

Reading Newsletter - Autumn 1

Welcome to our first newsletter of the year. We hope your children are enjoying being back in school after the Summer break, and have enjoyed all of the activities we've had going on this term so far.

This newsletter gives you an update on what has been happening across school this term in relation to reading. We've seen the launch of the new DEAR time readers, which were carefully selected after feedback from student and staff voice. Students are covering a wide range of PSHE topics through these readers, such as: refugees, bullying, identity, LGBTQ+ history and relationships, family relationships, systemic racism and police brutality. Feedback so far suggests students are enjoying these new texts, and would love more time spent reading them due to their engagement.

You will see we have launched our new Comic Book Club, which is hugely popular, and students are really enjoying the new graphic novel section we have in our library. We also have an opportunity for 10 students to get involved in the National Teen Book Club for Schools. Students get a free copy of the book to be read, along with many other fantastic opportunities.

We've had two fantastic competitions this term. The Halloween short story competition, and the National Poetry Day competition. Tons of students have entered these, and winners will be announced shortly.

It is amazing to be sorting out new collections of books for our KS4 learners, and also two new book trolleys for students working in Reflect/Aspire. At LHS we want to provide as many new books as possible for all interests and types of reader, so everyone has something they may find engaging. Please encourage your child to come and have a look at the hundreds of new books we have purchased.

We are also excited to have 2 theatre trips planned. Blood Brothers in February for Year 11, and A Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time for Year 8. Letters will soon come out about these, so you are able to secure a tickets for your child. It's great to be able to start offering these enriching experiences again for our students.

Thank you so much for all of your suggestions last term. We used your valuable feedback to invest more in the library, get in 3 guest speakers, and invest in magazine and newspaper subscriptions. We will send another survey out after half term, but feel free to get in contact with me if you have any suggestions in the meantime.

Have a lovely half-term break!
Mrs Emery



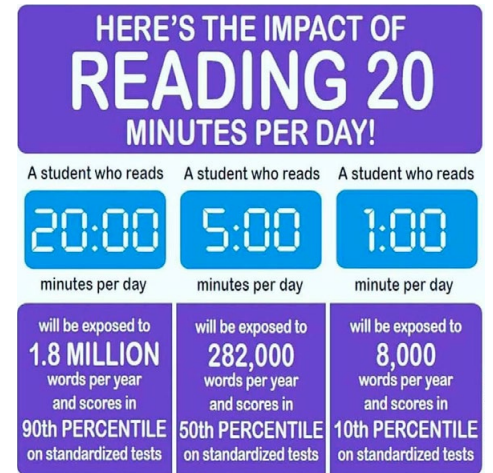
Below is the data for Sora access in Autumn 1.

September:

Books Accessed - 437

Checkouts - 237

Average time on Sora - 17:13 minutes



Top 10 books on Sora September-October





Due to the success of our Summer School, we were able to welcome back Performance Poet and Hip Hop star Karl Nova, as part of Year 8 enrichment day. Students watched him perform and took part in a Q and A session. Next they worked with Karl to produce their own raps, and over 30 students won signed copies of his book for their work.

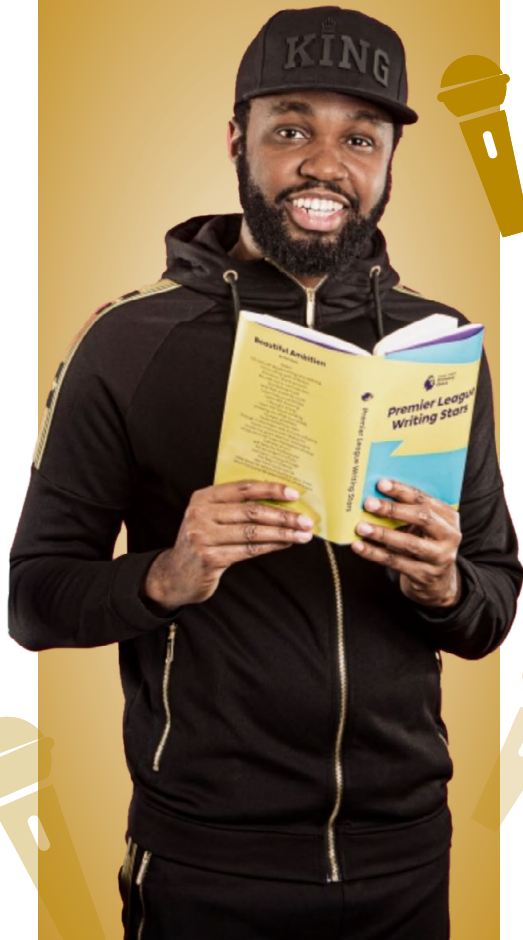
Students took part in a street dance workshop, learning a routine to Uptown Funk. They learned about the artist Banksy, then did some graffiti artwork in a similar style. Finally, they did a physical theatre workshop with Miss Wither, using one of Karl Nova's Poems.

The day was a great success and students were definitely enriched by it.



If you would like to purchase a copy of one of Karl's books, please go to his website:
www.karlnovaworld.com

KARL NOVA INTERVIEW



What is your favourite book of all time?

Ooh that's too hard, I'll say The Autobiography of Malcolm X.

What was your favourite book when you were a child/teenager?

The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe. I loved the idea that you could go through a wardrobe into another life. It's kind of a metaphor for life and what happens when I'm rapping and how it is an escape.

If you could play the part of a character from a book, who would it be, and from what book?

Sherlock Holmes, it would be so cool solving all of the cases and deducing things!

Do you prefer a physical book or an eBook?

Physical book forever! I tried the others and they definitely did not work for me, audiobooks are weird man.

Are you currently reading anything? (if so, what?)

Nothing at the moment - I've been writing and my brain is completely fried! So yeah I'm resting.

If you could meet two fictional characters from books, who would they be?

Sherlock Holmes - I want to know if you can really be that smart!

Aslan the lion from narnia - I'd love to find a talking lion, what is that all about?

Do you fold the corner or use a bookmark to keep your page?

I use whatever I can find as a bookmark usually but I have one that a student from Turkey made me so that bookmark is special.

Who/what inspired you to go into rapping?

My cousin who is now a professor in university.

Who is/was your idol growing up?

Again my cousin, he was the smartest person I knew.

Do you have any advice for aspiring rappers and writers?

Read as much as you can. It will always help you and gives you a boost with knowing more vocabulary and other things.

Finally, is there any advice you would give to your 14-year-old self?

Don't worry so much, things will work out.

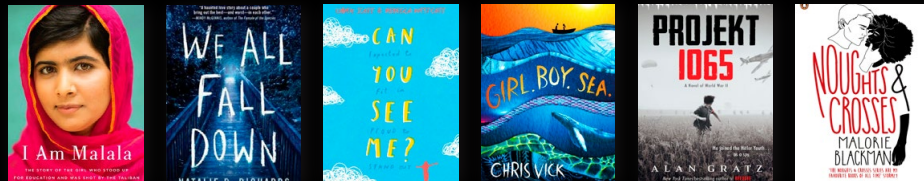
"READ AS MUCH AS YOU CAN. IT WILL ALWAYS HELP YOU"

BOOKFLIX

NEW RELEASES



TOP PICKS FOR KEY STAGE 3



TOP PICKS FOR KEY STAGE 4



THE OUTRAGE

In the world of The Outrage, welcome to England, where the Protectorate enforces the Public Good. Here, there are rules for everything but Gabriel is a natural born rule-breaker. And his biggest crime of all? Being gay.

Gabriel knows his sexuality must be kept secret from everyone - not only to protect himself but because his boyfriend is the son of the chief inspector at Degenerate Investigations - the man who poses the single biggest threat to Gabriel's life.

And the Protectorate are experts at exposing secrets.

I really enjoyed this book, because the story wasn't just romance, it was packed with action and adventure, so was a real page turner. Also, the characters felt very human and teenage, so were relateable, and I could understand why they were doing what they were doing. Additionally, the winding tale of two teenagers in love, who were crossing the line of what was supposedly wrong but was natural to them was presented extremely well and you could really feel for the characters because you were forced to imagine being in that situation in a world that hates you as a person. It really gave an insight into how, even in real life, people part of the LGBTQ+ community are discriminated against and how it feels to be in that position.



The Fastest Boy in the World

This book by Elizabeth Laird is mostly set in a big city called Addis Abba. Solomon is a twelve-year-old boy who always dreamed of being a runner for Ethiopia. So, when his grandfather sprung exciting news on him that he was going to the big city where the current runners would be visiting, he couldn't believe his ears.

Solomon told the whole town - it was a rather small town, where everybody knew each other. The next day, him and his grandfather set off to the city by foot.

Solomon's grandfather is quite old, this foreshadows what could happen later in the book. Solomon is eager to arrive in the city, and therefore didn't notice that his grandfather was struggling. Solomon's grandfather was quite dismissive as a character and didn't show much indication of emotion. This fact progresses as the novel continues.

They safely arrive in Addis Abba where Solomon is lost for words, what he didn't realise, was that his grandfather was about to be knocked over by a huge truck.

This part of the novel shows Solomon's naivety, this shows that the author has done a good job of portraying his characteristics.

Solomon pushes him out of the road and his grandfather's response is "Get off me boy."

This quote shows that Solomon's grandfather is a strict, stern character.

Soon after, Solomon's grandfather faints and people from the city gather.

He finds shelter at his cousin's house and him and Solomon sleep there.

What the reader and Solomon don't know is that the next day, they were going to head to a man called Ato Alemu's house, where Solomon's grandfather reveals that he used to be one of the fastest runners in all of Ethiopia. Although Solomon's grandfather wasn't saying this directly to him, Solomon was in the room when he was talking about this to his former running partner Ato Alemu.

This surprises Solomon, and the reader too, because they have now learnt and made an inference that Solomon's grandfather didn't open up to anyone.

One of the reasons this is a good book is because the readers follow from Solomon's perspective. If Solomon knows something, so does the reader, if he doesn't, so does the reader.

But before this occurs, Solomon meets the Ethiopian runners. Thousands of people are packed in the streets to see them, and he was one of them.

This part of the novel is foreshadowing that Solomon may achieve his dream as an adult.

A debacle of things happen after this, which is why you should read this novel.

This book is probably aimed at 11- to 14-year-olds; a book for KS3.

Conclusively, this book is thrilling, quirky, and certainly something new.
Sian Walker 8A

ARGH KID

Wordsmith Sensation David Scott has toured the country, played to sold out crowds and dazzled millions with his lyrical prowess. He is now the official poet for the NSPCC, UEFA and Manchester United and is also a poet on a mission to make the artform accessible to the masses. Using his own experiences as a template he facilitates workshops across the country, creating a sense of what is possible to young people when you pick up a pen.

To celebrate National Poetry Day, we invited in street poet David Scott, aka Argh Kid to work with our KS4 students. Known as the 'Acapella Eminem' Scott is the official poet for the NSPCC, Manchester United and UEFA. He also hosts a regular BBC Manchester radio station, acts and plays in a band which tours across the globe. Scott is a regular on ITV, BBC and BT Sport's channels, and his work has been translated into many different languages.

Years 9-11 were treated to a performance, and talk with him, where they found out about his route into poetry, and his life story. Students were highly engaged, with 92% reporting they enjoyed his performance, and 83% saying they'd love to have a performance poet in again.

After learning how David Scott produces a poem, students then got the opportunity to write their own poems around this year's National Poetry Day theme of 'Choice.' These are now entered into a school competition, with winners being announced on the last day of term.



THEATRE TRIPS

We are excited to be able to return to the theatre with our students.
We have 2 school trips currently arranged.

Blood Brothers

All Year 11 students.

Wednesday 18th February- 7:30pm.

Students study this play as part of their English Literature GCSE. Watching the show will be an excellent form of revision of the key themes, plot and characters. Blood Brothers is one of the most popular musical tours, and we are sure students will love it.

A Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time

All year 8 students with a good/excellent attitude to learning.

Tuesday 8th March- 7:30pm.

In their reading lessons, Year 8 students will be reading the play version of A Curious Incident. It is a fantastic presentation of the use of physical theatre, and watching it heightens student awareness of Christopher's world. We love to take as many students as possible to experience the play in a live theatre setting.

Tickets for the theatre are £23.00 each, which includes transport to and from the theatre. Letters will be sent out this week. Payment is due by 15th December, and can be paid via ParentPay this week.
If we do not sell out tickets for these shows with the year groups selected, we will open sales to other year groups.

THE CURIOUS INCIDENT

OF THE DOG IN THE NIGHT-TIME

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time follows the story of Christopher Boone, a 15 year old, who is exceptional at Maths but finds people confusing. The play opens with Christopher discovering a dead dog in his neighbour, Mrs Shears', garden. Despite his father, Ed, warning Christopher not to get involved, Christopher decides to investigate the death of the dog. In doing so he discovers that his mother is not dead as his father had told him, but alive and well, living in London. Christopher feels that he can't trust his father anymore, so travels to London to find his mother. Christopher has difficulty settling into his new life in London and returns to Swindon to take his A-level Maths exam. As he passes his exam, the play ends with the realisation that he can do anything he sets his mind to.



BLOOD Brothers

Blood Brothers, a musical by Liverpoolian playwright Willy Russell, set in the 1960s, revolves around twin boys (Mickey and Edward) who are separated at birth and brought up in completely different environments in the city. Mickey is brought up with his seven older siblings by his struggling single mother, Mrs Johnstone. His twin brother, Edward, however is brought up as the only child of the wealthy Lyons family, who live nearby, after Mrs Lyons persuaded Mrs Johnstone to hand over one of her twins at birth. Mickey and Edward don't meet each other until they're seven years old, but immediately become best friends and blood brothers. However, as they get older, the huge difference in their backgrounds pulls them apart and eventually leads to their tragic deaths.



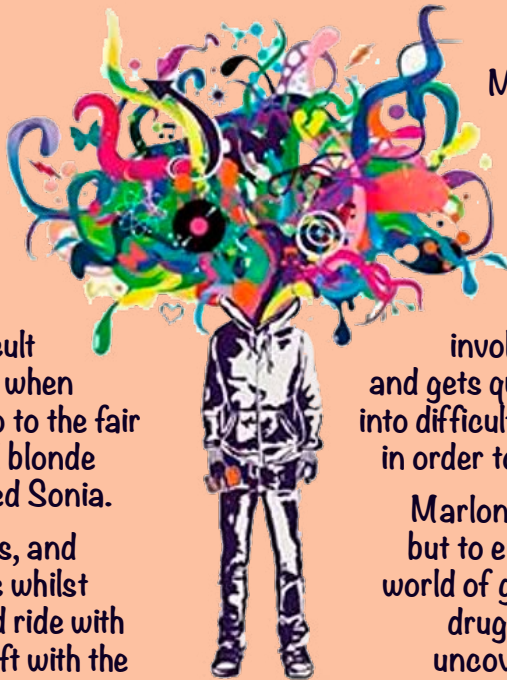
ORANGEBOY

“Gritty coming-of-age drama urban thriller with a powerful message and an irresistible central character.”

Orangeboy focuses on the central character Marlon, a good student who finds himself in difficult circumstances when he agrees to go to the fair with a beautiful blonde haired girl called Sonia.

Both take drugs, and then Sonia dies whilst on a fairground ride with him. Marlon, left with the remainder of the drugs is immediately arrested, and suspected of supplying and causing the death of his date.

His story focuses on how easy it is to become entrapped in gang life, despite not wanting to be; the risks young people take and the dangers of doing so, and how quickly your life can change.



Marlon struggles with the prejudice he faces from the police due to his brother Andre's prior involvement in crime, and gets quickly entangled into difficult circumstances, in order to clear his name.

Marlon has little choice but to enter Andre's old world of guns, knives and drug runs in order to uncover the truth and protect those close to him. Marlon is stubborn in nature, and his unwillingness to accept help and involve the authorities makes for a tense read at times.

I think this opening would hook in reluctant readers, due to the themes and the content. Suitable for KS4 readers, it's available now in our school library.

Reading rewards!

Bronze Award

- Read a book and write a 300 word review
- Listen to an audiobook and write a review
- Book an appointment slot with Mrs Emery to verbally review your book
- 20 Hours on Sora

Silver Award

- Read 5 books, and write 5 reviews
- Listen to 5 audiobooks and write 5 reviews
- Book an appointment with Mrs Emery to verbally review your books.
- Read one of the challenge books set by the Literacy Leaders and review it.
- 50 hours on Sora
- Create a collage in our library scrapbook.
- Interview a staff member about reading for our reading newsletter.

Gold Award

- Read 10 books, and write 10 reviews
- Listen to 10 audiobooks and write 10 reviews
- Book an appointment with Mrs Emery to verbally review your books.
- Read one of the challenge books set by the Literacy Leaders and review it.
- 150 hours on Sora
- Create A Vlog/Podcast on a book of your choice.



Are you a reluctant reader, weak reader, or dyslexic?

Do you find yourself staring at the pages of an open book just to appear like you're reading?



Do you find yourself reading the same sentence over and over again but you still don't know what you have read?



Do you find reading challenging?



Do you find reading stressful?



Do the words blur?

...of rate of reading. ... (1987) ... results of ... 23 ... high school ... and a ... control group. Significant ... for the experimental group was ... needed to locate words on a ... page, ... reading scores, length of

Answered YES to any of these? Keep reading!



There are many alternative ways to access reading. In this section of the Newsletter we'll explore some of these to help you get on track with your reading journey.



Try an audio book. You could even listen to the book whilst following along with the text.



Copy texts in to Immersive Reader to listen to via Word Online in your emails.



Download the Speechify app.



You can scan text and it will read tricky words or passages for you.

Dyslexic font available on Sora



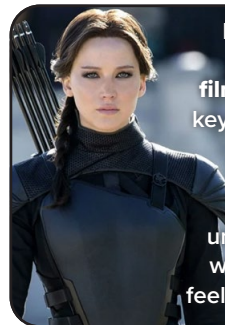
Explore Sora and switch your settings to a dyslexia friendly font.

If you find that the text is regularly blurring it may be that you need an eye test or would benefit from trialling a colour overlay.



Turn on English subtitles, this increases your exposure to vocabulary and you'll be reading without realising.

For some readers experiencing the film first can be the key to accessing the book. It can help to prepare and provide prior understanding that will make the book feel less challenging.



Sometimes, it's ok to have a break.



Take the lead and read to/with a younger sibling. This helps you to slow down your reading and work on the basics whilst also supporting your sibling.



Barrington Stoke offer books that are appropriate to the age of the reader but they are edited to suit lower reading ages. Libraries can be a daunting place especially when you feel unable to access many of the books, both Sora and our school library have a range of Barrington Stoke books.

Barrington Stoke cracking reading

Vary your reading and expose yourself to as many different texts types as possible. Try magazines, reviews, news articles, blogs such as Teen Vogue, fiction books, interviews, non-fiction books, poetry, jokes etc.



National Teen Book Club



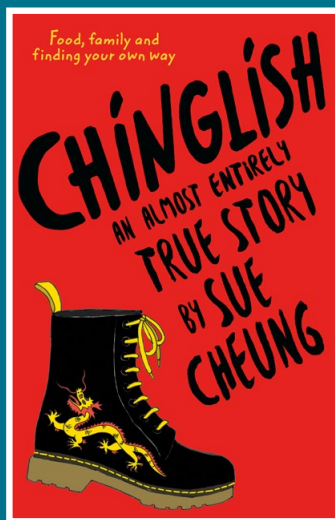
What do students get?

- A free copy of the book Chinglish
- 5 sessions with professional speakers
- Writing workshops
- Hot chocolate and a mug
- Certificate for completion
- Can go towards the DofE Award skills section.
- Silver reading award (if you complete the book, write a review and do the writing element)
- 25 achievement points

This November will see The National Teen Book Club launch for the second time, and we hope to see many students from years 7-9 involved in this amazing opportunity which involves reading, writing and access to industry expertise.

A first of a kind programme, bringing together thousands of 14 to 19-year-olds, from hundreds of state schools and colleges, across every corner of the UK, to a shared, virtual book club. Over five weeks, young people and school facilitators will connect in the cloud from home, or project in a space on school campus, for our weekly event every Wednesday, 3.30pm to 4.30pm.

Students in Years 7-9 who are interested in signing up should see Mrs Emery to put their names down and order their books.



Starts Wednesday 8th November, in the LRC, 3:00-4:30PM
 3:00-3:30PM : Biscuits, hot chocolate and reading
 3:30-4:30 : Workshops, virtual.



Readathon Read for Good

Year 7 students will be participating in a sponsored read, in conjunction with the charity Read for Good.

This charity is responsible for ensuring books are available for children in local hospitals. Due to the pandemic, and for contamination reasons, children in hospitals are limited as to what they can have in. This charity provide all children with a brand new book of their choice to keep. In addition to this, for younger patients, they provide storytellers, who read books to them in their hospital beds.

The money we raise in this sponsored read, will go towards buying new books for children currently in Royal Manchester Children's Hospital. This hospital is one of the busiest in the country, and over 10,000 books have been delivered here since the charity launched.

Not only does getting involved in this Readathon give students the opportunity to help those in need, it also helps to encourage a love of reading. Students set their own challenges, be that minutes to read per day, or a set amount of books in the time given. The Readathon begins on 18th October, and finishes on the first week back. Students can be encouraged to read at home, during breaks and in school time as well.

We also strongly encourage students to continue the challenge over the holiday period.

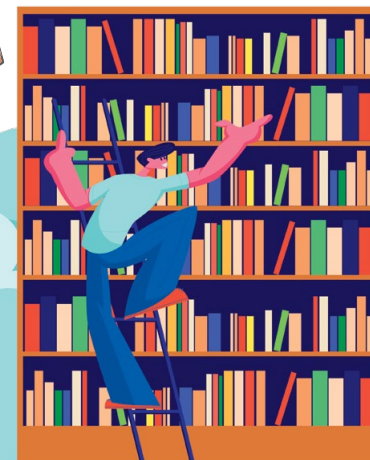
Sponsors should be written on the cards which will have been brought home this week, and sponsors should pay their donations online. Cards should be handed in to tutors when they return after the October break.

Excitingly, our school will also receive 20% of the donations to add to the collection of books in our school library. We will be awarding the tutor group with the most sponsors achievement points and a special prize.

If you would like any further information about this event, please email Mrs Emery on:

d.emery@lhs.aspireplus.org.uk

or visit the charity's webpage on readforgood.org



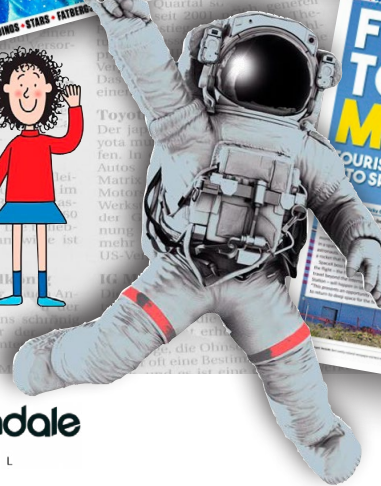


New MAGAZINE SUBSCRIPTIONS

Check them out today!



Available to read every break and lunch in the LRC!



CHRIS HEWITT

AUTHOR

VISIT



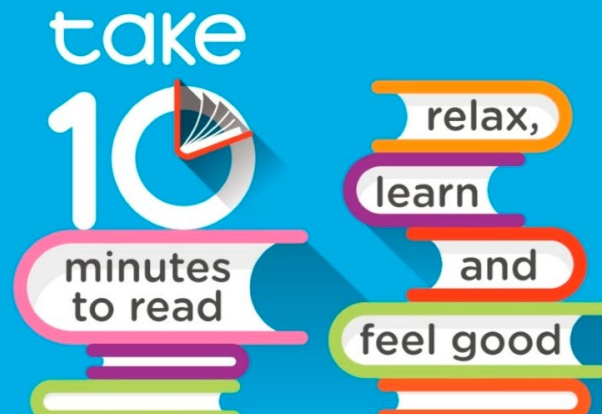
His humorous stories and tales of his blog page that went viral captured our young readers' attention and left them wanting to know more.

Thirteen students were thrilled to meet Chris Hewitt on Wednesday 29th September. Chris is a local children/young adult author who has been writing for over 20 years. Chris' latest book 'blue light', sci-fi time travel mystery for young adults has really inspired our students to get creative and write.

All students who attended the meet and greet will receive a signed copy of one of Chris' books.



World Mental Health Day



The Take 10 to Read event took place on World Mental Health Day Friday 8th October. Students were given 10 minutes in each of their lessons, to take time to shut off their minds and escape into their books. Students across school participated in this event, in a wide range of different lessons.



Reading for just 10 minutes a day can help young people to...

Improve their wellbeing

Boost their mood

Connect with their emotions

Feel more confident



literacytrust.org.uk/take10

INTERNMENT

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR

SAMIRA AHMED

I highly recommend this book, which I found difficult to put down. This has definitely been inspired by Donald Trump's 'Make America Great Again' rhetoric, and it looks at racial hatred and Islamophobia. It is shocking and frighteningly relevant.

Set in a dystopian near-future in America, in which a seventeen-year-old girl has to try and fight for revolution.

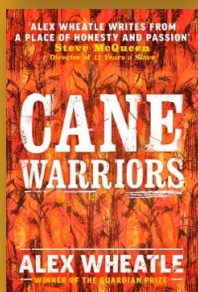
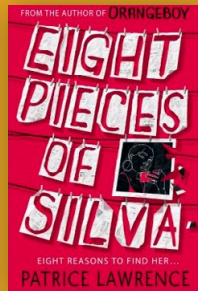
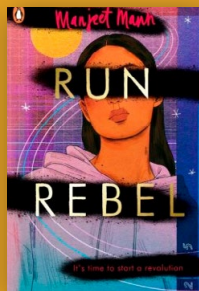
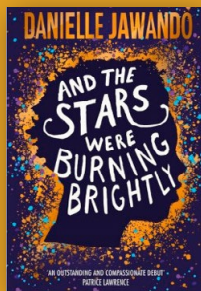
Layla and her parents have been sent to the first internment camp for Muslim Americans, ripped away from their home and lives.

This book teaches you about the Japanese internment camps in America, and looks at how easily life can change depending upon who is in power, and what race you are.



The Young Adult shortlist
has now been announced for
THE DIVERSE BOOK AWARDS

These awards shine a spotlight on diverse and inclusive books in the UK.
The winners will be announced on October 21st 2021.
We have all of these books in our school library.



“There is a wealth of great talent out there but many of them face real barriers to getting their work seen and published. The Diverse Book Awards will remove those barriers”



CANE WARRIORS

Nobody free till everybody free. Moa is fourteen. The only life he has ever known is toiling on the Frontier sugar cane plantation for endless hot days, fearing the vicious whips of the overseers. Then one night he learns of an uprising, led by the charismatic Tacky. Moa is to be a cane warrior, and fight for the freedom of all the enslaved people in the nearby plantations. But before they can escape, Moa and his friend Keverton must face their first great task: to kill their overseer, Misser Donaldson. Time is ticking, and the day of the uprising approaches . . .

I read this book over 5 weeks, whilst I was taking part in the National Teen Book Club.

Based on a true story, you can really feel the emotion and dilemmas that Moa faces while he is fighting to escape but struggles with the task of harming those in charge of the plantation. This book is very cleverly written, with a lots of things that went on at the plantation just implied, to really help the reader understand how the slaves were kept in the dark. It is written in Jamaican dialect so was quite hard to get into at first but after I got used to it, the book was truly gripping and with so much action, I always wondered what was going to happen next. I would recommend this book for key stage four as some of the themes wouldn't be appropriate for younger age groups.

