



Best Children's Books of 2016 & 2017 (Waterstones)

- *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.
- *Wolf Hollow* by Lauren Wolk – a girl living in a quiet pace scarred by two world wars has her calm world shattered when a new arrival challenges her beliefs of right and wrong.
- *Time Travelling with a Hamster* by Ross Welford – a boy travels back in time to prevent a go-kart accident and save his father's life.
- *The Girl of Ink and Stars* by Kiran Millwood Hargrave – a mapmaker's daughter goes on an adventure to find her missing friend. But beneath the mountains a legendary fire demon awakens
- *Cogheart* by Peter Bunzl – a girl hunts down the truth after her inventor father goes missing after a Zeppelin crash
- *Captain Pug: the dog who sailed the seas* by Laura James - a dog goes on a seafaring adventure with just one problem. Pug is afraid of the water.

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!!)
- *Pugs of the Frozen North* by Philip Reeve and Sarah McIntyre – lots of great language, pictures and humour. A good one for sharing with a reluctant reader.

Getting boys to read

Some authors with boy-appeal

Ardagh, Philip*	www.philipardagh.co.uk
Blackman, Malorie*	www.malorieblackman.co.uk
Boyne, John	www.johnboyne.com
Briggs, Andy	www.andybriggs.co.uk
Brooks, Kevin*	
Cottrell Boyce, Frank*	
Craig, Joe	www.joecraig.co.uk
Eldridge, Jim*	www.jimeldridge.com
Gibbons, Alan*	www.alangibbons.com
Gleitzman, Morris	www.morrisgleitzman.com
Horowitz, Anthony	www.anthonyhowitz.com
Meres, Jonathan*	www.jonathanmeres.com
Mulligan, Andy	www.andymulliganbooks.com
Palmer, Tom*	www.tompalmer.co.uk
Rai, Bali*	www.balirai.co.uk
Reeve, Philip	www.philip-reeve.com
Riordan, Rick	www.rickriordan.com
Sedgewick, Marcus	www.marcussedgewick.com
Walliams, David	www.worldofwalliams.com
Zephaniah, Benjamin	http://benjaminzephaniah.com

*Author's works include HILO books (high interest, low reading level)