



PUFFINALIA

for educators

Chapter books:
the best of 2022

In conversation
with Jacqueline
Harvey and Kate
Isobel Scott

Celebrating
20 years of
Specky Magee



R.A. Spratt
reveals process
behind new book

Non-fiction
for all ages

Picture this

Spark young readers' imaginations with these gorgeous Puffin picture books, publishing in the first half of 2022.

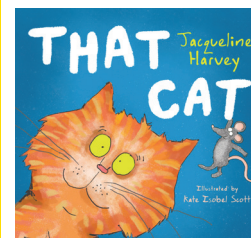
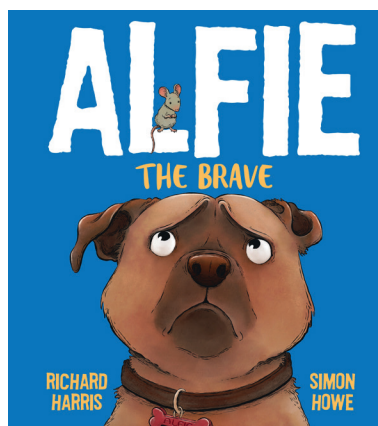


Go Home, Cat! Sonya Hartnett, Lucia Masciullo

A delightful story about the special bond between a boy and his cat, celebrating friendship, courage and the value of those we love. Out February.

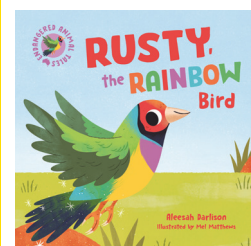
Alfie the Brave Richard Harris, Simon Howe

A charming picture book about a dog called Alfie who longs to be bold and brave like other dogs. From Australian of the Year Dr Richard 'Harry' Harris, a key member of the international cave-diving group who rescued the Wild Boar soccer team in Thailand. Out April.



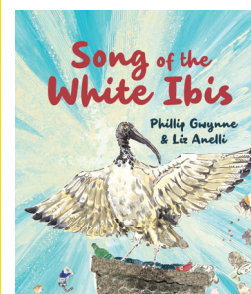
That Cat Jacqueline Harvey, Kate Isobel Scott

A vibrant picture book in simple rhyme from bestselling author Jacqueline Harvey. Nothing is quite like a cat! Out March.



Endangered Animal Tales 3: Rusty, the Rainbow Bird Aleesah Darlison

The next book in the Endangered Animal Tales picture book series, highlighting unique Australian animals. Out February.



Song of the White Ibis Phillip Gwynne, Liz Anelli

A beautiful and powerful story to challenge the way we view one of our most infamous birds, and ourselves. Out June.



A Blue Kind of Day Rachel Tomlinson, Tori-Jay Mordey

With poignant text and stunning illustrations, this book explores how depression might feel in the body and shows us how to support the people we love with patience, care, and empathy. Out April.

Dear educator . . .

Welcome to the 2022 edition of the *Puffinalia* magazine! We relaunched this little booklet in 2020 to celebrate 80 years of Puffin and also as an homage to the original 1977 magazine that was sent to Australian Puffin Club members. Since then, Puffin Australia has been committed to providing quality literature to young readers, sharing the magic of stories and helping to make reading fun. In these pages, you'll find an overview of just some of the books publishing in the first half of 2022 as well as feature interviews with bestselling Australian authors Jacqueline Harvey, Felice Arena and R.A. Spratt.

Happy reading! **The Puffin** **Australia team**



In conversation

Jacqueline Harvey &



Kate Isobel Scott



Teacher keeps promise to student after nearly three decades

Nearly 30 years ago, Kate Scott was a young girl who was enchanted by the stories written and read by her school teacher, Jacqueline Harvey.

When Kate was just six-years-old, Jacqueline told the girl that she would one day illustrate one of her teacher's books. Kate made such an impression on Jacqueline that she even went on to be one of the three girls who inspired the author's much-loved character Alice-Miranda.

Fast forward to 2021. Jacqueline, now a bestselling children's author, has remained true to her word and teamed up with Kate, who is now a successful claymation artist and illustrator. In March they will release their first book together – *That Cat*.

Here they talk about their collaboration process and the

enjoyment they shared creating their first picture book.

Jacqueline – *That Cat* is an irreverent rhyming book about cats. It was inspired by my cat, Bally Puss, who came into our life as a visitor cat and is now a permanent fixture. Cats have really interesting and varied personalities so I personified the cats in silly ways. At the end, the cat we love the most is always that cat – the one who sits on your lap or at the end of the bed, and that's how the book came to life.

I was Kate's kindergarten and fourth grade teacher and I've known her since she was about three. Kate was always very artistic at school. Right back when she was little, I used to look at her work and say, 'One day I'll write some books and you can draw the pictures'. When I wrote *That Cat*, and knowing

the sort of work Kate does and how she's become this extraordinary, mega-talented claymation artist, I thought she might want to do it.

Kate – I was so excited! I remember Jacquie was the most popular teacher in primary school, she would sometimes read us stories she wrote and I remember her saying, 'One day I'm going to write this book', and she's had so much success. When she reached out to me I was so stoked.

Jacqueline – Kate will take my words and have her own vision of how to make them come to life. It's as much about her and what she can bring to the table as it is about the words that I wrote in the first place. I don't want to be bossy, that's not my place. An illustrator is an artist and has their own vision and it's important to allow them to see that through.

Kate – When illustrating, what I do is I read through the words a few times and have a break from it and talk it over. Then I'll sketch out a few rough ideas on a big page to see if I like anything. It's important not to put too much pressure on it at the start, because if I go in and try to create a perfect illustration it falls in a heap. I go back and forth, playing around with ideas, and eventually I set out an illustration on each page then send it off before refining the roughs a bit more.

Jacqueline – Picture books are very playful, and I am experimenting a lot with rhyming picture books at the moment. When writing *That Cat* I thought I could do something simple and sometimes the simplest things end up being really good.

That Cat will actually be my 49th

book published. I hope it's a book that parents and grandparents will enjoy reading to small people. The illustrations add to the story and readers will spend a lot of time picking things out.

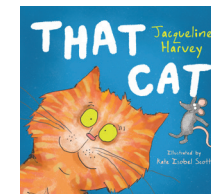
Kate – I really enjoyed the process and I really care about the book.

I used to look at her work and say, 'One day I'll write some books and you can draw the pictures'.



I like who I work with and it's a great opportunity, there's a real personal attachment there and you really believe in it. It's fun and I think that's the best thing about it.

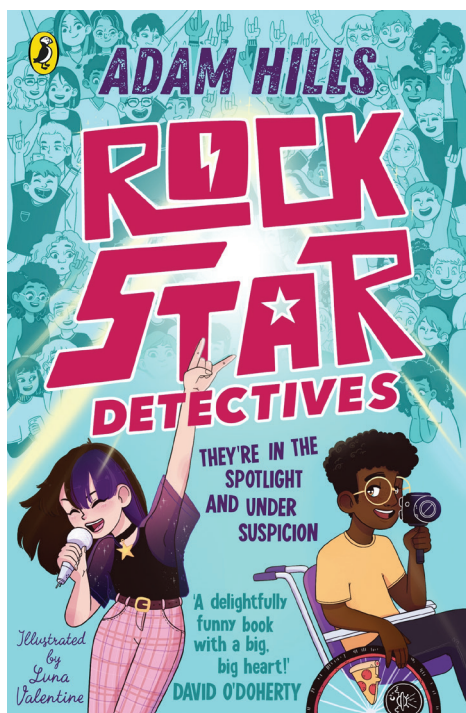
Jacqueline – I was so excited when Kate was interested in doing the project in the first place as we have such a longstanding history. I remember saying when she was finishing school that she would be a fantastic illustrator and, for me, I feel so fortunate to have been in a position where I could give her an opportunity to be part of the project. I adore her and I'd love to see us do lots of things together.



That Cat will be published in March 2022.

Reading just for fun

These fun (and funny) books are sure to make young readers laugh out loud, while also improving their literacy, critical thinking and comprehension skills.



Rockstar Detectives Adam Hills

A fabulously funny debut novel from comedian and presenter Adam Hills featuring a young detective dream team! When a priceless painting goes missing, 12-year-old viral singing sensation Charley and her best friend George are shocked to discover they're the prime suspects. Now Charley and George have to prove they're not international criminals – all while nailing a stellar European tour and keeping up with their homework! **Out February.**

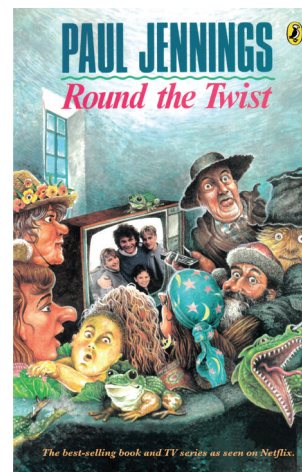


The Listies' Teleportaloo and Big Number 2

Filled with hilarious illustrations and featuring The Listies, Matt and Rich, as they appear in their shows and performances, these books are an extravaganza of silly science fiction, toot-a-riffic toilet humour and slapstick. **Out now.**

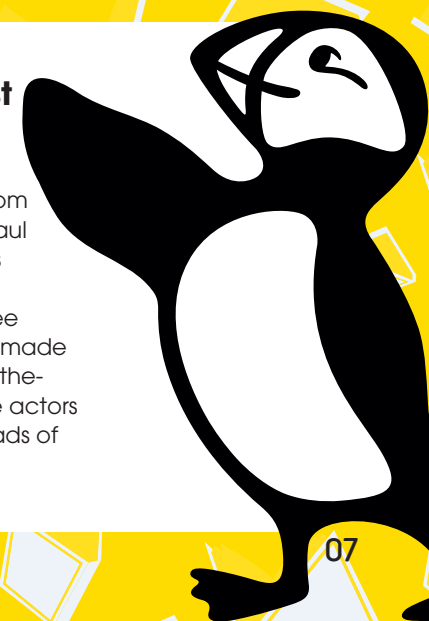
Terry Denton's Bumper Book of Silly Stuff to Do! and Bumper Book of Holiday Stuff to Do!

These bumper books from bestselling Australian creator Terry Denton are must-haves for young, inquisitive minds. Packed with drawing and colouring activities, cartoons, maps, mazes, puzzles and more. **Out now.**



Round the Twist Paul Jennings

The bestselling book and iconic TV series from the fantastic pen of Paul Jennings is back in this exciting new reissue! The book includes three short stories that were made into episodes, behind-the-scenes glimpses of the actors and sets, as well as loads of tidbits. **Out February.**



The NEWSPAPER article that inspired Felice Arena's new book



Felice Arena has combined three of his great loves – writing, history and footy – to become a bestselling children's author.

Now 20 years after publishing the first book in the *Specky Magee* series, Felice is back writing about footy with *The Unstoppable Flying Flanagan* – a funny, entertaining and moving story set against the backdrop of the Second World War in Australia, the women's movement and the little-known history of women's football.

'It's a celebration of women and sport, and not just women in sport, but women in Australian society,' Felice says.

'Maggie Flanagan, she's 12 years old in 1942 in Melbourne and her biggest love and passion is football. She wants to play, not just watch it, and it's her link to her big brother Patrick who is fighting overseas.'

'I wait for the characters to find me'

After completing the eight books in the *Specky Magee* series, Felice wanted to explore other genres of writing like art, travel and historical fiction. He wasn't planning on writing another footy book, but an idea was

sparked by an article he read on a train in Scotland in 2019.

'I was reading a newspaper about women in sport and the history of women in sport, in particular soccer in the UK, and I thought this could be an interesting story,' he says.

'I don't go actively searching for a story. I wait for the characters of a story to find me, otherwise I feel it's forced and I feel the pressure.'

'I was having a break and clearing my head, and I read this article and jotted down some notes and forgot about it until lockdown in 2020. My mate said his daughter loved *Specky Magee* and she was missing her football team because of lockdown, and it jogged my memory and I thought I might look back at those notes.'

Felice then started researching women's AFL and discovered women were playing the game all the way back in 1933 to raise money for the Red Cross.

The author believes the themes of his story are still relevant today.

'Maggie helped me through lockdown. She was fierce when faced with the adversity of the Second World War. This book is not just celebrating women, but also community banding together in the face of crisis,' he says.

'I can't wait to share Maggie with the rest of the world – not just with girls. I want boys to read this and see how much society has changed and evolved.'

Author reveals surprising footy hero

When writing *The Unstoppable Flying Flanagan*, Felice took elements of remarkable women in his life when creating his characters – one was based on his first footy hero, a Sister who taught at his Kyabram primary school.

'I was eight years old and she would come and play footy. She had the best (torpedo) kick. The ball would ring, and we'd keep kicking the footy,' he says. 'I loved her and I've dedicated this book to her.'

Felice says that while his book is a celebration of women and of Maggie's dream, it also offers a glimpse into Australia at the time of the war.

'It's a book not just for kids to read, but adults, perhaps even grandparents who lived through those times,' he says.

'I always want readers to take hope from my books. There may be obstacles, but if you band together there can be hope in the darkest times. I want kids to feel that and acknowledge how far we've come. It's up to them to lead the way from here.'

Reflecting on Specky Magee anniversary

On top of *The Unstoppable Flying Flanagan* being released in March 2022, a 20th anniversary edition of *Specky Magee* will also be published the same month.

'I have teachers and adults who come up and tell me Specky was part of their childhood, and kids reading it when they were ten are now thirty,' he says.

'It was the first of its kind. There was not a lot of sports fiction at the time. I teamed up with my old school mate Garry Lyon, who was a football legend, and using his footy brain and my love of writing fiction it was a nice collaboration.'

'It really captured Australian teenage life, and footy ended up being the backdrop to tell stories about relationships, and it resonated with kids who weren't even into sport.'

'It wasn't just about Specky winning the game, and it wasn't always winning. It dealt with losing, coaches, parents, peer-group pressure and many other issues. Sport is our unofficial language in Australia and I think that's why it resonated with so many people.'

The 20th anniversary edition of *Specky Magee* will be released on March 1, while *The Unstoppable Flying Flanagan* will be published on March 29.



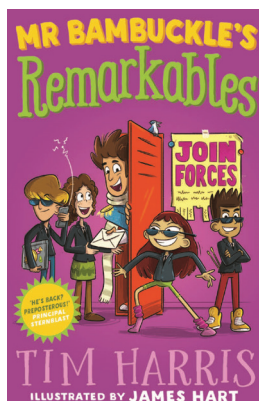
BEST BOOKS_{for} INDEPENDENT READERS

Did you know that reading for pleasure not only improves literacy, comprehension and writing ability, but also empathy and decision-making skills? Check out these fun books which are perfect for independent readers in years 3–6.



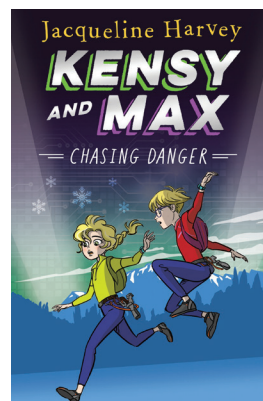
**Marcie Gill and
the Caravan
Park Cat**
Monica McInerney

Follow the adventures of the delightful Marcie Gill in this heart-warming story about family, acceptance and big dreams. **Out now.**



**Mr Bambuckle's
Remarkables
Join Forces**
Tim Harris

Mr Bambuckle and the class in room 12B welcome four new students following the closure of the local grammar school. Will they all join forces in time to save Blue Valley School? **Out March.**



**Kensy and Max
9: Chasing
Danger**
Jacqueline Harvey

When an earthquake causes a breach at a super-secret prison, young spies Kensy and Max must join an urgent assignment to Queenstown, New Zealand. **Out May.**

DEAR GRETA



This was meant to be Alice's year to shine, but things are already going wrong . . .

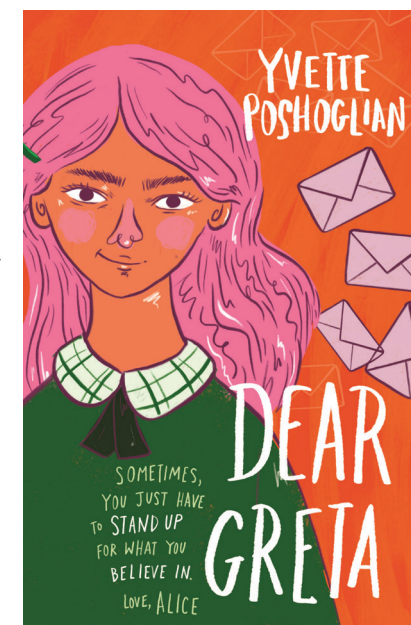
First she is given young environmental activist Greta Thunberg as her pen pal for a fictional writing assignment. Why couldn't Alice get someone easy to write to, like a pop star?

Then she's put in charge of the Harmony Day Food Fair. And as if she didn't have enough on her plate, Alice gets kicked out of her bedroom by her grandmother coming to stay.

Through her letters to Greta, Alice finds herself opening up about her life. And as Alice approaches the hard questions by wondering, 'What would Greta do?', she starts to believe that her voice can make a difference – a big one.



Scan here to access teachers' resources for *Dear Greta*



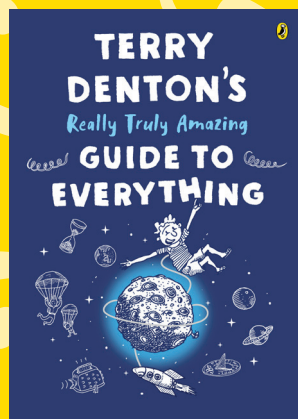
Dear Greta
Yvette
Poshoglian

From one of Australia's bestselling children's authors comes a heartfelt story about making change happen in your own little corner of the world. **Out March.**



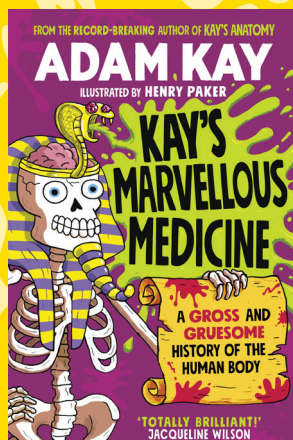
Non-fiction ^{for} ALL AGES

Some kids (and adults) just love reading facts. There's something for every level of curious reader in these fun and factual books.



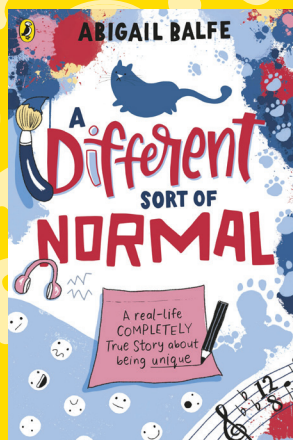
Terry Denton's Really Truly Amazing Guide to Everything

A fascinating whistle-stop tour of the history and science of the universe, life on Earth, the ins and outs of biology, geography, geology and the weather. There's even a chapter on time! Get ready to laugh and be amazed. **Ages 8+**



Kay's Marvellous Medicine

Pop a peg on your nose, wash your hands and explore the gross and gruesome history of medicine and the human body, from Ancient Egypt to the present day. **Age 8-12**



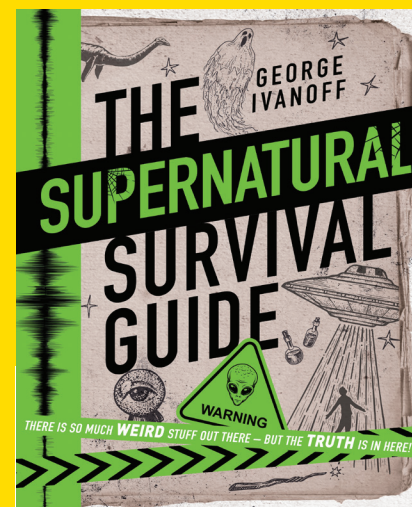
A Different Sort of Normal

The beautiful and beautifully illustrated true story of one girl's journey growing up autistic, and the challenges of navigating the 'normal' world around her. Perfect for anyone who has ever felt different, out of place or like they don't fit in. **Ages 9+**



The Green Planet

Discover all there is to love about our astonishing Green Planet, the stories of its inhabitants, and the challenges it faces. In collaboration with BBC Earth, this illustrated non-fiction book captures the intrigue, drama and beauty of our natural world. **Ages 8+**



The Supernatural Survival Guide

Have you had a close encounter with a UFO? Is your house HAUNTED? Have you seen a YETI? This book will tackle these and other questions about all things paranormal! **Ages 7+**



Everything Under the Sun

A wonderful collection of 366 curious questions asked by children from around the world, based on the award-winning podcast by Molly Oldfield. "An absolute delight!" - David Walliams. **Ages 4+**

R.A. Spratt

Author reveals process behind new Friday Barnes book cover

The highly-anticipated tenth book in the Friday Barnes series is coming, with our favourite young detective on her latest mystery-solving adventure to Norway and beyond.

The cover of the new book encapsulates the intense journey Friday embarks on in the latest story, according to author R.A Spratt, who has revealed the process behind creating the concept.

Spratt wanted Friday to mimic the iconic pose in Edvard Munch's *The Scream*, to illustrate her overwhelming feelings of being amongst nature in Norway and, of course, having to solve another mystery.

'I needed a cover that was a close-up of Friday's face,' Spratt says. 'I thought, the book is set in Norway and *The Scream* is from Oslo.'

Spratt had her daughter imitate the pose to create a first sketch of the cover, turning to another iconic recreation of the pose – the

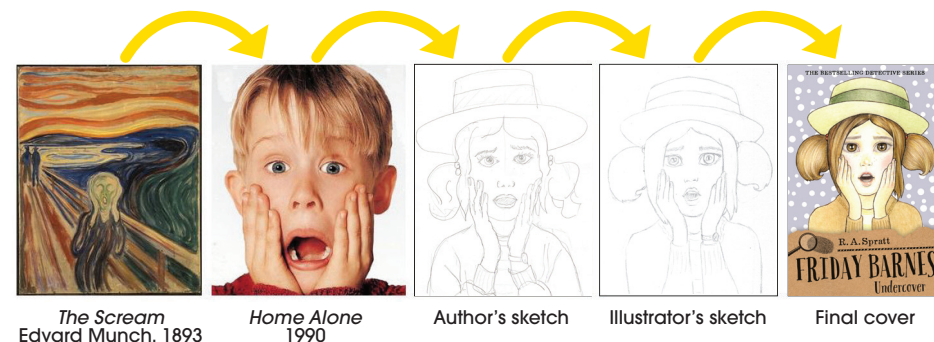
film poster for *Home Alone*. Spratt said *The Scream* was the ultimate inspiration for the latest book cover, as it encapsulated the same themes she wanted to express in the story.

'In *The Scream*, he is standing on a bridge and it is as if he emotionally heard the scream of nature at sunset,' she says.

'It's about being overwhelmed by life and nature and the scream of existence. Friday is dealing with a lot of stuff in this book and it gets pretty intense.

'She goes to Norway; the nature is overwhelming – she's in an arctic climate with polar bears, so there is a lot to scream about.'

All covers in the Friday Barnes series feature a close-up of the young detective's face, which



jumps out from the shelves and signals the mystery and challenges within each book.

'We always try to come up with something physically dynamic,' Spratt says.

'The cover with the binoculars, the one with the glass to the wall – these things will occur in the book at some stage.

'Then we have the covers where she's climbing a ladder or holding a torch to her chin – there's always a big action scene and a high-stakes scary moment and we really try to capture that. You get the character and who she is and we try to create an exciting moment to give a sense of what the book is about.'

Friday Barnes 10: Undercover will be published in February 2022.

More binge-worthy books



The Adventures of Nanny Piggins
A side-splittingly hilarious series about a glamorous flying pig, who runs away from the circus to become a nanny!



The Peski Kids
Three squabbling siblings, a missing mum, a bumbling dad, a kooky cockroach mystery and an eccentric country town. What could possibly go wrong?



Shockingly Good Stories
A collection of twenty short stories featuring piranhas on the run, stolen sandwiches, chocolate waterfalls and so much more

OLDER readers

On the hunt for gripping reads to hook older readers?
Check out these stand-out titles that we recommend for Years 5–9



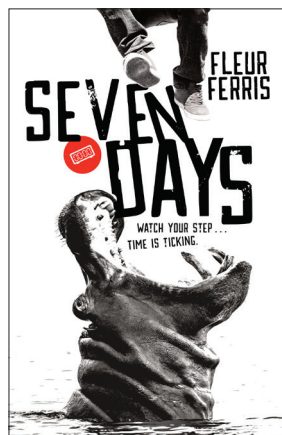
Prometheus High 1: How To Make a Monster Stuart Wilson

The first book in a hugely inventive new series, for readers who aren't afraid of things that creak, creep or beep in the dark! Perfect for fans of Skulduggery Pleasant, Nevermoor or Frankenstein. **Out April.**



We Run Tomorrow Nat Amooore with Mike Barry

Bestselling author Nat Amooore joins forces with acclaimed graphic novelist Mike Barry for an action-packed story about four kids – and four superheroes – who are taking their future into their own hands. **Out May.**



Seven Days Fleur Ferris

Adventure, mystery, intrigue, a treasure hunt, betrayals and plot twist after plot twist! This is a fast-paced, action-packed story of how the past catches up to us, from bestselling and award-winning author Fleur Ferris. **Out May.**



Did you know?

Books with the Puffin logo are aimed at readers up to twelve years old, whilst those with the Penguin logo are for teen readers and older. For more suggested texts, educational resources and ideas for the classroom and library, sign up to our Penguin Teachers newsletter.

