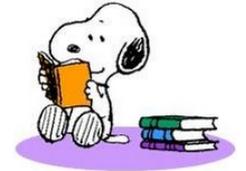




RGS: Bonkers About Books!

September 2022



Hello,

Happy new school year and welcome to Bonkers About Books to all our new students and parents. I hope you all had a good summer and managed to curl up with a book or two in the back garden or a around a pool. This month, I'll be sharing some of my favourite summer reads.

Why not let me know what you enjoyed reading over the summer when you see me around school.

Happy reading

Mrs Wall

Parent and Staff Book Borrowing

Some of you may remember that I mentioned that I would be starting parent and staff swap boxes (trolleys actually!). Well, I'm pleased to say that the trolleys have arrived! Now all we need are some books, so if you have any that you have finished reading and wish to put on the trolley for others to read, please drop them into school and add them to one of the trolleys - we'll have one in the entrance of both Lambton and Brandling.

Parents and staff are welcome to borrow and donate to either trolley - the more the merrier.

Happy reading!



When Life Gives You Mangoes - Kereen Getten

This book is about Clara, a young girl who has forgotten what happened last summer. She doesn't understand why Gaynah is so angry and hopes to find out. Rudy arrives and helps Clara to find herself and to embrace her quirky side. By meeting her uncle, Clara discovers that she may not be as unusual as she thought.

An interesting book that keeps you turning the pages as you could really feel for Clara and her emotional situation. A book I recommend to all.

Miss Hobson



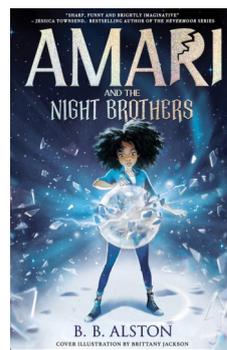
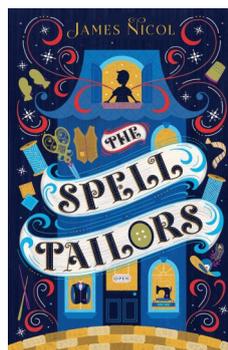
Daily Reading

As part of our ongoing commitment to promote a love of reading, the whole school takes part in a daily reading lesson immediately after lunch. Each class enjoys listening to a novel read by the teacher and you will find the current read for each class below:

6W: The Spell Tailors - James Nicol

6L: Amari and the Night Brothers - BB Alston

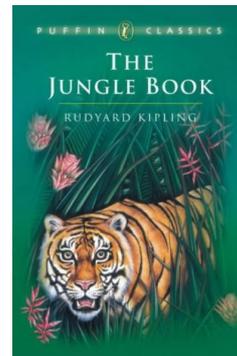
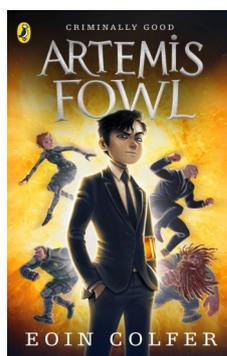
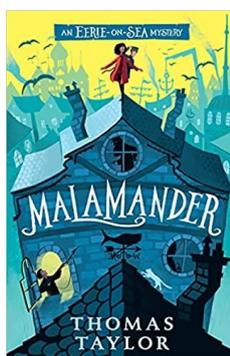
6N: The Strangeworlds Travel Agency -
LD Lapinski



5B: Malamander - Thomas Taylor

5C: Artemis Fowl - Eoin Colfer

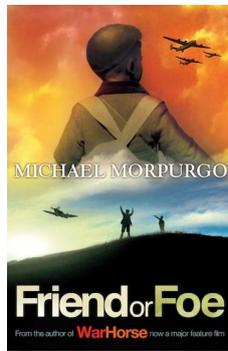
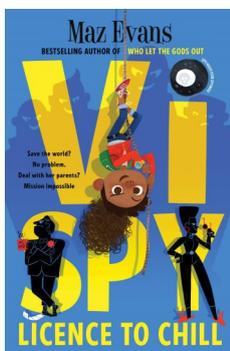
5M: The Jungle Book - Rudyard Kipling



4AW: Vi Spy - Maz Evans

4LW: Friend Or Foe - Michael Morpurgo

4MH: The Demon Headmaster - Gillian Cross



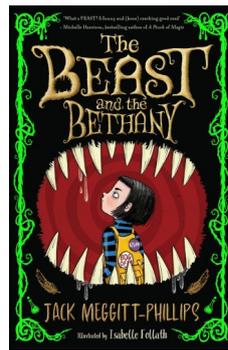
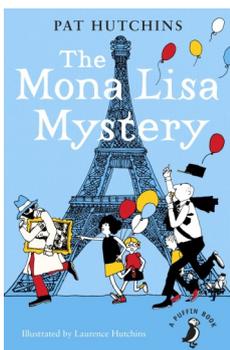
3D: The Beast and the Bethany -

Jack Meggitt-Phillips

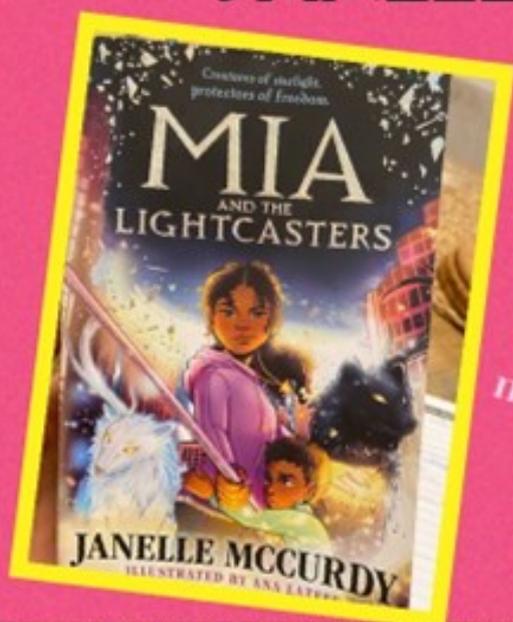
3T: The Night Zoo Keeper and the Spy Giraffes -

Joshua Davidson

3S: The Mona Lisa Mystery - Pat Hutchins



MIA AND THE LIGHTCASTERS BY JANELLE MCCURDY



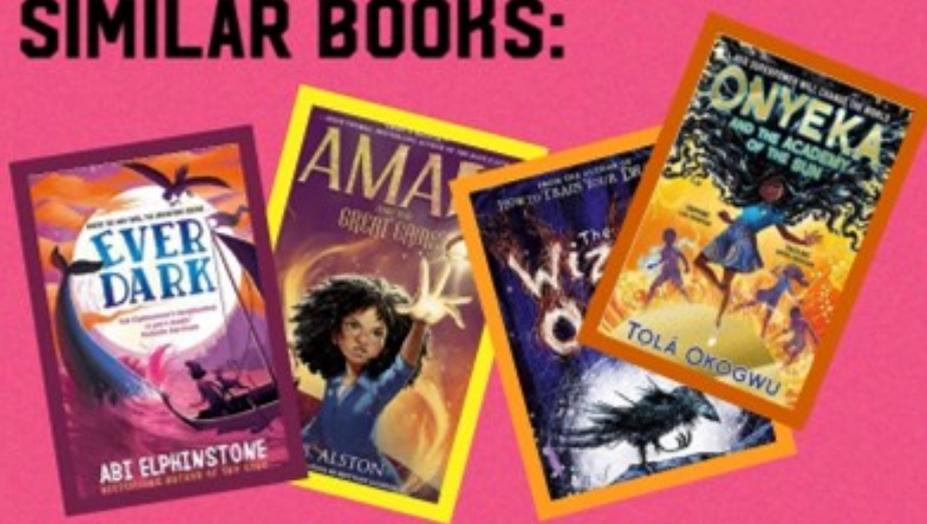
Genre:
Adventure

Characters:
Mia, Miles,
TJ, Lucas,
Mum and
Dad

Setting: The setting is a magical place which is made up. It is completely in darkness.

Plot: In the book they are venturing to save their land from the darkness. They are desperate to save their parents and country from the Reaper King who may rise. He is the reason the land is in darkness. They must go to the land of the light to seek their grandparents and save the country...but first they need to tame the umbra or they will devour their soul!

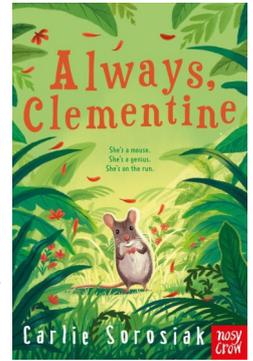
SIMILAR BOOKS:



*reviewed by
Eva*

Always, Clementine—Carlie Sorosiak

Clementine is a mouse, but no ordinary mouse; she is an incredibly intelligent mouse who can think, do maths and have emotions like a human and all because she was bred in a lab to be like this. However, the story starts with Clementine (along with another mouse named Hamlet) sat in a post box where has been put by one of the scientists who believes that they shouldn't be kept in the lab any more. When Clementine and Hamlet are found by Gus, he takes them home to his grandfather. Gus and his grandfather quickly realise how special Clementine is but also realise that she is in danger when they see a TV appeal for her safe return so set about devising a plan to keep her safe which involves a game of chess. But can they keep Clementine safe with the scientists hunting her down?

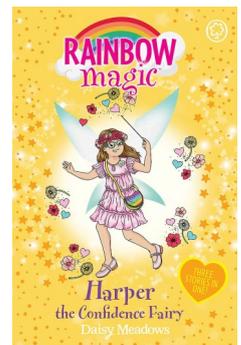


Having thoroughly enjoyed Carlie's first two books (*I, Cosmo*; and *My Life As A Cat*), I was delighted to receive a proof copy of **Always, Clementine** and I have to say that I think this is her best book yet. Told from Clementine's point of view as a series of letters to Rosie, the chimpanzee friend she had in the lab, she recounts everything that happens to her. She is a delightful character full of spirit and determination who is in awe of all the new experiences she is having now she has escaped from the lab. I found her such an endearing character and she stole my heart from the beginning - in fact, I found myself wanting to adopt her so I could play chess with her (not that I would stand a chance of winning!). Gus also captured my heart, along with Pop, Gus's grandfather: it is apparent that Gus has been in trouble at the end of term in school and has been given strict instructions by his parents that he needs to behave whilst he is at his grandfather's over the summer. However, his compassion and desire to help Clementine drive him on and, before he knows it, he and Pop are fully invested in securing Clementine (and Hamlet's) safety. Pop and Gus are genuinely good people and there absolutely needs to be more people like them in the world.

The whole idea of a mouse playing chess is one that I know will appeal to many children in my school where chess club is always popular and I found the narration of the games interesting and well balanced, with just enough detail to intrigue readers but not so much detail to confuse those who don't know how to play the game - in fact, I think the book may encourage more children to want to learn to play.

Rainbow Magic: Harper The Confidence Fairy - Daisy Meadows

Harper helps people feel confident using her magical objects (a heart-shaped belief badge, a coronet and her sparkly poise purse). At the beginning of the book, we meet Sully, Flora and Luca who have formed their own Confidence Club after being bullied at school; however, their club house is about to be sold and they need the confidence to raise enough money to buy it themselves. Kirsty and Rachel offer to help and then meet **Harper the Confidence Fairy** but she can't do anything until she recovers her magical objects from Jack Frost who has stolen them. Can Rachel and Kirsty help Harper before it's too late?

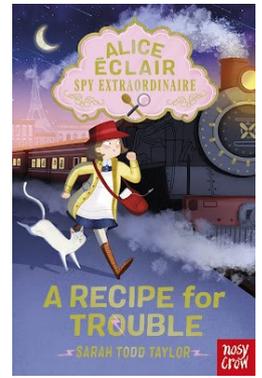


The Rainbow Magic books are popular with the younger students in school so I was thrilled to get the chance to review this one. I am also always looking for books that help to increase children's understanding of the diverse world in which we live and this is the first book with a Down's syndrome fairy. After Harper is introduced into the story, she explains Down's syndrome to Kirsty and Rachel in a way that readers will be able to understand; I also liked that she mentions that her gift of trusting everyone is what Jack Frost took advantage of in order to steal her magical objects. Harper is a wonderful character and, through the 3 stories in the book, readers get to know her and will be rooting for her to get her objects back.

The book is made up of three short stories which follow Harper and the others as they try to recover her magical objects. The short stories and the short chapters within each story make the book perfect for readers who are looking to become more independent readers and I know that this book will be as popular in school as the rest of the Rainbow Magic books. Add in the map at the beginning and the illustrations that are peppered through the book and this is an other guaranteed hit.

Alice Éclair: Spy Extraordinaire A Recipe For Trouble - Sarah Todd Taylor

Ok, so, before I start this review, I have to declare that I have a serious weakness for all things Paris, including books set in Paris, so when I got hold of a copy of Alice Éclair to say I was very excited would be an understatement. However, next I had the dilemma of whether to drop everything and read the book immediately or save it until August and read whilst I was actually in Paris. I went with the latter and, although the wait was agonising, I can say that it was absolutely the right thing to do and reading it last week whilst sat in the Jardin de Tuileries and later whilst eating macarons, made the perfect accompaniment to this rather wonderful book.



Thirteen-year-old Alice lives with her mum and together they run *Vive Comme L'Éclair* pâtisserie in Paris. We quickly learn that she is an incredibly pastry chef who bakes the most wonderful creations, but we also discover that she has been secretly receiving spy training from an unknown mentor. When that mentor reveals themselves to Alice, it leads her to a temporary job on board The Sapphire Express, Paris's most luxurious train, as a pastry chef; however, she also needs to discover the identity of an enemy spy before the train reaches its destination.

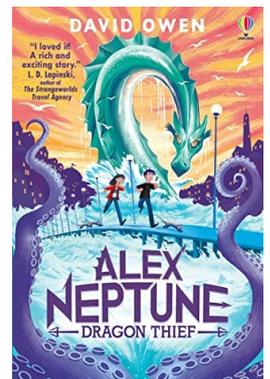
Alice is a wonderful character and one that readers will love from the start. She is evidently a creative and very skilled baker (the images in my mind of the wedding cake from the opening chapter are still making me drool!); however, we very quickly learn that she is also independent, strong, quick-thinking and level-headed. I can completely see readers wanting to be Alice and imagining themselves in her shoes as a spy - I was definitely doing that and know that children at school will do it too!

I mentioned earlier that Alice is a pastry chef and the descriptions of the cakes and creations she conjures up throughout the book are mouth-watering to say the least and I highly recommend having a steady supply of sweet treats at your disposal as you read (I blame Sarah Todd Taylor for the macarons I bought in Paris and am just chastising myself for not also including éclairs as part of my reading snacks).

Alice Éclair Spy Extraordinaire A Recipe For Trouble is a delicious adventure that builds to a thrilling ending with twists and mouth-watering treats at every turn. The perfectly sized chapters make it impossible to put down (just one more chapter...) and I can't wait to see what Alice gets up to next.

Alex Neptune Dragon Thief - David Owen

Alex lives on the coast with his father, sister and grandfather; however, he won't go near the sea, for he truly believes that it is his enemy. So when an octopus befriends him and insists on going home with him, he is somewhat bewildered. He names the octopus Kraken and then discovers that Kraken wants him to head to the abandoned aquarium at the top of the hill. Here he discovers the sea dragon that is a celebrated legend in the town is actually being held captive. Along with his friends Zoey and Anil, as well as a bunch of incredibly cute otters and a mischievous seagull, they decide they have to try to save the sea dragon before it's too late. But can they do it and how on earth do you begin to steal a dragon?



Can I just say from the start that this is just a fabulous book! I read it whilst on a sunbed on holiday and it's the perfect holiday read. In addition to the seaside setting (who doesn't love a book set at the coast?), it's full of adventure, excitement and just the right amount of humour.

The characters are perfectly formed and readers will delight in loving or hating them. Alex makes a wonderful main character as his fear of the sea is apparent from the start and sets him up as a rather unlikely hero of a book based around water. He doubts himself but is utterly determined to do the right thing and help the dragon. Zoey makes a quirky side-kick as her confidence (especially in tech) is a perfect contrast to Alex; she is strong and independent and I love that about her. Readers will delight in hating the bad guys but, for me, it's the creatures who really make this story: Kraken is the most wonderful octopus who, at times, feels more human than octopus; the otters who are loveable and huggable, and the seagull is a cheeky chappy who will happily steal anything from anyone – they are a delightful bunch and the book just wouldn't be the same without them.

Alex Neptune combines family history and legends with friendship, being brave and doing the right thing, Alex Neptune is a great read.