



Best Children's Books of 2016 (Daily Telegraph)

- [*Sputnik's Guide to Life on Earth* by Frank Cottrell Boyce](#) - A touching tale that imagines the Soviet space dog Laika survived.
- [*Raymie Nightingale* by Kate Dicamillo](#) - A sad tale of a young girl who wants to win back her absent father
- [*Hour of the Bees* by Lindsay Eagar](#) - A magical fable about a grandfather, bees and a 100 year drought
- [*Lois Lane: Fallout* by Gwenda Bond](#) - A novel that recasts Lois Lane as an army brat
- [*Jolly Foul Play* by Robin Stevens](#) - A boarding school mystery set in the 1930's but with modern sensibility – female protagonist
- [*Beetle Boy* by MG Leonard](#) - A beautifully written tale about a boy and his insect sidekick
- [*The Double Axe* by Philip Womack](#) - A tale of heroism that breathes new life into the minotaur myth.
- *Wild Lily* by KM Peyton –
- [*Anna and the Swallow Man* by Gavriel Savit](#) - a wartime novel in which the heroine spends time with a fugitive
- [*Romans on the rampage: JAILBREAK!*](#) by Jeremy Strong – set in ancient Rome with a sprinkling of Latin amuse
- [*Boy in the Tower*](#) – Polly Ho-Yen - From the seventeenth floor of the tower block where he lives with his mother, Ade watches as the buildings fall around him. The Bluchers - a strange and terrible kind of plant - are taking over the city, and everyone is being forced to evacuate, but his mother is refusing to leave her room.

Mrs Chitty recommends:

- [*Stop the Train*](#) – by Geraldine McCaughrean – beautifully written and historically informative about a community that try to build a town in Oklahoma US in 1898. The characters and surprising twists made it a real page turner.
- [*Outlaw*](#) – by Michael Morpurgo – a modern take on the heroic story of Robin Hood as a boy discovers a human skull buried beneath the roots of an ancient tree.
- [*Goal*](#) – by Alan Durrant – boys finds an ancient football in an attic whose genie Archibald Legg makes reference to legends of the footballing past such as Herbert Chapman and Ian Wright (EAGLES!!)