



If a book
is well written,
I always find it
too short.
Jane Austen



Annie Lennard Key Stage 2

Autumn 2 Term Reading Newsletter

Welcome to our Christmas newsletter. Read on to find out about new fiction and non-fiction releases, types of book genres and recommendations, signposts to reading resources and a section about magazine subscriptions...

Reading Resources

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

<https://www.waterstones.com/blog/the-best-books-to-look-out-for-in-2020-childrens-andyoung-adult>

<https://www.penguin.co.uk/articles/children/2019/dec/best-childrens-books-in-2020-puffin.html>

<https://www.pearson.com/uk/learners/primary-parents/learn-at-home/help-your-child-to-enjoy-reading.html>

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.

8 reasons to join LoveReading4Kids:

1. We are the UK's leading book recommendation website for children and our mission is to engender that lifelong love of reading in kids
2. New users get entered into our monthly draw to win £100 to spend in your local bookshop
3. We curate the book recommendations based on your children's age, favourite genres, likes and dislikes, so you don't have to



4. You can read reviews from the best book experts around
5. You can add books to your digital bookshelf to keep track of what they want to read next, and what they have already read
6. You can enter our dozens of competitions and giveaways to win free books and bookish goodies
7. You can check prices via our live price comparison engine to ensure you get the best deal
8. Children can sign up to KidsZone, an area of the site just for them, capturing loads of content especially for children—a home where they can engage with videos, watch interviews, read book reviews and enjoy tons of activities and competitions. What are you waiting for? Sign up now... (it is free!)

Dates of note

December- *Royal Mail Letters to Santa* (deadline TBC)- Each year, Santa's elves at the Royal Mail can help you get a letter from Santa, if children write to him by early December.

<https://www.royalmail.com/christmas/letters-to-santa>

National Poetry Prize- competition is open now

<https://www.lovereadings4kids.co.uk/poetry-prize>

Carnegie Medal winners- <https://www.lovereadings4kids.co.uk/book-awards/cga/Carnegie-Medal-Kate-Greenaway-Medal.html>

January- *Martin Luther King Jr. Day*- January 17th

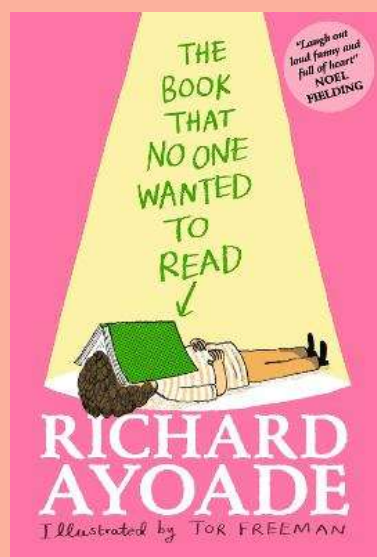
Burns Night- January 25th 2022

Must have reads (Fiction)

What is it that makes YOU want to read a book?

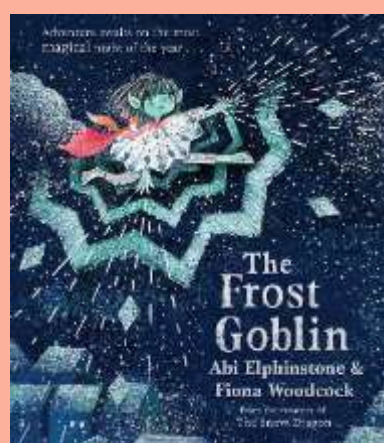
Richard Ayoade's children's debut gives you all the answers in a way that's silly, funny, and thoroughly beguiling. Have you ever thought about how it feels to be a book?

To be left under a whiffy pant pile or shelved, forever collecting dust? To have your pages bent backwards or your spine BROKEN?



What if you don't have a sparkly unicorn or dragon adorning your cover - who will pick you out of the bookshop then? This is the story of the sadly neglected Book That No One Wanted To Read - can its destiny change when it finally meets the right reader? Spoiler alert: yes.

<https://www.lovereadings4kids.co.uk/book/20753/The-Book-That-No-One-Wanted-to-Read-by-Richard-Ayoade.html>

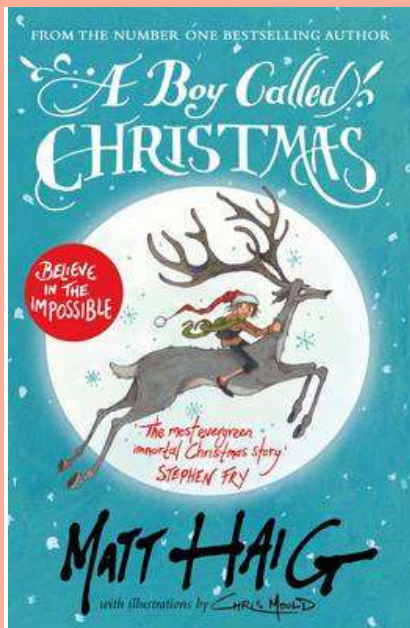


The deepest frost has the power to rekindle hope in anyone who's lost it...

In Bertie Crash-Wallop's noisy family, it can sometimes feel like there is no room for a quiet boy like him. But when Bertie meets a family of goblins on the night of the deepest frost, is it possible he might make some magic and discover his own place in the world?

Join Bertie and the Frost Goblins on an exciting adventure in this beautifully moving story by the bestselling author of Sky Song and The Unmapped Chronicles, Abi Elphinstone, and renowned illustrator Fiona Woodcock. The perfect book for frosty winter's nights and cosy Christmas mornings.

<https://www.lovereadings4kids.co.uk/book/20323/The-Frost-Goblin-by-Abi-Elphinstone.html>



BELIEVE IN THE IMPOSSIBLE You are about to read THE TRUE STORY OF FATHER CHRISTMAS If you are one of those people who believe that some things are impossible, you should put this book down right away. (Because this book is FULL of impossible things.) Are you still reading? Good. Then let us begin...

<https://www.lovereadings4kids.co.uk/book/13565/A-Boy-Called-Christmas-by-Matt-Haig.html> see link for a video about the book.

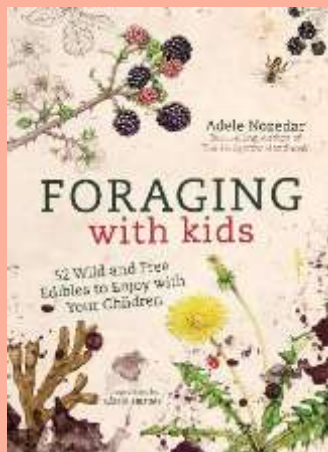
Must have reads- Non-fiction



As in his hugely popular previous book, Flower Power, Olaf Hajek's wondrously imaginative and detailed portraits are paired with engaging and eye-opening texts.

The book shows how each vegetable appears in its natural soil habitat, and how it might be eaten today. Health benefits, historical tidbits, and botanical oddities are seamlessly woven into each spread.

From the first spring onion, to pumpkins harvested just before the frost, this inviting journey through the growing season celebrates the artistic, historical, and culinary bounty that awaits us in the garden and at the table.



In today's world of increasingly sedentary lifestyles and a growing detachment from the food that we eat, it has never been more important to encourage children to put down their screens, get outside and engage with the natural world around them.

Foraging with Kids is a fun, practical book for parents to work through with their children that encourages families to interact with their environment and gain knowledge and practical understanding of the natural world through exploration and play. The projects are based around 50 easy-to-identify plants that are abundant in parks, forests and hedgerows worldwide, making the challenge of discovering functional flora just as achievable to those who live in the city as in the countryside. Once they have foraged their plants, children will be amazed by the diverse practical uses that they can set them to; from making soap from conkers or setting a delicious egg-free custard with plantain, to stopping minor cuts from bleeding with hedge woundwort. Children will take great pride in seeing their gatherings forming part of the family meal and parents will be amazed at how even the most vegetable-averse child will develop an enthusiastic appetite for a meal that they have contributed to.

Illustrated throughout with beautiful hand drawings and with essential information on plant facts and identification, as well as a diverse range of engaging, practical projects that the whole family will want to get involved with, this is the perfect book for anyone who wants the children under their care to get outside, connect with nature and have a lot of fun in the process.



Computer coding is now a compulsory topic on the UK National Primary Curriculum and this book backs up what is being taught 'Code Clubs' in schools. Python is considered a 'first language' for computer programming, this book acts as a handy guidebook providing the most relevant and useful instructions, terminology and examples.

Python is one of the most popular programmes used in UK primary schools. This book is based on the desktop version, suitable for PCs/Macs (NB Python is currently not available for mobile devices).

A return to the days when Usborne was a market-leader in computer books for children. Many of today's tech professionals were inspired by Usborne's coding books from the 1980s!

Top Ten Children's Books of 2022

See the link below for a guide about the most popular children's books this year.

<https://www.lovereadings4kids.co.uk/genre/t10/uk-top-10-childrens-books>

Magazines

Year 6 have been enjoying their new magazine subscription 'The Phoenix'.

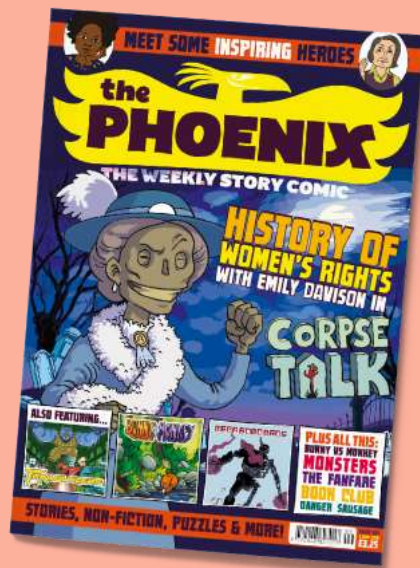
See below for some past copies and links to them.

https://thephoenixcomic.co.uk/?gclid=EAIaIQobChMI1LCOgKr0-wIVIZ3VCh0RdgqyEAAAYASAAEgL21PD_BwE

<https://thephoenixcomic.co.uk/Page/Index/500> video of a free copy to read online.

Here you'll find videos and instructions for how to draw everything from superheroes to monsters, buildings and more, all from professional Phoenix Creators! Click on one of the categories below to start exploring and get creative...

<https://thephoenixcomic.co.uk/Page/Index/SkillsHub>





Competitions

<https://www.lovereadings4kids.co.uk/competitions> click here for the latest competitions to enter.

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 year6_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.



Happy reading
and have a
lovely Christmas
and happy new
year,

Mrs Groves 😊