



# Ladygrove Loves Reading

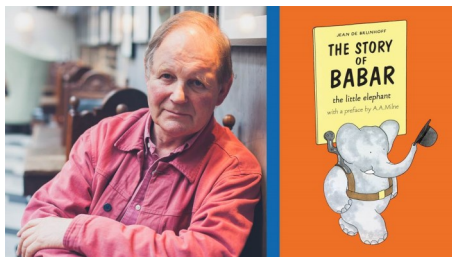
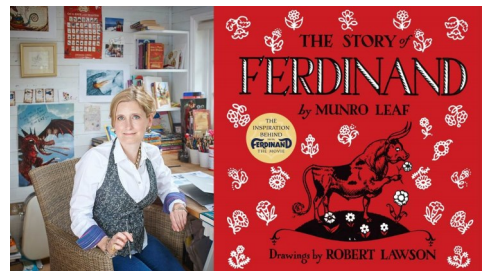
A termly newsletter for those who love reading, those who would like to know more about reading or for those who haven't really caught the reading bug...yet!

Issue #5  
Autumn Term 2019

## Top authors on the best stories to help children talk about their feelings

Here are some well known authors and illustrators sharing the children's books that gave them or their children comfort, helped them get through the tough times and help them grow. If you're feeling sad, lonely or like you don't quite fit in, give these books a read...

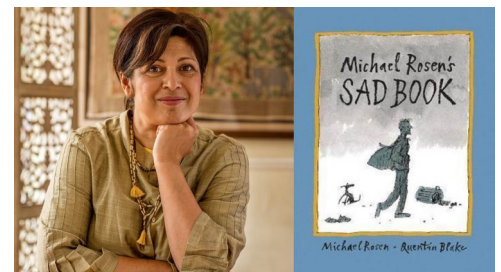
Cressida Cowell on Ferdinand by Munro Leaf: 'When I was a child, a picture book that helped me was *The Story of Ferdinand* written by Munro Leaf and illustrated by Robert Lawson. How I admired Ferdinand the bull's courage in sitting down and smelling the flowers in the bull ring rather than succumbing to crowd and peer pressure and fighting the matador!'



Sir Michael Morpurgo on *The Story of Babar the Little Elephant*: 'I always found the *Babar* books by Jean de Brunhoff comforting when I was little. I discovered these books in friends' houses. They were a treat for me, because in my house we didn't have them. They were rather looked down upon, because Babar and the elephants dressed up, and seemed to live and enjoy living in cities and wandering about in parks. When I was that age, I lived like that. Babar lived in my world. And he dressed as I did, well not quite. And he spoke like I

did, well not quite.'

Sita Brahmachari on Michael Rosen's *Sad Book*: 'Through facing and sharing the sadness caused by the loss of a loved one, Rosen allows light to enter and humour too. This is a brave and honest book, written with great care and humanity, a huge amount of heart and wish to open conversations around what is often still an unbroached subject with young children. It has been a real gift to read it with my family.'



Cerrie Burnell on *The School for Good and Evil* by Soman Chainani: 'As a child who couldn't read independently because of dyslexia, I have always been drawn to fairytales. When I was little, I was delighted by the courage and splendour of them, an imaginary world I could escape to and be the princess who escaped some terrible fate. But I was also fascinated by the twisted terrible darkness they portray. My daughter loves the modern retellings like Disney's *Descendants* or *The School For Good And Evil* by Soman Chainani, give which give equal space to the villains stories, letting them hold as much power.'

Mrs McLauchlan recommends...

### Fix fairytale problems with science and technology.

*"Goldilocks faced lots of fairytale problems, from porridge that was too hot to chairs that were too small! If only she had used some STEM-thinking to solve her problems. STEM-thinking means using her Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. Read the story, try out the fun experiments and use your STEM skills to work out innovative ways to solve fairytale problems!"*

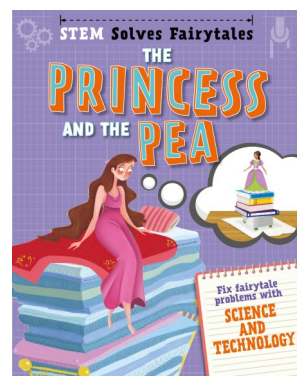
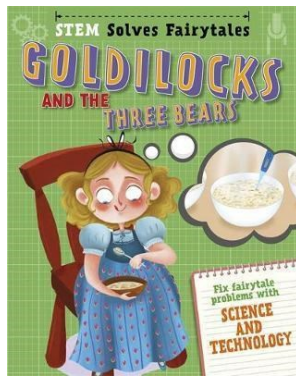
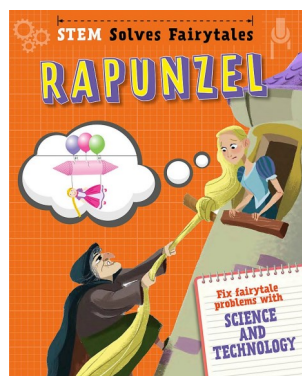
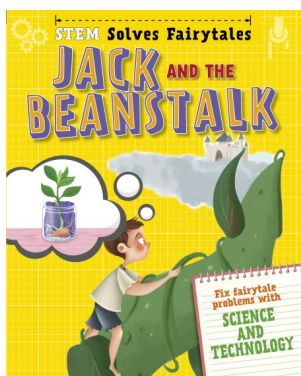
There are an increasing range of books on STEM seeking to engage children and develop a curiosity of the world they live in. If you are daunted by the choice, this series of four fairytale books may be a good place to start. They are aimed at KS1 & LKS2, but would still engage and could be readily extended for UKS2.

Each book is a fairytale, interspersed with science and technology projects that can easily be done at home. There are clear instructions, ideas to develop each project further and supporting notes to explain the STEM theory behind the projects.

What I love about each of these books is their accessibility and the ease with which ideas can be extended and spawned from these familiar stories. When I shared them with other teachers and the children, they immediately started coming up with ideas for STEM and art projects linked to other stories, not just fairytales. It is a very infectious formula, mixing favourite stories and practical project ideas.

The STEM Solves Fairytales series includes: Goldilocks and the Three Bears; Jack and the Beanstalk; The Princess and the Pea; and Rapunzel.

Published by Franklin Watts. Series Editors are Sarah Eason and Harriet McGregor.



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## Coming up...

Join us in Foundation Stage in your PJs for hot chocolate and a Christmas story on Thurs 5th December 5.30-6.30pm.



## Quiz time...



Can you unscramble the names of these famous book characters?

1. hlricea & olla
2. Ryhar tepotr
3. Dmtliaa
4. Nasal
5. Eterp ibrbat
6. Tcayer ekreab
7. Ryhia lacmray