

## INFORMATION BOOK AWARD



# Book Club Resources

FOR SCHOOLS



Authors'  
Licensing and  
Collecting  
Society

INFORMATION  
BOOK AWARD 2025

# The Information Book Award

The Information Book Award is an annual event created to support school libraries in celebrating the value of non-fiction books. By recognising excellence, the award aims to highlight the outstanding quality of information books available for children and young people.

A panel of expert judges selects the winning titles, and many hundreds of pupils in schools participate in the IBA Book Club, voting for the Children's Choice in each category and an overall favourite.

The IBA Shortlist is grouped into three age ranges:

- Seven and under
- Eight to twelve
- Thirteen to sixteen

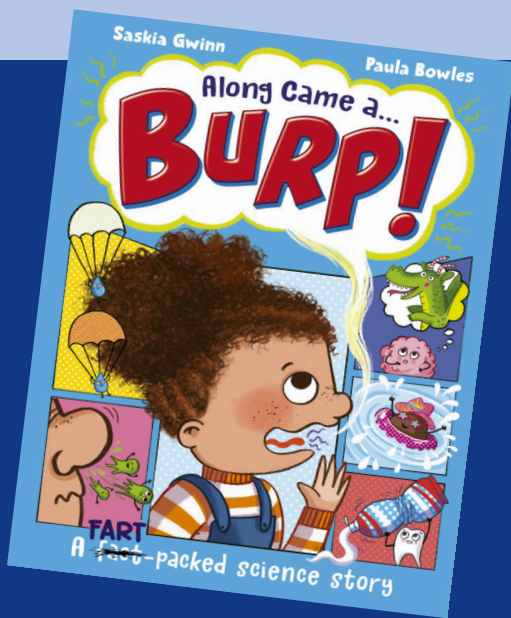
A recent study by Farshore, HarperCollins UK and the School Library Association has revealed the enormous positive impact that a relaxed, librarian-led book club can have on reading engagement, educational outcomes, and pupil wellbeing. We want as many schools as possible to engage with the IBA Book Club, get pupils talking about information books, and share their opinions with us!

This resource pack includes information about all the shortlisted titles, as well as suggested activities and discussion topics to use with each book.

You can also download a full Book Club Toolkit from the SLA website to help support you to work with pupils to take part in the awards.

Designed as a book club programme, the Toolkit can be used as an adaptable ideas bank, helping your pupils to engage with the IBA in a way that works for your setting.

**Download the IBA Book Club Toolkit at**  
**[www.sla.org.uk/iba](http://www.sla.org.uk/iba)**



0-7  
years

# Along Came a... Burp!

Published by Bonnier Books ISBN 9781800785175

A fart-packed science story all about the human body. Snot, wees, farts, feelings... they all come from somewhere, and that's you! But what starts a wee? Where do burps go after they've escaped? And why is a sneeze so loud? *Along Came a... Burp* answers all these questions about the human body and more, in hilarious comic-book style. Featuring a host of colourful characters - from stinky poos to speedy sneezes - each with their own mini story to tell about exactly how they came along. A great way to introduce young readers to human biology and spark curiosity in science.

## Activity / Discussion suggestions

- Read aloud the book with your group and invite them to participate as each 'character' - and try to be the various bodily functions. Invite pupils to think about why things like farts make us laugh! What other sounds do they think are funny?
- Invite each member of the group - either in pairs or individually - to find out more about each body part mentioned in the story. What else can they discover about the intestines? Nose? Skin? What other bodily functions can they think of?
- Invite pupils to imagine they are travelling through the human body just like the different characters. Can they describe what they see/feel/hear/smell? Invite them to draw a comic strip of their journey.
- Dreamscape - like the girl in the story, we all dream. If they could go anywhere in their dreams where would it be? Invite pupils to share their dreams and then draw them.

## About the author

Saskia Gwinn has spent nearly 20 years carefully crafting beautiful bestselling and award-winning children's books. She has worked as Head of Children's Non-fiction for Bloomsbury Publishing and Editorial Director for Hachette Children's Group. Saskia lives in Hertfordshire with her two boys who hope dinosaurs will one day revisit Earth. Until that happens, she tells them that everything on the planet has an equally exciting story to tell. Saskia's first non-fiction book, *Scientists are Saving the World*, was the Bookseller's Association Indie Book of the Month July 2022, selected for The Summer Reading Challenge at Suffolk Libraries 2022, and longlisted for the SLA Information Book Award 2023.

## About the illustrator

Paula Bowles has worked as an illustrator since she graduated from Falmouth University in 2007, and recently relocated from Bristol to Weston-super-Mare. Paula's book *Tiny Crab is a Tidy Crab*, published in 2022, won the Portsmouth Picture Book Award 2023. She also won the Lancashire School Library Service Brilliant book Award 2023 for *Marv and the Mega Robot*. *Marv and the Ultimate Superpower* was a World Book Day book in 2024. She has been shortlisted for the Indie Book Awards 2023 and The Alligators Mouth Award 2023. She is also the illustrator of the *Mazy the Movie Star* picture book series written by Hollywood star Isla Fisher.

# Me and My Hair

Published by Usborne ISBN 9781805312703

A heart-warming journey of learning to love the hair you have, and the person you are. The journey to love your hair can be a long, tangly one. It's not always easy to love your curls and coils but this joyful book, gives children a BOOST on the journey to self-love. Follow Kyra as she shares her thoughts and feelings about her amazing Afro hair, and the facts she learns about all kinds of hair types and styles. After a trip to the hairdresser's, Kyra's school friends have lots of questions for her, and she has lots for them too. Learn about straight hair, coily hair, red hair, cornrows, French braids and more in this celebration of all things HAIR.



## Activity / Discussion suggestions

- There are lots of interesting hair facts in this story. Ask pupils to share the fact that interested them most and why. What interesting facts do they know about themselves, their family and where they come from that they can share with the group? Make a collage of all the facts to celebrate these discoveries.
- Kyra keeps a journal for her Big Thoughts. Ask pupils to think about why this is a good way to share how you feel about things that happen. We all have big thoughts. Make a book group journal of big thoughts, good, bad or just interesting and note them down every time you meet, to make a book group story!
- This book celebrates the fact that everyone is different. Ask pupils to look at each other – what things are the same and what things are different? They might have blue or brown eyes, be tall or short or like Kyra and Mia, have different hair colours or types. Invite pupils to share one thing they like about themselves (it might be about their hair, their eyes or anything else!) – and encourage the whole group to celebrate this with them!
- Kyra has a celebration hair party for her birthday. Invite pupils to draw what hairstyle or wig they would wear to the party to represent the things they love, just like Kyra and her friends do.

## About the author

Kimberley Kinloch always loved reading and writing from a very young age. One of her earliest memories is eagerly reading her own stories to her primary school class, every week. She went on to study Creative Writing at Roehampton University and later became a Children's Bookseller at Waterstones. This was where she fell in love with children's books and never looked back. After university, she knew she wanted to work in children's publishing and eventually became a member of the brilliant Usborne sales team. However, she recently returned to her writing roots, joining the buzzing editorial team. Now she can be found writing stories for Usborne or reading stories to her two young daughters – feeling so happy she didn't give up on her dream.

## About the illustrator

Jessica Gibson is a mostly self-taught freelance illustrator who graduated from Wayne County Community College with an associate of arts degree. Though she primarily illustrates children's books, Gibson also creates artwork for magazines and has an interest in character design. With a pen and tablet by her side, she loves creating adorable, whimsical, and sometimes quirky illustrations, ready to brighten up everyone's heart.

0-7  
years

# This Book Will Make You An Artist

Published by Nosy Crow ISBN 9781839944758



Paint a still-life like Vincent Van Gogh! Create a cubist collage like Pablo Picasso! Make a polka-dot pumpkin like Yayoi Kusama! This book will make you an artist as you explore 25 different art techniques – from cave painting to contemporary performance – inspired by ground-breaking artists from around the world. And discover famous masterpieces with photographs of real works of art! Pick up your pencils, collect your collage materials and find out more about some of world's best-known creatives in this fact-filled book full of step-by-step activities.

## Activity / Discussion suggestions

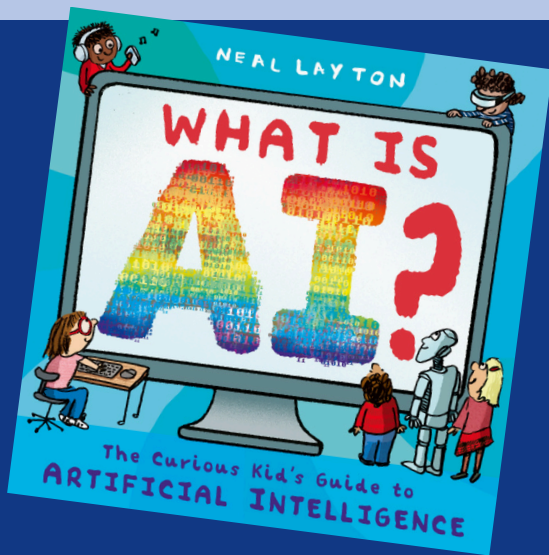
- The most important thing needed for being an artist is imagination. Start a discussion with pupils to think about what it means to 'imagine'. Can they think about when they have 'imagined' something? What kinds of things have they imagined? Invite them to create an imaginary friend and draw a picture of them.
- Depending on what resources you have to hand, consider following the suggestions in the book itself, inviting pupils to choose one or more of the different styles of art to try. Which artist is their favourite? Can they make their imaginary friend in the style of the artist or artwork they like the most?!
- Invite pupils to share their thoughts about creating and making 'art'. Look at some of the pictures in the book; ask them which artists they like and which they don't. What type of art would the pupils like to create? Explain that art is very subjective – we all like different types of art and it's ok if we don't like the same types – with art there is no 'right' or 'wrong'; it is about expressing our imagination in our own way!
- Make a colour-wheel just like in the book! Invite pupils to share what their favourite colour is and why.

## About the author

Ruth Millington is an art historian and author, researching and writing about great artists, muses and masterpieces. For her first adult art book, *Muse*, Ruth worked like an art detective, uncovering the real-life people found in famous portraits. She has appeared on TV and radio, telling stories about Surrealism, Frida Kahlo and other artists from around the world. She was brought up on the sunny island of Bermuda but now lives in the rainier city of Birmingham in England. When she is not working, Ruth loves to read, sing along to music and decorate her home with lots and lots of art. She also likes to drink tea and paint pictures, and sometimes dips brushes in her mug by accident!

## About the illustrator

Ellen Surrey is an illustrator out of sunny Los Angeles, California. Blending her love of mid-century design and vintage children's books, Ellen enjoys finding beauty in the past and colourfully sharing it with a contemporary audience. She's illustrated many books about inspirational people, including Dolly Parton! Her work has appeared in *The New York Times*, *The New Yorker*, and *The Los Angeles Times*. When she isn't working, Ellen enjoys watching old movies and visiting her favourite thrift stores.



# What is AI?

Published by Hachette Children's ISBN 9781444975581

An easy-to-understand picture book explaining AI to young readers, whilst celebrating how amazing human brains really are! Everyone is talking about artificial intelligence – and we all have lots of questions. What exactly is it? Why is it such a big deal? Are there any risks? And how is it going to transform our lives? This title explains all there is to know about AI, from the early computers that could only solve sums to the AI programs of today that can recognise human speech and recommend TV shows – and what AI might be able to do in the future. Along the way, readers will learn just how incredible their human brains really are, and what intelligence is all about.

## Activity / Discussion suggestions

- This book explains all about AI. Before you read the book with pupils, invite them to share what they think Artificial Intelligence is? Illicit their understanding of it and then ask them to listen closely as you read the book. After reading, invite them to share anything new they learnt and if they have changed their minds about how they feel about AI?
- In the book we learn that the human brain is the most amazing computer in the universe. Everything we do is controlled by our brains! Ask pupils to draw a picture of themselves (and their brain if they want to!). Can they think of all the brilliant things their brain helps them do, perhaps without even realising it, and label them on their picture?
- The book tells us that there are tiny computers all around us – in mobile phones, cars, laptops, watches. Ask pupils to look around the room or think about the school or even their homes – can they spot where there might be computers at work? Can they draw a map of the room or school identifying all the computers at work?
- We can use computers to solve lots of different problems and AI is making that even easier. Invite pupils to think about what problem they would solve using AI if they could, and why. Can they draw a picture of an AI robot that will help solve this problem – what would it look like?
- Computers and AI can be amazing. But they aren't human! What kinds of things can we do, that computers and AI can't?

## About the author - illustrator

Neal Layton was born and raised in Chichester, West Sussex but has since lived in Newcastle, Brighton, London, Slough and Glasgow. While he was growing up he spent much of his time playing in the dirt, making homemade catapults and drawing pictures. Neal wanted to be an astronomer, but then decided that he would become an artist instead. He studied Art all the way up to a Masters, achieving special commendations for his work along the way.

His studio is a room in his house where he can make a mess. The walls are covered with pictures, drawings, scribbles, badges, photos, posters, packaging and anything else that he finds inspiring. He uses all sorts of different media to make his illustrations: pencils, paint, pens, ink, pieces of collage, biro, photocopiers, cameras, a computer, bits of stick, old toothbrushes, dough, hair, leaves, anything that comes to hand...



8-12  
years

# How to Walk on the Moon

## And Other Incredible Ideas About Physics

Published by Arcturus ISBN 9781398833340

Join Professor Katzenstein, the world's greatest scientist-adventurer, on his mission to explore the world of physics in this fun-filled, full-colour book. The Doc has a passion for discovery and loves all things strange, unexpected, and surprising.

- Discover how to make a rainbow
  - Or how to bend a spoon
  - Or how to look back in time
  - Or how to split an atom!
- Kids will be laughing and gasping in equal measure.

### Activity / Discussion suggestions

Before reading this book, invite pupils to share what they think or understand about physics. Do they find it interesting? If not, why not? After reading the book, use the discussion prompts below to explore thinking about physics:

- What is the most interesting fact you discovered and why?
- Which area of physics would you most like to know more about?
- Can you share three key ideas about how this book makes you feel about science?
- Would you consider being a scientist after reading this book?
- "Physics is about looking for answers to difficult questions" – can you think of a question(s) that you would most like to answer using physics to help?
- Invite pupils to debate whether they think physics is useful – separate them into two groups, one for and one against. What evidence can they find to support their arguments?

Professor Katzenstein is a great comic-book character created to help readers learn about science. Think about the different aspects of physics featured in the book. Invite pupils to create their own science comic character who can help readers learn about physics.

The discovery of gravity is one of the most famous scientific discoveries of all time. Invite pupils to find out about other scientific discoveries and create a comic strip to describe it.

### About the author

William Potter has been a writer and editor of educational and activity books for adults and children for more than two decades. His published works include a history of humanity, 50 greatest engineers, museum handbooks, titles on astronomy, prehistoric life, the environment, new tech, anime, guides to drawing comic-book and fantasy art, along with numerous science and mathematics titles for school-age readers.

### About the illustrator

Richard Watson is an illustrator based in North Lincolnshire, surrounded by woodland and countryside. As a child Richard could always be found either with his nose in a book or with a pencil in hand doodling dragons and knights in battle. Inspired by reading comics and funny stories he would also draw and write his own comic books, igniting a love of humour and storytelling. He went on to study at the Lincoln University School of Art & Design graduating with a First Class Honours, BA in illustration.

8-12  
years

# Amazing Asia

Published by Wide-Eyed Editions ISBN 9780711288317



Welcome to Asia! Discover the incredible history and diversity of Asia in all its splendour, with this stunningly illustrated and fact-filled encyclopaedia. Dive deep into this vast and epic continent, looking at its incredible past, its fascinating present, and its exciting future. *Amazing Asia* celebrates the five geographic regions – East, West, North and Central, South and South East. *Amazing Asia* brings readers right up to date, exploring everything from the origin of Asian migration, to pockets of its culture all over the planet. Find out about Asia's reach across the globe with K-pop, martial arts, street food, sport, Bollywood, gaming and spirituality, as well as the rise in business and technology.

## Activity / Discussion suggestions

This book has a wealth of information about an incredible continent. Question prompts for discussion could include:

- What do you already know about Asia? What experiences of Asia have you had?
- Which region in this book appeals to you most and why?
- If you could choose one period of time in Asia's history to visit, when would it be and why?
- Thinking about the wildlife that can be found in Asia, which would you want to discover more about and why?
- A whole variety of religions can be found in Asia. What experience of these do you have and which one might you like to know more about?
- The architecture of Asia is amazing – what buildings and places of interest would you like to go to and why?
- What famous figures have you discovered that you didn't know anything about and what have you learnt about them?
- What are the most interesting facts you have discovered through this book?

Invite pupils to select facts from each region of Asia to create their own favourite facts booklet. As an extension, pupils could think about another country/continent they know well or are particularly interested in, and create a similar fact file about that region. They can include each of the following areas: *History Spotlight*, *People and Culture*, *Wildlife and Landscapes*, *Spectacular Sights*, *Change Makers and Superstars*, *Today, Tomorrow*. Create a display of their fact files to share with the school community.

## About the author

Rashmi Sirdeshpande is an award-winning children's author who writes a happy mix of fiction and non-fiction. She was an official World Book Day author for 2022. She loves taking big ideas and making them accessible and exciting for young readers.

## About the illustrator

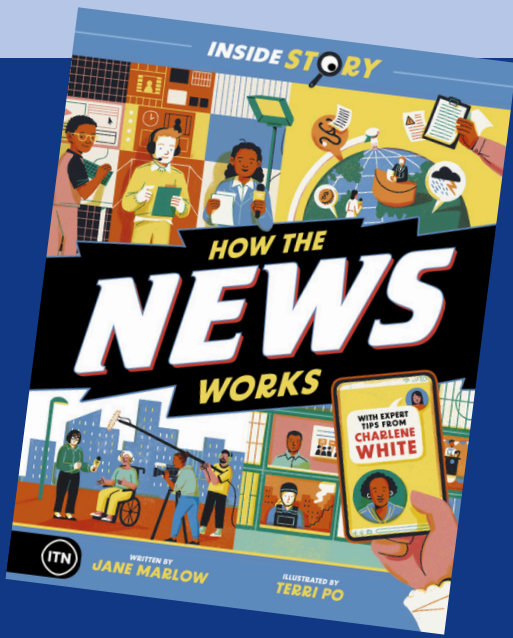
Jason Lyon is a British-Chinese illustrator fluent in both English and Chinese Mandarin. His multicultural background influences his creative process, infusing his illustrations with a unique blend of the vibrant essences of Asian and Western cultures.

8-12  
years

# How the News Works

Published by Templar Books ISBN 9781800782594

News is everywhere! But do we understand how it really works? *Inside Story: How the News Works* is a no-nonsense guide that gives the fascinating inside story on this ever-relevant topic. With accessible information and practical tips, written by the ITN News team, children will be well-equipped with the knowledge they need to navigate the tricky news landscape. Readers will learn where news came from, the history of news and how it works around the world, as well as who's who in the news process, what issues are facing the news today, what can we expect from news in the future and so much more. This approachable guide is the perfect resource to help children navigate the ever-changing world of news.



## Activity / Discussion suggestions

Access to additional resources will be useful for groups exploring this title, particularly via the internet and using recent age appropriate news cuttings if possible. Sensitivity around current topics and suitability is advised depending on what age the pupils you are working with.

Think of a news item you have read or heard about recently. Recreate the news item in the style of one of the historical methods of reporting the news: as an ancient messenger, a town crier, a written notice, or even a newspaper article.

Debate and discuss which methods of reporting the news are best and why, based on the learnings from the book. Divide the pupils into groups and invite them to argue for or against the most popular chosen method of communicating the news such as print vs digital.

There are different roles and responsibilities in making the news. Invite pupils to think about the one they would most enjoy and create a fact file of what that role entails. Can they vote for the favourite?

It's not all bad news! There is a lot of bad news reported today, but there are also publications that deliberately report good news. Invite pupils to think of good things happening in their school and local community and turn this into a news report.

Fake News is a big problem as described in the book. Ask pupils to create a poster making people aware of fake news and how to spot it. What advice can they give to help people not be tricked into believing fake news?

## About the author

Jane Marlow is a filmmaker and scriptwriter, Jane has won awards for her short films, written and story-lined for some of the UK's most-watched TV continuing dramas and had her first novel published in 2002. Jane has also enjoyed a long freelance career as a print journalist and feature writer. *Inside Story: How the News Works* is her first non-fiction book for a young audience, which she has written as part of ITN's Communications Team.

## About the illustrator

Terri Po is an illustrator who grew up in Hong Kong and is now living and working in the British countryside. Terri creates editorial illustrations, infographics and illustrated books, as well as doing live graphic facilitation. Her favourite things to draw are brains and all kinds of blobby things

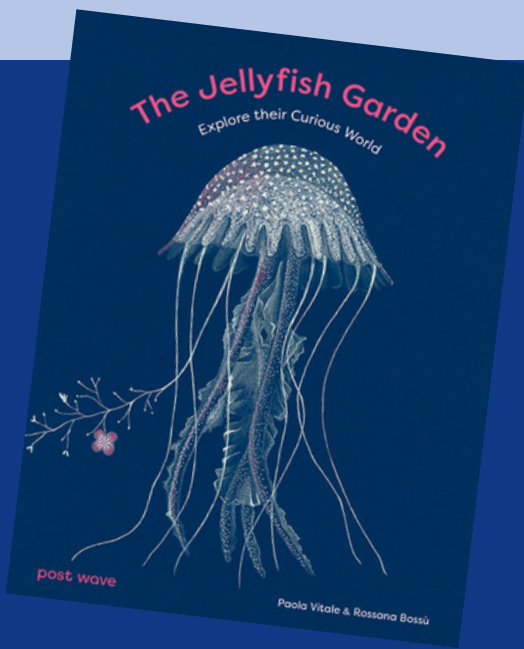
8-12  
years

# The Jellyfish Garden

Published by Post Wave Children's Books ISBN 9781836270003

From the deepest, darkest oceans to shallow coastal seas, warm tropical waters and the cold Arctic Ocean, jellyfish colour our underwater world. But what do we really know about jellyfish? Are they poisonous? Can you eat them? Is it true that they are immortal? Can they really indicate climate change?

Welcome to *The Jellyfish Garden*, where the fascinating world of jellyfish is revealed in extraordinary detail. Includes a jellyfish spotter's guide, the anatomy of a jellyfish, the importance of jellyfish in a biodiverse ecosystem and an in-depth look at their varying superpowers from their ability to self-heal to glowing in the dark.



## Activity / Discussion suggestions

Jellyfish are incredible creatures but also dangerous. What do pupils think about them? Do they like them? Invite them to share their ideas – have they ever seen one in the sea? Or been stung by one? Invite pupils to select their favourite jellyfish from the book and create a fact file for it to present back to the group. Why do they like it? What is their favourite fact about it?

What other marine animals or land mammals are there like jellyfish, that look beautiful but can also be deadly? Create a group fact file of these and discuss which one they would most like to see – or least like to!

Create a map of the jellyfish that can be found in seas around the globe, marking where each species lives.

Invite pupils to write and/or illustrate a story about a jellyfish journey through the sea, paying close attention to the descriptions of them in the book. Can they create a story about a jellyfish garden?

While some jellyfish may thrive in changing ocean conditions, many other marine creatures face serious threats from climate change. Invite pupils to write a letter to the Prime Minister about why we should protect nature and look after our marine ecosystems.

## About the author

Paola Vitale is a graduate in Biological Sciences from the University of Padua, Italy. Paola has published international scientific papers and holds a PhD in developmental biology. A teacher, she is passionate about science. Paola co-ordinates science education projects and runs training courses for other teachers.

## About the illustrator

Rossana Bossù lives in Turin and has a degree in advertising and editorial graphics. She taught at the Institute of Applied Art and Design in Turin. In 2009, she retrained as an illustrator and has won numerous awards for her work, including the prestigious Image of the Book International Prize (Russia), and the Dapeng Children's Natural Book Award (China). Her books have been translated all over the world.

13-16  
years



# Queerbook

Published by Red Shed ISBN 9780008637149

*Queerbook* is an invitation to discover and celebrate queer joy, past and present. It's a whistlestop tour of all the fun (and serious) queer stuff that the foghorn of straight culture drowns out, and that you deserve to know: heroes and histories, science and stories, art, spaces, music, film, TV, fashion – along with jargon-free breakdowns of terms from sexuality and gender identity, to code-switching, intersectionality, bi-erasure, straightwashing, and much, much more.

You don't need any specific interests to read *Queerbook* – all you need is curiosity and a desire to learn more about what it means to be LGBTQ+.

## Activity / Discussion suggestions

Invite pupils to share a fact from the book that most surprised them. What is it and why was it surprising?

*Queerbook* explores the idea of Allyship (p42). Invite pupils to consider what this term means? Have they come across it before? Would do they think it means to be an 'ally'? Draw up a list of traits that relate to being an ally – and use the list described in the book to discuss how to be inclusive of queer culture.

What aspects of queer culture do pupils find most inspiring, unexpected, influential or moving?

How has this book and the themes it explores changed their perspectives on queer culture? Encourage pupils to share their thoughts with the group and with their wider peers.

WTF History explores queer history. Invite pupils to create a timeline of significant moments in queer history and then select one to explore in more detail. They can then share their findings back with the group to increase knowledge and understanding – or present in the form of a display in the library to share learnings with the wider school community.

## About the author

Malcolm Mackenzie is an author, editor and journalist, with an encyclopaedic knowledge of pop culture. He has launched two teen magazines, winning Best Editor award from the British Society of Magazine Editors, and written books on K-Pop, BTS, Friends and Ariana Grande. He is also a regular contributor to the Guardian, GQ, Grazia and Glamour magazines.

## About the illustrator

Emily A Foster is an illustrator, artist and content creator based in Norwich, UK. Emily's work focuses on queer joy, intersectional diversity and positivity. She aims to create environments where everyone can recognise themselves authentically through increasing representation and inclusivity.



13-16  
years

# Black History for Every Day of the Year

Published by Macmillan ISBN 9781529066203

Did you know that Aretha Franklin was the first woman to be inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame? And that a Black woman discovered the cure for leprosy? Or did you know that the first accounts of a Black Samurai in Japan date back almost 500 years ago? Packed with quotes, poems, illustrations and pictures, *Black History for Every Day of the Year* gives you new insights about well known figures and inspirational unsung heroes. With stories of hope, connection and creativity, alongside tales of racism, resistance and celebration – from the nineteenth century anti-slavery movement, to World Wars I and II, to the Harlem Renaissance, Stormzy, Simone Biles and beyond.

## Activity / Discussion suggestions

As a starting point, ask each pupil to read the entry from their birthday. What does everyone think of each of these entries? Is it someone or something they knew about? Create a group birthday timeline showing each entry as a whole.

Invite pupils to select one person, one event, and one place from the book that:

- made them think differently about Black History
- made them feel inspired and hopeful
- they didn't know about and want to find out more
- they would like to celebrate

Discuss their reasons for their choices. Create a showcase (presentation/booklet/display) of their findings and ideas to inspire others to explore Black history. Highlight themes of identity and belonging to encourage further thought.

Invite pupils to select one of the historical timelines featured and choose a period from that time to explore. What else can they find out about the history of that time linked to the people and places featured in the book?

Resilience is a strong feature of the book especially linked to those who resisted oppression. Invite pupils to discuss how the actions of the people who experienced oppression can encourage us today and why is it important we know about them and their actions?

Ask pupils to discuss and debate who they believe is the most influential figure featured in the book and why? Invite them to present their findings to the group and vote for the winner.

## About the authors

David Olusoga is a British-Nigerian historian, author, presenter and BAFTA winning film-maker. He is Professor of Public History at the University of Manchester, the author of several books and a columnist for the Observer, The Voice and BBC History Magazine, also writing for the Guardian and the New Statesman. He presents the long-running BBC history series *A House Through Time* and wrote and presented the multi-award winning BBC series *Britain's Forgotten Slave Owners*. He is a contributor to *The Oxford Companion to Black British History* and in 2019 was awarded an OBE for services to history and community integration. David wrote this book with his siblings, Yinka Olusoga and Kemi Olusoga who also illustrated the book.

13-16  
years



# The History of Information

Published by DK ISBN 9780241553916

A comprehensive journey through the history of communication, from ancient symbols to the digital age. Travel through time from the earliest cave drawings and first written words to the invention of the printing press, the rise of newspapers, and the digital revolution. This book takes readers on an immersive journey, revealing how the exchange of information has driven human progress. With vivid illustrations and engaging narratives, you'll explore pivotal moments such as the creation of the first writing systems in Sumer and the dramatic rise of literacy in Europe after the invention of the printing press. Delve into the age of mass media, the impact of disinformation, and the advent of computers and the internet. Perfect for history enthusiasts, tech lovers, and anyone curious about how we got to where we are today.

## Activity / Discussion suggestions

The book describes a multitude of innovations and revolutions of information production – which event do pupils believe has had the biggest impact on society? Can they evidence their choices using information from the book? What impact did the innovation they selected have on people, how they live and work?

Divide pupils into two groups – one for technology and one against. Each group must prepare an argument for their focus and then hold a debate/discussion. Involve wider members of the school community if possible. Which group gets the most votes?

Invite pupils to choose an early form of communication from history explored in the book that has changed their perspective on how we communicate. Can they create an infographic in the style of the book about their chosen form of communication and share why it inspired them?

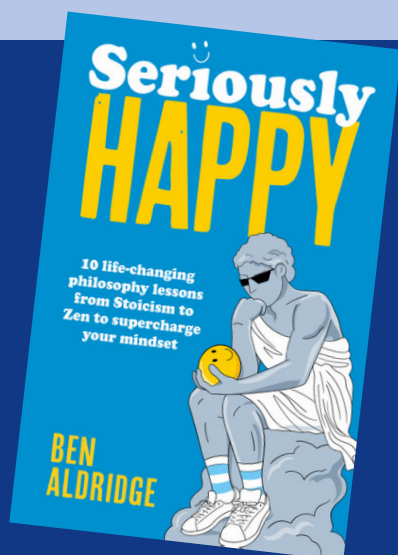
The theme of misinformation and disinformation runs throughout the book. What do pupils understand about this and how it can impact them as citizens in a democracy? Invite pupils to explore the theme of propaganda and choose a recent headline or news story that could be considered as such. Can they create a series of steps others can follow to use to check a piece of information for reliability using the advice laid out in the book?

At the end of the book the author poses a question – ‘Reality is not what it seems...Could it be possible that the world as we know it doesn't exist?’ What do pupils believe the answer to this might be? Write their responses down and add to a display inviting others in the wider school community to contribute too.

## About the author - illustrator

Chris Haughton is an Irish designer and author of such books as *Oh no, George!*, *A Bit Lost*, and *Shh! We Have a Plan*. He has published seven books and an app. Chris' books have been translated into more than 30 languages and have won awards in more than a dozen countries. *The History of Information* is his first non-fiction book.

13-16  
years



# Seriously Happy

Published by Holler ISBN 9780711297791

10 life-changing philosophy lessons from Stoicism to Zen to supercharge your mindset, *Seriously Happy* is a highly practical self-help guide exploring 10 life-changing lessons based on teachings of the ancient philosophers. Readers are encouraged to discover how Stoicism can improve your mental resilience; the calming, meditative influence of Zen; the decision-making prowess of Aristotle or the confidence-boosting ideas of the Cynic philosophers. *Seriously Happy* shows how to harness the power of ancient philosophies to deal with the real-world stress and anxieties of today.

## Activity / Discussion suggestions

This book offers various challenges to support readers to apply the learning from the philosophies covered. Each of these could be introduced as a weekly theme, with pupils keeping a journal of their thinking and learning noting what works and doesn't work for them.

Use the prompts in the book to support discussions around:

- What does 'happy' mean for you?
- Which philosophy is most appealing to you and why? Pupils could create notecards for each one and discuss the pros and cons.

Digital devices have been proven to exacerbate and even cause an increase in anxiety. Divide pupils into two groups, one for and one against digital detoxing. What arguments and evidence can they find as pros and cons for each?

There are various 'happy hacks' cited throughout the books – invite pupils to collate these into a one page guide for someone new to philosophical thinking. What do they think are the most important facts to communicate?

## About the author

Ben Aldridge is a teacher, author and speaker on philosophy, comfort zones, mental health and adventure. He is the author of *How to Control the Uncontrollable*, *How to Be Comfortable with Being Uncomfortable* and the *Get Out of Your Comfort Zone Cards*. Ben has spoken to audiences around the world, appeared on TV and radio, and has been interviewed on high-profile podcasts. His books have been translated into 6 languages and featured on a variety of bestseller lists. His message encourages others to build resilience by stepping outside of their comfort zones in a host of different ways. His methods and thinking are inspired by ancient Greek philosophy and modern psychology.

## About the illustrator

Michelle Brackenborough is an award-winning book cover designer, art director and illustrator, based in London. She has over 20 years experience working at some of the UK's leading publishing houses, including HarperCollins, Puffin Books and Egmont. Michelle has spent the last 11 years at Hachette Children's Group, working across the fiction list from bestselling authors such as Leigh Bardugo and Alex Bracken to exciting debut authors like Erik J. Brown.

**REMEMBER TO CAST  
YOUR VOTE!**

Voting for the Children's Choice  
Categories closes on 18 October 2025

Vote online at: [sla.org.uk/iba](http://sla.org.uk/iba)



Authors'  
Licensing and  
Collecting  
Society

 hachette  
CHILDREN'S GROUP



**Peters**



**The School Library Association supports all schools to develop their library provision with advice, resources, training and professional development.**

Through SLA membership, we can help you create and sustain a vibrant school-wide reading and learning culture with a library at its heart.

Membership includes access to free and discounted professional development training, alongside member networking events and exclusive opportunities. We offer bespoke training and free advice to help you deliver effective library provision in your settings.

**Find out more at [sla.org.uk](https://sla.org.uk)**

**INFORMATION  
BOOK AWARD 2025**