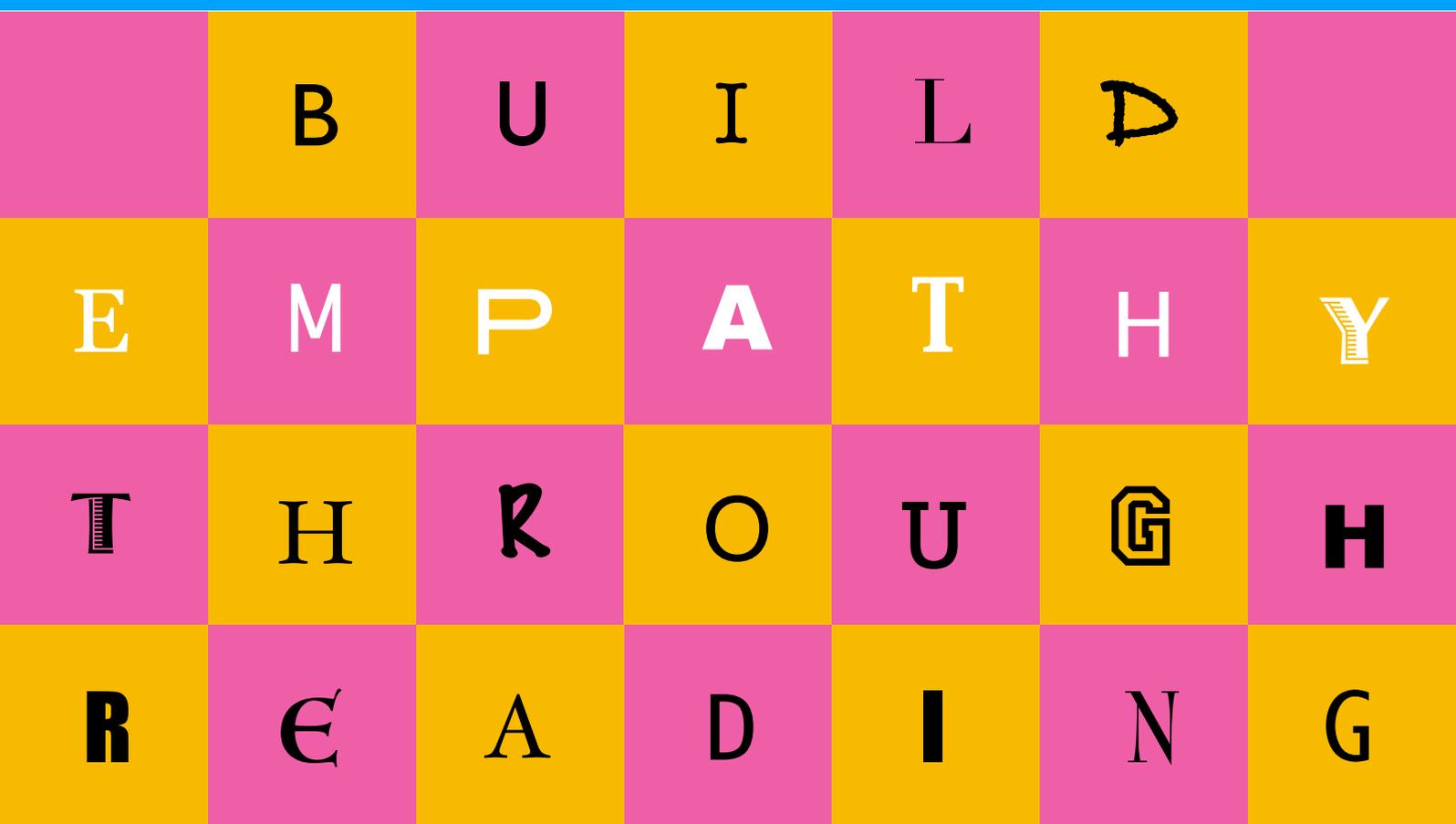


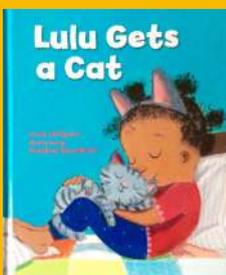
**30 TITLES DESIGNED TO BUILD EMPATHY IN CHILDREN AND
ENGAGE THEM IN THE POWER AND WONDER OF OTHER
PEOPLES LIVES.**

READ STORIES. BUILD EMPATHY. MAKE A BETTER WORLD.



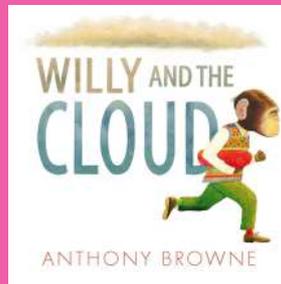
Empathy is a human super-power which helps us all understand each other better. It is also an essential social and emotional skill, crucial if children are to thrive. We're not born with a fixed quantity of empathy – it's a skill we can learn. Excitingly, new research shows that books are a powerful tool to develop it, because in identifying with book characters, children learn to see things from other points of view. So when you read with children you can build their empathy skills at the same time. An expert panel has chosen these thirty fantastic books for 4–11-year-olds, excellent for building children's empathy. They offer powerful insights into other people's feelings, and develop understanding of different ways of life and issues people face, like being bereaved or becoming a refugee. We hope they will inspire children to turn feelings of empathy into action – in their homes, schools and communities.

www.thethinkfarm.org



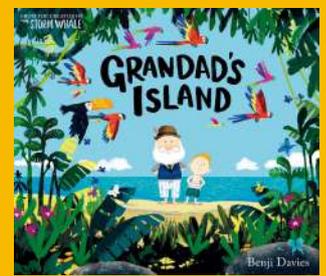
Lulu Gets a Cat by Anna McQuinn

Understanding pets' feelings and needs can help children develop their empathy muscles. Lulu learns how to make her new cat feel at home in this gently delightful book.



Willy & the Cloud by Anthony Browne*

Explaining dark moods to a child can be challenging. Browne uses the image of a personal cloud hanging over the central character in this multi-layered, powerful and moving book.



Grandad's Island by Benji Davies *

A sensitive exploration of the emotions involved in bereavement, and healing. Davies subtly conveys a positive message about letting go whilst always carrying the loved one in your heart.

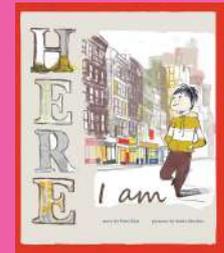


King of the Sky* by Nicola Davies *

A lonely boy in a new country meets an old man, and they start to share a passion for racing pigeons. Superb book, exploring inter-generational understanding & what helps people to feel less alone.

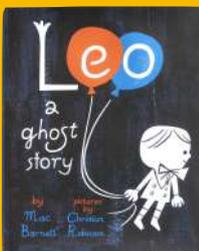
Empathy Building Picture Books

A mixture of books for 4–11-year-olds. No child is ever too old for a great picture book, and we've used this symbol * where they are best suited to older children.



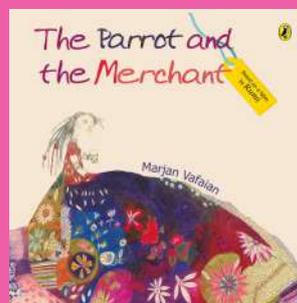
Here I Am by Patti Kim *

A powerful wordless picture book about the chaotic feelings of a boy coming to a new country, and how these emotions gradually ease as he experiences kindness.



Leo: a Ghost Story Mac Barnett *

A lonely ghost is glad when a family moves into his house, but he is rejected and forced to roam the streets before finally finding a true friend. An unusual story about difference and the value of having an open heart and mind.



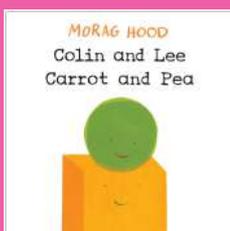
The Parrot & the Merchant Marjan Vafaian

A Persian merchant loves keeping colourful birds in cages, but her favourite talking parrot longs to escape. A lovely story based on a Rumi fable, which sparks empathic reflection on how our actions affect other creatures.



Perfectly Norman by Tom Percival

In this beautifully illustrated story Norman suddenly finds himself with a pair of wings, and struggles to accept himself until other children reveal that they also have wings!



Colin and Lee, Carrot and Pea
Morag Hood

Colin is a carrot struggling to fit in with the peas' games. Sparsely witty illustrations celebrate their growing realisation that their differences don't have to divide them.



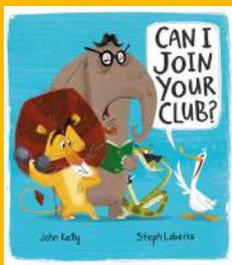
In My Heart: A Book of Feelings
Jo Witek

In order to understand other people's feelings, children need to be able to identify and articulate their own. An intriguingly designed book with illuminating descriptions of how different emotions feel, physically.



You're Safe With Me Chitra Soundar

The forest creatures are afraid of the thunder and strong winds, but reassured by a mother figure. Great for exploring relationships, and different perspectives.

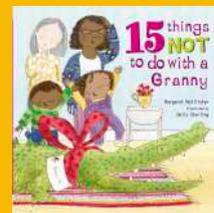


Can I Join Your Club? John Kelly

Duck really needs some new friends but none of the other animals will let him join their club. So he starts one of his own and he welcomes everyone in. A story that shows the importance of being open to making real connections, not judgments.

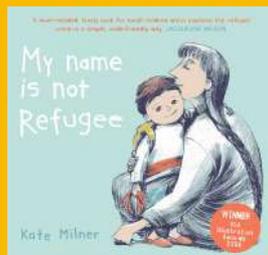
Empathy Building Three More Picture Books

A mixture of books for 4–11-year-olds. No child is ever too old for a great picture book, and we've used this symbol * where they are best suited to older children.



15 Things Not to do with a Granny Margaret McAllister

A granny is a wonderful person to have in your life, but never make assumptions about what grannies do! A book which will make everyone laugh whilst getting children thinking about their own family members, and what they really need.



My Name is Not Refugee Kate Milner *

A boy describes his experience of having to leave his town, asking very direct questions of the reader that invite reflection about how we would cope in his situation. Ends with the powerful message that Refugee is just a label – not a name.



Me and Mister P by Maria Farrer

Arthur is struggling with conflicting feelings of jealousy, guilt and love, caused by his brother's learning difficulties. Then Mr P (a polar bear) stumbles through the front door... and helps Arthur cope with his emotions.

Novels, Poetry & Graphic Novels

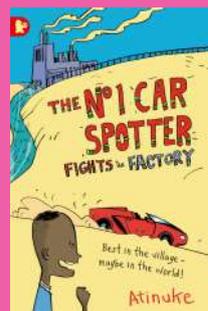
Thirteen superb stories, a poetry book, and two graphic novels to help children immerse themselves in other people's lives. Perfect for 7–11-year-olds, with this symbol * showing those suitable for the top of this age range.

** denotes books which are demanding, often emotional reads, suitable for emotionally mature readers. Please read them in order to decide which children they are appropriate for.



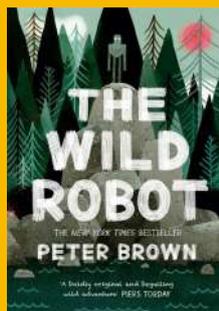
The Road to Ever After* Moira Young

A magical adventure about an unlikely friendship between thirteen-year-old Davy, who is homeless, and the elderly Miss Flint. Deeply touching, this is an example of how great writing creates characters children will care about – ones that expand their emotional understanding.



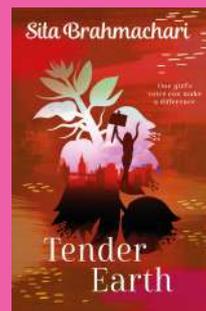
The No. 1 Car Spotter Fights the Factory by Atinuke

An African village is overcome with problems caused by a corrupt developer, but the brilliant Oluwalase Babatunde Benson (the No. 1 Car Spotter) saves the day. Lovely insights into different emotions and life challenges.



The Wild Robot by Peter Brown

What does it mean to be human? That's the question raised by this tale of a shipwrecked robot. The robot (Roz) is inadvertently activated and gradually learns to feel, to care and to love. The ability to feel empathy is at the heart of Roz's journey.



Tender Earth* by Sita Brahmachari

Empathy can motivate people to try to make a difference. In this sensitive coming-of-age story, readers experience Laila's growing determination to make a stand against racism in her community. Even small acts of empathy can change lives.



Ballerina Dreams
Michaela and
Elaine DePrince

Don't be misled by the cover – this is a gritty true story of how a Sierra Leone orphan overcame racism as she followed her ballerina dreams. It opens children's eyes to very different life experiences, and has a message of hope – Michaela is now a principal ballerina.



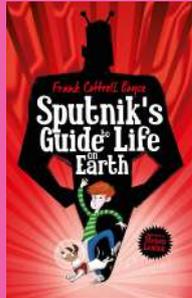
Sky Dancer*
by Gill Lewis

A great example of how books can help children see different people's perspectives. The characters hold diametrically opposed views about whether to shoot or protect endangered hen harriers on a grouse moor. A superb, uplifting book.



Smart**
Kim Slater

The assumptions we make about people can inhibit our feelings of empathy. Kieran, the central character here, makes no such judgments and his genuine compassion makes a huge difference to his community.



Sputnik's Guide to Life on Earth*
Frank Cottrell Boyce

Sputnik is an alien tasked with writing a guidebook to Earth, who struggles to understand how humans work. With his new, shy friend Prez, he learns about the planet's very best things. Exuberant, witty writing with a strong emotional core.

Novels, Poetry & Graphic Novels

Thirteen superb stories, a poetry book, and two graphic novels to help children immerse themselves in other people's lives. Perfect for 7–11-year-olds, with this symbol * showing those suitable for the top of this age range. ** denotes books which are demanding, often emotional reads, suitable for emotionally mature readers. Please read them in order to decide which children they are appropriate for.



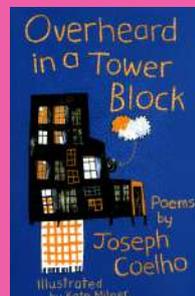
Charlie and Me*
Mark Lowery

Martin takes his big-brother responsibilities very seriously, and understands Charlie (who has health and behavioural issues) like no one else does. A deeply affecting, story, of an epic journey from Preston to Cornwall with an extraordinary twist



The Song from Somewhere Else*
A.F. Harrold

Francesca (Frank) is bullied but finds courage through an unlikely friendship. A magical story with an ethereal quality, yet firmly rooted in gritty reality.



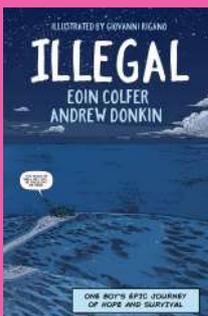
Overheard in a Tower Block**
Joseph Coelho

A powerful poetry collection about growing up. The agonies of missing an absent dad, the grief of a mother and the stresses of city life touch our emotions through Coelho's potent yet approachable voice.



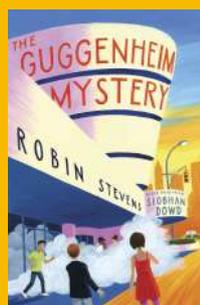
El Deafo*
Cece Bell

A moving semi-autobiographical graphic novel told from the viewpoint of a young deaf girl. Thought bubbles and dialogue draw us into Cece's world, making it easy to identify with her self-consciousness and frustration, and with her friends' confused feelings as they struggle to do the 'right thing'.



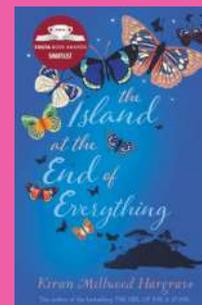
Illegal**
Eoin Colfer
and Andrew Donkin

A young boy makes a terrifying journey from Africa to Europe. Upsetting, important graphic novel with illuminating insights into the experiences of refugees and migrants and their resilience.



The Guggenheim Mystery
Robin Stevens

This gloriously inventive art-theft whodunit is narrated by Ted Sparks, who is living with autism and has unusual powers of detection (read The London Eye Mystery to meet him for the first time). A lovely depiction of how Ted's family value him for who he is.



The Island at the End of Everything**
Kiran M Hargrave

Amihan is separated from her mother, who has leprosy, and sent to live in an orphanage on a distant island. A gripping read, with beautifully drawn characters to help children expand their emotional understanding.