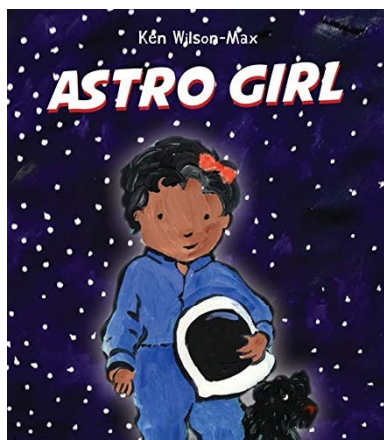


International Women's Day

To celebrate International Women's Day we're drawing attention to some favourite picture books that feature strong, independent girl characters.

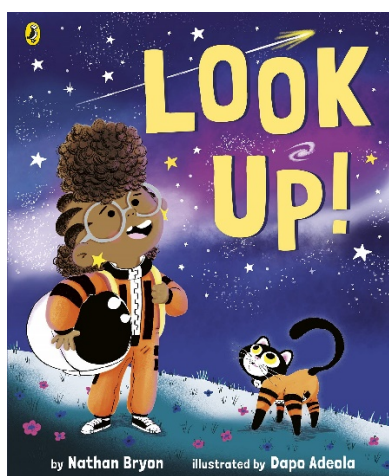


Astro Girl by Ken Wilson-Max

Otter-Barry Books 9781910959213

Astrid wants to be an astronaut. Her dad tells her all the things she will need to do if she becomes one and her strong self-belief in her abilities is joyfully apparent. Then it's time to go and meet Astrid's mum from work and we discover who has inspired her to have this ambition. The illustrations depict a Black family in this affectionate picture book. Information at the back of the book includes a brief introduction to five women astronauts from a variety of cultural backgrounds. A CLPE core book

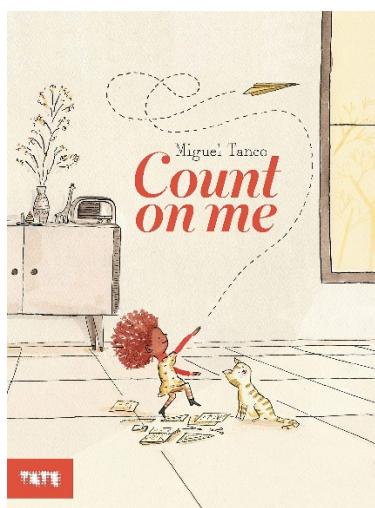
<https://clpe.org.uk/corebooks/astro-girl> A teaching sequence for this book is available to CLPE Power of Reading subscribers.



Look Up! by Nathan Bryon and Dapo Adeola

Puffin 9780241345849

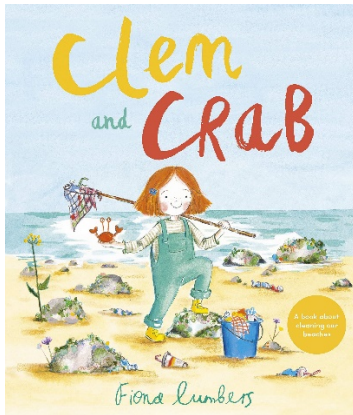
Rocket is a small Black girl who is always looking up at the sky planning for the day when she will become an 'astronaut, star-catcher, space-traveller' like African-American astronaut Mae Jemison. Rocket isn't just a dreamer – she's a doer, organising people to go to the park to witness 'The Amazing Phoenix Meteor Shower'. Her mum says that her big brother Jamal must accompany her, but will he ever stop looking down at his mobile phone and look up and see the wonders of the sky that Rocket sees? A CLPE core book <https://clpe.org.uk/corebooks/look> A teaching sequence for this book is available to CLPE Power of Reading subscribers. Also featuring Rocket: *Clean Up!* Puffin 9780241345894



Count on Me by Miguel Tanco

Tate Publishing 9781849767347

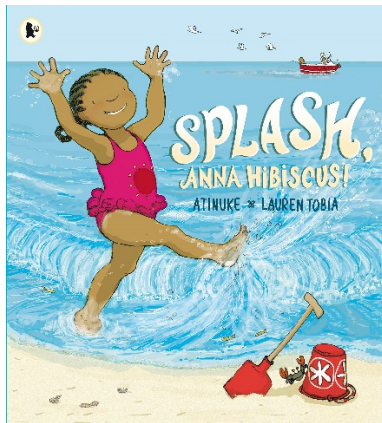
Katherine is from a dual heritage family where everyone has a passionate interest. Hers is for maths which she explores everywhere she goes, seeing patterns, shapes and numerical problems to be solved. A section of the book illustrates various mathematical concepts. A discreet note at the back says the girl is named after Katherine Johnson, the African American mathematician who helped send astronauts to the moon.



***Clem and Crab* by Fiona Lumbers**

Andersen Press 9781783449149

Clem's encounter with a crab whose claw is caught in twisted plastic leads to the realisation for her and her classmates that everyone can play a part in protecting sea and shore and the wildlife that inhabits them. 'Lots of small actions added together can make a big difference.' A CLPE core book <https://clpe.org.uk/corebooks/clem-and-crab>



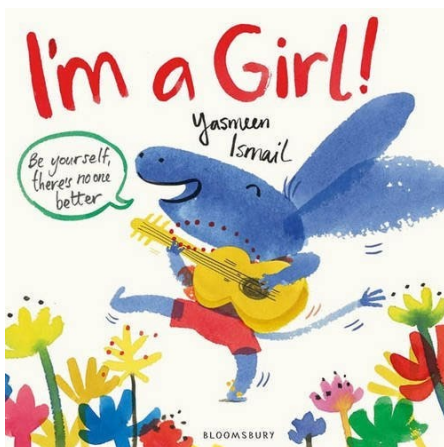
***Splash, Anna Hibiscus!* by Atinuke and Lauren Tobia**

Walker 9781406354683

Anna Hibiscus, a child of dual heritage, lives in Africa with her extended family. The whole family is at the beach and Anna is desperate 'to splash in the laughing waves'. She wants to share this experience but everyone is busy and none of her family responds to her repeated entreaties to join her. At last, irrepressible Anna takes matters into her own hands and soon the whole family is rushing to join in the fun. This is the second picture book about Anna Hibiscus who was first introduced in the fiction series that began with *Anna Hibiscus* Walker 9781406306552.

A CLPE core book <https://clpe.org.uk/corebooks/splash-anna-hibiscus>

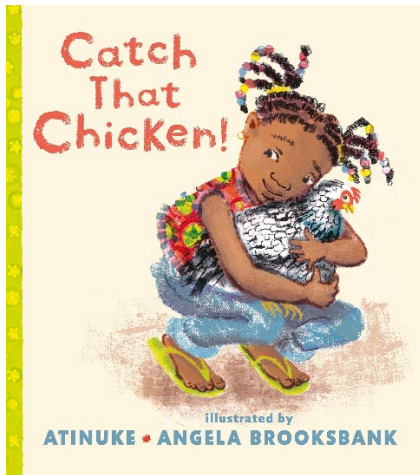
A teaching sequence for this book is available to CLPE Power of Reading subscribers.



***I'm a Girl!* by Yasmeen Ismail**

Bloomsbury 9781408857007

A rabbit rushes through life, confounding gender stereotypes with her boisterous behaviour. When people assume she's a boy, she repeatedly declares 'I'm a girl!'. Eventually she makes friends with a boy who is equally at ease with his own individuality. The colourful smudgy illustrations with their unfinished edges reflect the exuberant and whirlwind pace of the story. A picture book which is full of fun and will challenge assumptions and encourage reflection about the negative and positive associations around characteristics considered to be typical of girls and boys. A CLPE core book <https://clpe.org.uk/corebooks/im-girl>



Catch That Chicken! by Atinuke and Angela Brooksbank

Walker 9781406363616

No-one in Lami's village is as good at catching chickens as she is. Then, one day, she has an accident that means for a while she will not be able to chase chickens. However, resourceful Lami soon finds a solution! Angela Brooksbank's illustrations depict the busy life of the African village where Lami lives while Atinuke's brief text plays joyfully with alliteration and repetition. A CLPE core book <https://clpe.org.uk/corebooks/catch-chicken>



Katie Morag Delivers the Mail by Mairi Hedderwick

Red Fox 9781849410915

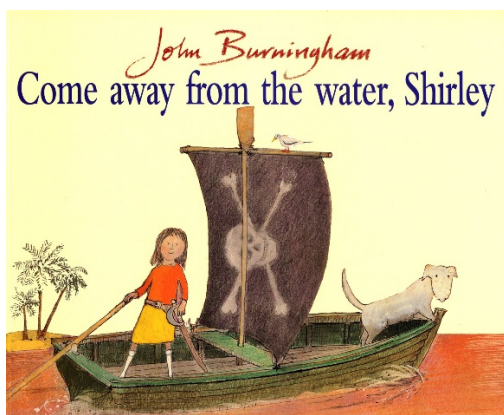
Katie Morag lives on the fictional Isle of Struay, off the Scottish coast and there are a number of stories about her family and community. Here Katie is asked to deliver the parcels which have just arrived from the mainland. However, disaster strikes when she drops the mail bag in a pool and the address labels get smudged. Will she be able to sort out the muddle? A CLPE core book <https://clpe.org.uk/corebooks/katie-morag-delivers-mail>



Ruby's Sword by Jacqueline Véissid and Paola Zakimi

Chronicle 9781452163918

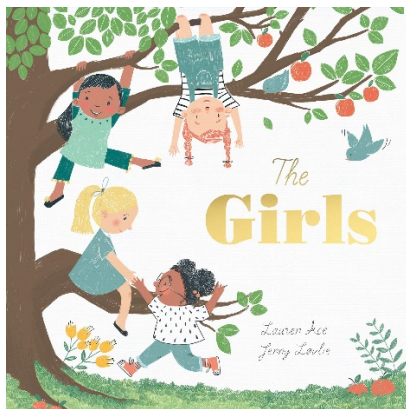
Ruby finds a stick that can be used in her imaginative games. The stick becomes a sword that fulfils many functions from fighting dragons to providing a prop for holding up a 'magnificent castle' that Ruby constructs with her brothers to whom she has 'granted' swords. A CLPE core book <https://clpe.org.uk/corebooks/rubys-sword>



Come Away from the Water, Shirley by John Burningham

Red Fox 9780099899402

A picture book that broke the bounds of convention by telling two stories simultaneously - on pages opposite one another. On the left-hand pages you see the parents suffering a cold and windy day on an English beach - whilst on the right their daughter Shirley (constantly warned by them about tar and about dogs) goes off on a daydream adventure with pirates and hidden treasure. A CLPE core book <https://clpe.org.uk/corebooks/come-away-water-shirley> Also: *Time to Get Out of the Bath, Shirley* Red Fox 9780099200512



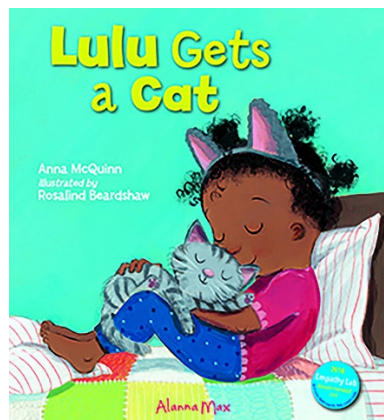
The Girls by Lauren Ace and Jenny Løvlie
Caterpillar Books 9781848578432

This picture book charts the supportive friendship of four girls from childhood through to adulthood as they find their places in the world. The text is pared down giving space to the illustrations to expand on their lives separately and together. The girls are revealed to be of different ethnicities and the pictures show many other details about their lives that are not mentioned in the words. A CLPE core book <https://clpe.org.uk/corebooks/girls>



Amazing Grace by Mary Hoffman and Caroline Binch
Frances Lincoln 9781845077495

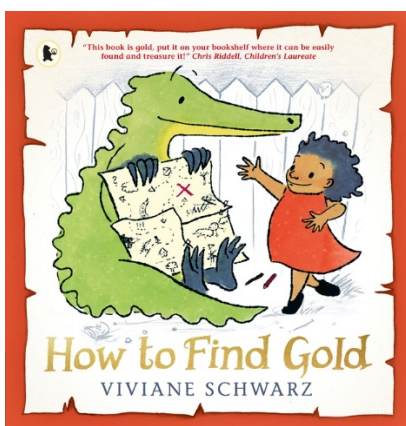
A wonderfully affirmative story. Grace 'a girl who loved stories' is told that she cannot play Peter Pan in the school pantomime because she is Black and female. With the help and support of her grandmother she comes to believe that she can be anything she wants. The excellent illustrations show Grace's shifting emotions as she copes with disappointment and triumph and her constant joie de vivre. A CLPE core book <https://clpe.org.uk/corebooks/amazing-grace>



Lulu Gets a Cat by Anna McQuinn and Rosalind Beardshaw
Alanna Max 9781907825170

In the fifth book about Lulu, she and her family adopt a cat from the cat shelter. When Lulu first expresses a wish to get a cat, her mother encourages her to find out about the work involved in looking after it as well as the pleasure. They find out information from library books and the internet and Lulu practises using her toy cat before bringing a real little cat home, settling her in and naming her Makeda after an African Queen. A CLPE core book <https://clpe.org.uk/corebooks/lulu-gets-cat>

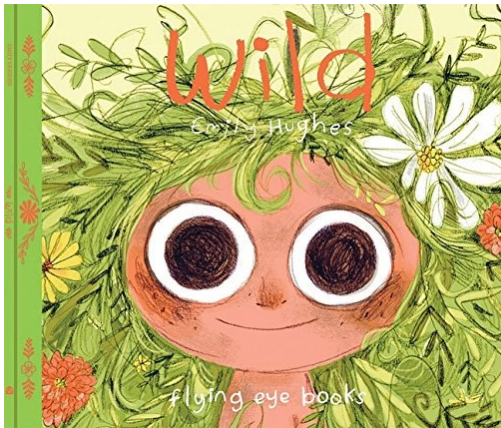
A teaching sequence for this book is available to CLPE Power of Reading subscribers.



How to Find Gold by Viviane Schwarz
Walker 9781406371642

Anna is inspired to go on an adventure in search of gold and undeterred by the potential difficulties. Her friend Crocodile suggests the solutions to help them achieve this together. Anna is a spontaneous and strong girl character while Crocodile provides a steadying hand (or should it be claw?) in a friendship between child and animal which is portrayed as perfectly natural.

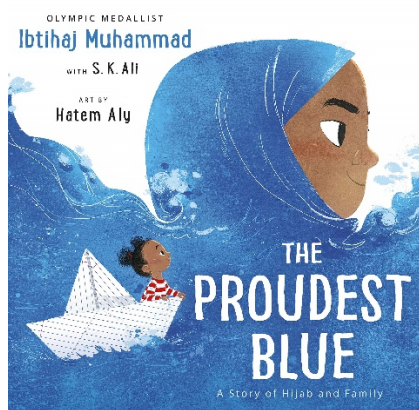
A CLPE core book <https://clpe.org.uk/corebooks/how-find-gold> A teaching sequence is available for CLPE Power of Reading subscribers. Anna and Crocodile have another adventure in *How to Be on the Moon* Walker 9781406383102



Wild by Emily Hughes

Flying Eye 9781909263086/9781909263628

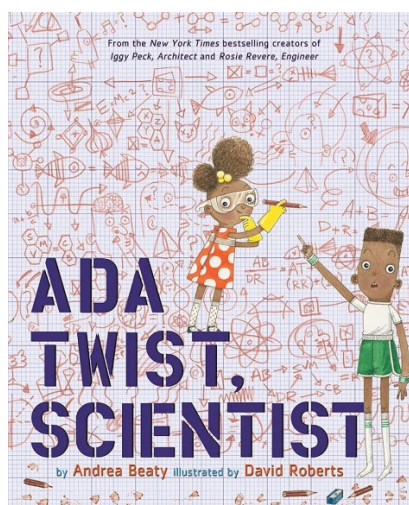
Wild eyed with wonder, a small naked girl stares out from the cover, the pupils of her eyes wide and luminous. Turn to the title page and the same child looks grim and cross, her hair trussed into a topknot, a hint of restrictive clothing below her chin. Thus begins this tale of nature versus nurture, of a child brought up by animals. Following a blissful early childhood, where she is depicted being taught to speak by a chorus of birds, catch fish to eat by a bear and her cubs, and play roughly by foxes, spinning in a whirl of snapping jaws, the unnamed child is discovered in the forest by ‘some new animals.’ These miserable creatures take her home and try to force her into their accustomed way of doing things. Her unhappiness eventually explodes and she returns to her former serene life, taking with her the family’s cat and dog. A CLPE core book <https://clpe.org.uk/corebooks/wild> A teaching sequence is available for CLPE Power of Reading subscribers.



The Proudest Blue by Ibtihaj Muhammad, S.K. Ali and Hatem Aly

Andersen Press 9781783449729

Faizah is proud of her older sister Asiya who is wearing her hijab to school for the first time and looks forward to the day when she will do the same. Asiya has chosen a blue hijab that is ‘like the sky on a sunny day’ and ‘like the ocean waving to the sky’, words and pictures complementing each other and reflecting positive images. Both sisters gain strength from their Muslim faith, symbolised for them by the hijab, and from each other, and this helps them to cope with prejudice and hurtful words. A CLPE core book <https://clpe.org.uk/corebooks/proudest-blue>



Ada Twist, Scientist by Andrea Beaty and David Roberts

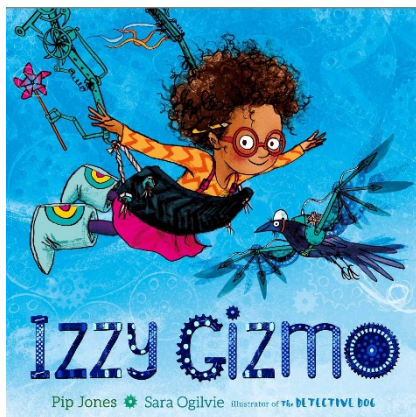
Abrams 9781419721373

Ada Marie Twist is constantly questioning how the world works. Her scientific experiments cause havoc at home and at school. Eventually, however, her family and school friends recognise Ada’s passionate curiosity and see it as something positive. Ada’s story is told with lots of humour, both in the text, which is in rhyming couplets, and in the illustrations. Winner of the 2017 Little Rebels Award. A CLPE core book <https://clpe.org.uk/corebooks/ada-twist-scientist>

Also by this author/illustrator team:

Rosie Revere, Engineer Abrams 9781419708459

Sofia Valdez, Future Prez Abrams 9781419737046



***Izzy Gizmo* by Pip Jones and Sara Ogilvie**

Simon & Schuster 9780857075130

Izzy is an inventor with an amazing imagination who takes her tool bag everywhere. Her biggest challenge yet comes when she tries to create new wings for a crow who can no longer fly. The rhyming text and the humorous pictures combine to show where she gets all the things she will need to achieve this along with her own persistence and some assistance from the crow.

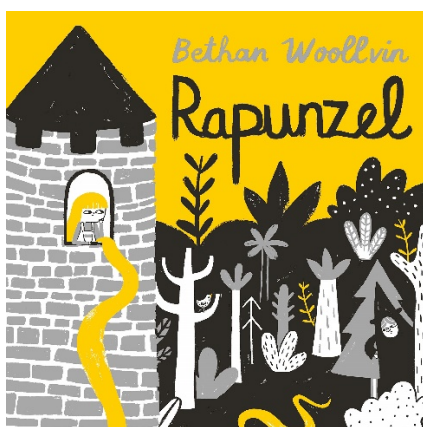
Also: *Izzy Gizmo and the Invention Convention* 9781471145247



***Hilda and the Bird Parade* by Luke Pearson**

Flying Eye 9781909263062/ 9781911171027

The third book in a series of graphic novels about a small independent girl with blue hair. Hilda has moved away from the countryside where she was able to roam freely and have encounters with the natural and supernatural worlds. Hilda's close relationship with her mother becomes strained as her mother is anxious about letting her daughter out alone in the city. Allowed to go out with a group of children from her school, Hilda becomes separated from them when she stops to take care of an injured bird who has lost his memory. Together they explore the urban environment, discovering that it is much more interesting and varied than they thought at first. Eventually the bird rediscovers his identity and Hilda is reunited with her mother. A CLPE core book <https://clpe.org.uk/corebooks/hilda-and-bird-parade>



***Rapunzel* by Bethan Woolvin**

Two Hoots 9781509842681

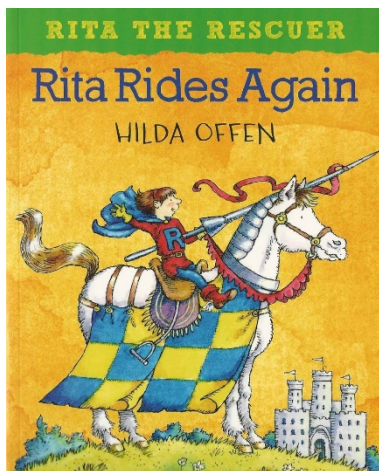
A pared back and twisted take on the traditional tale told with humour to be gleaned from reading the pictures. It begins with Rapunzel, here portrayed as a child, already encased in the tower without the back story explaining how she came to be there and reaches a conclusion in which she makes a joyful escape without the aid of a prince. A CLPE core book <https://clpe.org.uk/corebooks/rapunzel> A teaching sequence is available for CLPE Power of Reading subscribers.



Little Red by Bethan Woollvin
Two Hoots 9781447291404

The story of Little Red Riding Hood has inspired many picture book creators and lately many of them have made her into a heroine who outwits the wolf rather than the more submissive character who learns not to stray from the path. Bethan Woollvin continues this new tradition. It begins in the usual way, with Little Red setting off through the forest to Grandma's house and encountering the wolf along the way. Little Red is not scared for a moment. Nor is she fooled by his disguise once he has gobbled up Grandma and when she returns home to her mother, she is clothed in a new outfit. The illustrations are bold and striking like Little Red Riding Hood herself. For more versions of the traditional tale see our booklist A Rash of Red Riding Hoods

<https://clpe.org.uk/clpe/library/booklists/rash-red-riding-hoods>



Rita Rides Again by Hilda Offen
Troika Books 9781909991224

When she dons her special outfit complete with cloak, Rita Potter becomes Rita the Rescuer. Apparently unrecognisable to her family and friends, she saves everyone from danger and disaster. In this episode of her continuing adventures, her Grandad takes her to the castle where he is a tour guide. Unbeknownst to him, she scares a ghost, tames a monster and takes on a challenge as a knight on the jousting field. And that's not all! One of a series featuring this redoubtable heroine. For more Superhero stories see our booklist <https://clpe.org.uk/library-and-resources/booklists/superhero-booklist>