



# The English Martyrs Catholic School and Sixth Form College



Literacy Newsletter — Term 3 — July 2023



## Our Librarians

Our fantastic team of Student and Sixth Form Librarians have been an invaluable help over this last academic year. We are so proud of their achievements and commitment to the library.



# Liz Million Author Visit

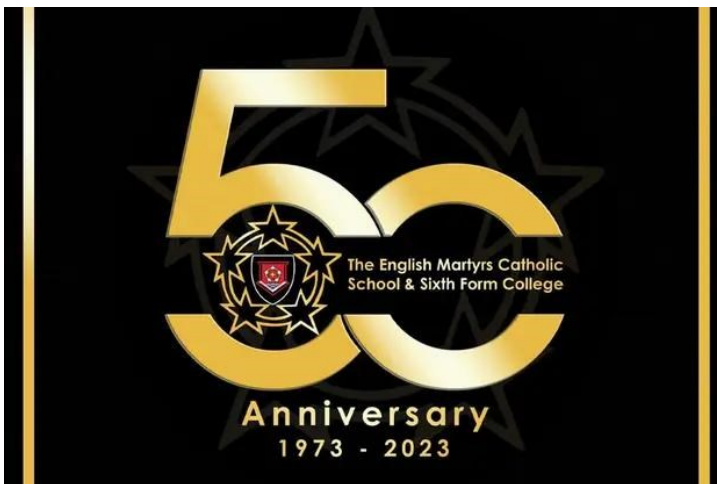


This term we had another visit from author and illustrator Liz Million. She worked with groups of Year 7 students in a workshop teaching them how to draw fun cartoon characters focusing on character development, movement and facial expressions. We also had a special reward session drawing mythical Harry Potter characters with our student librarians. Students were in awe at her abilities and described their artwork as 'the best drawings I have ever done!'





# Our Librarians at EMS 50



We have a fantastic team of librarians at English Martyrs who show excellent commitment to the library. They have been involved in various activities this term, including organising lots of new books, giving out recommended reads, managing and organising the library, and they even took part in the EMS 50th birthday celebration!





# Reading Awards



Here at EMS we are committed to removing barriers to learning and we have had some fantastic results with our reading interventions. The progress made with their reading ages has been fantastic, with pupils voicing they now feel much more confident with their reading. Congratulations all, they received a certificate and a breakfast treat to say well done!



# National Reading Champions



Here are some of our Year 8 and 9 students who competed in the National Reading Champion quiz. They represented the North East and were only 4 points away from qualifying to the national stage. We are very proud of their reading knowledge and how well they competed!



# King Charles III's Coronation



The library was a hub of activity for the King's coronation. Students enjoyed colouring, and various activities, all with a royal coronation theme. We also added to our selection of books about King Charles and the monarchy.



# Librarian's Trip to Teesside Archives



**Our student librarians recently had the brilliant opportunity to visit Tees Archives. They took part in a talk on career advice for getting into archives and conservation. They really enjoyed looking at documentation that the public doesn't normally get to see and even found out some things about Hartlepool throughout the ages.**





# Reading Leaders

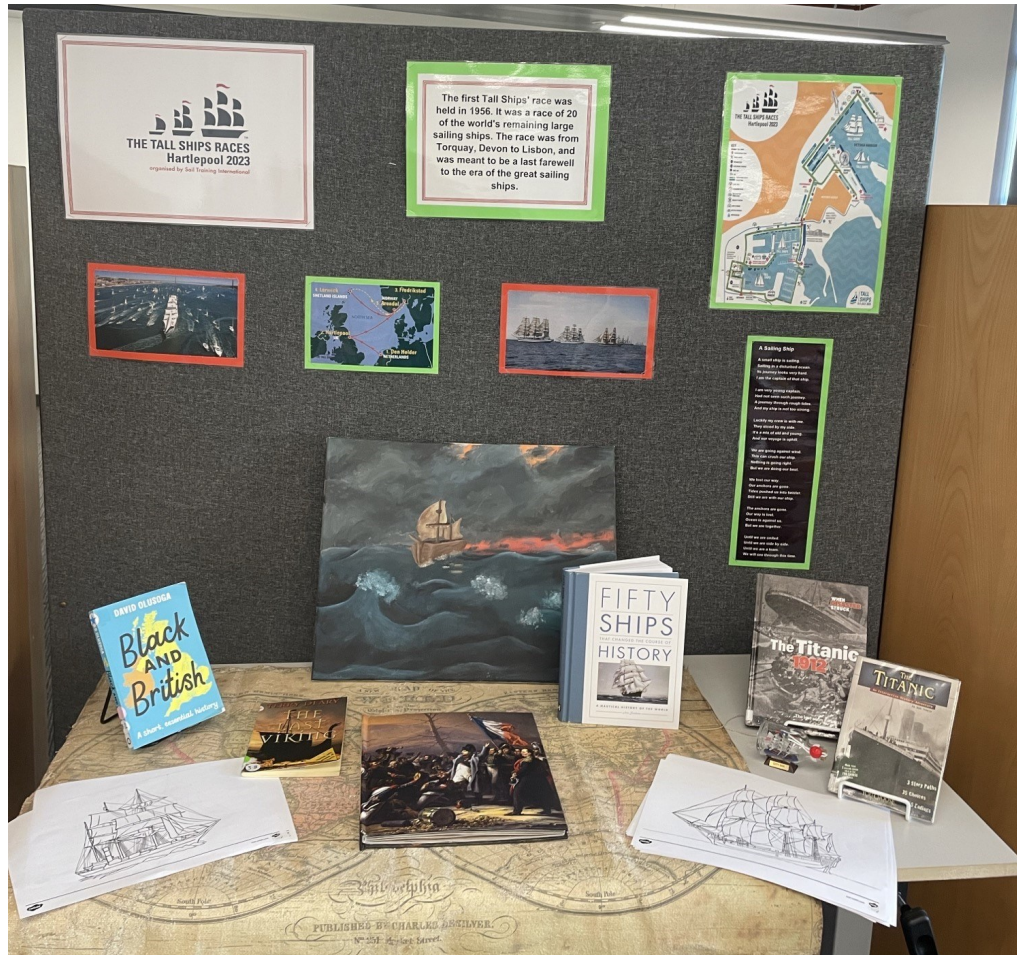
We are so proud of our Year 10 and 12 Reading Leaders who have been mentoring our Year 7 readers. Year 7 are gaining more confidence with their guidance. When asked, students felt they were more confident reading, are more able to recognise the importance of reading and actually enjoy reading more now!







# Tall Ships



**The Tall Ships came back to Hartlepool in July, after the last visit in 2010 we were so excited to welcome the fleet of 30 ships and celebrate the maritime event. The library had a Tall Ships theme with books and activities for students to engage with to find out more about this fabulous event!**



# Library Book Swap



As part of our commitment to living sustainably, we encourage our students to reuse their pre-loved things;

'Reusing something instead of immediately discarding it, when done for the right reasons, can be an act of love which expresses our own dignity.'  
Chapter 6, paragraph 211. Pope Francis' Encyclical, Laudato Si.

We set up a book swap in the main school for students to get summer reading material. In the Sixth Form, we had a text book donation box which students could exchange for some reading for pleasure.





# Inclusion & Identify



This month, we have explored the themes of Inclusion and Identity. Students have been discussing key topics linked to this, including protected characteristics.

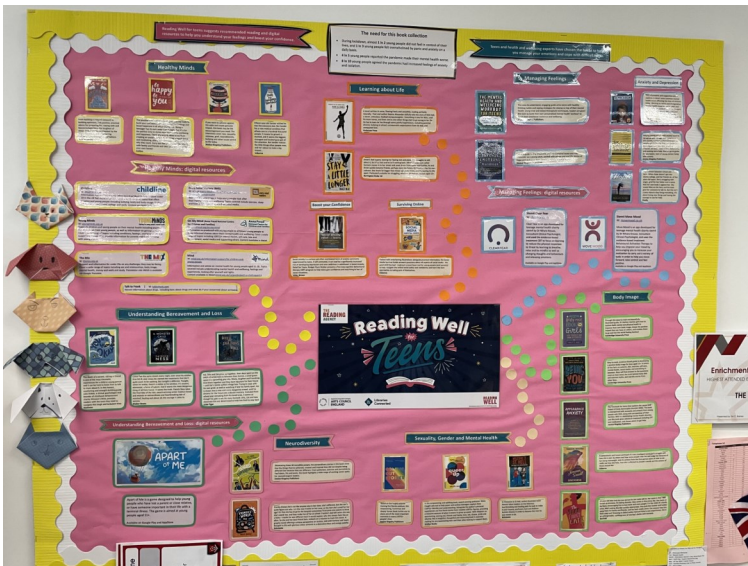


A Recommended Read from one of our Librarians, Spencer Gooding (Year 7):

**Heartstopper**  
by Alice Oseman



# Reading Well For Teens

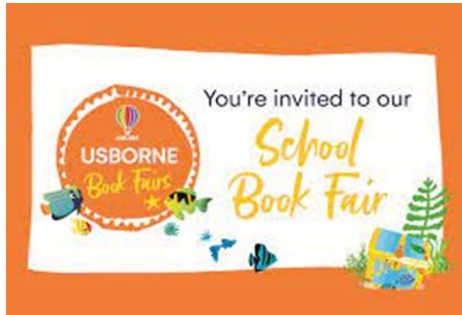


We have a new section in the library focussing on (mental) wellbeing called 'Reading Well for Teens'. Books cover a variety of topics from anxiety, body image, depression, sexuality and gender and dealing with grief and bereavement. They are sign posted in our new well-being area and all have yellow stickers!

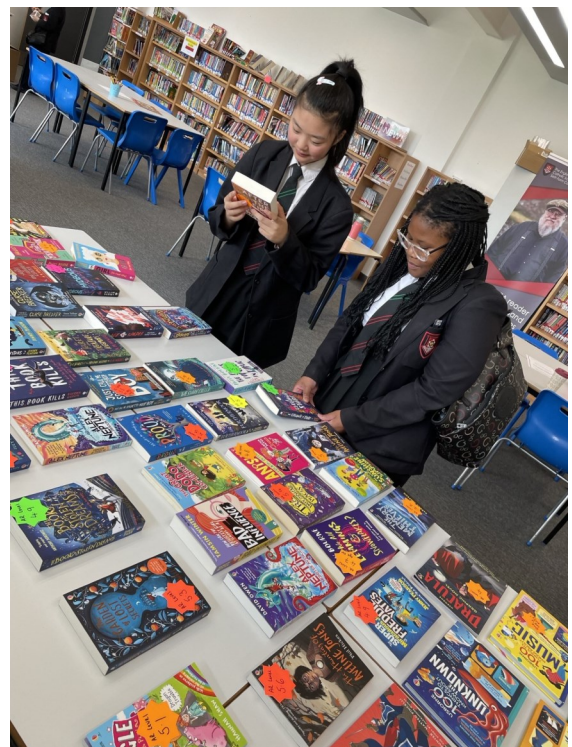




# Summer Book Fair

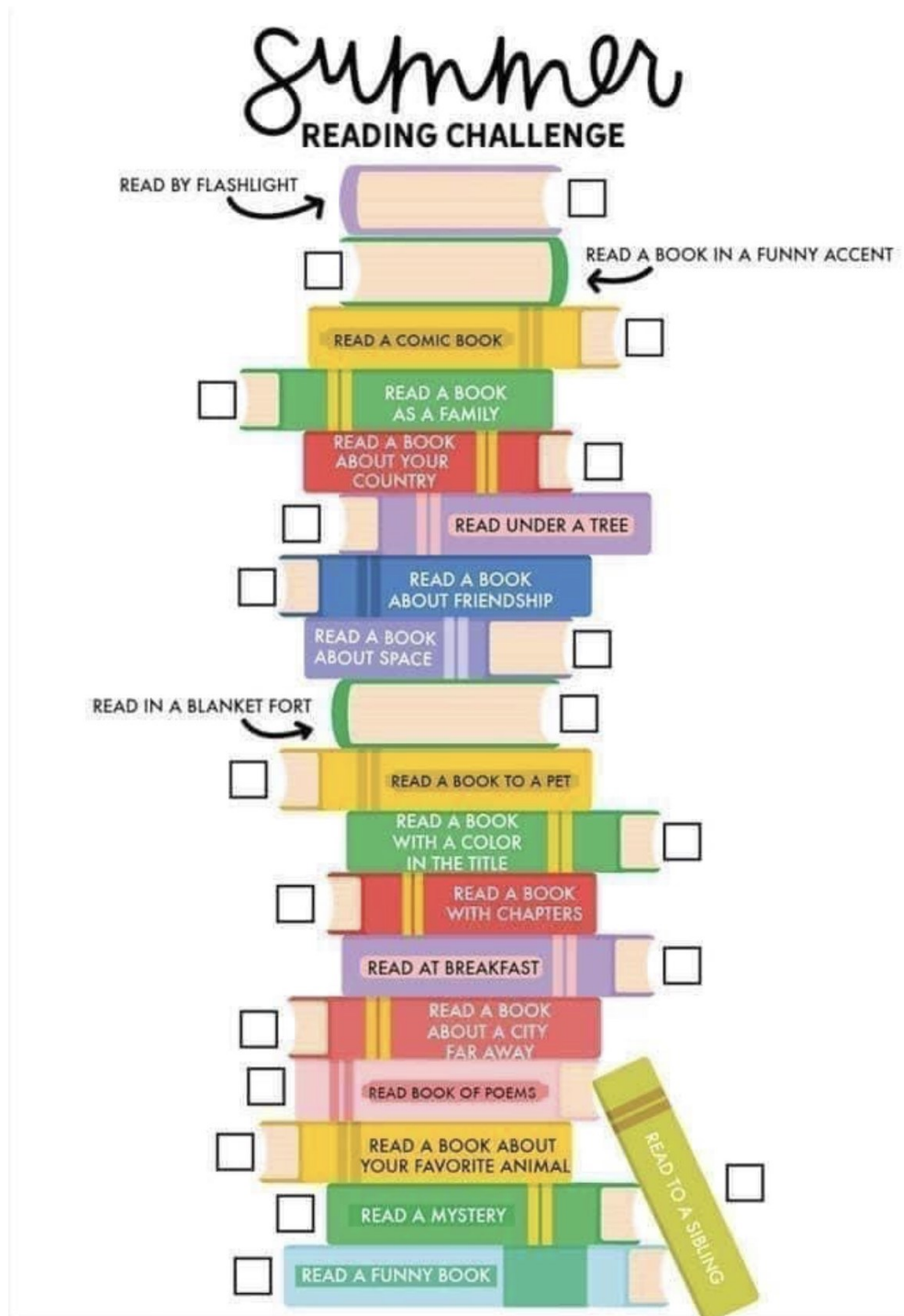


We held a School Book Fair on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> July in the Library. This was a fabulous opportunity for students to get some summer reading material and spend time in the library. We managed to make over £600 in book sales, meaning the school got lots of free books too for September!





# Student Summer Reading Challenge



Students have been encouraged to take on our Summer Reading Challenge. There will be prizes in September for the best photos of students taking part!



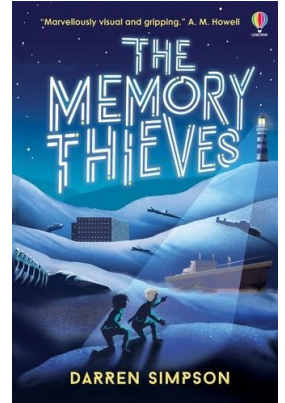
# Summer Reading

**Year 6 Book Title:** The Memory Thieves

**Author:** Darren Simpson

**Synopsis:** What you don't remember can't hurt you... Cyan has lived at the Elsewhere Sanctuary for as long as he can remember, freed by Dr Haven from dark memories of his past life. But when Cyan finds a mysterious warning carved into the bones of a whale skeleton, he starts to wonder what he had to forget to be so happy. New resident, Jonquil, begins to resist the sanctuary's treatment, preferring to hold on to her memories - even the bad ones. So when Dr Haven resorts to harsher measures, Cyan embarks on a secret mission to discover the truth about the sanctuary...and himself.

**Recommended by** Y7 Transition Team

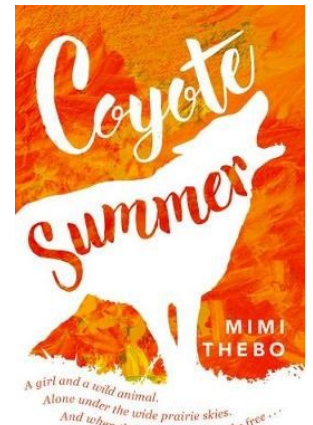


**Year 7 Book Title:** Coyote Summer

**Author:** Mini Thembo

**Synopsis:** Jules' life has been spiralling out of control ever since she failed a ballet audition. When she is expelled from school, for her part in an accident in which someone nearly died, her mother - hugely successful and largely absent - sends her to live with her aunt and uncle on a farm in Kansas which couldn't be more different from her privileged life in London. Cut off from her mother and friends, deprived of all the luxuries she's used to and faced with having to work harder than she's ever had to work before, Jules realises that in order to survive she is going to have to comply with her aunt's rules. In this new situation she begins to face her demons and acknowledge some of the hurts which have led to her sense of failure. She reconnects with her feelings and rediscovers her love of dance with the help of a silent spectator - a wild coyote which fascinates her.

**Recommended by** Sophie Pedley Y8

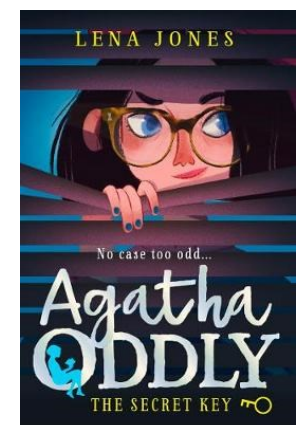


**Year 8 Book Title:** Agatha Oddly: The Secret Key

**Author:** Lena Jones

**Synopsis:** Meet thirteen-year-old Agatha Oddly - a bold, determined heroine, and the star of a stylish new detective series. Agatha Oddly has been a detective for as long as she can remember - she's just been waiting for her first big case. And nothing gets bigger than saving the City of London from some strange goings-on. With a scholarship to the prestigious St Regis School, a cottage in the middle of Hyde Park, a room full of beloved sleuthing novels, and a secret key that gives her access to a whole hidden side of London, Agatha is perfectly poised to solve the mystery of what's going on. But just who can she trust when no one is quite who they seem...

**Recommended by** Rebecca Sinton Y8





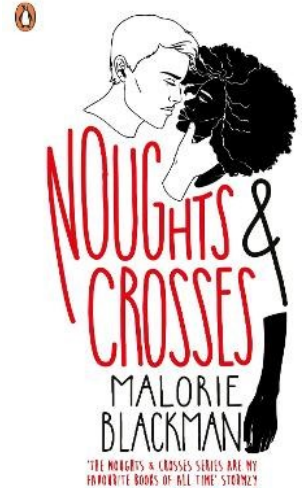
# Summer Reading

**Year 9 Book Title:** Noughts and Crosses

**Author:** Malorie Blackman

**Synopsis:** Callum is a Nought - a second-class citizen; Sephy is a Cross. In their world, Noughts and Crosses don't mix. Can Callum and Sephy find a way to be together? In what has already become a modern classic, award-winning author Malorie Blackman tackles the issues of prejudice and racism in a way that will thoroughly engage and inspire readers.

**Recommended by Mr Dixon**

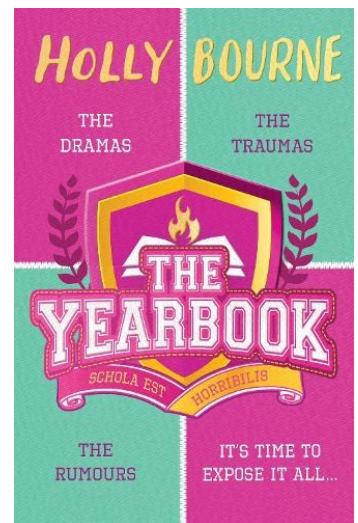


**Year 10 Book Title:** The Yearbook

**Author:** Holly Bourne

**Synopsis:** Working on the school newspaper, Paige is used to dealing with fake stories. 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 fake. They're poison. But Paige has had enough of all the lies in her life. And with the help of Elijah - the only boy who could ever understand her - she's going to reveal the truth.

**Recommended by Mrs Thorburn**

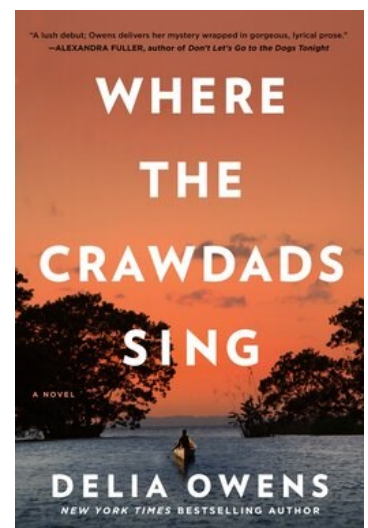


**Year 12 Book Title:** Where the Crawdads Sing

**Author:** Delia Owens

**Synopsis:** Abandoned as a girl, Kya raised herself in the dangerous marshlands of North Carolina. For years, rumors of the marsh girl haunted Barkley Cove, isolating the sharp and resilient Kya from her community. Drawn to two young men from town, she opens herself to a new and startling world. However, when one of them is found dead, Kya immediately becomes the main suspect. As the case unfolds, the verdict as to what happened becomes increasingly unclear, threatening to reveal many secrets.

**Recommended by Sixth Form Librarians**







# Summer Reading

## Staff Recommendations

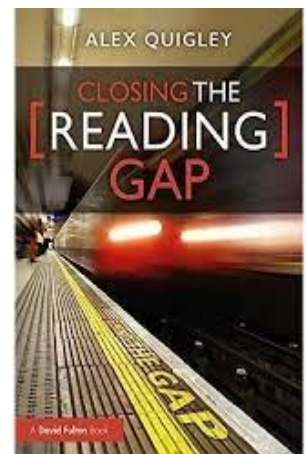
### CPD

**Book Title:** Closing the Reading Gap

**Author:** Alex Quigley

**Synopsis:** Alex Quigley explores the intriguing history and science of reading, synthesising the debates and presenting a wealth of usable evidence about how children develop most efficiently as successful readers. Offering practical strategies for teachers at every phase of their teaching career, as well as tackling issues such as dyslexia and the role of technology, the book helps teachers to be an expert in how pupils 'learn to read' as well as how they 'read to learn' and explores how reading is vital for unlocking a challenging academic curriculum for every student. With a focus on nurturing pupils' will and skill to read for pleasure and purpose, this essential volume provides practical solutions to help all teachers create a rich reading culture that will enable every student to thrive in school and far beyond the school gates.

**Recommended by Mrs Crawshaw**



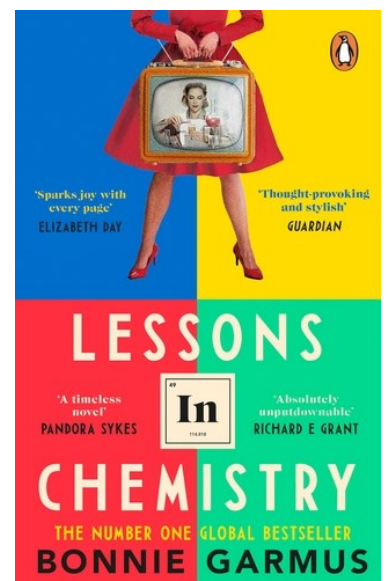
### Reading for Pleasure:

**Book Title:** Lessons in Chemistry

**Author:** Bonnie Garmus

**Synopsis:** Chemist Elizabeth Zott is not your average woman. In fact, Elizabeth Zott would be the first to point out that there is no such thing as an average woman. But it's the early 1960s and her all-male team at Hastings Research Institute takes a very unscientific view of equality. Except for one: Calvin Evans; the lonely, brilliant, Nobel-prize nominated grudge-holder who falls in love with—of all things—her mind. True chemistry results. But like science, life is unpredictable. Which is why a few years later Elizabeth Zott finds herself not only a single mother, but the reluctant star of America's most beloved cooking show *Supper at Six*. Elizabeth's unusual approach to cooking ("combine one tablespoon acetic acid with a pinch of sodium chloride") proves revolutionary. But as her following grows, not everyone is happy. Because as it turns out, Elizabeth Zott isn't just teaching women to cook. She's daring them to change the status quo.

**Recommended by Mrs Phenix**





# Staff Summer Reading Challenge



The Teachers' Reading Challenge is an opportunity for school and library staff to expand their knowledge of contemporary children's books and develop their understanding of reading for pleasure pedagogy. Run by The Reading Agency in partnership with the Open University, the challenge invites participants to:

- Join a supportive and inspired community of educators and readers
- Set their own reading goal
- Upload book reviews
- Access thousands of reviews from teachers and librarians
- Share best practice
- Download engaging and beautifully designed publisher resources
- Record and apply their knowledge

**To join search 'Teacher Reading Challenge' or follow this link  
[https://api.readingagency.org.uk/users/sign\\_up](https://api.readingagency.org.uk/users/sign_up)**

## HOW IT WORKS



Read at least 6 books and review at least 3 of them to unlock your Bronze badge



Complete a short survey to unlock your Silver badge



Upload an example of practice to unlock your Gold badge