



Bredon Hill Academy
— LEARNING TOGETHER FOR SUCCESS —

Reading for Pleasure Newsletter Summer 1 2024

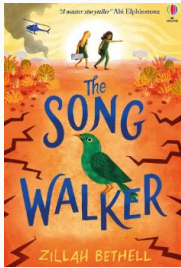
Our aim is for every student to say: “I am a Bredon Hill Academy student. I am a reader.”

Our focus this term is: reading to stimulate connections between the reader and the world.

Regular reading has been found to sharpen our concentration, increase our attention span and improve our memory. For children, developing positive habits for vocabulary acquisition early on supports them to understand and engage with each text they read, absorb new cultural knowledge alongside learning new words, and continue to expand their vocabulary as they get older by nurturing a love of reading. The more we read, the more we understand, and the more we want to know the meaning of new words as we come across them, because we begin to appreciate just how much the depth of our vocabulary enhances our reading experience. Literacy is the language of learning, both in fiction and non-fiction.

It is time for us to consider reading awards as a way of finding new reads to captivate and educate us about who we are and the world in which we live. [The Yoto Carnegies](#) are the UK’s longest running and best-loved children’s book awards, recognising outstanding reading experiences created through writing and illustration in books for children and young people. The Yoto Carnegie Medal for Writing is awarded by children’s librarians for an outstanding book written in English for children and young people. The Yoto Carnegie Medal for Illustration is awarded by children’s librarians for an outstanding book in terms of illustration for children and young people. [Books to try...](#)

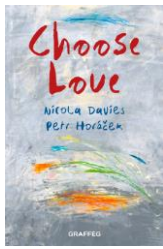
Year 6 9+



The Song of the Walker by Zillah Bethell (The Shark Caller)

Tarni encounters a city girl alone in the outback as she undertakes a mysterious voyage to find her sister. Who is she and where has she come from? There is a clever musical thread as Tarni uses ancient songs to guide them and uses the survival skills she has learnt. The pair embark on an epic journey through the landscape of the outback and also through memory and culture. The mystery of one girl’s identity unravels slowly as the story of friendship, dreamtime and spirituality unfolds. <https://yotocarnegies.co.uk/books/the-song-walker/>

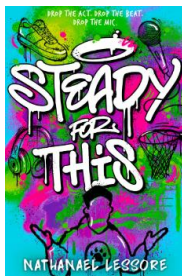
Year 7 9+



Choose Love by Nicola Davies and Petr Horacek

A cycle of poems about the realities people face as they are forced to leave everything they know behind to seek safety and asylum in other countries. The essence of the stories come from true accounts of refugees and the aid workers who help them on their perilous journeys. Readers can expect to be emotionally kidnapped for the duration of the book. Split across three parts: departure, arrival and healing, the poems within each section correspond to the thoughts and emotions surrounding each section of a refugee's journey. <https://yotocarnegies.co.uk/books/choose-love/>

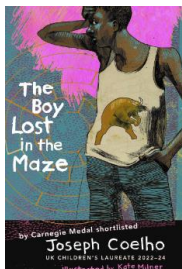
Year 8 11+



Steady for This by Nathaniel Lessore

A hilarious story with laugh-out-loud moments. Wannabe rapper Shaun, aka MC Growls, takes part in a live-stream performance intended to platform him and his friends during an MC Battle. He is left humiliated after it goes viral for all the wrong reasons. There is a wonderful friendship between Shaun and his best friend Shanks. There are hilariously awkward set pieces which are underpinned by deep themes around peer pressure, young carers and social inequality that make this a stand-out, highly empathetic read. <https://yotocarnegies.co.uk/books/steady-for-this/>

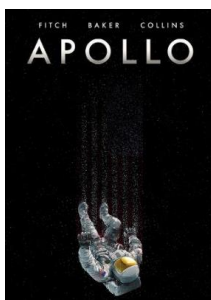
Challenging Text 13+



Three storylines run simultaneously in this extraordinary novel. Theo is studying for his A-levels and trying to find his father. Theseus is the central character in an essay Theo is working upon and the Minotaur also wants to know his father. The story is labyrinthine with false paths and doubling backs. It concludes in a way that is at once beautiful and emotionally satisfying. A rites of passage novel told through poems about becoming a man and discovering what manhood is and can be.

<https://yotocarnegies.co.uk/books/the-boy-lost-in-the-maze/>

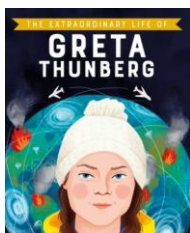
Graphic
Novel 12+



Apollo by Matt Finch

A gripping account of the moon landing in 1969 with insight and input from astronaut Michael Collins. Vibrant illustrations will appeal to pupils in KS3 upwards who are interested in science and exploration...

Neurodivergence-Focused Text 9+



Greta Thunberg is an activist best known for calling attention to the devastating effects of climate change on our planet. A bold voice even against people that want to silence her, Greta has become a source of inspiration for millions of people who want to work towards tackling the climate crisis. From taking part in school strikes and owning that her Asperger syndrome is her superpower, to crossing the Atlantic Ocean in a powerful stand against carbon emissions, this is the incredible story of a schoolgirl who is changing the world. This book has been produced with its environmental message in mind, including the treatment of the cover, the black-and-white interiors, and the FSC-certified paper.

Other Book Awards and resources to check out:

<https://www.waterstones.com/the-waterstones-childrens-book-prize>

<https://www.theweekjuniorbookawards.co.uk/2024/home>

<https://shop.scholastic.co.uk/lollies>

<https://www.lovereadng4kids.co.uk/blog/children-vote-for-your-favourite-on-the-shortlist-for-the-children-s-book-award-2024-6643>

<https://royalsociety.org/medals-and-prizes/young-peoples-book-prize/>

<https://schoolreadinglist.co.uk/resources/childrens-literature-awards/>

We are always on the lookout for good quality books to boost our stock too. If you have any age-appropriate (10-13) good quality texts that you no longer need, do think about donating them to us. Just drop them off at reception. We would be extremely grateful.

Places to visit for book information:



<https://www.lovereadng4kids.co.uk/>

<https://www.readingrockets.org/topics/early-literacy-development/articles/reading-your-child>



<https://wordsforlife.org.uk/activities/> <https://www.booktrust.org.uk/>

Let Mrs Bartlett know of any good texts you would like featured in these newsletters. Drop her an e-mail cbartlett@bredon.worcs.sch.uk or leave her a post-it-note in room 4.

Thank you for your time. Our next issue will be out in July. The English Department.

