

Bredon Hill Academy Reading Newsletter Autumn 1 2021

Welcome to Issue 1 for 2021-2022

Tutor Reading Programme

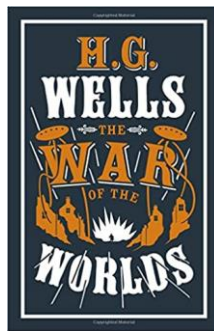
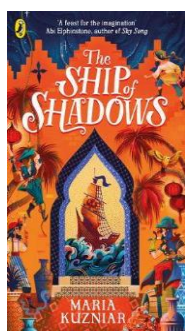
At Bredon Hill Academy, we aim to foster a community of readers. One of our ways of implementing this intent is our tutor reading programme. We have thoughtfully selected a book for each year group. Each student will experience a shared reading. It is delivered within tutor time periods by form tutors for forty minutes a week. This is guided by resources providing key vocabulary, information about writers, setting, characters and themes by the English Department. Planned questions have been provided to aid discussion too. By reading to our students, we can supplement the text with valuable context that boosts student knowledge and understanding. In addition to providing our students with access to some of the best fiction and non-fiction written, the tutor group reading programme is also designed to complement the curriculum, drawing links to ideas, themes and figures studied in lessons.

During this academic year, we are reading three books within each year group. This year we have begun with:

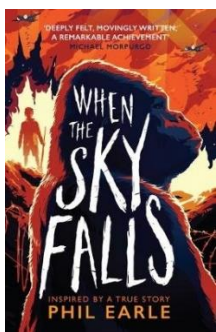
Year 6 *The Shark Caller* by Zillah Bethell

Year 7 *The Ship of Shadows* by Maria Kuzniar

Year 8 *The War of the Worlds* by H G Wells



Looking for a good read to recommend? Try this one...



Find out more here:

<https://www.booktrust.org.uk/book/w/when-the-sky-falls/>

Parent Tip #1 **Strategies for supporting your child at home with their tutor read:**

Be **interested** - ask about the book weekly – *plot, characters, themes, predictions.*

Be **sensitive** - ensure students have chance to discuss delicate themes that arise.

Be **aware** - feel free to purchase and read the book that your child is reading (*as long as they don't jump ahead in the book beyond their peers*).

Be **relaxed** - offer a calm, stress-free environment that cultivates enthusiasm.

Be **an example** - let your child see you reading for pleasure on a regular basis at home.

Website of the half-term: <https://toppsta.com/>



Toppsta is a book recommendation website just for kids, powered by parents' and children's reviews. Find your next unputdownable read by browsing by [age](#), [author](#), [illustrator](#) or [series](#); [review books yourself](#) or [win one of the latest releases](#). Toppsta is completely free to use and packed with ideas for your next trip to the library!



Reviews:



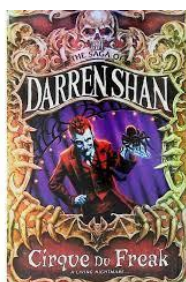
When the Sky Falls by Phil Earle

This is an extraordinary story of courage, friendship and loyalty, which takes place during the Second World War. Unlike many refugees, Joseph has been sent to the city to live with a friend of his grandmother, called Mrs F, who owns a zoo. Here, he befriends a gorilla called Adonis who seems to understand him better than the children and teachers at his new school. However, when the bombs begin to fall, Joseph is tasked with standing by the cage with a rifle in case a blast damages it and the gorilla escapes. Joseph is unsure if he would be able to pull the trigger should the moment come.

Based on a true story, this novel covers an array of difficult ideas that include illiteracy, bullying and loss. However, through the strong characters, we also see how people cope with tragedy, how they are determined to carry on despite the odds and how friendships can be formed in the strangest of circumstances.

I would thoroughly recommend this story to anyone who likes forceful characters, a thrilling plot and an emotional ending. It is suitable for ages 9 – 12 but older readers would also enjoy it.

Mrs Oakley



Cirque Du Freak: A Living Nightmare

Cirque Du Freak is an intriguing series about a boy names Darren Shan who goes to a freak show with his best friend, Steve Leonard. During the show, Darren's life changes forever when he watches Madam Octa take the stage. Each novel in the series has its own plot but they all connect with each other too. It's a mysterious read with well-created and amazing characters.

All in all, Cirque Du Freak is an astonishing and chilling saga with many twists that leave the reader hungry for more. My favourite novel is the first. I really enjoyed it as Mr Dalton (a teacher in the story) reminded me of Mr Bailey! Also, I really liked the friendship created between Darren and Steve. It made me love the characters even more. I have really loved reading these and I think you will too. It is a series to devour.

Callie Year 8

If you want to write a review to be published, please do so and hand it to Mrs Bartlett or Mrs Oakley for publication in this newsletter. There could be a reward!