

# Talking Books

with Mrs Garrett



Issue 1 September 2020

“The only thing you absolutely have to know is the location of the Library.” Albert Einstein

## WELCOME

Welcome to the new monthly Library newsletter which aims to keep you up to date with new books in the Library, suggestions on what to read, information on literary events and activities and a chance for children to send in their own book reviews. During lockdown the Library had to remain closed and children were unable to borrow and return books so, although the children do know where the Library is situated, they had been unable to use it. Thankfully, with the start of term and a 'new normal', the Library is open once again with a few measures in place to keep everyone safe. Children are able to come along in groups of up to four to find a book to borrow. At the current time, children cannot touch the books, but I will do that for them and help them find something that interests them. To return a book just put it in the Returned Books box outside the Library and I have a quarantine system in place.

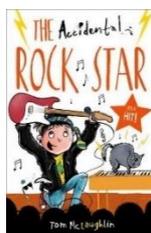


10+  
**A Girl Called Justice**  
by Elly Griffiths

Missing maids, suspicious teachers and a snow storm to die for... For a fearless girl called Justice Jones, super-smart super-sleuth, it's just the start of a spine-tingling first term at Highbury House Boarding School for the Daughters of Gentlefolk. For fans of Robin Stevens, Katherine Woodfine and Enid Blyton.

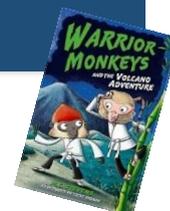
## LET'S KEEP READING!

New books in the Library

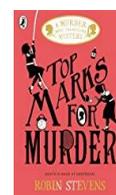


8+  
**The Accidental Rock Star**  
by Tom McLaughlin  
*It should never have happened, but somehow with the aid of a recorder, keyboard, and very disturbed cat, Hector and Ollie have made a hit single. And now everybody wants a piece of them. They may have always dreamed of fame, but is life on tour all it's cracked up to be?* The hilarious new story from Tom McLaughlin.

9+  
**The House with Chicken Legs**  
by Sophie Anderson  
*Every night is party night at Marinka's house. There's food, drink, music and lively conversation... But all the guests are dead. Marinka's grandmother is a Yaga, someone who guides the recently dead through The Gate so they can make their way back to the stars they came from. Marinka is expected to follow in her grandmother's footsteps but she is desperate for a normal life, where she can make friends with the living. But can she really change her destiny or is her fate predetermined and unalterable?*



8+  
**Warrior Monkeys and the Volcano Adventure** by M C Stevens  
*Something weird is happening on the island of Senshi. Suki and Bekko are training to be Warrior Monkeys. They're a brave and resourceful duo and, with the help of their armoured bear, Kuma, are ready to face any of the harsh challenges and evil plots that threaten the safety of their island home. This the first title in an exciting and dramatic new series, written by martial arts expert M C Stevens and illustrated throughout by Steve Brown.*



9+  
**Top Marks for Murder**  
by Robin Stevens

Daisy and Hazel are back at Deepdean. The school is preparing for a most exciting event: the fiftieth Anniversary. There are plans for a weekend of celebrations. But all is not well. The girls witness a shocking incident in the woods close by. Can the girls solve the case - and save their home?

11+

**Slick** by M M Vaughan  
When new boy Eric joins Danny's class and they realise they share an interest in a computer game called 'Land X', they become friends. But, after seeing a strange incident between Eric and his parents, Danny realises that Eric is different. As their friendship grows, it becomes harder to ignore the weird events that happen around Eric, from weekly 'dentist' appointments to inexplicable medical mishaps. But uncovering the truth is an act that might cost them both, as powerful forces soon move in around them.



12+

**Heart Struck** by Rebecca Sky  
Being a Hedoness, one of a strong group of women descended from Greek God Eros, makes true love impossible for Rachel. She wields the power of that magical golden arrow, and with it, the promise to take the will of any boy she kisses. But the last thing Rachel wants is to force someone to love her and in retribution for refusing to use her powers, the Hedoness Committee has taken her captive. Now Rachel is being held in a secret facility. As she struggles to find a way to escape, Rachel must figure out who she can trust, rescue her family and friends, and maybe, just maybe...even find a way to fall in love.

12+

**Deeplight** by Frances Hardinge  
*The gods of the Myriad were as real as the coastlines and currents, and as merciless as the winds and whirlpools. Now the gods are dead, but their remains are stirring beneath the waves . . .*  
On the streets of the Island of Lady's Crave live 14-year-old urchins Hark and his best friend Jelt. They are scavengers: diving for relics of the gods, desperate for anything they can sell. But there is something dangerous in the deep waters of the undersea, calling to someone brave enough to retrieve it. When the waves try to claim Jelt, Hark will do anything to save him, even if it means compromising not just who Jelt is, but *what* he is . . .

13+

**Pet** by Akwaeke Emezi  
*There are no more monsters anymore, or so the children in the city of Lucille are taught. With doting parents and a best friend named Redemption, Jam has grown up with this lesson all her life. But when she meets Pet, a creature made of horns and colours and claws, who emerges from one of her mother's paintings and a drop of Jam's blood, she must reconsider what she's been told. Pet has come to hunt a monster, and the shadow of something grim lurks in Redemption's house. Jam must fight not only to protect her best friend, but also to uncover the truth.*



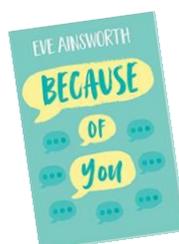
12+

**Mike** by Andrew Norriss  
*Floyd is on his way to becoming a tennis champion when one day, during a match, a stranger stops him from playing. A stranger who feels very familiar – Mike. Mike is going to change Floyd's life forever, because finding your own dream is never easy and, sometimes, you need someone to show you the way.*



12+

**Because of You** by Eve Ainsworth  
*Poppy's having a nightmare at home. Her parents have split up and her mum's new boyfriend is moving in. Dad is the one who's always been there for Poppy, but now he's drifting further and further away. It seems like things can't get any worse until it all goes wrong at school as well and Poppy finds herself being targeted by spiteful bullies. As the vicious online comments keep coming, who can Poppy turn to for help?*  
Particularly suitable for struggling, reluctant or dyslexic readers aged 12+



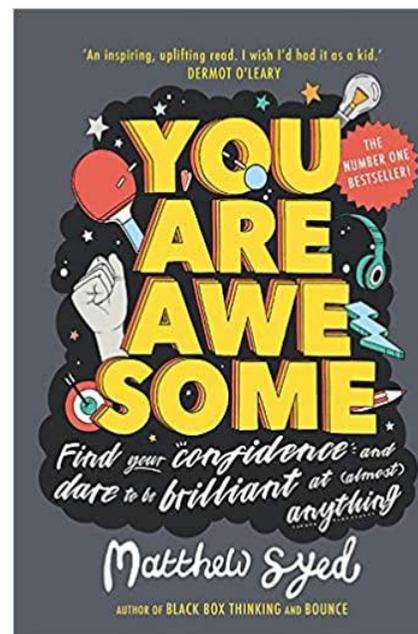
9+

*You Are Awesome* by Matthew Syed

*I'm no good at sport ... I can't do maths ... I really struggle with exams ... Sound familiar?*

*If you believe you can't do something, the chances are you won't try. But what if you really could get better at maths, or sport or exams? In fact, what if you could excel at anything you put your mind to? **You Are Awesome** can help you do just that, inspiring and empowering young readers to find the confidence to realise their potential. The first children's book from Times journalist, two-time Olympian and best-selling mindset author Matthew Syed, it uses examples of successful people from Mozart to Serena Williams to demonstrate that success really is earned rather than given, and that talent can be acquired. With hard work and determination, practice and self-belief, and, most importantly, a Growth Mindset, there's no reason why anyone can't achieve anything.*

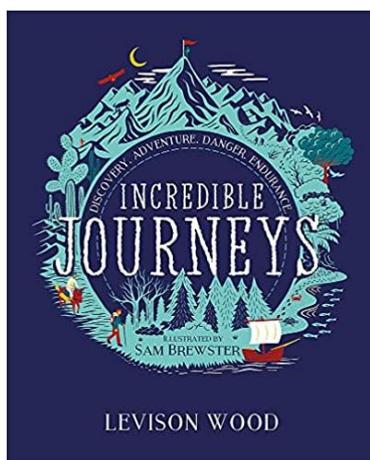
*Practical, insightful and positive, this is the book to help children build resilience, embrace their mistakes and grow into successful, happy adults.*



8+

*Incredible Journeys* by Levison Wood

Alongside real-life explorer **Levison Wood**, travel around the world, meet some of history's most daring pioneers, and be inspired to go on your very own adventures! Embark on 20 epic expeditions alongside Levison Wood, from the Silk Road and medieval pilgrimages to the Holy Land to Nellie Bly's trip around the world, and recent missions to the Moon and the Mariana Trench. Along the way, Levison Wood shares his own insights into adventuring, telling you what it's REALLY like to follow in the footsteps of Alexander the Great.



## WORTH A LOOK...

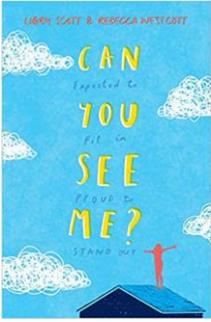
*The Boy, The Mole, The Fox and The Horse* by Charlie Mackesy

Heralded as the new Winnie the Pooh, this book is an enchanting read from 12 years upwards to adults. Discover the stories of four unlikely friends, their wonderful conversations and important life lessons. It has been described as a book of hope in uncertain times.

*Bearmouth* by Liz Hyder is *The Times* Children's Book of the Year and a Book of the Year in the *Guardian*, *Observer*, *Sunday Times*, *New Statesman* and *Financial Times*. It is a dystopian novel for our older reader (12+) and is the debut novel from Liz Hyder. *Life in Bearmouth is one of hard labour, the sunlit world above the mine a distant memory. Reward will come in the next life with the benevolence of the Mayker. Newt accepts everything - that is, until the mysterious Devlin arrives. Suddenly, Newt starts to look at Bearmouth with a fresh perspective, questioning the system, and setting in motion a chain of events that could destroy their entire world.*

*Friendship creates strength, courage is hard-won and hope is the path to freedom.*

*Can You See Me?* by Libby Scott and Rebecca Westcott



Tally is autistic, but she hides it as much as she can. She knows how uncomfortable people feel around her – they don't understand autism. They don't understand her. By masking her autism, Tally is hiding her real self. But when your real self is fierce and wonderful, it can't stay hidden forever.

Diary entries are written by 11 year old Libby Scott, based on her own experience of autism, and the collaboration with author Rebecca Westcott makes this an endearing, insightful and warmly uplifting story of autism, empathy and kindness that will touch readers of all ages.

*(Book summaries are taken from Amazon and Good Reads.)*

## LITERARY EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN

### Cheltenham Literature Festival 2020

This year, for the first time in its history, the world's oldest literature festival will be live streamed and will run a combination of digital and in-person events. The Den hosts the programme for schools and families and promises a line-up of amazing writers, poets and illustrators including Oliver Jeffers, Liz Pichon, Joseph Coelho, Lauren Child, Greg James and Chris Smith, Carrie Hope Fletcher, Matthew Syed, Anthony Horowitz and Elizabeth Acevedo.

<https://www.cheltenhamfestivals.com/literature/about-the-festival/schools-and-families/>

'*My Twist on a Tale*', (run by Pearsons) is a writing competition for 4 – 19-year olds and now in its second year! This year's theme is: **Everyday Heroes**. It can be a true story - about someone in the children's local community perhaps, or a family member or friend that they find totally inspirational - or it can be based on a purely imaginative character. Entries will need to be submitted online by 17:00 on Friday 27 November 2020. This year's winning tales will be illustrated and published for all to enjoy. Parents will need to register their child's entry at:

[https://www.pearson.com/uk/educators/schools/subject-area/literacy-and-english/EngagingReadersandInspiringWriters/my-twist-on-a-tale-competition.html?utm\\_source=partner&utm\\_medium=social&utm\\_campaign=GBSEEN0620TWIST](https://www.pearson.com/uk/educators/schools/subject-area/literacy-and-english/EngagingReadersandInspiringWriters/my-twist-on-a-tale-competition.html?utm_source=partner&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=GBSEEN0620TWIST)

**TaTa Storytime**– is a new online show, aimed at children from Pre School age right up to 8 years old, where actors read beautiful picture books of African, Caribbean & African American origin.

## WRITE A BOOK REVIEW



*This one's for the children.* I am always delighted when children come and tell me about a book or a series that they have loved. They are very good at recommending books (fictional and non-fictional) that they think others will enjoy, so if your child has a particular favourite and would like to write a review, please do send it to me so that I can publish it here. Send to: [regarrett@standrewsprep.co.uk](mailto:regarrett@standrewsprep.co.uk) Points to include: a brief outline of the story or topic of the book, what the genre is (action, thriller, mystery, romance, ghost, fantasy, science fiction, comedy), who the main characters are and which is your favourite and why, how many stars out of five would you give this book? For non-fiction books you could include the topic of the book, why it is interesting, how useful it is and why you would recommend it.

