

National Year of Reading Children's Book Recommendations for Key Stage 3

2026 is the UK National Year of Reading. At Usborne, we're supporting the Go All In campaign, encouraging the nation to get reading by connecting books with the things they love. This selection aims to help booksellers pair every child with a book that sparks their interest.



For more Usborne books, activities and resources for the National Year of Reading, scan the QR code or go to qr.usborne.com/2997u.

Fiction They'll Want to Finish



A powerful historical story set during wartime, following courage, friendship and survival. Draws readers in with a gripping story based on real events.

12 – 15 yrs | Apr 2025 | 9781836040774 | £8.99



A heartfelt story about friendship, confidence and finding your voice. With relatable characters and plenty of humour, it keeps readers hooked from the very first page.

9 – 12 yrs | Nov 2021 | 9781474927277 | £8.99



A funny, magical story about fitting in, standing out and the unexpected consequences of getting exactly what you wish for. Perfect for readers who enjoy humour and heart, it keeps the pages turning with friendship, drama and magic.

9 – 12 yrs | Aug 2025 | 9781805318286 | £7.99



A powerful novel about second chances, friendship and finding the courage to rewrite your story. Relatable characters and a quiet, strong hero will keep readers engaged.

9 – 12 yrs | Feb 2026 | 9781803708072 | £7.99



A funny, fast-paced adventure full of mishaps, surprises and unlikely heroes. Keeps children turning the pages with humour and plenty of action.

9 – 12 yrs | Jan 2026 | 9781836045663 | £7.99



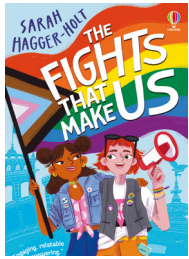
A unique coming-of-age story about Landfill, a boy raised as a scavenger who longs to discover what lies beyond the wall. Urgent and compelling, it keeps readers hooked with mystery, danger and a jaw-dropping secret at its heart.

11 – 13 yrs | Mar 2019 | 9781474956024 | £7.99



For more engaging fiction, scan the QR code or go to qr.usborne.com/2uutc.

Books for Curious Minds



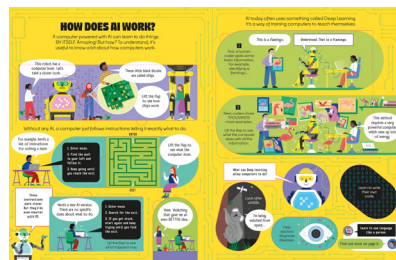
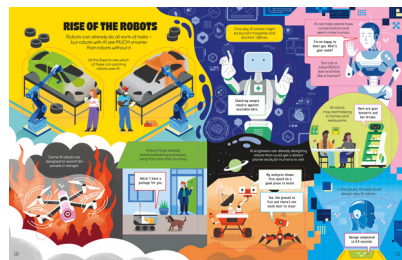
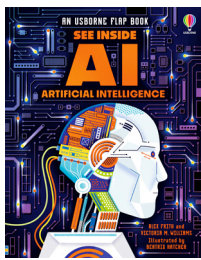
A powerful story about friendship, identity and standing up for what you believe in, inspired by real LGBTQ+ history. Thought-provoking and deeply relatable, it keeps readers engaged with characters and stories that feel real.

10 – 14 yrs | Feb 2024 | 9781801315791 | £7.99



An accessible introduction to politics, power and how decisions are made, brought to life with illustrations and clear explanations. Encourages children to explore big ideas through engaging, real-world reading.

10 – 18 yrs | Feb 2018 | 9781474922524 | £9.99



An interactive flap book exploring how artificial intelligence works and how it's shaping the world around us. A great way to engage students through hands-on discovery and real-world topics.

7 – 12 yrs | Mar 2025 | 9781805074502 | £10.99



A fascinating introduction to space, packed with bite-sized facts and striking illustrations. Perfect for curious readers, it keeps children turning the pages through a subject they love.

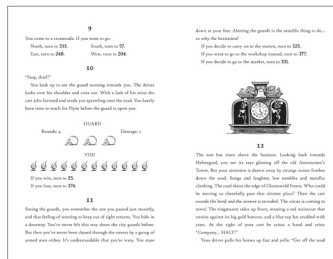
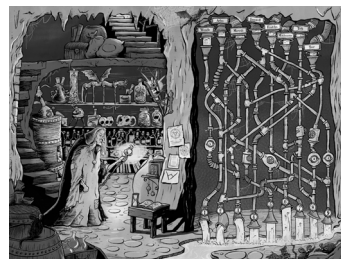
8 – 12 yrs | Apr 2016 | 9781409593928 | £9.99



A fascinating collection of surprising facts about mysteries, unexplained events and strange discoveries. Perfect for curious readers, it keeps children turning the pages to find out more.

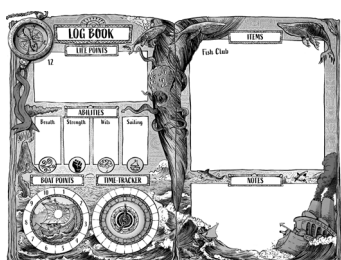
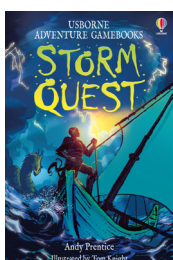
8 – 12 yrs | Jun 2023 | 9781803705286 | £9.99

Fun Reads with Puzzles and Games



A fast-paced puzzle adventure packed with clues, codes and mysteries to solve. Perfect for problem-solvers, it keeps children turning the pages as they race to crack the case.

9 – 12 yrs | Jul 2021 | 9781474960489 | £7.99



An action-packed adventure where readers solve puzzles and make choices to complete the quest. Keeps children turning the pages as they take part in the story.

9 – 12 yrs | Aug 2025 | 9781835407042 | £7.99

For more puzzle and game books, scan the QR code or go to qr.usborne.com/2ywy7.

Books for Football Fans



An award-winning football story set in Indonesia, exploring hope, friendship and life beyond the pitch. A powerful choice for football fans ready for a story with real-world depth.

10 – 13 yrs | Sep 2017 | 9781474928151 | £7.99

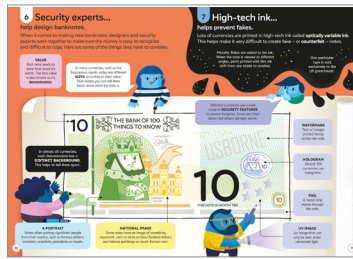


An action-packed, football story full of tension, teamwork and big-match drama. A brilliant choice for sports lovers, it draws readers in through the thrill of the game.

10 – 13 yrs | June 2026 | 9781836045670 | £8.99

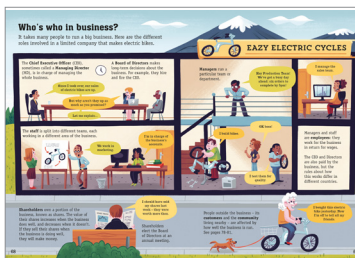
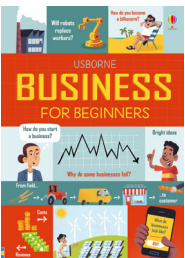
For more football books, scan the QR code or go to qr.usborne.com/2jwfb.

Books for Budding Entrepreneurs



A clear and engaging guide to money, packed with bite-sized facts and helpful explanations. Keeps children interested by linking reading to real-life topics they're curious about.

9 – 12 yrs | Feb 2025 | 9781805076407 | £9.99



An accessible introduction to how businesses work, with clear explanations and engaging illustrations. Helps mini entrepreneurs explore the world while building reading confidence.

10 – 16 yrs | Sept 2018 | 9781474940139 | £9.99

For more books about money and business, scan the QR code or go to qr.usborne.com/277a9.