



22nd July 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

Summer Reading Recommendations and Competition 2020

At the end of what has been a truly strange academic year, in the English Department we have been wondering what we can do to help support your children in a less-structured way as they begin to look forward to the summer holidays.

'Most new words are learned from reading and not from being taught explicitly'¹ and so it is for this reason that we often tell parents that the best way to help their children build upon their vocabulary is to encourage them to read. It should therefore be of no surprise that this is what we would like to propose they do throughout the remainder of their time away from school.

Even though our students do not have access to the broad reading materials we have in our Academy at present, we are lucky enough to be flanked by two fantastic resources: the library in the Four Seasons Centre (<https://www.inspireculture.org.uk/reading-information/find-a-library/mansfield-central-library/>) and Forest Town Library (<https://www.inspireculture.org.uk/reading-information/find-a-library/forest-town-library/>), which have both recently reopened.

However, we know that selecting books can be daunting, which is why we have compiled a small – yet broad – number of suggestions below.

- Susie Day, 'Billie Bright' – an easy-to-read contemporary novel about coping with school, homework and family life.
- Lissa Evans, 'Wed Wabbit' – a comedic 'down the rabbit hole' adventure, similar to Alice in Wonderland.
- Alan Gratz, 'Refugee' – a highly-rated novel about 'courage, survival, and the quest for home'.
- Charlie Higson, 'The Enemy' – for the zombie fans out there!
- Sharna Jackson, 'High Rise' – an enthralling murder-mystery involving two sisters, set on a high-rise estate.
- L. D. Lapinski, 'The Strangeworlds Travel Agency' – a 'multiverse' adventure by a local author.
- Denis Markell, 'Click Here to Start' – a novel inspired by the classic video game 'Ready Player One'.
- Jason Reynolds, 'Ghost' – the perfect story for any aspiring athlete about raw talent and a good coach.
- Kim Slater, 'Smart' – a mysterious crime set in the familiar location of Nottingham.
- Jonathan Stroud, 'Lockwood & Co: The Screaming Staircase' – for our budding ghostbusters who love a mystery.

If you would prefer to purchase books for your child(ren) in the current climate, the Scholastic website is very reasonably priced, and they donate books to us in return (<https://shop.scholastic.co.uk/>). Win! Win!

As an added incentive, once your child has finished reading their book (which does not have to be from the list above), we would like to invite them to participate in our competition to win Amazon vouchers! All they have to do is choose a task from the list below to complete, and email either the electronic document or a photograph of their work to cstendall@tscacademy.org.uk before Friday 4th September:

¹ Quigley, A. (2018). Closing the Vocabulary Gap. Oxon: Routledge.
The Samworth Church Academy Sherwood Hall Road Mansfield Nottinghamshire NG18 2DY
www.samworthchurchacademy.co.uk enquiries@tscacademy.org.uk tel: 01623 663450



- a) Write a newspaper article about the major conflict within the book.
- b) Draw a map of the setting in the book showing major areas, buildings and other features. Label everything clearly.
- c) Draw a comic strip of at least 6 frames illustrating a scene from the book. Write a caption underneath each frame.
- d) Keeping the theme of the book in mind, re-write the lyrics of a popular song to fit the story.
- e) Write a review of the book, including:
 - a. What are the best parts of the book? Why?
 - b. Did you like the ending of the book? Why?
 - c. Do you think the title fits the book? Why?
 - d. Who else should read this book? Why?
 - e. On a scale of 1 to 10, with 10 being the highest, how many stars would you award this book? Why?
 - f. What do you admire about this writer's work?

Once we return to school, in addition to our fully-stocked library (which houses more books than there is shelving space available!) there is also a 'Secret Bookcase' (housed on the Hardwick corridor) which acts as a lending library. Once it is safe for us to do so, we would love the children to be able to utilise this facility once again: bringing in books from home and exchanging them for other pre-loved titles that have been enjoyed by their peers.

If you have any further questions about reading – or English in general – please do not hesitate to contact me on my email address cstendall@tscacademy.org.uk .

Yours faithfully

Carly Stendall
Team Leader of English