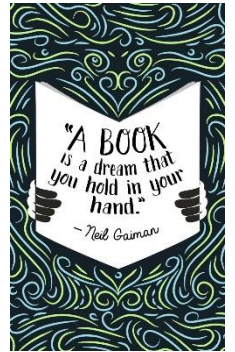




Annie Lennard Key Stage 2

Autumn Term Reading Newsletter

Welcome to our first newsletter! Read on to find out about new fiction and non-fiction releases, types of book genres and recommendations, signposts to reading resources, book reviews from staff in KS2, dates of note and much more...



Reading Resources

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!)

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-

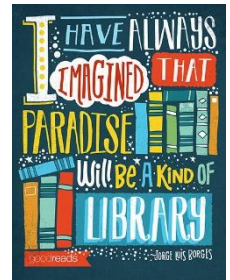
<https://www.booktrust.org.uk/books-and-reading/our-recommendations/best-new-books/>

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

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

Dates of note

November- *Blue Peter Book Award*- shortlist announced! The Blue Peter Book Awards 2021 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.booktrust.org.uk/what-we-do/awards-and-prizes/current-prizes/blue-peter-book-awards/#!?sortOption=AtoZ&pageNo=1&pageSize=16>



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.

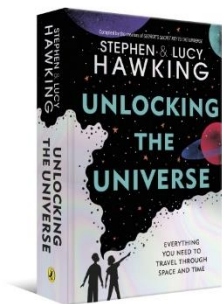
<https://www.royalmail.com/christmas/lettersto-santa>

National Poetry Prize- competition opens in February 2021.

<https://www.lovereading4kids.co.uk/poetry-prize>

Carnegie Medal winners- <https://www.lovereading4kids.co.uk/book-awards/cga/Carnegie-Medal-Kate-Greenaway-Medal.html>

Must have reads (Fiction)



Unlocking the Universe by Stephen and Lucy Hawking

What would it have been like to walk the lava-filled earth four and a half billion years ago?

Or take your first step on the surface of the moon? And what would you do if robots took over the world?

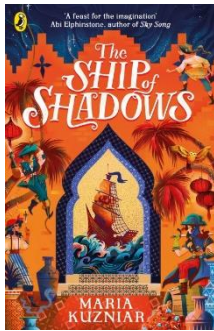
In their series of novels, *George's Secret Key to the Universe*, Lucy and Stephen Hawking imagined what great adventures one boy might have if he travelled through space.

But the books were based on real-life facts - and together Lucy and Stephen collected an incredible wealth of information about everything from **life on Mars** to the **secrets of black holes**.

For the first time this non-fiction content has been collected into one astonishing volume, with brand new content for 2020, including facts about **genetics, conspiracy theories** and **climate change**.

Beautifully illustrated and absolutely bursting with amazing facts and figures, this is the perfect guide to everything you've ever wanted to know about our world and beyond.

(<https://www.penguin.co.uk/books/315/315098/unlocking-the-universe/9780241415320.html>)



The Ship of Shadows by Maria Kuzniar

The sweeping, sparkling first book in a brand-new series that will delight fans of *The Polar Bear Explorer's Club* and *The Girl of Ink and Stars*.

"A feast for the imagination . . . **an enthralling adventure.**" - Abi Elphinstone, author of *Sky Song*

"This swashbuckling tale has it all - storms in jars, magic kraken bells, lost cities and a truly unique pirate ship. **I loved it.**" - Alex Bell, author of

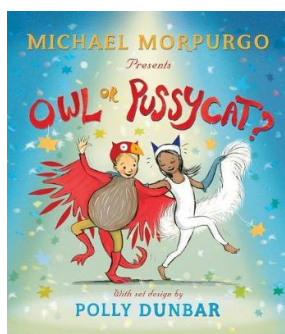
The Polar Bear Explorers' Club

Aleja is a dreamer who longs for a life of magic and adventure. So, when a mysterious ship arrives in her Spanish harbour city, crewed by a band of ruthless women, Aleja knows it's sailed right out of a legend.

And it wants *her*.

But life aboard the *Ship of Shadows* is more than even she bargained for. It will take all of Aleja's strength and skill to gain the trust of her fellow pirates - and discover what they are risking everything to find . . .

(<https://www.penguin.co.uk/books/311/311426/the-ship-of-shadows/9780241372913.html>)



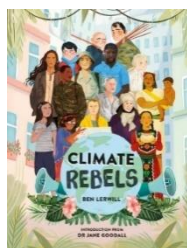
November 2020 Fiction Book of the Month

Owl or Pussycat by Michael Morpurgo

Michael Morpurgo is the consummate storyteller and this little tale, perfectly illustrated by Polly Dunbar, reveals how even as a child he had storytelling at his fingertips. The narrative is based on his own memories of childhood and of performing in the school's Christmas production of Edward Lear's poem *The Owl and the Pussycat*. Michael loved the poem and was chosen to play the Owl. Excitement rises as the performance approaches especially as Belinda, his first love, is chosen to play the Pussycat. Adults will appreciate the book's delicate sense of memories of past life, while children will love it for the humour, the drama and the sheer joy that comes from calamity turned to triumph. It is quite beautifully told, and Polly Dunbar's illustrations exactly capture all that readers will find in the story.

([Andrea Reece, https://www.lovereading4kids.co.uk/book/17474/Owl-or-Pussycat-by-Michael-Morpurgo.html](https://www.lovereading4kids.co.uk/book/17474/Owl-or-Pussycat-by-Michael-Morpurgo.html))

Must have reads- Non-fiction



Climate Rebels by Ben Lerwill

On the outskirts of the Milky Way, floating slowly through space, there hangs a planet unlike any other. It has oceans, deserts, jungles and mountains. It has life that swims, life that soars and life that swings through the trees. It is a place of dazzling variety and infinite wonder - and it's the only world we've got.

Climate change is happening, now. But it's **not too late** to change the story.

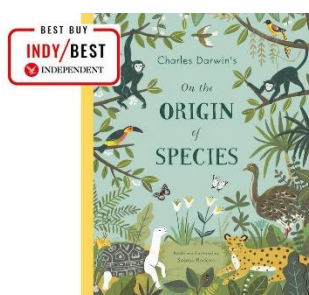
Meet the humans, from around the world, who are fighting to save our planet. This is your call to arms. Featuring 25 hopeful stories including Greta Thunberg, David Attenborough, Jane Goodall, Wangari Maathai - as well as lesser-known heroes, such as turtle-protector Len Peters, the guardians of the Amazon rainforest, and the poacher patrollers The Black Mambas.

This book will transport you from the poles, to the oceans, to the rainforests, with iconic illustration. These are true stories to make you think, make you cry, make you hope - and these are stories to make us all stand together and protect our home. These stories are the proof that one person's small changes can grow into something big, and powerful, and world-changing.

So read on to be inspired, as we take our future in our own hands, and together save Planet Earth - for all the living things that call it their home.

(Climate Rebels Synopsis-

<https://www.lovereading4kids.co.uk/book/9780241440421/isbn/Climate-Rebels-by-Ben-Lerwill.html>)



The Origin of the Species by Sabina Radeva

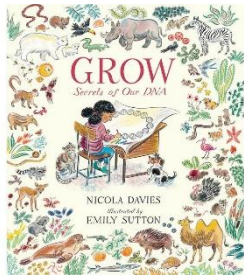
LoveReading View on On 'The Origin of Species'

Darwin's famous work through few words and wonderful pictures-Highly Commended for the Klaus Flugge Prize 2020 | Longlisted for the UKLA Book Awards 2020

Sabina Radeva combines her two passions and talents, as a molecular biologist and illustrator, to produce this infectiously engaging and accessible adaptation of Charles Darwin's famous work for a younger audience. It is a stylishly and highly informative account, that skilfully combines a re-telling with Darwin's own words.

The Klaus Flugge judge Mini Grey said: *"It's a work of ingenious inspiration that is able to take a complicated idea and make it visually simple, and that's what On the Origin of Species does. Elegant illustrations help us venture deeper into the concepts and work on many levels: for example, showing the evolution of the eye, and convergent evolution. This beautifully produced book celebrates nature and the voice of Darwin."*

([LoveReading4Kids](https://www.lovereading4kids.co.uk))

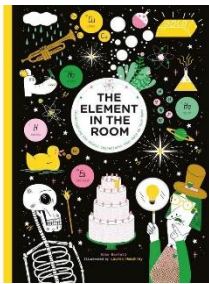


Grow: Secrets of Our DNA- Nicola Davis

From the award-winning team behind Tiny and Lots comes a new book exploring another fascinating area of biology: growth. A beautifully illustrated introduction to the concept of DNA for younger readers. All living things grow - every plant and every animal, including human beings. Some things grow fast and others grow slow; some things grow by tiny degrees, while others grow to be enormous. Yet there's something

about the way we grow that links us all together. Ever since you were the size of a dot, your body has been following a set of instructions: a code, which connects you with every creature on the planet... With words from Nicola Davies and exquisite artwork by Emily Sutton, this groundbreaking book is certain to enchant and inspire children. Clear, direct, involving text, coupled with vivid, delicate illustrations, make for a truly special work of non-fiction. - Guardian on Lots (Synopsis-

<https://www.lovereading4kids.co.uk/book/9781406382778/isbn/Grow-Secrets-of-Our-DNA-by-Nicola-Davies.html>)



The Element in the Room- Mike Barfield

LoveReading View on Element in the Room- Investigating the Atomic Ingredients that Make Up Your Home- Shortlisted for the Blue Peter Book Awards 2019, Best Book with Facts | Longlisted for the UKLA Book Awards 2020

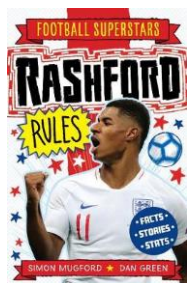
Did you know that without the 'lead' in your pencil, there would be no life on Earth? Just about everything in the

universe is made from only 92 elements - and from aluminium to zinc, many of them are hiding in your very own home!

([LoveReading4Kids](https://www.lovereading4kids.co.uk))

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!

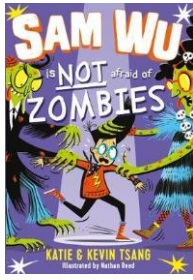


Rashford Rules by Simon Mugford and Dan Green

Meet the football superstar, campaigning hero and man of the moment, Marcus Rashford.

What a special person Marcus Rashford is, on and off the pitch. With a focus on his football, this excellent little biography also gives readers a good idea of his life and how he's got to where he is today. The stats of course speak for themselves, he's a brilliant footballer and the book provides some analysis of why he scores so many goals. It also tells us about his early football games, playing in his tiny back garden with brothers Dwaine and Dane, before joining the youth academy at Manchester United (born in Wythenshawe, he's always been a fan). No matter how successful he's been, he's never forgotten the community he grew up in as the book explains, and its final stat, after all those goals, penalties and assists, is the money he's raised for charity FareShare: £20 million. Author and illustrator write with all the enthusiasm of real football fans, peppering the pages with jokes and extra football facts, making this very appealing and super-readable. There's a quiz at the end to test the

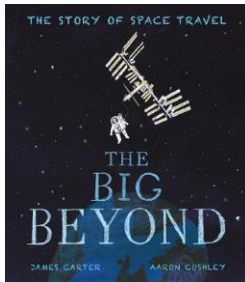
reader's memory and a useful glossary too. (Andrea Reece-
<https://www.lovereading4kids.co.uk/book/17750/Rashford-Rules-by-Simon-Mugford.html>)



Sam Wu is Not Afraid of Zombies by Katie and Kevin Tsang

Zany comedy adventures, with a very likeable central character

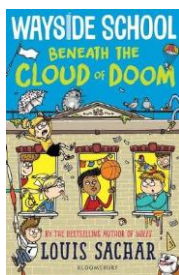
This is the fifth book in this terrific series for young readers, and Sam Wu has already conquered his fear of ghosts, sharks, the dark and spiders (with the help of his friends of course) but zombies – in fact, zombie-werewolves – that's a whole new kettle of scariness. They happen to be living in the basement in his arch-nemesis Ralph Zinkerman's home too. Can Sam overcome his fear and save the day? There are surprises and mishaps galore before a terrific climax that sees zombies (or are they?) rampaging all over the local museum. Great adventure, great fun and wonderful to look at too thanks to Nathan Reed's illustrations. (Andrea Reece- <https://www.lovereading4kids.co.uk/book/16838/Sam-Wu-is-Not-Afraid-of-Zombies-by-Katie-Tsang-Kevin-Tsang.html>)



The Big Beyond by James Carter and Aaron Cushley

In this anniversary year- a wonderful introduction to the history of humankind's relationship with space and the urge to explore it.

With a lively rhyming text supplied by James Carter, a popular performance poet in schools and highly effective illustrations, typography and layout, this tells the story of how we moved from wanting wings to fly; to seeing animals in the stars; to sending them up in rockets via a variety of flying machines taking us ever higher. It all leads to that fateful day in 1969 and the Moon landing and beyond. Then we have a lovely positive and inclusive message about the possibility of any reader becoming an astronaut. Another nice touch is the Rocket acrostic of space facts to finish on. This is a lovely accessible addition to the space resources you need this year. (Joy Court-
<https://www.lovereading4kids.co.uk/book/16255/The-Big-Beyond-The-Story-of-Space-Travel-by-James-Carter.html>)



Wayside School Beneath the Cloud of Doom by Louise Sachar

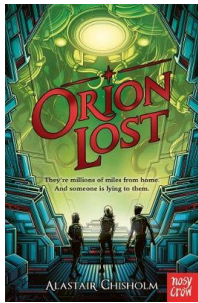
Engaging kid characters, wacky teachers, a riotously madcap plot - this is funny young fiction at its most endearingly inventive

The inimitable Louis Sachar has done it again in this new Wayside School caper. Sachar totally gets Primary age readers - sees the world through their eyes, speaks to them in a wry voice that rings with understanding and funny details. What's more, the bitesize chunks of plot (essentially inter-connected vignettes that form a satisfying whole) keep readers hungry for more, while the off-the-wall (yet believable) comic characters are guaranteed to induce gaggles of giggles.

As a new year begins, Mrs Jewls's pupils have a big bunch of stuff on their plates. An Ultimate Test looms ahead of them, while a Cloud of Doom looms overhead, growing bigger and more powerful each day. Back in class, the pupils are tasked with collecting one million nail clippings to get a sense of just how massive one million is, while Mrs Jewls's paperclip

appreciation is taken to crazy heights (“she marvelled at the magnificent metal masterpiece”) when she’s revealed to keep a secret stash of them in a locked room. Then there’s Mrs Surlaw the librarian, who has a GIANT stuffed walrus and arranges books according to their length, and the author’s cameo appearance as Louis the yard teacher (fun fact - the author actually used to be Louis the yard teacher).

Perfectly complemented by Aleksei Bitskoff’s wittily detailed illustrations, this is clever, comic joy. (Joanne Owen, <https://www.lovereadings4kids.co.uk/book/17391/Beneath-the-Cloud-of-Doom-by-Louis-Sachar.html>)



Orion Lost by Alastair Chisholm

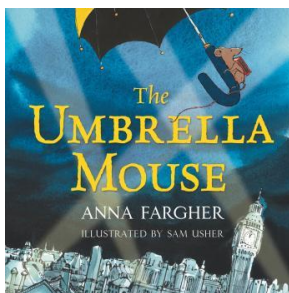
Twisty, surprising and thoroughly satisfying spaceship adventure

If you like Star Wars, you’ll love Alastair Chisholm’s space adventure. The action takes place on board the transport ship Orion as it heads out from Earth to a new colony far away. Reaching their destination requires ship and passengers making a series of Jumps through space and time, and surviving a Jump means entering a state of deep suspended animation. Emerging from one of these, Beth discovers that none of the adults can be woken, and that she is now acting captain with a ‘crew’ of fellow youngsters. There are tensions between the children, some alarming encounters with aliens and – much more terrifying – space pirates, all made worse when Beth begins to suspect that the ship itself may not have their best interests at heart. It all makes for a terrifically taut and entertaining page-turner, with twists and surprises galore. Don’t miss! (Andrea Reece-
<https://www.lovereadings4kids.co.uk/book/16756/Orion-Lost-by-Alastair-Chisholm.html>)

Audiobooks

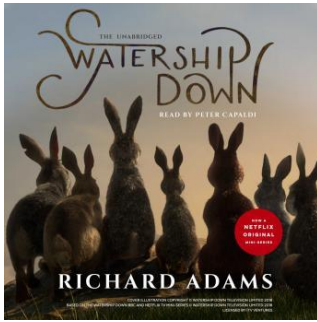
Don’t forget that audiobooks are a good way to relax and explore new reading genres!

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



The 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>



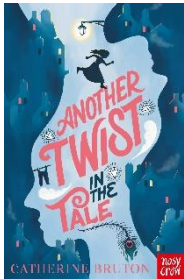
Watership Down by Richard Adams

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 myths. 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>

Author reads- Catherine Bruton

Listen to an author read an extract from her new book!



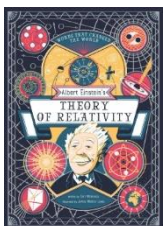
<https://www.lovereadings4kids.co.uk/kids-zone/videos/the-author-reads-from-another-twist-in-the-tale>

Catherine Bruton reads from her new book, *Another Twist in the Tale* - a brilliantly imagined sequel to the Dicken's classic, *Oliver Twist*. Our reviewer, Tricia Adams says...."This really is a an authentic tale of Victorian society – and particularly the rather grubbier elements of that society. Dickens' London leaps off the page - with all its smells, sounds and rather unpleasant characters (as well as a couple of wonderful, welcoming and delightful folk too!)"

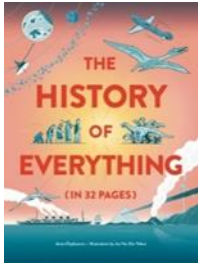
[**You can read her full review and download a chapter from the story - *Another Twist in the Tale* by Catherine Bruton.**](#)

Competitions

<https://gleam.io/cFufA/win-a-signed-hardback-copy-of-albert-einsteins-theory-of-relativity>



Win a copy of this book signed by the author! Click the link above to enter!



<https://gleam.io/JSIxt/win-a-signed-hardback-copy-of-the-history-of-everything-in-32-pages-by-anna-claybourne>

Win a copy of this book signed by the author! Click the link above to enter!



<https://gleam.io/RafLO/win-a-hardback-copy-of-what-we'll-build-by-oliver-jeffers>

Win a copy of this book signed by the author! Click the link above to enter!

Book reviews from Annie Lennard Staff



Mrs Groves

One of my favourite books- Lord of the Rings is a magical adventure from start to finish. The book's plot is based on a battle between good and evil, and the future of civilisation resting on the fate of one ring. A young hobbit, name Frodo Baggins inherits the rings and becomes the ringbearer. And in doing so, he has a daunting task ahead of him- to destroy the ring in the fires of Mount Doom. I couldn't put this book down, and I went on to read the entire series. If you enjoy fantasy novels, you'll love this!



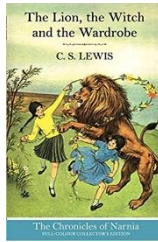
Miss Dixon

I read this book for the first time a few years with a guided reading group in year 6. It is a truly magical story, entertaining for both children and adults alike. The beauty of this book is how you can allow your imagination to run away with you, just as Tom does.

Tom's Midnight Garden explores time and how it can be turned back.

Tom is forced to stay with aunt and uncle for the holidays. He hates the "no-garden"-ness of their city flat, and a cranky old landlady who lives in the attic. One night, the old grandfather clock downstairs struck 13?! Tom is led to open the back door, and he finds a blooming and live garden, which he learns later isn't there during the daytime. In the garden world, time stood still for him. He befriends Hattie, a girl as lonely as he is. But why is time skipping each night he visits there? Sometimes it's summer, sometimes it's winter, sometimes Hattie is very young, sometimes she is nearly a young woman.

It is a very exciting book that has a hidden mystical presence and all the time you are reading it you find lots of clues that all add up to one big surprise at the end; but when it comes to it, you realise you've known all along. The ending never fails to move me to tears, it's heart-warming. I recommend this book as a must read - a delightful and enchanting book.



Mr Smith

*One of my favourite books is *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* by C.S Lewis. The story is about 4 children called Peter, Susan, Edmund and Lucy who are evacuated to the countryside during World War 2. They enter a wardrobe and find themselves in the magical world of Narnia where they have to save the world from an endless winter brought on by the evil White Witch and fulfil a prophecy. This book is a gripping read of adventure, joy and terror all rolled into one. C S Lewis uses some beautiful description to help really bring the world of Narnia to life! I have read this book over again and I'm sure I will many times more. I'm sure that you will love this book and find it a magical experience.*



Mrs Whitehurst

*One of my favourite books - *The Ice Palace* by Robert Swindells*

The Ice Palace is a story about love for a brother and determination for love to succeed over hate. Ivan is a young boy whose brother has been kidnapped by the evil Starjik. He embarks on a long journey to find and rescue his brother but set in the depths of winter with snow and many other dangers to encounter, it's not an easy task. This book finds you constantly asking if Ivan will survive the hazards he encounters and keeps you on the edge of your seat throughout. With a magical and heartwarming twist at the end I'm sure you will enjoy this book and read it many times over, like I have done.

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@anniennard.sandwell.sch.uk

Printed book reviews will win a prize!

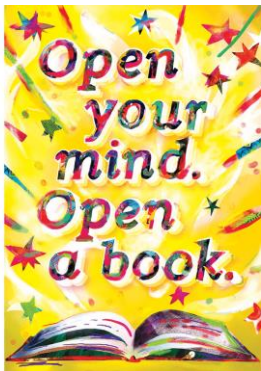
Book talk – Pie Corbett

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.



Quizzes/ wordsearch

<https://schoolreadinglist.co.uk/resources/100-question-childrens-book-quiz-for-pupils-aged-7-11-in-ks2/> have a go at this quiz based on famous books.

<https://www.worldbookday.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/World-Book-Day-2018-Book-Bonanza-Quiz-KS2.pdf> have a go at this quiz based on famous books.

Thank you for reading our first 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 😊

