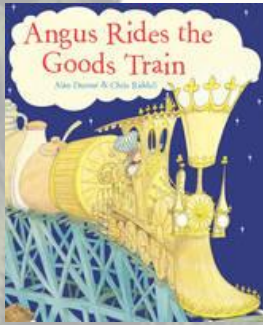


# Feast or Famine: Food in Picture Books

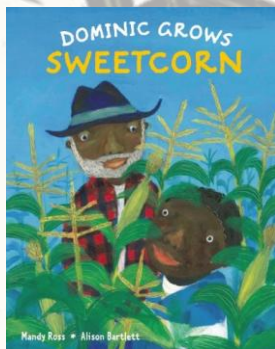
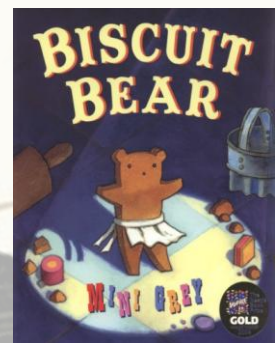


**Angus Rides the Goods Train** by Alan Durant & Chris Riddell  
*Corgi ISBN: 9780552569194*

In his dreams, Angus climbs aboard a train loaded up with milk, honey, rice and water and travels the world where he sees widespread hunger, starvation and poverty. The train driver will not stop and share the goods as he is taking them, as instructed, to a king and his courtiers for their breakfast. Angry Angus calls a halt and distributes the food to those who need it declaring, when he wakes, that some day he will drive the goods train. Political cartoonist Chris Riddell is an excellent choice of illustrator for this picture book with a strong idealistic message.

**Biscuit Bear** by Mini Grey  
*Red Fox ISBN: 9780099451082*

A night-time adventure as a gang of biscuit bears create a wild circus in the kitchen. The arrival of a dog in the middle of the excitement creates total confusion but, unlike his literary forebear the Gingerbread Man, Biscuit Bear finds 'somewhere safe to be'. The biscuits and their wild adventures are hugely good fun and the illustrations and overall design of this highly original picture book provide much to talk about.

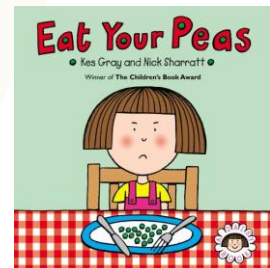


**Dominic Grows Sweetcorn** by Mandy Ross and Alison Bartlett  
*Frances Lincoln ISBN: 9781847803276*

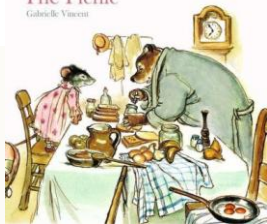
Dominic's grandfather has retired and now he has time to show his grandson how to grow sweetcorn, just like he did in his youth in Jamaica. As they nurture their crop, Grandad Wilford also tells how they grew and traded other food and why he and Grandma Dora migrated to England. Finally, Dominic and Wilford are able to exchange some of their sweetcorn-on-the-cob for their neighbour's tomatoes and the book ends with a recipe for sweetcorn fritters.

**Eat Your Peas** by Kes Gray & Nick Sharratt  
*Red Fox ISBN: 9781862308046*

Daisy's mother tries to persuade her faddy daughter to eat her peas with increasingly wild promises of tempting treats which are depicted rebus fashion. Daisy replies with a repeated refrain, her face looming larger and larger. After the breathless build-up, there is a great punch line.



Ernest & Celestine  
The Picnic  
Gabrielle Vincent

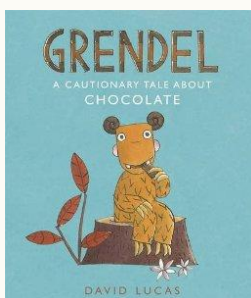
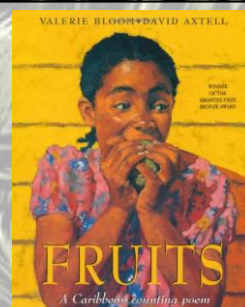


**Ernest and Celestine: The Picnic** by Gabrielle Vincent  
*Catnip ISBN: 9781846471674*

Mischievous mouse Celestine and her avuncular carer and companion, the bear Ernest, plan an all day picnic and stock up with plenty of food. Undaunted by the rain, they set out cheerfully and build a den to shelter so they can enjoy their meal. Accosted by the bear who owns the wood, they charm him with their optimism and willingness to share both food and friendship.

**Fruits** by Valerie Bloom and David Axtell  
*Macmillan ISBN: 9780333653128*

A wryly amusing Caribbean counting poem enumerated in Jamaican Creole. The warm vibrant pictures extend the story of the young narrator and her voracious appetite for the many delicious fruits that careless adults leave around for her to sample as well as share with her little sister.

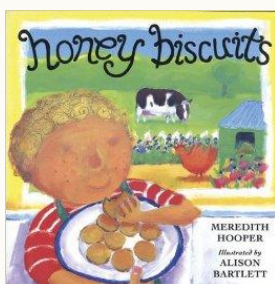
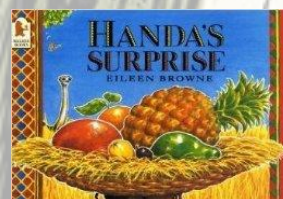


**Grendel: a Cautionary Tale about Chocolate** by David Lucas  
*Walker Books ISBN: 9781406339093*

Grendel is a little monster who adores chocolate. So when he is presented with the opportunity of making three wishes – guess what he does? In this new take on the King Midas story, a wish that everything he touches would turn to chocolate has the inevitable consequences.

**Handa's Surprise** by Eileen Browne  
*Walker Books ISBN: 9780744536348*

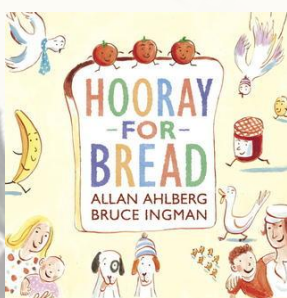
Handa sets off to visit her friend Akeyo with a wonderful array of fruit in a basket on her head. As she walks across the Kenyan plain a variety of animals steal the fruit without her knowing. However, there is a surprise in store for both girls at the journey's end.



**Honey Biscuits** by Meredith Hooper and Alison Bartlett  
*Frances Lincoln ISBN: 9781845070458*

*Honey Biscuits* tells the story of a child and his grandmother making biscuits together. Along the way they consider where all the ingredients have come from as well as describing the method they are using. The language and illustrations are so inviting that they encourage all children to join in. The recipe is given in a more conventional form at the end of the book.



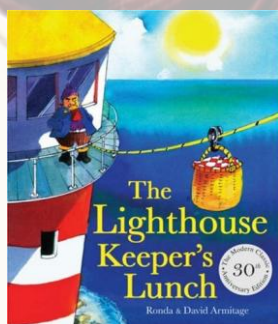
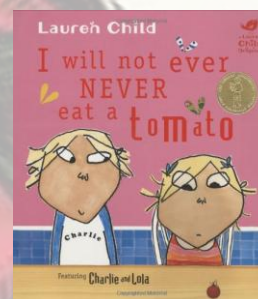


**Hooray for Bread** by Allan Ahlberg & Bruce Ingman  
Walker Books ISBN: 9781406337990

The life of a loaf of bread is described in celebratory style in rhyming verse. Each slice, depicted with a sunny smile, is consumed appreciatively by the baker's family and friends, not to mention dogs and ducks, until the last crumb ends up on the plate (yes, really!) of 'a teeny, tiny mouse'.

**I will not ever never eat a tomato** by Lauren Child  
Orchard ISBN: 9781846168864

Charlie's little sister Lola is a very fussy eater. She has a long list of foods she will not entertain passing her lips. However, Charlie thinks of an imaginative way to encourage her to try everything. Eventually, Lola eats even her pet hate, tomatoes, by choice. This book is the first of many about Charlie and Lola and won the Kate Greenaway Medal.

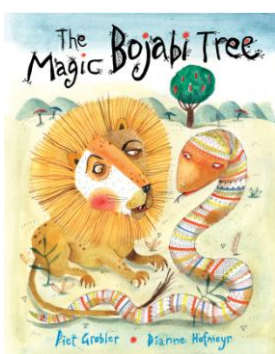
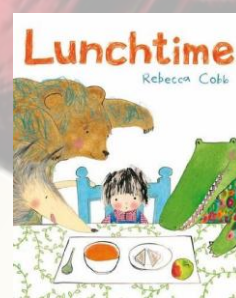


**The Lighthouse Keeper's Lunch** by Ronda and David Armitage  
Scholastic ISBN: 9781407103150

Every day Mr Grinling rows out to tend his lighthouse, and every day Mrs Grinling sends a delicious lunch in a basket along a wire from their cottage on the cliff. Then one day three scavenging seagulls spot the basket and Mrs Grinling has to hit on a plan to save the lighthouse keeper's lunch.

**Lunchtime** by Rebecca Cobb  
Macmillan ISBN: 9780230749535

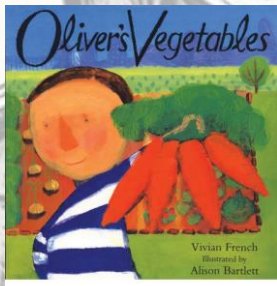
A little girl is much too preoccupied with other interesting activities to want to eat her lunch. Luckily the visiting crocodile, bear and wolf prefer what's on her plate to eating children! But during the afternoon, someone's tummy begins to rumble... A story simply and subtly told through an integration of words and well-designed pictures.



**The Magic Bojabi Tree** by Dianne Hofmeyr and Piet Grobler  
Frances Lincoln ISBN: 9781847802958

There is a drought on the plains of Africa and the animals are hungry. A tempting tree is covered in red, ripe fruit but it is closely guarded by a large python who will only uncoil to release it if they can remember its true name. Many try and fail until Tiny Tortoise enters the frame. Piet Grobler's distinctively drawn animals and stylishly patterned lettering for the various names suggested are incorporated into a beautifully designed book.





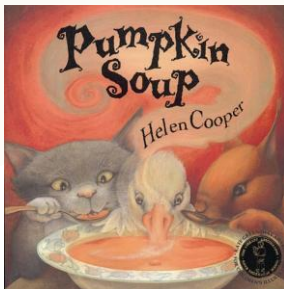
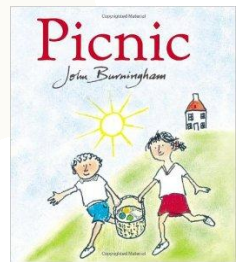
**Oliver's Vegetables** by Vivian French and Alison Bartlett  
Hodder ISBN: 9780340634790

Oliver goes to stay with his grandfather who grows his own vegetables. Oliver insists that he only eats chips, so his grandfather tells him to find the potatoes to make these. As Oliver searches for his favourite food he discovers what many other vegetables look like and how good they taste.

Also: *Oliver's Milkshake* 9780340754542 and *Oliver's Fruit Salad* 9780340704530

**Picnic** by John Burningham  
Jonathan Cape ISBN: 9780857550521

This book brings back memories of John Burningham's perennially popular *Mr Gumpy's Outing*. However, here the animal companions on the boy and girl's outing are a pig, a duck and a sheep in clothing and an I Spy game is interwoven with the story of their outdoor repast.

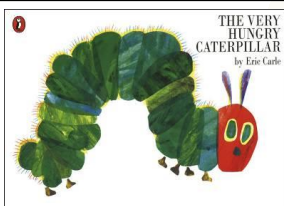


**Pumpkin Soup** by Helen Cooper  
Corgi ISBN: 9780552545105

A cat, a squirrel and a duck live together in an old white cabin deep in the woods. Each has his own job to do, including during the making of pumpkin soup. One day, Duck decides he wants to stir the soup instead of Squirrel. Following the resulting quarrel, Duck runs off and his friends search for him. All the while, their imaginations are running riot at what may have happened to him. The story is conveyed in exquisitely detailed pictures suffused with an Autumn glow. The three characters reappear in the sequels *A Pipkin of Pepper* 9780552546317 and *Delicious!* 9780552548748

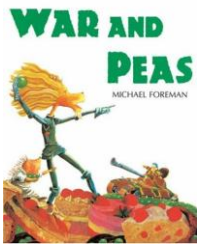
**The Tiger Who Came to Tea** by Judith Kerr  
HarperCollins ISBN: 9780007215997

If you let a Tiger into the house and invite him to stay for tea – as Sophie did – what is more natural than that he will eat you out of house and home and in addition drink all the water from the tap? With the inevitable consequence that when Dad comes home the whole family has to go out to a cafe to eat. The insouciance of this charming fantasy has ensured its popularity for 40 years.



**The Very Hungry Caterpillar** by Eric Carle  
Puffin ISBN: 9780140569322

In this picture book classic, an increasingly portly caterpillar chomps his way through an astonishing diet of fruit, cheese, cake, pie and other assorted food, his progress tracked for the reader by a series of holes. Eventually he builds a cocoon and emerges as a butterfly.

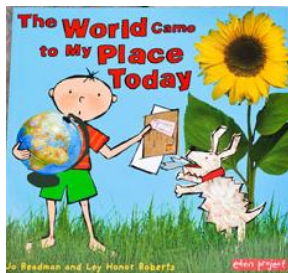


**War and Peas** by Michael Foreman  
*Andersen Press ISBN: 9781842700839*

The Fat King refuses to help the Lion King's starving country and sends his army to attack them. Instead, they find a novel way of fighting back, by making use of the food mountains which are mouth-wateringly depicted. A thought-provoking picture book.

**We're Going on a Picnic!** by Pat Hutchins  
*Red Fox ISBN: 9781782950226*

Hen, Duck and Goose decide to go for a picnic. Hen likes berries, Goose likes apples and Duck likes pears so they each put their favoured fruit in the basket. They search for a suitable spot, taking turns to carry the basket, but when they finally reach their destination, the food has mysteriously disappeared. As with Pat Hutchins' classic picture book *Rosie's Walk*, it's necessary to read the pictures for clues as to what is happening.



**The World Came to My Place Today** by Jo Readman and Ley Honor Roberts  
*Eden Project Books ISBN: 9781903919026*

When George and Flora stay at home with Grandpa, he explains to them how the food they eat and many household materials are made from plants all over the world. The illustrations mix collage and photographs with boldly outlined figures, and a map at each end of the book shows where everything comes from.

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