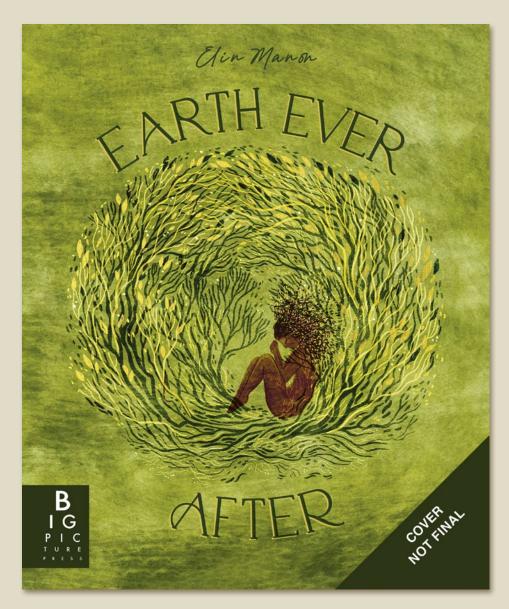


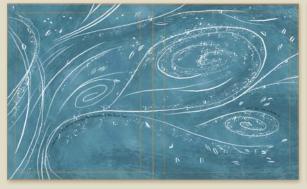
Ukraine - BBF25 - mono and graphic novels

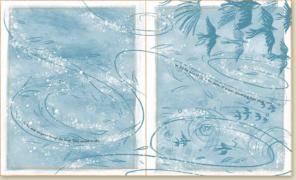
Earth Ever After

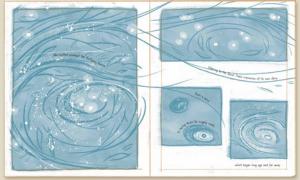


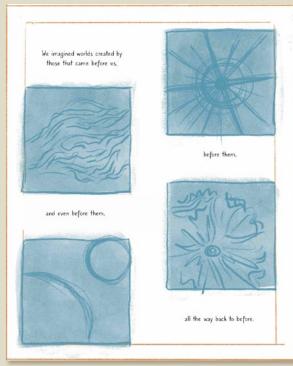
Step into the world of Earth Ever After, a stunning fusion of graphic novel artistry and ancient folktale, told through the eyes of Mother Earth. This beautifully illustrated book takes readers on an unforgettable journey from Earth's creation to the present, celebrating our deep connection with nature while offering a poignant reflection on the state of our world.

Earth Ever After





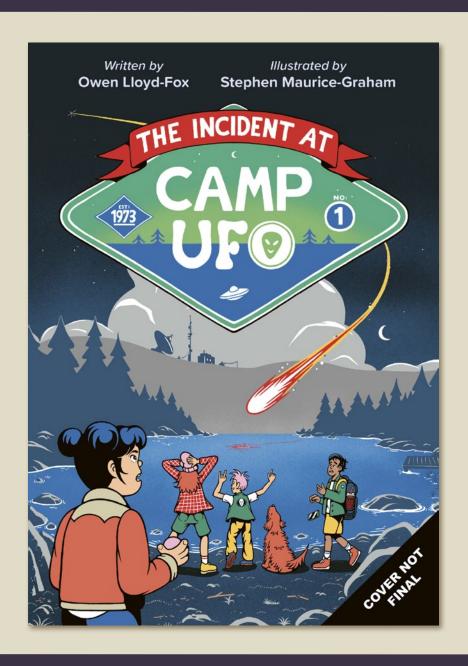






Pub Date	03/09/2026
Pub Price	£20.00
ISBN	9781800788671
$H \times W$	260 × 215mm
Binding	Hardback
Age Range	9-11 years
Author	Elin Manon
Extent	160рр
Word Count	3500 words
Translation Files	22/12/2025
Files To Printer	09/04/2026
Freight On	02/07/2026
Board	
Rights Available	World

The Incident at Camp UFO



Unravel cryptic clues, solve fiendish puzzles, avoid the Shini-rax aliens at all costs while you help the gang solve the incident at Camp UFO!

- A brand-new adventure puzzle book series complete with graphic novel style illustrations. Perfect for fans of Bunny vs. Monkey, Stranger Things and gaming enthusiasts. A must-have for reluctant readers.
- Featuring a strong cast of characters with authentic stories from diverse backgrounds, including South and South East Asia, plus a non-binary character with partial hearing loss.

The Incident at Camp UFO



ween granced around at the bank forest, he glistening lake and the far-off nountains... "Bight, done that, What now?

Um.," said Dez, scenning his fist. How about ghost stories? Anybody Inow any?" Nobody did.

"Come on!" Val whined. "Something scary HAS to have happened here. A masked loc with a murderous vendetta against camp kild?" Mutant blood-sucking liveches? A tradic dedenhall accident?"

Dus thought for a moment. "Well, there is OLD JMH. He's this welnt did timer who's lived alone in the woods for... well, langer than anyone can remember. He's just alway there. Lurking. Sometimes you see him on the lake in a boat, cacking like this." Das pulled a tool like a cat that was about to be











The Early Birds looked at each other in utter astonishment, then sprinted towards the lake. Poppy followed, barking madly. She didn't have a clue what was going on, but she loved running.



AAAHHH!!!

"Y-you realise what's happening now right?!" puffed Pawan, struggling to keep up with the others. "A SUPERHERO ORIGIN STORY! Space rock falls from the sky, local kids find space rock, space rock makes them FLY or TURN STRETCHY or give them the power to make people EXPLODE or something!"

"Was it definitely a space rock?" asked Val. "Whatbit called? An asteroid. Maybe it was a satellite. Or a part of a PLANEI I heard once that an aeroplane's toilet chute opened and the stuff-inside fell out of the sky, and because it's SO cold up there, it FROZE and hit a man and everyone knew that he'd been squashed by a massive frozen ball of POO!"

"Definitely not poo," said Frankie, who had made it to the shore first.

The others arrived and stared out at the emanating water. "Poo doesn't glow."



"Woah" said Val, astutely

"I guess we should report this to, uh, whoever you report asteroids to?" rankie posited.

"Um, sorry, I think you mean meteorite," said Xinyi, apologetically. "Asteroids are when they are in space. When they fall they are a meteor, and when it lands it's a... meteorite..." Xinyi frowned. WHY did I have to say that for? Now they III think I'm a COMPLETE dweeb...

Frankie turned to her and smiled, "Thanks Xinyi, It's probably best we know exactly what it is when we tell..."

"Or," interrupted Val, "we DON'T tell anyone and fish it out ourselves!" The gang looked down at the glow once more. Pawan nodded slowly, "Yeah. I mean, do you KNOW how much meteorites go for online?" He said, biting his lip. "Like, mucho gold coins. Plus, still hoping for superpowers here."

"Yeah! Come on Frank-le-plank," beamed Val, "I wanna make people explode!"

Frankie sighed. She saw what this was. Just because she was older – just because she was older – just because she was older – just because she wasn't suggesting stupid things like FISHING FOR (potentially) MAGIC SPACE ROCKS – they were making her be the mum. The sensible one. The leader. Frankie took a deep breath. Not today. Not this entire summer, actually. She had decided in the car that this summer, she wasn't going to be in charge of ANYTHING. Especially not Val.

"Yeah, okay. Let's get the meteorite out of the lake," the new, relaxed go-withthe-flow Frankie replied. "So... how are we going to do that?"



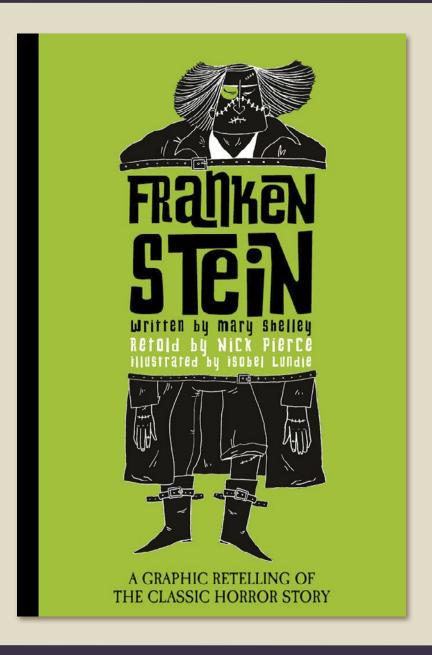
How COULD the gang fish the meteorite out the lake? When you think you've got it, turn to the next page - or check the answer at the back!



Hint: Try skipping back a few pages and see if there's any helpful lake-related gearl

Pub Date	09/07/2026
Pub Price	£7.99
ISBN	9781800788725
$H \times W$	210 × 148mm
Binding	Paperback
Age Range	9-11 years
Author	Owen Lloyd-Fox
Illustrator	Stephen Maurice
	Graham
Extent	112pp
Word Count	15000 words
Translation Files	27/10/2025
Files To Printer	16/02/2026
Freight On	23/04/2026
Board	
Rights Available	World

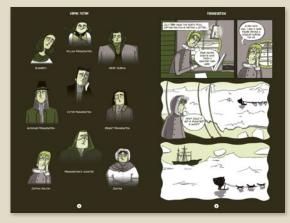
Frankenstein



A graphic retelling of Mary Shelley's gothic masterpiece

- A contemporary twist on a 19th Century classic. This creepy graphic retelling is the perfect tool for engaging reluctant readers and introducing children to the literary canon.
- An excellent English Literature curriculum companion. The endmatter contains an educational author biography, history of the text and key theme analysis to further help children.
- A wonderful introduction to the horror genre. Young readers will be captivated by Isobel Lundie's beautiful, spooky illustrations.
- Utilises speech bubbles and easy-tofollow sequential ordering to make the story more accessible.
- Next title in the series: Dracula

Frankenstein



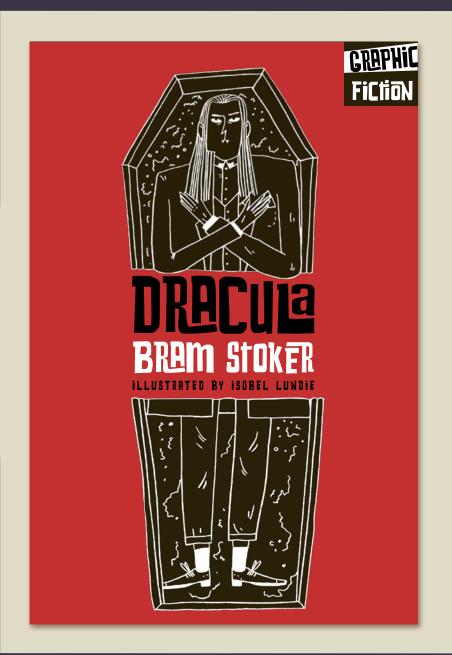






Pub Date	12/09/2024
Pub Price	£7.99
ISBN	9781800788800
$H \times W$	210 × 140mm
Binding	Paperback
Age Range	9-11 years
Author	Mary Shelley
Illustrator	Isobel Lundie
Extent	64рр
Word Count	4316 words
Rights Available	World

Dracula



Bram Stoker's legendary gothic masterpiece is bought back to life in this blood-sucking graphic retelling!

- A contemporary twist on a 19th Century classic. This creepy graphic retelling is the perfect tool for engaging reluctant readers and introducing children to the literary canon.
- An excellent English Literature curriculum companion. The endmatter contains an educational author biography, history of the text and key theme analysis to further help children.
- A wonderful introduction to the horror genre. Young readers will be captivated by Isobel Lundie's beautiful, spooky illustrations.

Dracula





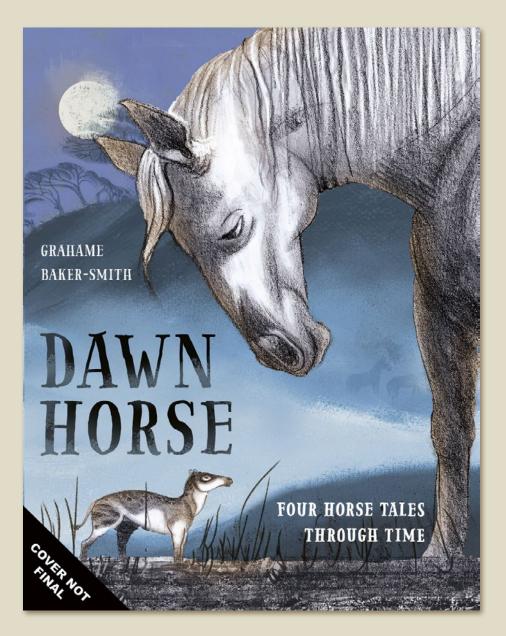






Pub Date	12/09/2024
Pub Price	£7.99
ISBN	9781800788817
H×W	210 × 140mm
Binding	Paperback
Age Range	9-11 years
Author	Bram Stoker
Illustrator	Isobel Lundie
Extent	64рр
Word Count	3140 words
Translation Files	29/01/2024
Files To Printer	22/04/2024
Freight On	27/06/2024
Board	
Rights Available	World

Dawn Horse



Discover the incredible story of a horse through time...

- Grahame Baker-Smith is a self-taught award-winning artist from Oxford with an incredible talent for illustrating evolutionary history and the wonders of nature.
- Award-winning books include the Greenaway shortlisted Leon and the Place Between, FArTHER which won the Kate Greenaway medal in 2011, and The Rhythm of the Rain which won the English 4-11 Picture Book Award.
- Perfect for horse lovers, history enthusiasts and anyone fascinated by the evolution of our world.

Dawn Horse

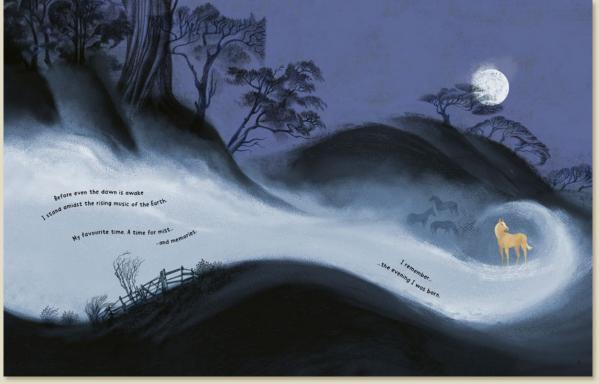






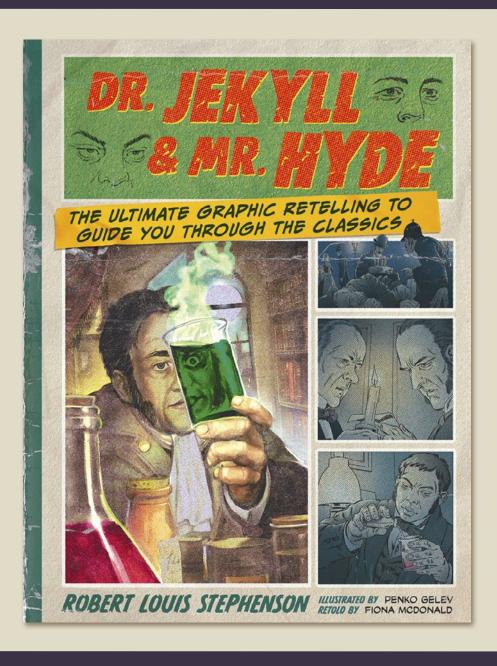






Pub Date	11/09/2026
Pub Price	£14.99
ISBN	9781800788848
$H \times W$	300 × 235mm
Binding	Hardback
Age Range	7-9 years
Author	Grahame
	Baker-Smith
Extent	64pp
Word Count	2000 words
Translation Files	30/12/2025
Files To Printer	21/04/2026
Freight On	26/06/2026
Board	
Rights Available	World

Dr. Jekyll & Mr. Hyde: Classic Comics



The ultimate comic book companion to guide you through the Victorian classic, *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*

- The highly visual nature of comic book storytelling is the perfect way to encourage reluctant readers who are challenged or intimidated by reading to improve their literacy skills.
- Small amounts of text and easy-to-follow sequential ordering of the picture strips help make Shakespeare more accessible.
- Perfect curriculum companion to students studying Jekyll and Hyde at school, with an additional glossary to help dissect any tricky jargon or Victorian terms.

Dr. Jekyll & Mr. Hyde: Classic Comics



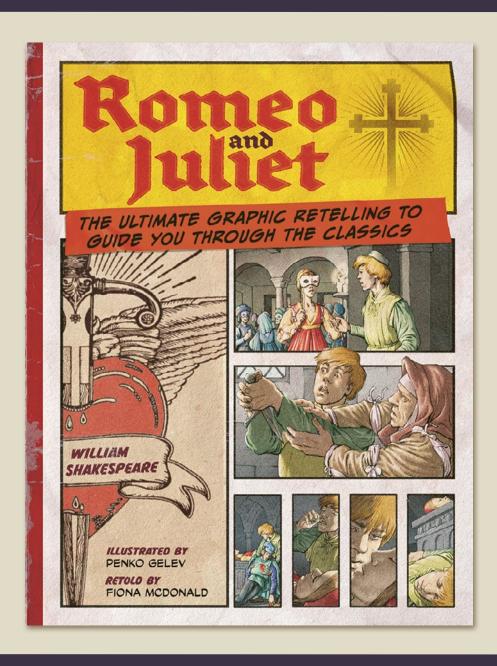






Pub Date	26/09/2024
Pub Price	£7.99
ISBN	9781800789142
$H \times W$	246 × 189mm
Binding	Paperback
Age Range	9-11 years
Author	Fiona
	MacDonald
Illustrator	Penko Gelev
Extent	48pp
Word Count	5715 words
Freight On	17/07/2024
Board	
Rights Available	World

Romeo and Juliet: Classic Comics



The ultimate comic book companion to guide you through Shakespeare's classic, *Romeo and Juliet.*

- The highly visual nature of comic book storytelling is the perfect way to encourage reluctant readers who are challenged or intimidated by reading to improve their literacy skills.
- Small amounts of text and easy-to-follow sequential ordering of the picture strips help make Shakespeare accessible.
- Perfect curriculum companion to students studying Romeo and Juliet at school, with an additional glossary to help dissect any tricky jargon or oldfashioned terms.

Romeo and Juliet: Classic Comics







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HAR LAURENCE'S PLA

Now, sir, her father counts it diagrenus that she do give her enrew and in his widom hazes our marriage. On Thursday, sir? The sime is very short.

JULET HURRIES TO SEE FRIAR LAURENCE, NOT KNOWING THAT PARIS IS VISITING THE FRIAR TO ARRANGE THER MARRIAGE. BUT THE FRIAR IS TRYING TO DELY THE CEREMONY, KNOWING FULL WELL HE HAS ALREADY MARRIED.

PARIS EXPLAINS THAT JULIET'S FATHER IS KEEN TO SPEED UP THE MARRIAGE AS HE IS WORRIED THAT JULIET IS SO UPSET AT TYBALT'S DEATH.



THE FRIAR TRIES TO LOOK PLEASED FOR AT THAT MOMENT, JULIET APPEARS, LOOKING PARS, BUT IS SECRETLY WORKED ABOUT FLUSTERED, PARIS IS DELIGHTED THAT SHE HAS WHAT WILL HAPPEN WHEN LODE CAPULET FINDS OUT ABOUT JULIET'S MARRIAGE



JULIET WANTS TO TALK TO THE FRIAR ABOUT ROMEO BUT CAN'T SAY A THING WITH PARIS THERE, PARIS IS EAGER TO TALK ABOUT THE WEDDING, BUT JULIET IS RELUCTANT.

FINALLY, TO GET RID
OF PARIS, JULIET PRETENDS SHE HAS COME
TO MAKE HER CONFESSION, PARIS LEAVES
SO SHE CAN BE ALONE WITH THE FRIAR.

O, shut the door and when thou hast done so, come weep with me FRIAR LAURENCE'S ONCE PARIS HAS GONE. JULIET IS SO UPSET THAT SHE THE FRIAR CALMS JULIET DOWN THREATENS TO KILL HERSELF PLAN THE FRIAR REVEALS HIS PLAN: WHEN PARIS FINDS NER WHEN THE POTION WEARS OFF. THE NIGHT BEFORE HER WEDDING TO PARIS, SHE MUST SWALLOW EVERYONE WILL THINK THE FRIAR AND ROMEO WILL BE SHE'S DEAD AND SHE'LL A POTION THAT WILL MAKE HER BE BURIED IN THE FAMILY CAN LEAVE VERONA AND START A

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JULIET TAKES THE VIAL. THE THE FRIÂR FRIAR WARNS HER THE POTION IS NOT FOR THE FAINT- ROMED S HEARTED. THE PLAN.

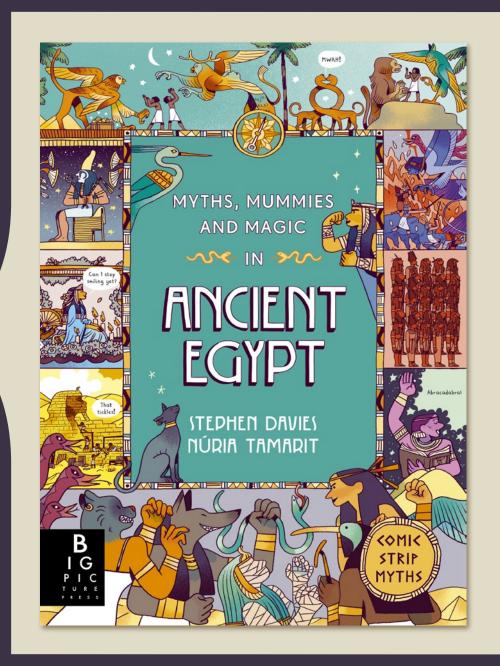
E JULET THANKS HAM AND

THE FRIAR PROMISES THAT HE JULIET THANKS HIM AND WILL SEND A MESSENGER TO LEAVES, CLUTCHING THE PLAN.

1, with this knike... presently if you can't hap me, it is also myser with this knike. 2 vier bottle. 3, desting signor drink that spreads strongly a body. 4 there is those chart you will seem dead. 5, visual some. 6, against... audies to be ready when you was... 7, online part. 6, "I make Carrier Car

26/09/2024 **Pub Date Pub Price** £7.99 9781800789159 **ISBN** 246 × 189mm $H \times W$ **Binding Paperback** Age Range **9-11 years Fiona** Author **MacDonald Penko Gelev** Illustrator Extent 48pp **Word Count** 13401 words 17/07/2024 Freight On Board Rights Available World

Myths, Mummies and Magic in Ancient Egypt



A vivid and contemporary retelling of the ancient Egyptian myths - now available in paperback.

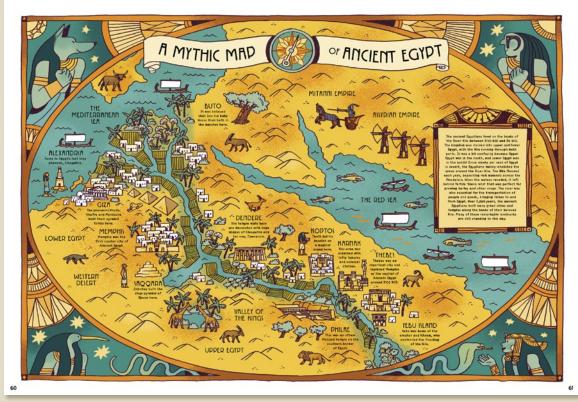
- The myths are be broken up with a series of 'theme' spreads, which take a broader look at certain aspects of Egyptian mythology (mythical beasts and monsters, the pharaohs, gods etc.)
- Striking artwork by renowned illustrator and comic artist Núria Tamarit (75k followers on Instagram)
- Mythology is an evergreen subject with strong backlist potential
- Growing demand for graphic novels and comic books for children

Myths, Mummies and Magic in Ancient Egypt



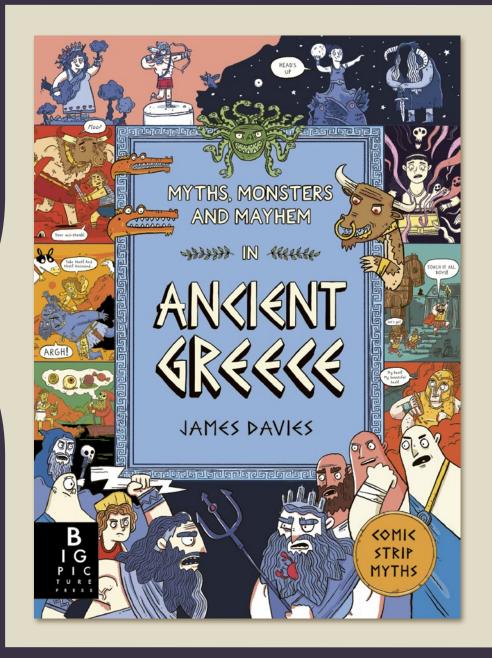






Pub Date	02/01/2025
Pub Price	£10.99
ISBN	9781835870068
$H \times W$	297 × 216mm
Binding	Paperback
Age Range	7-9 years
Author	Stephen Davies
Illustrator	Núria Tamarit
Extent	64рр
Rights Available	World

Myths, Monsters and Mayhem in Ancient Greece



A vivid and contemporary retelling of the Greek myths - now available in paperback.

- Contents: Pandora's Box; Theseus and the Minotaur; Perseus and Medusa; Orpheus and Eurydice; The Trojan Horse; What are the Greek Myths?; Meet the Greek Gods; How the Myths Explained the World; Mythical Creatures and Deadly Beasts; A Journey through the Greek Underworld
- These myths will be broken up with a series of 'theme' spreads, which will take a broader look at certain aspects of Greek mythology (mythical beasts and monsters, the gods, heroes etc.)

Myths, Monsters and Mayhem in Ancient Greece





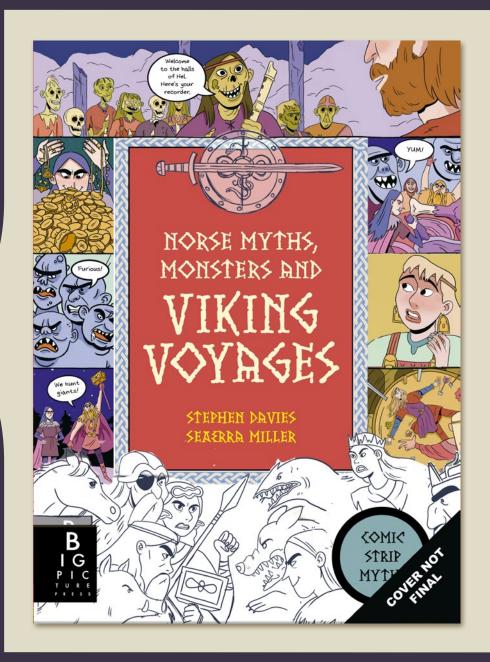






Pub Date	11/04/2024
Pub Price	£10.99
ISBN	9781800787520
H×W	297 × 216mm
Binding	Paperback
Age Range	7-9 years
Author	James Davies
Illustrator	James Davies
Extent	64pp
Word Count	12000 words
Rights Available	World

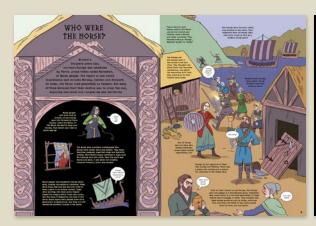
Norse Myths, Monsters and Viking Voyages



A vivid comicstrip retelling of the greatest Norse myths.

- Contents: Myths The Creation Myth;
 The Theft of Idun's Apples; Treasures of the Gods; Thor's Journey to Utgard; The Deal of Balder; Ragnarok; Sigurd and Fafnir Theme spreads What are the Norse Myths?; Meet the Norse Gods; How the Myths Explained the World; Meet the Vikings; Mythical Creatures and Deadly Beasts; The Afterlife; How the Norse Myths Came to us; A Mythic Map
- Following on from the success of Myths, Monsters and Mayhem in Ancient Greece (which has sold over 50,000 copies worldwide as of July 2024) - this is the next title in a growing series for Big Picture Press

Norse Myths, Monsters and Viking Voyages





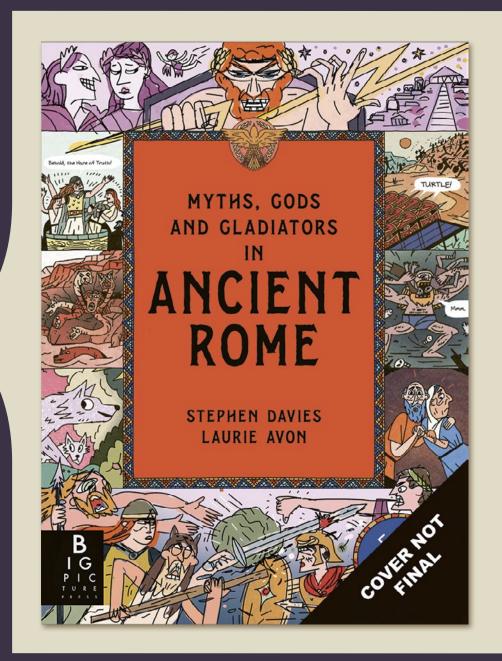






Pub Date	11/09/2025
Pub Price	£14.99
ISBN	9781800786745
H×W	297 × 216mm
Binding	Hardback
Age Range	7-9 years
Author	Stephen Davies
Illustrator	Seaerra Miller
Extent	64рр
Word Count	12000 words
Files To Printer	10/04/2025
Freight On	03/07/2025
Board	
Rights Available	World

Myths, Gods and Gladiators in Ancient Rome

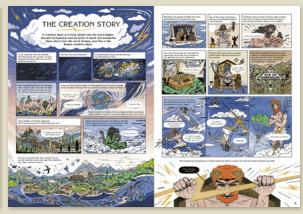


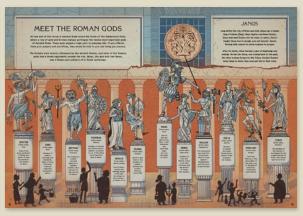
A historical and humorous comic book retelling of the ancient Roman myths.

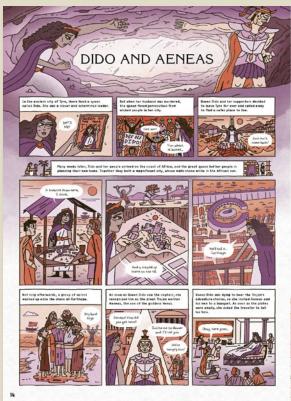
- The myths are broken up with a series of 'theme' spreads, which will take a broader look at certain aspects of Roman mythology (mythical beasts and monsters, the gods, heroes etc.)
- Following on from the success of Myths, Monsters and Mayhem in Ancient Greece (which has sold over 50,000 copies worldwide as of July 2024) - this is the next title in a growing series for Big Picture Press
- Growing demand for graphic novels and comic books for children and adults alike
- Cover treatments: Deboss and pantone

Myths, Gods and Gladiators in Ancient Rome





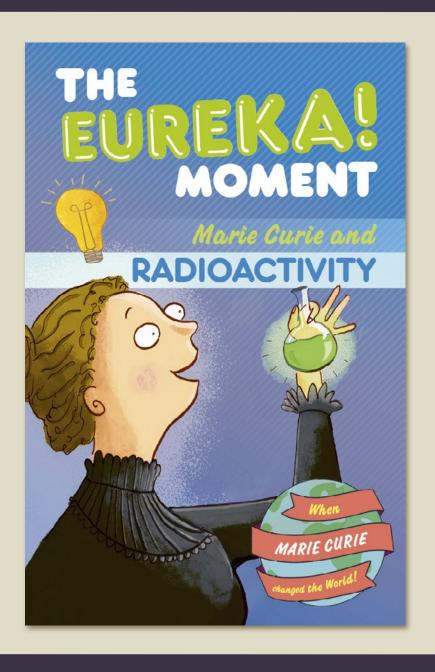






Pub Date	01/01/2026
Pub Price	£14.99
ISBN	9781800788770
$H \times W$	297 × 216mm
Binding	Hardback
Age Range	7-9 years
Author	Stephen Davies
Illustrator	Laurie Avon
Extent	64рр
Word Count	12000 words
Translation Files	30/03/2025
Files To Printer	05/05/2025
Freight On	12/06/2025
Board	
Rights Available	World

Radioactivity: The Eureka! Moment



Explore Marie Curie's incredible 'Eureka' moment!

- Child-friendly narrative non-fiction curated to deepen children's knowledge of key moments in the history of science in an accessible, entertaining manner.
- This series introduces children to a myriad of inspirational individuals and the barriers they faced during their quest for knowledge, encouraging and empowering young ones to follow their own research.
- Blends history and STEM-focused learning. The perfect curriculum companion, especially on the themes of radioactivity, medicine and scientific advances during WW1.
- Includes extra end matter, such as a timeline and glossary, to help children fully understand concepts and historical context.

Radioactivity: The Eureka! Moment



about it. They all thought that I must have made an error somewhere in my work. They looked down their noses at me and told me to do my ents again and be more careful this time But I knew I hadn't got it wrong. There had to be another reason for these unexpected results. When seemed obvious. The extra radiation must be had seen before. I was sure it was there and I had

When I told Pierre, he agreed with me. He was so excited at the possibility of discovering a new element that he stopped his own research and came to work with me. We crushed some pitchblende to powder, heated it and mixed it with water, acids and other chemicals to divide it up into the different materials it contained. We finally produced a tiny sample, just a few grains of radioactive material. When I tested it, I wrote

that I underlined it. I could scarcely believe it. Later, I read it out to Pierre, "150 times more active than uranium." I'd done it. I'd found a Pierre said, "You discovered it, so you can

the result in my notebook. It was so surprising

Pitchblende

Pitchblende is a natural material that contains uranium and thorium. A piece of rock that is all made of the same is called a mineral. And minerals that contain valuable substances like uranium are called ores. Today, pitchblende is







As 1914 began, I was bringing up my two seautiful daughters, Irène and Eve, on my own. My husband, Pierre, had died in a road accident eight years earlier. Life went on, but I was very unhappy. He was in my thoughts all the time and I missed him dreadfullu.

The Sorbonne asked me to take Pierre's place. I became the first woman professor there and head of research in the science department. I taught Pierre's science classes and also carried





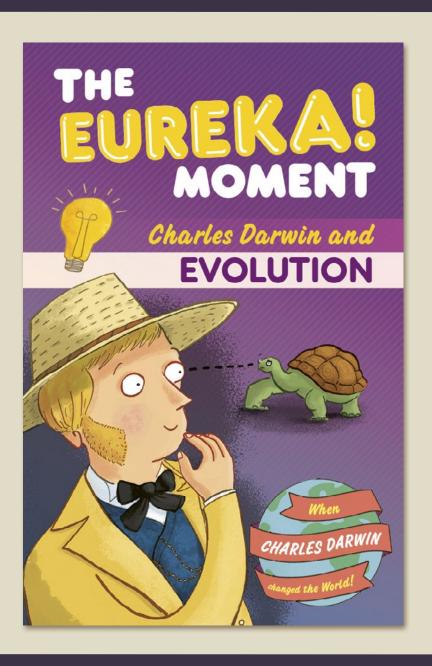






Pub Date	29/02/2024
Pub Price	£5.99
ISBN	9781800788527
$H \times W$	198 × 129mm
Binding	Paperback
Age Range	9-11 years
Author	Ian Graham
Illustrator	Annaliese
	Stoney
Extent	144рр
Word Count	14683 words
Rights Available	World

Evolution: The Eureka! Moment



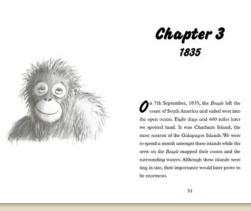
Explore Charles Darwin's incredible 'Eureka' moment!

- Child-friendly narrative non-fiction curated to deepen children's knowledge of key moments in the history of science in an accessible, entertaining way.
- Short comic strips scattered throughout the narrative to help children visualise and engage with key events.
- This series introduces children to a myriad of inspirational individuals and the barriers they faced during their quest for knowledge, encouraging and inspiring young people to dare to think differently.
- Combines history and STEM focused learning. The perfect curriculum companion to children studying evolution, adaptation, animal biology, and survival of the fittest.
- Includes extra end matter, such as timeline and glossary, to help children to fully understand concepts and the historical context.

Evolution: The Eureka! Moment





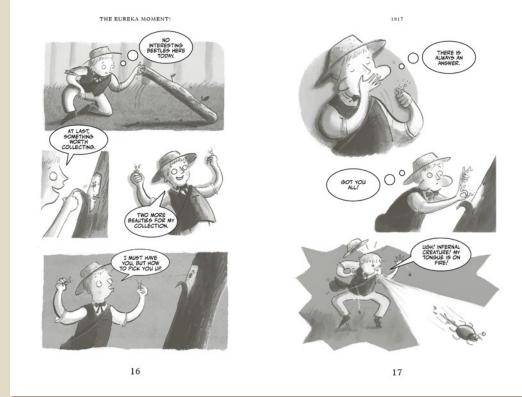


I was troubled by not being able to make sense Evolution before of the birds I had collected on the Galapagos Islands. I gave them to John Gould, a bird expert Darwin at the Zoological Society and said to him, "I am at a loss to know what to make of these little creatures. They appear to me to be different kinds of blackbirds, finches, gross-beaks and wrens. I think they are of little importance, but make of them what you will. If anyone can untangle their mystery, you can." A few days later, I returned to the society to that creatures changed their behaviour hear what Gould thought. I was astonished when he said, "All the birds are ground finches which are so odd that they form an entirely new group

Instantly, I realised their great importance to mu work and I regretted not labelling them with which islands they had come from. Others on the Beagle, including Captain FitzRoy, had also collected birds on the islands and luckilu theu had

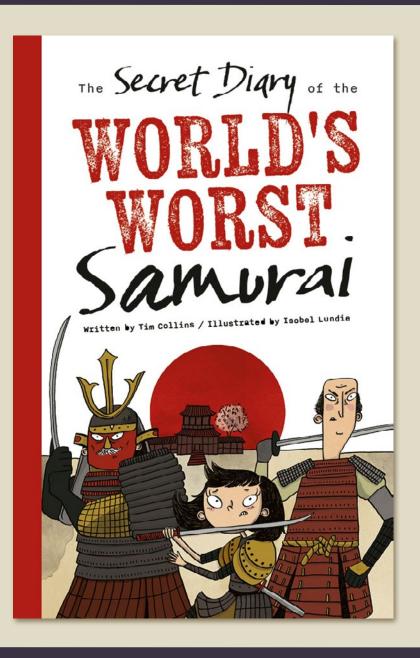
of twelve species."

The first person to develop a scientific naturalist called Jean-Baptiste Lamarck (1744-1829). He thought living creatures continually came into existence from non-living matter and evolved into more and more complex creatures. He thought to suit their environment and that these changes in behaviour physically changed the creatures. He also thought that these physical changes that happened in a single lifetime were passed on from one



Pub Date	29/02/2024
Pub Price	£5.99
ISBN	9781800788473
$H \times W$	198 × 129mm
Binding	Paperback
Age Range	9-11 years
Author	Ian Graham
Illustrator	Annaliese
	Stoney
Extent	144рр
Word Count	15936 words
Rights Available	World

World's Worst Samurai



A hilarious, fictional account of the world's unluckiest Samurai warrior!

- A fantastically funny illustrated story that promotes an inspiring, positive female role model.
- Engaging story about perseverance, believing in yourself and overcoming barriers.
- Fascinating facts are interspersed throughout the fictional story, with 'get real' sections educating readers about the real-world contexts and histories of Japan and Samurai warriors.
- Endmatter includes a timeline and historical biographies of famous Samurai warriors to help engage children with the real-world historical context and encourage further research.

World's Worst Samurai



Yasutaro laughed, and I had to stop myself from throwing my bowl at him. I don't know much about the code of the samurai, but I'm guessing that attacking your own brother during a meal probably isn't part of it.

Mother told me to stop talking nonsense and get on with my chores.

I was expecting Father to say something similar, but he didn't. He froze with his rice bowl in his hand and peered at me in silence. Then he asked why I wanted to be a samurai.

I told him I was from a great sumurai family, and it wasn't fair that Yasutaro got to be one and I didn't.

Father nodded and asked if I had any other reason

I said I was better at fighting than Yasutaro, and if I could be sent to Yoshihiro I would emerge as the true warrior of our family.

Father nodded and asked if I had any

I soid I was better at tactics than Yasutaro, and one day I could become a great commander and lead troops to glorious victories.

Father finished his rice in silence. When his bowl was empty, he said he refused to send me to samurai school.

I tried to keep my anger in, but it was no use. I said it was ridiculous that he wouldn't let me train just because I was a girl.

Father laughed. He said that wasn't the reason, and there were many stories about female samurai who'd commanded armies of thousands. He said the reason he wouldn't send me was because I wasn't thinking like a true samurai should.

Mother repeated her demand for me to get back to my duties, but Father said I could be excused for one day. He told me to take the time to think and then answer the question again

F

GET REAL

legendary figures is how stories were repeated long after they died. As epic account of 12th century battles called The Tale of the Heiko describes a female warrior called Tonoo Gozon. It says she wou fit to confront a demonor a god and "worth a thousand warriors". I would never have believed anyone could move that fast, never mind someone so thin and old.

Yoshihiro said we'd try it the other way around. He handed me the pebble and told me to stop him from grabbing it. I placed it in my palm and took a deep breath. This didn't sound too hard. All I'd have to do was clasp my hand as soon as I saw him move.

I told him to go ahead. His hand moved in a rapid blur, and my fingers slapped into an empty palm.

We tried again. I snapped my fingers shut sooner this time, but they still closed on thin air.

I asked Yoshihiro to give me one more chance. He agreed, and this time I smacked my hand shut even faster.



I gasped. There was something inside my hand.
On just the first day of training Γd beaten his
test. Here was proof that I was destined to be a
great warrior.

I opened my hand. In the centre was a small pebble that had been painted red. For a moment, I wondered how it could have changed colour. Then Yoshihiro opened his own hand to

Chapter I Japan, 1582





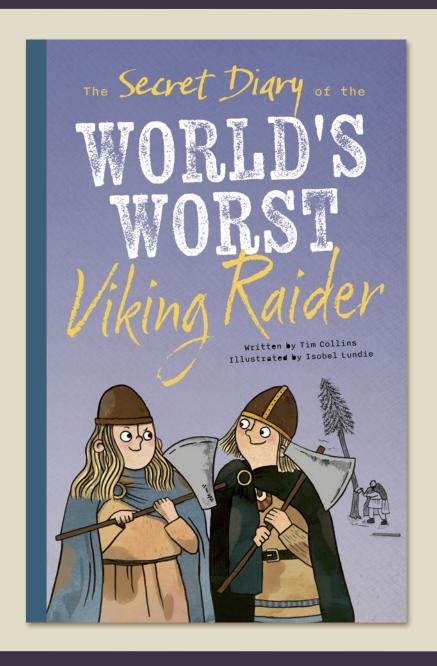
Day One

Mother thinks I'm practising my writing. I do it every day and she never reads it. So while I kneel here in my silk robe, dabbing my brush onto the paper like an obedient daughter, I'm going to reveal my true destiny.

I, Suki Akiyama, am going to become a samurai warrior. My father is one, and my brother is training to become one. It's in my blood.

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Illustrator	Isobel Lundie
Extent	216pp
Word Count	20307 words
Rights Available	World

World's Worst Viking Raider



An illustrated fictional account of the world's unluckiest Viking!

- Humorous, engaging and easy-to-read chapter book about perseverance, courage and overcoming barriers, ideal for history and adventure lovers 7+.
- A fantastically funny fictional story in a factual setting.
- Fascinating facts are interspersed throughout with 'get real' sections educating readers about the real-world contexts and histories of the Viking world.
- Endmatter includes a timeline and historical biographies to help engage readers with this specific time period and encourage further research.

World's Worst Viking Raider

I raced up to him and announced that I was a fearless raider who wanted to join his crew. Unfortunately, he didn't hear, and kept shouting at his men.

I topped him on the shoulder so I could say it ngain. It turned out not to be a great idea to surprise a grizzled old raider. He shoved me to the muddy floor, drew his sword and pressed it to my throat. It was so sharp that a single burp could have kilder me. I was glad I hadn't esten too much porridge that morning.

I begged him not to kill me, and told him that be could have anything he wanted if he let me live, including my collection of carved Thor and Loki figures.

He nodded, tucked his sword back into its sheath and asked me what I wanted from him I told him I was a fearsome warrior and wanted to join his crew.

Looking back, I can see that might not have been the best time to make the announcement



GET REAL. One of the treatons the Vikings were so successful as tradem and raidors was their longships. They were narrow enough to travel down enters, and light enough to be relied even the growth on light, Some believe they be did disposit heads coved at the local to flighting recipie as they approached.

Eighth Day

The ruiders moored their ship in the hartour yesterday morning and spent the rest of the day putting up their tents and trading their plundered goods for weapons, clothes, wheat and dried fish, Our village leader, Birger, has said he's happy for them to stay and share ou



Ninth Day

I've found out what the ruiders are planning. A trader has told them about a small village on the east coast of England, which has lots of valuable treasure and hardly anyone capable of defending it. They're going to sail across the sea, take all the valuable stuff from it and come back here.

That sounds perfect. I could go with them, join in with the raid and come right back. The English village is an easy target, and I'll be with some very experienced lighters, so I'll be in no danger. I'll get some excellent raiding experience and I won't be away long. There's no way Mum and Dad can object to that.

Dud and Mum have objected. They think it will be too dangerous, even though I've explained that it won't be. I've warred them that I'm going to keep asking until they agree, but they don't think I actually mean it. They'll find out.



and hacking through wood, flesh, bone and whatever stands in the way of my plunder.

At least I would if I had an axe. Dad won't let me have one in case I cut myself.



Third Day

Forget what I said. I do have an axe now. Sort of.

I met my best friend Astrid to play at raiding, and she brought one from her dad's workshop. He's the best blacksmith in our village, and he makes amazing shields and weapons.

We went to the forest north of our village and took turns playing with the axe. I pretended I was in a raid and all the trees were terrified locals. I ran towards them, roaring and swinging my axe, then I planted it right into



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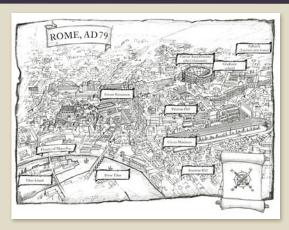
Gladiator School 1: Blood Oath



A tale of blood, sweat, sand and sacrifice, set in the gladiator arenas of Ancient Rome

- An epic fictional story set in a historical context, perfect for lovers of the ancient world.
- Fast-paced, action-packed and full of unexpected twists and turns. Great for reluctant readers searching for an exciting adventure story to keep them entertained.
- Contains additional notes throughout to define key Roman words, helping children to learn more about ancient society and immerse themselves in the time period.

Gladiator School 1: Blood Oath



Lucion's older brother had found electy to sa Lucius's older brother had found plenty to say. Quintus, named after his father, was never lost for words. He had followed the soldiers through the villa as they searched for his father, warning them of the dire punishments that would fall on their heads when his father returned, threatening them with curses and finally invoking the household gods to protect the family against the introders.

family against the intruders.

But, throughout it all. Lucius had stayed in the atrium, his back pressed against the cool marble walls. The statues were still wearing their crowns of flowers and leaves. Less than a day had passed since they had celebrated their mother's birthshay. And sow his world was crumbling around his ears. 'Where is he, boy?'

A soldier was standing in front of him, demanding

an answer.

'The Senate?' snapped Quintus from the doorway to the atrium. 'The Forum?' Where else would you expect one of Rome's most respected senators to be at this time of day?

'He's not there,' Lucius said. His voice sounded croaky and unfassiliar. 'What are you talking about?' asked Quin.

okstylaer of ancient Rose, which was also the place for

He sounded irritable and indignant. How favory, thought Lucius. Quin always knows everything. How com

'Explain yourself,' rapped out the soldier, who was

Esplain yourself, rapped out the soldier, who was evidently losing parience fast. Look, said Lucius. Finally, Quin followed the direction of his brother's gaze and his eyes fell on the altar. Lucius saw Quin's posture change. His shoulders sagged, his face egistered confusion and disbelief.

The dog's gone," he said. Of the three statues that re-Of the three statues that represented their household gods, the wooden dog had always been their father's favourite. It had stood on the hearth altar for as long as Lucius could remember. Aquils had said that it represented the faithfulness of true friends. He would or take the statue on a normal working day. But it would always travel with him when he made a

The's taken the statue?' demanded the soldier.

Lucius nodded. The soldier's mouth set into a grim line. 'Right,'

He called his men and ordered them to his side. You're going? Quin asked.
Yes,' said the soldier. We'll leave you to your

'What's that supposed to mean?' Quin had recovered from his initial shock and was truculent again.

be many weeks - perhaps mouths - of this alread

Quin had always seemed strong and powerful. But Quin had always seemed strong and powerful. But more, standing barefoot is the middle of the areas, wearing nothing but a loineleth, he looked like a child. Blood and weart were smeared across his back and shoulders. Other novicii gladiators were watching from the side steps, and Lucius had ventured out of the back.

rooms of the school to see how Quin was getting on. Now he wished that he hadn't bothered. No sword, no shield, no armour, 'he muttered, 'It's

a voice behind him. The weapons come later.'
Lucius spun around and sure a slave girl standing
there. Her thick, black hair hung in two heavy plaits there. Her thirk, black har hing in two heavy plans around her oval face. Locin ddn't know what to say. A month ago he world have smiled and thanked her. He would have known his own status. Now, working in the glodiator school, he ddn't even feel like hisself any more. He certainly didn't feel like talking. He turned back to the arena, where Onin was on his back again

back to the areas, where Quas was on his back again.
One of the watching gladitators numed to Lucius.
His lips parted in a black-toothed grin.
Your brother's not even out of his swaddling clothes, he said, spitting onto the sand. We eat his sort for breakfast.

Clearly this gludiator was already trained and fighting for enougy. Lacius ddin't answer best, as lee heard another cay of pain from Quin. his threat bearned. He would be eick if he leeft on waterling. He had no got out. Lacklily, he had an excuse to leaver his sucke had asked him to deliver a message to someone in the Forum.

The sweltering streets of Rome seemed less busy than smal. Lucius wove his way towards the Forum, the cries of street sellers ringing in his ears as he dared through the throug of carts and chariots. The acid smell of urine and excrement stung his threat. He stumbled

over a litter of piglets trotting across his path and the owner yelled at him: 'Out of the way, boy!'

sever yelled at him: Out of the way, boy?

Story: Lackin memment, seconding to the side of
the street, where a next versible who was selling piles
of fresh red blangs was splatning severyone in the
scienty with bland, supplying much streeties to ble crases
and incore. He shows the streeties to ble crases
and incore. He shows the streeties to ble in the
would corey him to the maderaples while his inside was
all inche allers with the breader. But now he realized
that he was standing on the street where their old boars
as. The shape are into the will wailly were selling
the wase cloths and clay part of silve oil as always.

Expending to a six he had now in do old upon.



THE MAIN CHARACTERS

Lucius, a Roman boy

Ouintus, his older brother

Aquila, their father

Ravilla, their uncle

Caecilia, their mother

Valeria, their sister

Isidora, Lucius's friend, a slave

Rufus, a slave

Crassus, a trainer of gladiators

PROLOGUE

TRAITOR!

JULY AD 79





ucius stared at the household gods.

Everyone else seemed able to shout and cry and wail and rage, but Lucius couldn't even open his mouth. From the moment the soldiers had

burst in to arrest his father and found him missing, Lucius's eyes had been glued to the little wooden

The soldiers had stormed through the villa, overturning furniture, rattling their swords and yelling, 'We arrest you, Quintus Valerius Aquila; in the name of the Emperor, show yourself!'

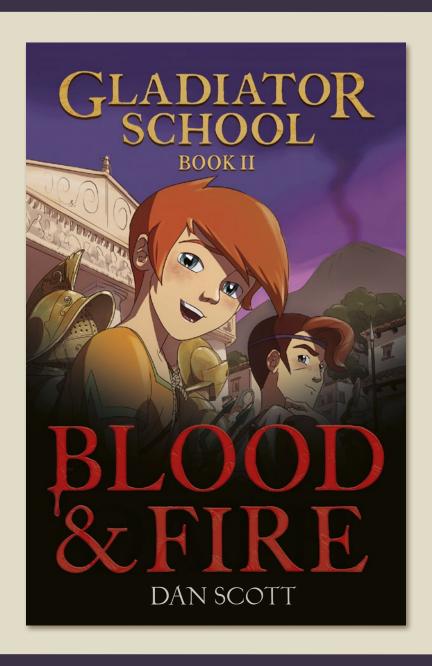
His mother had collapsed, trembling, onto the couch in the atrium,* clasping Lucius's sister Valeria

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bookshelf.bonnierbooks.co.uk/books/9781800789098

^{*} atrium: the entrance ball of a Roman villa.

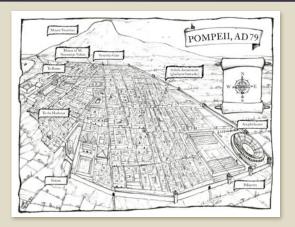
Gladiator School 2: Blood & Fire



The second in the Gladiator School series - an epic ancient tale of blood, sweat and sacrifice.

- An epic fictional story set in a real-life historical context. Perfect for lovers of the ancient world or those studying the Ancient Romans in school.
- Fast-paced, action-packed and full of unexpected twists and turns. A great option for reluctant readers searching for an exciting, gory adventure story to keep them entertained.
- Contains additional notes throughout to define key Roman terms, helping children to learn more about ancient society and immerse themselves in the time period.

Gladiator School 2: Blood & Fire



CHAPTER I



he midday sun beat down on Lucius as he pursued Quin through the streets of Poupeit. He glisupsed his browler's tall, athletic figure up alsoed, sumering along through the reach heading west towards the Forum. Eurius could have perferred to walk side by side with Quin hrough this unlassifier city, but season the would not

see wereknisch.

Sinells of cooking meat from the fast-food shops mingded with the strench walking over from the fullsasce factories mear the harbour. Lecius's ears either sasce factories mear the harbour. Lecius's ears exclude with the cries of fruit sellers and wine merchant and the pipes and drums of bankers. The noise and "Formattle main modelplan which was developting to facine metring."

23

GLADIATOR SCHOOL

spalser reminded him of Suberra, the area where he more lived in Rous. Yet Dunqu's several to carey an exter air of unexace. The shadow-filled allays, the hard forces of the young men, the cold-eyed state of a begar woman – they all spelled danger to Lexins. Maybe it was his insignation, but Pomper's essent like a city brisinning with desperate and unerrapulson people whole many the contract of the contract of

From a searly side street, Lorius heart a cryo on past, but mater carries made him wast to knery on past, but these he was Quin true and enter the hely. Hockandy, but these he was Quin true and enter the hely. Hockandy, but sim followed, relading the ring on his forefringer for back, it was his only mements of his father, and had become his sideman. Concerling himself behind a pile of amphone, Lorius use Quin himself behind a pile of amphone, Lorius use Quin himself behind a pile of amphone, Lorius use Quin were jerving and pasting around a lad of shout their own ago. From him mans, formal tops, now be-spattered with mult. Lorius could tell the victims was a young man of status, though this did not seven to count for much among his terrorenters.

emplores (ringeler amplore); earthere are storage jass.

6

BLOOD & FIRE

His sense of fairness clearly offended, Quin impulsively strode into the mêlée and pushed aside one of the bulkes, who had been holding the viceius in a neck lock. The bully squeaked in surprise and fell to the ground. His friends immediately closed in around

the ground. His friends immediately closed in around Quin, their jeers turning to under ol or larger. There were six of them - three around with which against the unserned Quin. Locking prounds He steeled Jamesli, knowing he would have to go and help his brouther. With his shedor bulk, Lockins waarn's made for physical violance. He cursed their fate for bringing then here to Pomprii.

0

It was ten days since Crasson, the laminta of the gladlaster whole had made the amount encount. The whole had had had the the amount encount. The whole had had had been described the proposed Boars at the forthcoming games in Possporii. As toul of thirty gladiators would be gains, including globs, and Larish and been disusport to learn that be too was among those selected to go, it was a seven-day waren't to Possporii, and the result of the Storfers work spect in the city. Taking the return march into account, and the result of the forther work spect in the city. Taking the store man and the store would be good from Boars for three whole works - time he had been buying to be partial was seen in the proposed from the had once working for his farther. What I August a feet to contact has design that when the present then from morting.

25



THE MAIN CHARACTERS

Lucius, a Roman boy

Quintus, his older brother

Aquila, their father

Ravilla, their uncle

Caecilia, their mother

Valeria, their sister

Isidora, Lucius's friend, an Egyptian slave

Crassus, a lanista (trainer of gladiators)

Valens, editor (sponsor) of the games at Pompeii

Atia, a seer

Eprius, a young patrician (nobleman) of Pompeii PROLOGUE

FIRST BLOOD

ROME 10 August AD 79





ames given by Gaius Valerius Ravilla,' Lucius read aloud. 'Forty gladiators will fight. Perfumed water will be scattered.' His finger hovered over his brother's name.

'Quintus, Retiarius, tiro, will battle Burbo, Secutor.* Burbo has won ten bouts.'

'You've read it at least twenty times,' said Isidora, sounding rather impatient. 'You can't change the words by staring at them, you know.'

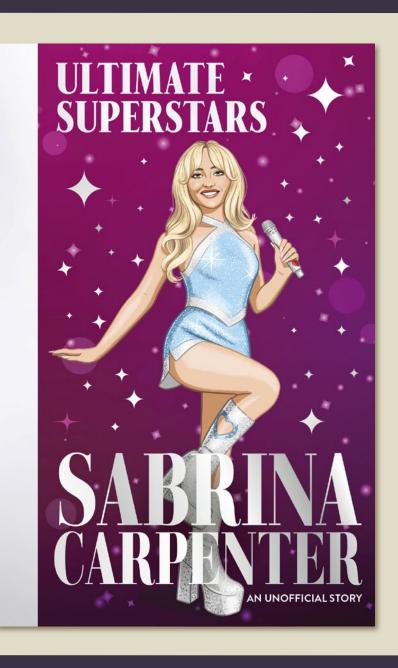
Lucius dropped the programme back into his bag and rubbed his eyes. He hadn't had much sleep.

Retiarius: a gladiator who fights with net (rete) and trident; tiro: a gladiator fighting in public for the first time. Secutor: a gladiator who wears an enclosed, egg-shaped belimet and fights with a short sword (gladius); bis name means Chaser.

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7

Ultimate Superstars: Sabrina Carpenter



Sabrina Carpenter's rise to global stardom, retold for young readers.

- Unofficial story of Sabrina Carpenter's rise to stardom.
- Perfect for young readers to find out all about their favourite star.
- Sabrina Carpenter is a number 1 bestselling artist with a social media following of over 42 million.

Ultimate Superstars: Sabrina Carpenter

CHAPTER 1

SWIFTIE TO BESTIE

Sabrina had just received one of the most important calls of her career.

"Enylor wants me to open for her?" Her eyes were wide with disbelled. When she was a Bitle girl she put posters of Miley Cyrus, Ariana Grande, Selena Gomes and Taylor Swift on her bedroom walls. Now Taylor wants Sabrina to join her on the Erra Cyrus, "Just wait until I sell the fana!" But for now, it was no second.

Sabrina was so excited. It felt like yesterday that she was sat in her bedroom with only her guitar, paintakingly learning the chords to Taylor's 'Picture to Burn'. One time her dad peeked in and asked her what she was doing.



SARDINA CARPENTE

"I'm practising for when I'm famous," she said with a grin. She was only ten, but she knew what she wanted even then.

Bourteen years later, that doesne was a realizcialbrough it did feel unreal. Sabrieus was no longer a girl with posters; the wast living alongside her idolo, one of whom had bocome a friend and snother who she had preferred alongside: Arman. By May 2023, rumours about Sabrieus and Toylor's friendables were switzing. (Include by photose and social media interactions. Then came Sabrieus's trip to Philadelphia for Taylor's concess.

What a night that was. The show was everything Sabrina had imagined and more. Stifing with her sister Sawsh the pseked stalkun, she found hersell singing along to every word and laughing when Taylor joked about her cats. The choreography and emotional storydelling made her jaw drops.

"She makes it look effortless," Sabrina whispered Sarah nudged her. "You're next, you know." Sabrina rolled her eyes. "Yeah, right." "Just wait," Surah replied, with a knowing smile

- N

UIZ 6060

On 2 June 2023, Sabrina posted an announcement on Instagram that sent her fans into a frenzy. It read:

trying to process this but also i shart CANT WAIT TO JOIN THE ERAS TOUR IN LATIN AMERICA thanh u @taylorswift u the 1:7 this is a draw come true

Within hours, the internet was exploding with excitement. Fans reposted the autouncement and the comments section lit up with messages like:

This is your spot... Shine girl!

Subrina had every intention of shining. She went straight into rehearsals; there was no time to chill after the spill!

"This is huge," Sabrina FaceTimed Sarah. "I've got to get it right."

"You will," Sarah assured her. She always had Sabrina's back.

"This is my big break. I have got this!"

The first show where Sabrina opened for Taylor



SARRINA CARRONT

was in Mexico City on 24 August 2023. Standing buckstage, she had that familiar feeling - sick be the girl of her storage, with cered the acrea was puched with Switties, but hoppfully there are a few Corporators of there too, Sabrins thought to herself and crossed her fingers behind her back. She adjusted her microphone pack and glanced in the mirror. She felt sawy in her glatform boots and black sequin outifi-

"You have got this, Sabrina Carpenter," she repeated to herself, flicking her hair back with all

As the lights dimmed, Sabrian heard her namebeing ammounds. The crowde erupted: Sabrian had a big following in Mexico City. She bearned, the needed-to-hear the cheers. It show her one. She strepted costs the stage, Insensifing into Tenders', the song which had hir number one on the US followed Pay. Songs chart entitle that year. When Sabrian saws the number of the strength of the strength of the strength of stage of the strength of the strength of the strength of stages. The strength of the strength of

"Don't forget Selena," Sabrina told the crowd as she began singing 'Dreaming of You' by American Tejano singer Selena Quintanilla Férez. The Tex-Mex singer

Pub Date

UZ GOGGEC

had passed away in 1995, and the Mexican crowd appreciated Sabrina's nod to the star. There were tears and huge cheers an Sabrina hit the final note. She looked across the auditorium and felt the love, the connection and the manic.

By the time Sabrina got to 'Nonsenae', the audience was completely in sync with her energy, laughing at her funny ad-like and singing along to the chorus.

"I love you guys," she told them warmly, her eyes sparkling with mischievous excitement, as she said her farewells after singing an encore.

"Wow, that was the performance of my life!" Subrina told Taylor later that night.

"Oh girl," Taylor said, giving Sebrina a gentle

The Evis Two rook Subrina to thirteen shows in Latin America, followed by six in Australia and another six in Singapore. Each night was a new adventure and Subrina adapted her performances to the unique energy of each audience. In Bearil, she was overwhethred by the party atmosphere kicked up by the fans, who sang every weed of her songs with passion.



27/03/2025

SABRINA CARPENTER

"It's like they're performing for me," she joked backstage.

Tour life wasn't without its challenges. Sabrina's hit 'Nonsense', known for its cheeky and sometimes risqué lyrics, required a little tweaking for family-friendly grounds.

"I had to tone it down a little tonight," she admitted to the crew in Singapore. "But I still kept it fun!"

Sitting in her hotel room after a show, Sabrina scrolled through fan videos of her performances. One caption really caught her eye:

Sabrina Carpenter: The Taylor Swift of her generation.

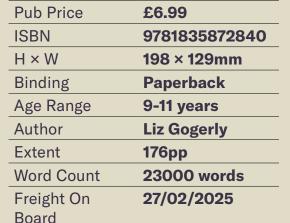
Sabrina smiled, her eyes misting over with emotion. It was a bold comparison, a HUGE compliment, and it spoke to how far she'd come. She felt proud.

"The best is yet to come, huh?" Sabrina thought, curling up in the super king size bed. Every muscle in her body ached after the performance. And man her feet were on fire after dancing in those boots! But, she didn't care, she was doing the thing she loved best in



LIZ GOGERLY

the world. It felt like she was on course to something bigger than she ever dreamed possible. Her head was swirling with happy thoughts as she fell into a deep, deep sleep – with a cheeky grin on her face.



Rights Available World



Ultimate Superstars: Harry Styles



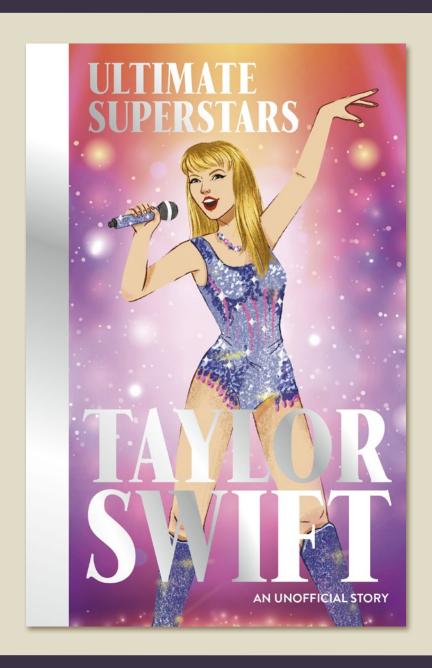
Harry Styles' rise to global stardom, retold for young readers.

- Perfect for young fans to find out all about their favourite star.
- Unofficial story of Harry Styles' rise to stardom
- Spin-off of the bestselling *Ultimate* Football Heroes books, which have sold
 over 340,000 copies across the whole
 series.
- Harry Styles has sold 3.3 million albums worldwide as a solo artist and over 70 million records worldwide as part of One Direction

Ultimate Superstars: Harry Styles

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Ultimate Superstars: Taylor Swift



Taylor Swift's rise to global stardom, retold for young readers.

- Taylor Swift has sold 40 million albums worldwide and 130 million single downloads.
- Perfect for young fans to find out all about their favourite star.
- Unofficial story of Taylor Swift's rise to stardom.
- Spin-off of the bestselling Ultimate Football Heroes books, which have sold 340,000 copies across the series.
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Ultimate Superstars: Taylor Swift

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Ultimate Superstars: Selena Gomez



Selena Gomez's rise to global stardom, retold for young readers.

- Selena Gomez has sold over 7 million albums and 22 million singles worldwide
- Perfect for young fans to find out all about their favourite star
- Unofficial story of Selena Gomez' rise to stardom
- Spin-off of the bestselling Ultimate Football Heroes books, which have sold 340,000 copies across the series.

Ultimate Superstars: Selena Gomez

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Ukraine - BBF25 - mono and graphic novels

Created by Cecilia Fanucci cecilia.fanucci@bonnierbooks.co.uk

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