

# *Once Upon a Time...*

## Chatterbooks activity pack



*"Trust dreams. Trust your heart, and trust your story."* - Neil Gaiman



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**CHATTER  
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# Once Upon A Time...

## About this pack

This **Chatterbooks pack 'Once upon a time'** is all about sharing and telling stories, with some great activities for your group, plus a selection of stories and story collections to read, tell, listen to, and enjoy.

We are all storytellers, sharing our stories with our friends and families about the things we have done each day, and the things which happen to us. Our memories are stories we share.

We all make up stories – such as bedtime stories for brothers and sisters, imaginative stories, scary stories, stories around favourite toys and occupations.

And we all love listening to stories – the everyday ones we tell each other, and the stories told or read to us. Often these are stories which have been passed down through the ages – stories kept alive by being told, or saved by being written down. And all the time there are new stories being shared – through oral telling, in new books published, and through all our digital communications – emails, blogging, networking, on-line books.

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

**Chatterbooks** 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](http://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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## Telling and sharing stories – Discussion and activity ideas

### We are all storytellers.....

Talk with your group about this. How are we all storytellers? When do we tell stories? What kind of stories do we tell? Why do we tell stories?

### Listening to stories

Talk about listening to stories – do you like having stories read or told to you? What do you like best about it? What can stories give us?

### Passing stories on

Talk about the oral tradition of storytelling – and how this was a way of keeping stories alive, and remembering and recording what has happened, what people are like, what life was like in different times.

Each person tells stories in their own way. Each person will have their own subjective response to a story – we'll each have our own pictures in our mind, and may find that we differ about which things in the story mean most to each of us.

This is all about how stories stay alive – and grow, and change!

Here are two activities which show how easily something can change when you set about communicating it:

### Telephone Game – a quick, fun activity

- Get everyone sitting or standing in a straight line
- The person at a given end of the line whispers a word or phrase into the ear of the person next to them
- The next person will then whisper what they hear to the next person, and so on, until the person right at the other end of the line has been whispered to
- The last person to be whispered to then says out loud the word or phrase they have heard – and the first person in the line says the original word/s.
- They are likely to be quite different!

Tip: If you end up with the same word that you started with, try using one that is a bit longer or harder – it can be funny, or just anything you can come up with. Don't ask someone to repeat what they said, this takes away some of the fun – just do your best and pass on what you think you heard.

A well-known (and pre-decimal coinage!) example of this is where the original phrase 'Send reinforcements, we are going to advance' changed as it was passed on and ended up as 'Send three and fourpence we are going to a dance'!

## Telling each other's stories

- Ask your group to get into pairs.
- Each pair finds a space where they can sit and talk with each other.
- One person in each pair then has 1 minute to tell the other about when they got up that morning – eg. what they did, how they felt, what they were thinking about, what other people were doing.
- Encourage the other person to listen carefully; they can ask questions if they want to.
- Get back together as a group and ask in turn, each of the people who were the listeners, in their own words to tell the group about their partner's morning.
- Then ask the original 'storytellers' how close these re-tellings are to what they originally said. What kind of differences are there?
- There can be some interesting things coming out of this – things which were important to the original teller may get passed over, or small things may gain extra emphasis. Sometimes quite different actions, words, descriptions, get fed into the re-telling as the listeners present their picture of what they heard!

## Beginnings of stories

Look at the beginnings of stories – how do people in your group feel when they hear the words 'Once upon a time....'?

Here are some more first lines/story openings – what kind of first line attracts your attention? What do you think each of these stories is going to be like?

- *A long time ago in a galaxy far far away...*
- *It was a dark and stormy night.*
- *This wasn't where I wanted to be.*
- *The water looked deep and inviting.*

Ask your group to look at their favourite books or stories and see what the first line is. Do they think it gives a good idea of what the story is going to be about?

They could have a go at writing their own story using one of the openings above. Then share their story with the rest of the group!



## Endings of stories

Look at the endings of stories and talk about what you think about them/how they make you feel – eg:

- *They lived happily ever after*
- *His supper was waiting for him and it was still hot.*
- *They all got back home in time for tea*
- *And then I woke up and it was all a dream.*

Get a collection of picture books/story books and look at all the endings. Collect together similar types of endings.

Does a story have to have a happy ending?

## New beginnings, changed endings

This activity can work in different ways:

With the whole group:

- Read a picture book story to the group – choose a story which is fairly simple and takes about 5 minutes to read aloud
- Talk about the story and then brainstorm ideas for either a) a different ending or b) a new character or event in the story
- Talk about how you've changed the meaning of the story; does it feel different now? Which version do you like best? Does it give you ideas for a story of your own?

In pairs:

- Children choose a picture book, and read it together
- On paper they then design, with words and/or pictures, a new episode, page or changed ending
- Again, talk about how you've changed the meaning of the story; does it feel different now? Which version do you like best? Does it give ideas for a new story of your own?

The ideas for a new story could then be taken up individually or as a group activity, story-boarding their book together.



## Telling a story: Tips on how you can remember and tell a story without a book

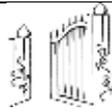
It's all about visualisation and simple mnemonics!

First of all, to practise visualising, this **memory game** is great fun – show off your 'memory powers' to your group, then show them how they can remember things just as impressively! It can be used for remembering all sorts of things – a shopping list, 'things to do'..... it also builds skills and confidence for remembering a whole story.

*Learn the following images which are matched up with the numbers 1 to 10 – because they rhyme this is very easy.*

*Then take your list of things you want to remember and picture each thing in your mind, next to one of these objects – e.g. with your shopping list: cabbage, toothpaste, toilet roll.....visualise a bun on top of the cabbage, toothpaste smeared on the shoe, a toilet roll draped on a tree...*

*You'll now easily be able to recall your shopping list – e.g. for item 3, you'll think 'tree' and will straightaway have a picture in your mind of the tree draped with toilet roll.....*

Memory Game Images		
One	Bun	
Two	Shoe	
Three	Tree	
Four	Door	
Five	Hive	
Six	Sticks	
Seven	Heaven	
Eight	Gate	
Nine	Wine	
Ten	Hen	



## Putting a story to memory

- Choose a story you like, and want to spend time with!
- Break down the story into its main scenes
- Make a story map, in pictures and/or words showing consecutively the key scenes/images in the story – eg. for Cinderella you could have:  
Cinderella being bossed by stepmother and sisters > invitation to the ball > Cinderella in rags by the fire > fairy godmother > magic coach > the ball > midnight, losing the glass slipper > the prince’s search > the slipper fits
- Visualise these scenes and map them in your memory
- Practise telling the story: in your own words, and out loud – eg when you’re out for a walk, or washing up! Do this over and over again, the repetition will fix the storyline in your head – you may use different words each time but that’s fine – you’re telling the story, and you’re telling it in your own unique way

## Every picture tells a story – two activities

### Pictures into words

Cut out pictures eg. from magazines, showing some activity, or a scene, or portraits of a group or an individual. The pictures could be adverts, photo-illustrations, reproductions/postcards of paintings....

Give each member of your group a picture to talk or write about – really spend time looking at each image.

what do they think is happening in the activity picture? Describe the landscape – who might live here? What might happen here? Talk about the pictures of people – who might they be? What do you think they’re like? What could be their names? What do they do?

You could focus just on one theme – eg people – or a mixture.

The pictures could be a catalyst for stories written by your group. One picture might show a whole story.....you could discuss the saying 'One picture is worth a thousand words'.

You could also look at the opposite point of view: one paragraph of words might give you lots of pictures!



### **Words into pictures**

Read to your group a short story, or an excerpt from a story. Give them paper and crayons/felt-tips, and ask them to draw the scene you've just read out – or the part of the story that they remember most strongly.

Then swap the pictures round and ask people to talk about what their friends have drawn.

This is usually really interesting, and great to talk about - seeing what has meant most to the children, and also the ways in which they envisage the story.

### **And have you seen these great storymaking resources ?**

#### **StoryWorld**



**John & Caitlin Matthews StoryWorld Templar  
978-1840117387**

'A toolkit for the imagination'. Storytelling book and forty Tell-Your-Own-Story cards. The cards are beautiful, suggesting characters, places and objects to inspire your stories. And the book has lots of tips for starting your story, games to play with the cards, and ideas about ways to tell your tale and stories created using the cards. You can also get supplementary packs of cards – eg. Stories of the Sea, and Quest Pack.

#### **Story Cubes**

These are sets of dice with pictograms instead of numbers – roll the dice and get some images around which you can create your stories. They're also available as cardboard cubes, with the option of making your own. Just google 'Story Cubes'.

## “Once upon a time” Wordsearch

Q	F	E	R	T	U	I	P	L	K	N	F	L	L	E	P	S	C	I	G	A	M	B
B	A	N	M	U	O	P	K	J	H	O	D	S	A	Z	X	B	F	O	C	V	B	N
V	I	C	Z	X	A	S	D	F	G	G	H	K	P	O	U	I	D	Y	T	R	E	W
J	R	L	P	O	U	Y	E	R	T	A	W	E	Q	A	S	D	C	V	N	B	M	Q
G	Y	D	S	A	Z	C	V	B	M	R	B	C	Z	A	E	S	Q	E	T	U	I	P
S	T	O	R	Y	T	I	M	E	B	D	C	Z	A	S	D	G	J	L	P	I	T	Y
Q	A	F	H	J	K	M	B	N	E	V	C	X	S	Z	A	S	D	G	S	J	H	T
E	L	T	Q	R	S	P	I	C	T	U	R	E	B	O	O	K	D	G	E	J	P	E
T	E	U	M	K	H	F	N	H	D	S	A	Q	W	E	R	T	U	P	I	M	R	K
U	D	O	N	B	V	I	C	A	X	A	E	R	W	B	V	X	Z	N	R	G	U	J
O	S	L	W	M	R	K	F	N	D	S	A	W	I	R	T	H	N	M	O	O	Y	G
P	A	J	E	P	T	U	I	T	P	L	J	H	T	S	A	V	X	B	M	U	R	D
L	Q	G	Z	C	V	B	N	M	Y	T	H	I	C	A	L	M	A	Z	E	T	E	A
J	W	F	S	A	Z	C	V	E	B	N	M	K	H	G	D	S	A	Q	M	E	W	Q
H	E	R	Y	I	P	L	J	N	G	D	A	Z	C	B	M	K	H	F	S	A	Q	D
G	D	A	Q	E	T	U	I	T	O	P	K	H	F	S	Z	C	B	M	N	V	X	A

Find these words in the squares above – the words may run forwards, backwards, up or down, or diagonally.

**STORYTIME**

**ENCHANTMENT**

**PRINCE**

**PICTURE BOOK**

**MYTHICAL MAZE**

**MEMORIES**

**FAIRY TALE**

**WITCH**

**OGRE**

**MAGIC SPELL**

**GODDESS (Twice!)**

**DRAGON**



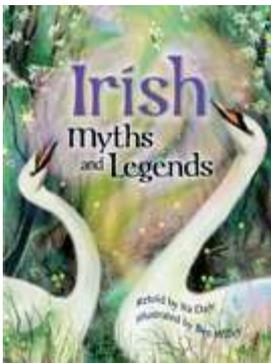
### Wordsearch - Answers

Q	F	E	R	T	U	I	P	L	K	N	F	L	L	E	P	S	C	I	G	A	M	B
B	A	N	M	U	O	P	K	J	H	O	D	S	A	Z	X	B	F	O	C	V	B	N
V	I	C	Z	S	S	E	D	D	O	G	H	K	P	O	U	I	D	Y	T	R	E	W
J	R	L	P	O	U	Y	E	R	T	A	W	E	Q	A	S	D	C	V	N	B	M	Q
G	Y	D	S	A	Z	C	V	B	M	R	B	C	Z	A	E	S	Q	E	T	U	I	P
S	T	O	R	Y	T	I	M	E	B	D	C	Z	A	S	D	G	J	L	P	I	T	Y
Q	A	F	H	J	K	M	B	N	E	V	C	X	S	Z	A	S	D	G	S	J	H	T
E	L	T	Q	R	S	P	I	C	T	U	R	E	B	O	O	K	D	G	E	J	P	E
T	E	U	M	K	H	F	N	H	D	S	A	Q	W	E	R	T	U	P	I	M	R	K
U	D	O	N	B	V	I	C	A	X	A	E	R	W	B	V	X	Z	N	R	G	U	J
O	S	L	W	M	R	K	F	N	D	S	A	W	I	R	T	H	N	M	O	O	Y	G
P	A	J	E	P	T	U	I	T	P	L	J	H	T	S	A	V	X	B	M	U	R	D
L	Q	G	Z	C	V	B	N	M	Y	T	H	I	C	A	L	M	A	Z	E	T	E	A
J	W	F	S	A	Z	C	V	E	B	N	M	K	H	G	D	S	A	Q	M	E	W	Q
H	E	R	Y	I	P	L	J	N	G	D	A	Z	C	B	M	K	H	F	S	A	Q	D
G	D	A	Q	E	T	U	I	T	O	P	K	H	F	S	Z	C	B	M	N	V	X	A



## Stories to read, tell, and share.....

### Story collections: traditional and modern



#### **Ita Daly *Irish Myths and Legends* OUP 979-0192754547**

In this collection Ita Daly retells favourite stories at the heart of Irish storytelling tradition. Read about King Balor and his evil eye that kills enemies at a glance - can brave young warrior Lugh of the Long Arm save the day? What will happen to the children of Lir turned into swans by their jealous stepmother? Find out what is in store for wicked Cuchulainn and his magic knife. Here are ten thrilling adventures of heroes and princesses, fairies and leprechauns - stories of love, revenge, magic, and glory.

**About the author:** Ita Daly's short stories have appeared in Irish, British and US magazines and anthologies, including the Penguin Book of Irish Short Stories. She also writes novels for adults and is twice a winner of a Hennessy Literary Award.

**A taste:** *When Lir's wife died, he didn't dwell on his own grief but thought only of his four little children and their sudden loss. What will they do without a mother? He thought. How will they cope? I should try to find myself a new wife so that they will be motherless no longer.*

#### ***The Children of Lir***



#### **Lari Don *Winter's Tales* Bloomsbury 978-1408196908**

A selection of folk tales about winter. Find out how spiders invented tinsel, what happened when the spring girl beat the hag of winter, why snow is eagles' feathers, and how a hero with hairy trousers used ice to kill a dragon. Stories from the Americas, Asia, Scandinavia and Europe make this a wonderfully inclusive anthology of the chilliest of tales, stunningly illustrated in paper-cut style.

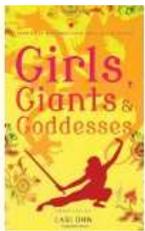
**About the author:** Lari Don says: 'I'm a children's writer based in Scotland, and most of my fiction is inspired by the Scottish landscape and local legends. I love writing fantasy adventures for 8 - 12 year olds, and I've written several picture books, including a retelling of *Little Red Riding Hood*, and myths for slightly older readers. *Maze Running*, the fourth and final novel in my *First Aid for Fairies* series, has just been published.'

**A taste:** *Long ago, when the world was new, and the sky was new too, there were ten suns. Ten beautiful suns, each glowing a different colour: red and blue and purple and silver and pink and orange and lilac and green and yellow and gold.*

*The ten suns danced in the air, making the sky above the new land of China gloriously bright. But the heat of ten suns made the earth below too hot. Too hot for the rain to fall, too hot for plants to grow, too hot for people to work. **The Last Sun** – Chinese Myth*

**At the end of this book are notes from the author about each of the stories and where she found them – plus tips on learning, sharing and telling them.**

There are more books in this lovely series – have a look at

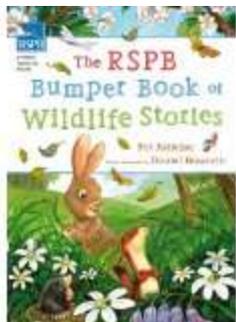


**Lari Don *Girls, Goddesses & Giants* Bloomsbury**

**978-1472903068** – folktales about heroines from around the world (NB. Despite this cover image the published title definitely has ‘Goddesses’ before ‘Giants’!)

**Maggie Pearson *The House of Cats* Bloomsbury 978-1408180075**

Folk tales and fairy stories from all the countries of Europe



**Pat Kelleher *The RSPB Bumper Book of Wildlife Stories* Bloomsbury 978-1408178898**

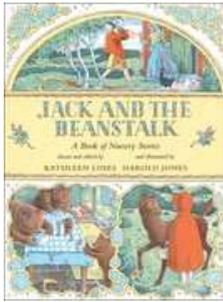
Stories to inspire young naturalists – this book is packed full of enjoyable tales of wildlife, fascinating facts, puzzles, games, and join-the-dot/colour-in pictures. A book to read out loud from, or for yourself; it would also make a great gift.

**About the authors:** Pat Kelleher has published several children's non-fiction and fiction titles, including the acclaimed *No Man's World* fantasy series for young adults. His passion for nature has led him to become the RSPB's storyteller of choice for their youth.

Daniel Howarth is a published author and illustrator of over 30 children's books. He has collaborated with Pat Kelleher on illustrating stories for the RSPB's *Wild Times* magazine for over six years.

**A Taste:** *When Swallow first flew to Africa with all the other swallows it was very exciting. Africa was big. Africa was hot. Africa had lots and lots of insects to eat.*

*There were lions and elephants, giraffes and zebras. Insects buzzed around each one.*

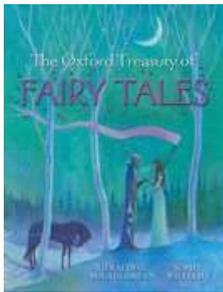


**Kathleen Lines & Harold Jones *Jack & the Beanstalk:*  
a book of Nursery Stories OUP 978-0192735874**

*Jack and the Beanstalk* is one of the ten favourite nursery stories that make up this collection. All the best and most-loved stories, such as *The Three Bears*, *Cinderella*, *Puss in Boots*, and *Tom Thumb*, are included. This facsimile has been lovingly produced to recreate the look and feel of the first edition of this book.

**About the author:** Kathleen Lines is an author, compiler, editor, and an illustrator of children's books and young adult books. Her books include *Lavender's Blue: A Book of Nursery Rhymes*, and *The Faber Book of Greek Legends*.

**A taste:** *'Breakfast!' cried the great tall woman. 'If it's breakfast you're wanting, it's breakfast you'll most likely be yourself! My man is an Ogre and there's nothing he likes better than boy – a fat boy grilled on toast. You'd better be off before he comes home.'*  
*'Oh please, mum,' said Jack. 'do give me something to eat. I've had nothing to eat since yesterday morning and I might as well be grilled as die of hunger.'* ***Jack and the Beanstalk***

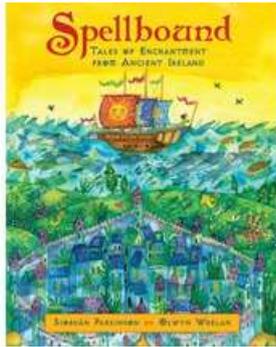


**Geraldine McCaughrean *The Oxford Treasury of Fairy Tales*  
OUP 978-0192794468**

Here are all the best-loved fairy tales and more. Favourites such as *Sleeping Beauty*, *Rumpelstiltskin*, *Snow White*, *Cinderella*, *Rapunzel*, *Hansel and Gretel*, the *Little Mermaid*, and the *Princess and the Pea* are accompanied by other treasures such as the *Three Gifts of the North Wind*, *Cap-of-Rushes*, and the *Tinderbox*. As ever, Geraldine's writing style is original and dramatic, and she weaves magic into her world of knights, witches, frogs, and princesses.

**About the author:** Geraldine McCaughrean worked for ten years in publishing, and in 1988 became a full-time writer. Since then Geraldine has written over 140 books and plays for both adults and children, including *Peter Pan in Scarlet*, the official sequel to J M Barrie's *Peter Pan*. She has won the Carnegie Medal, the Whitbread Children's Book Award (three times), the Guardian Children's Fiction Prize, the Smarties Bronze Award (four times), the Blue Peter Book of the Year award and the Blue Peter Special Book to Keep Forever award.

**A taste:** *In Fairyland all the candles guttered and went out. That was how the fairies knew that the curse had been fulfilled. Beauty had fallen into her terrible sleep. 'Let us take pity on the king and queen and everyone who loves Beauty', they said. 'Let all sleep, and not her alone. Let sleep shroud the palace, and magic protect them from harm until Love's Kiss arrives.'* ***(Sleeping Beauty)***



**Siobhan Parkinson *Spellbound – Tales of Enchantment from Ancient Ireland* Frances Lincoln 978-1847804594**

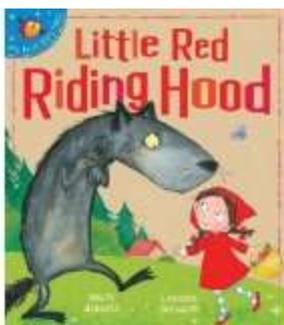
Eight ancient legends of Ireland, told for younger children by an acclaimed Irish writer and reviewer. The stories are linked by themes of magic and enchantment, and are perfectly matched by Irish illustrator Olwyn Whelan's brightly coloured and decorative paintings. The stories included are: Butterfly Girl; The Children of Lir; Labhra with the Horse's Ears; The Enchanted Birds; Cu Chulainn and Emer; The Enchanted Deer; The Land Under the Waves; Oisín in Tir na nÓg.

**About the author:** Siobhan Parkinson lives in Dublin. She is an editor, translator and critic, as well as an acclaimed writer for children of all ages. Her books *The Moon King* and *Something Invisible* were IBBY Honour Books, and in 2010 Siobhan became the first Irish Children's Laureate.

**A taste:** *Once there was a king in Ireland called Lir. Lir's wife had died leaving him with four children – three fine sons and a beautiful daughter called Fionnuala. Lir and his children loved each other, and though they were sad about the death of Lir's wife, they were happy together. But as his children were growing up, Lir thought it would be better for them to have a mother as well as a father, and so he married a new wife. **The Children of Lir***

**As with the OUP Irish Myths collection above, the stories in this book give lots of themes for discussion – for example the use of magic objects (*The Land Under the Wave*), the changes in the world after 900 years (*The Children of Lir*), dangerous places (*Cu Chulainn*), the same stories occurring in different cultures (*Labhra with the Horse's Ears*).**

## Picture Book Stories



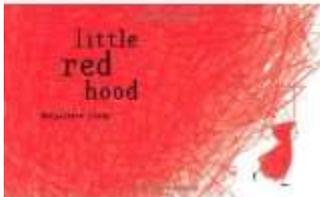
**Mara Alperin *Little Red Riding Hood* Little Tiger Press 978-1848956841**

When Little Red arrives at Granny's cottage, there's someone BIG, HAIRY and very, very SCARY waiting in Granny's bed... Will Little Red be breakfast for that big, bad wolf? My First Fairy Tales are a magical introduction to the well-loved stories that are a key part of every childhood. With fresh and fun illustrations, these are simple re-tellings of classic fairy tales. Make sure you collect *Goldilocks and the Three Bears*, *Jack and the Beanstalk* and *The Three Billy Goats Gruff*, too!

**About the author:** When not writing, Mara enjoys reading, hiking, baking cupcakes and playing Ultimate Frisbee. *My First Fairy Tales* are her first books for Little Tiger Press.

**Have a look at the end-papers of the books in this series, with patterns and designs featuring the key objects in each story. A fun drawing activity would be to read other favourite stories and create similar end-paper designs for these.**

It's fascinating to look at different versions of the same story and talk about which you like best, and why. To get you going on this, here are three more versions of the Red Riding Hood story.



**Marjolaine Relay *Little Red Hood* Phoenix Yard Books  
978-1907912009**

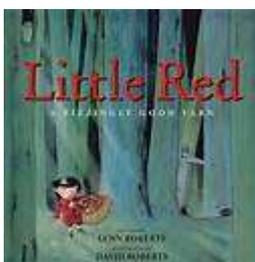
She started life as a little red scribble and then, there she was - a little red hood, barely recognisable as the legend from the fairy tale. The wolf is still big and bad, he also happens to be really, really dumb. Little Red Hood questions the wolf's personal hygiene before tricking her predator: this is one savvy little red scrawl with her head screwed on. Edgy, stylish and very funny, this book retells the famous story in an unexpected way.



**Teresa Heapy *Very Little Red Riding Hood*  
David Fickling 978-0857560599**

Very Little Red Riding Hood is little. Very little. She's brave and bossy, fearless and determined, loving and funny. And like all toddlers she likes everything just so – woe-betide anyone and anything that gets in her way! Join Very Little Red Riding Hood on a very important expedition to

her Grandmama's for a sleepover. She's got some cakes, she's got red ted, she's got her blanket and she's got her tea set. And NOTHING is going to get in the way of her well-laid plans. Not even a Wolf!



**Lynn Roberts *Little Red Pavilion* 978-1843651833**

Little Red is on his way to visit his grandmother on the other side of the wood. Ignoring all warnings of wolves in the wood, he removes his coat and strays from the path. That's when the greedy wolf, lurking in the wood, hatches an evil plan. He steals the little boy's red coat and hurries to the cottage to gobble up Little Red's short-sighted grandmother. And Little Red is next on the menu! Can a keg of delicious sparkling ginger beer save him from a gruesome end?

With settings from the fabulously quirky 'Ye Olde Belch' Inn to grandmother's eerie old cottage, this witty reworking of the classic tale is perfectly adapted to 18th-century England and is bursting with period detail.

**Peter Brown *Mr Tiger Goes Wild* Macmillan 978-1447253259**



Are you bored with being so proper? Do you want to have more fun? Mr Tiger knows exactly how you feel. This is an imaginative story for children about being yourself, about routine and the things and people that sometimes go on our nerves - when we lose them, then we realize how much we actually miss them.

**About the author:** Peter Brown is the author and illustrator of many bestselling children's books with several awards to his name, including a New York Times Best Illustrated Children's Book award. Peter lives in New York. Find out more about Peter at [www.peterbrownstudio.com](http://www.peterbrownstudio.com)

**A Taste:** *Everyone was perfectly fine with the way things were.*

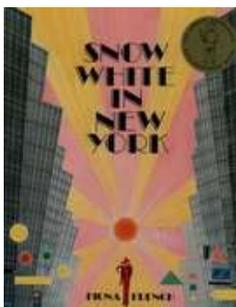
*Everyone but Mr. Tiger.*

*Mr. Tiger was bored with always being so proper.*

*He wanted to loosen up.*

*He wanted to have fun.*

*He wanted to be....wild. And then one day Mr. Tiger had a very wild idea.*



**Fiona French *Snow White in New York* OUP 978-0192722102**

In this stunningly-illustrated retelling, the well-loved fairy tale is set in 1920s New York. Snow White is a beautiful singer, her wicked stepmother a shady figure from the city's underworld. The dwarves become a seven-piece jazz band, the prince a dashing reporter. With its Jazz Age glamour, this is a unique take on a fairy-tale favourite.

**About the author:** Fiona French attended an art college in Croydon; from 1967-72 she worked as an assistant to the painter Bridget Riley and found the five years she spent with this artist invaluable training in colour and discipline. In 1970-81 she taught at Wimbledon School of Art and in 1973-74 at Leicester Polytechnic and a Brighton Polytechnic. In 1968 her first picture book *Jack of Hearts* was published. Since then she has produced imaginatively conceived picture-books which have earned her a reputation as an exciting talent in the children's books field. Fiona French lives in Norfolk.

**A taste:** *Once upon a time in New York there was a poor little rich girl called Snow White. Her mother was dead and for a while she lived happily with her father. But one day he married again...*

*All the papers said that Snow White's stepmother was the classiest dame in New York. But no-one knew that she was the Queen of the Underworld. She liked to see herself in the 'New York Mirror'.*



**Mick Manning & Brita Granstrom *The Beatles*  
Frances Lincoln 978-1848704518**

How did four cheeky lads from Liverpool – John, Paul, George and Ringo – become the greatest rock band in the world? Mick Manning and Brita Granström tell the amazing story of The Beatles with captions and strip pictures for fans of all ages.

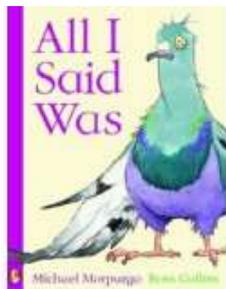
The story begins... John Lennon's Liverpool childhood, his school band The Quarrymen; the developing friendships with Paul McCartney and George Harrison and the forming of The Beatles. Hamburg adventures and the arrival of manager Brian Epstein. Ringo Starr joins the group; fame and screaming fans; the making of the albums, hit songs and early films... finally the break-up of the band and the new beginnings of solo careers for the Fab Four.

**About the authors:** Mick Manning has written and illustrated over 60 books, mostly with his wife Brita Granstrom. Their distinctive books have won many awards, including the Smarties Silver Prize, and The Royal Society Young People's Book Award. They live in the Scottish Borders.

**A taste:** *BEATLEMANIA: Brian is turning The Beatles into something unique; whatever they sing, whatever they say now appeals to millions of faithful fans. The press names this phenomenon Beatlemania, but it is being earned with hard work. In 1963 alone the Beatles play over 230 concerts across the UK and Sweden. Wherever they perform it is chaos: fans scream so loud, they drown out the music and, because George once admitted to liking Jelly Babies, fans bombard the stage with jelly sweets!*

**Lots of our own stories which we tell are about our memories and reminiscences. Get you group to ask their grandparents and parents about their memories around the Beatles' story, and Beatles music. They could record these reminiscences, or write them down as a family story.**

**Perhaps a particular Beatles song brings special memories.**



**Michael Morpurgo *All I Said Was...* Red Squirrel Books,  
Barrington Stoke 978-1781123485**

Imagination takes wing in this cleverly-crafted story about a boy who becomes a bird! A heart-warming and thrilling read with a powerful message about the power of books and stories. First of Barrington Stoke's Red Squirrel picture book range for all the family with easy-read font.

**About the author:** Michael Morpurgo OBE is the third UK Children's Laureate and an award-winning author of over fifty books, including modern children's classics *War Horse*, *Private Peaceful* and *The Butterfly Lion*. He is considered one of the greatest writers for children living in Britain today. Michael lives in Devon.

**A taste:** *I had had enough of this by now. I was thinking 'Books are better, a whole lot better. Next time I'll just read about being a bird. I'll just imagine it. It will be safer that way, I'll live longer.' I flew back to town and landed at my window.*



**Jackie Morris *The Song of the Golden Hare*  
Frances Lincoln 978-1847804501**

He had been waiting all his life, hoping to hear the hare's song... The boy and his family are special. While others hunt the hares, his family search for leverets orphaned by the hunt and keep them safe. But this isn't why they are special. It is because they hold the secret of the song of the golden hare.

When the hares begin to move across the land the boy and his sister know that their greatest challenge has begun. They must follow and watch and wait until the time comes for the old queen to leave and her child to reign in her place. But others are searching for the golden queen of the hares, a hunter with two hounds, one silver, one black. Can two children, on their own, keep the golden queen safe from the man and his hounds?

**About the author:** Jackie Morris lives in Pembrokeshire, Wales, where she writes and paints. Her internationally bestselling picture books for Frances Lincoln include *The Ice Bear*, *The Snow Leopard*, *Can You See a Little Bear?*, and *How the Whale Became* by Ted Hughes. She has also written and illustrated a novel for older children, *East of the Sun, West of the Moon*.

**A taste:** *The boy loved hares for their twilight dancing wildness, the light in their amber eyes, their long velvet ears, their speed.  
And he loved music for the way it made his heart dance inside him. He often played, strumming and plucking delicate tunes on his harp.  
But he never sang. For some reason he thought he couldn't.*

**Have a look at [this short film clip](#) of golden hares on Rathlin Island (NI) – the only place where you can find them.**

**Look at other stories about creatures singing or calling – eg. *The Whales' Song* (Diane Sheldon), *The Mousehole Cat* (Antonia Barber), *The Twilight Barking* (Dodie Smith)**

## A Chapter Book Story



**Guy Bass *The Legend of Frog* Stripes/Little Tiger  
978-1847153883**

This is the first book in a new series by award-winning author, Guy Bass (*Stitch Head*). It's a mash-up of fairy tale, fantasy and science fiction with a hearty helping of humour - Prince Frog is convinced he's destined to rule the world ...the trouble is, the world has ended. Undeterred, Frog sets out to claim his crown, armed with nothing more than a pair of

Catastrophe Pants and his trusty stick, Basil Rathbone. But Frog soon realizes that the world isn't quite as ended as he thought. He discovers a magical kingdom, filled with wild landscapes, strange creatures ...and a princess sitting on his throne. Can he and the princess put aside their differences long enough to save the kingdom - and the world?

**About the author:** Guy Bass grew up dreaming of being a superhero - he even had a Spider-Man costume. The costume doesn't fit anymore, so Guy now contents himself with writing and drawing the occasional picture. He writes the *Gormy Ruckles* series for Scholastic, as well as the *Dinkin Dings* series for Stripes. In 2010, *Dinkin Dings and the Frightening Things* won a CBBC Blue Peter Book Award in the "Most Fun Story with Pictures" category.

**A taste:** *"I must brave the scorched earth and the blackened skies and the catastrophe – to see what the End of the World is like. But fear not, I shall return! And I'll bring you back something nice."*