

# Talking Books

with Mrs Garrett



Issue 5 March 2021

“The best way to get children excited about reading is to read to them from the beginning of their lives.” *J K Rowling*

## WELCOME

Welcome back to the Library newsletter, which will be in a slightly different format for this issue as a result of a breakaway from the Library owing to Lockdown – again. However, the Library *is* open for business and it is absolutely wonderful to see all the children again. Please rest assured that, despite measures that need to be in place with regards to Covid, children can come and borrow books. They just need to remember that they can't touch the books yet – if they show me any they would like to have a look at, I will take the books off the shelf. Once chosen, I will enter the book on the system as usual and when the child has finished reading it, they put it in the Returned Books box outside the Library. I quarantine books before returning them to the shelves.

Please can children return their library books at the beginning of next term. There is a large number of overdue books – some from over a year ago – that need to come back to the Library. Thank you.

Year 3 pupils have been welcomed back into the Library on Thursdays for their weekly story time. We are currently enjoying *My Brother is a Superhero* by David Solomons. After a quick recap following the break during lockdown, we became immersed, once again, in this mad, funny story about a boy whose brother is made a superhero in order to save our universe and the universe of concerned alien Zorbon the Decider from the evil Nemesis.

## LITERARY EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN

**Tales by Mail** is a bi-monthly book subscription and podcast for 8-12 year olds. You can select a subscription for 1-6 boxes. Prices start from £19.50 per box and a box includes two books, exclusive chronicle pages, plus games, activities and surprises. The **Tales by Mail** podcast includes author interviews, book recommendations and reading group chat from UK schools. April's theme is “Out in the Wilderness”. Contents of past boxes can be seen here:

<https://www.talesbymail.com/past-boxes/?v=79cba1185463>

**Authorfy** have been adding more free downloadable extracts to their website. The latest is from *The Ickabog* by JK Rowling. Find it under the age 9-11 category at:

<https://authorfy.com/extracts/>

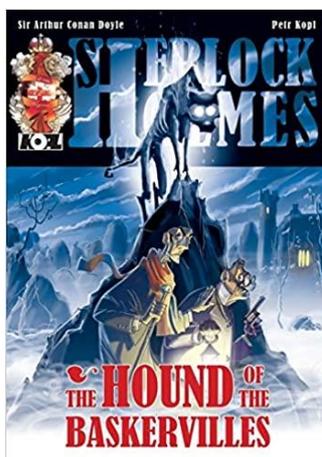
## LET'S KEEP READING!

### New books in the Library

Owing to the recent lockdown, there was a delay in new books arriving in the Library. The last new book in was a graphic novel of the famous Sherlock Holmes story *The Hound of the Baskervilles*, but more books are on their way, so watch this space...

11+

**The Hound of the Baskervilles**  
Graphic Novel adapted and illustrated by Peter Kopf



A gnarled walking-stick; a missing boot; a neglected family portrait; a convicted killer on the loose – and the ancestral curse of a phantom Hound... The great detective Sherlock Holmes needs all his powers of “elementary” deduction – as well as the staunch support of his devoted friend Dr. Watson – to solve the terrifying mystery of his most famous case...

## WORTH A LOOK...

*The following ideas have been suggested by The BookTrust:*

### For ages 0-3 and up

#### **Peekaboo Apple** by Camilla Reid

Everyone is saying *peekaboo!* in this bold, chunky board book – from a baby peeking out of her pram to a dog peering out from behind a tree! But who's ready to say peekaboo at the end?

#### **Let's Play, Cheetah** by Jo Lodge

A cheetah with googly eyes is doing lots of fun activities! A bright board book for little ones, this one also has enduring appeal as babies become toddlers and start learning words.

#### **Where's Brian's Bottom** by Rob Jones

Brian is a very long sausage dog - so long he's lost track of his own bottom! A delightfully fun fold-out concertina book.

#### **All Aboard the Numbers Train** by Sean Sims

Join the crew of the intergalactic numbers train as it prepares to blast off into space! There are so many fun things to count in this beautifully illustrated picture book for children learning numbers.

### For ages 4-5 and up

#### **Can Bears Ski?** by Raymond Antrobus, illustrator: Polly Dunbar

Why do people keep asking Little Bear "Can bears ski?" A lovely and authentic picture book about hearing loss, inspired by the author's earliest memory of being read to as a child.

#### **Old MacDonald Had a Phone** by Jeanne Willis and Tony Ross

Part of a series of picture books with an internet safety theme, *Old MacDonald Had a Phone* tackles the subject of limiting screen time with Jeanne Willis' and Tony Ross' marvellous humour and zaniness.

#### **Anita and the Dragons** by Hannah Carmona, illustrator: Anna Cunha

Anita imagines she is about to fly to a distant land on the back of a great white dragon. In reality, she and her family are leaving their home aboard an aeroplane to move to another country. A beautiful story about emigration and venturing into the unknown.

#### **Meet the Oceans** by Caryl Hart, illustrator: Bethan Woollvin

A vibrant picture book all about the incredible bodies of water which make up most of our planet, providing young readers with a lively introduction to the importance of looking after the world's oceans.

### For ages 6-8 and up

#### **Cat Kid Comic Club** by Dav Pilkey

Lil' Petey the cat and Molly the tadpole have started the Cat Kid Comic Club - for kids that love to draw comics! This lovely, funny story about working together also has some great tips for aspiring illustrators and comic makers.

#### **Stars with Flaming Tails** by Valerie Bloom, illustrator: Ken Wilson-Max

A stunning collection of poetry for children by poet Valerie Bloom, as fun to read aloud together as it is poignant and powerful.

### **The Worries: Sohal Finds A Friend** by Jion Sheibani

Sohal's worries dominate his life - so much so that he has to carry them around in his school bag to avoid them being seen! A light-hearted tale tackling the subject of anxiety in an accessible, encouraging way.

### **Max and the Midnights** by Lincoln Peirce

Max is a troubadour-in-training - but she'd much rather be a knight. When her uncle is hired as court jester for King Gastley, Max knows she has to save him! But girls aren't allowed to be knights... A fabulous adventure quest for fans of *Diary of a Wimpy Kid*.

### **For ages 9-11 and up**

### **The Last Bear** by Hannah Gold, illustrator: Levi Pinfold

When April and her father move to an uninhabited island in the Arctic Circle, she isn't expecting to meet a lonely polar bear - how can she help him? A moving, beautifully written story about how everyone has the power to make a difference.

### **The Elephant In The Room** by Holly Goldberg Sloan

Sila is lonely. But she's not the only one and a chance encounter with an unwanted elephant and a wealthy old gentleman proves to be the start of something unexpected.

### **Vi Spy: Licence to Chill** by Maz Evans

Thrilling, funny and inventive adventure featuring a wannabe spy, an evil supervillain and a secret weapon that could explode her Mum's brain.

### **The Violet Veil Mysteries: A Case Of Grave Danger** by Sophie Cleverly

When a dead boy seems to come back to life, Violet Veil is fearless and determined in her pursuit of truth and justice in this exciting, Victorian, gothic mystery.

### **For ages 11+**

Sometimes, finding a book or series that will draw the older child in can be a little challenging. These are just a few suggestions that may help in the quest to keep children age 11+ reading:

### **Booked** by Kwame Alexander

Twelve-year-old Nick is a star on the football pitch, but at home he's stuck with his linguistic professor father's "dictionary" that he has to read every day, and he hates it... until his prowess with words starts to win over the girl of his dreams. But it's not all smooth sailing as he has to deal with his parents' separation, school bullies and an injury that takes him off the pitch. Soon Nick is spending more time with books and his rapping school librarian Mr Mac as he makes his way through a rollercoaster year at school.

*Booked* is an incredible novel. Written in verse, it's instantly readable, will grip a reluctant reader from page one and will improve every reader's vocabulary without them even realising it. The story has something for everyone, from school and family drama to fast-paced, rhythmic football matches. It's a joy to read.

*(Synopsis from the BookTrust)*

### **Summoner** by Taran Matharu (Summoner series)

Beginning with the Wattpad sensation *The Novice*, Taran Matharu's Summoner Trilogy focuses on teenaged Fletcher, a blacksmith's apprentice. Fletcher lives a seemingly normal life until he discovers that he has the rare ability to summon demons from another world. When he is chased from his village for a crime he didn't commit, Fletcher travels with his demon, Ignatius, to Adept Military Academy to be trained in the art of summoning. He is trained as a battlemage to fight in the Hominum Empire's war against orcs alongside the children of nobles and other commoners. With the threat of deceit and betrayal surrounding him, Fletcher must decide on what side of the war his loyalties lie as the fate of the empire rests in his hands.

*(Synopsis from Goodreads)*

**I am Number Four** by Pittacus Lore (Part I of the Lorien Legacies series)

Nine of us came here. We look like you. We talk like you. We live among you. But we are not you. We can do things you dream of doing. We have powers you dream of having. We are stronger and faster than anything you have ever seen. We are the superheroes you worship in movies and comic books - but we are real. Our plan was to grow, and train, and become strong, and become one, and fight them. But they found us and started hunting us first. Now all of us are running. Spending our lives in shadows, in places where no one would look, blending in. We have lived among you without you knowing. But *they* know.

They caught Number One in Malaysia.

Number Two in England.

And Number Three in Kenya.

They killed them all.

I am Number Four.

I am next.

*(Synopsis from Goodreads)*

**Nowhere** by Jon Robinson (Part I in the Nowhere series)

'No one's coming for us.

Not our families, not the police.

No one.'

Alyn, Jes, Ryan and Elsa are Nowhere. A concrete cube in the middle of a dense forest. Imprisoned inside are one hundred teenagers from all over the country. They're all criminals. But none of them remember committing any crimes. Who has put them there. What do their captors want? And how will they ever break free . . . ?

*(Synopsis from Goodreads)*

**Earthfall** by Mark Walden (Part I in the Earthfall series)

Sam awakens to see strange vessels gathered in the skies around London. As he stares up, people stream past, walking silently toward the enormous ships, which emit a persistent noise. Only Sam seems immune to the signal. Six months later, he is absolutely alone. Or so he thinks. Because after he emerges from his underground bunker and is wounded by a flying drone, a hail of machine-gun fire ultimately reveals two very important truths: One, Sam is not, in fact, alone. And two, the drone injury should have killed him—but it didn't.

With his home planet feeling alien and the future unstable and unclear, Sam must navigate a new world in this gripping adventure.

*(Synopsis from Goodreads)*

**The Ruby in the Smoke** by Philip Pullman

After the sudden death of her father, Sally Lockhart is forced to go to live in London with an obnoxious cousin. There, she receives an anonymous letter containing a warning so dire that it makes a man die of fear at her feet. Determined to discover the truth about what happened to her father, Sally is soon plunged into a dangerous and terrifying adventure that takes her to the dark heart of Victorian London.