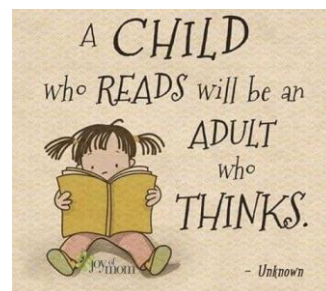




Annie Lennard Key Stage 2
Spring Term Reading Newsletter

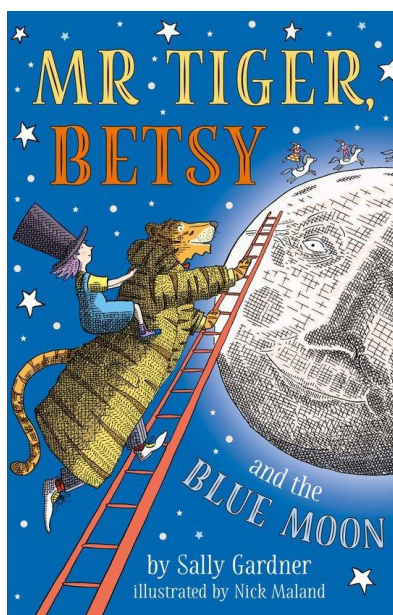


Welcome to our second newsletter! Read on to find out about new fiction and non-fiction releases for the spring, types of book genres and recommendations to keep us all going during this lockdown, signposts to reading resources, dates of note and much more...

Useful Reading Resources

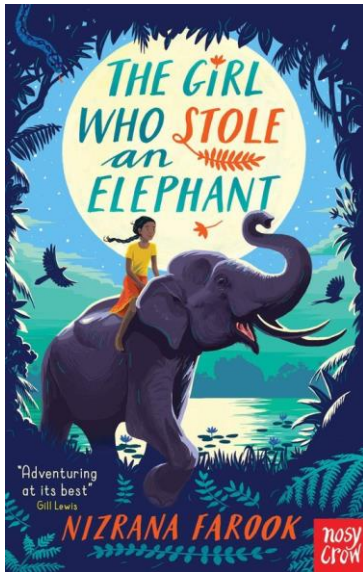
<https://library.thenational.academy/>

This amazing website is allowing you to read an entire book for free and take part in activities/ discussions about the book. The books looked at so far are:

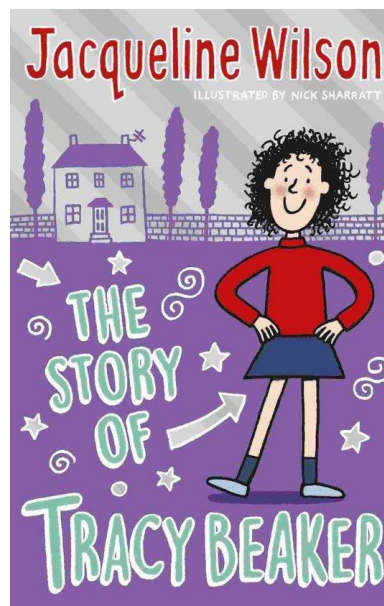


Meet Mr Tiger, Betsy and the Blue Moon with Sally Gardner

Steal an Elephant with Nizrana Farook



The Story of Tracy Beaker by Jacqueline Wilson



LoveReading4Kids- www.lovereadings4kids.co.uk is the biggest and best recommendation site for children's books. Their passion for children's books ranges from toddlers to teens and ensures that whatever the age, whatever the interest, that you have a steady stream of brilliant book recommendations for your child.

Picture books- if picture books are your thing, then click on this link to find lots of recommendations- <https://www.readbrightly.com/picture-books-2020/>

Other good websites for reading recommendations-

<https://home.oxfordowl.co.uk/reading/> if you sign up- you can access lots of e-books for free.

<https://www.booktrust.org.uk/books-and-reading/our-recommendations/100-best-books/>

100 best books for kids.

Dates of note



February -Library Lovers' Month- check out online library services and read e-books.

<https://500words.me/> 500 words competition- opening end of February 2021

1-7 Children's Authors and Illustrators Week

3 – World Read Aloud Day

7 – Charles Dickens's birthday

9 – Read in the Bathtub Day

14 – International Book Giving Day

14 – Library Lover's Day

27 – John Steinbeck's birthday

26 – Tell a Fairy Tale Day

March

<https://www.worldbookday.com/> World Book Day 4th March 2021- click on the link to watch the video about it.

2 – Dr. Seuss’s birthday

2-8 Read an E-book Week

4 – World Book Day in the UK and Ireland

20 – World Storytelling Day

21 – World Poetry Day

April -National Poetry Month

D.E.A.R. (Drop Everything and Read) Month

1 – Reading is Funny Day

1 – Poetry and the Creative Mind Day

2 – International Children’s Book Day

2 – Hans Christian Anderson’s birthday

4 – Maya Angelou’s birthday

4-10 National Library Week

15 – World Art Day

23 – Shakespeare’s birthday

24 – Independent Bookstore Day

27 – National Tell A Story Day

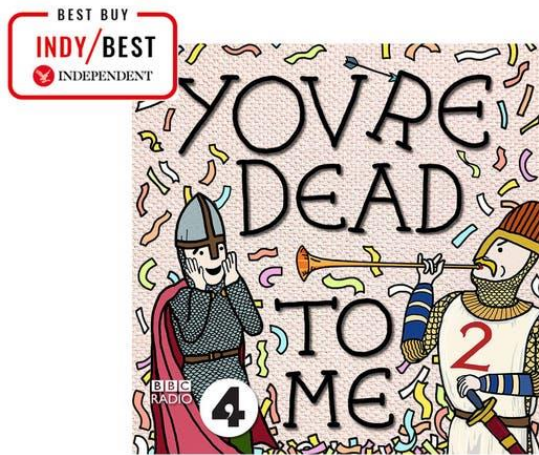
28 – Harper Lee’s birthday

28 – Great Poetry Reading Day

Podcasts

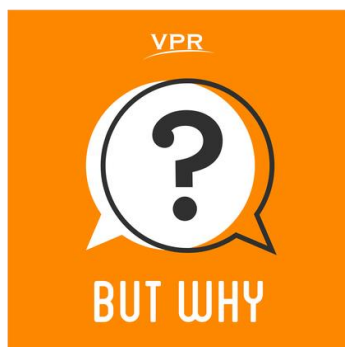
Something new to try is podcasts. As we are spending a lot of time at home and on screens, resting our eyes is important. So why not try one of these Podcasts.

<https://www.independent.co.uk/extras/indybest/kids/toys-activities/best-kids-podcasts-story-science-top-a9494776.html>



The past is a trove of intrigue and storytelling potential – as proved by this podcast hosted by historian Greg Jenner. There are jokes aplenty as Jenner goes about the serious business of unravelling the past. *You're Dead To Me* is the perfect example of how children can learn without even realising it.

It's cheeky and irreverent – just the sort of tone youngsters love. We especially recommend "the history of chocolate" episode as well as the one on Blackbeard, arguably the most famous and fearsome pirate in the history of the world.



"Why?" is a great question and is proof of an enquiring mind, but it can't half drive busy parents around the bend. Which is why this podcast is a saving grace. It essentially fields questions from children and answers them all, engaging the help of experts in all sorts of different fields. No topic is off limits and no query

too highfalutin or basic. Anything goes. Questions we have loved listening to the answers for include "why do we laugh?" "what is the biggest number?" and most recently, "why do baby teeth fall out?". Parents are guaranteed to learn something new and the information is delivered in a playful, clear way. And if your children have a burning question, it's easy to send it to the producers of But Why and have it answered.



An offshoot of the hugely successful bestselling book of the same name, this podcast is all about championing clever and tenacious women from across all sectors including the arts, civil rights and sport. Each of these episodes are about 20 minutes long and focus on one extraordinary woman – read by another extraordinary woman. **Greta Thunberg's**

story read by **Jameela Jamil** is one recent stand out episode, while the sublime **Pamela Adlon** reading **Frida Kahlo** is nothing short of a treat. And don't let the gendered title put you off – these stories are for everyone.



This gentle podcast is perfect for children who struggle to wind down or who might need a little help turning off at the end of a busy day. These short stories all promote mindfulness and seek to instil some inner calm into the often-fraught minds of little ones. All will help with relaxation and include breathing exercises. Chanel Tsang who presents the podcast has a very soothing,

soft voice, backed up by the kind of music you might listen to during a deep tissue massage. Even without the content, the sound itself is so restful.

We love the visualisation she practises in many of the episodes – imagining a bed for example. We defy anyone, adults included, to not want to head off to the land of nod after listening to this. Our three-year-old listener yawned a big yawn at the end and said: “I’m so cosy”, which is a ringing endorsement of a podcast promoting peacefulness.



This is such a lovely podcast – combining music and folklore to create audio to suit children aged between four and 10-years-old. Each episode will have a moral hinge for children and parents to focus on – including kindness and tenacity. We especially loved listening to the recent "the king and the cobbler" episode and really appreciate how the producers addressed how important

one's imagination is in challenging times, such as the current global crisis. As well as the audio play, they suggest a range of at-home activities for children to get on with, either during or after listening.



These stories are written by kids – and many of them are read by real live celebrities, including the brilliant Claire Danes. The titles alone are superb (if the likes of "the monkey and the ice skates" or "my family are tigers" doesn't whet young appetites for fiction, we don't know what will) and the stories

themselves are all imaginative, original and beautifully written. We think knowing that these are written by their peers will be endlessly inspiring to young listeners.



This is one for curious scientists, both children and adults. Hosted by reporters and young scientists, Brains On tackles big topics head on through conversation and discussion and a healthy dose of humour and silliness. The secret world of dust was fascinating and there is also a brilliant episode all about memory and the feeling of déjà vu. At 30

minutes each, these are best suited for children aged six or seven or older who have more honed attention spans.

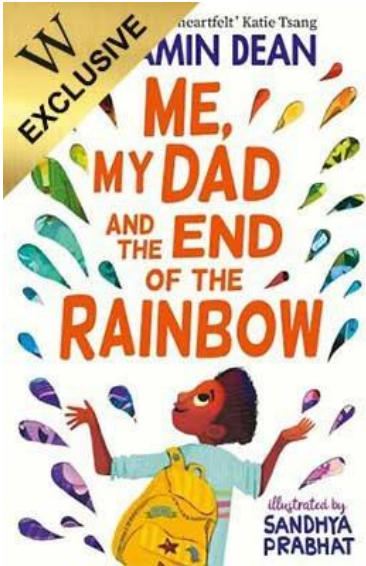


These weekly episodes are essentially performances of some of the world's best loved children's stories including fairy tales, fables and Greek mythology. The narrator has a lively, lyrical voice full of depth and expression which really helps children to engage with the plot and characters. The episodes last from around 15 to 30 minutes.

This one is for all the reluctant teeth brushers out there. Dentists recommend that children should be brushing for two full minutes twice a day, so these episodes offer two minute's worth of jokes, songs and facts in to be played during brush time so as to provide some fun and distraction. There is also a little reminder of how to best clean your teeth at various points during the podcast, encouraging children to focus on different areas within the mouth. These are short, sweet bursts of information and encouragement that ensure better dental hygiene.



Must have reads (Fiction)

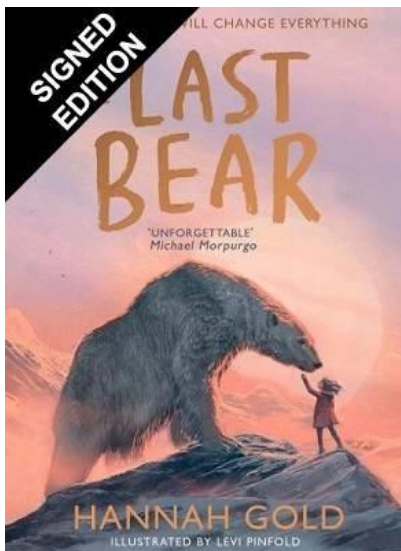


Things aren't going great for Archie Albright. His dad's acting weird, his mum too, and he all he wants is for everything to go back to normal, to three months before when his parents were happy and still lived together. When Archie sees a colourful, crumpled flyer fall out of Dad's pocket, he thinks he may have found the answer. Only problem? The answer might just lie at the end of the rainbow, an adventure away.

Together with his best friends, Bell and Seb, Archie sets off on a heartwarming and unforgettable journey to try and fix his family, even if he has to break a few rules to do it...

The rainbow-filled, joyous debut from a hugely exciting new talent. Perfect for 9+ readers and fans of Lisa Thompson, Stewart Foster and Onjali Rauf's bestselling *The Boy at the Back of the Class*.

<https://www.waterstones.com/book/me-my-dad-and-the-end-of-the-rainbow/benjamin-dean/sandhya-prabhat/9781398505773>

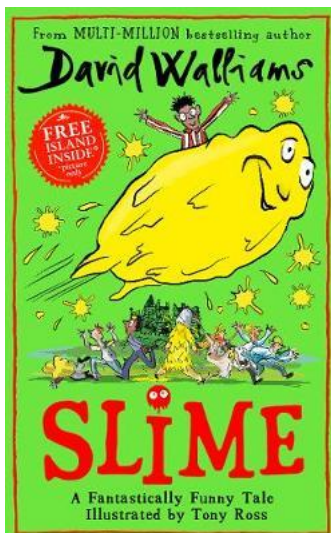


There are no polar bears left on Bear Island. At least, that's what April's father tells her when his scientific research takes them to this remote Arctic outpost for six months. But one endless summer night, April meets one. He is starving, lonely and a long way from home. Determined to save him, April begins the most important journey of her life...

This moving story will win the hearts of children the world over and show them that no one is too young or insignificant to make a difference. The Last Bear is a celebration of the love between a child and an animal, a battle cry for our world and an irresistible adventure with a heart as big as a bear's.

Imagine making friends with a polar bear... The Last Bear is perfect for readers of 8+, beautifully illustrated throughout by Levi Pinfold - winner of the Kate Greenaway Medal and illustrator of Harry Potter 20th anniversary edition covers.

<https://www.waterstones.com/book/the-last-bear/hannah-gold/levi-pinfold/9780008472320>



The new children's book from No. 1 bestselling author David Walliams - a fantastically funny tale illustrated by artistic genius, Tony Ross.

WELCOME TO THE ISLE OF MULCH...

This little island is home to a large number of horrible grown-ups. The school, the local park, the toy shop and even the island's ice-cream van are all run by awful adults who like nothing more than making children miserable. And the island is owned by the most awful one of all - Aunt Greta Greed!

Something needs to be done about them.

But who could be brave enough?

Meet Ned - an extraordinary boy with a special power. **SLIMEPOWER!**

<https://www.waterstones.com/book/slime/david-walliams/tony-ross/9780008342586>



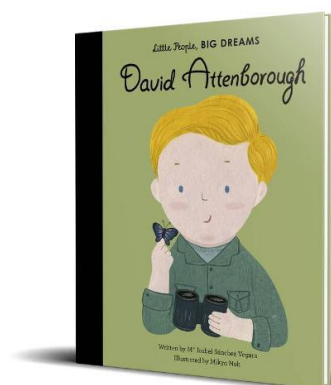
Computer code just got dangerous in this action-packed spy adventure series

Asha Joshi has the perfect excuse not to finish her homework. She's just been recruited to join the top-secret Children's Spy Agency. Her first mission: SAVE THE WORLD. Can she do it? Asha's a coder so she should be able to hack into the biggest tech company in the world, fight deadly sharks and figure out why the Internet has stopped working. All before bedtime. Easy, right?

The story is a great way to engage young readers in coding, critical-thinking and STEM. It is mapped onto key National Curriculum Computing KS1 and KS2 concepts including algorithms, conditionals and debugging.

<https://www.waterstones.com/book/agent-asha-mission-shark-bytes/sophie-deen/9781406382723>

Must have reads- non-fiction



In this book from the critically acclaimed, multimillion-copy bestselling Little People, BIG DREAMS series, discover the life of David Attenborough, the inspiring broadcaster and conservationist.

Little David grew up in Leicester on the campus of a university, where his father was a professor. As a child, he spent hours in the science library, collating his own specimens and creating a mini animal museum. When he was old enough to go to university, he studied science and zoology - but what he wanted most of all

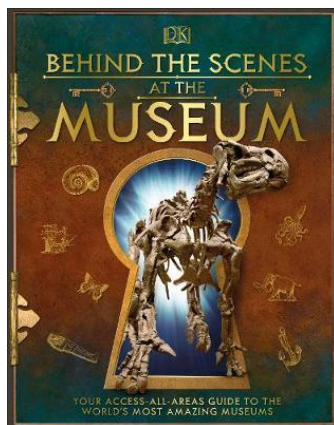
was to be close to the animals he was studying. So, he started working in television, visiting animals in their natural habitats and telling the world the untold stories of these animals.

This moving book features stylish and quirky illustrations and extra facts at the back, including a biographical timeline with historical photos and a detailed profile of the broadcaster's life.

[Little People, BIG DREAMS](#) is a bestselling series of books and educational games that explore the lives of outstanding people, from designers and artists to scientists and activists. All of them achieved incredible things, yet each began life as a child with a dream.

Inspire the next generation of outstanding people who will change the world with Little People, BIG DREAMS!

<https://www.waterstones.com/book/david-attenborough/maria-isabel-sanchez-vegara/mikyo-noh/9780711245631>



Take an exclusive tour of the world's most exciting museums and discover their hidden treasures.

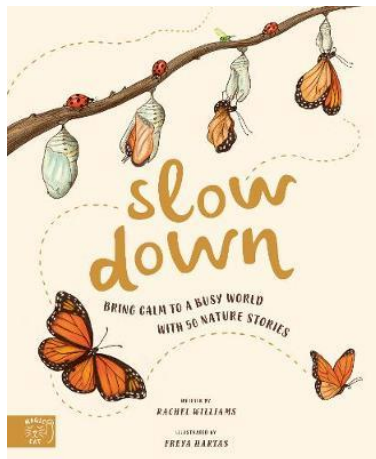
This behind-the-scenes guide showcases a huge range of incredible artefacts from history and reveals the hard work, care, and effort that goes into collecting, preserving, and storing them.

Ever wondered what happens to an astronaut's space suit after it's been worn on the Moon? Or how the world's most valuable diamond is looked after? Find out all about how museums work and the people that make it happen - from how historians care for Anne Frank's diary to what it takes to excavate and exhibit a woolly mammoth skeleton.

Behind the Scenes at the Museum gives you exclusive access to hidden objects that aren't normally on public display. It lets you into a world of animal specimens pickled in jars, priceless jewellery too valuable to be on display, and fragile papers that must be kept in carefully controlled conditions. Filled with incredible images, step-by-step explanations of exciting techniques, and job profiles of the people that make it happen,

Behind the Scenes at the Museum offers unique, behind-the-curtain access to the secret delights of the world's most interesting museums.

<https://www.waterstones.com/book/behind-the-scenes-at-the-museum/dk/smithsonian-institution/9780241381762>



All around us, nature is turning, growing...and working. Every day, hour by hour, magical transformations happen right in front of you. But it's not always easy to see them...

Discover 50 nature stories, paused just long enough for you to watch them unfold. Then go outside and explore... and see what you find when you take the time to slow down.

<https://www.waterstones.com/book/slow-down/rachel-williams/freya-hartas/9781916180512>



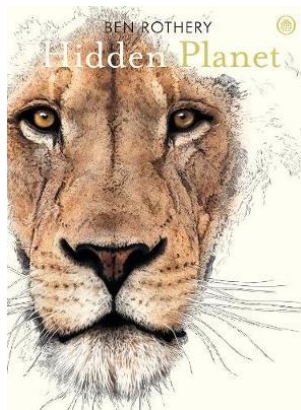
Ever wondered how we got from nothing to something? Or thought about how we can weigh the earth? Or wanted to reach the edge of the universe?

Uncover the mysteries of time, space and life on earth in this extraordinary book - a journey from the centre of the planet to the dawn of the dinosaurs, and everything in between.

And discover our own incredible journey, from single cell to civilisation, including the brilliant (and sometimes very bizarre) scientists who helped us find out the how and why.

Adapted from A Short History of Nearly Everything, this stunningly illustrated book from the extraordinary Bill Bryson takes us from the Big Bang to the dawn of science, and everything in between.

<https://www.waterstones.com/book/a-really-short-history-of-nearly-everything/bill-bryson/bill-bryson/9780241451939>



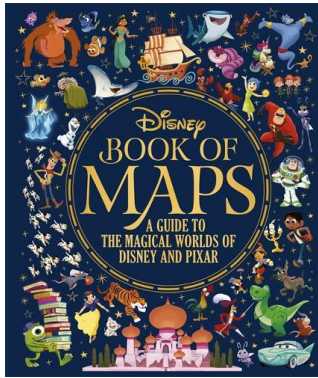
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<https://www.waterstones.com/book/hidden-planet/ben-rothery/9780241361016>



Dive into your favourite Disney worlds with this beautiful atlas of 25 official maps. Welcome to the most magical atlas of them all! Discover the dangers of the Pride Lands, dive under the sea with Ariel, try to make sense of Wonderland with Alice, fly to Neverland with Peter and hitch a ride onto the East Australian Current with Marlin and Dory. With stories retold and characters to meet along the way, there is something

here for all Disney fans, from nostalgic classics to modern favourites.

Includes maps from the following feature films: Peter Pan, Dumbo, Pinocchio, Alice in Wonderland, The Jungle Book, Beauty and the Beast, Finding Nemo, Monsters University, Coco, Inside Out, Cars, Up, The Little Mermaid, Aladdin, Frozen, Snow White and the Seven Dwarves, The Lion King, Ratatouille, The Incredibles, 101 Dalmatians, Moana, Brave, Toy Story, Finding Dory, and A Bug's Life.

<https://www.waterstones.com/book/the-disney-book-of-maps/walt-disney-company-ltd/9781787418370>

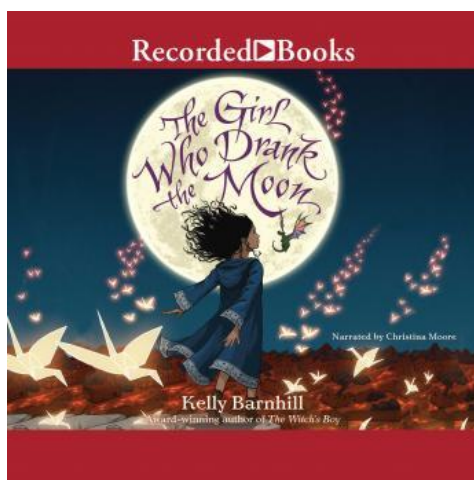
Audiobooks

Don't forget that audiobooks are a good way to relax and explore new reading genres!

Audiobooks- <https://www.lovereadings4kids.co.uk/audiobooks>

The Girl Who Drank the Moon

Author: Kelly Barnhill Narrator: Christina Moore Release Date: 01/08/2016



A young girl raised by a witch, a swamp monster, and a Perfectly Tiny Dragon must unlock the dangerous magic buried deep inside her in this epic coming-of-age fairy tale from the highly acclaimed author of *The Witch's Boy*. Every year, the people of the Protectorate leave a baby as an offering to the witch who lives in the forest. They hope this sacrifice will keep her from terrorizing their town. But the witch in the forest, Xan, is kind and gentle. She shares her home with

a wise Swamp Monster named Glerk and a Perfectly Tiny Dragon, Fyrian. Xan rescues the abandoned children and delivers them to welcoming families on the other side of the forest, nourishing the babies with starlight on the journey. One year, Xan accidentally feeds a baby moonlight instead of starlight, filling the ordinary child with extraordinary magic. Xan decides she must raise this girl, whom she calls Luna, as her own. When Luna approaches her thirteenth birthday, her magic begins to emerge on schedule--but Xan is far away. Meanwhile, a young man from the Protectorate is determined to free his people by killing the witch. Soon, it is up to Luna to protect those who have protected her--even if it means the end of the loving, safe world she's always known. The acclaimed author of *The Witch's Boy* has created another epic coming-of-age fairy tale destined to become a modern classic.

The Wild Robot

Author: Peter Brown Narrator: Kate Atwater Release Date: 01/09/2020



The Wild Robot: Booktrack Edition adds an immersive musical soundtrack to your audiobook listening experience! * Wall-E meets Hatchet in this New York Times bestselling illustrated middle grade novel from Caldecott Honor winner Peter Brown Can a robot survive in the wilderness? When robot Roz opens her eyes for the first time, she discovers that she is alone on a remote, wild island. She has no idea how she got there or what her purpose is--but she

knows she needs to survive. After battling a violent storm and escaping a vicious bear attack, she realizes that her only hope for survival is to adapt to her surroundings and learn from the island's unwelcoming animal inhabitants. As Roz slowly befriends the animals, the island starts to feel like home--until, one day, the robot's mysterious past comes back to haunt her. From bestselling and award-winning author and illustrator Peter Brown comes a heartwarming and action-packed novel about what happens when nature and technology collide. *Booktrack is an immersive format that pairs traditional audiobook narration to complementary music. The tempo and rhythm of the score are in perfect harmony with the action and characters throughout the audiobook. Gently playing in the background, the music never overpowers or distracts from the narration, so listeners can enjoy every minute. When you purchase this Booktrack edition, you receive the exact narration as the traditional audiobook available, with the addition of music throughout.

Book reviews

Have you read anything amazing recently? If you would like a book review submitted for next term's newsletter, then please email Mrs Groves at year5.als@annielennard.sandwell.sch.uk

Printed book reviews will win a prize!

Book talk – Pie Corbett

See below a list of questions you could use when you are talking about books:

'Book-talk' is about the ability to talk about books, developing the confidence to offer ideas and then reshape them in the light of other contributions. It helps children to trust their own ideas and interpretations, to talk effectively about a book, deepening their understanding, shifting their ideas, thinking together and moving comprehension forwards. 'Book-talk' only works if the books have anything worth saying about them. The quality of the book determines the depth of discussion. It is important to accept all answers positively about the books that children read. Children are encouraged to raise questions as well as make points and suggestions. (Pie Corbett, 2008)

- What sorts of things did you like or dislike? Was there anything that puzzled you?
- Have you read any other books like this? How did they compare? Which parts of the book stay in your mind most vividly? How did the main character change? What surprises are there in the book?
- How long did it take the story to happen? Where did the story happen? Which character interested you most? Who was telling the story? Talk about the links between the story and the illustrations.

Competitions

<https://www.lovereadings4kids.co.uk/competitions/690/Win-Our-Final-Set-of-LoveReading4Kids-Star-Books-of-2020.html>

<https://www.lovereadings4kids.co.uk/competitions/687/Win-a-copy-of-The-Worst-Class-in-the-World-Gets-Worse.html>

<https://www.lovereadings4kids.co.uk/competitions/688/Win-the-entire-Train-to-Impossible-Places-series.html>

Thank you for reading our second KS2 reading newsletter. I hope that you enjoyed it. For any questions, comments, then please email year5.als@annielennard.sandwell.sch.uk to speak to Mrs Groves.

Happy reading,

Mrs Groves

