad. but he will never read aloud to her! Dustfinger turns up at their house which is mysterious enough, but when she is being chased she discovers that whatever her father reads aloud, he gets drawn into the story! An exciting adventure story which is part of a trilogy!

Important Dates, Events & Competitions

January

Find out the full list of children's book events taking place this January here:

<https://www.booktrust.org.uk/books-and-reading/events/january/>

<p>7th Costa Book Award Category Winners</p>	<p>Who do you think will be this year's children's category winner? David Almond, Candy Gourlay, Matt Killeen or Hilary McKay? We are glad we're not the ones having to judge the competition!</p>
<p>18th Winnie the Pooh Day</p>	<p>Today is a day to celebrate one of the most beloved children's book characters around: Winnie the Pooh! Indulge yourself with one of the classic tales, play some pooh sticks or have some of his favourite food, honey!</p>
<p>26th - 2nd February National Storytelling Week</p>	<p>A chance to let your imagination run wild and tell the stories you've always wanted to tell. There will be hundreds of events up and down the country across the whole week, so there will be certainly be something for everyone!</p>
<p>Lollies Book Awards Announced</p>	<p>Be prepared to laugh your socks off with the Lollies award winners! Want to know more? Look here: https://www.booktrust.org.uk/news-and-features/features/2018/june/get-ready-to-laugh-out-loud-with-the-2018-lollies-award-shortlist/</p>
<p>Never Such Innocence Writing Competition</p>	<p>For the 2019/20 academic year, the Never Such Innocence competition will be bigger than ever! There is a new speechwriting category. The age range is 9-18. The Never Such Innocence competition invites young people to write a poem, speech, or song, or create a piece of art responding to war or conflict. https://www.neversuchinnocence.com/2019-20-competition</p>

February

Find out the full list of children's book events taking place this February here:

<https://www.booktrust.org.uk/books-and-reading/events/february/>

<p>7th Harry Potter Book Night</p>	<p>An excuse to read J.K. Rowling's books or watch the films to celebrate one of the modern classics!</p>
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Tadpole Farm Reading Newsletter



Tadpole Farm
CE Primary Academy

14th International Book Giving Day	It isn't just Valentine's Day today...it's International Book Giving Day too! It's a day that encourages people all around the world to give a book to a child.
16th Celebrating 20 Years of Children's Laureates	Over 20 years, Waterstones have had 10 amazing Children's Laureates to promote reading and enjoyment of books among children. Why not research who they are and read some of their books? There is a prize for a child in school who designs us a persuasive poster or letter about who they think should be the next Laureate.
26th Tell a Fairy Tale Day	Read an existing Fairy Tale, or make up your very own! We want to hear all about your wicked witches, big bad wolves and fairy tale 'goodies' - why not tell your teachers what your favourite tale is?
Wicked Young Writer Awards (deadline March 2020)	The "prestigious Wicked Young Writer Awards" (The Times) was established by the long-running musical WICKED to link the important messages of the production with a competition that would inspire young people to use creative writing to look at life a little differently. The Award recognises excellence in writing, encourages creativity, and helps develop writing talent in young people between 5-25 years old from all backgrounds and areas of the UK. www.wickedyoungwriterawards.com