

The ASE Book of The Year Award Shortlist

This award seeks to find a book that goes the 'extra mile' and supports its vision of 'science for all', a book that could supplement a teacher's understanding, that innovative hook, or something that goes beyond the traditional science curriculum. Now in its fourth year, our Publications Committee and team of independent reviewers have shortlisted four titles for this year's Award.

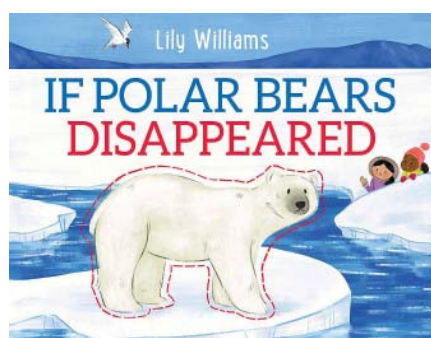
If Polar Bears Disappeared

By Lily Williams

Member Price: £12.99

ISBN: 9781526308962

Publisher: Hachette Children's Group



This book is a perfect introduction to the themes of climate change, conservation and the importance of ecosystems.

The freezing ecosystem in the far north of the globe is home to many different kinds of animals. They can be strong, like a walrus, tough, like a lemming, resilient, like an arctic fox. But no arctic animal is as iconic as the polar bear. Unfortunately, the endangered polar bear is threatened with extinction due to rapid climate change that is causing the ice where it hunts/lives to melt at an alarming rate. This book uses accessible, charming art to explore what would happen if the sea ice melts, causing the extinction of polar bears, and how it would affect environments around the globe.

What the reviewers said:

'Full of factual information presented in a very accessible way. While its main story is the dangers of climate change it also briefly addresses hope and opportunity in terms of individuals making small changes and having an impact on slowing the damage down. Children of all ages often worry in silence so providing hope is very important aspect in a book like this.'

'It is the illustrations, however, which make this book really special. They are beautiful, fun, they have the feel of soft pastels, and yet are very clear. The illustrations would appeal to children of all ages, as well as adults.'

The Element in the Room

By Mike Barfield, illustrations by Lauren Humphrey

Member Price: £14.99

ISBN: 9781786271778

Publisher: Laurence King Publishing



A fully illustrated guide to the chemical elements, packed with mind-blowing facts, *The Element in the Room* is a fun and engaging introduction to the periodic table of elements, for ages 7-11. Readers join Sherlock Ohms

as he investigates these elements, and solves the mystery of how absolutely everything came to exist! The book uses humour and non-fiction comics to present easily digestible scientific information. There are also exciting experiments for readers to try in their own homes: introducing a fun, practical angle. *The Element in the Room* is a humorous and fascinating guide.

What the reviewers said:

'It is a lovely looking book which any chemistry-mad element hunter would love to have in their bookcase to dip in and out of. I think Dmitri Mendeleev might have been quite chuffed to see his periodic table turned into such a fun, quirky book.'

'Every page was strewn with scientific jokes, puns and the use of humour really made what is often a dry topic a most delightful journey through the periodic table.'

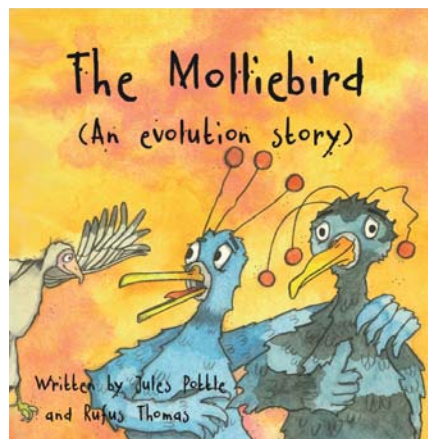
The Molliebird (An evolution story)

By Jules Pottle, illustrations by Rufus Thomas

Member Price: £8.00

ISBN: 9780995481169

Publisher: Primary Science Teaching Trust



The Molliebird is a fictional and emotive tale about a bird species adapting to their forest home, after a fire. This picture book exemplifies how natural selection leads to changes in a species. The

book is written in high level language appropriate for ages 7-11, so children can encounter the complicated science of evolution in the familiar format of a picture book. There are natural gaps in the narrative which are filled by the pictures. This naturally leads to discussion – if you ask the right questions then you can hear whether the children have either of the two common misconceptions: that evolution happens quickly or that you can choose to evolve. There is a free online handbook (printed and included with this competition submission) to help parents/teachers work through these questions, and thus aid children's learning. It has been thoroughly tested in the classroom and proved to be effective.

What the reviewers said:

'There is a real gap in the market for this book, particularly with younger children...'

'I especially liked the comprehensive background notes at the back of the book where the theory and examples of evolution are explained. The prompt notes for parents and teachers also provide stimulation for further discussion.'

'The Molliebird is beautiful book which readers will want to read again and again. The Teacher handbook brings a whole new depth to the story book, to support and guide teachers to use it in their science planning and lessons.'

'Teachers often use stories as an introduction to a topic, but it is unusual to find a fictional story which has been written especially to link with a science topic....and is very successful in doing so.'

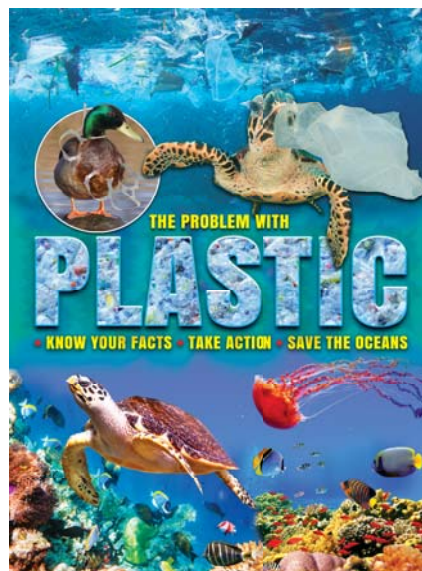
The Problem with Plastic

By Ruth Owen

Member Price: £8.99

ISBN: 9781788560788

Publisher: Ruby Tuesday Books



Fuelling a new wave of scientific thinkers with a genuine concern for the planet, animals and community, this book, *The Problem With Plastic*, is being used more and more in science lessons and cross-curricular teaching, getting children to consider how they could react in light of

the plastic pollution crisis. With the *Blue Planet 2* and 'David Attenborough effect', people are talking more and wanting to learn about plastic pollution and what they can do. This book informs and engages without preaching or condescending, bringing scientific thinking into the everyday.

What the reviewers said:

'The great thing about this book is, as well as making the reader aware of the damage humans are doing to the Earth, it provide tips on how to be better citizens – small changes which the reader can make. It is a book that will get you thinking and make you reflect on what you can be doing to help reduce the problem of plastic.'

'What an inspirational book! This is a hot potato topic and this book faces it head on. This should be in every primary classroom and library up and down the country.'

The overall winner will be announced on Thursday 9th January 2020 at the ASE Annual Conference at the University of Reading

