



Annie Lennard Key Stage 2

Summer holidays reading newsletter

We are fast approaching the end of the year!

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...

Summer holiday events

https://www.sandwell.gov.uk/news/article/6702/fun_launch_event_this_saturday_8_july_for_sporty_summer_reading_challenge

The Summer Reading Challenge – Ready, Set, Read! – gets under way in all Sandwell libraries from Saturday (8 July), encouraging children aged four to 11 to enjoy the benefits of reading for pleasure

Come along to the Sandwell launch event, which is being held at Wednesbury Library, Walsall Street, on Saturday (8 July).

The launch event is free to enter and includes face painting from 12noon-2pm, the official launch at 1pm and story time at 1.30pm.

There's also a Zumbini music and dance session for toddlers by To The Pointe dance school at 2pm (contact the library to book a space for the Zumbini session by emailing wednesbury_library@sandwell.gov.uk or calling 0121 569 4945).

This year's Summer Reading Challenge has a focus on reading, sport and play. It aims to keep children's minds and bodies active over the summer break, empowering young people

to forge new connections with others and unleash the power of play, sport and physical activity through reading.

Children can join the challenge at their local Sandwell library where they will receive a special collector folder, stickers and other special incentives. Library staff will also help them find books to read.

They can set their own goal and read as many books as they want between 8 July and 24 September, helping them to maintain their reading over the summer. They need to visit the library at least three times during the challenge.

This nationwide initiative is run in partnership with The Reading Agency and Youth Sports Trust to help support children's reading skills over the summer.

It is a good way for young people improve their reading and writing. The 2023 Summer Reading Challenge is a perfect way to get involved and improve your reading skills over the summer holidays.

You can also choose to take part in the challenge online by signing up but please note this is separate to the in-person challenge in libraries. Physical incentives like medals and certificates are only available via libraries for those taking part in the in-person challenge.

Watch our YouTube video about this year's Summer Reading Challenge. Click on the link at the top of the page to watch.

Other good websites for reading recommendations-

<https://literacytrust.org.uk/parents-and-families/>

<https://www.booktrust.org.uk/books-and-reading/tips-and-advice/reading-tips/>

<https://www.readingrockets.org/article/reading-tips-parents-multiple-languages>

[https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/public/files/Publications/Co-vid-](https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/public/files/Publications/Co-vid-19-Resources/)

[19 Resources/Resources for schools/7 Top Tips to Support Reading at Home.pdf](https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/public/files/Publications/Co-vid-19-Resources/19-Resources-for-schools/7-Top-Tips-to-Support-Reading-at-Home.pdf)

Dates of note

July 2023

- National Anti-Boredom Month
- Read an Almanac Month

- 11 – E.B. White’s birthday
- 17 – World Emoji Day
- 21 – Ernest Hemingway’s birthday
- 30 – Paperback Book Day
- 31 – J.K. Rowling’s birthday

August 2023

- 2 – National Colouring Book Day
- 9 – Book Lover’s Day (also November 4)
- 21 – Poet’s Day
- 31 – We Love Memoirs Day

Tips for reading in the holidays

<https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/for-home/reading-site/expert-help/reading-in-the-holidays>

Many parents worry about continuing to support their child’s reading progress during the school holidays.

Holiday time can be a constant juggling act. You want to go out for day trips, or you may be travelling abroad or visiting relatives. All of this at the same time as encouraging your child to read the books they have brought home from school and keeping their motivation and enjoyment of reading up as much as possible.

1. Visit your local library

Encourage your child to choose books relating to a topic that they’re really interested in. Librarians are a good source of information for popular books and most libraries also run schemes and competitions during the holidays as well as having a range of activities that your child can join in with - so use them!

2. Internet fun

Use the internet to search out author blogs and sites, book previews and trailers as well as general articles or reports on books. Many websites have great ideas and links to suitable topics to engage and encourage older readers. Try CBBC or YouTube for a preview of a Horrible Histories book. Visit the Oxford Owl Library for a range of free eBooks that will appeal to older children.

3. Out and about

When travelling, encourage your child to help when reading directions, looking out for road signs and talking about how long they have to travel or how far they have left. Reading timetables is also a great skill for them to develop - bus, train and tube - and will encourage their independence as well. Boys often particularly enjoy this.

4. Cooking

If your child likes to cook, encourage them to read the instructions in recipes and plan for what is needed. Some fun ones include Roald Dahl's Revolting Recipes (Puffin), The Silver Spoon for Children, Jamie Oliver and school dinner lady Nora Sands' Nora's Kitchen (Collins), or Grow it, Eat it (RHS and Dorling Kindersley). But if you don't know these, any will do.

5. Shopping

When doing your weekly shop, encourage your child to help with the shopping by writing and reading the list as well as finding products in store or online. If they need new school shoes or new school uniform, get them to do some research online first to make the trip to the shops more efficient. Boys may respond particularly well to this idea and it's all good reading practice.

6. In the news

Encourage your child to read newspapers and find out what is going on in the world. Try First News , a children's paper aimed at 7–14 year olds, or CBBC Newsround online , as a change from television. You may want to be around if stories are of a sensitive nature, but talk to your child about what they have read. Use local papers to read about local events.

7. Holiday online scrapbook

Suggest making an up-to-date scrapbook online, using a blog www.blogger.com that enables your child to upload pictures of their holiday and write about their experiences which can then be shared with family and friends and even the wider world. You may want to check the site your child is using for safety.

8. Creating

If your child enjoys making up their own stories, encourage this by using www.storybird.com to help them design their own picture book. The site was started for families so is well monitored and very safe. The professional-looking end product can be printed in a proper hardback book for your child to keep and share with others.

9. Sharing

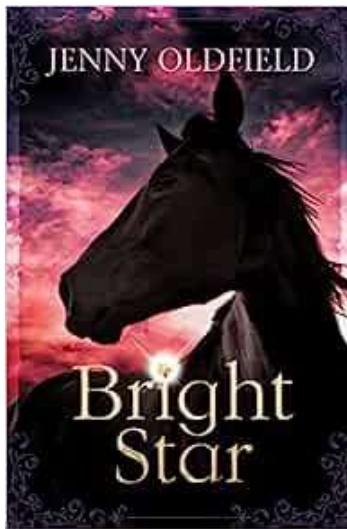
If your child is reading a chapter book, consider reading the same book at the same time – this gives you the chance to compare your impressions of the book and talk about the plot. Ask your child questions, e.g. Which character they liked best, who would they like to be? Ask them to write you a short quiz about the book to check you've read it properly!

10. Relaxing

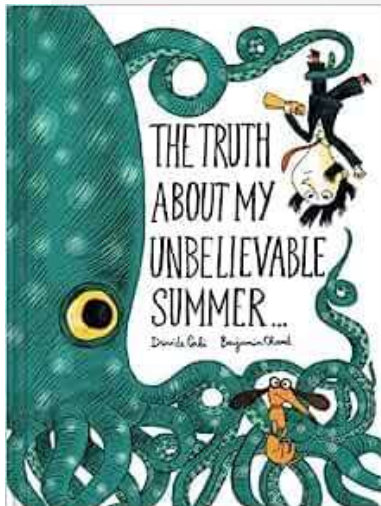
Help your child create a 'reading and dreaming' place in your home. This could be a window seat with comfy cushions, an indoor pop-up tent with a cosy blanket, or even a corner in a garden shed with a seat. Let the rest of the family know that if your child is in her/his special place they should try not to disturb them. You may even get some peace then too!

Holiday Book List

<https://wordsforlife.org.uk/activities/summer-holiday-book-list/>



A heart-warming story about the powerful connection between an isolated girl and a terrified wild pony. When 12-year-old Morgan is sent to her aunt's ranch in the Rockies for the summer, she has no idea that she will forge a bond that will last her lifetime. Morgan is more comfortable around horses than people, but then she meets Bright Star, a terrified wild mustang her aunt has rescued, and discovers that she is braver than she ever realised. A powerful, girl-friendly story about the friendship between humans and animals. Particularly suitable for struggling, reluctant and dyslexic readers aged 8+



What really happened over the summer break? A curious teacher wants to know. The epic explanation? What started out as a day at the beach turned into a globe-spanning treasure hunt with high-flying hijinks, exotic detours, an outrageous cast of characters, and one very mischievous bird! Is this yet another tall tale, or is the truth just waiting to be revealed? From the team behind *I Didn't Do My Homework Because . . .* and *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to School . . .* comes a fantastical fast-paced, detail-rich illustrated summer adventure that's so unbelievable, it just might be true!



In the spirit of *A Series of Unfortunate Events*, *The Unintentional Adventures of the Bland Sisters* stars Jaundice and Kale Bland—two sisters who avoid excitement at any cost.

Instead, they eat tasteless oatmeal, rarely venture into bright sunlight, and read only Dr. Snoote's Dictionary, because storybooks are just too thrilling.

Together, they await the return of their parents, who left for an errand years ago and have never come back. One day, a knock on the door leads to the Bland sisters' kidnapping by an all-female band of pirates—but this is only the beginning of their escapades.

Filled with Roald Dahl-esque humor, hilarious high jinks, and swashbuckling, *The Unintentional Adventures of the Bland Sisters: The Jolly Regina* will appeal to middle-grade readers looking for an anything-but-bland adventure.



On Christmas Eve, twelve-year-old Tammy mysteriously disappears from her Northumbrian village. Despite an extensive search, she is nowhere to be found, although Ethan, her twin brother, instinctively knows she is still alive.

Ethan and his friend Iggy are astounded when, a few days later, a short, hairy and rather stinky alien disembarks from an invisible spacecraft which has crash-landed in the reservoir.

Introducing herself as Hellyann, the alien explains that Tammy has been abducted and taken to the planet Anthalla, where she will be exhibited at the human zoo. Although Anthallans are not permitted to display any emotions, Hellyann feels uncomfortable

about this forced imprisonment and wishes to return the girl to Earth. The boys accompany their unusual new friend on a bizarre rescue mission to the distant planet, unsure if they will ever return.

This hilarious science fiction adventure from an award-winning author is a compelling read. Teeming with humour and compassion, it superbly combines an imaginative plot with a fabulous cast of characters. Hugely entertaining and highly recommended, this marvellous book celebrates the joy of friendship and love.



Onyeka hates her wild mass of out-of-control hair. Everywhere she goes it attracts unwanted attention and unasked for comments. Just one more thing that makes her feel different and left out.

Until that day at the swimming pool when it's her hair that saves her, and best friend Cheyenne, from drowning.

Rather than being pleased, her mum is alarmed by what's happened and whisks Onyeka back to Nigeria where she is enrolled at the Academy of the Sun, a training school for children with superpowers.

But Onyeka's new reality brings challenges and she soon finds herself in the midst of a battle for truth, freedom and life itself.

This first instalment of an unusual superhero series, explores classic themes of trust, deception, loyalty and self-sacrifice for the greater good.

As Onyeka comes to terms with her newly-discovered powers, she initially struggles to control them and has to do a lot of growing up in a short space of time. With her sense of liberation comes the realisation of the responsibility she holds, both to herself and to others.

Fans of superhero movies will enjoy the spectacular fight scenes, the ethical conundrums and the timeless clash between good and evil.

Must have reads- audio books

<https://www.audible.co.uk/cat/Childrens-Audiobooks-Audiobooks/19376662031>

Audible continues to have a fantastic selection of audiobooks for children.

Ajay and the Mumbai Sun By: Varsha Shah

Narrated by: Susheel Kumar

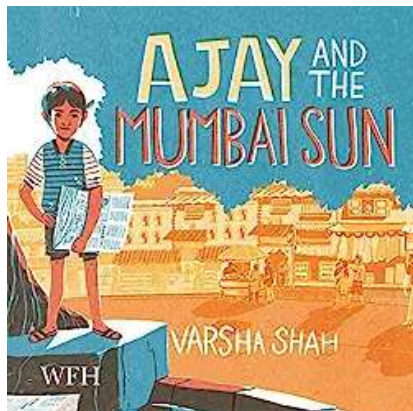
Series: Ajay and the Mumbai Sun, Book 1

Length: 5 hrs and 15 mins Release date: 07-04-22

Language: English 5 out of 5 stars

Ajay and the Mumbai Sun by Varsha Shah

'We couldn't stop listening to this exciting narration where Mumbai is brought to life. Join orphan Ajay who lives in a train station and dreams of being a journalist, as he fights the corrupt grown-ups threatening his very life.'



Stolen History

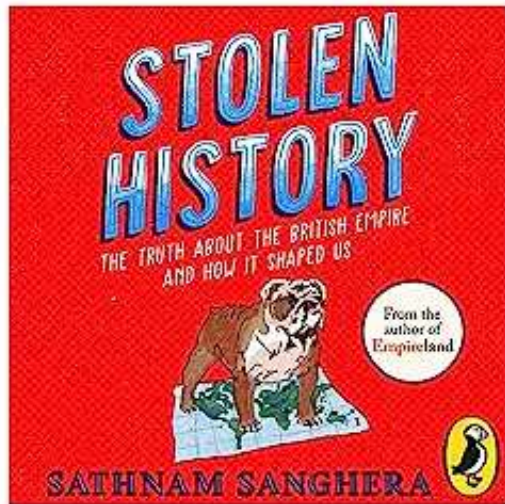
The Truth About the British Empire and How It Shaped Us By: Sathnam Sanghera

Narrated by: Homer Todiwala Length: 3 hrs and 8 mins Release date: 08-06-23

Language: English 5 out of 5 stars

Stolen History by Sathnam Sanghera

'The ideal introduction for older children to the history of the British Empire and how it continues to influence life as we know it. This thoughtful and entertaining narration is a fantastic way to explore a complex subject together.'



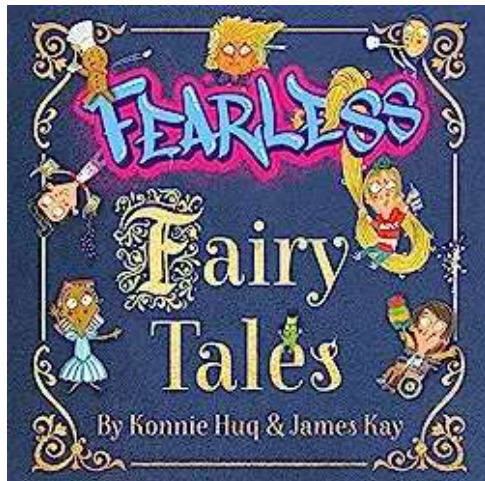
Fearless Fairy Tales By: Konnie Huq, James Kay, Rikin Parekh

Narrated by: Konnie Huq Length: 2 hrs and 22 mins

Release date: 15-10-20 Language: English 5 out of 5 stars

Fearless Fairytales by Konnie Huq

'Hilarious twists on classic fairytales, this is fun listening for all the family, with lively and energetic narration from author and previous Blue Peter presenter Konnie Huq.'



Happy reading and have a lovely summer break,

Mrs Groves ☺

