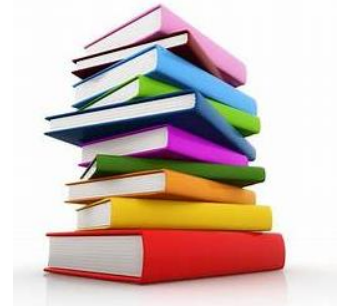




# Reading Matters

*'I declare there is no enjoyment like reading.'*

**Jane Austen**

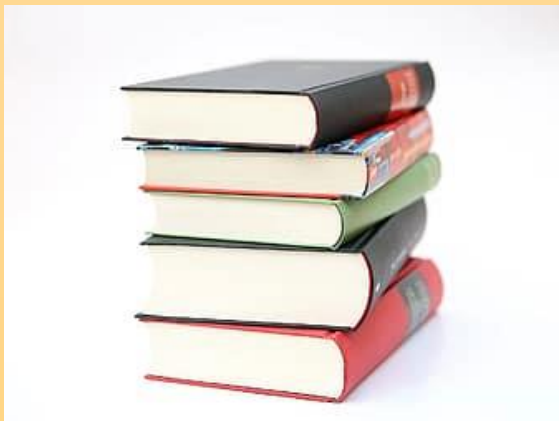


Welcome to June edition of Reading Matters.

Reading is a key focus in our school for pupils and staff. The aim of this newsletter is 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.

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

16 <sup>th</sup> -22 <sup>nd</sup> May	Mental Health Awareness Week
5 <sup>th</sup> June	World Environment Day

READING SHOULD NOT BE  
PRESENTED TO CHILDREN AS A  
CHORE, OR A DUTY.  
IT SHOULD BE OFFERED  
AS A GIFT.

- KATE DICAMILLO

## Donate Books –HELP!



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

## Have you been to...

### DRAKE The Bookshop

27 Silver Street, Stockton, TS18 1SX

Tel: 01642 909970

Email:

[books@drakethebookshop.co.uk](mailto:books@drakethebookshop.co.uk)

Website:

[www.drakethebookshop.co.uk](http://www.drakethebookshop.co.uk)

**Support our local  
bookshop!**

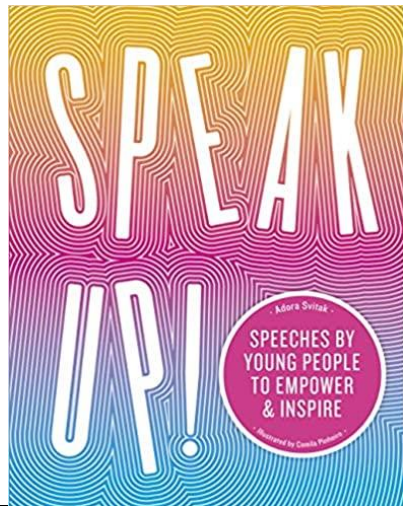
**INDEPENDENT  
BOOKSHOP  
OF THE YEAR**



Regional Winner



# Non-Fiction Reading



## 'Speak Up!' Speeches by young people to empower and inspire by Adora Svitak

Greta Thunberg's condemnation of climate crisis apathy and Malala Yousafzai's heartfelt call to keep girls in education are just two of the 45 stirring speeches to feature in this absorbing book. The first ever collection of speeches made by children and teenagers around the world, it shows that today's young people are a force to be reckoned with. At the age of 12, author Adora Svitak gave a TED Talk entitled "What adults can learn from kids" and she writes in her introduction: "I'm delighted to present a small sample of the many brilliant young minds worldwide who are proof that we have much to learn from the 42 per cent of the world's population under the age of 25."

## Fun Facts – Etymology Entertainment

# CONSISTENT

from *consistere* (Latin: standing firm)

### ADJECTIVE

1. Done in the same way
2. Not containing logical contradictions
3. In agreement with something

### SYNONYMS:

constant, regular, uniform, orderly, reliable, compatible

Who would use this word?

Teacher,  
Artist, Lawyer,  
Politician,  
Athlete

P.E.: "She is their most consistent player this season."

CHEMISTRY:  
"The results of the experiment are consistent with our predictions."

PHILOSOPHY: "The theory shows a consistent argument."

### 10 Interesting Word Facts:

1. *Alphabet* comes from the first two letters of the Greek alphabet: alpha + beta.
2. *Computer* has been used to refer to a person since 1613, to a machine since 1869 and to an electronic device since 1946.
3. *Daisy* is a contraction of "day's eye", because the flower opens in the morning and closes at night.
4. *Deeded* is the only word that is made using only two different letters, each used three times.
5. *Dord* is an example of a 'ghost word' – non-existent words that appeared in the dictionary because of printing errors.
6. *Euouae* (a type of cadence in medieval music) is the longest all-vowels word.
7. *Feedback* is the shortest word that contains the letters ABCDEF.
8. "He believed Caesar could see people seizing the seas" demonstrates seven different spellings of the 'ee' sound.
9. *Listen* contains the same letters as *silent*.
10. *Misspelled/misspelt* is – ironically – one of the most commonly misspelled words.

# NEW School Reading Programme

The previous issue explained the new reading programme we will be introducing to pupils across the school. In case you missed it, we have included the information again below. The Accelerated Reader is a programme to foster a life-long love of reading, monitor pupils' reading, recommend books aimed at the right reading level, assess pupils' progress and also give pupils access to hundreds of digital books for free!

Our Lady & St Bede Catholic Academy are taking part in a pilot using Accelerated Reader along with a number of Primary and Secondary schools across the Bishop Hogarth Trust, with the aim to encourage pupils, and given them regular opportunities, to read.

There are three parts to the programme:

- Star Reading
- myON by Renaissance
- Accelerated Reader

Members of staff are currently undergoing training and preparing our computers and library. Pupils will be completing their Star Reading Assessment this term and the complete package for Accelerated Reader will be up and running for all pupils by September.

## Accelerated Reader - What is it? How will my child be involved?

### What is Star Reading™?

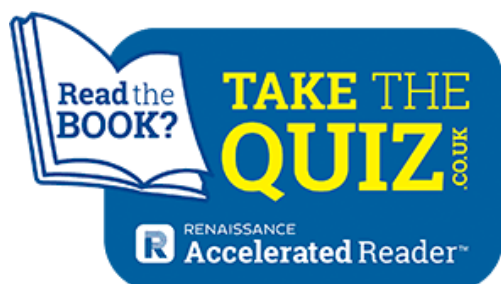
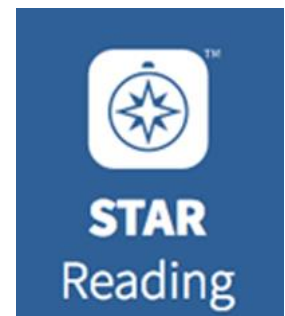
Star Reading is an online assessment used to determine a child's English reading level. It is a computer-based reading assessment program that uses computer-adaptive technology. Questions continually adjust to each child's responses. If the response is correct, the difficulty level is increased. If they cannot answer a question, or answer incorrectly, the difficulty level is reduced. The test uses multiple-choice questions and takes approximately 20-30 minutes.



### What is myON by Renaissance™?

myON is a digital classroom resource containing thousands of digitised books in English language with audio tracks to help scaffold reading & understanding in English.

Books are recommended for each pupil by their grade level, and either their integrated Star Reading ZPD score, or from a short Lexile assessment within the website. This ensures that all children have a personalised reading experience based on their ability.



### What is Accelerated Reader™ (AR)?

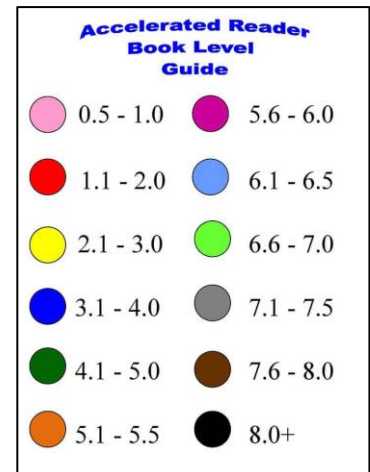
AR is a computer program that helps teachers manage and monitor a child's independent reading practice. Children pick either a physical book that falls within their ZPD level or choose to read from the recommended myON digital library. When they have finished reading, they take a short quiz on the computer - passing the quiz is an indication that the child has understood what has been read. If they are reading at the recommended level for them, then most children are likely to be successful and enjoy the books and quizzes. Best of all they learn and grow at their own pace.

**What is a ZPD (Zone of Proximal Development)?** A ZPD is the range of books that will challenge a child without causing frustration or loss of motivation. Each child will receive

a ZPD, or reading range, after taking a Star Reading test. It is important for children to read with a high degree of comprehension and within their ZPD.

### What is a Lexile Measure?

A Lexile Measure is produced within myON from an initial Lexile Placement exam taken by a child, followed by regular shorter Benchmark exams to continue to refine it as they read more books. It is a range personalised to each child and reported as a single figure which covers 100 points below and 50 points above. Lexile data is also calculated from the Star Reading test and will display in myON if Renaissance products are integrated.



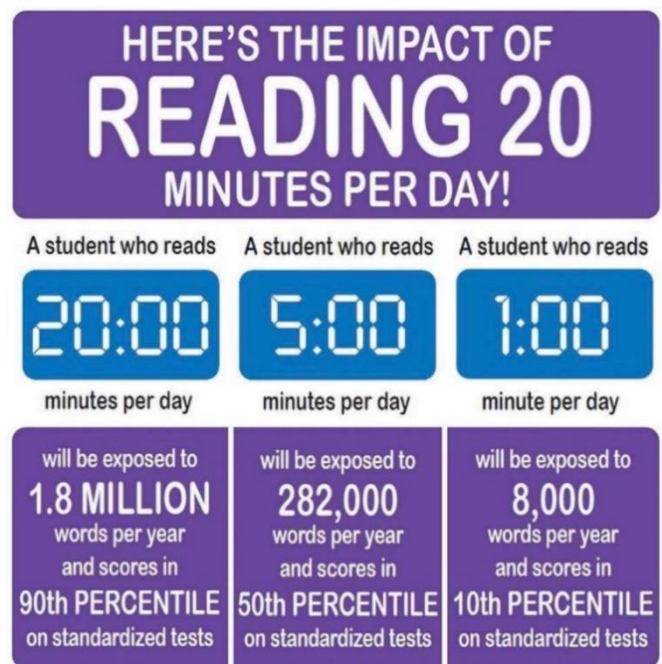
### What are Book Levels & Lexile Levels?

Both are ways of matching children to suitable books. All books in myON, and all books with an Accelerated Reader quiz have been levelled based on difficulty of the text to enable a quick match to children who should be able to read & understand them.

Book levels are reported using the ATOS™ readability formula range from 0.1–20.0. Lexile levels range from BR 300L – 1450L.

### How can I help my child using Renaissance?

As with anything, reading and understanding English language improves with practice. According to Renaissance research, children who read at least **20 minutes a day** and achieve a 90% comprehension rate on AR quizzes see the greatest gains. Encourage your child to read at home with myON with the English language audio track, discuss books, and ask questions about what they have read.



### What are Interest levels & points?

Every book that has an AR quiz is assigned an Interest Level to identify which age group a book is appropriate for, based on the content and themes within the book.

These are recommendations only and parents are recommended to use their best judgement when guiding pupils, especially in myON where books at different interest levels can be found.

Interest Levels	Age
LY—Lower Years	5 - 8
MY—Middle Years	9 - 13
MY+ - Middle Years Plus	Ages 12+
UY—Upper Years	14+

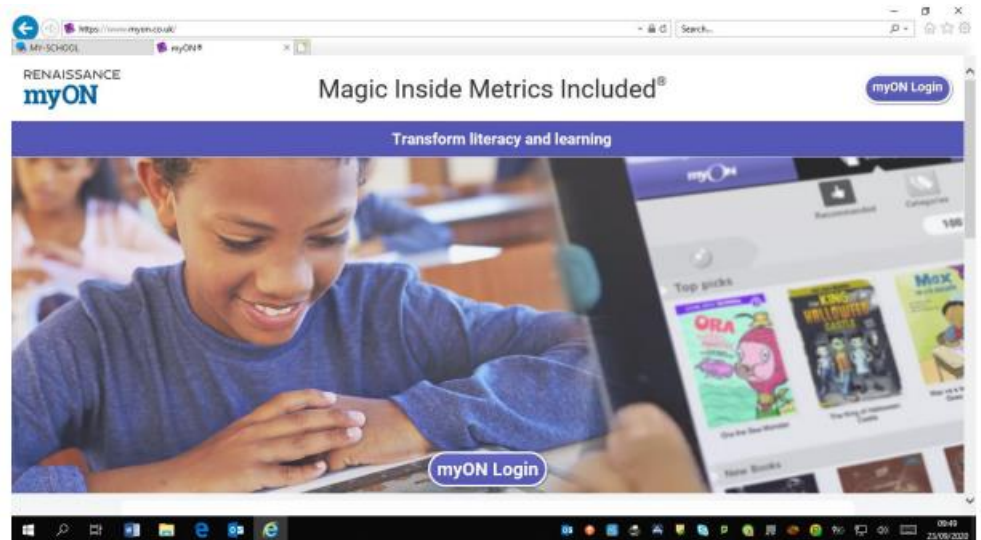
Each AR quizzed book also has a point value calculated to denote the length & time of the reading experience. AR points are based on the length of the book (number of words). Pupils earn a percentage of points according to how well they pass the quiz.

## How can I find further information?

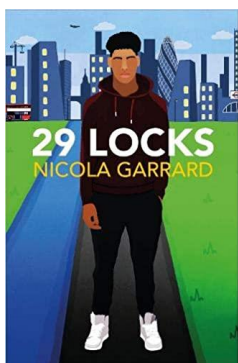
For Star Reading and Accelerated Reader, each child accesses a specific website set up for a school or educational institute; and the teachers or educators will be able to inform you about your child's progress.

myON records data about the amount of reading each child does, it is available within each child's homepage at [www.myon.co.uk](http://www.myon.co.uk)

Visit AR BookFinder at [www.arbookfind.co.uk](http://www.arbookfind.co.uk) to search through all the available books on the Renaissance system with AR quizzes.



## ReadSing Recommendations



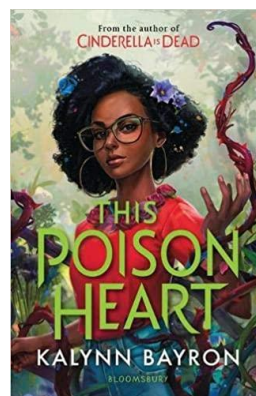
### '29 Locks' by Nicola Garrard

A coming-of-age novel set in contemporary London and Hertfordshire. Fifteen-year-old Donald Leroy Samson is the son of an absentee St Lucian father and a drug-addicted English

mother. Growing up in dire poverty in Hackney, East London, his life is shaped by casual violence, gang initiation, drug-dealing and knife crime. When Donny's bored, rich, white girlfriend Zoe is offered a dubious modelling audition, the couple 'borrow' a barge and navigate the 29 locks on the canal system from Hertfordshire down into Kings Cross.

When they start out on their journey, the future for both of them looks unpromising, like the fake audition, but as each lock is navigated and conquered, as the waters fall then rise again, their adventure takes on a new dimension. Life will never be the same again. A gritty, urban tale of redemption!

**Suitable for Year 7 and above**



### 'The Poison Heart' by Kalynn Bayron

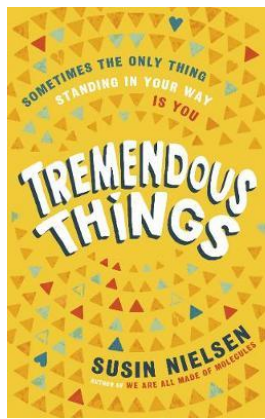
Ever since she can remember, Briseis has had power over plants. Flowers bloom in her footsteps and leaves turn to face her as though she were the sun. It's a power she and her adoptive mothers have spent her whole life trying to hide.

And then Briseis inherits an old house from her birth mother and suddenly finds herself with the space and privacy to test her powers for the first time. But as Briseis starts to bring the house's rambling garden back to life, she finds she has also inherited generations of secrets.

A hidden altar to a dark goddess, a lineage of witches stretching back to ancient times, and a hidden garden overgrown with the most deadly poisonous plants on earth. And Briseis's long-departed ancestors aren't going to let her rest until she accepts her place as the keeper of the terrible power that lies at the heart of the Poison Garden.

*Cinderella Is Dead* author Kalynn Bayron brings a message of proud inclusivity to this empowering fantasy about a young woman finding the strength to challenge everything she has been told is true.

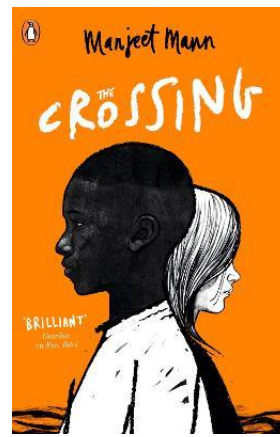
**Suitable for Key Stage 3 and 4**



### 'Tremendous Things' by Susin Nielsen

Wilbur has spent his teens being bullied and now he's sure he's nothing but a loser: his best friend is 85 years old, and his only talent is playing the triangle in the school band. Things start to look up when a mix-up with the French exchange programme results in Wilbur being assigned a girl to look after – an amazing, sophisticated, beautiful French girl called Charlie. Wilbur is sure he's in love, and his sometime friend Alex has a plan to give Wilbur the makeover that will get Charlie to love him back. But the course of true *l'amour* never did run smooth . . .

**Suitable for Key Stage 3 and above**

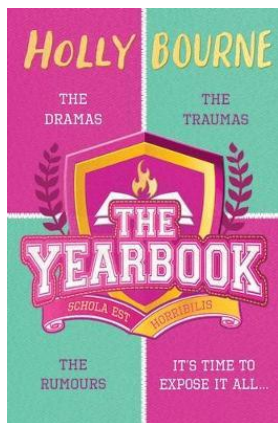


### 'The Crossing' by Manjeet Mann

A trailblazing new novel about two teenagers from opposite worlds; *The Crossing* is a profound story of hope, grief, and the very real tragedies of the refugee crisis. Natalie's world is falling apart. She's just lost her mum and her brother marches the streets of Dover full of hate and anger. Swimming is her only refuge.

Sammy has fled his home and family in Eritrea for the chance of a new life in Europe. Every step he takes on his journey is a step into an unknown and unwelcoming future. A twist of fate brings them together and gives them both hope. But is hope enough to mend a broken world?

**Suitable for Key Stage 3 and 4**



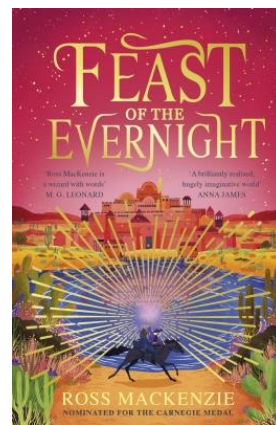
### 'The Yearbook' by Holly Bourne

Paige is used to staying quiet in the face of lies. Like how popular girl Grace is a such an amazing person (lie). How Laura steals people's boyfriends (lie). How her own family are so perfect (lie). Now Grace and friends have picked their best high-school moments for Paige to put in the all-important Yearbook.

And they're not just lies. They're poison. But Paige has finally had enough. And as she starts to find love through the pages of a book, she finds her voice too. Now she is going to rewrite her story - and the Yearbook is the perfect place to do it. Paige Vickers: Most likely to...bring down the mean girls.

*Mean Girls* meets *To All The Boys I've Loved Before* in this hugely relatable high-school takedown from the queen of UKYA.

**Suitable for Year 9 and above**

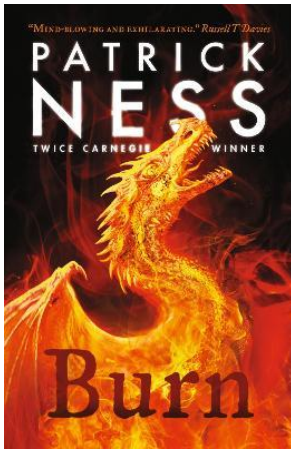


### 'Feast of the Evernight' by Alex Wheatle

Return to the spellbinding world of Ross Mackenzie's *Evernight* in this darkly brilliant sequel. The *Evernight* has been defeated and the sun has returned, thanks to Larabelle Fox and her friends Joe and Double Eight. But a new threat is emerging from the mists of the Veil, the dangerous forest that surrounds the Silver Kingdom's southern lands. Lara and Joe journey to Lake End to discover what's really happening, all the while trying to stay one step ahead of the secret police . . .

A mysterious new threat arises in the southern lands of the Silver Kingdom. Lara must journey there to uncover the truth in *The Feast of the Evernight*, the second book in the best-selling, spellbinding new series by Blue Peter Award and Scottish Book Award winning author Ross MacKenzie.

**Suitable for KS3 and KS4**



## 'Burn' by Patrick Ness

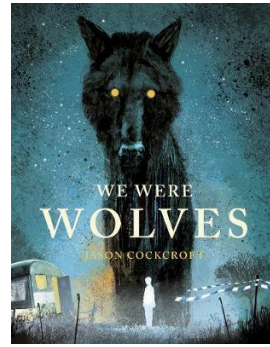
On a cold Sunday evening in early 1957, Sarah Dewhurst waited with her father in the parking lot of the Chevron Gas Station for the dragon he'd hired to help on the farm. This dragon, Kazimir, has

more to him than meets the eye. Sarah can't help but be curious about him, an animal who supposedly doesn't have a soul but is seemingly intent on keeping her safe from the brutal attentions of Deputy Sheriff Emmett Kelby.

Kazimir knows something she doesn't. He has arrived at the farm because of a prophecy. A prophecy that involves a deadly assassin, a cult of dragon worshippers, two FBI agents - and somehow, Sarah Dewhurst herself.

From the bestselling author of the Chaos Walking trilogy comes a heart-stopping story of fanaticism, hope, bravery and impossible second chances, set in a world on the very brink of its own destruction.

**Suitable KS3 and above**



## 'We Were Wolves' by Bonnie-Sue Hitchcock

Boy lives in a caravan on his own in the woods.

His dad, John, is in prison and promises to get out soon.

All the boy needs to do is survive alone for a little while longer. But dark forces are circling - like the dangerous man in the Range Rover, who is looking for his stolen money. And then there are the ancient forces that have lain asleep in the woods for an age...

**Suitable for Key Stage 3 and 4**

## Read Books Online for Free

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The Libby app gives you access to free e-books and audio books direct from libraries across Stockton-on-Tees using your phone or tablet. Visit [www.libbyapp.com](http://www.libbyapp.com) or download the Libby app and sign in with your Stockton library card number and pin.

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To access visit [www.pressreader.com](http://www.pressreader.com) or download the Pressreader app. To access press 'Sign up' select 'Libraries & Groups' and search Stockton Borough Libraries. Then simply enter your Stockton library card membership number.

If you would like to sign up to become a library member visit [www.stockton.gov.uk/librarymembership](http://www.stockton.gov.uk/librarymembership) or email [StocktonBorough.Libraries@stockton.gov.uk](mailto:StocktonBorough.Libraries@stockton.gov.uk).

For more information call **01642 526522**.