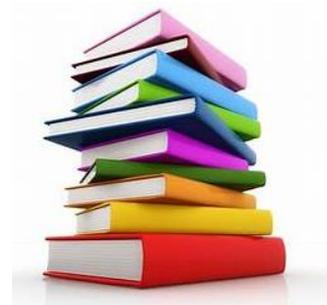




# Reading Matters

*'Reading is an exercise in empathy; an exercise in walking in someone else's shoes for a while.'*

**Malorie Blackman**



Welcome to our reading newsletter. Reading is a key focus in our school for pupils and staff. We want to share why it is so important to read, ideas about how to encourage your child to read and also recommend books they may enjoy.

This month's issue will focus on Accelerated Reader, which is a programme to foster a life-long love of reading, monitor pupils' reading, recommend books aimed at the right reading level, assess pupils' progress and also give pupils access to hundreds of digital books for free!

Our Lady & St Bede Catholic Academy are taking part in a pilot using Accelerated Reader along with a number of Primary and Secondary schools across the Bishop Hogarth Trust, with the aim to encourage pupils, and given them regular opportunities, to read.

There are three parts to the programme:

- Star Reading
- myON by Renaissance
- Accelerated Reader

Members of staff are currently undergoing training and preparing our computers and library. Pupils will be completing their Star Reading Assessment this term and the complete package for Accelerated Reader will be up and running for all pupils by September.

## Accelerated Reader - What is it? How will my child be involved?



# Accelerated<sup>TM</sup> Reader

### What is Star Reading<sup>TM</sup>?

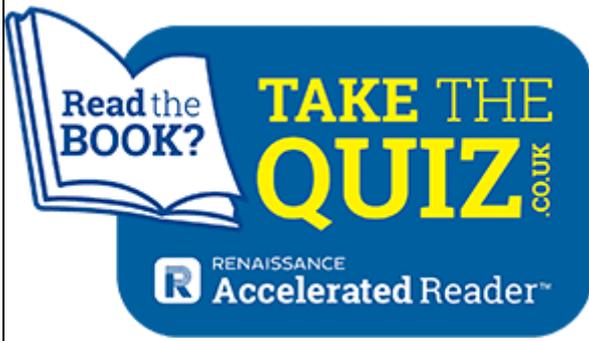
Star Reading is an online assessment used to determine a child's English reading level. It is a computer-based reading assessment program that uses computer-adaptive technology. Questions continually adjust to each child's responses. If the response is correct, the difficulty level is increased. If they cannot answer a question, or answer incorrectly, the difficulty level is reduced. The test uses multiple-choice questions and takes approximately 20-30 minutes.



### What is myON by Renaissance<sup>TM</sup>?

myON is a digital classroom resource containing thousands of digitised books in English language with audio tracks to help scaffold reading & understanding in English. Books are recommended for each pupil by their grade level, and either their integrated Star Reading ZPD score, or from a

short Lexile assessment within the website. This ensures that all children have a personalised reading experience based on their ability.



### What is Accelerated Reader™ (AR)?

AR is a computer program that helps teachers manage and monitor a child's independent reading practice. Children pick either a physical book that falls within their ZPD level or choose to read from the recommended myON digital library. When they have finished reading, they take a short quiz on the computer - passing the quiz is an indication that the child has understood what has been read.

If they are reading at the recommended level for them, then most children are likely to be successful and enjoy the books and quizzes. Best of all they learn and grow at their own pace.

**What is a ZPD (Zone of Proximal Development)?** A ZPD is the range of books that will challenge a child without causing frustration or loss of motivation. Each child will receive a ZPD, or reading range, after taking a Star Reading test. It is important for children to read with a high degree of comprehension and within their ZPD.

## What does your ZPD mean?

<b>BELOW ZPD</b> <b>Comfort Zone</b> 	<b>LOWER ZPD</b> <b>Exploration Zone</b> 	<b>UPPER ZPD</b> <b>Deep Dive</b> 	<b>ABOVE ZPD</b> <b>Read Together</b> 
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This is an easier read, perfect for reading at home or on holiday</li> <li>• Maybe it's part of a series you enjoy or is by an author you really like</li> <li>• Ask your teacher first</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Go wild and try something new!</li> <li>• Explore new genres, authors and book lengths</li> <li>• Challenge yourself if you can</li> </ul>	<p>Plan ahead:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Choose a book you are excited about</li> <li>✓ Pick a shorter book first</li> <li>✓ Make notes as you read – remember the 5Ws!</li> <li>✓ Ask your teacher for advice</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This is a challenging read</li> <li>• Who would enjoy reading this book with you?               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A parent?</li> <li>- An older sibling?</li> <li>- A friend?</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Ask your teacher first</li> </ul>

#### Zone of Proximal Development (ZPD)

The Zone of Proximal Development (ZPD) defines the readability range within which pupils should read to best develop their reading, while avoiding frustration. The ZPD is especially useful for pupils using Renaissance Accelerated Reader, which lists readability levels for all quizzed books. However, success at any difficulty also depends on a student's interest in a book, and knowledge of its content.

RENAISSANCE  
**Star Reading®**

RENAISSANCE  
**Accelerated Reader™**

### What is a Lexile Measure?

A Lexile Measure is produced within myON from an initial Lexile Placement exam taken by a child, followed by regular shorter Benchmark exams to continue to refine it as they read more books. It is a range personalised to each child and reported as a single figure which covers 100 points below and 50 points above. Lexile data is also calculated from the Star Reading test and will display in myON if Renaissance products are integrated.

### What are Book Levels & Lexile Levels?

Both are ways of matching children to suitable books. All books in myON, and all books with an Accelerated Reader quiz have been levelled

Accelerated Reader Book Level Guide	
0.5 - 1.0	5.6 - 6.0
1.1 - 2.0	6.1 - 6.5
2.1 - 3.0	6.6 - 7.0
3.1 - 4.0	7.1 - 7.5
4.1 - 5.0	7.6 - 8.0
5.1 - 5.5	8.0+

based on difficulty of the text to enable a quick match to children who should be able to read & understand them.

Book levels are reported using the ATOS™ readability formula range from 0.1–20.0. Lexile levels range from BR 300L – 1450L.

### How can I help my child using Renaissance?

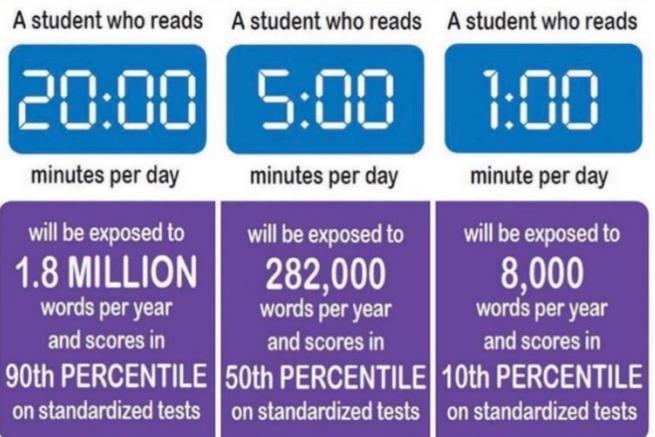
As with anything, reading and understanding English language improves with practice. According to Renaissance research, children who read at least **20 minutes a day** and achieve a 90% comprehension rate on AR quizzes see the greatest gains. Encourage your child to read at home with myON with the English language audio track, discuss books, and ask questions about what they have read.

### What are Interest levels & points?

Every book that has an AR quiz is assigned an Interest Level to identify which age group a book is appropriate for, based on the content and themes within the book. These are recommendations only and parents are recommended to use their best judgement when guiding pupils, especially in myON where books at different interest levels can be found.

Interest Levels	Age
LY—Lower Years	5 - 8
MY—Middle Years	9 - 13
MY+ - Middle Years Plus	Ages 12+
UY—Upper Years	14+

## HERE'S THE IMPACT OF READING 20 MINUTES PER DAY!

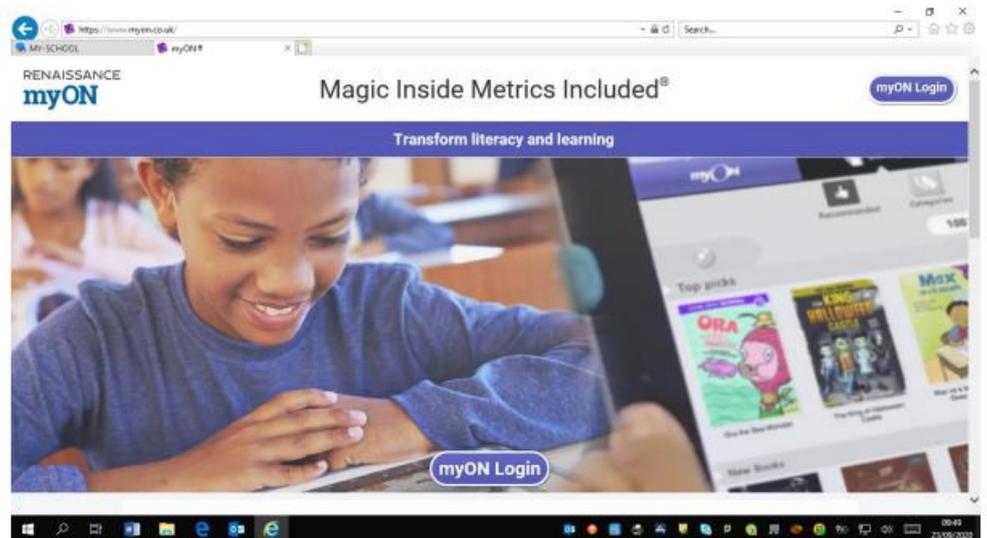


Each AR quizzed book also has a point value calculated to denote the length & time of the reading experience. AR points are based on the length of the book (number of words). Pupils earn a percentage of points according to how well they pass the quiz.

### How can I find further information?

For Star Reading and Accelerated Reader, each child accesses a specific website set up for a school or educational institute; and the teachers or educators will be able inform you about your child's progress.

myON records data about the amount of reading each child does, it is available within each child's homepage at [www.myon.co.uk](http://www.myon.co.uk)



Visit AR BookFinder at [www.arbookfind.co.uk](http://www.arbookfind.co.uk) to search through all the available books on the Renaissance system with AR quizzes.

## Oak National Academy - Virtual Library



**OAK**  
NATIONAL  
ACADEMY

A Virtual School Library, brought you by Oak National Academy in partnership with the National Literacy Trust, is also available for pupils to use.

Every week a popular children's author or illustrator will provide you with free books, exclusive videos and their top three recommended reads.

Having access to a school library is really important for children. School libraries nurture a love of reading that can enrich children's literacy skills, academic achievements and mental wellbeing. Oak National Academy Virtual School Library will complement existing school libraries and will ensure that children have access to the magical world of stories all year round, whether they are learning at school or at home.

Oak National Academy has worked with brilliant publishers and inspiring authors and illustrators to ensure that the books and activities in our Virtual School Library will support children's wellbeing through reading.

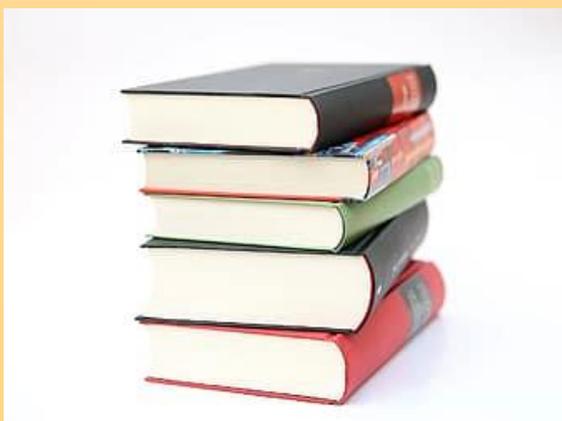
Follow the link below to get started:

[https://library.thenational.academy/?fbclid=IwAR02waNzsRVBECtWJt6UlaJwocbknPujYRaSmZfMZ-SKw\\_k6kIahDI5yjsk](https://library.thenational.academy/?fbclid=IwAR02waNzsRVBECtWJt6UlaJwocbknPujYRaSmZfMZ-SKw_k6kIahDI5yjsk)

Join your local library service to discover hundreds more books and ebooks to borrow for free, and take part in fun online activities.

A Reading Book is now a **compulsory** part of every pupils' equipment.

**DO NOT FORGET YOUR BOOK!**



If you do not have access to books at home, please see your English teacher or Mrs Franks, the School Librarian. The school library has lots of new books we would love you to read.

### Key Literacy Dates 2020-2021

16 <sup>th</sup> -22 <sup>nd</sup> May	Mental Health Awareness Week
5 <sup>th</sup> June	World Environment Day

“READING IS A WAY FOR ME TO EXPAND MY MIND, **open** MY EYES, AND **fill up** MY **heart.**”  
*Oprah Winfrey*

### Donate Books –HELP!



Do you have any unwanted, good quality books, suitable for teenagers and young adults? We would appreciate any donations.

# Reading Recommendations

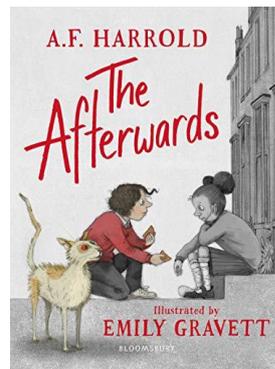


## 'Freedom' by Catherine Johnson

Winner of the Little Rebels Children's Book Award 2019  
"Filled with humour, compassion and hope" Imogen Russell Williams, *The Guardian*

An action-packed and pacy story about a boy's experience of slavery in Britain. Nathaniel doesn't want to move to England with his master's family, leaving behind his mother and sister on the Jamaican plantation. But then he remembers what his mother told him: once a slave sets foot on English soil, they're free. Perhaps he can earn his fortune and buy his family's freedom, too.

**Suitable for Year 8 and above**



## 'The Afterwards' by A.F. Harrold

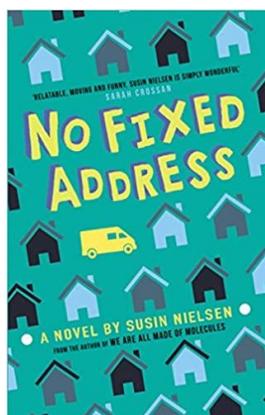
There's nothing more to say about it. It is what it is. It is what will always be. Ember and Ness.

Then Ness dies. It is sudden and unexpected and leaves Ember completely empty. How can this be?

When Ember finds a way into the Afterworld, she determines to bring Ness back. Because that's what friends do isn't it? They rescue each other. They help. They never give up. Ember and Ness. That don't change.

*A powerful, poignant, darkly comic and deeply moving story about friendship at its most extraordinary.*

**Suitable for Year 7 and above**



## 'No Fixed Address' by Susin Nielsen

Winner of UKLA Book Awards 2020.

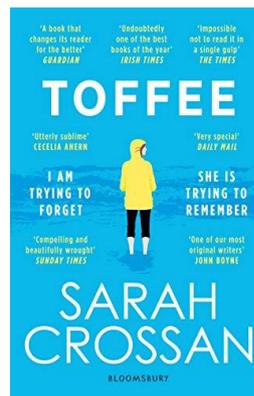
Felix Knutsson is nearly thirteen, lives with his mother and pet gerbil Horatio, and is brilliant at memorising facts and trivia. So far, pretty normal. But Felix and his mom Astrid have a secret:

**they are living in a van.** Astrid promises it's only for a while until she finds a new job, and begs Felix not to breathe a word about it. So when Felix starts at a new school, he does his very best to hide the fact that most of his clothes are in storage, he only showers weekly at the community centre, and that he doesn't have enough to eat. When his friends Dylan and Winnie ask to visit, Felix always has an excuse.

But Felix has a plan to turn his and Astrid's lives around: he's going to go on his favourite game show *Who, What, Where, When* and win the cash prize. All he needs is a little luck and a lot of brain power . . .

Susin Nielsen deftly combines humour, heartbreak, and hope in this moving story about people who slip through the cracks in society, and about the power of friendship and community to make all the difference.

**Suitable for Key Stage 3 and above**



## 'Toffee' by Sarah Crossan

'Utterly sublime' Cecelia Ahern

'Impossible not to read it in a single gulp' *The Times*

'Undoubtedly one of the best books of the year' *Irish Times*

'Compelling and beautifully wrought' *The Sunday Times*

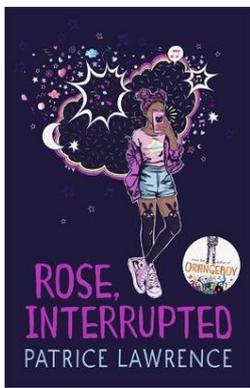
'A book that changes its reader for the better' *The Guardian*

'One of our most original writers' *John Boyne*

**SHORTLISTED FOR THE INDIE BOOK AWARDS**

When Allison runs away from home she doesn't expect to be taken in by Marla, an elderly woman with dementia, who mistakes her for an old friend called Toffee. Allison is used to hiding who she really is, and trying to be what other people want her to be. And so, Toffee is who she becomes. But as her bond with Marla grows, Allison begins to ask herself -where is home? What is a family? And most importantly, who am I, really?

**Suitable for Key Stage 4**



## 'Rose, Interrupted' by Patrice Lawrence

Being a teenager is hard enough, but it's even harder in a world you've never known ...

Eighteen months ago, 17-year-old Rose and 13-year-old Rudder escaped a strict religious sect with their mum.

They are still trying to make sense of the world outside - no more rules about clothes and books, films and music, no more technology bans. But also no more friendship with the people they've known all their lives, no community and no certainty. It doesn't help that their mum has to work all hours to pay rent on their cramped, smelly, one-bed flat above a kebab shop in Hackney.

While Rudder gorges on once-taboo Harry Potters and dances to Simon and Garfunkel and show tunes, Rose swaps the ankle skirts and uncut hair of the Woodford Pilgrims for Japanese-cute fairy dress and her new boyfriend, Kye. Kye, who she wants with all her being. But there's loads of scary stuff about their new life that Rose and Rudder have no idea how to handle - it's normal for girls to let their boyfriends take naked pictures of them, right?

When Rudder accidentally sets a devastating chain of events into action, Rose must decide whether to sacrifice everything and go back to the life she hates, in order to save the people she loves.

A story about coming of age, slap-bang in the middle of a strange new world.

**Suitable for Year 9 and above**



## 'Crongton Knights' by Alex Wheatle

Winner of the *Guardian Children Fiction's Prize 2016*

Shortlisted for the *YA Book Prize 2017*

Living on the South Crongton council estate has its worries - and life for McKay has been even tougher since his mum died.

His dad has been working all hours to keep the bailiffs from their door.

His brother is always out riding the streets at night, tempting trouble.

And now, having strayed off his turf on a 'heroic' (if misguided) mission to help out a girl, McKay finds himself facing a friend's crazy ex-boyfriend, some power-tripping hood-rats and a notoriously violent gangster with a vendetta which hits too close to home.

Poor McKay. He never asked for trouble . . . But during one madcap night of adventure and danger, he will find out who his true friends are and what it means to stick with your family.

*Crongton Knights* is a very funny, very moving story that shows that although life is testing, the lessons learned the hard way are the ones you'll never forget.

**Suitable for KS3 and KS4**

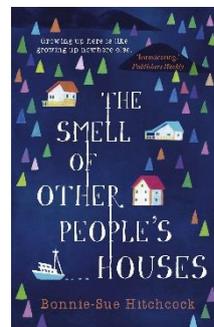


## 'The White Darkness' by Geraldine McCaughrean

Captain Titus Oates, hero of the Antarctic, has been dead for nearly a century. But not in Sym's head. In there, he is her constant companion, her soul mate, her adviser. It is as if he

walked out of the Polar blizzard and into her mind. In fact, if it were not for Titus, life might be as bleak a place as the Antarctic wilderness.

When she is taken on a mystery expedition by her eccentric uncle Victor, Sym can't believe her luck. Destination Antarctica-the very place she's always wanted to visit. But Victor has other plans, more sinister than Sym could possibly imagine.



## 'The Smell of Other People's Houses' by Bonnie-Sue Hitchcock

SHORTLISTED for the *CILIP Carnegie Medal* and the *UKLA Book Award*.

Love, tragedy, luck and salvation in the interweaving stories of four teenagers in this extraordinary 1970s Alaskan set debut novel.

Alaska, 1970: growing up here is like nowhere else. Ruth wants to be remembered by her grieving mother. Dora wishes she was invisible to her abusive father.

Alyce is staying at home to please her parents.

Stranded in the most isolated part of the world with her trust in someone she comes to realize is a madman, she must find a way to avoid a gruesome fate. But what should a teenage girl do? Could it be that Titus, the one who perished in that very place, will be the means of her survival?

**Suitable KS3 and above**

Hank is running away for the sake of his brothers.

Four very different lives are about to become entangled. Because if we don't save each other, how can we begin to save ourselves?

Bonnie-Sue Hitchcock's extraordinary, stunning debut is both moving, and deeply authentic. These intertwining stories of love, tragedy, wild luck, and salvation on the edge of America's Last Frontier introduce a writer of rare and wonderful talent.

**Suitable for KS3 and KS4**

## Have you been to...

### DRAKE The Bookshop

27 Silver Street, Stockton, TS18 1SX

Tel: 01642 909970

Email:

[books@drakethebookshop.co.uk](mailto:books@drakethebookshop.co.uk)

Website:

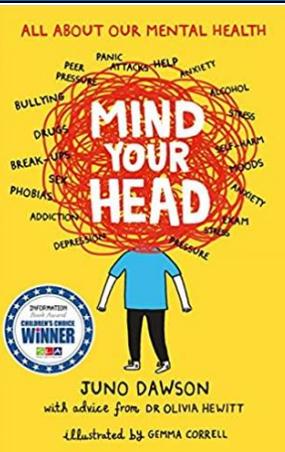
[www.drakethebookshop.co.uk](http://www.drakethebookshop.co.uk)

**Support our local bookshop!**



## Non-Fiction Reading

### 'Mind Your Head' by Juno Dawson



We all have a mind, so we all need to take care of our mental health as much as we need to take care of our physical health. And the first step is being able to talk about our mental health.

Juno Dawson leads the way with this frank, factual and funny book, with added information and support from clinical psychologist Dr Olivia Hewitt. Covering topics from anxiety and depression to addiction, self-harm and personality disorders, Juno and Olivia talk clearly and supportively about a range of issues facing young people's mental health - whether fleeting or long-term - and how to manage them. With real-life stories from young people around the world and witty illustrations from Gemma Correll.

## Fun Facts – Top Misspellings and Word Facts

Top misspellings	
1 Separate	6 Embarrass
2 Questionnaire	7 Conscience
3 Potato	8 Unnecessary
4 Diarrhoea	9 Bureaucracy
5 Definitely	10 Manoeuvre

### 5 WORD FACTS

- The longest word found in a major dictionary is 45 letters long: 'pneumonoultramicroscopicsilicovolcanoconiosis'
- An infinity sign is called a 'lemniscate'.
- The word 'bankrupt' comes from the Italian term for 'broken bench'.
- There is a word for all things breakfast: 'jentacular'.
- A single piece of confetti is called 'confetto'.