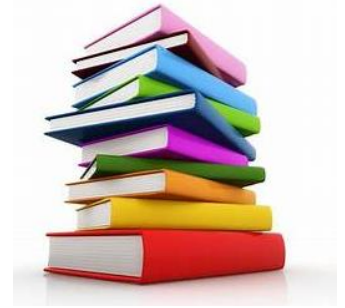




# Reading Matters

*'Reading is a way for me to expand my mind, open my eyes and fill up my heart.'* Oprah Winfrey



Bumper New  
Term Issue!

learning!

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

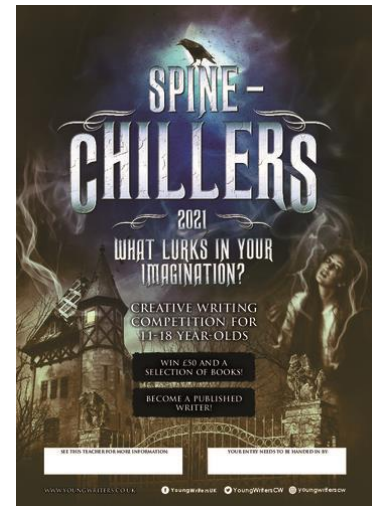
## OLSB Publishing Success – Creative Writers' Spine Chillers

Eleven Year 10 pupils have 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.

Before the summer, pupils in Year 9 entered an exciting writing competition. The aim was to write a 100-word mini saga with the theme 'Spine-Chillers'. Each of the eleven pupils selected have received a certificate, a bookmark, and a letter to go home to their parents celebrating their original writing.



Miss Baxter, who organised the entries, said: 'We are really pleased that pupils have been given this opportunity to boost their confidence with their writing skills. It has also given these pupils the opportunity to showcase their skills to a real audience giving them a purpose for their writing.'



The successful pupils were Jessica, Caroline, Evie, Poppy, Ellen, Hayley, Nicole, Eva, Abbie, Laura and

Lennon. Well done Year 10! Some examples of the winning entries can be read in this newsletter.

### Exciting, New Competition: Empowered

Following their success, the English Department are now also running a poetry writing competition through Young Writers with the title **Empowered**. Pupils can read information about the competition on posters around the English Department. The poetry competition also links to our school virtues. They can write a poem on any topics such as: current affairs; the environment; identity; education; image; equal rights; and hopes, dream and ambitions. We hope to share these with you in the near future.

Please see Miss Baxter for more information.



# Launching and Loving our New Library!

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.



## Why is reading so important?



## 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.

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 some examples from our pupils.

### THE POISON PERIL

Fog slithered around my feet and covered my surroundings in a thick, eerie blanket. Everything around me was obscured by this misty menace, except for a flicker of orange light amongst the darkness that beckoned me towards it. My curiosity got the better of me. As I took a clumsy, disorientated step forward, a pungent, sickly scent welcomed itself into my nose. Instantly, I recognised the smell. Poison. Not just any poison, but the very poison that wiped out an entire village, including my parents. Terrified. A figure rose from the haze and suddenly, I felt dizzy. I fell. Poisoned.

**Ellen (14)**  
Our Lady & St Bede Catholic Academy,  
Stockton-On-Tees

### PLAYING WITH DARKNESS

"Hurry up," the icy wind hissed, pushing him towards the shop's entrance. Nervously, he tried the handle. It immediately swung open with a painful creak. The door slammed behind him, cutting off the flow of the moonlight. It was just him and the darkness, right? His heart screamed otherwise, flooding his insides with frosty blood. "Hello?" Mark's voice echoed. No reply. The silence reassured him - Mark was alone. Well, until he felt their harsh grasp. Claws. Five jagged claws. Suddenly, Mark forgot how to breathe...

**Caroline (14)**  
Our Lady & St Bede Catholic Academy,  
Stockton-On-Tees

## 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.

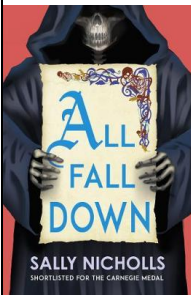
Each form class is provided with a full set of reading books to the form tutor and pupils can read together. The books are for form time only and we hope that the form classes and their form tutors will enjoy this special time together.

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 will they think will happen in the novel or how the characters might develop.

## History's Guesome Reading

The History Department, who are always keen to promote literacy, have invested in some subject specific reading which is gaurenteed to excite and intrigue their students.

Mr McLeod, Head of History and Assistant Headteacher, explains their interesting choices:



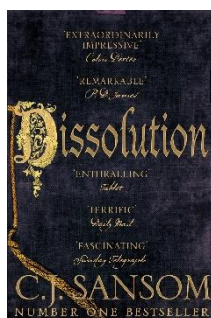
**Year 7: All Fall Down by Sally Nicholls.**

**Why:** 'We chose this one because pupils study the plague in Year 7 and this provides a more emotional connection to such a catastrophic event, rather than just talking about statistics

and figures, plus it provides more of an insight into the fear of everyday life during the Black Death.'

**Year 8: Dissolution by C. J. Sansom**

**Why:** 'We chose this one because although pupils study the Tudors at the end of Year 7 rather than the beginning of Year 8, the religious turmoil caused by Henry VIII turning England into a Protestant country was still rife in England by the 1600s. But more importantly, it's a really good murder mystery!'



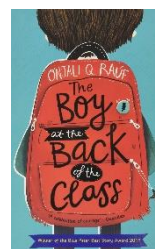
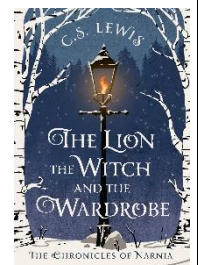
## Fantasy Fiction in RE

The RE Department were excited to purchase interesting and engaging texts, which provide opportunities for class discussions and debates.

Mr Huges, Head of RE, explains their exciting choices:

**Year 7: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe by C.S.Lewis**

**Why:** 'Themes of resurrection and strong Christian symbolism throughout. Students are loving it so far!'



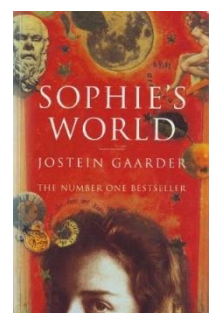
**Year 8: The Boy at the Back of the Class by Onjali Rauf**

**Why:** 'I wanted to select a text which exemplified our school virtues and values. This is an inspiring story, which does this really well and models our

Christian values too. A small number of students read this text in primary school, but they are really enjoying reading it again.'

**Year 9: Sophie's World by Jostein Gaarder**

**Why:** This is a more difficult text, which links into our module on Philosophy. Students discover a whole new world in this text, which has excited many of our students! We are in the early stages of this text but so far so good!'





## 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)

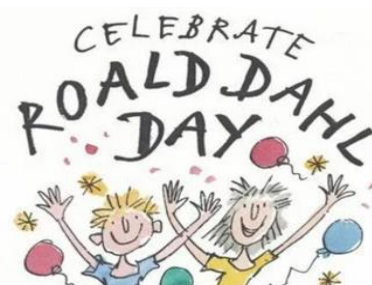
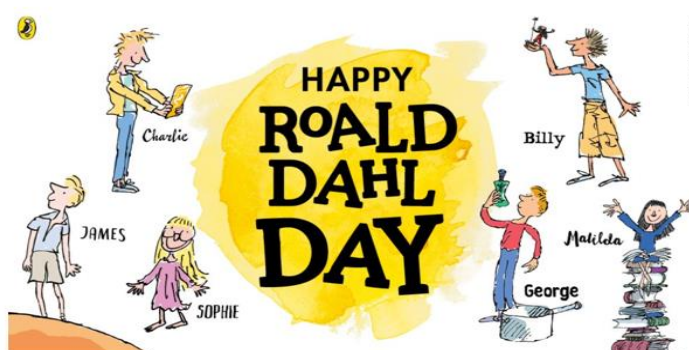
Website:

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

**Support our local  
bookshop!**



## Celebrating Roald Dahl Day in Key Stage 3 – 13<sup>th</sup> September



To celebrate Roald Dahl Day on 13<sup>th</sup> September, Key Stage 3 classes explored Roald Dahl's short stories and created their own Revolting Rhymes, in true Roald Dahl fashion.

"A little magic  
can take you a  
long way."

Roald Dahl

### Key Literacy Dates 2021

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

RENAISSANCE

**Accelerated Reader<sup>™</sup>**

**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.

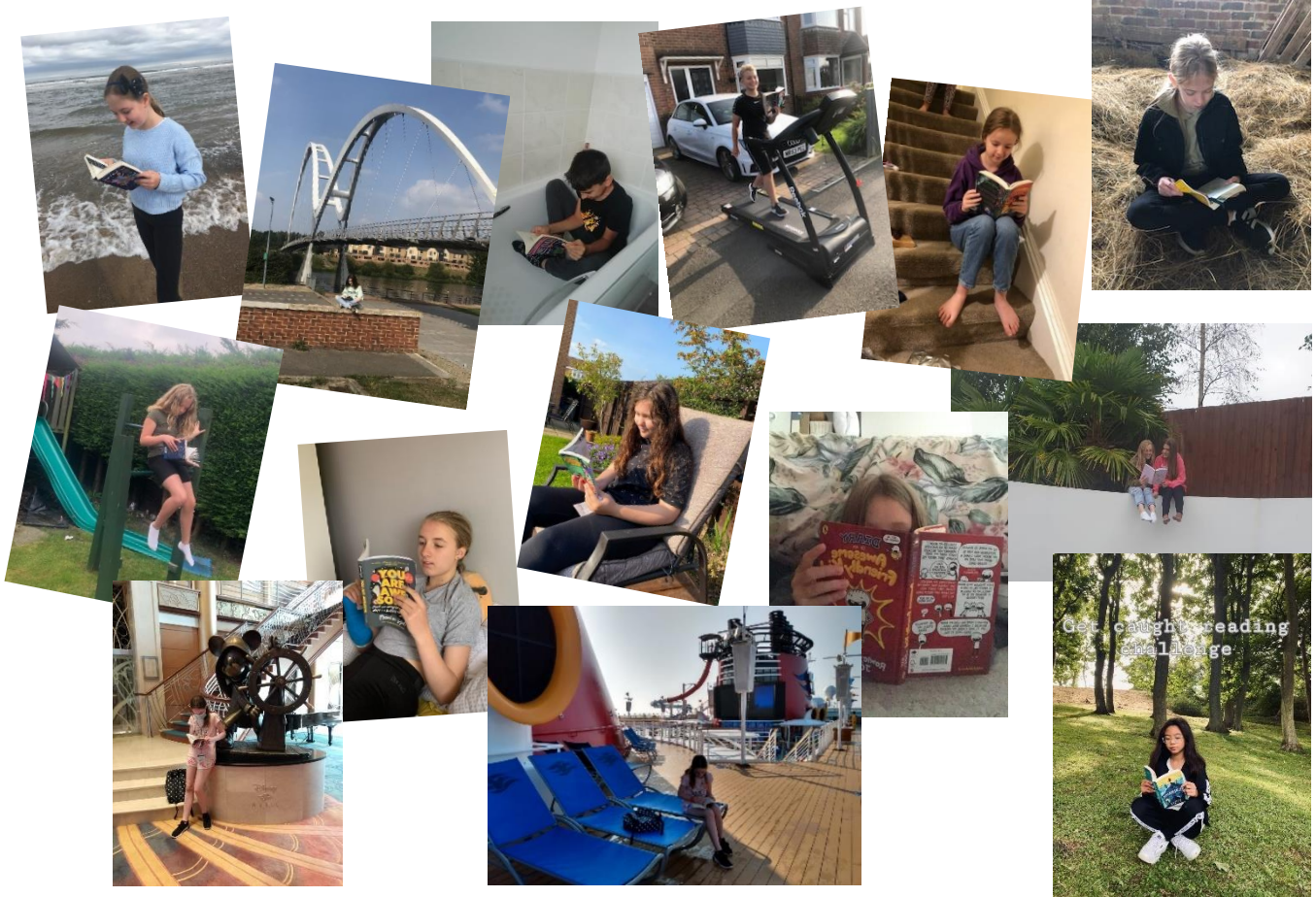
Pupils reads their selected book and once completed they can take an online quiz (in school or at home) and a vocabulary quiz. The system will recommend their next books, with the level of challenge continuously increasing.

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

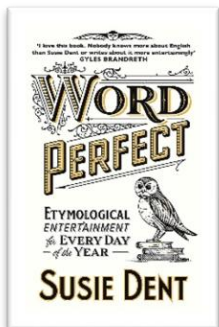
## Year 6 – 'Get Caught Reading' Summer Challenge

During the summer, our current Year 7 were challenged to 'get caught reading' in unusual places. We enjoyed seeing all the interesting places and positions for reading!

In our next issue, there will be book reviews by our current Year 7 pupils.



## 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: FALL

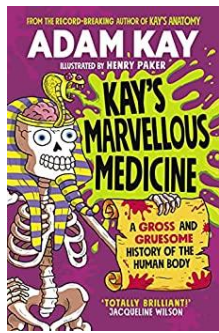
There are many who mock the Americans' use of 'fall' for autumn, deriding its simplicity and all-too-obvious nod to the falling of leaves from the trees. In fact, the very same term was common in British English right up until the seventeenth century, where 'fall of the leaf' was the successor to the Old English 'harvest', just as spring, for centuries, was known in full as the 'spring of the leaf'. It seems curious to argue with the poetry of either.

In the days of the first settlers in North America, both autumn and fall were used, and it wasn't until the eighteenth century that each nation decided to claim their own. Autumn is from the French *l'automne*, chosen by the British perhaps because, even long after 1066, French continued to be seen as the language of the rulers, and of prestige and beauty.





# Reading Recommendations



## 'Kay's Marvellous Medicine' by Adam Kay

The brand-new, hilarious book from bestselling, record-breaking author Adam Kay.

The olden days were pretty fun if you liked wearing chainmail or chopping people's heads off

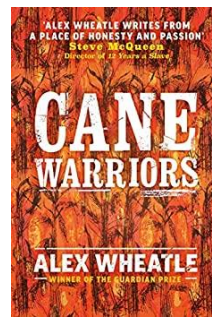
but there was one TINY LITTLE problem back then . . . doctors didn't have the slightest clue about how our bodies worked.

It's time to find out why Ancient Egyptians thought the brain was just a useless load of old stuffing that might as well be chucked in the bin, why teachers forced their pupils to smoke cigarettes, and why hairdressers would cut off their customers' legs.

You'll get answers to questions like:  
Why did patients gargle with wee?  
How did a doctor save people's lives using a washing machine, a can of beans and some old sausages?  
What was the great stink?

Explore this gross and gruesome history of the human body!

**Suitable for Key Stage 3**



## 'Cane Warriors' by Alex Wheatle

Shortlisted for the YA Book Prize, Diverse Book Award, Young Quills Historical Fiction Award and Iris Award  
Longlisted for the YA Jhalak Prize and UKLA Book Award

*Nobody free till everybody free.*

Moa is fourteen. The only life he has ever known is toiling on the Frontier sugar cane plantation for endless hot days, fearing the vicious whips of the overseers. Then one night he learns of an uprising, led by the charismatic Tacky. Moa is to be a cane warrior, and fight for the freedom of all the enslaved people in the nearby plantations. But before they can escape, Moa and his friend Keverton must face their first great task: to kill their overseer, Misser Donaldson. Time is ticking, and the day of the uprising approaches . . .

Irresistible, gripping and unforgettable, *Cane Warriors* follows the true story of Tacky's War in Jamaica, 1760.

**Suitable for KS3 and above**



## 'Witch' by Finbar Hawkins

Shortlisted for the 2021 Branford Boase Award

**A gobble-it-up fiery and intense yet thoughtful debut novel about family, betrayal, and witchcraft.** Set in the 17th century, a breathtaking debut,

and a potential prize-winner, about the power of women, witchcraft, fury, revenge and the ties that bind us.

After witnessing the brutal murder of her mother by witch-hunters, Evey vows to avenge her and track down the killers. Fury burns in her bright and strong. But she has promised her mother that she will keep Dill, her little sister, safe.

As the lust for blood and retribution rises to fever pitch, will Evey keep true to the bonds of sisterhood and to the magick that is her destiny?

**Suitable for Key Stage 3 and above**

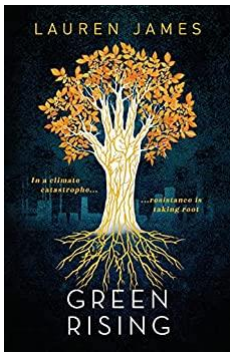


## 'The House in the Woods' by Yvette Fielding

**Stranger Things meets Point Horror in the first of a brilliant new series for readers aged 11+ from Yvette Fielding, British television's first lady of the paranormal and presenter of *Most Haunted*.**

When Clovis, Eve and Tom decide to play with a ouija board in an old abandoned house on Halloween, none of them foresees the horrors they're about to unleash. What starts out as a bit of fun, soon transcends into something far more terrifying when a distressed and determined spirit follows them home. Before long the friends are caught up in a series of events beyond their wildest imaginings and their journey as ghost hunters begins . . .

**Key Stage 3 and 4**



### 'The Green Rising' by Lauren James

Set in a near-future world on the brink of ecological catastrophe, Lauren James's novel is a gripping, witty and romantic call to arms.

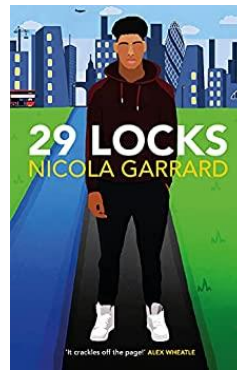
Gabrielle is a climate-change activist who shoots to fame

when she becomes the first teenager to display a supernatural ability to grow plants from her skin. Hester is the millionaire daughter of an oil tycoon and the face of the family business. Theo comes from a long line of fishermen, but his parents are struggling to make ends meet.

On the face of it, the three have very little in common. Yet when Hester and Theo join Gabrielle and legions of other teenagers around the world in developing the strange new "Greenfingers" power, it becomes clear that to use their ability for good, they'll need to learn to work together. But in a time of widespread corruption and greed, there are plenty of profit-hungry organizations who want to use the Greenfingers for their own ends. And not everyone would like to see the Earth saved...

As they navigate first love and family expectations, can the three teenagers pull off the ultimate heist and bring about a green rising?

**Suitable for 13+**



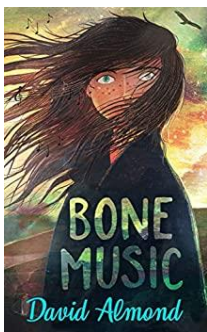
### '29 Locks' by Nicola Garrard

Fast-paced, tragic and tender, *29 Locks* is an unflinching depiction of urban teen life.

Growing up in Hackney with his loving but troubled single mum, fifteen-year-old Donny's life has been shaped by poverty, crime and casual violence, including grooming by a local gang. When his mum is jailed for drugs offences, Donny is fostered outside London to the Hertfordshire countryside. Life in the rural Home Counties is a bit like landing on another planet but doing work experience on the Hertford Union Canal, Donny feels like he's finally found his purpose.

When Donny's posh new friend Zoe is offered a dubious modelling audition in London, the pair decide to 'borrow' a canal barge and navigate the 29 locks down to Kings Cross. As they start out on their journey the future looks as unpromising as Zoe's fake audition. But as each lock is navigated and conquered, their adventures take on a new dimension, and life will never be the same again.

**Suitable for KS4**



### 'Bone Music' by David Almond

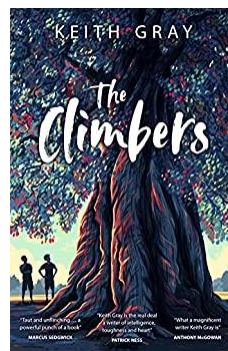
From the bestselling, award-winning David Almond comes a book of hope and joy: under a boundless starry sky, the unforgettable Sylvia Carr finds out what it means to be brave. For readers of Michael Morpurgo and Katherine Rundell, from the author of the beloved *Skellig*.

*She felt like a ghost. She woke in the night. What was that music?* Sylvia has never been so far away. Her mother has brought her to this village, this place of silence and dark, endless forest, and she yearns for the city, the bright lights, her friends, even a phone signal.

Late one night she hears the music, a weird jagged spiralling sound. It is played by Gabriel, a troubled, beautiful boy. Gabriel uses the strangest of flutes, a hollow bone. Play it well enough, he says, and you cross the borders between the living and the dead.

Sylvia knows she'll follow him into the depths of the forest. But will they ever find their way out again?

**Suitable for Key Stage 3 and 4**



### 'The Climbers' by Keith Gray

In this compelling story of teenage rivalry and friendship, award-winning author Keith Gray captures the subtle agonies and reality of life growing up in a small town.

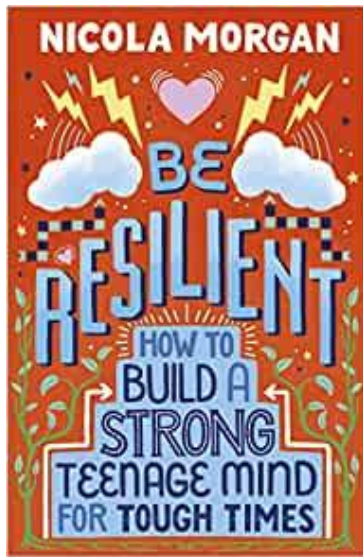
Sully is the best climber in the village. He can scale the Twisted Sister's tangled branches and clamber up Double Trunker with ease. But when new kid Nottingham shows up and astonishes everyone with his climbing skills, Sully's status is under threat and there's only one way to prove who's best. Sully and Nottingham must race to climb the last unnamed tree. Whoever makes it to the top will become a legend. But something spiteful and ugly has reared its head in Sully ...

Is it worth losing everything just to reach the top?

**Suitable for 13+**



# Non-Fiction Reading

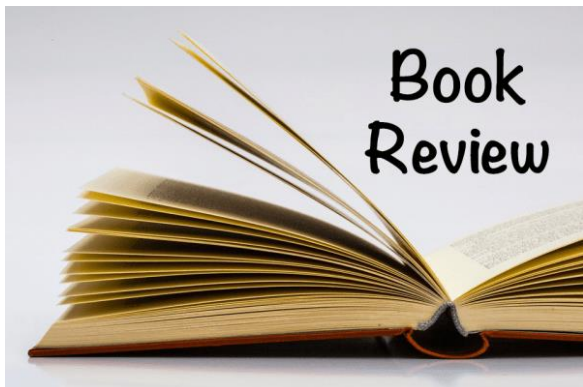


## 'Be Resilient: How to build a strong teenage mind for tough times' by Nicola Morgan

The essential teenage guide to building resilience for challenging times, from award-winning well-being expert Nicola Morgan, author of the bestselling *Blame My Brain* and *The Teenage Guide to Stress*.

Some events in life will always be out of our control, whether it's a global crisis or a traumatic event at home – but *Be Resilient* shows that the power to cope is in our hands. Discover how to develop the skill of mental resilience in this fascinating guide from award-winning author and teenage brain expert Nicola Morgan. From building a support network to building optimism, find positive, practical advice for preparing for, coping with and bouncing back from the toughest of times. Authoritative and backed by the latest science, this is a reassuring companion for teenagers everywhere.

## 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.