

## Winter booklist

*A seasonal selection of picture books and fiction to curl up with this Winter.*

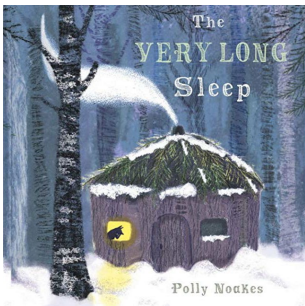
### *Picturebooks*



***Robin's Winter Song* by Suzanne Barton**

Bloomsbury 9781408859155

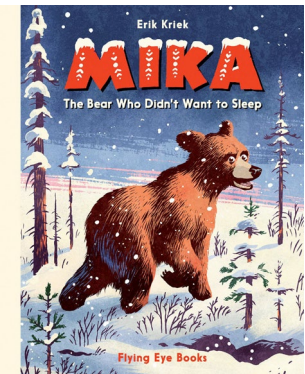
It's Autumn and all the birds and animals tell Robin that they are getting ready for Winter. From what they tell him, Winter is a fearsome individual and, rather than meet him, Robin snuggles up close to Bear in his cosy cave. However, robins aren't meant to hibernate, and when he looks outside, he sees a white wonderland which he loves and encourages other creatures to appreciate too. Collage illustrations depict the changing colours of the leaves and landscape as the seasons shift from Autumn to Winter to Spring.



***The Very Long Sleep* by Polly Noakes**

Child's Play 9781786281289

Bear, Chipmunk, Marmot and Fox have enjoyed a companionable summer and decide to live together as they reason they will then never be lonely or bored. However, what Fox's friends have neglected to tell him is that they hibernate for the winter! Fox is fed up as he's the only one awake in their round wooden house in the snow filled forest. Then a pigeon arrives with some enticing packages for Fox's friends – what will happen if he takes a peek? A story with a strong shape is bookended by contrasting endpapers.



***Mika. The Bear Who Didn't Want to Sleep* by Erik Kriek, translated from Dutch by Laura Watkinson**

Flying Eye 9781912497010

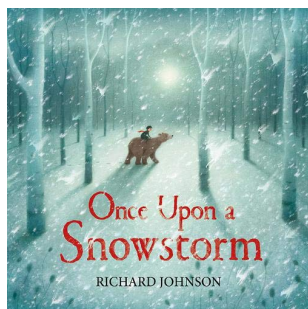
The style and colour palette have the feel of early to mid-twentieth century Russian children's book illustration in this story of a bear cub who doesn't want to sleep through the winter. The old owl has told Mika about the Northern Lights and the young bear is curious to see them. So when his Mama and Papa have fallen asleep, he sets off on a journey, enquiring of many animals in his quest for this natural wonder.



***Winter Sleep: A Hibernation Story* by Sean Taylor and Alex Morss, illustrated by Cinyee Chiu**

Words & Pictures 9780711242838

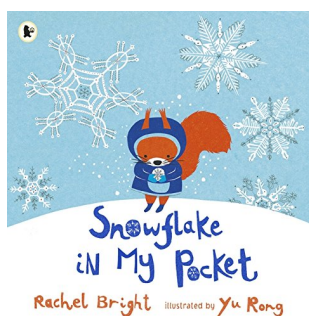
This quiet, enticing walk into the natural world begins in summer, with a young boy staying at Granny Sylvie's, on a walk to their secret glade, taking in the wonder of the vibrant wildlife all around. We next meet them in winter, with the delights of the summer hidden; only able to be visualised by the boy through Granny Sylvie's rich and vivid descriptions. Readers, however, get a peek into this secret world through Cinyee Chiu's carefully depicted illustrations. An appended information section provides an illuminating guide for young explorers.



**Once Upon a Snowstorm by Richard Johnson**

Faber & Faber 9780571339297

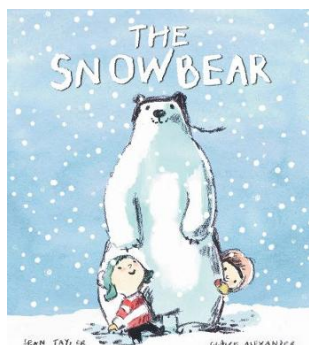
In this story told exquisitely entirely through pictures, a boy and his father leave their cosy home with its log fire and venture out into the snow-filled woods. The shapes of the snowflakes take the forms of running deer, flying birds and fleeing foxes, prefiguring what will happen when the pair get separated in the snowstorm and the animals of the forest come to the boy's rescue, sheltering and succouring him in a cave. A CLPE core book <https://clpe.org.uk/corebooks/once-upon-snowstorm> For more wordless picture books see our booklist <https://clpe.org.uk/library-and-resources/booklists/wordless-picture-books>



**Snowflake in My Pocket by Rachel Bright & Yu Rong**

Walker 9781406371819

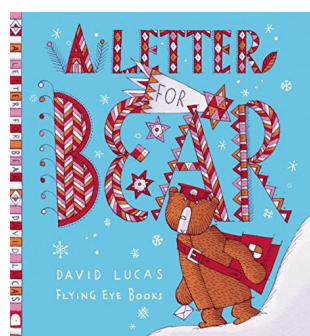
Bear has seen the seasons change many times but for his young friend Squirrel, everything is fresh and new and, with Squirrel by his side, the world seems so to Bear too. When snow falls, Bear gets the sniffles and Squirrel promises to have fun for both of them. The beauty of the individual snowflakes gives him the idea for a perfect present he can take home for Bear. Yu Rong's original style of artwork incorporating papercuts and the careful design of each spread ensures that there is delight in store at each turn of the page.



**The Snowbear by Sean Taylor & Claire Alexander**

Words & Pictures 9781786033499

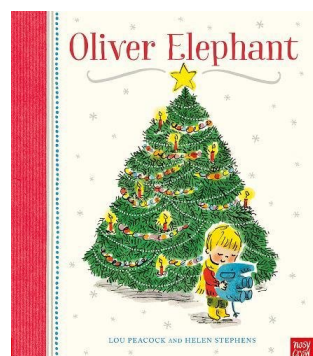
Iggy and Martina are excited to play in the snow which has fallen overnight and they make a snowman which looks more like a snowbear. Sledging down into the woods they encounter a sinister shape lurking amongst the trees but an unexpected rescuer is at hand. Claire Alexander's illustrations depict two young children with big imaginations to complement Sean Taylor's story inspired by his own childhood reading of *The Fox and the Tomten* by Astrid Lindgren and Harold Wiberg.



**A Letter for Bear by David Lucas**

Flying Eye 9781909263130

Bear is a very conscientious postman, trudging through the winter snow but sadly he never receives any letters himself. His progress is depicted in illustrations made up of strong shapes and patterns, The use of white, mauve and blue gives an icy effect in the early stages of the story. Later the colours of bear's orange fur combined with background blocks of red and touches of pink give the climax a more festive air as the other animals rally round to ensure his helpfulness is recognised. Find out more about David Lucas and his work on CLPE's Power of Pictures website: <https://clpe.org.uk/powerofpictures/lucas-david>



**Oliver Elephant by Lou Peacock and Helen Stephens**

Nosy Crow 9780857639776

A variation on the theme of the lost toy crops up in this story set during a Christmas shopping trip. Helen Stephens' illustrations charmingly convey the atmosphere of the shops decked out for the season as Mummy sets out to buy gifts for all the family accompanied by baby Evie-May, Noah and his toy elephant Oliver. The rhyming text is reminiscent of A. A. Milne's poem 'Disobedience' (in *When We Were Very Young*). A picture book that has an old-fashioned feel – in a good way!



**Pick a Pine Tree by Patricia Toht and Jarvis**

Walker 9781406379778

A cover design with the title and a festive ribbon picked out in sparkling red signals the season in which a family go and select a Christmas tree and then invite friends round to help decorate it once they've got it home. The joyful pictures are accompanied by a rhyming text describing the whole process – 'Strands of tinsel/on the tips,/falling down/in silver drips.'



**The Tree That's Meant to Be by Yuval Zommer**

Oxford University Press 9780192769800

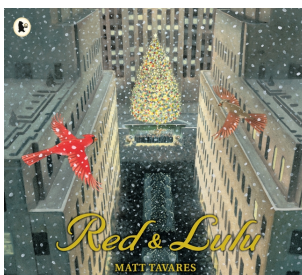
A young tree recognises that it is 'never, ever going to be a perfect, grown-up tree.' The seasons change and when winter comes, the other trees around it get taken home for Christmas by people 'searching for a flawless tree'. However, this small tree stays rooted in its forest home, decorated and acknowledged by the animals and birds and, as the seasons turn again, by book-loving children.



**The Little Fir Tree illustrated by Christopher Corr**

Frances Lincoln 9781786036629

In this adaptation of Hans Christian Andersen's story, colourfully illustrated in a naïve style, a little fir tree is sad because he wants to see the world and he is never chosen when the lumberjacks come to the forest. Eventually he grows enough to attract attention and spends Christmas bedecked with baubles. But what happens to fir trees when Christmas is over? Will there be a happy ending for the little fir tree? For more versions of stories by Hans Christian Andersen see our booklist <https://clpe.org.uk/clpe/library/booklists/hans-christian-andersen-booklist>



**Red & Lulu by Matt Tavares**

Walker 9781406379792

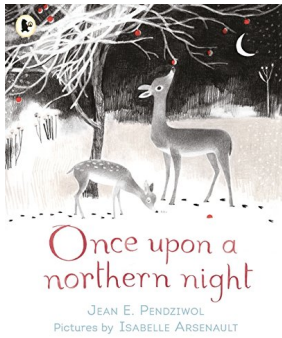
A pair of red cardinal birds live contentedly in a large evergreen tree, their favourite time of year being winter when their tree is illuminated and people sing songs around it. Then, one day when Red comes back from foraging for breakfast, he finds the tree has been chopped down and loaded onto a lorry with Lulu ensconced within its branches. He sets off in pursuit across the snow-filled vistas of the city – will Red and Lulu be reunited?



**Snow in the Garden: A First Book of Christmas by Shirley Hughes**

Walker 9781406384482

A delightful compilation of poems and stories set around the Christmas period interspersed with seasonal recipes and craft activities, wrapped around with pictures showing families enjoying snowy local landscapes and cosy indoor settings.



***Once Upon a Northern Night* by Jean E. Pendziwol & Isabelle Arsenault**

Walker 9781406366006

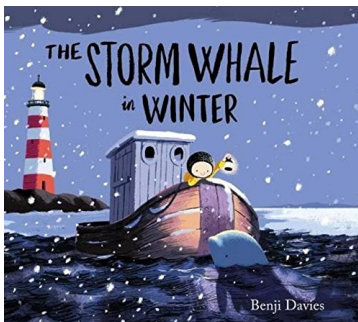
While a child lies sleeping, the narrator of this lyrical text paints a poetic picture of a Canadian country landscape in which animals move silently through a snowy night where ‘falling flakes’ are ‘gathered into puffs of creamy white, settling like balls of cotton, waiting.’ Isabelle Arsenault’s peaceful palette of grey/blue combined with black and white enhances the soothing mood.



***The Snowman* by Raymond Briggs**

Puffin 9780723275534

The classic wordless book about a boy who makes a snowman which comes to life at night. Their adventure together culminates in a flight through a snow-filled sky and the dénouement is full of feeling. The film with its accompanying music has become a perennial Christmas favourite. A CLPE core book <https://clpe.org.uk/corebooks/snowman> For more wordless picture books see our booklist <https://clpe.org.uk/library-and-resources/booklists/wordless-picture-books>



***The Storm Whale in Winter* by Benji Davies**

Simon & Schuster 9781471119989

A follow up to the award winning *The Storm Whale* which shows the close relationship between Noi and his dad and their life by the sea. This time the winter has set in and Noi’s dad has gone on a fishing trip but fails to return. Noi sets out to rescue his dad but soon finds it is he who needs rescuing. This is a touching story about the power of friendship and love which reveals more each time you read it and revisit the illustrations. Find out more about Benji Davies and his work on CLPE’s Power of Pictures website <https://clpe.org.uk/powerofpictures/davies-benji>



***Ernest and Celestine: Merry Christmas* by Gabrielle Vincent**

Catnip 9781846471735

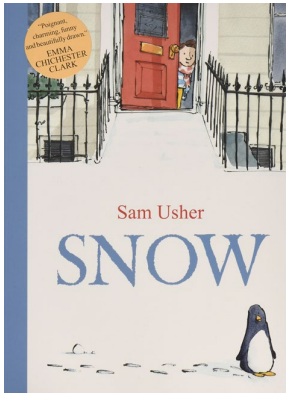
Celestine is sulky because Ernest says they cannot afford a Christmas party. As always, the insistent little mouse manages to persuade the avuncular bear that where there’s a will there’s a way. The delicately detailed pictures show them gathering together and making everything they need to make it a joyous occasion for all concerned.



***The Snow Beast* by Chris Judge**

Andersen Press 9781783443222

A third outing for the Lonely Beast. Lonely no longer, the Beast is often called in as a problem solver. When the people of the mountain village find all their tools have been stolen preventing them from building their winter festival, our Beast sets off in pursuit of the Snow Beast who is believed to be the thief. Cue for a journey set out in a comic strip style followed by a maze like chase as in previous books, this time on skis. When he finally encounters the Snow Beast and discovers the reason for his borrowing the tools, a solution is found that suits all. The Lonely Beast is a CLPE Core Book <https://clpe.org.uk/corebooks/books/lonely%20beast> and a Power of Reading text.



## **Snow by Sam Usher**

Templar 9781783700738

Sam Usher is not afraid of white space. He presents a picture of pristine white snow which gradually gets covered with more and more footprints and tracks as a boy urges his Grandad to get out there with him and enjoy it. Grandad takes his time, to the boy's frustration, but the eventual fun they have proves well worth the wait. The relationship between child and grandparent is delightfully drawn. A CLPE core book

<https://clpe.org.uk/corebooks/snow>



## **Walking in a Winter Wonderland illustrated by Tim Hopgood, as sung by Peggy Lee, based on the song by Felix Bernard and Richard B. Smith**

Oxford University Press 9780192743770

Visual and audio representation of this well-known song come together in this picture book depicting a family taking pleasurable winter outings. They go sledding, build a snowman, closely observed by foxes, owls and a robin. Musical notes dance across the pages, signalling the text's origins in the song which can be heard sung by Peggy Lee on an accompanying CD. Find out more about Tim Hopgood and his work on the CLPE Power of Pictures website <https://clpe.org.uk/powerofpictures/hopgood-tim>

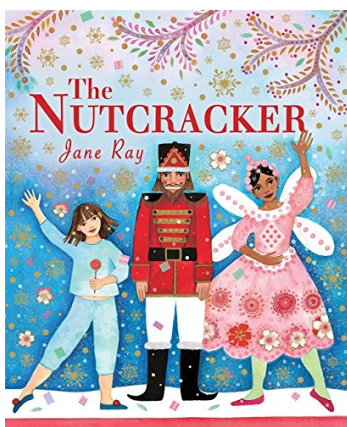


## **A Christmas Story by Brian Wildsmith**

Oxford University Press 9780192727305

Brian Wildsmith's highly distinctive artwork illuminates his retelling of the birth of Jesus. The story is seen from the viewpoint of a child Rebecca, charged with looking after a donkey whose mother is taking Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem. When Rebecca realises that the little donkey is pining for his mother, she sets off with him for Bethlehem so that they can be reunited. Also available in a small hardback gift edition (OUP 9780192768728).

Also by Brian Wildsmith: The Twelve Days of Christmas Oxford University Press 9780192768742



## **The Nutcracker by Jane Ray**

Orchard 9781408336441

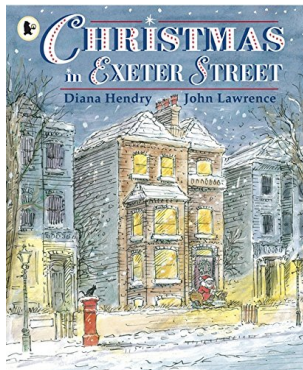
A picture book portraying the story of Tchaikovsky's famous ballet is here given a modern day setting. Guests are arriving for the Ernst family's Christmas party and Clara is anticipating what her toymaker godfather, noted for his wonderful gifts, might bring. The present he gives her provokes a strange night time adventure allowing plenty of scope for fantastical illustrations. For more titles by Jane Ray see our booklist <https://clpe.org.uk/clpe/library/booklists/jane-ray-booklist>



***The Christmas Eve Tree* by Delia Huddy & Emily Sutton**

Walker 9781406365955

Will anyone want the little fir tree that ‘felt fearful of what its fate might be’ once it has been uprooted and taken to the town with larger more luxuriant trees? This heartwarming story of how the tree helps to bring light to many and is given its own new life is illustrated by the versatile Emily Sutton, whose work is influenced by Edward Bawden and Eric Ravilious. In the hardback midi edition (Walker 9781406378542), two of the spreads are cleverly combined to create a pop-up of the cityscape with a climactic moment in the story in the foreground.



***Christmas in Exeter Street* by Diana Hendry & John Lawrence**

Walker 9781406343038

It’s the day before Christmas Eve and Ben and Jane’s relatives start arriving to celebrate the season. Then lots of other people appear who need somewhere to stay. All are welcomed but where will they all sleep and will Father Christmas keep count of all the children? The joy of this book is John Lawrence’s detailed drawings which really bring out the warmth and humour of the story. Especially enjoyable is the cutaway illustration of the inside of the house, revealed like a dolls’ house, with five aunts from Abingdon lying on the shelves of the kitchen dresser and baby Lili-lou in the sink.



***Snow* by Walter de la Mare, illustrated by Carolina Rabei**

Faber & Faber 9780571305575

The endpapers of this striking picture book show the robin that ‘shrills his lonely tune’ at the end of Walter de la Mare’s poem in solo flight amid a maelstrom of whirling snow. The pictures, in which Carolina Rabei uses a very effective limited colour palette of wintery grey, white and brown with strong splashes of festive red, tell a seasonal story additional to the words of the poem, of a family preparing for and enjoying Christmas.



***Small in the City* by Sydney Smith**

Walker 9781406388404

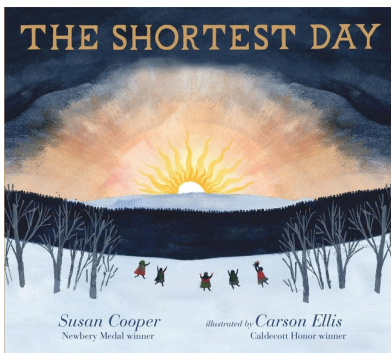
The winter cityscape as the snow falls increasingly fast and furiously is beautifully evoked in the pictures as a child traverses the urban environment, interpreting it from their own perspective. The understanding that the child is searching for a diminutive companion who may be lost and vulnerable in the city is slowly and subtly revealed.



***Winter's Child* by Angela McAllister & Grahame Baker-Smith**

Templar 9781783701629

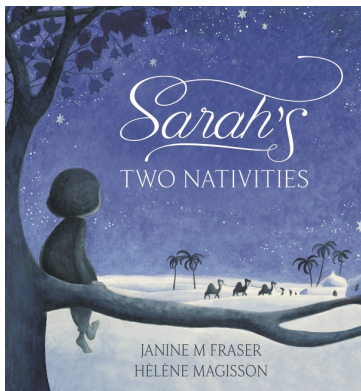
Tom wishes that winter would last forever. He inhabits a winter wonderland full of sparkling snowflakes and iridescent icicles, magically portrayed by Grahame Baker-Smith. He uses a variety of media, including paint, dip-pens, pencil sketches and Photoshop, which he feels has opened up new possibilities in the careful creation of his illustrations. Tom shares his snowy playground with another boy who appears mysteriously. The winter goes on and on and Tom's Nana cannot keep warm. Can she stay alive if spring never comes? A picture book that celebrates the beauty of winter landscapes while showing why survival depends on the seasons shifting and changing. A CLPE core book <https://clpe.org.uk/corebooks/winters-child>



***The Shortest Day* by Susan Cooper & Carson Ellis**

Walker 9781406389265

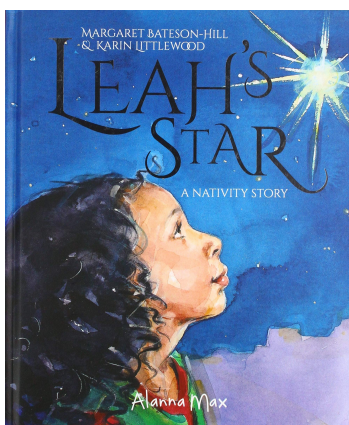
Susan Cooper wrote this poem to celebrate the winter solstice, one of the 'rebirth rituals [that] have become traditions that we still celebrate' as she says in an afterword. The illustrations by Carson Ellis depict landscapes in wintry shades peopled with figures whose attire suggests representation of humanity from early times to more modern days, all joyful at the rising of the sun as the days begin to lengthen once again.



***Sarah's Two Nativities* by Janine M. Fraser & Hélène Magisson**

Walker 9781406388725

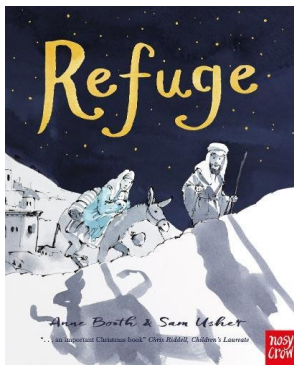
Sarah learns the story of the nativity from both of her grandmothers, one Muslim, one Christian. She enjoys hearing from them both and the way they combine their storytelling with cooking with her. Sarah puzzles over whether both versions of the story can be true and is reassured by her grandmothers that she does not have to choose. Both come from 'books bursting with stories'.



***Leah's Star. A Nativity Story* by Margaret Bateson-Hill and Karin Littlewood**

Alanna Max 9781907825255

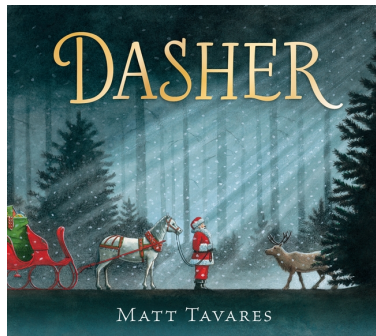
Leah's father is an innkeeper in Bethlehem. When a heavily pregnant woman and her husband arrive due to a census being taken, everywhere in the town is full so he offers them a place in his stable. The nativity story is seen from the viewpoint of Leah who is able to offer help with the new baby and guide the shepherds and scholars who arrive to see him guided by a silver star. The illustrations, which are both naturalistic and painterly, and the point of view from which the story is told enable its humanity to shine through.



**Refuge by Anne Booth & Sam Usher**

Nosy Crow 9780857637710

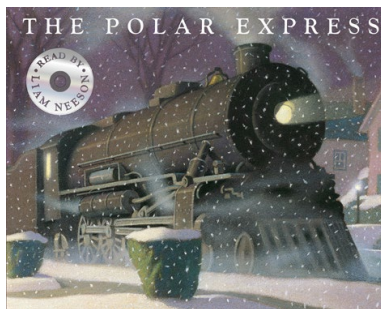
A donkey tells the story of how, led by a man, he carried a woman to Bethlehem where their baby was born and visited by shepherds and kings. A dream of danger sends them on their way until they reach another country where they find refuge. The people in this family are not named, enabling readers to find even more resonance between this simply and touchingly told version of the Christmas story and what is happening to many refugees in the world today. Included in our Refugee Experience booklist <https://clpe.org.uk/library-and-resources/booklists/refugee-booklist>



**Dasher by Matt Tavares**

Walker 9781406387704

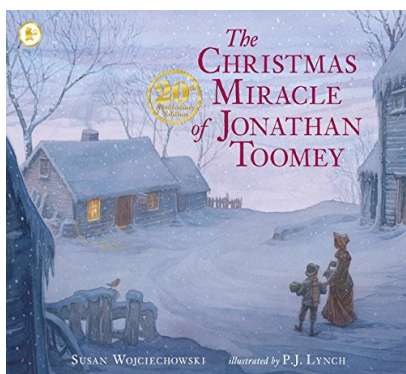
Due to her mother's stories, a young doe desires to roam away from the circus where her family leads an uncomfortable life. The story of how Santa's sleigh came to be pulled by reindeer instead of the tired horse Silverbell.



**The Polar Express by Chris Van Allsburg**

Andersen Press 9781783443338

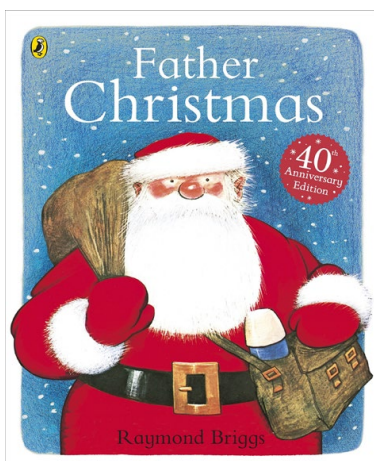
A classic picture book about believing in magic. The first person narrative is told from the viewpoint of a boy who finds the Polar Express outside his window on Christmas Eve and climbs aboard to travel to where Santa Claus is about to present the first gift of Christmas to a child before an large assembly of elves. What gift will be chosen? The story accompanies Chris Van Allsburg's stunning paintings.



**The Christmas Miracle of Jonathan Toomey by Susan Wojciechowski & P J Lynch**

Walker 9781406360387

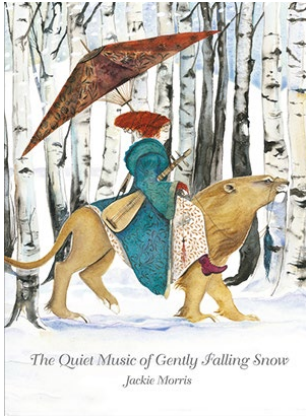
When the widow McDowell and her son knock on the door of morose wood-carver Jonathan Toomey to ask him to recreate the set of Christmas figures they have lost, a journey back to life and love for a bereaved man begins. P J Lynch's detailed paintings of the characters' faces, especially of Jonathan Toomey himself, show the deep emotions within. He won the Kate Greenaway Medal more than twenty years ago for this moving picture book and he created a new cover for this anniversary edition. Author and illustrator write about their own feelings about the book in an afterword.



**Father Christmas by Raymond Briggs**

Puffin 9780723277972

The truth about Father Christmas is revealed in this classic comic strip showing a rather resentful red-nosed and red-clad old man who has to spend one cold winter night of the year delivering presents to the world's children. What a relief when, job done, he can settle down to his own dinner, washed down with a drop of ale and some red wine. However, he gets to take a break (of sorts!) in the sequel *Father Christmas Goes on Holiday* (Puffin 9780140501872).

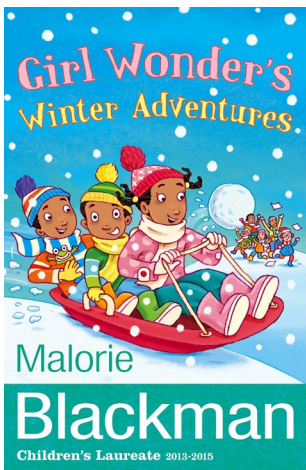


***The Quiet Music of Gently Falling Snow* by Jackie Morris**

Graffeg 9781910862650

This lovely large format book began with the paintings the illustrator created for Christmas cards to support the charity Help Musicians UK. She has woven interlinked narratives around the pictures using the themes and language of fairy tales. Long haired damsels sit astride wild animals and birds – polar bears, tigers, swans – creatures that find favour in other books by Jackie Morris and move through snow-filled landscapes. And – as would be expected given the origins of the book – a wide range of musical instruments is depicted. For more title by Jackie Morris see our booklist <https://clpe.org.uk/clpe/library/booklists/jackie-morris-booklist>

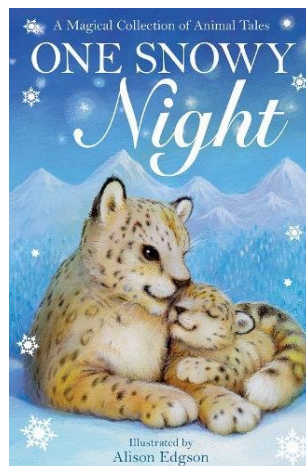
## Fiction



***Girl Wonder's Winter Adventures* by Malorie Blackman, illustrated by Jamie Smith**

Tamarind 9781848531352

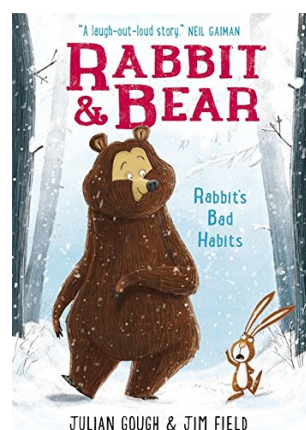
Short stories about mischievous Maxine aka Girl Wonder and her twin brothers. The children are desperate for it to snow and they find an inventive alternative but it's one that doesn't please their mum! When real snow eventually falls, they aim to build the biggest snowball in the universe but it all ends in calamity for the carol singers. Other stories involve tobogganing with show-off cousin Jayne and sneaky peeking at Christmas presents.



***One Snowy Night* illustrated by Alison Edgson**

Stripes 9781847159595

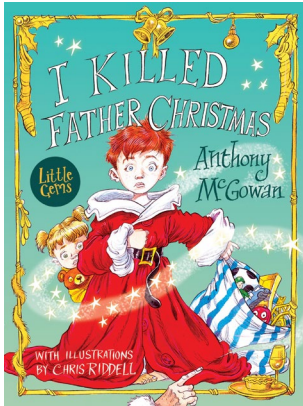
Ten short stories by a range of writers with wintery themes featuring animals. They include: a tale from Candy Gourlay about a baby panda who is temporarily separated from his mother on a snowy mountain in China; a story by Sita Brahmachari in which a wounded robin plays a part in a girl and her grandmother settling in to life in a new country that they refer to as Snowland; and in Leila Rasheed's story a family Christmas is seen from the viewpoint of a cat who is uncertain whether she will be joining them permanently.



***Rabbit & Bear: Rabbit's Bad Habits* by Julian Gough & Jim Field**

Hodder 9781444921687

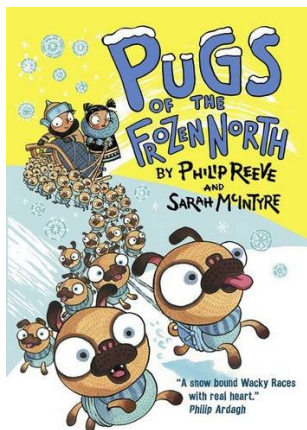
Bear wakes up from her hibernation early to find snow on the ground and meets the grumpy and rather self-important although apparently very knowledgeable Rabbit. Bear soon starts to learn about gravity, avalanches, why rabbits eat their own poo... Rabbit has surreptitiously stolen Bear's winter food hoard but his survival instincts don't extend to easy escape when a wolf appears. Bear's intervention and generous nature lead to a lasting friendship between the pair as they contemplate the snowy landscape from the mouth of a cave and consider creating a companion for their Snow Man. A CLPE core book <https://clpe.org.uk/corebooks/rabbit-bear-rabbits-bad-habits> and a Power of Reading text.



***I Killed Father Christmas* by Anthony McGowan & Chris Riddell (Little Gems)**

Barrington Stoke 9781781127100

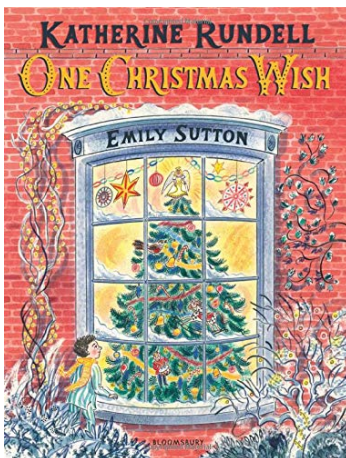
Ever wondered how Father Christmas manages to carry presents for all the world's children on his sleigh? Jo-Jo finds out after he misunderstands something he overhears when his parents are arguing and thinks he will have to take Santa's place! A short chapter book which is touching, humorous and thought-provoking.



***Pugs of the Frozen North* by Philip Reeve & Sarah McIntyre**

Oxford University Press 9780192734921

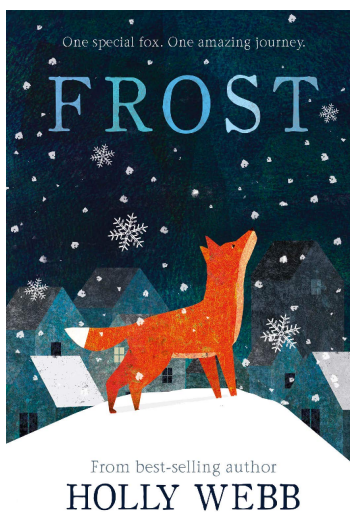
When True Winter comes, once in a lifetime, teams on sledges pulled by animals take part in the Great Northern Race across the snow, of which there are fifty kinds, to the Snowfather's palace at the top of the world. Cabin boy Shen, cast adrift from his ship with 66 pug dogs, meets Sika who is desperate to take part in the race. They join forces and exhilarating adventures ensue involving the Kraken, yetis and trolls, not to mention the other participants in the race. This is Sarah McIntyre and Philip Reeve's third collaboration and is the most powerful yet for its combination of excitement, humour and emotion. A CLPE core book <https://clpe.org.uk/corebooks/pugs-frozen-north> and a Power of Reading text.



***One Christmas Wish* by Katherine Rundell & Emily Sutton**

Bloomsbury 9781526603678

Theo is lonely on Christmas Eve. His parents are out, his usual babysitter can't come and her replacement has fallen asleep, so he attempts to trim the tree on his own. Among the decorations he finds an angel with moulting wings, a tin soldier with a rusted drum, a robin with a bald patch and a rocking horse infested with woodworm. How these four accompany Theo on a festive adventure is expressed through an attractive combination of words and pictures.



***Frost* by Holly Webb, illustrated by Artful Doodlers**

Stripes 9781847159533

At first Cassie's neighbour Mrs Morris is angry with her for feeding the local foxes. However, they later form a bond as Mrs Morris shares stories about the Frost Fairs that took place on the frozen Thames close to their Southwark home several centuries ago. Then one snowy night Cassie follows one of the fox cubs and finds herself in a place that feels both strange and familiar. Can she really have travelled back in time to visit the Frost Fair on the ice covered river?



***The Snow Sister* by Emma Carroll, illustrated by Julian de Narvaez**  
Faber & Faber 9780571317639

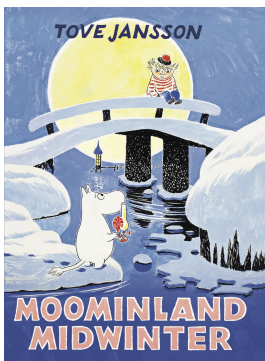
A Dickensian feel pervades this short novel set in Victorian times. It opens with Pearl building a snow sculpture in memory of her late sister Agnes. When Pearl's uncle dies it looks as though this will raise her family out of poverty as her father is named the main beneficiary of his will. Snowbound in the home of a rich family on Christmas Eve following a street accident, Pearl learns that the circumstances are not as she believed but the truth turns out to be better than her expectations.



***Astrid the Unstoppable* by Maria Parr, illustrated by Katie Harnett, translated from Norwegian by Guy Puzey**

Walker 9781406366853

Astrid is the only child in Glimmerdal, a mountain village in Norway. The novel opens in snowy February and she is helping her elderly friend Gunnvald to design 'the perfect steerable sledge'. Astrid is a very engaging character who brings people together. Her independent personality leads her into situations which are often humorous and there is a strong and satisfactory emotional thread throughout the story about friendship and family relationships.



***Moominland Midwinter* by Tove Jansson, translated from Swedish by Thomas Warburton**

Sort Of Books 9781908745668

Moomins always sleep from November to April. One winter Moomintroll wakes up and finds a land covered with snow. At first he is lonely and starts winding the clocks in the hope that will make time move faster and his family will wake up sooner. However, he does not remain alone for, as Too-ticky tells him, there are: "Some kinds of night animals and people that don't fit in with others and that nobody really believes in. They keep out of the way all the year. And then when everything's quiet and white and the nights are long and most people are asleep – then they appear."

*Finn Family Moomintroll* is a CLPE core book <https://clpe.org.uk/corebooks/finn-family-moomintroll>



***The Clockwork Crow* by Catherine Fisher**

Firefly 9781910080849

Seren Rhys is freezing – at the beginning of this novel orphan Seren is sitting on a deserted railway station in the depths of winter waiting to be taken to the home of her new guardians and looking forward to meeting their son Tomas. But where is Tomas and why is there a room with a large collection of snow globes? Catherine Fisher weaves Welsh magic into this fantasy rooted in reality which takes place in the run up to Christmas. There's a touch of John Masefield in the storytelling and of E. Nesbit in the characterisation of the clockwork crow.

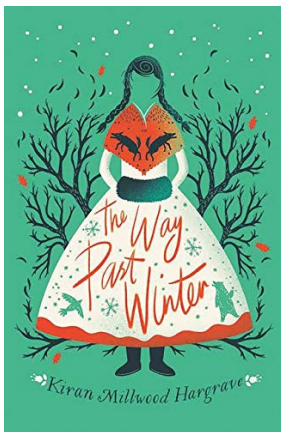


***Snowglobe* by Amy Wilson, illustrated by Helen Crawford-White**

Macmillan 9781509885800

Following an incident at school resulting in Clementine being suspended for some uncharacteristic behaviour, she begins to explore magical powers inherited from her mother. Her adventures really begin when she enters a house full of snowglobes, small individual worlds 'where solitary figures stand frozen while storms rage around them' and discovers her classmate Dylan seems to be imprisoned within one of them. Did her mother Callisto leave Clem and her pa of her own accord or has she been trapped by her strange sisters, Io and Ganymede?

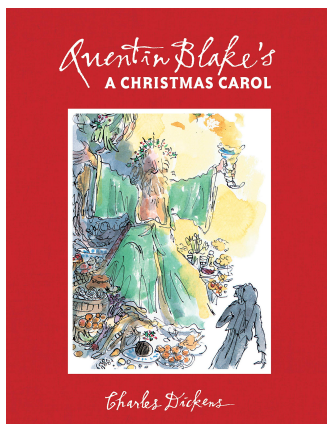
Another winter themed novel by this author: *Shadows of Winterspell* Macmillan 9781529018967



***The Way Past Winter* by Kiran Millwood Hargrave**

Chicken House 9781912626076

In the fifth year of a winter that came and never left 'a whole new order of cold wove itself tight as a basket about the families that lived in the remotest parts of the land' where Mila lives with her brother and two sisters in a house in a forest. Then a stranger arrives and the next day Mila's brother Oskar is gone – did he leave of his own accord or was he taken? Opinions differ and Mila must decide who she can trust and whether she should pursue Oskar so that she and her family and community can find the way past winter.

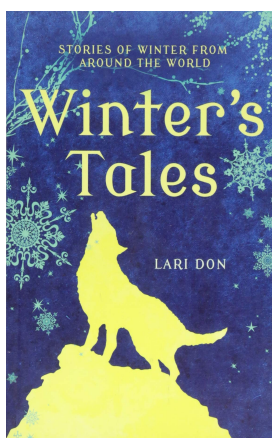


***A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens, illustrated by Quentin Blake**

Pavilion 9781843653516

A handsomely produced edition of this enduring Christmas favourite with Quentin Blake's inimitable interpretations of the people and places within it. In his foreword, Quentin Blake says that what is 'extraordinary – especially for the illustrator – is the variety and unexpectedness of the scenes it contains', describing the story as 'this unexpected, funny, ghostly journey'.

There is also a rhyming picture book retelling of *A Christmas Carol* by Tony Mitton and Mike Redman (Orchard 9781408351727).



***Winter's Tales* by Lari Don, illustrated by Francesca Greenwood**

A & C Black 9781472900166

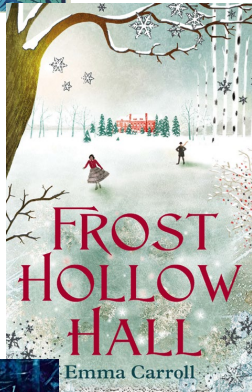
A collection of fifteen traditional tales with a seasonal flavour from around the world to which Lari Don adds her own colloquial touch in her retellings, such as the stirring Scottish myth of 'The Hag of Winter'. She begins with the Greek myth about Persephone and ends with a Norse legend about a kitchen boy who creates an armour of ice so that he can defeat a dragon. The varied stories in between include a Lapp legend about a bear, a tale about Ukrainian spiders who decorate a Christmas tree and a Maori myth explaining why Aotearoa is a land of fire and ice.



**Winter Magic edited by Abi Elphinstone**

Simon & Schuster 9781471159824

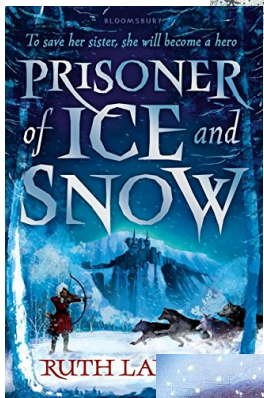
Eleven stories from some top contemporary writers. They include an extension of the Pied Piper tale by Jamila Gavin and a story by Katherine Woodfine about a girl who longs to play Clara in the very first production of the Nutcracker ballet. Other writers included are Piers Torday, Lauren St John, Geraldine McCaughrean and Berlie Doherty.



**Frost Hollow Hall by Emma Carroll**

Faber & Faber 9780571295449

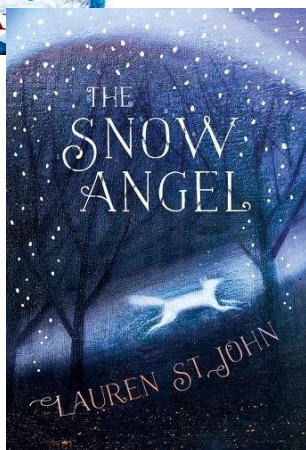
A story set in 1881, ten years after a boy has drowned after falling through broken ice on a lake. Tilly tells how she almost met the same fate and how this leads to the uncovering and solving of a mystery. A ghost story which is both chilling and heartwarming by turns in which the frost is caused by lies and unhappiness as much as by the winter weather.



**Prisoner of Ice and Snow by Ruth Lauren**

Bloomsbury 9781408872758

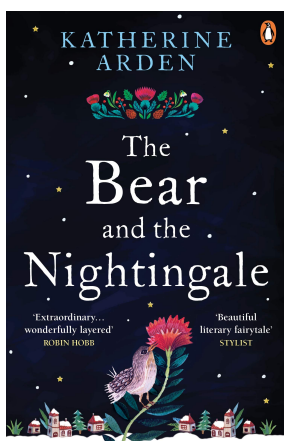
Valor is determined to rescue her twin sister Sasha, imprisoned for theft, even though it means she must first be convicted of a crime herself. An exciting adventure story with a strong heroine at its heart, set in a frozen land where only queens can rule. First in a series of which the second is *Seeker of the Crown* (Bloomsbury 9781408884560).



**The Snow Angel by Lauren St John, illustrated by Catherine Hyde**

Zephyr 9781786695901

Makena is growing up happily in Nairobi with caring parents. Her father, a guide on Mount Kenya, has instilled in her a love of the mountains and natural environment of her country. When tragedy strikes, this independent minded and imaginative girl has to find ways to survive emotionally and physically. Snow plays a part in her story in several ways and its presence is felt subtly during the novel as it drifts in gentle wisps at the edges of the pages due to Catherine Hyde's delicate artwork which comes to the fore as full page black and white illustrations at significant moments. A beautifully produced volume which tackles some tough issues within the framework of an engaging story.



**The Bear and the Nightingale by Katherine Arden**

Del Rey 9781785031052

A treat for grownups and young adults, this first book in the Winternight trilogy is set in a harsh snowy landscape in northern Russia. It is a story that incorporates strong elements of folklore and fairy tales. As she grows from childhood to young womanhood, Vasilisa must struggle against dark magic and the life limiting expectations of her family and the society around her. The second volume is *The Girl in the Tower* (Del Rey 9781785031076) and the third *The Winter of the Witch* (Del Rey 9781785039737).