

Annie Lennard Key Stage 2

Autumn Term Reading Newsletter

Welcome back to school- hope you all had a lovely holiday. Read on to find out about new fiction and non-fiction releases, types of book genres and recommendations, signposts to reading resources, dates of note and much more...

Reading Resources

LoveReading4Kids- www.lovereadingleading4kids.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!)

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

[August 2022 | Monthly Must-Reads | The Reader Teacher](#) click on the link for new amazing reads.

<https://www.booktrust.org.uk/news-and-features/> stay up to date with all things reading wise!

Dates of note

November- *Blue Peter Book Award*- shortlist announced! The Blue Peter Book Awards 2022 celebrates children's books published in the last year in two categories: The Best Story and the Best Book. Look at the finalists on this link- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbbc/watch/bp-book-awards>

Sainsburys Book Awards- Now in their seventh year, the Sainsbury's Children's Book Awards in partnership with BookTrust aim to highlight the best children's books for families to share together. Judged by a panel of experts, the awards aim to encourage parents and carers to spend more time reading with their children. <https://www.booktrust.org.uk/what-we-do/awards-and-prizes/current-prizes/sainsburys-childrens-book-awards/>

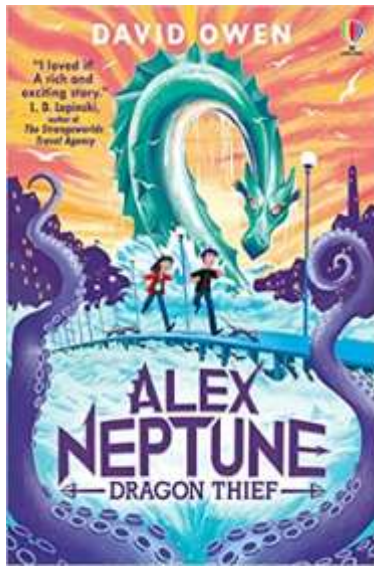
December- *Royal Mail Letters to Santa* (deadline TBC)- Each year, Santa's elves at the Royal Mail can help you get a letter from Santa, if children write to him by early December. <https://www.royalmail.com/christmas/letters-to-santa>

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>

Must have reads (Fiction)



Meet Alex Neptune, the boy with the power of the ocean in his hands - a brand-new hero for fans of Percy Jackson and Dragon Realm!

For as long as Alex Neptune can remember, the ocean has been trying to kill him. So he's not too happy when a bunch of sea creatures drag him to the abandoned aquarium on the hill, where an imprisoned water dragon needs his help. But how can he say no to a magical creature?

Recruiting his tech-genius best friend Zoe, legend-lover Anil, a sharp-shooting octopus, three acrobatic otters and a thieving seagull, Alex plots a heist to break the dragon out. And suddenly discovers the power of the ocean at his fingertips...

[Alex Neptune, Dragon Thief: Book 1 : David Owen: Amazon.co.uk: Books](https://www.amazon.co.uk/dp/1782440000)



As the brutal Second World War stretches on with no end in sight, life for ordinary Dutch people in the Nazi-occupied Netherlands is fraught with peril and hardship. There is very little to eat and the population lives under the constant threat of arrest and enslavement.

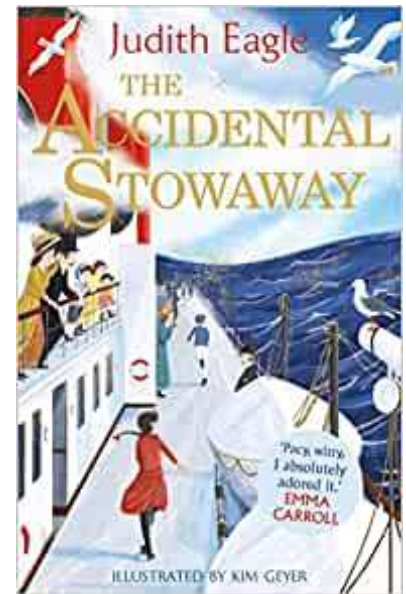
After the murder of her beloved uncle and the capture of her brother by the Germans, Edda is determined to do anything she can to help the resistance fight back against their oppressors. But what can a teenage girl do and how much risk is she willing to take?

Award-winning author Tom Palmer shines a light on the incredible work of the WWII Dutch resistance, in a story inspired by the childhood of Hollywood legend Audrey Hepburn.

[Resist: One Girl's Fight Back Against the Nazis \(Conkers\) : Tom Palmer, Tom Clohosy Cole: Amazon.co.uk: Books](https://www.amazon.co.uk/dp/1782440000)

Liverpool, 1910. When Patch runs up the gangway of steamship, RMS Glorious, she isn't planning to hang around. But if she leaves her hiding place the constable might catch her: sitting tight is worth the risk. Too late, she realises the ship is setting sail! Patch has become an accidental stowaway.

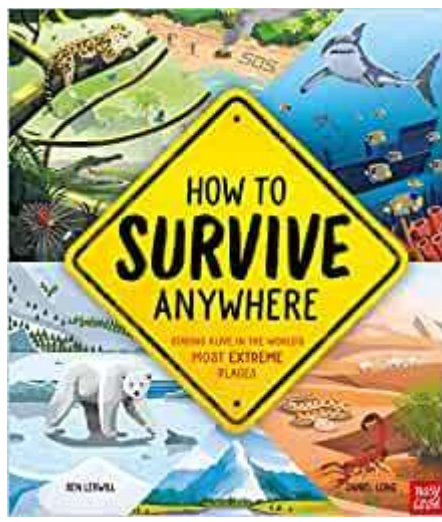
Luckily, Patch's unconventional past has made her pretty fearless when it comes to fending for herself, and besides there are friends in high and low places to be made onboard. But hiding away becomes less and less easy: her new friends urgently need her help and there's a mystery that needs solving, all before they reach New York . . .



With gorgeous chapter head illustrations by Kim Geyer.

[The Accidental Stowaway: 'A rollicking, salty, breath of fresh air.' Hilary McKay : Eagle, Judith, Geyer, Kim: Amazon.co.uk: Books](#)

Must have reads- Non-fiction



From the dense rainforests of the Amazon to the chill of the snowy Arctic, come on an intrepid adventure to the world's most extreme places, and find out just what it takes to survive there.

Discover how to navigate the vast Australian outback, keep yourself alive in a sandstorm in the Arabian desert, avoid a bear attack in a North American forest, explore the dark depths of the Atlantic Ocean and even perform a spacewalk up in orbit!

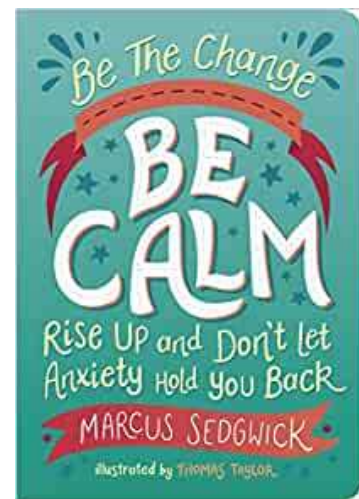
In this beautiful and bright fully illustrated hardback book, visit 12 incredible and diverse habitats: the Arctic Circle, a North American forest, the Amazon Rainforest, a Pacific desert island, the Alps, the Arabian desert, the African savannah, the Himalayas, the Australian outback, Antarctica, deep in the ocean and high up in space on the International Space Station. Find out how the people, plants and animals who live in these incredible places have learnt to survive, pick up top tips for your own explorations, and discover what you can do to help protect these amazing environments for the future.

[How To Survive Anywhere: Staying Alive in the World's Most Extreme Places : Ben Lerwill, Daniel Long: Amazon.co.uk: Books](#)

You can conquer your worries. The power is within you!

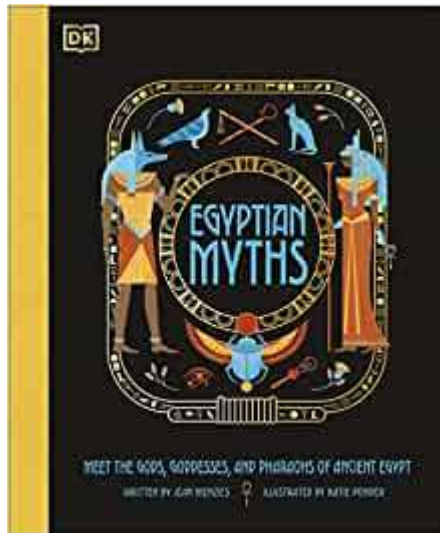
We all experience anxiety from time to time. It can feel overwhelming and uncomfortable, and stops us from doing the things we enjoy – so what on earth can we do about it?

Be the Change: Be Calm will show you how to shut down anxiety with fun and simple ways to calm your mind by listening to what your body is telling you. Ever tried the half-salamander exercise? You should! And have you ever performed a body scan? Thought not. These amazing activities along with many others will become your toolkit to a calmer and happier life.



Award-winning author Marcus Sedgwick takes us on a fascinating journey to find out where anxiety comes from, looking at the power of storytelling in terms of training our brain to overcome worries. He also shows us what animals can teach us about dealing with stress AND introduces us to our second brain! Hello! It's time to make CALM your superpower.

ARE YOU READY TO BE KIND TO YOUR MIND?



A beautifully illustrated collection of 20 ancient Egyptian myths retold for children aged 7-9.

Delve into a world of monstrous creatures, magical spells, and warring gods in this thrilling compendium of ancient Egyptian myths. With 20 exciting tales alongside fascinating historical information, this is a must-have introduction for young readers interested in one of the world's great early civilizations.

From the creation of the world to the first pharaohs, this book charts the full sweep of ancient Egyptian mythology, revealing fascinating elements of culture and religion along the way. The enthralling stories introduce mighty gods and wicked villains, while a handy reference section is packed with information about the ancient Egyptians themselves. Learn how Ra fought daily battles to make the Sun rise, how trouble-making Set brought chaos to the kingdom, and how Osiris became the first mummy. Perfect for children aged 7 to 9, this collection contains more than 20 enthralling new retellings of favourite myths as well as some you might not have heard before.

Encourage your children to explore:

- Over 20 fascinating Egyptian myths, covering famous classics and lesser known stories
- Striking illustrations by multi-award winning artist Katie Ponder
- Stunning gold foil on the cover
- A handy pronunciation guide listing all difficult-to-pronounce names for the reader's convenience
- Key reference spreads combining the appeal of a story collection with key reference information

It's time to dive into the Duat underworld, ride into the sky on the back of the heavenly cow, and discover the secrets of the pharaoh's tombs. Egyptian Myths brings the world of ancient Egypt to life and is the perfect gift for children who love history and mythology.

At DK, we believe in the power of discovery.

So why not complete the collection!

Discover stories from Ancient Greece like never before with Greek Myths, and uncover action-packed tales of extraordinary creatures and compelling gods, goddesses and more with Norse Myths.

[Egyptian Myths: Meet the Gods, Goddesses, and Pharaohs of Ancient Egypt \(Ancient Myths\) : Menzies, Jean, Ponder, Katie: Amazon.co.uk: Books](#)

Books for Reluctant Readers

Not everyone enjoys reading, but this is only because they haven't found a genre they enjoy! These books below have been specially selected to engage and create a sense of reading for pleasure!

Graphic novels

Graphic novel star Kazu Kibuishi creates a world of terrible, man-eating demons, a mechanical rabbit, a giant robot - and two ordinary children on a life-or-death mission in this first book in the NYT's bestselling series.

After the tragic death of their father, Emily and Navin move with their mother to the home of her deceased great-grandfather, but the strange house proves to be dangerous.

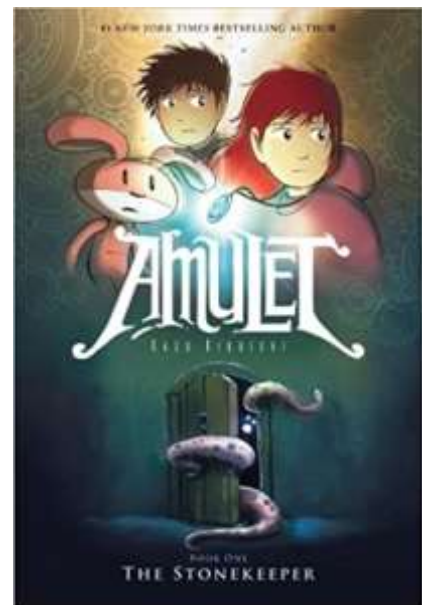
Before long, a sinister creature lures the kids' mom through a door in the basement.

Em and Navin, desperate not to lose her, follow her into an underground world inhabited by demons, robots, and talking animals.

Eventually, they enlist the help of a small mechanical rabbit named Miskit. Together with Miskit, they face the most terrifying monster of all, and Em finally has the chance to save someone she loves.

- Full-colour illustrated stories for readers at all ages and all abilities
- #1 New York Times bestselling series!
- Amulet #1 was an ALA Best Book and shortlisted for the CBC's Children's Choice Book Awards
- Kazu illustrated the 15th anniversary Harry Potter covers in the US

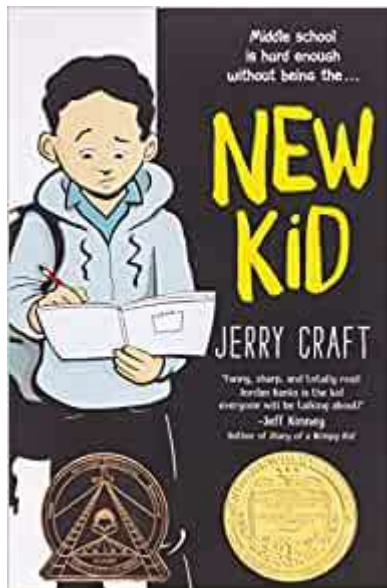
[The Stonekeeper \(Amulet\): 1 : Kibuishi, Kazu: Amazon.co.uk: Books](#)



Winner of the Newbery Medal, Coretta Scott King Author Award, and Kirkus Prize for Young Readers' Literature!

Perfect for fans of Raina Telgemeier and Gene Luen Yang, *New Kid* is a timely, honest graphic novel about starting over at a new school where diversity is low and the struggle to fit in is real, from award-winning author-illustrator Jerry Craft.

Seventh grader Jordan Banks loves nothing more than drawing cartoons about his life. But instead of sending him to the art school of his dreams, his parents enroll him in a prestigious private school known for its academics, where Jordan is one of the few kids of color in his entire grade.



As he makes the daily trip from his Washington Heights apartment to the upscale Riverdale Academy Day School, Jordan soon finds himself torn between two worlds—and not really fitting into either one. Can Jordan learn to navigate his new school culture while keeping his neighborhood friends and staying true to himself?

This middle grade graphic novel is an excellent choice for tween readers, including for summer reading.

New Kid is a selection of the Schomburg Center's Black Liberation Reading List.

Plus don't miss Jerry Craft's *Class Act*!

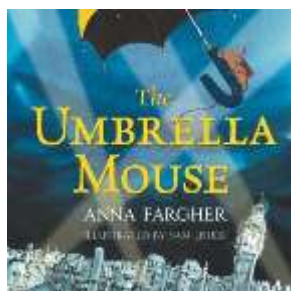
[New Kid: Craft, Jerry, Craft, Jerry + Free Delivery](#)

[\(amazon.co.uk\)](https://www.amazon.co.uk/)

Audiobooks

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

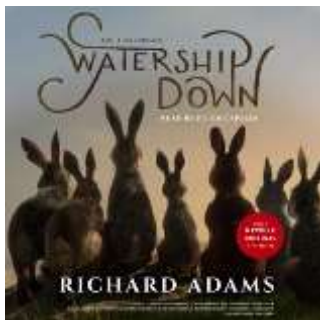
Audiobooks- <https://www.lovereading4kids.co.uk/audiobooks>



The Umbrella Mouse by Anna Fargher

A timeless tale of courage, resistance and friendship, *The Umbrella Mouse* is a heart-stopping adventure drawing on the true stories of animals caught in the conflict of WWII, winner of the 2019 Sainsbury's Book Prize for Fiction and selected for Waterstones Book of the Month. 1944, and London is under attack. Young mouse Pip Hanway's safe and quiet world is turned upside down when her home, umbrella shop James Smith & Sons, is destroyed by a bomb. Orphaned and alone, she must begin a perilous quest to find a new home. But the only way to get there is by joining Noah's Ark, a secret gang of animals fighting with the resistance in France, operating

beneath the feet of the human soldiers. Danger is everywhere and as the enemy closes in, Pip must risk everything to save her new friends. Anna Fargher's debut novel takes you on an incredible journey through a war that reaches even the smallest of creatures. 'An ambitious and wonderfully well-achieved first novel' Michael Morpurgo, author of War Horse. 'A spellbinding tale of bravery and hope, where courage is found in the smallest of heroes' Gill Lewis, author of Sky Hawk. (<https://www.lovereadings4kids.co.uk/audiobooks>)



Watership Down by Richard Adams

One of the most beloved novels of our time, Watership Down is an epic journey, a stirring tale of adventure, courage, and survival. Fiver could sense danger. Something terrible was going to happen to the warren; he felt sure of it. They had to leave immediately. So begins a long and perilous journey of survival for a small band of rabbits. As the rabbits skirt danger at every turn, we become acquainted with the band, its humorous characters, and its compelling culture, complete with its own folk history and mythos. Fiver's vision finally leads them to Watership Down, an upland meadow. But here they face their most difficult challenges of all. A stirring epic of courage and survival against the odds, Watership Down has become a beloved classic for all ages. Both an exciting adventure story and an involving allegory about freedom, ethics, and human nature, it has delighted generations with its unique and charming world, winning many awards and being adapted to film, television, and theater. New York Times bestseller. Winner of the 1972 Carnegie Medal for Literature. Winner of the London Guardian Children's Fiction Prize.

(<https://www.lovereadings4kids.co.uk/audiobooks>)

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!

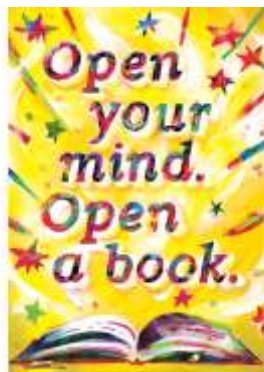
Book talk – Pie Corbett

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,

Mrs Groves 😊