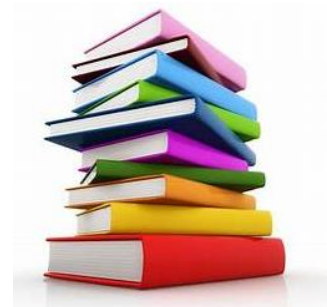




Reading Matters

“Once you learn to read, you will be forever free” Frederick Douglass



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, ideas about how to encourage your child to read and also recommend books they may enjoy.

Did you know?

- Children born into communities with the most serious literacy challenges have some of the lowest life expectancies
- Children who enjoy reading and writing are happier with their lives and are more likely to have good mental wellbeing.
- Children with reading difficulties are at greater risk of developing mental health problems later in life, including depression, anxiety, behavioural problems, anger and aggression.
- 16-year-olds who choose to read books for pleasure outside of school are more likely to secure managerial or professional jobs later in life.
- Typical vocabulary of a successful pupil is 50,000 words by the time they leave secondary school.

OLSB VIRTUAL LIBRARY

We are excited to announce the launch of our own virtual school library. Not only can pupils now access free books through Oak National Academy, they can also access books selected, and sometimes read, by their own teachers. Pupils will be able to follow the words on the page and listen to the book read aloud. As we understand the importance of literacy and the impact it will have on their futures, teachers from all of your child's subjects may set full or partial reading lessons either using the selected fiction book or a text which is subject specific. Please encourage your child to read at home or visit the new virtual library.



How to access the Virtual Library

To access the selected fiction book, pupils simply need to log onto Teams and go to their year group Team. Click on Files and they will see a folder called 'VIRTUAL LIBRARY'. The books will be put in this folder by chapters. We hope your child enjoys reading along with us!

Oak National Academy – Virtual Library



OAK
NATIONAL
ACADEMY

A Virtual School Library, brought you by Oak National Academy in partnership with the National Literacy Trust, is also available for pupils to use.

Every week a popular children's author or illustrator will provide you with free books, exclusive videos and their top three recommended reads.

Having access to a school library is really important for children. School libraries nurture a love of reading that can enrich children's literacy skills, academic achievements and mental wellbeing. Oak National Academy Virtual School Library will complement existing school libraries and will ensure that children have access to the magical world of stories all year round, whether they are learning at school or at home.

Oak National Academy has worked with brilliant publishers and inspiring authors and illustrators to ensure that the books and activities in our Virtual School Library will support children's wellbeing through reading.

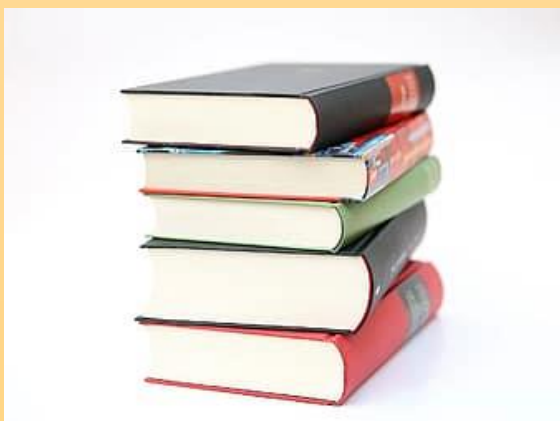
Follow the link below to get started:

https://library.thenational.academy/?fbclid=IwAR02waNzsRVBECtWJt6UlgJwocbknPujYRaSmZfMZ-SKw_k6klahDI5yjsk

Join your local library service to discover hundreds more books and ebooks to borrow for free, and take part in fun online activities.

A Reading Book is now a **compulsory** part of every pupils' equipment.

DO NOT FORGET YOUR BOOK!



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.

Key Literacy Dates 2020-2021

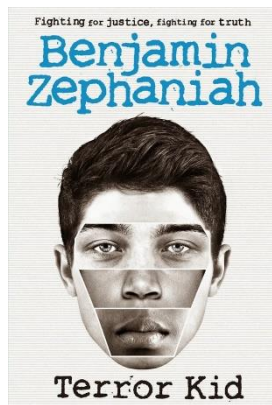
| | |
|--|---------------------------------|
| 21 st January | Holocaust Memorial Day |
| 4 th March | World Book Day |
| 8 th March | International Women's Day |
| 12 th -21 st March | British Science Week |
| 28 th March | Earth Hour |
| 23 rd April | Shakespeare Day |
| 23 rd April | World Book Night – Reading Hour |
| 16 th -22 nd May | Mental Health Awareness Week |
| 5 th June | World Environment Day |

Donate Books –HELP!



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

Reading Recommendations



'Terror Kid' by Benjamin Zephaniah

What is a terrorist? A shocking, moving and timely novel about the choices that shape us.

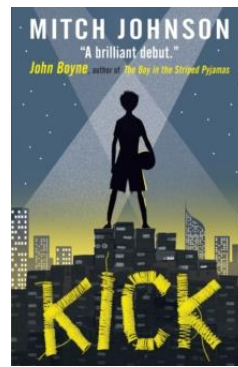
Rico knows trouble. He knows the look of it and the sound of it. He also knows to stay away from it as best he can.

Because if there's one thing his Romany background has taught him, it's that he will always be a suspect.

Despite his efforts to stay on the right side of the law, Rico is angry and frustrated at the injustices he sees happening at home and around the world. He wants to do something - but what? When he is approached by Speech, a mysterious man who shares Rico's hacktivist interests, Rico is given the perfect opportunity to speak out. After all, what harm can a peaceful cyber protest do...?

From the bestselling author of REFUGEE BOY comes a powerful novel about justice, trust and idealism gone wrong that will make you look again at your definition of a terrorist.

Suitable for Year 8 and above



'Kick' by Mitch Johnson

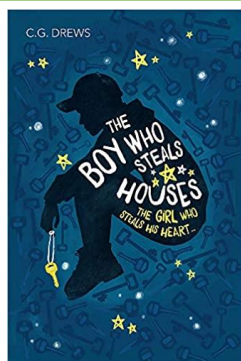
Budi's plan is simple.

He's going to be a star. Budi's going to play for the greatest team on earth, instead of sweating over each stitch he sews, each football boot he makes.

But one unlucky kick brings Budi's world crashing down. Now he owes the Dragon, the most dangerous man in Jakarta. Soon it isn't only Budi's dreams at stake, but his life.

A story about dreaming big, about hope and heroes, and never letting anything stand in your way., fascinating and beautifully written book.

Suitable for Year 7 and above



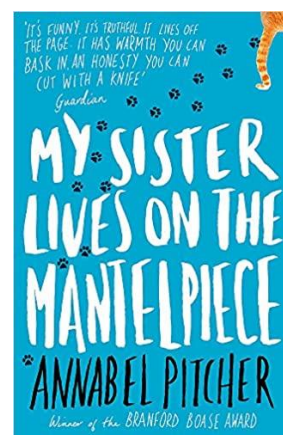
'The Boy Who Steals Houses' by C. G. Drews

Sam is only fifteen but he and his autistic older brother, Avery, have been abandoned by every relative he's ever known. Now Sam's trying to build a new life for

them. He survives by breaking into empty houses when their owners are away, until one day he's caught out when a family returns home. To his amazement this large, chaotic family takes him under their wing - each teenager assuming Sam is a friend of another sibling. Sam finds himself inextricably caught up in their life, and falling for the beautiful Moxie.

But Sam has a secret, and his past is about to catch up with him.

Suitable for Key Stage 4



'My Sister Lives on the Mantelpiece' by Annabel Pitcher

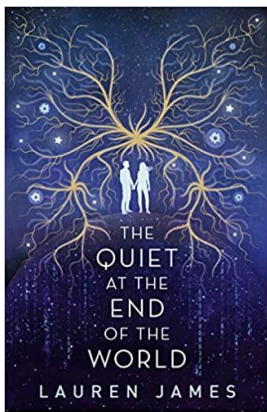
Winner of the 2012 Branford Boase Award for an outstanding debut novel

Heartbreaking and funny in equal measure, 10-year-old Jamie's direct and wide-eyed account of the emotional chaos he and his

family live through following the death of his sister in a terrorist attack is poignant and warm-hearted.

Beginning a new life in the Lake District with his older sister and his father, who mourns his daughter through alcohol and a wild rage against her killers, Jamie knows he should feel sadder than he does. The truth is, he can hardly remember his sister; and what is happening with his new school and new friends, especially Sunya, is more urgent – as is his yearning for his absent mother. Emotionally charged, this is a wonderfully touching story which never slips into worthiness

Suitable for Key Stage 3 and 4



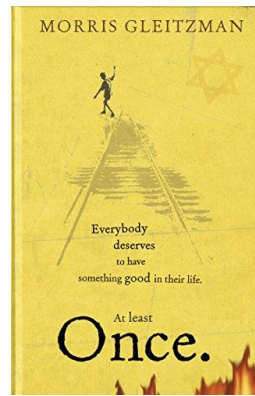
'The Quiet at the End of the World' by Lauren James

How far would you go to save those you love?

Lowrie and Shen are the youngest people on the planet after a virus caused global infertility. Closeted in a pocket of London and doted upon by a small, ageing

community, the pair spend their days mudlarking and looking for treasure – until a secret is uncovered that threatens not only their family but humanity's entire existence. Now Lowrie and Shen face an impossible choice: in the quiet at the end of the world, *they must decide what to sacrifice to save the whole human race...?*

Suitable for Year 9 and above



'Once' by Morris Gleitzman

Once by Morris Gleitzman is the story of a young Jewish boy who is determined to escape the orphanage he lives in to save his Jewish parents from the Nazis in the occupied Poland of the Second World War. **Everybody deserves to have something good in their life. At least Once.**

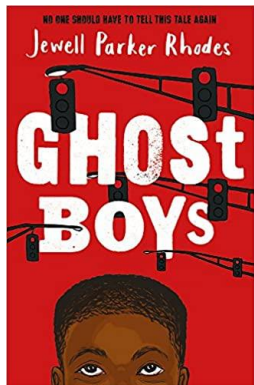
Once I escaped from an orphanage to find Mum and Dad.

Once I saved a girl called Zelda from a burning house.

Once I made a Nazi with a toothache laugh. My name is Felix. This is my story.

Once is the first in a series of children's novels about Felix, a Jewish orphan caught in the middle of the Holocaust, from Australian author Morris Gleitzman - author of *Bumface* and *Boy Overboard*. The next books in the series *Then*, *Now* and *After* are also available from Puffin

Suitable for Year 8 and above



'Ghost Boys' by Jewell Parker Rhodes

A heartbreaking and powerful story about a black boy killed by a white police officer, drawing connections with real-life history, from award-winning author Jewell Parker Rhodes.

ALIVE

Twelve-year-old Jerome doesn't get into trouble. He goes to school. He does his homework. He takes care of his little sister.

Then Jerome is shot by a police officer who mistakes his toy gun for a real threat.

DEAD

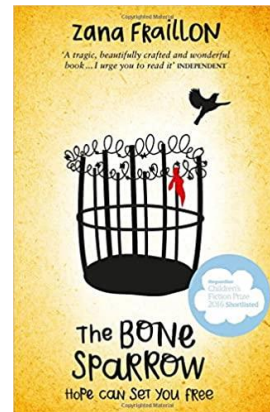
As a ghost, watching his family trying to cope with his death, Jerome begins to notice other ghost boys.

Each boy has a story and they all have something in common...

Bit by bit, Jerome begins to understand what really happened - not just to him, but to all of the ghost boys.

A poignant and gripping story about how children and families face the complexities of race in today's world

Suitable Year 8 and above



'The Bone Sparrow' by Khaled Hosseini

Winner of the CILIP Amnesty Honour 2017. Shortlisted for the Guardian Children's Fiction Prize and the CILIP Carnegie Medal 2017.

Perfect for fans of THE BOY IN THE STRIPED PYJAMAS.

This is a beautiful, vivid and deeply moving story about a refugee boy who has spent his entire life living in a detention centre. This novel reminds us all of the importance of freedom, hope, and the power of a story to speak for anyone who's ever struggled to find a safe home.

Born in a refugee camp, all Subhi knows of the world is that he's at least 19 fence diamonds high, the nice Jackets never stay long, and at night he dreams that the sea finds its way to his tent, bringing with it unusual treasures. And one day it brings him Jimmie.

Carrying a notebook that she's unable to read and wearing a sparrow made out of bone around her neck - both talismans of her family's past and the mother she's lost - Jimmie strikes up an unlikely friendship with Subhi beyond the fence.

As he reads aloud the tale of how Jimmie's family came to be, both children discover the importance of their own stories in writing their futures.

Suitable for Year 7 and above

Have you been to...

DRAKE The Bookshop

27 Silver Street, Stockton, TS18 1SX

Tel: 01642 909970

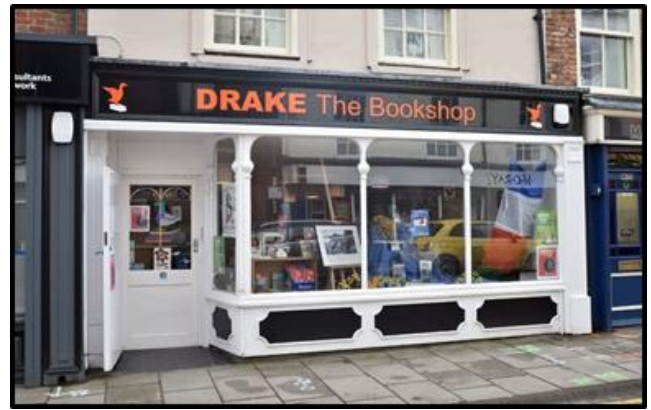
Email:

books@drakethebookshop.co.uk

Website:

www.drakethebookshop.co.uk

**Support our local
bookshop!**



Home Learning and Reading

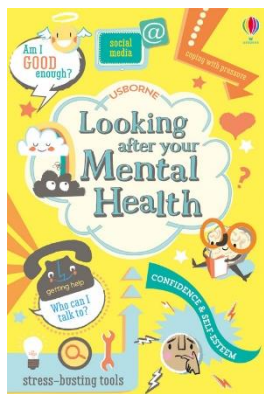
Audible are offering free children's audio books: <https://stories.audible.com/start-listen>

And a huge selection of books available for free online to read...

<https://readon.myon.co.uk/> (particularly for Y7 & Y8)



Non-Fiction Reading



'Looking After Your Mental Health' by Alice James & Louie Stowell

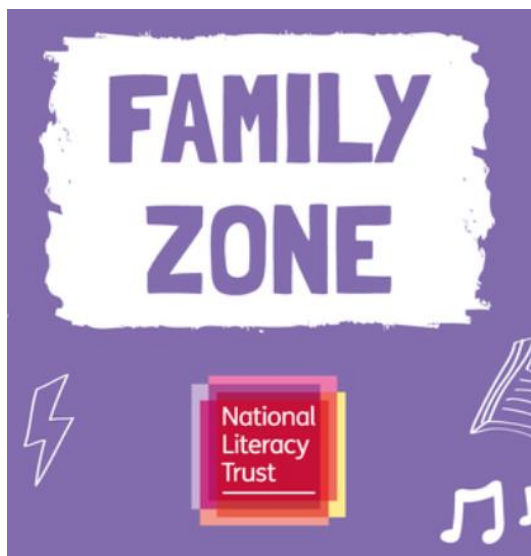
We talk about our physical health - but not so much about how we're feeling. With lots of practical advice, this lively, accessible guide explains why we have emotions, and what can influence them. Covering everything from friendships, social media and bullying to divorce, depression and eating disorders, this is an essential book for young people.



Literacy is the key to Learning

'Literacy is key to academic success across the curriculum'
Sir Kevain Collins, Chief Executive of the EEF

How can I help to develop my child's literacy skills?



During these unusual times, it can be worrying to think that your child is missing out, but it is true that important literacy skills can also be developed through family time. The family zone from the National Literacy Trust caters for young people from birth to age 14; enabling them to keep busy, while benefitting their reading, writing and language development.

Resources are also available for older pupils, designed to boost skills and beat the lockdown boredom. This area provides a range of challenges and informative videos to prompt writing, which will promote literacy and develop key life skills.

The resources include; free audiobooks, author exclusives, the chance to write a lockdown poem, sign up to the skills academy, write a comedy script, create a CV and send in to get immediate feedback from industry experts. There are also a range of links from The National theatre to Young Minds

How can we encourage positive and long-term literacy habits when children are at home?

In his article, *Motivating Children to Read During Lockdown*, Alex Quigley provides 5 handy tips to foster reading motivation:

- Regular reading habits
- Reading choice
- Reading variety
- Reading talk
- Reading success

To read the article in Families Online:

<https://www.familiesonline.co.uk/families-magazines/east-kent/the-next-issue/motivating-children-to-read-during-lockdown>

You may also find the recent guidance from *the Educational Endowment Fund* useful. It highlights the importance of finding 'learning opportunities everywhere' and using the **Talk with TRUST** approach to support reading, writing and language development.

Reading for Pleasure Puts children ahead in the Classroom, Study Finds <https://cls.ucl.ac.uk/reading-for-pleasure-puts-children-ahead-in-the-classroom-study-finds/>

Helping Home Learning

Talk with TRUST

Learning opportunities are everywhere. You can make anything a learning experience for your child, just follow the TRUST ideas.

T Take turns to talk about what you are going to do



R Recap the plan as you are working



U Use lots of encouragement



S Share what you know to help your child



T Tune-in and be interested



The TRUST framework was adapted from 'High Quality Interactions' in the EEF's guidance report *Preparing for Literacy* (p.9)

Reading focus is different for pupils of different age ranges, as we know.

- In earlier years of secondary school, activities that support reading comprehension through shared book reading
- In later years of secondary school, independent reading and strategies that support independent learning.

You may use the following steps to support your child

1. Take turns to make plans and predictions before reading:

'I wonder if... what do you think?' 'You think... Oh, I thought...'

3. Use encouragement and praise to keep children engaged in reading:

'What brilliant ideas...let's see what happens.' 'You thought so carefully about... What might happen now?'

2. Recap to check ideas and understanding as your child is reading:

'So, you think that...'
'Did you expect...to happen?' 'Why do you think that happened?'

4. Share prior knowledge and past experiences that link to what is being read:

'Have you learnt about...at school?' 'Do you remember when we watched...and found out about...'

5. Tune-in and listen to your child – be curious about their interests: *'I didn't know you knew so much about...'* *'I love reading stories about...with you.'*

Hints and Tips

1 Concentrate on reading quality (it isn't all about reading lots!)



2 Ask your child lots of questions



3 Ask your child to make predictions about what they have read



4 Ask your child to summarise what they have read



5 Ask your child to write about what they have read



6 Read and discuss reading with friends or family



7 Maintain the motivation to read



Parent Guide: How can I encourage my child to read?



As your child enters their teen years, a whole world of exciting new fiction opens up to them, and books can give them a safe place to explore complex feelings. However, young people's lives are busier than ever, and it's easy for reading to slip down their list of priorities. Try these suggestions to encourage them to maintain a lifelong reading habit.

If they don't want to read, try to find out why

In teenage years, reading is often seen as 'uncool'. To overcome this, it can help if they see reading as something they can do to

further their hobbies: how-to manuals are good, for instance.

If they are a confident reader but have stopped reading, it's possible they've become turned off by the reading they need to do for schoolwork. As their school reading becomes linked to exam pressures, teens can begin to see reading as less fun than it used to be.

If they are lacking in confidence, they might need some quick reads to boost their reading self-esteem. A quick check with their teacher can give you a clear picture of how they are getting on as readers.

Don't be fussy about what they read

Here is the key: reading is a habit, and as long as they're in the habit of picking up something to read, it doesn't really matter what they're reading. If they are reading magazines, great – this can lead to further reading if you can establish what they are interested in.

Also, remember that young people need to see reading as a fun thing to do. Do not worry if you feel that their personal reading is not challenging them – school takes care of that. Do not force them to read anything – that is a sure way to associate reading with pressure.

Make sure they see you reading

If your teen sees you reading, then that lets them know that you find reading enjoyable and worthwhile. It is not guaranteed to get them reading, but it certainly sends out the right message.

Look for books based on movies and computer games If you have been caught up in a good story, you don't want it to end! Lots of films, games and television shows are adapted from books, and young readers are much more likely to engage with something that they are already familiar with and interested in.

The right book is out there

Be patient as you try to find the book that engages your teen. Some teenagers have a preconception that reading is largely about fantasy and adventure, and has very little relevance to their lives. In fact, young adult fiction is full of gritty and realistic stories featuring relatable teen voices. And our advice is not to worry about the mature content often found in these books – teens are bound to encounter discussion of adult issues through school or friends, and books are actually a great safe place for teens to explore their feelings about these issues.

Here are a few great places to find book recommendations:

- [LoveReading4Kids](#)
- [World Book Day parents' book finder:](#)
- [Common Sense Media](#)

