

April

Books of the Month



Chosen by our Writer in Residence
Sarah Webb



Hi, I'm Sarah Webb, Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Writer in Residence. Every month I'll be recommending some of my favourite children's books. I love books about other worlds, stories full of fantasy lands and epic journeys. Here are some of my favourites for each age group.

Picture Book Age 3+



The Day the Crayons Quit by Drew Daywalt, illustrated by Oliver Jeffers

Duncan wants to colour but when he opens his box of crayons, he finds only letters, all saying the same thing: We quit! Orange and yellow both want to be the sun, and green is sick of being grass. It's up to Duncan to sort their demands out. This is a brilliant book for reading out loud. Don't miss it!

Early Reader Age 6+



The Enchanted Wood by Enid Blyton

No child should grow up without reading Enid Blyton and this book for young readers is truly magical. It's the first story in the Faraway Tree series and introduces Moonface, Silky the fairy and the Saucepan Man. Perfect for reading aloud at bedtime too.

Age 9+



Knights of the Borrowed Dark by Dave Rudden

The first in a brilliant new fantasy adventure series featuring orphan, Denizen Hardwick, who is thrown into a strange world of dark shadows and mysterious knights. It's fast paced and gripping and packs a real emotional punch too. Perfect for fans of Skulduggery Pleasant by Derek Landy or Artemis Fowl by Eoin Colfer.

Teen



The Accident Season by Moira Fowley-Doyle

During The Accident Season Cara and her family have all kinds of mishaps, ranging from minor cuts to full on tragedies. This year Cara is convinced that it's linked to a strange girl she spots at the back of family photos, a girl who has disappeared. Set in contemporary Ireland, this is a beautifully written novel which cleverly blends real life with the supernatural to create a genuinely unsettling tale.

May

Books of the Month



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Hi, I'm Sarah Webb, Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Writer in Residence. I love tales full of mystery, featuring clever, brave girls and boys and epic adventures. Here are some of my favourite mystery and adventure stories for each age group:

Picture Book Age 3+

Where the Wild Things Are by Maurice Sendak



Max is sent to his room for chasing the dog with a fork and 'making mischief of one kind and another'. He goes on a strange adventure, to the land of the Wild Things where he becomes King, but sometimes even kings get lonely. First published in 1963, this is a true children's classic. Magical!



I also love Wave by Suzy Lee, a wordless picturebook about a little girl and her beach adventure with a wave.

Look out for the iBby Ireland Silent Books exhibition in dlr Lexlcon during May and events programme associated with exhibition for families and children that will run on Sat 20th May. Please see libraries.dlrcoco.ie for more information.

Early Reader Age 6+

The Worst Witch by Jill Murphy



Mildred Hubble and her trainee witch friends attend Miss Cackle's Academy for Witches. Mildred is always getting her spells wrong, with hilarious consequences. The gentle humour, strong illustrations and short chapters make this a perfect book for younger children to read for themselves. Also makes a great read aloud to share at bedtime.

Age 9+

Harriet the Spy by Louise Fitzhugh



Harriet M. Welsch wants to be a spy and she writes down all her friends' problems and mistakes in her spy notebook. But when the notebook gets into the wrong hands, her friends read what she thinks of them and stop talking to her. Can she find a way of fixing things? A brilliant story about friendship and solving life's problems.

Teen

Murder Most Unladylike by Robin Stevens



When Daisy Wells and Hazel Wong set up a secret detective agency at Deepdean School for Girls, they can't find a truly exciting mystery to investigate. Until Hazel discovers the body of their Science Mistress, Miss Bell that is. Funny and charming, these are wonderful books for readers of age 11+.

Books of the Month

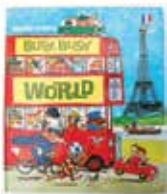


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Hi, I'm Sarah Webb, Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Writer in Residence. These are my very favourite children's books - the books that made me who I am. I've greatly enjoyed recommending books to you every month during my residency, I hope you've found some new reads and revisited some old favourites.

Picture Book Age 3+



Busy, Busy World by Richard Scarry

I loved this book so much as a child I used to sleep with it under my pillow. There are 33 stories, each featuring a different country but my favourite was always the story of Noah, the boa constrictor who wrapped himself around a split jumbo jet so the animals could safely fly to the carnival in Rio De Janeiro. Gloriously sweet and funny, with wonderful illustrations, this is a book to share with every child.

Early Reader Age 6+



When We Were Very Young by A. A. Milne, illustrated by E. H. Shepard

I have very fond memories of my father reading this to me and my sisters when we were very small. He used to put on funny voices and we adored his mooing and cooing. First published in 1924, it's full of wonderful songs and poems featuring kings, cows and puddles, ideal for younger children. Perfect for reading out loud, the poems are still as fresh and funny as they were almost a hundred years ago.

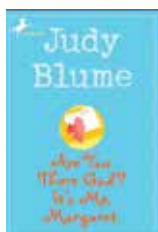
Age 9+



Ballet Shoes by Noel Streatfeild

When I was a little girl I dreamed of being a ballerina and adored reading books about dancers. This was my absolute favourite, the story of three adopted sisters, Pauline, Petrova and Posy Fossil who all attend a dance and drama academy. I am one of three sisters and, like the Fossil sisters, we are all very different. I think this is why I liked it so much (along with the ballet of course!). It's a wonderful book for reading out loud to younger children of age 7+.

Teen



Are You There, God? It's Me, Margaret by Judy Blume

If I had to pick my all-time favourite children's book it would be this one, the book of my heart. When I first read it as a teenager I remember thinking: is Judy Blume really writing about bras, and parties, and kissing boys? Can you really do that in a book? It's such an honest, open and funny book and I re-read it every year because a/ it makes me laugh out loud and b/ it reminds me what it feels like to be 13.

What next?

for dlr Writer in Residence 2016-2017

Sarah Webb

Sarah Webb has been instrumental in setting up and running really successful children's book and writing clubs during her residency in dlr Libraries which have proved incredibly popular with all involved. As a result we intend to keep these creative initiatives going in Autumn 2017.



August

During August Sarah will be running a Writing Camp for children in dlr Lexlcon. The camp will run over three mornings on Wed 16, Thurs 17 and Fri 18 August from 10.30am-12.30pm and is suitable for children aged 9-12yrs. This camp is free. 15 children max

If demand for places is high, we may put the names of interested children into a raffle to keep access equitable for all.

From September with Sarah Webb

Weekly writing clubs

For ages 8+ and 10+

Monthly drop-in writing clinics

For ages 9+

Open to all children and suitable for all capabilities.
Remember dlr Lexlcon is fully wheelchair accessible

Kids Create sessions

For age 8+

Look out for monthly Kids Create sessions in Blackrock and Stillorgan libraries

Monthly book clubs with Kim Harte

Ages 7-9yrs (children must be able to read!) and ages 10-12yrs

Kim Harte has been a bookseller, specialising in children's books, for almost a decade. Kim is a Children's Books Ireland 'Book Doctor' and has been running children's books clubs since 2010.



Please send all bookings enquiries to: dlrlexiconlib@dlrcoco.ie