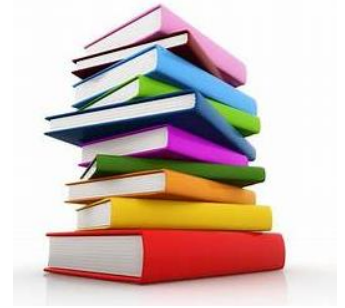




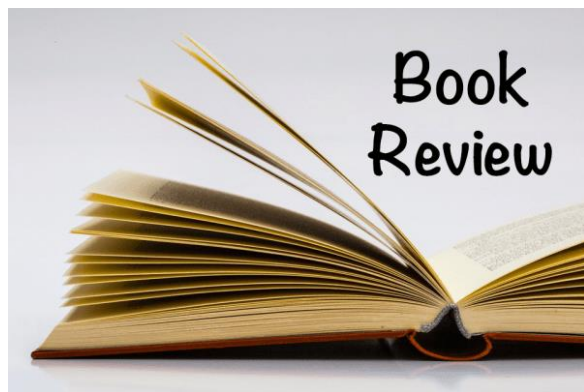
Reading Matters

'Reading is the gateway for children that makes all other learning possible.' Barack Obama



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 pupils to read and also recommend books they may enjoy. Reading over the summer, after lockdown, is more important than ever!

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



We would love for you 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 Form 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

<p align="center">Book Review</p> <p>Book review by: _____</p> <p>Title: _____</p> <p>Author: _____</p> <p>Non fiction <input type="checkbox"/> Fiction <input type="checkbox"/></p>		<p>Would you/would you not recommend the book? Why?</p> <p>Would recommend <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Would not recommend <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Why? _____</p> <p>Rating: ☆☆☆☆☆</p>
<p>What is the book about?</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>		<p align="center">Book Illustration</p>
<p>Who would this book be suitable for? Age/interests</p> <p>Age: 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12</p> <p>Interest: Sport Animals History Stories Countries Poetry Cooking Funny Sad For Boys For Girls Toys Activities Pictures Other</p>		

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.

Summer Challenge – Prevent the summer slide!



Did you know...

- Reading just 4-6 books over the summer will prevent a decline in your reading scores
- Teachers spend, on average, 4-6 weeks reteaching work that has been lost over the summer.
- Students who read regularly over the summer entered the following school year with a more positive attitude to reading, were more confident in the classroom and perceived reading as important.

Key Literacy Dates 2021

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

Donate Books –HELP!



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

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.



INTERESTING LANGUAGE FACTS

English language is fascinating, complex and rich in history. Here are some interesting facts to prove it!

- **Did you know that enneacontakaienneagon is actually a word in the English language?** (And you thought pronouncing supercalifragilisticexpialidocious was difficult?). In fact, the meaning of the word is just as bizarre as the word itself: it's a shape with ninety-nine sides.
- **"I am"** is the shortest complete sentence in the English language.

A PANGRAM SENTENCE IS ONE THAT CONTAINS EVERY LETTER IN THE LANGUAGE.

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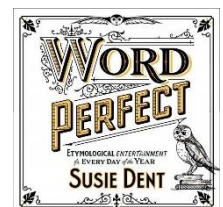
SWIMS WILL BE SWIMS EVEN WHEN TURNED UPSIDE DOWN.

LEARN MORE WORD FACTS ON THE BLOG!

© grammarly

- **A pangram sentence is one that contains every letter in the language.** For example, the sentence "The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog" is a pangram.
- **'Girl' used to mean small boy or girl.** The word "girl" was not initially used to refer to a specific gender. It used to mean "child" or "young person" regardless of the gender.
- **English is the language of the air.** This means that all pilots have to identify themselves and speak in English while flying, regardless of their origin.
- **There is words that we repeat often.** Words we always use even though they add no meaning or value to a sentence are called crutch words. For example, in the sentence "Then I was like, OMG, then like, he went there, and like..." it is pretty obvious that "like" is the crutch word. "Actually," "honestly," and "basically" are also commonly used as crutch words.
- **Gymnasium is from the Greek 'gymnazein' - literally, 'to exercise naked'!**

If you are interested in the origin of words (etymology), try reading 'Word Perfect' by Susie Dent.



SUMMER LEARNING AND READING: Oak National Academy – Virtual Library and Lessons



Do you want free access to reading books? Are you interesting in catching up on work missed or seeing if you can challenge yourself? Oak National Academy has a wealth of resources for you to use completely free of charge. There is a Virtual School Library, which has been created in partnership with the National Literacy Trust, and lessons for every subject delivered by subject specialists.

The dip in pupil progress over the multiple lockdowns has been well documented and this, combined with the 7 weeks off for summer, means nearly all pupils will be starting their next academic year behind where they are normally expected to be. You can take action to ensure you are starting in September in a strong position.

As part of the Oak National Academy Virtual Library, 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=IwAR02waNzsRVBECtWJt6UlqJwocbknPujYRaSmZfM Z-SKw_k6klahDI5yjsk

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

Have you been to...

DRAKE The Bookshop

27 Silver Street, Stockton, TS18 1SX

Tel: 01642 909970

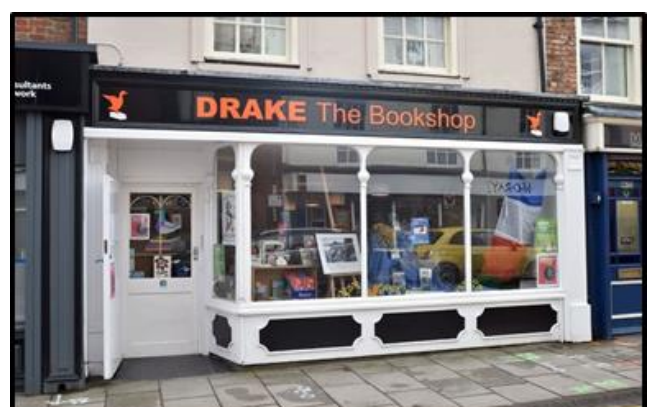
Email:

books@drakethebookshop.co.uk

Website:

www.drakethebookshop.co.uk

**Support our local
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Reading Recommendations



'The Short Knife' by Elen Caldecott

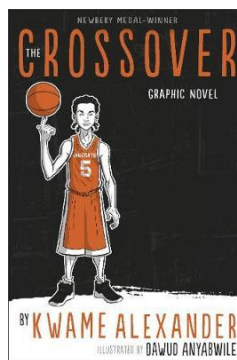
A rip-roaring Dark Age epic with contemporary relevance.

Set in the author's native Wales during the dark days of the fifth century, Elen Caldecott's *The Short Knife* is an energetic, edge-of-your-seat page-turner

with present-day resonance as 21st-century Britain - island of migrants - faces the challenge of forging an identity independent of continental Europe.

With the Romans compelled to leave Britain after 400 years, the island is on the brink of collapse. Amidst this uncertainty and the chaos of Saxon invasion, thirteen-year-old Mai is cared for by her dad and sister (she lost her mam when she was three), and wrestling with her "anger at the people free to flee into the hills. Anger at all the world and everyone in it. I want to open my mouth and let the fire out, burn it all into blackness." When Saxon warriors turn up at their farm, the family is forced to flee to the dangerous hills themselves. Mai must cross the threshold from childhood to adulthood if she's to survive in a hostile world in which speaking in her mother tongue might turn out to be fatal.

Suitable for KS3 and above



'The Crossover' by Kwame Alexander

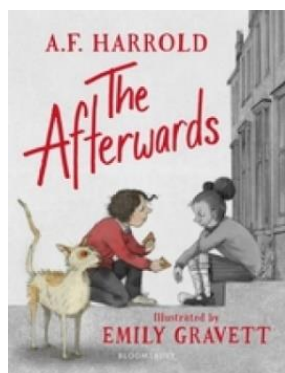
The novel of *The Crossover* is a Newbery Medal Winner, and a Coretta Scott King Award Winner in the US and was Shortlisted for the Carnegie Medal in the UK. This graphic novel version is the whole story complete

with large and small two-coloured illustrations gracing every page. This is a deceptively simple read – a novel in verse about siblings getting through middle school, their lives, their crushes, their family interactions, and basketball.

The boys are twins Josh and Jordan Bell, sons of a famous basketball player, and aiming to make a mark in the world of basketball. There are rivalries between the boys, they revel in their differences, but family holds them together whatever the world throws at them.

The words and pictures work so well together, you will be on the edge of your seat, rooting for the team as they play and crying with the twins when things go awry. To tell such a complex story with so few words, with such emotional depth – Alexander is a master of devastating and uplifting storytelling. Anyabwile's illustrations enhance a superb story – adding expressions and movement to an already great novel.

Suitable for KS3 and above



'The Afterwards' by Emily Gravett

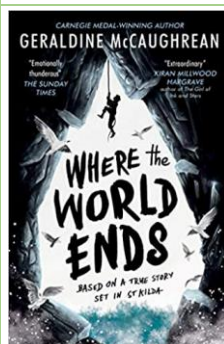
There's nothing more to say about it. It is what it is. It is what will always be. Ember and Ness.

Then Ness dies. It is sudden and unexpected and leaves Ember completely empty. How can this be?

When Ember finds a way into the Afterworld, she determines to bring Ness back. Because that's what friends do isn't it? They rescue each other. They help. They never give up. Ember and Ness. That don't change.

A powerful, poignant, darkly comic and deeply moving story about friendship at its most extraordinary

Suitable for Key Stage 3

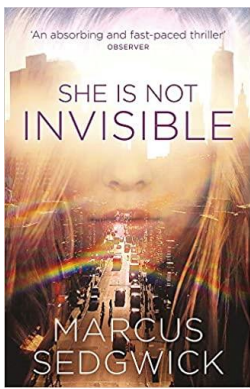


'Where the World Ends' by Geraldine McCaughrean

Winner of the CILIP Carnegie Medal 2018.

In the summer of 1727 a group of men and boys, there to harvest birds and eggs, were stranded on Warrior Stac, a pinnacle of rock that pitches out of the Atlantic, 'as black and fearful as one horn of the Devil himself'. It was nine months before anyone came to collect them. Geraldine McCaughrean has taken these bare facts and imagined the story of those terrible months and the characters of those who endured them. Yes, it's a mesmerising story of survival, but McCaughrean takes it in different and surprising ways too and, both terrifying and full of dark comedy, it becomes an elemental story of love and faith; of myth and imagination. Indeed, in the hands of one of our very finest writers this bleak, isolated rock becomes a microcosm for the whole world and all its stories. Unmissable.

for Key Stage 3 and 4



'She is Not Invisible' by Marcus Sedgwick

Prize-winning author Marcus Sedgwick explores obsession, trust and coincidence in this page-turning thriller about 16-year-old Laureth Peak's mission to find her missing father. A mission made all the more difficult by one fact: Laureth

Peak is blind.

Laureth's father is a writer. For years he's been trying, and failing, to write a novel about coincidence. His wife thinks he's obsessed. Laureth thinks he's on the verge of a breakdown. He's supposed to be doing research in Austria, so when his notebook shows up in New York, Laureth knows something is wrong.

On impulse, she steals her mother's credit card and heads for the States, taking her strange little brother Benjamin with her. Reunited with the notebook, they begin to follow clues inside, trying to find their wayward father. But the challenges and threats that lie ahead are even tougher for Laureth than they would be for any other teenager - because Laureth has no vision to guide her.

Suitable for KS3 and KS4



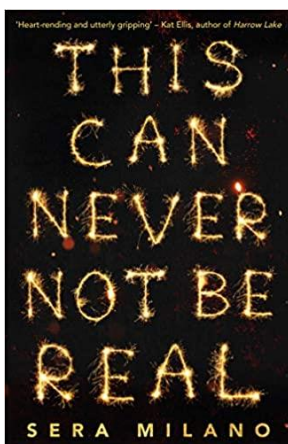
'Everything I thought I knew' by Shannon Takaoka

A teenage girl wonders if she's inherited more than just a heart from her donor in this compulsively readable debut.

Seventeen-year-old Chloe had a plan: work hard, get good grades, and attend a top-tier college. But after she collapses during cross country practice and is told that she needs a new heart, all her careful preparations are laid to waste. Eight months after her transplant, everything is different. Stuck in summer school with the underachievers, all she wants to do now is grab her surfboard and hit the waves - which is strange, because she wasn't interested in surfing before her transplant. (It doesn't hurt that her instructor, Kai, is seriously good looking.) And that's not all that's strange.

There's also the vivid recurring nightmare about crashing a motorcycle in a tunnel and memories of people and places she doesn't recognize. Is there something wrong with her head now, too, or is there another explanation for what she's experiencing? As she searches for answers, and as her attraction to Kai intensifies, what she learns will lead her to question everything she thought she knew - about life, death, love, identity, and the true nature of reality.

Suitable for KS4

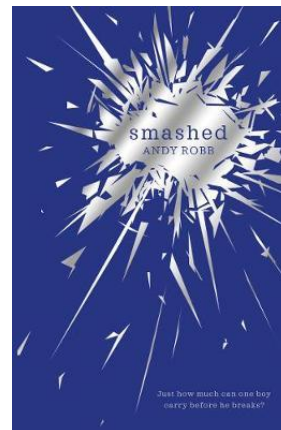


'This Can Never Not Be Real' by Sera Milano

Hope, healing and humanity in the wake of a terrorist attack. Solidarity through struggling to survive. Community through catastrophe. Hope through heartache, and life after loss. Sera Milano's searingly

stirring *This Can Never Not Be Real* shows how the human spirit can endure the most horrific experiences, in this case a brutal terrorist act that turns a quiet community's annual festival into a bloodbath.

Written from the viewpoints of five young characters in bursts of arresting first-person narratives (often just a single paragraph; at most a page or two), this is edge-of-your-seat-stuff with the power to grip even the most distracted of readers. Though written as the characters recount the



'Smashed' by Andy Ross

Loveable teen boy battles the burdens of masculinity

Niftily navigating the tricky tightrope between exploring big issues (divorce, toxic masculinity, turning to alcohol when the going gets tough) and

delivering a humorous, heartfelt story, Andy Robb's *Smashed* achieves what YA fiction does best. It's thought-provoking, informative and never talks down, with a relatable main character readers will root for.

After *The Night Everything Went Weird* (when his dad hit his mum and moved out), fifteen-year-old Jamie discovers that the "Weight of Manhood" is a heavy burden to bear. He does all he can to keep his little sister happy, and gives Mum lots of valuable advice too, even stepping

horrifying events at an inquest, those events unfold before readers' eyes with unflinching descriptions of the atrocious attack and its aftermath, and with tremendous tension - we don't know how this will end, or who ends up surviving.

Threaded through with the characters' overriding desire to support each other, and their will to survive, the novel makes important points about the incomprehensibility of such attacks - the "Why us?" question. As is often the case, such attacks could have happened someplace else, to other people. The message of this book is that what really matters is how we come through such events, how we emerge in a spirit of love, with a greater appreciation of life. As such, *This Can Never Not Be Real* is as much a valuable tool for dealing with traumatic events as it is a brutally gripping, thought-provoking page-turner.

Suitable for KS4

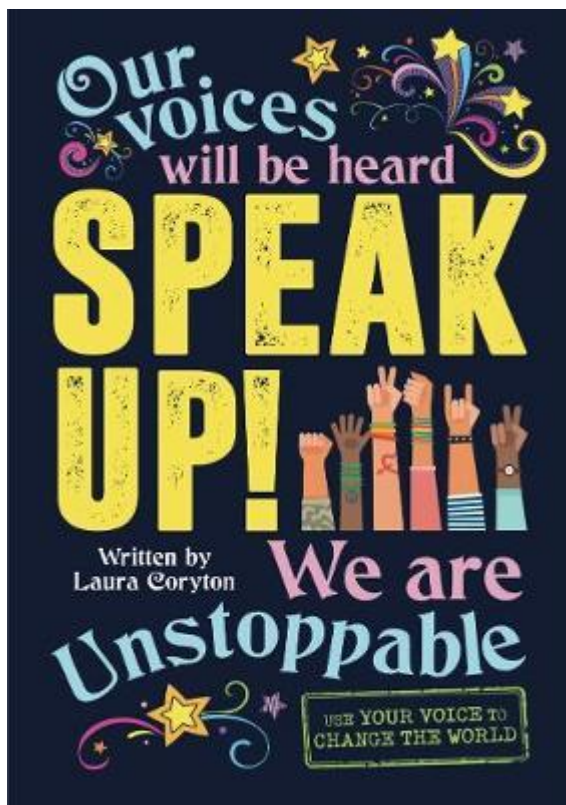
in as a mediator when things turn nasty between her and Dad. But, behind closed doors, Jamie "longs to be alone and far away from everything. Somewhere where I don't have to make other people happy or solve their problems. Somewhere where I don't have to pretend to be a father-figure."

Stifled by notions of how "Real Men" are supposed to behave - no tears, no talking about problems, "we're supposed to be the silent heroes" - Jamie finds a feeling of carefree invincibility through drinking, until he regains a sense of himself and finds the strength to lighten his load. At once bold and tender, tear-jerking and funny, Andy Robb has certainly smashed it with *Smashed*

Suitable for KS4

Non-Fiction Reading

'*Speak Up!*' by Laura Coryton



Use your voice to change the world! Don't just read about inspiring women: become one! Launching in time for International Women's Day 2019 - *Speak Up!* is the must-have empowering book to inspire a whole new generation of rebel girls. Speaking up can be difficult, but did you know just how powerful your own voice can be?

Written by Laura Coryton, who led the international campaign against tampon tax, *Speak Up!* is a vital and timely book exploring what it means to stand up for what you believe in on both a public and personal level. Laura explores how to make sure your voice is heard as well as what happens when your voice is challenged by others. She tackles tricky subjects like feminism, consent, online bullying and self-confidence in a meaningful but accessible and entertaining way. With a positive message about friendship, female empowerment and standing up for who you are, this is the perfect gift for girls aged 12+.

Inspiring, warm and honest, this conversational and big-sisterly guide is the must-have girl power book of 2019. *Speak Up!* is a wonderful and timely guide to activism for women and girls brought up in the age of the internet and social media. It is wholly accessible, fun and quirky, full of Laura Coryton's own experiences with the very successful tampon tax campaign. I highly recommend it - and hope the book helps to galvanise the next generation.

Laura Coryton is an inspirational young woman who led the international campaign against tampon tax which gained over a quarter of a million signatures and has led to changes both in UK and European law. Laura was featured in the BBC's 100 Women series of 2016. She also won one of the Guardian's New Radical Thinker awards and was named 2015's top unknown world change maker by the Independent. She has recently completed an M.St in Women's Studies at the University of Oxford. Laura regularly speaks at schools about the trials and tribulations of being a female campaigner. She aims to advise and empower girls who might want to start their own campaigns or get involved with politics.