

BOOKS THAT REFLECT CHILDREN'S LIVED EXPERIENCES



SUTTON

VIRTUAL SCHOOL

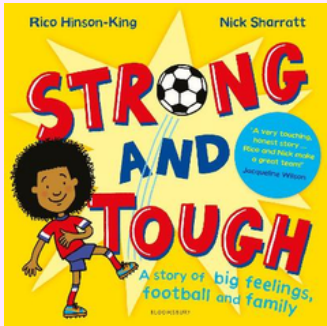
Aim, Aspire, Achieve



Cognus

No Limits on Learning

BOOKS FEATURING CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER



Strong and Tough- Rico Hinson- King

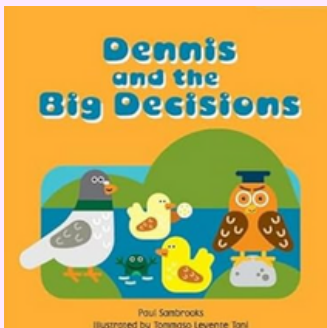
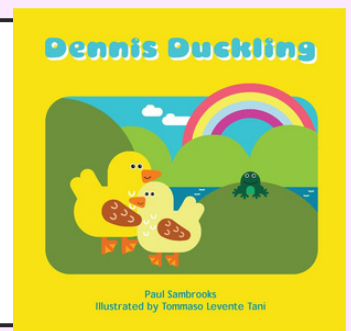
Age: 5+

A picture book for children dealing with being separated from their siblings while hoping to find a forever family.

Dennis Duckling- Paul Sambrooks

Age: 2-5

A book for very young children who are leaving their birth families for the first time to be looked after by foster carers.



Dennis and the Big Decisions- Paul Sambrooks

Age: 2-5

A book explaining why children may have moved from their family, why they may have future moves, and who will make these decisions.

My Bright Shining Star- Fatima Whitbread

Age: 4-8

This book shows that there is no easy or quick way to find your 'forever family', but that love and kindness can still exist in a child's life.



The Blanket Bears- Samuel Langley- Swain

Age: 6-12

This book helps young children understand adoption by gently covering the journey, from foster care to finding a forever family.

The Day My Dog Got Famous- Jen Carney

Age: 9-11

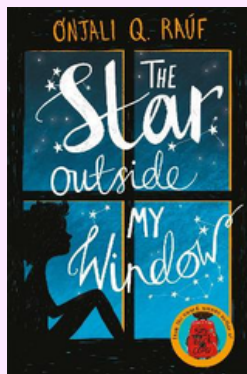
A story about an ordinary boy and his ordinary dog. His mums regularly foster children, and Ferris often has to say goodbye to siblings.



The Star Outside My Window- Onjali Q Rauf

Age: 9+

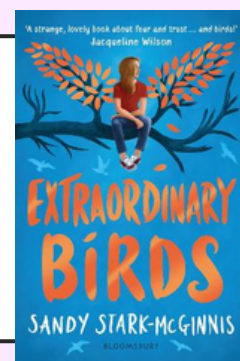
Told through the voice of a child, this is a story that explores the subtle faces and endless impacts of domestic violence, and living in foster care.



Extraordinary Birds- Sandy Stark- McGinnis

Age: 9+

Believing she's destined to reunite with her mother, December begins to rethink her story when a new foster home offers her a glimpse of belonging.



Sputnik's Guide to Life on Earth- Frank Cottrell- Boyce

Age: 9+

Prez is living with a foster family when he opens the door to Sputnik. Prez sees an alien, everyone else sees a dog. This is the start of their adventures



The Girl Who Speaks Bear- Sophie Anderson

Age: 9+

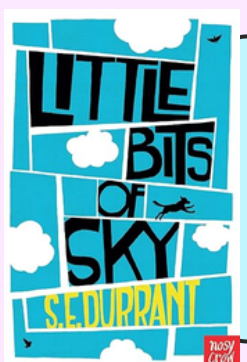
Yanka, an orphan girl raised in a village, wakes up one day with the ability to speak to animals, prompting her to search for the truth about her origins.



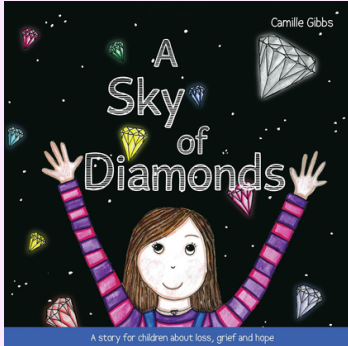
Little Bits of Sky- S.E. Durrant

Age: 11+

In 1987, Ira and Zac are placed in a residential home where, amid social unrest and institutional neglect, they navigate friendship, hardship, and search for belonging.



BOOKS EXPLORING GRIEF AND LOSS



A Sky of Diamonds- Camille Gibbs

Age: 5-9

When Mia's mother dies, her world turns grey with grief, but with her dad's help, she learns to cope through creative ways like painting.

The Invisible String- Patrice Karst

Age: 3-6

This picture book explores questions about the intangible yet unbreakable connections between us, and opens up conversations about love.



The Memory Tree- Britta Teckentrup

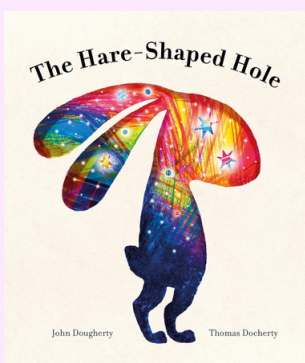
Age: 3-8

When Fox passes away, his forest friends gather to share memories, and from their love and stories, a tree grows.

Grandad's Island- Benji Davies

Age: 5-10

Syd visits his Grandad's house and embarks on a magical journey to an island, where Grandad chooses to stay, gently introducing the theme of loss.



The Hare-Shaped Hole- John Dougherty

Age: 5-7

Hertle the turtle and Bertle the hare are best friends until Hertle suddenly disappears. As Bertle struggles with grief, a kind bear helps him begin to heal.

If You Read This- Kereen Getten

Age: 9-11

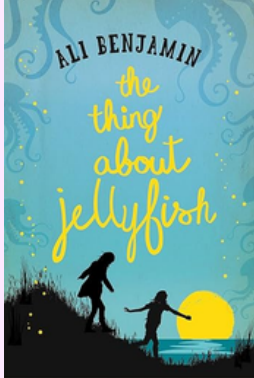
Brie embarks on a final treasure hunt guided by letters from her late mother, leading her to secrets, memories, and a life-changing discovery.



The Thing About Jellyfish- Ali Benjamin

Age: 9+

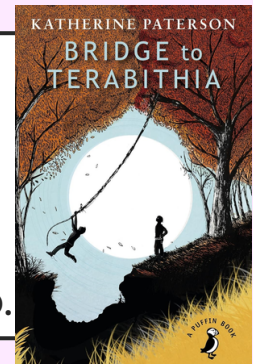
After her best friend drowns, Suzy struggles to accept the loss and embarks on a heartfelt journey to make sense of it through science, memory, and silence.



The Bridge to Terabithia- Katherine Paterson

Age: 8-10

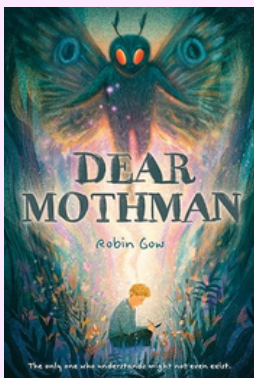
When Jess befriends Leslie, they create a kingdom called Terabithia - until a tragic loss forces Jess to confront grief, courage, and the power of friendship.



Dear Mothman- Robin Gow

Age: 10-14

After losing his best friend, a trans boy, Noah copes with grief by writing letters to Mothman, while slowly finding friendship and hope again.



Smoke and Mirrors- Barry Jonsberg

Age: 10-14

When Grace's beloved gran falls terminally ill, she uses her passion for magic to bring joy back into her life and unlock her own guarded heart..



Stone- Finbar Hawkins

Age: 12+

After losing his father in Afghanistan, Sam finds a supernatural stone that holds special memories for him and helps him to heal.

