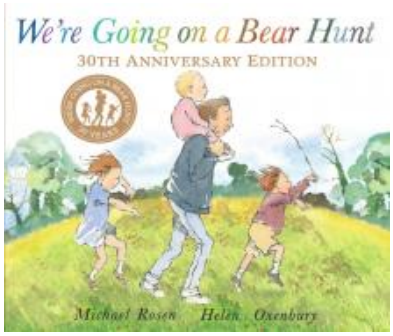
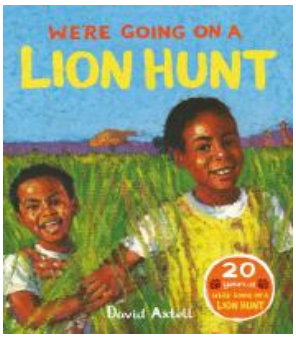
St Mark's Must Reads - EYFS

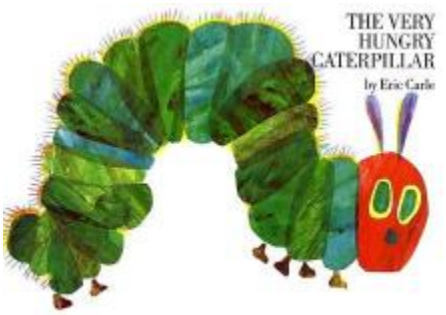
In Reception, our children encounter some of the classic stories. Children are presented with characters from different cultures. Stories have been chosen so that children can develop the ability to spot links both between stories and their own experiences. Some stories include those told through rhyme, with repetitive phrases and can be brought to life with actions and participation by all. Others are imaginative but all are our favourites and just joyous to share.



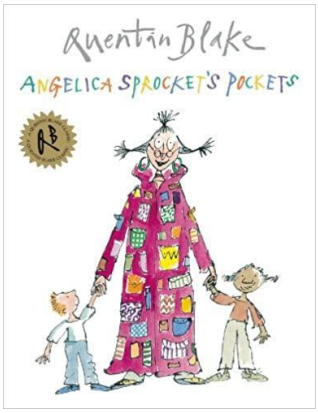
The pattern of the book invites joining in: the repetition of the verse, the different obstacles the hunters meet, with their accompanying sounds and movements, and the speeded up replay of the return journey. Helen Oxenbury's illustrations are a perfect match, with alternating pages of colour and black and white, and pictures that reflect both measured movement and comic strip speed. The wonderful endpapers depict the same seascape by day and by night



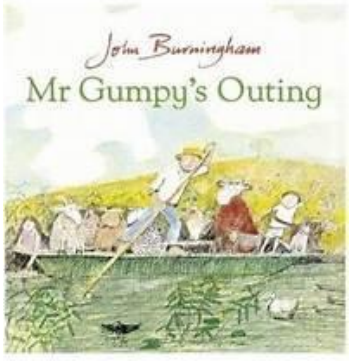
A variation on the traditional rhyme *We're Going on a Bear Hunt*, familiar through the picture book by Michael Rosen and Helen Oxenbury. In this version, two sisters bravely set out to hunt a lion – swish swash through the long grass, splish splash through the lake, squish squelch through the swamp. But, when they find the real thing inside a cave, they hastily turn and run for home. As well as the lion, other African wild animals can be seen in the pictures.



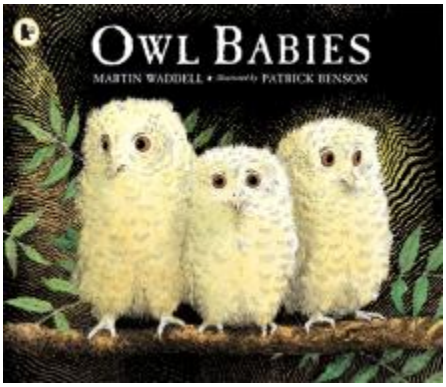
In this picture book classic, an increasingly portly caterpillar chomps his way through an astonishing diet of fruit, cheese, cake, pie and other assorted food, his progress tracked for the reader by a series of holes. Eventually he builds a cocoon and emerges as a butterfly. A story about growth and change with a supportive text for beginner readers, exemplified by the repeated phrase 'but he was still hungry'.



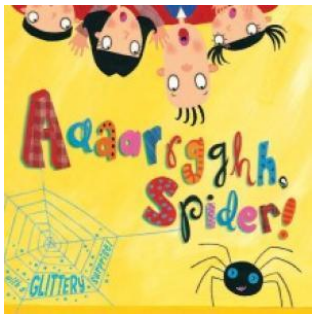
Angelica Sprocket lives next door. Her overcoat has pockets galore! And you'll never guess what's in them... Prepare to be surprised, thrilled and tickled pink by Angelica Sprocket's never-ending pockets, and the marvellous things she keeps in them! An imaginative book with rhythm and rhyme.



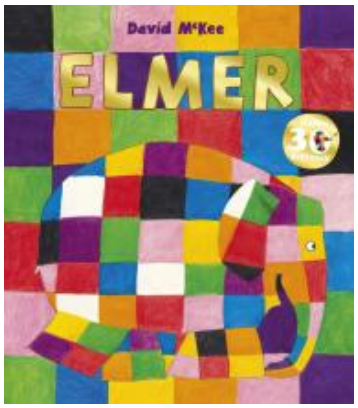
Two children and a variety of animals insist on accompanying Mr. Gumpy on a boat trip - each request is a differently worded variation on the same basic theme. Everyone's having a lovely time until the animals start kicking, bleating, hopping and flapping and the boat starts to rock. What will happen...?



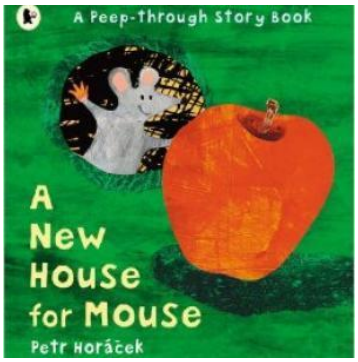
Separation is one of the big traumas of childhood. In this utterly simple yet deeply moving picture book all that happens is that three owlets are left alone whilst their mother goes off into the night to hunt for food. The older ones think and reason ('Owls think a lot') - but Bill, the youngest can only cry 'I want my mummy!'



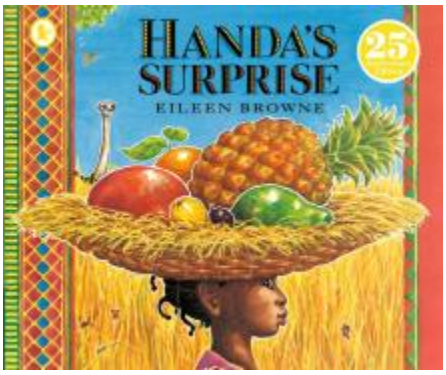
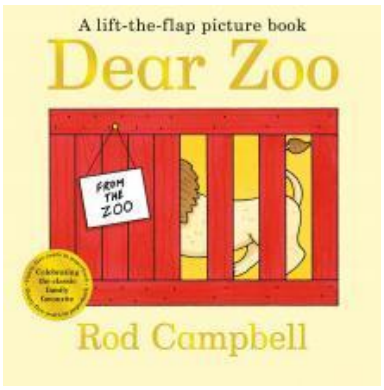
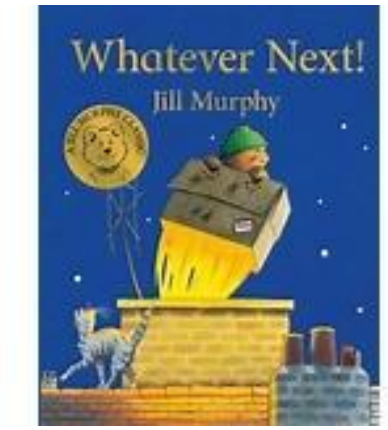
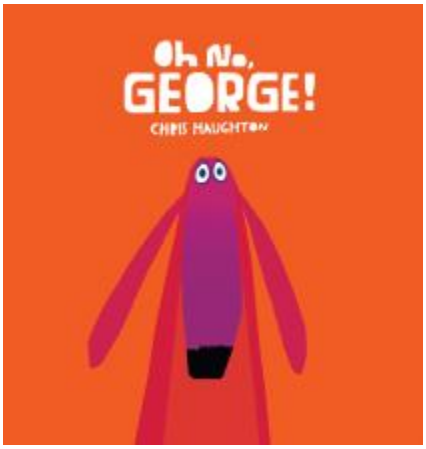
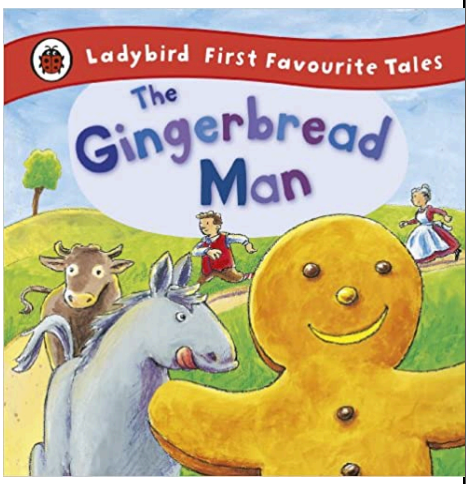
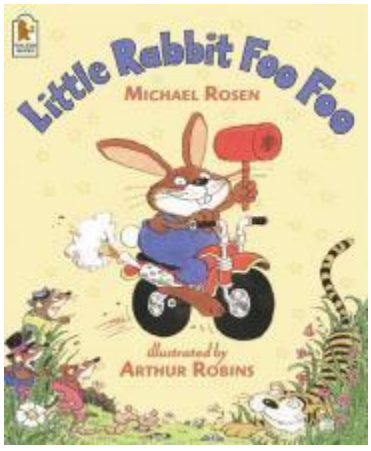
A friendly spider is keen to ingratiate herself as a potential pet for a family she has selected. She demonstrates her superior qualities by showing how she can dance, keep clean and find her own food, but the family's response is a refrain of "'Aaaarrgghh, Spider!" "Out you go!'". However, when she is outside they

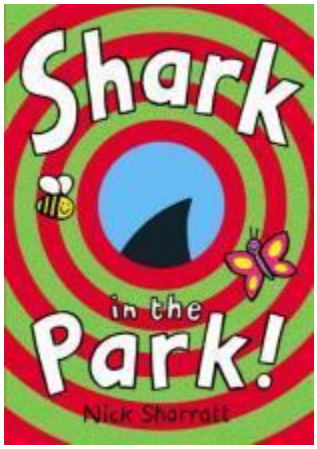


Elmer the patchwork elephant rolls in berry juice to make himself grey like all the other elephants. However, it doesn't take long for his sense of fun and his



A mouse peers out of her hole one day and spies a huge apple. The search is on to find a hole which can accommodate both her and this delicious food. She approaches several but each already has an occupant and

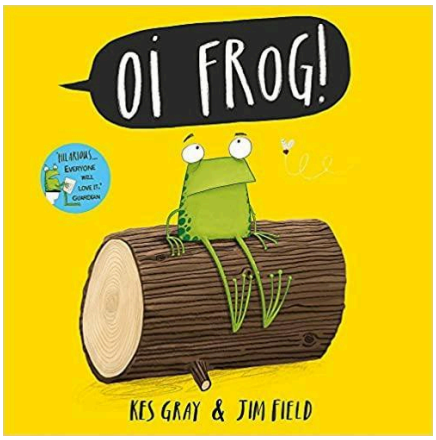
see her most special skill of all – the ability to spin beautiful sparkly webs, and decide that the spider would be a welcome pet, after all.	'true colours' to emerge.	there is no room. A cutaway hole in the page allows a view of the inside of each abode. An enjoyable patterned and repetitive text which contains echoes of fairy tales such as The Enormous Turnip and Goldilocks and the Three Bears.
 Handa sets off to visit her friend Akeyo with a wonderful array of fruit in a basket on her head. As she walks across the Kenyan plain a variety of animals steal the fruit without her knowing. However, there is a surprise in store for both girls at the journey's end. Comparable with Pat Hutchins' *Rosie's Walk* in that the reader knows more than the central character does.	 A child writes to the zoo to ask for a pet and is sent all sorts of unsuitable animals until finally a 'perfect' puppy arrives. A lift-the-flap book which presents the reader with a guessing game. Clues are provided by a glimpse of part of each animal, by the adjectives used to describe them, and by the packaging in which they come.	 The moon and back before bathtime? Whatever next! Join Baby Bear as he finds a rocket, makes friends with an owl and has a picnic on the moon! A brilliant story about creativity and imagination.
 Harris is going out and leaving George the dog at home alone. Can he be trusted to behave himself? Can George trust himself? His escapades are described in a patterned text with a repetitive refrain which encourages prediction and invites participation from listeners. George's expressive eyes humorously reveal his shifting emotions.	 Based on the traditional fairy tale *The Gingerbread Man*, this vibrantly illustrated story is sure to become a favourite in every home. Follow the gingerbread man as he tries to escape all manner of hungry animals and people! This book contains lots of funny rhythm and rhyme to delight young children.	 The rhythmically told tale of a gung-ho rabbit who is given three chances by the Good Fairy to reform his ways and cease 'scooping up' the other creatures of the forest and 'bopping them on the head'. But does he heed her warnings?



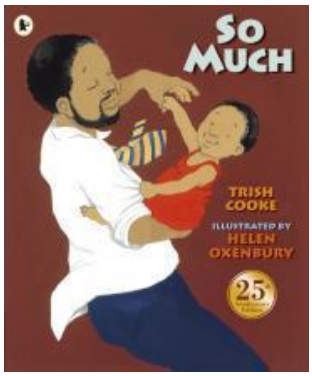
In this inventive hole in the page book, Timothy Pope takes his new telescope to the park and seems to see sharks everywhere. However, when the page is turned and the whole picture is revealed, the viewer gets a different perspective. But is Timothy entirely wrong about there being a shark in the park? A repetitive text and picture cues support inexperienced readers.



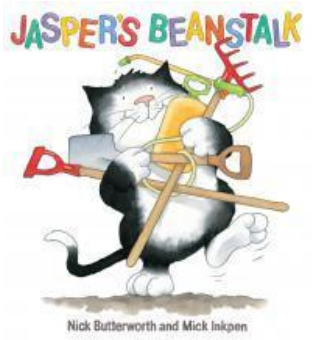
A simple rhyming verse is repeated throughout this book with only the verb - walking, creeping, running - describing a child's movement through the jungle changing each time. The sound made by each animal he encounters is anticipated on the page before it appears. Clear, bright collage illustrations provide picture cues.



Cats sit on mats, hares sit on chairs, mules sit on stools and gophers sit on sofas. But Frog does not want to sit on a log. Jam-packed with animals and silliness, this original rhyming story is guaranteed to get children giggling!



A large and loving picture book in which aunts, uncles, cousins and grandparents come to the baby's house for a surprise birthday party for his Dad. They all love the baby SO MUCH that he falls asleep, exhausted from all the attention. A fine repetitive text replete with the cadence of Caribbean speech is brilliantly illustrated by Helen Oxenbury, who captures the togetherness of this extended family with warmth and humour.



Jasper the cat plants a bean and impatiently nurtures its growth. A simple text with which children will quickly become familiar, incorporating the days of the week. It has lessons about the patience involved in growing and caring for plants. It is not until Jasper has given up on his beanstalk that it perversely begins to grow very quickly; the final illustration is of Jasper's tail and hind paw disappearing up the beanstalk in search of giants.



It's Okay to Be Different cleverly delivers the important messages of acceptance, understanding and confidence in an accessible, child-friendly format featuring Todd Parr's trademark bold, bright colours and silly scenes. Targeted to young children first beginning to read, this book will inspire kids to celebrate their individuality through acceptance of others and self-confidence.
It's Okay to be Different is designed to encourage early literacy, enhance emotional development, celebrate multiculturalism, and promote character growth.