

# Recommended books for Year 4



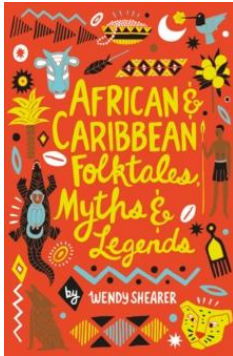
Giving children a wide variety of exciting and engaging new books to choose from is vital to their development as a reader and forms a key part of our Young Readers Programme. Here, we've put together a list of books for ages 8–9 that is sure to appeal to a broad range of interests!

Click [here](#) to find all these titles on Browns Books.

## Picture books

	<p><b>Coming to England</b> by Floella Benjamin and Diane Ewen</p> <p>A picture book story about the triumph of hope, love, and determination, <i>Coming to England</i> is the inspiring true story of Baroness Floella Benjamin: from Trinidad, to London as part of the Windrush generation, to the House of Lords</p> <p>Interest age: 7+      Reading age: 7 – 10</p>	<p><b>Migration journeys</b></p>
	<p><b>The Grand Hotel of Feelings</b> by Lidia Brankovic</p> <p>A 2025 Read for Empathy Collection title. Some are fun and some are tricky, but all are welcome! Welcome to the Grand Hotel of Feelings, where all kinds of feelings come and stay.</p> <p>Interest age: 7+      Reading age: 7 – 10</p>	<p><b>Feelings</b></p>
	<p><b>The Café at the Edge of the Woods</b> by Mikey Please</p> <p>A Rene's dreams have finally come true! She's opened a café beside an enchanted wood, and with the help of a newfound waiter, Glumfoot, she is ready to serve the finest cuisine!</p> <p>Interest age: 7+      Reading age: 6 – 9</p>	<p><b>Fantasy</b></p>
	<p><b>Letters in Charcoal</b> by Irene Vasco</p> <p>In the pueblo of Palenque in Colombia, hardly anybody knows how to read. Curious about the letters her older sister Gina receives from a young doctor each month — letters that she is sure contain promises of love — one young girl makes a decision that will change her life, and the lives of every child in the pueblo, forever.</p> <p>Interest age: 7+      Reading age: 6–9</p>	<p><b>Columbian stories</b></p>

## Story collections



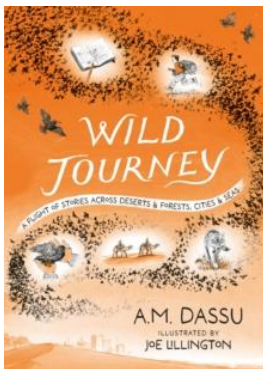
### African Caribbean Folktales, Myths & Legends by Wendy Shearer

Enjoy a rich collection of folktales, myths and legends from all over Africa and the Caribbean. From the trickster tales of Anansi the spider, to the story of how the leopard got his spots; from the tale of the king who wanted to touch the moon, to Aunt Misery's magical starfruit tree. This book includes traditional favourites and classic folktales and mythology.

Interest age: 8+

Reading age: 8 - 12

Myths & Legends



### Wild Journey by A.M Dassu and Joe Lillington

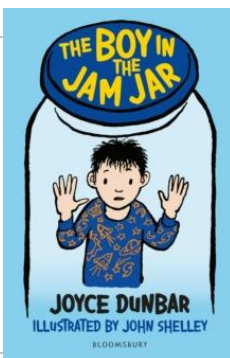
A linked collection of contemporary adventure stories for 7+ readers - inspired by the starling's migratory journey - infused with courage, resilience, empathy and hope. A story collection reflecting an important part of every child's life. Five children in different parts of the world are connected by the captivating flight of starling murmurations.

Interest age: 7+

Reading age: 7 - 9

Countries

## Developing readers



### The Boy in the Jam Jar by Joyce Dunbar

Dylan can't hear as well as he used to be able to and he doesn't want to be different from his friends - he wants things to go back to the way they used to be. As his hearing gets worse, he becomes more and more isolated from his friends. Luckily his dog Pluto is there to keep him down to earth...

Interest age: 7+

Reading age: 7 - 9

Understanding difference

	<p><b>Seeing Red by Eve Ainsworth</b></p> <p>Football used to be a way for Amelia to escape when her parents were arguing, but now that her dad has moved out and her mum is struggling to cope, it's just another stress. Amelia is late for practice while trying to help her mum and finds it hard to concentrate during important matches.</p>	<p><b>Football</b></p>
	<p><b>Game Over! Serena Patel</b></p> <p>When Jay discovers a talent for computing, will he pursue his newfound passion or follow the crowd? A heartwarming story from the multi-award-winning author of Anisha the Accidental Detective. Can you be true to yourself without losing your friends along the way?</p>	<p><b>Gaming</b></p>
	<p><b>Harriet versus the Galaxy by Samantha Baines</b></p> <p>A hilarious and heartfelt debut from multi-award winning, hearing aid wearing, comedian, actor and author Samantha Baines. The intergalactic adventure starts at home with Harriet, who discovers that her hearing-aid can do more than she ever bargained for when she finds an alien in her room.</p>	<p><b>Aliens</b></p>
	<p><b>Ellie and the Cat by Malorie Blackman</b></p> <p>A cautionary tale of brats, cats and a little bit of magic from much loved and best-selling author Malorie Blackman. Ellie is the rudest, most spoilt child her grandma has ever met and it's time that she learnt a lesson!</p>	<p><b>Families &amp; cats</b></p>
	<p><b>Loki: A Bad God's Guide to Causing Chaos by Louie Stowell</b></p> <p>Loki the mighty trickster god has been banished by Odin for bad behaviour to live on Earth as an eleven-year-old boy. He has to sort out the chaos that erupts after the goddess Freyja arrives in town!</p>	<p><b>Humour</b></p>

## Graphic novels



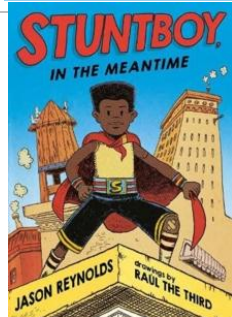
### El Deafo by Cece Bell

El Deafo is a funny, deeply honest graphic novel memoir for middle graders. It chronicles the author's hearing loss at a young age and her subsequent experiences with a powerful and very awkward hearing aid.

Interest age: 8+

Reading age: 8 - 12

Self-acceptance



### Stuntboy by Jason Reynolds

Meet Stuntboy. He's the newest superhero in town. Or at least in his own head. He'll save you from baddies like Herbert Singletary The Worst and the Frets. Or at least he'll TRY to. And maybe someone will end up saving him!

Interest age: 8+

Reading age: 8 -12

Superheroes



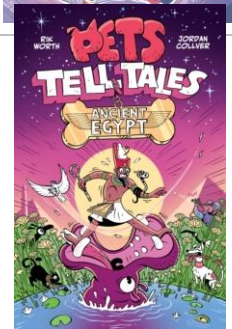
### Rune: The Tale of a Thousand Faces by Carlos Sanchez

Best friends Chiri and Dai stumble into a forgotten realm, tormented by the evil Shadow King who yearns to spread terror and unleash wild magic on everyone. Can they find their way home?

Interest age: 8+

Reading age: 8- 12

Fantasy



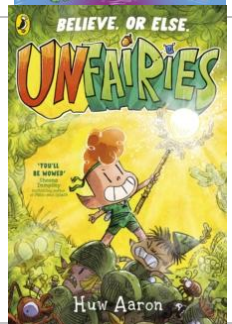
### Pets Tell Tales: Ancient Egypt by Jordan Collver

In this totally TRUE graphic novel, the animals of the past are here to tell you what REALLY happened in ancient Egypt. So, you think you know about ancient Egypt - the pyramids, mummies, and pharaohs?

Interest age: 8+

Reading age: 8- 11

Ancient History



### Unfairies by Huw Aaron

Some stories will tell you fairies are sweet, kind, magical creatures. Well, those stories are WRONG. It's time everyone knew the truth: fairies are sneaky, violent and about as magical as slugs.

Interest age: 8+

Reading age: 8-10

Fairies

Novels	
	<p>Friends, Always and Forever by G.M Linton</p> <p>Sunshine Simpson's Auntie Sharon has WON THE LOTTERY, and she's taking the whole family to JAMAICA! Sunshine can't wait for sun, fun, and seeing the country where her grandparents grew up.</p> <p>Interest age: 8+      Reading age: 9 - 12</p>
	<p>Naeli and the Secret Song by Jasbinder Bilan</p> <p>When a mysterious ticket arrives from England, Naeli abandons her home in India to track him down. With her father's name and cherished violin, she embarks on an adventure through Victorian London and beyond ....</p> <p>Interest age: 9+      Reading age: 9- 12</p>
	<p>The Astounding Broccoli Boy by Frank Cottrell-Boyce</p> <p>His favourite book is Don't Be Scared, Be Prepared, and he has memorized every page of it. He could even survive a hippo attack. He knows that just because something is unlikely doesn't mean it won't ever happen . . . But Rory isn't prepared when he suddenly and inexplicably turns green!</p> <p>Interest age: 8+      Reading age: 8 - 10</p>
	<p>Solving Crimes is Not my Superpower by Nathanael Lessore</p> <p>Controlling the wind, smelling fear, farting colours...The people of Walsham can do it all! The WHOLE TOWN has been granted powers by a mysterious treasure, except for Sara. But the school football trophy has been stolen, and it's up to her to find it and catch the criminal.</p> <p>Interest age: 8+      Reading age: 8 - 10</p>
	<p>How to Train Your Dragon by Cressida Cowell</p> <p>Read the book that inspired the DreamWorks live-action film. Hiccup must lead ten novices in their initiation into the Hairy Hooligan Tribe, by training their dragons!</p> <p>Interest age: 8+      Reading age: 8 -10</p>

Jamaican culture

Music & mystery

Adventure

Humour

Fantasy

	<p><b>Cruise Ship Kid by Emma Swan</b></p> <p>There's 4 things you should know about me: 1. I live on a cruise ship 2. My name is Silver. Yes, really 3. I've never had a best friend my own age :( 4. I'm definitely not a detective. Somehow, though, I'm now investigating the CASE OF THE MISSING MEGA-EXPENSIVE WATCHES.</p> <p>Interest age: 8+      Reading age: 8 - 10</p>	<p><b>Mystery</b></p>
	<p><b>Me, My Dad and the End of the Rainbow by Benjamin Dean</b></p> <p>Things aren't going great for Archie Albright. His dad's acting weird, his mum too, and all he wants is for everything to go back to normal. When Archie sees a colourful, crumpled flyer fall out of Dad's pocket, he thinks he may have found the answer.</p> <p>Interest age: 8+      Reading age: 9- 12</p>	<p><b>Feelings</b></p>
	<p><b>Kiki Kallira Breaks a Kingdom by Sangu Mandanna</b></p> <p>Kiki Kallira is more of a worrier than a warrior - but today she will learn to be a hero. The mythical beasts she loves to draw have come to life, and she is the only one who can defeat them. A fantasy inspired by Hindu legends about anxiety, creativity and finding your own strengths.</p> <p>Interest age: 9+      Reading age: 9- 12</p>	<p><b>Magic &amp; myth</b></p>
	<p><b>When the Storm Comes by Polly Ho-Yen</b></p> <p>Mali, Jonesey, Fara and Petey don't want to be friends. But when a storm outside gets worse and traps them in school, they must embark on a dangerous adventure to rescue their teacher and find help.</p> <p>Interest age: 9+      Reading age: 9 - 12</p>	<p><b>Friends</b></p>
	<p><b>The Game I will Never Forget by Onjali Q Rauf</b></p> <p>The last thing Zak expects to hear is that his mum is having a baby and he has to give up his room for an ageing old grandmother who is coming to live with them! But Zak soon discovers that his Nani is no ordinary old grandma but a former chess prodigy</p> <p>Interest age: 9+      Reading age: 9 - 12</p>	<p><b>Families &amp; games</b></p>

Non-fiction	
	<p><b>Jokes for Every Day</b> by Toby Reynolds</p> <p>The ultimate collection of jokes, with more than 1,000 gags to give you the giggles. Whether you're a fan of animals, school pranks, the mysteries of the ocean or all things disgusting like poo, bogeys and zombies, there's something in here for every jokester and their friends.</p> <p>Interest age: 8+      Reading age: 8- 12</p>
	<p><b>Lands of Belonging</b> by Donna and Vikesh Amey Bhatt</p> <p>Lands of Belonging is a unique exploration of the rich and complicated history of India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Britain. There are many ways of telling the same story, and how you tell it depends on your point of view.</p> <p>Interest age: 9+      Reading age: 9 - 12</p>
	<p><b>The Ultimate Football Heroes 2026</b> by Matt and Tom Oldfield</p> <p>This BUMPER SPECIAL EDITION is stacked with the biggest football hero stories from across the world, plus stats and quizzes to test your knowledge - it's the ultimate yearbook for fans of the beautiful game!</p> <p>Interest age: 8+      Reading age: 9 - 12</p>
	<p><b>Weird But True! 2026</b> by National Geographic Kids</p> <p>Go on a wild adventure into the animal kingdom with naturalist, wildlife cameraman and winner of Strictly Come Dancing, Hamza Yassin. Hamza's Wild World brings you everything you will ever need to know about the animal kingdom</p> <p>Interest age: 7+      Reading age: 8 - 12</p>
	<p><b>All Brains are Wonderful</b> by Scott Evans</p> <p>Discover all about your Very Important Brain! The brain is the boss of your body. But it's more than anatomy. You might not always understand it - you might even feel like your brain is different</p> <p>Interest age: 8+      Reading age: 9 - 12</p>

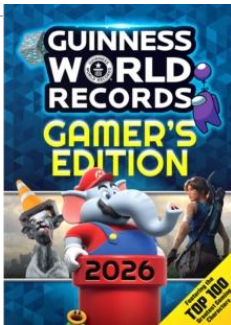
Humour

History

Football

Fun facts

Brains



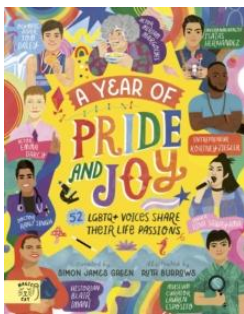
Guinness World Records: Gamer's Edition 2026

The brand-new must-have from the ultimate authority on record-breaking. WHAT'S NEW? This year, we focus on the top 100 Greatest gaming characters of all time.

Interest age: 8+

Reading age: 8- 12

Gaming



A Year of Pride and Joy: 52 LGBTQ+ Voices Share Their Life Passions by Simon James Green

An uplifting anthology of joyful contributions from 52 contemporary LGBTQ+ voices, including BAFTA-winning actor Miriam Margolyes, Olympic gold medallist Tom Daley and NHS paediatrician and TV presenter Dr Ranj Singh.

Interest age: 8+

Reading age: 8- 12

Pride

Poetry



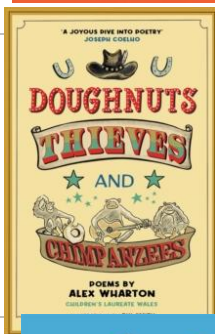
Press Start to Play by Sam Gayton

The ultimate book of poetry for gamers and word nerds alike! It'll make you laugh out loud, be inspired, and mostly want to play! Video games, board games, word games, playground games, and play to make you laugh games!

Interest age: 8+

Reading age: 8- 12

Gaming



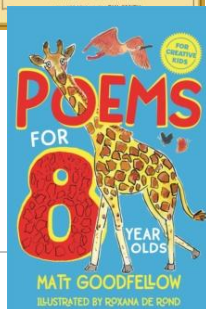
Doughnuts, Thieves and Chimpanzees by Alex Wharton

Doughnuts, Thieves and Chimpanzees is a playful, imaginative and curious 'how to' poetry book, including limericks, haiku, rap and song lyrics.

Interest age: 8+

Reading age: 9 - 12

Creativity



Poems for 8 Year Olds by Matt Goodfellow

A brilliant collection of poems for 8-year-olds packed with poems about friends, space, pets, nature, magic, family, school and adventure.

Interest age: 8+

Reading age: 8 - 10

Fun