

# books

# All I want for Christmas is ~~you~~

## RAB Book recommendations for Christmas

### Picture books

I'M STICKING WITH YOU  
SMRITI HALLS STEVE SMALL



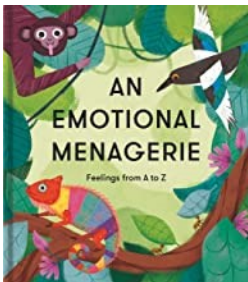
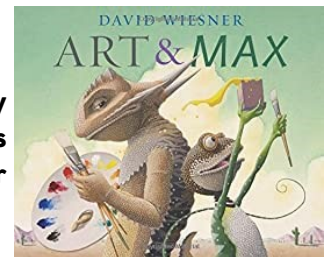
'I'm Sticking With You' by Smriti Halls & Steve Small is an endearing story of friendship.

We've all got that friend who will stick by us and support us no matter what! It's great isn't it? But actually sometimes, a little space is needed... A rhyming story complete with beautiful illustrations against a simple white background.

A funny and quirky picture book that nails friendships.

Mrs Warnock recommends 'Art & Max' by David Wiesner

Art loves to paint. Max is his enthusiastic friend who just wants to give it a go. A funny story with super illustrations that shows the power of imagination and demonstrates how we can all learn from each other. Children love the different characters with their expressive faces. I know you'll enjoy!



'An Emotional Menagerie' by The School of Life is the perfect book for this strange year.

The book is an A-Z of emotions. Each emotion is personified as an animal and is linked with a poem explaining the emotion. The book is packed full of emotional vocabulary that will help children to be more articulate about their feelings.

Definitely a book to share and discuss, it's important to speak about how we all feel. Especially after the year we've all had!

Floella Benjamins's 'Coming to England' has been a vitally important piece of literature in this country, explaining how the Windrush generation felt when emigrating to England (definitely worth a read if you haven't already). But now thanks to Diane Ewen's illustrations, there is a gorgeous picture book version of the story for younger children.

I'm sure the story will prompt some discussions with your family as you read it too.



Catherine Emmett's 'King of the Swamp' is superbly illustrated by the fabulous Ben Mantle.

McDarkly just wants to look after his Swamp. But the king has decided that it is damp and dark and would be much better if it was knocked down and turned into a skate park. He has to prove that it is a place worth saving.

A great book about looking after the environment and appreciating natural beauty!

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## RAB Book recommendations for Christmas

### Chapter books for younger readers



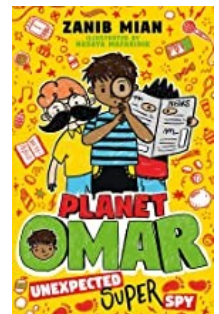
'Dragon in the Library' by Louie Stowell has everything you need for an excellent story. A great protagonist—Kit a reluctant reader who is forced to go to the library by her so called friends. An evil baddy—Mr Salt, who wants to knock down the library to build a carpark. An awesome animal—Dogon is half dog/ half dragon (yet isn't the eponymous dragon in the library). A massive secret/ twist—ah actually I don't want to give that away... You'll have to read the book to find out about that.

An excitingly fun read that is perfect to be read aloud!

Mrs Cooper recommends 'Planet Omar -Unexpected Super Spy' by Zanib Mian

This is the second book in the series, but I don't think it matters if you haven't read the first one (Planet Omar - Accidental Trouble Magnet). It tells the story of Omar and his friends Charlie and Daniel. It is filled with cartoon style illustrations that make the book fun to read. In it, Omar sets up a Talent Contest to raise money for his local Mosque with some hilarious results!

A super fun read!



Mrs Larkin recommends 'Skeleton Keys- The Legend of Gap-Tooth Jack' by Guy Bass.

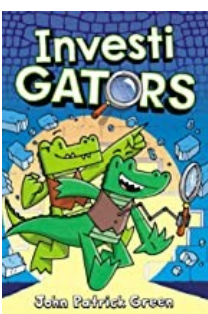
This is the third book in the series and it is every bit as fantabulant (to quote Skeleton Keys himself) as the previous two. This time, Skeleton Keys and his bad-tempered sidekick Daisy, must travel in time to follow the case of Wordy Gerdy, an imaginary friend who has been brought to life and is causing all kinds of havoc rewriting reality.

As always, this fantastically creepy adventure is full of twists and turns and a whole host of fantastic characters (wonderfully drawn by Pete Williamson). You don't have to have read the previous two to enjoy this, but you absolutely should because they're brilliant!

'Pizazz' by Sophie Henn is a super book about a superhero named Pizazz, except she's not best pleased about her name, or the fact that she's a super hero... She just wants a normal life with a normal family and a normal pet.

This book skilfully mixes an illustrated novel with comic strip sections, giving readers the best of both worlds. It is laugh-out-loud and will be loved by readers young and old!

The second book is out early in January and I we can't wait!



John Patrick Green's 'InvestiGators' is perfect for fans of Dogman and Captain Underpants. It is a hilarious graphic novel that tells the story of two alligator detectives... hence the clever title!

Mango and Brash are brilliant characters and their adventures are super fun. You will be hooked from the start! In our house the book must be on it's hundredth read already!

They have all the cool technology and an interesting way of travelling.... (through toilets). You can quickly see why this is a must for any enthusiastic reader's Christmas list!

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## RAB Book recommendations for Christmas

### Chapter books for Older readers



'Ghost' and the rest of the track series by Jason Reynolds have been big hits in Year Six this year. Fans of those books should check out this brilliantly clever book by the same author.

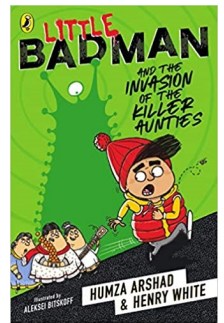
'Look Both Ways' is ten intertwining short stories that give an insight into different character's journeys to or from school. This book is a masterclass on how to write a short story with exceptional characters.

If you read it, I'd love to hear which story was your favourite! Mine changes every time I think about it!

Miss Peacock recommends 'Little Badman' by Humza Arshad

We covered a chapter of this as part of our guided reading sessions in school, but that was enough to get me hooked! I had to get the book and finish off the fantastic story straight away! The books are about himself as a school boy getting up to mischief with his best friend. (with a little embellishment obviously).

Year four were lucky enough to take part in a Zoom call with the author, he was amazing!



Mrs Wheeler recommends 'The Girl Who Speaks Bear' by Sophie Anderson

Found abandoned in a bear cave as a baby, Yanka has always wondered about where she is from. She tries to ignore the strange whispers and looks from the villagers, but when one day, she wakes up to find her legs have become bear legs, she goes looking for answers about who she really is. This journey of discovery takes her far beyond anything that she ever imagined and sees her meeting a whole host of fantastical characters. My favourite is Mousetrap, a house-weasel who is the finest rodent companion there has ever been! Steeped in Russian folklore, this is a must-read for those of you who hanker after snowy-log cabins and open fires.

Imagine Harry Potter but with science rather than magic... Then you'll have 'The Ten Riddles of Eartha Quicksmith' by Loris Owen.

Kip is invited to join a secret school for talented children at just the right time! There is a school wide competition to solve the century old riddles set by a genius ex-pupil... Can Kip and his friends solve the riddles and stop the wrong people from getting their hands on the prize? A fantastically exciting story that will grip you!



Mrs Larkin recommends 'The Ship of Shadows' by Maria Kuzinar

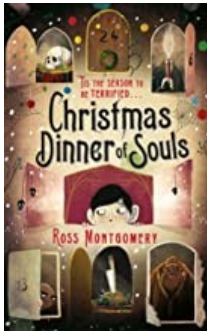
Aleja is a girl longing for adventure and often loses herself in the library, among the tales of explorers and pirate hunters. When a strange ship arrives in her port, Aleja is drawn to it and soon finds herself aboard amongst the ruthless all-female crew. There is more to both the ship and the crew than first meets the eye and Aleja is soon experiencing more excitement and adventure than she ever could have imagined! I loved the fact that this story has a crew of smart, brave and sassy female pirates. It's a fun and exhilarating adventure story but with a tender heart too.

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Beware, 'The Christmas Dinner of Souls' by Ross Montgomery is not your usual Christmas story, it definitely isn't for the weak hearted! As a punishment, Lewis must be the serving boy at the mysterious Christmas Dinner of Souls which is held in the dining room of ancient Soul's College every Christmas eve.

Each guest competes to tell the most terrifying tale. The winner receives the chance to attempt to receive a powerful ancient artefact. Each tale is more terrifying than the last! Will Lewis make it through the night?

Perfect for those that enjoy a little scare!

With 'The Monsters of Rookhaven' Padraic Kenny has written a spooky yet heart warming story about family and monsters. What are monsters afraid of? Well we find out the answer in this spellbinding book that will have you hooked and desperate to keep reading!

Two orphans stumble upon a hidden house, they find that the people living there are far from normal. Unlikely friendships are forged and secrets are revealed. You'll be left wondering who the real monsters are!

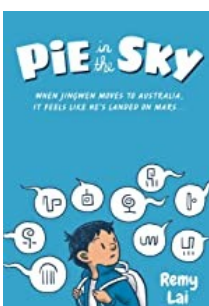


Our second book by Ross Montgomery 'The Midnight Guardians' is a beautiful tale of hope set in Wartime Britain. The Story mashes up historical fiction (touching on evacuation and kinder transport) with fantasy characters from folk tales.

Col finds out that his imaginary friends from his early childhood (a six-foot tiger, a badger in a waistcoat and a miniature knight ) are real. He needs their help to save his sister in London and help the Green Man defeat the Midwinter King. An epic adventure, complete with various battles and predicaments will keep you enthralled throughout!

'The Ghost of Gosswater' by Lucy Strange is yet another spooky read (there have been an abundance of fantastic Halloween books this year!)

When Twelve-year-old Lady Agatha 's father dies, the estate is passed on to her cousin and the unfortunate truth that she is not actually her father's daughter is revealed. Her cousin forces her out of the home and brings her world crashing down. She is determined to find out more about her true identity and encounters some chilling characters whilst doing so. Will she find her true place in the world?



'Pie in the Sky' by Remi Lai is one of my favourite reads of the year.

The book follows Jingwen as he and his family move to Australia from China. He finds the move difficult. Missing home and grieving for his father, he desperately tries to fit in but the language barrier stops him from making friends. Even worse, his mum and little brother seem to be loving life since the move!

His father was a baker, so Jingwen decides to bake cakes in secret with his brother to ensure that his memory is not lost! This brilliant book is soaked in empathy and will enrich the life of anyone that reads it!