

Author Focus



Laura Knowles

Laura Knowles is a non-fiction author and editor of children's books. Her love of natural history, words and art has drawn her to work on books about animals and nature.

Read an interview with Laura here: <http://justimagine.co.uk/2017/10/17/qa-with-laura-knowles/>



[@LauraMakesBooks](https://twitter.com/LauraMakesBooks)



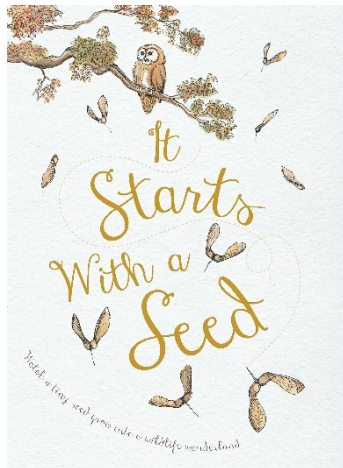
[@laura_makes_book](https://www.instagram.com/laura_makes_book)



A CLPE booklist



Books:



It Starts with a Seed illustrated by Jennie Webber **Words & Pictures 9781910277171**

A rhyming text beautifully describes the growth and life of a sycamore tree from its start as a seed to its eventual emergence as a 'leaf-laden, bark-bound arboreal home' for many living creatures. The delicate illustrations on the opposite page echo the text as well as complementing and extending it with further detail. A final fold out spread demonstrates how the tree may multiply as new seeds dance off in the wind and this is backed up by some fascinating facts. Awarded the 2017 Margaret Mallett Award for Children's Non-fiction.

A CLPE core book <https://clpe.org.uk/corebooks/it-starts-seed-0>



Once Upon a Jungle illustrated by James Boast **Words & Pictures 9781784937799**

A picture of a jungle is built up using brief repetitive and memorable language in a large typeface set against strong vibrant illustrations that bear close examination and interpretation. They range from parrots flying over the forest canopy to a mass of jewel-like beetles. Explanatory text at the end of the book describes the story of a food chain.

A CLPE core book <https://clpe.org.uk/corebooks/once-upon-jungle>



We Travel So Far illustrated by Chris Madden **Words & Pictures 9781910277331**

Animals and birds from around the world briefly describe their migratory journeys in economical and poetic language which weaves and wends across the page, the text pointedly placed to suit each spread. 'We are the Ruby-throated Hummingbirds, tiny bundles of nectar-fuelled energy.' 'We are the Fruit Bats. We are the night-time flappers, the sweet-treat snackers!' Each journey is different in terms of length, seasons, terrains travelled. Detailed data about the water, land and air migration of animals can be found at the end of the book. At times the text is truly thought-provoking, as when polar bears wonder how they will continue to 'survive in a warm, wet world?' and the story shifts from animals to people who 'travel to many places for many reasons.'

A CLPE core book <https://clpe.org.uk/corebooks/we-travel-so-far>

A CLPE booklist



***The Coral Kingdom* illustrated by Jennie Webber**

Words & Pictures 9781910277379

A rhyming text flows across the pages describing how a coral reef is formed and how 'Every creature plays its part, to make this living work of art.' The colours that camouflage echo one another in complementary words and pictures. The danger to the beauty and environmental necessity of the coral reef caused by pollution is woven into the poem with a plea to 'choose greener energy' and there is an appendix with practical information about how to protect it.



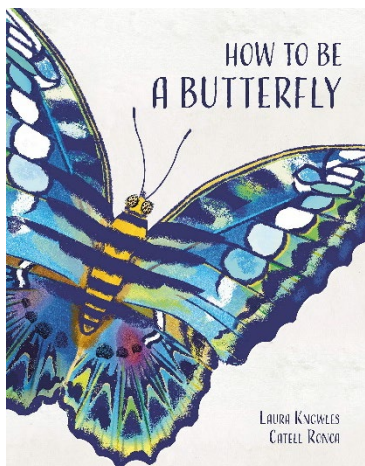
***We Build Our Homes* illustrated by Chris Madden**

Words & Pictures 9781910277836

The stories of how incredible animal architects build their homes. They range from around the world and include birds, minibeasts, reptiles and mammals. Each group of creatures introduces themselves using a suitable epithet – tailorbirds are 'needle-beaked nesters', honeybees are 'flower foragers', humans are 'the land-takers, the world-shapers.' Then they describe what materials they use to construct their homes, how and where they build them. The descriptions are short and succinct and are set against the background of Chris Madden's illustrations.

Discover how he creates digital images here:

<http://www.maddenillustration.co.uk/blog/2016/8/22/photoshop>



Forthcoming April 2019:

***How to Be a Butterfly* illustrated by Catell RoncaWords & Pictures 9781786038838**