

A free children's book newsletter by **authorfy.**

BOOKDROP

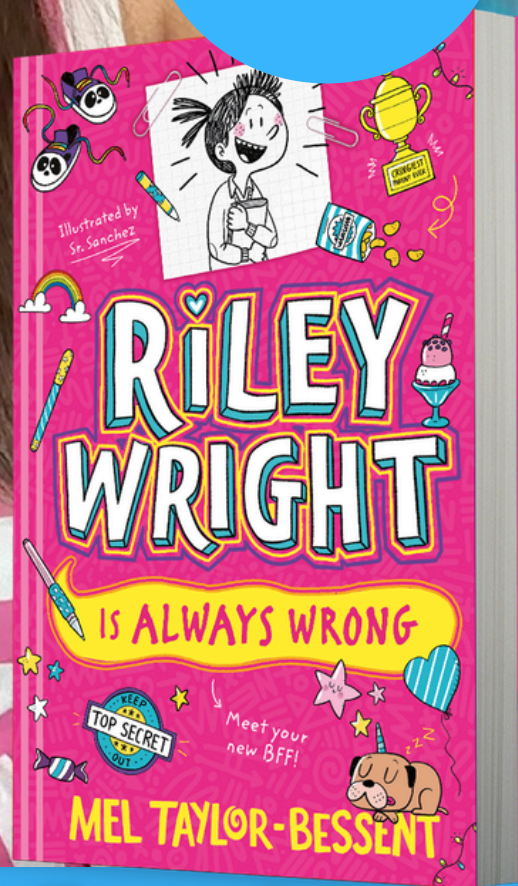


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CODE INSIDE**



Featuring

MEL TAYLOR- BESSENT



ILLUSTRATIONS © SR SANCHEZ 2026

Also featuring: **Jamie Hammond** **Katherine Rundell** **Shane Hegarty** **Clare Pollard** **Ben Nuttall** and more

GET 10% OFF AT BOOKSHOP.ORG!

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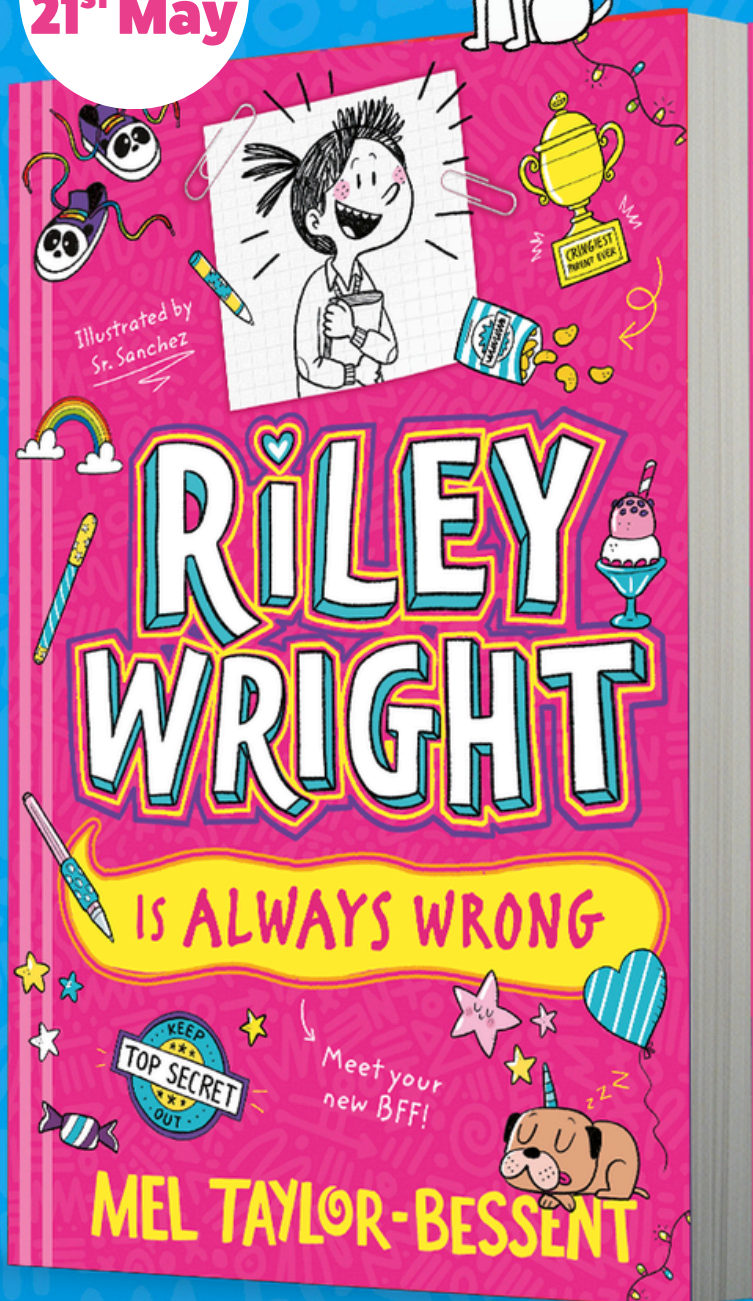
Enter the code before 11:59 on
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the bookshop.org website

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PRE-ORDER](#)

Out
21st May



PACKED WITH FAMILY, FRIENDS,
FAILS AND FAIRY LIGHTS ...
MEET YOUR NEW BFF,
RILEY WRIGHT!



My own discount
code? SO COOL!





Q&A

WITH MEL TAYLOR-BESSENT

Riley Wright is starting at Heverton Junior School with one awkward disadvantage: her MAJORLY embarrassing, cringe-worthy dad is the new head teacher! Riley has to figure out how to fit in, find a talent for the talent show, look out for her unpredictable new BFF Emmie and face down super mean girl Harper. As someone who gets a lot of stuff wrong, when will Riley finally get something RIGHT?



What inspired you to write RILEY WRIGHT?

I love diary-style books and when I realised a lot of them were for ages 9 or 10+, I thought how cool it would be to write something that 7 and 8 year olds would love too. The name 'Riley Wright' came to me on holiday last year, and once I knew she was going to be clumsy and forgetful and funny, the story came quite quickly.



Who is your favourite character?

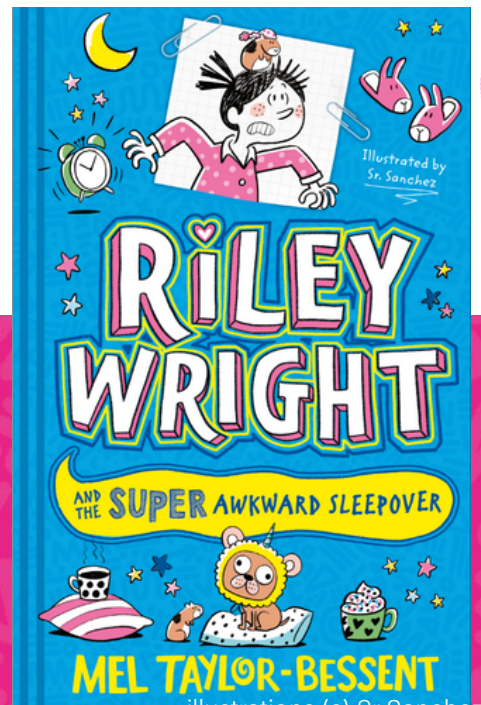
I obviously love Riley. She always tries hard and wants to do her best, but she struggles to fit in and always manages to do something wrong. She's a bit like a female Wimpy Kid in that way.

But I also love her BFF, Emmie. She's quirky, confident, loud and not afraid to be herself.



How many Riley Wright books have you written?

So far, I've written 3! Book 2 – RILEY WRIGHT AND THE SUPER AWKWARD SLEEPOVER will be out in November. **Here's the cover!**



Click here to watch Mel's video

AN EXTRACT FROM RILEY WRIGHT IS ALWAYS WRONG

THE LAST THURSDAY OF THE HOLIDAYS

I'M NOT BEING FUNNY, but have you ever seen your head teacher take the bins out as soon as the sun comes up, in their tatty, too-small dressing gown and ugly superhero slippers? It's like seeing a giraffe skateboard into school. WEIRD ON EVERY LEVEL!!!!

It's even worse when your head teacher has overpowering coffee breath, chants a cheery, 'Good moooooorning, neighbour!' like they're permanently stuck on school-assembly mode – and they're . . . your dad.

I know, right?
CRINGE.

Click here to read more!



DON'T GET ME WRONG, Dad's all right *sometimes*.



- He buys me ALL the notebooks and pens I want. All I have to do is mention the words 'new school project' and he races to his laptop like there's a flash sale at BoringShirtsAndTies.com and orders me anything with a twenty per cent off sticker. A girl can never have enough notebooks and pens, right!?
- Dad also works a lot. So I get way more TV time than he knows about.
- And at weekends, he makes the tastiest tomato pasta with three different cheeses and not a vegetable in sight. Result!

But don't be fooled by my dad's love of dairy and a big online discount. When it comes to being a totally embarrassing, forever-annoying parent, he's the MASTER.

Just yesterday, he charged around the supermarket pretending the shopping trolley was a racing car. Every time he vroomed down an aisle or screeched round a corner, strangers would point and snigger or pull their phone out to film him, and I wanted the ground



CHECK OUT MEL'S OTHER BOOKS...

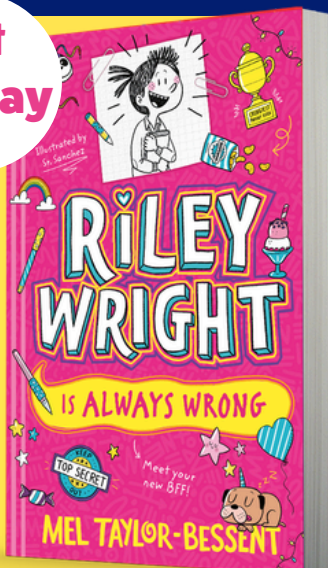
Meet the Carrolls – the funniest and most festive family in the world!



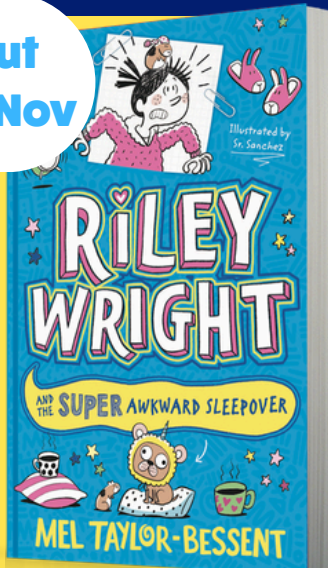
Find adventure, danger and laughs galore on Imagination Island – an island that comes to life when children use their imagination!



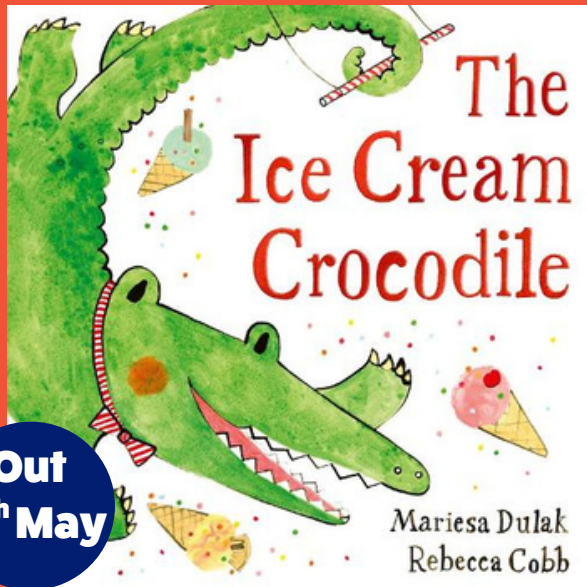
Out 21st May



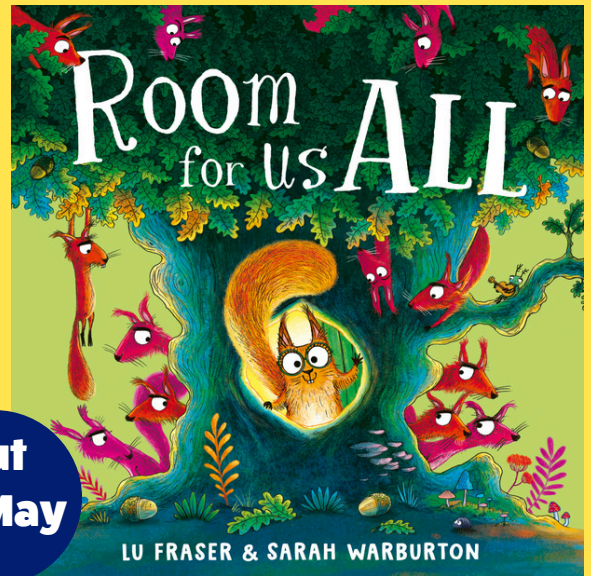
Out 5th Nov



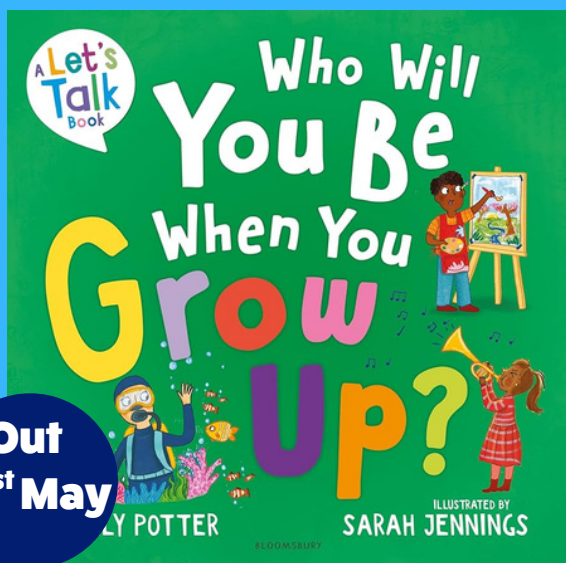
NEW CHILDREN'S BOOKS: Picture Books & Early Readers



A fabulously winning story about a crocodile who will not be sidelined, from the extraordinary team behind 'There's a Tiger on the Train'.



This heartwarming new picture book, from the bestselling creators of 'Mavis the Bravest', reassures us there is always a way to make room for us all.



From bestselling early years author, this book invites children to imagine the type of person they will be in the future. Perfect for starting conversations about hopes, values and aspirations.



**CLICK HERE TO
READ EXTRACTS
FROM THESE BOOKS**



NEW CHILDREN'S BOOKS:

Middle Grade: ages 7+

Out
7th May



Solve the puzzles to find the gold in this thrilling and funny interactive dragon-riding adventure from the bestselling author-illustrator of 'Grumpfort'.

Packed with epic illustrations and fun puzzles

'A fiery, five-star adventure' – Jennifer Bell, author of Magicalia

Do you have what it takes to become a dragon rider?

[CLICK HERE TO READ EXTRACT](#)

Out
14th May



Join football's freestyle phenomenon and record-breaking social media superstar Ben Nuttal for step-by-step guides to freestyle skills of all levels.

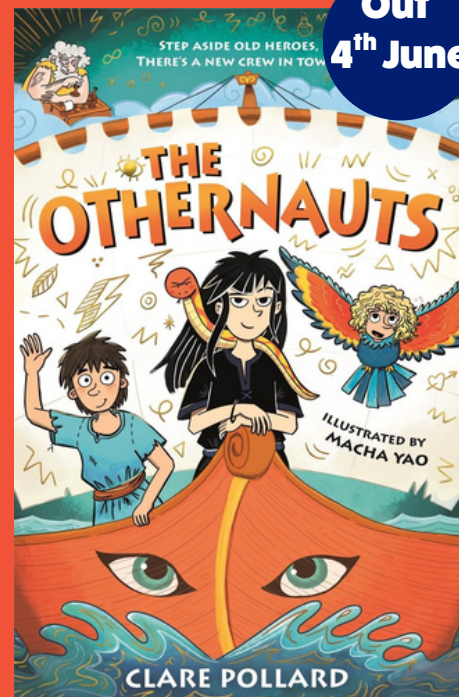
Want to learn new freestyle skills for your next game?

Or just have a laugh trying a new sport?

This is the book for you!

[CLICK HERE TO READ EXTRACT](#)

Out
4th June



An original retelling of the classic Greek myth of 'Jason and the Argonauts' for young readers with a fresh and funny twist.

Laugh-out-loud funny

Fast-paced & packed with surprises & jokes

For fans of 'Who Let the Gods Out' and 'Loki'

[CLICK HERE TO READ EXTRACT](#)

NEW CHILDREN'S BOOKS:

Middle Grade: ages 9+



Jacq is the daughter of giant hunters. Corman is a young giant on his first trip above ground. Two stories, two lives and two worlds collide.

'Skandar' meets 'The BFG'

A powerful, cinematic adventure

Folklore, fantasy and adventure combine in the BIGGEST debut of the year.

[CLICK HERE TO READ EXTRACT](#)



Alex is part-minotaur. You read that right – part-boy, part-bull. Instead of just battling with spots the size of Mars and the looming school musical, he also has to worry about horns and hairy toes!

A hilarious, heartwarming twist on Greek mythology

Perfect for anyone who has ever felt a little bit different

[CLICK HERE TO READ EXTRACT](#)



When Christopher is unexpectedly woken by a miniature dragon chewing on his face, his heart leaps for joy. For months he's dreamed of returning to the Archipelago - the secret islands where all the creatures of myth live.

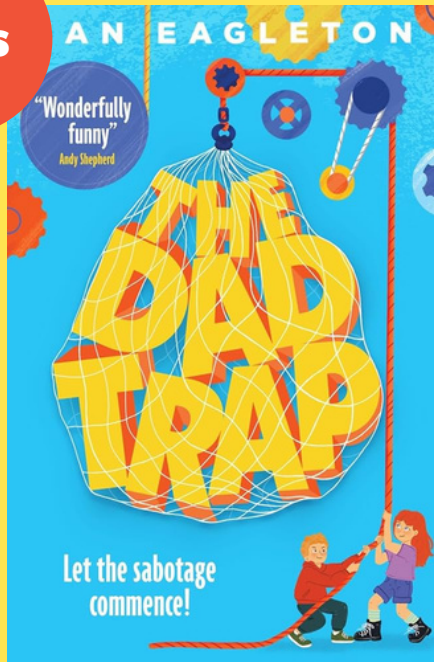
For fans of Philip Pullman, Percy Jackson and Skandar.

Book 2 in the No.1 Sunday Times bestselling series

[WATCH AUTHOR VIDEO & READ EXTRACT](#)

BOOK REVIEWS & RECOMMENDATIONS

For ages 9+

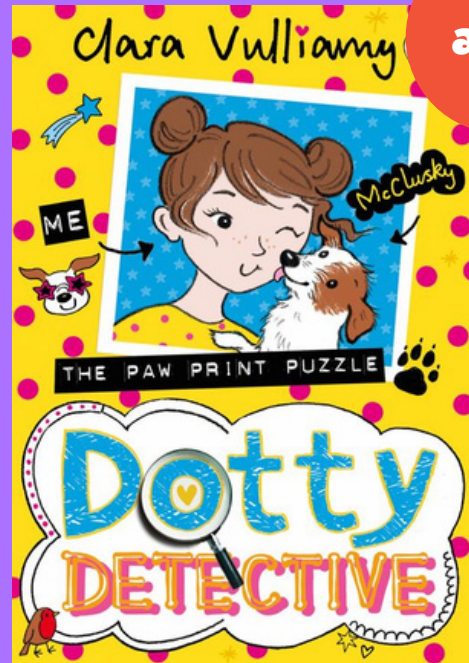


'The Dad Trap' is hilariously funny and has characters you will wish you could meet. William lives with his dad. It's just the two of them and he couldn't be happier! Their lives are bound by routine, involving grilled cheese sandwiches and murder mysteries aplenty. All is going perfectly until Ross and Florence come into their lives. Florence is a new girl at school who William has to share a desk with, and Ross is her dad. When the dads start becoming more than old friends, Florence and William unite in a bid to set a trap and break up their dads.



Primary School Teacher Mrs Vardy
[@escape_to_the_reading_corner](#) on Instagram

For ages 7+



Dot is a clever, kind character who loves dogs. In this story, her family visit their favourite farm. At the farm, there is a black and white bunny that Dot's sibling twins adore. After a few days, the fruit at home starts disappearing and the twins start acting suspiciously. Dot has to work quickly to solve the case before it ruins her mum's birthday afternoon tea. The book is engaging and interesting. It includes funny phrases in it - an example would be 'we barked up the wrong tree' when solving a mystery about an animal.



Delilah, age 9

Reading for Pleasure

Tips from the Open University team

Making time to read together

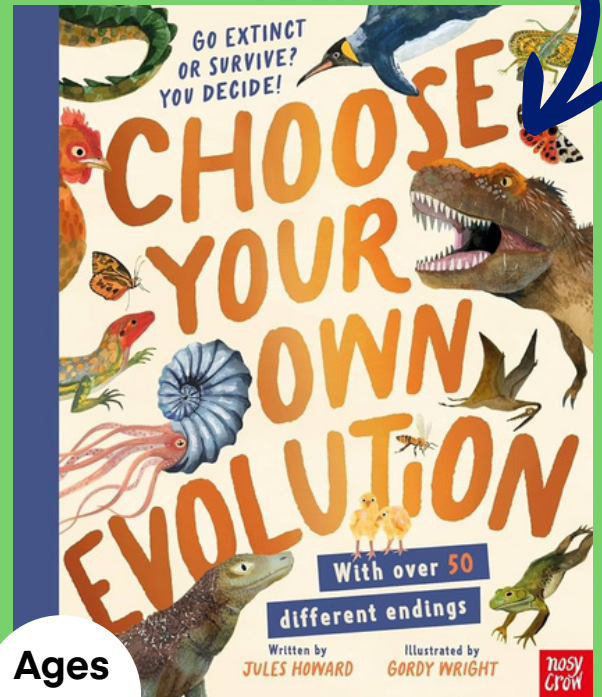
Family reading time looks different in every home. What matters is sharing the moment together.

- Dip into poetry. Repeat favourite lines and enjoy the sound of language.
- Browse magazines & newspapers. Share something interesting or surprising.
- Feed curiosity with non-fiction. Talk about new ideas together.
- Listen to audiobooks together, at home or on the move.

For other, simple ways to support reading at home, download the poster below by [clicking here](#).

The poster is titled "Supporting Readers at Home" and features the Reading for Pleasure logo and The Open University logo. It illustrates three key strategies: 1. Reading Aloud: A family is shown reading together. Text: "Open University research suggests there are three important ways to support readers to develop a love of reading." 2. Family Reading Time: A child is reading a book. Text: "Reading aloud to your children shows them reading is enjoyable, not a chore. Older children can read to younger ones, too." 3. Book Chat: A child is talking about a book. Text: "Making time to read alongside one another helps develop children's reading stamina and motivation. Let them choose what to read and relax together." Other elements include a speech bubble saying "I wonder if...why...what...who...", a book cover for "803 Back to Class", and a book cover for "BEANO". At the bottom, it says "Children who read and are supported as readers develop strong reading skills and do better at school." and "For more ideas, visit the OU RIP website: www.ourfp.org".

The Reading for Pleasure team recommend...



Vibrant illustrations

Invites fast-paced enjoyment

A great stimulus for book chat

JUMP

into someone else's story this June!

Stories build connection with ourselves, others and the world

EMPATHY
DAY
4 - 11 June 2026
FESTIVAL

BOOST your
empathy skills

WATCH
favourite
authors

TAKE the
Empathy
Challenge

SHARE stories at a Big Lunch

DISCOVER
brilliant
reading
ideas

Join us at empathylab.uk



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a world of author videos & book resources

The world's largest online library of author videos, resources & book extracts

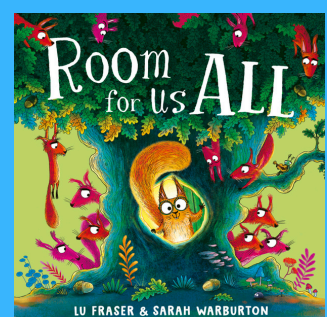
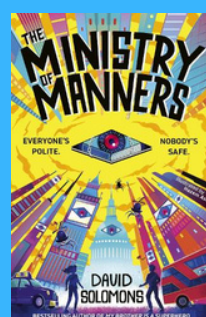
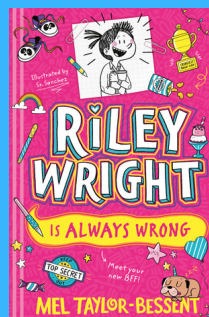
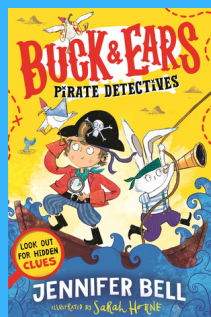
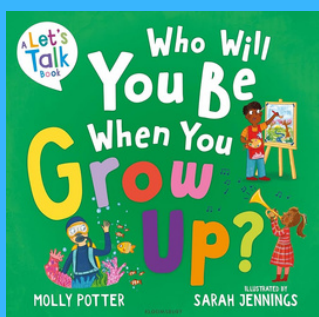
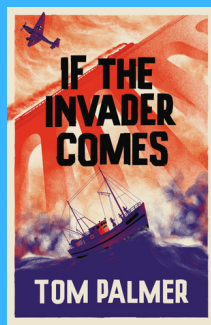
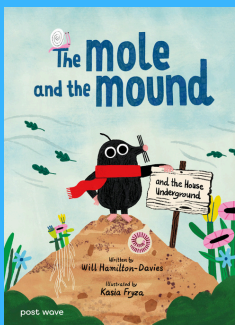


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The National Year
of Reading 2026.



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AUTHORFY.COM

May Books of the Month on Authorfy





MEL TAYLOR-BESSENT'S TOP TIPS FOR WRITING



CREATE CHARACTERS YOU CARE FOR

Give your characters strengths and weaknesses to make them feel real.



CREATE A COSY WRITING ENVIRONMENT

Relax with a blanket, a snack, fluffy socks or colourful pens as you write.



WRITE WITH YOUR EARS

Listening to music can help transport you into a setting and feel your way through a scene.



WRITE WITH A FRIEND

Writing with a friend means twice the ideas, twice the imagination and twice the fun.



PUSH THE PRESSURE AWAY

Don't worry about trying to get everything perfect straight away. Write a messy draft first.



PLAY A GAME

Go to Mel's Write for Fun YouTube account and play a fun writing game.



ADD MORE PROBLEMS

Stuck halfway through a story? Add another problem to make it more exciting, dramatic and tense.



WRITE ABOUT SOMETHING YOU ENJOY

Whether it's football, magic fairies or mutant zombies, if you enjoy what you're writing about, we'll always enjoy reading it.



NO SUCH THING AS A 'WRONG' IDEA

Your writing can be exciting, scary, magical, weird, surprising or simple. Think of one idea and see where it takes you.



WRITE LIKE AN AUTHOR

You might not be a published author, but you ARE an author. All you need to be an author is an imagination!

CHECK OUT MEL'S BOOKS!



LEARN HOW TO WRITE LIKE AN AUTHOR WITH MEL'S **WRITE FOR FUN** YOUTUBE CHANNEL!



BOOKDROP!

In partnership with the UK's publishing industry...



Change your story

