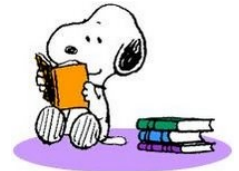




RGS: Bonkers About Books!

February 2025



Hi,

I generally use this newsletter to let you know about new books that are being published, but we already have a wealth of brilliant books in our libraries so I'm going to start highlighting some of these in each edition of Bonkers as well. Of course, I'll still be mentioning some of the new books I've read and recommend too!

Mrs Wall

From The Library:

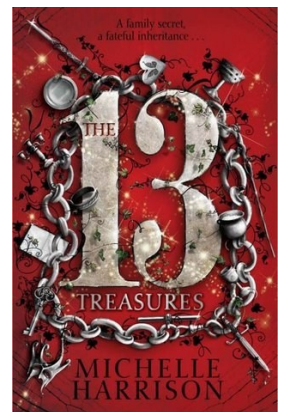
Brandling:

13 Treasures - Michelle Harrison

While visiting her grandmother's house, an old photograph leads Tanya to an unsolved mystery. Fifty years ago a girl vanished in the woods nearby - a girl Tanya's grandmother will not speak of.

Fabian, the caretaker's son, is tormented by the girl's disappearance. His grandfather was the last person to see her alive, and has lived under suspicion ever since. Together, Tanya and Fabian decide to find the truth. But Tanya has her own secret: the ability to see fairies. And, after disturbing an intruder in the night, it emerges that someone else shares her ability . . .

The manor's sinister history is about to repeat itself . . .



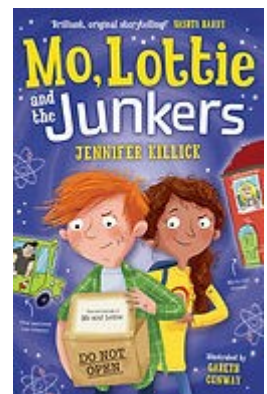
First published in 2009, this is the first book in a trilogy where fairies are certainly not cute and adorable ... think mischief and wicked deeds! The book is a brilliant read with just the right amount of darkness and suspense to make you want to read just one more chapter.

Lambton:

Mo, Lottie and the Junkers - Jennifer Killick

Mo's dad disappeared before he was born and now, 10 years on, he and his mum are moving in with his new stepdad and stepsisters, Lottie and Sadie. Their old house is just across the street from where they now live and Mo and Lottie quickly begin to realise that something very strange is happening there and it's up to them to uncover the truth. Who are the new neighbours? Who is sending them the cryptic notes and what are the Junkers? Can Mo and Lottie unravel the mystery before something serious happens?

With the book taking the format of a transcript from Mo and Lottie who are videoing their adventures, you get both perspectives of the story which is great. I enjoyed the dynamic between the pair and the contrasts between them (quiet and organised versus outgoing and gregarious) and I also liked the inclusion of the 'new family' dynamic. This is a fun and adventurous book with an original, intriguing plot and some crazy baddies.



What do you mean
you don't read?

You are just stuck
in the real world
all the time?

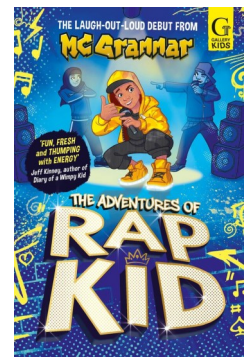
How do you survive?

The Adventures of Rap Kid - McGrammar

'Meet Z, he only speaks in rhyme.'

'Teased all the time.'

'But now it's his time to shine.'



Quiet in school, Z thinks and speaks in rhyme which is getting him into trouble. But when his English teacher tells him about The Royal Rap Rumble competition and signs him and his new best friend, SFX, up, everything could change for Z. He just needs to win the competition!

This is the sort of book that I just know is going to go down seriously well at school! From the layout, the illustrations, the interactive nature of the book and the fast-pace, not to mention the direct chat with the reader and the humour - this book is bound to be a huge hit. Yes, I know this paragraph makes me sound like a middle-aged bore, but I probably am!

Z is the sort of character that readers will be able to relate to: he has so much going on in his head and brilliant ideas, but the teachers just don't see that. It's not until Mr G approaches him about the competition that Z realises that what he thinks is a problem, could actually be the making of him. The book is full of humour and fun; Z's raps are dotted through the book and readers are encouraged to create their own (I liked that the author has subtly woven grammar bits into the story in a way that readers will find appealing).

Yes, there's a bully who is determined to thwart Z's efforts in the competition, but **The Adventures Of Rap Kid** is full of friendship, fun and being yourself. It's perfect for fans of Loki and Diary of a Wimpy Kid and I challenge you all to try to rap along where you can.

You may have already heard of McGrammar through his videos rapping famous picture books (I had the pleasure of listening to him rap The Gruffalo life a few weeks ago - don't worry though, I won't be trying it in school!) This is his first book and I hope there will be more.

The Forbidden Atlas - Sam Sedgman.

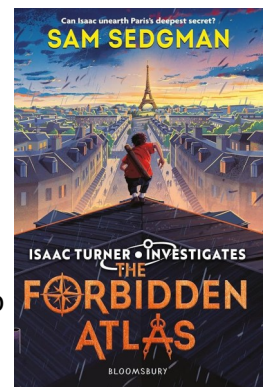
The second in the Isaac Turner investigates series, **The Forbidden Atlas**, sees Isaac and Harriet in Paris receiving an award for their heroics in *The Clockwork Conspiracy* (you can read my review [here](#)), however, things don't go as planned and an attempt on the life of businessman Balthazar Blaise sees Isaac and Harriet drawn into an underground world where a stolen letter and a missing map will lead to a long forgotten secret and a whole world of danger.

The Clockwork Conspiracy was hugely exciting and I've been looking forward to reading the sequel ever since I finished book 1! It was wonderful to be back with Isaac and Harriet again, especially as this time they are in Paris, a city dear to my heart. It was brilliant to be able to visualize everywhere they went (the catacombs and Père-Lachaise have long been on my list of places to visit and I'm now even more determined than ever to visit them next time I'm there).

The book is full of danger that will delight readers. Bouyed by their success in London, Isaac and Harriet are determined to get to the bottom of what is going on, which leads them to some incredibly dangerous situations (at times, I really felt for their parents!).

Like *The Clockwork Conspiracy*, **The Forbidden Atlas** is a book that excites and thrills, making it a read that is impossible to put down. With twists and surprises to keep readers on their toes, Sam has another guaranteed hit on his hands, which works as a stand-alone but is even better if you've experienced the adventure of *The Clockwork Conspiracy*.

Publishing 27/2, secrets, lies and daring all weave perfectly through the streets of Paris in this brilliant book that is even better than book 1.



This edition of Bonkers About Books was proof-read by:

Maddie and Rae



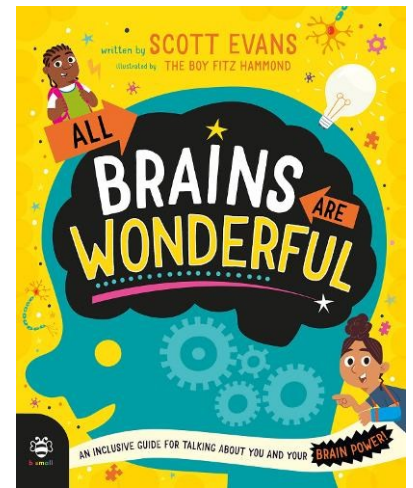
**All Brains Are Wonderful - Scott Evans;
Illustrated by The Boy Fitz Hammond**

All Brains Are Wonderful is the most remarkable book that explores the intricacies of our brain in a way that children will be able to understand and enjoy. It combines interesting and important facts with bright engaging illustrations to create a book that will prove both enjoyable and useful for readers of all ages.

Covering a range of relevant topics, including how our brains are formed, the book guides readers through the essential details and also includes some incredible facts (the book definitely taught me some things I didn't know!).

The sections I particularly love are those about Society and Taking Action. Section two, Society, is all about neurodiversity; the past, present and future; discrimination and whether neurodiversity is a disability. Each of these areas is sensitively explained in detail, in a way that both neurotypical and neurodiverse people will understand and appreciate. The final section, Taking Action, looks at how we can look after our brains, both in terms of nutrition as well as mental health.

As a teacher, and as a pastoral lead, I am always looking for books that I can use in school and **All Brains Are Wonderful** is one that I will use repeatedly, both with individuals as well as with classes.

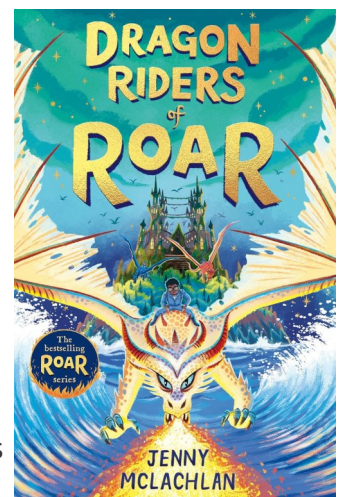


Dragon Riders of Roar - Jenny McLauchlan

Rose and Arthur have certainly had some adventures in Roar, but now Rose has started writing a story about Roar whilst she's not there. In her story, she creates a school for dragon riders and puts herself in the lead role as the star pupil. However, when Arthur has a sneaky read, he is gutted to discover he doesn't appear at all and sets about correcting that. This leads to a huge argument between the twins, during which the book is shoved into the folding camp bed which is their entry into Roar. When the twins next head there, they quickly discover that the school in Rose's book is actually real. But when they arrive, Arthur is suspicious that an evil character that Rose had killed off may not really be gone, but can he prove he's right to Rose?

The Land Of Roar series is such a wonderful one and is escapism at its best, so when Farshore gave me the opportunity to have an early read of **Dragon Riders of Roar**, a new book set in the same world, I jumped at the chance.

Like all siblings, Rose and Arthur argue and it's this that leads to the loss of Rose's story book into the camp bed. Arthur's anger at not being included in the book is vented with a pencil in his hand and the changes he made become apparent as the book progresses. It's clear Rose has created a school where she is the star and is a place full of all of her favourite things (I could quite fancy a buttery where hot chocolate is on tap!), but Arthur needs to find his place and it takes him some time. However, his bravery and courage become increasingly evident as the plot unfolds and, by the end, I found myself filling with pride at his actions. With some familiar characters returning and a host of new ones to enjoy getting to know, **Dragon Riders of Roar** is a wonderful new escape in the Roar series. It's every child's imagination come to life combined with an adventure that will have you utterly gripped (yes, I did stay in bed one Sunday morning until after 9 so I could finish the book!). Perfect if you've read the rest of the Roar series, but equally wonderful as a stand-alone book, **Dragon Riders of Roar** is an amazing adventure about working together, believing in yourself and never giving up.



Following Jennifer Bell's visit, some of you have been busy creating your own magicores...

Jennifer loved them when I sent them to her.

The Fast Fin

Powers

- Swims up to 500mph
- Jumps up to 30 meters
- Sees 5x average human
- Has water resistant purple patches



Weaknesses

can't survive on
land than less than
2-3 hours



Hunter magicores
are great at solving
mysteries...

Dear Jennifer bell I love your books and
it is an honour to be writing to you

Teddy

Soobit

(delta level) Suspicion
Amourour



Furry
but its
fur turn
into
poisonous
spikes when
attacking
enemy



Its fur changes to the weakness
of there enemy.

The soobit is a extremely ungettled
creature and is outstandly fluffy
with claws that can break steel.
The soobit's special ability is it can
tell if someone is lying or
telling the truth. It makes a honk
if the person they are interroga-
ting is lying

Kailin

I+ can turn you
evil if you look into
its 3rd eye.

Xanthe