



# Reading Champion

## Teacher Guide





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## Introducing Reading Champion!

An independent reading series with a dynamic new approach. Developed in consultation with University College London (UCL) Institute of Education (IOE).

Reading Champion is an innovative new series, designed to support and enrich children's reading experiences. It is the first ever officially levelled independent reading programme linking to the guided reading that pupils are doing in the classroom.

### About the series consultants

Reading Champion has been developed in consultation with literacy experts Dr Sue Bodman and Glen Franklin of the International Literacy Centre at the IOE. The IOE is ranked number one in the QS World University Subject Rankings and is the originator and developer of book bands for guided reading.



#### Sue Bodman and Glen Franklin, (IOE) on Reading Champion:

*"We welcomed the opportunity to work on a series that is dedicated to building enjoyment of reading. This series will help parents, teachers and librarians make sure that books going into the hands of children are at just the right amount of challenge for reading independently."*



## Why choose Reading Champion for your independent reading programme?



- ★ Supports children to practise and embed their developing reading skills with independent reading books linked to the guided reading book band they are using at school
- ★ Engages children in reading with original stories featuring a broad range of interests, real-life experiences and diverse characters, so that children can identify with characters and settings
- ★ Levelling you can trust; each book has been produced in collaboration with the consultants at UCL IOE to ensure it provides the right level of challenge for reading independently
- ★ Books have been specifically written to support independent reading, using clear sentence structures and accessible vocabulary that children are able to understand easily or decode
- ★ Provides plenty of opportunity for practice and lots of choice with a minimum of six books in each band
- ★ Deepens engagement and encourages enjoyment of reading with fun activities to reinforce learning at the end of each book
- ★ Provides a whole school solution to independent reading, from Reception to upper Key Stage 2 (or children aged 4-11)

"A first-rate and expert-led primary reading programme... dedicated to building enjoyment of reading."

John Dabell,  
Teach Primary  
review





## How Reading Champion supports book bands

Reading Champion books have been specifically designed for independent reading. This means a child should be able to read the book they select with little help, as it has been levelled to match their reading ability in school. The concept of allocating books for guided reading into bands has been developed for use in independent reading so that parents and teachers can link the book band a child is placed on in class with the independent band they use at home for the child to read from independently.

By offering this innovative approach, Reading Champion provides opportunity for children to reinforce what you are teaching in school, allowing for successful independent reading at home. The books have been carefully reviewed so that children reading at Red Book Band in the classroom, for example, will be able to read an Independent Red Band book easily and with enjoyment.

The books could also be used in a class or school library to enable independent choice that leads to successful and fluent reading experiences. Clear labelling on the spine and back cover of each book helps readers and teachers easily find books that are at the right reading level, building confidence and encouraging reading for pleasure.












### The banding approach considers:

- ★ The letters and spelling patterns used, for example, how simple and frequent the letter-to-sound relationships are
- ★ The book's structure; how complicated the plot is, and the number of sentences on a page
- ★ The sentence and language structures; the language patterns in the books match those that the child would use in speech
- ★ The way that illustrations help the reader, considering how much support is offered for naming vocabulary and story events
- ★ The story context and setting; whether the story is based on young children's experiences or requires the child to deal with situations unfamiliar to them



## How is Reading Champion structured?

Reading Champion Key Stage 1 books feature 10 bands. Key Stage 2 books are indicated by the black logo and progress from level 11 (7 year olds or those in Year 3) to level 18 (11 year olds or those in Year 6). A separate guide is available for these. All books have been carefully graded by sereis consultants Dr Sue Bodman and Glen Franklin so you can be confident that they offer consistency within the entire scheme.

Band	Age Range	Word Count	Number of titles
<b>Key Stage 1</b>			
 Pink 1a/1b	Age 3+	Approx. 40	12
 Red 2	Age 4+	Approx. 80	6
 Yellow 3	Age 4+	Approx. 100	6
 Blue 4	Age 4+	Approx. 150	6
 Green 5	Age 5+	Approx. 250	6
 Orange 6	Age 5+	Approx. 350	6
 Turquoise 7	Age 5+	Approx. 450	6
 Purple 8	Age 6+	Approx. 550	6
 Gold 9	Age 6+	Approx. 700	6
 White 10	Age 6+	Approx. 800	6
<b>Key Stage 2</b>			
 11-18	Age 7-11+	800+ words	6 at each

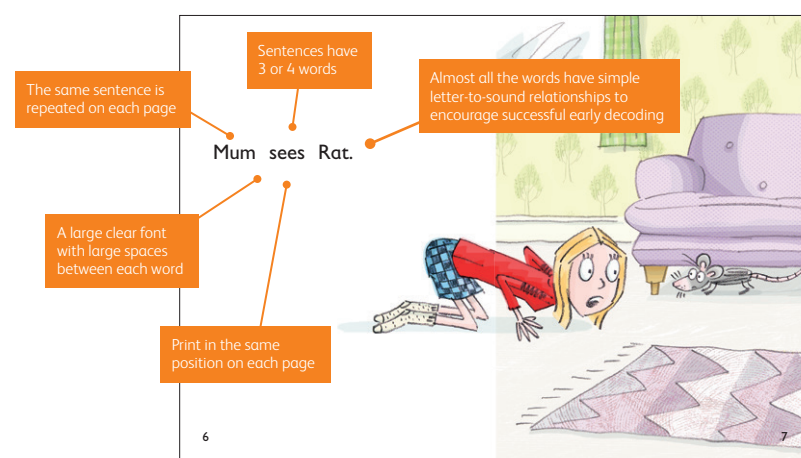


## Characteristics of each independent reading band

### Pink A Independent



In school, children will have been starting to learn 'how books work' – for example, which way the print goes (from left to right). The child will be using their finger to track from word to word and recognising some words that they know and are beginning to match the words with the picture to make sense of what they are reading. Books at Pink A Independent provide opportunity for the child to use these early reading skills on books which have one repeated sentence throughout. At this stage, the child is heavily reliant on the pictures to tell the story, having only just moved on from wordless books.

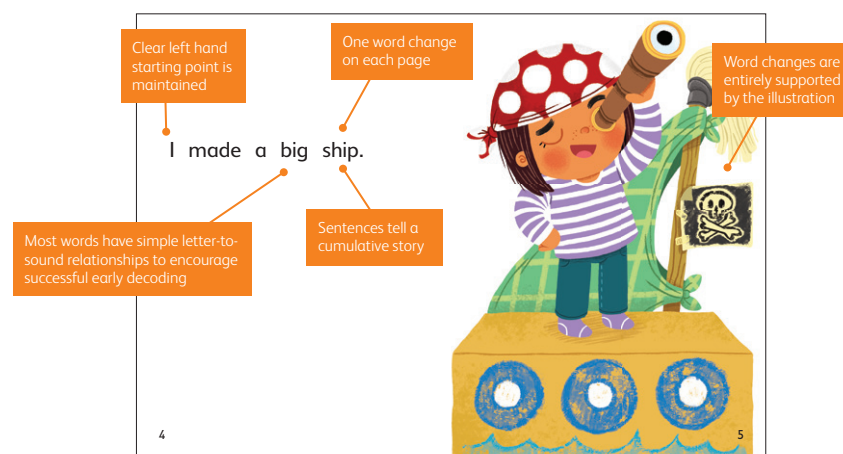


Spread from *Mum Sees Rat*

### Pink B Independent



At this band, the child will continue pointing with their finger to match the words on the page to what they are saying. In Pink B Independent books, there are sentences longer than one line, so knowing the direction of print is important. There is a changing word on each page. This change is supported by the picture allowing the child to use what they know about how books work to read Pink B Independent books on their own.



Spread from *The Big Box*



### Red Independent



At Red book band, children will be introduced to real little stories and will start to learn how stories work (with characters, places and events). The stories at Red Independent have a strong story structure, and you will notice that there is less repetition that at the previous bands. This means that children will need to be using all the skills being taught in the classroom, including phonics and sight words, to read Red Independent books at home. New vocabulary in books at this independent band is carefully chosen to match the readers growing literacy skills.

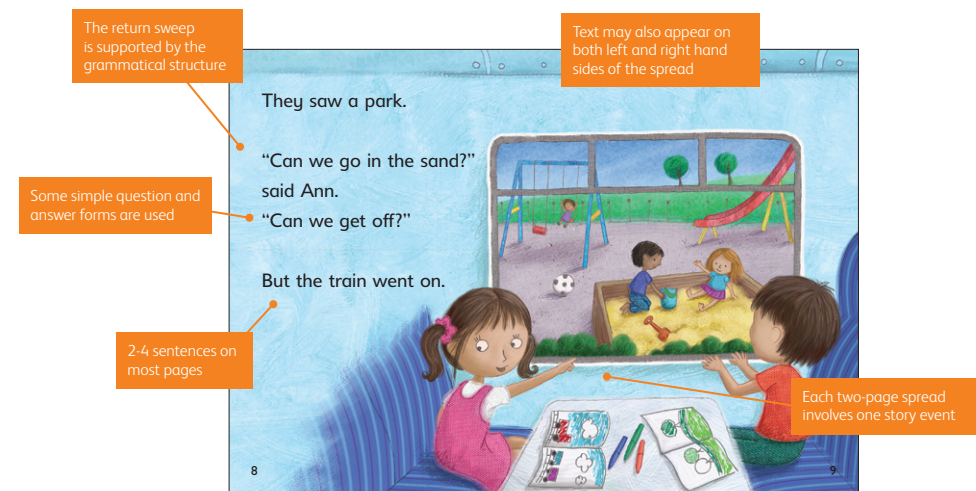


Spread from *Bob's Cab*

### Yellow Independent



Children reading at Yellow book band in school will now be able to read around 20-25 words and can recognise these in the books they are reading. You will notice in Yellow Independent books how sentences are still quite simple but are less repetitive than previously. Stories often have more than one character, and any new vocabulary words are supported by the meaning and the illustrations. The child will be able to use their knowledge of phonics to sound out simple words with one syllable. You will be reminding them to look very closely at the letters on the page to use this skill.



Spread from *Where Are We Going?*



## Blue Independent



In school, children will be learning about the use of punctuation and how this helps to read with expression and understanding. In Blue Independent books, sentences are getting longer, and the punctuation supports children to read fluently. For example, you will see speech marks, question marks and exclamations being used, to help the child sound like talking as they read. Children are becoming more skilled in using their phonic knowledge to read less familiar words, and books at Blue Independent include familiar letters and sounds to ensure the child can apply their new skills in reading.

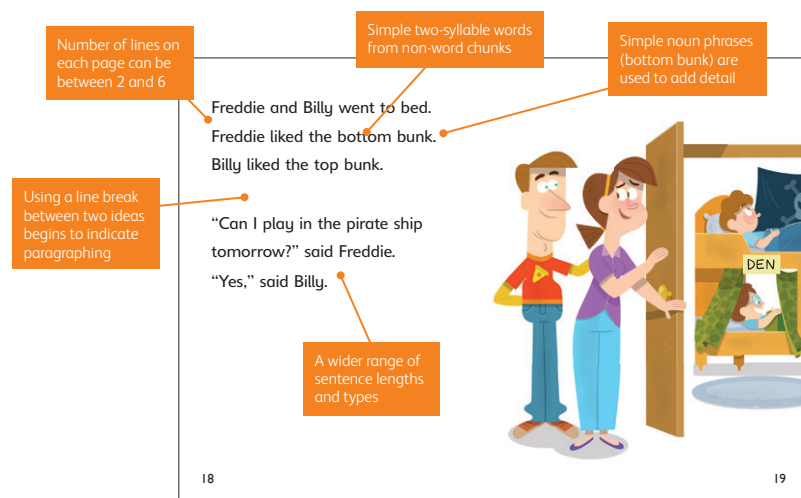


Spread from *A Windy Day*

## Green Independent



At this independent band, the child will begin to read a range of different sentence structures. For example, 'said Mum' might now appear in between two parts of speech, and sentences might start with an adjective phrase, which children will be learning about in class. There will be more opportunity to use what they know about phonics to read unfamiliar words, which will often have more than one syllable. These words will be strongly supported by the story topics and the sense of meaning.



Spread from *The Bunk Bed*

## Orange Independent



By the time they are reading at Orange Independent, children will have established how to read and match easily. The layout of words on the page will be varied, with longer sentences across more than one line. You will notice how the stories are becoming more complex, including more characters and events. Words are becoming less phonically regular and some alternative spellings will be used. For example, the word 'wind' can have two different meanings, and the child will need to use the meaning of the story to read this word correctly.

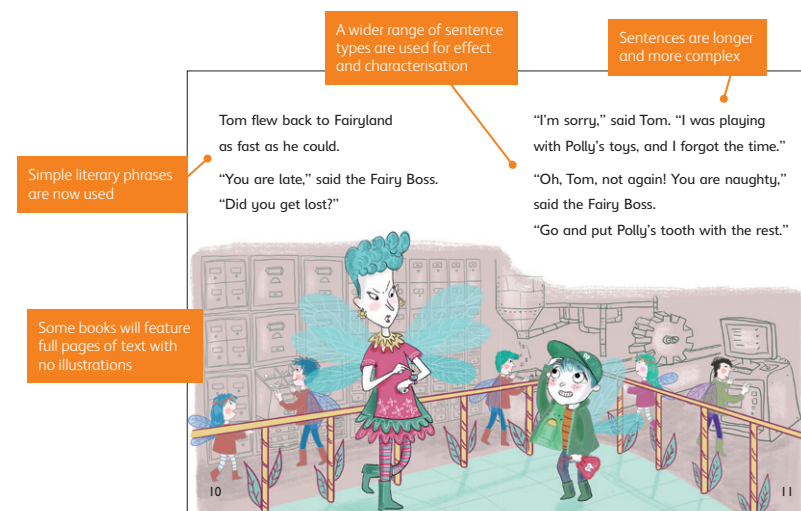


Spread from *Robot Gets It Wrong*

## Turquoise Independent



There is now more text on each page, with some pages having no illustration at all. This gives the child opportunity to read like a reader across longer passages of text. You will see that where there are pictures, they may only depict one aspect of what is going on in the story, as the plots become more complex. Talking to the child after they have read to ensure they have understood is important here as the stories become longer and more detailed.

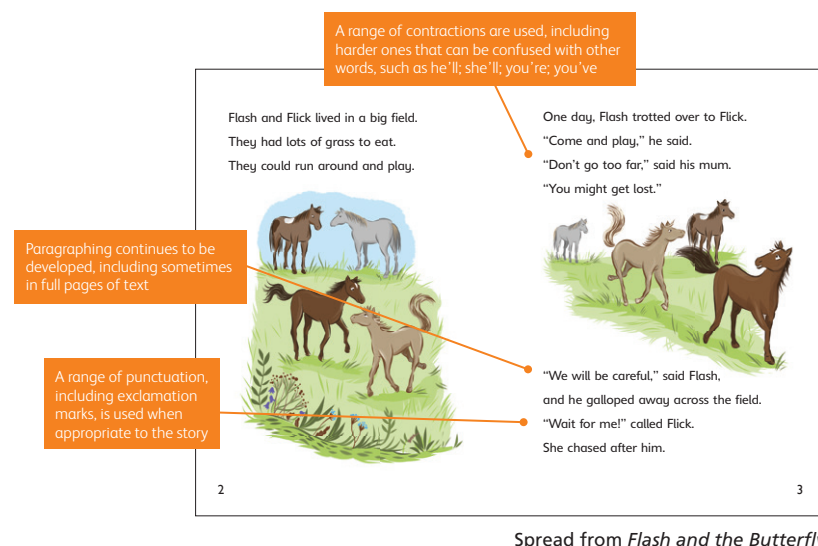


Spread from *Tom The Naughty Tooth Fairy*

## Purple Independent



The need for reading with inference becomes more important as the stories develop. The choice of vocabulary (such as 'screamed' or 'grinned') helps the child think about the characters in the story, and the use of punctuation, such as the three little dots (...), called an ellipsis, makes the story more exciting.

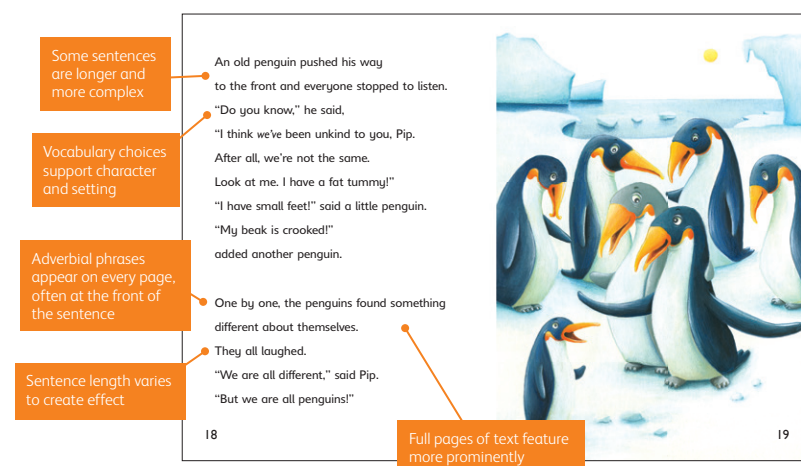


Spread from *Flash and the Butterfly*

## Gold Independent



Longer stories and less familiar vocabulary at this independent band means that the child will be using their word reading skills to work out new words with less support from illustrations. They will know now how stories 'work' and will be able to make predictions about characters and plot and check to see if they were right after they have read the story.



Spread from *Pip the Different Penguin*

## White Independent



By this independent band, the child is using all they have learned to read for meaning with enjoyment and understanding. They have now the reading skills to enable them to read longer stories and to continue to develop their skills of reading with comprehension by reading frequently and widely. At the end of White Independent books, your child will be ready to move on to the Key Stage 2 materials in the *Reading Champion* series.



Spread from *Who Will Be King?*

## Supporting phonics

*Reading Champion* books offer opportunities for children to use and reinforce the phonic knowledge they are learning in school. Whilst not following any specific phonics scheme, the books place phonically decodable words with known spelling patterns within clear sentence structures and are supported by the context.

Some of the guidance at the back of the books offers ideas for the child to reinforce the spelling patterns they know by finding certain words in the book. This can be made into a fun activity. For example, asking the child, "What letters would we expect to see in 'play'? Who can find it first? Can we find this word in any other places? Can we find any more that look like that word? (say, day, for example)".





## How Reading Champion supports parents and carers

Reading Champion supports parents and carers by providing books that help them reinforce what is being taught at school. The banding system makes it easy for them to find books to read at home that are at the right reading level for their child.

Detailed notes in each book offer guidance for independent reading at home, from helping their child to choose a suitable book, to how to support them if they are reading to themselves or reading aloud.

These notes include questions to ask before they start reading, such as “Why did you choose this book? Why do you think you will enjoy it?”, as well as suggested questions and a fun comprehension activity for after they have read the book. These questions aim to help children learn to make good choices when choosing independent reading books and support their comprehension of the story.



Example of a story trail activity, found at the back of each book.

For further guidance for using Reading Champion at home, see our Parent Guide.



## Reading Champion Title List

ISBN	TITLE	FORMAT	PRICE	PUB DATE	BOOK BAND
9781445153506	Dad Gets the Cat	PB	£4.99	Out now	1A Pink
9781445154084	Dog Likes to Dig	PB	£4.99	Out now	1A Pink
9781445154046	RI Like My Dad	PB	£4.99	Out now	1A Pink
9781445154107	I Look Like Mum	PB	£4.99	Out now	1A Pink
9781445154022	Mum Sees Rat	PB	£4.99	Out now	1A Pink
9781445154060	Play With Me	PB	£4.99	Out now	1A Pink
9781445154206	Granny at the Park	PB	£4.99	Out now	1B Pink
9781445154121	I Like Red	PB	£4.99	Out now	1B Pink
9781445154169	Tap, Tap	PB	£4.99	Out now	1B Pink
9781445154145	The Big Box	PB	£4.99	Out now	1B Pink
9781445154176	The Toy Shop Train	PB	£4.99	Out now	1B Pink
9781445154220	We Like to Play	PB	£4.99	Out now	1B Pink
9781445154626	A Pet to Play With	PB	£4.99	Out now	2 Red
9781445154565	At the Skate Park	PB	£4.99	Out now	2 Red
9781445154589	At the Zoo	PB	£4.99	Out now	2 Red
9781445153544	Bob's Cab	PB	£4.99	Out now	2 Red
9781445154541	It Wasn't Me!	PB	£4.99	Out now	2 Red
9781445154602	Look out!	PB	£4.99	Out now	2 Red
9781445154640	Ahmed and the New Boy	PB	£4.99	Out now	3 Yellow
9781445154701	Hold on to the Mat	PB	£4.99	Out now	3 Yellow
9781445154664	Hop and Run	PB	£4.99	Out now	3 Yellow
9781445154688	Sam's Super Family	PB	£4.99	Out now	3 Yellow
9781445154725	Sid's Stick	PB	£4.99	Out now	3 Yellow
9781445154749	Where Are We Going?	PB	£4.99	Out now	3 Yellow
9781445154763	A Windy Day	PB	£4.99	Out now	4 Blue
9781445154787	At Night	PB	£4.99	Out now	4 Blue
9781445154800	Flip the Flamingo	PB	£4.99	Out now	4 Blue
9781445154862	Fun at the Beach	PB	£4.99	Out now	4 Blue
9781445154824	Merlin the Mouse	PB	£4.99	Out now	4 Blue
9781445154848	Stuck in the Mud	PB	£4.99	Out now	4 Blue
9781445154428	Hippo's Birthday	PB	£4.99	Out now	5 Green
9781445154503	Letters from Grandpa	PB	£4.99	Out now	5 Green
9781445154480	Poor Bear	PB	£4.99	Out now	5 Green
9781445154466	Poppy's Project	PB	£4.99	Out now	5 Green
9781445154527	Sandeep and the Dragon	PB	£4.99	Out now	5 Green
9781445154442	The Bunk Bed	PB	£4.99	Out now	5 Green
9781445154244	A Crown for Lion	PB	£4.99	Out now	6 Orange
9781445154305	Dog at School	PB	£4.99	Out now	6 Orange
9781445153520	Dragon's Hiccups	PB	£4.99	Out now	6 Orange
9781445154282	Funny Footprints	PB	£4.99	Out now	6 Orange
9781445154329	Little Spook	PB	£4.99	Out now	6 Orange
9781445154268	Robot Gets It Wrong	PB	£4.99	Out now	6 Orange
9781445161846	Cave Boy and the Egg	PB	£4.99	Out now	7 Turquoise
9781445162140	Jack's Junk	PB	£4.99	Out now	7 Turquoise
9781445161808	The Cat's Tale	PB	£4.99	Out now	7 Turquoise
9781445162164	The Dinosaur Bone	PB	£4.99	Out now	7 Turquoise
9781445162195	The Very Worst Wizard	PB	£4.99	Out now	7 Turquoise
9781445162102	Tom the Naughty Tooth Fairy	PB	£4.99	Out now	7 Turquoise



# Reading Champion Title List



ISBN	TITLE	FORMAT	PRICE	PUB DATE	BOOK BAND
9781445162218	Flash and the Butterfly	PB	£4.99	Out now	8 Purple
9781445162386	Lazy Jack	PB	£4.99	Out now	8 Purple
9781445162294	Hey, You! Gordon Goat!	PB	£4.99	Out now	8 Purple
9781445162324	The Dog Show	PB	£4.99	Out now	8 Purple
9781445162256	The Giant Snowball Mystery	PB	£4.99	Out now	8 Purple
9781445162355	The Hen Who Cried Fox	PB	£4.99	Out now	8 Purple
9781445162416	Abdul's Lazy Sons	PB	£4.99	Out now	9 Gold
9781445162492	One of Our Tigers is Missing!	PB	£4.99	Out now	9 Gold
9781445162522	The Sleepover	PB	£4.99	Out now	9 Gold
9781445162553	Dolphin Ride	PB	£4.99	Out now	9 Gold
9781445162584	Pip the Different Penguin	PB	£4.99	May-18	9 Gold
9781445162614	One Hundred Wishes	PB	£4.99	May-18	9 Gold
9781445162638	Androcles and the Lion	PB	£4.99	May-18	10 White
9781445162669	The Missing Necklace	PB	£4.99	May-18	10 White
9781445162690	The Big Match	PB	£4.99	Jun-18	10 White
9781445162720	Lost!	PB	£4.99	Jun-18	10 White
9781445162751	Who Will be King?	PB	£4.99	Jun-18	10 White
9781445162782	There Will Never Be Another Tessa	PB	£4.99	Jun-18	10 White
<b>KS2 Readers</b>					
9781445162799	More!	PB	£4.99	Aug-18	11
9781445162836	Thin Ice!	PB	£4.99	Aug-18	11
9781445162867	How Bear Lost His Tail	PB	£4.99	Jul-18	11
9781445162898	A New Friend For Hannah	PB	£4.99	Aug-18	11
9781445162928	I Don't Want Danny Here	PB	£4.99	Aug-18	11
9781445162959	Anansi and the Box of Stories	PB	£4.99	Aug-18	11
9781445163031	Double Dragons	PB	£4.99	Sep-18	12
9781445163123	Great Granny	PB	£4.99	Aug-18	12
9781445163062	Magic Marcus	PB	£4.99	Sep-18	12
9781445163000	Rainbow Street	PB	£4.99	Aug-18	12
9781445163093	Save The Library!	PB	£4.99	Aug-18	12
9781445162973	The Wolf in Sheep's Clothing	PB	£4.99	Aug-18	12
9781445163239	Keep Off the Grass	PB	£4.99	Oct-18	13
9781445163178	Mary and the Great Fire of London	PB	£4.99	Oct-18	13
9781445163208	Sandy Cove Rescue	PB	£4.99	Oct-18	13
9781445163130	The Peach Boy	PB	£4.99	Oct-18	13
9781445163291	A Home on New Earth	PB	£4.99	Nov-18	13
9781445163260	Dragon Dance	PB	£4.99	Nov-18	13
9781445163314	Parrots of the Caribbean	PB	£4.99	Feb-19	14
9781445163345	Run Melina, Run	PB	£4.99	Nov-18	14
9781445163376	The Pied Piper Returns	PB	£4.99	Nov-18	14
9781445163406	The Prince and the Pea	PB	£4.99	Dec-18	14
9781445163437	Max and the Gladiator	PB	£4.99	Dec-18	14
9781445163468	Robin Hood and the Golden Arrow	PB	£4.99	Feb-19	14