

Chatterbooks Activity Pack

Pet Favourites



Reading and activity ideas for your Chatterbooks group



Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
 ENGLAND**



Pet Favourites

Whether it's a dog, cat, fish, bird, gerbil, or any other creature, a pet can enrich our lives, as something that belongs to us (and we belong to), and something we can love and look after. Some of children's favourite stories involve pets – with the pet a crucial character in the story.

In this pack you'll find a mix of stories about all kinds of pets – real, imaginary and magical. There are ideas for discussion and activities about favourite pets, famous fictional pets, and caring for your pet – plus activity ideas inspired by many of the titles featured here.

As well as chapter books and longer fiction this pack includes some great picture books about pets which children of all ages might enjoy and which could inspire them to create their own picture books.

Have a look too at our Chatterbooks activity pack [Furry Friends](#) for more reading and activity ideas.

The pack is brought to you by **The Reading Agency** and their publisher partnership **Children's Reading Partners**.

Chatterbooks (www.chatterbooks.org.uk) is a reading group programme for children aged 4 to 14 years. It is coordinated by The Reading Agency and its patron is author Dame Jacqueline Wilson. Chatterbooks groups run in libraries and schools, supporting and inspiring children's literacy development by encouraging them to have a really good time reading and talking about books.

The Reading Agency is an independent charity working to inspire more people to read more through programmes for adults, young people and Children – including the Summer Reading Challenge, and Chatterbooks. See www.readingagency.org.uk

Children's Reading Partners is a national partnership of children's publishers and libraries working together to bring reading promotions and author events to as many children and young people as possible.

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Pet Favourites

Ideas for discussion and activities

Get together a collection of books about pets, fiction, non-fiction and picture books. And have sheets of flip-chart paper for collecting people's ideas and answers in discussions.

Warm up

Scrambled Pets (Answers on Page 16)

Here are some scrambled up pets! Can you sort them out and say what they are?

FILDGOSH PYPUP TIKENT ESIOTROT GLIBER

ASTHERM PARTRINE RATROP SHORE SKENA

Musical Animals

Play some music and encourage everyone to dance. When the music stops, show children a picture of a pet and ask them to imitate the illustrated pet, through movements and sounds.

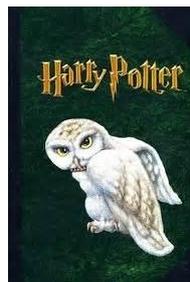
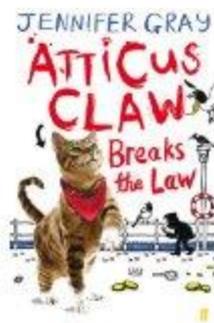
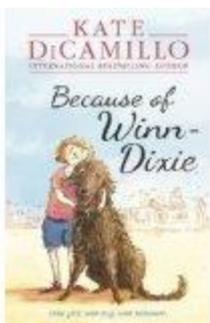
When the music starts again, everyone resumes dancing, and when it stops again, show them another animal to imitate.



Who are these famous pets?

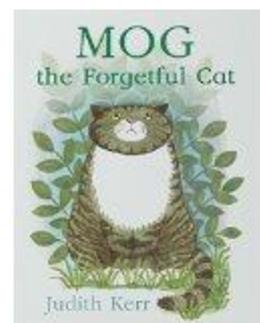
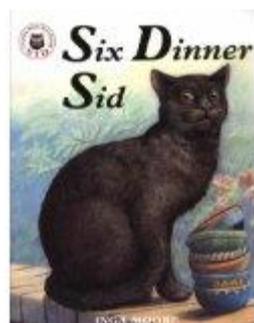
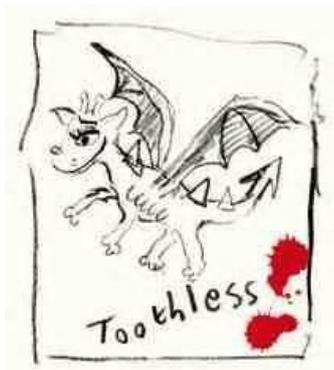
The clues are in the pictures below! (Answers at the end of the pack)

I look after the Darling children – Wendy, John and Michael	
I'm the world's greatest cat detective	
I am Harry Potter's pet bird	
I am one of the Famous Five	
I am rather a forgetful cat	
I was trained by Hiccup Horrendous Haddock III	
I get fed by six different people	
I helped Opal Buloni to make friends	



Hedwig

Nana

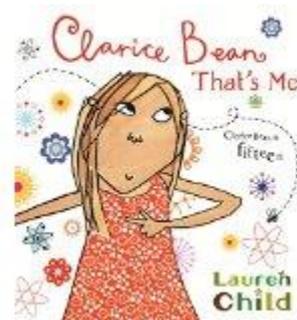
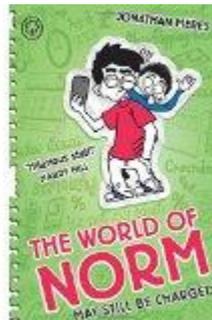
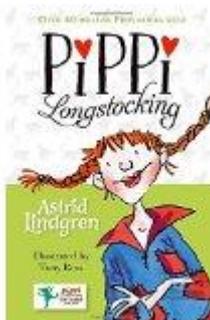
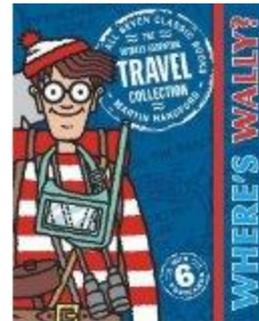
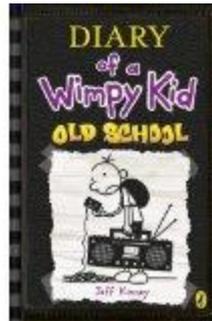


Timmy

Choose a pet for these book characters!

What pet do you think each of these book characters would like to have?

Get everyone to choose a pet for each character and then talk about the reasons for their choices. What pets do some of the characters already have?



Things to talk about

Your pets – and looking after them

What pets do people in your group have? What are they like? What are they called? What pets would people like to have, and why?

Make a list of all the pets, on a flip chart, and then talk about what they each eat and where they sleep.

Why do pets have claws?!

Talk about different pets and their features:

- Which pets have claws and what do you think they need them for?
- And how about tails, whiskers, fur, feathers, and gills...?

Animal language

What do animals tell us by the things they do and the sounds they make?

What is a cat saying when it...

- Purrs
- Twitches or lashes its tail
- Washes itself
- Hisses or spits
- 'Kneads' your lap

What is a dog saying when it...

- Has its tail up and slightly curved
- Curls back its lips to show its teeth
- Wags its tail
- Growls

Talk about these – and other actions and sounds which your pets make.

Longer activities

Make an imaginary pet

Provide a mix of craft materials – e.g. modelling dough, feathers, buttons, pipe cleaners, sparkles, cardboard scraps, tissue paper – and ask children to invent and make an imaginary pet.

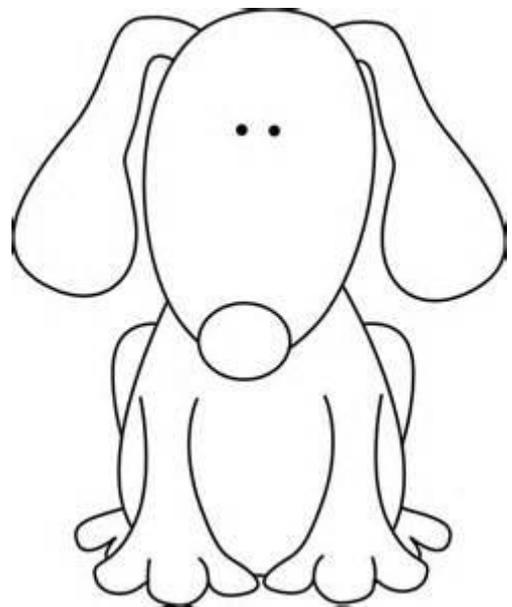
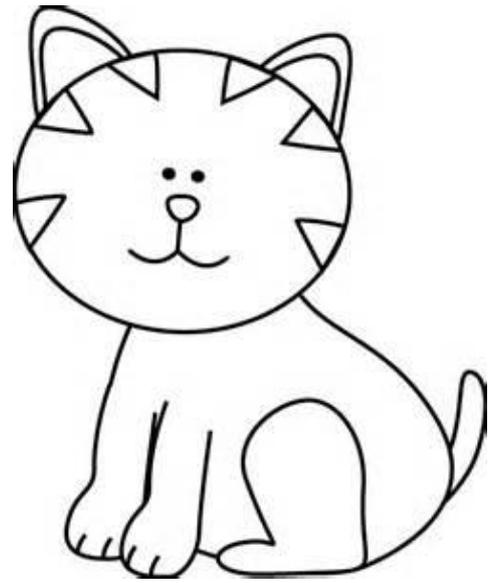
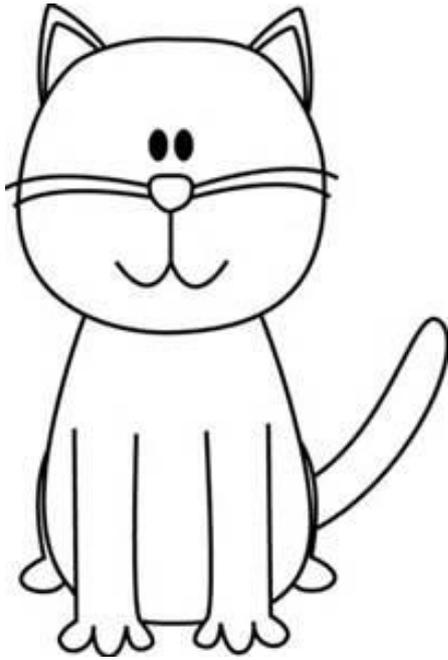
When they've made them they can present them to the group – they could explain what their pet is like, its name, what it eats and where it sleeps.

'Pet favourites' bookmarks

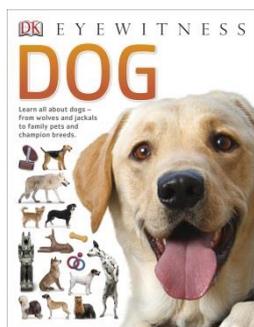
Use the templates below, or draw your own pictures. You may want to use just the heads.

Colour them in and cut them out, and then stick them on strips of card to make animal bookmarks.

Or you could cut out pictures of pets from magazines to stick on to your bookmark strip.



Pet Favourites – the books



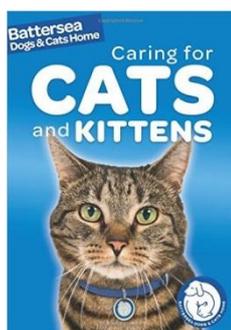
***Eyewitness Dog* Juliet Clutton-Brock DK 978-1409343806**

This is an engaging and entertaining reference guide about dogs - perfect for younger readers. From identifying dog breeds and looking after your canine, to their wild origins and their role as house pets, *Eyewitness Dog* explains everything children need to know about dogs.

Packed with essential information from the previous edition *Eyewitness Dog* is now more interactive and colourful than ever with new infographics, statistics, facts and timelines.

Juliet Clutton-Brock (1933–2015) was an English zooarchaeologist and curator, specialising in domesticated mammals. From 1969 to 1993, she worked at the Natural History Museum.

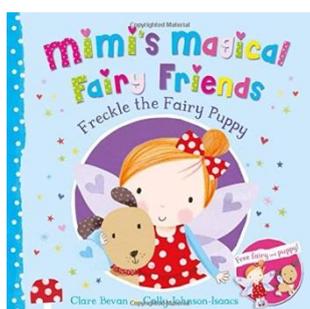
Domestic dogs have inherited their eyes and ears from the wolf. All their senses have evolved for being a social hunter of large prey, and developed in different breeds by 'artificial selection'. For example, in sight hounds, puppies with good sight were chosen as breeders, so, over time, the hounds developed even better sight.



***Battersea Dogs & Cats Home: Caring for Cats and Kittens* Ben Hubbard Franklin Watts 978-1445127804**

This book is a comprehensive guide for children aged 8+ to caring for a new cat or a kitten - including animals taken from a rescue centre such as Battersea Cats & Dogs Home. It covers all aspects such as choosing the right pet for you, making it feel at home, daily care, what to feed him/her and how best to communicate with your cat.

Picture Books



***Mimi's Magical Fairy Friends: Freckle the Fairy Puppy* Clare Bevan & Cally Johnson-Isaacs Macmillan 978-1447277002**

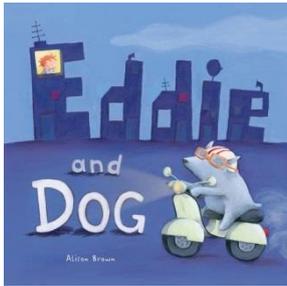
When Mimi and her fairy friends land outside the Wishful Pet Shop, they can't believe their eyes! It's a whirr of fairy kittens, unicorns and even tiny dragons. More than anything else, Acorn wants a fairy puppy. Maybe if she wishes hard enough, her dream will come true... A story of fairies and

friendship, it's the second title in this series, following *Catkin the Fairy Kitten*.

Clare Bevan has written picture books, novels, adverts and plays, as well as hundreds of poems for children which have featured in over one hundred anthologies. She lives in Berkshire.

Cally Johnson-Isaacs used to illustrate greetings cards and now illustrates picture books, including *Rabbits Don't Lay Eggs!* and *Charlie Crow in the Snow*. She lives in Northumberland.

When the pet shop fairy saw the glittery collar, the shiny ball and the smooth stick, he winked at Freckle and Acorn. 'Three rewards for three good deeds,' he murmured. 'End one wish come true.' Then he waved his wand and a shower of magical sparks carried Acorn and Freckle quick-flick home.



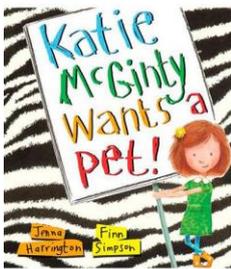
***Eddie and Dog* Alison Brown Little Tiger Press
978-1848956568**

Eddie is looking for a friend - a friend who likes adventure. Then Eddie meets Dog and Dog wants an adventure too. So Eddie takes Dog home and the pair have a lot of fun until Eddie's mum decides that Dog can't stay as Dog needs a garden. Will Dog stay away for long?

Alison Brown writes and illustrates full-time. She has written two children's books and illustrated several more, including *I Love You Night and Day* by Smriti Prasadam-Halls, and *Snow Bear* by Tony Mitton. She lives with her family in Leeds.

Eddie was alone again. He wondered if the dog was missing him too. Then later that night Eddie heard a noise. It was the dog. He had come back!

So much of this story is told in the pictures – the detail, the expressions, the settings, the fantasy. When you've all read the story, look through the book again and see what else the illustrations are telling you. Which is your group's favourite page?



***Katie McGinty Wants a Pet!* Jenna Harrington &
Finn Simpson Little Tiger Press 978-1848691407**

Katie McGinty really wants a pet. But she doesn't want an ordinary pet; hamsters, cats, and dogs are just...YUCK! What she wants more than anything else in the world is a ...zebra! A zebra who slurps spaghetti, sleeps in her bunk bed and bathes in the local swimming pool. And she's determined to get one!

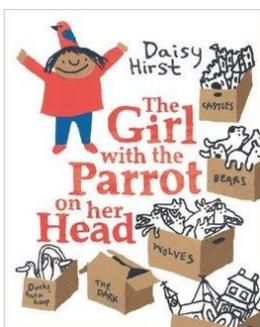
Jenna Harrington has worked in Disneyworld – and when she's not working for a children's book publisher or writing, she spends her time in imaginary worlds.

Finn Simpson wanted to be an astronaut, but finds that found drawing astronauts is just as good. He lives in York.

'Hmm, but you can't just buy zebras from a pet shop,' said Dad, 'Besides, what would we feed him? We only have a small garden and there's not much grass for him to eat.' Katie shook her head.

'Don't be silly, Daddy!' she giggled. 'He'll eat pizza and fish fingers and spaghetti...'

Is Katie's zebra real or imaginary? A fantastical story to enjoy – what exotic animals would your group like to have as pets? And how would they look after them?!



***The Girl with the Parrot on Her Head* Daisy Hirst
Walker Books 978-1406365528**

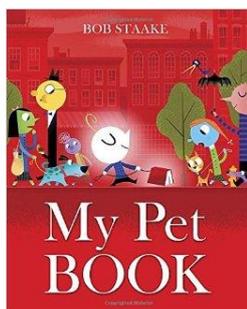
A beautifully bold and fresh new picture book, this hopeful and endearing story about moving house, making new friends and playing imaginative games is told with simple wit and charm, and offers a touching exploration of feelings. When Simon moves house, Isabel loses her best friend for ever. She is angry and lonely and decides it's better to be by herself. But after a time she faces a new problem that leads her to make a brilliant new friend...

Daisy Hirst lives in London. She has MAs in both Children's Book Illustration and Creative Writing. This is her first book.

Once there was a girl with a parrot on her head. Her name was Isabel, and she had a friend called Simon who was very good with newts.

As well as the parrot there are wolves – do you think they are real or imaginary?

We often have imaginary friends – how about imaginary pets?



***My Pet Book* Bob Staake Andersen 978-1783442317**

Most pets are cats and dogs, but what do you do if you want a different kind of pet, one that doesn't meow or bark? Bob Staake's exuberant tale of a little boy and the pet of his dreams will appeal to anyone whose best friends are... books! Books make the perfect pets, the boy decides, and chooses a bright red one. When it goes missing, a lively adventure is in store for readers who love a happy ending. Soon children everywhere will wish for a pet book of their very own.

Bob Staake is an American illustrator, cartoonist, children's book author and designer. He lives and works in Cape Cod.

'A book would make the perfect pet!' He heard his mother say.

And Dad had read that no pet book had ever run away.

...How could the boy pick out just one? Too tough for this book lover.

But then a small book caught his eye...a frisky red hardcover!

This is a brilliant take on having a pet! What book would you choose to be your pet?!

The boy's mum gently asked him how a book could bring such joy.

'Because every book's a friend,' explained the yawning little boy.



***Is there a dog in this book?* Viviane Schwarz
Walker Books 978-1406360905**

This is an interactive book full of flaps and surprises. Tiny, Moonpie and Andre smell something funny ... but what can it be? Is it a DOG? Is there a dog in this book?! Oh no! The cats are scared of dogs! So they all try and hide from him - behind the couch, under the piano, in the wardrobe... Will the little dog find them?

Viviane Schwarz is a children's book artist and illustrator. Two of her books have been shortlisted for the Kate Greenaway medal (*There are Cats in this Book* and *There are NO Cats in this Book*).

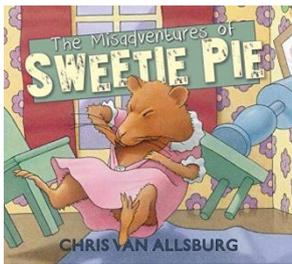
In 2011 she received a Book Trust Best New Illustrators Award. She lives in London.

Dogs are snappy and yappy, smelly and noisy, hairy and scary...and dogs HATE cats! Quick, friend, hide us! Can you move this sofa?

This book is great with very young children – and fun for older children too! It could also inspire your group to have a go at creating their own lift-the-flap book for young children – maybe with dogs as the main characters. You could draw simple pictures, or cut out pictures from magazines and make collage illustrations.

Have a look too at these books by the same author.

<i>There are Cats in this Book</i>	978-1406324990
<i>There are No Cats in this Book</i>	978-1406331028



***The Misadventures of Sweetie Pie* Chris Van Allsburg
Andersen 978-1783441884**

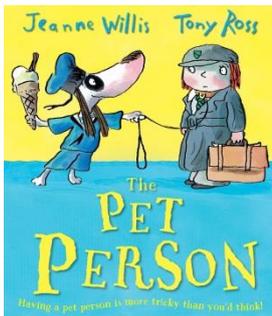
Sweetie Pie, the hamster, is so excited to leave the pet shop with his new owner. In the great outdoors he feels the wind in his fur and experiences wonderful sights and smells for the very first time. But soon he is stuck back inside, living a cage-bound life controlled by the whims of his awful owners.

As Sweetie Pie looks longingly out of his cage at the squirrels frolicking in the trees, he wonders if he will ever get the chance to answer the call of the wild...

Chris van Allsburg is a two-time Caldecott Medal winner and author of *The Polar Express* and *Jumanji*. He lives in Providence, Rhode Island and lectures at the Rhode Island School of Design.

The hamster wondered how long the boys would play. He curled into a ball. He loved being outdoors but was not used to the cold. When he finally looked around, Sweetie Pie saw the boys had left and that something strange was falling from the sky.

This story is told from the point of view of a hamster – look at how life might seem to you if you were another pet, such as a cat, or a dog, or a budgie. Collect ideas together for the different scenes and episodes – e.g. a cat learning about a cat flap, or a dog going out for its first walk on a lead, and tell your story from their point of view.



***The Pet Person* Jeanne Willis & Tony Ross Andersen
978-1783442423**

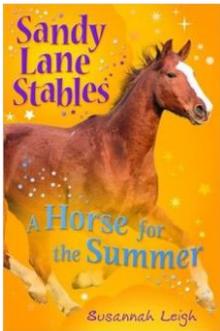
Rex, the dog, is desperate to get a pet person for his birthday, but his parents say NO! Everyone knows that people are vicious, smelly and impossible to train. So Rex is delighted when he finds a stray boy to play with. Having a pet person is just so much fun! Or is it. . . ?

Jeanne Willis has written over 150 books including picture books, novelty, teen novels and poetry. She was shortlisted for the Whitbread for her novel *Naked Without a Hat*, and won the Smarties Silver for *Tadpole's Promise*. She lives in North London.

Tony Ross is a favourite children's book illustrator. He has illustrated more than 800 books, including books for authors Roald Dahl, Michael Palin and Paula Danziger, and his own books, including *The Little Princess* picture books, and *The Boy who Cried Wolf*.

'Horrible things, people.' 'Yes,' said his grandmother. 'They're sweet when they're little, but when they grow up they develop embarrassing habits.' 'Like what?' asked Rex. 'Oh, eating at the table, that sort of thing,' whispered Grandma.

This story is lots of fun, with jokes in both the text and the illustrations. Talk about all the things in the book which make you laugh.



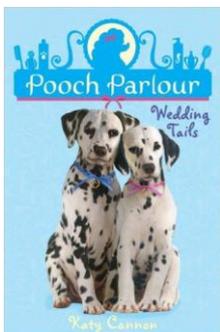
Sandy Lane Stables: A Horse for the Summer
Michelle Bates Usborne 978-1409590620

This is the new edition of the adventure series set in Sandy Lane Stables, perfect for pony lovers everywhere. Tom's cousin has agreed to lend him Chancey, her stunning chestnut gelding, for the holiday. But Tom's elation turns to dismay when he sees the state Chancey is in. It will take a lot of hard work to get the horse ready for the summer shows, but Tom is determined...

Michelle Bates worked as an editor in various publishing roles, and has written several titles in the Sandy Lane Stables series. She also writes under the name Michelle Misra, and has a new series out called *Dinosaur Land*. She lives in London.

Tom couldn't stop dreaming of the perfect days ahead. There would be a long summer filled with endless riding days. Tom told himself he'd work hard to become good enough to ride at Benbridge in August – the show that everyone had set their hearts in. He could just imagine it...the breeze whipping past him as he flew round the course and rode through the finish to the sound of thunderous applause...

<i>Dream Pony</i>	978-1409590637
<i>Ride By Moonlight</i>	978-1409590668
<i>The Midnight Horse</i>	978-1409590651
<i>The Perfect Pony</i>	978-1409590675
<i>The Runaway Pony</i>	978-1409590644



Pooch Parlour: Wedding Tails **Katy Cannon Stripes**
978-1847155108

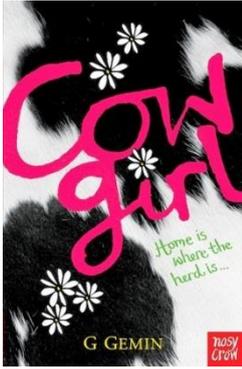
Wedding Tails is the fourth book in *Pooch Parlour*, a series for younger children. Pooch Parlour is more than just a grooming salon - it's doggy heaven! Abi and the Pooch Parlour team are helping with the celebrity wedding of the year: the bride and groom want to get married with their Dalmatians by their side - the only trouble is getting the playful pups to stay in one place. Polka and Smudge are in the spotlight.

Katy Cannon writes stories for children and young adults, including *Love, Lies and Lemon Pies*, and the *Pooch Parlour* series for younger readers, including *Dog Star* and *Passion for Fashion*.

She lives in Hertfordshire.

Everyone was ready just in time to walk over to the wedding with the two Dalmatians. Polka and Smudge looked very smart with their gleaming spotty coats and the pink and blue ribbons around their necks. The wedding rings shone as they hung from the ribbons.

Have a look at the tips at the end of this book for grooming your dog.



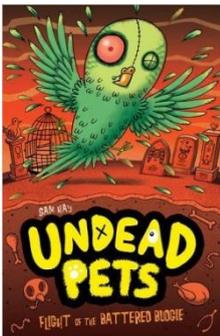
Cowgirl G R Gemin Nosy Crow 978-0857632814

Growing up on the embattled Mawr Estate in South Wales, all Gemma sees are burglaries, muggings, sadness and boredom. With a dad in prison and a mum who has given up hope, she, like everyone around her, is holding on to memories of the times when happiness wasn't so hard to find. When her search for the scene of a perfect childhood day takes her up into the surrounding hills, Gemma meets the legendary Cowgirl. Everyone at school knows she's a weirdo: six foot tall and angry, the only conversations she has are with the twelve cows on her dad's farm. But then everything starts to look different. With her only friends in mortal danger of the abattoir, it turns out she

and Gemma have a mission on their hands. A gently funny story of a community coming together, this is a tale of happy endings in unexpected places.

G. C. Gemin was born in Cardiff, of Italian parentage, and lives in London. *Cowgirl* is his first book – it was shortlisted for the Waterstone’s Children’s Book Award and won the Welsh Tir na n-Og award for the best English language title with an authentic Welsh background.

There were cows in the road - loads of them. I pulled hard on the brakes and swerved. The back wheel skidded, and I was under my bike. I felt the stinging pain in my leg and arm where they ripped on the road. I lay there, looking up at the cows glaring down at me. There's something about a cow's eyes - mad and staring, like they want to trample you to death. I slowly began get up, when one of them started to come towards me - gigantic, it was. I screamed.



Undead Pets: Flight of the Battered Budgie Sam Hay Stripes 978-1847153876

Joe is just an ordinary boy until he makes a wish on a spooky Egyptian amulet...Now he's the Protector of Undead Pets! Joe's latest undead visitor is a budgie who had a run-in with a window - splat! Now Buddy the budgie is dead and he needs Joe's help. Only if Joe succeeds will Buddy fly on to his final destination...

Undead Pets is full of animal zombies and pets with one last thing to do before they pass to the other side! Funny and full of adventure, this series is ideal for boys and girls seeking a fast-paced and amusing chapter book. Other titles in the series include:

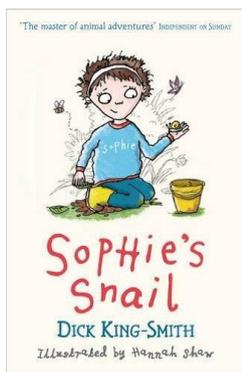
<i>Gasp of the Ghoulish Guinea Pig</i>	978-1847154231
<i>Hour of the Doomed Dog</i>	978-1847154323
<i>Rise of the Zombie Rabbit</i>	978-1847153760

Sam Hay has written several children's books including *Billy Angel* and *Bumble the Brave Kitten*. She lives in Wales.

Simon Cooper has illustrated many children's books, including *Ghost of Uncle Arvie*.

Then he heard a strange tapping sound and spotted the small budgie sitting next to the mirror above the sink, pecking it. 'Kissy, kissy,' he chirped. 'Kissy, kissy for Buddy boy!' Joe rolled his eyes. What a bird brain!

Talk with your group about having a budgerigar as a pet and how to look after it. Does anyone have a budgie that can talk?!



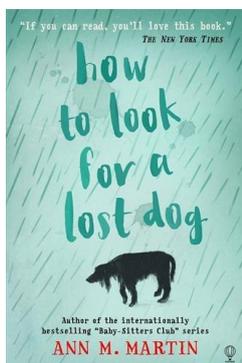
**Sophie's Snail Dick King-Smith Walker Books
978-1406343052**

Here is the first of Dick King-Smith's stories about the inimitable Sophie. Sophie loves animals of all kinds, but how will she grow up to be a farmer if she is not allowed any of her own? She goes looking for creatures to keep in her menagerie, including a snail! In *Sophie in the Saddle* (978-1406344332) she finds more pet friends – a dog, a pig and a pony!.

Dick King-Smith (1922-2011) was a farmer and a teacher before he became a children's author. He won the Guardian Children's Fiction Prize for *The Sheep Pig* (filmed as *Babe*) and received the 1995 Children's Book Award for *Harriet's Hare*. **Hannah Shaw** created the picture book *Evil Weasel* which won the Cambridgeshire Children's Book Award, and she has written and illustrated the series *Stan Stinky*. She lives in Stroud.

All that evening Sophie played with her snail. When it was bedtime and she was ready to wash and do her teeth, she put the snail carefully on the flat rim of the washbasin. Then (as she always did) she filled the basin with warm water right up to the overflow and washed her face and hands. The snail did not move, though it appeared to be watching.

Has anyone had any unusual pets? Or taken in and cared for a wild creature? Talk about these experiences. Sophie eventually puts her snail back in the garden where she found it



How to Look for a Lost Dog Ann M Martin Usborne 978-1474906470

11 year old Rose is autistic and struggles to understand her classmates. But when her father gives her a stray dog, which she names Rain, the dog becomes her best friend, her anchor in a confusing world. So when Rain goes missing during a storm, Rose refuses to stop looking for her...though having found her, she realises that she must look for Rain's real family.

Ann M. Martin is the author of the popular series *The Babysitters Club*. Since ending this series in 2000, Ann's writing has concentrated on single novels, many of which are set in the 1960s. She lives in the Hudson Valley in upstate New York. Here's [an interview with Ann](#) about writing *How to Look for a Lost Dog*.

So I petted her and she closed her eyes and pressed in closer. 'What are you going to name her?' asked my father. 'I will name her Rain,' I replied. 'You found her in the rain and rain has two homonyms – reign and rein – so it's a special name.'

Here are some more stories about children who are autistic or have Asperger's Syndrome.

Siobhan Dowd	<i>The London Eye Mystery</i>	Yearling	978-0552572316
Mark Haddon	<i>The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time</i>	Vintage	978-0099450252
Kim Slater	<i>Smart: a Mysterious Crime, a Different Detective</i>	Macmillan	978-1447236672



The Spell Thief (Little Legends) Tom Percival Macmillan 978-1447292098

Jack (of the beanstalk fame) and his magical talking chicken, Betsy, have always been great at making new friends. But when Jack spots Anansi, the new kid in town, talking to a troll in the Deep Dark Woods, everything changes. This is one of a new series featuring fairy-tale characters you know and love, having brand-new adventures.

Tom Percival lives in Gloucestershire. He has produced covers and internal illustrations for the *Skulduggery Pleasant* and has also illustrated titles by Anthony Horowitz, Pete Johnson, and other authors. *The Spell Thief* is his first chapter book for young readers – he developed the idea with ‘Made in Me’, a digital studio exploring new ways for technology and storytelling. Look out too for *The Great Troll Rescue* (978-1447292111) in the same series.

Jack walked through the Deep Dark Woods with his pet hen Betsy tucked under one arm. He took a deep breath of the woodland air. It felt fresh and exciting. Today was going to be a good day, he could just tell.

Betsy is a magical hen – and although she doesn’t have a big part in this story it’s interesting to explore this ‘mash-up’ of lots of the key elements of fairy tales, including trolls, wicked stepmothers – and Anansi! In Tale Town ‘stepmothers had to be wicked, princes had to be charming, and wolves really could swallow people whole.’

When you’ve read this story have a go at creating your own Tale Town story – with Betsy the chicken as the main character!

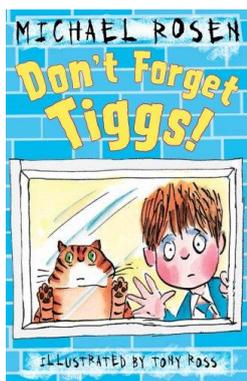


Fire Girl Matt Ralphs Macmillan 978-1447283553 Twelve-year-old Hazel Hooper has spent her whole life trapped in a magical Glade created by her mother, Hecate. She's desperate to meet new people and find out about the world. And, more than anything, she wants to be a witch. But when her mother is kidnapped by a demon - everything changes . . . it turns out that Hazel does have magic - she's just not very good at controlling it. And she may have accidentally created a grumpy familiar in the form of a dormouse called Bramley. Determined to rescue her mother, the young witch and her mouse set out to track down the demon and find Hecate.

Matt Ralphs had an editorial career in publishing before becoming a writer himself. He lives on a canal boat in London. *Fire Girl* is his debut novel.

Hazel gently plucked the tiny mouse from behind her ear and held him up to her face. ‘I don’t have any choice, Bramley. I’m going in and that’s the end of it. If you want to stay behind...well, this is your last chance.’ Bramley huffed but didn’t say anything. ‘Right then.’ She tucked him securely into a small pocket at the top of her cloak and took a final look back at the Glade.

Think of more stories where animals- real or magical - are companions, daemons or familiars to the main characters – for example Pantalaimon in *His Dark Materials* (Philip Pullman), the wildcat Gryff in *The Dreamsnatcher* (Abi Elphinstone), and Timmy the dog in Enid Blyton’s *Famous Five* books.



***Don't Forget Tiggs!* Michael Rosen & Tony Ross Andersen
978-1783442690**

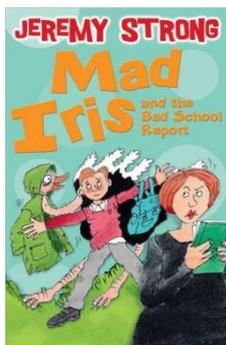
Mr and Mrs Hurry are always rushing about. They never stop! But that means they forget some rather important things – like eating . . . and shopping . . . and taking their son Harry to school!

Thankfully, Tiggs the cat is around to remind them. But will anyone remember to give Tiggs his dinner? An endearing story, with pictures as eloquent as the words.

Michael Rosen is an English children's novelist and poet, the author of 140 books. From June 2007 to June 2009 he was Children's Laureate. He is also a political columnist, a radio presenter, and Professor of Children's Literature at Goldsmiths, University of London.

'Hang on a minute...does that mean', he asked himself, 'that Tiggs jumped out the window, landed on the shed and then,,and then...went and got Dad because he knew I was left at home?' 'Wow,' he thought. 'That's amazing.'

'More haste, less speed': talk about times when you're in a hurry. Does it mean you get more things done in more time, or sometimes do things go wrong?



***Mad Iris and the Bad School Report* Jeremy Strong
Barrington Stoke 978-1781125069**

pudding Lane Primary's favourite ostrich mascot is back for another adventure! Mad Iris is up to her usual mischief, but this time Ross, Katie and the rest of the school have their work cut out for them to keep her under control - the OFSTED School Inspectors are coming to visit! The school can't get a bad report - can they keep Mad Iris hidden and out of trouble?

This book is particularly suitable for struggling, reluctant and dyslexic readers aged 8+

Jeremy Strong is a former head teacher and now a popular children's author of titles such as *The Hundred Mile an Hour Dog* and the *My Brother's Famous Bottom* series. He was invited to speak to the Prime Minister as a reading ambassador, and he has launched the successful Read for My School campaign with Book Trust.

But it turned out that Mad Iris liked Charlie almost as much as Ross liked Katie. She stuck her head down his shirt. She twiddled his hair with her beak. And then she undid his laces and tried to eat his shoes.

In this story all the classes have to make life-sized model animals out of cardboard boxes. Mrs Norton's class makes an elephant – have a look at the picture on p38 and then get your group to bring in cardboard boxes and have a go at making a model of any animal they choose!

<i>Mad Iris</i>	978-1842998793
<i>Mad Iris Goes Missing</i>	978-1781120484



My Dog Daisy Jean Ure Barrington Stoke
978-1781124963

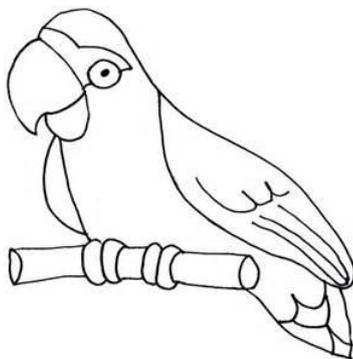
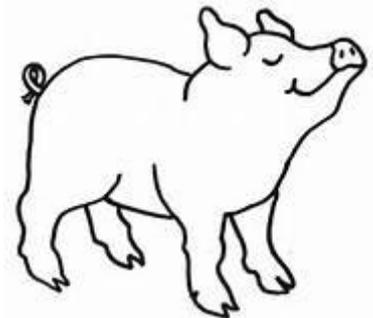
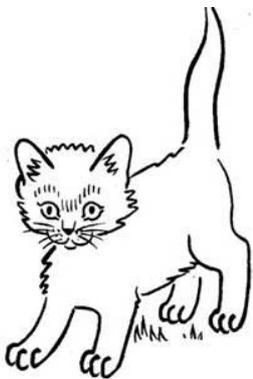
Lily is absolutely desperate for her very own dog. She's wanted one for as long as she can remember and no other pet will do. But Mum says they can't keep one in their new flat - disaster! So when Lily meets a fellow dog-lover in the park one day she hatches a plan to be a co-owner. Will her new friend Charlotte, and Fred the dog be the answer to all her prayers?

This book is particularly suitable for struggling, reluctant and dyslexic readers aged 8+

Jean Ure had her first novel published at just 16 years old and has been writing ever since. She also studied drama at the Webber-Douglas Academy of Dramatic Art. She enjoys writing books for young girls that deal with real issues in a warm and insightful way that allows even the most reluctant reader to engage.

A tiny black dog was peering at us with big frightened eyes from behind a row of bins...I crouched down by the bins and held out my hand. 'Careful it doesn't bite you,' said Keri. 'She won't bite,' I said, 'Her tail's wagging.'

Lily is a dog person and her friend Keri is a cat person. How about the people in your group – which are they? Make lists of all the good things about having a dog, and the good things about having a cat!



Pet Favourites
More reading

AUTHOR	TITLE	PUBLISHER	ISBN
Cats			
Michael Foreman	<i>Cat and Dog</i>	Andersen	978-1783441655
Michael Morpurgo	<i>The Amazing Story of Adolphus Tips</i>	HarperCollins	978-0007182466
Tony Ross	<i>Drat the Cat!</i> (Pic Book)	Andersen	978-1783440757
Tony Ross	<i>I Want a Cat!</i> (Pic Book)	Andersen	978-1842706916
Jenny Oldfield	<i>Bright Star</i>	Barrington Stoke	978-1781123751
David Wiesner	<i>Mr Wuffles</i> (Pic Book)	Andersen	978-1783441167
Dogs			
Anne Booth	<i>Girl with a White Dog</i>	Catnip	978-1846471810
Kate DiCamillo	<i>Because of Winn-Dixie</i>	Walker	978-1406357622
Claire Freedman & Kate Hindley	<i>Oliver and Patch</i> (Pic Book)	Simon & Schuster	978-0857079541
Kim Geyer	<i>Go to Sleep, Monty!</i>	Andersen	978-1783441105
Eva Ibbotson	<i>One Dog and his Boy</i>	Marion Lloyd	978-1407124247
Sarah Lean	<i>A Dog Called Homeless</i>	Katherine Tegen	978-0062122308
Philippa Pearce	<i>A Dog So Small</i>	Puffin	978-0141355191
Michael Rosen	<i>Choosing Crumble</i>	Andersen	978-1849395281
Holly Webb	<i>A Home for Molly</i>	Stripes	978-1847155986
Holly Webb	<i>Little Puppy Lost</i> (Pic Book)	Little Tiger	978-1848959101
Horses			
Sam Angus	<i>A Horse Called Hero</i>	Macmillan	978-1447235774
Caroline Binch	<i>Christy's Dream</i> (Pic Book)	Frances Lincoln	978-1845074722
Caroline Binch	<i>Road Horse</i>	Frances Lincoln	978-1847800701
Anna Sewell	<i>Black Beauty</i>	Faber	978-0571323371
Olivia Tuffin	<i>The Palomino Pony Comes Home</i>	Nosy Crow	978-0857633033
Other!			
Betty G Birney	<i>The World According to Humphrey</i> (Hamster)	Faber	978-0571226832
John Burningham	<i>The Way to the Zoo</i> (Pic Book)	Walker Books	978-1406360523
Rod Campbell	<i>Dear Zoo</i> (Pic Book)	Macmillan	978-0230747722
Roald Dahl	<i>Esiotrot</i>	Puffin	978-0141346496
Mo O'Hara	<i>My Big Fat Zombie Goldfish</i>	Macmillan	978-1447227984
Philippa Pearce	<i>The Battle of Bubble and Squeak</i> (Gerbils)	Puffin	978-0141320007
Chris Riddell	<i>Goth Girl and the Ghost of a Mouse</i>	Macmillan	978-0230759800

Scrambled pets – Answers:

GOLDFISH, PUPPY, KITTEN, TORTOISE, GERBIL, HAMSTER, TERRAPIN, PARROT, HORSE, SNAKE

Famous Pets:

Nana; Atticus Claw; Hedwig; Timmy; Mog; Toothless; Six Dinner Sid; Winn-Dixie