NOV & DEC 2020

MORE AT AUTHORFY.COM

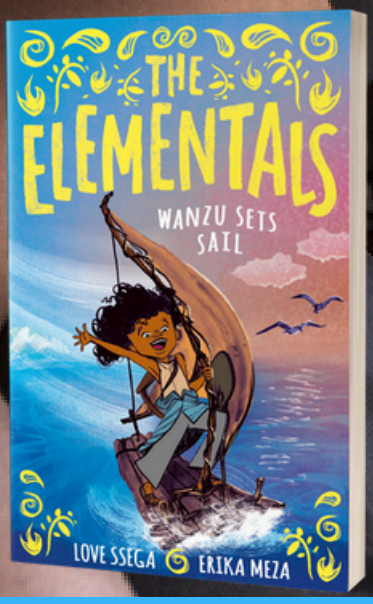
A free children's book newsletter by authorfy.

# BOOKDROP

Featuring

# LOVE SSEGA

## 'Moana' meets the 'Famous Five' - The Elementals is perfect for readers in search of adventure!

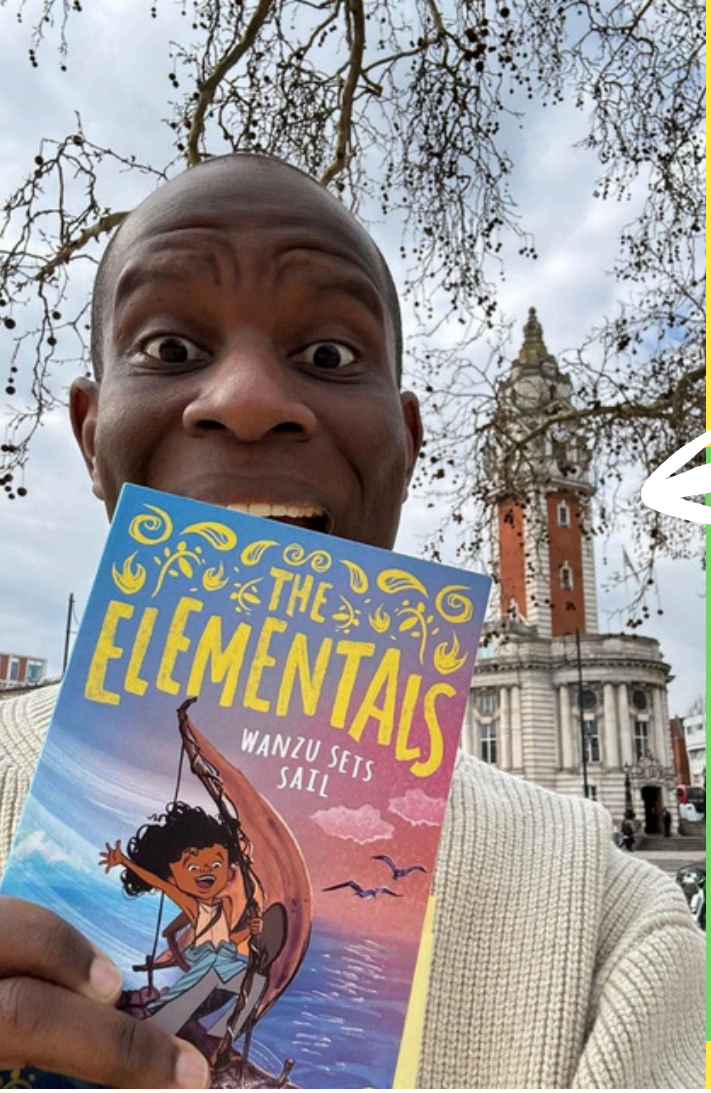






Photography Emma Jones

Also featuring: Sheena Dempsey, Kes Gray, Harry Woodgate, Holly Webb, Mel Taylor-Bessent and more




# Q&A

## WITH LOVE SSEGA

Wanzu and his friends will do whatever it takes to keep Sealand - their island home - safe. They all have magical powers connected to the four elements: air, water, earth and fire. But curious and playful Wanzu hasn't discovered what his power is yet...

With books 3 and 4 publishing in 2027, 'The Elementals' books are musical, magical, environmental adventures, written by Love Ssega and illustrated by Erika Meza for ages 6+.

**Q What inspired you to write 'The Elementals'?**

Stories my parents would read to me based on folklore from Buganda culture. The Baganda - as we are known - are part of the Bantu peoples of east and southern Africa and Buganda is in the modern-day country of Uganda.

**Q Did you always want the environment to be a key theme?**

There are so many fun characters in 'The Elementals', however, nature was always going to be the main event! These stories are to remind us, as humans, that there is so much natural wonder in the world, and if its too far to visit, you can imagine it through 'The Elementals'.

**Q If you could choose a power to have yourself, what would it be?**

When I started writing the book I would say air and the power to control the breezes and maybe even fly. However after writing book 2, I've been learning a lot about the magic of the earth and soil to hold so much life and if I could talk to trees, then I think that would be pretty cool too.

**Click here to watch Love's videos**







illustrations (c) Daniel



CHAPTER ONE

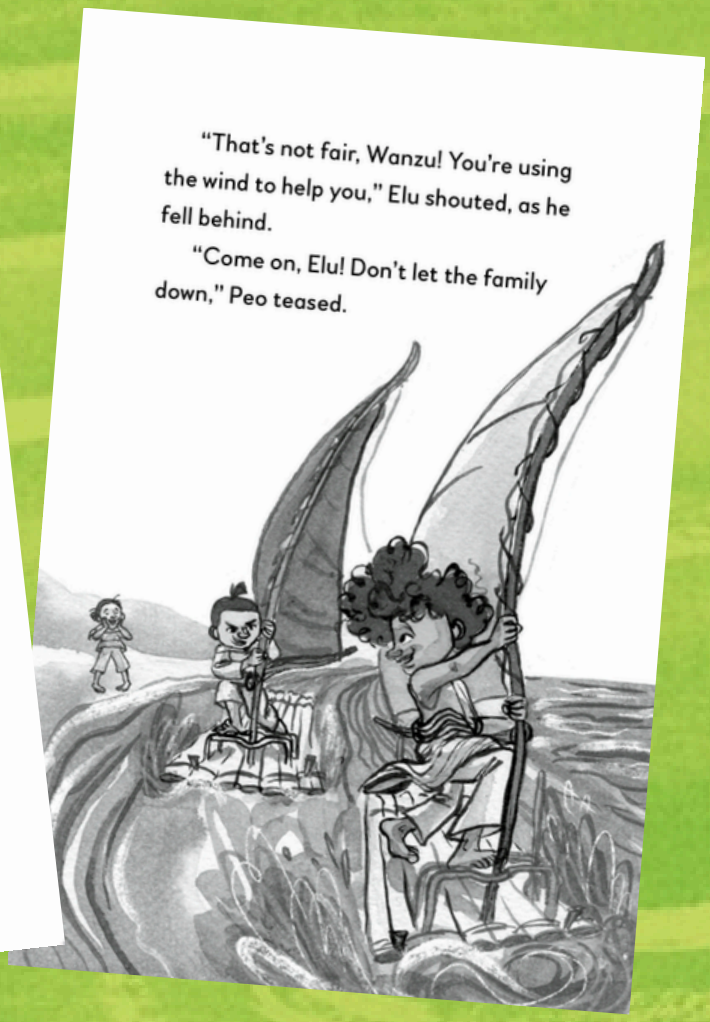
FROM SEA TO SOIL

"Ready... Set... GO!" Peo shouted, as she started the race on the sea between her twin brother Elu and their friend Wanzu.

It was Wanzu's first day staying with the twins, and they were straight into the fun and games. Wanzu lived on the other side of the island with his grandma Jjajja, and the twins didn't get to see him much. So Peo was determined they weren't going to waste a second of his visit!

5

Click here to read the full extract



"That's not fair, Wanzu! You're using the wind to help you," Elu shouted, as he fell behind.

"Come on, Elu! Don't let the family down," Peo teased.

## MEET THE ELEMENTALS

AND COMPLETE THE WORD SEARCH!

| B | C | O | R | A | L | R | E | E | F | H | A | S | V |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| I | E | W | E | E | S | E | L | S | E | L | L | I | I |
| A | I | A | A | R | R | E | A | E | L | U | E | I | L |
| R | R | T | V | V | F | U | A | V | A | N | L | I | A |
| Y | A | E | R | E | E | E | I | T | L | C | W | I | E | A |
| A | F | R | E | L | R | S | R | A | A | E | E | I | M |
| K | T | A | B | A | A | I | U | E | N | N | C | L | L |
| I | S | O | R | N | A | R | S | F | W | F | D | S | E |
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| O | E | I | O | P | U | E | N | Y | A | T | V | A | R |
| I | O | A | T | D | V | T | L | W | W | N | R | N | T |
| T | E | A | A | L | A | Y | Z | A | E | I | D | Z | H |
| R | P | T | A | R | E | O | A | R | A | A | A | U | K |
| L | O | W | A | I | L | D | E | W | N | S | H | I | A |

Sealand
Peo
Fire
Rafts
Kikay
Wanzu
Air
Beaver Island
Elu
Nature
Waves
Earth
Coral Reef
Water
Maali







Click to download activity sheet

# JOIN THE ADVENTURE!



# NEW CHILDREN'S BOOKS:
## Picture Books & Early Readers



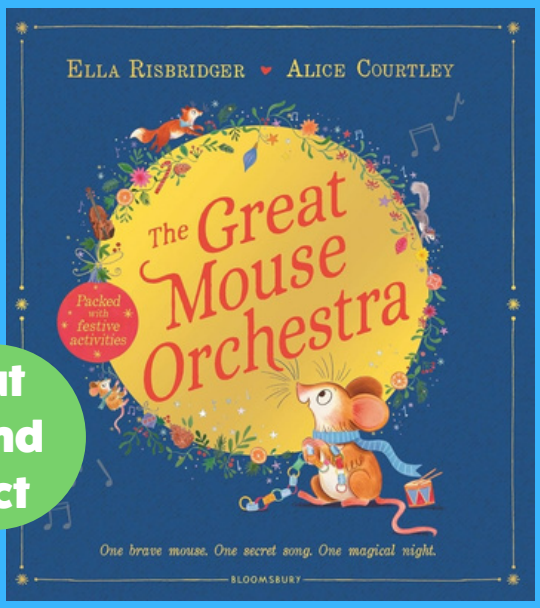

**Out now!**

When an old man moves in next door, everyone is too busy to notice. Except for one little girl, who's absolutely sure he must be Santa Claus!




**Out 8th Oct**

Inspired by an Icelandic book-gifting tradition, this beautiful story, illustrated with full colour artwork throughout, and decorated endpapers, is the perfect gift for sharing during the Christmas period.




**Out 22nd Oct**

Featuring lots of gorgeous activities - including recipes for Christmas spice cake and festive hot chocolate - this irresistible winter adventure is packed with frosty magic, warmth and wonder.



**CLICK HERE TO READ EXTRACTS FROM THESE BOOKS**



# NEW CHILDREN'S BOOKS:

## Middle Grade: ages 7+




**Out now!**

Time-travelling penguins Pablo and Splash are on board a Viking longship in this hilarious full-colour graphic novel. Fans of 'Bunny vs Monkey' will love it.

**'You'll laugh your flippers off!'**
John Patrick Green,
creator of InvestiGATORS

**A colourful, pacey and hilarious graphic novel series for ages 6+**




Read the whole series!

CLICK HERE TO READ EXTRACT




**Out now!**

Nancy is having a wonderful wintry holiday in Devon, when she spots a strange little brown animal poking around in the woods - a pine marten!

**A magical wintry tale from best-selling author Holly Webb**

**For fans of Michael Morpurgo and 'The Snow Foal'**

**The perfect book to snuggle up with and enjoy this winter.**

CLICK HERE TO READ EXTRACT




**Out 5th Nov**

From a stunt cat who stars in a cat food advert, to a lost glove that finds its way home; this collection of original short stories by bestselling author Kes Gray will excite and inspire young readers.

**Full of engaging stories that demand to be read**

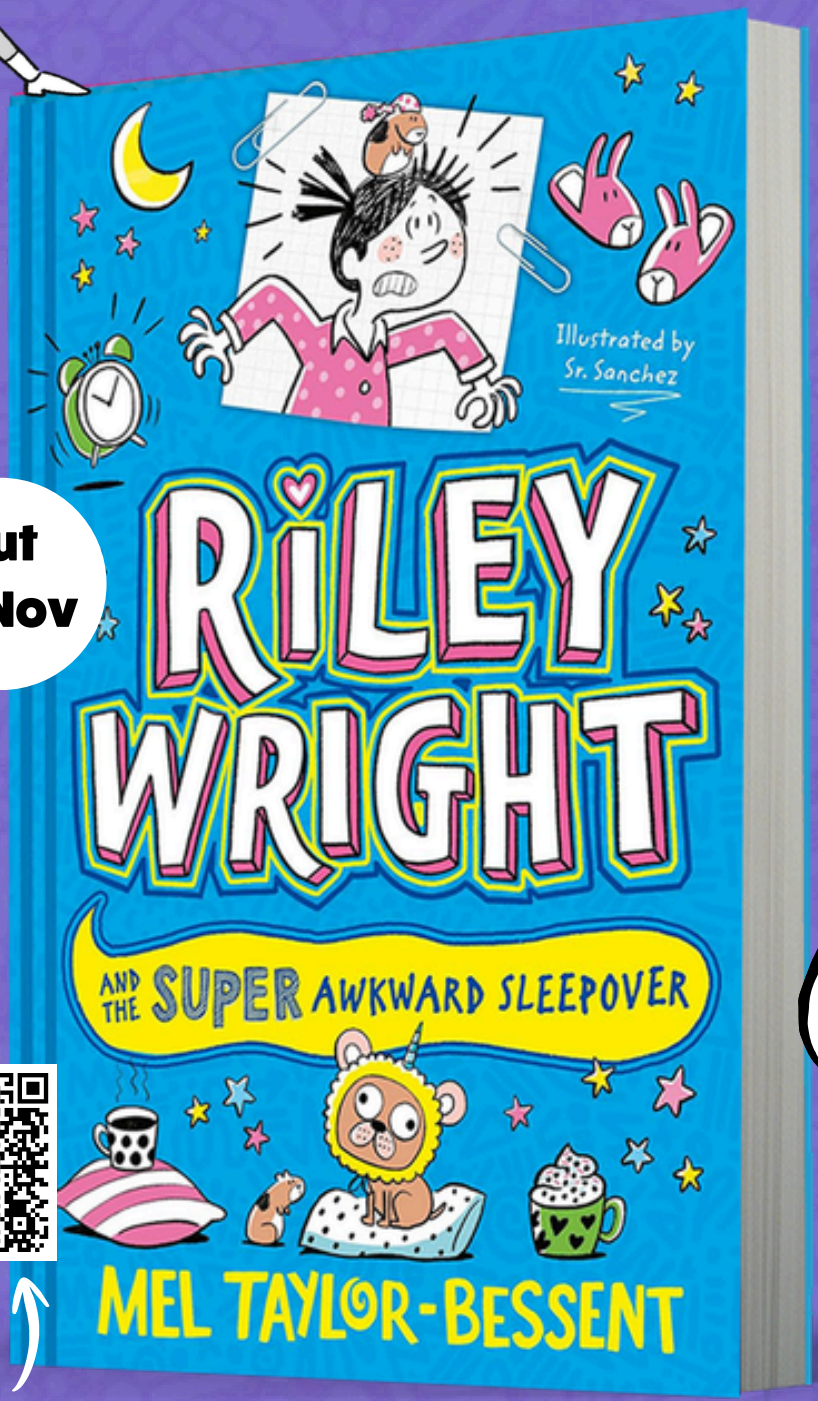
**The short story form is perfect for a quick adventure somewhere new**

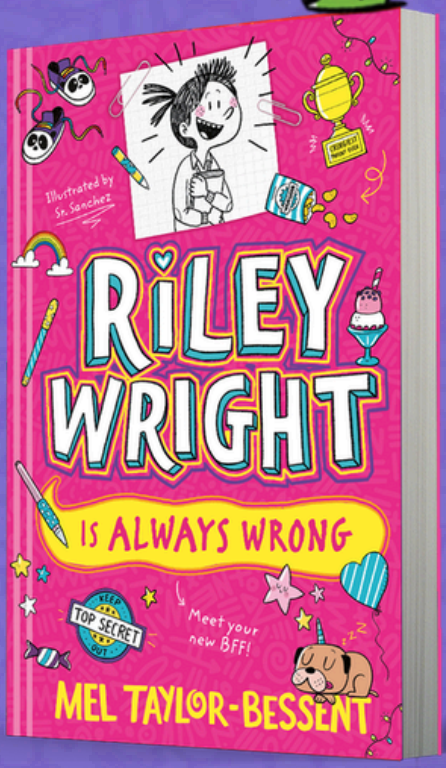
**The layout, clever use of typography and illustrations make the stories exciting and approachable**

CLICK HERE TO READ EXTRACT

# SLEEPOVER SEASON IS HERE!






**Out 5th Nov**

Scan or click here to pre-order










illustrations (c) Sr Sanchez 2026

# NEW CHILDREN'S BOOKS:
## Middle Grade: ages 9+




Out now!

Meet Cinnamon Crumb. In the town of Marzipan, home to bakers of near-magical talent, Cinnamon burns toast. She's no baker - but she is about to become a baking detective.

**Wonka meets The Great British Bake-Off**

**Lashings of secrets and sabotage and illustrations on every page!**

**'A deliciously fun, feel-good mystery.'**
Hannah Gold, author of 'The Last Bear'

CLICK HERE TO READ EXTRACT




Out now!

Welcome to the seriously weird town of Chicken Hill - three MORE brilliantly hilarious and off-the-wall stories in one full-colour graphic novel, perfect for fans of 'Bunny vs Monkey'.

**In Chicken Hill, there's only one rule: if you think things can't get weirder, they always can.**




Book 1

**Proper funny cartooning - I love it'**
Jim Smith, author of 'My Big Fat Poo Diary'

CLICK HERE TO READ EXTRACT




Out now!

Test your instincts with some of the most unbelievable news stories on the planet in this fascinating book from multi-award-winning children's magazine The Week Junior.

**Packed full with fascinating stories taken directly from the news...**




More books from The Week Junior including the ultimate guides to help children make sense of the world

CLICK HERE TO READ EXTRACTS

# SPREAD CHEER ALL YEAR WITH THE CHRISTMAS CARROLLS!









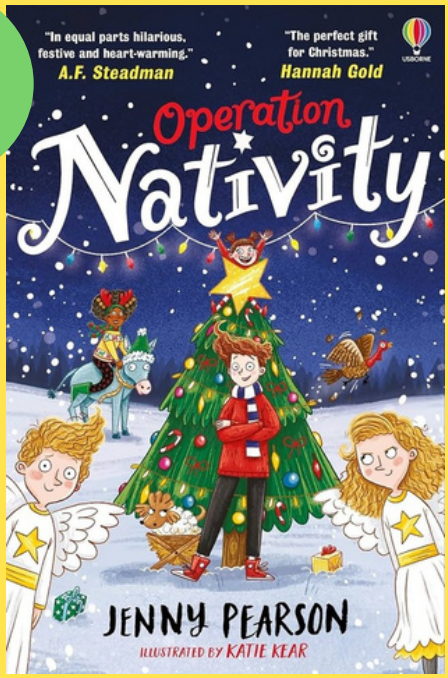



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Illustrations © 2021 Selom Sunu

# BOOK REVIEWS & RECOMMENDATIONS

For ages 9+

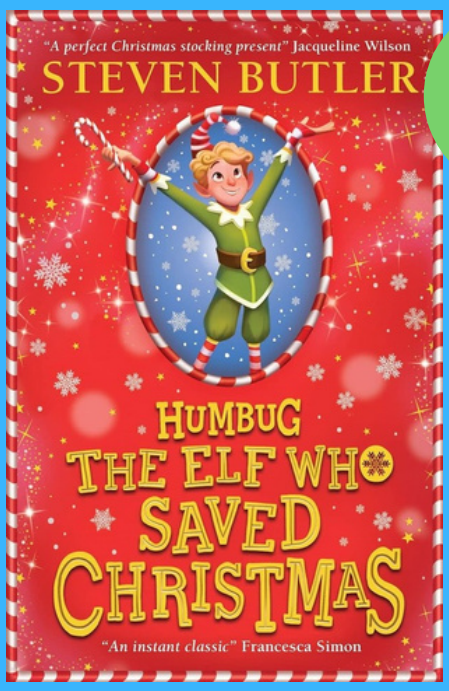



'Operation Nativity' is a perfect celebration of this festive period – it really captures that feeling during the run-up to Christmas for children and adults, reimagines the Christmas story to today (an absolutely genius idea!) and also explores the beautiful inter-generational relationship between a grandfather and his grandchildren. Two particular moments at the end had me sobbing but then in a heartbeat, Jenny has you laughing again - she can wrap those emotional moments tightly amongst humour so it doesn't feel too heavy for younger readers.



**By Tom Griffiths, Headteacher & book blogger @checkemoutbooks**

For ages 8+




'Humbug The Elf Who Saved Christmas' is about a family of elves who are treated differently from others. They work in the R.P.D (reindeer poo disposal) department where nothing is as jolly as they would like. Throughout the story, the Humbugs prove that even the smallest elves can make a big difference. This book is amazing because even though nothing is going to plan, everyone ends up having a wonderful time. The message at the heart is that not everything needs to be perfect to have a great Christmas. I would recommend this book to anyone who enjoys Christmas and adventure.

**By Elsie, age 11**



# Reading for Pleasure

## Tips from the Open University team

### The Reading for Pleasure team recommend...




**Ages 7-14**

Full of wintry words and images to enjoy aloud

Perfect for dipping in and out of together

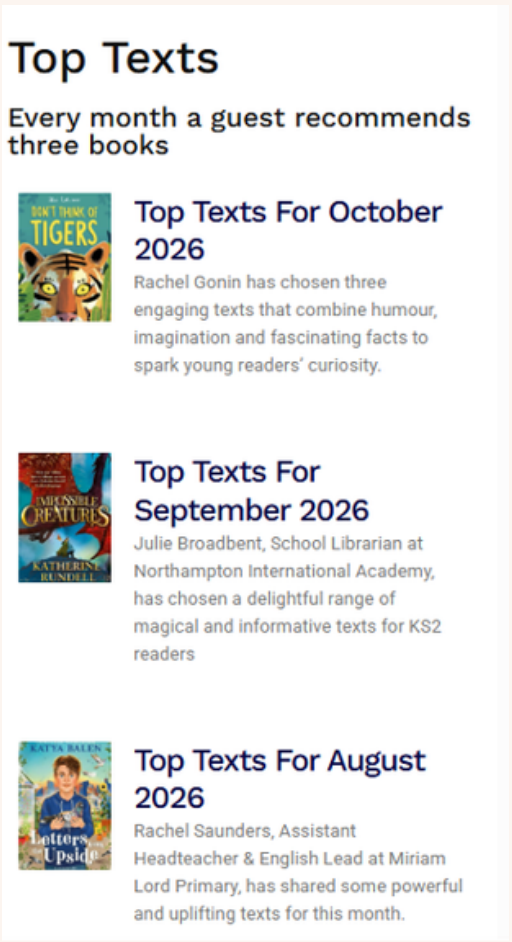
Choose a favourite poem and share it with someone else!

## Give the gift of reading

**Reading recommendations are a lovely way to connect with others. This winter, why not...**

- Swap a favourite read with someone else
- Recommend something you've loved to a friend or family member
- Visit the library together and choose something for each other
- Share an old favourite – books don't have to be new to make great gifts!

**Explore our 'top texts' collection to discover something new together Texts & Authors - Reading for Pleasure**



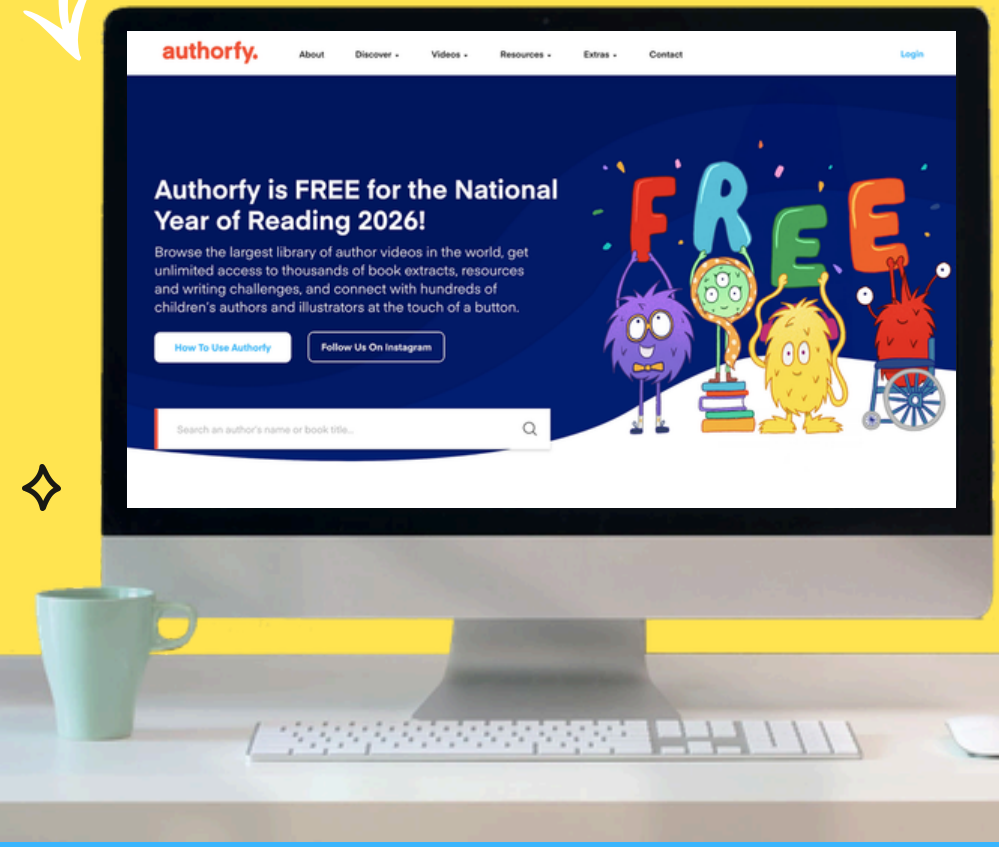

The Open University

Reading for Pleasure

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Proud to support The National Year of Reading 2026.

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## November Books of the Month on Authorfy















# BOOKDROP!

## In partnership with the UK's publishing industry...

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Getting children reading

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a world of author videos & book resources

National Literacy Trust
Change your story

SLA
School Library Association

Reading for Pleasure

Empathy Lab
READ • CONNECT • ACT

Read for Good

The Children's Literacy Charity

Bookmark Reading Charity

World Book Day

Andersen Press

Chicken House

Bloomsbury

David Fickling Books

ff

Farshore

hachette Children's Group

HCCB

Macmillan Children's Books

Nosy Crow

Oxford Children's

Little Tiger

Piccadilly

Quarto

Simon & Schuster

Penguin Random House Children's

Walker Books

Usborne

Scholastic