

**Midlothian
Early Learning**



Midlothian Early Years Literacy Calendar



Midlothian Early Years Literacy Calendar

Scotland is an ever-evolving country and community. It is a country proud of its history and heritage but equally proud and excited about cultural change and growth. In Midlothian we are committed to helping our children explore, celebrate and nurture Scotland in its wholeness. Celebrate, explore, and understand its people, its communities across a diverse landscape both cultural and physical. We want to encourage our children and families to embrace, and celebrate the diversity of cultures, communities and experiences that make up Scotland.

We also want to ensure our children, when ready, look outward towards the world. To understand our place in an interconnected web of ecology and human relations. To ensure we respect, build relationships and communicate with many communities across the world. Exploring and celebrating our differences and similarities, so we can work together for a sustainable future. We believe in enabling our children and families to become responsible global citizens and effective contributors in an interconnected world.

This calendar was collated to highlight resources that may help children understand and explore the diverse nature of our world. The poems, rhymes and words to explore are there to help practitioners build on their already significant knowledge. The books are a small number from a growing array of quality picture books that expand creativity and reflect the modern world. It has only touched the surface of what is available for daily poem, rhymes, songs and reading but will hopefully inspire settings to evaluate current provision.

At the time of writing the world is gripped by a recently unprecedented global pandemic. We have added in a small section that highlights some books specifically aimed at helping children with emotional literacy, especially around grief and anxiety. The Scottish Book Trust also has a very useful list.

We hope you enjoy the resource.

Elisabeth Kelly Principal Teacher Early Years Team Midlothian Council 2020



January

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Poems to say

The man in the moon

The man in the moon,
Looked out of the moon
Looked out of the moon and said,
“It’s time for all the children on earth
To think about getting to bed!”

Songs to Sing

Mulberry Bush

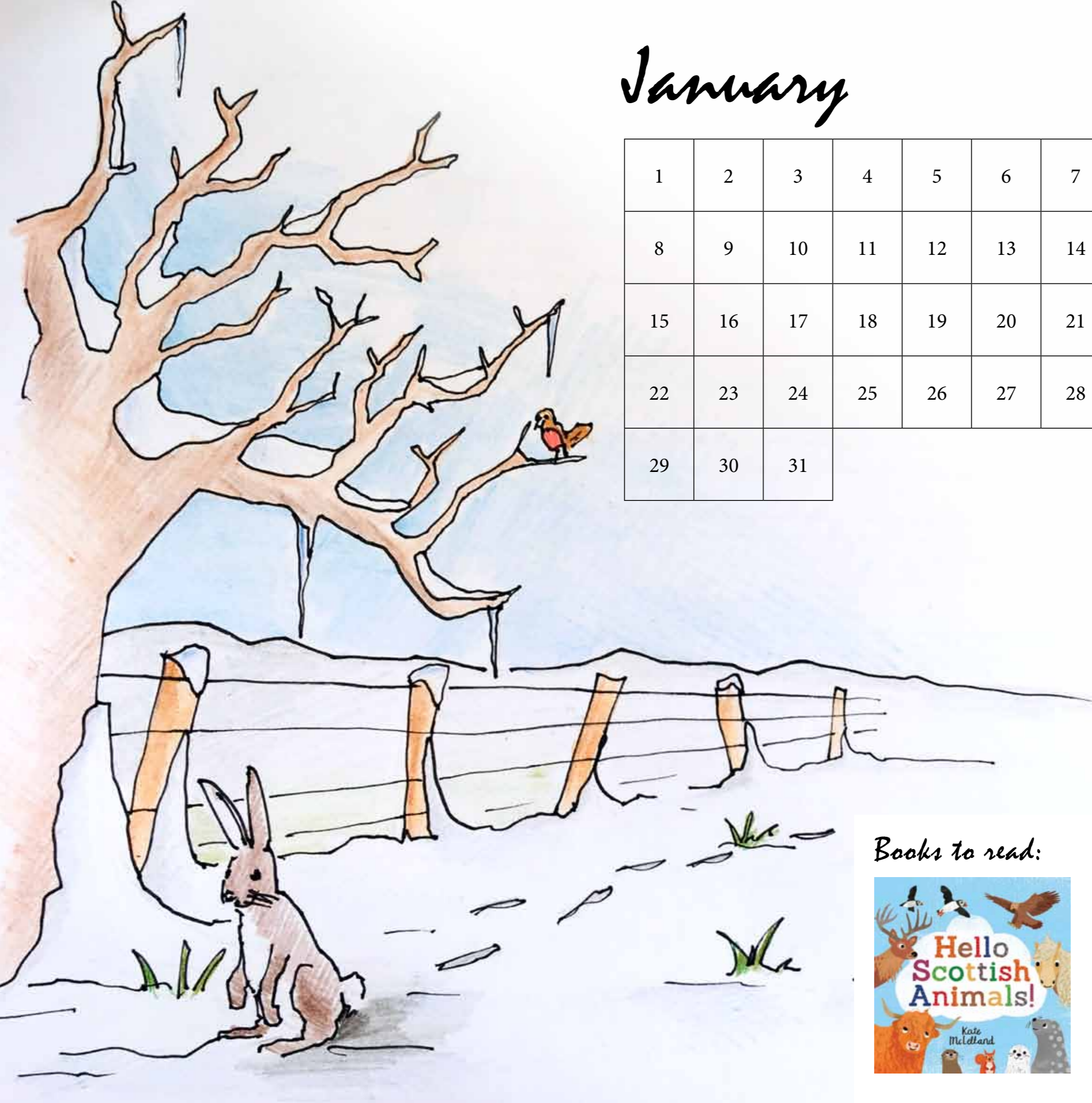
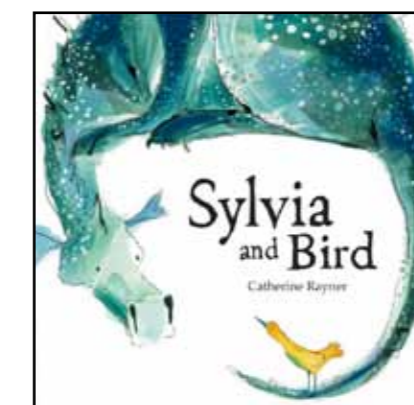
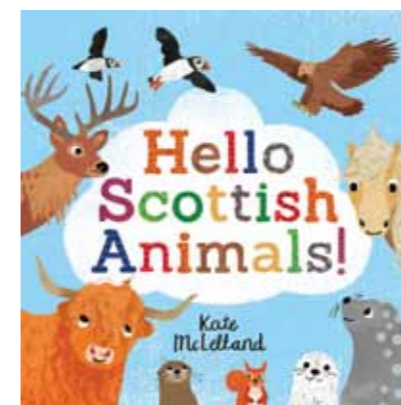
Here we go round the mulberry bush,
The mulberry bush,
The mulberry bush.
Here we go round the mulberry bush
On a cold and frosty morning.
This is the way we...

[Insert actions and continue the song as above with each action such as “wash our hands” or “shake our head” etc]

Words to explore:

Bleak
Blizzard
Sniffle
Nestle

Books to read:



February

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26		

Poems to say

A traditional Romanian poem

Reconciliation:

Let's Be Friends Again.

Let's be friends again. Let's be friends again.
Without getting upset.
And if we get upset again,
We will take the train and go away.
We will go to Bucharest.
To look for a storybook.
Then we will go back home
Both good friends again

Songs to sing:

It is raining, it is raining,
On my head, on my head.
Pitter, patter raindrops,
Pitter, patter raindrops,
I'm all wet, I'm all wet!

Words to explore

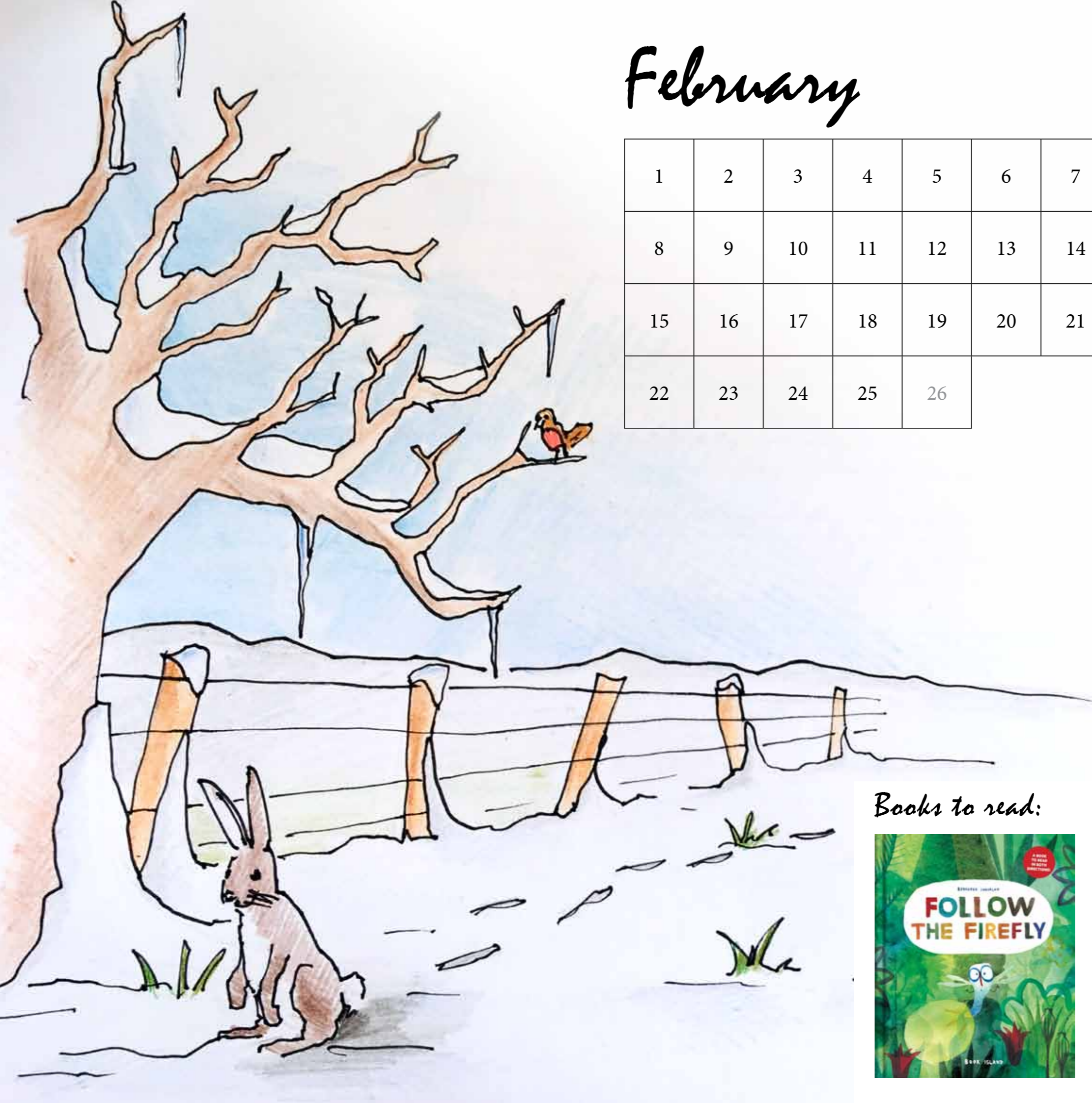
Dreary

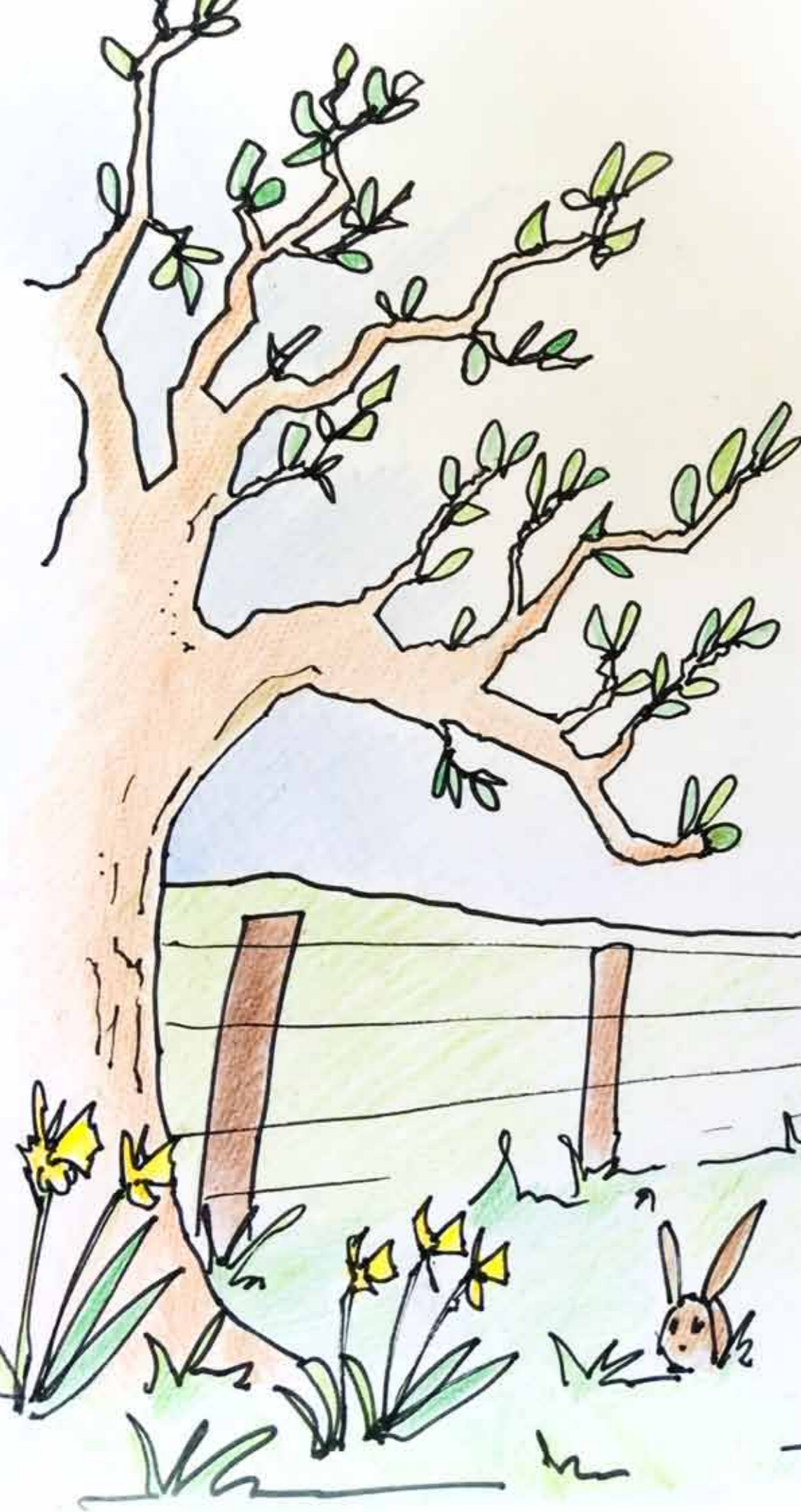
Evergreen

Dreich

Snug

Books to read:





March

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Poems to say

Doctor Foster went to Gloucester
 in a shower of rain,
 He stepped in a puddle,
 right up to his middle
 And never went there again!

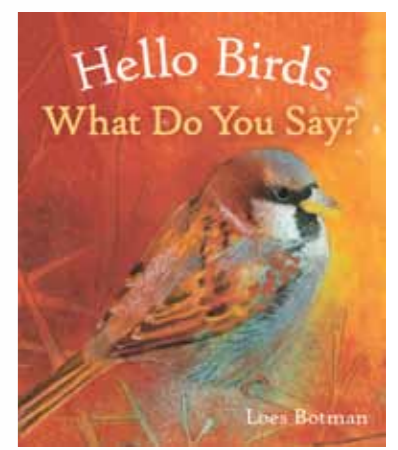
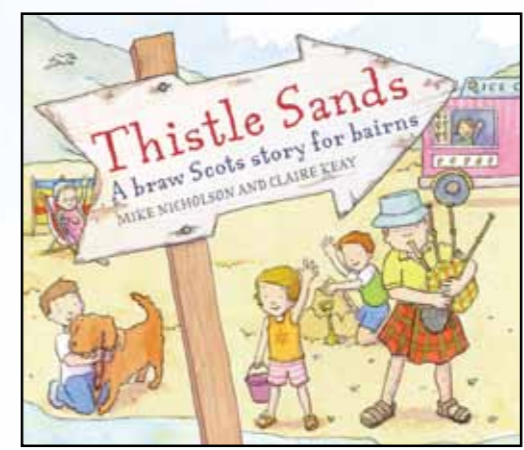
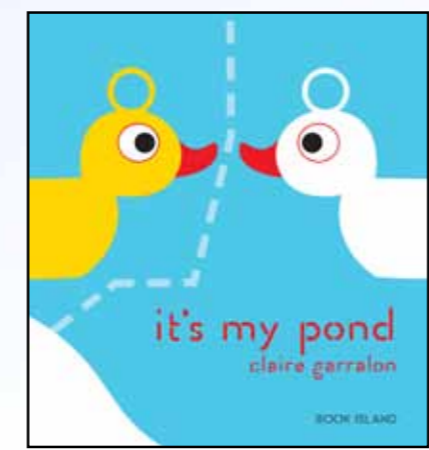
Songs to sing

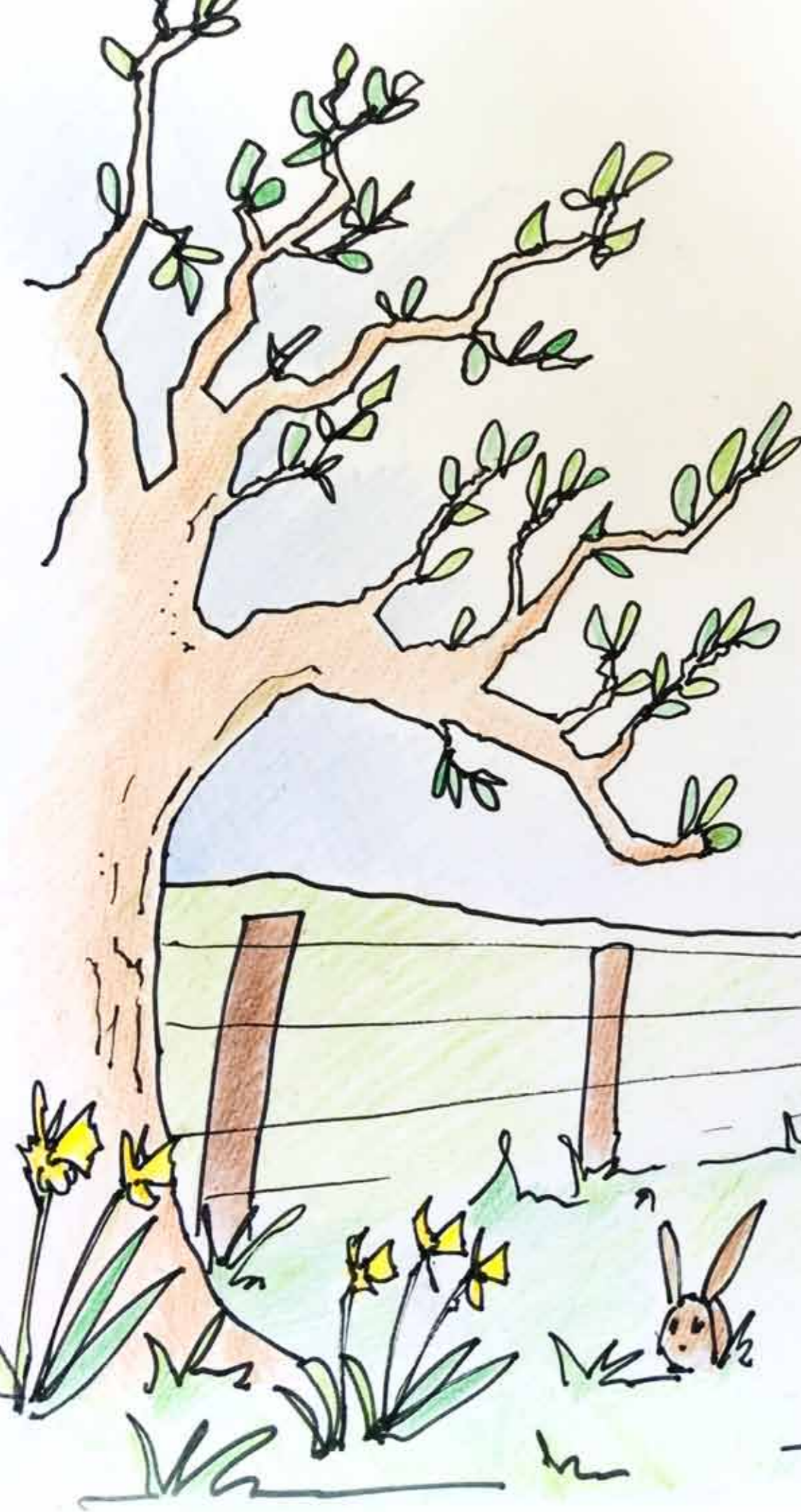
One puddle, two puddles
 made by the rain.
 Three puddles, four puddles,
 down in the lane.
 Five puddles, six puddles
 we can wade through.
 Seven puddles, eight puddles
 quite muddy, too!
 Nine puddles, ten puddles
 covering tiny roots
 Eleven puddles, twelve puddles -
 we all need our boots!

Words to explore:

- Splosh**
- Sludge**
- Mulsh**
- Compost**

Books to read:





April

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

Poems to say

Here is a tree in summer
 Here is a tree in winter
 Here is a bunch of flowers
 And here is the April Showers
 (You can ask the children to be the tree,
 with their arms and hands)

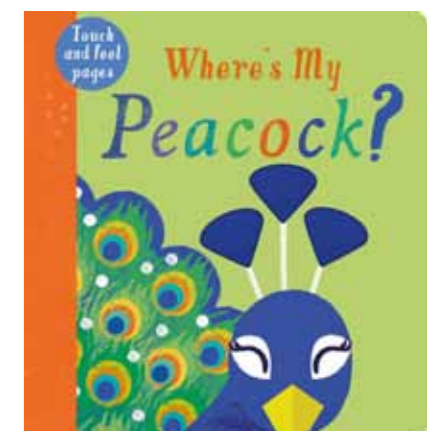
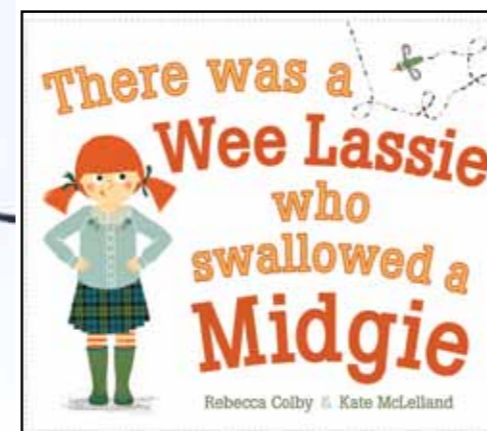
Songs to sing

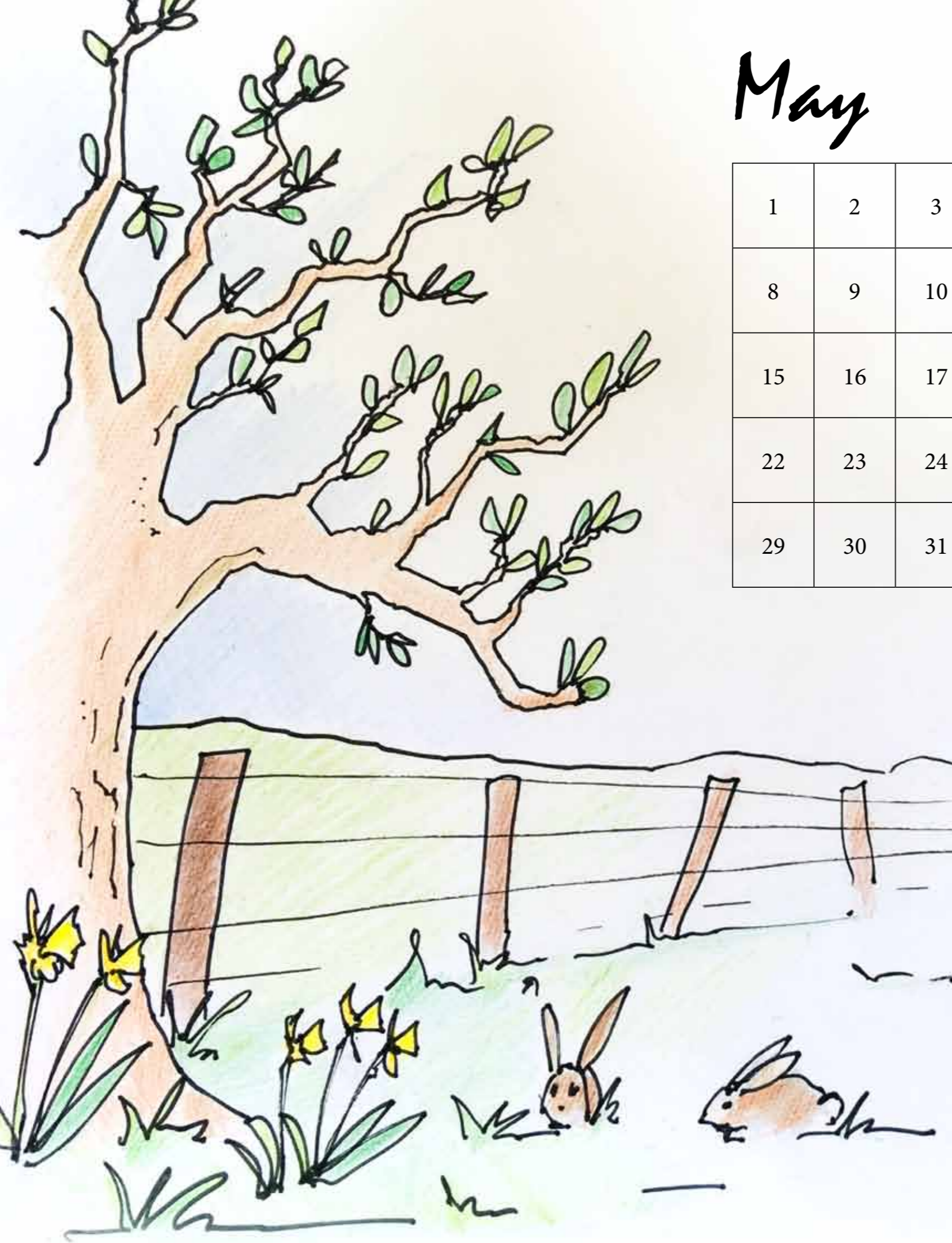
There once was a tree
 A pretty little tree
 The prettiest little tree
 That you ever did see
 Oh, the tree in a hole
 And the hole in the ground
 And the green grass grew all around,
 all around
 And the green grass grew all around

Words to explore:

- Flourish**
- Bloom**
- Wither**
- Glow**

Books to read:





May

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Poems to say

I have a little frog
 His name is Tiny Tim,
 I put him in the bathtub,
 To see if he could swim,
 He drank up all the water,
 And gobbled up the soap!
 And when he tried to talk
 He had a BUBBLE in his throat.

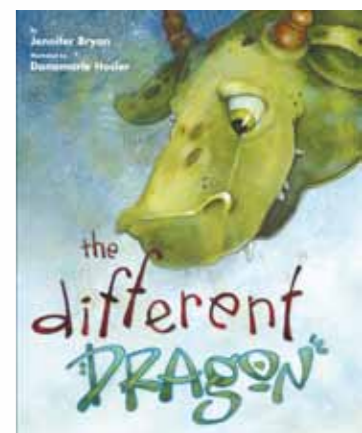
Songs to sing

5 Little Speckled Frogs,
 Sat on a little log,
 Eating some most delicious grubs,
 YUM YUM!
 One jumped into the pool,
 Where it was nice and cool
 And now there are 1, 2, 3, 4
 green speckled frogs!

Words to explore

Speckled
Soared
Drench
Lather

Books to read:





June



1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

Poems to say

A sailor went to sea, sea, sea.
 To see what he could see, see, see.
 But all that he could see, see, see.
 Was the bottom of the deep blue sea, sea, sea!

Songs to sing

Alice the Camel has five humps.
 Alice the Camel has five humps.
 Alice the Camel has five humps.
 So ride, Alice, ride. Boom, boom,
 boom, boom, boom!

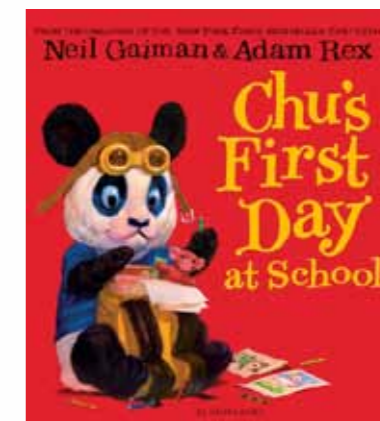
Alice the Camel has four humps.
 Alice the Camel has four humps.
 Alice the Camel has four humps.
 So ride, Alice, ride. Boom, boom,
 boom, boom!

Alice the Camel has three humps.
 Alice the Camel has etc etc
 Because Alice is a horse!

Words to explore

- Navy
- Ocean
- Sunbeams
- Balminess

Books to read:





July



1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
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Poems to say

Yankee Doodle came to town,
Riding on a pony;
He stuck a feather in his cap,
And called it macaroni.

Songs to sing

Four little ducks went out one day
Over the hills and far away
Mother Duck said "Quack, Quack, Quack, Quack"
But only three little ducks came back

Three little ducks went out one day
Over the hills and far away
Mother Duck said "Quack, Quack, Quack, Quack"
But only two little ducks came back.
Etc etc

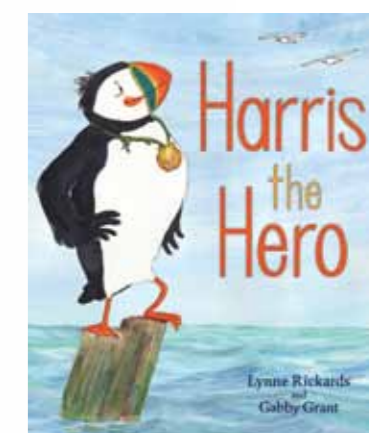
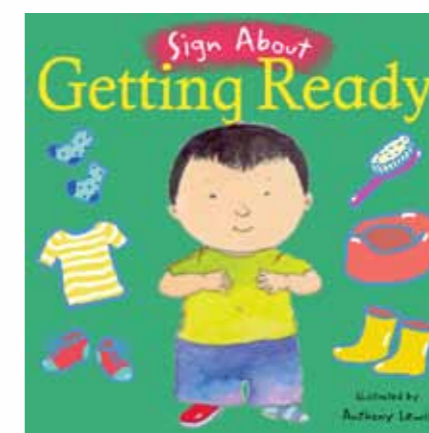
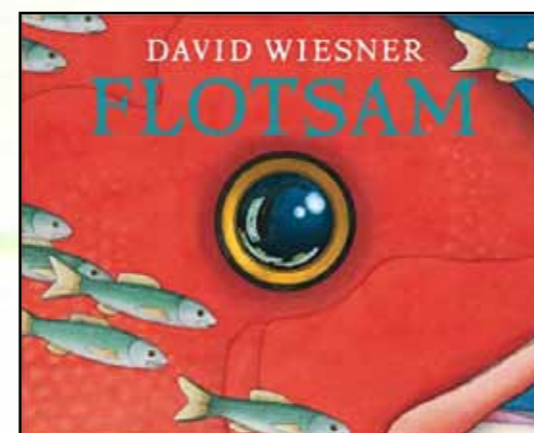
One little duck went out one day
Over the hill and far away
Mother duck said, "Quack, quack, quack, quack"
But none of the five little ducks came back

Sad mother duck went out one day
Over the hill and far away
Mother duck said, "Quack, quack, quack, quack"
And all of five little ducks came back

Words to explore

Vacation Solstice
Plunge Haytime

Books to read:





August



1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
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Poems to say

I love to go a-wandering,
 Along the mountain track,
 And as I go, I love to sing,
 My knapsack on my back.

Chorus:

Val-deri, val-dera,
 Val-deri,
 Val-dera-ha-ha-ha-ha-ha
 Val-deri, val-dera.
 My knapsack on my back.

Songs to sing

This old man, he played one,
 He played nick-nack on my drum,
 With a nick-nack paddy whack give a dog a bone,
 This old man came rolling home.

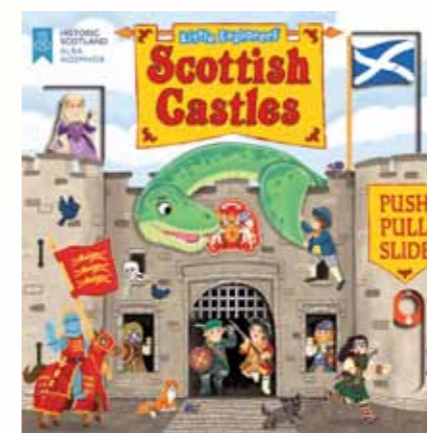
This old man, he played two,
 He played nick-nack on my shoe,
 With a nick-nack paddy whack give a dog a bone,
 This old man came rolling home.

This old man, he played three,
 He played knick-knack on my knee;
 Knick-knack paddywhack,
 Give a dog a bone,
 This old man came rolling home.

This old man, he played four,
 He played knick-knack on my door;
 Knick-knack paddywhack,
 Give a dog a bone,
 This old man came rolling home.

This old man, he played five,
 He played knick-knack on my hive;
 Knick-knack paddywhack,
 Give a dog a bone, This old man came rolling home.

Books to read:



Words to Explore

Forage Hedgerows Hazes Dew



September

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

Poems to say

Hey fiddle, diddle,
The mouse had a nibble,
and ate my nice apple pie.
Along came a cat,
who said don't do that,
and the mouse ran away for a cry.

Songs to sing

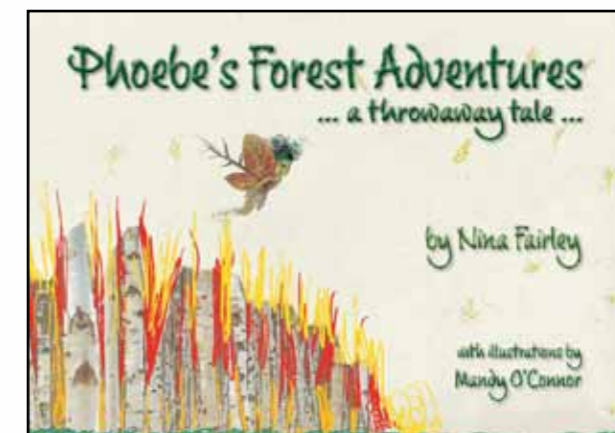
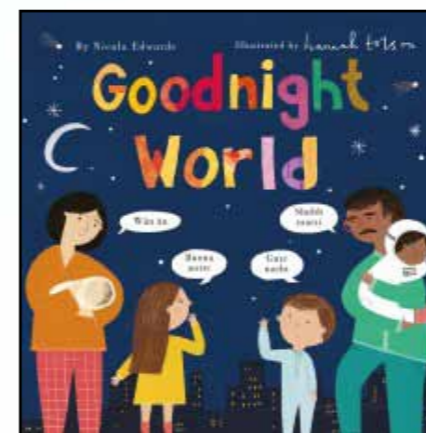
The ants go marching one by one,
hurrah, hurrah
The ants go marching one by one,
hurrah, hurrah
The ants go marching one by one,
The little one stops to suck his thumb
And they all go marching down to the ground
To get out of the rain, BOOM! BOOM! BOOM!

The ants go marching two by two,
hurrah, hurrah
The ants go marching two by two,
hurrah, hurrah
The ants go marching two by two,
The little one stops to tie his shoe etc etc

Words to Explore

Gather
Murky
Bough
Sapling

Books to read:





October

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Poems to say

A Little Mole
 A little mole
 Sits in his hole,
 Softly, softly, softly,
 When all is quiet,
 As quiet as can be... sshhhhh
 OUT pops he!

Actions -
 Hide the thumb (mole) with your fingers,
 stroke the top of your hand,
 pop thumb (mole) up at the end!

Songs to sing

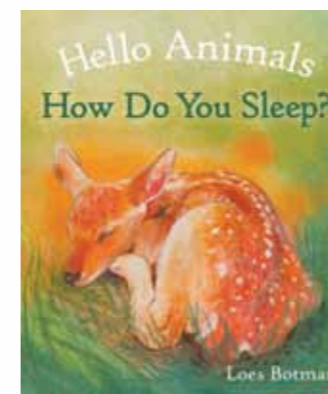
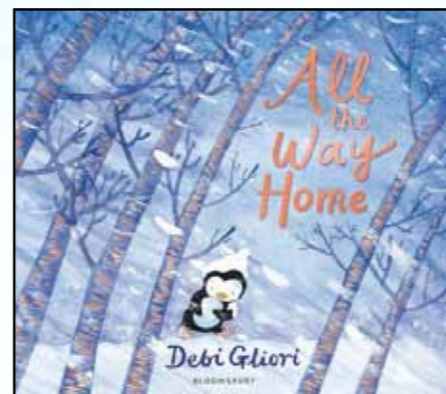
There was an old man
 named Michael Finnegan
 He had whiskers
 on his chin-again
 they fell out
 and then grew in again.
 Poor old Michael Finnegan.

Begin again!

There was an old man
 named Michael Finnegan
 He went fishing with a pin-again
 caught a fish
 and dropped it in again

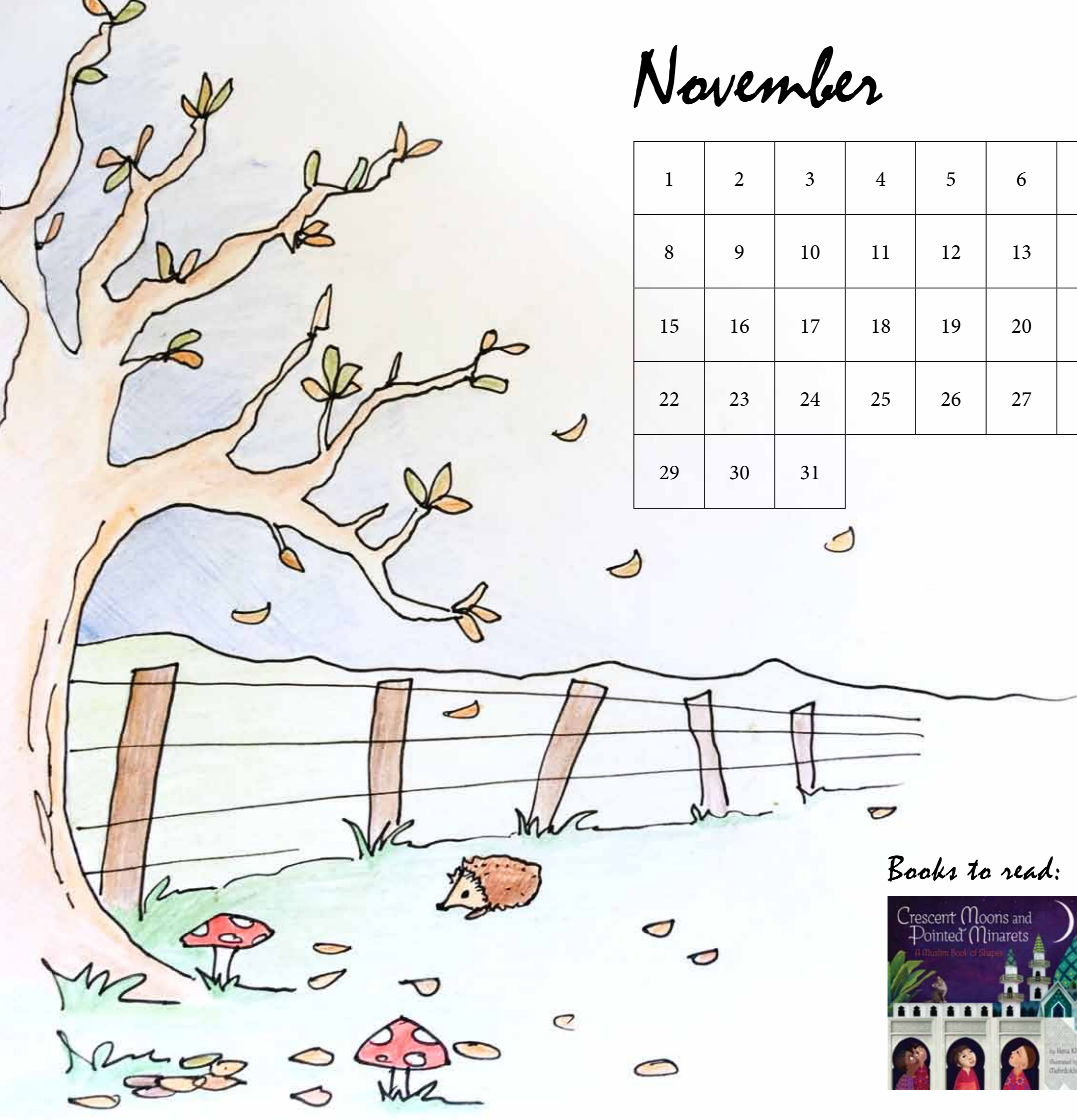
Poor old Michael Finnegan,
 Begin again!

Books to read:



Words to explore

Lunar
 Chomp
 Crinkle
 Ruffle



November

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Poems to say

Fingers and thumbs go dancing, dancing
 Fingers and thumbs go dancing,
 Dance fidgety fingers, dance fat thumbs
 Dance tippet tips till bedtime comes
 Fingers and thumbs go dancing, dancing
 Fingers and thumbs go dancing.

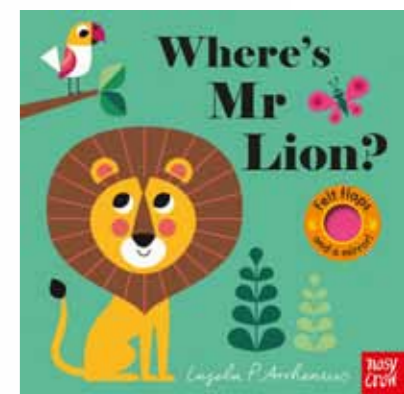
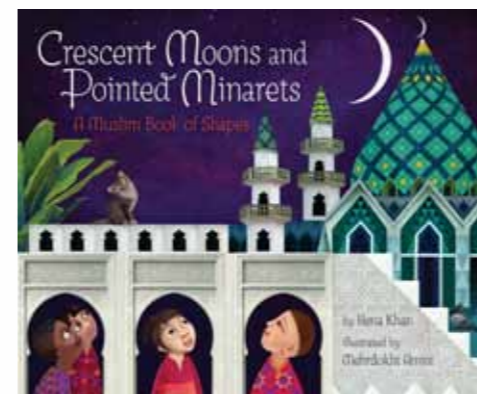
Songs to sing

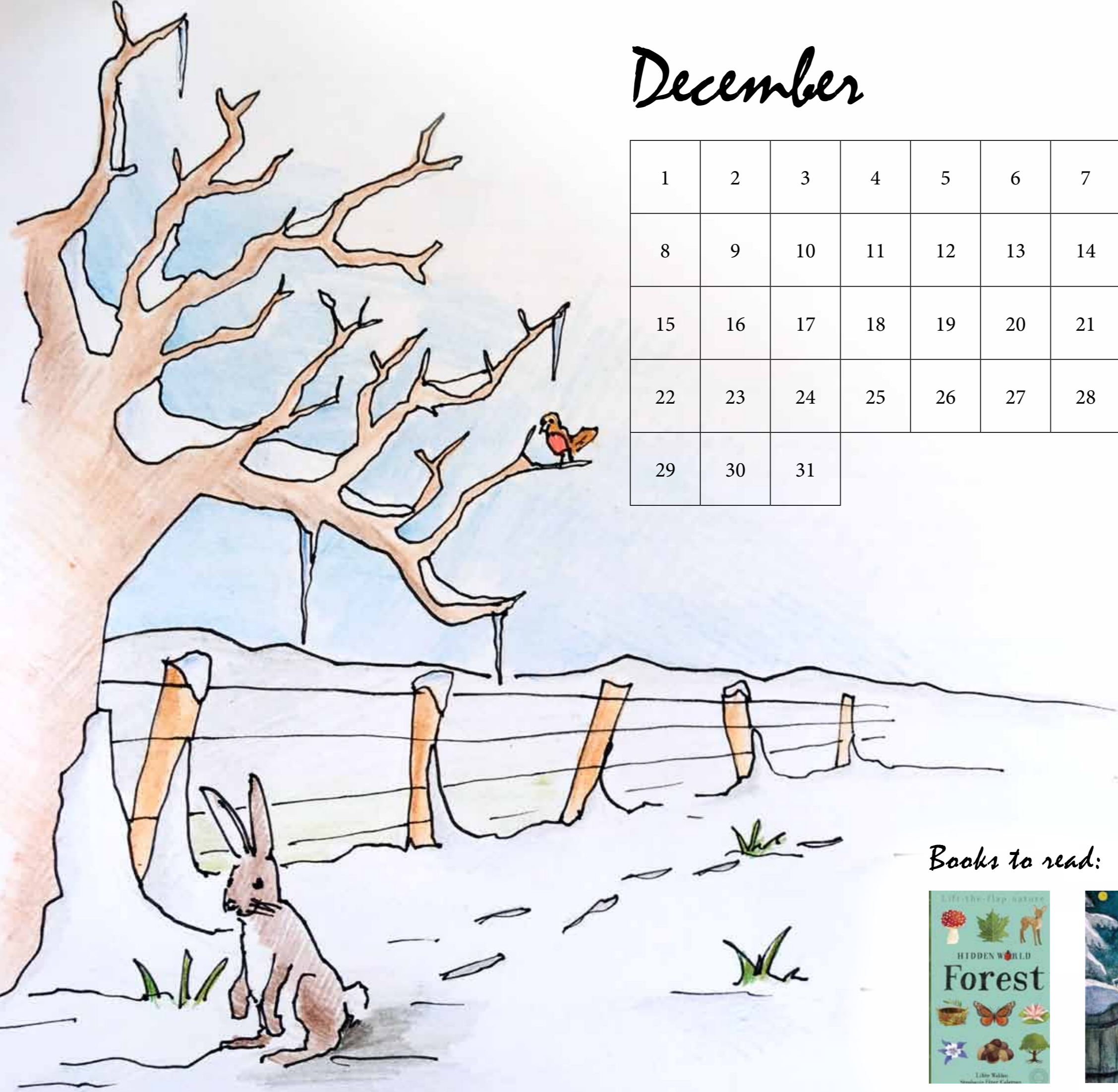
The bear went over the mountain.
 The bear went over the mountain.
 The bear went over the mountain
 To see what he could see.
 To see what he could see.
 To see what he could see.
 The bear went over the mountain
 To see what he could see.
 The other side of the mountain.
 The other side of the mountain.
 The other side of the mountain.
 Was all that he could see

Words to explore

Draughty
Anticipation
Illuminations
Garlands

Books to read:





December

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Poems to say

The Grand old Duke of York he had ten thousand men
 He marched them up to the top of the hill
 And he marched them down again.
 When they were up, they were up
 And when they were down, they were down
 And when they were only halfway up
 They were neither up nor down

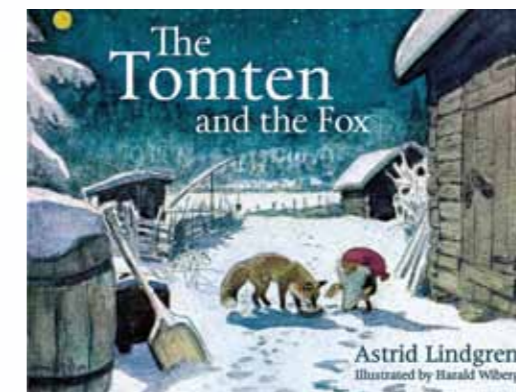
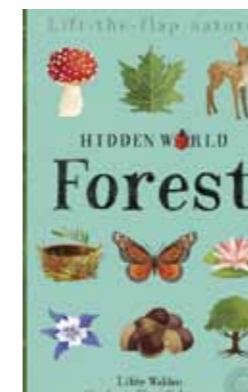
Songs to sing

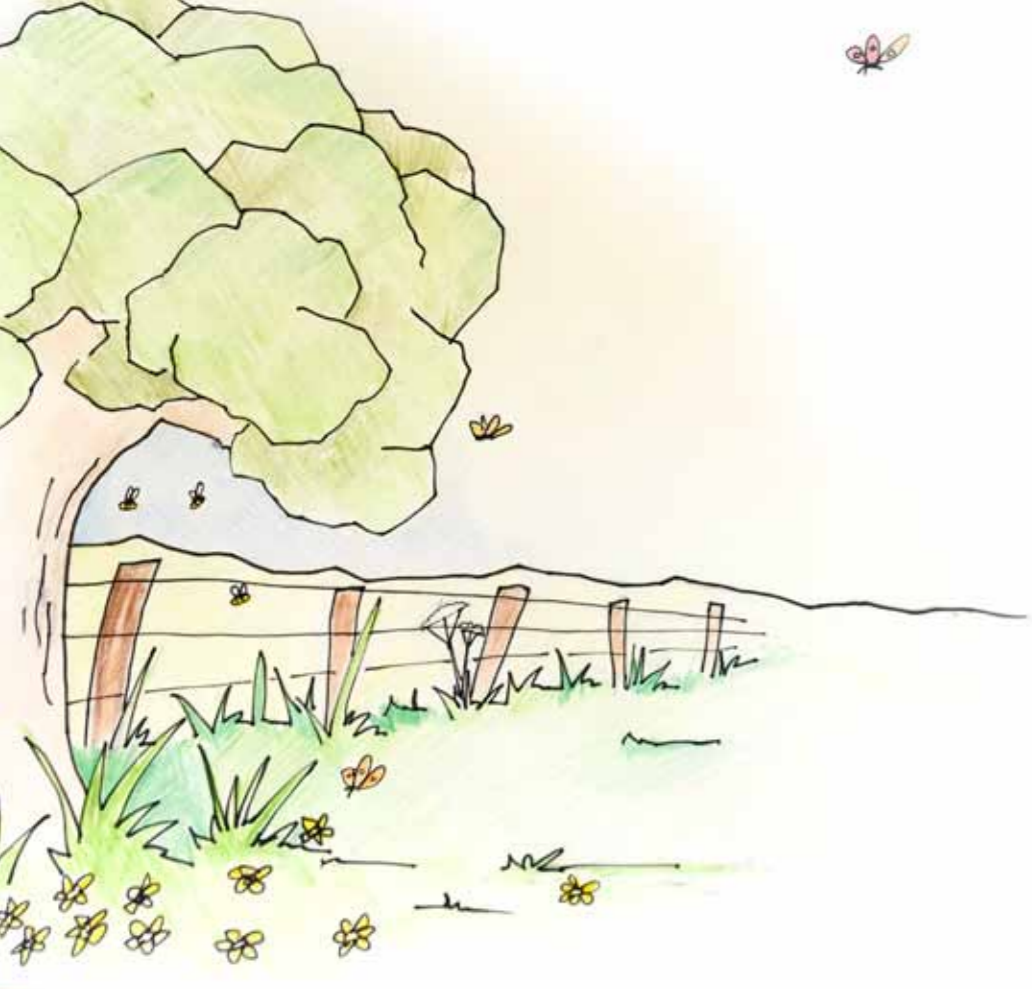
One royal penguin, feeling very blue, called for his brother then there were two.
 Two royal penguins swimming in the sea, called for their sister, then there were three.
 Three royal penguins waddle on the shore, call for their mother, then there were four.
 Four royal penguins learning how to dive, call for their father, then there were five.

Words to explore

Strudel
Blaze
Beam
Glint

Books to read:





Alternative Languages

Children are fascinated by language; all types of language not just their home language. It is important to embrace and celebrate all languages present in our world, and especially present in your local community. Explore with children, families and communities what other languages may be spoken at home and in the community and if possible ask a native speaker to come and share a song, rhyme or poem in their native language. Alternatively say the poem in English and talk to the children about the community/country that it originates from. Also think about emerging languages in cultures – is there a new rhyme doing to round in text speak?

Here we have collated a few examples to get your started!

Thai - Elephant Song!

Chang chang chang chang chang
(Elephant elephant elephant elephant elephant)

Nong kei hen chang rue plao
(Have you ever seen an elephant?)

Chang man tua tho mai boa
(An elephant has a big body)

Jamook yoa yoa riek wa nguang
(it's long nose called a trunk)

Me kiew tai nguang riek wa nga
(It has fangs under the trunk called tusks)

Mee hoo mee taa hang yao
(It has ears, eyes, and a long tail)

From Poland

Finger Play (Polish)

Biedroneczka mała
Robaczki spotkała

1. Z tym się przywitała
2. Tego pogłaskała
3. Temu pomachała
4. Tego zabrać chciała
5. Tego pożegnała

I do nieba poleciała.

Finger Play (English)

A little ladybird,

Met a few little worms:

1. She greeted this one
2. Stroked this one
3. Waved to this one
4. Wanted to grab this one
5. Said goodbye to this one...

And flew to the sky.

From Bangladesh

আইকম বাইকম তাড়াতাড়ি
আইকম বাইকম তাড়াতাড়ি
যদু মাস্টার শ্বশুরবাড়ি
রেল কাম ঝামাঝাম
পা পিছলে আলুর দম

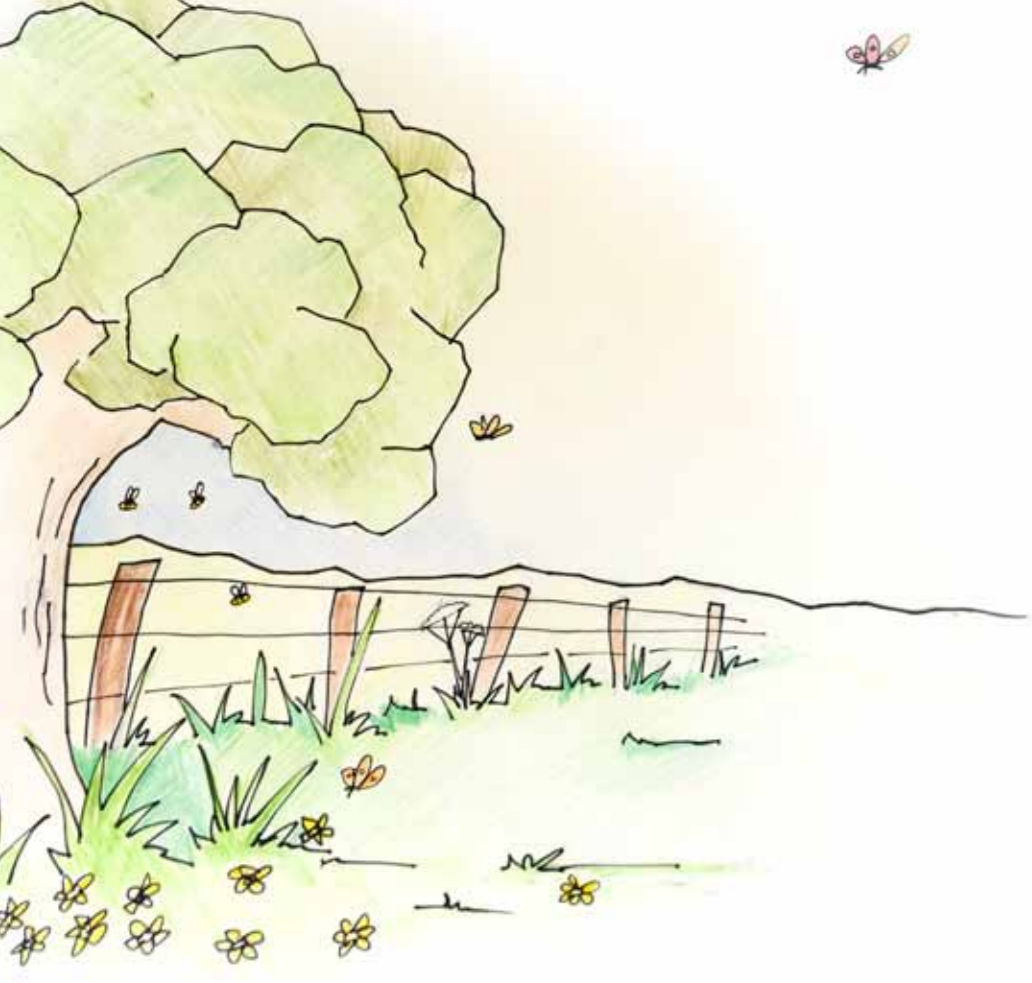
Hurry Aaikom Baikom
I was coming by hurriedly
To teacher Jodu's in-law's house
Rain came splish-splash
I slipped and fell like potato mash!

In Urdu from Pakistan

There Was a Thirsty Crow Rhyme

ایک کو پیاسا تھا،
گھڑے میں پانی تھوڑا تھا،
کوئے نے ڈالے
کنکر، پانی آیا اوپر،
کوئے نے پیا پانی،
ختم ہوئی کہانی۔

There was a thirsty crow,
Pail had little water
Crow put pebbles in
Water raised up
Crow drank water
That's the end of our story.



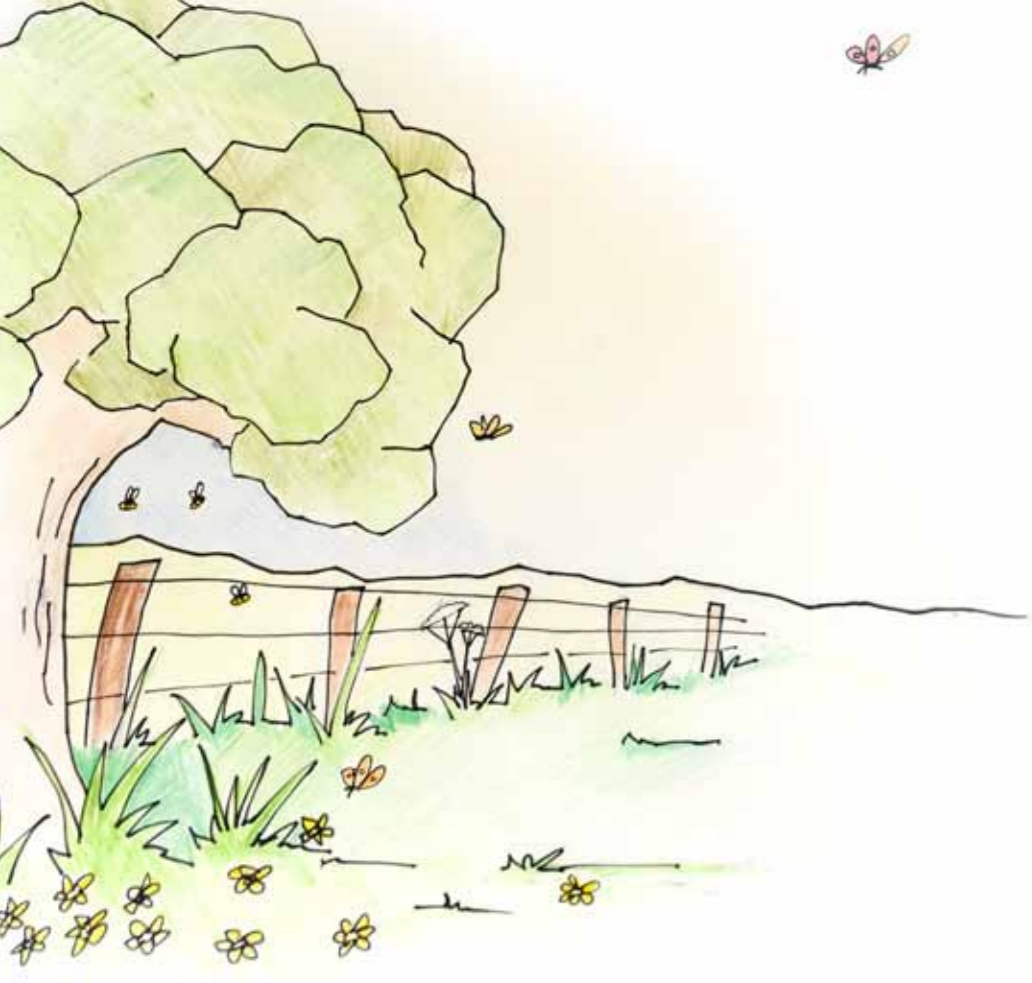
Books to support children understand a wide range of feelings and emotions.

Author/Illustrator	Interest Age (Reading Age)	Synopsis
How are You Feeling Today Molly Potter	2+ (6+)	A book that cover a wide range of emotions and lets children dip in and explore an emotion they choose.
When Sadness Comes to Call Eva Eland	4+	This book explores mental wellbeing by telling a story about Sadness.
Stormy Weather Debi Gliori	2+	This warm book explores the relationship between a child and their loved one, and the reassurance that loved ones will be there in times of worry.

Books to specifically look at grief and loss

Author/Illustrator	Interest Age (Reading Age)	Synopsis
The Rabbit Listened Cori Doerrfeld	3+ (5+)	This book looks at loss and grief in its many different forms, and the way friends can help in these situations.
Always and Forever Alan Durant Debi Gliori	3+	Fox dies in this book and this allows his friends to explore grief and different ways of dealing with the loss of someone.
Grandad's Island Benji Davies	4+	A story of love and loss. A Grandad and Grandson embark on a fantasy adventure where only the Grandson returns back to reality. This book explore saying goodbye and living after the death of a loved one.

Thank you to Shevaun Erskine for compiling this list.

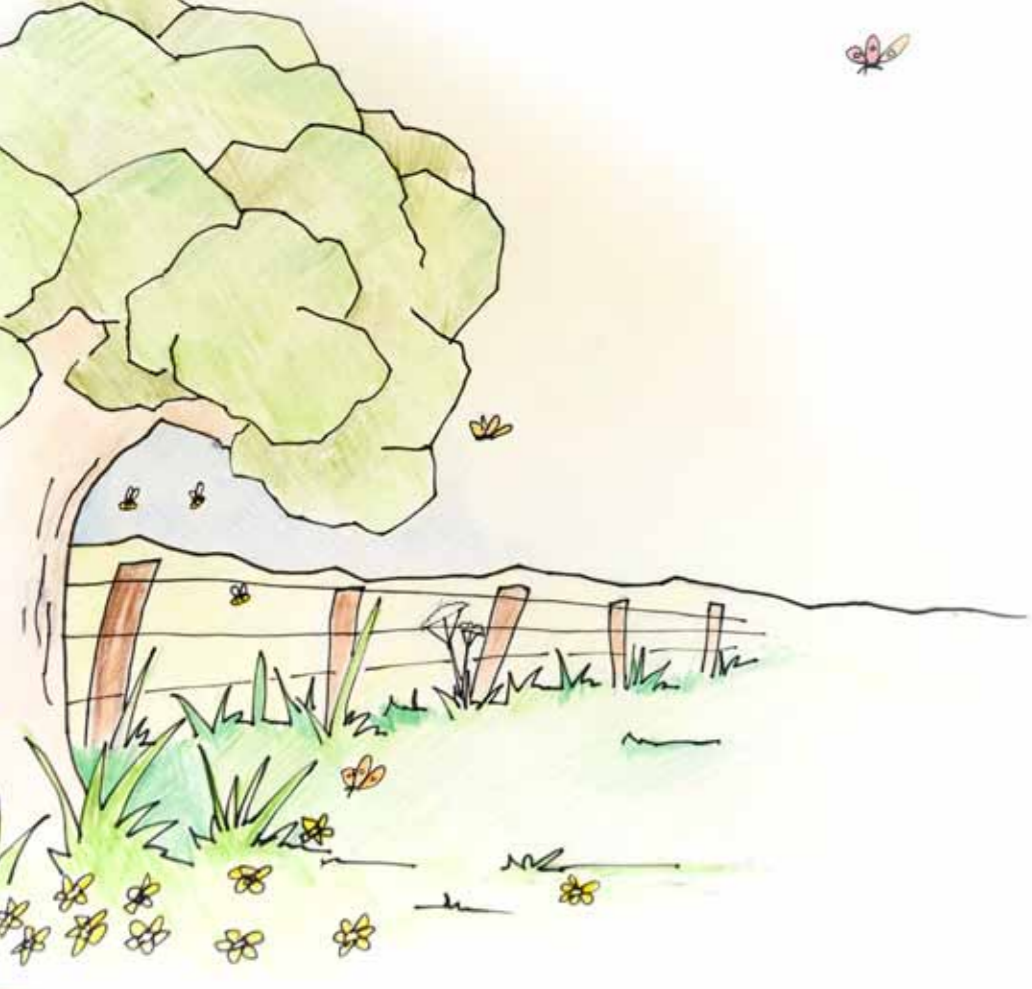


Reflection

It is important to regularly reflect on the texts you share in your setting including books, videos, podcasts and also the rhymes, songs and stories you sing, say and share.

Some key questions to ask yourself and your team are:

- Do they represent real modern life in all its wonderful diversity?
- Is the language rich and varied?
- Is the story appropriate to the age group?
- Will it aid in curiosity?
- Does it in some way uphold a bias we should be aware of e.g. imply care givers are always female? Imply explorers and adventures are male? Imply families are made of two parents? Imply everyone lives in a house? If so, how can we discuss this with children?
- Do we encourage the use of non-fiction books and resources enough?
- How are we celebrating the diversity of our immediate community? What rhymes, songs, stories are special to our community? Do we have text around that is recognisable to members of our community?
- Do visuals, illustrations, video's we share show and represent Scotland it all its beautiful cultural diversity?



Acknowledgements

We would like to thank the following publishers for granting permission to reproduce the front covers of their books:

Books Island
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