

Alien Invasion: other worlds, other beings

Chatterbooks activity pack



Alien invasion: other beings, other worlds

About this pack

The word ‘alien’ made her think of scary monsters. Dad had quickly explained... ‘stranger’, somebody you didn’t know yet.

(from *Magical Moon Cat* by Annie Dalton)

How do you imagine aliens? Little green blobby creatures with tentacles for arms and eyes on stalks? Sinister shapes with black holes for eyes? Metal-clad figures with out-of-this-world weaponry?

In this Chatterbooks **Alien Invasion** pack are stories about other beings and other worlds – and about how this earth might seem to travellers from other planets! All 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**

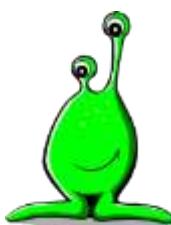
Chatterbooks is a reading group programme for children aged 4 to 14 years. It is coordinated by The Reading Agency and its patron is author Dame Jacqueline Wilson. Chatterbooks groups run in libraries and schools, supporting and inspiring children’s literacy development by encouraging them to have a 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.

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Warm up

Get together a collection of picture books, fiction and non-fiction about aliens, space, space travel, and UFOs. Have a look through them together, with people talking about any that they have read.

Wordsearch: Out of this world

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

NEBULA SUPERNOVA

SOLAR FLARES

ASTEROIDS

EXTRATERRESTRIAL

HOLOGRAPH

ROCKET

GALAXY RAY GUN

METEORS

UFO UNIVERSE

Can you find these words in the squares above?

They go up or down, or across from left or right.

Talk in your group about what all the words mean – look up any which are new to people.

More things to talk about

What does 'alien' mean?

Little green creatures? In the book *Magical Moon Cat* Jax's dad says that 'alien' can mean 'stranger' – 'someone you don't know yet.'

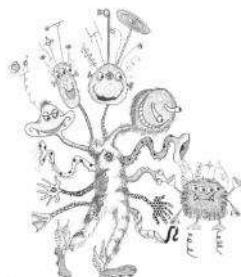
The word 'alien' comes from the Latin word 'alius' meaning 'other' – and so it can mean someone or something 'other' or 'different'; or from another place.

Talk about all the different ways we use the word 'alien' – for example:

- From another planet
- Strange – maybe with a sinister element
- From another country

You could have a look at some 'aliens' in children's fiction – characters who are 'different' in some way, for example 'Stig of the Dump', who comes from a different time; 'The Borrowers', who are a different size.

How might this earth look to an alien visitor?



In *Letters from an Alien Schoolboy* by Ros Asquith, the main character Flowkwee (with 4 heads, 6 arms, lots of eyes, fur, and winged feet) has travelled to earth from the planet Faa and writes to his friend about his experiences and how earth seems to him:

So you see the awful truth – Earthlings have only one head. No wonder they're so stupid. And just two eyeballs. And those face forwards.



And in *Dr Xargle's Book of Earthlets* by Jean Willis, Dr Xargle, a 'friendly alien teacher' (with green fur, tentacles and lots of eyes) describes to his class what Earthlets (earth babies) are like:

Earthlings have no fangs at birth. For many days they drink only milk through a hole in their face.

How might earth children and earth adults seem to Flowkwee or to Dr Xargle ? Get your group to imagine that they are aliens from Flowkwee's or Dr Xargle's planet. Talk about what they'll look like, what powers they might have, what they might eat. Children could make up names for themselves.

They could also have a **drama activity** where, in groups of three, in their alien characters, they're in a spaceship flying to earth. What do they know about earth people, and how are they different? Get each group to make up some dialogue and role play their approach to earth.

Different powers – super-powers

In *James and the Alien Experiment* by Sally Prue, the aliens offer James extra powers. He chooses super-speed and can run like a rocket – but he has to eat enormous amounts of food to keep his energy up, and is so fast that his socks burst into flames! Talk about the super-powers you would choose to have. How would you use them? And what might be the disadvantages of your new powers?!

Can we increase the powers and skills we already have? – for example our memory, or our concentration? Or our physical powers, such as running or singing?

Activities

Create your own planet – another world!

You could do this in twos and threes, or as a whole group. Or create a cosmos of several planets, with each person contributing their own world.

Have a large sheet of paper, lots of coloured felt tips, glue sticks, scissors, and lots of different kinds of paper, material, old magazines, glitter and shiny things – you can create your worlds as a drawing and a collage.

Let your imaginations run free!

What is your planet made of? – rock, metal, jelly?! What colour is it? – or is there no colour at all.

What is the landscape like? And the weather? How long are the days and nights?

What kind of buildings are there? Is there transport?

What is the name of your planet?

You could add in stars, asteroids, meteors and solar flares!

Create your own alien

And once you've got lots of ideas about your planets, you can create the beings who live there!

Getting ideas from picture books, stories, and real-life accounts of possible alien sightings – and with all your imagination! – have a go at designing an alien from another planet.

Be as extreme as you like! Your alien could have wheels instead of legs, spades for hands, x-ray vision, and extra eyes! How about an enormous brain, a tail, super-smell, or the power to fly?

Think about the planet where your alien lives – what is it like? What body features and skills would be most useful? How about your alien's character and activities?

There are lots of different aliens and great ideas in Chris Riddell's *Alienography*.

Here's a description of 'Colin', who pops up through the book:

Colin is a small grey alien who has travelled all over the universe in his flying cup-and-saucer poking his finger (he doesn't have a nose) into other aliens' business. His hobbies include holo-photography and drinking out of the toilet bowl.

And here's a template to use for planning and drawing your alien. When you have finished, write a simple description, like the one for Colin.

	My name is..... from the planet.....
<i>Head: large, tiny? Eyes, ear, mouth? Neck?</i>	
<i>Body: arms? other features? skin, hair, something else?</i>	
<i>Legs</i>	
<i>Feet</i>	
<i>Short description</i>	

.....and then design a spaceship!

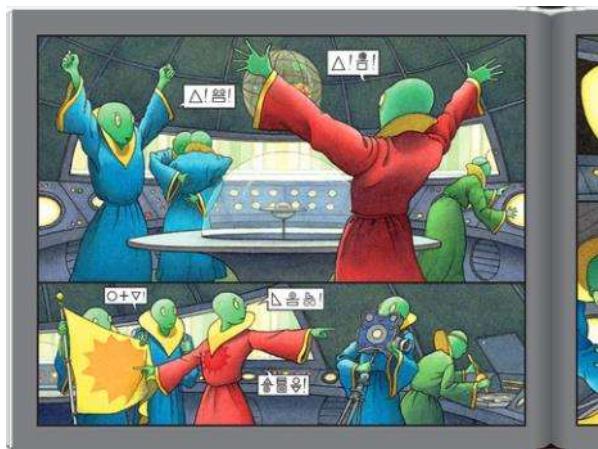
You could do this as a collage again – or maybe have a go at drawing your spaceship using red, blue and black ballpoint pens as the artist does in the book *Lowriders in Space* (p15).

Think of all the gadgets it could have to help with its adventures in space.

Give your ship a name (In *Space Pirates* two of the ships are called ‘Siren of the Stars’ and ‘Space Horse’.

Understanding each other

How will your aliens communicate with people on the other planets they visit? Or as a traveller from earth how might you connect with other beings? What kind of language might you use?



In the film *Close Encounters of the Third Kind* notes of music are used; in the picture book *Mr Wuffles* the aliens’ language is written down as shapes such as triangles, rectangles, and circles.

Maybe you could use pictures or sign language to get your message across?

Imagine there is a drought and no water on your planet, and so you are on an expedition to the planet Zorg where you know water

can be found. You have just landed on Zorg and some inhabitants have come to your spaceship. Are they friendly or not?

In small groups have a go at writing (in English!) what you will say to the people of Zorg. Then either

a) get your message across through drawings and sign language, or a mixture of both!

Or b) invent a Zorg language and translate your speech into this language. This could take a bit of time and thinking, but be great fun!

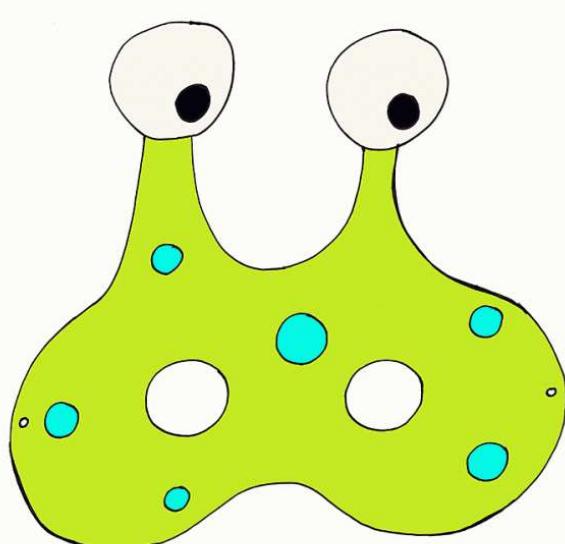


Alien masks and alien craft activity

Here are some ideas for making alien disguises – you could also use pipe-cleaners, for antennae, and draw and fix googly eyes on the end of them.

And this page from Pinterest gives some good ideas for fun ‘alien’ things to make:

<https://www.pinterest.com/explore/alien-crafts/>



Unidentified Flying Objects (UFOs)

In the book *Bug Eyed Monsters* by Jean Ure, Harry's teacher asks them to write a short essay on the subject 'What I think I know about Unidentified Flying Objects', and Harry writes down 10 facts that he knows about UFOs.

From children's own knowledge, and what you can find out from books, the internet, and asking other people, see if you can gather together 10 facts about UFOs.

(You could also adapt this template and use it for 'Phenomenal Facts about Planets')

What I think I know about Unidentified Flying Objects

(otherwise known as UFOs)

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

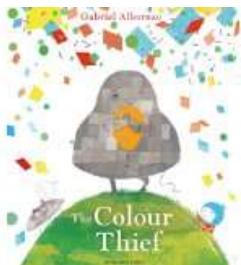
8.

9.

10.

Alien invasion : here's some cosmic reading!

FOR YOUNGER READERS



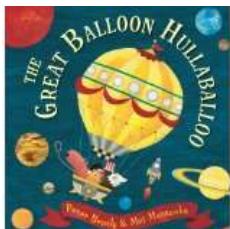
Gabriel Alborozo *The Colour Thief* Bloomsbury

978-1408847534

Zot lives in a world without colour – no green grass, no blue sky, no yellow sun and no red flowers. From his lonely mountaintop, he gazes at Earth, sparkling with brilliant colour, and thinks it must be a very happy place. He sets off to steal some of that happiness for himself . . .

Gabriel Alborozo has worked as a cartoonist for Private Eye, Punch and other magazines but his first love has always been illustrating for children. He lives in South London.

*...the warm glow from the boy's balloon lit them up and they were happy.
A little colour can go a long, long way.*



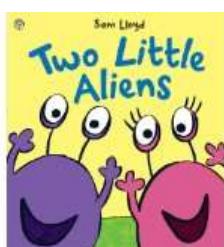
Peter Bently *The Great Balloon Hullabaloo* Andersen

978-1849397605

When Simon the squirrel's mum sends him off to the shop, Simon decides to fly to the moon in Old Uncle Somerset's hot air balloon in search of cheese. Shopping in outer space is very exciting, but proves to be a bit of a distraction . . .

Peter Bently lives in Devon. He has written several other award-winning picture books, including *A Lark in the Ark*, *Shark in the Dark*, and *Cats Ahoy!* (Roald Dahl Funny Prize 2011)

*They called in at Pluto for cosmic rock cakes,
Which they ate at the Milky Way Parlour with shakes.*



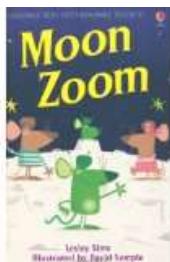
Sam Lloyd *Two Little Aliens* Orchard Books

978-1846169441

When two little aliens in a passing rocket spot the most exciting thing ever, they can't wait to land on Earth to investigate. They've discovered . . . a playground! It is full of fun-looking things like a seesaw, a sandpit and even an ice-cream kiosk. The thing is, the aliens have never been to a playground before, so they don't know how *anything* works. Hilarious confusion soon ensues until new friends show them how to have fun.

Mr Pusskins, **Sam Lloyd**'s first book for Orchard, won the Booktrust Early Years Award for Best Pre-School Book, was a New York Times bestseller and was shortlisted for the V&A Illustration Award and Sheffield Book Prize. Sam has written and illustrated a number of novelty books. She lives in Brighton.

*Wow! Stop the rocket!
We haven't been here before. It looks like fun!*



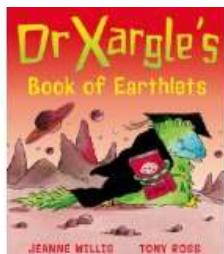
Lesley Sims *Moon Zoom* Usborne 978-1409507109

This is the eighth title in the new “Usborne Very First Reading” series, designed for younger children to introduce them to reading together with their parents.

Jack and Ella, two mice, build a rocket and zoom through the stars for a picnic on the moon.

Lesley Sims is a managing editor at Usborne Publishing in charge of the Young and First Reading Series, Handbooks and Treasuries.

The moon is bright tonight. The attic fills with silver light. Jack cannot sleep.



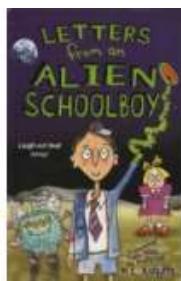
Jeanne Willis/Tony Ross *Dr Xargle's Book of Earthlets* Andersen 978-1849392921

Good morning, class. Today we are going to learn about Earthlets.

In this way Dr Xargle, our friendly alien teacher, begins to teach his class about humans and babies. This is a hysterically funny book, with a particularly wry look at the way we bring up babies: look out for the ‘egg-mangle’ – will you ever want to eat egg again?

Jeanne Willis has written over 150 books including picture books, novelty, teen novels and poetry and won the Smarties Silver for *Tadpole’s Promise*. She lives in North London.

PRIMARY AGE READING



Ros Asquith *Letters from an Alien Schoolboy* Piccadilly 978-1848120945

Flowkwee is on a mission – he has to disguise himself as a schoolboy and spy on young earthlings, in order to help his father with his research. Here are his letters to his best friend, Rokbumme, in which he tells him all about his adventures. He describes the strange earthlings who have only one head, two peepers, and no aerials, lights, whirlers or even winkers! He has to wear things called clothes because the earthlings can’t be bothered to grow fur.

This book was shortlisted for the Roald Dahl Funny Prize 2011.

Ros Asquith has been a Guardian newspaper cartoonist for 20 years and has written and illustrated over 60 books for young people.

I might come back...I'm already missing Earth. The only planet in the Universe with music. And chocolate. And jokes.

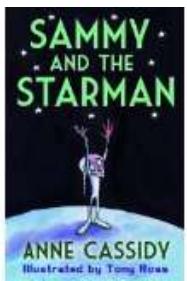


Eric Brown *Space Ace* Barrington Stoke 978-781121344

Billy is whisked away on a whistle-stop tour of the solar system by his grandfather, a retired astronaut. Can they brave the dangers and return intact? When the computer system fails Billy's grandfather is forced to pilot the ship manually through the treacherous asteroid belt. A fast-paced story filled with facts about our solar system; illustrated by Tony Ross. With a reading age of 8, it is also suitable for reluctant, struggling & dyslexic readers.

Eric Brown has published over 20 books including anthologies, short stories, radio plays and science fiction novels. He's won the British Science Fiction Prize for his short stories, and he lives in Dunbar, East Lothian.

We passed Earth, a round ball covered with blue seas and bright white cloud. Grandad said, 'I'll try and get in touch with your mum. She'll want to know where you've got to.'

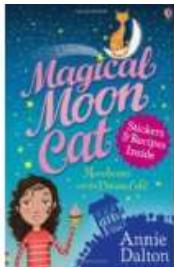


Anne Cassidy *Sammy and the Starman* Barrington Stoke 978-1781122198

When Sammy finds a tiny space rocket in the park, he quite naturally thinks it's a toy. Then he meets the spaceman who owns it – a postman! Can Sammy help him get home to deliver his letters? A fun, heart-warming story perfect for young readers. Particularly suitable for struggling, reluctant and dyslexic readers of 8+

Anne Cassidy has written over twenty award-winning and best-selling teen novels, including *Looking for JJ* which won the Booktrust Teenage Book Award in 2004.

'These letters. They're due at East Plat at 80 minutes past the midday chime. If I don't get them there I'll be tweezered!'



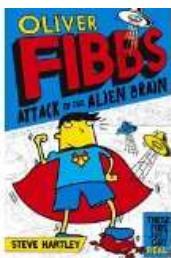
Annie Dalton *Magical Moon Cat: Moonbeans and the Dream Café* Usborne 978-1409526315

Hopes, dreams and Moonbeans – meet Jax and her magical moon cat! Space-mad Jax has just moved to a new town and is finding it difficult to get settled. Her Mum is so busy struggling to open her dream-business – a yummy new I – that she doesn't seem to have realized that Jax feels lonely. But when a pink lightning bolt delivers a sparkly kitten to Jax's door, everything changes! Jax's

magical moon cat, Moonbeans, seems to bring Jax luck wherever she goes – or do Jax and her mum have a special kind of magic of their own?

Annie Dalton's stories often mix real life situations and characters with magic. Her best-selling *Angel Academy* series, about a human high school girl from the inner city who unexpectedly becomes an angel, found international success. She lives in Norfolk.

Jax daringly reached out with the tip of her finger and touched the little alien cat. Its fur was the softest thing she'd ever felt, softer even than Mum's precious cashmere sweater.

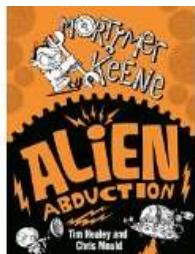


Steve Hartley *Oliver Fibbs: Attack of the Alien Brain* Macmillan 978-1447220237

Hi! I'm Oliver Tibbs (some people call me 'Oliver Fibbs') and everyone in my family is super-brilliant at something – chess, ballet, brain surgery and architecture – but all I'm good at is reading comics and eating pizza. I'm fed up with being Dull and Boring, so I've been telling the class about my adventures as a Defender of Planet Earth – battling against the evil Alien Brain Drain who wants to take over the world! Everyone loved it except Miss Wilkins, who gave me a detention for telling fibs – but they're not fibs, they're stories!

Steve Hartley is many things: author, astronaut, spy, racing-car driver, trapeze-artist and vampire-hunter and he never, EVER, tells fibs... He has also written the *Danny Baker Record Breaker* series.

'...it was great being DABman, the Dynamic And Brave alien brain-chaser. I enjoyed playtime detention too. Miss Wilkins made me write down my fib – I mean my story. It was fun.'



Tim Healey/Chris Mould *Mortimer Keene: Alien Abduction* Hodder 978-0340997758

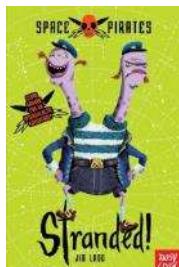
Mortimer Keene is full to bursting with madcap plans, and if it's trouble you're after, look no further! With rollicking rhymes, and short chapters perfect for new readers, this third book in the series sees Mortimer Keene up to no good again with an alien ray gun machine!

Tim Healey is the author of over 40 children's titles, and also a frequent broadcaster on BBC Radio 3 and 4..

Chris Mould has won the Nottingham Children's Book Award. He likes to write and draw the kind of books that he would have enjoyed as a boy.

*Mr Green wrung his hands
And gave out a yelp:
'Mortimer, lad, please
Do something to help!'*

*Mortimer frowned:
'I've been having some fun
Constructing a new kind of
Gravity Gun.'*



Jim Ladd *Space Pirates - Stranded!* Nosy Crow 978-0857631541

When Sam's parents are stranded on Planet X, he bravely asks his neighbours, the notorious Space Pirates, to help rescue them. But they'd rather carry on bowling and singing space-shanties, so Sam has to hide in a barrel of alien slime and stow away! A fast-paced, funny series with gags galore!

Jim Ladd is sadly not a real person, although there is a real author behind the *Space Pirates* series. If Jim did exist, maybe he'd live on an island with sharks swimming round it, writing on an old typewriter and wearing cut-off trousers with raggedy edges.

'Now, we must give our new shipmate a proper pirate welcome – let's break open the grum and do some bowling!' And that got the loudest cheer of all.



**Cas Lester *Harvey Drew and the Bin Men from Outer Space*
Hot Key 978-1471402234**

Harvey Drew is an ordinary eleven-year-old who dreams of great adventures in outer space. After he unwittingly responds to an alien signal, he is transported to the flight deck of the 'Toxic Spew', an intergalactic waste disposal ship. Even though none of the crew have even heard of Earth, let alone met an Earthling, Harvey becomes Captain of the stroppy, pizza-obsessed, brave (but grubby) crew, and has to save them from poisonous pink maggots, dangerous exploding space-rubbish and a multiple spaceship pile-up on Hyperspaceway B16. Luckily he manages to save the day!

Before writing children's books **Cas Lester** worked in children's television drama with CBBC, on programmes including *Jackanory* and *The Story of Tracy Beaker*.

'What's the matter with him?' asked the Medical Officer. Her three yellow googly eyes stuck out on stalks from her slimy green body and her six blue tentacles waggled in surprise. She looked like a cross between an octopus and a huge green slug.

Here are some great Harvey Drew activity sheets! <https://www.hotkeybooks.com/extras>

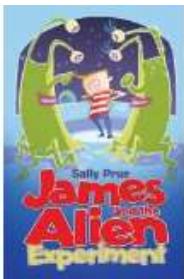


**Huw Powell *Spacejackers* Bloomsbury
978-1408847541**

Saved by the crew of a rusty old spaceship called 'The Dark Horse', Jake sets off on an adventure through the solar systems. Will he discover the truth about his past before the space pirates catch up with him? This action-packed first book in the *Spacejackers* trilogy is full of aliens, space monsters, gadgets, battleships – and one boy's search for his destiny

Huw Powell wrote his first stories for friends and family. He lives in Portishead, near Bristol.

Two guards stood watch. Jake instantly recognised them as spacejackers, dressed in their scarlet combat suits with chunky space boots and silver skull-shaped space helmets. He knew their padded gloves would have special grips for scaling smooth surfaces.....

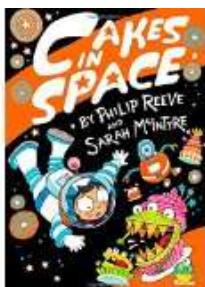


**Sally Prue *James and the Alien Experiment* A & C Black
978-0713674576**

James is kidnapped by aliens. They're quite well-meaning aliens though, who want to improve his rather useless human body – which proves not to be entirely a bad thing (just mostly a bad thing). Ross is given super-strength, super-brains and super-speed – and he learns the advantages and pitfalls of these super-skills!

Sally Prue lives in Hertfordshire. Her novel *Cold Tom* won the Branford Boase Award & the Smarties Silver Award, and *The Truth Sayer* was short-listed for the Guardian Children's Fiction Prize.

They had to add up all the numbers from one to 100. The class sighed, but James's brillo-pad brain had worked it all out before he'd even written the date.



**Philip Reeve & Sarah McIntyre *Cakes in Space* OUP
978-0192734563**

Astra's family are all snoring in their sleeping pods aboard their spaceship, but Astra is WIDE AWAKE. With her robot friend, Pilbeam, she goes off exploring and finds that the ship is in deep trouble. It's been knocked off course and invaded by a gang of Poglites, an alien salvage crew searching for spoonage (they just LOVE collecting spoons)! There is something far more sinister lurking in the canteen. Sure, they're cakes; but no one would describe them as sweet.

Philip Reeve is the Carnegie award-winning writer of the *Mortal Engines* quartet and *Here Lies Arthur*. He lives on Dartmoor in Devon

Sarah McIntyre is a leading illustrator and comics artist – her books include *There's a Shark in the Bath*, and *Oliver and the Seawigs*, another co-creation with Philip Reeve. From Seattle she now lives in London.

And here, all alone on the million billion miles of midnight is one solitary moving speck. A fragile parcel, filled with sleeping people and their dreams. A ship.



**Chris Riddell *Alienography 2: Tips for Tiny Tyrants*
Macmillan 978-0230741041**

Join Chris Riddell and Colin the alien as they explain their tips for intergalactic domination. Learn how to select a simpering sidekick, how to choose an evil outfit (a good vest is a must!) and how to buy the best battlecruiser . . . you'll be a butt-kicking baddy before you can blink! This is a finely illustrated picture book for older readers, with novelty elements including a mini comic,

a fold-out cross-section of the 'Centennial Turkey' spaceship, and a '**Top Chumps**' card game which your group will love to play.

Chris Riddell has illustrated many books for children and has twice won the CILIP Kate Greenaway medal. He is also a political cartoonist for the Guardian and the Observer.

If you've got any ruth in you at all, get rid of it now, completely. Unless it is totally gone, you'll never have what it takes to rule the universe. Tiny tyrants have to be ruthless. No hamsters, no lovable goldfish, and definitely no puppies. As for that goodnight kiss and being tucked up in bed...forget it!



**Jamie Thomson *The Wrong Side of the Galaxy*
Orchard Books 978-1408330265**

Abducted by aliens, Harry wakes up on his birthday marooned on a spaceship. His only companions are two freaky princess clones, a weird alien-fish-kangaroo hybrid with delusions of grandeur and a ship's computer with a serious attitude problem. The worst birthday ever. How will he get back to Earth now?

Jamie Thomson is a writer, editor, game developer, and winner of the Roald Dahl Funny Prize 2012.

He'd set off...and then...what? That light...being lifted up into the sky in a beam of light? Maybe, yeah, though the memory was fuzzy. It did sound like a classic case of alien kidnapping, come to think of it.

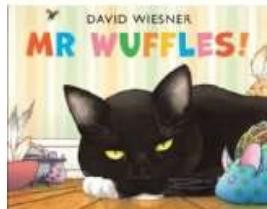


Jean Ure *Bug-Eyed Monsters* A & C Black
978-1408152676

"Mr Snitcher is an alien! Pass it on..." Nobody knew where the rumour came from. Most of the boys think it's a joke. But the more Joe and Andy think about it, the weirder Mr Snitcher starts to look. Is he really an alien? And how about the rest of the teachers? Here is a laugh-out-loud school story with a sci-fi twist.

Jean Ure has published around 100 books and won several children's book awards. She lives in Croydon.

It was as he was passing Mr Snitcher's room that he heard it: a strange unearthly sound coming from somewhere inside. A kind of glooping, followed by a glurping. Could it be Mr Snitcher?



David Wiesner *Mr Wuffles* Andersen 978-1783441167

Mr Wuffles ignores all the toys people buy for him. He's not lazy, he's just very picky. Now Mr Wuffles has the perfect toy and he's ready to play. But it's not really a toy at all. It's something much more interesting . . .

A stunning picture book take on a cat's encounter with an alien spaceship.

David Wiesner is one of the best-loved and most highly acclaimed picture book creators in the world. His books have won many awards, and include *Tuesday* and *FLOTSAM*. He lives outside of Philadelphia, USA.



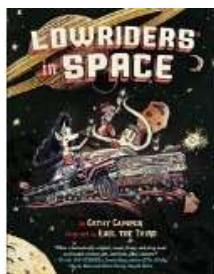
Johnny Zucker *Alien Cage* (EDGE – Slipstream Graphic) Franklin Watts 978-1445113227

The year is 2020 ad. An alien race called the Creetons attacked Earth and won. Now all humans live in cages. Jed and Tia want to escape from the Creetons. They must find a way to beat the aliens and their robots, and free the human race.

Jonny Zucker is the author of *Max Flash* and *Venus Spring*. He has written over thirty books for children, teenagers and adults.

Slipstream is a series designed for pupils struggling with reading. It has a three-strand approach through fiction, graphic fiction and non-fiction.

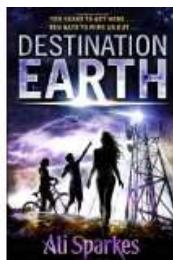
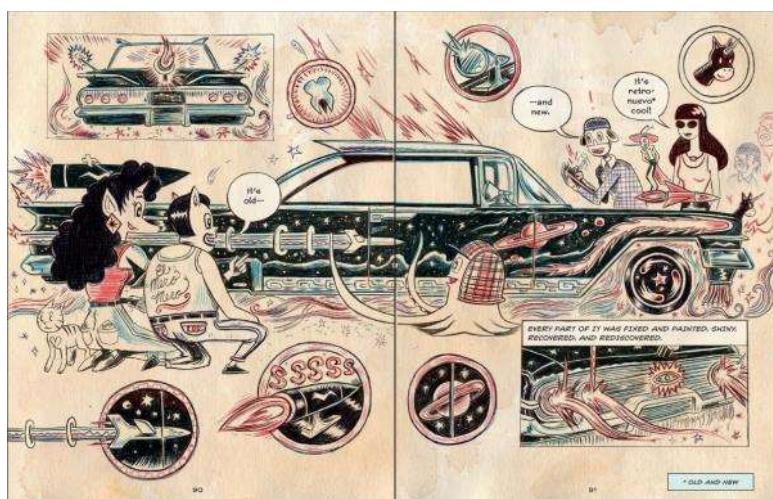
FOR OLDER READERS



Cathy Camper/Raul Gonzalez Chronicle 978-1452128696

Lowriders in Space

Lupe Impala, El Chavo Flapjack and Elirio Malaria love working with cars. You name it, they can fix it. But the team's favourite cars of all are lowriders, cars that hip and hop, dip and drop, go low and slow, bajito y suavecito. A contest for the best car around offers a prize of a trunkful of cash, just what the team needs to open their own shop! Ay Chihuahua! What will it take to transform a junker into the best car in the universe? Striking art-work recalls ballpoint-pen-and-Sharpie desk-drawn doodles, while the story is sketched with Spanish, inked with science facts and coloured with true friendship. There is a glossary at the back to provide definitions for Spanish and science terms. **Cathy Camper** has published a children's science book *Bugs Before Time; Prehistoric Insects and Their Relatives* and her work has appeared in publications such as Primavera and Utne Reader. This is **Raul Gonzalez's** first published illustration work. He teaches classes on drawing and comics for kids.



Ali Sparkes *Destination Earth* OUP 978-0192733443

Imagine you are the only survivor from another planet. You've spent ten years on a spaceship learning how to be human, and now the end of your journey is in sight . . . All you have to do is land safely, convince the earthlings that you're a real teenager, and start your new life on Earth. No problem. Except that the killer alien responsible for wiping out your people has hitched a lift...

Ali Sparkes has worked in newspapers, and writing for the BBC. Her books for children and young people include the *Unleashed* and *Shapeshifter* series.

Lucy ignored Mumgram. She was here. She was here on Earth. Now. Her journey was over. Earth would either welcome her or kill her.



**Paul Stewart/Chris Riddell *Scavenger 1: Zoid* Macmillan
978-1447231486**

A spaceship the size of a city drifts through space on its century-long journey to find a new Earth. When it launched it was populated by thousands of hopeful passengers and the most technologically advanced Zoids in the world, ready to serve the crew's every need. But the Zoids rebelled against their masters, wiping out most of the crew in one bloody uprising. Fourteen-year-old York is a Scavenger – he hunts Zoids and kills them, bringing back their parts to mend the technology on which the few remaining humans rely. York has always battled to survive, but now the fate of his people is in his hands . . .

Paul Stewart and Chris Riddell together created *The Edge Chronicles*, *MuddleEarth* and the *Wyrmeawd Trilogy*. They both have successful careers separately, Paul as a writer of children's books and Chris as an illustrator and cartoonist for the *New Statesman* and the *Observer*. They both live in Brighton.

You see to zoids, humans are vermin, no different to the critters that infest the tube-forests. They're out to eradicate us from the Biosphere. To wipe us out. Maybe we're the only ones left. Maybe there are others...



A.G.Taylor *Meteorite Strike* Usborne 978-1409508571

Sarah and Robert are sure their number is up when their aeroplane crashes over the Australian desert. But this is no ordinary air disaster. A meteorite strike has impacted Earth, bringing with it a deadly alien disease. Thousands fall victim to the virus, sinking into a deep coma. Robert and Sarah appear to be unaffected – until they begin to exhibit some extraordinary psychic side-effects.

This quickly makes them a target for HIDRA, a rogue international agency who captures and imprisons them in a secret desert HQ for superhuman kids who can control fire, create storms and tear steel with their minds. This new generation of superheroes must join forces if they are to escape HIDRA in this sci-fi thriller.

Her sixth sense began to send her a mental image of the impending danger: a sleek, black helicopter moving through the sky in their direction. In the cockpit, two sets of eyes scanned the countryside for them.



And more cosmic reading!

Picture books			
Claire Freedman/ Ben Cort	<i>Aliens Love Underpants</i>	Simon & Schuster	978-1416917052
Simon Bartram	<i>Man on the Moon</i>	Templar	978-1840114911
Nick Butterworth	<i>Q Pootle 5</i>	HarperCollins	978-0007172351
Alex Deacon	<i>Beegu</i>	Red Fox	978-0099417446
Satoshi Kitamura	<i>UFO Diary</i>	Andersen	978-1842705919
Tony Ross	<i>I'm Coming to Get You</i>	Andersen	978-1842707432
David Wiesner	<i>Tuesday</i>	Andersen	978-1849394475
Fiction & Poetry			
Bruce Coville	<i>My Teacher is an Alien</i>	Aladdin	978-1416903345
Tony Diterlizzi	<i>The Search for Wondla</i>	Simon & Schuster	978-1416983118
Jonathan Emmett	<i>Aliens: an Owner's Guide</i>	Macmillan	978-0330517416
Neil Gaiman	<i>Fortunately, the Milk...</i>	Bloomsbury	978-1408841792
Colin McNaughton	<i>Here Come the Aliens!</i>	Walker	978-0744543940
Gaby Morgan	<i>Space Poems</i>	Macmillan	978-0330440578
Jeremy Strong	<i>I'm Telling You They're Aliens</i>	Puffin	978-0141324425
'Aliens' – another take			
David Almond	<i>Skellig</i>	Hodder	978-0340997048
Gillian Cross	<i>The Demon Headmaster</i>	OUP	978-0192755827
Ted Hughes	<i>The Iron Man</i>	Faber	978-0571226122
Clive King	<i>Stig of the Dump</i>	Puffin	978-0141329697
Edith Nesbit Jacqueline Wilson	<i>Five Children and It</i> <i>Four Children and It</i>	Vintage Classics Puffin	978-0099572985 978-0141341446
Mary Norton	<i>The Borrowers</i>	Puffin	978-0141354866
Non-fiction			
Carole Stott	<i>Space Exploration</i>	Dorling Kindersley	978-1465426161
	<i>Space (Eye Know)</i>	Dorling Kindersley	978-1405321624
Films	<i>Close Encounters of the Third Kind</i>		
	<i>E.T.</i>		
	<i>The Day of the Triffids</i>		

Answer - Wordsearch

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