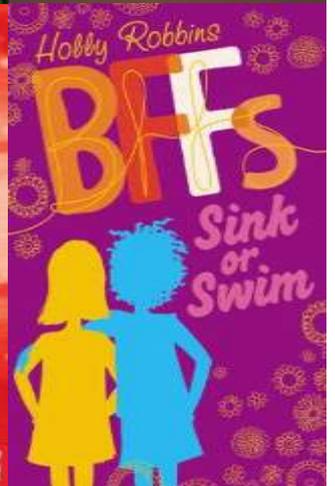
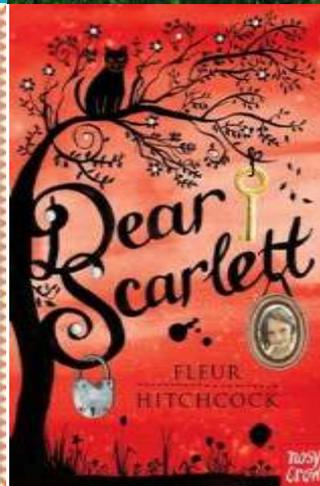
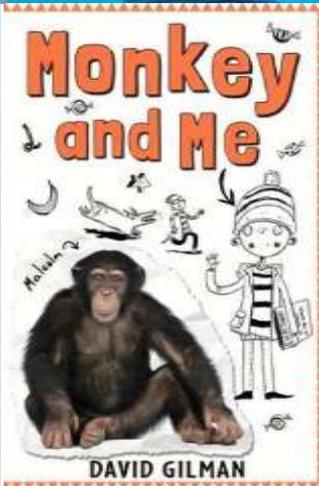
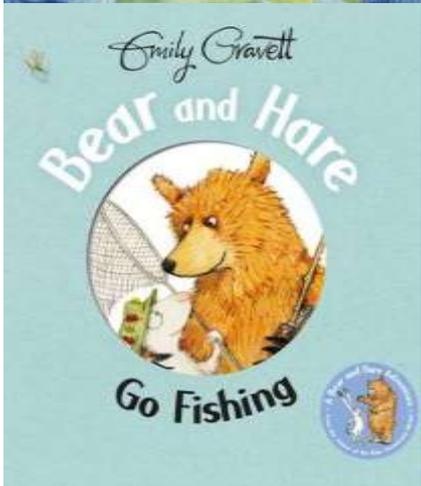
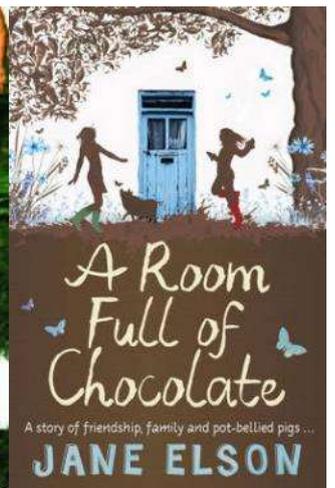
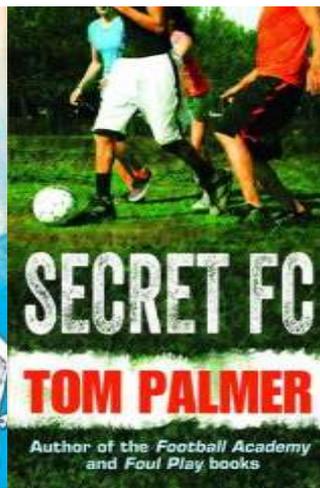
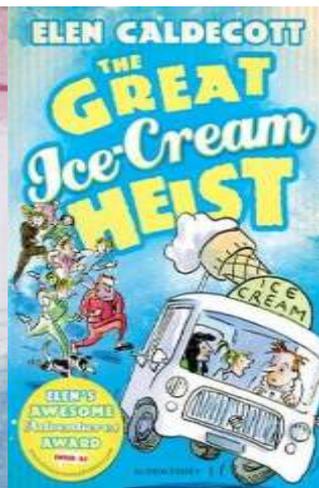
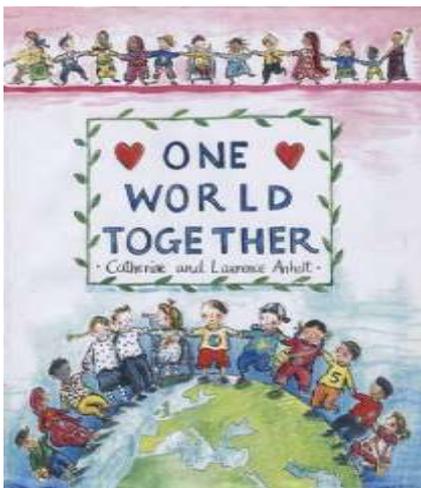


Best Friends Forever

Chatterbooks activity pack



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

**CHATTER
BOOKS**

**THE
READING
AGENCY**

Best Friends Forever!

About this pack

*'We'll be Friends Forever, won't we, Pooh?' asked Piglet.
'Even longer,' Pooh answered.*

*But from that moment on, Hermione Granger became their friend.
There are some things you can't share without ending up liking each other, and knocking out a twelve-foot mountain troll is one of them.*

No need to tell you which books the above quotes come from!
And in this Chatterbooks **Best Friends Forever!** pack are more stories about besties, gangs and playing out, for your Chatterbooks groups to read and talk about – plus further book suggestions, and activity and discussion ideas for your group.

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

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.

Contents

- 3 Ideas for discussion
- 4 Activity ideas
- 6 New books about friendship
- 10 More books about good friends

Ideas for discussion and activities

Things to talk about

What makes a good friend ?

Collect on a flip chart everyone's thoughts, feelings and opinions about this.

What do you think helps to make a friendship work?

Some sayings about friendship

Have a look at these sayings about friendship – does your group agree with them?

- A friend in need is a friend indeed
- A friend is one who knows you and loves you just the same
- A friend is someone who gives you total freedom to be yourself
- The only way to have a friend is to be one
- My best friend is someone who brings out the best in me
- Only your real friends will tell you when your face is dirty
- Walking with a friend in the dark is better than walking alone in the light.

Different kinds of friendships

Make a list together of all the different kinds of friendship there can be – for example:

- Right from early years, growing-up together
- School friends
- Friendships between young and older people
- Your family – brother/sister/aunt/uncle/grandparent
- Penfriends/on-line friends
- Having shared interests and activities
- People you don't like at first.....

Animal friends

Get together a collection of books about attachment and friendships between people and animals – there are lots of stories about animal friends. Which are people's favourite books and stories? Do they have pets they are very close to? What kind of things do they do together?

A few suggestions: *Soldier Dog* (Angus), *Black Beauty* (Sewell), *Moon Bear* (Lewis), *Race the Wind* (St John), *A Dog Called Homeless* (Lean), *The Bomber Dog* (Rix), *Shadow* (Morpurgo).

Imaginary friends

We often have imaginary friends, especially when we're young. Who has made up a special friend to play with? (Note: there's an interesting discussion on this at <http://www.supernanny.co.uk/Advice/-/Health-and-Development/-/4-to-13-years/The-magic-of-imaginary-friends.aspx>)

Or fantasised that a book character is real, and can be a friend, to have fun and adventures with?

Which book character would you choose to be a best friend?

How about Alex Rider? – to share excitement and danger with him?

Or Worst Witch, Mildred? – learning to do magic together?

Or Tracy Beaker? – a great BF to share secrets and feelings with?

Think whom you would choose – and why!

My Best Friend Book Character!

The book character I would choose as a Best Friend would be

Name of character:

The title of the book he/she/it (!) appears in:

It would be great to have this character as a Best Friend because:

Here's a picture of what they look like:

Match up these pairs of friends

These best friends have got mixed up –
can you sort them out so that they're all in pairs, and back with their BFFs ?

Ron Sophie Frog Charlotte the spider Hermione

Wendy Pooh Wimpy Kid The BFG Toad

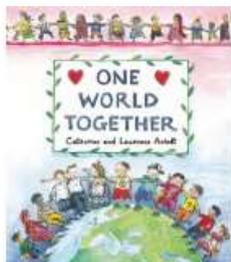
Wilbur the pig Piglet Peter Pan Rowly



Books for Best Friends ?!

What book would you recommend to your Best Friend? Why do you think s/he would like this book?	
What book would you not recommend to your Best Friend ?! Why not?	
What book makes you think of your Best Friend?! Why?	

Books about friendships



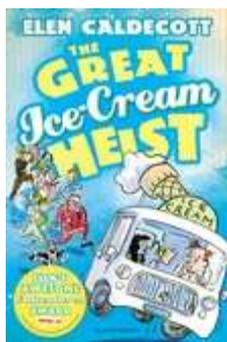
Catherine and Laurence Anholt *One World Together* **Frances Lincoln 978-1847804051**

I want a friend but who will I choose?

Take a trip around the world, meet children from different places and peep into their lives. This is a story about friendship across nations and cultures, in which one small child visits nine different countries to find a friend – and ends up being friends with ALL the children he meets. Along the way he discovers

how many of the things children enjoy are the same throughout the world. The countries featured are: USA, Brazil, China, Russia, Kenya, the Netherlands, Sweden, Japan and Morocco

About the authors: Catherine and Laurence Anholt's books for young children have won many major awards, including the Smarties Gold Award, and have been published throughout the world. Their books for Frances Lincoln include the much-loved *Chimp and Zee* series and *A Kiss Like This*, while Laurence Anholt is the author and illustrator of the bestselling art series, *Anholt's Artists*. They live in Colyton, Devon.



Elen Caldecott *The Great Ice-Cream Heist* Bloomsbury **978-1408820506**

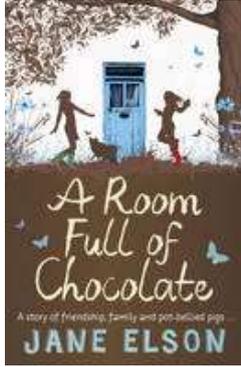
'Those McIntyres are nothing but trouble!' When the McIntyre family moves in next door, Eva is intrigued. But her ever protective Dad – even more protective since Eva's mum died – does not agree. Eva is curious about Jamie, whom she often sees on the roof of his garden shed, escaping the family chaos. Then she gets to know him a bit better, and when he is accused of vandalising the local park, Eva is sure he didn't do it. It is up to Eva to stick up for him – but then Jamie disappears. She is now in a race against time, which snowballs into a helter-skelter race with a 'borrowed' ice-cream van, irate keep-fit enthusiasts and lashings of ice-cream!

A warm, funny adventure about sticking up for your friends.

About the author: Elen Caldecott graduated with an MA in Writing for Young People from Bath Spa University. Before becoming a writer, she was an archaeologist, a nurse, a theatre usher and a museum security guard. It was while working at the museum that Elen realised there is a way to steal anything if you think about it hard enough. She either had to become a master thief, or create some characters to do it for her – and so her debut novel, *How Kirsty Jenkins Stole the Elephant*, was born. Elen lives in Bristol with her husband, Simon, and their dog.

www.awfullybigblogadventure.blogspot.com

"Jaimie matters. He's my friend. And I wasn't going to let him go. So I took the risk. And look! Here I am!" She tapped her chest with her palms. "I'm fine! Nothing bad happened..."

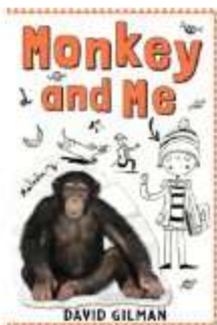


**Jane Elson *A Room Full of Chocolate* Hachette
978-1444916751**

Grace's fun-loving Mum has found a lump. And so Grace's north London world of sleepovers, tap dancing and playing the clarinet falls apart when she is sent to live with her grumpy old granddad on his farm in Yorkshire while her mother goes into hospital to get better. She misses her mother so much it hurts, and doesn't quite understand what is happening to her. Things go from bad to worse when she starts school and becomes the bullies' latest target. But Grace is no longer alone when she meets Rainbow Girl Megan and her pig, Claude. At Easter time when Grace misses her mum the most, she knows she must find a way to get to London. With Megan's help, she hatches a plan to run away that involves Claude, chocolate Easter eggs and a risky ID swap. But it's all worth it if it means that she finally gets to see her mum ... A story of courage and friendship.

About the author: After performing as an actress and comedy improviser for many years, Jane fell into writing stories and plays. *A Room Full of Chocolate* is her debut novel. Jane ate a lot of chocolate in the name of research. When she is not writing Jane spends her time running creative writing and comedy improvisation workshops for children with special educational needs. She is also a guest practitioner at Soho Theatre's Writer's Lab.

"My mamtold me to be kind to you. But from the moment I saw you and watched your face from my window as your dad drove away, and saw you standing there alone with your granddad, I knew I wanted to be your friend. I wanted to be your friend more than anything in the world. I made a promise that Claude and I were going to make sure you were all right. He's your guardian angel pig."

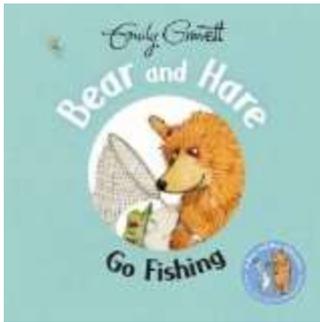


**David Gilman *Monkey and Me* Templar
978-1848773356**

Beanie's coping with more than most kids his age, including treatment for leukaemia. But Beanie just wants to be part of his big brother's gang. To show he's got what it takes, Beanie braves a scary deserted house where he finds and befriends a young chimpanzee. But where did Malcolm the chimp come from and who are the sinister men pursuing him? Lots to talk about in this book.

About the author: David Gilman is the successful author of the Max Gordon: Danger Zone series of eco-adventures. *Monkey and Me* is his first standalone novel for children. Before becoming a writer, David was a fire-fighter, a photographer and a soldier in the parachute regiment's Reconnaissance Platoon.

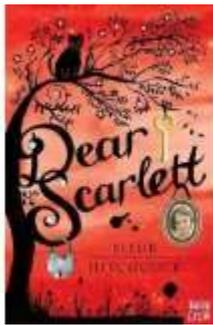
The chimpanzee gazed at me and then opened the palm of its hand. Using two fingers of its other hand it pretended to scoop up make-believe food into its mouth. It was talking to me! Telling me it was hungry. I had found a monster in the haunted house and it was asking for my help. How great was that? This was a secret worth more than anything. "Don't be scared," I whispered. "I'll look after you."



Emily Gravett *Bear and Hare go Fishing* **Macmillan**
978-0230745391

Bear and Hare are off on a fishing trip, with nets and rods at the ready. Bear loves fishing! Hare seems more interested in his picnic. But after a long wait, the two adventurers catch more than they expect in this tale of fun, friendship and fishy goings-on. Full of warmth and humour, and starring two loveable new characters, this beautifully illustrated story from the twice winner of the Kate Greenaway Medal is sure to delight children and parents alike. A simple story for younger children, with lots to read in the pictures.

About the author: Emily Gravett has won the Kate Greenaway Medal twice with her books *Wolves* and *Little Mouse's Big Book of Fears*. An author-illustrator of unique talent and skill, she has a host of popular and critically acclaimed titles to her name. Emily lives in Brighton with her family. Visit www.emilygravett.com for games, activities and fun!

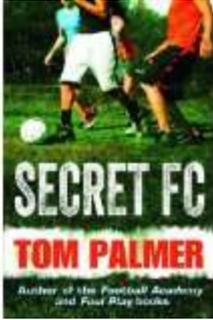


Fleur Hitchcock *Dear Scarlett* **Nosy Crow**
978-0857631503

A funny, moving and absorbing story about a young girl's attempts to learn more about her dead father through the objects she finds in a cardboard box he's left her. Scarlett and her friend, Ellie, go on a sometimes hilarious, sometimes scary, journey of discovery, following the clues and always remembering to 'keep looking up'. Was Scarlett's dad a thief? Was he a spy? And what does it mean to be his daughter?

About the author: Born in Chobham, by an airfield, and raised outside Winchester on the banks of the river Itchen, Fleur Hitchcock grew up as the youngest child of three. She spent her smallest years reading Tintin and Batman under her brother's bed, and searching for King Alfred's treasure in the river. She grew up a little, went away to school near Farnham, studied English in Wales, and, for the next twenty years, sold Applied Art in the city of Bath. When her younger child was seven, she embarked on the Writing for Young People MA at Bath Spa and graduated with a distinction. She now lives outside Bath.

"I don't want to do this, Scarlett," she says. "It's only because you're my friend" I look up at her watery eyes behind the ridiculous glasses. Friend? I suppose it goes both ways now. I need her as much as she needs me.



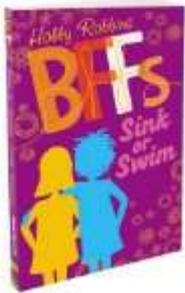
Tom Palmer *Secret FC* **Barrington Stoke**
978-1781122419

The new head teacher is very strict about health and safety – and bans football from the playground. Lily, Zack and their friends are devastated, but when they find an old tennis court hidden away in the woods behind the school, they decide to keep playing as a brand new team – the Secret FC!

Particularly suitable for struggling, reluctant and dyslexic readers of 8+

About the author: Originally from Leeds, and previously shortlisted for the Blue Peter Prize, Tom is best known for his 'Football Academy' and 'Foul Play' series. He credits articles about football with getting him into reading and libraries across the country attest to the fact that he is one of the main motivating factors for boys getting into books today. Tom lives in Todmorden, West Yorkshire.

Once they were on the pitch Lily felt great, even though James's team had hit back with three goals and the score was now only 36-35. She was happy because she was doing what she loved. With her friends. And her friends included James.



Holly Webb *Sink or Swim – BFFs* **Little Tiger**
978-1847152381

Ellie and Jas have been best friends since for ever, but can their friendship survive the ups and downs of starting a new school? With every day bringing tough new challenges, there's never been a more important time for BFFs to stick together! Ellie and her BFF, Jas, are moving up to secondary school. Jas can't wait to get there, but Ellie has a whole heap of worries, not least, what if Jas finds some new fun friends

to hang out with...?

About the author: Holly Robbins is the pen name of Belinda Rapley, who grew up in London, in a house overflowing with books. She wrote her first book aged fifteen, and has been writing ever since. After university she wrote for horsey websites, then worked in publishing and book printing. She lives in Suffolk with her boyfriend and her black and white rescue cat, Puffin.

I guess I was really hurt about everything and I lashed out at the one person who was there. The one person who was always there – Jas. The stupid thing was, I'd been so scared about losing her as my BFF that I'd ended up pushing her away. And now my worst fear had come true.

More stories about good friends !

Picture books and Younger readers			
Nicholas Allan	<i>The BIG-Hearted Book</i>	Hodder	978-1444913095
Lauren Child	<i>You Can Be My Friend (Charlie & Lola)</i>	Grosset & Dunlap	978-0448448404
Tracey Corderoy	<i>The Grunt and the Grouch</i>	Little Tiger	978-1848950511
James Mayhew Clara Vulliamy	<i>Bubble and Squeak</i>	Orchard	978-1408313664
Angie Morgan	<i>Enormouse</i>	Frances Lincoln	978-1847804488
M.P.Robertson	<i>Frank'n'Stan</i>	Frances Lincoln	978-1847801609
Some of the latest stories about friends			
Annie Barrows	<i>Ivy and Bean</i>	Chronicle	978-0811849098
Tony Bradman	<i>Football Crazy</i>	Barrington Stoke	978-1781122129
Annie Dalton	<i>Cherry Green Story Queen</i>	Barrington Stoke	978-1781122006
Suzy Day	<i>Pea's Book of Best Friends</i>	Red Fox	978-1849415224
Jim Eldridge	<i>Wrestling Trolls</i>	Hot Key	978-1471401930
Lyn Gardner	<i>Olivia's First Term</i>	Nosy Crow	978-0857630162
Karen McCombie	<i>Running from Rainbows</i>	Barrington Stoke	978-1781120033
Hilary McKay	<i>Binny for Short</i>	Hodder	978-1444900545

Michael Morpurgo	<i>Friend or Foe</i>	Egmont	978-1405233378
Mo O'Hara	<i>My Big Fat Zombie Goldfish</i>	Macmillan	978-1447227984
Harry Oulton	<i>A Pig Called Heather</i>	Piccadilly	978-1848123564
Helen Peters	<i>The Secret Hen House Theatre</i>	Nosy Crow	978-0857630650
Dave Shelton	<i>A Boy and a Bear in a Boat</i>	David Fickling	978-1849920520
Rebecca Stead	<i>Liar and Spy</i>	Andersen	978-1849395427
Jean Ure	<i>Real True Friends</i>	Barrington Stoke	978-1781120781
Holly Webb	<i>Maya's Secret</i> May 2014	Nosy Crow	978-0857631053
Holly Webb	<i>The Case of the Feathered Mask (Maisie Hitchins)</i>	Stripes	978-1847154255
Catherine Wilkins	<i>My Best Friend and Other Enemies</i>	Nosy Crow	978-0857630957
Some favourites			
Frank Cottrell Boyce	<i>The Unforgotten Coat</i>	Walker	978-1406341546
Roald Dahl	<i>The BFG</i>	Puffin	978-0141346427
Kate DiCamillo	<i>Because of Winn-Dixie</i>	Walker	978-0744578294
Rene Goscinny	<i>Nicholas and the Gang</i>	Phaidon	978-0714862255
Jeff Kinney	<i>Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Hard Luck</i>	Puffin	978-0141350677
Arnold Lobel	<i>Frog and Toad are Friends</i>	HarperCollins	978-0007464388
Michael Morpurgo	<i>The Butterfly Lion</i>	HarperCollins	978-0006751038
Katherine Paterson	<i>Bridge to Terabithia</i>	HarperCollins	978-0061227288

Philippa Pearce	<i>Tom's Midnight Garden</i>	OUP	978-0192792426
Lincoln Peirce	<i>Big Nate Flips Out</i>	HarperCollins	978-0007478279
Jacqueline Wilson	<i>Best Friends</i>	Yearling	978-0440868514
E.B.White	<i>Charlotte's Web</i>	Puffin	978-0141331331

