



Love to Read

Summer 2024 · Reading for Pleasure
Newsletter 4



Hello!



Welcome to our Summer edition of 'Love to Read', our reading for pleasure newsletter!

This edition is packed full of information and recommendations, ready for the summer holiday.

Summer reading is critical to a child's ability to not only retain information learned the previous year, but also to grow in knowledge and critical thinking skills for the coming year.

Just like exercising keeps muscles in shape, reading keeps the brain in shape. If you don't exercise, you lose muscle, and if you don't read, you will lose literacy skills.

Please encourage your child to read – 6 weeks is a long time! Why not try the library's reading challenge? It's free.

Mrs. Wellby

THE SUMMER READING CHALLENGE



Illustrations by Natelle Quek and logo artwork by Lizzie Everard. All © The Reading Agency 2024.

The children had a visit from the Findon Valley library, who talked about this year's Summer Reading Challenge.

This summer, children will be challenged to read books from the library and join a gang of friends who love coming up with fun creations, exploring ideas and telling stories together.

From junk modelling to music, dance to drawing and painting, this year's Challenge aims to fire up children's imaginations and unleash storytelling and creativity through the power of reading.

To register online each child will need their own personal library card.

Any children without their own library card need to [join online here](#) or visit a West Sussex library to join first, then they can register to take part in the challenge.

You can register now, but the challenge will not start in libraries until **Saturday 13 July**. **From this date you can start borrowing library books** and work your way through the challenge. You have until **Saturday 14 September** to complete the challenge.

Click here to take you directly to the Summer Challenge website:
<https://yourvoice.westsussex.gov.uk/summer-reading-challenge-2024>





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Who is Liz Pichon?

As a child, Liz loved comics, playing games, drawing and making things, music, basically all the things she now puts in the Tom Gates books.

She went to Brookfield Primary School in London, then to St Augustine's Secondary school in Kilburn. Liz spent two years at Kingsway Princeton in Kings Cross (which she LOVED!) then finally off to study graphic design at Camberwell School of Art.

One of the first jobs she had after college was working for Jive Records in Willesden. She designed album covers for bands and artists and organised lots of photo sessions. It's sounds fancy - but she worked in a portacabin and it wasn't glamorous at all!

She decided to go freelance and began putting her designs onto lots of different products, like T-shirts, stationery, towels and greeting cards. That was when publishers began to ask her to illustrate other people's books.

One of the first books Liz wrote and illustrated was called My Big Brother Boris, which won **The Smarties Silver prize** in 2004. It was THRILLING! It gave her the confidence to keep writing and illustrating.

Liz wrote the first **TOM GATES** book in a school exercise book and her agent Caroline sent copies around to different publishers. They got seven offers in two weeks to publish it. The first Tom Gates book was published in 2011 and won the **Road Dahl Funny Prize, The Red House Book Award Best Book for Young Readers and the Waterstone's Best Fiction for 5-12 year olds Prize.**



The fourth book in the series **TOM GATES: GENIUS IDEAS MOSTLY** won the **Blue Peter Award for Best Story**. In 2013, she was a World Book Day author with **TOM GATES: BEST BOOK DAY EVER (SO FAR)**. The series has been translated into 46 languages and sold over 16.5 million copies world wide. The Brilliant World Of Tom Gates is a TV series, which she co-writes with Ben Ward (from Horrible Histories) and the songs for the show with her husband Mark. He also wrote the theme tune for the TV series as well.

Her book **Shoe Wars** was her first stand alone novel. She was a proud owner of a Guinness World Record for 'LARGEST DISCO DANCE' along with Horsenden Primary School in 2017. Liz is married with three children and lives in Brighton.





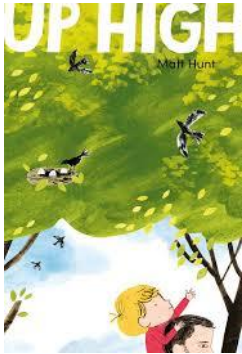
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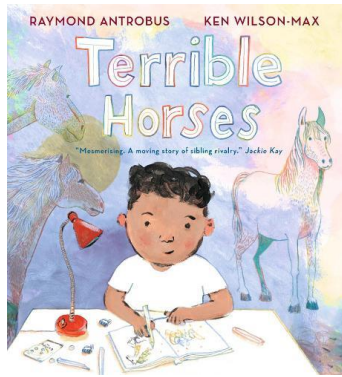


NEW RELEASES.....

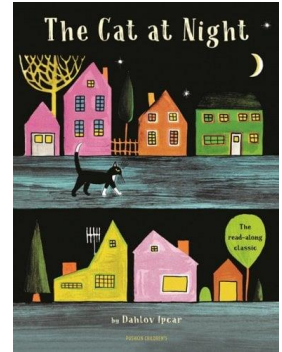
Suitable for children aged 3-7



A tender and funny celebration of the bond between father and son. Going up high on Dad's shoulders is the *best* way to feel BIG when everything makes you feel small. But maybe, just maybe, being down low is just as good as being up high . . .



An evocative picture book on brother-sister dynamics and how creativity and storytelling can help resolve conflict and enable better understanding.



The cat doesn't feel like sleeping. Night is the best time of all — the time when he likes to go exploring.

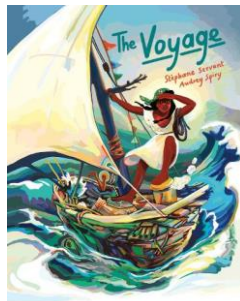
Join the farmer's cat on his mysterious night time journey through fields, farms, forest, and town to see what only he can see after the sun sets.

Suitable for children aged 7-9



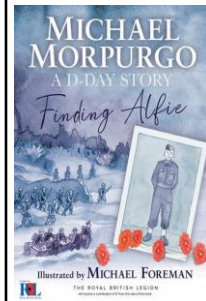
With his friends Sandy and Thorn, Kit navigates mazes, puzzles, and monsters in the compelling Dungeon Running League.

Larwood's fun-filled storytelling, paired with Todd-Stanton's vibrant illustrations, brings this action-packed friendship-themed adventure to life. It's an irresistible read for children in KS2.



Drawn to the horizon since she was small, the heroine of this story longs to discover what lies beyond it.

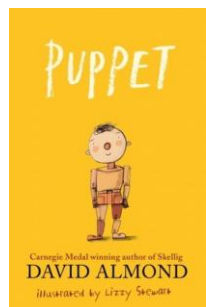
She builds herself a boat, with the help of her parents, who know they cannot keep her on the little island they call home.



Auntie Iris always treasured her small painting of a boat, painted by her close friend Alfie many years before. Her nephew, Michael, is inspired to try and find out what actually happened to Alfie in WWII.

He embarks on a journey that takes him across the Channel into France, learning a profound lesson along the way about service and the surprising power of memory.

Suitable for children aged 9-11

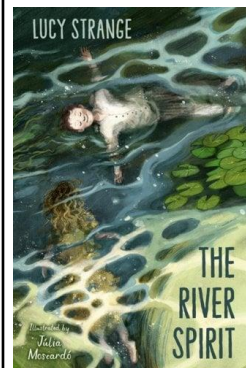


What should a puppet master do when he's old and alone, and all his puppets are gone? Sylvester makes one last puppet.

. But this one is different. When the old man speaks to him, Puppet speaks back. And then he walks...



This third and final title in the hilarious adventure series for boys and girls aged 8 to 12 fizzes with magic, danger, friendship and art.



Trapped within the oppressive warrens of the city's chimneys, young sweeper Tom longs for fresh air and freedom in this atmospheric and ghostly tale from Lucy Strange.



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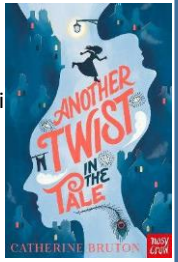


TEACHER PICKS !

As an avid reader, I find it very difficult to recommend single books. However, one of my reading passions is reading classic stories told with a twist: from other character's points views, with different outcomes, modern retellings or what happened next. To fully appreciate these books, it is better to have read the originals. Books that I have recently enjoyed in this vein have been *Dodger* by Terry Pratchett, and *Another Twisted Tale* by Catherine Bruton based on Charles Dickens' *Oliver Twist*. Reading the classics and then these books that are inspired by them are an excellent way for children to understand the power of a shared understanding and knowledge and the intertextuality between books. I find it really exciting when I suddenly consider a story or a character, I feel I know well is looked at in a different way. (With my teacher hat on, it has incredible impact on children's writing. There are also the Twist in the Tale books, which are based on Disney films such as Aladdin and Beauty and the Beast: these twist the premise of the films in the same way).



Whilst the books mentioned above are aimed at older children, there are many KS1 books that also twist classic stories such as *The Three Little Pigs: The True Story of The Three Little Pigs* by John Scieszka and *A Wolf's Tale* by Eva Montanari and *Nice Work, Little Wolf* which are all fun versions of this classic tale.

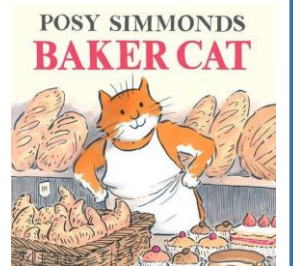


Go out and read a classic and then find the alternative tales to revel in and enjoy.

Written by Mrs Stoner

Baker Cat by Posy Simmonds

Baker Cat is purrfect for anyone who likes cat stories, picture books or graphic stories. It's the story of a miserable baker and his wife who are not very kind to their cat and make him do all the hard work in their bakery. They don't feed him much because they want him to catch the mice who live in the store room but the cat is too tired to catch the mice after working all day. Fortunately the mice feel sorry for him and make a plan to teach the baker and his wife a lesson. This book has funny pictures, a sing-along rhyme and surprises to the end.



Posy Simmonds is one of my favourite graphic artists, (I like her so much I named my daughter after her!) and this was a firm favourite with my children.

Written by Ms Lyle

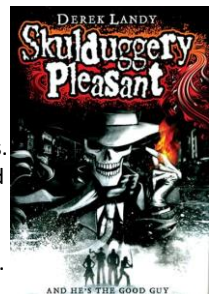
Skullduggery Pleasant - Derek Landy

Skullduggery Pleasant is a skeleton detective and the main protagonist in a long running series by the brilliant writer, Derek Landy. Skullduggery, his sidekick Stephanie and cast of strange magical characters fight evil and solve mysteries in Ireland, (and the odd parallel universe).

Derek Landy used to be a script writer - which is obvious in his witty dialogue and gripping, face paced adventures. There are some amazing characters: my favourites are Tanith Lowe - an ubercool, swordswoman with lots of good lines and Ghastly Bespoke, a tailor who makes incredible protective clothes for Stephanie.

Read this for a summer full of wisecracking one liners, roller coaster fight scenes and edge of your seat adventure.

Written by Ms Lyle





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What are YOU reading?

The Beast of Buckingham Palace

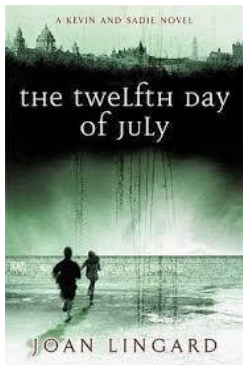
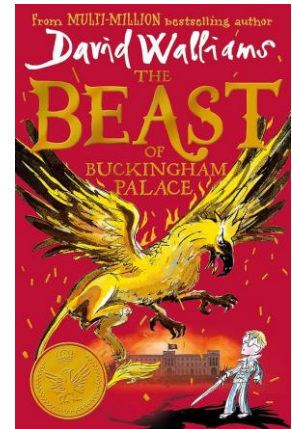
Written by David Walliams, illustrated by Tony Ross

Book Review by Finn (Rowan)

Imagine you're in London, one hundred years in the future. A young, sickly boy called Prince Alfred lives in Buckingham Palace. He has never been in the outside world before. At this time London is in ruins. He tried a few times to escape the palace, but once he got caught by a robot eye called the All Seeing Eye (that shoots lasers out of its pupil). Although he can barely leave his bedroom, it is up to him to save the world from the Beast of Buckingham Palace!

I loved this book so much that I read it in 24 hours*! It was full of twists and turns so I didn't know what was going to happen next and I couldn't stop reading. My favorite character was Prince Alfred because he was really brave even though he was very young. I would recommend this book to anyone who likes adventurous stories and if I had to give it a rating I'd give it a 10 out of 10 😊

*that equals one day.



The Twelfth Day of July by Joan Lingard

A Book Review by Ruby (Oak)

The Twelfth Day of July is a novel by Joan Lingard. It is set during the times of the 'Troubles' in Belfast, Northern Ireland. It tells the story of the conflict from the point of view of the teenagers from opposite sides of the street. Kevin, a Catholic and Sadie, a Protestant, are both involved in an escalating war of graffiti, house break-ins, fires and violence. The story is told from each side's point of view of the week before the protestant celebration of the Twelfth of July.

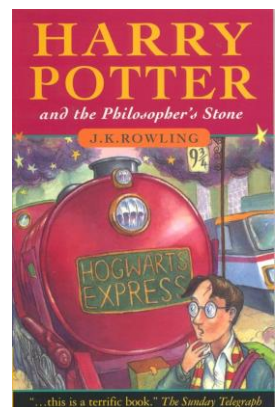
It was a short, gripping read that tells you a lot about recent history. I would recommend this to anyone who likes a little bit of history and action. I would give it a 5. 🍷😊

Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone by JK Rowling

A book review by Rose (Holly)

Harry Potter thinks that he is just a normal boy until he is rescued by Hagrid, a rather large friendly half-giant and half-human who is the gamekeeper, and Keeper of the Keys and Grounds of Hogwarts. Harry is taken to Hogwarts (school of witchcraft and wizardry), and learns to play Quidditch and battles a deadly duel. It comes to light that Harry is in fact a wizard!

I would rate this book 10/10 because it gave me a good description in my head about what it is about. I would recommend it to children aged 6 and over because there are a few tricky words in it. This is the first book in a series of books. I think they get better and better.



If you would like your book review published in 'Love to Read', please pass it to your class teacher.