

Northmead's Reading Newsletter

February 2020

Second Edition

Author Visit

On Friday 14th February we welcomed Kerry Gibb, the author of the 'It's a Kid's Life' series. Kerry spoke about how, when she writes, she mixes real life experiences with fictional ideas. The children enjoyed guessing which situations had actually occurred in her family life.

Following this, the whole school contributed to a story plan based on a residential trip to the Isle of Wight!

Do visit Kerry's website to order copies of her books or to find out more about this author.



<http://kerrygibb.com/>



What is Accelerated Reader?

Accelerated reader is a computer program which helps teachers manage and monitor children's independent reading. Your child picks a book at his/her own level from the library and reads it at home with a parent. Children using AR choose their own books to read, rather than having one assigned to them. When finished, your child takes a short quiz on the computer at school. Passing the quiz is an indication that your child understood what was read. For every quiz passed, the child is given a raffle ticket and entered in to prize draw at the end of term. The number of words a child, class and school has read is determined through the number of quizzes taken. We are always pleased to award Millionaire certificates to those children hitting that golden number of words.

Inside each book cover is a sticker which shows the quiz number for the book and also provides an indication of the interest level of the material. Interest level is based on content—a book's themes and ideas—and indicates for which age group a book is appropriate.

Interest Level	Year Level
LY—Lower Years	Ages 5–8
MY—Middle Years	Ages 9–13
UY—Upper Years	Ages 14 and above

Teachers determine your child's reading level by administering a STAR Reading™ test (which provides a reading age estimation) and by using their best professional judgment based on their knowledge of your child. The Star Reading test is a computerised reading assessment that uses computer-adaptive technology. Questions continually adjust to your child's responses. If the child's response to a question is correct, the difficulty level of the next question is increased. If the child misses a question, the difficulty level of the next question is reduced. The test uses multiple-choice questions and takes approximately 15 minutes. Results are then analysed to enable the teacher to assign your child a coloured reading band from which to choose his/her home reading books.

You can visit the AR BookFinder™ at www.arbookfind.co.uk to conduct a search of all available books with AR quizzes.

On February the 10th we held our first parent and child book club. Having read the first chapter of a selection of books we decided that our first book club read will be "I, Cosmo" by Carlie Sorosiak.

The adult will read the book to their child over the next few weeks. Once we are all finished, we shall meet back to discuss our thoughts and opinions of the book.



Do feel free to join in. If you need help acquiring a copy of the book do ask Miss Lewis.

Details of the next meeting date will be published shortly.



Dates for your diary:

Thursday 5th March:- World Book Day

The children will bring home a token which they can swap for a free World Book Day book at local book seller. Tokens are valid until 29th March

Wednesday 18th March 6:30pm

Parent workshop:- Reading at Northmead and at Home



What can I read?

I have included in this month's newsletter a list of books suitable for each year group. These lists come from the BooksForTopics website. <https://www.booksfortopics.com/key-stage-book-lists>

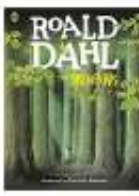
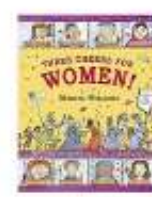
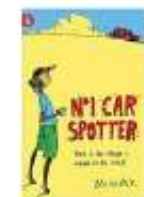
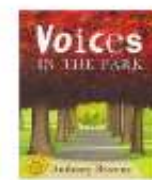
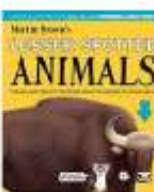
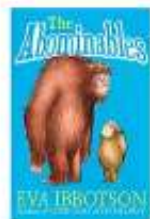
This site was launched, by Alison Leach (an experienced primary teacher and English lead), as a means of helping primary school staff to find high-quality books that are appropriate for use in a primary school setting. The year group lists are regularly updated to include newer titles.

Do visit the site for a clearer download of the list appropriate to your child. There is also a checklist of the titles which your child may enjoy ticking off once they have read each book.

50 Recommended Reads for...

Year 3

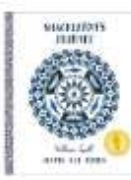
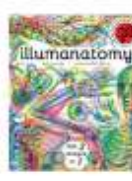
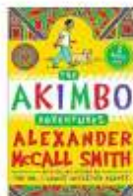
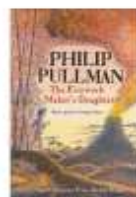
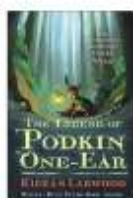
Books for Topics



50 Recommended Reads for...

Year 4

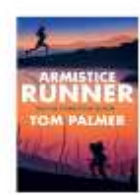
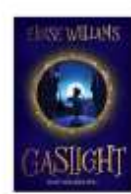
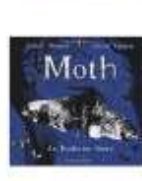
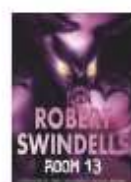
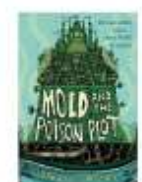
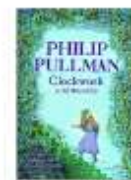
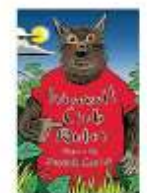
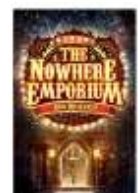
Books for Topics



50 Recommended Reads for...

Year 5

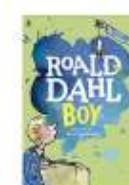
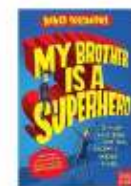
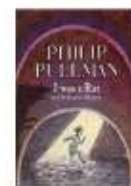
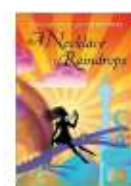
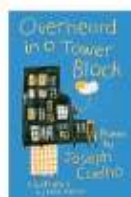
Books for Topics



50 Recommended Reads for...

Year 6

Books for Topics



Book of the Month- February

Owen and the Soldier by Lisa Thompson

What is the story about?

A crumbling stone soldier sits on a bench in the park. Only Owen understands how important he is.

At home, Owen and his mum are struggling and there's nobody he can talk to. Hidden away in the park, Owen feels free to be himself. When the war-weary soldier is listening, his worries slip away. But nobody else cares about the soldier, and the town council want to tear him down.



Accelerated reader information

Quiz number for this book

236469

Book Level

4.3

Colour Band

Purple

Owen's the only one who can save him but can he find the courage to speak up before it's too late?

Who is the author?

Lisa Thompson is a children's novelist born in Essex.

Other books written by Lisa Thompson

