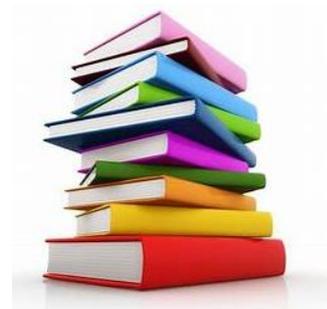




Reading Matters

'You are never alone when lost in the magic of a book.' Marie Lu



Welcome to our reading newsletter. Reading is a key focus in our school for pupils and staff. We want to share why it is so important to read, provide ideas about how to encourage pupils to read and also recommend books they may enjoy. Reading, after lockdown, is more important than ever. It is proven to be the quickest way to catch up on lost learning!

Why is reading so important? Why is it a school focus?

Your Brain on Books

What science tells us about why you should get lost in a great story

Reading by the Numbers

- Increases knowledge and vocabulary by **50%**
- Lowers stress by **68%**
- Can lengthen your life by **2 years**

Books Can:

- Boost your mood**
Studies show that people who read for fun are more likely to feel happy and confident.
- Help you relax**
Your heartbeat slows. Your muscles melt. One minute you're reading in bed, and the next you're *zzZZzzzzZZzzzz*.
- Bring people together**
Whether you're starting a book club or bonding over Wimpy Kid with a friend, you'll be part of a reading community.

Reading is a workout for your . . .



Memory
Reading exercises the brain, improving your memory. (Maybe you'll stop forgetting your lunch at home!)



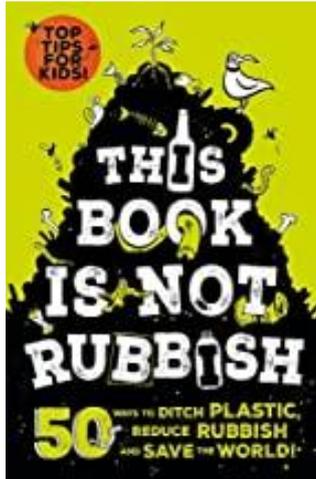
Imagination
Books help you see vivid pictures in your mind. So you feel like you're actually at Hogwarts, riding a Nimbus 2000.



Heart
Research shows that reading about a character's thoughts and feelings can make you kinder.

Subject Specific Reading

Read around GEOGRAPHY



'This Book Is Not Rubbish – 50 ways to ditch plastic, reduce rubbish and save the world!' by Isabel Thomas

Discover how YOU can ditch plastic, reduce rubbish and become an eco-warrior, not an

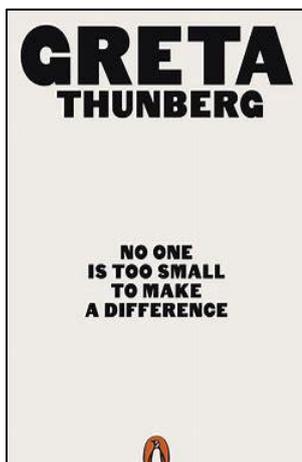
eco-worrier, with 50 practical tips to really make a difference!

Our planet is in peril and it needs your help! But the good news is that there are loads of easy ways that you can make a difference. From throwing a planet party and ditching straws, to banning glitter and becoming an art-activist, helping to save the planet is not as difficult as you think.

Covering issues like plastics, pollution, global warming and endangered animals, this book is full of top tips for kids and families. Discover how to ditch the plastic, reduce your rubbish and start making everyday steps that will make all the difference.

It's time to take control of your future and help clear the world of all this rubbish!

KEY STAGE 3+

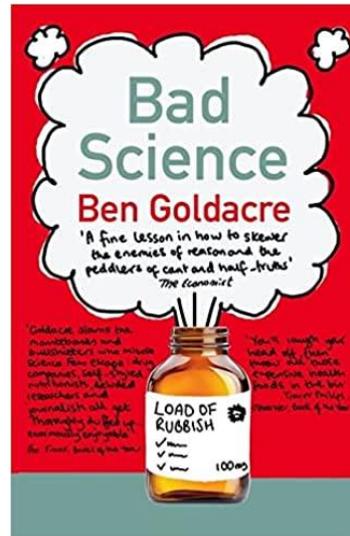


'No One is Too Small to Make a Difference' by Greta Thunberg

The history-making, ground-breaking speeches of Greta Thunberg, the young activist who has become the voice of a generation

'Everything needs to change. And it has to start today'

Read around SCIENCE



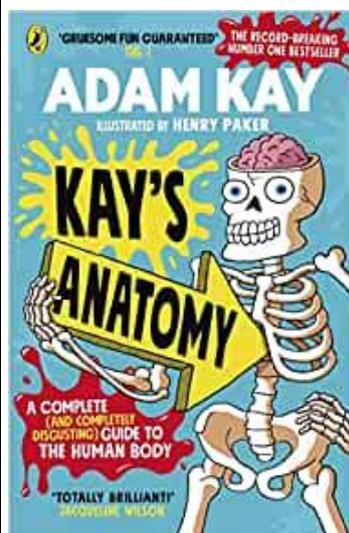
'Bad Science' by Ben Goldacre

Ben Goldacre's wise and witty bestseller, shortlisted for the Samuel Johnson Prize, lifts the lid on quack doctors, flaky statistics, scaremongering journalists and evil pharmaceutical corporations.

Since 2003 Dr Ben Goldacre has been exposing dodgy medical data in his popular *Guardian* column. In this eye-opening book he takes on the MMR hoax and misleading cosmetics ads, acupuncture and homeopathy, vitamins and mankind's vexed relationship with all manner of 'toxins'. Along the way, the self-confessed 'Johnny Ball cum Witchfinder General' performs a successful detox on a Barbie doll, sees his dead cat become a certified nutritionist and probes the supposed medical qualifications of 'Dr' Gillian McKeith.

Full spleen and satire, Ben Goldacre takes us on a hilarious, invigorating and ultimately alarming journey through the bad science we are fed daily by hacks and quacks.

KEY STAGE 4+



'Kay's Anatomy' by Adam Kay

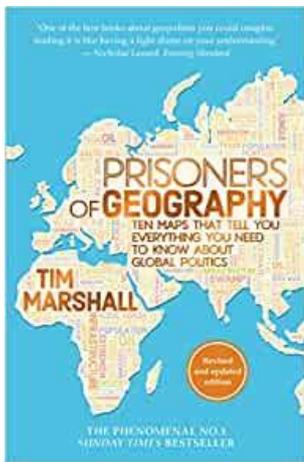
Do you ever think about your body and how it all works? Like really properly think about it? The human body is extraordinary and fascinating and, well . . . pretty weird. Yours is weird, mine is weird, and your maths teacher's is even weirder.

This book is going to tell you what's actually going on in there, and answer the really important questions, like:

In August 2018 a fifteen-year-old Swedish girl, Greta Thunberg, decided not to go to school one day. Her actions ended up sparking a global movement for action against the climate crisis, inspiring millions of pupils to go on strike for our planet, forcing governments to listen, and earning her a Nobel Peace Prize nomination.

This book brings you Greta in her own words, for the first time. Collecting her speeches that have made history across Europe, from the UN to mass street protests, *No One Is Too Small to Make A Difference* is a rallying cry for why we must all wake up and fight to protect the living planet, no matter how powerless we feel. Our future depends upon it.

KEY STAGE 3+



'Prisoners of Geography' by Tim Marshall

DISCOVER THE TEN MAPS THAT REVEAL THE FUTURE OF OUR WORLD IN THE POWER OF GEOGRAPHY

Geography shapes not only our history, but

where we're headed...

All leaders are constrained by geography. Their choices are limited by mountains, rivers, seas and concrete. Yes, to follow world events you need to understand people, ideas and movements - but if you don't know geography, you'll never have the full picture.

If you've ever wondered why Putin is so obsessed with Crimea, why the USA was destined to become a global superpower, or why China's power base continues to expand ever outwards, the answers are all here.

In ten chapters and ten maps, *Prisoners of Geography* looks at the past, present and future to offer an essential insight into one of the major factors that determines world history.

It's time to put the 'geo' back into geopolitics

KEY STAGE 4+

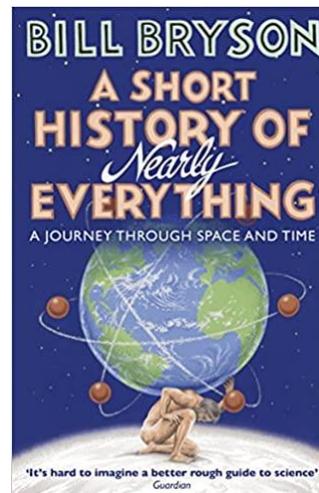
Are bogeys safe to eat? Look, if your nose is going to all that effort of creating a snack, the least we can do is check out its nutritional value. (Yes, they're safe!)

And how much of your life will you spend on the toilet? About a year - so bring a good book. (I recommend this one.)

So sit back, relax, put on some rubber gloves, and let a doctor take you on a poo (and puke) filled tour of your insides. Welcome to Kay's Anatomy*.

*a fancy word for your body. See, you're learning already.

KEY STAGE 2 and 3

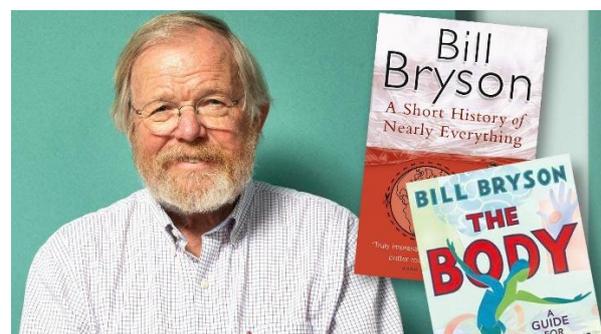


'A Short History of Nearly Everything' by Bill Bryson

Bill Bryson describes himself as a reluctant traveller, but even when he stays safely at home he can't contain his curiosity about the world around him. *A Short History of Nearly Everything* is his quest

to understand everything that has happened from the Big Bang to the rise of civilization - how we got from there, being nothing at all, to here, being us.

Bill Bryson's challenge is to take subjects that normally bore the pants off most of us, like geology, chemistry and particle physics, and see if there isn't some way to render them comprehensible to people who have never thought they could be interested in science. As a result, *A Short History of Nearly Everything* reveals the world in a way most of us have never seen it before.



KEY STAGE 3 and 4

LIBRARY INFORMATION

Our Lady & St Bede have invested in an exciting new library for pupils and staff. The space has been decorated with new, funky furniture, including bean bags, stools, comfy chairs and lots of workspace. The space outside of the library has new 'wall wrapping', which looks like a giant bookshelf full of the books we read in school.



What can the library offer?

- Fiction and non-fiction books
- Computer suite with 12 computers available to use for book quizzes, homework or research skills
- Board games and puzzles
- Printing, photocopying and laminating facilities.
- Subject specific reading (please discuss with Mrs Franks)



When will the library be open for use?

The library will be open from 8am, breaks, lunch time and afterschool. As the library is already proving to be so popular there will be limited spaces at break and lunch – pupils will have to get a ticket from Mrs Franks (before line-up) to reserve their place and/or to reserve a computer.

Various subjects throughout the school will also be able to book the library for library-based lessons and we are excited to be able hold lots of specific literacy events too.

Do pupils have a library card?

No, pupils simply have to give their name and book codes to Mrs Franks when taking out books.

How many books can they take?

Pupils can take out up to 2 books for 2 weeks. If they require the books for longer, they will have to see Mrs Franks to renew them. There is a fine system and pupils will be fined 1p per day for overdue books.



LOCAL ARTIST DONATES WORK

Our Lady & St Bede are extremely grateful to local, talented artist Olivia Seale for creating the library bookshelf panels. Each one is individual and unique and has taken hours of work. Olivia has kindly given her time and energy to making the library a truly special place for our pupils.

Donate Books –HELP!



Do you have any unwanted, good quality books, suitable for teenagers and young adults? We would appreciate any donations.

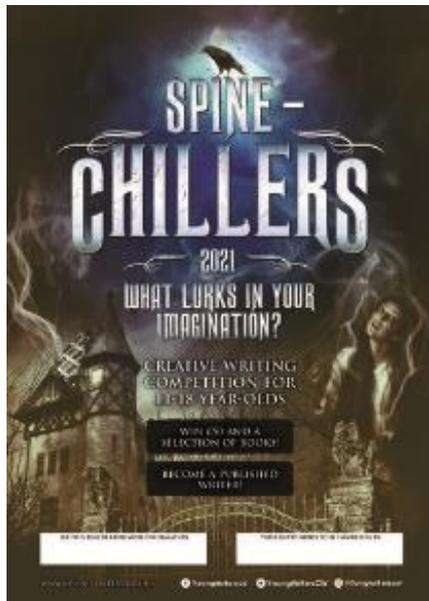


Reading Books Are Compulsory Equipment

If you do not have access to books at home, please see your English teacher or Mrs Franks, the School Librarian. The school library has lots of new books we would love you to read.

Spine Chillers – Read a published mini-saga!

There's nothing better than reading a thrilling story, one that grips you so tightly and puts your senses on alert simply through the power of words.



As mentioned in the last issue of *Reading Matters*, eleven Year 10 pupils had their creative writing selected from thousands of entries to be published in a *Spine Chillers 2021 – When the Lights Go Out, an anthology by Young Writers*.

The aim was to write a 100-word mini saga with the theme 'Spine-Chillers'. Each of the eleven pupils selected received a certificate, a bookmark, and a letter to go home to their parents celebrating their original writing.

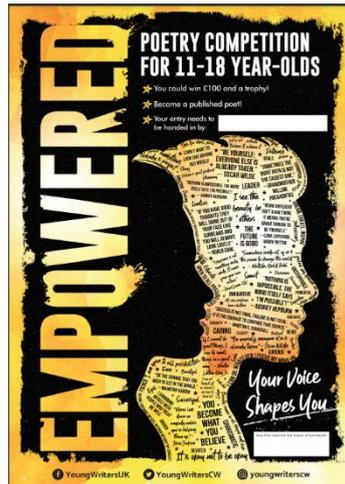
Spine-Chillers was a fantastic way to get our students writing in this way by using tension, suspense and atmosphere. Students created their own original mini saga, a story told in just 100 words, and became published writers! We hope you enjoy reading another example (see below) from Evie, who is now in Year 10.

FOLLOWED THROUGH THE ICE

My surroundings were unfamiliar. Nothing I saw was recognisable. The blanket of snow coating everything was no help, but even without, nothing. The beautiful, white, crisp snow seemed to be killing me, its icy coils creeping up my body and squeezing every last bit of soul out of me. Every step felt like it was being watched. I was alone and isolated with only the occasional crow swooping past for company. A noise. Just a snap of twigs, but still a noise. Fear-filled, I could no longer feel the freeze of the deadly snow, just adrenaline. My thought: Run!

Evie (14)
Our Lady & St Bede Catholic Academy

'Empowered' Poetry Competition



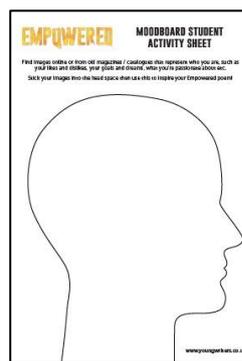
The Young Writers competition invited pupils to write a poem for **Empowered**, and take back some control over their lives. **Empowered** helps pupils find and use their voices to express themselves through poetry.

After the success of the Spine Chillers competition by Young Writers, the English Department are entering the new poetry competition, '**Empowered**' for 11-18 year olds.

The last 18 months have been hard, particularly for students with school

closures, isolation and general disruption to their education.

The Young Writers competition invited pupils to write a poem for **Empowered**, and take back some control over their lives. **Empowered** helps pupils find and use their voices to express themselves through poetry.



Being able to voice a concern, an opinion or a point of view is so important, especially when pupils' interaction with peers has been restricted or even removed over the last academic year, reducing their opportunities to discuss what matters to them.

Our Lady & St Bede celebrated National Poetry Day on 7th October 2021 by inviting all pupils to write a poem about the theme **Empowered**. The theme of this year's Poetry Day was 'choices', which linked well as pupils can choose to empower themselves, and others, through their words.

The deadline for the poetry competition was Friday 5th November 2021. We are looking forward to sharing some of our school's entries.



Form Time Reading



Every week there is designated reading time during form period in Years 7, 8, 9 and 10. As we understand the importance and impact reading can have on all pupils' achievement, progress and future lives, Our Lady & St Bede have invested in new form time reading resources.

Each form class is provided with a full set of reading books to the form tutor and pupils can read together. The books are for form time only and we hope that the form classes and their form tutors will enjoy this special time together.

The form tutor will read the book to the class and pupils must follow the words in their own copy. Research has proven this is the most effective technique at improving literacy levels (see *Closing the Reading Gap* by Alex Quigley, EEF Research and Zoe Esner's research). Form teachers can stop and discuss ideas or themes raised and explain any difficult vocabulary. Pupils are asked to predict what they think will happen in the novel or how the characters might develop.

Have you been to...?

DRAKE The Bookshop

27 Silver Street, Stockton, TS18 1SX

Tel: 01642 909970

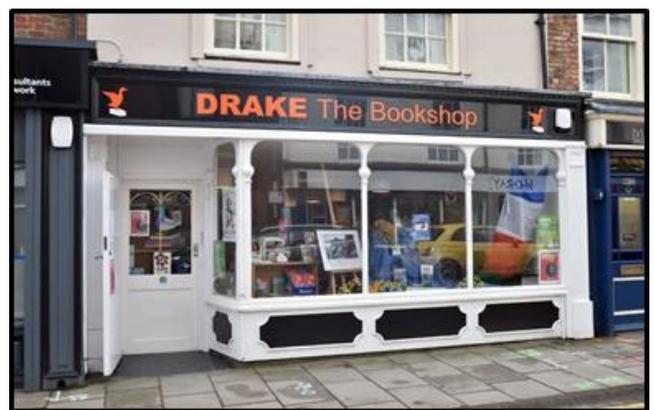
Email:

books@drakethebookshop.co.uk

Website:

www.drakethebookshop.co.uk

**Support our local
bookshop!**



Key Literacy Dates 2021

8th September	International Literacy Day
13th September	Roald Dahl Day
26th September	Banned Books Day
7th October	National Poetry Day
October	Black History Month
4th October	Libraries Week
November	Non-Fiction November
11th November	Remembrance Day
13th November	Word Kindness Day
15th November	Anti-Bullying Week

Accelerated Reader

Accelerated Reader is our new reading programme, which aims to promote a lifelong love of reading, as well as improve pupils' reading ability and vocabulary.

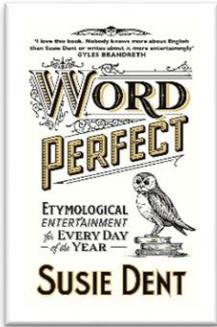
All pupils in Key Stage 3 will take a reading test in the library and also be provided with a log-in to the Accelerated Reader school website. The programme will recommend reading books suited to the pupils' level.

Pupils reads their selected book and once completed they can take an online quiz (in school or at home) and a vocabulary quiz. The system will recommend their next books, with the level of challenge continuously increasing.

There is also a free app (MyOn), in which pupils can complete their reading quizzes as well as providing access to free books online.

RENAISSANCE
Accelerated Reader™

Etymological Entertainment



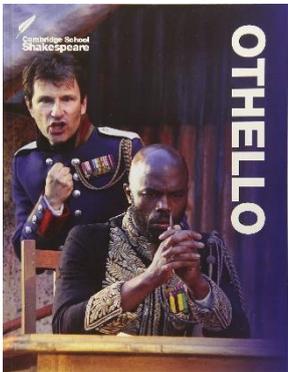
Please enjoy some 'etymological entertainment' from lexicographer, logophile and long-time queen of *Countdown*'s 'Dictionary Corner', Susie Dent. Her book, *Word Perfect*, provides unforgettable stories, fascinating facts, and surprising etymologies tied to every day of the year. We are hoping to bring you a taste of her amazing book - you'll never be lost for words again!

Word of the month is: HEART

This month takes its name from the Latin *novem*, ninth, on account of its original place in the ancient Roman calendar. For the Anglo-Saxons, it was called *Blotmonao*, Blood Month, as this was the month where surplus livestock would be slaughtered in preparation for the winter season, or sacrificed and consecrated to the gods.



In Shakespeare's time, the first day of November was known as 'Hallowmas', the feast of All Saints, a Christian festival during which saints both known and unknown are celebrated. For the Bard himself, Hallowmas 1604 saw an early performance at court of his tragedy, *Othello*.

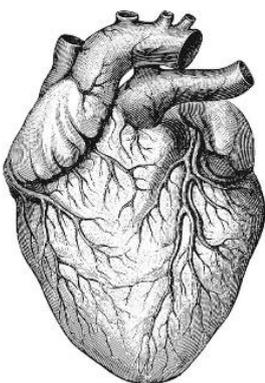


Othello is an individual posthumously described as 'great of heart'. Iago, in the same play, says he will not 'wear my heart upon my sleeve'. By this time, the heart-shaped symbol of love had already been established; four centuries later, it has become the second most used emoji in electronic communications (just pipped to first place by the 'crying with laughter' face).

The modern symbol is quite a pictorial departure from the complex fist-shaped organ we rely on to pump blood around the body. Its origins are slippery, but one theory links it with a now-extinct plant called *silphium*, said to have aphrodisiacal powers. Around the fifth century BC, the heart symbol was used to depict silphium seeds – archaeologists have for example uncovered coins with the heart-shaped seeds embossed upon them. Similarly, the heart shape was used in heraldry to denote the leaves of the water lily.



Cup Plant, *Silphium perfoliatum*

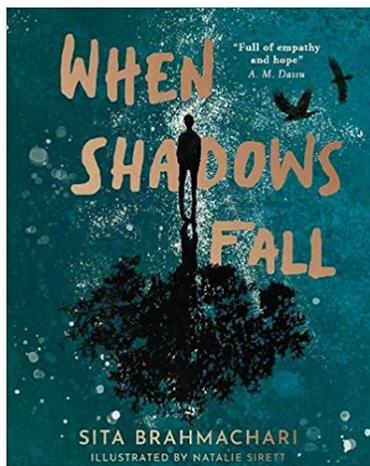


Years later the Middle Ages would tie the heart symbol to its modern interpretation, although it would undergo a couple of slight transformations along the way. A fresco by Giotto in Padua's Scrovegni Chapel depicts the personification of Charity holding up a pear-shaped heart to Jesus Christ – this slightly more anatomically correct 'pine cone' shape was almost depicted upside down. At the beginning of the fifteenth century we begin to see not only its inversion, but also the addition of the cleft, or dent, at the top, as seen in European playing cards of the day.

The use of the symbol as a substitute for the word 'love' was popularised in the late 1970s with the ubiquitous pop-culuter T-shirts proudly stating 'I ♥ New York'. The symbol has become so intrinsically linked with love that the verb 'hearting' is now recognised as a modern synonym for loving. Though not for the first time – in *Othello*, once again, Shakespeare went before, as he so often did. Iago speaks about his cause being 'hearted': fixed in his heart, seen as the seat of intelligence as much as emotion.



Reading Recommendations



'When Shadows Fall' by Sita Brahmachari

Kai, Orla and Zak grew up together, their days spent on the patch of wilderness in between their homes, a small green space in a sprawling grey city. Music, laughter

and friendship bind them together and they have big plans for their future – until Kai's family suffers a huge loss.

Trying to cope with his own grief, as well as watching it tear his family apart, Kai is drawn into a new and more dangerous crowd, until his dreams for the future are a distant memory. Excluded from school and retreating from his loved ones, it seems as though his path is set, his story foretold. Orla, Zak and new classmate Om are determined to help him find his way back. But are they too late?

Suitable for Key Stage 3



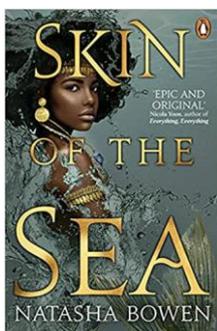
'Cane Warriors' by Alex Wheatle

November 2021 Book of the Month | Longlisted for the UKLA Book Award 2022 ages 11-14

Seventeen-year-old Margot Allan was a respectable vicar's daughter and madly in love with her fiancé Harry. But when Harry was reported Missing in Action from the Western Front, and Margot realised she was expecting his child, there was only one solution she and her family could think of in order to keep that respectability. She gave up James, her baby son, to be adopted by her parents and brought up as her younger brother.

Now two years later the whole family is gathering at the vicarage for Christmas. It's heart-breaking for Margot being so close to James but unable to tell him who he really is. But on top of that, Harry is also back in the village. Released from captivity in Germany and recuperated from illness, he's come home and wants answers. Why has Margot seemingly broken off their engagement and not replied to his letters? Margot knows she owes him an explanation. But can she really tell him the truth about James?

Suitable for KS3 and KS4

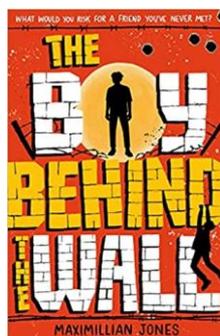


'Skin of the Sea' by Natasha Bowen

An epic love story infused with West African mythology. For fans of *The Gilded Ones*, *Children of Blood and Bone*, and *Circe*, this book is a powerful new imagining of a devastating time in history, told through the eyes of a bold and unforgettable heroine.

This is the story of a great love - a love that will threaten worlds and anger Gods. This is a story that will change history. Simidele is one of the Mami Wata, mermaids duty-bound to collect the souls of those who die at sea and bless their journeys back home to the Supreme Creator. But when a living boy is thrown overboard a slave ship, Simi saves his life, going against an ancient decree and bringing terrible danger to the Mami Wata. Now Simi must journey to the Supreme Creator to make amends - a journey of vengeful gods, treacherous lands and legendary creatures. If she fails, she risks not just the fate of all Mami Wata, but also the world as she knows it.

Suitable for Year 8 and above



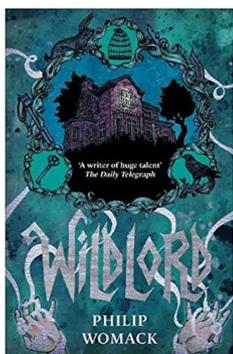
'The Boy Behind the Wall' by Maximilian Jones

What would you risk for a friend you've never met . . . ?

In 1960s Berlin the Wall is everywhere. It cuts through streets, parks, even houses. Teenagers Harry and Jakob live either side of the divide. In West Berlin, American Harry witnesses the brutal shooting of a boy trying to escape over the Wall into the West, and decides to emulate his comic book heroes and help those in the East however he can. On the other side in East Berlin, Jakob is the adopted son of a high up Stasi officer, feeling suffocated by the rules of a strictly regimented society and desperate to find his real family.

When Jakob finds a message that Harry has sent over the Wall, he grasps the opportunity. The boys begin a secret friendship, evading the authorities using lemon juice as invisible ink to share hidden messages. They soon realise that a bold plot to carve a tunnel under the wall is the only way out for Jakob - and it's time to put their friendship to the test. Just how much are they prepared to risk for each other - and for freedom?

Key Stage 3



'Wildlord' by Philip Womack

16-year-old orphan Tom is not looking forward to having to stay at his boarding school over the summer. So when he gets a mysterious letter from his uncle James, whom he has never met, inviting him to visit his farm in Suffolk for the

holidays, Tom jumps at the chance.

However, he quickly realises something is menacing Mundham farm: but does it come from outside, or from within?

Who or what are the Samdhiya, the supernatural people described in the old handwritten diaries Tom finds in his uncle's house?

As Tom starts to uncover the truth, he is confronted with a stark choice: on the one hand, infinite power; on the other, freedom. Which will he choose?

Suitable for Key Stage 3



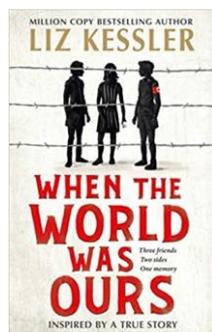
'Ghost Bird' by Lisa Fuller

A thrilling, multi award-winning, teen ghost story, from a First Nations Australian author, drawing on the culture and beliefs of her close-knit community.

Stacey and Laney are twins and mirror images of each other but as different as the sun and the moon. Stacey wants to go places, do things and be someone different while Laney just wants to skip school and sneak out of the house to meet her boyfriend Troy. When Laney doesn't come home one night, the town assumes she's just doing her normal run-off but Stacey's gut tells her different. Stacey knows her twin isn't dead - she just doesn't know where she is; she can see her in her dreams but doesn't know if she is real or imagined. Holding onto the words her Nan taught her is one thing but listening to those around you is another - who will Stacey trust?

As the town starts to believe that Laney is missing for good, can she find her twin in time?

Suitable for Key Stage 4



'When the World Was Ours' by David Almond

A powerful and heart-breaking novel about three childhood friends living during the Second World War whose fates are closely intertwined, even when their lives take very different courses. Inspired by a true story,

this is the perfect read for fans of *The Book Thief* and Anne Frank's *The Diary of a Young Girl*.

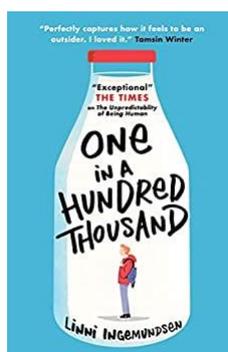
Vienna, 1936. Elsa, Leo and Max have always been best friends, a special team of three. Then the Nazis come.

As a growing darkness descends around them, Leo and Elsa run for their lives, taking two very different paths across Europe. And Max, once their closest friend, now becomes the enemy as he is drawn into the Hitler Youth. Will the friends ever find their way back to each other? Will they want to?

Inspired by a true story, WHEN THE WORLD WAS OURS is an extraordinary novel that is as powerful as it is heart-breaking, and shows how the bonds of love, family and friendship allow glimmers of hope to flourish, even in the most hopeless of times.

Three friends. Two sides. One memory.

Suitable for Key Stage 4



'One in a Hundred Thousand' by Linni Ingemundsen

A thrilling, multi award-winning, teen ghost story, from a First Nations Australian author, drawing on the culture and beliefs of her close-knit community.

Stacey and Laney are twins and mirror images of Fifteen year old Sander wishes he was like everyone else. But he has Silver-Russell syndrome, a condition that affects one in a hundred thousand. It means he is smaller than all the other kids in school, a place where the biggest and the loudest get all the attention. Like Niklas.

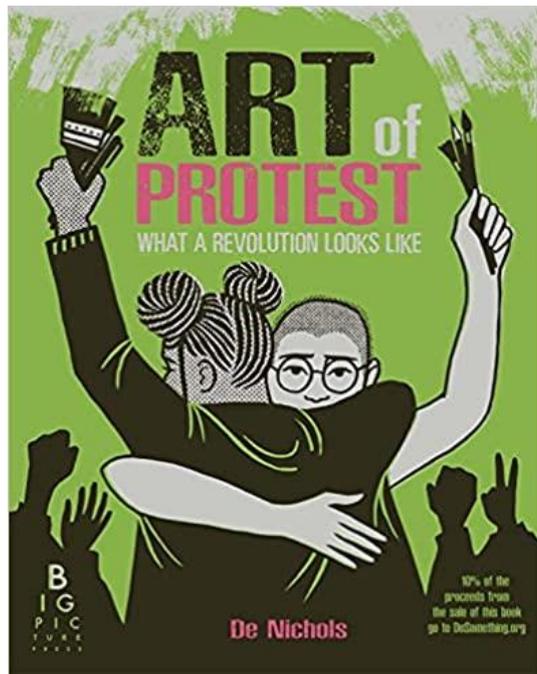
Everyone thinks Niklas is cool and good-looking - except Sander. He doesn't like the way Niklas brags, behaves like a jerk and lies. Niklas is one of life's tall people and next to him, Sander always ends up feeling small.

But Sander is different in more ways than one. He notices things other people miss, and he's noticed something about Niklas...

A moving coming-of-age classic, about fitting in, standing out and the power of friendship.

Suitable for 13+

Non-Fiction Reading



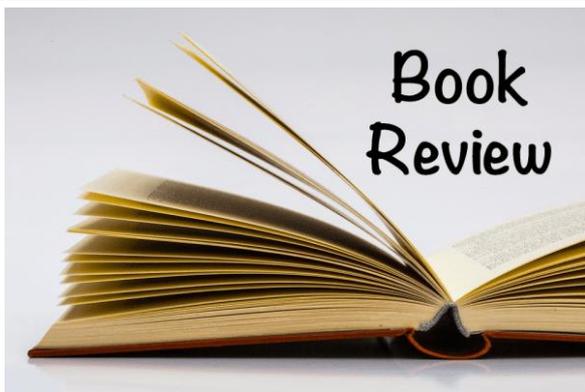
'Art of Protest – What a revolution looks like' by De Nichols

"Start making. Start being the change you want to see in this world." De Nichols

From the psychedelic typography used in 'Make Love Not War' posters of the 60s, to the solitary raised fist, take a long, hard look at some of the most memorable and striking protest artwork from across the world and throughout history. With **an emphasis on design**, analyse each artwork to understand how colour, symbolism, technique, typography and much more play an important role in communication, and learn about some of the most influential historical movements.

Tips and activities are also included to get you started on making some of your own protest art.

Do you enjoy reading? Write a book review for Reading Matters



We would love for you (pupils, staff, parents or governors) to contribute to Reading Matters, our monthly reading newsletter. Why don't you use our hints and tips (see below) and contribute a review of your most recent book. Each month we will publish one or more reviews from students and there may even be prizes for the best review!

How can I contribute?

Hand your book review to your English teacher OR submit a Forms via Teams, which you will find in your year group folder. We would love you to share the

books you read over the summer holidays.

Book Review Template

Book Review

Book review by: _____

Title: _____

Author: _____

Non fiction Fiction

Would you/would you not recommend the book? Why?

Would recommend

Would not recommend

Why? _____

Rating: ☆☆☆☆☆

What is the book about?

Book Illustration

Who would this book be suitable for? Age/Interests

Age: 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12

Interest:

Sport	Animals	History	Stories	Countries
Poetry	Cooking	Funny	Sad	For Boys
For Girls	Toys	Activities	Pictures	Other

HINTS AND TIPS!

How to write a great Book Review

1. Brief synopsis
2. Basic themes of the book
3. Who should read the book
4. How it made you feel
5. Summary of what happened (no spoilers)
6. Loved or hated and why
7. How well did the book achieve its goal?
8. Recommend or not...and why
9. Describe your favourite character
10. Star rating.