

KILKENNY COUNTY COUNCIL LIBRARY SERVICE



Kilkenny County Council Library
Service
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There is a picture book for everyone!

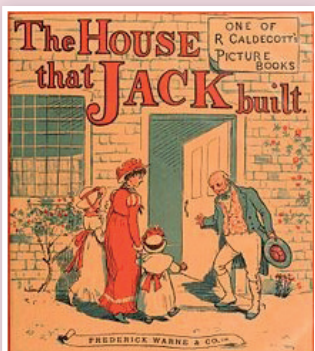


The first picture book created for the children is said to be a mid-17th century text published in Latin by John Comenius called *Orbis Pictus*.



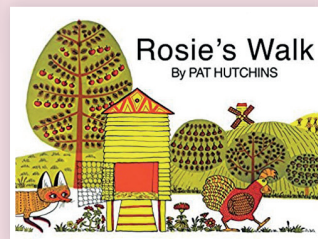
The English language version was published under the title *The World of Things Obvious to the Senses drawn in Pictures* (catchy). It included a phonic style A to Z, illustrated using images of animals and nature.

The picture book as we know it is a much more modern creation. Randolph Caldecott in the 19th century is often credited with beginning the shift towards using the image to tell the story. The image is as important as the text in his retelling of old English rhymes and fables. **The House that Jack Built** blends pen and ink draws with colourful illustrations to convey the story and the humour in what was a very well known rhyme.

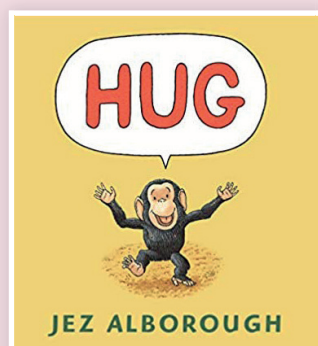


Developments in printing and changes in how childhood was perceived during the late 19th and

early 20th century saw a flourishing of children's picture books. Today thousands of new picture books are published each year and yet some classics will never go out of fashion, so there is a picture book that will appeal to everyone. Picture books use a combination of images and text narratives to carry the story. The pictures help children to understand the meaning of the words and the images give contextual clues to the words. But sometime this is thrown on its head altogether!

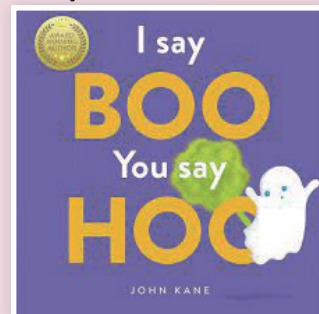


Pat Hutchins in his classic **Rosie's Walk** (1967) tells one story through the text about where Rosie's goes on her walk. A very different story is told through the images, about the hungry fox and all the mishaps that happen to him as he tries to catch the unaware chicken. This juxtaposition of text and pictures can help young children identify the different view point of characters within a story.

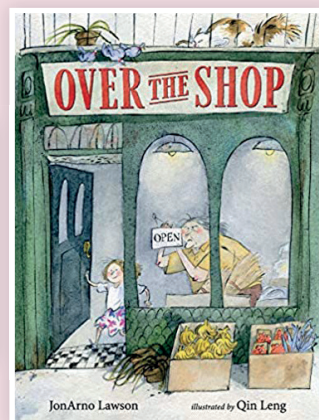


There is a huge variation in the level of text in picture books. Jez Alborough in the book **Hug**

(2002), uses only three words. Most of the pages just have the word 'hug' repeated on each page. Changes in font size and placement of the text combine with the images to tell the story and convey the emotion.

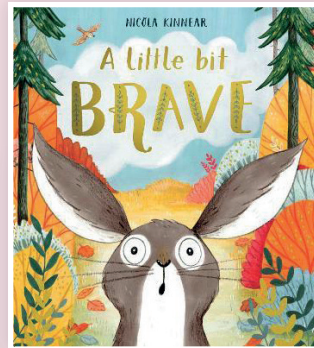


I say Boo you say Hoo (2020) by John Kane starts by asking the listeners to help, asking them to 'hoo' each time they hear 'boo'. This technique using rhyming or repetitive text encourage and engage children to join in the telling of the story.

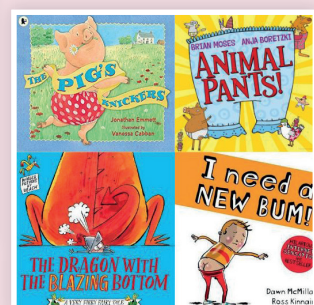


Wordless books allow the reader to tell the story as inspired by the pictures. These can be used to open up the world of picture books to parents or guardians who may have literacy or languages issues. Allowing them to interact with the books without the pressure and stigma of not being able to read the text. **Over the Shop** by Jon Arno Lawson and beautifully illustrated by Qin Leng (2021) has fantastic detail that tells the story of how a tumbledown building becomes a precious home for the found family it houses.

Picture books can be used very successfully to convey a message or a lesson to children, helping to teach children about the world around them or about feelings and emotions. **A little bit Brave** written and illustrated by Nicola Kinnear is about a little bunny who finds new things very scary and how he overcomes his fear and learns to be brave. **The Magic Moment** written by Niall



Breslin and illustrated by Sheena Dempsey weaves mindfulness techniques into the story to show children how they can manage their feelings.



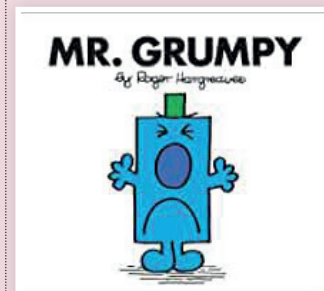
But often we just want a fun story, an escape into the silly, sublime or ridiculous, to produce raptures of laughter. Librarians that do story time with children know to reach for any of the hundreds of stories that feature..... underpants, knickers, farts or bums, as these are always guaranteed a giggle. In this selection you can find flaming bottoms, or head off on an adventure to find a new bum or celebrate the joy and diversity of pants and knickers!



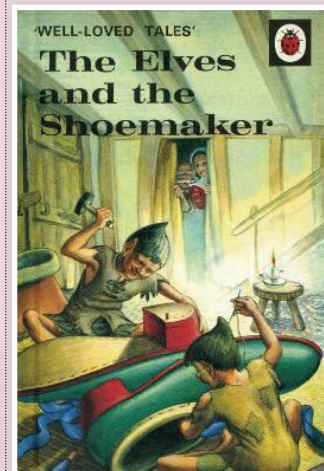
Perhaps you are a little more sensible but still want to keep the children entertained. We have found these four picture books are guaranteed to get lots of interaction from children and parents alike. They are full of fun and joy and not a toilet joke in sight! Okay perhaps one but you'll have to read them all to find it.



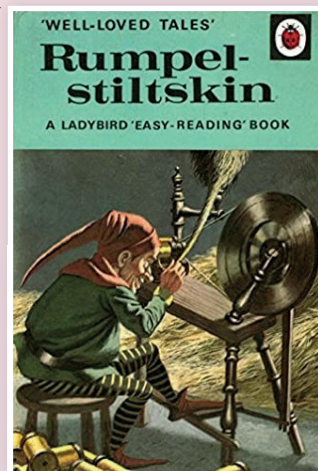
Kilkenny library staff told us some of their favourites, **Each Peach, Pear, Plum** by Janet and Allan Ahlberg (1978) with cleverly written rhymes engaging to adults and children. **Guess How Much I love You** by Sam McBratney (1994) and **Can't You Sleep Little Bear** by Martin Waddell (1988) for their sweet stories place highly as favourite read alouds.



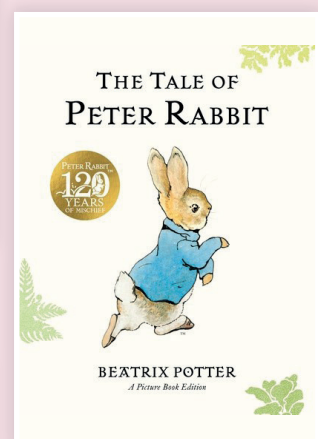
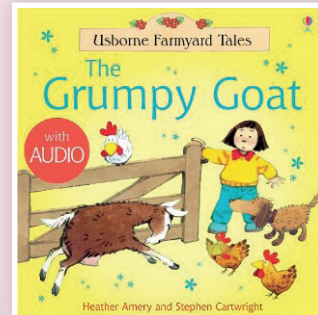
Don't tell anyone but at least one member of staff confessed to an intense dislike of the perennially popular **Mr. Men** series!!!



Fond recollections where relayed of the Ladybird Easy Reading series of well-loved tales including **Rumpelstiltskin** and **The**



Elves and the Shoemaker which will surely bring back fond memories for many.



If you find yourself without a physical picture book and you need a story, our eBook service through the Borrowbox app can come to the rescue. It is easy to use, you just need your library card, pin number and an email address.

If you are not a Kilkenny Library member you can sign up at for free at www.kilkennylibrary.ie and instantly download the Borrowbox app to your phone or tablet. The Borrowbox app give you access a wide range of picture books such as the classic Beatrix Potter's **Peter Rabbit or **The Grumpy Goat** from the **Usborne Farmyard tales** collection.**