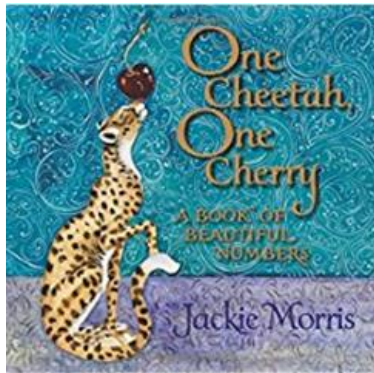


Author/Illustrator Focus

Jackie Morris

Illustrator Jackie Morris is noted for the beautiful and distinctive style in which she paints pictures linking the human and the natural worlds, often drawing on myth and folklore. Find out more about her: www.jackiemorris.co.uk

Picture Books



One Cheetah, One Cherry. A Book of Beautiful Numbers

Otter-Barry Books 9781910959282

What happens when you start off with one cherry and one cheetah and end up with ten cherries and one cheetah? Count to ten with a range of wild animals behaving in some unexpected ways, depicted in beautiful paintings and accompanied by an alliterative text.

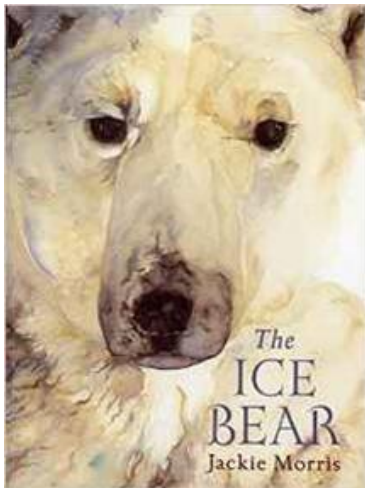


The Seal Children

Otter-Barry Books 9781910959473

There are many stories about selkies – half-human, half-seal - and these are especially strong around the coasts of Scotland and Ireland. Jackie Morris sets her version in a Welsh coastal village close to where she lives. When a selkie sheds her, or sometimes his, sealskin, so that she can live with a human partner and have children, it is inevitable that one day the desire to don the sealskin again and return to the sea will be too strong to resist. The selkie in this story never forsakes her children Ffion and Morlo and both emerge into new lives as a result of their mother's love. Blues, mauves and greens blend as land, sea and sky merge in the evocative illustrations of this beautiful new hardback edition of a book which won the Tír na nÓg Welsh children's book award.





The Ice Bear

Graffeg 9781912050468 (Large format edition)
 Jackie Morris's stunning and distinctive paintings of the natural world illustrate this powerful story which draws on myth and folk tale and is set in the Arctic. Raven the trickster steals a polar bear cub, subsequently taken in by a human couple who have longed for a child. They nurture this boy, who has shapeshifted from his polar bear form. Seven years pass and, thanks to more of Raven's trickery, the boy once again encounters the bears. Who will he regard as his true parents and how will his dilemma be resolved?

View this book on [Core Books](#)

A teaching sequence is available for this book on the [Power of Reading](#)

[Hear Jackie Morris read this story](#)

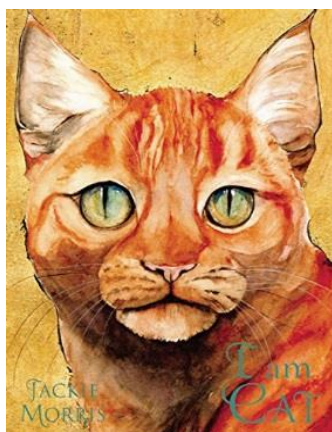


Something about a Bear

Frances Lincoln 9781847805164

A brown bear stares out solemnly from the cover of this beautiful book which depicts a variety of bears from around the world in their natural habitats. Each spread is a striking painting incorporating meticulous detail. The pictures are each accompanied by poetic text highlighting aspects of the bears' lives and the environment where they live. There is more detailed factual information about the bears at the end of the book. Shortlisted for the CILIP Kate Greenaway Medal.

View this book on [Core Books](#)



I Am Cat

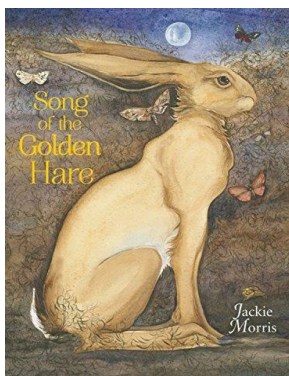
Frances Lincoln 9781847801357

A domestic cat, curled up asleep 'ammonite tight' dreams of being many kinds of wild cat from the Siberian Tiger to the Amur Leopard. Each spread has a painting of the cat that is being imagined in its natural environment accompanied by only a couple of sentences beginning with the words 'I dream'. They are not named here but at the end of the book is a guide to enable identification and details about each one.



The Snow Leopard

Graffeg 978191205047 (Large format edition)
The snow leopard is a spirit cat who protects a hidden valley safe from the world. Centuries before, she was human and now the time has come to find a Child to teach and take her place.



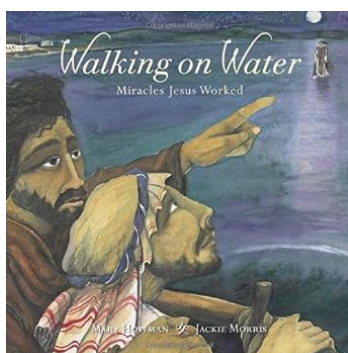
Song of the Golden Hare

Frances Lincoln 9781847804501
Another picture book about the sometimes mystical relationship between humans and animals. A brother and sister need to protect the Queen of the Hares until she can choose a mate and give birth to her successor. In order to do this, they must learn to sing the song of the hare in order to keep at bay the hunter and hounds who would capture her for the sake of her golden coat.

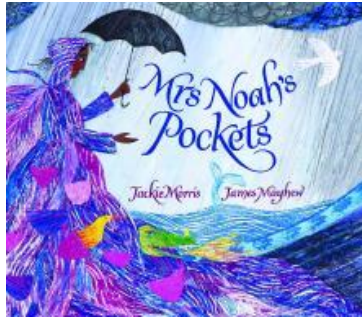


Tell Me a Dragon

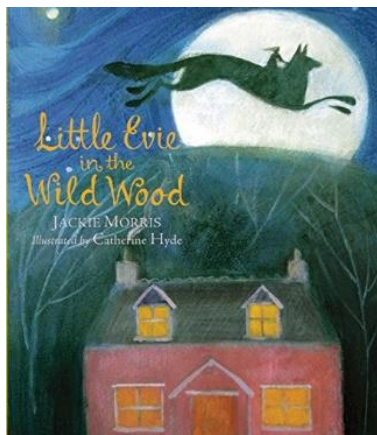
Frances Lincoln 9781847802422
In this highly imaginative picture book each spread depicts a beautifully distinctive dragon in a symbiotic relationship with a child. They are shown in many different places and times. [Hear Jackie read the book](#) as she turns the pages and opens up the book for readers.



Walking on Water. Miracles Jesus Worked, written by Mary Hoffman
Otter-Barry Books 9781910959220
Mary Hoffman retells these Bible stories in a colloquial style, for example 'The Biggest Picnic in the Word' is the story of the feeding of the five thousand with loaves and fishes. The pictures in this book and its companion volume *Lost and Found. Parables Jesus Told* (9781910959299) show the people of ancient Palestine in their rural landscape. Also by Jackie Morris on a Biblical theme: *The Newborn Child* (Otter-Barry Books 9781910959459).

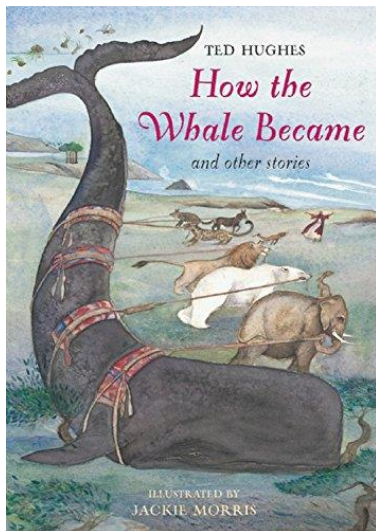


Mrs Noah's Pockets, illustrated by James Mayhew.
Otter-Barry Books 9781910959091
As the rain falls with increasing intensity and the water rises, Mr Noah makes a list of all the animals he believes should sail in the ark he is building. He also has another list of all those creatures he thinks are troublesome and not worth saving. Mrs Noah watches what is happening and pursues her own agenda as poetic language and mixed media illustrations work together to create understanding in this new slant on a very old tale.

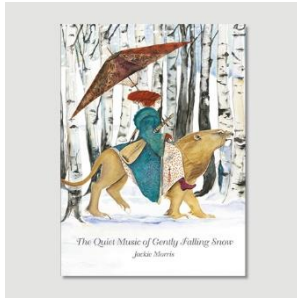


Little Evie in the Wild Wood, illustrated by Catherine Hyde
Frances Lincoln 9781847807670
A story with strong echoes of Red Riding Hood. Little Evie meets a wolf in the wood, a she wolf with 'Great eyes, the better to see her with. Great ears, the better to hear her call. Sharp teeth like dagger, nose black as coal.' The poetic text integrated within exquisite paintings celebrate the wildness of the wood and how humans can share this with the creatures who dwell within it.

View this book on [Core Books](#)
Download our booklist [A Rash of Red Riding Hoods](#)



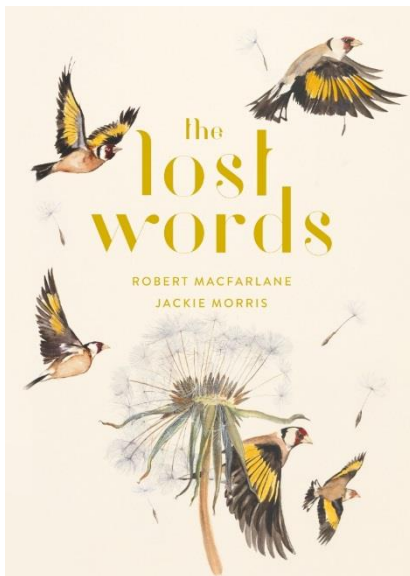
How the Whale Became and other stories, written by Ted Hughes
Frances Lincoln 9781845079284
Jackie Morris is a perfect choice of illustrator for Ted Hughes' glorious fables about how the earth's creatures came to be. Many of the animals that she has portrayed so centrally in other books are very present here: the polar bear, the hare, the cat, the whale, along with many others. The mythic quality and respect for nature which are so evident in Hughes' poetry are also present here, albeit often tempered with humour.



The Quiet Music of Gently Falling Snow

Graffeg 9781910862650

This lovely large format book began with the paintings the illustrator created for Christmas cards to support the charity Help Musicians UK. She has woven interlinked narratives around the pictures using the themes and language of fairy tales. Long haired damsels sit astride wild animals and birds – polar bears, tigers, swans – creatures that find favour in other books by Jackie Morris and move through snow-filled landscapes. And – as would be expected given the origins of the book – a wide range of musical instruments is depicted.

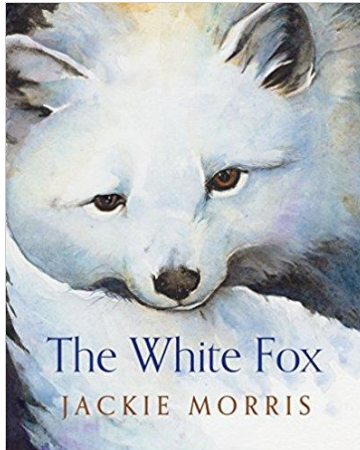


The Lost Words, A Spell Book, written by Robert Macfarlane

Hamish Hamilton 9780241253588

This collaboration, which grew out of the decision to amend the Oxford Junior Dictionary to remove certain words related to nature such as adder, bluebell and conker, is a timely and necessary book about the wonder of nature and the power of naming. The book works beautifully to record the absence of the creature or plant, then the spell is written as an acrostic with the summoned creature or plant depicted, set against a gleaming background of gold leaf. Finally, there is a double-page spread showing each species back in the landscape. The charms are meant to be read aloud and in doing so the reader feels the power and magic of both the text and the nature it describes. The illustrations, so stunningly crafted, remind you of how important it is to protect our wildlife and to engage young people in this conservation. Read Jackie's blog about how this book came about [here](#).

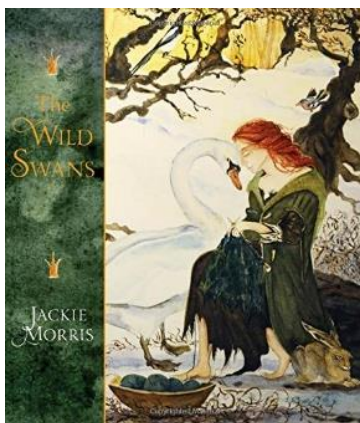
Fiction

***The White Fox***

Barrington Stoke 9781781125229

When his father tells him he has seen a white Arctic fox down at the Seattle dockside, Sol seeks out the animal for himself. From then on the lives of boy and fox become intertwined as both need to return to their Alaskan home. As Sol and his father travel north the emotional story of their past gradually unfolds, and when he becomes reacquainted with his grandmother he discovers why he feels such an affinity with the white fox. As so often in Jackie Morris's books, the interconnection between humans and the natural world is central to the story, manifest in both words and pictures. In this short novel the environment is suggested by the wintery blues and greys of the trees and if you flip the pages, you can see the fox running through them. This book is one of the Conkers series and the publisher has given loving attention to the production of this jacketed hardback volume printed on creamy paper, adding a ribbon bookmark. Like all Barrington Stoke books, the lines are well spaced to aid the reader.

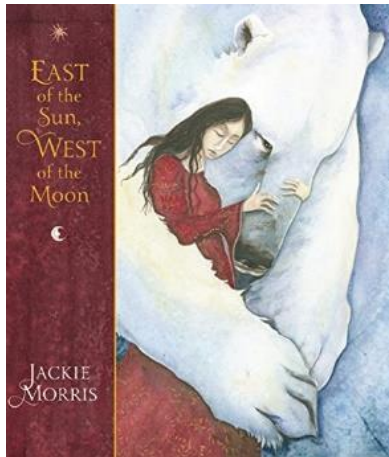
View this book on [Core Books](#).

***The Wild Swans***

Frances Lincoln 9781847805362

Jackie Morris has enriched this story of the sister who must remain silent and sew shirts spun from nettles to save her swan brothers. Known as an illustrator with a distinctive way of portraying the natural world, she reveals the significance of feathers, flora and fauna as integral in both the words and the pictures which sometimes span a double page, at other times appear in exquisite miniature. The extended text allows for character development and examination of motive and behaviour.





East of the Sun, West of the Moon

Frances Lincoln 9781847802941

This retelling of a Scandinavian folk tale is here expanded and given a modern twist to frame it. Like Beauty and the Beast, it is a story with the motifs of folk tales which feature animal brides and bridegrooms. The text is interspersed with vistas of the landscapes through which the central character must travel in order to find her lost love and exquisite vignettes often featuring birds and animals.

