

Bredon Hill Academy Reading Newsletter Spring Term 2

Welcome to the Spring Term 2 Reading Newsletter.

Spotlight on Percy Byssche Shelley and Mary Shelley

Percy Byssche Shelley was a major English Romantic poet. In his poetry as well as his political and social views, Shelley did not achieve fame during his lifetime, but recognition of his achievements in poetry grew steadily following his death and he became an important influence on subsequent generations of poets. He is best known for his classic anthology verse works such as *Ode to the West Wind* and *The Masque of Anarchy*. He is also well-known for his long-form poetry, including *Queen Mab* and *Alastor*.

Mary Shelley was an English novelist born on 30th August 1797 in London. Her father and mother were both well-known writers in their fields of politics and feminism. She was best known for her most famous novel, *Frankenstein*, published in 1818 when she was only 21. *Frankenstein* is a part gothic, part philosophical novel and is an early example of science fiction. Mary began work on the story of *Frankenstein* after reading ghost stories with her husband Percy and friends. One of her friends, Lord Byron, suggested they all try to write their own horror story. Compared to today Mary had a relatively short life, as she died at the age of 53 from brain cancer. (Molly & James Year 8)

Restaurant Reads

This term has seen the introduction of 'Restaurant Reads' to the school canteen. Each week, a selection of articles from various magazines are available for students to read whilst eating their lunch. The articles are taken from *The Week Junior* and *Aquila*, both of which the school has subscriptions to. *The Week Junior* covers current affairs including up to date news events, sport and entertainment. *Aquila* is a more nature-based magazine, which offers ideas and activities to get children interested in the world around them.



<https://theweekjunior.co.uk/>

<https://www.aquila.co.uk/>

Parenting tips for encouraging your child to read non-fiction:

- Magazines are a great way into non-fiction for children – choose something that is age-appropriate
- Choose magazines that are linked to your child's interests.
- Dip in and out rather than aiming to read from cover to cover
- Make time to discuss articles and carry out activities

Recommended Websites:

<https://www.brilliantbrainz.com/>

(A science-based magazine for 6-12-year-olds)

<https://www.natgeokids.com/uk/>

(nature-based magazine)

<https://cubicmagazine.com/>

(science and nature-based magazine for 8-12-year-olds)

<https://www.wonkmagazine.co.uk/>

(A science-based magazine for teenagers)

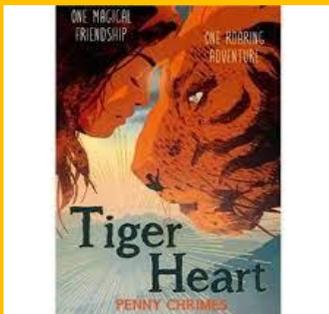
<https://www.magazine.co.uk/magazines/teen-breathe-magazine>

(a well-being magazine aimed at KS3-KS4)

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Book Reviews

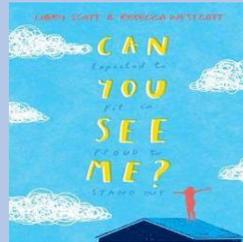
Tiger Heart by Penny Chrimes



This is a story about a young girl who teams up with a tiger. Fly has been a chimney sweep in London for as long as she can remember but when she accidentally ends up in cage with a man-eating tiger calls her “your Highness”, she realizes that her past is not what she thought it was. Fly vows to rescue the tiger and return him to his homeland of Barithea, although she has no idea how to do this.

Set in the 19th century, the story revolves around friendship, courage and doing the right thing no matter the consequences. I really enjoyed this story and would recommend it to those aged 10+. It’s not an easy read as there is a lot of slang and some made-up words, but there is a useful glossary that explains many of the words.

Mrs. Oakley



Can You See Me? By Libby Scott and Rebecca Westcott

Eleven-year-old Tally is starting secondary school and she’s anxious about lots of things; her new surroundings, different teachers and a boy who calls her names. Her friends from primary school who she has always depended on, have started talking about things that just don't interest her (like boys) and seem to be embarrassed by her behaviour.

Tally is autistic, meaning she sees and feels everything differently to her friends and family. She feels an almost unbearable pressure to try to fit in. But Tally isn't sure what exactly the rules are for being “normal”?

This is a powerful and relatable story for many about fitting in and being yourself. Tally's diary entries give us an empathetic insight into her world, and also gave us a whirlwind of emotions! We enjoyed how the characters developed throughout the plot and thought it was valuable in prompting discussions and understanding about autism.

Millie P gives this a 5 ***** rating and I give Millie 5 ***** for recommending it to me!

Millie P & Mrs Sidney (6V)