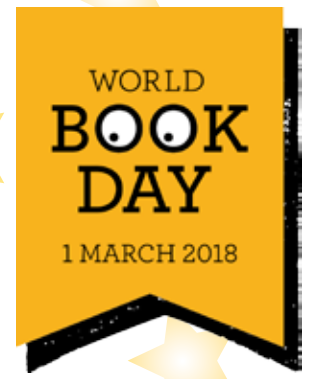




Our Favourite Children's Books!



To celebrate World Book Day 2018, we asked a few members of the Jolly Team about their favourite children's books...

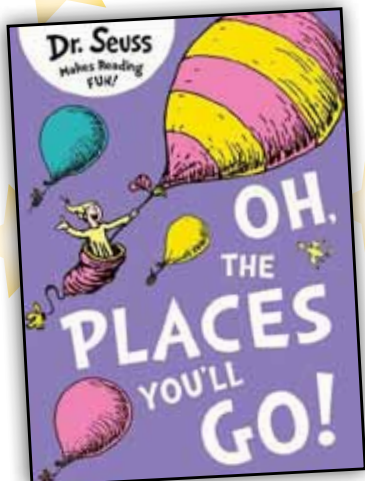
Fantastic Mr Fox (by Roald Dahl) Jonathan Partington, Sales Director

"Easy winner; Fantastic Mr Fox. I know you don't need to know why as it is so obviously the best kids book ever written, by the best children's author to have ever lived, illustrated (eventually) by a genius with coloured pens, but in case anyone has had the misfortune to miss the Fantastic Mr Fox...



The book has it all, a hero, evil villains, teamwork and adventure. Mr Fox is as his name suggests, fantastic. He is the perfect hero, he has his faults but his daring, charm and skills shine through so he can save the day. Which, as luck would have it is exactly what he does. Having put his whole community at risk by being just a little too good at being a fox, he gets his gang together and leads them all to a famous, fantastic victory, while the baddies are left sitting out in the cold!"

Oh, the Places You'll Go! (by Dr. Seuss) Brad Peterson, Publicity & Promotions Coordinator



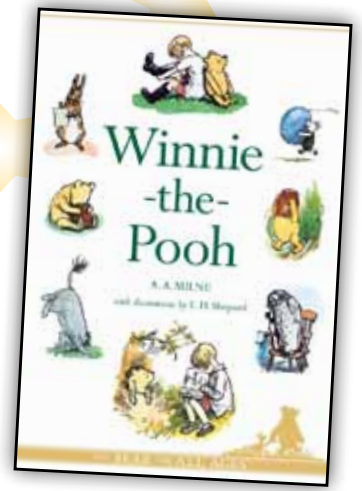
"You have brains in your head, you have feet in your shoes. You can steer yourself in any direction you choose."

"I didn't actually discover this book until I was an adult, but it's easily my favourite. Aside from Dr. Seuss' lyrical genius - entertaining yet incredibly easy to read - the message is really powerful, even for adults. It's inspirational in the way it highlights the journey you go on through your life. It acknowledges the inevitable struggles you will face, but also that you can overcome any obstacle to succeed. I'd recommend this to any child or adult (plus it makes a brilliant gift for Year 6 school leavers!)."

Winnie the Pooh (by A.A.Milne)

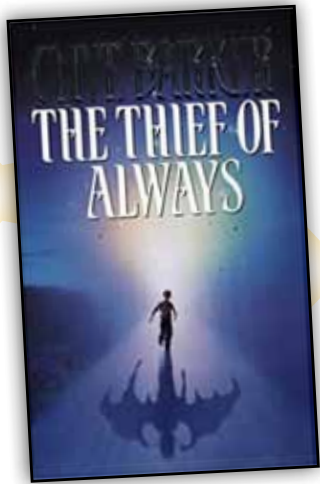
Caroline Petherbridge, Designer and Editor

"My favourite children's stories are the Winnie-the-Pooh books. The author, A.A.Milne, was originally a light verse writer and his stories follow the same style of frivolity and wordplay. Milne appreciated that children respond to the sound and rhythm of language long before they learn to read. He was also a successful playwright, and his storytelling has much in common with playwriting. To read his stories, you need to use voices and facial expressions to animate the text and to impersonate the characters. A.A.Milne claimed to write neither for children, not for adults. Instead, he wrote for himself - an adult aware of the child within. That is why adults and children alike are drawn to his wonderful stories of friendship and adventure."



The Thief of Always (by Clive Barker)

Cara Fairhall, Project Coordinator



"The great gray beast February had eaten Harvey Swick alive. Buried in the belly of that smothering month, he wondered if he would ever find his way out."

"My Dad first read this book to me when I was very young. A good thing he did as when the hero of the story, Harvey Swick, first bumps into evil, Clive Barker's talent for horror writing was easily interpreted into dark and dangerous visions in my own young and impressionable mind! The story captivated me from the start, and

I found myself wanting to be Harvey's sidekick, supporting him through many trials and tribulations before he was faced with Mr. Hood, the true villain of the story. A very clever fable for children to think more closely about wishing their young lives away."

Cyril Bonhamy v Madam Big (by Jonathan Gathorne-Hardy)

Alex Bennett, Digital Manager

"I echo Winnie-the-Pooh as a favourite as an adult as well as a child. However, I can't choose the same so I am going with Cyril Bonhamy v Madam Big. Apart from being a gift from a close family member, this book is a really engaging read with illustrations by Quentin Blake nonetheless!"

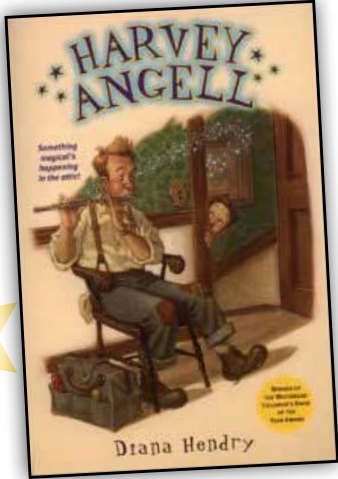


Harvey Angell (by Diana Hendry)

Louise Van-Pottlesberghe, Commissioning Editor

"My favourite book as a child was Harvey Angell by Diana Hendry. I read it and reread it until the spine disintegrated and had to be carefully duct taped back together.

Unusually, the story is not told from the point of view of the eponymous hero, but rather that of his landlady's nephew, an orphan (of course) called Henry, through whose eyes we gradually begin to see who and what Harvey Angell is.



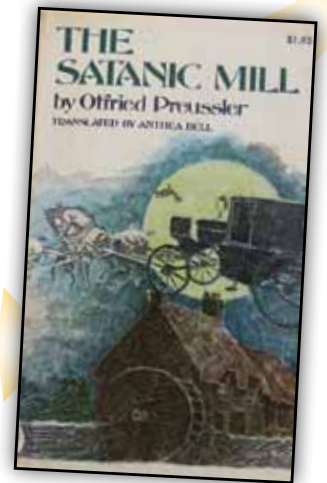
All of the reviews on Amazon (other book suppliers are available) will tell you that this book is a thriller or a mystery, which it is I suppose. But it is also a story about what it means to be alone and the debilitating effects of loss and the vital importance of connections – which makes it all sound a bit E. M. Forster, but it is much, much funnier and more readable than E. M. Forster. (Apologies in advance to the many E. M. Forster fans out there.)

I don't want to give away anything about the plot so I won't say any more. Suffice to say, you must buy a copy right away."

The Satanic Mill (by Otfried Preussler)

Angela Hockley, Editorial Manager

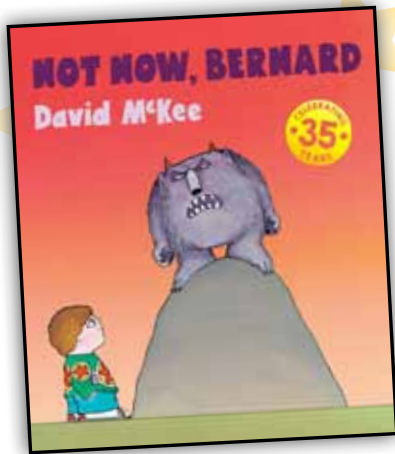
"I absolutely love A A Milne too, for all the reasons Caroline stated, and also because of the beautiful, wistful illustrations by E H Shephard (was at the V&A exhibition this very weekend). The King's Breakfast is a particular favourite of mine.



But, at the other end of the scale is The Satanic Mill (aka The Curse of the Darkling Mill/ Krabat / Krabat and the Sorcerer's Mill) by Otfried Preussler. Long before Harry Potter, Dumbledore, Hogwarts and Voldemort there were Krabat, Tonda, The Mill and the Goodman (NOT!). A young beggar boy in the snowy depths of 17th century Saxony is apprenticed as a Miller's Man. Life is good as he makes friends and learns his trade, encouraged by the protective and thoughtful Tonda. But milling is not all he learns, as he is inducted into a secret brotherhood and begins to master the Black Arts. There are nights of revelry and tales of derring-do but, as New Year looms, tensions rise among the journeymen and a tragic accident reveals that life at the mill comes at a sickening cost...

I love this story because it is part fable, part allegory and covers all the big topics -

love, life, death, sacrifice, illusion, truth and hope. All wrapped up in the guise of a 17th century folk tale.”



Not Now, Bernard

(by David McKee)

Theresa Reynolds, Senior Editor

“The children’s books I love the best are those I enjoyed with my own children. A good picture book for reading aloud should have illustrations that are in some way beautiful, magical or strange; words whose lilting rhythm makes them perfect for chanting aloud and, ideally, a catchy refrain: ‘Peace at last!’; ‘We’re not scared!’; ‘I sent it back.’ (A prize to the first person to name these three books.)

It’s hard to choose among the many fine examples from my bedtime-story-reading days, but I retain a special fondness for the darkly mischievous Not Now, Bernard by David McKee. (McKee went on to create the wildly successful Elmer the Elephant.) Many parents feel that it’s unsuitable for young children but I think that is to underestimate their capacity for black humour.

‘Not now, Bernard’ is the refrain of Bernard’s doltish parents whenever he seeks their attention – that is, if it’s attention-seeking to be concerned about a real live monster in the back garden. In an unexpected descent into violence more appropriate to a Tarantino movie, the monster eats Bernard – ‘every bit’.

It’s what happens next that is interesting. The monster tries, and fails, to terrorise Bernard’s parents. They simply don’t notice, deflecting him with their mantra of ‘Not now, Bernard’ as easily and heedlessly as they did with their hapless son. They park him in front of the television to eat his dinner, then pack him off to bed with a glass of milk. He is no match for them.

‘But I’m a monster’, he protests plaintively, leaving us to ponder on some of the questions raised by the story. Who’s the real monster here? And if not now, when?”

Read on for a few additional books that we had to include!

Other notable mentions...

A Book of Milliganimals (by Spike Milligan) - "This book includes the amazing story of the Bald Twit Lion!"

Five People You Meet in Heaven (by Mitch Albom) - "A powerful book that explores various themes of how people can have an impact on someone else's life; even those you've never met."

Wonder (by R.J. Palacio) - "A moving tale about a disfigured boy attending school for the first time. It is uplifting through the inner beauty he and others possess to see him for who he is, despite the many obstacles he faces."

Harry Potter (by J.K. Rowling) - "Are there really any words that can be said about the series that haven't been said before?"

A Monster Calls (by Patrick Ness) - "This is quite a sad but profound book about a boy struggling to cope with his mother's terminal illness. It's written in a child-friendly manner; with the main character meeting (and learning from) a monster."

The True Story of the 3 Little Pigs! (by Jon Scieszka) - "I was read this when I was at primary school and to this day still remember it! A really funny and clever twist on the classic fairy tale."

The Day the Crayons Quit (by Drew Daywalt) - "This is such a clever book about a boy whose crayons decide to quit, each writing a letter stating why they are unhappy! A must for the classroom!"

