

# A World of Stories



books with diversity for pre-school children

Children who experience positive role models in the very first stories they hear and pictures they see are more likely to grow up with a sense of self-worth and so go on to become successful, confident and rounded adults.


This list of 30 picture books for pre-school children contains stories, poems and traditional tales which show characters which hopefully children can identify with and be empowered by. Many of the books listed are very recent, while a handful of classic titles are included also. At the time of listing, all titles are available in bookshops and from Islington Libraries.

In addition to the picture books listed, parents with babies might like to know that a range of board books are available to borrow, some by the authors listed here.

The 30 titles included are just a fraction of the books suitable for inclusion. To make the list manageable to use, just thirty make the cut. You should be able to find in Islington Libraries other authors or additional titles by the authors listed. Or, you could visit websites for the publishers mentioned in the list or companies like Tamarind (part of Penguin), Letterbox Library and Mantra Lingua (who publish dual language picture books).

Some bookshops specialise in titles which display diversity, including:

- Round Table Books Granville Arcade, Unit 85-86 Coldharbour Lane, SW9 8PR
- The Willesden Bookshop, c/o 9 Highgate High Street, N6 5JR
- New Beacon Books, 76 Stroud Green Rd, N4 3EN

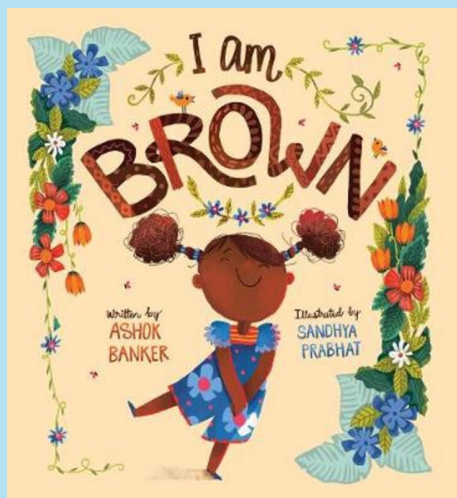
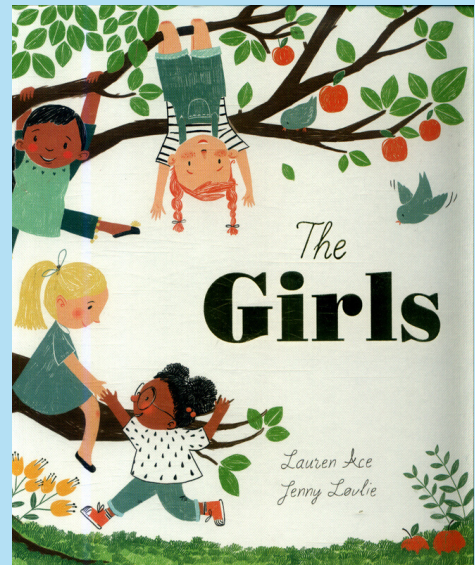
If you need help finding any of the books please ask a member of staff. You can also reserve any of these books for free. For more information about Islington Libraries visit [www.islington.gov.uk/libraries](http://www.islington.gov.uk/libraries) or follow us on  @Islingtonlibs

# Picture Book Stories

**Lauren Ace**

## **The Girls**

Four little girls meet under an apple tree and form a bond that grows as they share secrets, dreams, worries and schemes. This illustrated tale charts the girls' lives through ups and downs and laughter and tears. Find out how their friendship flourishes as the years pass by and the girls become women.



**Ashok Banker**

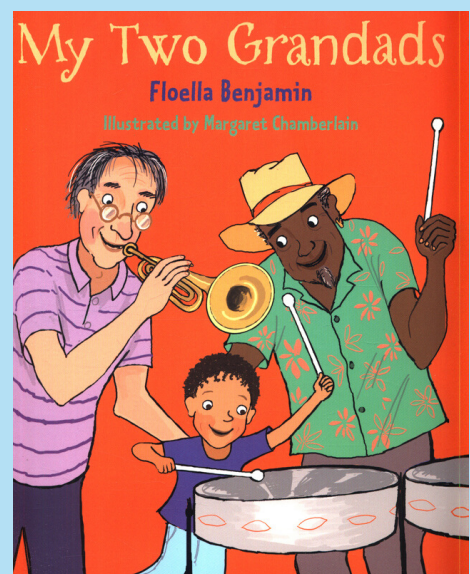
## **I Am Brown**

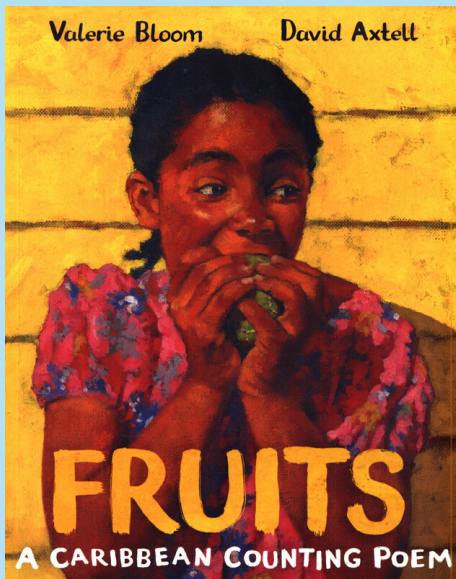
I am brown. I am beautiful. I am perfect. I designed this computer. I ran this race. I won this prize. I wrote this book. A joyful celebration of the skin you're in - of being brown, of being amazing, of being you.

**Floella Benjamin**

## **My Two Grandads**

Aston wants to learn to play both the trumpet and the steel drums just like his grandads. He also wants his grandads to bring their bands to the school summer fair. But there's a problem - only one band is needed! Aston soon saves the situation and brings his grandads together in a musical extravaganza.





**Valerie Bloom**

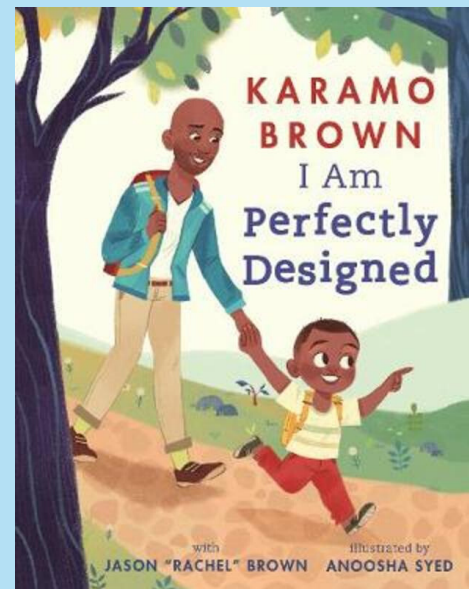
## **Fruits: a counting poem**

How much fruit can one small girl manage to eat in one day? In the case of the narrator of this Caribbean counting poem, the answer is 'a lot'! The poem also teaches children the names of Caribbean fruits.

**Karamo Brown**

## **I Am Perfectly Designed**

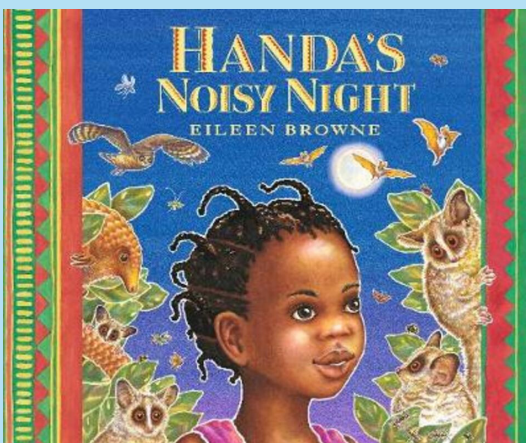
A joyful celebration of loving who you are, exactly as you are. Written by Karamo Brown, culture expert on the hit Netflix series 'Queer Eye,' and his son Jason, this empowering story sees a boy and his father take a walk through the city chatting about all the ways in which they are perfectly designed for each other. The father and son remember past events and look forward to the future together.

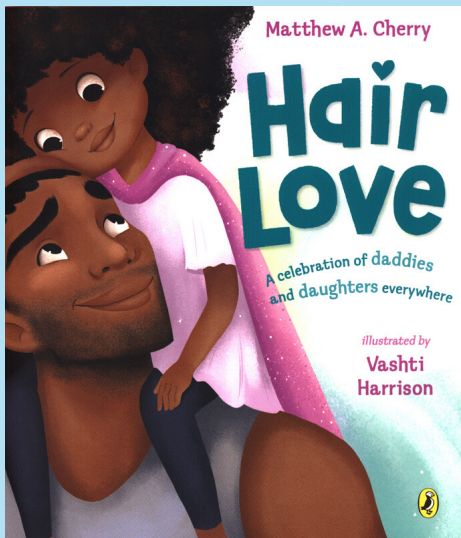


**Eileen Browne**

## **Handa's Noisy Night**

Handa has a sleepover with her friend Akeyo. They're excited to be on their own, but as they get ready for bed, Handa feels more and more nervous. She keeps hearing things - strange snorts, chitter chattering, a big thud. Akeyo says it's only her noisy family, but on the opposite page the reader sees the nocturnal animals who are really making the noise. The latest title in the ever-popular "Handa" series.



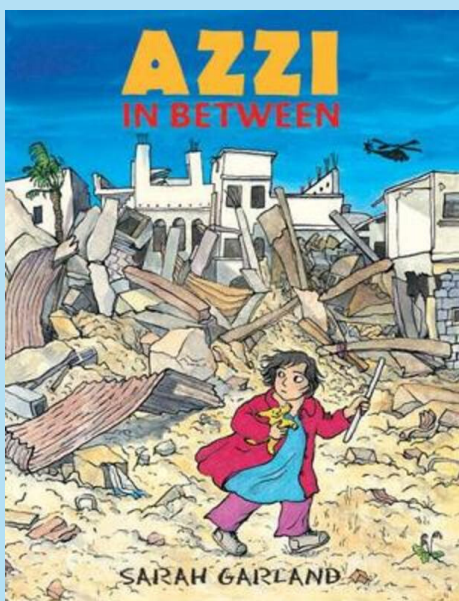
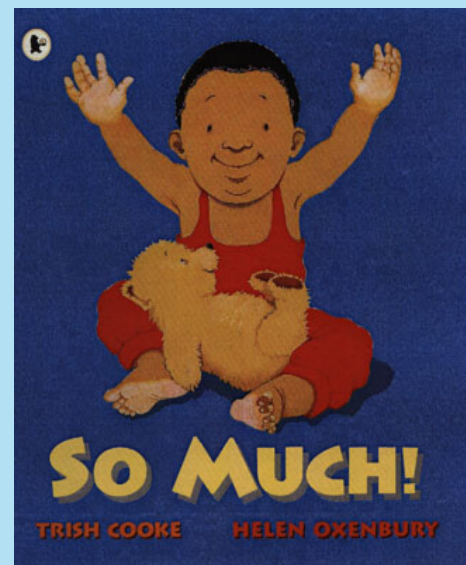


## Matthew Cherry Hair Love

It's up to daddy to give his daughter an extra-special hair style in this story of self-confidence and the love between fathers and daughters. Zuri knows her hair is beautiful, but it has a mind of its own. It kinks, coils, and curls every which way. Mum always does Zuri's hair just the way she likes it - so when daddy steps in to style it for an extra special occasion, he has a lot to learn.

## Trish Cooke So Much!

Mum and the baby are at home, doing nothing spectacular, when the doorbell rings. It's Aunt Biba, and she wants to play with the baby so much. Then Uncle Didi comes, followed by practically the whole family, and they all want to hug and play with baby.



## Sarah Garland AZZI in Between

Azzi and her parents are in danger. They have to leave their home and escape to another country on a frightening journey by car and boat. In the new country they must learn to speak a new language, find a new home and Azzi must start a new school. With a kind helper at the school, Azzi begins to learn English and understand that she is not the only one who has had to flee her home. But Grandma has been left behind and Azzi misses her more than anything. Will Azzi ever see her grandma again?

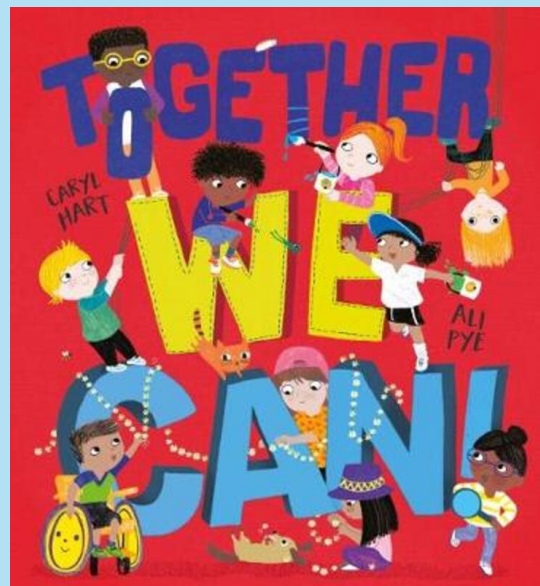


**Pippa Goodhart**  
**Chapatti Moon**

Mrs Kapoor and a whole host of animals and friends give chase to a cheeky chapatti in this hilarious modern take on the runaway pancake story. Follow the trail of the chapatti as it bounces and bursts through the book. Where will its adventure end?

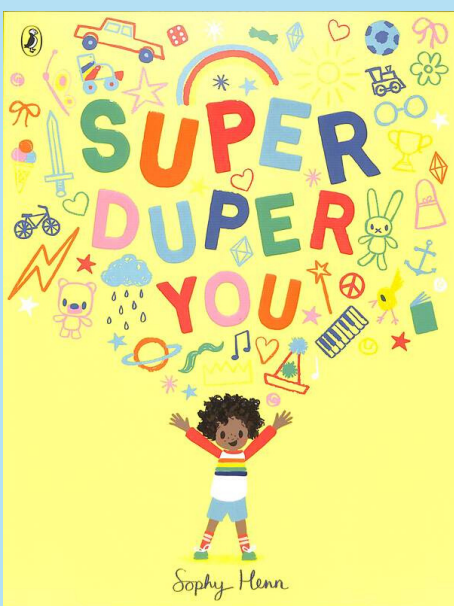
**Caryl Hart**  
**Together We Can!**

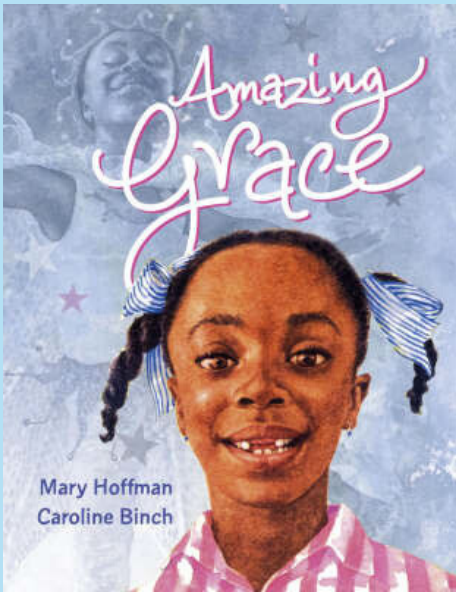
Our friends are all different, but one thing is true, each one is quite precious and that includes YOU! This fun-filled and vibrant picture book shows children forming friendships and displaying kindness and compassion, highlighting how important togetherness is in our world.



**Sophy Henn**  
**Super Duper You**

Celebrate all the different, extraordinary and sometimes contradictory things we are in this joyful and colourful rhyming picture book. Perfect to read aloud - and then read again, and again!



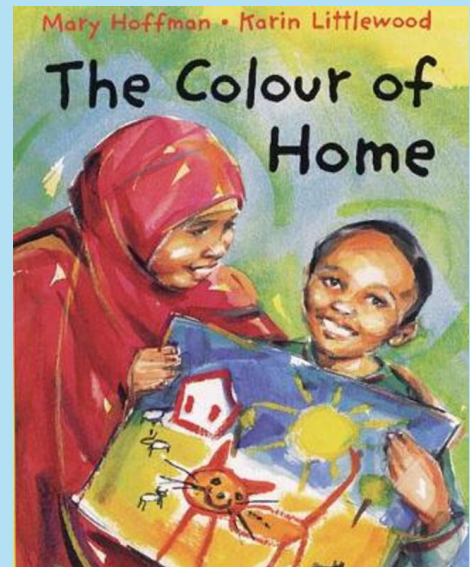


## Mary Hoffman Amazing Grace

Grace loves to act out stories. When her school decides to perform Peter Pan, Grace longs to play the lead, but her classmates point out that Peter was a boy, and besides, he wasn't black. One of a series of "Grace" titles.

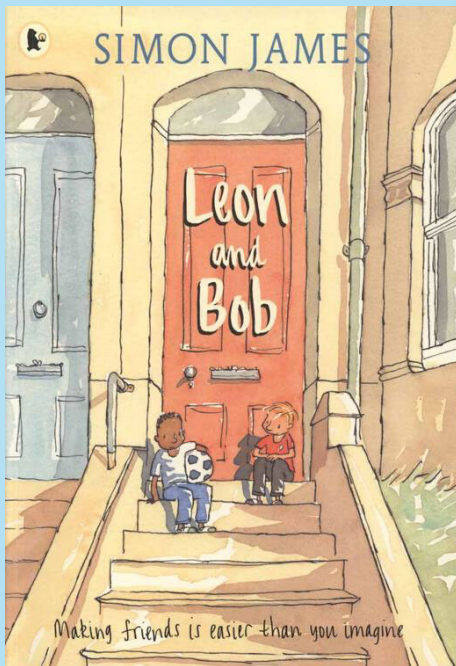
## Mary Hoffman The Colour of Home

Hassan feels out of place in a new, cold, grey country. At school he paints a picture showing his colourful Somalian home, covered with harsh colours of war from which his family fled. Things change and Hassan begins to see the new colours of home.



## Mick Jackson Ella May Does It Her Own Way

Ella May is a girl who likes to do things her way, like walking backwards, just to see how it feels. Then she reads her books backwards, goes backwards up to the bathroom and climbs backwards into bed. When Ella goes backwards up the slide, Ella's mum decides to walk backwards next to her, making it easier for them to talk. Soon, half the town is walking backwards in a giant, backwards-walking procession. Where will it end?

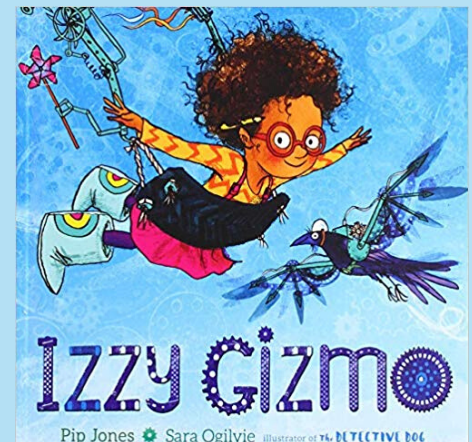


## Simon James Leon and Bob

Bob is Leon's invisible best friend. Leon's dad is away in the army. One day a new family move in next door. Leon sees a boy through the window, who when he finally meets him reveals that his name is Bob!

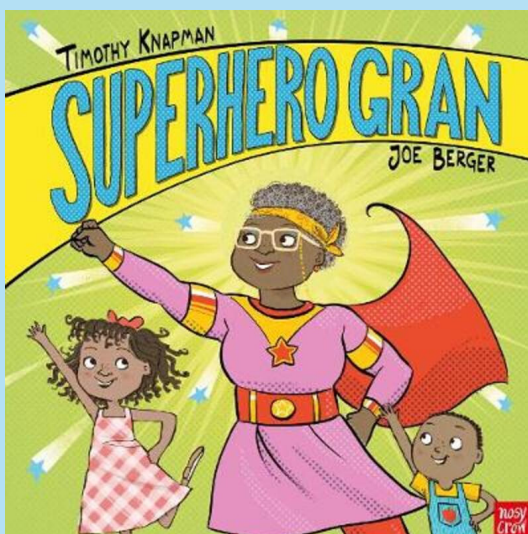
## Pip Jones Izzy Gizmo

Izzy Gizmo just loves to invent, but her inventions never seem to work the way she wants them to. And that makes her really CROSS! When she finds a crow with a broken wing she just has to help. But will she be able to put her frustrations to one side and help her new friend to fly again?

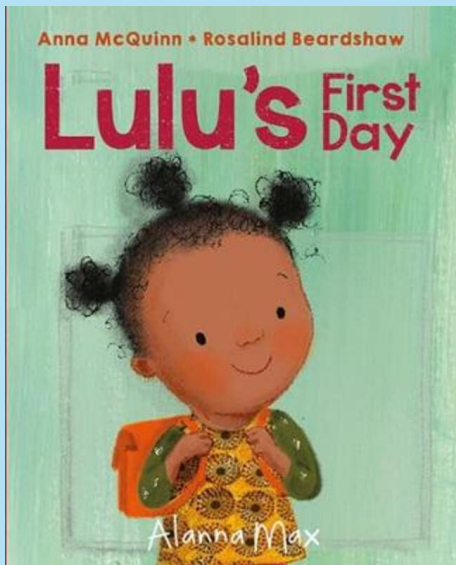


## Timothy Knapman Superhero Gran

All grandmothers are wonderful and the gran in this story is no exception. She might not lift buildings or go whooshing through the sky, but she can plan super sleepovers, tell super-funny stories and even put together super disguises. This gran really does have super powers!





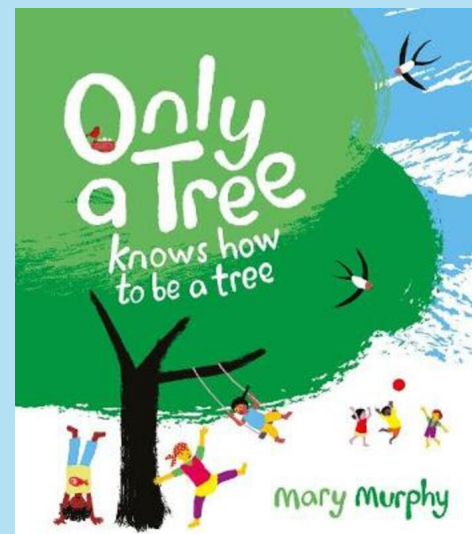


## Anna McQuinn Lulu's First Day

Book-loving Lulu is excited to start pre-school. It will be like storytime at the library, but she will stay by herself. Everyone gets up super early to make sure they are ready. There's so much to do at pre-school: Lulu makes a new friend, reads (of course), plays dress up and builds and sings. In no time at all, Mummy is back to collect her.

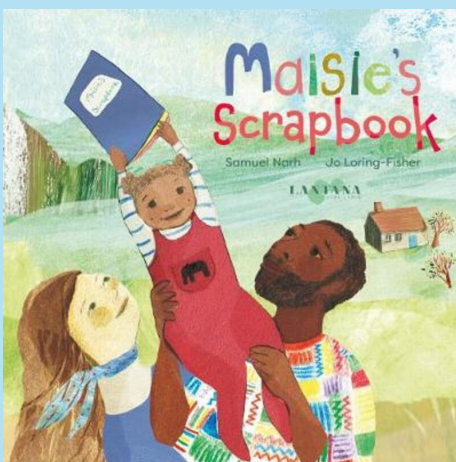
## Mary Murphy Only a Tree Knows How to Be a Tree

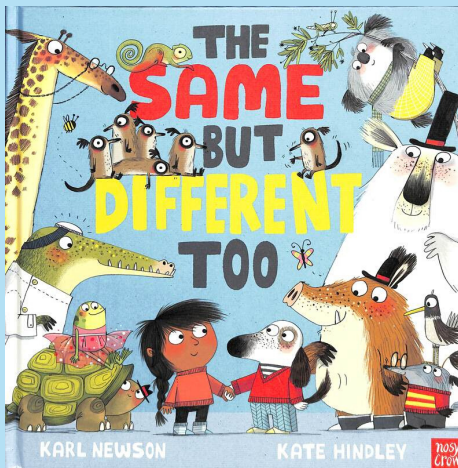
Only a tree knows how to be a tree and only you know how to be you. This beautiful story shows that every young child has own its special place in the world, and how everyone and everything is both itself and part of the whole.



## Samuel Narh Maisie's Scrapbook

As the seasons turn, Maisie rides her bull in and out of Dada's tall tales. Her Mama wears linen and plays the viola. Her Dada wears kente cloth and plays the marimba. They come from different places, but they hug her in the same way. And most of all, they love her just the same. A joyful celebration of a mixed-race family and the love that binds us all together.





**Karl Newson**

## **The Same But Different Too**

These children and animals are all very different to each other. Some are big, some are small. Some are gentle, some are rough. Everyone is playful, but who's the best at hiding? But one thing's certain: they all love a good bedtime story!

**Smriti Prasadam-Halls**

## **The Little Island**

There was once a farm where all the animals were friends. Together they looked after the farm and each other. It wasn't perfect and they didn't always agree (animals almost never do). But they liked it. One day the geese begin to gossip. Before long they hatch a plan to leave the farm. Will life be perfect now?



**Ruth Quayle**

## **Suzy Orbit, Astronaut**

When Suzy Orbit and her boss, Captain Gizmo, hear that aliens have been spotted near their space station, they must act fast! But Captain Gizmo has no batteries for his space pod, his new spacesuit is far too small, and there's no chance of ordering a meteor blaster in time. Luckily, Suzy Orbit - astronaut and engineer extraordinaire - is on hand with her spanner and brilliant inventing skills. Suzy knows that a bit of quick thinking and ingenuity can save the day!





**Ranjit Singh**

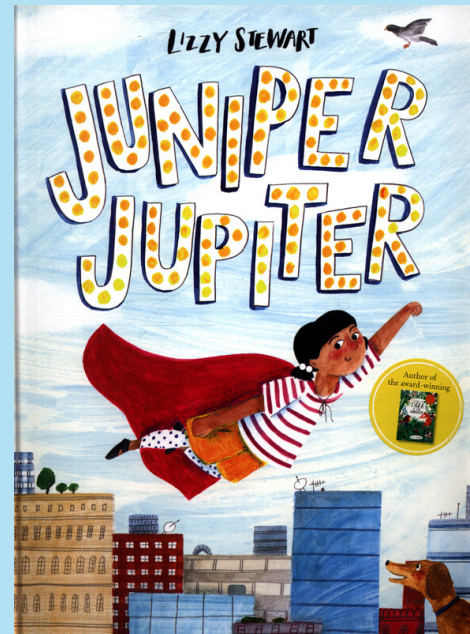
## **Nimesh the Adventurer**

School is over and Nimesh is about to walk home. He will cross the road, pass the bakery, walk through a park and eventually find himself in his own street. Perfectly normal, right? Wrong! There will be dragons and sharks and pirates - and maybe more.

**Lizzy Stewart**

## **Juniper Jupiter**

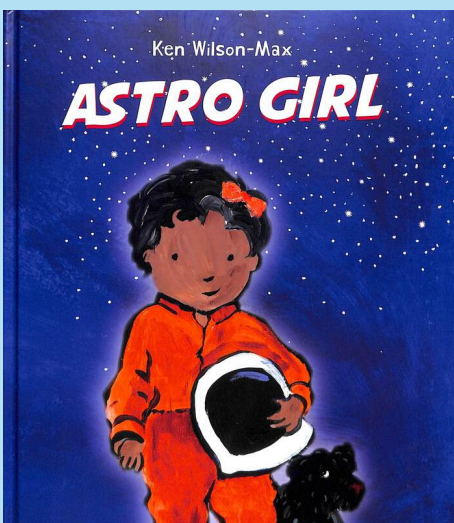
Juniper Jupiter is a real life superhero. She's super brave, super fast, super strong, super smart and she can even fly, but something is missing. What is a hero without an amazing sidekick? It turns out that lots of people want to be a superhero's sidekick, but none of them are quite right. They're too big, too scratchy, too weird, too scared, or WAY too prepared. Juniper is about to give up when she hears a familiar bark. Could it be that the sidekick she's been looking for has been there the whole time?



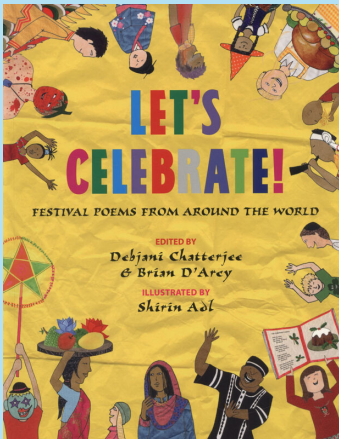
**Ken Wilson-Max**

## **Astro Girl**

Astrid has always loved the stars and space. 'I want to be an astronaut!' she says. While Mama is away, Papa and Astrid have fun acting out the challenges an astronaut faces on a space mission - eating food from a tube, doing science experiments, living and sleeping in near-zero gravity. Astrid can do it all! Then it's time to meet Mama at the airbase. But where has Mama been?



# Poetry, Rhymes and Traditional Tales

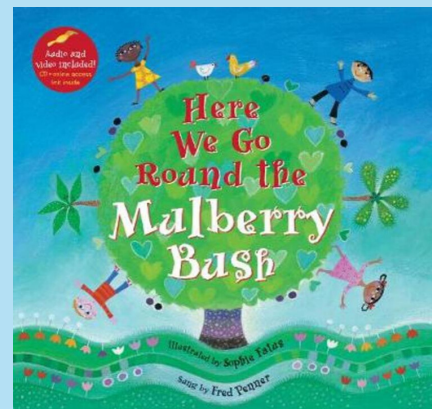


## Debjani Chatterjee and Brian G. D'Arcy Let's Celebrate!: festival poems from around the world

This anthology of poems celebrates festivals all over the world. From Chinese New Year to Carnival, from Thanksgiving to Holi, and from Purnima to Diwali, with explanations of the festivals at the back of the book, and colourful and atmospheric illustrations.

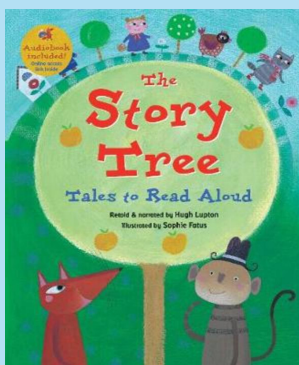
## Sophie Fatus and Fred Penner Here We Go Round the Mulberry Bush

Sing along with the accompanying CD-ROM following four children from different countries, each going through their early morning routine and getting ready for school. Each picture tells of the different ways of life in Europe, Africa, India and China.



## Hugh Lupton The Story Tree: tales to read aloud

This collection of folktales from around the world includes firm favourites such as 'The Three Billy Goats Gruff' as well as less familiar stories such as 'Little Cock Feather-Frock' and 'The Blue Coat'.



## Board Books

If you're looking for books to share with your baby, try out our board books. Full of images and colour, these are chunky and sturdy enough for young babies to enjoy with you. Look for authors such as Atinuke, Annie Kubler, Karen Baicker, Pamela Venus, Cedella Marley, Jessica Spanyol and Smriti Prasadam-Halls

