Rebel Round Up!

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Down Syndrome Awareness EDITION!

Greetings from Rebel HQ

Hello Rebels,

Welcome to our next issue which celebrates Down Syndrome Awareness month in October. This month is dedicated to celebrating individuals with Down syndrome, highlighting their abilities and promoting inclusion. This issue celebrates stories which highlight special books doing extraordinary things. We hope you have been inspired too!

Rebel Readers...we are incredibly fortunate to be able to include an exclusive interview with George Webster. George Webster is a BAFTA-winning English television presenter, actor, dancer, and author best known as the first CBeebies presenter with Down syndrome as he shares his top tips for reading and what made him want to be an author.

We love receiving your book reviews, illustrations and recommendations so continue to send these in to us at Rebel HQ.

Happy reading Rebels, and as always... *Be Rebellious, Read With Us!*

Author Spotlight: **Claire Hatcher-Smith**

THE BRILLIANCE OF MIZZY



Thirteen-year-old Mizzy is used to feeling like she doesn't fit. People see that she has Down syndrome and assume that's all they need to know. But Mizzy is so much more than meets the eye. She's smart and she's nosy. She spots mysteries nobody else has even noticed and, although she's terrified of escalators, prone to crashing to conclusions and constantly underestimated (especially by her older, cooler cousins) she's determined to smash everyone's expectations with her brilliant sleuthing.

People often ask why I chose to create Mizzy with Down syndrome? It's an easy answer. As well as being an author, I'm a speech and language therapist and have worked with children and teens for thirty-five years, including many young people with Down syndrome. Mizzy seemed like the perfect opportunity to give those kids I'd worked with the chance to see themselves as the star of the story. Just as importantly, I wanted Mizzy to be seen in the starring role, so she could smash some of the stereotypes around what people expect individuals with Down syndrome to be like.

If you haven't already discovered Mizzy and her somewhat unusual investigations, now is the perfect time. October is Down Syndrome Awareness month and Mizzy's first case, A *Skeleton in the Closet*, is the Blue Peter Book Club read for November. Read the book, smash a few stereotypes, write a review AND earn a Blue Peter Book Badge. What's not to love?! Even better, share your review with Rebel Headquarters for a chance to win signed copies of all three books, plus some Mizzy-themed goodies for your school.

I can't wait to hear what you think. In the meantime, I hope you're all inspired to be a bit more Mizzyish in your own lives. Get nosey about each other. Put your detective skills to work and, instead of crashing to conclusions, dig a little deeper and discover who people really are beneath the surface.

Most importantly of all, never underestimate anyone, including yourselves.





SCAN ME!



SCAN ME!



SCAN ME!

Exclusive interview: George Webster





FOLLOW ME

SCAN ME

GEORGE_WEBSTER_ACTOR

What made you want to become an author, and what do you enjoy most about writing books for children?

I wanted to become an author because when I was a lot younger, there weren't any characters, authors, and illustrators in books with a learning disability and I wanted to change people's perspective and to break down the barriers just like in my first two books, *"This is Me"* and *"Why Not"* and we all glow in many different unique ways. It's lots of fun writing books for children because children have amazing imaginations, and they love exploring different fantastical and amazing worlds such as world with dragons like my book series for older kids "*George and the Mini Dragon*" and *"Lava Goes Wild"*.

Down's Syndrome Awareness Month is a great time to help people learn more about Down's Syndrome. You are a wonderful advocate for this. What is one thing you would love every child to know?

Aww, thank you so much for your lovely words. The one thing that I would love that all children should know is to not be afraid of who you are because we're all different in so many ways, and being different is brilliant and positive, not negative and scary.

Why is it important to you to help other understand and celebrate differences?

It's super important to me because we should all celebrate our differences all year round. Everyone has their own strengths and weaknesses, and it's important to find our own strengths, just like Glitz in, *"Lava Goes Wild"* and the messaging in, *"Why Not?"*. Everyone deserves to have their voices heard, including people with a learning disability.

What advice would you give to children who might think they aren't good at reading or writing?

The advice I would like to give for children is to ask your grown-ups or friends to help you to read the book with you and to say or sign the words together. Everyone talks in many different ways, like an eye-gaze machine, which means they can have help from their machines to help them to read, or using BSL or Makaton. We all need to embrace these ways of communicating together.

What is one book you would recommend to children, and why should they read it?

The one book I would recommend to children to read is, *"Room on the Broom"* by Julia Donaldson and Axel Scheffler because it's all about a witch who meets all sorts of different characters along the way on her adventure and invites them onto her broom. The messaging of being inclusive in this book is important because we should all include different people with mixed abilities in society and life.



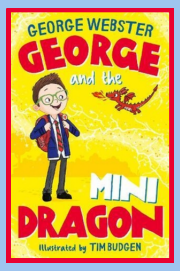
Finally, by seeing people that are different in books and in the media, we can understand that we are all people, we are all special and we all have a unique glow. We just all need to see that in others.



Thank you Rebel!

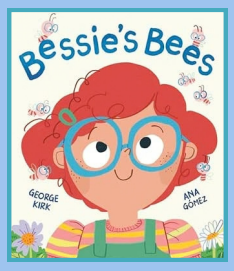
Have you read this?

George and the Mini Dragon
by George Webster



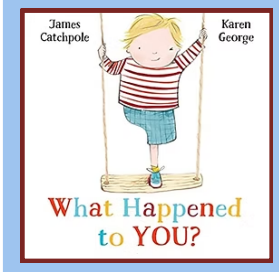
SCAN ME!

Bessie's Bees
by George Kirk



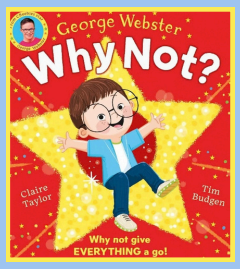
SCAN ME!

What Happened to You?
by James Catchpole



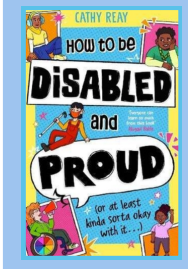
SCAN ME!

Why Not?
by George Webster



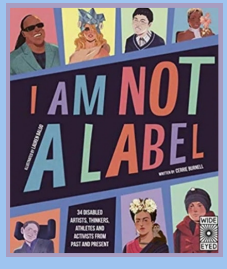
SCAN ME!

How to be Disabled and Proud
by Cathy Reay



SCAN ME!

I Am Not a Label
by Cerrie Burnell



SCAN ME!

Books we are excited about... (new releases)



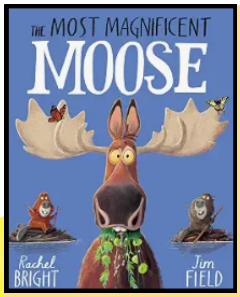
The Danger Game *by Tom Fletcher*

Release date: 08/10

The Danger Gang are back, and this time the **adventure is even more dangerous!** When Franky discovers a mysterious video game in the garage, he can't resist pressing play. But this is no ordinary game... Suddenly, Franky is trapped inside a dangerous **virtual world**, and his friends must use their **amazing superpowers** to rescue him.

Can the Danger Gang beat the game before it's game over for good?

SCAN ME



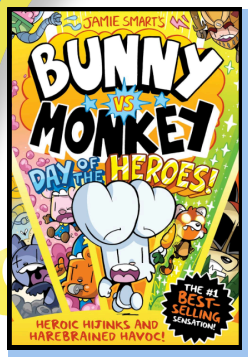
The Most Magnificent Moose
by Rachel Bright and Jim Field

Release date: 08/10

Meet Morris, a happy-go-lucky moose who thinks the world is AMAZING! But after overhearing a conversation between two beavers, Morris starts wondering if some moose are better than others. Soon, the moose are arguing about who is the best. Can Morris help them discover that **everyone has something magnificent about them?**

A **funny, heartwarming rhyming story** about being yourself and remembering that you are already magnificent, just as you are.

SCAN ME



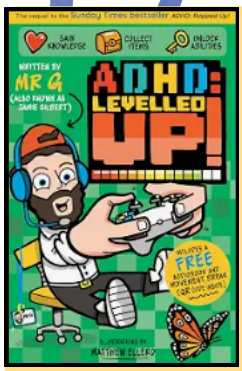
Bunny Vs Monkey: Day of the Heroes
by Jamie Smart

Release date: 08/10

The Woods are in trouble... and **they need a hero!** There's a greased-up pig, everyone is stuck in jelly, and—wait for it—a zombie invasion has arrived! Bunny and his chaotic crew must leap into action and save the day... but with this gang, things are never quite that simple!

Expect **wild adventures, ridiculous rescues, hilarious chaos and plenty of laughs** as Bunny and friends discover that being a hero might be harder than it looks! Get ready for another brilliantly bonkers Bunny vs Monkey adventure!

SCAN ME



ADHD: Levelled Up!
by Jamie 'Mr G' Gilbert

Release date: 31/10

Ready to level up your ADHD knowledge? This fun, game-inspired book takes readers on a series of **quests, challenges and a mighty boss battle,** while exploring what ADHD can look and feel like.

Packed with **catchy raps, activities, illustrations and practical tips,** it's an engaging way to learn more about neurodiversity, discover helpful strategies and understand that every brain is different. Perfect for curious readers aged 9+.

SCAN ME

Support AWARENESS Down Syndrome

Spotlight: Teacher Q&A

Name: Tom Griffiths



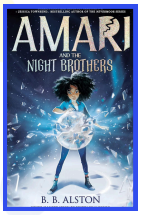
FOLLOW ME

SCAN ME CHECKEMOUTBOOKS

What was your favourite childhood book?

I loved *Esio Trot* by Roald Dahl as it made me desperate to own a tortoise and I read it so many times.

If there was one book you could go back and read again for the first time, what would it be?



Ooo that's tough! I think it would be either *The Land of Roar* by Jenny McLachlan or *Amari and the Night Brothers* by B.B. Alston as they're books I got totally lost in and captivated the children in my class at the time (and my daughter since too!).

What book are you currently reading?

I am currently reading *Camp Wild Blood: The Wild Zone* by Rick Riordan and *Annabelle Oh*. I'm thoroughly enjoying it as I love the world of Percy Jackson but I can't say anything about it yet as I had to sign an NDA to read it!



Which character from a book is most like you and why?

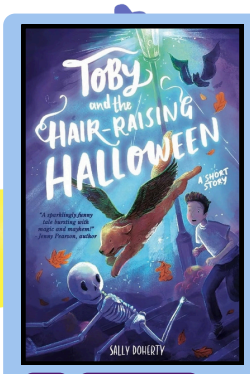
Can I say Mr Joshua from Matt Goodfellow's *The Final Year* as I always want to be that inspiring teacher who makes a difference? Cheesy I know, sorry!

Which genres do you enjoy reading the most?

Murder mysteries and thrillers will always get my attention. I do absolutely love children's fantasy too.



Thank you Rebel!



Toby and the Hair-Raising Halloween
by Sally Doherty

Release date: 08/10

Get ready for a **Halloween adventure with Toby!** When spooky surprises, strange happenings and hair-raising trouble appear, Toby finds himself in the middle of a Halloween adventure he won't forget.

With plenty of **fun, frights and friendship,** Toby must be brave, think quickly and face whatever creepy surprises come his way. But will he manage to save the day before Halloween turns into a complete disaster?

This short story is perfect for reluctant readers as it is 80 pages long and illustrated by Sarah Jane Docker.

A fun, spooky and exciting read that's perfect for Halloween and suitable for 8/9+



The Moonlight Dragon
by Liz Flanagan

Release date: 08/10

Get ready for a **magical adventure under the moonlight!** When a mysterious dragon appears, an ordinary night becomes something truly extraordinary.

As secrets begin to unfold, there are **friendships to make, dangers to face and a magical world to discover.** Can our heroes find the courage they need to protect the moonlight dragon?

A magical, mysterious and exciting adventure that will whisk young readers into a world of dragons, friendship and wonder!

Activity time!

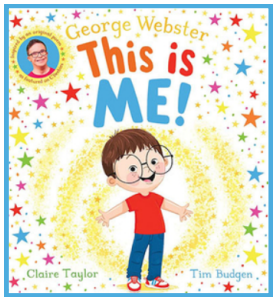
Spreading Kindness –

In the *magnifying glass* below write one way **you** can spread kindness to others!



Book Recommendations

This is Me!
by George Webster **(All ages)**



SCAN ME!

Ellie and the Marriage List (One Extra Sparkle)
by Tricia Seabolt **(5-7 years)**



SCAN ME!

Sky Song
by Abi Elphinstone **(Age 9+)**



SCAN ME!

Activity time!

Imagine **you** discover a ***mysterious door connected to the case*** in *The Mizzy Mysteries: A Skeleton in the Closet.*

Draw the mysterious door on the right: ——————★

Then decide:

***Where* does it lead?** _____

***What* is behind it?** _____

What happens when *Mizzy opens it?*

_____

THE FINAL REVEAL!

★★★★★★★★★★★★★

Write your **Detective's Verdict:**

| **I think the mystery is...**

Give **THREE pieces of evidence** from the book to support your theory!

1 _____

2 _____

3 _____



Extension: Create Your Own Mizzy Mystery!

Once you have cracked the case, challenge yourself to become an author!

A MYSTERY NEEDS...

- A *mysterious* character
- A *suspicious* setting
- A *strange clue*
- *A secret*
- A *red herring*
- A surprise *twist*
- **A detective!**















With this formula: *Create a one-page mystery*, swap with another group or friend, and ***see if they can solve your case!!!***

SCAN ME!

Get Involved!

Follow us on Instagram via the QR Code: lots of big **giveaways**, discover **new authors**, keep up to date with our **events**, and **much, much more**!

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